PHILADELPHIA MEETING, SYNODS WILL BE PART OF DEBATE ON FAMILIES

By Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

The World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia in September 2015 will serve as a forum for debating issues on the agenda for the world Synod of Bishops at the Vatican the following month, said the two archbishops responsible for planning the Philadelphia event.

At a Sept. 16 briefing, Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, president of the Pontifical Council for the Family, described the world meeting as one of several related events to follow the October 2014 extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the family, which will prepare an agenda for the worldwide synod one year later.

Such events, including a January 2015 meeting in Rome with family and pro-life groups, will enable a debate on the synod’s agenda “at the international, global level,” Archbishop Paglia said. “It is important that this text not remain an abstract text reserved to some specialists.”

“In this way, the debate at the ordinary synod will be enriched,” the archbishop said.

Pope Francis has said both synods will consider, among other topics, the eligibility of divorced and civilly remarried Catholics to receive Communion, whose predicament he has said exemplifies a general need for mercy in the church today.

“We’re bringing up all the issues that would have appeared in the preparation documents for the synod as part of our reflection,” said Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia, regarding plans for the world meeting. “I can’t imagine that any of the presenters won’t pay close attention to what’s happening” in Rome.

Archbishop Chaput said as many as 15,000 people are expected to take part in the meeting, whose program will be kept flexible to allow for topics that emerge from the bishops’ discussions at the Vatican this October.

“But we haven’t approached this as a part of the synod,” Archbishop Chaput said. “It’s a celebration of family life, the Catholic Church’s commitment to support families.”

Pope Francis is widely expected to attend the Philadelphia event, although Archbishop Chaput noted that an official announcement in that regard might not come until well into 2015. If the pope does attend, he said, a “papal Mass could easily draw more than a million people.”

Among the other family-related events planned for the coming year, Pope Francis will meet...
During an annual meeting at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg at the start of the school year, Catholic school principals gathered for Mass celebrated by Bishop Ronald W. Gainer. The Diocesan Department for Catholic Schools meets with the principals three times a year on site, two-off site meetings and one retreat day to focus on educational and spiritual needs. The gathering in Harrisburg on Sept. 10 addressed new policies and a school compensation study. Other topics during the meetings include supervision, marketing and development, school safety and security, and the integration of the faith into the curriculum.

Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg dedicated a wing of its state-of-the-art facility in honor of state representative and alumnus Ronald Marsico on Sept. 9. The Honorable Ronald S. Marsico ’65 Center for History and Government is located on the first floor of the high school.

“Ron has been a faithful graduate and a faithful friend to Bishop McDevitt, and to many other schools across our area,” Sister Mary Anne Bednar, IHM, principal, told a gathering of a few dozen students, faculty, priests and guests of Rep. Marsico in attendance for the after-school dedication ceremony, during which Bishop Ronald W. Gainer blessed the wing.

Father Edward J. Quinlan, Diocesan Secretary for Education, noted the support of Rep. Marsico and other legislators for the state’s Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program, which results in scholarship money for students to attend the school of their choice. This year, students at Bishop McDevitt are receiving $425,000 in scholarship assistance, Father Quinlan noted, thanking Rep. Marsico for “his constant support in all the things that are helpful to our students and to our families.

In remarks after the blessing of the wing, Rep. Marsico expressed his humility for the recognition from his alma mater.

“My Catholic education shaped me and prepared me to achieve my goals, and now, 50 years later, I am able to give something back to my alma mater. I truly feel like I have come full circle,” he said.
Annual Fishers of Men Dinner
To Benefit the Seminarians of the Diocese of Harrisburg
Friday, October 3
Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg

Hors d’oeuvres served at 6:00
Dinner begins at 7:00

Cost is $150 per plate, $800 per table of six, or $1,000 per table of eight

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

The Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer, Bishop of Harrisburg, invites you to the annual Fishers of Men Dinner on October 3 at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg.

Let us meet this challenge together! Make a reservation for the dinner, or make a donation, at http://www.hbgdiocese.org/event/fishers-of-men-dinner/

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

Job Opening
Cook for Priests Retirement Residence

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg is seeking a kitchen cook for the Bishop Dattilo Retirement Residence for Priests in Harrisburg. Responsible for menu planning in line with dietician’s recommendations, stocking of kitchen, preparation of food, cooking and serving of meals. Also responsible for the cleaning of the kitchen and equipment. This position requires excellent knowledge of food hygiene and food preparation, along with a positive attitude and a desire to deliver the best possible meals. Must be able to work independently and without close supervision.

High school graduate or equivalent education is required. Preference is given to persons with education and experience in quantity cooking and therapeutic diets. Minimum of one year of food service experience in a health care dietary setting is desired.

Complete job description is available online at www.hbgdiocese.org/jobs.

Send résumé and letter of interest to:
Carole A. Klinger, MBA
Director of Administration, Catholic Charities
4800 Union Deposit Road
Harrisburg, PA 17111-3710
eklinger@cchbg.org

BISHOP GAINER’S PUBLIC CALENDAR

- September 28 – Celebrant at Mass for 50th Anniversary of the Geisinger Chaplaincy, Basilica of Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Danville, 3 p.m.
- September 29 – Ground breaking of new church at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Cornwall, 6:30 p.m.
- September 30 – Keynote Speaker banquet for Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation, Radisson Hotel in Camp Hill, 6 p.m.
- October 3 – Speaker at Fishers of Men Banquet, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 6 p.m.
- October 4 – Celebrate Mass and bless the new convent quarters, Misericordia Nursing Facility, York, 10:30 a.m.
- October 4 – Preside at Mass in honor of the Capuchin Friars, St. Joseph Church, York, 5 p.m.
- October 5 – Catholic Campus Ministry virtual meeting, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 7:30 p.m.
- October 6 – Principal celebrant at Diocesan Red Mass, St. Patrick Cathedral, noon.

Father Lawrence Coakley Laid to Rest

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Father Lawrence R. Coakley died at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville on Sept. 10, surrounded by his family. He was 65.

The funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 15 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Mount Carmel by Bishop Ronald W. Gainer, with Father Francis Karwacki, pastor, as celebrant, and Father Joseph Stahura, pastor of St. Mark the Evangelist Parish in Greencastle and St. Luke the Evangelist Mission in Mercersburg, as homilist.

“Father Larry reiterated often his love for the priesthood of Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Lady and the privilege to offer Mass,” Father Stahura said in the homily.

Reflecting on a quote from St. Paul’s Letter to the Romans – “Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ” – Father Stahura remarked that “Father Larry always knew that Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life.”

Father Coakley was born in Danville on March 2, 1949, to Thomas and Catherine Coakley, and was a native of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Mount Carmel. He attended Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, Mount Carmel Catholic High School and Our Lady of Lourdes High School, graduating in 1967. He studied for the priesthood at St. Mary’s College in St. Mary’s, Ky., and St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pa.

Father Coakley was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Joseph Daley on April 24, 1976, at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg. He served at Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Berwick, St. Joseph Parish in Shamokin, Corpus Christi Parish in Chambersburg, St. Rose of Lima Parish in York, Holy Trinity Parish in Columbia, Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Marietta, St. Theresa Parish in New Cumberland, Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Lewistown, St. Jude Thaddeus Parish in Millifont, St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Harrisburg, St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Lancaster, and St. Margaret Mary Parish in Harrisburg.

“Father Larry was a priest with a big heart, extremely affable and was truly gifted,” said Father Stahura. Their friendship was forged during the years they served together at Corpus Christi in Chambersburg and St. Theresa’s in New Cumberland.

Father Stahura said that Father Coakley will be remembered for his generosity and joy.

“All will remember his kindness, compassion, understanding and willingness to adjust to anybody, at any place, in all circumstances,” he said.

Father Coakley is survived by two brothers, a sister, 13 nieces and nephews, and six great nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Church of Our Lady, 47 South Market Street, Mount Carmel, PA 17851, or to St. Jude Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.
Sunday Series: Eucharistic Assembly
By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
Special to The Witness

Recently, I had the great privilege of attending Mass in one of our parishes. Realizing I was a bit early for Mass, I decided to spend some time pray- ing before the liturgy began. Upon entering the darkened church, I noticed that there was an older woman already praying in the second pew. I smiled.

I watched the church, genuflect, and recollect themselves waiting for the priest. They reminded me of the countless individuals who set up on a beach front and cover themselves in sunscreen as they bathe in the sun. However, the individuals in the distance were not just conserving their skin tone.

My jaw dropped open and I asked Miguel, “Can I quote you until I am old and gray?” He nodded in affirmation as my students raised his hand and responded, “The Kingdom of God is like an apartment building. Each of the bricks in the building represents our personal uniqueness. The cement that joins the bricks together is our prayer and the presence of the Eucharist in our midst.”

As I sat there among them, I could not help thinking of one of my students, my resident philosopher. When I was teaching a sixth-grade class about the Kingdom of God, I asked, “If Jesus walked Melrose Avenue in Bronx, New York, what would he use as an example of the Kingdom of God?” Miguel raised his hand and responded, “The Kingdom of God is like an apartment building. Each of the bricks in the building represents our unique personalities. The cement that joins the bricks together is our prayer and the presence of the Eucharist in our midst.”

As I sat there, I realized in a profound way what the two disciples in Emmaus first learned: Christ is recognized in our midst in the Eucharistic Assembly, with the help of those gathered around me, we in Him. We can spend quiet time in the woods, on the beach, in our rooms, etc., it is only in this Eucharistic assembly, with the help of those gathered around me, we in Him. We can spend quiet time in the woods, on the beach, in our rooms, etc., that Christ is recognized in our midst in the Eucharistic Assembly, with the help of those gathered around me, we in Him.

To report suspected abuse of a minor, call the toll free PA Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-334-8878
To report suspected abuse of a minor by a church official, employee or volunteer, also please call the diocesan toll free hotline: 1-800-626-1608

ABC Channel 27 in Harrisburg will air “Trailblazers in Habits,” a documentary on the Maryknoll Sisters, on Oct. 5 at 6 a.m. The “Vision & Values” special offers an intimate portrait of the Maryknoll Sisters, who have accompanied the disenfranchised in their struggle for social justice. By turns tragic and joyous, yet always inspirational, this insightful documentary is a revealing portrait of these courageous women. The film weaves together the nuns’ own affecting accounts of imprisonment and personal struggle with rare archival footage and poignant reminiscence from the beneficiaries of their work. A moving and absorbing chronicle that spans 100 years and several continents, this film celebrates the intelligence and tenacity, the love, compassion and generosity of these early sisters.

View clips and information at http://trailblazersinhabits.com/.

‘Talk Tech’ at the Parish Life Technology Conference

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

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

Get them UPLINKED. The keynote speaker is Matt Warner, CEO of Flocknote.com, national speaker and blogger.

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

‘Trailblazers in Habits’ to Air October 5

At last, there are among them, I could not help thinking of one of my students, my resident philosopher. When I was teaching a sixth-grade class about the Kingdom of God, I asked, “If Jesus walked Melrose Avenue in Bronx, New York, what would he use as an example of the Kingdom of God?” Miguel raised his hand and responded, “The Kingdom of God is like an apartment building. Each of the bricks in the building represents our unique personalities. The cement that joins the bricks together is our prayer and the presence of the Eucharist in our midst.”

As I sat there, I realized in a profound way what the two disciples in Emmaus first learned: Christ is recognized in our midst in the Eucharistic Assembly, with the help of those gathered around me, we in Him. We can spend quiet time in the woods, on the beach, in our rooms, etc., it is only in this Eucharistic assembly, with the help of those gathered around me, we in Him. We can spend quiet time in the woods, on the beach, in our rooms, etc., that Christ is recognized in our midst in the Eucharistic Assembly, with the help of those gathered around me, we in Him.

To report suspected abuse of a minor, call the toll free PA Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-334-8878
To report suspected abuse of a minor by a church official, employee or volunteer, also please call the diocesan toll free hotline: 1-800-626-1608

ABC Channel 27 in Harrisburg will air “Trailblazers in Habits,” a documentary on the Maryknoll Sisters, on Oct. 5 at 6 a.m. The “Vision & Values” special offers an intimate portrait of the Maryknoll Sisters, who have accompanied the disenfranchised in their struggle for social justice. By turns tragic and joyous, yet always inspirational, this insightful documentary is a revealing portrait of these courageous women. The film weaves together the nuns’ own affecting accounts of imprisonment and personal struggle with rare archival footage and poignant reminiscence from the beneficiaries of their work. A moving and absorbing chronicle that spans 100 years and several continents, this film celebrates the intelligence and tenacity, the love, compassion and generosity of these early sisters.

View clips and information at http://trailblazersinhabits.com/.
WHYF AM 720 will hold an on-air Share-a-Thon on Oct. 7, 8, and 9 to raise funds for the continued operation of the Catholic station. Bishop Ronald Gainer and priests and deacons of the diocese will be on the air between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. sharing information about the station and the good works it does. The Share-a-Thon will break for the Daily Mass from 1-2 p.m. Pledges can be made by calling the station at 717-525-8110. More information and the option to donate online are available at www.720whyf.com.

While the Catholic station has held other on-air fund drives in its three-year history, this is its first Share-A-Thon. Leona Frances Woskowiak, Holy Family Radio Board Member, explained the concept. “The reason we are calling it a Share-a-Thon is that we are using the medium of radio to share our Catholic faith and beliefs with others,” she said. “This Share-A-Thon is an opportunity for those who are Catholic and those who hear the station to share our mission and to become involved with also sharing their faith through their financial support of these local efforts.”

The local Catholic station is totally listener supported. Woskowiak said that the station is also looking for individuals who might consider a matching fund gift for the Share-a-Thon, and there will be items available for those who pledge certain amounts of money toward the mission of the station.

WHYF AM 720 is the only radio station the Diocese of Harrisburg that is devoted solely to Catholic programming. The station produces a variety of local programs, including a Monday through Friday morning show from 7:30-9 a.m., as well as airing material from the EWTN network. Bishop Ronald Gainer is a member of the Board of Directors of Holy Family Radio that operates the station.

**Share-a-Thon Schedule:**

**Tuesday, October 7**
9-11 a.m. – Deacon Michael Grella of Prince of Peace Parish in Steelton, and James Gontis, Director of the Diocesan Office for Religious Education.
11 a.m.-1 p.m. – Bishop Ronald Gainer, Joe Aponeck, Director of the Diocesan Communications Office, and Deacon Michael De Vivo of St. Patrick Parish in York.
1-2 p.m. – Daily Mass, ETWN.
2-4 p.m. – Father Luis Rodriguez, pastor of Corpus Christi Parish in Chambersburg, and Sister Geralyn Schmidt, Diocesan Wide Area Network Coordinator.
4-6 p.m. – Deacon Gregory Amante of St. Joseph Parish in Danville and his wife Ellen Amante, former Catholic Radio host.

**Wednesday, October 8**
9-11 a.m. – Father Daniel Richards, parochial vicar at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Gettysburg, and Deacon Joseph Wreble of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Harrisburg.
11 a.m.-1 p.m. – Father William Weary, pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Lewistown and St. Jude Thaddeus Parish in Millmont, and Father Francis Karwacki, pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Mount Carmel.
1-2 p.m. – Daily Mass, ETWN.
2-4 p.m. – Rob Williams, Director of the Diocesan Office for Young and Young Adult Ministry, and Ryan Bolster, Director of the Diocesan Office of Adult Education and Catechist Formation.
4-6 p.m. – Father William Forrey, pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Carlisle, and Father Michael Rothan, pastor of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Lebanon and St. Benedict the Abbot Parish in Lebanon.

**Thursday, October 9**
9-10 a.m. – Deacon Jim Doyle of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish in Harrisburg, and Deacon Michael Oles of San Juan Bautista Parish in Lancaster and author of “Help the Homeless off the Streets.”
10-11 a.m. – Father Peter Hahn, pastor of St. Leo the Great Parish in Rohrerstown, and several deacons.
11 a.m.-noon – Father Hahn continues, joined by Father Paul Fisher, pastor of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish in Harrisburg and Director of the Diocesan Office for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, and Father Paul Schenck, Director of the Diocesan Office for Respect Life Activities and the Continuing Education for Priests and Deacons.
Noon-1 p.m. – Father Fisher and Father Schenck continue.
1-2 p.m. – Daily Mass, ETWN.
2-4 p.m. – Deacon Lawrence Crudup of the Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick in Harrisburg, and Deacon Phil Ladouceur with Natural Family Planning Instructors in Harrisburg.
4-6 p.m. – James Gontis, Director of the Diocesan Office for Religious Education, and Christopher Chapman, Director of Parish Elementary School Catechesis in the Diocese of Pittsburgh.
Conference Brings Educators to the Intersection of Faith and Intellectual Inquiry

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

The keynote presenters at this year’s Diocesan Education Conference asked teachers to think about the scope of classroom technology when they were elementary students.

Film projectors, ditto machines and the early overhead projectors came to mind.

“When I entered kindergarten in 1965, my technology was finger paints and a rug to nap on,” said Mary Elizabeth Jones, Associate Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science at Immaculata University.

The anecdote drew laughter, but it also drove home the focus of the presentation she and Sister Susan Cronin, IBM, Professor of Biology at Immaculata, offered educators about STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education:

“Technology has been changing rapidly, and we don’t know what it is going to look like for our students when they enter the workforce,” Professor Jones said. “But we know that we need to help our students analyze problems and work on challenging projects.”

The duo’s keynote presentation, “A Growth Mindset, Grit and Computational Thinking: Skills for STEM and the Humanities in Catholic Education” offered insight into the STEM workforce, research about student learning, and practical ideas for the classroom.

Educators from diocesan elementary and secondary schools attended the annual event, held Sept. 17 at Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg. The conference included Mass celebrated by Bishop Ronald W. Gainer and a wide variety of workshops focusing on STEM education, stewardship, energy conservation, and mental and physical wellness.

Professor Jones encouraged the educators to be imaginative in STEM education by combining basic skills with creativity and teaching with a collaborative approach.

For example, Mad Libs help students to think outside the box, Legos demonstrate reusability, and Mr. Potato Head figures teach students how to be creative with limited materials.

These toys aren’t just for elementary students; Professor Jones uses them in her college courses.

She offered additional ideas for elementary classroom education, such as planting a garden and allowing students to discuss what to plant, when to plant it, how to water it, and who will take responsibility for planting, pruning and harvesting.

Middle school classes, she suggested, can plan and execute a fund-raiser. Students can research and select a charity, plan an activity to raise money, create a budget and marketing strategy, and learn risk management in the event of inclement weather.

At the high school level, STEM education can center on alternative endings to historical events, whereby students create flow charts or board games to surmise how society might be different if a war had ended differently or certain presidents weren’t elected.

Projects like these assist students in their development of computational thinking, Professor Jones said.

“A student with a computational-thinking attitude is confident when dealing with complexity, persistent when working with difficult problems, tolerant when problems are ambiguous, comfortable with open-ended problems, and can communicate and work with others,” she said. “These skills mean that our students can formulate problems, logically organize and analyze data, represent data through models and simulations, create a series of word steps, identify, analyze and implement possible solutions, and transfer the process across different problems and subjects,” she said.

Computational thinking isn’t the only skill that has implications for success. Students’ ability to learn and their grit are also critical, noted Sister Susan.

She remarked that practice, study and memorization will result in a growth mindset, and encouraged teachers to push their students to tackle tough concepts, learn from their previous attempts, and strive for improvement.

“Intelligence is malleable,” Sister Susan said. “Students need to know that they are capable of building knowledge.”

Regarding grit, she pointed to ongoing research from the University of Pennsylvania which proposes that “individuals who possess a drive to tirelessly work through challenges, failures and adversity with the aim of achieving a set goal are in a position to reach higher achievement than those who lack similar stamina.”

This research suggests that having talent does not guarantee grit, she pointed out.

“For us as educators, we need to provide opportunities for students to have obstacles so they can develop resilience.”

“We teach in Catholic schools, and this enables us to take education further,” she said.

“We are called to witness Jesus in our lives, day by day. With Christ as our model and example, we show students how to persevere, be moral persons, and have values,” she said. “In our schools, work on values and virtues is central to the school’s role of proclaiming the Good News of Jesus. We promote both human and spiritual values and virtues, so that all can see that their ultimate purpose is to develop divine potential within themselves.”

“It is essential that society educate men and women in science and technology,” she continued, “but it is also important that we educate people on the importance of living a virtuous life to help in their decision-making.”

Professor Mary Elizabeth Jones, an associate professor of Mathematics and Computer Science at Immaculata University, offers information on the STEM workforce and the country’s need for workers to fill jobs in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields.

Sister Susan Cronin, IHM, a professor of Biology at Immaculata University, encourages educators in their efforts of educating students in the virtues while teaching them skills for the future.

A representative of Bricks4Kidz talks to teachers about teaching engineering and architectural principles through the use of Legos. More than 50 vendors filled the gym at Bishop McDevitt High School to offer demonstrations and materials to teachers.
ATHLETES FOR CHRIST during a meeting that Bishop McFadden held with coaches several years ago. "He said that the diocese had been a member of the organization’s board of directors, and expressed his hope that the program would spread throughout the diocese. "As a coach, I can’t think of a better way to remember him than by implementing the program in our schools," Coach Weachter said.

The "Catholic Athletes for Christ" program features 45-60 minute programs that coaches, team chaplains or teachers can present during sessions throughout the year. The sessions are packaged so that coaches can read straight from the lesson plan. Each session is centered around a theme, such as perseverance, humility, playing by the rules, and respect for authority, teammates and opponents. Then, there is a Scripture reading about a person who exemplifies the virtue, followed by a story about an athlete who embodies the principle.

Athletes are encouraged to share what the day’s theme means in their lives or to their team. "Most of the time in evangelization, we’ll take Scripture and wrap it around a sports figures or an event," Wrabel noted. "This is evangelization in a unique way. The students don’t know they’re being evangelized. It improves them as individuals, which eventually improves the team.

The program promotes the core virtues of charity, honesty, humility, meekness, moderation, purity and sportsmanship. It features athletes, coaches and officials from all areas of professional sports in an effort to connect students with Catholic role models in athletics. St. Louis Rams quarterback Kellen Clemens, former MLB player Mike Piazza, figure skater Gabriella Howard and retired NHL referee Kerry Fraser are among the "Catholic Athletes for Christ." The program isn’t about standing on a soapbox and preaching to players, Wrabel said. "They’re surprised when they hear a great sports figure say, ‘Jesus is a big part of my life.’ That gives them pause.

Approximately 80 students are members of the program at Bishop McDevitt, and Coach Weachter believes that number will grow as sessions continue and word spreads. "In just the short amount of time that we’ve offered this program, it has had a positive effect on our kids," he said. "They talk about their appreciation for it.”

"We have some big guys on our football team, and to hear them say they love each other is remarkable," Coach Weachter said. "This world is tough for our kids, and athletics are a way for them to connect in a family as the faith."

"As a Catholic educator and as a coach, I think our kids really need this program, and it’s our job to bring it to them."

Coaches interested in learning more about the "Catholic Athletes for Christ" program can contact Jeff Weachter at jweachter@bishopmcddevitt.org or visit www.catholicathletesforchrist.org.

By Jen Reed

The Catholic Witness

Every other Tuesday at 7:15 a.m., student-athletes from Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg assemble for strengthening and enrichment before school begins.

These early morning gatherings aren’t for sports practice, but rather for growth in the faith.

Through the efforts of head football coach Jeff Weachter, and at the urging of the late Bishop Joseph P. McFadden, Bishop McDevitt has introduced the “Catholic Athletes for Christ” program to all members of its sports teams.

The program is designed to serve Catholic athletes and share the Gospel message in a unique way. It was introduced at the school, to encourage its implementation throughout the diocese’s schools.

"Athletics are a hook to help our kids in developing their faith," Coach Weachter said during the presentation.

"After introducing it to the students here, we found that they are searching for something like this in their lives."
By Jen Reed

The Catholic Witness

Thirty-eight years ago, a newly-married young woman moved to south central Pennsylvania from her native Puerto Rico.

In her home country, she had been greatly involved in her parish and devoutly practiced the Catholic faith and the religious customs of her culture.

Today, Dr. Carmen Rita Bones continues to minister in the Church. At Cristo Salvador in Benderville and now at Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in York, she has been a member of the parish council, an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and an instructor of adult RCIA and marriage preparation classes for Spanish-speaking Catholics.

But, were it not for the welcoming environment she received from the Catholic community when she first arrived in the diocese, Dr. Bones might not have brought her gifts and volunteer efforts to the Church.

"Hispanic Catholics want to feel like they belong to the Church. If they don’t have that feeling of belonging, they will hesitate to be a part of the community, or we will lose them to other religious denominations,” Dr. Bones said.

Dr. Bones is a member of the Diocesan Hispanic Apostolate, which works to provide spiritual and pastoral services and support to the Latino people. It also aims to evangelize the Hispanic community in the diocese, and promote the gifts that Hispanic Catholics bring to the Church.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of pastoral care and ministry to Spanish-speaking Catholics in the Diocese of Harrisburg, a milestone marked by the celebration of the Diocesan Hispanic Heritage Mass on Sept. 14 at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg.

Bishop Ronald Gainer was the celebrant and homilist for the Mass, celebrated entirely in Spanish and highlighting various customs and attire of Hispanic culture. The celebration continued after Mass with singing and dancing on the steps of the state Capitol, displays from the ten diocesan parishes that offer an Hispanic apostolate, and remarks from Governor Tom Corbett.

"The Mass highlighted the different cultures and all the joy that our Hispanic people have in celebrating the faith together,” said Capuchin Franciscan Father Orlando Reyes of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Harrisburg.

"It is so beautiful when we can come together to celebrate as Catholics. Maybe we don’t speak the same language, but we can be welcoming to everyone. We have to work to identify with the people in our faith community,” he said.

At St. Francis of Assisi Parish, he noted, parishioners come from 21 different countries, including those in Latin America and Africa.

"Immigrants, no matter which country they come from, should be embraced in our parishes, and celebrated for the rich traditions that they bring,” Father Reyes said.

Advancing the Legacy

Ministry to Spanish-speaking Catholics in the Diocese of Harrisburg began in 1944, when Bishop George L. Leech officially appointed the first priest – Father Anthony Kane – to oversee the spiritual care of migrant workers.

HISPANIC HERITAGE, continues on page 9

Governor Tom Corbett and First Lady Susan Corbett greet Bishop Ronald Gainer during Mass. The governor, who is seeking his second term in office, addressed the congregation during a gathering on the Capitol steps following the Mass.
In the early years, the work of the apostolate included clergy visits to migrant camps, the distribution of clothing and personal care items, and the celebration of Mass in Spanish.

Cristo Rey Church in Bendersville and Cristo Salvador Church in York were established in the 1970s, and served the Hispanic population until they closed as a result of the parish mergers in 1995. But in the years that followed, several diocesan parishes began to develop Hispanic apostolates. In 2003, San Juan Bautista Parish in Lancaster became the first Hispanic parish in the diocese.

The Hispanic Apostolate adapted, developed and flourished over the years through the leadership of such clergy as Msgr. Mercurio Fregapane, Deacon Esteban Dominguez and Father Bernardo Pistone.

Under the leadership of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, the diocese developed a pastoral plan for Hispanic Ministry in 2008 to support and encourage the implementation of the apostolate’s objectives. Today, those efforts include leadership formation for Hispanic adults, catechesis of the Spanish-speaking community, the strengthening of the Hispanic family and Catholic marriages, promotion of religious vocations, ministry to those in prisons, and increasing Hispanic participation in diocesan ministries.

The need to catechize Spanish-speaking Catholics in their own language and with respect to their own culture cannot be underestimated, Dr. Bones said. “Offering sacramental preparation courses and catechetical classes in Spanish is an opportunity to give the Hispanic people the tools and information they need to deepen their personal relationship with God and their understanding of the Church,” she said.

Catechizing with respect to culture and tradition goes a long way in educating both the mind and the heart, Father Reyes noted. “It’s one thing to speak the language, but it is something very different and much deeper to know and appreciate the traditions of someone’s culture,” he said. “In order for our parishes to do that, we must get to know them and learn about them.”

Recently, Father Reyes and Dr. Bones joined other Hispanic Apostolate members Isabel Torres and Virginia Pereira in developing a marriage prep program in the Spanish language. “Through this program, the couples are finding themselves and developing a greater understanding of the sacrament,” Dr. Bones said. “The program relates marriage to their culture.”

“The Hispanic Apostolate serves as a connection between Hispanic Catholics and the Church. We are a bridge that connects the diocese to who we are and how we can help the Church grow,” she remarked.

The ten parishes with ministry for Hispanic Catholics have worked to build bridges between their Spanish-speaking and English-speaking communities through cultural festivals and celebrations on the feasts of Our Lady of Guadalupe or St. Juan Diego. “Open the doors to your Hispanic brothers and sisters, make them feel welcome in the parish. Ask them about their culture,” Father Reyes said.

For example, ask them to talk about Quinceañera, a Latin American celebration of a girl’s 15th birthday, or Las Posadas, a nine-day reenactment of the pilgrimage that Mary and Joseph lived while searching for lodging for the birth of Christ. “When we learn and appreciate other cultures, we all grow in our faith as one family,” Father Reyes said.

“I see great hope for the Church when we open our doors,” he said. “So many different communities continue to come into our Church, and this is the face of the Church in the United States. We need to be open to them, to embrace them, and to celebrate their gifts and traditions. Ultimately, it will help us all to enrich our parish communities and our lives.”
Solace and Strength in the Sorrow of Miscarriage

It is estimated that one out of four pregnancies ends in miscarriage. This loss can have a profound effect on the mothers, fathers and families of the childless or the child they were expecting. Sharing a powerful moment of awe and grief.

At first, I wasn’t sure what to do. But then, as a mother myself, I knew how to respond. I stroked her hair and rocked her in my arms. Amanda’s husband, David, who was traveling, had been notified and was on his way. When he arrived, we stepped back, giving the couple a private moment together. Eventually, David turned to us and asked, “What do we do?”

Father Thompson’s response was drawn from deep within the compassion of Mother Church. While the young couple’s world was spinning out of control, he offered something they could hold onto – God’s unconditional love. He opened the Bible, asked me to read Psalm 139, and offered prayers of blessing.

I also talked to Amanda and her husband about what might happen next, encouraging them to see and hold their baby, take pictures and create keepsakes. Father Thompson explained opportunities for a funeral and burial service. Burying those who have died at any age is seen by the Church as a corporal memorial, a funeral rite for children whose baptism was intended for their life on earth. We stepped back into the room where we had already died. My head was swimming as I was overcome with what Amanda must be feeling at this difficult time.

Death may separate us physically, but it does not end the relationship; these moments help strengthen a relationship with the child in a way that will be helpful for long-term healing. They also give the broader Church a chance to grieve and remind others of the significance of this child, who is entrusted for all eternity to the Lord. A parish community can also support grieving families and honor the lives of their little ones in other ways. Public support might take the form of an annual memorial service or a memorial plaque in the church with the names of the babies who have passed away.

Personal support is also essential. Some people become exhausted from their grief and are unable to maintain household chores. Their lack of energy makes it hard to keep up with everything, so providing meals or doing laundry or other chores can help the family meet their daily needs. Other times, simply being present is what’s needed. Another woman who lost her child through miscarriage said the best response she experienced came from a friend who said, “I came to cry with you” and pre- tended her with a bag full of tissue boxes.

Dieocesan Respect Life Conference

October 18, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. • Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg

“Opening Our Hearts to Life”

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

Keynote Speaker – Father Frank Pavone, Priests for Life

8:30 – Registration
9:00 – Holy Mass
10:00 – Workshop Presenters
12:00 – New Life for Girls Choir

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

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

The Catholic Witness presents here, with permission, one of six articles that are part of the USCCB’s Respect Life Program. The program begins anew each year on Respect Life Sunday, the first Sunday in October. The program is highlighted in liturgies and marked by special events. The USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities publishes a program packet each year to call attention to numerous human life issues. These materials are especially helpful for priests, parish groups, schools, and other organizations. Browse to find more information at http://usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/respect-life-program/
Deathbed Ordination ‘Reflects Pascal Mystery,’ Says Bishop

Bishop Cupich Named to Succeed Cardinal George as Chicago Archbishop

Catholic News Service

Pope Francis has named Bishop Blase J. Cupich of Spokane, Washington, as archbishop of Chicago, succeeding Cardinal Francis E. George, who has headed the archdiocese since 1998.

The appointment was announced Sept. 20 in Washington by Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

Archbishop Cupich will be installed as archbishop during a special Mass Nov. 18.

Cardinal George is 77, two years beyond the age at which bishops normally retire. His health concerns have been bishop of Spokane since 2006 and had a recurrence of cancer announced in 2012. In 2006 and had a recurrence of cancer in 2012. In 2012.

His health concerns have been

Bishop David R. Choby of Nashville, Tenn., anoints William Carmona’s hands as part of the ordination rite at Christus Santa Rosa Medical Center in San Antonio. Carmona lay silently in a hospital bed as he was anointed. He was to be ordained a transitional deacon and then as a priest in a ceremony prepared for the occasion by the church.

Cardinal George is the first native Chicagologist to serve as archbishop of Chicago. He was born in 1937 and attended schools in Illinois before entering the Oblates of Mary Immaculate in 1957. He was ordained a priest Dec. 21, 1963. He was his order’s vicar general in Rome from 1974 to 1996.

Bishop Cupich Named to Succeed Cardinal George as Chicago Archbishop

The cardinal has often said that one of his goals is to live the Gospel in the manner of the other Chicago bishops died in office. His predecessor, Cardinal Francis George, retired in 1998 at age 68 of pancreatic cancer.

A five-month bout with polo was one of the reasons that Bishop Bernardin, died in 1996.

The cardinal has often said that one of his goals is to live the Gospel in the manner of the other Chicago bishops died in office. His predecessor, Cardinal Francis George, retired in 1998 at age 68 of pancreatic cancer.

Bishop Cupich Named to Succeed Cardinal George as Chicago Archbishop

Deathbed Ordination ‘Reflects Pascal Mystery,’ Says Bishop

Bishop David R. Choby of Nashville, Tenn., anoints William Carmona’s hands as part of the ordination rite at Christus Santa Rosa Medical Center in San Antonio. Carmona lay silently in a hospital bed as he was anointed. He was to be ordained a transitional deacon and then as a priest in a ceremony prepared for the occasion by the church.

Cardinal George is the first native Chicagologist to serve as archbishop of Chicago. He was born in 1937 and attended schools in Illinois before entering the Oblates of Mary Immaculate in 1957. He was ordained a priest Dec. 21, 1963. He was his order’s vicar general in Rome from 1974 to 1996.

Bishop Cupich Named to Succeed Cardinal George as Chicago Archbishop

The cardinal has often said that one of his goals is to live the Gospel in the manner of the other Chicago bishops died in office. His predecessor, Cardinal Francis George, retired in 1998 at age 68 of pancreatic cancer.

A five-month bout with polo was one of the reasons that Bishop Bernardin, died in 1996 at age 68 of pancreatic cancer.

The cardinal has often said that one of his goals is to live the Gospel in the manner of the other Chicago bishops died in office. His predecessor, Cardinal Francis George, retired in 1998 at age 68 of pancreatic cancer.

Bishop Cupich Named to Succeed Cardinal George as Chicago Archbishop

Deathbed Ordination ‘Reflects Pascal Mystery,’ Says Bishop

Bishop David R. Choby of Nashville, Tenn., anoints William Carmona’s hands as part of the ordination rite at Christus Santa Rosa Medical Center in San Antonio. Carmona lay silently in a hospital bed as he was anointed. He was to be ordained a transitional deacon and then as a priest in a ceremony prepared for the occasion by the church.

Cardinal George is the first native Chicagologist to serve as archbishop of Chicago. He was born in 1937 and attended schools in Illinois before entering the Oblates of Mary Immaculate in 1957. He was ordained a priest Dec. 21, 1963. He was his order’s vicar general in Rome from 1974 to 1996.

Bishop Cupich Named to Succeed Cardinal George as Chicago Archbishop

Deathbed Ordination ‘Reflects Pascal Mystery,’ Says Bishop

Bishop David R. Choby of Nashville, Tenn., anoints William Carmona’s hands as part of the ordination rite at Christus Santa Rosa Medical Center in San Antonio. Carmona lay silently in a hospital bed as he was anointed. He was to be ordained a transitional deacon and then as a priest in a ceremony prepared for the occasion by the church.

Cardinal George is the first native Chicagologist to serve as archbishop of Chicago. He was born in 1937 and attended schools in Illinois before entering the Oblates of Mary Immaculate in 1957. He was ordained a priest Dec. 21, 1963. He was his order’s vicar general in Rome from 1974 to 1996.

Bishop Cupich Named to Succeed Cardinal George as Chicago Archbishop

Deathbed Ordination ‘Reflects Pascal Mystery,’ Says Bishop

Bishop David R. Choby of Nashville, Tenn., anoints William Carmona’s hands as part of the ordination rite at Christus Santa Rosa Medical Center in San Antonio. Carmona lay silently in a hospital bed as he was anointed. He was to be ordained a transitional deacon and then as a priest in a ceremony prepared for the occasion by the church.

Cardinal George is the first native Chicagologist to serve as archbishop of Chicago. He was born in 1937 and attended schools in Illinois before entering the Oblates of Mary Immaculate in 1957. He was ordained a priest Dec. 21, 1963. He was his order’s vicar general in Rome from 1974 to 1996.

Bishop Cupich Named to Succeed Cardinal George as Chicago Archbishop

Deathbed Ordination ‘Reflects Pascal Mystery,’ Says Bishop

Bishop David R. Choby of Nashville, Tenn., anoints William Carmona’s hands as part of the ordination rite at Christus Santa Rosa Medical Center in San Antonio. Carmona lay silently in a hospital bed as he was anointed. He was to be ordained a transitional deacon and then as a priest in a ceremony prepared for the occasion by the church.

Cardinal George is the first native Chicagologist to serve as archbishop of Chicago. He was born in 1937 and attended schools in Illinois before entering the Oblates of Mary Immaculate in 1957. He was ordained a priest Dec. 21, 1963. He was his order’s vicar general in Rome from 1974 to 1996.
**Miracle in New Jersey**

‘I Was Blind, but Now I See’

By Bishop Kurt Burnett

Special to The Witness

Is there anyone more afraid than a mother who is afraid for her child?

When unusual symptoms started to appear, and a mother makes the decision to approach a physician, she hopes to be told that the problem is transitory, or is easily cured. She tries not to show fear to her child, but in the back of her mind is a silent terror of the unknown.

In 1963, a mother in northern New Jersey began to observe in her son Michael behaviors which concerned her. A healthy eight year old, he began walking into trees, and even crashed his bike into a tree. He walked into a moving car. His mother described his escalating symptoms as “bizarre.” Eventually, he broke his front teeth in an accident, refused to play ball with his older brother, and the other children nicknamed him “butter fingers.” His central vision was degenerating. She took her son to an ophthalmologist, who observed black pigment in the area of the macula. As the black areas increased, he was diagnosed with bilateral macular degeneration and declared legally blind in 1963. The physician who declared him legally blind told the parents that eventually the entire macula would be blackened and the boy would be totally blind. The silent terror of a mother was made flesh.

At this point in the illness, a little known Ruthenian nun from our own Byzantine Catholic Church entered the story. Sister Miriam Teresa Demjanovich was baptized and chrismated at our parish in Bayonne, New Jersey, at the beginning of the twentieth century, 1901. As she herself said, “The real beginning of my life, the life of the spirit, occurred five days after my birth according to the flesh. I was baptized and confirmed in the Greek rite on the thirty first of March, a Sunday, truly a day of resurrection.”

After high school, she went to college and earned a Bachelor degree in literature at College of St. Elizabeth, Convent Station, New Jersey. She entered the story. Sister Miriam Teresa Demjanovich was baptized and chrismated at our parish in Bayonne, New Jersey, at the beginning of the twentieth century, 1901. As she herself said, “The real beginning of my life, the life of the spirit, occurred five days after my birth according to the flesh. I was baptized and confirmed in the Greek rite on the thirty first of March, a Sunday, truly a day of resurrection.”

After high school, she went to college and earned a Bachelor degree in literature at College of St. Elizabeth, Convent Station, New Jersey. At this point in history, a small percentage of women went to college, and even fewer women earned a Baccalaureate degree. This highly intelligent woman then went on to dedicate her life completely to God by entering the Sisters of Charity in 1925, one of the communities founded by Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton. Sister Miriam Teresa died on May 8, 1927, at the age of 26. Although she was allowed to take her final vows just before she died, she never changed rites and died a Ruthenian Greek Catholic. The people close to her suspected that she was a saint and a mystic, a special intimate friend of Our Lord. During her short time as a religious, she wrote a series of spiritual conferences that were presented without her name on them. Her authorship was revealed after her death, and, after their publication in 1928, they quickly became a bestseller in the American church.

Now you may be wondering how a Ruthenian Byzantine Catholic nun who died 40 years earlier might be involved in the blindness of a young boy in the 1960s. The Roman Catholic Bishop of Paterson, New Jersey, proposed Sister Miriam Teresa for canonization in 1945, and the sisters at Michael’s school were promoting devotion to her. When she heard the news of Michael’s blindness, his third grade teacher, Sister Mary Augustine, gave Michael a leaflet on Sister Miriam Teresa and a piece of her hair, that is, a first class relic. The mother recalled when he gave her the leaflet and relic that she had a feeling that everything would be O.K. Michael’s family moved to southern New Jersey about a month after the last visit to a physician, and two weeks later Michael was taken to Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia. The examination showed this eyesight was normal, and he recalls that he could ride his bike again when they moved. There was no doubt. It was a miracle—just like the one we read in St. John’s Gospel a few weeks ago. Several doctors agreed that he was blind from macular degeneration, and four ophthalmologists testified that there was no known case of a cure such as this. As the George Gershwin song says, “The age of miracles had not passed.”

The authorities in Rome acknowledge that the return of Michael’s eyesight is a miracle unexplained by any natural phenomenon and worked by God through the intercession of his handmaid Sister Miriam Teresa Demjanovich. On Saturday, October 4, 2014, at 9:30 in the morning, her Beatification will be solemnized at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Newark, New Jersey. If you read the dates carefully, once again you may be puzzled by the timing. Why did it take fifty years after the miracle to beatify her? The answer is this. The miracle was carefully studied and documented at the time — it was then misfiled! The file was rediscovered in 1998, thirty years later. It seems that Sister Miriam Teresa was just as self-effacing after her death as she was during her life. She wanted her writings to point us toward God, not toward herself.

“When John heard in prison of the works of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to him with this question, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?’ Jesus said to them in reply, ‘Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense in me!’” (Matthew 11:2-6).

(Venerable Sister Miriam Teresa Demjanovich is the Bishop of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic, New Jersey.)

---

**Annual Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Marian Day**

Saturday, October 11 from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Immaculate Conception Church (St. Mary’s) 1730 Fowler Avenue, Berwick

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

Cost is $10 and includes lunch. RSVP by Oct. 3 by leaving a message for Diane DeLuc at 570-750-3643 or wadeluc@pt.netroast.net.

---

**‘Beginning Experience’ Weekend for Those Who Have Lost a Spouse**

October 31-November 2
Camphor, Halifax

Beginning Experience weekends are an approved Roman Catholic program designed for those suffering the loss of a spouse through death, divorce or separation. Hundreds of persons have been helped to move towards successful, productive, happy lives by attending one of these weekends. Beginning Experience is your Church at work to provide help, healing and spiritual restoration.

The weekend is led by persons who have lost a spouse through death or divorce and are trained in facilitating a weekend. Each Beginning Experience Team is certified by the International Beginning Experience Organization.

Visit the Diocesan Web site, www.hbgdiocese.org and go to the “Marriage, Family and Separation” link, or go to www.beginningexperience.org. Information can also be obtained by contacting the Harrisburg Beginning Experience Team at 717-512-2718 or harrisburgbe@gmail.com.
Divorce is never easy.

From the realizations that love has failed to feelings of shame and a tendency to assess blame, divorce poses an untold conundrum for families even when a couple settles on an amicable legal separation.

In the eyes of the Church, a divorced couple remains married until a decree of nullity is issued, if a couple chooses to go that route.

There's even more of a challenge for faithful divorced Catholics, who often misunderstand Church teaching on marriage. Divorced people may separate themselves from the Church, believing they have been automatically excommunicated or banned from Church activities even though they have not remarried.

People who are civilly divorced and do not marry someone else are not excused from receiving Communion under canon law.

However, Church practice prohibits people in irregular marriages — those civilly remarried without receiving annulment, or from receiving Communion, serving as lector or extraordinary minister of holy Communion, teaching in a Catholic institution and holding certain parish or diocesan offices. There is no prohibition on being involved in most other Church ministries.

About 20 percent of U.S. Catholics have experienced divorce, according to the General Social Survey at the University of Chicago. The Center for Applied Research on the Apostolate at Georgetown University places the number of divorced Catholics at about 11 million.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, through its National Pastoral Initiative on Marriage, has worked to explain Church teaching on divorce in the hope of correcting misconceptions and keeping people connected with the Church.

Bethany J. Meola, assistant director in the U.S. bishops' Secretariat of Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, described the work of the Church with divorced, separated and remarried Catholics as accomplishments, a term often cited by Pope Francis.

“It’s important to make sure that they don’t consider themselves separate from the Church, that they realize they are baptized Catholics, they are members of the Church, they are called to participate with the Church, attend Mass, pray, be present with the Church,” Meola explained.

“[It’s] helping people in all of these situations to carry their cross and know that they don’t carry it alone,” she said.

Cardinal Walter Kasper, former president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, addressed several concerns surrounding divorced and remarried Catholics in the Sept. 15 issue of America magazine.

Acknowledging that the indissolubility of marriage is specified in canon law, Cardinal Kasper cited Pope Francis’ repeated calls for a more merciful Church in making a carefully constructed argument that mercy must be at the heart of the Church’s outreach efforts, including those to divorced and remarried Catholics. He wrote that the Gospel “is against a legalistic understanding of canon law.”

He posed the question: If a Catholic who is divorced and civily remarried without the first marriage being annulled, “but then repents of his failure to fulfill what he promised before God, goes to the Church in the first marriage, and carries out as well as possible his new duties and does what he can for the Christian education of his children and has a serious desire for acceptance, how can he be absolved of the forgiveness we need?”

To encourage more people to consider the annulment process, Cleveland Bishop Richard G. Lennon addressed several concerns about divorced and remarried Catholics.

There’s no better place to heal from the trauma of divorce than in the Church, believes Gregory Mills, executive director of Catholic Divorce Ministry, the Ministry of the North American Conference of Separated and Divorced Catholics.

“This is where mercy comes in. Mercy comes in, but also the virtue of hope because [couple]s come with despair, they come with shame, they come with blame, they come with hearts that have been broken and disconnected from the Church and there are a lot of myths that are our here,” Petro said.

“We need to learn how to evangelize the divorced because we’re seeing a lot of them not having a basic knowledge of the Catholic faith. We also need to understand where they are with the shamefulness and the fact they are now single in the pew," explained Petro, who was divorced in 1997 and remarried in the Church after her first marriage was annulled.

Cleveland’s Sacred Heart is close to the diocesan tribunal, which is charged with handling marriage annulments.

The tribunal offers a program it calls First Step. It convenes several times a year to provide basic information about the annulment process to divorced couples.

Lynette Tait, a tribunal judge in Cleveland, told CNS her office began the program in 2009 in an effort to help people understand the requirements of the annulment process. More than 1,500 people have attended the sessions, she said.

“A lot of people come because they need to submit cases. But people also come just for the right understanding of what the Church is doing. So many people don’t understand what we do, why we do it and how we do it,” Tait explained.

She admitted the annulment process is not easy, but that it is not meant to be intimidating.

“[T]he hardest thing in doing this is that first step, getting it started,” she said.

“We’re looking to reach out to people, make them aware that the Church is concerned for them.”

To encourage more people to consider the annulment process, Cleveland Bishop Richard G. Lennon in June waived all fees.

Father Gary Yanus, judicial vicar, said the move was meant to encourage people to renew their relationship with the Church. So far, there has been significant change in the number of people seeking an annulment, he said.

More information about the Church’s ministries for divorced, separated and remarried Catholics is available online at www.foryourmarriage.org/catholic-marriage/church-teachings/divorce. Or, contact the Tribunal of the Diocese of Harrisburg at 717-657-4804 or tribunal@hbgdiocese.org.
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?
Relieve Your Family of Difficult Decisions, Purchasing Now Locks in Price, Wider Choice of Grave Locations, Enjoy Peace of Mind, and Only You Can Decide What is Best For Your Family

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.

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

Obituaries

The names of the following deceased persons have been submitted by their parishes:

BERWICK—St. Joseph: Tony Miller, Edward V. Strzelecki.
BLOOMSBURG—St. Columba: Anne M. Risha.
CAMP HILL—Good Shepherd: Susan Dagadin, Eugene Hertz, James Imgrund.
CONEWAGO—Sacred Heart of Jesus: Curtis J. Klunk, Viola “Sis” McKim.
CORNWALL—Sacred Heart of Jesus: Barbara Kildee, Victoria J. Walzer.
DUNCANNON—Elizabeth Hicks.
GETTYSBURG—St. Francis Xavier: Erick Sandoval.
HARRISBURG—Holy Name: Norah H. Giampietro, Raymond T. Hironimus, Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament: Ann Mescan, Anna Rossi; St. Margaret Mary: Thomas Connolly.
HERSHEY—St. Joan of Arc: Michael Pinca.
KULPMONT—Holy Angels: Thomas Leavock.
LANCASTER—Assumption BVM: Mary Rosy Trauger.
MCSHERRYSTOWN—Annunciation BVM: Loretta Folmer, Mary Rosy Trauger.
MIDDLETOWN—Seven Sorrows BVM: Felicia Rose.
MOUNT CARMEL—Divine Redeemer: John James, Theresa C. Short; OurLady: James Martin.
NEW CUMBERLAND—St. Theresa: Robert Miller, Anthony Verhovsek, Theresa Yob.
NEW FREEDOM—St. John the Baptist: Eleanor Polochnick.
QUARRYVILLE—St. Catherine of Siena: Robert Hadger, Ann Elizabeth (Betty) Groff.
SHAMOKIN—Mother Cabrini: Catherine “Kitty” Brennan, Frank E. Fullmer.
SUNBURY—St. Monica: Richard W. Bramhall, Jr., Jean McManus, Rae Smeltz.
WILLIAMSTOWN—Sacred Heart of Jesus: Donald Grubb, Jr.
YORK—St. Patrick: Patricia Campbell, Donald Yocum; St. Rose of Lima: Phyllis J. Mohan.

REMEMBER OUR Deceased Clergy
Please pray for the following clergy who died in October during the past 25 years:
Deacon Leo A. Beaston, 1989
Msgr. Francis McCullah, 1990
Father Walter Halabarda, 2000
Father Edward J. Barrett, 2001
Father John Suknaic, 2004
Father Bernard Quinn, 2006
Deacon Edwin Fitzpatrick, 2008
Father Stephen Sheetz, 2009
Father Kevin Kayda, 2013.

‘StrongWomen’ Strength Training Program Offered at St. John the Baptist Parish
St. John the Baptist Parish in New Freedom and Penn State Extension will be teaming up to offer the StrongWomen/Growing Stronger Program this fall. This is a 12-week program geared for middle-aged to older women and men, and is based upon years of research on how strength training and proper nutrition can improve the health of women and men of all ages. The program was developed to help individuals increase their strength, bone density, balance and energy, and help them look and feel better. Participants will meet two times a week for one-hour sessions. There is a $65 fee for this program. Hand and ankle weights are supplied.

The morning classes will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:11 a.m. at St. John the Baptist Parish, 315 North Constitution Avenue, New Freedom. The session will run from Sept. 30–Dec. 18 in Neumann Hall. Parking is in the rear of the Historic Church. Mandatory paperwork must be completed in order to participate in the program, and all participants are encouraged to obtain a doctor’s permission. The limited number of participants must pre-register.

For more information, or to register for the program, contact Arleen Watts, certified instructor, at 717-235-7475. Go to extension.psu.edu/health/strongwomen for additional StrongWomen information.

National Pro-Life Activist to Visit Carlisle
Missy Martinez of High School Students for Life of America will lead a Pro-Life Youth Day on Nov. 1 at St. Patrick Church in Carlisle. The event is hosted by the parish’s St. Gabriel Respect Life Ministry. The Pro-Life Youth Day will be held from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in the St. Patrick Church Activity Center.

Martinez, SFLA’s High School Program Coordinator, will talk to students about “Equipping the Pro-Life Generation” and give them invaluable instruction on becoming effective pro-life activists. Martinez has been involved with the pro-life movement since the age of 14. Since joining SFLA, she launched the first-ever Thaddeus Stevens Fellowship for high school leaders, hosted the first High School Leadership Summit at SFLA’s 2014 National Conference, and has helped create high school-specific resources for students. She’s worked with more than 300 high school groups all over the nation.

Registration is $5 and includes a catered lunch. Registration should be sent to the church office at 152 E. Pemfret St., Carlisle, PA 17013. For more information, contact Gabriel Marcella at 717-243-5441 or Patty Dowling at 717-386-1074.

Bishop Gainer to Celebrate Mass in York Honoring Capuchin Franciscans
It has been 35 years since the Capuchin Franciscan Order of priests and brothers began their ministry in York’s St. Joseph Church. The parish will honor this special anniversary on Saturday, Oct. 4—the feast of St. Francis of Assisi—with Bishop Ronald W. Gainer celebrating a 5 p.m. Mass at St. Joseph Church, located at 2935 Kingston Road.

Current and returning friars who have served at St. Joseph York and priests from the York deanery will assist Bishop Gainer during the Mass. Following the Mass, there will be a parish reception in the school cafeteria.

To honor the Capuchin friars who have served the parish and continue to do so, parishioners will present to St. Joseph pastor, Father Louis Petruha, O.F.M., Cap., their pledges of service to the poor and marginalized in the community. Families, school children, and parish youth will make the presen-
tations via a special bouqet. Monetary contributions will also be presented to Capuchin Franciscans in the Province of St. Augustine in Pittsburgh, which serves the parishes of St. Joseph, York; St. Joseph, Dallastown; and St. Francis of Assisi, Harrisburg.

National Shrine to Host ‘Back from the Dead Cemetery Walk’
On Oct. 25 and Nov. 1 from 7-10 p.m., the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg, Md., in partnership with Mount St. Mary’s, will hold “Back from the Dead Cemetery Walks” in St. Joseph’s Cemetery. The program is an engaging and inspiring dramatization that teaches the spiritual principles of the Communion of Saints and the angels.

As attendees walk through the cemetery, where many Sisters and Daughters of Charity are buried, as well as St. Elizabeth Ann Seton’s children and family, they will encounter St. Teresa of Avila, a man going through Purgatory, St. Therese of Lisieux, Edith Stein, children from heaven, and other saints and martyrs. These religious figures will tell their stories and explain the three great virtues of faith, hope and charity.

Father Brian Nolan, University Chaplain Director at Mount St. Mary’s, created the event in 2002 after working with college students at McDaniel College who had questions and misconceptions about the supernatural world and life after death.

Registration occurs at the event, however advance reservation of tickets is recommended for children ages 14 and older; groups are welcome. The event will be held rain or shine. The first tour begins at 7 p.m., and tours run every 15 minutes. The last tour is at 9:30 p.m., and the event will conclude at 10 p.m.

For more information, visit www.setonheritage.org or contact Bridgett Bassler at 501-447-6605 or bbassler@setonheritage.org.
**Spiritual Offerings**

A Blue Mass to honor law enforcement agents, firefighters, first responders and their families will be celebrated at Our Mother of Perpetual Help Church in Ephrata Sept. 28 at 11 a.m. The Mass will be held in the Father Jackson Center following the Mass. For more information, contact Father Michael Tucker at 717-733-9641.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Cornwall will hold a groundbreaking ceremony for its new church on Sept. 29 at 7 p.m. A Eucharistic Adoration will be held the presence of the Relic. There will be a social in the parish center hall following the ceremony.

Castorum at St. Jane of Arc Church in Hershey will be held Oct. 1 at 7 p.m. Father Dean Michaluk will preside. Check out their website for prayer and Eucharistic Adoration. A reception will be held immediately following the Mass, called “Come and see.”

An Evening of Prayer in Honor of St. Therese, The Little Flower, will be held Oct. 3 at 7 p.m. at Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in McSherrystown. Father Robert Yoder will be the presiding priest.

First Friday Devotions will be held at St. Lawrence Chapel in Harrisburg Oct. 3. The evening will begin with Mass at 7:30 p.m., followed by a Holy Hour with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Confessions will be heard with the Chaplain of the evening, Rev. Stephen J. Pillar, OSB.

The North American Lourdes Volunteers will present a virtual Lourdes pilgrimage Oct. 4 at 6:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in New Holland. The experience will include a pilgrimage to Lourdes, the Grotto of Massabielle and a chance to touch the Grotto rock and experience the grace of Lourdes with the power of the Holy Spirit. For more information, contact the Rev. Robert DeCarlo to pray a decade of the Rosary. A Penitential Indulgence has been granted by Pope Francis for all who attend. For more information, contact the Rev. Robert DeCarlo.

The Dominican Nuns of the Perpetual Rosary will host Rosary Sunday on Oct. 5 at 3 p.m. at their monastery chapel in Abbottstown. The service will include recitation of the Rosary, a sermon by Father Frank Bedeski, OP, Benediction, a blessing of the distribution of rosaries, Prayer intentions for a person or cause and the crowning of Our Lady to be placed at Our Lady’s image and remembered in prayer. To order a Rosary, call 717-788-0340. Mass with prayers for healing will be celebrated Oct. 7 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Theresa Church in New Cumberland by Father Dwight Schrier, OSB. A collection of $3.00-$5.00 for the Franciscan order or by contacting Joe Haas at pjhaas@hotmail.com or 717-718-5702. The 2014 Fall Spiritual Study Program, “Full of Grace: Women and the Abundant Life,” will begin Sept. 30 at 6:30 p.m., facilitated by Andrea Dietz/St. Margaret Mary Parish in Harrisburg. Discover the gift of authentic femininity, holiness in life, and God’s awesome purpose and mission for you in the world today in this ten-week study program. For more information, contact Andrea Dietz at 717-515-5228 or jehro003@verizon.net.

**Education, Enrichment & Support**

“Threatened by the Black Knight” is the name of the program offered at St. Peter Parish in Columbia beginning Sept. 13. The first of the “Threat is You” program, entitled Becoming a Man after God’s own heart. The study will focus on the spirituality of the heart, and the master focuses upon authentic male leadership. The program will be held each Tuesday from 6:30-9 p.m. in the parish hall. For more information or to register, contact Joe Haas at pjhaas@hotmail.com or 717-718-5702.

An Iconography Workshop led by Jody Cole will be held at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Annville on two weekends, Oct. 31 and Nov. 7. Friday evening from 6-9 p.m., and Saturday morning from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. All classes must begin from start to finish. Cost of $165 includes all supplies, instruction, etc. $50 deposit is due with balance due first night of class. Participants will create the icon of St. Cecilia, patron saint of musicians. Contact Jeanne at 717-667-5492 or jartittle@outlook.com.

Girl Scouts and members of American Heritage Girls are invited to attend a workshop Nov. 8 at 1:30 p.m. at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg. Girls will earn the “Women in Scripture: Martha and Mary” patch as they learn about the Saintly sisters of Bethany. The session will include a complete project to benefit the retired priests of the diocese. Information and registration forms are available at http://www.bpgodiocese.org/youth-and-young-adults/catholic-scouting/.

**Events & Fund-Raisers**

St. Catherine Labouré Parish in Harrisburg will hold its 5th Annual Oktoberfest Celebration on Oct. 4 from 7-11 p.m. in the parish hall and grounds. The celebration will feature delicious traditional German food, a variety of games for kids and children, children’s pumpkin painting and Halloween costume parade, craft tables, theme baskets, a football tailgate party, beer garden, and invited guests. Ticket prices range from $5 to $15. For information, see the parish website: www.schlohr.org or call the parish office at 717-731-1360.

Trinity High School in Camp Hill will hold its 2nd annual Rocks Run 5K and Fun Run on Oct. 4. All donations and proceeds benefit the Trinity Tuition Assistance Fund. For more information, contact Mr. Matthew Phillips at mphiills@ccsearchteam.org or call Lisa Wolfe in the Development Office at 717-731-2287.

Mother Cabrini Parish in Shamokin will host a Chicken Bar-B-Que (1/2 chicken, homemade potato salad, baked beans and rolls) Oct. 5 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the “Cabrini Shed” on the corner of Race and Cherry streets. Donation is $8. Tickets may be purchased at Mother Cabrini Parish Office, or call 770-645-4512 for more information. Take-out orders only.

The Sisters of St. Joseph will host a solo performance, “The God Box: A Daughter’s Story,” by Mary Lou Quinlan based on her New York Times bestseller book. The event will be held Oct. 5 at Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg. Proceeds benefit the Outreach Ministry at St. Benedict the Abbot Parish. For information, visit http://sispghia.org/nyw/support-our-mission-2events/?event=482-6510 or 717-497-2976, or call 717-396-0739. Tickets are not sold at the door through the school.

Our Mother of Perpetual Help in Ephrata will host former White House Chef John Moeller Oct. 10 from 6-9 p.m. Chef Moeller will be preparing a delicious barbeque feast and 4-course meal. The night will include local artisanal breads and cheeses, Chinese Appetizer items, a book signing and an autographed copy of his book. Tickets are $60 per person. Contact Rita Pfautz at 717-933-2947.

The Outreach Ministry at St. Benedict the Abbot Parish in Lebanon will host “Dancing to the Oldies” with Mickey San- toro on Oct. 11 at Prescott Banquet Hall in Myerstown. Doors open at 6 p.m. and cost $30 per person. Dancing from 7-10 p.m. Tickets are $20 per person and are on sale at St. Benedict the Abbot Church, 717-450-4505. All proceeds will be donated to the Outreach Ministry and St. Jude Children’s Hospital.

St. Rose of Lima Parish in York is holding its sixth annual fall auction Oct. 10. Proceeds will support activities at St. Rose of Lima School. This year’s theme is “Okie- toberfest.” As guests arrive, they will be greeted by “suspects” in character costumes and will be treated to okie-themed music while listening to German music from The Dockenspielers, founded in 1917 by a group of York Hospital doctors. After a traditional German dinner, guests will go on a German-inspired mystery tour to examine the clues and deduce “whodunit.” Suspects are playing parishioners who represent various groups in the church, written by St. Rose Parishioner Richard Gordon. All money raised will go to upgrading and maintaining the school’s computer lab and corresponding technology. Because all proceeds are tax deductible, tickets are permitted. Tickets are $30/person and include appetizers, beer, dinner and entertainment. A table of six can be reserved for $180. For more information, contact coonmom.com/cockknock or 717-797-9912 for reservations.

Our Lady of Peace Church in Towaholocki will host its fall festival Oct. 11 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. to raise funds for St. Rose of Lima School. The event will be held Oct. 11 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. A Chinese auction, 50/50 prize and raffle will begin at 2 p.m. The kitchen will be serving many delicious foods such as potato cakes, pierogies, halushki and more. In addition to the food, there will be a silent auction with baskets and certificates from local businesses. Donation is $3.

Lebanon Catholic School will host a Fall Fest Oct. event 15 from 6-10 p.m. to relive the glory days with Gabrahil, Brianna and Friends. Adults and children will have you thoroughly entertained as they take you back to classic rock bands of the 70s and 80s. There will be live bands, food, raffle and the raffle will begin at 2 p.m. The kitchen will be open for soup, sandwiches, snacks, desserts and drinks. Tickets are available at the door. BYOB and additional drinks are available for $5. All proceeds benefit Lebanon Catholic School’s mission to develop each student academically, spiritually, physically, emotionally and socially in the expanded environment. To place an order for tickets, contact Lori Kostow, Director of Advancement, at 717-723-3731, ext. 327.

The Lion’s Auxiliary of St. Philip’s and the Apostle Parish in Millersville will hold a Fall Festival Oct. 15 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is $17 if purchased Oct. 18, $20 after, if tickets are still available. Six cards for the 20 regular games with your choice of dinner. There will be a Chinese basket (25 items), the $150. Must be 21 years of age. Proceeds benefit Lebanon Catholic School’s mission to develop each student academically, spiritually, physically, emotionally and socially in the expanded environment. To place an order for tickets, contact Lori Kostow, Director of Advancement, at 717-723-3731, ext. 327.

Knights of Columbus Council 3625 Prince of Peace Parish will hold an Oktoberfest on Oct. 25 from 6-10 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Ethnic Food, music by the Polka Quads, basket raffle and an evening of fun, laughter and cheer. Tickets are $25 and can be purchased in advance or at the door. For more information, contact Colleen at 717-570-2471.

The Diocese of Erie is seeking a motivated and qualified individual capable of directing and coordinating the archdiocesan Office of Catholic School Teaching and Learning in Pennsylvania. Specific details regarding a full position profile, an organization chart, and a mapping the geography of the service locations throughout the Diocese of Erie can be found at www.ErieRCD.org/employment.asp.Interested applicants can submit their resumes along with a signed application (also available on the website) and required salary range to: the Rev. John J. Coluccio, Executive Director, 2976, or ccsearchteam@ErieRCD.org. The completed and signed job application must indicate a specific dollar amount/range in the application to qualify for consideration. Deadline is Sept. 30.
By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Extensive renovations to St. Philip the Apostle Church in Millersville this summer have given parishioners a new perspective in the celebration of their faith.

In June, the parish, under the leadership of Father Mark Weiss, pastor, began a project to refurbish and reorient the interior of the church, which was built in 1968. At the time, the circular church was fitted with large glass windows and curtains that fronted the intersection of Routes 741 and 999, where the church is situated.

In the 1980s, the glass windows were removed, and beautiful stained-glass windows were installed, depicting the Joyful, Sorrowful and Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary.

"The windows are a sight to behold, especially when the sunlight hits them," Father Weiss said. "But the priest is the only one who sees them during Mass, because they are behind the congregation."

So, in anticipation of the parish’s 50th anniversary next year, St. Philip’s began an interior renovation project, which features a new crucifix, new statues of Mary and Joseph, a new tabernacle and altar, new carpet and refurbished pews. The project also included a 180-degree rotation of the interior, so that the congregation now faces the stained-glass windows.

The parish paid in full for the $646,000 project through its church renovation fund. In May, Father Weiss challenged his 3,800 parishioners to donate half of that amount back to the renovation fund; so far, they have contributed $125,000.

Bishop Ronald W. Gainer celebrated Mass in the refurbished church Sept. 13, during which he blessed the renovations and dedicated the new altar. The Mass was the first one celebrated there since Pentecost Sunday, as parishioners had been gathering for Mass in the parish gymnasium this summer while renovations were taking place.

"The parishioners have been very supportive of the project, and were excited to see the changes," said Father Weiss, who took steps to ensure that parishioners couldn’t look inside to catch a glimpse of the renovations until the Mass. "For them, it was like wanting to open a present on Christmas Day. They were so eager to see the end result, and now they can enjoy the beauty of the stained-glass windows and the new altar during Mass," Father Weiss said. "This has given them a more fitting place for worship."