She Will Always Be ‘Mother’

By Junno Arocho Esteves and Cindy Wooden

Catholic News Service

With a large tapestry bearing the portrait of the woman known as the “Saint of the Gutters” suspended above him, Pope Francis proclaimed the sainthood of Mother Teresa of Kolkata, hailing her courage and love for the poor.

Despite the formality of the occasion though, “her sanctity is so close to us, so tender and fruitful, that spontaneously we will continue to call her ‘Mother Teresa,’” Pope Francis said to applause at the canonization Mass Sept. 4.

“Mother Teresa, in all aspects of her life, was a generous dispenser of divine mercy, making herself available for everyone through her welcome and defense of human life, those unborn and those abandoned and discarded,” the pope said in his homily during the Mass in St. Peter’s Square.

An estimated 120,000 people packed the square, many holding umbrellas or waving fans to keep cool under the sweltering heat of the Roman sun. However, upon hearing Pope Francis “declare and define Blessed Teresa of Kolkata to be a saint,” the crowds could not contain their joy, breaking out in cheers and thunderous applause before he finished speaking.

The moment was especially sweet for more than 300 Albanians who live in Switzerland, but came to Rome for the canonization. “We are very proud,” said Violet Barisha, a member of the Albanian Catholic Mission in St. Gallen.

Daughter of Divine Charity Sister Valdete, a Kosovar and one of the Albanian group’s chaplains, said, “We are happy and honored. We are a small people, but have had so many martyrs.”

More SAINT TERESA, page 7

Pilgrims Reflect on Her Charity, Bravery

By Jen Reed

The Catholic Witness

Whenever anyone asks Helena Paul whom she would choose if she could have a conversation with any person, living or deceased, she always points to St. Teresa.

That’s because, for Mrs. Paul, a member of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Harrisburg, a nurse and a dedicated volunteer at the Interfaith Shelter for Homeless Families, the Church’s newest saint is an example of giving.

“She gave her life to people, no matter what they needed or what illness they had,” she told The Catholic Witness. “She was willing to help a person as if that person was Christ.”

“She speaks to me because I also love to give,” she said. “I love to see the smile on people’s faces when you do something good for them.”

As much as Mrs. Paul prefers to give rather than to receive, she was a most fortunate recipient of a powerful experience while in Rome with 96 other pilgrims, led by Bishop Ronald Gainer, who journeyed there as part of the pilgrimage this month to raise funds for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg.

On the third day of the pilgrimage, while standing outside of the Church of San Damiano in Assisi, Mrs. Paul was near Bishop Gainer as he greeted a family there on the grounds. As the family moved along to continue their tour of the holy site, Mrs. Paul heard the bishop mention that the father was the man whose miracle had cleared the way for St. Teresa’s canonization. (See page 9 for their story.)

Struck by their connection to St. Teresa, Mrs. Paul approached the family and asked if she could take their picture. The family kindly responded, and Mrs. Paul expressed her thanks, exchanging brief pleasantries with them and hugging the young girl.

Mrs. Paul was so moved by the encounter that she burst into tears, and at that moment, the mother approached her, reached into her purse and prayed...
The 45 men accepted as candidates for Holy Orders in the diocese’s Permanent Diaconate Formation Program stand with Bishop Ronald Gainer following Mass with the Rite of Admission to Candidacy on Sept. 10 at Good Shepherd Church in Camp Hill.

CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

45 Men in Diaconate Program Accepted as Candidates for Holy Orders

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

A most significant step in the diocese’s Permanent Diaconate Formation Program took place at Good Shepherd Church in Camp Hill on Sept. 10 as 45 men were accepted as candidates through the Rite of Admission to Candidacy for Holy Orders.

The solemn yet joyous occasion took place during a Mass celebrated by Bishop Ronald Gainer. The men, entering the church as aspirants in the diaconate program, genuflected before the altar and took their seats in the first few rows of the center pews. To their left were priests, and to the right deacons.

During the Rite of Admission, Bishop Gainer, seated at the altar, spoke to the men, telling them that – just as for young Jeremiah in the Mass’ First Reading (Jeremiah 1:4-9) and the fishermen Jesus called to be his disciples in the Gospel Reading (Luke 5:1-11) – the Lord will give them what they need.

“God calls us to aspire to something, our vocation. I believe that from the very moment he willed your existence, he had this place for you,” Bishop Gainer told the men seated before him. “It has been a grace for you to discern that call and to trust God… We can aspire to do what God wants only if we trust that he will inspire, that he will breathe his own Holy Spirit into us.”

“I encourage you today to continue to aspire to fulfill as humanly possible God’s will for you in this Office toward which you are working – the Office of the Diaconate – and that you’ll do that by trusting that God will always inspire within you all that is necessary,” the bishop said.

One by one, each man was called by name by Father Paul CB Schenck, Acting Director of Formation for Permanent Deacons, and stood before the altar to publicly declare their intentions and resolutions through a series of questions posed by Bishop Gainer.

He asked them, “Do you resolve to complete your preparation so that, in due time, through Holy Orders, you will be prepared to assume ministry within the Church? Do you resolve to prepare yourselves in mind and spirit to give faithful service to Christ the Lord and His Body, the Church?”

To both questions, the men responded with an affirmative “I do,” and the bishop accepted them as candidates, to the applause of the congregation, which included family members and friends.

Bishop Gainer announced a new class for the permanent diaconate in February of 2015, from which a period of application and selection followed. The first year of the program was one of aspirancy, during which the men focused on discernment of their call to ordained ministry. As candidates, the men will now undergo four years of studies including pastoral, spiritual and human formation in preparation for ordination in 2020.

There have been three previous classes of deacons ordained for service in the Diocese of Harrisburg; they were in 1978, 1983 and 2010.

Called to Candidacy

The following are the names of the men who have been called to candidacy in the diocese’s Permanent Diaconate Formation Program, as provided by the Diocesan Office of Vocations.

Steven Auchey
Wife Sharon
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Mechanicsburg

Thomas Ballinger
Wife Sandra
Sacred Heart of Jesus, Spring Grove

David Barto
Wife Mary Ann
Mary Gate of Heaven, Myerstown

Paul J. Batski III
Wife Kristin
St. Joseph, Dauphinville

Shawn Bitter
Wife Becky
Our Lady of Lourdes, Enola

Alex Bogdanoff
Wife Salty
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Mechanicsburg

Virgilio Centenera
Wife Jo Ann
St. Patrick, Carlisle

Joseph Cingle
Wife Pamela
St. Leo the Great, Rohrerstown

Chris Darrup
Wife Angela
Sacred Heart of Jesus, Lewistown

William Davies
Wife Theresa
St. Bernard, New Bloomfield

Michael Derosi
Wife Lisa
St. Matthew, Dauphin

Jose Diaz
Wife Erin
St. Patrick, Carlisle

Brian Fabian
Wife Michelle
St. Catherine of Siena, Quakapool

Carl Fredhoff
Wife Pamela
St. John the Baptist, New Freedom

Denis Gangloff
Wife Jeanne
St. Patrick, York

David Grady
Wife Hope
St. Mark the Evangelist (St. Luke), Mercersburg

Joseph Gushecowski
Wife Rhonda
St. Joan of Arc, Hessey

Christopher Heckman
Wife Tracy
St. Pius X, Selinsgrove

Thomas Hewitt
Wife Susan
St. Theresa, New Cumberland

James Koch
Wife Paula
St. Patrick, York

Walter Kodzowski
Wife Jo Ann
Divine Redeemer, Mount Carmel

Frank Kuchinski
Wife Madeline
St. Leo the Great, Rohrerstown

James Lawson
Wife Helen
Our Mother of Perpetual Help, Ephrata

Christopher Livelsberger
Wife Yolanda
Sacred Heart of Jesus, Conewago

Patrick McCormack
Wife Mary Ann
Our Lady of Good Counsel, Marysville

Michael McGovern
Wife Tara
St. Andrew, Waynesboro

Randy Mentzel
Wife Helena
St. John the Baptist, New Freedom

Jorge Nazario
Wife Migdalia
San Juan Bautista, Lancaster

Samuel Nicola
Wife Traci
Our Lady of Hope, Coal Township

Thomas Owinski
Wife Jacqueline
St. James, Lititz

Carlos Pichardo
Wife Asia
St. Joseph, Hanover

Henry Reese
Wife Claudia
Holy Trinity, Columbia

Chad Reigel
Wife Angela
St. Catherine of Siena, Quakapool

Jorge Reyes
Wife Nilia
Holy Spirit, Palmyra

Michael Roess
Wife Tara
St. Andrew, Waynesboro

Scott Root
Wife Shannon
Sacred Heart of Jesus, Spring Grove

George Salzmann
Wife Susan
St. Patrick, Carlisle

Richard San Severino
Wife Gabriella
Mary Gate of Heaven, Myerstown

Richard Satriale
Wife Suzanne
Our Lady of Lourdes, New Holland

Daniel Signore
Wife Darlene
St. Mark the Evangelist, Greensville

Francis Soria
Wife Anne
St. Margaret Mary, Harrisburg

Armando Torres
Wife Linda
San Juan Bautista, Lancaster

Annette Weaver
Wife Christine
Sacred Heart of Jesus, Lancaster

Terry Willoughby
Wife Melissa
St. Joseph, Danville

Robert Wislock
Wife Kathleen
Our Lady of Hope, Coal Township

Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC

Msgr. William King

Robert McAnulty

Chad Miller

Richard Santelie

The Catholic Witness

Formators for the Men and their Wives: Bishop Ronald Gainer
Father Paul CB Schenck Mag: William King
Father Neil Sullivan
Deacon Michael Grela
Sister Gerilyn Schmidt, SCC

2 - The Catholic Witness • September 16, 2016
Diocese to Take Special Collection Sept. 24-25 for Flood Relief

Over the past several weeks, we have seen devastating images in the news depicting the historic flooding in Louisiana and surrounding region. As many as 60,000 homes have been damaged, with nearly 20,000 people being rescued from flood waters. More than 106,000 individuals have sought federal disaster aid. Immediate and long-term recovery needs place a tremendous burden on existing resources. Our prayerful and material support is urgently needed to help rebuild lives.

The USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) has called for an emergency collection to be taken in September to support the humanitarian efforts of Catholic Charities USA and to provide pastoral and rebuilding support to the impacted Catholic dioceses.

In the Diocese of Harrisburg this collection will take place the weekend of Sept. 24-25. The funds collected in this one-time special appeal for the 2016 Louisiana Floods will be used to provide pastoral and rebuilding support to the impacted Catholic dioceses.

The funds collected in this one-time special appeal for the 2016 Louisiana Floods will be used to provide pastoral and rebuilding support to the impacted Catholic dioceses.

Be Leaders for Peace to Eradicate Violence, Bishop Says on Day of Prayer for Peace

By Jen Reed

The Catholic Witness

On the National Day of Prayer for Peace in Our Communities, Bishop Ronald Gainer called on the faithful to promote peace in their families and communities, and to be involved so as to win hearts for the Kingdom of God.

An initiative of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in light of incidents of violence and racial tension in the nation, the Day of Prayer for Peace called upon dioceses to promote efforts of peace and healing through such means as Masses, prayerful reflection, discussion and outreach.

In July, in the wake of racially-related shootings across the country, USCCB President, Archbishop Joseph Kurtz, also announced a task force to help bishops engage the challenging problems directly, by gathering and disseminating supportive resources and best practices, actively listening to the concerns of members in troubled communities and law enforcement, and building new relationships to help prevent and resolve conflicts. The task force is scheduled to report on its activities and recommendations for work to the USCCB’s November General Assembly.

“Racism wants to divide rather than unite. It wants to label, rather than see, people. It wants to segment, rather than integrate,” Bishop Gainer said.

The Mass in observance of the Day of Prayer for Peace, celebrated at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg on Sept. 9.

St. Peter Claver marked the Feast of St. Peter Claver (1581-1654), a Spanish Jesuit priest and missionary who dedicated his ministry to the care of slaves who were being brought from Africa to the port city of Cartagena, Colombia, for sale in the slave trade.

As slave ships entered the port, St. Peter Claver boarded them to offer care to the ill and diseased living among filthy conditions. Once the slaves were moved into nearby yards for buyers to view them, St. Peter Claver offered them food and medicine, communicating through gestures, facial expressions, and the help of interpreters until he eventually learned their language. It is estimated that he catechized and baptized more than 300,000 in his 40 years of ministry there.

In his homily, Bishop Gainer held St. Peter as an example for those working for peace and the dignity of the human person.

“St. Peter Claver called himself a slave of the slaves,” he said. “He tried to show the love of Christ to people who were in such deplorable conditions. He couldn’t stop the slave trade, but he did what he could to show Christ’s face, Christ’s love and tenderness to them. He did it because of his faith in Christ, and because he recognized in each of them their dignity and their being created in the image and likeness of God.”

St. Peter Claver, the bishop said, “was able to see beyond the slavery thing, and made someone different. He just knew that Christ loved them, and he had to show that love incarnate to those people who were slaves.”

Bishop Gainer also pointed to the message of St. Paul in the day’s First Reading (1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22b-27), in which he urges the Corinthians to give as much devotion to the Kingdom of God as do city’s athletes toward their sport through practice, motivation and discipline.

“We too, like those athletes, need to use the gifts we’re given. We need to practice, we need to be motivated, we need to be disciplined, and when we do that we win people for Christ,” Bishop Gainer said.

“We can change situations. We can bring Christ to others.”

“St. Paul says, ‘Run so as to win.’ Are we really living as a follower of Christ so as to win?” If we did, then we could change the situation that plagues our nation, the world, and particularly our communities, where we see such senseless violence, such hostility and hatred,” the bishop remarked.

“We have our role in leading people to peace and harmony in our families, in our neighborhoods, in our larger communities,” Bishop Gainer said.

“Let us re- solve today that we will involve ourselves, not bystanders, and run, as St. Paul says, so as to be winners for the sake of the Kingdom of God.”

(Find resources and ideas for promoting peace and justice at www.usccb.org/us援-n-and-anti-human-life-and-dignity/racism/index.cfm.)

Job Opening

Catholic Elementary School Principal in Danville

St. Joseph Parish in Danville seeks a new principal for its Grade 1-8 Catholic School to carry on our 125-year tradition of faith, academics, and service. The successful candidate must be a practicing Catholic who holds at least a Master’s degree in education administration or a related field and has at least five years of educational experience, part of which is in the Catholic school system.

For information about the school, please contact Father James Leane, Pastor, at 570-275-2512 or fjriese@hbgdiocese.org. To request an application, contact Livia Riley, Superintendent of Schools, Diocese of Harrisburg, at 717-657-4804, ext. 222, or lriley@hbgdiocese.org. Applications are to be submitted to the Diocese by Sept. 30, 2016; the position begins after the Thanksgiving holiday, 2016.

BISHOP GAINER’S PUBLIC CALENDAR

• September 17 – Celebrate Mass and deliver keynote address for the Charismatic Day of Renewal, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 9:15 a.m.
• September 18 – Celebrant and Homilist at the Diocesan Hispanic Heritage Mass, St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg, 3:30 p.m.
• September 20 – Harrisburg Legatus Chapter Meeting, St. Patrick Shrine Church and Carlisle Country Club, 6 p.m.
• September 21 – Celebrant and Homilist at Diocesan Education Conference Mass, Bishop McDevitt High School, Harrisburg, 10 a.m.; Attend Catholic Charities Come & See Dinner, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 5 p.m.
• September 22 – Celebrant and Homilist at St. Patrick School’s 165th Anniversary Mass, St. Patrick, York, 9 a.m.
• September 23 – Celebrant at closing of the Jubilee Year celebrating the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary 200th Anniversary of St. Gaetano Errico, Immaculate Conception BVM Church, Fairfield, 6 p.m.
• September 24 – Celebrant and Homilist at Sisters’ Convocation, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 10 a.m.; Celebrant and Homilist at Bucknell University Mass, Rooke Chapel, Lewisburg, 4-4 p.m.
• September 25 – Celebrant and Homilist at Diocesan White Mass, St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg, 9:30 a.m.; Celebrant and Homilist at Dickinson College Mass, Carlisle, 3 p.m.
• September 27-28 – Pennsylvania Catholic Conference Board of Governors’ Meeting, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg
• September 29 – Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Theresa Church, New Cumberland, 7 p.m.
• October 1 – Celebrate Holy Name Society Mass, Holy Trinity Church, Columbia, 5 p.m.
• October 2 – Celebrant at 90th Anniversary Mass of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Queen of Peace #1023, St. Philip the Apostle Church, Millersville, 11:30 a.m.
Pray for the Living and the Dead

By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
Special to The Witness

Recently, as I was leaving church after a late night RCIA session, a gentleman approached me. I must have jumped because he said, “I will not hurt you! I am no bum!” Smiling at him and giving myself at my reaction, I looked in his eyes and saw gentleness as well as a sense of urgency. He then told me that he was short 11 dollars to pay for his rent. He also prayed for the “mums” with whom he lived and all those to whom he was kind. He prayed for my parents who showed me what generosity was. He prayed for all Catholics who welcomed the poor, the sick, and the downtrodden into their community of worship. Finally, he looked into my eyes and said, “God bless you, my Sister!” Wiping a tear from my eye, I realized that whatever this man’s story was, I had met a fellow sojourner! I whispered, “God bless you, as well!”

I am reminded of this story as I sit down to write about the spiritual work of mercy: Pray for the living and the dead. Pray, Pray, and pray some more! In her diary, St. Faustina said, “Every day we are to bring our needs, the needs of our loved ones, and the needs of the whole world into the merciful heart of Jesus (See Diary 1209-1229).”

Why do we pray not only when the needs of those around us as well as the needs of the world seem so much larger than our “pity” prayers? Jesus never asked for us to meet their needs. Remember the account of Jesus feeding the 5000? (Luke 9:10-17) He actually told his apostles, “Give them you something to eat.” They retorted that they had only five loaves and two fish and what is that with a crowd of that size? Nevertheless, he told them to bring them to him to meet the needs of those present. So our seemingly meager efforts of prayer for others, given to Jesus out of love can be used by Him to be vehicles of grace. Some of the answers to our prayers will be unseen until we meet Jesus face to face. It is only in Heaven where we will see the effects of our prayers. Think of the joy of our hearts when Jesus looks at our lives and turns to us and whispers, “Well done, good and faithful servant!” (Mt 25:23)

Just like the gentleman in the beginning story, we will be praised for God’s generosity to us! (Sister of Christian Charity, Geralyn Schmidt, is the Wide Area Network Coordinator at the Diocese of Harrisburg and the Director of Formation for Wives in the Diocesan Program. An educator for 29 years, she is responsible for Professional Development Programs for every age learner. Through her presentations, she challenges her audiences to be the individual God has called them to be.

Fishers of Men Dinner

To benefit the Seminarians of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg
Friday, October 21, 2016, 6:00 p.m.
at the Cardinal Keeler Center
4501 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg
Cost is $50 per plate
$800 per table of six or $1,000 per table of eight.
Sponsored by the Office of Vocations
717-657-4804 ext. 282
Visit our website at www.hbgcatholic.org/fishermendm
for more information or to register.

The Power of a Smile, the Power of Kindness

By Jim Gontis
Special to The Witness

Have you ever walked by someone you know, smiled, and said hello, and been completely ignored? I’m not talking about aiming at past someone in a crowd where your greeting could easily be missed, but in a one-to-one encounter in which there is no doubt whatsoever that the person saw you and simply chose to refuse to acknowledge you and your existence. My guess is that most of us have been there. It is a fundamental rule of courtesy and civility to acknowledge another’s existence, to at a minimum, give a nod of the head in acknowledgment of your fellow wayfarer. Better still is to say hello. Option C is even better: a smile and a friendly hello. Yet, so many people choose D, none of the above.

A few days ago, Mother Teresa of Calcutta was raised to the altars, canonized a Saint by Pope Francis. She knew well the importance of a smile. Her craggy face could light up a room and bring warmth to the most destitute, whether a little girl suffering from malnutrition, or an old man near the end of his life, or a middle-aged woman eradicated and dying of AIDS, or a prisoner “deserved and wailing in hell,” as a nun nearby said. “Let us always meet each other with a smile, for the smile is the beginning of love.”

Ah, love! Love is in the will. Sometimes pleasant emotions come with it, sometimes not. But always the existence of love involves the willing of the good of another. It is especially the willing of eternal joy, Heaven. But it is also the willing of temporal good.

Mother Teresa knew this well. If she saw a person starving or infested with vermin, she preached Matthew 25 by living it. She practiced the corporal works of mercy, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, burying the dead, without forgetting about the spiritual works of mercy, instructing the ignorant, comfort the sick, comfort the imprisoned, and care for the injured, etc. But she took care of the immediate needs first. And what is more of an immediate need than to be loved. She was fond of saying that “God made us to love and to be loved.”

But pride, envy, wrath – pick your capital sin – so often get in the way. We have to trample our pride, our envy, our wrath. We cannot do it on our own. God’s grace is ample. It is there for the plucking. We must choose. St. John Paul was fond of saying that “...it is only when we give ourselves away that we really find ourselves.” Is that not when we are happiest, when we find real meaning, our highest dignity?

All sin involves selfishness. This was true of Lucifer. It was true of Adam in the Original Sin, and in all subsequent sins, and it is true of us. Love, on the other hand, always involves selflessness. “...unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat, but if it dies, it produces much fruit.”

I think that this giving ourselves away in love is usually the most difficult with those we see most frequently, even those we say we care the most about, and maybe really do. Of course, I am talking about our families. But we let down our guard around them. They might occasionally see us at our best, but we are warned sure see us at our worst.

So what of unrequited love? Here I am not necessarily talking about romantic love, though it could be that. No, I am simply talking about being kind and loving another and being rejected. What about those occasions when someone tries to “lord authority over you,” – authority they may or may not possess? Or when we are fast to defect fault from ourselves and blame another? So often this is done from fear and insecurity. What is the response? The feeling can be one of deep sadness or of lashing out, or of complaining to others about “that rotten so and so.”

Then there is the Christ-like response. This is not to be a doormat. It is to deny ourselves and to embrace our cross daily, and to follow Jesus. That cross often comes in the form of another person or persons. So be it! They can do us more spiritual good, help us toward a higher degree of glory in Heaven, than can a hundred friends. What does the Imitation of Christ entail in these cases? Jesus provides the manuscript. We silently say with Him, “Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.”

A popular version of one of Mother Teresa’s favorite poems, not penned by her, but appreciated and lived by her, goes:

People are often unreasonable and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.
If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.
If you are honest, people may cheat you. Be honest anyway.
If you find happiness, people may be jealous. Be happy anyway.
The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.
Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough. Give your best anyway.
For you see, in the end, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.

St. Teresa of Calcutta, pray for us, help us to be kind, help us to smile. (Jim Gontis is the Director of the Diocesan Department of Religious Education and the Director of Sports Ministry.)
Volunteers Fashion the World of Kirchenwald

By Ginny Duncan
Special to The Witness

It was the Tuesday of my week as director of our diocesan camp for adults with intellectual disabilities, and I was leaving for several hours to go to Camp Hill. I drove down Route 177 from the beautiful 340 acres of Camp Kirchenwald (meaning “church in the woods”), which was my home for the week, and headed out on the last leg of HERSHEY in August. As I dodged cars and pedestrians, listened to beeping horns and car engines, I was struck by the thought: “There’s the world and then there’s Kirchen-world.”

Kirchen-world. What does that mean, other than an abbreviation of the camp name? It is a place where, for a single week each year, an average of 50 volunteers ranging in age from 16 to 75 stop thinking of them as intellectually disabled adults in the woods and to give of themselves totally. In Kirchen-world, there is getting up early to be awake enough to tend to campers. There is bathing and dressing and helping with the toilet. There is laughing and playing games and swimming. There is eating and crafting and canoeing. There are midnight bathroom trips, sleepless nights and afternoon naps. There are beautiful mornings, and thunderstorms and muddy paths. In Kirchen-world, it is all about the other and not about self.

We often see pictures and read about the campers at the Diocesan Camp at Kirchenwald. On that trip to Camp Hill, however, I thought especially about all our wonderful, humble volunteers: the teachers, seminarians, high school students, nurses, engineers, researchers, state employees, salesmen, construction workers, retired men and women, secretaries, priests, housewives and administrators. Without their sacrifice, there would be no excited calls to my office from campers in March, wondering when camp applications will arrive. There would be no happy faces arriving on the first day of camp. There would be no friendly conversations. There would be no Kirchen-world.

Our Lord has said “For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted” (Luke 14: 11) and “Blessed is he who is content with his lot” (Luke 6:30). It was Jesus who did the exalting, those of us who are content with our lot, will simply be content.

As I dodged cars and pedestrians, listened to beeping horns and car engines, I was struck by the thought: “There’s the world and then there’s Kirchen-world.”

The 2nd Annual Diocesan Women’s Conference is just around the corner. It will be October 15, 2016, at Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg. Last year’s first annual Women’s Conference drew 720 women from around the diocese and beyond. Some of the common refrains that we heard were: “It was good to get away with my Sisters in Christ.” “I learned so much from the talks.” “I needed this time with the Lord.” “The music was beautiful and uplifting.” “The fellowship with women through the Diocese was wonderful.”

Some women expressed how it was a time of healing and grace. This year, in keeping with the Year of Mercy called by Pope Francis, our theme is: “Wrapped in God’s Merciful Love.”

Isn’t that what we all, deep down, desire? To be wrapped up in God’s tender and merciful love? Last year, my husband, Jim, wrote a top 10 list for attending the Men’s Conference. Here is my own attempt at a top 10 list. He went from 1-10. I’m going to go in reverse order.

#10 – Breaking Bread with one another. Coffee. I can’t imagine life without it...and pastries, and sandwichwiches and fruit, and COOKIES. Food is the great unifier. When we are hungry, we pause, we realize we have a need, we are vulnerable. Food brings us together. A delightful continental breakfast and scrumptious lunch await!

#9 – Let’s shop! Let’s face it, girls. It’s a way we relax, we have a little fun, and just have fun looking...and buying. There will be much to choose from: religious jewelry and articles, inspirational books, and much more.

#8 – Fellowship with our Sisters in Christ. When we go about our day-to-day activities, living in our own little orbits, it’s easy to forget that we women draw strength from one another from the solidarity of our vocations. Whether we’re single, married, or widowed, fellowship with one another reminds us that we’re not alone in our feminine struggles for holiness.

#7 – REST! We all need a little break from the day to day life! We lead a respite from the demands of family life, our jobs, our responsibilities...just for the day. We need the opportunity to detach a bit from the world, quiet our lives, if only for this moment, and give God uninterupted access to our hearts. I wouldn’t think of going to work or out the door without taking a shower. That’s because we know when we look bad, smell bad...you get the picture! It’s visible to us and others. Well, our souls need a cleansing, too. And because we or others can’t see or smell the state of our souls, it’s easier to put off that spiritual shower. The only one

#6 – Unite in song and prayer. Whether it’s a good book or a tear-jerker of a movie, God has blessed us with a unique delight in hearing our hearts moved. And God delights in us when our hearts are moved toward Him. He gave us voices and hearts to praise Him, beseech Him, and thank Him. So, get ready to lift your minds and hearts to the Lord with the beautiful and inspirational group, “Women at the Well,” as we glorify Jesus and adore Him.

#5 – Excellent speakers. We love to learn. Whether it’s a good book or a tear-jerker of a movie, God has blessed us with a unique delight in hearing our hearts moved. And God delights in us when our hearts are moved toward Him. He gave us voices and hearts to praise Him, beseech Him, and thank Him. So, get ready to lift your minds and hearts to the Lord with the beautiful and inspirational group, “Women at the Well,” as we glorify Jesus and adore Him.

#4 – Kimberly Hahn is the key-note speaker! Having a world-famous Catholic husband, Kimberly is a great gift to the Catholic Church in her own right. She will be sharing her story, and we women LOVE a good story. We love to laugh, cry, and connect with the stories we hear from our sisters in Christ, and this sister will inspire, challenge, give you food for reflection, and ultimately affirm you as a beloved daughter of the Father and sister of Jesus Christ!

#3 – Unite in song and prayer. Whether it’s a good book or a tear-jerker of a movie, God has blessed us with a unique delight in hearing our hearts moved. And God delights in us when our hearts are moved toward Him. He gave us voices and hearts to praise Him, beseech Him, and thank Him. So, get ready to lift your minds and hearts to the Lord with the beautiful and inspirational group, “Women at the Well,” as we glorify Jesus and adore Him.

#2 – The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. We start with food and end with food. WE LOVE FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP! Our day has prepared us for fellowship with the King of Kings as we eat the Bread of Angels, our heavenly food, the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, the one with whom we hope to be united forever! Bishop Gainer will celebrate Mass and guide the women of our diocese into greater communion with our Lord Jesus Christ!

#1 – Renewal! – By God’s grace, this conference will be a vessel of Jesus’ merciful love to heal the brokenness in our lives, to affirm us in our desire for holiness, to fan the flame of love for Christ and His Church, and empower us by the grace of the Holy Spirit to go forth and proclaim in our uniquely feminine way the Good News of Jesus Christ! Don’t miss this wonderful opportunity to join with women throughout the diocese for respite and renewal in our lives! Come to the 2016 Diocesan Women’s Conference! See the accompanying ad for information on how to register.

(Eva Gontis is a wife, mom of 8, and a member of the Diocesan Women’s Conference Committee.)
Wellness Ministry at St. Patrick’s in Carlisle Unites Fitness with Faith

By Emily M. Albert
The Catholic Witness

Joining a gym can be intimidating. Machines with directions that aren’t quite add up when you’re actually using them. Or stepping on a treadmill and realizing spending the next 30 minutes in a sweaty and noisy room doesn’t sound all that appealing.

Maybe you’ve joined the gym with great intentions: “I’m going to go every day before work and I’m going to get healthy.” But morning rolls around and your thoughts go back to your soft pillow. Then you say, “Ok, I’m going to go every day after work.” And that turns in, “Well, maybe this one afternoon won’t hurt to miss,” and before you know it, you’re paying membership for a gym you’ve never stepped a foot in.

Wouldn’t it be nice to have a group of people waiting for you, expecting you? Or have the option of different fitness classes? There is such a push to go every day after work.” And that turns to, “Well, maybe this one afternoon won’t hurt to miss,” and before you know it, you’re paying membership for a gym you’ve never stepped a foot in.

Wellness programs and wellness activities for the students, but the parish wanted to find ways to use the available space to share these opportunities with the parish, including the adults.

The parish’s wellness ministry has been running for two years and is led by the fitness coordinator, Elaine Seckar, who has both her undergraduate and graduate studies in exercise science. Mrs. Seckar believes in this program because, “I think there is so much in society today that tears down the human person and what the human person was designed for and designed to do, including sometimes the fitness industry. There is such a push to try to fit into a box and fit into specification of what society thinks is fit and well, and it is very draining on the soul and the human person.”

“I think being able to reconnect with yourself and reconnect with your community through things such as fitness programs and wellness programs, you can rediscover the things your body is capable of that you didn’t realize,” Mrs. Seckar added. “Because society tells you you’re not good enough or you don’t look the way you’re supposed to look, we think our body isn’t capable of what it actually is.”

“To be able to unite that with our faith, especially our Catholic faith, with things like Theology of the Body and just really what man and woman were designed for and what their bodies were designed to do, I think it takes it to a whole new level and appreciation of our bodies to be able to exercise to glorify God and to increase our health so we can carry our whatever task we were called to…using exercise to better equip us to carry out those deeds,” she said.

Marcie Hofler, a parishioner at St. Patrick’s, participates in this ministry with her mother. She told The Catholic Witness, “We were so excited when we found out that we had a wellness coordinator. My mom and I signed up from the beginning. It has been so great for her and I and exercise and going through this together and to go to a place that has wonderful spiritual music and prayer. I mean, it doesn’t get any better than that as a Catholic. You meet more parishioners through it. It has really blessed my mother and I.”

Mrs. Hofler noted how fortunate they are to have Mrs. Seckar, who includes prayer before and after classes, and also asks participants to share, if they want, the intentions for the class. This helps the class come together in prayer for each other and also brings together a community of ministry. Mrs. Seckar also spoke about how great it is to see the people that have met and have come together because of the fitness program who wouldn’t have met otherwise.

St. Patrick’s is a larger parish, but, as noted by Mrs. Seckar, Father William Forrey, pastor, and the parish coordinators have gone through great efforts to create smaller communities for people to come together. And the wellness ministry is just one of these.

In the past year, the wellness ministry has hosted voluntary ball matches for parents to attend while they have students in religious education classes; morning and evening Novena walks; boot camps that work all parts of the body; stretching and balance and good time oldies aerobics, just to name a few. They offer six-week classes for a one-time $5 fee, and last year also offered a mind, body and nutritional program, called the “Daniel Plan,” for a one-time $10 fee. This fall, the wellness ministry is again offering the “Daniel Plan,” which will run with two opportunities to participate: Monday mornings from 9:30-11:30 a.m. and Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8 p.m. beginning the week of September 19. This program uses Christian study rooted in Scripture to the view points of faith, food, focus, fitness and friends. It encourages a healthy lifestyle while using Scripture as a foundation. Mrs. Hofler participated in last year’s program and said she learned a great deal about nutrition, and is more aware about grocery shopping.

This fall, the wellness ministry is hosting “Pete 13, Body, Mind, and Soul Boot Camp,” a circuit workout at your own pace and level of intensity on Saturday mornings at 9:30 a.m. This circuit training class is unique and different from any secular workouts because it includes a Novena in the style that St. Teresa used in prayer. She would pray nine Novenas and then offer the tenth for thanks.

Given St. Teresa’s recent canonization, Mrs. Seckar knows this would be a part of the circuit workout. “Each week, we will unite our exercise with the recitation of the Novena which we will pray, aloud or silently, while we are exercising at each station. By the end of the circuit, you will have completed a rejuvenating and strengthening workout while storming the gates of heaven with our Novena and personal intentions offered with the sacrifice of your exercise,” she said.

As prayer is a part of each class, a prayer intention box is placed at the entrance of all classes for people to write their intentions. These slips of paper are then taken to the Adoration Chapel for prayer. Mrs. Seckar also encourages her class during more particularly challenging exercises, to “pull those intentions back to mind. ‘What was the intention you were focusing on?’ That way, it kind of takes us out of ourselves and puts the focus on what we’re offering we can connect this to, to make it larger than the muscle that might be shaking like crazy.”

Prayer and the involvement of ministries are what keeps this wellness program unique; this program is not a gym. Mrs. Seckar comments, “We are always bringing back the idea that this is about praising God and our bodies, it’s about finding ways to glorify God and our bodies and how that connects us with each other. That is the underlining thing we try to offer to our parishioners, the key point that makes us different from something else you would experience.”

For more information in joining the fall programs, or to view a listing of programs, go to http://tinyurl.com/zf2xud or contact Elaine Seckar at the Parish Office, 717-243-4411, ext. 1122. The wellness ministry is open to all.

The Harrisburg Diocesan Guild of the Catholic Medical Association invites all Catholic physicians, healthcare workers, medical students, residents and their families to attend their ANNUAL WHITE MASS
Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Harrisburg,
Celebrant and Homilist
Sunday, September 25, 2016 9:30 am
St. Patrick’s Catholic Church, Harrisburg
Please RSVP for reception to CathMedHbg@aol.com
We also extend an invitation to our legal colleagues from the St. Thomas More Society of Central Pennsylvania

Facebook: www.facebook.com/CathMedHarrisburg

The Diocesan Secretariat for Catholic Life and Evangelization Presents
The Bittersweet Season
Saturday, October 22, from 9 a.m.-noon
Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg

For more information, contact Jaclyn Curran at 717-657-4804, ext. 313, or jcurran@hhbgdiocese.org

There is no registration fee for this event. However, this program relies on financial contributions. Please know that a donation is not required to participate, and families that choose to contribute may do so at any amount.
Saint Teresa

Continued from 1

Born in 1910 to an ethnic Albanian family in Skopje, in what is now part of Macedonia, Mother Teresa went to India in 1929 as a Sister of Loreto and became an Indian citizen in 1947. She founded the Missionaries of Charity in 1950.

Mother Teresa, Sister Valdete said, is a shining example of how “Albanian women are strong and our people are hardworking.”

In his homily, Pope Francis said God’s will is explained in the words of the prophets: “I want mercy, not sacrifice.”

“God is pleased by every act of mercy because in the brother or sister that we assist, we recognize the face of God which no one can see,” he said. “Each time we bend down to the needs of our brothers and sisters, we give Jesus something to eat and drink; we clothe, we help and we visit the Son of God.”

Like Mother Teresa, he said, Christians are called not simply to perform acts of charity, but to live charity as a vocation and “to grow each day in love.”

“Wherever someone is reaching out, asking for a helping hand in order to get up, this is where our presence – and the presence of the Church which sustains and offers hope – must be,” the pope said.

Mother Teresa, he said, lived out this vocation to charity through her commitment to defending the unborn and bowing down before those who were spent, left to die on the side of the road.

She also “made her voice heard before the powers of this world so that they might recognize their guilt for the crime of poverty they created,” Pope Francis said. “For Mother Teresa, mercy was the ‘salt’ which gave flavor to her work, it was the ‘light’ which shone in the darkness of the many who no longer had tears to shed for their poverty and suffering.”

For all Christians, especially volunteers engaged in works of mercy, the life of the saintly nun remains an example and witness to God’s closeness to the poorest of the poor, he said.

“Today, I pass on this emblematic figure of holiness!” Pope Francis said. “May this tireless worker of mercy help us to increasingly understand that our only criterion for action is gratuitous love, free from every ideology and all obligations, offered freely to everyone without distinction of language, culture, race or religion.”

As she made her way through the tight security and past several closed streets to St. Peter’s Square, Maria Demuru said, “I couldn’t miss this. Even if there’s no place left for me to sit.”

The small Italian woman said, “Mother Teresa is a sign of the times. In her smallness, she revealed the calling we all have. She said we are all saints by our baptism and we must recover our original holiness. She lived in humility and simplicity like the poor of the earth and was never ashamed of that.”

Mother Teresa’s simplicity did not keep the powerful away from the Mass, though. Some 20 nations sent official delegations to the Vatican for the canonization. Queen Sofia of Spain led a delegation. The president and prime minister of Albania attended, as did the presidents of Macedonia and Kosovo and the foreign minister of India.

President Barack Obama sent a delegation led by Lisa Monaco, his assistant for homeland security and counterterrorism. The U.S. delegation also included Ken Hackett, ambassador to the Holy See; Carolyn Woo, president and CEO of Catholic Relief Services; and Dominican Sister Donna Markham, president and CEO of Catholic Charities USA.

The first reading at the Mass was read by Jim Towey, who served as Mother Teresa’s legal counsel in the United States and Canada from 1985 to 1997, and as director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, 2002-2006.

After the Mass, 250 Missionaries of Charity Sisters and 50 Missionaries of Charity brothers served pizza to about 1,500 poor people who had come to the Mass from shelters, dormitories and soup kitchens the order runs throughout Italy.

Pope Francis, through the office of the papal almoner, funded the lunch, which was prepared by a team of 20 pizza makers, who brought three ovens with them from Naples and cooked behind the Vatican audience hall.
In Kolkata, Joy, Prayers and Testimonies at Canonization

By Saadia Azim
Catholic News Service

At Shishu Bhavan, children, the destitute, Missionaries of Charity nuns and novices sat silently, glued to the TV screen for the live telecast of the Vatican canonization ceremony of Mother Teresa.

While many prayed at the new saint’s tomb, the nuns and the children of Shishu Bhavan (Children’s Home), preferred to stay indoors and celebrate the historic moment all by themselves, as Pope Francis declared Mother Teresa to be St. Teresa.

“It is a day of feast for us. Brothers and sisters of the Missionaries of Charity are watching this in all the establishments of the MOC, but many of the sisters are visiting the headquarters for the special thanksgiving Mass after the ceremony in the evening,” said Missionaries of Charity Sister Benoy, who had come from the home in suburban Dum Dum to help the sisters with the large number of visitors.

Earlier, outside the gates of Shishu Bhavan, the poor, the sick and the old had gathered like they do each Sunday, hoping for a meal. Like any other Sunday, the nuns and cooks filled their plates.

A student smiles Aug. 31 at St. Teresa School, located near the motherhouse of the Missionaries of Charity in Kolkata, India. Blessed Teresa of Kolkata taught at the school and began her first efforts at serving the poor from a stairwell within the school. She provided medicine for those who were unable to afford it.

Missionaries of Charity nuns attend an audience with Pope Francis in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican Sept. 5. The audience was for people engaged in the works of mercy and for pilgrims in town for the canonization of Blessed Teresa of Kolkata.

“My association with her is more than two decades old. These pictures are my prized possessions. My life is much peaceful now, and I owe it to the saint of Kolkata,” he said gleefully.

Sister Babita, 20, from the Indian state of Orissa, chose to sit with other postulants at the convent to watch the ceremony. “For us it was sheer the call of the saint of Kolkata,” she said of her vocation.

“If not a saint, then why would the world follow her footsteps 19 years after her death? Her life, through her humanitarian work and her healing touch, is the everyday miracle that keeps us going,” said Sister Adelica, who came from Bangladesh for the ceremony and will spend a month working in India.

Nearly 250 miles away from Kolkata, in Nakor village, Monika Beata, whose healing from a tumor was Mother Teresa’s first miracle recognized by the Vatican, sat and prayed at the nearby cathedral.

“I miss not being at Vatican. But I was there for the beatification ceremony,” she told Catholic News Service by telephone. “For me she was a saint always, and I invoked her always in my prayers. Today the world recognizes her and prays to her.

“I was dying,” she said. “Mother had a healing touch and she healed me. That is enough for us. We are much better and a happy family now.”

Canonization of Saint Teresa

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

At every canonization ceremony, people connected to the new saint carry to the altar a relic – often a bone shard from the new saint’s body. The relic presented at the Mass for St. Teresa of Kolkata was a few drops of her blood.

A relic is like a keepsake, a tangible reminder that the new saint was human yet heroically lived a life of holiness.

The relic is kept in a reliquary, which often is an ornate work of art in gold or silver.

But Missionaries of Charity Father Brian Kolodiejchuk said the reliquary chosen for Mother Teresa’s relic is simpler, reflecting her life and values.

The front of the large cross is made of wood taken from places associated with Mother Teresa’s works of mercy: The first home for the dying she established in Kolkata, a home for those with Hansen’s disease, and her mother waited to watch the ceremony. “She sang hymns and prayed silently near the saint’s statue.

In the narrow lane leading to the headquarters of the Missionaries of Charity, hundreds of people had gathered together not just to witness the live ceremony for the “saint of Kolkata” but also to invoke her in their prayers. Special arrangements outside the home had been made for live viewing, and devotees gathered with their little memories of the “blessed” one. Some were carrying pictures, some flowers and some photographs declaring their love and devotion. Hymns were sung by the visitors and the nuns, but also commuters who gathered outside. Souvenir shops had come up and people went around buying little artifacts being attributed to Mother Teresa.

Mohammad Ashan, 62, had come to visit the nuns and pray at the tomb. He had carried his photographs with Mother Teresa that he had taken in 1994.

A student smiles Aug. 31 at St. Teresa School, located near the motherhouse of the Missionaries of Charity in Kolkata, India. Blessed Teresa of Kolkata taught at the school and began her first efforts at serving the poor from a stairwell within the school. She provided medicine for those who were unable to afford it.

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A relic of St. Teresa of Kolkata is seen at a Mass of thanksgiving for her canonization in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican Sept. 5. The Mass was celebrated by Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state.

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The inexplicable recovery from a severe brain infection – attributed to the intercession of Blessed Teresa of Kolkata – is a sign that God's mercy is for everyone, said the Brazilian man who was healed.

"Merciful God looks over all of us, without distinction. Today it was me, perhaps tomorrow it will be someone else. I don't feel special. Merciful God watches over everyone," Marcilio Haddad Andri-no told reporters at a Vatican news conference Sept. 2.

Andrino’s reported cure was the miracle that cleared the way for St. Teresa’s canonization Sept. 4, which was the day before the 19th anniversary of her death.

Through a translator, Andrino told reporters that he started experiencing severe head pain, convulsions and fainting spells in 2006.

At first doctors did not know what was wrong, he said, but he, his fiancee – Fernanda Nascimento Rocha – their families and parish began praying for the intercession of Mother Teresa, Andrino said.

His condition worsened considerably in 2008, he said, and a new doctor finally diagnosed him with having several large abscesses on his brain. The infection and huge buildup of fluid was causing the convulsions, severe head pain and paralysis in his body, he said.

Andrino said that on Sept. 5 – the anniversary of Mother Teresa’s death – Rocha received a relic of Mother Teresa from her parish priest, who told her to “pray to Mother Teresa because she will intercede for you.”

Rocha said she would place the relic on Andrino’s head where the abscesses were, recite the prayer of Mother Teresa’s beatification, and pray fervently to God, particularly the Our Father, stressing the words “Thy will be done.”

In December 2008, a few months after Andrino and Rocha married, he ended up in the hospital after experiencing excruciating head pain. He said he begged his wife to pray for him, and doctors decided to operate immediately.

Rocha said, “I asked Mother Teresa to heal Marcilio if this was God’s will. But if not, take his hand and have him return to the house of the Father without suffering.”

Andrino said he lost consciousness again and woke up in the operating room feeling a great sense of inner peace. Asking the doctors, “What’s going on?” he told them his head didn’t hurt anymore and that he felt fine. The medics then decided to delay the operation until the next day since the pain had subsided.

When the hospital staff ran tests, they found there was a 70 percent reduction in the amount of fluid pressing on his brain, he said.

The doctors did not operate, he said, and three days later more tests showed that all of the abscesses – the infection and fluid – had completely disappeared; not even scar tissue remained. He left the hospital just a few weeks later and, six months later, started work again “without any problems,” said Andrino, an engineer.

Doctors had told Andrino that because of all the medications and antibiotics he took over the years, the possibility that he and his new wife could conceive a child was very poor. However, he said, just one month later, Rocha was pregnant. And in 2012, their second child was born.

Andrino said he saw the births of their two children as “an extension of that miracle” in 2008.

Rocha said their experience has led to a greater faith in God and their family has a very strong prayer life.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PILGRIM HELENA PAUL

Pilgrim Helena Paul took this photo of Marcilio Haddad Andrino, with his wife and children and a clergy member outside San Damiano Church when she met the family several days before the canonization of St. Teresa. Read about the pilgrims’ experiences on pages 1 and 10.

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the relics, St. Pio’s glove and crucifix. Then invited Deacon Lang to bless each pilgrim with Padre Pio lived in San Giovanni Rotondo. The priest oversees the English office at the convent where Capua, a Capuchin Friar who lived with the saint and with the relics of St. Pio from Father Ermelindo Di.

Continued from Reflection

Joan of Arc Parish in Hershey, said that Harrisburg who is also associated with St. Teresa’s intercession. That experience brought everything home for me, to be able to see the man and family impacted by the miracle.

Fellow pilgrim Dr. Linda Chambers, a member of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Philadelphia last September, the faithful of Philadelphia last

The diocesan pilgrimage, Aug. 27-Sept. 6, was an 11-day spiritual journey with Masses celebrated by Bishop Gainer, and spanning holy sites in Rome before culminating in the Mass of Canonization. Sites included the Chapel of the Miracles in Orvi- eto; the Basilicas of St. Mary of the Angels, St. Clare and St. Francis in Assisi; the Holy House of Nazareth in Loreto; the Sanctuary of the Eucharistic Miracle in Lanciano; the cell, the confessional and the tomb of St. Pio in San Giovanni; the Grotto of St. Michael the Archangel in Monte Sant’Angelo; and the Abbey of Montecassino. Sites in Rome included the relics of Sts. Peter and Paul in the altar at the Basilica of St. John’s Lateran; the Holy Stairs that Jesus climbed before his crucifixion, the Basilica of St. Mary Major, a guided tour of St. Peter’s Basilica; and the Vatican Museum, the Sistine Chapel, the catacombs and the remains of St. Paul at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.

In an interview with The Catholic Wit- nes, Dr. Chambers said that the most mov- ing part of the pilgrimage was seeing the Eucharistic Miracle at the little church in Lanciano. It was here that the 8th century “Miracle of the Eucharistic Living Flesh of Jesus” occurred. During Mass, a Brazilian monk doubted whether Christ was truly present in the Eucharist. As the monk looked on, the host and wine visibly changed into flesh and blood. Subsequent scientific tests in the latter half of the 20th century have confirmed that the flesh and blood are human in origin, the flesh consisting of mus- cular tissue of the heart.

Bishop Gainer celebrated Mass for the pilgrims from an altar in front of the Eucharistic Miracle.

“There were so many incredible things on this trip of a lifetime, and to have the bishop with us and celebrating Mass was an added blessing,” Dr. Chambers said.

She also reflected on the Communion of Saints, as the pilgrimage offered opportuni- ties to see their places of birth, of service, or of death.

“We went from St. Benedict’s Abbey from the 300s, to the Basilicas of St. Francis and St. Clare in the 1200s, and then to the cell and tomb of St. Pio of this century, capped off with St. Teresa’s canonization. It repre- sented a whole progression of saints from different times and with different charisms,” Dr. Chambers said.

The pilgrimage was a fund-raiser for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harris- burg, seeking to find creative ways to sup- plement funding in the face of eliminated, reduced or flat revenue sources.

According to Dr. Mark Totaro, Presi- dent and CEO, the pilgrimage raised nearly $40,000, which will benefit the program’s Homes for Healing and counseling services.

“The shrines, churches and holy places we were able to visit were incredible,” he said, “The history of the Church goes back more than 2,000 years. I feel everyone I talked to felt incredibly blessed to be able to make this pilgrimage.”

Bishop Gainer, who led diocesan pilgrimages every other year while Bishop of Lexington, said he was “happy to support the important works of our Diocesan Catholic Charities as one advantage of the pilgrimage.”

“Additionally, the experience was de- signed to express and nourish our faith. Each day we prayed on the buses, celebrated Mass and breathed in the spirituality of so many magnificent churches and places made holy by the lives of the saints who lived and served there. I was especially moved – and very much surprised – that we were able to celebrate Mass at the Papal Altar at Saint John Lateran – the pope’s own cathedral in Rome. I had never had that privilege before.

“Each place we visited, I had visited be- fore, but there is always something new to learn and to deepen my appreciation of the places and lives of the saints,” the bishop re- marked. “We will never exhaust the signifi- cance of the lives of people like St. Francis, St. Clare and St. Pio. There is so much rich- ness to continue to discover.”

Inspired by the grotto of Our Lady, Undor of Knots during Pope Francis’ visit to Philadelphia last September, the faithful of St. Patrick Parish in Carlisle held a Novena from May through August of this year, and made available small strips of quilling material for individuals to share their intentions, or “knots.” The strips were also taken on visits to the home-bound, nursing home residents, hospital patients and prison inmates. Individuals then unknotted the strips and prayed for the intentions, and the material strips were then woven into 30x40-inch panels containing 200-300 prayers.

Parishioners David and Bonita Kozemchak brought one panel of the quilt on the pilgrimage, where it was carried through Holy Doors, through Assisi and San Giovanni, and the canonization of St. Teresa, to be blessed by Bishop Gainer and Pope Fran- cisco as he passed in the Popemobile. “I was deeply humbled and honored to have this opportunity. These filmy scraps of material were woven so all prayers formed one continuous intention,” said Mrs. Kozemchak, showing how the panel with Bishop Gainer. “No longer flimsy but strong. One in the Body of Christ. One in the hands of Mary, so loving and held and honored.” So far, there are four panels and close to 1,800 intentions.

Right: Bishop Ronald Gainer celebrates Mass in the little Church of Lagottian in Lanciano, in Front of the Eucharistic Miracle. PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK TOTARO

Above: An image of the Eucharistic Miracle at the little church in Lanciano. During a Mass in the 8th century, the host and wine visibly changed into flesh and blood. Subsequent scientific tests in the latter half of the 20th century have confirmed that the flesh and blood are human in origin, the flesh consisting of muscle tissue of the heart. PHOTO COURTESY OF PILGRIM ANDREA DIETZ

Below: Above: An image of the Eucharistic Miracle at the little church in Lanciano. During a Mass in the 8th century, the host and wine visibly changed into flesh and blood. Subsequent scientific tests in the latter half of the 20th century have confirmed that the flesh and blood are human in origin, the flesh consisting of muscular tissue of the heart. PHOTO COURTESY OF PILGRIM ANDREA DIETZ

Deacon Thomas Lang, of the Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick in Harrisburg, receives a blessing with the relics of St. Pio from Father Ermelindo Di Capua, a Capuchin Friar who lived with the saint and oversees the English office at the convent where Padre Pio lived in San Giovanni Rotondo. The priest then invited Deacon Lang to bless each pilgrim with the relics, St. Pio’s glove and crucifix.
A Nation Remembers

Top, left: A sculpture of Jesus embracing the twin towers of New York’s former World Trade Center is seen outside St. Ephrem Church in the Dyker Heights neighborhood of Brooklyn in New York. The sculpture honors the nine members of the parish who died in the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

CNS/GREGORY A. SHEMITZ

Top, right: On the eve of the 15th anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks, members of the Trinity High School girls’ soccer team held a moving remembrance ceremony prior to their home league game against West Perry at Cobo Field. Both teams together unfurled the 140-foot long American flag across the field before participating in a moment of silence, prayer and the National Anthem. Trinity’s senior midfielder, Rachel Wentz, helps raise the flag during the ceremony.

CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

Right: A woman holds a flag as she looks out over the National September 11 Memorial and Museum on the 15th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks in New York. The Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks claimed the lives of nearly 3,000 people in New York City, Shanksville, Pa., and at the Pentagon.

CNS/LUCAS JACKSON, REUTERS

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Diocesan Priests Serving as Military Chaplains
Find Privileged Moments in Prayer with Soldiers

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Members of the 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, left, and Chaplain Major John Bateman of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard 193rd Special Operations Wing, right, are pictured in Kosovo August. The diocesan priests said they find privileged moments in prayer with their soldiers.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FATHER LAVOIE AND FATHER BATEMAN

“My primary duty is to care for soldiers, very similar to the way a pastor would care for the souls of his parish,” said Father Bateman, who is deployed to Kosovo, currently serving with the Pennsylvania Air National Guard 193rd Special Operations Wing. “But as a military chaplain, we are called to be that visible reminder of our care for the soldiers and their families. It differs in that you’re a chaplain for all the soldiers in your unit, regardless of denomination,” he told The Catholic Witness during an e-mail interview earlier this month.

Although Father LaVoe, Father Bateman’s predecessor in Kosovo, was able to connect there in August with Chaplain Major John Bateman, also a priest of the Diocese of Harrisburg serving as a military chaplain, Father Bateman pointed out that a soldier will probably never meet his or her chaplain in person.

Father Bateman, previously pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Gettysburg and of St. Andrew the Apostle Parish in Waynesboro, is a member of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard 193rd Special Operations Wing. It is the only airborne military information support operations broadcasting unit. Father Bateman is also the Secretary to the Grand Master of the Equestrian Order of the Knights of the Holy Sepulcher in Rome.

Father LaVoe is deployed to Kosovo, but Father Bateman is not. But they two met there in August. Because of Father Bateman’s unique assignment outside of the continental United States, it was necessary for him to find his own lodging and complete his annual two-week training requirement. Knowing that Father LaVoe was in Kosovo with his Army unit, Father Bateman decided to connect so that he could spend some time with his brother priest and continue to learn how to work in a joint-deployment situation.

For Father LaVoe and Father Bateman, the desire to serve God and country was long felt. In Father LaVoe, the desire deepened after September 11, 2001, as he wanted to serve soldiers who were deployed in the aftermath of the attacks. He received permission from then-Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades to enter the military chaplaincy, and joined the Pennsylvania Army National Guard in October 2009.

Father Bateman was driven by the concern he felt for his friends who were serving during Operations desert Shield in the first Gulf War, then again seven years ago by a request from the office of the late Bishop Joseph P. McFadden seeking a chaplain for the Air National Guard’s 193rd Special Operations Wing. The ministry eventually took Father Bateman in early 2012 to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, the nearest treatment center for wounded soldiers coming from Iraq and Afghanistan.

His experiences there solidified why he wanted to serve as a military chaplain.

“By the time, ministering to our wounded warriors, was a great privilege and honor,” Father Bateman told The Catholic Witness in a recent e-mail interview. “The most memorable part of that experience was the official protocol when receiving patients at the hospital. No matter the hour of day or night they arrive, the moment they reach the door of the hospital, they are greeted first by a chaplain who tells them, ‘You are in Germany. You are safe here. You will receive the best care here — physical, mental, emotional and spiritual. Can I pray with you?’”

“It was a privileged moment to be the first one to greet them as they arrived for medical care,” he said.

Father LaVoe and Father Bateman expressed that they have received from diocesan bishops — including Bishop Ronald Gainer — to become military chaplains and continue their ministry. They fully appreciate a bishop’s willingness to give a diocesan priest for service as chaplains for the men and women of the Armed Forces.

According to the United States Department of Defense, 25 percent of the 1.3 million active duty and 81,000 reserve men and women, service identify themselves as Catholic — and there are 214 active duty priests to serve them.

“There is a great need for priests to serve our men and women in uniform,” Father Bateman said, noting that only 8 percent of all military chaplains are Catholic priests.

When not deployed with their units, Father LaVoe and Father Bateman are committed to serve for one weekend a month and two weeks of training each year. They train and work side-by-side with the men and women they serve.

Although the pastoral duties of a military chaplain are similar to that of a parish priest — celebrating Mass, hearing Confessions, offering counsel and preparing members to receive the sacraments — the situation in which they perform these ministries is different, Father Bateman pointed out.

“Our responsibility is to help the military in his day-to-day life and ready to perform their military responsibilities — including deployments,” he said. “And our care is not just for Catholics, but for every member of the military.”

A large portion of his weekend duty, he said, involves pastoral visitations to the offices and “shops” there, “just checking in with people, seeing how they are, allowing them to get to know me, and giving them the opportunity to talk if they want to do so,” he said.

While the celebration of the sacraments themselves is the same as a priest in a parish — “The Mass is the Mass,” said Father LaVoe, who celebrates Sunday Mass and hears Confessions for U.S. soldiers at three locations in Kosovo — the location is quite different.

Lack of duty bases and locations of deployment typically offer a dedicated chapel. Father Bateman has celebrated the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation in a local and watched Mass in one of the unit’s classrooms.

Pastoral responsibilities also extend to the families of service men and women.

“They can be dealing with family issues during the separation,” he said. “It is difficult especially for spouses and children during this time.”

Father Bateman pointed out that a soldier can be distracted in service at home or in deployment if a family is experiencing particular difficulty, so support is essential.

“As part of our family outreach in the Air Force, for example, is providing opportunities for marriage retreats and family strengthening,” he said. “Like most of society, relationships and coping with stress and difficult situations” are the most common needs.

The word “chaplain” comes from the Latin “capitas,” which means “cape.” Legend tells that St. Martin of Tours (316-397 A.D.), when he was a soldier in the Roman army, cut his military cape in half to share with a beggar.

It’s a fitting image to illustrate the role of the Catholic military chaplain: foremost a priest of Jesus Christ but also a soldier.

“We train in all soldier competencies alongside our fellow soldiers, except for the use of weapons,” Father LaVoe said. “It is important for them to see me as a competent soldier and officer. However, they must see their chaplain first and foremost as a priest and a man of God.”

Father Bateman concurred.

“AIR Force chaplains have a motto: we are ‘visible reminders of the holy.’ I often reflect on this because I am wearing the same uniform as everyone else, yet am called to be that visible reminder of the holy,” he said. “That doesn’t happen because of a collar and black shirt, but because of the character of our lives and our outreach.”

PHOTO COURTESY OF FATHER LAVOIE AND FATHER BATEMAN
Military Families Depend on Chaplains for More Than Spiritual Guidance

By Chaz Muth

As U.S. Air Force Maj. Justin Secrest organizes moving boxes in the family garage, his wife, Jennifer, surveys the kitchen to see what she can do without before the movers come in a few weeks to take their belongings to their new home near Kansas City, Missouri.

It will be the 13th move that the couple has made in their 24 years of marriage. Frequent moves are a fact of life when one or both spouses in a family have military careers, and though the physical transition of their belongings to a new home at Whiteman Air Force Base is a manageable task, it’s the saying goodbye to friends that never is easy. 46-year-old Jennifer Secrest told Catholic News Service as she was packing up her home of a few years at the Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls, Montana.

The golden-haired mother of two adult sons and a teenage daughter in high school became misty-eyed when she talked about leaving the life her family has made in northwest Montana, the friends who will stay behind and the Catholic Church on base, in which she has immersed herself.

“We say goodbye to a lot of people,” Jennifer Secrest said as she fought back tears.

Her husband recognizes the emotional toll these moves have on his wife and said he and their children try to protect themselves from the impact of the frequent change in assignments.

“There are some great things about military life, but there are also challenges,” Maj. Secrest said. “It’s a strange life and it’s definitely not an easy life.”

The biggest challenge the Secrests said they have had is the Church and the relationships they have forged with various chaplains along the way.

“Our family has benefited so much from the Church and we’ve been very fortunate to have close ties with Catholic chaplains over the years,” Maj. Secrest said. “Yes, the religious aspect has been important to us, but the presence of the Church in our lives has been a tremendous support for us during some very difficult times.”

Frequent deployments have required them to adapt, the 46-year-old major to be away from the family for an extended period of time.

Jennifer Secrest figures that her husband’s absences from the family total about five years in all.

The Secrest’s situation is common among military families, making the presence of the chaplain that much more important, said Father John Reutemann, the Catholic chaplain at Malmstrom.

“My family and I have been very fortunate at Malmstrom in the number and quality of the chaplains we have served with,” Father Reutemann told CNS during an interview at the Montana Air Force base.

“We have experienced many different kinds of ministry, and it’s been delightful to work with the different kinds of clergy who have served with us,” Father Reutemann said.

Joyce Flores’ husband, Army Maj. Roberto Flores Jr., has been deployed to Afghanistan four times during the course of the past several years.

The young couple is currently stationed at Fort Bragg in Fayetteville, North Carolina, where they celebrated their latest homecoming last December.

The dangers Maj. Flores’ war-zone missions have carried their own levels of stress on the young mother of three small children.

Though she is thrilled each time her husband returns home, reintegrating isn’t as easy as one may think, Joyce Flores told CNS during an interview earlier this year at Fort Bragg, as her 7-year-old son was preparing for his first Confession on one of the chapels on base.

“Being on his own for such a long time during the last deployment, I found that when he returned, he had forgotten what it was like to be a part of a whole family,” she said. “He was responsible for himself and his gear and his mission, and his day-to-day life didn’t include taking care of children, helping with household chores and helping the kids with homework.”

Joyce Flores also said that since she had spent the entire year he was gone taking care of the family needs, she didn’t reach out to her husband for help when he returned and he sometimes watched while she went on with her daily life, wondering where he fit in.

Their Catholic chaplain at Fort Bragg, Father Lukasz J. Willenberg, said reinteg- ration is one of the biggest stresses military families endure following deployments and he tries to provide support when a mother or father returns from war.

“Soldiers return home, sometimes with different issues, and it can be a real challenge to adjust,” Father Willenberg said.

“The combat zone changes them. But also, as they are away, the kids are growing up, and the kids left behind need help with the new normal. After 12 months, there are two people who are now slightly different who have to learn how to deal with each other again, how to rediscover one another.”

Sometimes Father Willenberg provides these couples with counseling himself and other times he refers them to reintegration seminars and retreats offered by the Army.

“I encourage them to set up a date night or something special just for the two of them,” he said, “to get away and rediscov- er each other.”

The Catholic Church is invested in helping families stay together and to keeping marriages intact, Father Willenberg said, and so is the military, because armed forces service men and women function better when their home lives are stable.

Many airmen at Malmstrom deploy every other week to the nearby nuclear missile fields. They are frequently on duty for five days straight, staying in the field that entire time, then return home for four days in row.

“I would argue that can be an even more difficult deployment to adjust for than when someone is gone for a year at a time,” Father Reutemann said. “They are the ones who have to learn how to deal with cycle and you sometimes have a situation where one person carries the weight of the par- enting.”

“It’s almost like they are a single parent, yet they are married and there are two visible parents, he said. “It’s a strange dy- namic in some that can create all kinds of difficulties.”

Father Reutemann has become a fixture at the Secrests’ home for spiritual support as well as companionship.

As the family prepared to leave Malmstrom, they naturally reflected on how the Church and the chaplains have impacted their lives.

Jennifer Secrest recalled that when her husband was on one of his long deploy- ments, one of her sons told her that he needed to go talk to the chaplain.

She tried to press him to see if it was an issue she could help him with, he told her no and left.

It was later revealed that he was struggling in school and didn’t want to burden his mother, who had been in charge of the family. But he knew the chaplain was a source of support.

“We would not be the same,” Maj. Secrest said, “had we not had that support that the Church gives us.”

Sainthood Cause of Kansas Priest Who Was Chaplain in Korean War Takes a Step Forward

Catholic News Service

The sainthood cause of Father Emil Kapaun, a priest of the Wichita Diocese who was a military chaplain during the Korean War and died in a prison camp, moved one step closer to consideration by the Church this summer.

Six historical consultants of the Vatican Congregation for Saints’ Causes met in Rome in June to review a comprehensive study that approved the historical documents submitted by the Diocese of Wichita on behalf of Father Kapaun’s cause.

“His is the official document that will be used to determine if Father Kapaun lived a life of heroic virtue and sanctity. If such a determination is made, the priest will be declared “venerable,” the first step on the road to sainthood,” the Church.

The second step is beatification and the third step is canonization. In general, each of these steps requires the Church to accept evidence that a miracle has occurred through the intercession of the sainted candidate.

Father Kapaun, ordained for the Wichita diocese in 1940, served in the U.S. Army as a chaplain. He was deployed in 1950 to Yokohama, Japan, with the 1st Cavalry Division, and was known to celebrate Mass from the hood of his Jeep.

He died in 1951 in a Korean prison of war camp after heroically serving his fellow soldiers.

The chaplain had the chance to fall back to safety during the fighting, but instead chose to stay behind to help his men. As a result of his heroic example in serving his fellow soldiers in the prison camp, his captors eventually forced him into the camp hospital, known to the prisoners as the “death house.”

Father Kapaun died of starvation and pneumonia May 23, 1951, in the prison in Pyoktong, North Korea.

Former prisoners of war said that during his cap- tivity Father Kapaun defied the intimidating Chinese camp guards by praying with captive soldiers, sharing food rations with injured comrades and urging them to resist relentless interrogation.

He was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumous- ly April 11, 2013.
The names of the following deceased persons have been submitted by their parishes. Please remember in your prayers the happy reposes of these recently departed souls and the consolation of their loved ones.

BLOOMSBURG – St. Columba: Gilbert M. Arenella.

BONNEAUVILLE – St. Joseph the Worker: John M. Clabaugh, Jr.

CAMP HILL – Good Shepherd: Grace Catalano, Anna M. Yucha.

COLUMBIA – Holy Trinity: Candice Kaufhold.


ELIZABETHTOWN – St. Peter: Mary Rishar.

ENOLA – Our Lady of Lourdes: Ann Fetchko, Celeste Hamilton, Mary Rishar.

GETTYSBURG – St. Francis Xavier: Daniel Peregoy, Sr.

HANOVER – St. Vincent de Paul: Delores Kuhn, Francis Topper.

HARRISBURG – St. Catherine Labouré: Thomas Bell, Eleanor Dietz, Giuseppe Macri; St. Francis of Assisi: Norma Villa; St. Margaret Mary: Dwight (Bud) Huntington, Elizabeth Pantano.


KULPMONT – Holy Angels: Irene M. Darkoskie.

LANCASTER – St. John Neumann: Paul Augustine, Mary Jo Bermel, Doris Hawke, Margaret Kennedy, Marilyn Penna, Dorothy Umstead.

MCHERRYSOWN – Annunciation BVM: Bernard M. Groft, Grace Overbaugh.


MIDDLETOWN – Seven Sorrows BVM: Dorothea Novak.

MILLERSVILLE – St. Philip the Apostle: Helen Jane Boerger, Pricilla Sawicki.

NEW CUMBERLAND – St. Theresa: Martha Olchefski.

NEW FREEDOM – St. John the Baptist: Vincent Catanese, Sr., Brian Clocker, Shirley A. Dema, John McGowan.

LYKENS – Our Lady Help of Christians: Helen Wenrich.

SELINGROVE – St. Pius X: Mary Louise Courkat, John Longaker, Francis Newbert.

STEELTON – Prince of Peace: Mary Ann (Zerance) Keleman.


guarantee that donations are tax deductible. Funds for Catholic Harvest Food Pantry

The Catholic Harvest Food Pantry (CHFP) is one of the largest food pantries in the city of York, distributing food five nights a week and serving 700 families each month. The Catholic non-profit organization is an outreach ministry of Immaculate Conception (St. Mary’s), St. Rose of Lima, St. Patrick, and St. Joseph parishes in York, as well as local businesses, service organizations, and individuals in York County.

This past spring, the pantry’s van was totaled after an accident, and it is now seeking funds to purchase a replacement van in order to transport boxes of major food donations in the heart of the city.

In August, St. Rose of Lima Columbiettes #10870 presented a check for $1,000 to Kris Pollack, Director of the Catholic Harvest Food Pantry, in order to help raise funds for a transport van. The Columbiettes have also started a Crowdrise Fundraiser to spread the word about the pantry and raise additional funds. Those interested in learning more about the project can visit https://www.crowdrise.com/harvest-food-pantry.

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Support Catholic Radio through the Upcoming Share-A-Thon

Holy Family Radio, AM 720 WHYF, Catholic radio for Central PA, is holding an on-air share-a-thon on September 27, 28 and 29 to raise funds necessary to continue to bring Catholic programming to our area. Bishop Ronald Gainer will kick off the three-day event with a two-hour appearance on Tuesday, Sept. 27 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Father Stephen Kelley, Father Francis Karwacki and Father Ryan Fischer are also scheduled to take part.

Tune in and call in your support. Holy Family Radio educates and evangelizes with solid Catholic programming for all. Please consider making a donation by calling 717-525-8110 or 717-525-8137. AM 720 WHYF is available on-line 24 hours a day at www.720WHYF.com or via an app. Holy Family Radio is an independent nonprofit organization supported by donations from listeners.

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The Lebanon District Council of Catholic Women will honor their predecessors, deceased Serra members, in the area with a dinner on September 29 at Mary Gate of Heaven Parish Hall in Myerstown. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. Call your representative or Anne Richter at 717-274-8852 for tickets.

Sacred Heart of Jesus PCCW will hold a Spaghet- ti Dinner in their church hall at 140 E. Market Street, Lebanon. Dinner begins at 5 p.m. and tickets are $15 per person. All proceeds benefit Social Life with an outdoor Mass and parish picnic. Music will be provided by local bands and Kutztown University. Come out for great food and entertainment. Cost of $10 is charged for those 18 and under. For ticket info, call Ted at 717-835-7851 or the Parish office at 717-450-4502.

Branding Break, a Lancaster Teapotery on Tap, will invite young adults and students in the Lancaster area for outdoor Mass followed by a brand new event. "Branding Break, a Lancaster Teapotery on Tap," will begin with registration at 9 a.m. At 10:30 a.m., there will be a talk by Father Frank Vaknaki, pastor, entitled, "Mary, Model of Perseverance." Following Mass at 11 a.m. will be celebrated on noon, followed by light lunch before departure. Cost of $15 includes lunch. Please register by Oct. 9 by email to cnggram@stgabrielcarlisle@gmail.com. For more information, contact Deb at 717-282-4031 or McAndrew, in the Chapel, followed by dinner at 5 p.m. The event consists of a few announcements followed by a talk on any other event or local spiritual event. Catholices of all ages are always welcome at the meetings. If you would like more information or would like to attend the Sisters in Christ Live, contact Vince Leone, MARC, at 717-766-2599. The annual Sister Appreciation Dinner will be held on October 1 in the Church Hall at 5:30 p.m. by dinner and entertainment. All Sisters who have served in the Harrisburg Diocese are invited to please RSVP to Stia at 717-447-2247 or any member of the PCCW to obtain tickets.

St. Philip The Apostle Women's Auxiliary will host their 27th annual Dinner and Dance at the Bishop McDevitt High School Social Hall, 1 Piper Drive in Mechanicsburg, will be celebrating parish life with an outdoor Mass and parish picnic. Music will be provided throughout the afternoon. Registration begins at 9 a.m. at 10 a.m. and will be celebrated at 11 a.m. immediately following Mass, the Women's Council will meet in the Parish Hall and will provide the parish the opportunity. To RSVP, either call the parish office at 717-487-8716 or visit the parish website, www.skwparrish.com. Plan on being with us on Sunday, re-engage in St. Katherine Dreexel Parish All are welcome.

Lancaster Catholic High School marching band and colorguard will be the focus of a performance at LCMBC, "The Lancaster County Marching Band Coalition" on September 24 from 6-11 p.m. Get your early bird ticket by September 11, tickets at the door will be $10, and no presale tickets will be sold. For ticket info, call Ted at 717-835-7851 or the Parish office at 717-450-4502.

Trinity High School's Athletic Associations' 3rd Annual Sac- rhetti Dinner will take place at the Marion Hotel, Kitchen and Bar, 140 S. Main Street, Lebanon on Sept. 24 from 5-10 p.m. Dancing starts at 6 p.m. Adults $25 and under, tickets will assist parish projects sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. The menu includes a New York strip steak, potato, roll, baked beans, Spanish rice and beer/soda. Music will be provided through the afternoon. Gathering is at 10:15 a.m. with Mass to follow. All proceeds from the sale of gifts or take out. Dinner includes spaghetti, meatballs, rolls, dessert and beverages for $9 per person. Contact Dawn at 717-867-2572 or any member of the PCCW to obtain tickets.

The Bishop McDevitt Class of 1981 will hold their 35th Reunion on Friday, October 7 at 9 a.m. a welcome breakfast, followed by a talk by Dr. Steven Smith, professor of Sacred Scripture at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md. Dr. Smith will discuss tắts from Catholic Social Teaching as it is understood by our current Pope, Francis. Tradition, Sacred Scripture, and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The classes will focus on moral theology as it relates to a plan of life and the choices we make, and how those choices can lead to proper choice-making and conduct. The classes will be held on 5 consecutive Saturday mornings from 9-11 a.m. at the Lebanon County Airport, 650 2nd Street, Lebanon. Food will be served. Registration fee of $25 includes a Lititz 5K for Life registration fee. Entry fee per person to join the race is $15. Prizes will be awarded. For more information, contact JoAnne at 717-647-9124 or any member of the PCCW to obtain tickets.

The Lebanon District Council of Catholic Women will honor their predecessors, deceased Serra members, in the area with a dinner on September 29 at Mary Gate of Heaven Parish Hall in Myerstown. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. Call your representative or Anne Richter at 717-274-8852 for tickets.

Little 5K for Life - Runners and walkers of all ages, join us for the first annual “Little 5K for Life. They will begin and end at St. James Catholic Church, 505 Woodstream Ave. Along the course we will see the Lebanese Lutheran Church and Lancaster County, a glimpse of the Lancaster Airport, and surrounding farmland. Proceeds benefit 3 pro-life ministries in the Lancaster County area. Pam Wargowsky, Lancaster Catholic High School, will assist parish projects sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. The menu includes a New York strip steak, potato, roll, baked beans, Spanish rice and beer/soda. Music will be provided throughout the afternoon. Gathering is at 10:15 a.m. with Mass to follow. All proceeds from the sale of gifts or take out. Dinner includes spaghetti, meatballs, rolls, dessert and beverages for $9 per person. Contact Dawn at 717-867-2572 or any member of the PCCW to obtain tickets.

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SHAMROCKS AND SQUIRES CONTINUE GRIDIRON TRADITION

Right: Outer stratus cloud bands of Hurricane Hermine are painted beautifully by the late summer sun setting behind Trinity’s Cobo Field in Camp Hill.

Below, left: Trinity’s wideout Tresjon Ruiz makes a nice reception before being ridden out of bounds by a Delone defensive back.

Below, right: Samantha Lowrie joins in Delone Catholic marching band’s field show.

CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

CRUSADERS TOP COUGARS IN EARLY SEASON RIVALRY

Right: Last season, Bishop McDevitt quarterback Tayvon Bowers threw for more than 3,500 yards and accounted for 42 touchdowns. The senior will play college football at Wake Forest for the Demon Deacons next year.

Below: Senior Matt Geiger is McDevitt’s outstanding two-way player who goes hard every play. He brings down Harrisburg quarterback Yahmir Wilkerson for a loss. Geiger scored two touchdowns against the Cougars – one a nifty screen pass and one on a caused fumble to change the game’s momentum.

CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

In what has become an early September tradition, the Trinity Shamrocks and Delone Catholic Squires continued their rivalry at Trinity’s Cobo Field on a warm breezy September 2. Last year, Trinity gave up nearly 400 points in 10 games, but this year’s defense looks more stingy in giving up yards. Though the ‘Rocks lost to Delone, 17-7, they had the Squires down early with a chance to go up two scores late in the first quarter.

The Squires, who run and pound the football better than most, look early on like they can compete for a District 3 playoff spot. Key clashes against York Catholic, Littlestown, and Bermudian Springs mid-season look to determine the Squires’ fate for November.

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

Though the Crusaders of Bishop McDevitt have begun their season with three home games, they were off to a 1-2 start.

After being upset by Red Land in Week One, the Crusaders bounced back against an athletic Harrisburg Cougar team in Week Two. Down two touchdowns early, the Crusaders scored a pair of touchdowns in 35 seconds to pull and stay ahead. The Crusaders lost to last year’s graduation the core of their wide receiver corps, their defensive backfield and offensive line, but they do have an easier late season schedule where they can gain confidence for November. In Week Three, The Crusaders welcomed USA Today’s fifth-ranked Dematha Catholic High of Maryland to Ortenzio Stadium. The Stags held McDevitt to just 48 yards rushing on 26 attempts in route to a 35-7 win.