150th Anniversary Year Underway

The Diocese's sesquicentennial year opens this weekend, and the yearlong celebration will feature a number of diocesan-wide activities and historical reflections for parishioners' inspiration. The theme for the year is, "For a lasting remembrance," words inscribed on the papal bull establishing the Diocese of Harrisburg on March 3, 1868. "The ongoing focus of the year will be to strengthen our call to the mission entrusted to us: to proclaim Christ with fidelity and love in all that we say and do," said Bishop Ronald Gainer.

A Diocese is Born

On March 3, 1868, Blessed Pius IX, accepting the recommendation of the Second Plenary Council of the bishops of the United States of America, issued a decree establishing the Diocese of Harrisburg. The decree, translated from the Latin, reads:

"Wherefore, in keeping with the counsel of the aforementioned Cardinals [Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith], and exercising Our Full Apostolic Authority, we hereby establish and constitute in the City of Harrisburg a new Episcopal See, under the care of its own Bishop, to be known henceforth as the "Diocese of Harrisburg." We wish this diocese to include the civil counties of Clinton, Centre, Mifflin, Franklin, Cumberland, Adams, York, Dauphin, Northumberland, Columbia, Lebanon, Lancaster, Montour, Union, Snyder, Juniata, Perry and Fulton."

Named to lead this newly established diocese was Bishop Jeremiah F. Shanahan, a 34-year-old priest and semi- nary rector from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. By 1868, when this new diocese was established, Catholicism already had a long history in the New World. Through the years, Catholics residing in what is now the Diocese of Harrisburg have been successfully under the jurisdiction of bishops of four dioceses.

The territory of the new diocese had a rich history extending back more than 200 years to the 17th century. Jesuit missionaries under the jurisdiction of the Diocese of Quebec traveled south on the Susque- hanna River, "the highway of the missionaries," leaving evidence of their priestly activities. Jesuit and Franciscan missionaries under the jurisdiction of the Diocese of London traveled north on the river from Maryland and preached the Gospel to Native Americans.

After the War of the Revolu- tion, Father John Carroll was appointed superior of the Amer- ican missions in 1784. In 1790, the Catholic Witness

The Newspaper of the Diocese of Harrisburg

March 2, 2018 Vol. 52 No. 4

The Diocesan Mission Statement:
To proclaim the goodness of God and to make truly present and active the one, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ to all people through the power of the Holy Spirit.
History

Baltimore was established as the first U.S. diocese, and Father Carroll was consecrated the first bishop. His diocese included the original 13 colonies until the dioceses of Boston, New York, and Philadelphia were established in 1808. From 1808 until 1868 the territory of the Diocese of Harrisburg was part of the Diocese of Philadelphia. From 1852 to 1860, St. John Neumann, the fourth Bishop of Philadelphia, visited missions and parishes in the area.

When the Diocese of Harrisburg was established, it was home to about 25,000 Catholics in an area of 7,600 square miles. There were 61 worship sites, including churches, chapels, and stations. Of the 61, 20 were parishes with pastors in residence. Nineteen diocesan priests and three Jesuit missionaries served the 61, 20 were parochial schools and one academy. Nuns from three orders—Sisters of Saint Joseph, Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, and Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary—were in residence.

Though the overall population of the new diocese was small, its establishment with Harrisburg as its center positioned it with advantage. St. Patrick’s Church, Harrisburg, located at the site of the present Cathedral, just about 200 yards from the capitol building, became the pro-cathedral. Its location on the eastern bank of the Susquehanna River situated it along a major travel route in the state. This site for St. Patrick Church had been chosen in the 1820s to serve the large population of Irish immigrants who had settled close to their work in the coal mines, settled there, forming a number of ethnic parishes.

Bishop Shanahan was keenly aware of the need for more priests. His background as a seminary rector prompted him to establish a seminary in the new diocese. To this end, he purchased the Sylvan Heights property in eastern Harrisburg and in October 1883 opened a diocesan seminary, directed by Father Massimo Cassini, in the mansion on the estate. He also had the bishop’s residence relocated there. Sadly, the cost of maintaining a seminary proved too great for the limited resources of the diocese, and in 1886, the year Bishop Shanahan’s death, the seminary closed.

The property continued to serve as the bishop’s residence until 1901, when the orphanage for girls replaced it on the site. Bishop Shanahan recognized the importance of having a formal Catholic presence in the burgeoning communities throughout his see. When the diocese was erected in 1808, the county parishes, four were without even a mission station: Fulton, Juniata, Perry, and Snyder. Four more—Columbia, Cumberland, Mifflin and Union—had only churches or stations, which were attended once or twice a year, some as few as three times a year.

Lancaster, the county with the largest Catholic population, had five parishes. Dauphin and Adams counties each had three. York and Northumberland each had two. The remaining counties—Lebanon, Franklin, Centre, Clinton and Montour—each had just one.

In 1868, the churches also reflected the Irish and German backgrounds of the majority of their parishioners. Of the 20 parishes, 16 were in Harrisburg, Lancaster, and Columbia had been established as German; all the others conducted their day-to-day affairs in English.

Bishop Shanahan devoted much effort to establishing a Catholic worship site in communities throughout the 18-county diocese. During the 18 years of his episcopacy, he opened ten new parishes, and served seven missions to the rank of parish, and appointed resident pastors to a number of missions.

One of the strongest areas of growth in these years was the mission portion of the diocese, where, until the 1860s, the Catholic population had been extremely low. The sparseness of a Catholic population up until then is generally acknowledged to have reflected the anti-Catholic sentiment of the area. In the 1870s and 1880s, many immigrants from eastern Europe and Asia flocked to the coal mines, settling there, forming a number of ethnic parishes.

Bishop Shanahan served as a hospital during the Civil War battle in 1863.

Parish Highlights

- **Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Conewago**, established in 1730, is the oldest parish in the diocese. In 1787, its stone church was erected, and became the first church in the United States to be named for the Sacred Heart. It was named a National Historic Site in 1975.
- **St. Peter the Apostle Parish in Gettysburg**, founded in 1809, blessed in 1843 and became the first parish in America dedicated to Mary under this title.
- **St. Francis Xavier Church in Enola**, founded in 1808, was the first Hispanic parish in the world dedicated to the co-patrons of Europe. In 1899, in celebration of its 50th anniversary, Pope John XXIII declared the Motherhouse Chapel of the Sisters of Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Danielsville to be a minor basilica, the only one in the world dedicated to the co-patrons of Europe.

Bishops of the Diocese of Harrisburg

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<tr>
<th>Bishop</th>
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<td>Bishop Ronald W. Gainer</td>
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Today, the Diocese of Harrisburg continues to flourish, serving close to 245,000 Catholics in 89 parishes and serving mission stations throughout 15 counties of central Pennsylvania.

This historical information was gleaned from diocesan resources and the 2006 book, "History of the Diocese of Harrisburg."
Jubilee: The Holy Ground

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
Special to The Witness

Recently, I had the privilege of attending a Mass for which Bishop Gainer was the main celebrant. The liturgy marked the end of the retreat for the candidates in the diocese’s permanent deacon program as they prepared for being called to lector. During the homily, Bishop Gainer told the following story. He said that he once read of an African tribe that had a custom that when a woman became expecting a child, she and two of her friends went out into the wilder- ness in order to hear the song of the child growing within her. When they could sing the baby’s song collectively, they went back home and taught it to the entire village. At the birth of the baby, the village sung the song. When the baby became “of age,” the village sang the song. When a young couple married, the village sang the song of both bride and groom. The last time the village sang the song, the indi- vidual was sung at was at the moment of that person’s death.

During consecration during that Mass, I “heard” within my heart a woman’s voice gently humming a song that I did not know. I prayed, “Who are you?” I “heard” the response, “I am the Diocese of Harrisburg, the Queen whom you serve. Share my song.”

I thought of this story as I focused on our first American-born saint, Elizabeth Ann Seton, a true daughter of the Church. A short story on her life can be found on YouTube and there are countless of books written about her life and the founding of the Daughters of Charity in Emmitsburg, Md.

The story of her entire life is beyond the scope of this article. However, upon doing some research about her, I was struck with the last instruction she gave to the Sisters gathered around her deathbed. She said, “Be children of the Church! Dear ones, pray for me when I am gone, for I shall want it. I thank God for having made me a child of His church: when you come this hour to hear what is to be done in the church.”

One of her biographers describes her meaning of this phrase: “What did Elizabeth mean to tell us about being a child? … To what aspect of childhood is she calling us?” Rather, picture the child being held on its mother’s breast, or lovingly tossed into the air by its father. The little one sleeps, or laughs with joy. The parent is there; everything is safe; the world is secure. The child knows that all its needs will be taken care of. All it needs to do is look to the mother, touch the father. We are all born trusting, we need to learn distrust and suspicion. To be a child of the church is to turn to God in trust and love, believing that His Body on earth, with all its imperfections and struggles, still brings God to us, and brings us to God. I believe Elizabeth’s faith was whole, she did not pick and choose what to believe and what to hold in abeyance.

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For information on these positions and their applications, visit www.hbgdiocese.org/jobs.

JOF OPENINGS IN THE DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG

The Diocese of Harrisburg currently has job openings for the following positions:

- Secretary/Director for the Office of Stewardship and Development
- Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference
- President of Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg
- Executive Principal of Our Lady of Lourdes Regional School in Coal Township
- Associate Director of Catholic Campus Ministry at Shippensburg University

For information on these positions and their applications, visit www.hbgdiocese.org/jobs.

BISHOP GAINER’S PUBLIC CALENDAR

March 2 – Prayer Vigil for the Diocese’s 150th Anniversary, Holy Name of Jesus Church, Harrisburg, 7 p.m.

March 3 – Opening Mass for the 150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Harrisburg, Holy Name of Jesus Church, 10 a.m.

March 6 – Read to Harrisburg Catholic Elementary Students, Holy Family Campus, 9 a.m.

March 7 – Teach Lenten Series to High School Seniors, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 9 a.m.; Confirmation at Assumption BVM Church, Lebanon, 7 p.m.

March 10 – Diocesan Men’s Conference, Bishop McDevitt High School, Harrisburg.

March 11 – Speak to ELANCO Ministries, Garden Spot Village, 6 p.m.

March 12 – Catholic Charities Soup, Salam & Servo Luncheon, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, noon; Confirmation at St. Catherine Labouré Church, Harrisburg, 7 p.m.

March 14 – Confirmation at St. Patrick Church, York, 7 p.m.

March 15 – Confirmation at Assumption BVM Church, Lancaster, 7 p.m.

March 17 – Celebrate Mass for the Feast of St. Patrick, St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg, 10 a.m.

JOE APONICK, OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

First National Bank recently contributed a total of $67,500 to the Diocese of Harrisburg’s Neumann Scholarship Foundation for scholarship assistance for Harrisburg Catholic Elementary School ($17,500) and Bishop McDevitt High School ($50,000). The contribution was made possible by the business’ participation in Pennsylvania’s Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit program, which provides tax credits to businesses that contribute to scholarship organizations, such as the Neumann Scholarship Foundation. Shown left in the photo are First National Bank representatives Troy Erdman, Commercial Banker; Greg Conrad, Regional Banking Executive; and Tony Sacco, Regional Market Executive and President of the Capital Region, presenting the check to Donald Kaechner, Chief Financial Officer for the Diocese of Harrisburg and Father Edward J. Quinlan, Diocesan Secretary for Education. For information about the Neumann Scholarship Foundation or the tax credit programs, visit www.hbgdiocese.org/giving.

The Catholic Witness

The Newspaper of the Diocese of Harrisburg

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Most Rev. Ronald W. Gainer: Publisher

Staff
Jennifer Reed: Managing Editor
Chris Heisey: Photographer

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Parkland Students Urge Florida Lawmakers to Reform Gun Laws

Catholic News Service

About 100 students from Parkland arrived in Tallahassee the evening of Feb. 20, highly motivated to press their state lawmakers in person to reform gun laws after the deadly shooting rampage at their high school.

The afternoon shooting spree Feb. 14 at Parkland’s Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Broward County left at 17 people dead and at least 14 injured. Former student Nikolas Cruz, 19, is being held without bond on 17 counts of first-degree premeditated murder in the attack.

Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski of Miami, whose archdiocese includes Broward County, has called the school shooting “horrifying evil.”

According to CBS News, the passion on the gun issue among the students who boarded buses to the state capital “is palpable.” Among their demands were a ban on military-grade weapons and universal background checks.

“We will not rest until something changes. We will not rest until our voices are heard. We will not rest until people open their eyes and listen to us,” freshman Emma Stravitz, 14, told CBS News.

During a rally outside the state Capitol Feb. 21, several of the Parkland students took the microphone to demand Florida lawmakers vote for changes in gun laws. “Ninety-percent of my fellow Americans support background checks, yet you lawmakers have failed to act,” said Floridians for Gun Safety.

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One of the Republican House members who opposed moving the measure out of committee was Rep. Chris Hixon.

Attendees were to include victims of the 1999 shooting at Columbine High School in a Denver suburb and the 2012 shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut.

People attend a candlelight prayer vigil Feb. 15 for the victims of a mass shooting at nearby Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla. At least 17 people were killed in the Feb. 14 shooting.

Tyra Hemans, a senior at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., speaks with Rep. Wengay ‘Newt’ Newton, D-Fla., during a Feb. 20 meeting at Leon High School after the students arrived in Tallahassee. About 100 students from the Parkland school traveled in a three-bus caravan to demand gun restrictions a week after the deadly shooting that left 17 of their classmates and teachers dead.

On Feb. 20, Trump issued a directive to the Department of Justice to draft a federal regulation that would ban the bump stock devices.

In Miami Feb. 21, students at all eight archdiocesan high schools left their classrooms and went to the gym to mark 17 minutes of silence and prayer — one minute for each victim.

“Some schools did a prayer service and some did prayers,” said Kim Pyzybulyk, archdiocesan superintendent of schools and senior director of the Secretariat for Education. “Some students were talking about leaving campus and going different places. We didn’t want that to happen. We thought it would be more meaningful to do it as a school community.”

There was Leon High School, where they listened to a speaker instruct them on how to speak with Florida state legislators about strengthening gun control laws.

Florida Gov. Rick Scott said government officials “have to make changes on school safety.” Florida News Service reported that in the days following the Parkland massacre, he met with leaders from work groups he charged with focusing on education, law enforcement and mental health to get input for legislation he planned to present to lawmakers Feb. 23.

Among the groups’ recommendations were metal detectors at schools, better coordination among agencies and “keeping guns out of the hands of people who are mentally ill,” the news service said.

In Washington Feb. 21 and Feb. 22, President Donald Trump held what the White House described as “listening sessions.” He was meeting with high school students, parents and teachers, among others, over the two days in an effort to formulate a response to mass shootings.

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“This was an organized walkout with a meaningful end,” said Mary Ross Agosta, archdiocesan director of communications.

Both spoke with the Florida Catholic in Miami while returning from a funeral at Nativity Parish in Hollywood for one of the three Stoneman Douglas High School faculty members killed in the Feb. 14 shooting: athletic director Chris Hixon.
During a live video conference with diocesan high school seniors exactly one week after the school shooting in Parkland, Fla., Bishop Ronald Gainer told students he wanted to hear their ideas, opinions and feelings about gun violence.

From classrooms across the diocese, the students expressed food and clear, with passionate plea for a greater respect for human life, outreach and care for people who feel rejected or abandoned, and openness for repentance.

In an hour-long listening session from the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg on Feb. 21, the bishop also heard areas of disagreement among students—from those for and against a planned nationwide school walk-out this month, and from proponents and opponents of stricter gun legislation.

Responding to a question from a Lancaster Catholic student about the Church’s stance on control, Bishop Gainer noted that the United States’ bishops have taken a position to outlaw assault-type weapons–like the AR-15 used in the Parkland shooting—and continue to lobby for stricter gun control.

He questioned that discussion on gun violence shouldn’t hinge on an either-or approach regarding gun legislation and mental health care, but rather a “both-and” comprehensive response.

“We can and do influence the political process,” the bishop assured the students of politics that teaches “we’re not helpless in terms of our government. Vote, lobby, express your opinion to your elected representatives at the state and federal level. Even if you’re not old enough to vote now, you can still contact legislators and talk to them about stricter gun control, to ban assault weapons, or work for more accessible and efficient mental health care.”

One York Catholic student expressed an opinion that the cause of mass shootings “come from rejection and abandonment felt from the shooter” and offered that “the solution to such an evil is love and reaching out to others.”

At York Catholic, students are reading the book Night, a work by Elie Wiesel about his experience as a teenager in the concentration camps at Auschwitz and Buchenwald.

In the book, the author is questioned, “Where is God?” in this horrific situation.

“People are asking where God is in this tragedy [in Parkland],” one student offered. “He was in the face of the coach who sacrificed his life, and in the teachers and kids who opened the doors to get others out. That’s where we can see him, if people were just to look a little bit harder,” she said.

Bishop Gainer echoed her sentiments. “God is with us in the midst of every suffering and every tragedy. It takes faith to be able to recognize that presence,” he said. “We are in a culture of unbelief, and it’s impossible for so many people to say that God was present at all in that tragedy. They would even use it as a denial of the existence of God: ‘If there was a God who is good and loving, how could he allow that?’”

This question leads to the theological question of free will.

“These tragedies happen because a human person made a choice. God gave us freedom, and he doesn’t revoke it,” the bishop said.

“Let it be a good season for us to consider the meaning of repentance and its place in our lives,” the bishop responded in a follow-up question that a York Catholic student posed about focusing on repentance instead of punishment.

“It is every Christians’ hope that those who have committed serious crimes against others would recognize their wrongdoing and repent of what they did,” he said.

Yet, repentance does not replace punishment for wrongdoing, Bishop Gainer said. “Even when someone repents of the evil committed, justice demands that reparation be made for crimes that have wounded a society.”

Several students from Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg were part of a live audience during the session, seated next to Bishop Gainer as he addressed the high school seniors watching from across the diocese.

One Bishop McDevitt student offered his opinion that video games, social media, the rise of media coverage of mass shootings and the legalization and support of abortion have resulted in the loss of the sanctity of life.

He also wondered whether attachment to social media helped motivate the Florida shooter, Nikolas Cruz, into action.

“Studies show that when you’re on social media a lot, you tend to become more depressed because you think that your life is not as good as someone else’s, and you compare yourself to others. We know that this individual was on social media. Perhaps he was seeing others’ lives and feeling that his life was not as great,” he said.

“I think a lot of these individuals become inspired by others, and now everyone knows Nikolas’ story,” he continued. “Perhaps there is an individual that is very similar to him that has mental health issues, that is being bullied in school, and now they’re going to become inspired. Perhaps some people could have changed him. If maybe one person in school was nice to him or helped him out every day, maybe he wouldn’t have gone this far.”

Discussion of a planned nationwide school walk-out on March 14 also took place among students and the bishop—with a number of seniors strongly advocating for some means to recognize the lives lost on Feb. 14 and have their voices heard regarding gun control.

To that end, Bishop Gainer and the Diocesan Office of Catholic Schools are encouraging the high schools to consider marking this time with prayer to remember the victims of the Florida school shootings, and to voice concerns to combat violence, while at the same time keeping them safe inside the school building. In response, the schools are planning prayer services for March 14, and continuing to examine ways to allow students to voice opinions and concerns over gun violence.

At the conclusion of the session, Bishop Gainer thanked the students for sharing their ideas and opinions, and for asking what can be difficult questions to work towards solutions.

“Don’t be afraid of expressing your opinion,” he urged them. “We have certain truths and we want to impart those truths of our faith and the reality of the world in which we live and the world in which we’re headed, but at the same time, you should be free to say what’s on your mind and ask the honest questions.”

(Video of the listening session can be viewed on the Diocese of Harrisburg’s YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/hbgdiocese.)
Working Together To Accomplish Great Things at Our Lady of Lourdes in New Holland

20-Year Loan Paid Off in 7 Years and 4 Months

By Father Walter Guzmán
Special to The Witness

“Father, you need us, as much as we need you” is the phrase that Clare McCarrick, one of my parishioners at Our Lady Lourdes Church in New Holland, tells me every time we gather to worship or to celebrate other church activities. What Clare tells me (almost every time she sees me) sums up in a very powerful way our Christian understanding of the Church as a family, as a community that, with all its members, forms Christ’s Mystical Body. “The eye cannot say to the hand, I do not need you. Nor can the head say to the feet, I do not need you.” (1 Corinthians: 12, 21.)

As we gathered on Sunday, Feb. 11, 2018, Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes, to celebrate the payoff of the money we borrowed to build a Parish Center by symbolically burning a check for $1,034,973.07 representing the total amount of money borrowed from our diocese, I could not stop thinking about St. Paul’s message in 1 Corinthians: Namely, that as important members of Christ’s Mystical Body, we should always work together in spite of our own uniqueness and personal differences to put to good use all our resources, our gifts, and our talents; not only for our own salvation, but also for the salvation of others.

While we were celebrating this great accomplishment, I realized, as I never had before, that if our honest goal in life is to be successful in both our spiritual and temporal matters, then we must learn to work together. I have no doubt that in order to succeed one needs others.

A healthy, working-together parish community is something that every pastor dreams of. Because as it is with our physical body, when all the members of a parish community work together, their big dreams indeed can, will and do become a reality.

From the very first moment of my arrival at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, I experienced the tremendous potential of this awesome parish community. They see themselves as indispensable members of God’s family and as brothers and sisters to each other, which to me shows in the dedication to their church through their sacrificial but joyful giving of their time, treasure and talent.

By the time of my arrival as their pastor in June of 2014, they had already accomplished their dream of building a Parish Center as a place where their children could have Vacation Bible School, a place where they could play sports, a place where families could celebrate baptism and marriages, a place where parishioners could gather for a luncheon after the funeral Mass of a loved one, a place where they could meet for Bible study or for a group discussion, a place where videos and movies could be shown for no other reason than to provide the opportunity to meet other parishioners or to just promote some fellowship among the different members of the parish.

Great things can be done, and dreams do come true, when people have a sincere willingness to work together. It is a blessing for me to say that such is the case at my parish. We are family. I constantly witness my parishioners looking for different opportunities to serve within and throughout our parish community. I see them spending time in front of the Blessed Sacrament praying for their needs and the needs of others. Such things strengthen us as members of Christ’s Mystical Body, and it is only when the members of the Body of Christ are strengthened by working together when we can achieve our dreams, when great things happen, when those things which seem almost impossible can be accomplished in record time. For instance, dreams like the payoff of more than a million dollars not in 20 years, but only in seven years and four months.

(Father Walter Guzmán is pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in New Holland.)

The Parish Center at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in New Holland, which opened in 2010.
Encounter Lent with Rice Bowl

SOPA DE QUESO – Nicaragua

Makes 6 servings

Water
1 large onion, sliced
2 green peppers, sliced
2 red tomatoes, sliced
3 cloves garlic, smashed

1 bunch mint
4 c whole milk
2 ½ c Maseca
Pinch of salt
3 c queso fresco or farmer’s cheese, grated
1 ½ T achiote paste
1 T fair trade olive oil
1 c vegetable oil

*** *** *** ***

In a large pot, boil 4 cups water. Add onion, pepper, tomatoes, garlic and mint. Simmer until cooked.
Meanwhile, combine Maseca and 2 cups water in a mixing bowl.
Knead to form a dough. Mix 1 T olive oil into achiote paste. Mix cheese, salt and achiote paste into dough. Take 1 cup of dough and place in separate bowl; stir in the rest of the dough to make fritters.

For additional information:
(717) 657-4804 ext 313 or jcurran@hbgdiocese.org

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY. ALL ARE WELCOME!
Diocesan Notebook
Compiled by Jen Reed

Spirital Offerings
St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Bonneauville will host an exposition of sacred relics March 7 at 7 p.m. Over 150 relics will be shown, some believed to be as old as 2,000 years old. The parish is located at 105 West Main Street, St. Teresa of Avila, St. Maria Goretti, St. Francis of Assisi and St. Faustina. Parishioners are invited to come and enjoy a piece of Life which is believed to have belonged to Our Lady, and one of the largest pieces of the True Cross. The evening will be presented by the Diocesan Office of Commissions of the Cross. Visit www.treasureofthechurch.com

Mass with healing will be celebrated March 18 at 7 p.m. at St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Bonneauville by Father Paul Clark. The Mass is sponsored by the Pilgrims of Francis of Assisi. For more information, call Mary Ann, 717-564-7079 or Loreta at 717-737-7551.

The Sisters of Saint Cyril and Methodius will present a Taize Prayer Service on March 15 at 6 p.m. in the Basilica of St. Cyril and Methodius in Danville. The Taize Prayer service will be presented by the Cantores Christ Regis Choir of King’s College. The service will involve sung chant, meditations, prayer, meditation of silence, and liturgical readings. After the prayer service there will be a social with refreshments. All are welcome to the Prayer Service, and the social which follows.

Saint Cyril Preschool and Kindergarten will celebrate a 40th Anniversary Mass of Gratitude on March 18 at 7 p.m. in the Basilica of Saint Cyril and Methodius. The Mass celebrated will be a 7 p.m. Mass on Good Friday. A reception will follow the Mass. All current and former students, teachers, families and friends are welcome to the celebration.

Pilgrimage and Retreats
Jody Cole will be conducting a Byzantine icon writing (painting) retreat beginning Easter Monday through Friday. The workshop will be held March 18 at 7:30 a.m. at a local residence. To total cost of the workshop, which includes all supplies, room and board, is $375. Please contact Jody Cole at 717-919-8791 or jcole@comast.net for more information.

Fundraisers & Events
Good Shepherd School in Camp Hill is holding an Open House on March 25 from 1-3 p.m. Families of prospective students in grades Pre-K-3 through 8th are welcome to drop by and receive a tour of the school. The evening will be open to all, and all are welcome to attend.

Youth of Grace enrichment program will host a Lenten Speaker Series. “Young Women of Grace: Embrace your Faith” will be presented March 6, 7:30 p.m. at St. Pius X Church. The series is designed for young women ages 16 and older. The evening will include a meal, a talk by Sister Jennifer A. O’Brien, O.P., and a Q&A. For more information, contact 717-919-8791 or jcole@comast.net

Education & Enrichment
Adult formation course in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, “The Church Teachings of Jesus Christ and of the Bishops in the New Faith” is a study program, created by Women of Grace, for girls ages 12-17. If you will discover your purpose and mission, and be formed in the way of grace and faith. The course will be taught at Allentown in the Parish of St. Joseph the Worker Parish. Contact Julie Abele, PA Home School Educator, at jabele@yahoo.com

“All One Family,” the LGBTQ ministry group from St. Joseph Parish in Danville, meets for Bible study and discussion on the fourth Tuesday of each month. For more information, call Diane or Dave McIntyre at 705-275-7528.

St. Katharine Drexel Parish in Mechanicville will host the 5th Annual “Stand Up Against Abuse ARE...CATHOLIC.” Hear from Catholics in all walks of life – priests, sisters, lay people, and children who have been touched by the Church and the cathedrals can hear, ponder, and celebrate the theme the Church this year. The Mass will be celebrated at the Church on March 10-11, April 14-15, May 19-20, Aug. 25-26, Sept. 8, Oct. 13, and Dec. 17. Please come and observe one or all of the Masses on March 10, 11, April 14, 15, May 19, 20, Aug. 25, 26, Sept. 8, and Dec. 17. For more information, contact 717-264-1600 or frpaul@ allentown.org

Young Women of Grace study coming to the Gettysburg Diocese for a Lenten Retreat. “Women of Grace” is a study program, created by Women of Grace, for girls ages 12-17. If you will discover your purpose and mission, and be formed in the way of grace and faith. The course will be taught at Allentown in the Parish of St. Joseph the Worker Parish. Contact Julie Abele, PA Home School Educator, at jabele@yahoo.com

Easter Eggs: Mother Cabrini Parish in Shamokin is selling their delicious milk chocolate covered peanut butter and coconut Easter Eggs for $6.55 each. $5.10 per half dozen; $10.20 per dozen. All proceeds will be available at Holy Cross. For more information, contact 717-919-8791 or jcole@comast.net

Easter Eggs: Mother Cabrini Parish in Shamokin is selling their delicious milk chocolate covered peanut butter and coconut Easter Eggs for $6.55 each. $5.10 per half dozen; $10.20 per dozen. All proceeds will be available at Holy Cross. For more information, contact 717-919-8791 or jcole@comast.net

Knights of Columbus 3625 will host an “All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast” at the Prince of Peace Parish on March 11 from 8-11 a.m. The breakfast consists of eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes, juice and coffee. Adults $7; Children 6-12 $4. Children under age 5 are free. Contact Prince of Peace Parish Office at 717-985-1330, or from any Brother Knight.

St. Andrew the Apostle Parish in Waynesboro is pleased to offer a special Lenten Presentation & Concert with music and spoken word by Catholic artist Jonathan Thornton entitled “Beauty and Hope in Suffering.” The concert will be held March 18 at 7 p.m. at St. Andrew Catholic Church. The concert is free, although a free-will offering will be accepted and James’ CDs will be available for purchase. For more information, contact the parish office, 717-762-1914.

St. James Pro-Life Breakfast benefit is being held March 15, 2018 from 10-12:30 PM at St. James Church. The breakfast begins at 10:15 a.m. at St. James Hall and will include a buffet-style breakfast, inspirational music, and presentations by guest speakers regarding the pro-life message. All proceeds will benefit three Lancaster County pro-life ministries: A Woman’s Concern, Family of Restoration Ministries (FoRM), and the St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Bonneauville’s Walking Way to Life, which is hosting its annual “Walking Way to Life Run” on March 17. The remaining proceeds are expected to go towards St. Joseph the Worker Parish’s Walking Way to Life program. Ticket price is $40, non-refundable. A table of 10 persons is $350. Contact 717-264-1600 for more information or to RSVP.
St. Patrick Patch Workshop for Girl Scouts and American Girls
March 17 from 1-4:15 p.m. Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg

LA SANTA MESSA PER LA FESTA DI SAN GIUSEPPE
ITALIAN MASS FOR THE FEAST OF SAINT JOSEPH
March 28, 2018 at 1:00 p.m.
CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
300 West Pine Street
Palmyra, PA 17078
Reverend Joshua R. Brommer
Rev. Anthony Dill

St. Patrick Patch Workshop for Girl Scouts and American Girls
March 17 from 1-4:15 p.m. Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg

Come Celebrate the Feast of St. Patrick, Patron Saint of the Diocese of Harrisburg, and the 150th Anniversary of the Diocese. Confession will be available during the workshop. Mass following the workshop at 4:30 p.m.
$7 registration fee per girl
Register at www.hbgdiocese.org/youth
Registration closes March 5
No walk-ins or late registrations will be accepted.

Lenten Fish Dinners
(A listing of these dinners is also available online at www.hbgdiocese.org lent.)

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Enola – Six dinners during Lent in the church hall from 4-7 p.m. on Fridays through March 23. Menus include seasoned baked cod, chicken breast, baked fish, macaroni & cheese, church-made pierogies, veggie or stewed tomatoes, Cole slaw, roll, dessert & coffee or punch. Baked for adults: $11; Mac & cheese for adults: $10. Price for children: $5. Eat-in or take-out. No reservations needed.

St. Peter Parish, Columbus – Lenten Fish Fry through March 23 in the Parish Center. A variety of fish platters and other non-meal dishes prepared by the women of the parish. Included in the price of the fish platters are: Cole slaw, macaroni and cheese, a vegetable, Fries, French and tea. Soup, baked potato, cole slaw, mac & cheese, bread, dessert and beverage. Donation is $9 for adults, $5 for children. Call 717-560-4381 for more information.

St. Francis Xavier Parish, Gettysburg – Lenten Fish Fries

Dinners in 5-7 p.m. and adult and children’s fish dinners are $10. Kids under 5 eat free. No fish fry March 16. Call 717-334-4048 or visit www.stfcfd.org for information.

St. Theresa Parish, New Cumberland – Lenten Soup and Fish Fry Series with guest speaker Father Samuel Dubois, who will offer a series of talks on the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on March 5, 12 and 19. Soup is served at 6 p.m. and the speaker begins at 6:30 p.m. Cost is $6, but a free-will offering will be taken.

St. Rita Parish, Blue Ridge Summit – Poor Man Suppers after evening masses on Wednesdays during Lent. Mass will be celebrated at 6:30 p.m. followed by the Poor Man Supper.


Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish, Harrisburg – Lenten Fish Fries sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #8891 on March 9 and March 23 from 5-7 p.m. in the Parish Social Hall. Dinners at 5:30 p.m. There is no cost, but a free-will offering will be taken.

St. Anne Parish, Lebanon – Lenten Fish Fries every Friday during the Lenten season will be held each Friday from 4-7 p.m. at St. Anne’s. Call 570-759-9227 for take-out, or eat in the parish center.

Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Hanover – Fish Fry on March 9 and March 23 in the Parish Hall from 4-7 p.m. Cost is $9. Eat-in or take-out.

Holy Spirit Parish, Palmyra – Fish Fry on March 2, 9, 16 and 23 from 4-7 p.m. featuring North Atlantic haddock (baked or fried), crab cakes, shrimp, clam strips, pierogis, soup, mac & cheese and homemade desserts.

Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Harrisburg – Friday Fish Fries hosted by the Knights of Columbus. Dinners in the social hall every Friday in Lenten March through 23 from 4-7 p.m. Enjoy a baked or fried fish dinner with all of your favorite sides for $8. Weekly special meals will also be offered for $13 or $17.

The Knights of Columbus and Columbian Ladies in Chambersburg – Fish Fry Fridays through March 30 from 5-7:30 p.m. at the Knights Hall at 338 East Garfield Street. Diners can enjoy the fellowship of your fellow parishioners and community members or call ahead for take-out orders at 717-269-1669. Offering includes appetizers ($4.75), beef-berarded haddock, baked haddock, shrimp, crab cake or fried clam strips ($12) with your choice of two sides (French fries, potato of the day, cole slaw, green beans, macaroni and cheese, or stewed tomatoes). Includes roll and dessert. Cash bar and coffee are available. There is also a children’s menu offered for $5.

St. Anne Parish, Lancaster – Meatless Lenten Suppers on Fridays during Lent. All are invited to attend these suppers held in the Parish Hall, which is located in the parish rectory building. There are two dinner seatings: 4:30-6 p.m. (followed by St. Joseph’s Cross) and 6:30-7:30 p.m. Parking is available in the lot behind the church with entrance off of North Duke St. The church may be accessed through the school hallway from the church, or the side door of the rectory building. A free-will donation at the supper is most appreciated but not required. For menu information and to make a reservation, please e-mail Christeen at SBrennan@hbgdiocese.org or call the parish office at 717-227-5225.

Knights of Columbus Council 9164 of St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Quarryville – Fish Fries or Soup and Grilled Cheese Dinners in the parish hall in the following dates: March 5, fish soup and grilled cheese at 5:30 p.m. March 9 and March 23, fish dinners at 5:30 p.m. Fish dinner costs $10 per person, kids 12 and under are free. Grilled cheese and soup is $5. Kids under 12 are also free. Call 717-282-4981 for information. In the church, questions? Call Mike Urbanc at 717-899-0650 or the parish office, 717-846-2695.

Knights of Columbus in Abbotsford – Lenten Fish Fries on Fridays in Lent at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Abbotsford, on March 2, 9, 16 and 23 from 4:30-6:45 p.m. Stations of the Cross will be held following the Fish Fry for everyone who wishes to attend. The dinners support K of C charitable projects and events. For more information, please call 717-259-0611.
Baptism of their loved ones. Please remember in your prayers the happy repose of these recently departed souls and the consolation of their loved ones.

Catholic Health Association Resources Available on Righting Health Care Disparities

In an effort to provide a venue to open discussions about this important issue, the Diocesan Office of Multicultural Ministries has the following Catholic Health Association resources:

- An 18-minute DVD with a video presentation featuring Ron Hamel, Ph.D., CHA senior director of ethics, highlights the theological and moral imperatives for righting health care disparities. It includes questions for reflection that can be used by boards, leadership teams and other groups to enter into dialog about challenges and opportunities for righting this wrong.

- Ending Disparities Prayer Card (Packs of 50). The 5.5” x 8.5” prayer card highlights the issue of health care disparities. It includes a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as well as a prayer on the back. It is useful as a resource for opening a meeting and can be shared in break rooms and staff gathering areas.

These resources are available to all. They are of great benefit to healthcare ministers or social justice committee members. Resources are limited and will be distributed on a first come basis. For additional information, contact Jackie Curran at 717-657-4804, ext.313, or jcurran@hbgdiocese.org.

Faith on Fire Missions Teams to Come to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Mechanicsburg is hosting Vince Ambrosetti, founder of Faith on Fire Missions, as musician and presenter of a special parish mission to lead us all into Holy Week. Beginning with a family concert on Sunday, March 25 at 7 p.m., and continuing each evening with mission nights Monday through Wednesday March 26-28 at 7 p.m., all are invited to come and experience our parish mission with this challenge: “From Baptism to table, from table to world: we are called, anointed, fed and sent as presence of the loving God.”

Vince was named Catholic Artist of the Year in December 2001, and has been honored with seven other Unity awards for his music. Vince sang his song “Sanctuary” during Communion at Mother Teresa’s funeral in Calcutta, India. He has composed, recorded and, by invitation of the Vatican, performed for Pope John Paul II, the first English Mass Setting ever sung at St. Peter Basilica in Rome.

For nearly 40 years and after 600+ parishes, Faith on Fire Mission teams have provided unforgettable weeks of preaching, music and inspiration for tens of thousands of parishioners across the United States.

Vince says, “Music is a powerful communicator, expressing that which words often cannot speak. Through music, Word, ritual and story, we rediscover that the values of the world around us ought not to be our ‘reality’; rather our reality is our faith in the risen Christ, pervasive to the whole of our lives. This richness is combined with the Word of God through the Sacramental journey is the schematic by which we are called to live.”

New in its 39th year of writing, recording, presenting, and performing missions, Faith on Fire Missions stays true to the founding challenge: “To enliven and inspire people of faith and, through music, touch the hearts of those who cannot be reached by words alone.”

For more information, please visit our parish website at www.stesas.net or contact Donna Nebesitskny, Pastoral Assistant, at 717-697-6929 or by emailing donna@stesas.net.

Top Honors for Our Lady of the Angels Student

A fourth-grade student at Our Lady of the Angels School in Danville was the winner of the recent statewide Patriotic Poster Contest conducted by the PA Department of the Catholic War Veterans.

Maddie Kraft, pictured in the middle, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Kraft, who recently received the Catholic War Veterans Pennsylvania and members of Holy Trinity Parish. The first-place award consisted of a blue ribbon, a framed certificate and a check for $100. Shown in the picture following the presentation is Columbia Post 1306 Commander Joseph Nikolaus, on the left. The state chairman of the contest is 3rd Vice Commander Joseph Weiss, a retired U.S. Army Colonel, pictured on the right. Both men are members of Holy Trinity Parish.

Maddie’s poster is now at the national level being judged with other entries from across the country.

Sister Maria Goretti Hudak, SSCM

Sts. Cyril and Methodius Sister Maria Goretti (Anna Marie Hudak) died on Feb. 16 in Danville. She was 88.

Born in Hazleton, Pa., she attended St. Joseph School and graduated from Hazleton Senior High School. Before entering the Congregation of Sisters of St. Cyril and Methodius, Anna Marie worked in the office of the Plain Speaker-Standard Sentinel as a stenographer-bookkeeper.

She entered the congregation in Danville in 1950 and pursued higher education and received a B.S. in Business Administration from Marywood University, Scranton, an M.B.A. from the University of Notre Dame in Indiana and an M.Div. from the Immaculate Conception Seminary, Seton Hall University, N.J.

Sister Maria Goretti began her teaching ministry in New Jersey, and later taught at St. Cyril Academy in Danville, and also worked in the school office. She taught novices and directed aspirants, young women seeking to discern a religious vocation. In two local parishes, she served as director of religious education programs. Later, she became Director of Associates, women who participated in promoting and assisting in the ministries of the Sisters.

After teaching in the business department at a high school in Indiana for ten years and serving on Diocesan Committees, notably as president of the Pastoral Council of the Diocese of Gary, Ind., Sister Maria Goretti assumed the position of Pastoral Assistant at St. Catherine Laboure Parish in Harrisburg. Here, she served the diocese in a variety of leadership roles, very often as president, notably of the Sisters’ Council Liturgy Committee, Evangelization Committee, Ecumenical Committee and the Vocation Committee.

In 1988, Sister Maria Goretti became a member of the Congregation’s Leadership Team, a post she held until 1996. From 1996 until 2009, she was the force behind the growth of the Maria Joseph Continuing Care Community, acting in various capacities, as treasurer, director and associate director at the various facilities, Maria Joseph Manor, Emmanuel and the Meadows.

Sister Maria Goretti was a pastoral visitor at the Danville State Hospital and served as President of the Danville-Riverside Ministerium Association (DRAMA) and Treasurer of the Danville-Riverside Area Christian Methodist and the Good Samaritan Fund. She also served on the board of the Danville Chapter of the American Red Cross and was a member of the Geisinger Medical Pastoral Care Advisory Committee.

Sister Maria Goretti is survived by several nieces and nephews. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in the Chapel at Maria Hall on Feb. 20. Burial was in the Sisters’ cemetery.

REMINDER
Our Deceased Clergy

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

- Deacon William Smith, 1994
- Father Stephen Jordan, 1994
- Franciscan Father Gerald Krizhoea.
- Bishop Nicholas C. Duttino, 2004
- Conventual Franciscan Father Robert Gryzowski, 2007
- Deacon J. Leo Dunn, 2007
- Abbo John Neitlir, O. Praem, 2008
- Father Lawrence Gross, 2009
- Father John Hillier, 2014
- Msgr. Thomas Kujovski, 2015

For additional information, contact Jackie Curran at 717-657-4804, ext.313, or jcurran@hbgdiocese.org.
Six Diocesan Wrestlers Win District Gold

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Trinity High School kicked off the finals with a gold-medal win, and Bishop McDevitt High School went five-for-five, sealing six championship titles in the District 3 Class AA individual wrestling tournament at the Giant Center in Hershey Feb. 24.

The spots at the pinnacle of the podium went to Trinity’s Patrick DeMark at 106 lbs., and to Bishop McDevitt’s Nate Smith at 113, Chase Shields at 120, Bodee Tolbert at 132, Tyler Martin at 138, and Tanner Updegraff at 152.

Storming back to win four matches in a row following a first-round loss was Trinity’s Colton Zimmerman at 138 lbs., who placed third at districts.

They will be joined by fellow place-winners Caleb Bentley (152) and Maximus McMurray (220) of Trinity and Elisha Cooksey (160) of Bishop McDevitt at the Southeast Region Championships to vie for spots in the PIAA State Wrestling Championships in Hershey March 8-10.
Sisters of Christian Charity Bid Farewell to Holy Family Convent

By Sister Shawn Donnelly, SCC
Special to The Witness

Last month, Bishop Ronald Gainer celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving for the 119 years of prayer-filled service at Holy Family Convent in Danville. The evening included remarks by Bishop Gainer, a silent auction, music and a cash bar. Proceeds from the evening were offered to God countless times so that the Sisters’ prayers and sacrifices in their infirmities and think about my beloved diocese? The Sisters of Christian Charity, through their care of the sick. They received the award of the Holy Family. The Sisters volunteered during the 1918 influenza epidemic to assist in the care of the sick. They were given a commendation for their brave service.

The bishop also expressed his gratitude for their consistent living out of a Eucharistic lifestyle – a lifestyle itself one of thanksgiving and gratitude. In his closing remarks, he expressed the gratitude of the Diocese of Harrisburg, “for all who lived their lives in witness to Christ throughout 119 years” and assured the Sisters that he would pray that “God continue to bless the growth of the Sisters of Christian Charity.”

A Congregation Reflected in Christ’s Body

By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
Special to The Witness

On Saturday, Feb. 3, Bishop Ronald Gainer gathered together with the Sisters of Christian Charity to celebrate a Liturgy of Thanksgiving for the 119 years of prayer-filled service at Holy Family Convent in Danville. In the spring, the Sisters living at Holy Family will move to the newly constructed Motherhouse in Mendham, N.J. The transition also included the exhumation of nearly 115 Sisters buried on the convent grounds. Their bodies were relocated to a Danville cemetery, and the congregation participated in a special service for the deceased.

The Sisters of Christian Charity have had a small mission in Danville dating back to 1874, according to records in Danville, the Bicentennial History. When the convent was put up for sale in 1898, their prayer for a place to care for their aged and infirm would be answered...” said the Sisters moved into their new home on Jan. 2, 1899, under the patronage of the Holy Family.

During the Mass, Thanksgiving he celebrated there on Feb. 3 of this year, Bishop Gainer recalled how the Sisters volunteered during the 1918 influenza epidemic to assist in the care of the sick. They received a commendation for their brave service.

The bishop also expressed his gratitude for their consistent living out of a Eucharistic lifestyle – a lifestyle itself one of thanksgiving and gratitude. In his closing remarks, he expressed the gratitude of the Diocese of Harrisburg, “for all who lived their lives in witness to Christ throughout 119 years” and assured the Sisters that he would pray that “God continue to bless the growth of the Sisters of Christian Charity.”

I could not help think about the more than 600 Sisters who died at Holy Family Convent during the 119 years of its existence. Each of them is present as we close our doors and move to New Jersey. Each of them, I am sure, rejoice over the fact that we will all be under one roof again. Each of them, with their individual story, have become the shoulders of holiness that I can stand upon. Recently, I had the privilege of assisting one of our 90-year-olds in making one last visit to St. Joseph Cemetery before “the big move.” She wanted to say goodbye to her birth sister, who is also a religious Sister. After saying a few prayers near the grave of Sister Elise, we began journeying down the row, sharing what we knew of the Sisters prayed at a given spot. Soon we reached beyond the moment in which I entered. Sister continued remembering the gift of each Sister, even way before the moment of my birth! This was another point to the fact that these departed Sisters who remain in Danville continue to be a part of the Congregation as well as part of the Church Triumphant.

The Mass was a means of celebration of Holy Family Radio which operates the mission of Holy Family Radio as one of the Catholic voices.

A 2015 file photo shows Sisters of Christian Charity gathered for Mass in the chapel at Holy Family Convent in Danville. The Sisters are transitioning from the convent to their new motherhouse in Mendham, N.J., this spring.

The Sisters of Christian Charity are graphed to the Body of Christ and is called to live with their Sisters in Mendham, to leave the Danville area this spring to move to New Jersey. Each of them, I am sure, rejoice over the fact that we will all be under one roof again. Each of them, with their individual story, have become the shoulders of holiness that I can stand upon. Recently, I had the privilege of assisting one of our 90-year-olds in making one last visit to St. Joseph Cemetery before “the big move.” She wanted to say goodbye to her birth sister, who is also a religious Sister. After saying a few prayers near the grave of Sister Elise, we began journeying down the row, sharing what we knew of the Sisters prayed at a given spot. Soon we reached beyond the moment in which I entered. Sister continued remembering the gift of each Sister, even way before the moment of my birth! This was another point to the fact that these departed Sisters who remain in Danville continue to be a part of the Congregation as well as part of the Church Triumphant.

The Sisters of Christian Charity, through their care of the sick. They received the award of the Holy Family. The Sisters volunteered during the 1918 influenza epidemic to assist in the care of the sick. They were given a commendation for their brave service.

Christ does indeed continue to protect my congregation and my beloved diocese. Let us strive to respond to his protection as we become His luminaries of mercy and love! (Sister of Christian Charity, Geralyn Schmidt, is the Wide Area Network Coordinator at the Diocese of Harrisburg and the Director of Formation for Wives in the Diocesan Program. An educator for 30 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 made them to be.)

Annulment Presentations Scheduled

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

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

All presentations begin at 7 p.m. They will take place on the following dates at these locations:
- March 12 – St. Joseph, York
- March 19 – Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg
- May 2 – St. Joseph, Danville
- June 5 – Our Lady of the Visitation, Shippensburg
- June 14 – St. Patrick, Carlisle

Fundraising Dinner for Holy Family Radio

April 20 at 6 p.m. Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey Hotel
Keynote speaker, Father Thomas Loya, Host of EWTN radio’s “Light of the East”

The evening includes remarks by Bishop Ronald Gainer, a silent auction, music and a cash bar.

Ticket prices are $100 each; a table of 8 with patron listing is $1,200. Send your check for the number of tickets, include your name, address and telephone number to: Family Radio PO Box 6028 Lancaster, PA 17607

For questions, call 717-525-8110. Please consider attending this event, to help the mission of Holy Family Radio which operates the only Catholic radio station in the Diocese of Harrisburg, AM 720 WHFY.