The Pope’s Interview:

Pope Says Focus on Morality Can Obscure Gospel Message

By Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

In a lengthy and wide-ranging interview with one of his Jesuit confreres, Pope Francis spoke with characteristic frankness about the perils of overemphasizing Catholic teaching on sexual and medical ethics; the reasons for his deliberate and consultative governing style; and his highest priority for the Church today.

The pope’s remarks appeared in an interview with Jesuit Father Antonio Spadaro, editor of the Italian journal La Civilta Cattolica. The interview, conducted in August, was the basis for a 12,000-word article published Sept. 19 in the U.S. magazine America, and simultaneously in other Jesuit publications in other languages.

According to the editor of America, Jesuit Father Matt Malone, Pope Francis personally reviewed the article and approved its publication.

“We cannot insist only on issues related to abortion, gay marriage and the use of contraceptive methods,” the pope said in the interview, noting that he had been “reprimanded” for failing to speak often about those topics. “It is not necessary to talk about these issues all the time.”

“The dogmatic and moral teachings of the Church are not all equivalent,” the pope added. “The Church’s pastoral ministry cannot be obsessed with the transmission of a disjointed multitude of doctrines to be imposed insistently.

“Proclamation in a missionary style focuses on the essentials, on the necessary things,” he said. “We have to find a new balance; otherwise even the moral edifice of the Church is likely to fall like a house of cards, losing the freshness and fragrance of the Gospel.”

The pope reaffirmed one of his major themes: the need for mercy rather than judgment when approaching sin.

“The thing the Church needs most today is the ability to heal wounds and to warm the hearts of the faithful. It needs nearness, proximity,” he said. “The Church sometimes has locked itself up in

The Diocese of Harrisburg observed Hispanic Heritage Month on Sept. 15 with a Mass celebrating Hispanic Heritage followed by a gathering on the steps of the state Capitol. The gathering highlighted the Hispanic culture and featured Aztec dancers and music, as well as an address from Pennsylvania Governor Thomas Corbett.

See pages 8 and 9 for coverage of the celebration.
Trinity High School Celebrates
50 Years of Doing the Highest Good

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

In 1963, Trinity High School in Camp Hill opened its doors, keeping “Ad summum bonum” steadfastly ever in mind. For 50 years, it has been living its motto – to the highest good – and the faithful community that has supported and fostered the school’s growth gathered to celebrate their golden anniversary on Sept. 14.

Father Louis Ogden, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Mechanicsburg and a 1974 Trinity grad, was the principal celebrant, and was joined by more than a dozen concelebrating priests who have served the school as principal or chaplain over the past six decades.

The homilist was Father Chester Snyder, now a retired priest of the diocese, who not only served as chaplain to the school in the early 1980s but also served on the board for more than a decade while he was pastor of St. Joseph’s in Mechanicsburg.

More than 600 faithful gathered in the cavernous auditorium for the celebration of Holy Mass. Father Snyder delivered a beautifully lyrical and poetic homily that expressed eloquently how we all need to be “domesticated by God’s mercy,” and that Jesus is always “inviting us to be home with God.”

“God is always looking for us,” Father Snyder said. “God’s will is for us to be home with him…. Here at Trinity we do things well; no, we do things very well…and that is what makes Trinity rock.”

In its 50 years, Trinity has had 11 principals, several of whom were in attendance. In the beginning, the school was administered by the Brothers of the Christian Schools, and the school’s first principal was Brother E. Andrew Bartley from 1963 to 1969. Those were turbulent years in a country stricken with the assassination of President Kennedy just weeks after the doors opened.

Moreover, the Vietnam War was raging, and the assassinations of Robert Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., only added to the grief of a collected nation. All the while, Trinity High School built traditions and grew in its mission of providing Catholic education to a growing West Shore population.

Brother Bartley returned for the anniversary Mass, and spoke passionately about those early days at Trinity. The school opened its doors with only freshman and some sophomores who had transferred from Catholic High (later Bishop McDevitt) in Harrisburg. Brother Bartley noted that it wasn’t easy building the lasting tradition and loyalty to Trinity. “We had to win them over, and we eventually did.”

“Homecoming is special when you have a special home to come back to,” Brother Bartley said. “Trinity is a special home to me…. Miracles can happen with the right people in place to carry out a Divine plan.”

(The Catholic Witness is planning a special feature on Trinity High School in a future edition during the school year to further mark its 50th anniversary.)

Father Louis Ogden, a 1974 graduate of Trinity High School and pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Mechanicsburg, elevates the chalice during the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Father Ogden was the principal celebrant of the Mass, concelebrated by more than a dozen priests who have served at the school.

Brother E. Andrew Bartley was the first principal of Trinity High School, from 1963-1969, which was first administered by the Brothers of the Christian Schools. To his left is Dr. David Bouton, current principal.

Choir members and musicians, including drummer Curtis Kenski perform spiritually-moving selections during the 50th anniversary Mass.

Caroline Hills, Josh Bartholomew and Natalie Weaver prepare to join in the entrance procession for the Mass celebrating the 50th anniversary of Trinity High School in Camp Hill Sept. 14.
Prayers for Bishop as School Year Begins

Carrying on a tradition of the late Bishop Joseph P. McFadden in offering Catholic school students an encouraging message for the start of a new academic year, Father Edward J. Quinlan, Diocesan Secretary for Education, led students in praying the Rosary via webinar Sept. 11.

From the prayerful confines of the chapel at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg, Father Quinlan encouraged the students to reflect on the gift of faith before leading them in the Rosary, offered in memory of the late bishop.

“Bishop McFadden always looked forward to these occasions when he could be with our students and prayer together with you,” Father Quinlan said. “Our Catholic schools were very close to his heart.”

One Who Serves

Bishop McFadden always looked forward to these occasions when he could be with our students and prayer together with you," Father Quinlan said. “Our Catholic schools were very close to his heart.”

Technology Safety Through the Eyes of Faith

FaithAndSafety.org is a joint effort of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. It offers straightforward and simple advice on how to be a connected Christian parent in a hyper-connected world.

It’s easy for the most connected among us to quickly fall behind our children in the technology curve. To help, we offer these tips from FaithAndSafety.org with the hope that this simple cramsession you can help you to catch up.

This Week’s Tips:

Restricting your iOS devices

Many parents don’t give a second thought to handing off their iPhone to help occupy a child before a waitress returns with dinner.

Before you do, consider clicking the “General” icon on your iPhone, then touch Restrictions. You will have the ability to prevent your child from accessing the internet browser, photos, movies or TV shows that carry specific ratings, or even adjusting the volume.

That way, you will be able to keep them playing in your proverbial digital back yard, compared to wandering down the street when you aren’t looking.

Family Media Agreements

If you have ever had the chance to browse through sites promoting online safety, you’ll often see the recommendation to have a family media agreement. Generally, but not always, such agreements are physical documents that everyone signs. More importantly, however, the media agreement helps parents establish:

1. Guidelines and expectations for media use
2. Appropriate behavior online
3. A checklist to help discuss various topics

The third point in particular is extremely important. Many excellent family media agreements exist. Visit FaithAndSafety.org and search Family Media Agreements to view several samples.

WHP 580 Interviews Father Gillelan

A wide ranging and in-depth interview with Father Robert M. Gillelan Jr., Diocesan Administrator, will air on WHP 580 AM on Saturday morning Sept. 28 at 7 a.m. He discusses many topics, including how his role as administrator differs from that of a bishop, the state of the diocese, his work as Vicar General for the late Bishop Joseph P. McFadden, his role as pastor of Prince of Peace Parish in Steelton as well as how he found his calling to the priesthood.

Listeners will learn not only about the work of the diocese but also about the extraordinary priest who has been called to lead it in this period as we await a new and holy bishop. A link to the interview will also be available at WHP580.com on the Michael Parks page as well as at www.hbgdiocese.org after the program airs.

Correction

The article on the new fitness center at Trinity High School that appeared in the Sept. 13 edition of The Catholic Witness mistakenly identified Brad Hollinger as a graduate of Trinity. Mr. Hollinger is a graduate of Cedar Cliff High School.
Respect Life
Events in the Diocese

A Cemetery of the Innocents will be constructed at St. Joseph Parish in Hanover Sept. 27. Contact the parish at 717-637-5236.

Pray a Play for Life event, featuring games, vendors, music and food, will be held Sept. 28 from 11:30 a.m.-p.m. at St. Joseph Parish in York. The event concludes with a basilica Million Rosary at 3 p.m. Visit www.prayplaylife.com.

40 Days for Life, a campaign focused on ending abortion through prayer, fasting and peaceful vigil, will be held in Harrisburg, Hanover, Lancaster and York from Sept. 25-Nov. 3. For information, visit www.40daysforlife.org/harrisburg, www.40daysforlife.com/hanover, or www.40daysforlife.com/lancaster. For information on the York campaign, contact Tom and Pati Evans at 717-235-8833 or tramet34@comcast.net.

A prayer vigil at Planned Parenthood in York is held weekly. October dates for the vigil are Oct. 4, 11 and 18 and 25. Contact Kitty Felter at rfkeiter565@comcast.net.

A Respect Life Rosary will be prayed at St. John the Baptist Church in New Freedom Oct. 6, 13, 20 and 27 at 10:15 a.m. Contact Joy at 717-578-2591.

A Respect Life Rosary will be prayed at St. Joseph Church in York Oct. 7 at 8:40 a.m. Contact Peggy at PegPink@aol.com.

A Respect Life Retreat, "Building a Respect Life Community," will be held at St. Patrick Parish Activity Center Oct. 5 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Opening prayer, music, remarks, closing prayer. Sponsored by Citizens Concerned with Human Life Millfin-Juniata, Inc. Visit www.cbbmillfin-juniata.com or contact f cunning@embarqmail.com or 717-667-9334.

• On the square in Gettysburg Oct. 6 at 2:30 p.m. Contact Artie O’Brien at 717-339-0811.

• On Market Street in York Oct. 6 at 2:30 p.m. Contact Peggy at PegPink@aol.com.

• In Harrisburg. Oct. 6 at 2:30 p.m. Contact Connie Fencie at cfencie@aol.com.

A Rosary Rally will be held Oct. 12 at noon outside at St. Ann Byzantine Catholic Church in Harrisburg, weather permitting. Afterwards, Father Michael Popson, pastor, will celebrate a Moleben to the Blessed Mother in the church.

Lourdes’ Pro-Life Lesson

By Father Paul CB Schenck

Special to The Witness

I’m writing this column from Lourdes, France, where the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to young St. Bernadette at a rural stone grotto. The appearance of the Blessed Mother to an innocent child is surely inspiring, but another aspect of this remarkable story, though less obvious, is just as enlightening.

Bernadette’s family, simple, humble and faithful, fell into humiliating poverty, and the last half of her childhood was lived in a dismal hovel that had once been the jail in the same tiny village where they had operated a successful business as to those of wealth and comfort. Bernadette her parents and siblings were homeless. St. Bernadette herself was a sickly child, and died before age 35.

The Blessed Mother’s message of healing love has led countless millions to find physical relief and solace in their suffering in this once unknown and unvisited pasturceland at the foot of the Pyrenees. While returning from the beautiful basilica to our hostel in the lower town, our host made a remark that struck me as encapsulating the entire meaning of this resplendent shrine — “At Lourdes, the VIPs are the sick, the old and the poor.” I later learned that a whole section of guest houses, hotels and catering halls had been established to provide the same quality of hospitality to those unable to afford accommodations as those of wealth and comfort. The care provided to the millions of sick, disabled, incapacitated and the aged pilgrims is nothing less than astonishing.

Shrines such as Lourdes demonstrate the inherent dignity of each and every person and serve as a collective sign of contradiction to a society that has largely reduced human value to utility. As with Our Lord’s Incarnation, the apportionment of the Blessed Mother to an obscure and poor child and the attendant care for the poor and the weak affirms the intrinsic and eternal value of each and every human person, regardless of their vulnerabilities. In a time when people are valued for their material success and contributions, we need the antidote of Lourdes, of the works of mercy and the unmitigated respect for each and every person and of all human life, which is the essential teaching of the Church.

While the shrine at Lourdes may be unique, the spirit and works of Lourdes are not. They are replicated by everyone who prays for and protects the weakest and most vulnerable members of our human family: the unborn, their mothers and fathers, the aged, the disabled, the incapacitated, those targeted in scientific experiments that injure and kill, the mentally and emotionally ill, the poor, the homeless, those without a nation or country to defend and protect their rights, the victims of famine, drought and war, prisoners and those condemned to death.

In the Diocese of Harrisburg, these works are done day-in and day-out by countless faithful who may be unknown but whose works relieve countless others in their suffering. Together, we fulfill the Bishops’ Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities, the 40 Days for Life campaigns, the March for Life and the National Memorial for the Pre-born and their mothers and fathers. Many volunteers assist in the pregnancy resource centers, counsel at the abortion mills, assist with Rachel’s Vineyard retreats for post-abortive women and men, and in many other ways build up the sanctity of human life and the dignity of each person. The Diocesan Respect Life Office is ready to assist you in your parish, school or personal effort to advance human life. Call or e-mail Joy Crimmins, administrative assistant (717-657-4804, ext. 293, jcrimmins@hldgiocese.org) to let us know how we can help.

(Father Paul CB Schenck is Diocesan Director of Respect Life Activities and chairman of the National Pro-Life Action Center in Washington, D.C.)
Poverty, Income Figures Stay Persistently Unchanged in Census Report

By Mark Pattison

Catholic News Service

The number of Americans living in poverty last year stayed stuck at 46.5 million people, as did the national poverty rate of 15.7 percent, according to Census Bureau statistics taken from its 2012 Current Population Survey.

While the percentage of people without health insurance declined from 15.7 percent in 2011 to 15.4 percent in 2012, because of population growth the number of uninsured stayed virtually the same at 48 million.

After accounting for inflation, the nation’s median household income of $51,000 was not statistically different from year-before figures.

In the past half-century, the poverty rate had climbed to the 15 percent mark just three times: in 1982 and 1993 as well as the past three years starting in 2010.

During a Sept. 17 teleconference at which the numbers were released, David Johnson, chief of the Census Bureau’s Social, Economic, and Housing Statistics Division, said household incomes have not approached the 2007 peak in 15 years, though the all-time high achieved in 1999.

But since 2007, the lowest-earning 20 percent of the U.S. population “fell much further” than the highest-earning 20 percent, Johnson said — more than 3 percent for the poorest families, and just 0.5 percent for the wealthiest.

“What we’ve found is that there’s a great isolation of the poor in the sense that in the neighborhoods they’re not mixed in, and often the only people they’re knowing and the other people that they’re going to school with are also poor,” said Clark Massey, president of a Simple House, which works with poor families often living in government-run housing projects or government-subsidized housing in Kansas City, Mo., and Washington.

In a Sept. 16 telephone interview from Kansas City with Catholic News Service, Massey said poverty among Americans are “not seeing examples of people working 9-to-5 jobs. They’re not seeing marriage and families working on the other half of the equation,” the “greatest problem I see is that the wealthier upper or middle class, they’re distant from the poor.”

“They’re in suburban neighborhoods,” he added. “There’s a great lack of information between the two, that they don’t know a lot about each other.”

Massey said, “There’s a huge segment of the population that’s homeless. We don’t think of them as homeless. They’re sleeping on couches. He explained, “The government prioritizes earned income. Moms with kids tend to be homeless ... and the moms are in the projects with their kids.”

When going from a dwelling to dwelling to sleep on the couch is a phenomenon Massey called “couch surfing.”

He said he sees families that have been poor for generations.

“In the biggest cities, it’s almost impossible to get out of poverty,” he added. “If we got one of our young men into a $15-an-hour job, that would be a windfall. You can’t rent an apartment or take care of your kid on $15 an hour. In Kansas City, with a $10-an-hour job you can rent an apartment. There’s more mobility.”

Poverty rates remain highest with African-Americans and Hispanics, at 27.2 percent and 25.6 percent, respectively, 9.7 percent of whites live in poverty, and 11.7 percent of Asian-Americans.

The Census Bureau developed a statistic called the Supplemental Poverty Measure, which factors in the effect of income transfers in poverty rates. An example of an “income transfer” is the earned income tax credit, a federal income tax credit for low-to-moderate-income working individuals and families.

This measure to lift U.S. poverty rate would be 16.1 percent — with higher rates among seniors and working-age Americans, but lower among minors.

The greatest change in the Supplemental Poverty Measure is the effect of Social Security, which cuts the poverty rate by 8.3 percentage points. Refundable tax credits cut poverty by 2.9 percentage points; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, by 1.1 points; and Supplemental Security Income, by 1.1 points.

Out-of-pocket medical costs raise the poverty rate by 3.4 percentage points, and food expenses raise it by 0.9.

Massey told CNS that the poor his agency serves keep looking for ways to get by financially from one month to the next.

“This is the way people have been living for years and years. Food stamps every month. Salvation Army every month. We call it the hustle. They hustle to make it,” he said. “As far as I can tell, it’s intergenerational. A very common comment is the Salvation Army may help you with a bill every six or seven months. Or when they come to us, we’ll update you on all the other organizations that have been helping them.”
Worship, Culture and Evangelization
By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
Special to The Witness

Recently I had the privilege ofpartaking in a jubilee celebration at the Motherhouse ofthe Sisters of Christian Charity. Among the eight jubilarians who were celebrating anniversaries were a Sister from Tanzania and another from Vietnam. Because of them, the celebration took on a “global” dimension. Before the Gospel was read, several Sisters from Tanzania solemnly processed the Book of the Gospels up the center aisle while the choir sang in harmony and played various rhythm instruments that are used in worship in their country. As they sang and danced with the Book of Gospels, I could not help thinking how easy it was for them to use dance as an expression of worship. The same could be said about the Sisters from Vietnam. As the bread and wine were brought forward, they performed a Vietnamese dance of solemn entrance. The Sisters held lit candles that rested within large paper lids and, as I looked at their eyes, I experienced a sense of our global Church and the awesomeness of human beings worshiping God.

But what actually is “worship?” I looked to Wikipedia in order to describe my experience. Wikipedia uses the following words of Evelyn Underhill in the attempt to define worship: “The absolute acknowledgment of all that lies beyond us—the glory that fills heaven and earth. It is the response that conscious beings make to their Creator, to the Eternal Reality from which they came forth; to God, however they may think of Him or recognize Him, and whether He be realized through religion, through nature, through history, through science, art, or human life and character.”

Upon reading this definition, I could not help connecting how Every Cardinal Dulles, SJ, in Evangelization for the Third Millennium, (Paulist Press, 2009), described how worship and the new evangelization are connected. According to Cardinal Dulles, worship is “an act of a believing community directed primarily to God.” For him, worship and community are inseparable. Another way of saying this is, the way you pray to God affects me and my prayer. Cardinal Dulles joins worship, community and the new evangelization because each has a distinct influence on the other. The way members of a Church pray and worship together expresses their unity with one another and their acceptance of others. In a sense, the way a community worships invites others to the experience. In Sacrosanctum Concilium, a document of Vatican Council II, we read: “In the liturgy, the whole public worship is performed by the Mystical Body of Jesus Christ, that is, by the Head and His members” (pg. 7). We are united in our worship with Christ—one heart, one body proclaiming God.

In a blog entitled, “Concerning New Evangelization, Fallen-Away Catholics, Invitations, Liturgical Worship,” (found at: http://wdtprs.com/blog/liturgical-political-manifesto/) Father John Zuhlsdorf, moderator of the Catholic Online Forum, suggests to “do all in your power to declare our common faith. Let us in some way announce what lies beyond our earth—a fact we can’t deny. Let us all, in some way, bring forth the truth of the ‘fear of the Lord and the work of human hands.’” They used not only their bodies but also gentle gestures of their arms and different configurations of their candles to offer these gifts made by human hands to be changed into Jesus’ Body and Blood during the Eucharistic Prayer of the Mass.

For me, this was an amazing experience of multi-cultural worship since it exhibited how universal the Church’s liturgy actually is. This re-alization has added to my eyes a new sense of our global Church and the awesomeness of human beings worshiping God.

A Safe Landing for Catholics who Have Fallen away from the Church
By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness
catholics fell away from the Church for any number of reasons: disagreement with Church teaching, a negative experience with a clergy member or fellow parishioner, lack of assistance or counsel when it was needed most. Maybe they stopped attending Mass when they entered college and never came back. Perhaps no one reached out when they first drifted away.
Reasons for coming back to the Church can be just as varied: a desire to return to their spiritual home, a life-altering experience, a longing for reconciliation with God and the Church, a personal invitation from a loved one.

Those who are considering a return to the Church may find just the path they are looking for in the Landings Ministry. It’s a program facilitated by lay faithful to offer a safe, confidential and non-judgmental means for fallen-away Catholics to explore the possibility of returning.
Landings is an international program of the Paulist Fathers that ministers on the parish and personal level. Sessions are led by parishioners—some of whom were welcomed back through Landings themselves. In small, welcoming groups, they meet with returning Catholics to share and explore the faith.

For the past 12 years, the Landings Ministry at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish inAbbottstown has been offering a supportive community for those seeking to return to the Church.

From a living-room setting in the parish’s religious education building, facilitator Bernadine Filliben and her team members offer welcome and reassurance to those who seek the encouragement of Landings.

“Landings gives people a door to come through,” Mrs. Filliben says. “It’s a way of saying that the Church cares.”

The ministry isn’t blind to the hurt that may have prompted someone to leave the Church. The sessions foster honesty and trust, allowing participants to speak freely about their experiences.
Weekly gatherings offer opportunities for prayer, sharing faith journeys, and discerning spirituality. Reflection focuses on God, baptism, the Eucharist and marriage. Participants can share as little or as much as they’d like during the confidential sessions. And there’s no pressure or commitment to return to the Church at the end of the program.

For those seeking to return to the Church, Landings offers a supportive community to ask questions and talk about difficulties as they discern their path.

“I like to say that we are the people who are available to welcome back home family members who have moved away for a little while,” Mrs. Filliben says.

If you’re considering a return to the faith, or know someone who is, Landings could be the path.

The program is being offered at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Abbottstown in morning sessions at 10 a.m. and evening sessions at 7 p.m. For more information about these sessions, contact Bernadine Filliben at 717-259-9006. Information about the international ministry can be found online at http://landingsintl.org/.

Annual Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Marian Day
Saturday, October 12
Saint Patrick Church,
85 Marsh Drive, Carlisle
9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Registration 8:30 – 9:15 a.m.
The Cumberland-Perry District Council of Catholic Women warmly invites all women of the Diocese of Harrisburg to join us as we host our celebration of Mary. Program includes Recitation of the Rosary, Marian presentation by Father Dwight Schalbine, and Mass. Cost is $10 and includes morning pastries and light lunch.
For reservations, contact your Parish CCW President or send payment to Cumberland-Perry DCWC to Mary Ann Ingram, 1386 Lowther Road, Camp Hill, PA 17011. Deadline to register is October 5. For more information, call Ann at 717-732-2190.
By Emily M. Albert  
The Catholic Witness  

As parishioners from Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Elysburg flooded through the church doors Sept. 21, escaping the downpour of rain outside, many gasped as they set eyes for the first time on the newly renovated church.

Father Alfred Sceski, pastor, celebrated the solemn Mass and, with special permission in the absence of a bishop, dedicated the new altar and church renovations. Concelebrating with him were Father William Haviland, a retired priest who is in residence at the parish, and Father Chester Snyder, a graduate of nearby Our Lady of Lourdes High School in Coal Township and former Chaplain of the Carmelite Monastery in Elysburg.

The parish was founded in 1950, and the present-day church was built in 1981 under the pastorate of the late Father Charles Slough, who served the parish for 30 years.

“There were a couple of liturgical things we needed to correct,” Father Sceski said of the need for the renovations. “One was that the baptismal font was on wheels. Now we have a permanent baptismal font. The large stained-glass window that was behind the altar was leaking. And the sanctuary itself was on five or six different levels, so we wanted to simplify the sanctuary. We wanted to update the church liturgically and also to beautify it.”

Many of the pieces used to update and change the appearance of the church were from the original church. The cantor’s stand and the candlesticks, made from wrought iron, were refurbished and added to match the new granite altar. Some of the parishioners who remembered the original church commented on the simplicity and the beauty of the old and new together.

The 800-family parish had been attending Mass directly underneath the church in the social hall during the renovation process. They moved the old altar and the wooden pieces downstairs during the three-and-a-half month renovation.

Father Sceski expressed, “This is to glorify God, to edify the people and to allow us to worship God in a beautiful setting and in a dignified manner.”
Misa Diocesana Hispánica

Margarita Elorriaga

La Misa Diocesana de la Herencia Hispánica fue un maravilloso momento para nosotros los latinos porque pudimos unirnos, sin importar de que país procedíamos, para practicar nuestra gran fe católica. Hubo muchos elementos que nos unieron el domingo 15 de septiembre: la música, los trajes típicos tradicionales, nuestras iglesias hispanas y sobre todo el Padre Pistone, quien tiene un gran corazón latino. Pero esta unión latina no ha sido fácil. El Padre Pistone nos cuenta que en los años 70s y principios de los 80s, los latinos no teníamos “una casa”. La Santa Misa se celebraba en los sótanos de las iglesias y a horas que no eran convenientes para el pueblo trabajador latino. Los latinos se sentían como extranjeros en su propia casa: La Casa de Dios. Pero, gracias a Dios y a La Santa Virgen, cuando llegó el Monseñor Joseph Daley y su secretario el Padre William H. Keeler, ellos comprendieron los problemas que el recién llegado pueblo latino tenía y empezaron a crear soluciones a esos problemas. En ese entonces la mayoría del pueblo latino provenía de Puerto Rico.

El Padre Pistone también nos dice que fue el celo apostólico del Padre Keeler que los llevó a buscar esa “casa” tan deseada por los latinos, donde pudieran profesar su fe sin sentirse extranjeros y a horas que les fueran apropiadas. En el año de 1972 la Diócesis abrió la Capilla Cristo Rey que se localizaba en medio de los campos de manzanas en Bendersville, Condado de Adams. En octubre de 1980 el Padre Keeler y el obispo Daley consagraron la Iglesia Hispana de York, Cristo Salvador, donde el Padre Pistone sirvió del año 1979 al año 1987. En esos tiempos también compraron la Iglesia en Lebanon, Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe y finalmente compraron lo que era una iglesia protestante localizada en medio del pueblo latino en Lancaster, San Juan Bautista. Durante esos años el crecimiento religioso y el ánimo latino empezaron a florecer.

Actualmente la única iglesia que permanece en su totalidad hispana es la Iglesia San Juan Bautista con Padre Wolf como su pastor. El Padre Pistone recuerda con gran alegría sus años de pastor en San Juan Bautista, a donde llegó después de que unos sacerdotes italianos que servían ahí se tuvieron que regresar a su país.

El Padre Keeler se convirtió en el séptimo obispo de Harrisburg el 10 de noviembre de 1983 y realizó la primera misa diocesana hispana durante esa década en la Catedral de San Patricio. De acuerdo al Padre Pistone, el Obispo Keeler decía: “Esta iglesia es la madre iglesia de todos los católicos del centro de Pensilvania”.

El mensaje de “en nuestra iglesia no hay extranjeros” es un mensaje que tanto el ahora Cardenal Keeler como el Padre Pistone se han empeñado en propagar. Y aunque la situación de nosotros los latinos ha mejorado considerablemente en nuestras iglesias, todavía hay mucho que hacer para que realmente seamos parte de ella. Así que, hermanos y hermanas los invito a que pongamos un granito de arena y nos involucremos en nuestra iglesia, ya sea como lectores, ministros de comunión, músicos o cualquier otro ministerio que tengan en sus iglesias. Sólo participando activamente la sentiremos completamente nuestra.
Pennsylvania Governor Thomas Corbett greets Father Robert M. Gilleslan, Diocesan Administrator, on the steps of the Capitol, where the governor addressed the Hispanic Catholic community following Mass.

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

Pennsylvania’s Republican Governor Thomas Corbett and PA’s First Lady were in attendance at the Diocesan Hispanic Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg Sept. 15. After Mass, the governor stopped to give an exclusive interview with The Catholic Witness before addressing the faithful on the steps of the Capitol after Mass.

“Obviously it’s a growing community here in Central Pennsylvania and it’s great to see their values, their faith in family, their faith in their religions…. Every wave of immigration that has come over here has improved this country,” Governor Corbett said. “There are very few of us who are natives in this country, although there might be some that are natives here today. But it only… improves us and the melting pot that we have here in this country strengthens us.

The melting pot isn’t food, it’s like steel, it’s like molten steel helping us to grow.”

“It’s hard to just say immigration because there are so many different perspectives on immigration. We can never forget that this country was built on immigration from the English and the Dutch and the Irish like myself, to the Germans like my wife, the Polish, the Chinese, the Indians and the Latino Hispanic,” the governor said.

After the Mass, Governor Corbett went to the steps of the Capitol where he addressed the Latino community directly, telling them, “Almost every Pennsylvanian is an immigrant. “And they embraced this land as their own when they arrived here.”

Nearing the end of his remarks, the governor also told those gathered on the sun-splashed steps that “we do not speak exclusively one language in this country – we speak American.”

Magdalena Mondegar joyfully responds to the celebration of faith during the Hispanic Mass.

Angela Garcia of Corpus Christi Parish in Chambersburg serves during the Diocesan Hispanic Mass celebrated Sept. 15 at St. Patrick Cathedral.
Conference Calls Teachers to Witness the Way of the Faith

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

The keynote speaker at this year’s Diocesan Education Conference offered a word of caution to Catholic school teachers: remember that someone is always watching.

“You know that your students watch everything you do. In this way, you are witnesses,” said Daniel Curtin, who serves on the Seminary Committee, Academic Affairs Committee and Rector’s Council at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md. He is also an adjunct professor at Marymount University in Arlington, Va., and is a consultant for Catholic education in the Diocese of Arlington.

The Sept. 18 gathering drew administrators and faculty—some 900 in total—from the diocese’s 41 schools to the new Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg, a new site for the conference, which had been hosted annually by Trinity High School in Camp Hill since 1971.

It began with Mr. Curtin’s presentation, which examined the role of Catholic school teachers and the influence they have on their students—topics he supported with reflections from papal quotes, Church documents, and mission statements.

He asked the educators to consider the words of Pope Paul VI in his 1975 apostolic exhortation on Evangelization in the Modern World: “Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.”

The conference gave honor to the late Bishop Joseph P. McFadden, who died on May 2 of this year. He was a champion for Catholic education and constantly reminded and lauded educators for their important work of forming students as sons and daughters of God.

He was presented posthumously with the Frederick F. Noel Distinguished Educator Award, an honor bestowed every year at the conference to recognize those who have given outstanding service to Catholic education. A montage of photos of Bishop McFadden’s interaction with school students was displayed in a slide show as part of the presentation.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Mary Anne Bednar, principal of Bishop McDevitt High School, told The Catholic Witness it was fitting that Bishop McFadden was given this honor at Bishop McDevitt High School. He gave full support to the project of building the school, which he dedicated in January.

“He loved Bishop McDevitt. He would often stop over here, meet with the coaches, the teachers, the kids,” she said. “I really believe that completing the work of this project is why God sent him to this diocese. We wouldn’t be here today if he hadn’t moved us ahead with it.”

“In the short time he was with us, he really gave us a renewed vision for Catholic education, and we hope to continue to move that vision forward,” said Father Edward J. Quinlan, Diocesan Secretary for Education, who served as the principal celebrant and homilist for Mass that day.

He told the educators that Jesus Christ is the only one who can bring complete joy to a person.

“St. Augustine said, ‘Our hearts are restless until they rest in you.’ That was true in Augustine’s time…and it is still true today about the children who are sitting before us,” Father Quinlan said. “Their hearts are restless because they were made for the Lord, and if they don’t know the Lord, if they don’t have that experience of him in their life, they will always be incomplete.”

Anthony Glusko, Theresa Ilijian and Rebecca Cole, members of the Bishop McDevitt High School Choir, performed rousing liturgical selections prior to the start of Mass.

Keynote speaker Daniel Curtin addresses educators on their call to be “Authentic Disciples of the Catholic Faith.” The conference opened with Mr. Curtin’s presentation, and also included a wealth of afternoon workshops on a variety of topics, including critical thinking, social media and its use, educational technology trends, marketing, school finances and Catholic school identity.

Father Edward J. Quinlan, Diocesan Secretary of Education, presents Holy Communion to Sister Patricia Loughrey, librarian and library sciences teacher at Sacred Heart School in Conewago. Sister Patricia was recognized at the conference for her 50 years of service to Catholic schools.

Education Conference Honorees

Frederick F. Noel Distinguished Educator
Bishop Joseph P. McFadden

Mgr. George V. Lentocha Mission Award
Holy Name of Jesus School, Harrisburg

20-Year Educators
Sister Patricia Loughrey (50 Years) Sacred Heart, Conewago
Paul Shermeyer, Holy Name of Jesus, Harrisburg
Pamela Ashton Ferri, St. Catherine Laboure, Harrisburg
Mary Major, Our Lady of Lourdes Regional, Coal Township
Carol Andreoli, St. Theresa, New Cumberland
Deborah Kripkowick, Trinity High School, Camp Hill
Amy Clarkson, York Catholic High School
Matthew Euclide, York Catholic High School
Joanne Birker, St. Joseph, Mechanicsburg
In New Holland, Parishioners Toil for Harvest in Our Lady’s Garden

By Emily M. Albert
The Catholic Witness

Sometimes a person can get so obsessed with details that they never actually begin the project they envisioned. Dr. Kathleen Kreider, who started the Our Lady’s garden at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in New Holland, is completely opposite. “Like Nike tells us, ‘Just do it,’” she said.

That is exactly what she and her husband Patrick Naimoli did. Both share a seat on the parish pastoral council at Our Lady of Lourdes, where Father Pang Tchen serves as pastor, and proposed the idea of a garden using just some of the near 15 acres of land owned by the parish. The concept sprouted from Dr. Kreider, a family physician in the Lancaster area, when some of her patients expressed how hard it was for them to eat healthy while being clients of the New Holland Area Food Bank. Of course they are appreciative of the food provided, but they recognized the fact that there are few choices for fresh produce.

“We are called the garden spot of Pennsylvania, and we should be able to provide fresh produce in the summer,” Dr. Kreider said.

The project started during the spring of 2012, and this year was their second successful summer. Ms. Kreider and Mr. Naimoli have any farming or gardening training. “It was a leap of faith,” they said. They hope to continue the project for at least another year, and it could grow if they get more volunteers.

They had to find time and ways to keep up with the watering, because they do not have a water system like some of the other gardens in the county. It’s a challenge, but they are happy they have rain water. “It is a great way to simplify life, to slow down. We have to have faith, and if it is meant to be, it will happen,” she said.

“Dr. Kreider and Mr. Naimoli jumped into their ministry feet first and have been able to provide healthy alternatives to the parishioners and their community. Dr. Kreider believes this is a great stress relief and a perfect source of exercise. “So many people spend money on a gym membership; just come out and dig in the dirt with us.”

Part of the harvest is laid in the grotto in front of the parish so that parishioners can collect produce for their week’s meals. Dr. Kreider and Mr. Naimoli decided to leave a donation jar there; they don’t price the produce but know some people are overpaying for their produce out of generosity. They also realize they have people right there in their parish who are going through a difficult time and they are happy the food is going to them. The remaining harvest goes to the New Holland Area Food Bank to be distributed.

The garden has been a growing endeavor and has also provided training. “It was a leap of faith,” they said. They hope to continue the project for at least another year, and it could grow if they get more volunteers.

Some parishioners are happy to can the produce for sauces or future use. The garden has been able to provide healthy alternatives for parishioners to enjoy. Monies that parishioners give as a donation – as well as the produce not taken – are given to the New Holland Area Food Bank.

During times of harvest, the grotto at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in New Holland is filled with fruits and vegetables for parishioners to enjoy. Monies that parishioners give as a donation – as well as the produce not taken – are given to the New Holland Area Food Bank.

Gene Skulrak, Patrick Naimoli and Dr. Kathleen Kreider show some of the produce harvested from Our Lady’s Garden in September.

EMILY M. ALBERT, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS
Follow the garden’s progress online at www.ourladyoflourdes.org.
Idaho Lawmaker Introduces Marriage and Religious Freedom Act in House

Catholic News Service

A bill introduced in the U.S. House to keep the federal government from discriminating against churches, religious groups and businesses that uphold marriage as being between one man and one woman is “of fundamental importance,” two U.S. Catholic bishops said Sept. 27.


Dozens of lawmakers have co-sponsored the measure, including Reps. Chris Smith, R-N.J., Steve Scalise, R-La., Mike McIntyre, D-N.C., Diane Black, R-Tenn., Dan Lipinski, D-Ill., and Ann Wagner, R-Mo.

San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage, called the measure significant, noting that individuals and organizations that uphold traditional marriage are increasingly being targeted for discrimination by state governments — this must not spread to the federal government.

An example of discrimination at the state level cited in background materials released by the U.S. bishops’ conference pointed to a New Mexico Supreme Court ruling that said a husband and wife who own and operate a photography studio “must act against their religious beliefs” and take photographs of a same-sex commitment ceremony, “if they want to do business in the state.”

Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, also expressed strong support for the Marriage and Religious Freedom Act.

“In a growing climate of intolerance against individuals and organizations who believe that marriage is the union of one man and one woman, this act is an important step in preserving their religious liberties at the federal level,” he said.

The archbishop said that among other protections, the bill would prevent the U.S. government from denying individuals and organizations a grant, contract or employment “because their belief that marriage is the union of one man and one woman is informed by their religious faith.”

Labrador said in a statement that “regardless of your ideology, we can all agree about the importance of religious liberty in America.”

“Our bill will protect freedom of conscience for those who believe marriage is the union of one man and one woman,” he said. “This is not a Republican or Democrat issue. As President [Barack] Obama said, ‘Americans hold a wide range of views’ on marriage and ‘maintaining our nation’s commitment to religious freedom’ is ‘vital. We agree.’”

The USCCB said the Marriage and Religious Freedom Act “would protect a wide array of persons, including individuals and organizations — both for-profits and nonprofits — regardless of whether or not they are religiously affiliated ... Business owners as well as churches would be protected.”

Cardinal Says USCCB Continues Legal, Moral Analysis of HHS Mandate

In a Sept. 17 letter to U.S. bishops, New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan said the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops continues to study the legal and moral implications of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ contraceptive mandate in the Affordable Care Act.

The USCCB also continues to “develop avenues of response that would both preserve our strong unity and protect our consciences,” he said.

The letter from Cardinal Dolan, president of the USCCB, was a follow-up from the bishops’ Sept. 10-11 Administrative Committee meeting where they discussed the HHS mandate, among other topics.

The HHS contraceptive mandate, part of the Affordable Care Act, will require most employers, including religious employers, to provide coverage of contraceptives, sterilization and some abortion-inducing drugs free of charge, even if the employer is morally opposed to such services. It includes an exemption for some religious employers that fit its criteria.

The bishops’ “efforts are proceeding apace, and, as you know, include a careful legal and moral analysis of the final rule,” Cardinal Dolan wrote. He said further discussion will take place at the bishops’ fall general meeting Nov. 11-14 in Baltimore.

“We are united in our resolve to continue to defend our right to live by our faith, and our duty to serve the poor, heal the sick, keep our apostolates strong and faithful, and insure our people,” he wrote.

In the final HHS rule on the mandate, an accommodation of religious ministries that do not fit the exemption, contraceptive coverage for those accommodated religious organizations with health insurance plans is to be provided separately through health insurance companies or third-party administrators who must ensure that payments for contraceptive services come from outside the operating organization’s premiums.

For self-insuring institutions, a third-party administrator would provide or arrange the services, paid for through reductions in federally facilitated-exchange user fees associated with their health insurance provider.

The mandate does not include a conscience clause for employers who object to such coverage on moral grounds.

The contraceptive mandate was initially slated to go into effect Aug. 1, but the HHS final rule issued this summer moved the date of implementation to Jan. 1. Starting Oct. 1, people can begin selecting and apply for health insurance coverage choices.

In his letter to the bishops, Cardinal Dolan emphasized that the USCCB Administrative Committee was unanimous in its resolve to continue its struggle with the HHS mandate and he likewise voiced concern regarding the Catholic Health Association’s “hurried acceptance of the accommodation” which he called “untimely and unbelievable.”

“We highly value CHA’s great expertise in their ministry of healing,” Cardinal Dolan said, “but as they have been the first to say, they do not represent the magisterium of the Church.”

He said the final rule issued June 28 has “the same three basic problems” found in the original rule issued in February: a narrow definition of “religious employer” that “reduces religious freedom to the freedom of worship by dividing our community between houses of worship and ministries of service”; second-class treatment of such ministries through a “so-called ‘accommodation’”; and a “failure to offer any relief to for-profit businesses run by so many of our faithful in the pew.”

He stressed that the Catholic Church has long been a leader in providing affordable health care. “The bishops on a national level have been at it for almost 100 years, and our heroic women and men religious have done so ever longer.”

But now, he pointed out, “instead of spending our time, energy, and treasure on increasing access to health care, as we have done for many decades, we’re now forced to spend those resources on determining how to respond to recently enacted government regulations that restrict and burden our religious freedom.”

Cardinal Dolan said that “while much remains uncertain,” the USCCB is continuing its efforts in Congress and in the courts particularly since the mandate “lessens the ability of our ministries to provide full-throated witness to our faith, a central mission of all Catholic apostolates.”

“As I’ve said before, this is a fight that we didn’t ask for, and would rather not be in, but it’s certainly one that we won’t run from,” the cardinal wrote.

Catholic Charities’ ‘Come and See’ Dinner

Tuesday, November 26
Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg
Back By Popular Demand – Father Leo Patalinghug

The event will begin with a reception and silent auction at 5 p.m., followed by a demonstration at 6 p.m., and dinner at 7 p.m. Father Leo, featured at last year’s Come and See Dinner, is the author of Grace Before Meals: Recipes for Family Life.

Proceeds benefit Catholic Charities’ “Homes for Healing.” For information and reservations, contact Christine O’Reilly, Development Director for Catholic Charities, at 717-657-4804 or coreilly@catholiccharities.org.
An evening of prayer in honor of St. Therese, The Little Flower, will be celebrated at 4 p.m. in the parish center. Fashions Presented by HEAD to TOE will be included in the day’s sales to the school. Download a voucher at www.lebanoncatholic.org or call Mary Ridder at 717-926-7081.

The Outreach Ministry of St. Benedict the Abbot Parish in Lebanon will host dancing to the Oldies at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Council of Catholic Women. The BenEDiction of the Blessed Sacrament will take place at Christ the King Parish in Sunbury at 10:30 a.m. For more information, contact Chuck Stoner at 717-432-5415.

The McDevitt Wrestling Club will take place at Bishop McDevitt High School. The seminar will be held on Friday, Oct. 4. This evening seminar will be held in the school gym from 6:30-8 p.m. Tickets are $10, and will be sold at the door.

The Outreach Ministry of St. Benedict the Abbot Parish will host its Fall Fashion Fling Oct. 12 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. in the parish center. Fashions Presented by TOE to HEAD will be included in the day’s sales to the school. Download a voucher at www.lebanoncatholic.org or call Mary Ridder at 717-926-7081.

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

**ABBOTTSTOWN** – Immaculate Heart of Mary: Paul McGinty, Judy Misiti, Lawrence Raville.

**BERWICK** – Immaculate Conception: James Albertson, Robert Christopher, Jennie Mullins; St. Joseph: Erma Boschetto.

**BLUE RIDGE SUMMIT** – St. Rita: Marge Rossiter.

**CAMP HILL** – Good Shepherd: Clara N. Kasper, Karen L. Melvin, Joseph P. Moore, Rodolfo Raymundo.

**COLUMBIA** – Holy Trinity: James Lutz.

**CONEWAGO** – Sacred Heart of Jesus: Amy R. Miller.

**CONWAY** – St. Joseph: Mary Conway, Olympia Zelinski.

**FAIRFIELD** – Immaculate Conception: Gladys Ford, Thomas Steinberger.

**GETTYSBURG** – St. Francis Xavier: Elena Strini.

**HARRISBURG** – Our Lady of the Sacred Sacrament: Mary Margaret Gehlser, Martha Orsini, June Sullivan; St. Catherine Laboure: Lawrence (Larry) Bekelja.

**HERSHEY** – St. Joan of Arc: Charles Covage, Bernie Narren.

**HARRISBURG** – Grace of Ars: Elmer E. “Herk” Busler, Alexander Thomas Small.

**LYKENS** – Our Lady Queen of Peace: Gary F. Davis.

**MECHANICSBURG** – St. Catherine of Siena: Edwin Rordencher.

**MCFIERSH** – St. Leo: Carol Selman.


**WAYNESBORO** – St. Andrew: Julian “Julie” Engel.

**YORK** – St. Rose of Lima: Amelia DiBerardo, Donald Spinelli, Beatrice Zett.

**Sister Marie Fidelis Delaney**
Christian Charity Sister Marie Fidelis Delaney died Sept. 5 at Holy Family Convent in Danville. She was 77.

Born Eileen Delaney in Indianapolis, she received the holy habit of the Congregation of the Sisters of Christian Charity in 1954. She earned a bachelor of science degree from Seton Hall University in 1972.

Much of her religious life was dedicated to education ministry, teaching in schools in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Florida and North Carolina. In 1999, she was transferred to Holy Spirit Hospital in Camp Hill for work as a receptionist for Information Services. Sister Marie Fidelis moved to Holy Family Convent in June of this year for recuperation following several illnesses.

The funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 9 in the convent chapel. Burial was at St. Hubert Cemetery in Danville.

**REMEMBER OUR DECEASED CLERGY**

**Annual Diocesan Catechetical Conference**

**“Wonderful Indeed is the Mystery of our Faith”**

November 9 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg

Keynote Speaker: Father Frederick L. Miller, Chairman of the Department of Systematic Theology at Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md. Father Miller is the author of two books for catechists and to EWTN. He is also known for his series on the Spirituality of St. Francis de Sales and on the Priesthood of Jesus Christ. His latest book, published by Ignatius Press, is entitled, *The Grace of Angels.*

Schedule includes:
- Celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
- Keynote Address
- 30+ workshops over four, one-hour sessions
- 1-2-3 catechetical vendors
- Closing prayer

Cost is $30 per person and includes lunch. Registration materials will be made available to parishes and schools online at www.hbgdiocese.org. For further information, contact Jim Gontis, Diocesan Director of Religious Education, at 717-657-4804, x 22, or jgontis@hbgdiocese.org.

**St. Joseph’s in York to Host Parish Life Technology Conference**

Come “talk tech” at the Parish Life Technology Conference to be held at St. Joseph Parish, 2935 Kingston Road in York on Oct. 14 from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. The keynote address will be given by Sean O’Hare on the theme of “The Power of Technology.”

Workshops will be given by experts in various technological and pastoral fields on topics of best practices for church office databases, technology use in youth and religious education programs, helpful resources for parents and other ministers, tips and suggestions for creating a powerful parish website, and a workshop on leading technological growth without having to be a certified “expert” yourself. Religious and technical vendors will be available. Cost is $40 including lunch and refreshments. Registration deadline is Oct. 1. Additional information and registration can be found at www.parasilifetech.com.

**York Catholic High School Offers Informational Programs for Parents**

York Catholic High School is offering a series of informational programs designed to assist parents with new or unfamiliar topics involving their children. Sessions offer the opportunity for questions and answers at the conclusion. All sessions take place at York Catholic High School. The public is invited to attend. The schedule is as follows:

“I Got Your Back” will be presented Oct. 2 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Parents can discover how to identify if a child is a bully or is a victim of bullying and learn how to help the child navigate through the social challenges bullying presents. This program is presented by the Susan P. Byrnes Health Education Center and is made possible by a generous donation by Randy & Susan Byrnes. No registration necessary.

“The College Admissions Process” will be presented Nov. 7 from 6:30-8 p.m. Parents and students can learn about the required college application items including writing essays, acquiring transcripts, and requesting recommendation letters. A time line will be reviewed to help parents and students prepare for the college admissions process. Presented by York Catholic High School and Widener University. Register by calling 717-846-8871 x43.

“College Financial Aid” will be presented Dec. 12 from 6:30-8 p.m. Learn about all aspects of financial aid, including state and federal grants, loans, work-study and scholarships. Parents and students who have not yet had the experience of completing the state and federal financial aid forms will find the information extremely valuable. Presented by the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency. Register by calling 717-846-8871 x43.

“Drugs 101” will be presented Jan. 22 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Parents can discover new teen trends and everyday items to use to support a drug habit. Find out the warning signs before your child develops a problem. Presented by the Susan P. Byrnes Health Education Center and made possible through a generous donation by Randy & Susan Byrnes. No registration necessary.

“Girls 2 Dollars” will be presented March 18 from 6:30-8 p.m. Parents and students learn about the dangers of texting and driving and what can be done to help encourage safe driving. Presented by the Susan P. Byrnes Health Education Center and made possible through a generous donation by Randy & Susan Byrnes. No registration necessary.

**Holy Spirit Hosts “Girls’ Night Out – A Unique Health and Wellness Fair”**

Holy Spirit Health System is hosting its annual “Girls’ Night Out” Oct. 11 from 6-9 p.m. at the Best Western Premier Hotel and Conference Center, 800 East Park Drive, Harrisburg. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m.

Girls’ Night Out brings women together for fun, inspiration and health education. The evening features live music, door prizes, giveaways, and entertainment. Admission includes dinner, snacks, beverages, and silent auction to benefit the Girl Scouts of Western Pennsylvania. All proceeds will benefit the Girls’ Night Out scholarship fund.

Other vendors will offer unique gift ideas for the upcoming holiday season. Sev-

**National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton to Host Pilgrimage for the Sea Services**

The National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg, Md., will host its annual Pilgrimage for the Sea Services Oct. 6 at 3 p.m. Members of the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine, and the United States Public Health Service, along with family members and friends, will gather at the Basilica. The event honors St. Elizabeth Ann Seton as Patroness of the Sea Services and ask for her intercession for all the men and women serving in the Sea Services.

The Naval Academy Catholic Midshipmen Choir will provide music at the Mass, which will be celebrated by Msgr. Stuart Swelteland, S.T.D., a 1981 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and the current Archbishop Harry J. Flynn Choir for Christian Ethics at Mount St. Mary’s University. The Military Ceremonial Honor Guard from Washington, D.C., will present flags with an Honor Guard from the Knights of Columbus.

For more information, call 301-447-6606 or visit www.setonheritage.org.

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

With admiration and big smiles all around, the lifelong soccer fan Pope Francis met the star players and coaches of the Argentine and Italian national soccer teams hoping to compete in the World Cup in 2014. The teams were led to the Clementine Hall in the Apostolic Palace last month by Argentine captain Lionel Messi, a forward currently playing for FC Barcelona, and Italian captain Gianluigi Buffon, a goalie currently playing for Juventus FC.

The two teams were in Rome to play a “friendly” match in the pope’s honor.

In a brief speech to the players, coaches and referees, Pope Francis encouraged everyone involved with professional soccer to maintain the spirit and passion of it being a game, a team sport.

“Even if the team wins” the game, he said, “without beauty, graciousness and team work, both the team and the fans lose.”

“Before being champions, you are men, human beings with your talents and your defects, heart and ideas, aspirations and problems,” Pope Francis said. “Even if you are stars, remain men both in your sport and in your life.”

He asked the players to take responsibility for the fact that for millions of people, young and old, they are heroes and role models.

“Be aware of this and set an example of loyalty, respect and altruism,” he said. “I have confidence in all the good you can do among the young.”

Natural rivals in many sports, the Shamrocks of Trinity High and the Crusaders of Bishop McDevitt compete in the Mid-Penn Colonial Division in several sports including tennis. In the 18-year coaching career of McDevitt’s Diane Rabold, the Crusaders have not been able to capture that elusive division crown though each year they post successful winning seasons. It’s usually the Shamrocks who have stood in their way of winning the Colonial Division, and this season was no exception as the Crusaders lost to Trinity (4-1) on Sept. 17 at McDevitt’s new tennis complex.

Both teams are nursing injuries to key players as they prepare for the Mid-Penn Conference championship in early October followed by District III competition a week later.

Pope Asks Players to be Real Role Models

The soccer season has reached mid-season as the leaves begin to fall. In a non-league tilt pitting two diocesan schools, the fighting Irish of York Catholic and the Shamrocks of Trinity, the Shamrocks fell behind by a goal before scoring five unanswered goals to best the Irish 5-1. David Bricker netted two goals for the winning Shamrocks.

Several other diocesan squads – boys and girls – are having solid seasons. The Trinity girls have an unblemished record of 9-0 in the Mid-Penn Capitol league.

Pope Francis challenged the players to set an example of loyalty, respect and altruism. "I have confidence in all the good you can do among the young.”

Trinity’s Brett Becker battles York Catholic’s Brian Riley for control during the Shamrocks’ 5-1 victory over the Irish.
Animals Connect Parishioners to Stewardship of Creation

By Jen Reed

The Catholic Witness

Can canines deliver a message on stewardship? Joined by rabbits, cats and even a pony, they offered lessons on care for God’s creation at St. Joseph Parish in Hanover on a bright and sunny Sept. 22.

The parish hosted a pet adoption, blessing of the animals and cutest pet contest as part of a Stewardship of Creation event to illustrate the care and responsibility we are called to show for the gifts God has given.

Stewardship is a way of life, a recognition that everything that we have is a gift from God, and that we are called to use and share those gifts for our own good and for the good of others.

St. Joseph Parish delved deep into a stewardship initiative in 2010 under the guidance and urging of Father Joseph Gotwalt, who was then pastor of the York County parish. The parish developed its Servant Joy program with the goal of encouraging more parishioners to use their gifts of time, talent and treasure to benefit the parish and the community.

The first year of the initiative focused on stewardship of time and talent. The parish hosted a ministries fair and urged parishioners to consider where they would like to get involved, or to offer suggestions for new endeavors.

Mary Ann Williams, coordinator of the parish’s stewardship program, commented on its success. “That first year, we had more than 250 people commit themselves to become active in the parish, or to increase their activity in the parish,” she said. “And, our parish ministries have increased from 40 to almost 60.”

The second year of the initiative focused on stewardship of treasure, as the parish asked parishioners to examine their finances and discern whether they could increase their contributions. That too proved successful, as St. Joseph’s saw an increase in giving.

This year, St. Joseph’s looked to stewardship of God’s creation, and invited parishioners to bring their pets to the parish grounds for a blessing of the animals and a cutest pet contest. As part of the gathering, Operation Paws for Homes held a pet adoption event. By the conclusion of the afternoon, one animal was adopted and two were in the process of being placed with a family.

In the first three years of its Servant Joy initiative, St. Joseph Parish has witnessed much growth in stewardship, from an increase in parishioner participation and obligatory contributions to new social opportunities, prayer initiatives and parish communications.

St. Joseph’s, now under the pastorate of Msgr. James Lyons, has approximately 2,500 registered families. “The whole atmosphere of the parish has improved,” Mrs. Williams said. “People know each other and are friendly with one another, and we’ve really seen better connectivity among those who are involved in the parish.”

“I hope that those who have become active in the parish will stay active members, and that our new ministries will draw others to join us and return to the parish,” she said.


Inset, above: Members of St. Joseph Parish in Hanover gather with their pets for a blessing of the animals led by Msgr. James Lyons, pastor, far left, and Father Stephen Kelley, parochial vicar, middle.