Msgr. Smith Remembered for Building Relationships

In mid-July, Msgr. Thomas Smith, pastor emeritus of St. Joseph Parish in Lancaster, sat before his congregation during Mass on Cabbage Hill for what would be the final time. People filled the church for the Mass, celebrated in thanksgiving for his 57 years of priesthood and to mark his retirement at age 83.

They were grateful to hear him offer his final homily, and to see him return to the church since his move to St. Anne’s Retirement Community in Columbia as he battled cancer.

Seated in front of the altar, Msgr. Smith encouraged the congregation to follow God’s call for them, and recounted the blessings he received from the parishes and ministries he had served.

“May we all find each other in heaven someday, exchanging stories of how God has worked within each one of us,” he concluded.

Eight weeks later, Msgr. Smith’s family, friends and parishioners again filled St. Joseph’s Church, this time to bid farewell to the priest, who died Aug. 31.

The funeral Mass was celebrated by Bishop Ronald W. Gainer on Sept. 5. The following day, Mass with Final Commendation was celebrated at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Conewago. Msgr. Smith’s home parish, by Father James Lease, pastor. Burial was in Sacred Heart Cemetery. “What a man, who touched our lives! In one way or another, or in a multitude of ways, Msgr. shaped and touched us,” said Father Allan Wolfe in his homily during the funeral Mass at St. Joseph’s.

“As I look out [at More MSGR. SMITH. page 11]

More SHEEN. page 9

Archbishop Sheen’s Sainthood Cause Suspended Indefinitely

The canonization cause of Archbishop Fulton Sheen has been suspended indefinitely, according to a statement issued Sept. 3 by the Diocese of Peoria, Illinois, where the archbishop was born.

The suspension was announced “with immense sadness,” the diocese said. “The process to verify a possible miracle attributed to Sheen had been going extremely well, and only awaited a vote of the cardinals and the approval of the Holy Father. There was every indication that a possible date for beatification in Peoria would have been scheduled for as early as the coming year.”


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The statement added that Archbishop Sheen’s “closest surviving family members” asked that the archbishop’s wishes be respected and that he had “expressly stated his desire that his remains be buried in New York.” Zwilling said Cardinal Dolan “does object to the dismemberment of the archbishop’s body,” but, were it to be exhumed, relics that might have been buried with Archbishop Sheen might be “reverently collected” and “shared generously” with the Peoria Diocese.

A subsequent statement Sept. 5 from the Peoria Diocese said it had received a “shocking statement” June 27 from an attorney for the New York Archdiocese saying the archdiocese “would never allow the examination of the body, the securing of relics or the transfer of the body.”

The new statement said Bishop Jenky said “does object to the dismemberment of the archbishop’s body.”

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The new statement said Bishop Jenky had been assured in 2002 by Cardinal Dolan’s predecessor, now-retired Cardinal Edward M. Egan, that New York had “no interest” in pursuing Archbishop Sheen’s sainthood cause.


Deacon Greg Kendra, in a Sept. 3 posting on his blog The Deacon’s Bench, said the reason for the request was for “official inspection and to take first-class relics from the remains.”

A Sept. 4 statement from Joseph Zwilling, communications director for the New York Archdiocese, said Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York “did express a hesitance in exhuming the body” absent a directive from the Vatican Congregation for Saints’ Causes and family approval.

The statement added that Archbishop Sheen’s “closest surviving family members” asked that the archbishop’s wishes be respected and that he had “expressly stated his desire that his remains be buried in New York.”

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A 2005 request to transfer the body to Peoria received a response from the archdiocese that it was not yet an appropriate time. “With this inquiry complete and a
Catholic Aid Agencies Seek Funds to Assist Minorities in Iraq, Syria

By Beth Griffin

Catholic News Service

Catholic organizations in the United States have launched public appeals to fund assistance to Christians and other religious minorities displaced in Iraq and Syria.

The Catholic Near East Welfare Association, Jesuit Relief Service, Knights of Columbus, Catholic Relief Services and Aid to the Church in Need are among Catholic agencies seeking funds.

Aid to the Church in Need, an international Catholic charity under the guidance of the Holy See, has pledged an initial $1 million, of which $458,000 has already been given. Edward Clancy, CAN’s director of outreach, said funds are being directed to local bishops in Syria and Iraq.

Clancy said Aid to the Church in Need has funded pastoral assistance to the church communities in Syria and Iraq “for decades,” including Mass stipends and vocation support. Because of the urgency of the current situation, it is now giving money for food and tents for the displaced.

He said he was confident individual donors would meet and exceed the $1 million already pledged.

Catholic Near East Welfare Association, a charitable organization mandated by the Holy See to work for, through and with the Eastern Christian churches, launched an appeal July 28 for aid to Iraq. It released an initial grant of $75,000 to purchase infant formula, diaper and handicapped-accessible toilets and showers for camps for displaced Iraqis.

Michael LaCivita, CNEWA’s communications director, said the agency works with local partners, including Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena, Dominican Sisters of the Presentation, the Syriac Catholic archbishop, the Syriac Orthodox archbishop and the Chaldean Catholic archbishop.

“They have put together an emergency response team and we are working with them,” said LaCivita, noting that the agency has been active in Iraq for more than 50 years.

In Syria, CNEWA supported pastoral programs and long-term human development until the current civil war. LaCivita said CNEWA is working in partnership with religious orders of men and women to provide emergency aid to internally displaced Syrians and those who fled to Jordan and Lebanon.

He said the agency hopes to raise $500,000 for the Iraq and Syria effort from Catholics in the United States. Jesuit Refugee Service teams in Syria won the 2014 Pax Christi International Peace Award for their work.

The agency helps more than 300,000 people in Damascus, Homs and Aleppo with educational and psychosocial assistance, food and rent, and basic health care.

The Knights of Columbus Catholic fraternal organization committed $1 million Aug. 12 for humanitarian aid in Iraq. This includes an initial $500,000 and a pledge to match $500,000 in donations from the public.

Andrew Walther, vice president for media, research and development for the Knights of Columbus, said the group works with local Catholic church entities, “and with Vatican and other major charities operating on the ground in the region to which we are sending money.” He said the organization also has provided charitable outreach in Iraq through individual Knights who served in the U.S. military there.

Walther said the Knights’ appeal to members and individuals has raised almost $2 million.

Catholic Relief Services, the official overseas relief and development organization of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, committed an initial $1 million for Iraq. Money is being used to provide food, water, essential living supplies, psychological support, education for displaced children and preparation for longer-term resettlement.

Liz O’Neill, CRS communications officer, said the agency has six staff in Iraq and works in partnership with Caritas Iraq, diocesan bishops and other major charities operating on the ground.

She said CRS has collaborated with local partners in Iraq since 1992 and withdrew its foreign personnel in 2004 because of the deteriorating security situation. CRS helps displaced Iraqis and Syrian refugees in Iraq.

O’Neill also said the agency would need $4 million to fulfill humanitarian needs in Iraq over the next several months.

Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, asked bishops throughout the country to hold a special collection in September to support the humanitarian and pastoral needs of Christians and other victims of violence in the Middle East, including Iraq, Syria and Gaza. Funds will be sent to the USCCB Office of National Collections for use by Catholic Relief Services and other Catholic agencies working in partnership with the local church.

Archbishop Kurtz said the collection would be used to support church programs, to aid persecuted Christians and “to respond to rebuilding needs of Catholic dioceses in the impacted areas.”

Annulment Presentations Scheduled

The Tribunal of the Diocese of Harrisburg will offer presentations concerning divorce and annulments from the Catholic perspective in the coming months. These presentations will be helpful for divorced Catholics, divorced people who wish to marry Catholics, parish leaders involved in the RCIA process and those who have a vested interested because of family or friends.

Presentations will include a question-and-answer session and an opportunity for private conversation with Tribunal staff and representatives. For more information, call 717-657-4908 or send an e-mail to tribunal@hbgdiocese.org.

Schedule:
• September 17 – Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 7 p.m.
• September 18 – St. Joseph Church, Hanover, 7 p.m.
• September 25 – St. Philip the Apostle, Millersville, 7 p.m.
• November 12 – Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 7 p.m.

Spotlight Story of the Week

Have the words been twisted? Micaiah Bilger from the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation visits the program to discuss the word “miscarriage” being used by some in place of abortion. Is it semantics, or are some in the pro-life movement simply trying to “gloss over” abortion?

He said he was confident individual donors would meet and exceed the $1 million already pledged.

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Ice Bucket Challenge Brings Attention to Pro-Life Research Center

By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

Few people think of Iowa City, Iowa, as a hotbed of medical research. But in a roundabout way, more Catholics are beginning to take notice of a Catholic, pro-life medical research center.

This summer’s ALS ice bucket challenge craze has netted nearly $100 million in donations for the ALS Association, as celebrities and everyday Americans alike are taking to social media, posting videos of themselves getting doused with ice-cold water (and sometimes ice cubes), and challenging four friends to do the same: Get an ice-cold soaking, make a donation, or both, all for the purpose of fighting amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or Lou Gehrig’s disease.

But because the ALS Association has acknowledged conducting research using embryonic cells -- a practice opposed by the Catholic Church, and one the association said is funded by one specific donor and is coming to an end -- dioceses have recommended making donations instead to the John Paul II Medical Research Institute, which conducts ALS research without using such cells.

The institute continues on developing core technologies that all diseases need, and doing this within a pro-life value system.

“Last year, we raised $170,000 of private donations, primarily through word of mouth. People now I know. Because we’re small, we don’t have an organizer for marketing, a professional fund-raising organization,” said Dr. Alan Moy, who co-founded the institute in 2006 with his wife Jeanne.

“In the last 10 days, we’ve received expressions of interest that’s a pretty significant,” Moy told Catholic News Service Aug. 29. “But compared to ALSA, that’s peanuts.”

The institute’s Web site says that it saves money by being in the Midwest as opposed to either of the two coasts, and it doesn’t pay huge salaries to its researchers. In all, according to Moy, there are 10 full- or part-time employees in all phases of the institute, including nonresearch tasks.

Moy said the findings of the research done by the institute would have applications for ALS as well as for cancer and other debilitating illnesses.

“Our model is what do we need to do that can reduce the time and money it costs to push a drug into a clinical trial,” he said.

At the institute, as at Catholic hospitals, “there are a lot of people who may not be Catholic and they may not be pro-life, but they have to recognize that the hospital isn’t going to do anything that’s opposed to Catholic teaching,” Moy explained. “They’re going to have to abide by certain Catholic principles. As long as they know that, I want them to work passionately, work hard, and know what the end game is. People are interested in making a difference.”

The institute takes credit for several accomplishments: helping facilitate the first commercial adult stem cells for medical research; helping facilitate achieving the world’s largest repository of adult stem cells; helping facilitate the development of induced pluripotent stem cells, which takes a patient’s cell and, through genetic manipulation, creates a stem cell with all of the biological features of an embryonic stem cell but without the need to destroy embryos; creating technology to convert stem cells into neurological cells; creating a clinical infrastructure to recruit patients from private centers around the country with less red tape than found in academia and government.

Moy said many of the adult stem cells created at the institute have therapeutic potential for ALS.

The institute, which partners with Mercy Hospital of Iowa City to gain access to patients, has a plan -- contingent on the ability of its stem cells to enter into clinical trials, manufacturing FDA-approved adult stem cells that could be approved for ALS clinical trials, and then participating in those trials. Moy also hopes to double the institute’s staff.

“The ice-bucket challenge created an awareness among pro-life individuals about ALS and the supportive position of the ALS Association towards embryonic stem cell research,” Moy said in an Aug. 28 email to CNS. “With all of the attention given to this media phenomenon, pro-life individuals just stumbled across the institute and decided to give us financial support to conduct research on ALS.”

(Read more about the John Paul II Medical Research Institute at www.jp2dni.org.)

Witness Staff Featured in Columbia

The September edition of Columbia, the magazine of the Knights of Columbus, features an article by Jen Reed, managing editor, with images by Chris Heisey, photographer. The feature, entitled “Quo Vadis?” examines the Knights’ support of vocation discernment programs, and highlights the tenth anniversary of the Quo Vadis Days program sponsored by the Diocese of Harrisburg. A link can be found at http://www.kofc.org/un/en/columbia/index.html.

Bishop Gainer’s Public Calendar

• September 13 – Celebrant and homilist at Sisters Convocation, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 10 a.m.; Celebrant and homilist during Mass to bless new St. Philip the Apostle Church, Millersville, 5 p.m.
• September 14 – Celebrant and homilist at Blue Mass, St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg, 9:30 a.m.; Celebrant and homilist at Diocesan Hispanic Heritage Mass, St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg, 3:30 p.m.
• September 16 – Preside at Solemn Closing of Forty Hours, Divine Redeemer Church, Mount Carmel, 7 p.m.
• September 17 – Celebrant and homilist at Diocesan Education Conference Mass, Bishop McDevitt High School, Harrisburg 10 a.m.
• September 18 – Speaker at Theology on Tap, Appalachian Brewing Company, Harrisburg, 7 p.m.
• September 23–24 – Pennsylvania Catholic Conference Board of Governors Meeting, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg
• September 28 – Celebrant at Mass for the 50th Anniversary of the Geisinger Chaplaincy, Basilica of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, Danville, 3 p.m.
• September 30 – Keynote Speaker at Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation Banquet, Hotel Radisson, Camp Hill, 6 p.m.
As we approach October, which is Respect Life month in the Church, our minds and hearts are turned toward the sanctity of human life and the dignity of each and every person. While the Respect Life theme is rightfully identified with the struggle against state-sanctioned attacks on innocent life – abortion, embryonic stem-cell research, euthanasia – it is equally concerned with every threat to life and dignity. This includes gun violence, unjust wars and the death penalty. Anything which diminishes the incomparable value of a human person is an affront to human dignity and to God, whose image the human person is created.

While the Christian faith especially comprehends this unique quality of human life (the Imago Dei, God’s image), it is not necessary to be a Christian to understand the uniqueness of the human being and respect personhood. For this reason, we must invite members of other faith traditions, humanists, agnostics and atheists to join us in whatever way they can to defend and protect all human persons from conception to death. We must also work to make the cause of life a non-political one. The sanctity of human life cannot be a partisan issue, identified with a single political party or ideology. Liberals and Progressives, Conservatives and Libertarians as well as Democrats and Republicans must each do everything possible to uphold the uniqueness of the human person and defend human rights, foremost among them the right to life one’s own individual life.

Let’s look for ways in which we agree. For instance, those who object to taking the life of a pregnant or newborn baby defend the sanctity of all human life; respect for the life of every human being regardless of their age, location or state of dependency. Those who oppose the death penalty and defend the right of the condemned to the possibility of rectitude through remorse and rehabilitation uphold the unique value of every human being, regardless of what they have done. Those who oppose gun violence and advocate for the right of the disabled, incapacitated, demented or aged to live out their natural years defend the intrinsic value of the human being regardless of their physical or mental condition. Those who are against euthanasia out of respect for the sanctity of human life against lethal coercion and intimidation of the powerless by the powerful. Those who oppose gun violence by criminal elements, law enforcement or untrained individuals uphold the sanctity of human life against lethal coercion and intimidation of the powerless by the powerful. Those who welcome undocumented refugees and immigrants across the borders do so out of respect for the sanctity of their lives and dignity, just as those who welcome every child from conception do so on the basis of the sanctity of their lives and dignity. So what is often made out to be politically opposing viewpoints turn out to be motivated by the same respect for the sanctity of life and dignity.

Political divisions based on semantics have frustrated progress towards a society and culture that protects and validates the weak and vulnerable against social devaluation and disrespect. For this reason, it is crucial that we reach across the Divide and culture that protects and validates the weak and vulnerable against social devaluation and disrespect. For this reason, it is crucial that we reach across the Divide and

Pro-Life across the Divide
By Father Paul CB Schenck
Special to The Witness

As a child, I used to play a lot with the boys in the neighborhood. This doesn’t surprise most of the people who know me. One of the games we used to play was “Army” or “Capture.” We would place a large plastic bucket on top of a hill. One team would be responsible for protecting the bucket, while the other team would try to grab it before it was being tagged. We tagged each other by throwing burs at each other’s clothes. If the burst hit the torso of the individual, he would fall to the ground and stay down until the bucket was captured or the attacking army was eliminated. When an attacking member was tagged, he became our prisoner until the end of the sortie was declared.

These were some of our “rules of engagement,” until we got a new boy on the block. He was from “out of state,” specifically Aarburg, Pa. We all realized that Mark was truly different, besides having a strange accent, since in the midst of one of our skirmishes, after he was tagged, he stood up and screamed, “NEW LIFE!”

“What the heck does that mean?” we all cried. His two simple words put all of us into a stir. These two words evoked a neighborhood agreement that articulated how “lives” an individual had, how long an individual had to stay on the ground before “new life” was declared, as well as the definition of “actual death” by burs.

I am reminded of this story each time I ponder the meaning of the Resurrection anew. In the encyclical Dies Domini, St. John Paul II writes, “every Sunday is the day of the Resurrection, and this is why it stands at the heart of all worship.”[1]

In Mark 16:2, 9, in Luke 24:1 and in John 20:1 the Resurrection takes place on the “first day after the Sabbath.” So, Sunday “becomes” the weekly Easter for us. A moment in time to recall the day in which Christ rose from the dead, an event that happened outside of time as well. It is exactly because of the Resurrection that “the Christian Sunday cuts through human time, the months, the years, the centuries like a directional arrow with points all of us toward the target: Christ’s Second Coming.” (DD, 75)

This “cutting through human time” makes Sunday a unique day. Our calendar labels this day as the first day of the week, but it can also be considered the eighth the day because it lies after Saturday. In the Old Testament, it was considered an immeasurable blessing of the Resurrection and since it was the day of the week on which light was created and it was also considered holy according to the command: “For seven days present food offerings to the Lord, and on the eighth day hold a sacred assembly and present a food offering to the Lord. It is the closing special assembly, do no regular work.” (Lev. 23:36)

St. Basil the Great wrote that Sunday is Day One because it “symbolizes that truly singular day in which Christ rose from the dead which we call Easter for us. A moment in time to recall the day in which Christ rose from the dead, which will never grow old; Sunday is the ceaseless foretelling of life without end which renews the hope of Christians and encourages them on their way.” (26)

So, Sunday is the day in which light was created – the light of Eternal Life which is given to us. This is a light that was prefigured in the Light of the Transfiguration of Christ and was showered down in the burning Light of Pentecost on the early Church. In a sense, it is a day in which we stand today with one foot on the earth and other in heaven. A day in which echoes the festival of all festivals, the celebration of all celebrations. It is a day in which we are called to truly LIVE NEW LIFE today.

“What the heck does that mean” for you? It means to enter into the meaning of the day and of the Sunday Liturgy in a profound way. It means joining ourselves to Christ, to die spiritually with Him through our Baptism and spiritually with Him as we celebrate the Eucharist. It means giving of ourselves out of love to others as we “die” to ourselves. It means standing up and screaming “NEW LIFE” when our culture’s shout downs at us. It means for us to truly holy. What are we waiting for?


(Sister of Christian Charity) Geralyn Schmidt, is the Wide Area Network Coordinator at Diocese of Harrisburg and member of the IT Department. An educator for 28 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. [Figure: Father Paul CB Schenck, Special to The Witness, The Catholic Witness]
**‘Talk Tech’ at the Parish Technology Conference**

St. Joseph Parish in York will host its second Parish Technology Conference (PLTC) on Monday, Oct. 13 from 9 a.m.-3:15 p.m. The conference is an opportunity for anyone interested in using a wide range of technologies for evangelization, catechesis, worship, socialization and church office tasks. It is a non-threatening day for the “tech-illiterate” and for experts looking for new ideas to use technology for their church. Those who may find it specifically useful include pastors or priests, deacons, directors or coordinators of religious education, and volunteer ministers such as those serving on pastoral councils, finance councils, development committees, or other parish volunteers.

This year’s theme is “UPLINKED”: focusing on reaching out to people using print, electronic, and telephonic communications while assisting church workers in catching parishioners’ attention, conveying authentic care to the community, and providing ways to connect with other resources for evangelization and catechesis. Join us as we discover ways to help people know they are connected to something greater than themselves, that they have support, and that they belong to something supernatural. They matter. They are loved. Get them UPLINKED. The keynote speaker is Matt Warner, CEO of Flocknote.com, national speaker and blogger.

The day includes six speakers providing seven workshops throughout the day. The cost to attend is $40 per person and includes lunch. For more information, or to register (deadline: Oct 6), visit www.ParishLifeTech.com or send an e-mail to ParishLifeTech@sjy.org.

**Diocesan Respect Life Conference**

**October 18, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.**

**Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg**

“Opening Our Hearts to Life”

Celebrant and Homilist for Holy Mass – Bishop Ronald W. Gainer

Keynote Speaker – Father Frank Pavone, Priests for Life

8:30 – Registration

9:00 – Holy Mass

10:00 – Workshop Presenters

12:00 – New Life for Girls Choir

12:45 – Lunch

1:30 – Workshop Presenters

2:30 – Keynote Speaker

4:00 – Closing

**Workshop Presentations:**

- Technology in Ministry – Tom Steele, Director of Information Technology, St. Joseph Parish in York
- Palliative Prenatal Care – Dorice Millar, Holy Spirit Hospital Women’s Health Center
- Medical Terminology and End of Life Issues – Father Paul CB Schenck, Director of the Diocesan Office of Respect Life Activities, and Chairman of the National Pro-Life Center on Capitol Hill

Lunch will be provided. Registration deadline is Oct. 10, with a suggested donation of $15. To register, contact Joy at 717-657-4804, ext. 293, or jcrimmins@hbgdiocese.org.
By Sister Eliana Day, T.O.R.

My name is Sister Eliana (pronounced Ellie-ah-na). I grew up in Pennsylvania with one younger brother. We were a Protestant family, although we weren’t deeply religious. We went to church and prayed before meals. I fell away from any faith in high school and was deeply into the party scene at college. I hit bottom, and for the next three years I looked up to God for help. He gave me his mercy and his love, and I began to live my life for him. In seeking him more deeply in the Scriptures and through the witness of some friends, I found the truth in the Catholic Church and converted when I was 21. Obviously there is a whole story here, but that will have to wait for another time. On to the vocation story.

After my conversion to Catholicism, I went to Franciscan University of Steubenville to finish college. Actually, my motivation was mostly to be in a Catholic atmosphere to learn what it really means to be Catholic. While I was there, I avoided all the religious sisters at all costs. I was not interested! Instead, I was interested in boys and did date a bit. It was a new experience for me to date men who were into their faith and not just interested in a physical relationship with me.

For my graduation gift, I asked my parents for a plane ticket to Rome. The group I was with was invited to pray the Rosary one night with Pope John Paul II. After the Rosary, the pope spoke to us, but in my heart I felt the Lord asking me to leave the group and go over to an image of the Blessed Mother. I sat there and began to talk with Our Lady about the lack of peace that was in my heart all day long. I sensed her response in my heart, “Just be open.” I knew immediately she was asking me to consider religious life. I wrestled with the idea for awhile, and then responded that I would “just think about it.” Well, within minutes I was so excited and filled with joy that I was thinking about different habits and what colors I would like, and how cute I would look in it! I had a lot to learn.

I did make a deal with the Lord, though. I told him if he wanted me, he would have to woo me. I expected that of any man, and so I expected it of him too. And that’s exactly what he did. The next six years I spent actively trying to know him. I went to daily Mass and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, read Scripture, went on retreats, met regularly with a spiritual director, as well as being heavily involved in youth ministry. I knew that no matter what vocation he called me to, the most important thing was to do his will and the only way to do his will was to get to know him. He spoke to me a lot through Scripture. One of the most powerful verses he gave me for my vocation was Isaiah 62:5, “As a young man marries a virgin, so shall your builder marry you.” I was in awe that my God, my Creator, would want to marry me.

My discernment those six years was totally led by the Lord. He took me on a cyclical journey, kind of like a spiral staircase that went down deeper and deeper into my heart to discover the true desires of my heart. First, we would consider religious life, and then after awhile we would switch to marriage and then back again. Each time around, we would get more and more specific. For example, when thinking about marriage, we started thinking about the vocation generally, then later I had the opportunity to spend a lot of time with a solid Catholic family, and finally he introduced me to a guy who made marriage a possibility for me. As I took all of this to prayer, I was able to see the beauty in each vocation, and soon I was able to see myself in each vocation as well.

One key experience happened on New Year’s Eve. I had just returned from a difficult visit with my family in time for an adoration service. The priest kept talking about how God still does miracles. I was cynical and inside said, “Whatever!” The Lord broke into my thoughts and impressed this question into my heart, “Do you want to see a miracle?” I was pretty shocked and not sure. He really didn’t wait for me to answer. I felt a pain in my heart and had an image in my mind of my heart. It had long black tentacles or roots grown deep into it. They started to shrink up, and then the Lord pulled them out of my heart and healed the wounds. Immediately I was filled with a sense of exuberant joy! I sensed that the roots represented a lie that I had believed unconsciously—the lie that because of some experiences I was a child that I was defective, and if I chose to get married I would only hurt my husband and children. Because of this healing, I experienced a great freedom in being able to choose my vocation—and I could be good at each and holy in each. I felt like I was on top of the world and could do anything.

The Lord’s call on my life became clear. I returned late one night after leading a retreat that had gone extremely well and wanted to thank the Lord. So I went into the dark chapel. There was only one small spotlight on the large gold tabernacle. I knelt on the red carpet in front of the tabernacle and simply praised the Lord for his goodness. I wasn’t thinking about my vocation at all. Then I sat down to just be with him in silence, and immediately I felt him say to me in my heart, “Will you marry me?” I was speechless at first, and couldn’t take in what he had asked. Then I started to think of the fact that I couldn’t get married and have kids, but that seemed so unimportant, so secondary. “Yes, yes, yes,” I responded! Of course it was a totally giddy moment—I was totally emotionally with tears running down my face. As I responded, I realized that the yes I said to him was from deep, deep inside my heart, from the center. It was the desire of my heart all along.

After realizing that I desired to give myself totally to Him alone in religious life, I checked out some different communities and went to visit them. On my first visit to the T.O.R. Sisters, I felt so at home that I was making “we” statements within a few days and had to keep reminding myself that I was not part of the community. I entered there in August 2004, and after many years of continued discernment and testing of my vocation, I professed perpetual vows on July 6, 2014. This life is difficult, because we are all striving to live the Gospel and give ourselves totally to Christ, but it is filled with more joy than I ever expected. Doing God’s will always is!
Sister Janice’s Legacy Continues to Touch Lives of Those She Taught at Penn National

By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
Special to The Witness

Sometime ago, two sophomores in high school sat down at a science lab table and began to work at a lab in their chemistry class. They were from different grade schools, but both of their elementary schools fed into the same high school. They came to know one another when they were in fifth grade. They used to share experiments she did with the eighth graders with us when we were in just fifth grade! “Really! You mean you did something like this back then?” “No, the students didn’t do it, the teacher did. We had a nun who took great interest in making science hands-on and fun for us.” “No kidding! I did not know that! This sister used to share experiments she did with the eighth graders with us when we were in just fifth grade!” “Really! What was your teacher’s name?” “I don’t have a clue. ‘Sister Geralyn!’ ‘Holy cow! You had her too? So did I.!”

This conversation was repeated to me during a 100th anniversary celebration of one of the elementary schools in which I taught. My former students also told me that they both thought I was absolutely nuts to love science so much! I replied with a wink, “Something I said or did caught fire within your hearts, since both of you went to study engineering in college!”

As I walked away from this conversation, I began to think about the amazing blessing it has been for me to be a teacher. Quoting Henry Adams, “A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.” I am always surprised and humbled when I learn that my feeble ramblings as a teacher touched the life of one of my students. I can see all the teachers reading this article nodding their heads.

Being a part of a religious congregation of the Sisters of Christian Charity, I am often reminded that they both thought I was absolutely nuts to love science so much! I replied with a wink, “Something I said or did caught fire within your hearts, since both of you went to study engineering in college!”

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The education ministry of Christian Charity Sister Janice Borst, shown here at Bishop McDevitt High School, extend through diocesan class rooms and the race track ministry at Penn National Race Course.

The family that prays together stays together. Pauline Richards believes that Catholic churches are like Catholic families—they need a steady diet of prayer to flourish.

Mrs. Richards, mother of eight, grandmother of 18, great-grandmother of two and member of Holy Infant Parish in York Haven for the past 42 years, over the years has followed that prayer diet in both her family and church.

“A family and a church both have to start with God,” Mrs. Richards said. After her children were born, I gave each of them to God. My job has been to raise them in faith through prayer. Families are little churches. God is the glue that holds them together. The family that prays together stays together.

Mrs. Richards, originally from Exton, and her late husband, Bernard, originally from Pottsville, grew up in devout Catholic families. They came to York Haven in 1972 and over the years raised six daughters and sons in their own devout family. Their family grew with Holy Infant, then a mission church.

The Richards were happily married for 46 years. Mr. Richards’ long illness for several months and his death last year tested Mrs. Richards’ faith in new ways.

“It was so hard to lose Bernie,” she said slowly. “He had the Anointing of the Sick several times. Although I was in a dark place then, I received Holy Communion and found God. I realized this was the way it was and accepted it.”

Father Edward C. Malcic, pastor of Holy Infant Parish and Judicial Vicar for the Diocese of Harrisburg, said that the Richards family rallied around Bernard Richards as he was dying, giving a quiet but powerful testimony “about what a Catholic family is about in trying times.

He called Pauline Richards “a model of courage and faithfulness both as a Catholic and as a wife. She used her faith to give her the strength to do what needed to be done. She has an articulate understanding of what it means to be a Catholic and a follower of Jesus Christ.”

Mrs. Richards said that prayer keeps the Catholic Church going from generation to generation.

“Faith is like breathing in God,” she said. “It is having Christ within us. I have an altar in my home and collect religious statues of saints.”

She also organizes the parish’s prayer tree.

“Our parish is powered by prayer,” Father Malcic said. “When parishioners need prayers for someone, they go to Pauline. She is an extremely spiritual person. The Lord works through her in many ways!”

Father Malcic said that Mrs. Richards prays simply and without fanfare for many needs, including those of parishioners who request their prayers.

“She is especially close to our Lord in the Eucharist and devoted to Mary and the saints,” he said. “I can’t count the number of religious items that she has asked me to bless before or after Mass. Most of these medals, cards, crucifixes and the like are gifts that she will give out to her family. She isn’t afraid to witness to her Catholic faith. She does it in such a beautiful way, always coming from the heart.”

Because she lives within walking distance of Holy Infant Church, Mrs. Richards has become the “go to” person for everything from meeting someone at the church to locking it up. She also takes Holy Communion to those who are homebound. She said she can’t imagine life without her Church.

“This is a friendly parish,” she said, noting that the average parishioner’s age is 34. “We have coffee and doughnuts every Sunday. While the kids are in religious education class, the parents visit. We’re a family church.”

(Mary Klaus is a freelance reporter for The Catholic Witness. The “Witnesses to Faith” series highlights ways in which Catholics are living the faith in their daily lives.)
Chief Teacher Welcomes Students Back to School

A s students in the diocese’s 41 schools settled into the start of a new academic year, they were greeted with words of encouragement by Bishop Ronald Gainer via a webinar Sept. 3.

The connection, made possible through the diocese’s wide-area network, gave students a glimpse into the bishop’s office, as he sat before a webcam in his quarters at the Cardinal Kleber Center in Harrisburg.

More than 100 classrooms connected to the webinar through “AnyMeeting,” which is used by diocesan schools and the Diocesan Institute for Catechetical and Pastoral Formation.

Bishop Gainer began his “back to school” address with a prayer, asking God’s blessing upon all students and school communities and their efforts this year.

“A Catholic school is a place that grows saints,” he told the students. “That is an important part of our vocation, the calling that God has given to every one of us: to be a holy person.”

“Catholic schools help us to keep the focus on what is of ultimate importance. It’s very important that you do well this year in your studies and in your activities, that you grow in every possible way through the programs of our Catholic schools,” he said. “But it’s also important that you keep your focus and keep your mind set on what is of eternal value, not just to be a success, not just to be happy, not just to be productive in this world. We are all made for eternity, and our decisions, activities and attitudes are important for eternal life.”

(View a video of the webinar at www.hbgdiocese.org.)

EMILY M. ALBERT, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

Dr. Scott Hahn

Continued from 1

really recommend this dish; nobody is going to say, ‘Who do you think you are to shove your culinary taste down our throats?’ The same applies to sharing our love for the Lord and the Church, Dr. Hahn expressed.

“Sharing is what friends do. It’s what friends expect,” he said. “It’s okay to say, ‘I grew up Catholic and took it for granted, but lately I’ve discovered that the faith is true and beautiful.’

“Your faith is a friend, and maybe someone will ask you to talk more about it,” he suggested.

Dr. Hahn is Professor of Theology and Scripture and Chair of Biblical Theology and the New Evangelization at Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio. Through speaking engagements and books on Scripture and the Church, he has helped motivate Catholics in their embrace of the faith.

Dr. Hahn’s three-workshop conference – which also included talks on the early Church and angels and the Church, he has helped motivate Catholics in their embrace of the faith.

Dr. Hahn’s three-workshop conference – which also included talks on the early Church and angels – was an event hosted by Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in New Oxford.

It was the second such conference hosted by the parish, which last year brought author and speaker Mike Aquilina to the diocese.

Conference coordinator Pete Socks told The Catholic Witness that the parish hopes to make the event an annual one. On May 2, 2015, the parish will bring in EWTN host and author Donna-Marie Cooper O’Boyle, and next August will host Matt Leonard, Executive Director of the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology, founded by Dr. Hahn.

The conferences have had the support of former pastor Father Steven Fauser and current administrator Father Michael Letteer.

Mr. Socks considers his role as conference coordinator as a way of giving back to the parish, the Adams Deanery and the Diocese of Harrisburg.

His blog, The Catholic Book Blogger (www.catholicbookblogger.com) has enabled him to connect with Catholic authors to invite to the conferences.

“My hope is attendees learn more about the richness of their Catholic faith,” Mr. Socks said. “Our faith is like a beach. A beach is composed of many grains of sand, so much so that you could never pick up and examine each of those grains. Like those grains of sand, there is so much we can learn about our faith if only we take the time to do it. In fact, there is so much to learn you could never cover it all.

“These events are an effort to provide people with an opportunity to hear some of the best author-speakers out there today,” he continued. “Each of them has their own area of focus in the faith, and this will allow attendees to hear a wide variety of topics and hopefully share what they have learned with others. By sharing what they have learned, they are evangelizing and thus fulfilling what the laity is called to do in the New Evangelization.”

In his opening address, Dr. Hahn defined the New Evangelization as “re-evangelizing the de-Christianized.” Some 30-40 percent of Catholics in the United States have stopped practicing, he pointed out.

Evangelization is our mission as members of the Church, he said, reiterating the words of Pope Paul VI in his apostolic exhortation Evangelii Nuntiandi in 1975: “Evangelizing is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelize, that is to say, in order to preach and teach, to be the channel of the gift of grace, to reconcile sinners with God, and to perpetuate Christ’s sacrifice in the Mass, which is the memorial of His death and glorious resurrection.”

Dr. Hahn also recalled the words of St. John Paul II in Redemptoris Missio – on the permanent validity of the Church’s missionary mandate – in 1990:

“I sense that the moment has come to commit all of the Church’s energies to a new evangelization and to the mission ad gentes. No believer in Christ, no institution of the Church can avoid the supreme duty: to proclaim Christ to all peoples.”

Despite these “marching orders,” Catholics often find themselves reluctant to share their faith, preferring it instead to be a private matter, or to let their good deeds – instead of their words – be a witness.

“A Catholic who is faithful is not only going to take in the faith and keep it, he is going to spread it. You can’t keep the faith unless you share it, and you don’t really learn the faith until you teach it ... We need to talk the walk, and walk the walk,” Dr. Hahn said.

Participating in the New Evangelization doesn’t necessarily mean reciting Scripture on street corners or handing out Bibles. It means sharing the faith wherever you are in life, Dr. Hahn said.

“If you are a husband or wife, if you work in a factory or in an office, your state in life will define how it is that you share the Gospel,” he said.

He said our efforts in the New Evangelization require two things: friendship and joy.

“Be the best friend that you can be, and then be bold enough to share your experience of the Catholic faith,” he said. “You may be the only homily they ever hear. The way you present the faith might be the one bridge they ever hear. The way you present the faith might be the one bridge that grows saints.”

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"Not every Catholic can explain every doctrine of the Church’s teaching. Not everybody can answer all the common objections about Mary, the pope, the saints and the sacraments," Dr. Hahn said, "but the one thing that each and every one of us can do and should do is enjoy being Catholic." (Read Evangelii Nuntiandi at http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/paul_vi/apost_exhortations/docu ments/hf_p-vi_en/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_p-vi_en/apost_exhortations/hf_p_vi_19751208_evangelii-nuntiandi_en.html Read Redemptoris Missio at http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/enencyclicals/documents/hf_jp_ii_enc_07121990_redemptoris-missio_en.html)
Annual Fishers of Men Dinner
To Benefit the Seminarians of the Diocese of Harrisburg

Friday, October 3
Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg
Hors d'oeuvres served at 6:00
Dinner begins at 7:00
Cost is $150 per plate, $800 per table of six, or $1,000 per table of eight

We are faced with a challenge! Many dioceses throughout the United States are facing the challenge of fewer vocations to the priesthood. We in the Diocese of Harrisburg are faced with a different kind of challenge – the need to provide solid seminary formation for an increasing number of men who are studying for the priesthood. What a wonderful challenge to be blessed with! As we have counted on your prayers for young men considering a vocation to the priesthood, so now we need your financial help in providing seminary formation for them.

The Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer, Bishop of Harrisburg, invites you to the annual Fishers of Men Dinner on October 3 at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg. Let us meet this challenge together! Make a reservation for the dinner, or make a donation, at http://www.hbgdiocese.org/event/fishers-of-men-dinner/

Contact the Office of Vocations at 717-657-4804, ext. 282, or dkesteretter@hbgdiocese.org.

Earlier this month, Father Richard Ho Lung, the founder of the Missionaries of the Poor, and 15 of the congregation’s priests of the diocese gathered Sept. 4 for their first convocation with Bishop Ronald Gainer at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg. The gathering included lunch and daytime prayer. Bishop Gainer presented several topics on which the priests of the diocese would now have to be relegated to the diocese’s historic archive,” the Sept. 5 Peoria diocesan statement said.

Bonnie Engstrom, whose delivery of a stillborn baby in 2010 provided the basis for a possible miracle attributable to Archbishop Sheen, expressed sadness and confusion over the delay in the sainthood cause.

"We are very disappointed that the cause to canonize Venerable Fulton Sheen had to be closed, especially because it had been progressing so well," she told the Catholic Herald, a British Catholic newspaper. "We are incredibly saddened and confused by the Archdiocese of New York's decision to not cooperate with the Sheen Foundation's cause. We trust in the goodness of God."

Engstrom's son James had no heartbeat for 61 minutes after delivery. Then, as doctors were about to pronounce the child dead, James' heart started beating. He has defied doctors' predictions that he would not survive, and now he has surpassed medical experts convoked by the Vatican reported there is no natural explanation for the boy's survival.

"Countless supporters especially from the local church in Central Illinois have given their time, treasure and talent for this good work with the clear understanding that the body of Venerable Sheen would return to the diocese," the Sept. 3 Peoria statement said. "Bishop Jenky was personally assured on several occasions by the Archdiocese of New York that the transfer of the body would take place at the appropriate time. New York's change of mind took place as the work on behalf of the cause had reached a significant stage."

Archbishop Sheen, after his years in the TV limelight, retained a high profile by running the Society for the Propagation of the Faith out of New York City.
Catechists: Witnesses to the Truth and Merciful Love of God

By James Gontis

Special to The Witness

The primary instrument of God and his grace in the teaching of the faith is drum, please...THE PERSON OF THE CATECHIST!

This is true whether the catechists are the parents, who are called upon by God to be the first and primary educators of their children, the teachers in the ways of faith, or the volunteer parish catechist in a parish religious education program, or the Catholic school teacher.

In his Sept. 29, 2013, homily to catechists, Pope Fran- cis made the following remarks:“A catechist is a Christian who puts this remembrance at the service of proclamation, not to seem important, not to talk about himself or herself, but to talk about God’s word so that people may come to know that God’s word is a message, to talk about the faith so that all God has revealed is taught in its totality, neither trimming it down nor adding on to it.”

Here, the Holy Father is providing a recipe for certain characteristics fundamental to any catechism: good fruit for the Lord by being authentic and humble, and by handing on the faith in all its beauty – by being true and authentic witnesses to God’s word.

Now that school has begun, we are about to kick off another celebration of Catechetical Sunday on Sept. 21. This is a day in which the Church in the United States puts special emphasis on recognizing the contributions of, among others, catechists, volunteer catechists and volun- teer leaders who, without fanfare, are called upon to hand on the Catholic faith in its fullness, beauty and vigor. We need the volunteers. The outpouring they give witnesses to the merciful love and truth Who is Christ Jesus, the Lord God incarnate.

Catechists as Witnesses to God’s Gift of Forgiveness

The theme of this year’s Catechetical Sunday, according to the United States Catechetics for Catechetical Sunday 2014 is “Teaching about God’s Gift of Forgiveness.” The title of this theme implies that those handing on the faith, be they parents, parish catechists, or Catholic school teachers, must be intentional in teaching that forgiveness is a gift from God and a re- quirement of the Gospel.

At various points throughout the Gospels, the Lord tells us that we will be forgiven to the extent (and only to the extent) that we forgive others. We cannot enter into the eternal joys of heaven without first accepting God’s forgiveness, which is pure, grace, and gift. And we have his assurance that those who forgive will receive his forgiveness to the extent that we, ourselves, have been merciful. “...and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who tres- pass against us” (Matthew 6:12). “Blessed are the merci- ful, for they will be shown mercy” (Matthew 5:7).

These are the words from the lips of Jesus himself. Put another way, St. Augustine, a great bishop and teacher of the faith, wrote that “The same God Who made us with- out our will, will not save us without our consent.” The acceptance of God’s forgiveness, and our own for- giveness of those who have offended us, are among the primary ways that we cooperate with God’s grace.

God’s bottomless ocean of mercy takes concrete form in the Sacrament of Baptism, and after that in the Sac- rament of Penance and Reconciliation. Catechists give witness to divine mercy through frequenting this sacra- ment themselves, and by leading their students toward it. Jesus gave us this sacrament, cf. John 20: 19-23, by teaching that when we are sorry for our sins, confess them honestly, and receive absolution from the priest, our sins are wiped out by the Blood of the Lamb. It is in- cumbent upon catechists to teach what grace and sin are, and their subdivisions, to teach specific sins that need to be confessed, and how to confess them.

The acceptance of God’s forgiveness, and the reality of the forgiveness we ourselves give to our neighbors, co-workers. There are no grudges in heaven. A good Catholic Christian manifests all of the above and strives to bring them to perfection with a love for that which is most distinctively Catholic: regular partici- pation in the sacramental life of the Church, especially the Sacrament of Penance, and after that in the Sacra- ment of Reconciliation.

The acceptance of God’s forgiveness, and our own for- giveness of others, are called to imitate the life-giving love of the Trinity. Family is inseparable from the Christian understanding of God and, therefore, from the understanding of human beings. The Catholic Church is the family of God on earth. Catechists then, if married, will bear lastingly good fruit (even catechists, only if they are striving to live out their own primary vocation as spouses and par- ents, faithfully, fruitfully and in committed permanence with their spouse).

Catechists and teachers are not “buddies” of their students, but their students should know they are called to imitate the life-giving love of the Trinity. But they set good examples and try to help their stu- dents negotiate the “narrow road” that leads to heaven, through the teaching of sound doctrine in season and out of season, through providing opportunities for grace and growth in God’s love, and through sacramental prepara- tion, by teaching them not to live beneath their dignity, and through prayer. St. John the Baptist referred to the 3-fold method was:

1) Teach them the truth
2) Love them
3) Give opportunities for grace.

The outstanding catechist “loves all things” that God has made with a God-like love. Outstanding catechists love God above all things and their neighbors as them- selves. They do not make invidious distinctions. They do not judge or condemn. May we be true witnesses to and for Christ and His holy, catholic Church! Led by the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary, may all of our efforts redound to the glory of God and the salvation of souls!

(James Gontis is the Director of the Diocesan Office of Religious Education.)

Catechists as Witnesses to Truth and Holiness

Nemo dat gubernum non habet.
No one gives what he/she does not have. If there is any situation in which this is true, it is true to the message, it is that of catechists in relation to their students. Good catechists are, first and foremost, good Catholics. To be a good Catholic, one must first be a good human being.

A good human being consistently manifests the natu- ral virtues, especially the cardinal virtues of prudence, justice, temperance and fortitude.

A good Catholic Christian manifests all of the above and strives to bring them to perfection with a love for that which is most distinctively Catholic: regular partici- pation in the sacramental life of the Church, especially the Sacrament of Penance, and after that in the Sacra- ment of Reconciliation.

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2) Love them
3) Give opportunities for grace.

The outstanding catechist “loves all things” that God has made with a God-like love. Outstanding catechists love God above all things and their neighbors as them- selves. They do not make invidious distinctions. They do not judge or condemn. May we be true witnesses to and for Christ and His holy, catholic Church! Led by the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary, may all of our efforts redound to the glory of God and the salvation of souls!

(James Gontis is the Director of the Diocesan Office of Religious Education.)

The Catholic Church, 234).
Mrsg. Smith
Continued from 1

throughout his life, as a seminarian and as a priest. Father Wolfe is Msgr. Smith’s successor at St. Joseph’s.

“I know that so many of you have found in him that trust, to use your gifts and talents and grow, and to use them for the good of God’s family, the Church,” Father Wolfe told the congregation.

“We gather here as a people of faith, the people of God, and we give thanks,” he said. “Even in those difficult times – or maybe particularly because of those difficult times – we have reason to give thanks to God that the Lord put this man in our path.”

“Msgr. Smith was made to be a priest of Jesus Christ because we needed him. Priesthood is God’s gift to us,” Father Wolfe said.

Thomas Henry Smith was born May 19, 1931, in Conewago Township, Adams County, the oldest of 13 children of Mark and Anna Smith. He was raised at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, where a dozen generations of the Smith family have worshipped. He graduated first in 1953.

He worked on the farm family, which was owned by the Smiths, and attended Sacred Heart School and Delone Catholic High School in McSherrystown. In 1948, after discerning a call to the priesthood, he entered St. Charles College in Catonsville, Md., and graduated from St. Charles Seminary, Overbrook, in 1957.


In 1973, he was assigned as administrator of St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Annville, and was named its pastor in 1975. Here, he led the congregation in building the current church, which includes a daily Mass chapel, parish hall, rectory and a pavilion for picnics and carnivals.

On Sept. 22, 1983, he was appointed Honorary Prelate to His Holiness John Paul II and given the title Monsignor.

In 1992, Msgr. Smith was appointed as pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Lancaster. Here, he led parishes in running nearly $2 million to restore the parish’s historic buildings. He served the parish for 22 years, until moving to St. Anne’s Retirement Community because of his failing health.

Lawrence McNeil, who particularly came to know Msgr. Smith while serving as pastor of Sacred Heart in Conewago from 2000-2013, described the late priest as a “pleasant and welcoming man,” who was “molded from a hardworking Pennsylvania German background and was a gentleman in the classic definition.”

Msgr. Smith loved his family, and took seriously his responsibility as the oldest son and as priest. “He cared about the spiritual life and the physical well being of his siblings, nieces and nephews, and great nieces and nephews,” Father McNeil told The Catholic Witness. “He challenged his nieces and nephews to consider religious vocations.”

Msgr. Smith frequently returned to Conewago to spend time with family, pray in the Basilica and visit the Jesuit-owned farm where he was born and raised. When he would meet a Jesuit priest, he would jokingly introduce himself as a Jesuit serv, for all the work he and his family did on the land.

“The wonderful gift that Conewago gave to him and his family was a deeply planted faith,” said Father McNeil, who was the homilist for the Mass with Final Commendation celebrated at the Basilica Sept. 6.

“The uniqueness of Conewago is the rootedness of the faith that goes back to the mid 1700s,” he said. “Msgr. Smith baptized the 13th generation of his family in this church. I think the history of the church here impacted his faith, his understanding of the priesthood, his love for family, and his understanding of how a parish is a family. He saw himself as a father who cared for them, challenged them, reminded them when they went wrong, but all the while letting them know that he loved them.”

Msgr. Smith enjoyed traveling, music and reading, and shared a friendship with William Cardinal Keefer, who was Bishop of Harrisburg from 1983-1989.

“He was a priest’s priest,” said Father David Danneker, PhD., pastor of St. John Neumann Parish in Lancaster. He came to know Msgr. Smith in the early 80s while serving as a deacon at St. Paul’s in Annville.

“You could talk freely with him. Age didn’t matter. He was just as kind to the new priests and the seminarians as he was to the older priests and those in between,” Father Danneker told The Witness.

Lessons he learned as a seminarian from Msgr. Smith remain with him more than 30 years later.

“Make sure to keep your Tuesday evenings free for 40 Hours, so you can be with your brother priests. Attend priests’ funerals, and the funerals of their parents. Be present for your brother priests,” Father Danneker recalled Msgr. Smith saying.

In addition to his role as pastor, Msgr. Smith served as chaplain of the United States Army and National Guard at Fort Indiantown Gap and of Lebanon Valley College in Annville, of the Lancaster City Police, and the Knights of Malta.

In all his ministries, Msgr. Smith created, needed and strengthened relationships while caring for the needs of people.

Father Danneker believes that will be Msgr. Smith’s legacy.

“He sowed seeds that he might not have even seen grow,” he said.

“People in need trumped everything. If someone wanted to talk to him because they had a fight with their spouse, or because their child had run away, that took priority.”

“He was what I call an ‘active contemplative,’” Father Danneker added. “He did exactly what the Second Vatican Council envisioned: that priests would be both holy and present. He exemplified that.”

Msgr. Smith is survived by nine siblings and many nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews. He was preceded in death by two sisters and a brother.

Memorial contributions may be made in his memory to the Stained Glass Window Fund at St. Joseph’s Church, 137 Joseph Street, Lancaster PA 17603, or to the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Conewago Restoration Fund, 30 Basilica Drive, Hanover PA 17331.

A Show in Support of the Sisters of Saint Joseph

A one-woman performance of “The God Box: A Daughter’s Story” Featuring author Mary Lou Quinlan

October 5 at 2 p.m. • Bishop McDevitt High School, Harrisburg

“The God Box” is a New York Times bestseller. In it, Mary Lou Quinlan tells the story of the “God boxes” she finds after her mother’s death. In these boxes, her mother gave her troubles to see, to use her gifts and talents, and grow, and to use them for the good of God’s family, the Church.

Msgr. Smith’s historic buildings. He served the parish for 22 years, until moving to St. Anne’s Retirement Community because of his failing health.

“Mary Lou Quinlan is a graduate of St. Helena’s Elementary School, Cardinal Dougherty High School and St. Joseph’s University.

Catholic Women warmly invites you to join us as we host the day, “Mary: Our Shining Light.” This day of reflection includes Mass celebrated by Father Francis Tamburro, meditation, recitation of the Rosary and a spiritual message.

Cost is $10 and includes lunch. RSVP by Oct. 3 by leaving a message for Diane DeLuca at 570-759-3643 or wadeluce@pa.metroast.net.

The Annual Diocesan Council of Catholic Women warmly invites all women of the diocese to join us as we host the day, “Mary: Our Shining Light.” This day of reflection includes Mass celebrated by Father Francis Tamburro, meditation, recitation of the Rosary and a spiritual message.

Cost is $10 and includes lunch. RSVP by Oct. 3 by leaving a message for Diane DeLuca at 570-759-3643 or wadeluce@pa.metroast.net.
At an immigration center for receiving busloads of deportees returning to El Salvador, Catholic Relief Services’ Executive Vice President Joan Rosenhauer spoke with a widowed mother of six children who was awaiting her son.

Rosenhauer said she asked the mother why she had sent her son on the perilous journey through Mexico in an attempt to reach the United States.

“There is no hope for him here,” the mother responded, explaining her inability to feed her family and the problem of gangs forcing adolescents into lives of crime.

“It gave me pause,” Rosenhauer said in a telephone interview after returning from a late-August trip to Central America. “Any parent can understand whatever you can to protect the lives of your children and make sure that they have food to eat and a decent place to sleep.”

The boy being returned home was but one of thousands of children attempting to abandon Central America – sometimes alone, sometimes with a family – in an attempt to reach the United States to support households back home.

Catholic communities in Central America are responding to the crisis. Scalabrinis runs repatriation programs in Honduras, priests try to keep kids out of gangs in El Salvador, and religious operate shelters for migrant children crowding through Mexico. Rosenhauer said Catholic Services is focusing on supporting these communities as best it can.

“We know that there are successful programs that can address the issue of poverty and can address the issue of gang violence and the issue of domestic violence, too,” she said. “We just need to be able to scale them up.”

She said one program operating in El Salvador provides at-risk youth and home with help to develop vocational training and the skills, which allow them to gain employment, start businesses or return to school. Eighty percent were in such activities one year after graduation from the program.

Rosenhauer said she asked “what was the most helpful part of this program, and to a person, they said the life-skills training.”

“That helps [give] them new ways of coping with all of the challenges they face ... with the gangs, learning within their communities to deal with tense situations.”

Catholic Relief Services also works with agricultural and livelihood programs in Central America, especially among coffee growers, who have had crops wiped out by a plague known as coffee rust.

“Agriculture is still a key livelihood for people in Central America. We are looking at helping coffee farmers improve their production and be able to access markets,” Rosenhauer said.

During her trip, she met with Central American public officials, including Ana Garcia de Hernandez, first lady of Honduras. She said officials recognized the severity of the situation – Honduras has a murder rate topping 90 per 100,000 residents, highest in the world, while poverty is rife throughout the region, but resources are lacking.

“They were very anxious to bring these programs into their country, but they don’t have the resources to do it,” she said.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection reports detaining more than 66,000 unaccompanied minors between October 2013 and August 2014, an 88 percent decrease over its past fiscal year. The Los Angeles Times reported the number of unaccompanied children being detained in the U.S. dropped by more than two-thirds in August, from a high of 10,600 in June. The reasons remain uncertain, although some CRS staffers suspect few Central Americans wish to try the trip during the heat of the summer months.

Mexican officials also appear to be increasing enforcement efforts in southern Mexico, and the government has said it will stop migrants from climbing aboard the northbound trains known as La Bestia, citing safety reasons.

Rosenhauer, who works with CRS’ U.S. operations, called on Catholics and all Americans to reflect on the responsibilities in Central America.

“It’s a complex intersection of causes, but it’s clear to me that the cause is severe enough... We will never address the problem we have on our side of the border unless we address the root causes that are leading these children to come to the United States,” she said.

“Whether our government is helping Mexico to do it or we’re doing it ourselves, we have to ask ourselves: What kind of a nation are we if we send children back into extremely dangerous situations without even checking to see what conditions they are returning to?”

Co-founder John Martin of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Denver told the Denver Catholic Register, the archdiocesan newspaper that the group wants to have “a zeal to take their parish to a level where parishioners are active disciples for Christ.”

This personal zeal is necessary for a transformation, Auxiliary Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of St. Paul and Minneapolis said during a talk on evangelization.

“If we don’t have the fire in us, it’s because we’re living a lukewarm and superficial existence,” he told the gathering.

Bishop Cozzens suggested the best incentive for sharing the Gospel message comes from inside and contemplating Christ in love.

“The fire begins, the message grows as I spend time with the one I love and when that fire grows, then the Holy Spirit can use me,” he explained.

Parish representatives were asked to brainstorm ideas and ways to put them into action.

The bishop added that true zeal begins where natural enthusiasm ends.

“When you reach the end of natural enthusiasm and spiritual failure and weakness and you can’t go on, invite the Lord, then a real transformation can happen and then real zeal begins,” he said.

Conference leaders came to the idea that a parish is where most people come to know Christ.

An alarming number of Americans are missing such an opportunity, according to the Pew Research Center. “Nones” or those with no religious identity are growing 19 percent or one-fifth of the population – and one-third of adults younger than 30 – religious searches found in a 2012 poll.

Father Michael White, pastor of Church of the Nativity in Timonium, Maryland, and associate Tom Corcoran shared how they shifted focus to these unchurched people.

Instead of adding more programs and ministries, the parish prioritized the Sunday experience and mobilized the help of regular parishioners. People in the pews were no longer approached as customers, he said.

“We were not leading people and we were not making disciples, but we were creating religious consumers in our house,” Father White said about the programs and activities his parish labored to provide.

“So much of it was a waste of time.”

Together, Father White and Corcoran authored two books – “Rebuilt” and “Tools for Rebuilding” – about the lessons they learned.

They asked attendees to brainstorm on ways to reach the unchurched by reevaluating their worship programs and the message of growing homilies and how ministries affect the Sunday experience.

“I want to see the average parishioner re-awakened,” said Cathy Gold, parishioner at the 5,000-family St. Patrick Church in Yorktown Heights, New York. “Everyone should be sitting on the edge of their seat.”

After the discussion, Father Jarek Pochocki, a member of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate and co- pastor of St. Lawrence the Martyr and St. Patrick churches in Hamilton, Ontario, said he and his parishioners could see reaching out to the small and diverse community.

“The topics seem obvious, but this [conference] really reinforces our understanding of it,” he said.

The Amazing Parish movement provides free resources for Catholic leaders, clergy and laity to achieve the seven traits at www.amazingparish.org. Organizer Dominic Perri said the organization also will provide consultants to individual parishes.

“The response has been tremendous,” he said.

“There’s a tremendous hunger for this. ... We’re here to serve the [parishes].”
Ohio Teen with Down Syndrome on Journey to Serve at Mass in 50 States

By Lenora Sumsky

Catholic News Service

Kara Jackson, a 16-year-old altar server from Holy Family Parish in Middletown, Ohio, is on a quest to serve at Mass in all 50 states.

So far, she has served at liturgies in 18 states after recently serving at a morning Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford, Conn.

Kara’s endeavor is a journey of faith that began in 2013. She has traveled with her family to serve at Masses in states as far west as Nebraska as far south as Georgia and as far east as Maine.

Some people might say that beyond her engaging blue eyes, silky blonde hair and easy, joy-filled smile, God gave Kara something extra that makes her and her venture both extraordinary and heartwarming.

“Kara is special,” said Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. “[She was] born with Down syndrome and with a special love for God and all people.”

Kara has served at Mass with Archbishop Kurtz and Father Michael Tobin at the Church of the Annunciation in Shelbyville, midway between Louisville and Lexington. Kentucky was the sixth state on her journey.

Archbishop Kurtz, whose late brother George had Down syndrome, described Kara as “clearly an expert server” in a blog last September. “Kara’s beautiful personal¬

ty and unique gifts have helped clear Church’s teachings about the dignity of every human being,” he said.

Other people witnessing Kara’s devotion have written words of gratitude, love and respect in a journal she keeps to record her travels and the people she meets. Priest and parishioner describes her as “having different abilities” or as being “a true example of God’s love among us.”

“When you serve at Mass, you feel you are closer to God,” said Kara, who was 9 years old when she completed training to be an altar server.

She believes God told her to embark on the endeavor. Her mother, Christina Jack¬

son, admitted being a bit skeptical when Kara told her parents what she wanted to do.

“I took her to talk with our parish priests about the idea,” Christina said.

Msgr. Paul Metzger, who had known Kara for most of her life, encouraged her. He told her that it was a good idea and that it could be done. His support was not surpris¬

ing. The late Msgr. Metzger, who was a priest for 70 years, had celebrated Masses in all 50 states.

Kara also spoke with Father John Civ¬

ilie, the current pastor, who echoed Msgr. Metzger’s sentiments, Christina said.

Still doubtful, Christina and her husband, Rick, decided to help their daughter achieve her goal and contacted a parish not far away in Indiana.

“We wrote a letter,” she said. “I didn’t know what to say or whether I should tell them she has Down syndrome. [Even though] it shouldn’t make a difference, I put it in anyway. I didn’t want to get there and surprise anyone.”

“And I drove to the post office and together we said a prayer before Kara dropped the letter into the mailbox,” Chris¬

tina said. “I wondered how long it would take for a response.”

Two days later, Father Kevin Morris, pas¬
tor of St. Mary Church in Richmond, Ind., called to arrange for Kara to visit the par¬

ish. A few weeks later, on the eve of Di¬

vine Mercy Sunday, Kara served at Mass with Father Morris. She arrived early, as she typically does, to become familiar with procedures that vary among parishes and to quietly reflect on and pray for the priests and parishioners of the church.

It was the first of many inspiring and unique experiences Kara has had on her journey.

She served with a priest in Utah who al¬
ways brings his dog, Ottis, to Mass. In Ver¬
mont, she served with a priest who spends his spare time climbing nearby mountains. In Rhode Island, she served at the church where President John and Jacqueline Ken¬

nedy were married.

Whether she has been, Kara has been encouraged and supported by priests, dea¬
cons and parishioners. Kara’s mother no longer doubts her daughter’s aspiration. Christina and Rick liken their support of Kara’s desire to that of parents who invest time and financial re¬

sources to travel with their children for ath¬
letic, academic or artistic events. They are proud of the inspiration Kara has provided for people she has met.

Following a Mass in Pittsburgh, at a par¬
ish where there are no youth altar servers, a woman told Christina that seeing Kara serving at Mass gave her the encourage¬
ment she needed to volunteer to become a lector, something she had wanted to do for many years.

Kara’s parents also are proud of the way their daughter easily connects and engages with parishioners of all ages, especially elderly people. Worshipers at St. Anne Shrine in the serene lakeside setting of Isle La Monte, Vt., hugged Kara, thanked her for serving and engaged in conversations about her experiences.

“It was not our goal to inspire others, al¬
though we manage to do that,” Christina said. “You never know who will you touch or connect with.”

Kara has 32 states to go on her journey. She’s back in school now but will continue during long weekends and school vacations.
The names of the following deceased persons have been submitted by their parishes:

**BERWICK** – Immaculate Conception BVM: St. Joseph: Christine Cerullo.


**CAMP HILL** – Good Shepherd: Paul Swain.

**ELIZABETHTOWN** – St. Peter: Robert MacDonald.


**LANCASTER** – Assumption BVM: George Kamm, John Tearney; St. Anne: Mary Ann Arcudi.

**LEBANON** – Assumption BVM: Stella Gobin.

**LEBANON** – Assumption BVM: James Carmody.

**MIDDLETOWN** – Seven Sorrows BVM: Christine Deaneer, Elizabeth VanShura.

**MILLERSVILLE** – St. Philip the Apostle: Robert Fischer.

**MOUNT CARMEL** – Divine Redeemer: Colleen E. Deiman, Virginia B. Lindenmuth, Mildred I. Palembas, Genevieve Skavery; Our Lady: Michael Katch, Tonya Kehler.

**NEW FREEDOM** – St. John the Baptist: Rose Jane Pierce, Josephine Rust, Edward Stasik.

**SHAMOKIN** – Mother Cabrini: Edward J. Fitzpatrick, Jr., Allen “Judy” Grow, Jr.

**YORK** – Immaculate Conception BVM: Joseph Burger; St. Patrick: Rafael Escobar; St. Rose of Lima: Dolores Wolfe.

**Pleasant Valley** – St. Mary of the Assumption BVM: Constance B. Davis.

**Remembrance**

**OBITUARIES**

**MECHANICSBURG** – St. Joseph: Gladys Eorsor; St. Katharine Drexel: James Carmody.

**STEVENSVILLE** –山路 the Apostle: Robert Fischer.

**MOUNT CARMEL** – Divine Redeemer: Colleen E. Deiman, Virginia B. Lindenmuth, Mildred I. Palembas, Genevieve Skavery; Our Lady: Michael Katch, Tonya Kehler.

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**Anniversary of the ‘Miracle of the Sun’ to be Commemorated in Harrisburg**

At noon on Saturday, October 13, 1917, a lady, who earlier had identified herself as the Lady of the most Holy Rosary, appeared for the last time at Fatima, Portugal. She had previously told the three children, Lucy dos Santos, age 9, and her cousins, Francisco, age 8, and Jacinta Marto, age 6, that she would perform a miracle on the third Sunday of October, 1917, so that all would believe in her words and believing would follow her request – to pray the Rosary daily in reparations for sin, and lead a more virtuous life, especially as regards to purity.

The promised miracle, witnessed by over 70,000 people, involved the sun, which suddenly appeared after a day and night of heavy rain. The sun seemed to spin in the sky, while throwing off brilliant colors, and finally the sun seemed to be falling to the earth, but at the last second it went back into its orbit in the sky. None of the 70,000 people who had viewed this spectacular event, which had also dried the ground and their clothes, which were soaked because of the intense rain.

Ninety-seven years later, at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 11, 2014, there will be a commemoration of the 97th anniversary of this “Miracle of the Sun” with the recitation of the Rosary at Front and State streets in Harrisburg. Participants will assemble at St. Lawrence Church and process to Front Street, singing “Hail, Holy Queen.” After the Rosary, the people will proceed one block to St. Lawrence Church led by the TFP Honor Guard with their Lady of Fatima statue, the Knights of Columbus Honor Guard, students from the local Catholic grade and high schools, plus people from many diocesan organizations. At St. Lawrence Church, a short talk will precede the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Gettysburg Parishioner Honored with Mount St. Mary’s Award

George R. Gelles ‘64 was recently presented with Mount St. Mary’s University’s Father Simon Gabriel Bruté Medal. The Bruté Medal is awarded to graduates for outstanding service to the Church, state, nation and the Mount. The award is named after Father Simon Gabriel Bruté, who taught at the Mount from 1812 to 1834, and later became the first bishop of Vincennes, Ind. Fr. Bruté remained at the Mount for nearly 25 years.

Mr. Gelles served as an administrator at the Mount for 39 years, beginning as an Assistant Dean of Student from 1967 to 1972 and Dean of Students from 1972 until 1978. While serving as Dean of Students, he played a critical role in The Mount’s transition from all male to a co-educational institution. In 1978, he was named the Mount’s first Director of Auxiliary Services, a position he held until his retirement in 2006.

“George not only touched the lives of countless students and members of the Mount Community, but also citizens in surrounding Adams, Pa., and Frederick, Md., County communities,” said President Thomas H. Powell. “Truly, he has brought new meaning to the well-known phrase, ‘Let George Do It,’ which he has always considered as a badge of honor and a compliment of the highest order.”

His dedicated and tireless efforts include working with St. Anthony Shrine, Emmitsburg; St. Francis Xavier Church, Gettysburg; and United Way of Frederick County, Maryland Special Olympics, Knights of Columbus/Mount Council and Habitat for Humanity.

In addition, Mr. Gelles currently serves as the Executive Vice President of the National Alumni Association, also past Vice President, Council member and chair of various committees of the Association.

Mr. Gelles is passionate about his family, his country and his Catholic faith. He has devoted his life in service to The Mount and is unwavering in his commitment to the National Alumni Association. He and his wife, Terri, live in Gettysburg and have three children.
resumed Sept. 18 at 7 p.m. in the Xavier Center, Table Rock Road, C... 

The St. Francis Xavier Parish Adult Education Program will resume Sept. 18, at 7 p.m. in the Xavier Center. Table Rock Road, Gettysburg. For five consecutive Thursday evenings, Dr. Steven C. Smith, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Sacred Scripture at Mount St. Mary's Seminary, will illuminate Catholic liturgical and Catholic teaching pertaining to the Book of Revelation (Apoc- lypsis). Dr. Smith is a distinguished Catholic artist and escape artist; he is the author of “The Word of the Lord,” a guide for Catholic scripture study, and the narrator of the new and popular Lighthouse CD entitled, “Is This A Good Place to Be? Is This A Good Place to Be?” For more information, contact John Knowles, Adult Education Coordinator, at 717-677-4474.

“Symbolon,” a series from the Augustine Institute, will be hosted by Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish in Harrisburg on Wednesday nights at 7:30 p.m. beginning Sept. 24. In the early Church, the liturgy described their Common prayer, a summation statement of faith, as the symbol, the “seal” or “symbol of the faith.” The first 10 sessions will review the big picture of the Catholic faith, with the Creed as the guide. Contact Jim Doyle at the OLBS Parish Office, 717-273-1014, or sign up at the parish on Sundays to reserve a copy of the workbook, which costs $20.

Adults interested in the religious recognition programs for Catholic marriage, Civil Marriage, and Fire, Meat, Wine, will be celebrated Sept. 21 at 4 p.m. at the Memorial for the Sanctity of Aborted Children. The Mass will be celebrated at St. Joseph Parish in York will be celebrated at the 5 p.m. Mass on Sunday, Sept. 21, at St. Joseph Parish in York. Confessions will be heard at the Chapels of the Priests Fraternity of St. Peter.

The Forum Committee at St. Joseph Parish in Hanover will hold its fourth annual “Wine in the Woods” Festival Sept. 20 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., featuring food, a book sale, adult and children’s games, a silent auction, a bake sale, crafts, a raffle and more. The Anglican Episcopal Basilian Pension Slabaska will be held 5:30-8 p.m. from 5:30-8:15 p.m. at a central location.

Sacred Heart School in Conewago will hold its fourth annual “Wine in the Woods” festival on Sept. 20 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Conewago Chapel Picnic Woods in Hanover. Five local wineries, 20 local bands, a raffle, a variety of local craft vendors, and an array of food for purchase. Ticket prices are $12 in advance and $15 at the door for adults. Proceeds benefit St. Benedict Outreach Ministry and St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

The Harrisburg Catholic Social Singles (ages 25-55) will meet at the Oyster Mill Playhouse in Camp Hill Sept. 20 for the showing of “Evita.” For information, contact Dan Motareff at CDSS@catholiccharities.net or 717-771-0034 or visit www.paprolife.org.

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Rocks Top Squires to Kick-Off Football Season

Kicking off the 2014 high school football season were the Squires of Delone Catholic visiting the Shamrocks of Trinity at COBO Field in Camp Hill. This heated rivalry dates back a couple of decades, as the successful programs have met several times in the district playoffs.

Both teams are coming off disappointing seasons, especially so for the Shamrocks, who went 2-8 during last year’s campaign. And it looked as if that trend would continue, as the Squires jumped out to a 16-0 first half lead. The Rocks were hampered early by three holding penalties and a blocked punt that gave the run-happy Squires a short field to work with.

But the second half was a different story, as Trinity scored 29 points behind the throwing of junior quarterback Hunter Geisel, who connected on several nifty passes to Zac Slonac, and the running of senior tailback John Miller, who ran for more than 150 yards for a couple of touchdowns. The Rocks topped the Squires, 37-30.

Delone bounced back in Week Two with a resounding win against Columbia, 48-7, as Trinity was pounded by Wyomissing, 38-14, giving up more than 150 yards for a couple of touchdowns. The Rocks topped the Squires, 37-30.

Delone’s Brandon Zumbrum makes a leaping grab against Trinity’s Casey Boguski.

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

John Rudy County Park in York County was the scene of the annual Diocesan Invitational Cross Country Meet that pits five diocesan schools against each other in a season-opening race traditionally on the Friday before Labor Day.

The 5K course features long, steady climbs that test a runner’s strength, and runs along wooded and open meadow land. More than 150 runners dealt with warm though not particularly humid conditions for the race that saw Delone Catholic junior Kate Mowery easily win the girls’ race with a sub 20-minute time. As a freshman, Mowery won the District 3 championship, but last year she struggled at times. “I sort of choked last year,” Mowery said in refreshing manner. “I am not going to worry about things this year, just get better on times, and enjoy my teammates. We are all such close and great friends, and our team goal is to reach states for the third year in a row.”

Teammate Leanne Sneeringer came in second, followed by Lancaster Catholic’s Rosemary Tuzzino in third. Despite not placing any runners in the top three, Trinity placed three runners in the top ten to lead the Shamrocks to the team win over Delone.

The Shamrocks also won the boys’ team title, easily beating Bishop McDevitt and Delone Catholic. Trinity’s Matthew Gross won the individual title, running a sub 18-minute winning time to beat Will Greene of Delone Catholic. This season is Matthew Gross’ first year running cross country, and he’s using the season to better himself for track as he is a reigning state champion for Trinity in the 4 x 800 relay.

Above: Trinity’s quarterback Hunter Geisel is sacked for a safety.

Below: Delone’s quarterback Jake Wiles gets the play from his dad Steve Wiles, head coach of the Squires.