The Promise of a New Year

By Richard Meek
Special to The Witness

Water lapped at the heels of Father Michael Galea, steady rain an arduous reminder of Mother Nature’s unfinished business.

With a sadness in his voice, Father Galea, pastor at Holy Rosary Church in St. Amant, estimated that as many as 90 percent of his parishioners were impacted during the recent historic flooding that touched nearly every corner of the Diocese of Baton Rouge.

“It’s going to change the whole dynamic of Holy Rosary as a parish as we know it,” Father Galea said. “It’s not going to be the same. And we are going to lose quite a bit of people if they choose to move away.

“But hopefully with love and compassion and a lot of hugs we can become a family all over again. That is what is most important for us to be together again.”

Baton Rouge Residents Cling to Church, Community Support in Wake of Flood’s Devastation

Diocese of Harrisburg to Take Special Collection Sept. 24-25

By Richard Meek
Special to The Witness

Coming together as a family, whether it is a community, church parish or simply a family dinner, is a question many are asking in the wake of the floods that in some areas dumped 20 inches of rain in as many hours. The carnage is stunning. In Central, it is estimated 27,000 out of 28,000 people were impacted, leaving some to speculate if the suburban community will be able to recover.

In Livingston Civil Parish, at least 75 percent of residents suffered some type of water damage, with most of the destruction major. Residents in East Baton Rouge Parish, Ascension Parish, and Tangipahoa Parish were also forced to dig out.

Much of Zachary was damaged, as the wide swath of destruction seems endless.

In the aftermath many residential streets appeared to be mere passes surrounded by mountains of debris. And the stench permeates one’s pores, a smell that eventually subsides but never leaves.

Schools were closed, many for weeks, and businesses were struggling to reopen. Curfews were enacted in civil parishes throughout to lessen the threat of looting in the impacted areas.

Some estimates are as high as 100,000 homes damaged, with thousands fleeing to evacuation shelters. The floodwaters claimed 13 lives, and many others survived only after being rescued from their rooftops, reminiscent of Hurricane Katrina 11 years ago.

“We were straight up survival mode,” said Tim Hasenkampf, a Baton Rouge fireman who lives in Port Vincent and lost his house because of flooding.

“It’s been tough,” added Hasenkampf, who along with his friend spent hours in their private boats rescuing people from their homes in the area.

According to Joe Ingraham, chief financial officer for the diocese, six churches took on water, including St. Alphonsus in Greenwell Springs, Immaculate Conception in Denham Springs, St. Jean Vianney in Baton Rouge, St. Anthony in Darrow, St. Anne in Sorrento and Holy Rosary. Schools at St. Alphonsus...
Hispanics Eager for Service of New Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia

By Matthew Gambino and Lou Baldwin

Special to The Witness

A Philadelphia priest who has ministered for most of his 43 years of priesthood in Hispanic Catholic communities has become the Archbishop of Philadelphia’s newest auxiliary bishop.


The approximately 1,500 worshipers included priests who filled about three-quarters of the cathedral’s left side of pews, many permanent deacons and religious, but mostly lay people of every age and walk of life.

They represented the wide ethnic diversity of parishes served by Bishop Deliman, parishes punctuated by a strong Hispanic Catholic presence.

These parishes formed a love for God and the church over the years with the bishop, who although of Slovak descent speaks fluent Spanish.

His broad pastoral experience spans city and suburban parishes including St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Bensalem where Bishop Deliman was associate pastor from 1974 to 1976 and as a priest of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Bishop Deliman served in St. Charles Borromeo Parish, as well as the predominantly Latino Our Lady of Fatima Parish merged with St. Charles in 2014.

Archbishop Chaput said one of the reasons Bishop Deliman’s name was suggested to Pope Francis as a possible new auxiliary bishop was to address the need to better serve the large Hispanic Catholic community in the archdiocese, which is also growing quickly throughout the United States.

Masses are celebrated in Spanish in 39 Catholic churches among the 219 parishes in the Philadelphia Archdiocese.

The archdiocese, according to 2015 statistics from the archdiocesan Office for Parish Service and Support, is serving 253,176 Hispanic Catholics in a total Catholic population in the archdiocese of 1,438,147.

Bishop Deliman’s extensive pastoral experience among Hispanics has earned his admiration, and now his high-level position in the archdiocesan administration gives the Hispanic Catholic community a strong voice.”

“He is a blessing for us Spanish people,” said St. Charles parishioner Ernesto Alvarado, who attended the Mass with his wife and daughter Monica. “We have our fulfilled our dream. We always wanted a bishop like him.”

Kathia Atan, director of the Office for Hispanic Catholics, exclaimed, “This is a day the Lord has made! This is an exciting time and I am looking forward to working with Bishop Deliman. We are blessed.”

Some Reina Plankett, I.H.M., worked with Bishop Deliman in Hispanic ministry eight years ago at St. Agnes Parish, West Chester. “He’s wonderful and this is wonderful for Hispanic Ministry,” she said.

Archbishop Chaput served as co-conselor of Bishop Deliman along with the head of Borromeo Seminary and was a co-consecrator, a chalice assistant while studying at St. Charles Seminary, as well as a former priest of Philadelphia and an auxiliary bishop of the Rockville Center Diocese.

“The rites of ordination for a bishop are an intricate, carefully choreographed ceremony, with many differing roles: the principal celebrant and consecrator, the celebrant, a chalice assistant for the bishop-elect, deacons in various roles; plus lectors, cantors, and acolytes,” Archbishop Chaput said.

Of special note in this instance is Deacon Matthew Brody, deacon of the Mass, and Deacon Keith Beaver and Brian Connelly, deacon chaplains to the archbishop.

When Bishop Deliman was ordained a priest in 1973 he was one of the first Hispanic priests, and one of three transitional deacons in their final year at St. Charles Seminary will make up the class of 2017, scheduled for ordination next May.

Bishop Deliman was ordained a priest in 2003 by Archbishop Chaput. He spent three years as a transitional deacon before being appointed Bishop Deliman’s Parish, Our Lady of Fatima, three years ago, Deacon Connelly said. “You don’t have to be with him a long time to realize what a holy person and good priest he is. He is a role model for what a priest and a pastor should be.”

Bishop Ronald Gainer of the Diocese of Harrisburg, a co-consecrator, lays his hands on Bishop Deliman.

The two studied in the same class at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary and were ordained the same year, 1973.

Ordinations for bishops or priests are always impressive ceremonies, especially in Philadelphia where the church is filled with excellent choirs — in this case a masterful blend of Latin, English and Spanish.

The ornate liturgy Aug. 18 carried a grand air with the 40 members of the Archdiocesan Choir in the cathedral’s left, led by director Brian Connelly, and the Bishop Gorman Choir, directed by Bishop Nelson Perez.

“St. Charles Borromeo is a family,” he said. “It is a wonderful model of how a Catholic sanctuary knew his way around it very well: Cardinal Justin Rigali, who as the retired archbishop of Philadelphia also knew Bishop Deliman.

“He was one I was honored to be able to call my priest for eight years,” the cardinal said after the ceremony. “It is always a joy to assist at the ordination of a new bishop, especially one who was part of the presbyterate when I was Bishop. He will be especially helpful, as Archbishop Chaput mentioned, in his special ministry.”

Michael Deliman is the Director and General Manager, for CatholicPhilly.com. The article is reprinted here with permission.

Inaugural Facilities Maintenance Risk Management Safety Conference

Providing the tools you need to develop a responsive, customer-oriented support service for the safe and efficient operation and maintenance of all physical facilities.

Tuesday, September 13

9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg

Continental breakfast from 8-9 a.m. Lunch provided at no cost.

Guest speakers, vendors, contractors, and facility personnel.

Learn about important issues in the operation of your facilities through discussion led by some great local experts who are experts in their subject.

Space them of your needs with vendors who can answer specific questions about your individual issues. This meeting will give you an opportunity to talk with other with others who may have a source for the answer to your problems.

For more information, contact Terry Connor, Diocesan Director of Buildings & Properties, at 717-657-4804.
Peter’s Pence Collection to be Taken up September 10-11

In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis calls us to be attentive to the voices of those on the margins and respond readily to their needs. He reminds us that it is time to return to the basics and to bear the weaknesses and struggles of our brothers and sisters.

The Peter’s Pence Collection, which will be taken up in parishes in the Diocese of Harrisburg during Masses on Sept. 10 and 11, gives each of us an opportunity to be a witness of charity to those who suffer most.

Contributions to the collection support the charitable works of the Holy Father, as he reaches out to our brothers and sisters suffering the effects of war and violence, natural disasters and religious persecution. Through this collection, we stand in solidarity with Catholics all over the world to support the charitable works and outreach of the Holy See.

The collection has raised nearly $190 million to support our suffering brothers and sisters around the globe. It derives its name from an ancient custom, when, in ninth-century England, King Alfred the Great collected money, a “pence” from landowners as financial support for the pope. Today, the collection supports the outreach of the Holy See.

In addition to the keynote address by Archbishop Chaput, the banquet will feature some other pro-life heroes. The Honorable Joseph Pitts, United States Representative for the 16th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, including parts of Lancaster, Berks and Chester counties, will be presented with the 2016 Pennsylvania Pro-Life Leadership Award for his diligent work as a defender of the right to life for all Americans. Congressman Pitts co-chairs the U.S. House of Representatives Pro-Life Caucus.

The Celebrate Life Banquet benefits the life-saving work of the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation Education Fund, a 501(c)(3) organization that is the state affiliate of the National Right to Life Committee. Everyone is invited to reserve seats and sponsorships at http://www.paprolife.org/state-events or by calling 717-541-0034.

Archbishop Chaput to Keynote Pro-Life Banquet in Camp Hill

Clergy Appointments

The Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer, Bishop of Harrisburg, has made the following appointments.

Effective August 12, 2016:

• The Reverend John Cyriac, MSFS from Parochial Vicar, the Catholic Parish of Saint Patrick, Harrisburg, to Chapellain, Geisinger Medical Center, Maria Joseph Manor and Emmanuel Center, Danville, with residence at Maria Joseph Manor.

Effective September 6, 2016:

• The Reverend Daniel K. Richards from Parochial Vicar, Saint Francis Xavier Parish, Gettysburg, to Pastor, Saint Rose of Lima Parish, York.

• The Reverend John M. Kuchinski from Parochial Vicar, Seven Sorrows BVM Parish, Middletown, to Parochial Vicar, Saint Francis Xavier Parish, Gettysburg, and Campus Minister, Gettysburg College, Gettysburg.

• The Reverend Paul R. Fisher from Pastor, Saint Rose of Lima Parish, York, to Personal Leave of Absence.

• The Reverend James E. Lease to Director, Office of Ecumenical and Inter-religious Affairs for the Diocese of Harrisburg. Father Lease continues as Pastor, Saint Joseph Parish, Danville.

Annulment Presentations Scheduled

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

Presentations will include a question-and-answer session and an opportunity for private conversation with Tribunal staff and representatives. For more information, call 717-657-4804 or send an e-mail to tribunal@hbgdiocese.org.

Schedule of Presentations:

• September 12 – Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 7 p.m.

• September 22 – St. Joseph Parish, Hanover, 7 p.m.

• September 26 – St. Philip Parish, Millersville, 7 p.m.

• November 9 – Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 7 p.m.
More than a decade ago, a man named Jameel McGee was walking down a street of an inner city in the mid-west section of the United States. He was stopped by Andrew Collins, a police officer who arrested him for dealing drugs. McGee completely denied that he had the drugs on his person. The courts favored the testimony of Collins and sentenced the young man to ten years in prison.

As time went on, however, the police officer’s illegal activity caught up with him. He was convicted and sentenced to 18 months for falsifying reports, planting drugs and stealing. In turn, all of his cases were re-investigated, and McGee was exonerated. However, he had spent five years in prison.

One could easily assume that McGee would absolutely hate his arresting officer since he seemingly destroyed five years of his life because of Collins’ actions. In the beginning, McGee confessed that he wanted to meet Collins and hurt him. But, in prison, he realized that hatred would only make him bitter and angry, something that God would not want him to do. This realization was brought to a head when they both appeared in a faith-based employment agency that assisted ex-cons in getting a job. Waiting in line, the two saw each other and their glasses locked. Collins, fearful at first, watched as McGee approached. It was the police officer who spoke first. “I’m so sorry! I want to forgive you!” With that, he fell to his knees. McGee helped him up to his feet and embraced him with these words, “I forgive you with the same love that Christ has forgiven me.” They became friends.

None of the two have joined forces and travel throughout the country talking to high school students about the power of forgiveness, mercy and redemption.

I am reminded of this story as I begin to write about the sixth spiritual work of mercy: forgive offenses willingly. I believe that this spiritual work of mercy is one of the hardest to incorporate within our heart because it requires one thing: humility. Our culture suggests that when we are hurt by another, we should retaliate. The hunger for vengeance could easily feed our pride by putting others beneath ourselves. Our society truly believes that when we show signs of forgiveness, we are weak and, at times, plain foolish.

The ultimate words of forgiveness were spoken by Christ on the cross, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” (Luke 23:34) Jesus willingly called out this prayer to his Father. This is the important key. The power of forgiveness lies in the willingness and the openness of an individual to extend unconditional love. Remember, hurting people hurt others. You cannot undo the offense that was directed to you. But, you can make a difference to the person who hurt you by forgiving them.

Is this possible? I believe so! I think of St. John Paul II forgiving his attacker after he was shot in St. Peter’s Square. It is said that on the way to the hospital, he decided to forgive his assassin. He did not seek vengeance but rather extended to him forgiveness and mercy. What an amazing grace!

The longer you avoid letting go of the hurt, the hate, the anger, the resentment, the more you will reach out and hurt others. Beg for the grace to forgive. If you can’t pray for that, then pray for the grace to be able to pray to forgive.

How does one begin to do this? Cultivate a devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. He is forgiveness and mercy. He shows us how to extend mercy to others by giving us His heart if we ask. We must do the same for others.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Make My Heart Like Unto Thine. (Sister of Christian Charity, Geralyn Schmidt, is the Wide Area Network Coordinator at the Diocese of Harrisburg and the Director for Formation for Wives in the Diaconate Program. An educator for 29 years, she is responsible for Professional Development Programs for every age learner. Through her presentations, she challenges her audiences to be the individual God has called them to be.)

Editorial:

The Catholic Witness
OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG
Most Rev. Ronald W. Gainer: Publisher Jennifer Reed: Managing Editor staff

Chris Heisey: Photojournalist Emily M. Albert: Photojournalist Susan Hunt: Coordinator Circulation Coordinator and Administrative Assistant

The Catholic Witness (ISSN 0893-8447, USPS 550-320) is published biweekly except Christmas Week and Easter by the Catholic Publishing Association, 4600 Union Depot Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111-3710. Periodicals postage paid at Harrisburg, Pa.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Catholic Witness, 4600 Union Depot Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111-3710.

Telephone 717-567-4004 ext. 201 FAX 717-673-7673 Email: witness@hbgdiocese.org Website: www.hbgdiocese.org

Yearly Subscriptions: $8.17 per family, derived from diocesan revenues from the parishes. Other subscriptions: $12.00

Mailing: Send us the address label from The Catholic Witness off your NEW address including zip code. #4. Please allow three weeks for the change.

Life Issues Forum
Welcome and Protect Life

By Deirdre A. McQuade
Special to The Witness

On the eve of World Youth Day 2016 in Poland, Pope Francis gave a beautiful address... urging leaders to support the family, the “primary and fundamental cell of society.” Specifically, he urged them to welcome and protect human life in all its stages: “Life must always be welcomed and protected. These two things go together—welcome and protection, from conception to natural death.”

The Holy Father said that responsibility for vulnerable families is shared in a particular way by the institutions of the State, the Church, and society—“All of us are called to respect life and care for it. On the other hand, it is the responsibility of the State, the Church and society to accompany and concretely help all those who find themselves in serious difficulty, so that a child will never be seen as a burden but as a gift, and those who are most vulnerable and poor will not be abandoned.”

In “Living the Gospel of Life,” the U.S. bishops issued a similar “welcome and protect” challenge to ordinary citizens and high-powered leaders alike. Written in 1998, its insights remain fresh and relevant today.

All too often in debates, people pit the defense of innocent, defenseless lives in opposition to work promoting the dignity of other vulnerable persons throughout the lifespan. From a Catholic perspective, these issues need not be in competition, but they must be held in proper relation to each other for promotion of the common good. Our bishops proposed the beautiful image of the human person as the “living house of God,” and taught that the right to life is the foundation on which that house stands, with all other human dignity issues serving as the house’s much-needed protective walls and crossbeams.

“Opposition to abortion and euthanasia does not excuse indifference to those who suffer from poverty, violence and injustice… Catholics should eagerly involve themselves as advocates for the weak and marginalized in all these areas,” they taught. The bishops then explain: “If we understand the human person as the ‘temple of the Holy Spirit’... the living house of God—then these latter issues fall logically into place as the crossbeams and walls of that house. All direct attacks on innocent human life, such as abortion and euthanasia, strike at the house’s foundation. These directly and immediately violate the human person’s most fundamental right—the right to life. Neglect of these issues is the equivalent of bulldooring our house on sand. Such attacks cannot help but null the social conscience in ways ultimately destructive of other human rights (Living the Gospel of Life, 22).

So the bishops’ challenge gives us a constructive model for thinking about vital social and political concerns. Before voting this coming November, consider reading the entire statement along with the more recent “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship (2015)” to enrich your conversations with friends, family members, and colleagues on these critical issues.


(Deirdre A. McQuade is Assistant Director of Pro-Life Communications at the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. For more on the bishops’ pro-life work, see www.usccb.org/prolife.)

Position Available:

Dioesic Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) Director

The Secretariat for Catholic Life and Evangelization of the Diocese of Harrisburg is seeking an individual to fill the part-time position of Diocesan Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) Director. The candidate must be a Catholic in good standing. The person in this position is responsible for overseeing all areas of the Diocesan Basketball Program. This program consists of just under 5,000 grade school and high school players on 261 teams with nearly 600 coaches and counts the 15 counties of the Diocese of Harrisburg.

This detail-oriented individual will be expected to be in full compliance with the Diocese of Harrisburg’s Youth Protection Program and will be accountable to the Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Hourly compensation will be commensurate with experience. Application deadline is September 15, 2016.

For more information contact:
Diocese of Harrisburg
Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry oyyam@hbgdiocese.org

Send résumé and cover letter to: employment@hbgdiocese.org

Position Available:

Dioesic Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) Director

The Secretariat for Catholic Life and Evangelization of the Diocese of Harrisburg is seeking an individual to fill the part-time position of Diocesan Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) Director. The candidate must be a Catholic in good standing. The person in this position is responsible for overseeing all areas of the Diocesan Basketball Program. This program consists of just under 5,000 grade school and high school players on 261 teams with nearly 600 coaches and counts the 15 counties of the Diocese of Harrisburg.

This detail-oriented individual will be expected to be in full compliance with the Diocese of Harrisburg’s Youth Protection Program and will be accountable to the Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Hourly compensation will be commensurate with experience. Application deadline is September 15, 2016.

For more information contact:
Diocese of Harrisburg
Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry oyyam@hbgdiocese.org

Send résumé and cover letter to: employment@hbgdiocese.org
For God and Country:
Military Chaplaincy has Long History in U.S. Armed Forces

By Chaz Muth
Catholic News Service

When Father Adam Muda arrived at the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School at Fort Jackson earlier this year, he noticed prominent signs for a museum that showcased the history of what he was about to become.

The U.S. Army Chaplain Corps Museum has such a prominent place where priests and clergy from other religions train to be chaplains, because the role of the chaplain is stitched into the fabric of the U.S. military.

The patchwork of the military chaplaincy was revealed on a warm March morning as the museum’s curator, Marcia McManus, walked a visitor through the carefully lit exhibit hall with a scent that reminded him of vintage books and photographs.

The man noticed the displays were laid out in chronological order, beginning with the origin of the name chaplain, which derives from the relic cape (“cappa” in Latin) of St. Martin of Tours, a second-century bishop who is said to have used his military sword to cut his cloak in two, giving half of it to warm a shivering beggar.

Eventually, all clergy affiliated with the military were referred to as the “cappellani,” translated into French as “chaplain” and then English as chaplain, McManus said. “The history of the chaplaincy in the United States is almost as old as the country,” said Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services in Washington. “The first thing that George Washington asked the Continental Congress for was the provision for chaplains.”

The U.S. Army Chaplains Corps was officially established July 29, 1775, with the first formal chaplains being Protestants. However, there was one Catholic priest, Father Louis Eustace Lotbiniere, from the Diocese of Quebec, who did provide pastoral care to the soldiers fighting in the Revolutionary War, McManus told Catholic News Service during a March interview at the museum.

Though he was not necessarily considered part of the original Army chaplain corps, he’s considered the country’s first wartime Catholic chaplain, she said.

In the early years of the nation, there were a few priests who would help out in the military, but the first official Catholic presence within the armed forces came in the 1840s during President James K. Polk’s administration.

But in 1861, with the outbreak of the Civil War, things changed. The need for Catholic chaplains began to grow in the subsequent years, and priests served in both the Confederate and Union armies during the U.S. Civil War, Archbishop Broglio said. (See pages 6 and 7 in this edition of The Witness for a feature piece on one of the priests who ministered in the horrendous prisoner of war camp in Andersonville, Ga.)

During both World War I and World War II, the U.S. armed forces enjoyed its most robust service of Catholic chaplains, around 2,000 during those years, the archbishop said. That number pales in comparison to today’s 214 priests on active duty.

“Remember, there was a tremendous mobilization in the United States, particularly during the Second World War, and there was a tremendous response, both on the part of the priests and then also the Knights of Columbus supported and sometimes even paid for chaplains, because this was seen as a need,” Archbishop Broglio said.

Some Catholic chaplains have gained notoriety throughout the years, including Father Francis Patrick Duffy, who served as a chaplain with the 69th Infantry Regiment, a unit of the New York Army National Guard, on the western front of France during World War I, for which he was highly decorated with military honors, such as the Distinguished Service Cross and the Distinguished Service Medal.

Hollywood chronicled his wartime chaplaincy in the 1940s film “The Fighting 69th.” Though Father Duffy wasn’t awarded the Medal of Honor, three other Catholic chaplains have been, including Father Joseph O’Callahan, a World War II chaplain; Father Emil Kapaun, who served during the Korean War and died in a prisoner of war camp; and Father Vincent Capodanno, who served in Vietnam and was killed in action in 1967.

Sainthood causes have been opened for both Father Kapuan and Father Capodanno.

One of the greatest legacies of the U.S. military chaplaincy is that the men and women who serve have been granted the opportunity to exercise their freedom of religion, or no religion at all, said Father Michael A. Miskay, a Navy chaplain who currently serves at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. “That’s a great nation that we have.”

As McManus wrapped up her tour, she turned to her visitor and said she believes the chaplaincy museum offers more than a historical perspective of the military chaplains who served in all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. “We are several stories throughout the museum that show the compassion and the willingness of chaplains to stay with their soldiers. To minister to those soldiers,” she said. “They nurture the living, care for the wounded and they honor the dead.”

Diocesan Chaplains in Our Next Edition

As part of the series on Catholic military chaplains, The Catholic Witness is currently pursuing a feature piece on diocesan priests, Ch. Maj. John Bateman, and Ch. Capt. Raymond LaVoie.

Father Bateman, Secretary to the Grand Master Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem, is chaplain for the Pennsylvania Air National Guard, and Father LaVoie is chaplain for the Army National Guard. As their availability in the field allows, The Witness is arranging a feature article on their ministry for our upcoming edition.
The Angel of Andersonville

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

Far from any population centers in south central Georgia still today rests Andersonville National Historic Site, where the Civil War’s most notorious prisoner of war camp was located in the war’s final months. So deplorable were the conditions for Northern prisoners, it’s still difficult to fathom how much misery was suffered at this remote corner of America. In the midst of all the savage suffering, there was a Catholic priest who brought unflailing mercy, comfort and compassion to the starving, sick and dying inmates.

By the war’s fourth year, prisoner of war camps had swelled in both the north and the south. Andersonville became the most notorious of all because, in just 14 months, some 45,000 Yankee soldiers would pass through prison walls, crammed into a 26.5-acre square confined by a crude stockade of logged walls with no shelter to house them. To be sure, Northern camps such as Elmina, New York, where Rebel prisoners were shoved into brick huts, were hardly much better, yet Andersonville remains the worst “hellhole” of all, according a Union soldier prisoner from a Pennsylvania Cav- allry unit whose home was in Carlisle.

In 1864, President Abraham Lincoln and his generals stopped the prisoner exchange program with the Confederate armies. No longer would armies grant freedom to a prisoner of war for the return of one of their fighters. It was a mathematical measure, given that the Confederacy was having enough problems feeding and tending to the health issues of its own soldiers, much less the enemy. How it was a crippled Confederate government going to furnish even the most meager sustenance for Union prisoners?

When the tentacles of the Union armies squeezed Richmond, the Confederates moved many of its prisoners by rail from Libby Prison along the James River to Andersonville, located some 100 miles south of Atlanta along a rail line below Macon, Georgia. Slave labor under the watch of white masters quickly erected Camp Sumter – the stockade prison along a hillside that had a tiny, marshy creek running through the middle of the prison. It would be a watertight water supply for the tens of thousands of inmates who were then pouring into the prison in the spring of 1864.

Born in County Wexford in Central Ireland in 1801, Peter Whelan grew up in the typical Irish Catholic household. He attended Birchfield College, where he was a math major. He immigrated to Charleston, South Carolina, when he heard about Charleston Bishop John England’s plea for priests to administer to the growing Irish population in the South in the early 19th Century. Peter Whelan was ordained in 1830 in Charleston by Bishop England, and he was soon employed as the bishop’s secretary as the diocese included the states of North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. There were no Catholic parishes in Raleigh, the Tar Heel state’s capital city, and only nine in the entire state of Georgia. Father Whelan was an excellent evangelizer and enthusiastic catechist, and it endeared him to all the bishops he would serve in his long life.

When the Diocese of Savannah was formed in 1850, Father Whelan became vicar general and soon the bishop died there during the yellow fever epidemic that was sweeping through the South. He became the diocesan administrator for the newly formed diocese, where he made a name for himself as a compassionate, decisive leader quite bold in spreading the faith he loved. He especially was compelled to teach and serve the poor Irish immigrants who were flooding the shores of Georgia. When the Civil War erupted in 1861, Father Whelan was one of only 11 priests in Georgia, so Bishop Verot asked the aging priest to be chaplain to the Montgomery Guards, an Irish Catholic Confederate unit that manned Fort Pulaski – an imposing brick fort on Cockspur Island some 15 miles from Savannah. The bomb-battered fort still stands today as a reminder to the utter destruction that was the Civil War. The Montgomery Guards surrendered their flag in April 1862 after a several day siege pummeled the fort into submission. The flag had been knitted by the Sisters of Mercy and blessed by Father Whelan a month earlier on St. Patrick’s Day.

Though as a chaplain, Father Whelan did not have to follow his unit into captivity on New York’s Governor’s Island at Castle William, the devoted priest became a prisoner so he could tend to the needs of his beloved southern brethren. Father Whelan’s allegiance was firmly Confederate early in the war. While in prison, Father Whelan was able to establish a relationship with New York City priests who provided blankets and food to his unit. The conditions were cold and dank, and if not for the resourcefulness of this humble priest, many would have died before being exchanged after several months of imprisonment.

Upon his return to Savannah, Father Whelan, sickly from his prison time, resumed his duties as vicar general. But when Father Hamilton of Macon by accident stumbled upon the remote prison at Andersonville, the young priest was appalled at the conditions and the number of northern Catholics suffering through the camp’s horrendous conditions. “I found the stockade extremely filthy; the men all huddled together without any use of lime and vermin…. There were men dying there very rapidly from scurvy, diarrhea and dysentery. They had no shelter, had only the most meager sustenance with ordinary vermin, but also maggots…. and they had nothing under them except the ground,” Father Hamilton wrote after his visit.

Now 62, Father Whelan was not in physical or mental shape to endure the nightmare that would be Andersonville. Staying a mile from the prison in a 12 by 8 foot wooden hut, he would awaken every day at dawn, eat a scant breakfast, finish morming prayers and then head to the prison until sundown. He fell asleep each night “exhausted and full of sorrow for what I had seen all day,” he told a friend.

Temperatures in the middle of summer in southern Georgia routinely hit the mid 90s. With no shelter to shield them from the sun’s blaze, more than 33,000 prisoners crammed into 26 acres along a small, sewage-strewn stream which provided more misery than relief to the inmates. Private John Urban, an infantryman of the 1st Pennsylvania Reserves, upon arriving in June 1864 after his capture at Spotsylvania Court House, Virginia, could not believe the conditions he has walked into the prison. “My God, can this be hell?” he said to a fellow new inmate. “It was so crowded that at first we could not believe it.”

More ANDERSONVILLE, page 7

A Union prisoner after Andersonville was liberated in 1865.
The Sisters of Charity of Nazareth commit in their mission statement to “risk their lives in their ministry to the poor and vulnerable.”

“Don’t you know what that’s going to be like or look like,” said Susan Gatz, president of the motherhouse in Kentucky. “But now we are experiencing that.”

Sister Paula Murray, a member of the congregation since 1979, was found stabbed to death Aug. 25 in their Doruntin, Mississippi, home. police said.

“I invited my early sisters to really live in tune with those who are the poorest. That charism was very deep in Paula’s heart. She took her skills as a nurse practitioner and put them at the service of the poor and at the service of the charism. She loved it. It wasn’t a burden for her.”

As the sisters and their families mourn the slain women, they’ve asked for people to pray – not only for the victims and their loved ones but also for their attacker. It’s a “way to be faithful to their memories,” said Sister Susan.

Both religious communities issued a statement after the arrest emphasizing their opposition to capital punishment.

“We want to reiterate our beliefs of women of faith, that we value life,” the statement said. “For years now, the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth and the School Sisters of St. Francis have worked to abolish the death penalty, even as we seek justice and truth. Let us hold everyone involved in prayer.”

Sister Margaret was a member of the Sisters of St. Francis for 49 years. She served in Mississippi as a social worker at a health center in Holly Springs in the mid-1970s. She went to work as a community health nurse in Nebraska from 1978 to 1983 and then returned to Mississippi. She became a nurse practitioner in 1994 and subsequently served in health care in Tupelo, Marks and Lexington.

Sister Paula joined the Sisters of Charity in 1965, but left the novitiate in 1968 only to return in 1979. She began her ministry in Mississippi in 1981, serving in several impoverished rural communities until her death.

Sister Paula’s older sister, Rosemarie Merrill, still lives in their hometown of Stoneham, Massachusetts. Between the two sisters, together as Rosemarie Mer- rill traveled to Durant and volunteered at the Lexington clinic. She described her baby sister as fun, stubborn and sarcastic. The two often quibbled, she said, about which one was Martha and which one was Mary. When the biblical sisters were reading a Sunday liturgy not long ago, Merrill said she called her sister and asked, “Have we decided which one is Martha and which one is Mary?” By the end of the call, they decided they both have a little of Martha and a little of Mary inside them, Rosemarie Merrill said.

“She was very, very smart. And she was a wonderful nurse,” Merrill said. “And she was a very, very holy woman.” She had a deep love and respect for the people of Holmes County because they’ve lost so much. The care they provided leaves a hidden mark, they said. “They would do anything for their patients.”

Sister Susan said the deaths do have a silver lining: They help the congregation to recognize the people who have lost a loved one to violence.

“What we are experiencing is what so many of us have experienced over the years,” said Sister Susan. “The pain and the bewilderment that so many of us have experienced in deaths that come violently,” she said.

Writer’s Biographical Note:
Unlike many Civil War epochs, Andersonville Prison has not been the subject of a vast modern literature. Ther Peter Whelan has not been granted the deserving public eye. Arguably the most famous book is a novel by MacKinlay Kantor, Andersonville, which won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 1955. It’s a 760-page tome that quite accurately depicts the gangs of terror that plagued the prison. William Marvel’s Andersonville: The Last Depot is a revisionist, scholarly work that does not heap blame upon Confederate brass for the prison’s wretched conditions. Marvel’s book is a work of history, not a novel. The author wrote searing memoirs of the experi- ence and placed blame squarely upon the Confederate high command for its wanton disregard for the Yankee prisoners. Southern hatred ran deep after the war about Andersonville, and the camp’s commander, Major General Willich, was brought to trial by U.S. gov- ernment for his crass and cold response to the suffering. The best primary source in today’s literature is a book titled Experiences Mid Shot and Shell and in Rebel Den published in 1882. There are modern revisionist books such as Experiences In Andersonville published by perch book, but the first edition is a book col- lector’s delight. He does not warm over the Confederates with a glowing eye. He has focused on the Union side.

In August of 1864, when the prison’s ranks swelled to its largest population, two remarkable miracles occurred that showed the devotion of Father Whelan along with a quite visible, tangible sign of the Divine Mercy of God. Unable to witness the effects of starvation any longer, Father Whelan made a trip to Macon to a wealthy restaurant merchant, Henry Horn. He was a devout and unflinching Catholic whom the prison. If you want a detailed visual depiction of the gangs of terror that plagued the prison, William Marvel’s Andersonville: The Last Depot is a revisionist, scholarly work that does not heap blame upon Confeder- ate brass for the prison’s wretched conditions. Marvel’s book is a work of history, not a novel. The author wrote searing memoirs of the experi- ence and placed blame squarely upon the Confederate high command for its wanton disregard for the Yankee prisoners. Southern hatred ran deep after the war about Andersonville, and the camp’s commander, Major General Willich, was brought to trial by U.S. gov- ernment for his crass and cold response to the suffering. The best primary source in today’s literature is a book titled Experiences Mid Shot and Shell and in Rebel Den published in 1882. There are modern revisionist books such as Experiences In Andersonville published by perch book, but the first edition is a book col- lector’s delight. He does not warm over the Confederates with a glowing eye. He has focused on the Union side.

If you want a detailed visual depiction of the gangs of terror that plagued the prison, William Marvel’s Andersonville: The Last Depot is a revisionist, scholarly work that does not heap blame upon Confeder- ate brass for the prison’s wretched conditions. Marvel’s book is a work of history, not a novel. The author wrote searing memoirs of the experi- ence and placed blame squarely upon the Confederate high command for its wanton disregard for the Yankee prisoners. Southern hatred ran deep after the war about Andersonville, and the camp’s commander, Major General Willich, was brought to trial by U.S. gov- ernment for his crass and cold response to the suffering. The best primary source in today’s literature is a book titled Experiences Mid Shot and Shell and in Rebel Den published in 1882. There are modern revisionist books such as Experiences In Andersonville published by perch book, but the first edition is a book col- lector’s delight. He does not warm over the Confederates with a glowing eye. He has focused on the Union side.

If you want a detailed visual depiction of the gangs of terror that plagued the prison, William Marvel’s Andersonville: The Last Depot is a revisionist, scholarly work that does not heap blame upon Confeder- ate brass for the prison’s wretched conditions. Marvel’s book is a work of history, not a novel. The author wrote searing memoirs of the experi- ence and placed blame squarely upon the Confederate high command for its wanton disregard for the Yankee prisoners. Southern hatred ran deep after the war about Andersonville, and the camp’s commander, Major General Willich, was brought to trial by U.S. gov- ernment for his crass and cold response to the suffering. The best primary source in today’s literature is a book titled Experiences Mid Shot and Shell and in Rebel Den published in 1882. There are modern revisionist books such as Experiences In Andersonville published by perch book, but the first edition is a book col- lector’s delight. He does not warm over the Confederates with a glowing eye. He has focused on the Union side.
Moved by Mercy
Respect Life Month ~ October 2016

‘40 Days for Life’ Campaigns
Begin September 28 in Harrisburg and York

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

On Sept. 28, the highly successful 40 Days for Life campaigns will return to Harrisburg and York with 40 days of prayer and fasting, peaceful vigil and community outreach, in an effort to help mark the beginning of the end of abortion in these two cities in our diocese. 40 Days for Life is a peaceful, non-demonstrative initiative that focuses on 40 days of prayer and fasting, peaceful vigil at abortion facilities, and grassroots educational outreach. The 40-day time frame is drawn from examples throughout Biblical history. The campaigns in Harrisburg and York will feature peaceful 40-day prayer vigils in the public right-of-way outside of Hillcrest Women’s Medical Center at 2709 North Front Street in Harrisburg, and outside of Planned Parenthood at 728 South Beaver Street in York.

Both campaigns will take place Sept. 28-Nov. 6.

In Harrisburg, 40 Days of Life will begin with an opening Mass Sept. 28 at 6:30 p.m. at Holy Family Church, located at Berryhill and South 25th streets in Harrisburg, celebrated by Father Paul CB Schenck, Director of the Diocesan Office of Respect Life Activities.

Prayer rallies will be held Oct. 1, 15 and 29 at 9 a.m. at Hillcrest, with Mass celebrated at 8 a.m. at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Church, 2121 N. 3rd Street, Harrisburg.

The Harrisburg campaign will collect diapers for Morning Star Pregnancy Services at each prayer rally. The director of 40 Days for Life in Harrisburg noted that the lives of four or five unborn babies have been saved through every campaign there.

In York, 40 Days for Life will begin with an opening Mass Sept. 28 at 9 a.m. with a kickoff rally at 727 South Beaver Street, across the street from Planned Parenthood. Father Paul CB Schenck, will open the campaign with prayer and words of encouragement, and the rally will include speakers, music, refreshments and instructions on the campaign.

Last year, the campaign in York had several positive results: 247 pro-lifers from 28 different churches stood vigil outside Planned Parenthood during the 40 days. While many stood vigil for one, two or more hours a week, others prayed at home and in their cars.

For more information and to sign up for the Harrisburg campaign, contact Kathy O’Donnell, director, at 717-448-6347 or Harrisburg40Days@gmail.com, or visit www.40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/harrisburg.

For more information and to sign up for the York campaign, visit www.40daysforlife.com/york, or contact Tom Evans, director, at 717-999-4025 or tomesvans5@comcast.net.

The following is a listing, provided by the Diocesan Office of Respect Life Activities, of parishes that will be holding a Holy Hour for Life on Respect Life Sunday, October 2.

- Annville, St. Paul the Apostle Church, 4 p.m.
- Berwick, St. Joseph Church, 9:15 a.m.
- Bonneauville, St. Joseph the Worker Church, noon.
- Buchanan Valley, St. Ignatius Loyola Church, 11:45 a.m.
- Carlisle, St. Patrick Church (call the parish at 717-243-4411 for time)
- Chambersburg, Corpus Christi Church at 3 p.m.
- Danville, St. Joseph Church at 11:30 a.m.
- Ephrata, Our Mother of Perpetual Help Church, 1 p.m.
- Greensdale, St. Mark the Evangelist Church, 1 p.m.
- Hanover, St. Vincent de Paul Church, 8:30 a.m.
- Harrisburg, St. Francis of Assisi Church, 3 p.m.
- Hershey, St. Joan of Arc Church, 2 p.m.
- Kulpstown, Church of the Holy Angels, 11:30 a.m.
- Lebanon, Assumption BVM Church, 9 a.m.
- Lebanon, St. Benedict the Abbot Church, 10 a.m.
- Lewistown, Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 1 p.m.
- Lewistown, Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 10:15 a.m.
- Lititz, St. James Church, 10 a.m.
- Lykens, Our Lady Help of Christians Church, 3 p.m.
- McSherrystown, Annunciation BVM Church (First the Perpetual Adoration Chapel 24 hours a day at your convenience)
- Mechanicsburg, St. Joseph Church, 3 p.m.
- Myerstown, Mary Gate of Heaven Church, 11 a.m.
- New Cumberland, St. Theresa of the Infant Jesus Church, 3 p.m.
- New Freedom, St. John the Baptist Church, noon.
- New Oxford, Immaculate Conception BVM Church, 9 a.m.
- Palmyra, Church of the Holy Spirit (Visit the Perpetual Adoration Chapel 24 hours a day at your convenience)
- Quarryville, St. Catherine of Siena Church, noon.
- Rohrerstown, St. Leo the Great Church, 1 p.m.
- Spring Grove, Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 9:45 a.m.
- Steelton, Prince of Peace-Assumption BVM Church, 11:30 a.m.
- Waynesboro, St. Andrew the Apostle Church, 1 p.m.

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 Cathedral, 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 website: www.CathMedHarrisburg.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/CathMedHarrisburg

The Catholic Witness • September 2, 2016
March for Life Notice for Campus and Youth Ministers

It is time to plan for the 2017 March for Life. You can request tickets to attend the Youth Rally and Mass sponsored by the Archdiocese of Washington by contacting Jaclyn Curran at 717-657-4804, ext. 313, or jcurran@hbgdiocese.org. Tickets will be distributed on a first come/first serve basis, so don’t wait! Keep in mind that no tickets are needed to participate in the march. All ticket requests must be submitted by October 7, 2016. Any requests received after this date will be added to a wait list. Let’s continue to inspire our youth to testify to the beauty of life and the dignity of each human person!

March for Life Notice for Campus and Youth Ministers

It is time to plan for the 2017 March for Life. You can request tickets to attend the Youth Rally and Mass sponsored by the Archdiocese of Washington by contacting Jaclyn Curran at 717-657-4804, ext. 313, or jcurran@hbgdiocese.org. Tickets will be distributed on a first come/first serve basis, so don’t wait! Keep in mind that no tickets are needed to participate in the march. All ticket requests must be submitted by October 7, 2016. Any requests received after this date will be added to a wait list. Let’s continue to inspire our youth to testify to the beauty of life and the dignity of each human person!

Pro-Life Advocacy

Want to help unite our brothers and sisters and be more effective voices for life and bring the Culture of Life to your parish or school? Please contact the Respect Life Office at 717-657-4804 extension 313 or email jcurran@hbgdiocese.org.

Defensa de la Vida

¿deseas unirte a nuestros hermanos y hermanas, y tener voces efectivas por la vida y traer la Cultura de Vida a tu parroquia o escuela? Por favor contacte la Oficina Pro-Vida a 717-657-4804 extensión 313 o jcurran@hbgdiocese.org.
We put the spotlight on our kids here,” Principal Brenda Weaver says of Resurrection Catholic School.

And on the first day of school Aug. 29, Resurrection welcomed its students by rolling out the red carpet for them. The festive scarlet path led to a life-size picture frame where students and family members posed to commemorate the milestone.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of Resurrection Catholic School, located in the city of Lancaster, in the former St. Anthony School on East Orange Street.

Its theme for the anniversary year is “Family of Faith: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow.”

Resurrection was formed in 1991 with the consolidation of St. Joseph, St. Mary and St. Anthony parochial schools. Its name was chosen to represent the rising and beginning of a new school through the consolidation.

The school celebrates its silver anniversary this year in a building that, according to Resurrection, is the oldest continuously operating school building in Lancaster County.

It’s a faith tradition that school administrators and faculty take seriously.

“If we continue to provide our kids with a solid education, and with morals rooted in the Gospel, I am confident that people will see the importance of those values and continue to send their children here,” Miss Weaver told The Catholic Witness.

She said that parents who send their children to Resurrection – which educates students in grades K-8 – can expect that “they will be given a Catholic education based on the teachings of our Church, and a safe environment in which to grow and to learn. They can expect that their child will be challenged and encouraged along the way.”

Resurrection Catholic School’s mission is to provide students “with a Christ-centered education rooted in Sacred Scripture and the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church. By encouraging their spiritual, intellectual, emotional, social, and physical development nurtured in a multicultural environment, we guide each child on his or her journey to become a disciple of Christ.”

Students gather as a school community for weekly Masses, where they participate as lectors, altar servers and choir members. The school day begins and ends with prayer, often for the intentions of parishioners or community members.

“We are very aware of our community and its needs,” said fourth-grade teacher Sylvia Buller, a 36-year veteran of Catholic education. “We have a number of service projects where students participate in local and global efforts. We pray for our community, we pray for our world.”

This year, Resurrection will offer several new initiatives to its students, including a Spanish language class, and after-school activities including a school newspaper and yearbook, a chess club and a cake-decorating club.

The school continues its efforts in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education to encourage critical thinking and teamwork, and is bringing additional iPads into the classroom.

“There is magic going on in every classroom, as students grasp a concept and you can see the light bulb going on in their minds as they’re learning,” Miss Weaver said.

Now in her 14th year as principal, Miss Weaver lauds the efforts and support of the parent volunteers, who give countless hours of dedication to the school board, the PTO, the athletic association and various activities. There is also steadfast support, she said, from the pastors of St. Anthony, St. Joseph and Assumption BVM parishes – Father Daniel O’Brien, Father Allan Wolfe and Father Leo Goodman. The school is also supported by San Juan Bautista Parish in Lancaster and St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Quarryville, and welcomes students from any parish and any faith background. Father Deogratias Rwegasira, who is in residence at St. Joseph’s, celebrates the weekly Masses for the students, Miss Weaver said.

Students, staff, parents and clergy together create the family of Resurrection Catholic School, said second-grade teacher Mary Scaccia.

“We are family-oriented. We want our families to be as involved as possible,” she said. “Our tagline is, ‘We invite your family to become part of Resurrection’s family.’”

Mrs. Scaccia, now in her 18th year at Resurrection, is a product of Catholic education, and sent her own children to Catholic school as well.

“I try to work hard to help continue the tradition of Catholic education, because I feel that as current educators, we have a responsibility because of all the people who came before us that worked so hard.”

That tradition will be especially highlighted during Resurrection’s 25th anniversary year.

“We at Resurrection are deeply dedicated to passing on the excellence of Catholic education,” Miss Weaver remarked, “and making sure that we are producing strong members not only for our communities but for our Church as well.”

(For more information about Resurrection Catholic School, visit www.rcspa.org or call 717-392-3083.)
Lourdes Teacher Thaws out after Fellowship in the Arctic

By Emily M. Albert
The Catholic Witness

Almost a year ago Our Lady of Lourdes Regional School in Coal Township dedicated new science labs, giving students an even greater opportunity to explore science, and allowing teachers to have more interactive and meaningful lab classes.

Adding to these new digs is middle school and high school science teacher Kelly McCarthy, who has brought extra research and lab tools from her one-month fellowship through PolarTREC, an educational research experience in which K-12 teachers participate in polar research alongside scientists.

Ms. McCarthy was selected from among 300 candidates and was assigned with a research team that flew over the Arctic Circle with NASA’s Operation IceBridge. She had completed a one-week workshop in 2014 with the IceBridge team, and this latest expedition presented a perfect opportunity for her students to be able to reconnect with the NASA team. For the month of March, she worked side by side with researchers and scientists, observing the changes in the ice.

Ever since she started teaching, she has tried every summer to find research experiences for teachers, she explained. “I want to keep things fresh and know what I should be sharing with my students that is happening in the real world.” She found a teacher’s network, RET (Research Experience for Teachers), and through it and some online searching found PolarTREC and began following some of the explorations as they were happening.

One of the great tools PolarTREC offers is the use of their online services in the classroom, so teachers can follow with their students the explorations as they are happening. The program qualifies 12-15 teachers out of 300 applicants and each is assigned to a new research expedition that is studying either the Arctic or Antarctica.

“The ultimate goal is to get polar science education into classrooms and to get students to see all the different work that is happening to try to understand how these areas are changing,” commented Ms. McCarthy.

To help teachers build the skills to bring the information back to the classroom, PolarTREC hosts an orientation in Alaska that Ms. McCarthy attended in February. The program not only prepared them for safety and other training skills, but also offered tools on how to implement some of the things teachers were taking away from the complex research projects and assisted in ways of putting them into a middle school or high school classroom.

This year, Ms. McCarthy will use her experience and data collection for new classroom projects; one for her high school students is working with other IceBridge team members, using actual data sets that the team has collected over the last decade. Using this data, the plan is to guide a group of students to work with the same location’s worth of data but from a different year and then hopefully get connected with a 3D printer so they can make a model of the data on a computer and print a 3D topographic model. Her middle school students will be looking at the data collected by the research teams as an introduction to data analysis and, in the spring when they study optics and waves, they will engineer a project to design a proposal for how they would plan a mission like the IceBridge mission.

And since Ms. McCarthy is a well-rounded science teacher, she also instructs an environmental science elective. In this class, she hopes to share what she has taken away from it [polarTREC] is how important the research is, not only in the science aspect but also in the human experience aspect and bringing that into the classroom on a regular basis,” she said. “How important it is to be good stewards of our earth. It is changing and we have to be aware of it, and infusing that in general into all my classes is important, and I think it will be a good way to introduce environmental science this year.”

It isn’t just the lab kits that she is able to share with the students, but her firsthand witness of science in action, as well. She recalled from her experience, “I got to recognize on a couple levels what it means to be an operation run by a major science agency. There is so much that goes into a campaign. My campaign in 2016 over the Arctic was one little fraction of this huge plan to map the ice sheet and watch the changes over time.”

“Within that mission there were instrument teams from all over the country. People that ran the radar instruments or the laser instruments, and they all work on their instruments in their labs and they come on the plane and monitor the trouble shoot,” she said. “This is something I want to share with my students; you really see STEM in action, you really see if they have an issue on the plane they are able to engineer the problem because they know their tools.”

Seeing the Arctic in person also changed her perspective of the Earth changing. “I understand that our Earth is changing,” she said. “But to speak to people that are impacted by it directly – like hunters from a village that had to change their dELegated route because the ice is melting more than it had in the past – just hearing those little stories it reinforces how we have to pay attention to the limits of our environment and how we need to make a better impact, a positive impact.”

Her team stayed in two parts of Greenland. The first was at the Thule Air Base, and their focus was the monitoring of the low-level outflow of sea ice before the melt season. The second half was spent in Kangerlussuaq, where they stayed in the KISS (Kangerlussuaq International Science Support) building. During her first week there were no flights due to several different factors, weather being the basic reason for staying on land. While grounded, she had the opportunity to interact with Greenlandic hunters and was also at the site of Dr. Piers Sellers, a former astronaut and now Deputy Director of Sciences and Exploration Department of NASA.

“It was an amazing experience to learn from the best and most passionate climate scientist that I’ve ever met,” Ms. McCarthy said. “I really got a better understanding of what is happening on the scientific level, what it means to be aware of the changes.”

She took the radar instruments or the laser instruments, and they all work on their instruments in their labs and they come on the plane and monitor the trouble shoot,” she said. “This is something I want to share with my students; you really see STEM in action, you really see if they have an issue on the plane they are able to engineer the problem because they know their tools.”

Seeing the Arctic in person also changed her perspective of the Earth changing. “I understand that our Earth is changing,” she said. “But to speak to people that are impacted by it directly – like hunters from a village that had to change their dELegated route because the ice is melting more than it had in the past – just hearing those little stories it reinforces how we have to pay attention to the limits of our environment and how we need to make a better impact, a positive impact.”

Her team stayed in two parts of Greenland. The first was at the Thule Air Base, and their focus was the monitoring of the low-level outflow of sea ice before the melt season. The second half was spent in Kangerlussuaq, where they stayed in the KISS (Kangerlussuaq International Science Support) building. During her first week there were no flights due to several different factors, weather being the basic reason for staying on land. While grounded, she had the opportunity to interact with Greenlandic hunters and was also at the site of Dr. Piers Sellers, a former astronaut and now Deputy Director of Sciences and Exploration Department of NASA.

“It was an amazing experience to learn from the best and most passionate climate scientist that I’ve ever met,” Ms. McCarthy said. “I really got a better understanding of what is happening on the scientific level, what it means to be aware of the changes.”

Kelly McCarthy, in her classroom at Lourdes, shows several photos from her Arctic expedition earlier this year.

EMILY M. ALBERT, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

Kelly McCarthy’s view in flight over the Arctic.

COURTESY OF KELLY MCCARTHY
In grade school and high school, young people have Catholic school or religious education classes or may be a youth group to join for their formation. In college, young men and women can join campus ministry. But what happens to our faith after school? How can a young adult meet people with the same likes, morals and religious values?

In the diocese, Theology on Tap is a great opportunity for young adults ages 21-39 to join together in celebration of their Catholic faith. Initially begun as an evening once a month for young adults – married or single – to come together to hear engaging speakers and mingle at a local bar, the gathering have know grown into groups that meet for hikes, game nights, Mass and brunch, charitable volunteer efforts at local non-profits and much more.

Currently, there are Theology on Tap groups in Harrisburg and Lancaster, as well as the Tri-County group in Adams, Cumberland and Franklin counties.

The Harrisburg chapter of Theology on Tap (TOT) held a volunteer opportunity on Aug. 25, where almost a dozen young adults came together to help weed, tidy linen closets and play with the children at the St. Samuel Center in Harrisburg, home to Catholic Charities’ “homes for healing” – the Interfaith Shelter for Homeless Families, Lourdeshouse maternity home for pregnant women and their babies, and Evergreen House, for women recovering from addiction.

While there, Theology on Tap member Angela Mondell expressed her delight in the new way that the group has formed as a community. “Expanding it out past the regular once a month meeting has been a huge step in the right direction. It allows more people who might be busy during the week or have children to get to bed an opportunity to participate,” she said. “It’s really great that they’re not only doing community service, but also the Mass and brunch aspect is great for socialization and meeting new people. There is something going on at least two or three times a month that has strengthened that [young adult] community,” she said.

Angela continued, “At this age, it is so hard to meet people with the same morals and values and faith concerns, and it’s greats to meet people who actually agree with those morals and values.”

Adding to the conversation, Natalie Pronio remarked, “It includes a lost sector of adults who maybe don’t drink or aren’t comfortable going to bars or feel that isn’t there scene, but still belong in this community. It gives them a place to come and feel comfortable and get the same exact benefits that we are all getting from it, but at the same time they are in a position that they don’t feel uncomfortable. They can pick and chose the events, like, if they love to hike, they can choose to do that. It gives a choice of outlet of how to meet people. It’s not restricted to one event or one speaker or this one group of people. It’s all sorts of people who are trying to find ways to fit community and more of a faith aspect outside of Mass into their lives. I think overall it has been positive.”

For more information on Theology on Tap and its group in our diocese, visit www.hbgdiocese.org/youth-and-young-adults/theology-on-tap, where you can also find links to their Facebook pages.

By Emily M. Albert
The Catholic Witness

Harrisburg Theology on Tap Offers More than a Night at the Bar

Devin Rice pulls weeds as he does yard work at Catholic Charities’ St. Samuel Center in Harrisburg.

Natalie Pronio and Ellen Valovage organize the linen closet during a Theology on Tap service project at the St. Samuel Center in Harrisburg.

Emily Albert, The Catholic Witness
Pope Leads 11,000 Pilgrims
Praying Rosary for Quake Victims

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

After a strong earthquake struck central Italy and with the early news reporting many deaths and serious damage, Pope Francis turned his weekly general audience Aug. 24 into a prayer service.

While the pope and some 11,000 pilgrims and tourists recited the sorrowful mysteries of the rosary in St. Peter’s Square, six Vatican firefighters were on their way to the town of Amatrice, about 55 miles east of Rome, to help search for victims under the rubble. The pope sent six Vatican police officers to join them the next day.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the magnitude 6.2 quake had an epicenter close to Norcia, the birthplace of St. Benedict and home to a monastery of Benedictine monks, who are attracting a growing number of visitors because of their solemn prayer life and brewing business. The monks and their guests were all safe, but the monastery and Basilica of St. Benedict suffered serious structural damage.

Smaller tremors — at least two of which registered more than 5.0 — continued even 24 hours after the main quake. By early Aug. 29, Italian officials said the death toll had reached 290. Some 260 people were hospitalized with quake-related injuries and rescuers had been able to pull 238 people out of the rubble.

When Pope Francis arrived in St. Peter’s Square for his general audience just six hours after the main quake, he set aside his prepared audience talk and instead spoke of his “heartfelt sorrow and my closeness” to everyone in the earthquake zone, especially those who lost loved ones and “those who are still shaken by fear and terror.”

At press deadline Aug. 30, he the pope had expressed his desire to visit earthquake victims as soon as possible.

“Having heard the mayor of Amatrice say, ‘The town no longer exists,’ and knowing that there are children among the dead, I am deeply saddened,” Pope Francis said.

Assuring the people in the region of the prayers and the “embrace of the whole Church,” the pope asked the crowd at the audience to join him in praying that “the Lord Jesus, who is always moved by human suffering, would console the brokenhearted and give them peace.”

Caritas Italy and its diocesan affiliates mobilized immediately with volunteers rushing to the impacted towns, helping with the search and rescue operation, providing food and blankets and helping to staff the tent cities erected by the Italian government outside the damaged towns. The Italian bishops’ conference immediately pledged 1 million euros ($1.1 million) for relief efforts and asked all parishes to take up a special collection at Masses Sept. 18 to aid the victims.

In Amatrice, one of the hardest-hit towns, the bodies of three nuns and four of the elderly guests they host in the summer were pulled lifeless from the rubble Aug. 25.

Many of the small towns in the region have few residents who live there all year. But in the summer, people return to their families’ native towns to visit grandparents and escape the heat of the big cities. The victims of the quake included dozens of children who were spending the last weeks of August with their grandparents.

Government officials said an estimated 14,000 people were left homeless by the quake. In addition to houses and apartment buildings turned into rubble, dozens of churches and convents in the region crumbled or were heavily damaged.

Louisiana Flood

Continued from 1
and St. Jean were also damaged, according to Ingraham.

Cristo Rey Baton Rouge Franciscan High School, which opened in August at the old Redemptorist High School, was inundated with four feet of water. The school relocated to the Business Center on Florida Boulevard in Baton Rouge beginning Aug. 29.

The storm, which first began to unleash its nearly weeklong fury on Aug. 12, resulted in more than 40 miles from Albany. The caterer initially headed to Abita Springs, passing the parish grounds, Father David said, noticed there was a humanitarian need on the spot. He immediately pledged 1 million euros ($1.1 million) for relief efforts and asked all parishes to take up a special collection in areas that had never experienced flooding. Initially, torrential rains from the slow moving system caused street flooding, which also forced water into homes.

But the greater damage came in the days that followed as area rivers overflowed their banks and flooded unfortified neighborhoods, businesses and even major thoroughfares. At one point, Interstate 10 and 12, the two main arteries in and out of Baton Rouge, were closed. Along I-12, some motorists were trapped in their cars for more than 30 hours, presenting a unique opportunity for ministry for Father Jamin David, pastor at St. Margaret of Scotland Church in Albany.

After surveying the 20 acres encompassing the parish grounds, Father David’s focus shifted to the stranded motorists, who were without food, water or even a bathroom.

“We opened up our facilities to everyone,” Father David said. “It became a humanitarian effort.

“Really, it was the multiplication of the bread and fishes.”

He said one stranded motorist was a caterer initially headed to Abita Springs, less than 40 miles from Albany. The caterer asked if she could use the parish’s stove to cook the food since she was not going to be going to the event and did not want the food to go to waste.

“We opened the kitchen and fed about 500 people,” Father David said, adding that the 20 acres around St. Margaret were fine but many of their parishioners have suffered major flooding. “We noticed there was a humanitarian need on I-12 and [parish officials] decided what a better way to minister to people.”

Even as the waters continued to rise, donations, in the form of cash, clothes, gift cards, cleaning supplies and other necessities began to filter in from all over the world. On Aug. 23 the Knights of Columbus donated $200,000 to the diocese and another $30,000 to the Knights State Council.

In an ironic twist, a tractor-trailer from the University of Alabama dropped off a truckload of supplies at the Catholic Charities Diocese of Baton Rouge’s warehouse. Pilots for Patients, a Louisiana-based volunteer pilot organization, flew in three Cessna planes loaded with supplies for the diocese to distribute.

“The support has been overwhelming and we are grateful to each and every individual, company and organization that has donated to the recovery effort,” said Tammy Abshire, stewardship director for the diocese. “We have thousands of people in need, and each and every one of these donations, in whatever form, brings hope to those struggling with these tragic events.”

Knights of Columbus CEO said the funds will go “directly to help those affected by this tragedy, and working closely with the Catholic Church and our Knights in Louisiana, we will continue to make a real difference in the lives of the people of the Baton Rouge area.”

(Richard Meek is the Editor and General Manager of The Catholic Commentator, newspaper of the Diocese of Baton Rouge. His article is reprinted here with permission.)

Wallace Floyd stands in his flooded kitchen in Ascension Parish, La., Aug. 19.

CNS PHOTO/JONATHAN BACHMAN, REUTERS

September 2, 2016 • The Catholic Witness - 13
Obituaries

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

BERWICK – Immaculate Conception BVM: David Olah.

BLOOMSBURG – St. Columba: Thomas R. Johnson.

CAMP HILL – Good Shepherd: Jennie DiRoberto, Kathleen Kush.

ELIZABETHTOWN – St. Peter: Mary Matelevac.

GETTYSBURG – St. Francis Xavier: Anna McDermott.

HANOVER – St. Vincent de Paul: Ronald Staub.

HARRISBURG – St. Catherine Labouré: Frederick Fee, St. Francis of Assisi: Giuseppe “Joe” Macri, St. Margaret Mary: Gayle Cummings, Beverly Kulisch, Betty Nace, Marie Saintz.


KULPMONT – Holy Angels: Theresa Homski.

LANCASTER – Assumption BVM: Carolyn Curry; St. Anne: Raymond Kneisle.

LITTLESTOWN – St. Aloysius: Dr. John Legutko, Joseph Shanefelter.

LYKENS – Our Lady Help of Christians: Thomas Yergo.

MECHANISBG – St. Joseph: Christina Sentman.

NEW CUMBERLAND – St. Theresa: Mary Ellen Kern.


NEW OXFORD – Immaculate Conception BVM: Peggy Murphy, Rodney J. Staub.

ROHRERSTOWN – St. Leo the Great: Lucille Rheault.

SHAMOKIN – Mother Cabrini: Josephine Bobroski, Dorothy Derk, Catherine Kokoles, Sandra Pawelczyk, Madeline Troyan, Albert Yurkiewicz, Sr.

SHIPPENSBURG – Our Lady of the Visitation: Vito Bracciodieta.

STEELTON – Prince of Peace: Robert Butts, Mirko Vukovic.

SUNBURG – St. Monica: Ber- nadette Dane, Marion “Mary Lou” Dooley.

WAYNESBORO – St. Andrew: Gail Hilmer.

YORK – St. Rose of Lima: Maria Plaza, Lucille Zager.


catholic witness

Holy Name of Jesus Students Recognized in Smithsonian for National History Day Competition

Katelyn Murawski, right, and Katie McNamara, left, two recent graduates of Holy Name of Jesus School in Emmitsburg, were recently recognized at the national level for their accomplishments in the National History Day scholastic competition. The girls and their project, an educational display which delved into the “Exploration, Encounter, and Exchange” of medical anesthesia throughout the centuries, were granted the opportunity to compete amongst thousands of applicants at the national level, which was a weeklong event hosted at the University of Maryland. Additionally, their project was selected at the state level competition among all Pennsylvania applicants to be displayed at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.

Holy Name of Jesus highly encourages its students to make the most of the History Day experience. Taking advantage of their nurturing environment as well as the resources at their fingertips, Katelyn and Katie embarked on meticulous and in depth research of medical anesthesia from the antebellum period until the present and reviewed just how significant of a discovery it was. Their thesis explored not only how the introduction of “pleasure drugs” into medicine altered medical procedures drastically, but also the impact that anesthesia had on the perception of illness in general. The pair was judged on the strength of their bibliography, which was riddled with beneficial primary sources, as well as the overall presentation of their work.

Having the opportunity to compete at the national level competition is an incredibly rare one; less than 1% of all National History Day contestants advance to the national competition. Upon asking the two girls what their favorite moment of the whole experience was, they reflected fondly on the honor they felt in being chosen to represent not only their school, but the entire state of Pennsylvania at the national competition and expressed gratitude for their hard work being recognized by so many people. They repeatedly communicated just how wonderful their experience was and lit up with excitement when describing the educational but also fun-filled interactions they had with the other students from each and every state as well several foreign countries.

Katelyn and Katie’s project will be featured for viewing at the Pennsylvania State Museum in Harrisburg from September 23 until the end of the year. The freshman girls have headed off to Bishop McDevitt High School to continue their studies.

(Article submitted by Elizabeth Marie Wiest, Temple University English Major.)

National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Sponsors Annual Sea Services Event

Sunday, October 2, marks the annual Pilgrimage for the Sea Services at the Seton Shrine in Emmitsburg, Md. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton is the Patroness of Sea Services, which includes the US Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine and Public Health Service.

“St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was proclaimed Patroness of the Sea Services in 1977 by the late Cardinal John J. O’Connor when he was serving as Chief of Navy Chaplains,” said retired Admiral William J. Fallon, Chair of the Pilgrimage Sponsoring Committee. “The annual Pilgrimage of the Sea Services is an opportunity for the men and women of our Sea Services to join with family and friends in prayer, to thank St. Elizabeth Ann for her protection, and to ask for her continued intercession in behalf as they go about their work of service to our country.”

This year, the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA is co-sponsoring the event. The Archdiocese serves the men and women of all branches of the military services. Their support broadcasts awareness of the Pilgrimage to a much broader audience and further recognition of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton as Patroness of the Sea Services.

The Pilgrimage Mass, beginning at 3 p.m., will be celebrated by Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, Archbishop Emeritus of Washington, D.C., with musical accompaniment by the US Naval Academy Catholic Choir and participation by the Joint Ceremonial Color Guard and Knights of Columbus Honor Guard.

A complimentary dinner will be provided afterward to all in attendance. If you would like to attend, please contact Ray Alcaraz by calling 301-447-6049 or through e-mail at Ray.Alcaraz@setonshrine.org.

The Seton Shrine is located at 339 South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, MD 21727. Plenty of parking is available at the Shrine. The parking areas close to the Basilica will fill up quickly, so people are encouraged to arrive early.

For More Information Visit Our Website www.setonshrine.org/cemeteries

Diocesan Catholic Cemeteries Pre-Arrangement: An Act of Love

At Harrisburg Diocesan Cemeteries, we encourage families to consider pre-arrangement of their cemetery needs. Just as preparing a will is a kind and responsible act, arranging for your final resting place is equally wise and compassionate. Many of our families are surprised to learn how many advantages pre-arrangement actually provides.

Why Prearrange?


Our Diocesan Cemetery Managers are available to assist you to make an intelligent, unhurried decision, with information that will help you make a decision that’s right for you and your family, at the right time for you.

JOSEPH BRLSKY
717-697-0206
jbrlisky@hbgdiocease.org

Gate of Heaven, Mechanicsburg
717-764-9685

Holy Saviour Cemetery, York

THOMAS BRLSKY
717-265-4105

Thomasbrlisky@hbgdiocease.org

Resurrection Cemetery, Harrisburg

Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Harrisburg

Holy Cross Cemetery, Harrisburg

PARRICK EICHELBERGER
717-379-2231

Pechelberger@hbgdiocease.org

Saint Joseph Cemetery, Bauman

Saint Anthony Cemetery, Lancaster

Saint Mary Cemetery, Lancaster

717-273-7541

Holy Cross Cemetery, Lebanon

KEVIN SHERVINSKI
717-672-3872

Kshervinski@hbgdiocease.org

All Saints Cemetery, Emily

For More Information Visit Our Website www.hbgdiocease.org/cemeteries

Holy Name of Jesus Students Recognized in Smithsonian for National History Day Competition

Katelyn Murawski, right, and Katie McNamara, left, two recent graduates of Holy Name of Jesus School in Harrisburg, were recently recognized at the national level for their accomplishments in the National History Day scholastic competition. The girls and their project, an educational display which delved into the “Exploration, Encounter, and Exchange” of medical anesthesia throughout the centuries, were granted the opportunity to compete amongst thousands of applicants at the national level, which was a weeklong event hosted at the University of Maryland. Additionally, their project was selected at the state level competition among all Pennsylvania applicants to be displayed at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.

Holy Name of Jesus highly encourages its students to make the most of the History Day experience. Taking advantage of their nurturing environment as well as the resources at their fingertips, Katelyn and Katie embarked on meticulous and in depth research of medical anesthesia from the antebellum period until the present and reviewed just how significant of a discovery it was. Their thesis explored not only how the introduction of “pleasure drugs” into medicine altered medical procedures drastically, but also the impact that anesthesia had on the perception of illness in general. The pair was judged on the strength of their bibliography, which was riddled with beneficial primary sources, as well as the overall presentation of their work.

Having the opportunity to compete at the national level competition is an incredibly rare one; less than 1% of all National History Day contestants advance to the national competition. Upon asking the two girls what their favorite moment of the whole experience was, they reflected fondly on the honor they felt in being chosen to represent not only their school, but the entire state of Pennsylvania at the national competition and expressed gratitude for their hard work being recognized by so many people. They repeatedly communicated just how wonderful their experience was and lit up with excitement when describing the educational but also fun-filled interactions they had with the other students from each and every state as well several foreign countries.

Katelyn and Katie’s project will be featured for viewing at the Pennsylvania State Museum in Harrisburg from September 23 until the end of the year. The freshman girls have headed off to Bishop McDevitt High School to continue their studies.

(Article submitted by Elizabeth Marie Wiest, Temple University English Major.)

National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Sponsors Annual Sea Services Event

Sunday, October 2, marks the annual Pilgrimage for the Sea Services at the Seton Shrine in Emmitsburg, Md. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton is the Patroness of Sea Services, which includes the US Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine and Public Health Service.

“St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was proclaimed Patroness of the Sea Services in 1977 by the late Cardinal John J. O’Connor when he was serving as Chief of Navy Chaplains,” said retired Admiral William J. Fallon, Chair of the Pilgrimage Sponsoring Committee. “The annual Pilgrimage of the Sea Services is an opportunity for the men and women of our Sea Services to join with family and friends in prayer, to thank St. Elizabeth Ann Seton for her protection, and to ask for her continued intercession in behalf as they go about their work of service to our country.”

This year, the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA is co-sponsoring the event. The Archdiocese serves the men and women of all branches of the military services. Their support broadcasts awareness of the Pilgrimage to a much broader audience and further recognition of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton as Patroness of the Sea Services.

The Pilgrimage Mass, beginning at 3 p.m., will be celebrated by Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, Archbishop Emeritus of Washington, D.C., with musical accompaniment by the US Naval Academy Catholic Choir and participation by the Joint Ceremonial Color Guard and Knights of Columbus Honor Guard.

A complimentary dinner will be provided afterward to all in attendance. If you would like to attend, please contact Ray Alcaraz by calling 301-447-6049 or through e-mail at Ray.Alcaraz@setonshrine.org.

The Seton Shrine is located at 339 South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, MD 21727. Plenty of parking is available at the Shrine. The parking areas close to the Basilica will fill up quickly, so people are encouraged to arrive early.
TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL’S ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION’S 3RD ANNUAL BEE AND BEER EVENT will take place on Saturday, September 24 from 6 to 10 p.m. A $10 dinner ticket and a $5 beer ticket will be sold in advance. Reserve your tickets at St. John Neumann Parish Office or Trinity High School. All proceeds will benefit the Trinity High School’s Athletic Association.

COUNCIL 6693 OF ST. JOAN OF ARC PARISH IN HERSHEY invites all boys and girls, ages 9 to 14, to participate in the 4th annual Joan of Arc Basketball Tournament on Saturday, September 24 at Joan of Arc Parish. The cost is $7 per player and you must register by September 11. Registration can be made by calling John Vigoda at 717-761-7949. All players receive a free t-shirt and prizes are awarded for most valuable player, most sportsman like, and most points made.

Holy Spirit-A Geislinger Affiliate will host a community health screening event in the Holy Spirit Catholic School auditorium on September 24, from 2 to 6 p.m. The free screenings that will be offered include blood pressure, body mass index (BMI), carotid artery disease, peripheral artery disease and prostate specific antigen (PSA). The registered nurses will perform these non-invasive tests that measure blood flow in the neck and arms, arteries in the legs, and test for prostate cancer. Low-cost screenings will be available for cholesterol and glucose. A 10% discount is offered for those who bring their cholesterol screening with them to the screening. Participants are required to furnish copies of proof of age and written parental consent. For entry forms or additional information, contact Jean W. Smith, R.N. at 717-583-0240. In the event of inclement weather, a raindate will be announced.

Compiling health care events for this column is the responsibility of Emily M. Albert, Outlook Editor. For more information, call Donna Nebelsick in the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Office at 717-677-6920, or Emily Netleton, 717-766-8006.
Rain Does Not Damper Outstanding Parish Event in Harrisburg

A boy purchases a cup of shaved ice from a snow cone truck, right, while the vehicle, with a school bus theme, is reflected in a puddle, below.

CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

Despite episodes of torrential downpours in the afternoon of Sunday, August 21, St. Catherine Laboure Parish, Harrisburg, hosted a unique community event, Dinner on Derry, which attracted hundreds to the church grounds.

Twelve Harrisburg area food trucks, featuring everything from specialty burritos, German potato cakes and stuffed pretzels, parked in the church parking lot to offer families a summer afternoon of food and fun. Not only did parishioners attend the event, but many from the surrounding community dodged the downpours to support the parish. This year marks the 40th anniversary of St. Catherine’s Shrine Church of the Miraculous Medal, and the event was designed to help raise funds to benefit a refurbishment project entitled “Honoring the Vision.”

In addition to the food delicacies, there were also children’s games, bingo and raffles held inside the school’s gymnasium. Tours of the Shrine, which features strikingly beautiful stained-glass in circular fashion, were also provided for the public.

St. Ignatius Continues Festive Tradition

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

In the shaded picnic grove at St. Ignatius Parish, parishioners and visitors alike enjoyed the festivities of the annual Buchanan Valley picnic, a tradition there that dates back more than 175 years.

Nestled along the lush grounds of the parish in western Adams County, St. Ignatius’ annual picnic offers an old-fashioned flair, with home-cooked meals, classic festival games, music and activities for children.

The picnic is always a camaraderie-builder for the parish, which, from October 2016 to October 2017, will be celebrating the 200th anniversary of its church building.

The cornerstone for the historic church was laid on Oct. 10, 1816, and the first Mass was celebrated there Oct. 17, 1817. It was established as a mission by the Jesuits who also served Conewago.

The parish will begin a year-long celebration of the anniversary with an organ recital set for this October, and other activities will follow throughout the year.