Pope Francis Highlights Sanctity of Life in Year of Mercy Visits

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

Pope Francis donned a green hospital gown over his white cassock and entered the neonatal unit of a Rome hospital, peering in the incubators, making the sign of the cross and encouraging worried parents.

The trip to the babies’ ward of Rome’s San Giovanni Hospital and then to a hospice Sept. 16 were part of a series of Mercy Friday activities Pope Francis has been doing once a month during the Year of Mercy.

By visiting the ailing newborns and the dying on the same day, the Vatican said, Pope Francis “wanted to give a strong sign of the importance of life from its first moment to its natural end.”

“Welcoming life and guaranteeing its dignity at every moment of its development is a teaching Pope Francis has underlined many times,” the statement said. With the September visits he wanted to put “a concrete and tangible seal” on his teaching that living a life of mercy means giving special attention to those in the most precarious situations.

During the Mercy Friday visits, Pope Francis has spent time with migrants, the aged, at a recovery community for former drug addicts and at a shelter for women rescued from human trafficking and prostitution.

Pope Francis stopped by the emergency room of San Giovanni Hospital before going to the neonatal unit.

Photojournalist of Mother Teresa Compares Catholic Charities’ Compassion to That of Newest Saint

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

The care and compassion shown at Catholic Charities’ Homes for Healing brought the keynote speaker at this year’s Come and See dinner to tears, as she compared the work of the programs to that of her long-time friend, St. Teresa of Calcutta.

Linda Schaefer, the last photojournalist to be given permission by Mother Teresa to photograph the work of the Missionaries of Charity, had toured Lourdeshouse Maternity Home, Evergreen House for women recovering from addiction, and the Interfaith Shelter for Homeless Families in Harrisburg earlier in the day before the Sept. 21 benefit dinner, where she took the podium as the featured speaker.

When she attempted to speak about the love and mercy shown especially to women and children in the Homes for Healing, she began to cry.

“I see these beautiful women and their babies being taken care of at Lourdeshouse…” she trailed off, choking back tears.

“It’s important for a woman to be safe,” said Ms. Schaefer. “This brings out a lot of tears for me because Mother Teresa made me feel safe. You know, when you have a saint in your heart, and you’re sitting next to her and she makes you feel safe – that’s how she made me feel, because I didn’t always feel safe in my life.”

“When I go now and see how women are being taken care of, it’s so important to feel safe and feel that they have a future, to feel that...
Lancaster Catholic High School First in Region to Implement Active Shooter Drill

By Emily M. Albert
The Catholic Witness

Pedestrians and local traffic might have had a quick scare upon driving or walking past Lancaster Catholic High School on September 16. The school grounds looked like a scene out of a movie, with cops and emergency vehicles on every corner, and students evacuating – their hands in the air as they ran to safety at the school’s football field.

It was a scene reminiscent of the horrors of school shootings in recent months and years. Fortunately, this scene included a large traffic sign, blinking the caution that an active intruder drill was in progress.

The full-scale drill tested the plans and procedures of emergency responders and law enforcement officials in dealing with the aftermath of such an event, responding to simulated injuries and communicating with different agencies to respond cohesively during a crisis. It also tested the school’s emergency plans for lockdown and evacuation of the high school, as well as its reunification plans.

Lancaster Catholic planned a drill after senior student Sara Kashatus, whose mother is a paramedic and works in emergency management, had the thought after one of last year’s mass shootings that her school should be better prepared.

“It benefits everyone, really, for any place you go – the mall, the movies, the airport, a train station,” Sara said of the drill. “This kind of training is helpful everywhere.”

She said she hopes that what students take away from the drill is “the realization this can happen anywhere and to be prepared, be aware of everything and know what to do in case of an emergency.”

The drill simulated an armed intruder as the sounds of gun shots rang through the school on an otherwise normal morning. Partnered with Manheim Township Emergency Services, the South Central Task Force, and about a dozen county, state and national law enforcement agencies and emergency responders, the drill began with Lancaster Catholic Principal, Terry Klugh, alerting the school via intercom of an intruder.

Gun shots then emanated from the lobby. In that moment, the students and faculty had to make a decision: was it safer to run to an exit or lockdown and hide? Students were encouraged to text or call 911 during the drill, a planned procedure that had never been done before in the country, according to Lancaster Catholic’s Public Relations and Marketing Director, Kevin Carver.

“Actors” were selected before the drill to represent the wounded and dead. Some were made up with fake injuries, while others were identified with tags as being deceased. Students and faculty who made the decision to evacuate followed instructions to run from the school with their arms up and proceed to Rossmere Stadium where they reunited. There, school counselors were available to talk about the intense drill, and students were also met by crisis response canines provided by the task force. Classrooms that had elected to lockdown remained in place until emergency services located them in the building.

Using a mobile app that would also be used in a real-life situation, faculty could check on their students, accounting for those who made it out of the building and those who were still missing.

Once rescue teams announced that all students were accounted for, they were brought back to the school. English teacher Kelsi Chuprinski, in an interview with The Catholic Witness, recounted that her class had heard the gunshots from below, and when needed to make the decision to run or hide, she and her students elected to escape.

She said she believes drills like these are important because, “you have to know your plan. When your adrenaline is pumping, you have to know how to react; you don’t want to be standing in fear.”

“We do fire drills, but they are easy – you just get out – but for this drill, you don’t know where to get out, you don’t know what to do. There are different options, and you have to practice,” she said.

The South Central Task Force (SCTF), along with local response agencies, have worked with Lancaster Catholic High School for more than eight months to prepare for the active intruder drill.

“The school has really put everything into this preparedness exercise,” said Ann Harach, the lead planner for the SCTF. “They have already made a lot of changes to assist them for a disaster, no matter what the disaster,” she said, explaining that the drill helped the school test their policies and procedures.

At press time, Lancaster Catholic was anticipating a debriefing meeting to talk about the experience.

“Although school shootings are a low-frequency occurrence, they have devastating consequences,” said Adrienne Howe, Lancaster Catholic’s Assistant Principal. “This drill will help us to test our plans and procedures for responding to such a crisis in a safe, non-threatening environment, and prepare our students and employees for how to respond during an emergency.”
Inaugural Facilities Risk Management Safety Conference Promotes Stewardship

By Jen Reed  
The Catholic Witness

The conference, hosted by the Diocesan Department of Buildings and Properties, was designed to offer attendees information regarding the operation of their facilities through presentations and discussion led by local experts. The agenda began with opening prayer led by Bishop Ronald Gainer, followed by remarks from Terry Conner, Director of the Department of Buildings and Properties, and Mike Ogden, Diocesan Director of Risk Management and Safety.

Presentations included the Trane Building Advantage program; insurance, by The Graham Company; risk management, from Catholic Mutual; asbestos, by Generations Environmental Consulting; the benefits of energy consortium, by Direct Energy; LED lighting, by Graybar; and liquor law clarification, by the Pennsylvania State Police Bureau of Liquor Enforcement.

“The first annual Facilities Risk Management Safety Conference was held to provide a platform for staff, colleagues and vendors to collaborate on initiatives to better serve the diocesan community with a support service for the safe and efficient operation and maintenance of all physical facilities,” Mr. Conner told The Catholic Witness.

The Diocesan Department for Buildings and Properties is responsible for advising parishes and schools regarding construction, renovations and maintenance; management of the shared-maintenance program; real estate issues; and the operation and maintenance of the Diocesan Center, the Cardinal Keeler Center, and the Priests’ Retirement Residence.

The Diocesan Department of Buildings and Properties is a support service, and as such offers numerous ways to assist all diocesan entities via its Shared Maintenance Program, Procurement Office and safety/risk management expertise. For information and assistance, contact:

Director of Buildings and Properties, Terry Conner 717-657-4804, ext. 358, or tconner@hbgdiocese.org

Procurement Agent, Patrick Kielwein 717-657-4804, ext. 384, or pkielwein@hbgdiocese.org

Director of Safety/Risk Management, Mike Ogden 717-657-4804, ext. 388, or mogden@hbgdiocese.org

Facilities and maintenance personnel from parishes, schools, Catholic Charities and cemeteries in the diocese found the tools they need to develop a responsive support service for the safe and efficient operation and maintenance of their facilities at the diocese’s inaugural Facilities Maintenance Risk Management Safety Conference, held Sept. 13 at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg.

By Jen Reed  
The Catholic Witness

Diocese of Harrisburg
Youth Protection Program

To report suspected abuse of a minor, call the toll-free PA Child Abuse Hotline at: 1-800-932-0313.

To report suspected abuse of a minor by a church official, employee or volunteer, also please call the diocesan toll free hotline at: 1-800-626-1608 or email: ReportAbuse@hbgdiocese.org

For more information, visit www.HbgDiocese.org/protect

Annual Red Mass

October 3 at 5:30 p.m.  
St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg

Most Rev. Ronald Gainer, D.D., J.C.L.,  
Bishop of Harrisburg, Celebrant

Rev. David Link, J.D., L.L.D., D.Litt., D.Sc.,  
a former dean of the Notre Dame Law School, homilist

At the Red Mass, lawyers, judges, lawmakers, and public officials gather together to pray for God’s wisdom and guidance in their pursuit of justice. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. For additional information, please visit www.saintthomasmoresociety.com.

“Our Catholic Faith and the Death Penalty”  
A Seminar for Respect Life Month

October 25, from 7-8:30 p.m.  
Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg

The seminar will provide an overview of the many considerations related to this important issue. Join discussion on how our faith and Catholic social teaching informs us of the need to balance punishment, respect for human life, and the call for justice.

Scheduled Speakers:

Sean McCormack, Esq., Dauphin County Chief Deputy District Attorney

Father Paul C.B. Schenck, Director of the Diocesan Office of Respect Life Activities

Francis Viglietta, Director of the Social Concerns Department of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference

The event is being offered free of charge. RSVP online at www.hbgdiocese.org. For more information, contact Pete Biasucci at 717-657-4804, ext. 285. The seminar is sponsored by the Diocesan Commission on Catholic Social Doctrine and the Diocesan Office of Respect Life Activities.

BISHOP GAINER’S  
PUBLIC CALENDAR

- October 6 – Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Andrew Church, Waynesboro, 7 p.m.
- October 8 – Celebrant, Mass for the Grand Uegy, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 9 a.m.; Celebrant, Mass for Get Connected Young Adult Event, St. Leo the Great Church, Rohrerstown, 4:30 p.m.
- October 9-14 – Priest Continuing Formation Workshop, Hunt Valley, Md.
- October 15 – Celebrant, Mass for the Diocesan Women’s Conference, 2:45 p.m.
- October 16 – Sacrament of Confirmation, Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Lewisburg, during Sunday Masses.

- October 1 – Celebrant, Holy Name Society Mass, Holy Trinity Church, Columbia, 5 p.m.
- October 2 – Celebrant, 90th Anniversary Mass of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Queen of Peace #1023, St. Philip the Apostle Church, Millersville, 11:30 a.m.
- October 3 – Celebrant, Diocesan Red Mass, St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg, 5:30 p.m.
- October 4 – Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Joan of Arc Church, Hershey, 7 p.m.

EMILY M. ALBERT, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS
Fishers of Men Dinner
To benefit the Seminarians of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg
Friday, October 21, 2016, 6:00 p.m.
at the Cardinal Keeler Center
4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg
Cost is $55 per plate
$50 per plate of six or $1,000 per table of eight.
Sponsored by the Office of Vocations
(717) 667-4804, ext. 282
Visit our website at www.hbgdiocese.org/fishermens for more information or to register.

Attention Catholic Boy Scouts and Scouters!
The Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting is going to summer camp next year, and invites you to come along!

July 23-29, 2017 • Camp Tuckahoe • Dillsburg, PA
This week will include all of the traditional Scouting events and advancement opportunities and is open to Scouts of all faiths. Details about the Catholic activities we’ll offer and the registration process are now available on the DCCS website, available under the Youth tab of the diocesan website, http://www.hbgdiocese.org. You may contact Patrick McCormack via e-mail at patrick.a.mccormack@gmail.com for more information.

Plan now to join us for what promises to be an exciting and faith-affirming week in the woods!

Sign Up to Receive The Witness Electronically
You can read The Catholic Witness online, wherever you go! Through a free e-mail service, you can receive the diocesan newspaper in a fast and user-friendly electronic format. Sign up, and you will receive an e-mail with a direct link to each edition as it is published.

Sign up for the e-mail service by logging on to the diocesan Web site at www.hbgdiocese.org. Follow the News/Events tab to The Catholic Witness page and click on “The Catholic Witness E-mail Sign Up.” Once you complete the form, you will be added to our e-mail list.
Receiving The Catholic Witness electronically is a great way for college students and people who live outside of the diocese to stay in touch with the Church in Harrisburg. It’s also an alternative for those who wish to read the paper online instead of receiving a copy in the mail.
Registration with the e-mail service will not automatically cancel your mailed subscription. If you prefer to receive the online version instead of a copy in the mail, contact our Circulation Coordinator, Susan Huntsberger, at shuntsberger@hbgdiocese.org or 717-457-4804, ext. 201, with your Witness account number, and your name, address and phone number.
And remember, previous editions of the newspaper – dating back to early 2011 – are also available online. You can find them at www.hbgdiocese.org. Just follow the News/Events tab to The Catholic Witness page.

The Catholic Witness
OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG
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The Catholic Witness (ISSN 0008-8447, USPS 557 120) is published biweekly by the Harrisburg Catholic Publishing Association, 4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, PA. 17111-3701. Periodical postage paid at Harrisburg, PA.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Catholic Witness, 4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111-3701.

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Yearly Subscriptions: $8.15 per family, derived from diocesan revenues from the parishes. Other subscriptions: $12.00

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Spiritual Hunger
By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
Special to The Witness
Recently, one of the Sisters with whom I live found that a mourning dove had fashioned a nest in her window sill between the interior window and the screen. One day I was briefly outdoors and glanced up to see the nest. The nest was made of only a handful of twigs and a few feathers. The simplicity of the nest allowed an unimpeded vantage point to the development of the sole chick. I was often amused to watch the baby stretch its neck out for the offering of food. I watched as its parent provided that “mom and dad” took turns providing food for the chick, since they were both present on and off. The tiny life was always hungering for more. The parent’s constant attention soon provided enough nourishment for the tiny creature to grow feathers and then finally take its first flight and sit unsteadily on the telephone line too far from the sill. I truly felt sorry to see it fly off, and at the same time felt privileged to experience its growth and development.

Matthew 10:29 came to my mind: “Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.” Yes, a sparrow is not a dove, but the same application applies! It is amazing to me to realize that God not only intimately knows and looks after the baby chick, but also personally knows and looks after each and every one of us as well!

I was reminded of this as I began a series of articles on the corporal works of mercy as part of my series of notes on the works of mercy. I am excited, the hungry, the, drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, bury the dead, shelter the traveler, comfort the sick, and free the imprisoned.

As I began thinking and praying about spiritual hunger, I once again reached out to my fellow Diocesan Center employees who wait for the elevator by my office and called out to them, “What is spiritual hunger?” In answer, one of them told me that spiritual hunger is rooted in how we are made. We find it in the prayer of the Our Father, in which God saddles the spiritual hungers or desires that are a part of our very self. Sister Margary Schmidt, CSC, a blogger, notes: “Each of us has been formed for a purpose, for food sometime or another, but eating does not satisfy all our hungers. We also have spiritual hungers that need to be satisfied if we are to become mature adults.”

The following is a list of spiritual hungers that she provides on her blog. The list is hers; the reflections are mine.

Life is meaningful and has a purpose – Our society is constantly hammering that we need to buy more and more to make us feel happy. Is not the storage business all about accumulating more and more items to fulfill what we don’t have in order to find happiness? True meaning in our life is only found in relationship with God. Discovering as well as owning God’s amazing love and mercy is truly a “life-changing” experience! The fruit of this discovery is joy that bubbles out of our very being and is infectious to others.

Craving community – We are made for an experience of community; of belonging to one another. In Genesis 2:18, we read: “It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.” He created us in His image and in His likeness. If the very Trinitarian nature of God is a “community” of beings, it is not surprising that we need others to assist us to be our best. Being hungry for community – Part of our desire to belong is listening to one another. This requires not only hearing words that we speak but listening with the heart and listening in love. When we give someone our full attention, when we listen to each other, when we listen, we are “feeding” them with love. We are satisfying their spiritual hunger.

Longing to be loved and appreciated – Many, many headlines in our newspapers and the leading stories in the nightly news deal with individuals who have never experienced love and appreciation. As followers of Christ, we are called to love. I was recently approached by a three-year-old who asked me, “Wanna, know how much I love you? This much!” He said this as he spread out his arms. “Like Jesus the Cross!”

Being accepted – Acceptance is a fruit of love. When I was a classroom teacher, I often reflected with my students on the importance of accepting their fellow classmates out of respect and love of them and God. This was often difficult for their behavior, different in personality as well as culture. We would often pray for the grace to accept the differences of others by deepening our love for them. The prayers of my students so often taught me to be rooted in the circumstances of everyday life. They taught me that I should personally reflect how I brought love into the world on a daily basis. This practice I have incorporated with my daily Examination of Conscience during my night prayer.

As you can tell by these five elements, we are all baby birds hungering to be fed not only physically but spiritually as well. The Year of Mercy is about feeding not only the stomachs of others but also their hearts and souls. As we reach out to receive the Eucharist, as God feeds us His grace, we are then invited to feed others. They “chirp” at us in different ways. It is my continued prayer for you that as God receives the Eucharist, as God feeds us His grace, we are then invited to feed others. They “chirp” at us in different ways. It is my continued prayer for you that as God feeds us His grace, we are then invited to feed others.

The Catholic Witness

Sister of Christian Charity, Geralyn Schmidt, is the Wide Area Network Coordinator at the Diocese of Harrisburg and the Director of Formation for Women in the Diocesan Program. An educator for 29 years, she is responsible for Professional Development Programs for every age learner. Through her presentations, she challenges her audiences to be the individual God has called them to be.
mately a third of all food produced is discarded, and “whenever a parent, consistently reinforce to your children that you love them unconditionally and they can come to you with anything. "I have always been a touchy-feely person," Maya recalls. "Once while I was giving a speech, a woman said to me, 'You know why you are so touchy-feely? Because you have a lot of love in you."

The Diocesan Secretariat for Catholic Life and Evangelization Presents
The Bittersweet Season
Saturday, October 22, from 9 a.m.–noon
Cardinal Keeler Center, Harрисburg
Forever in Our Hearts Ministry is offering a grief workshop for families that have lost a child due to miscarriage, stillbirth, abortion, or infant death. Please join us as together we prepare for the upcoming challenging season.
Featuring Leslie Delg, Founder of Olivia’s House of Healing and bereavement specialist.
A light social and refreshments will be held following the workshop.
Register online at www.bhdglcose.org/respectlife For more information, contact Jaclyn Curran at 717-657-4804, ext. 313, or jcurran@hbgdiocese.org
There is no registration fee for this event. However, this program relies on financial contributions. Please know that a donation is not required to participate, and families that choose to contribute may do so at any amount.

An activity that is not pregnancy-related, or make other creative, welcoming spaces—indoors and outdoors—available;

Keep reaching out, and encourage her to seek support services, if needed. Maya also emphasizes the need for continued support of the birth-mother and her family after the placement. Some birth-parents grieve after the placement. It doesn’t mean the decision was wrong, but simply that the experience was life-changing. These can be very normal emotions. Be aware that this season of transition can be an extremely difficult time for both the birth-mother and her family and may lead to postpartum depression. Encourage her to seek “aftercare services” offered by adoption agencies, counseling centers, or support groups.

Every situation is different, so the manner of appropriate support will vary, but the need for continuing compassion remains the same. Help them hold on to hope. May we show others God’s love and care through faithful strengthened by prayer and lived out in love.

*Name changed to protect privacy.
‘I’m not afraid to profess my voice, sing the glory of God’

‘Life Teen’ Ministry Lifts High School Students in Living the Faith

By Emily M. Albert

The Catholic Witness

Lydia Gould, a junior at Hershey High School, has found a more spiritual outlook on life through her involvement in the Life Teen movement.

“When things happen in life and in school, I always keep some of the lessons and discussions [from Life Teen] in the back of my mind to help me live more holy,” she told The Catholic Witness.

Life Teen is a Eucharist-centered movement that aims to lead teenagers and their families into a deeper relationship with Jesus and the Church. Since its inception in the 1980s, more than 1,800 parishes in 31 different countries have adopted it into their own youth ministries, and the program can be found in several parishes in the Diocese of Harrisburg.

The program is subscription-based, and supplies teaching resources and organized retreats, and is involved in World Youth Day held every three years. It seeks, according to its mission, “to unleash the fullness of the Sacramental power present within the young Church.”

Through Life Teen, youth ministry coordinators and their core team members have useful resources and aids in teen discussion. They can find tools relevant to specific parts of a teen’s life, addressing Theology of the Body, or circumstances of illness, death or suicide.

John Triscik, youth coordinator at St. Joao of Arc Parish in Hershey, began working with the Life Teen program in 1998 while ministering at a parish in Chicago. The program has been used at St. Joao’s for ten years.

“Youth ministry evolves every two to three years,” he said, noting that Life Teen helps with the change by bringing the ministry forward. The youth from St. Joao come from different high schools, including Hershey, Lower Dauphin, Palmyra, Milton Hershey, and Bishop McDevitt.

Life Teen isn’t part of required religious education; the youth who participate choose to be active in it. “It’s a community and building a relationship with one another as we build a relationship with Jesus,” Mr. Triscik explained.

At parishes that have implemented Life Teen, the program is open to any student in grades 9-12.

“Everyone is welcome, no matter who they are and no matter what denomination,” Mr. Triscik said. “I always tell the teens, ‘I don’t know one person that doesn’t need to know about Jesus, whether they are Catholic, Presbyterian, or any type of Evangelical, or if they have no idea who Jesus is. The doors are open to anybody who wants to come.’”

While the program is open to students of all religious backgrounds, the ministry is a Catholic one, and offers “intentional catechesis,” Mr. Triscik said. He noted that, seven in the Life Teen program at St. Joao of Arc have joined the Catholic Church.

The Nights are a prominent aspect of the ministry. These gatherings are normally held on Sunday evenings after evening Mass, although some parishes have seen a better turn-out if they occur after morning Mass.

There are several constants in each meeting. First and foremost, food. If there is one thing that all teens agree on, it is food. The session also typically have an ice-breaker activity, proclamation and catechesis, small group break-outs and Eucharistic Adoration or prayer. This program is very focused on bringing the youth to Jesus, and gives youth ministers the tools to make Him the focus. They are using this form of ministry in their own parishes, whether that means seeing the youth at a grocery store and saying hello or connecting in with the teens in a back seat of a car. They may have discussed the week prior. It can also mean being present at a high school football game, so the teens know that the youth ministers care about all aspects of their lives, not just when they are at Teen Nights.

Keeping youth involved in the Church during college and after graduation is also a part of this ministry. Learning about Jesus doesn’t have to end after Confirmation, and it shouldn’t.

“We touch on topics that are related to the teens and that they are dealing with every day: how to defend your faith, how to live your faith in your school, in your work, in your home; how to talk to your friends about your faith, and how to do that in love,” Mrs. Moore said. “I think they feel comfortable here, they feel comfortable talking about their faith, they feel comfortable praising and worshipping God, and they see they are not alone.”

But Life Teen doesn’t just impact the youth of a parish, it has been seen to influence other parishioners too. At St. Patrick’s in Carlisle where Life Teen has been implemented for eight years, Steve Cordier, core team member, said that he believes Life Teen is affecting the rest of the parish.

“Life Teen affects the entire family, not just the teens. Leading teens closer to Christ affects everyone.” He continued, “People come to the Life Teen Mass for the music and the energy the teens bring to the Mass. We also have a semi-annual XLT, which is an hour of Adoration, praise and worship music, and a short meditation talk. More and more parishioners without teens are attending. We had approximately 300 people attend the XLT we had last November.”

Life Teen encourages parishioners, participation with Catholic work camps and being active in the faith. It is not just a form of a lesson plan. “Our teens are learning their faith by experiencing their faith,” Mr. Cordier said. “We don’t use a classroom model. We teach the faith by living it with our teens. The teens have so much pressure to learn in school; Life Teen is stress free. Over the course of four years, we cover the Catechism so our teens hear and live what’s important for their formation.”

He pointed out that a former Life Teen member is current a seminarian, two or three others are considering a vocation to the priesthood, and several young ladies are discerning religious life.

“This is a tremendous effect of Life Teen,” he said.

Friendships and community are important to teens. They are building lasting friendships during these years and forming into adults who will need a community to lean on. Life Teen helps the youth to form these relationships with each other, so that they can further grow their relationships together in Christ.

Morgan Hall, involved in Life Teen St. Patrick’s, Carlisle, shared, “It really gives you strength when you’re at a public school and not a lot of kids are living their faith out, but you know you have brothers and sister backing you up at Life Teen. If you’re in a tough situation or if you need that motivation you can text them and they will be right there to tell you that you are amazing, to give you the words of God, to give you that strength that you need to keep moving forward.”

(For information on implementing Life Teen, visit the program’s Web site at www.lifeteen.com.)
they have a home, to feel that they have a bed where they can be safe at night,” she said.

Ms. Schaefer had been the featured speaker at Catholic Charities’ inaugural Come and See dinner in 2006. In fact, the annual benefit takes its name from her book, “Come and See,” which highlights her journey in 1995 into the world of the woman who is now the Catholic Church’s newest saint.

In December 2015, Ms. Schaefer returned to the motherhouse of the Missionaries of Charity, and spent a week visiting the orphanages, the home for the dying and the leper colony outside of Calcutta that Mother Teresa founded in 1952.

Speaking to the audience gathered for the Come and See dinner, Ms. Schaefer recounted her journeys there, illustrating how Mother Teresa’s spirit lives on in the ministry of the Missionaries of Charity.

This year’s Come and See dinner drew some 300 attendees to the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg for an evening of awareness and support for the Homes for Healing, located at the St. Samuel Center in suburban Harrisburg. The fundraiser, which included a silent auction and raffles in addition to the dinner, raised approximately $30,000 for the Homes for Healing.

The Homes for Healing at the St. Samuel Center serve residents 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, at no charge to clients.

Lourdeshouse provides maternity care and residential services to pregnant women and their babies, including childbirth education, parenting classes, transportation and aftercare.

Evergreen House provides a safe and secure environment for women recovering from addiction. The program helps them achieve long-term recovery, find stable housing and learn job skills.

“I feel so honored to be a part of Catholic Charities, because I know what beautiful work you’re doing here and around the country,” Ms. Schaefer said.

“We have to demonstrate compassion for those who walk on this earth and are having a more difficult time than our own.”

Present for the Mass in St. Peter’s Square that canonized St. Teresa on Sept. 4, Ms. Schaefer reflected: “Mother Teresa, in my mind, would have said, ‘The true miracle of life is what you can do for others.’

“Thanks for the miracle,” Ms. Schaefer told the dinner attendees. “It is in the charity of giving, and of giving people hope and a future.”

(For information on how you can help support the Homes for Healing at the St. Samuel Center, contact Chris Meehan, Director of Development for Catholic Charities, at 717-657-4804, ext. 284, or cmeehan@cchbg.org, or visit www.cchbg.org.)

Linda Schaefer, the last photojournalist to be given permission by St. Teresa of Calcutta to photograph the work of the Missionaries of Charity, offers a keynote address at the annual Come and See dinner, comparing the work of Catholic Charities to the compassionate care that St. Teresa has demonstrated.
Miracles of Jesus Point to Mercy of God, Bishop Says at Charismatic Day of Renewal

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Offering a keynote presentation on the healing ministry of Jesus during the diocese’s annual Catholic Charismatic Day of Renewal, Bishop Ronald Gainer said those gathered to look at miracles not as stained-glass windows but more as transparent glass through which to see the compassion of the Father.

― Everything about Jesus – all of his teaching, all of his actions – is part of his healing ministry,” the bishop said, “because the Father so loved the world that he sent his only begotten Son into the world, to bear our sins, to take upon himself our sins and our infirmities, and to allow them to crush him to the point of death on a cross; and then, on the third day, to conquer our sins and our infirmities through the glory of the Resurrection.”

Offering reflections on the healing miracles of Jesus as portrayed in the Gospels, Bishop Gainer called upon those at the Day of Renewal to consider this image: “When you stand before stained-glass windows, you behold the work of art and stand in amazement of the intricacy and the artistry. The healing miracles of Jesus are not like beautiful stained-glass windows. They are to be like transparent windows, through which we are supposed to see something else: the compassion and the mercy of God.”

Catholic Charismatic Renewal is a powerful expression of the stirring of the Fire of the Holy Spirit, who gives gifts for the purpose of edifying and building up the Church.

Catholic Charismatic Renewal is an ecumenical movement – those groups and associations that work to spread the Good News and usher in the New Evangelization.

In the Diocese of Harrisburg, those who are part of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal gather regularly for prayer groups, seminars, Masses with prayers for healing, and annual retreats and days of renewal.

This year’s Day of Renewal was held Sept. 17 at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg, and, along with the keynote address by Bishop Gainer, included Mass celebrated by him and concelebrant Father Francis Karwacki, liaison for the Diocesan Catholic Charismatic Renewal; a presentation on healing and forgiveness by Alberta Turcio, who serves with her husband as a full-time prayer group leader and music minister in Lititz; as well as praise and worship, and prayers for healing.

In his keynote address, Bishop Gainer pointed out that the 34 miracles of Jesus in the Gospels fall into four categories: the healing miracles, in which Jesus repairs a human infirmity, such as leprosy or blindness; the exorcism miracles, where Jesus expels a demon oppressing a person; the resurrection miracles, where Jesus brings a dead person back to life; and the nature miracles, where Jesus expresses his power over creation to walk on water, multiply loaves and fishes, and change water into wine.

“The four Gospels give testimony that Jesus’ actions in his actions of public life were just as important as his words,” Bishop Gainer said. “His teaching and his preaching, his contradictions words were in conflict with those who were opposed to him, and his actions are just as important as his words.”

The bishop explained that the four evangelists – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – see the miracles from different perspectives, based on the communities for which they are writing the Gospels.

For example, Matthew, writing for Jewish converts to Christianity, highlights the miracles to show Jesus’ divine healing power in order to illustrate the presence of the reign of God.

Mark, writing for a Roman audience, puts the miracles in the context of a battle, with Jesus showing the power of the Kingdom of God over Satan.

Luke’s Gospel is known as the Gospel of Mercy, and the healing miracles written here are signs of God’s mercy and compassion. He wrote for Greek converts from paganism and demonstrated God’s plan of salvation.

John, writing for a Christian audience later than the authors of the synoptic Gospels, does not use the same word for “miracle” as the others do. Instead, he uses the word for “sign,” to show that Jesus performed the signs necessary to demonstrate that he was the Son of God.

“When the people in the Gospels – especially John’s – see Our Lord’s miracles, they think to themselves, ‘How did he do that,’ almost as if they’re watching a miracle,” the bishop related. “But the real question to ask about all the miracles is, ‘Who alone could do that?’ That’s the question that Jesus begs the people to ask him. ‘Who could change water into wine? Who could bring back the dead? Who could give sight to someone who was born without it?’”

The bishop, as an example, pointed to Jesus’ words after the miracle of the loaves and the fishes: “You seek me not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the bread.”

“The real miracle is the revelation of the divine power of Jesus over creation,” Bishop Gainer expressed. “But they didn’t see that. They just saw the surface – more bread, more fish. It was a stained-glass window for them. They had to see it through it towards the true miracle, which is that the Son of God has come in our flesh.”

Jesus’ healing ministry continues after his Ascension into Heaven, through the ministry of the apostles and throughout the history of the Church, even through today, Bishop Gainer pointed out.

“He gave assurance at the table of the Last Supper that although he was leaving, he would not be absent, and that his healing power would not be taken back with him to Heaven, but that it would continue through and in the believing community,” he said.

“The ministry of healing is still at work in our Church,” the bishop said, pointing to the prayers of the Church for the recovery of the sick and afflicted, and patron saints whose intercession we seek for healing from certain conditions.

“Every miracle is a miracle of mercy. It is the window through which we must see the compassion and the mercy of God,” Bishop Gainer said.

“If we understand Jesus’ miracles in the context of the Kingdom, then I hope that we would open our eyes to recognize the miracles of ordinary, everyday life,” he said.

The bishop concluded with a quote from St. Leo the Great (400–461), speaking about the life of the Church: “What was visible in Our Savior has passed over for us in his mysteries. The extraordinary manifestations of God’s power, mercy and goodness in Jesus’ ministry make us sensitive to the ordinary manifestations of God’s power and goodness in our own lives.”

(For information about Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the Diocese of Harrisburg, visit www.allinthespirit.net/home.html or contact Father Francis Karwacki, diocesan liaison, at 717-339-1031.)
Catholic School Educators Called to Be the Arms of God in the World

The first lesson is the power of prayer, she said, and that prayer can be “a time and a place to put yourself together again, and to reflect on God’s presence in your life.”

When you are discomfited, prayer can help you “recomobilize,” she said.

Catholic schools have also taught her that everyone makes mistakes. To this point, she recounted how, in elementary school, she arrived hungry, lonely and scared, and she realized “they needed to have Christ present in their lives more than they needed algebra and geometry lessons.”

She also heeded God’s message as a principal. “No matter who came to me or what happened, my first response was to make God present.

Things didn’t get any easier, but the perspective was different,” Dr. McDonald said. And she carried God’s message as she took on the responsibilities as superintendent, “putting Catholic education back into the city of Memphis,” where children lived in generational poverty and violence, and the schools could provide for their hunger, health and psychological needs.

“You’ve been called, in spite of what you think you have to offer, to be where you are at this time in your life,” Dr. McDonald told the educators.

Reflecting on her years as a Catholic school student and later educator and administrator, she spoke of what she has learned.

Dr. Mary Crowley McDonald offers her keynote address, calling on Catholic educators to be the arms of God in the world.

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Mary L. Birster of Trinity High School in Camp Hill receives the Frederick F. Noel Distinguished Educator Award from Bishop Ronald Gainer. Mr. Noel served as a teacher at York Catholic High School and as Assistant Superintendent for Special Programs for the Diocese of Harrisburg from 1970 until his death in 1990.

206 Conference Honorees

Frederick F. Noel Distinguished Educator Award
Sister Mary L. Birster, IHM, Trinity High School, Camp Hill
Msgr. George V. Lentocha, Our Lady of the Angels School, Columbia

Mission Award
Our Lady of the Angels School, Columbia

20-Year Honorees
Sister Lydia Benjish, SSCM, St. Columba School, Bloomsburg
Sister Jean Gallagher, IHM, St. Columba School, Bloomsburg
Mary Lou Bydl, Trinity High School, Camp Hill
David Geisel, Trinity High School, Camp Hill
Joyce Sickora, Our Lady of Lourdes Regional School, Coal Township

Theresa Chanko, Our Mother of Perpetual Help School, Ephrata
Diane Vargo, Holy Name of Jesus School, Harrisburg
Barbara Cioceoppi, St. Margaret Mary School, Harrisburg
Madeline Foley, St. Joan of Arc School, Hershey
St. Joan of Arc School Choir from Hershey, perfonned musical selections to welcome attendees as they gathered, and the Choir from DeLone Catholic High School in McSherrystown led worship music for the Mass.

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

A n image of a crucifix without the Arms of Jesus revealed the central message of the keynote address at this year’s Diocesan Education Conference: Educators are the arms of God in the world.

“You are here [as Catholic school educators] because you are needed here, and it is part of God’s plan to do his work. You are God’s arms in the world,” keynote speaker Dr. Mary Crowley McDonald told the teachers and administrators of the diocese’s 41 schools.

Dr. McDonald, a former teacher, principal and Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Memphis, is the founder and CEO of MCD Partners, a national consulting firm that provides services and models for educational success.

During her 14-year tenure as superintendent in Memphis, she oversaw the opening of eight long-closed Catholic inner-city schools, as well as unprecedented expansion from 14 to 29 schools in the diocese, resulting in the highest enrollment numbers there since the 1970s.

Along her own personal journey as a superintendent—a position she initially undertook with doubt in her abilities—Dr. McDonald received what she called “postcards from God” in the form of two crucifixes with the arms of Jesus broken off.

She saw the first one at the altar in a mission church while attending an education conference in San Diego.

She found the second one in the attic of a Memphis school that the diocese was re-opening after 57 years. The crucifix now stands in the entranceway of that revitalized school, as a reminder of the mercy and compassion that Catholic schools offer as the arms of God.

Addressing the crowd gathered in the auditorium at Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg on Sept. 21, Dr. McDonald admitted that her journey in education was not an easy one. Each step along the way, she doubted her abilities. And each time, God said to her, “Go back and make me present to the students and people you serve.”

She followed his plan as a new teacher in an inner-city high school, where students arrived hungry, lonely and scared, and she realized “they needed to have Christ present in their lives more than they needed algebra and geometry lessons.”

She also heeded God’s message as a principal. “No matter who came to me or what happened, my first response was to make God present.

Devine White-Foster performs with his fellow members of the Choir from St. Joan of Arc School in Hershey, as educators arrive for the Education Conference.

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

The Conference offered various workshops and vendors throughout the day, and highlighted the service and talents of students, as students from Bishop McDevitt served as greeters and guides and assisted with conference preparations. The St. Joan of Arc School Choir from Hershey performed musical selections to welcome attendees as they gathered, and the Choir from DeLone Catholic High School in McSherrystown led worship music for the Mass.

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At Bucknell, Catholic Campus Ministry Students Grow in Faith through Service

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Catholic Campus Ministry at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, with a wealth of spiritual and volunteer opportunities each semester, offers students a means of growing stronger in the Catholic faith. There are social and community service events, daily Masses during the week and two Masses on weekends, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Friday, a handful of retreats, and discussion groups on contemporary Catholic issues.

And, on Sept. 24, during Family Weekend on campus, Bishop Ronald Gainer celebrated Mass there in Rooke Chapel. In his homily, he told the congregation: “We can’t change totally that there is poverty in the world, but we can notice, pay attention, not be complacent and indifferent. We must listen, but not just listen, but obey what Jesus says.”

“We must be careful about the divides we place in our lives; the indifference is what the Lord asks us to be aware of. Sometimes all it takes is to give a sign of kindness, a smile, a nod of recognition, a simple genuine offer to help that helps the marginalized feel welcome. It can be very simple yet life changing when you do this in everyday life. It can make a huge difference on campus,” the bishop said.

The bishop’s words rang true for the Catholic community of students, who focus many of their activities each semester on serving and caring for their fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

On the pro-life front, they participate in the March for Life in Washington, D.C., each January. During Respect Life Month in October, the Catholic Campus Ministry distributes an electronic newsletter to Catholics on campus regarding Church teaching on euthanasia, abortion, just war theory and other social justice issues, and hosts a pro-life presentation from a keynote speaker on such topics as caring for persons with disabilities, medical moral issues or social justice.

“The students here are instrumental in contributing to planning those things through a student-directed committee, the more focused efforts include the annual “Alternative Spring Break Trip,” during which students have taken on service opportunities to help those less fortunate empower themselves. In recent years, this trip has taken students to a small parish and village in the Dominican Republic; to the Romero Center in Camden, N.J., for Catholic education and retreat experiences; and to Nazareth Farm in rural West Virginia that offers service retreat experiences.

Catholic Campus Ministry at Bucknell also has an ongoing relationship with the Mother Maria Kaupas Center in Mount Carmel, a home for local community service projects. Already, students have participated in three overnight service trips there, undertaking efforts to help revitalize the community. The Mother Maria Kaupas Center seeks to identify and respond to needs in the community. The Center provides a home to several projects and programs dedicated to community service and welcomes those interested in opportunities to volunteer their time and talents.

“Our CCM has a strong commitment to facilitating the development of Catholic leaders for the future beyond Bucknell, in their parishes, communities and the world. Through their involvement in our five ministries/committees (Liturgical, Spiritual Life and Evangelization, Community Service and Social Action, Events and Outreach, and Administration), we mentor students in developing skills in planning and implementing projects and events with an emphasis on collaborating with each other, appreciating each others God-given gifts and resolving differences when they occur,” said Mrs. Domzalski. “Our primary emphasis for students is that they are part of a caring, welcoming Catholic community, rather than an organization in which they need to be perfect or always successful, something that many of our college students here are expected to be and/or expect of themselves."
At Dickinson, Campus Ministry Bridges Gap between Students’ Familial and Individual Faith

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

With 2,600 total students on campus, Dickinson College in Carlisle has one of the smaller Catholic Campus Ministries in the diocese, but it’s one that is growing and meeting the needs of students.

Father Donald Bender, now in his second year as the Catholic Campus Minister there, doesn’t have a physical office on campus – although St. Patrick Parish, where he serves as parochial vicar, is just five blocks away. Still, he sets up a spot in the student activity center a few times a week to connect with students.

“At Dickinson, academics are intense, studying is intense, and so as a campus minister in this environment, I make myself available to do a retreat each semester for the students to refocus,” Father Bender said.

The fall retreat in September, for example, was to Emmitsburg, Md., home of the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes. In the spring, the Catholic Campus Ministry usually connects with the college-student retreat offered through the Diocese of Harrisburg.

Catholic campus ministry at Dickinson is grounded in a regular schedule of Sunday Mass (with Confessions heard prior to Mass) in Allison Hall. It was here on Sept. 25 that Bishop Ronald Gainer celebrated Mass for the Catholic students.

In his homily, the bishop spoke extensively about mercy, the focus of this Jubilee Year.

“You and I live in a world where forgiving and showing mercy is seen as a sign of weakness… but it is the ultimate sign of strength in the Trinity to show mercy. That is what strength is all about – mercy,” he said.

Each semester, Father Bender celebrates Mass on the lawn in front of the hall, a visual presence that helps to promote the Catholic campus ministry. Sunday Masses in Allison Hall can attract up to 50 or 60 students, Father Bender noted. He sees the role of Catholic Campus Ministry as a bridge that connects the familial faith of the student to the individual adult Catholic they will become.

“Students have their familial faith, the faith they grew up with, with their parents and siblings, and they were able to get to Mass every Sunday because their family was going. And now at college, they’re becoming an adult. They’re independent of their family and they’re beginning to form their individual faith. They’re away from home, they’re on their own, they can do what they want on a daily basis. They’re exploring their faith and what it means for them as an individual adult, and that can be a struggle for anyone, whether they’re in college or not,” Father Bender said.

“Catholic Campus Ministry is very important in that sense because we’re present to the young adults and they know that they can seek a campus minister if they have questions or need to talk about their faith,” he said. “And we’re right here on campus, so they don’t have to look far. We bridge the gap between their familial faith that they’re leaving and their individual faith that they’re building. We’re here to walk with them on that journey.”
Fairfield Parishioners Celebrate Legacy of Saint WhoFounded Order That Serves Them

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

The statue of St. Gaetano Errico and the image of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary flanking the altar at Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Fairfield serve as a constant reminder of the parish's connection to the 18-century saint.

The Adams County parish has been served by the Missionaries of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary – the religious order that St. Gaetano Errico founded since 1993.

To celebrate the 200th anniversary of the ordination of St. Gaetano Errico (1791-1860) to the priesthood, parishioners of St. Mary's welcomed Bishop Ronald Gainer for Solemn Vespers on the evening of Sept. 16. At the conclusion of the prayer service, the bishop blessed the parish's new statue of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Gaetano Errico was born in Naples, Italy, in 1791, and ordained a priest for his home diocese. While making an annual retreat to a Redemptorist retreat house where St. Alphonsus Liguori had lived, the young priest had an apparition of the saint, who told him to start a religious community and go into the rural areas to evangelize and serve. The apparitions continued for a few more years, culminating with an appearance by the Blessed Mother at Our Lady of Sorrows. Father Errico eventually received permission to found the Missionaries of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, an order dedicated to serving the needs of God's family while witnessing the great love present in the Sacred Hearts.

St. Gaetano Errico was canonized on Oct. 12, 2008. The Shrine of Mercy, Immaculate Conception Church has been designated as a special pilgrim age site. Father Robert Malagesi, MSSCC, pastor, has welcomed several pilgrim groups during this Jubilee Year.

On Dec. 8, 2010, Bishop Ricken formally approved the apparition of Our Lady of Good Help to Brise, making the Marian apparitions that occurred some 18 miles northeast of Green Bay the first in the United States to receive approval of a diocesan bishop. His decree came nearly two years after he opened a formal investigation into the apparitions.

At the same time the site also was officially recognized as a diocesan shrine, although for years Catholics in the diocese had already viewed it as such. The national shrine designation by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops "is a testament and an expression of Catholic Bishops "is a testament and an expression of Catholic Bishops "is a testament and an expression of Catholic Bishops "is a testament and an expression of Catholic Bishops "is a testament and an expression of Catholic Bishops "is a testament and an expression of Catholic Bishops "is a testament and an expression of Catholic Bishops "is a testament and an expression of Catholic Bishops "is a testament and an expression of Catholic Bishops "is a testament and an expression of Catholic Bishops "is a testament and an expression of Catholic Bishops "is a testament and an expression of Catholic Bishops "is a testament and an expression of Catholic Bishops "is a testament and an expression of Catholic Bishops "is a testament and an expression of Catholic Bishops "is a testament and an expression of Catholic Bishops "is a testament and an expression of Catholic Bishops "is a testament and an expression of Catholic Bishops "is a testament and an expression of Catholic Bishops "is a testament and an expression of Catholic Bishops "is a testament and an expression of Catholic Bishops "is a testament and an expression of Catholic Bishops "is a testament and an expression of Catholic Bishops "is a testament and an expression of Catholic Bishops. The shrine also was officially recognized as a national shrine.

"The term 'shrine' signifies a church or other sacred place to which the faithful make pilgrimage for a particular pious reason with the approval of the local ordinary." On April 30, 2015, Bishop Ricken sent a request to the USCCB and its Committee on Divine Worship asking that they consider the Champion site as a potential national shrine. Bishop Ricken noted that the mission of prayer and catechesis is at the very heart of the apostolate of this sacred shrine."

Bishops Designate Wisconsin Site of Marian Apparitions as National Shrine

By Patricia Kasten
Catholic News Service

Nearly 160 years ago, on Oct. 9, 1859, Mary appeared to a young Belgian immigrant living in Ken- wa, Wisconsin, by the name of Adele Brise.

Today, it is the only approved Marian apparition site in the United States. In August, on the feast of the Assumption, the U.S. bishops formally designated the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help in Champion as a national shrine.

Bishop David L. Ricken of Green Bay announced on Dec. 8, 2010, Bishop Ricken formally approved the apparition of Our Lady of Good Help to Brise, making the Marian apparitions that occurred some 18 miles northeast of Green Bay the first in the United States to receive approval of a diocesan bishop. His decree came nearly two years after he opened a formal investigation into the apparitions.

At the same time the site also was officially recognized as a diocesan shrine, although for years Catholics in the diocese had already viewed it as such. The national shrine designation by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops "is a testament and an honor to all those who come before us," Bishop Ricken said in his homily. "Their generous Christian spirit of warmth, hospitality, reverence and simplic ity is very much alive in this holy place."

According to canon law, "The term 'shrine' signifies a church or other sacred place to which the faithful make pilgrimages for a particular pious reason with the approval of the local ordinary." On April 30, 2015, Bishop Ricken sent a request to the USCCB and its Committee on Divine Worship asking that they consider the Champion site as a potential national shrine. Bishop Ricken noted that the mission of prayer and catechesis is at the very heart of the apostolate of this sacred shrine."

Since 1992, the U.S. bishops have followed a set of approved norms to designate local shrines as national shrines. Father Michael Flynn, executive director of the USCCB Secretariat for Divine Worship, said that while exact numbers are not known, there are about 70 national shrines in the United States.

To be granted such a designation, a shrine must meet several requirements, including:
• Has served as a diocesan shrine and place of pilgrimage for at least 10 years.
• Operates under statutes approved by the diocesan bishop.
• Is easily accessible, with appropriate facilities for pilgrims.
• Is dedicated to promoting the faith of the pilgrims by centering on a mystery of the Catholic faith, a devotion based on authentic Church tradition, on revelations recognized by the Church or on the lives of those in the Church's calendar of saints.
• A national shrine also must nourish the spiritual lives of pilgrims by offering celebrations of the liturgy and develop and utilize some form of common prayer, such as the Liturgy of the Hours. It also needs to have enough liturgical ministers to provide adequate pastoral care for pilgrims, especially for various language groups, and provide sacramental celebrations in various languages.

Walt Fountain, operations manager at the shrine, said visitors have come from approximately 90 countries, including Russia, China, Vietnam, Burma, Ireland, Syria, Ethiopia, South Africa, India, Kenya, Peru, all the Central American nations, and many European countries.

The shrine also must have a rectar. In the case of the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help, the rector is Father John Broussard, a member of the Congregation of the Fathers of Mercy. Beginning in July 2011, Bishop Ricken had asked the Fathers of Mercy to care for the shrine. Father Peter Strycker was the first rector, serving from 2011 until this past July.

Finally, a shrine cannot serve as a local parish, so ordinarily, baptisms, weddings and funerals cannot be held there. And, once approved as a national shrine, its formal statutes must be reviewed by the U.S. bishops' conference every 10 years.
Annual Mass Underscores Beauty of Hispanic Culture, Gifts of Faith

The annual Diocesan Hispanic Heritage Mass, celebrated Sept. 18 at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg, served a means to celebrate the Hispanic culture and gifts. The Mass brought together Hispanic Catholics from across the diocese, many of whom attend the various parishes that offer Spanish-speaking Mass and ministries.

Prior the Mass, which was celebrated by Bishop Ronald Gainer and concelebrated by a number of diocesan priests in Hispanic ministry, the faithful gathered to pray the Rosary.

The bishop delivered his homily in Spanish, a part of which is offered here in Spanish and then in English:

“Es una gran alegría para nosotros reunimos hoy en nuestra Catedral para dar gracias a Dios y celebrar la rica herencia hispana de tantas personas en nuestra diócesis. Su devoción a Cristo ya nuestra Santa Madre da un maravilloso ejemplo para ser imitado por todos nosotros. Su amor por los niños, la familia y los amigos da un claro testimonio de su amor y el respeto de la vida humana. Sus tradiciones y culturas nos recuerdan que nunca debemos tener los dones de Dios por sentado y debemos siempre alegrarnos en la abundancia de Su misericordia y gracia. Cada año tenemos esta oportunidad alegre para celebrar juntos y dar gracias a Dios por su amor misericordioso.”

“It is a great joy for us to gather today in our Cathedral to thank God and celebrate the rich Hispanic heritage of so many people in our diocese. Your devotion to Christ and to our Blessed Mother gives our wonderful example to be imitated by us all. Your love of children, family and friends gives a clear witness to your love of and respect for human life. Your traditions and cultures remind us that we must never take God’s gifts for granted and must always rejoice in the abundance of His mercy and grace. Each year we have this joyful opportunity to celebrate together and thank God for His merciful love.”

Above: Chysander Hernandez serves the bishop during Mass.
Left: Altar server Gabriella Hernandez smiles for the camera.

Above: A woman receives the Precious Blood during the Hispanic Heritage Mass.
Right: Attendees pray the Rosary prior to the start of Mass.

Retiro Matrimonial Diocesano:
“Edifica Tu Casa Sobre La Roca”

Predicador:
“Diácono Jorge L. Vera Sr.

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Luis Felipe Menéndez, Manuel Jiménez, Felipe Serrano and Manuel Soto kneel during the Liturgy of the Eucharist. The men are members of the Knights of Columbus of Corpus Christi Parish in Chambersburg.
CRS Announces Agency Veteran as New CEO

By Rhina Guidos

Catholic News Service

A six-month search for a new president and CEO for one of the largest humanitarian relief agencies in the world ended at its doorstep, with Catholic Relief Services announcing Sept. 16 that it is hiring a veteran employee — the agency’s No. 2 man, Sean Callahan, as its new president and CEO.

“We looked all across the nation and found that the best person for the job was Sean, already working for us,” said Bishop Richard J. Malone of Buffalo, New York, head of the CRS Board Search Committee, in a statement announcing Callahan’s new position, which begins Jan. 1, 2017. He succeeds Carolyn Y. Woo, who ends her five-year term at the end of 2016.

Callahan began his career with CRS 28 years ago and has served as director of Human Resources, regional director for South Asia, the Church has great models and inspiration to meet hardship of others.

That means understanding the sanctity of life and how charitable efforts to help those suffering around the world is part of that Christian mission.

“Sacredness of life is key,” Callahan said in a phone interview with Catholic News Service from Montreal. “We need to be aware of the situation of the least among us. We have a responsibility toward teaching others about situations that bring suffering and hardship to lives around the world. It means finding a way, whether by prayer, voting, volunteering or giving financially, to become involved with finding a solution to the hardships of others.

In Pope Francis and the recently canonized St. Teresa of Calcutta, whom Callahan met while working for CRS in Asia, the Church has great models and inspiration to meet hardship of others.

It also means helping others understand that leaving one’s country is not the preferred option for those who leave their homelands, which is why CRS has programs to help people not emigrate. "Many of these people, what they want is safety and security," he said. CRS tries to provide a livelihood, health care, education, but sometimes they still are faced with having to leave their homelands. "Once they do migrate, it’s our responsibility that they’re safe and protected. That’s where we’ve been inspired by the Holy Father” in reaching out, teaching those who may not be comfortable with foreigners, whether migrants or refuge, understand that Jesus was a migrant, he was a refugee, too, Callahan said.

While Americans are rightly proud of their homeland, not all immigrants who are here have chosen to leave what’s familiar to them by choice and they would stay in their home countries if they had had safe and secure places to live, he said. That’s where organizations such as CRS step in to put mechanisms in place to build stronger communities and try to alleviate some of the hardship.

Callahan, 56, has master’s degree in law and diplomacy from Tufts University, and is president of Caritas North America. He also is on the board of trustees for Catholic Charities USA and has served on the Executive Committee and Representative Council of Caritas Internationalis, a Vatican-based confederation of 165 Catholic relief, development and social service organizations.

When he takes over in January, he will be leading an agency of 5,400 worldwide. In a statement, CRS said its operating expenditures will reach almost $900 million in fiscal year 2016, the highest in its history, rising from $855 million in fiscal year 2013.

By Patricia L. Guilfoyle

Catholic News Service

Justin Carr’s future looked bright. He had just celebrated his 26th birthday, started a new job, and was getting ready to settle down with his high school sweetheart and start a family.

But all that ended the night of Sept. 21, when a bullet shattered his skull. The next day, he was dead.

Carr lived through the most violent episode in nearly a week of protests in Charlotte that erupted after another man, Keith Lamont Scott, was shot and killed by police Sept. 20 in an apartment complex parking lot.

Protesters locked down the area, tear-gassed and clubbed police in riot gear. Carr was among them.

“Tena and I were just speaking to her on the phone,” her mother, Vivian Carr, said in a statement. "He called from the scene. He said wanted to follow in the footsteps of his grandmother, who had marched during the civil rights era.

Less than an hour later, Vivian Carr learned her son was in the hospital, clinging to life.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg police have charged Rayquan Borum, 21, in Carr’s death.

Law enforcement officials Sept. 24 released video of the encounter between Scott and an officer; both men were African-American. Police say Scott was fatally shot after he made a threatening move with a gun. His family members say he had no gun, that he was reading a book and was not being aggressive when police surrounded him. Along with video, police released photos of a pistol and ankle holster recovered at the scene.

By Dennis C. Sadowski

CNS/OSCAR LEIVA, SILVERLIGHT FOR CRS

"In a special prayer service Sept. 23 at Our Lady of Conception Catholic Church, where the Carr family has worshiped for three generations.

Father Carl Del Giudice, pastor, organized the prayer service to give people a chance to share their feelings about the protests and the tragedy that had struck their parish family. Father Del Giudice gave Carr last rites before he died, and is ministering to the Carr family throughout their grief.

During the prayer service, people spoke of their fear of violence, that the whole situation, "It doesn’t mean turn the other cheek, let somebody walk all over you. It means, yes, you can never back down. You can never have to protest within the range that God gives you," said.

Carr’s pregnant girlfriend, Tanea Ray, was the last person to speak at the prayer service. In her emotional remarks, Ray described how they had been close friends for years before they began dating in the ninth grade. Their relationship had been "on and off" for the years, but recently he had asked to marry her.

Over the past few weeks, she said, "he was just so excited, the happiest I’ve ever seen him.

When Carr told her that he was going to the protest, she didn’t think he was serious. She said she regretted not stopping him from going. "I feel like I could have prevented it."

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Justice, Respect are Essential for Peace, Patriarch Says

By Junno Arocho Esteves

The richness of the diversity found within humanity and in the created world at large is something that must be respected and never destroyed, said Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew during the Sept. 20 Assisi peace meeting.

“Peace comes from mutual knowledge and cooperation,” the patriarch told Pope Francis and hundreds of other religious leaders Sept. 20 at the end of an interreligious gathering.

“In these years, we can again see ethnic, religious and cultural majorities sense their respective minorities as alien bodies, dangerous for their integrity, as something to be marginalized, expelled and sometimes, unfortunately, annihilated,” said the patriarch. “We witness minorities that close themselves in their own ghettos out of fear of disappearance, fearful of comparisons, too often turning to violence.”

“This is discouraging, it causes mass migration,” he said, and it creates problems in promoting a welcoming attitude toward and solidarity with immigrants.

Justice is crucial for fashioning a society where the suffering due to war and poverty as well as for the care for the environment, “which is the work of God for believers, but also a common home for everyone,” the patriarch said.

“God did not want to have one human being, one single person, one planet, one star. He wanted many of them, all different, each with its own specificity and peculiarity, interconnected in a communion of purpose and love,” said Patriarch Bartholomew.

“The suffering shared at the Assisi event and others like it, he said, “quenches the thirst for peace.”

Standing outside the Basilica of St. Francis as the day was ending, representatives of other faiths also appealed for peace in a world where wars and violence have led to poverty, suffering and death.

Tamar Mikalli, a refugee from Aleppo, Syria, spoke of the heartbeat she experienced as her once peaceful city became the epicenter of the civil war, which is still going on.

“I remember my many Muslim and Christian friends. Now distinctions are made between Christians and Muslims,” she said. “Before the war, everyone practiced his or her own religion, in a land that formed a mosaic through different cultures, languages and religions,” she said.

Although she remained with her family for three years while the war ravaged her city, Mikalli was forced to flee to Lebanon when her home was bombed.

After two years in Lebanon, Mikalli and her family were offered what she called the “chance to live in peace” by moving to Tuscania in June.

Rabbi David Brodman, chief rabbi of Savoy, Isra-el, and a Holocaust survivor, said it was important for younger generations to learn from the errors of the past or they “are condemned to repeat it.”

“For me, the spirit of Assisi is the best example for humility and holiness, and it is the answer to the tragedy of the Shoah and of every war,” he said. “Because here we say to the world that it is possible to become friends and to live together in peace even if we are different.”

Koel Morikawa, the supreme priest of the Tendai Buddhist temple that represented his community in Assisi once again.

“It is one of the mostjoyous occasions of my 91 years of life. It’s possible to pray in peace with St. John Paul II in 1986 and expressed his joy in representing his community in Assisi once again.”

“Just as in the time of St. Francis, the yearning for peace among all peoples is a universal desire of today’s humanity,” Morikawa said.

Prayers and dialogue, he continued are the shortest route to peace which, if “attained by force will be overturned by force.”

“In order to create a world with virtue where abhorrence exists and with love where hatred exists, we, clergy, must pray together hand in hand and continue to do our very best,” he said.
The annual Priests’ Continuing Education Workshop will be held October 9-14, 2016 in Hunt Valley, Md. During this time, daily Masses will be celebrated by visiting, retired and religious order priests in the following churches.

### ADAMS DEANERY

**St. Joseph the Worker, Bonneauville**  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 8 a.m.  
Saturday, 7:10 a.m.

**St. Vincent de Paul, Hanover**  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 8 a.m.

### DAUPHIN DEANERY

**Holy Family, Harrisburg**  
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 8:30 a.m.

**Holy Name of Jesus, Harrisburg**  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 8 a.m.

**St. Margaret Mary, Harrisburg**  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 8:30 a.m.  
Friday, 8:30 a.m. School Gym

**St. Francis of Assisi, Harrisburg**  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 7:30 a.m.  
Friday, 7 p.m.

### CUMBERLAND/PERRY DEANERY

**Good Shepherd, Camp Hill**  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 8:30 a.m.

**St. Patrick, Carlisle**  
Monday, 8:30 a.m.  
Shrine Church  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 6:45 a.m.  
Shrine Church  
Friday, 8:30 a.m.  
Marsh Drive Church

**St. Katharine Drexel, Mechanicsburg**  
Monday, Thursday, Friday, 9 a.m.

**St. Joseph, Mechanicsburg**  
Monday, Tuesday, Friday, 9 a.m.  
Wednesday, 6:30 a.m. & 9 a.m.

**Holy Spirit Hospital, Camp Hill**  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 8:45 a.m.

### FRANKLIN DEANERY

**St. Rita, Blue Ridge Summit**  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 9 a.m.

**Immaculate Conception BVM, Fairfield**  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 8 a.m.

**St. Andrew, Waynesboro**  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 8 a.m.

### LEBANON DEANERY

**St. Joan of Arc, Hershey**  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9 a.m.  
Tuesday, Thursday, 6:45 a.m.

**Assumption BVM, Lebanon**  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 8 a.m.

**St. Benedict the Abbot, Lebanon**  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 9 a.m.  
Thursday, 7 p.m.

### NORTHERN DEANERY

**St. Joseph, Berwick**  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 8:30 a.m.

**St. Joseph, Danville**  
Monday, 6:30 a.m. & 6:15 p.m.  
Tuesday, Wednesday, 6:30 a.m.  
Thursday, 6:15 p.m.  
Friday, 6:30 a.m.  
Saturday, 9 a.m.  
School Mass

**Sacred Heart of Jesus, Lewisburg**  
Tuesday, Thursday, 9 a.m.

**St. Monica, Sunbury**  
Monday, 6 p.m.  
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 7:30 a.m.

**St. Pius X, Selinsgrove**  
Tuesday, Thursday, 9 a.m.

### NORTH LANCaster DEANERY

**Holy Trinity, Columbia**  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 7:30 a.m.

**St. Peter, Columbia**  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 8 a.m.  
Wednesday, 6 p.m.  
St. Mary’s Chapel, Wrightsville

**Our Mother of Perpetual Help, Ephrata**  
Monday, 7 a.m. & 9 a.m.  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 7 a.m.

**St. James, Lititz**  
Monday, 9 a.m.

**St. Richard, Manheim**  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 9 a.m.  
Communion Service

### NORTHUMBERLAND DEANERY

**Our Lady of Hope, Coal Township**  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 7 a.m.

**Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, Elysburg**  
Tuesday, Thursday, 8 a.m.

**St. Patrick, Trevorton**  
Wednesday, 8 a.m.

**Holy Angels, Kulpmont**  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 8 a.m.  
Communion Service

**Our Lady, Help of Christians, Lykens**  
Friday, 9 a.m.  
Communion Service

**Divine Redeemer, Mount Carmel**  
Monday, 7:30 a.m.  
Novena after Mass  
Wednesday, 7:30 a.m.  
Novena and Confessions after Mass

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Mount Carmel**  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 8 a.m.

**Mother Cabrini, Shamokin**  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 8 a.m.

**Sacred Heart of Jesus, Williamsport**  
Tuesday, 9 a.m.  
Communion Service

**Carmel of Jesus, Mary & Joseph, Elysburg**  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 7:10 a.m.

### SOUTH LANCaster DEANERY

**St. Joseph, Lancaster**  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 6:30 a.m.

**San Juan Bautista, Lancaster**  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 6:30 p.m.  
Friday, 7:30 a.m.

**St. Leo the Great, Rohrerstown**  
Monday, 8 a.m.  
Tuesday, Thursday, 6:30 a.m.  
Wednesday, 7 p.m.  
Friday, 8:45 a.m.  
School Mass

**Sacred Heart of Jesus, Lancaster**  
Tuesday, Thursday, Wednesday, Friday, 8:30 a.m.

### YORK DEANERY

**St. Joseph, Dallastown**  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 7:30 a.m.  
Friday, 8:30 a.m.

**Immaculate Conception BVM, York**  
Wednesday, 7 p.m.  
Spanish

**St. Joseph, York**  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 6:45 a.m. & 8 a.m.  
Friday, 6:45 a.m. & 8:30 a.m.

**St. Patrick, York**  
Friday, 8:30 a.m.  
School Mass

**Misericordia Nursing Home**  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 8:15 a.m.

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

Saturday, October 29, from 10 a.m. - approximately 1:30 p.m.  
**Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church**  
47 South Market Street, Mount Carmel, PA 17095

The Northumberland District Council of Catholic Women invites all women of the Diocese to join them as they host the Annual Harrisburg Diocesan CCW’s Marian Day celebration to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The day begins with registration at 10 a.m. At 10:30, there will be a talk by Father Francis Karwacki, Pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, entitled “Mary, Model of Perseverance,” followed by Scriptural Rosary at 11 a.m. Mass will be celebrated at noon, followed by a light lunch before departure.

Cost of $10 includes lunch. Register by October 9 by email to cmcgram@comcast.net or by mail to Norreen Godfren, 248 Market St., Williamstown, PA 17098, with checks payable to Northumberland District CCW.

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**REGISTER NOW!!**

**2016 Diocesan Women’s Conference October 15, 2016**  
Bishop McDevitt High School - 1 Crusader Way Harrisburg

**Theme:** Wrapped in God’s Merciful Love

**Keynote Speaker—Kimberly Hahn**

**KEYNOTE TITLE**  
“Rome Sweet Home: How the Mercy of God Led Me to Become a Catholic”

Principal Celebrant and Homilist: The Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer, DD, JCL, Bishop of Harrisburg

Conference includes; Keynote Address, Workshop Sessions, Conference, Eucharistic Adoration, Praise and Worship, Celebration of Mass, and Fellowship with Hundreds of Women

Visit www.hbgdiocese.org/women or via Women’s Conference flyers in the parishes

For information contact Jim Gontis at (717) 657-4804, ext. 227, or jgontis@hbgdiocese.org
The names of the following deceased persons have been submitted by their parishes. Please remember in your prayers the happy repose of these recently departed souls and the consolation of their loved ones.

**ANNVILLE** – St. Paul the Apostle: Jean M. Bennetch.

**CAMP HILL** – Good Shepherd: Matthew James.

**COLUMBIA** – Holy Trinity: Frances Gibson, Candice Kauthold.

**ELIZABETHTOWN** – St. Peter: Aldo E. Tempesta.

**GETTYSBURG** – St. Francis Xavier: Irene Divver, Barbara Ketchum.

**HANOVER** – St. Joseph: Donald Fahey, James Frey, Thomas Geiman, Mary Ann Hartlaub, Robert Huber, William Marchio, Christine Mitz, Thomas Redding; St. Vincent de Paul: Irene Divver, Barbara Ketchum.

**HARRISBURG** – St. CatherineLabouré: Lucy Coffman; St. Francis of Assisi: Anna Martinez.

**HERSHEY** – St. Joan of Arc: Theresa Croak, Domenica “Maggie” Harris.

**LANCASTER** – Assumption BVM: Rose Brooks, Betty Long.

**LEBANON** – St. Cecilia: Mary Wick.

**LEWISTOWN** – Sacred Heart of Jesus: Anthony Simontini, Nancy Will.


**MIDDLETOWN** – Seven Sorrows BVM: Mildred VanFossen.

**MOUNT CARMEL** – Divine Deemer: Rose Marie Lombardo, Alice Spinshock.

**NEW CUMBERLAND** – St. THEREASA: Ann Kelly, Palmira “Mimi” Politis.

**NEW FREEDOM** – St. John the Baptist: Samuel Burns, Michael Kordel, III.

**SELINGROVE** – St. Pius X: Donald Borraso.

**STEELTON** – Prince of Peace: Martin Kirby, Janet Ropos, William Star sinister.

**SUNBURY** – St. Monica: Albert G. Cheruvank.

**TREVORTON** – St. Patrick: Michael J. Soubik.

**WAYNESBORO** – St. Andrew: Linda Lee Robinson.

**YORK** – St. Joseph: Glenn Falatovich, Josephine Napoli, Bonnie Swelfer.

Please pray for the following clergy who died in October during the past 25 years:

- Father Walter Halaburda, 2000
- Father Edward J. Barrett, 2001
- Father John Suknaic, 2004
- Father Bernard Quinn, 2006
- Deacon Edwin Fitzpatrick, 2008
- Father Stephen Sweezel, 2009
- Father Kevin Kayda, 2013
- Father Andrew J. Fontanella, 2014

**Dioscovian 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.**

**HARRISBURG Dioecesan Council of Catholic Women Awards Scholarships**

The Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women is pleased to announce the winners of two scholarships. The awards were presented to Catholic senior girls for their freshman year at an accredited college, university or trade school.

Scholarships were awarded to the following recipients:

- Karolyin Kerwijn, a parishioner at Our Lady Help of Christians Parish in Lykens. The pastor is Father C. Anthony Miller. Karolyin is attending Penn State University, majoring in Political Science.
- Emma Sanderson is a parishioner at St. Catherine Labouré Parish in Harrisburg. Father Neil S. Sullivan is the pastor. Emma is attending the University of Pittsburgh with a major in Cell and Molecular Biology.

These young women were selected from a field of outstanding candidates who meet high academic and community service standards. All applicants must obtain letters of recommendation from their pastors. They must be sponsored by a mother, grandmoth er or guardian who is an active member of a parish Council of Catholic Women for at least one year. Both the applicant and her sponsor must be residents of the Harrisburg Diocese. The awards were presented by Joyce Scott, Chairwoman of the HDCCW Scholarship Committee, in a Mass at the recipients’ home parishes.

Since inception of the Scholarship Award Program in 2006, the Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women has awarded 22 scholarships to young women throughout the Harrisburg Diocese. Our warmest congratulations and best wishes are extended to all of the winners and all those who submitted applications.

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

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

The promised miracle, witnessed by more than 70,000 people, involved the sun, which suddenly appeared after a day and night of heavy rain. The sun seemed to spin in the sky, while throwing off brilliant colors, and finally the sun seemed to be falling in the sky, but at the last second it went back into the sky. None of the 70,000 people have denied this spectacular event, which had also dried the ground and their clothes, with the water that had been soaked because of the intense rain.

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On Saturday, October 15, at 11:30 a.m., there will be a commemoration of the 99th anniversary of this “Miracle of the Sun” with the recitation of the Rosary at Front and State streets in Harrisburg. Participants will assemble at St. Lawrence Church and process to Front Street, singing, “Hail, Holy Queen.” After the Rosary, the people will proceed one block to St. Lawrence Church, led by the TFP Honor Guard with their Lady of Fatima statue, the Knights of Columbus Honor Guard, students from the local Catholic grade and high schools, plus people from many diocesan organizations. At St. Lawrence Church, a short talk will precede the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

For additional information, call Robert Charbon at 717-761-7228. In case of inclement weather, the Rosary and Benediction will take place at St. Lawrence, 110 State Street, Harrisburg.
On Saturday, November 5, St. Anne School in Lancaster will present a “Mid-Autumn Night’s Dream” to be held at the 2800 Paxton Church Road in Harrisburg, from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. at St. Anne School. This year’s benefit Trinity High School’s Tollison Assistance Fund. Runners and walkers of all abilities are welcome. Visit https://tinyurl.com/j5pv5p or call 717-585-9388 for more information.

Trinity High School in Camp Hill is sponsoring a trip to NYC and Broadway on December 16. Spend the day on your own (dinner included at The King Musical $160). Leave Trinity at 7 a.m., return at 10 a.m. A $250 non-refundable deposit is due by Oct. 7. Contact Susan Kaufer for tickets: 717-711-1611, ext. 111.

The Rocks Run 5K will be held on Saturday, October 15 at the St. John Vianney Catholic School. The run benefits Trinity High School’s Tollison Assistance Fund. Runners and walkers of all abilities are welcome. Visit https://tinyurl.com/j5pv5p or call 717-585-9388 for more information.
Lancaster Catholic Blanks Undefeated Annville-Cleona in Tight Sectional Contest

By Emily M. Albert
The Catholic Witness

In competitive Lancaster-Lebanon Section Three play, the Lancaster Catholic Crusaders’ field hockey team found itself up against an undefeated Annville-Cleona squad on September 13 at the Little Dutchmen’s field, with both teams in contention for the top of the section.

Play was tight for most of the first half, until Crusader senior Izzy Miller scored with five minutes remaining in the period, notching the team’s first goal off a corner this season, one thing they had been working on this summer while watching team USA’s Olympic field hockey games.

Crusader goalkeeper Claire Wolfe defended Lancaster Catholic’s goal throughout the contest, going 9-for-9 in saves, and giving them the shutout win at 1-0. In a competitive Section Three, Lancaster Catholic’s chief contention for the top of the section.

Lancaster Catholic’s Izzy Miller, center, and Olivia Sebest make a play for the ball in their Sept. 13 contest against Annville-Cleona.

Mass Celebrates Little League Champions’ ‘talent, joy, sportsmanship’

By Deacon Tom Picciano
Catholic News Service

When this year’s Little League World Series champs returned home, dozens of law enforcement, fire and emergency vehicles with lights flashing and sirens blaring led them through the wellcoming crowd in Endwell.

Thousands came out to greet them that day, Aug. 29, including Father Clarence F. Rumble of the Church of the Holy Family in Endwell, pastor to most of the team and coaches.

In the days following their triumphant return, the team appeared with the New York Mets and New York Yankees, as well as the Binghamton Mets. But their welcome to Mass celebrated by Father Rumble at Holy Family Sept. 11, the anniversary of the 2001 terrorist attacks on the U.S., was different. Six of the 11 players and all of the coaches are parishioners.

“Thankful for your God-given talents, which you have developed and strengthened with perseverance and hard work,” said Father Rumble. “Your talent, your joy, your compassion and your sportsmanship are just a few of the reasons this parish community is very proud of you.”

After Mass, hundreds of people gathered in the parish’s social hall to greet the Maine-Endwell Little League team, which presented a check for $2,500 to Mercy House, a home for those with terminal illnesses.

Diocese to be First to Bring Virtue-Based Formation Program to All High Schools

The Diocese of Harrisburg has announced that it will partner with SportsLeader to implement a Catholic virtue-based formation program for coaches. Harrisburg is the first diocese to incorporate the program as a whole across all of its high schools.

“Our partnership with SportsLeader represents a continuation of the great Catholic athletics tradition we have in the diocese in a very intentional way,” SportsLeader, based in Louisville, Ky., will work with Mr. Gontis and the administration teams and coaching staffs of the seven diocesan high schools to incorporate the methods and curriculum based on the four pillars of the program: Virtue, Mentoring, Ceremony and Catholic Identity. The program will be introduced to the student-athletes via the coaching staffs of all seven high schools during the 2016-17 season and to the parents at the respective parent ceremonies.

“Through virtue-based formation of our coaches and student-athletes, we will create opportunities for mentorship and ceremony while embracing our Catholic identity in an inclusive manner,” said Mr. Gontis. “Our goal is that the student-athlete experience will significantly contribute to our Catholic schools mission to build up young men and women who change the world for the sake of peace and goodwill.”

“The more we can help our young people grow closer to Christ through the platform of sports, the more we are accomplishing our mission within Catholic school athletics,” said Lou Judd, the Director of SportsLeader.

SportsLeader has worked with public and private universities and colleges across the country including The Ohio State University and Michigan State. They have also partnered with high schools and public and private universities and colleges across the country across all of its high schools.

The program was founded in 2004 and is endorsed by the Vatican Office of Church and Sport. They are a charitable nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.

Learn more about SportsLeader at www.sportsleader.org.

Annville-Cleona.

Lancaster Catholic’s Izzy Miller, center, and Olivia Sebest make a play for the ball in their Sept. 13 contest against Annville-Cleona.

EMILY M. ALBERT, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS
Trinity Cross Dedicated to Memory of Father Ogden

The prominent cross that graces the façade of Trinity High School in Camp Hill was blessed prior to a school Mass Sept. 14, its dedication to the memory of the late Father Louis P. Ogden, a graduate of Trinity’s Class of 1976 and a diocesan priest who died on Feb. 20, 2015, from a chronic liver condition.

Members of the Ogden family and classmates were present for the dedication, as students and faculty assembled in front of the school for a ceremony, during which Father Mark Weiss, school chaplain and pastor of Holy Infant Parish in Manchester, blessed the cross.

The cross was installed in April, purchased as a gift by the members of the Class of 1976, its plaque reading in part, “His friendship was an inspiration, his love a blessing.”

Bishop Celebrates Mass at Penn State Harrisburg’s Spiritual Center

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Bishop Ronald Gainer celebrated Mass in the new Russel E. Horn, Sr. Spiritual Center on the campus of Penn State Harrisburg on Sept. 15, marking the first religious service to be held there.

The Spiritual Center is located in the heart of the campus. The Spiritual Center is named for Mr. Horn, a 1933 graduate and benefactor. It will offer a space for the spiritual activities and practices of students of various faiths.

Bishop Gainer celebrated the Mass on the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, telling those gathered that “From the first moment of our Blessed Mother’s Immaculate Conception, she was full of grace.”

“She was there at the foot of the Cross, yet her motherly sorrow was totally other-centered… Though she lost her son she gave birth to, she knew that she was giving her son to save all,” he said. “Let us bear our Cross like Mary – with faith, with humility and obedience.”

Father Edward Keating, pastor of nearby Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Middletown, concelebrated the Mass.

Kevin I. Bagatta, Jr., a Catholic student on campus, is hoping that the Mass that the bishop celebrated there will spark additional interest in the formation of a Catholic student association at Penn State Harrisburg. The campus does not have a Catholic Campus Ministry, however Student Activities has been looking to start one and assisting Mr. Bagatta in beginning a group.

“The goal of the group will be to support and strengthen the Catholic identity of Catholic students on campus,” Mr. Bagatta told The Catholic Witness.

“Having transferred from DeSales University, I found I missed a Catholic presence while attending college,” he said of his reason for starting a Catholic group. “Going to college with fellow students who share our Catholic faith makes the college experience complete. Being Catholic is part of who we are, and to create an association that will help other Catholic students connect and build camaraderie seemed to make sense to me.”

Five additional students are needed in order to start the Catholic student association. Students who are interested can contact Kevin Bagatta at kib5294@psu.edu.

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