March 30, 2018 Vol. 52 No. 6

Prayer Vigil
7:00 P.M. at Holy Name of Jesus Church, Harrisburg. This will include a live enactment of the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary by young people from throughout the Diocese, similar in many ways to the Living Way of the Cross. This event will replace the traditional Palm Sunday Youth Mass and Gathering for 2018. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Opening Mass for the Anniversary Year
10:00 A.M. at Holy Name of Jesus Church, Harrisburg. Please join Bishop Gainer as celebrant and Homilist to begin the anniversary year celebration. A reception, featuring a sampling of ethnic foods from various ethnic and cultural groups that comprise the faithful of the Diocese, will be held immediately following the Mass.

Pilgrimage to Ireland
Join Bishop Gainer on a twelve-day pilgrimage to the Emerald Isle, sponsored by Catholic Charities. In keeping with the 150th anniversary celebration, the pilgrimage will include a visit to the grave of Saint Patrick, the Patron Saint of the Diocese of Harrisburg. Participation is limited.

Pilgrimage to Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception
SAVE THE DATE for this diocesan pilgrimage to the Basilica in Washington, D.C. Additional details will be forthcoming.

Closing Mass for Anniversary Year
In the afternoon at Holy Name of Jesus Church, Harrisburg. Please join Bishop Gainer as celebrant and homilist for this special Mass to conclude our year-long anniversary celebration.

For more information: www.hbgdiocese.org/150

Alleluia! He Is Risen!

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

In a powerful statement of prayer, and with a commitment to lift up one another, a student-led gathering at York Catholic High School gave witness to faith and solidarity on March 14, the one-month anniversary of the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla. In the days and weeks that followed the Feb. 14 shootings, in which 17 students and teachers were killed, students across the nation – even throughout the world – rallied to remember the victims and stand against gun violence through a nationwide, 17-minute walk-out on March 14.

At York Catholic High School – and at the diocese’s other high schools that day – students instead remembered how, in a time of loss, pain, and even fear, they and their classmates would lift one another up.

At York Catholic, a Student-Led Prayer Service and Activity to Lift Others Up Memorializes Parkland Victims

More PRAYER, page 9

The risen Christ is depicted in this 16th-century painting titled "Christ Risen From the Tomb and Two Saints" by Moretto da Brescia.
As the sun descended over Harrisburg on Monday of Holy Week, the clergy, consecrated and lay faithful of the diocese turned their focus to the annual Chrism Mass, for the blessing of the Holy Oils and the consecration of the Sacred Chrism to be used throughout the coming year in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders and Anointing of the Sick, as well as for the dedication of new altars and new churches.

Bishop Ronald Gainer celebrated the solemn Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral on March 26, which also gathered the priests who serve the diocese. It is during this Mass that they renew their commitment to priestly service, and receive prayers and affirmation from the people in the congregation.

“The Chrism Mass takes place at this time of the year when our Lenten observance will soon yield to the commemoration of the Easter Triduum. This should remind us all that the sacraments draw their meaning and their power from the Paschal Mystery – our Lord’s suffering, death, resurrection and exultation,” Bishop Gainer remarked in his homily.

“The Holy Oils and the Sacred Chrism are visible, tangible, natural signs of an invisible, intangible, supernatural reality: the Church as the fundamental sacrament of Christ Jesus,” he said.

He urged all those gathered – clergy, consecrated and lay faithful – to “keep our eyes fixed on Christ in order to carry out the responsibilities given to us for the sake of the Gospel.”

“May we together live this Holy Week filled with hope, the hope that arrives from the Chrism Mass Offers Tangible Sign of Church as Sacrament.

Above: Bishop Ronald Gainer gives an apostolic blessing during the Concluding Rite. Priests who serve in the diocese gathered for the Chrism Mass, during which they renewed their commitment to priestly service.

Left: Balsam is poured into the oil for the Sacred Chrism. The balsam adds the fragrance to the Chrism.

our utter confidence in the death and resurrection of Jesus, the Great High Priest, the Christ, the Anointed One, the Messiah,” the bishop remarked. “To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins, to him be glory and power forever and ever.”

The Oil of the Catechumens, identified during the Chrism Mass with a green ribbon, is used for those who are preparing for baptism. Before they go to the font of life to be reborn, candidates for baptism are strengthened by the anointing with this oil to renounce sin and the devil.

Identified with a purple ribbon, the Oil of the Sick is used in the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. This oil offers to those who are ill a remedy for the illness of mind and body, so that they may have strength to bear their suffering, resist evil and receive the forgiveness of sins.

Adorned with a white ribbon, Chrism takes its name from Christ, “the anointed one of the Lord.” It is a mixture of olive oil and fragrant balsam, and is used in Confirmation, the anointing of priests and bishops during ordination, and in the dedication of new churches and altars. In Confirmation, Christians receive the spiritual anointing of the Holy Spirit as Chrism is placed on their foreheads. Priests, through the anointing of their hands during ordination, are consecrated to offer sacrifice; bishops are anointed on their heads as a sign of their share in the priesthood of Jesus Christ.

Above: Bishop Ronald Gainer breathes over the opening of a vessel of Chrism, symbolizing the Holy Spirit coming down to consecrate the oil, and the life-giving nature of the sacraments for which it is used.
The Diocese of Harrisburg is committed to the safety of children. We take very seriously the protection of youth in all Church-related activities and programs. We are working to make the Catholic Church one of the safest institutions in the country.

To report the suspected abuse of a minor, you must notify both law enforcement and the Church. First, call the PA Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-33-0313. To report suspected abuse of a minor by a Church official, employee or volunteer, no matter when it happened, call the diocesan toll free hotline at 1-800-626-1608.

In the Diocese of Harrisburg we:
• Have zero tolerance for anyone who is guilty of even one instance of abuse.
• Offer opportunities to help victims to heal.
• Screen all employees and volunteers before they can begin service.
• Educate our youth on how to stay safe.
• Train employees and volunteers on how to recognize and report abuse.
• Disclose all allegations to local civil authorities.
• Exceed State and national requirements.
• Undergo an annual independent audit of our procedures.

To learn more about what you can do to prevent abuse, how to report abuse, learn about assistance available to victims and Youth Protection efforts of the Diocese, please visit: www.hbgdiocese.org/safeyouth.

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Jim Gontis
Special to The Witness

“Who do you say that I am?”

It is the question that we must all ask ourselves as we enter into this Easter season. It is a question whose answer has serious ramifications on how we are to live our lives, and how we will enter eternity. And when Jesus asked his apostles this question, “Who do people say that I am?...they all had different answers. He then posed the question to his apostles, his closest circle of friends, the ones who had been with him, who had witnessed his miracles, his healings, and had learned his teachings. “But who do YOU say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

Why is this such an important question? Because it directs us to the focus on how we live out our lives in obedience to him. Suddenly every moral question, every Commandment, the way we approach our joys, our sorrows, our fears, our triumphs and our failures have to do with how we answer this one question.

“Who do you say that I am?” Jesus does not just leave us hanging. He doesn’t want us to make up our own answers and create him in our image. “My Jesus is...[fill in the blank]” Peter gives the answer that Jesus is looking for. Peter gets the gold star! “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God!” It is after this question is answered that Jesus begins to prepare his disciples for the suffering he will endure in Jerusalem. He is eventually brought before the Sanhedrin, and the high priest asks him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One? Then Jesus answered, I AM!” (John 15:56:21). And once we answer with conviction, “You are Jesus, you are God, the great I AM,” we, too, begin our road to Calvary. For Jesus tells us that if we are to be his disciples, we must pick up our cross daily and follow him.

When Jesus is brought before Pilate, Pilate questions Jesus as to who he is, the King of the Jews? He wants a tidy answer, one that will fit within his understanding. But Jesus doesn’t make it easy for Pilate. He says, “YOU say that I am a king.” For this truth, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice” (John 18:37). And Pilate responds with the question, “What is truth?” (John 18:38). It is the rhetorical question of a pagan world that holds dear its maxims that truth is relative. It is the battle cry of the enlightenment, that wisdom requires truth according to its whims, its emotions, its definitions and justification of sin – a world that mirrors the cry of Lucifer when it proclaims against its Creator, “Non Serviam. I will not serve! I will create truth in my own image.” The answer to Pilate’s question is not the answer to WHAT, but rather WHO is truth. But Jesus says “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6). Truth, the Incarnate Word, Jesus Christ, came into the world to reconcile us to the Father and to redeem us from death. Truth was crucified on a cross on Good Friday, and by his own power, on Easter Sunday, Truth raised himself from the dead, ascended into heaven, and remains with the Church until the end of time.

So Truth is a person, Jesus Christ, the second person of the Holy Trinity, God! And he established a Church, the Catholic Church, that he founded upon the rock of Peter, that he commissioned to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and to teach [everyone] to observe all that he had commanded. Jesus tells us, “If you love me, keep my commandments, and whoever keeps my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him” (John 14:21). Truth, Jesus Christ, wants me to show my love for him by following his commandments. But how do I know these commandments are the truth? How do I know what is pleasing to him and what is not, what is good and what is evil? Where do I find the Truth? In the teachings of the Catholic Church! So this Easter, as we approach the altar for Holy Communion and we receive the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ, let our hearts and mouths proclaim the answer to the question, “Who do you say that I am?” in the words of St. Thomas the Apostle, “My Lord and My God!”

Jim Gontis (Jim Gontis is the Director of the Diocesan Office for Evangelization and Catechesis, and the Director of Sports Ministry for the Diocese of Harrisburg).

Jubilee: The Holy Ground

St. Katharine Drexel

By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
Special to The Witness

Several years ago, when I was a middle-school teacher, I looked with fear and trepidation to the beginning of the next school year. You see, the incoming class was a class that was “notorious” since kindergarten! The issue, I was told, was that each of them thought they were “brave”! Knowing that those 40 Lenten days were going to face a difficult year if I didn’t use this as an opportunity to teach about the importance of service, I took it to prayer.

What I needed was a symbol of working together to create something better. I found the answer in the symbol of the rainbow. After all, such a symbol of the rainbow may be one of the first to appear after a storm. It can serve as a sign of hope or a promise of new beginnings. It also reminds us that when we experience rain, we also experience sunshine. One appearance even showed a double rainbow!

As I viewed this splendor, I thought , “What a great symbol! Thank you, God! Your creativity is truly marvelous!” Wanting to integrate this symbol throughout the entire curriculum that year, I did some reading about rainbows. Did you know that in order to see a rainbow, the refraction of light has to be at a 45-degree angle? How could you not think about the 40 days of Lent, the 40 years that the Israelites wandered through the desert, or the 40 days of rain that Noah experienced?

As I continued to ponder the rainbow, I came to realize that it was truly a symbol of unity in diversity. Let me explain. If you bend white light at a 45-degree angle, you will see the spectrum or rainbow, one of the 7 colors of the rainbow. All the colors can be seen in the spectrum because of the way our eyes can perceive it. If you bend the spectrum again, white light appears, not a double rainbow. So, white light, an essential component of life on our planet, is made up of individual colors. In the same way, when we think of the symbol of the rainbow, we think of the individual bands of energy, which makes up the rainbow. It is made up of two or more distinct colors, which is reflected on our planet when we see a rainbow, the refraction of light has to be at a 45-degree angle? How could you not think about the 40 days of Lent, the 40 years that the Israelites wandered through the desert, or the 40 days of rain that Noah experienced?

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By Chris Heisey  
The Catholic Witness

The Solemnity of St. Patrick was celebrated at the Cathedral named in his honor on Saturday, March 17 in Harrisburg. Bishop Ronald Gainer was the main celebrant at the morning Holy Mass, concelebrated by Father Chester Snyder, former Diocesan Administrator prior to the episcopacy of Bishop Joseph McFadden – the Tenth Bishop of Harrisburg – which began in August 2010. More than 500 faithful were in attendance, including a color guard from the Harrisburg Capitol Police Department as well as a bagpiper from the force who aided the Diocesan Schola in stirring musical accompaniment throughout the Mass.

“I pray for those who believe in and have reverence for God. Some of them may happen to inspect or come upon this writing which Patrick, a sinner without learning, wrote in Ireland. May none of them ever say that whatever little I did or made known to please God was done through ignorance. Instead, you can judge and believe in all truth that it was a gift of God. This is my confession before I die,” St. Patrick wrote just prior to his death in the latter part of 5th Century.

In his homily, Bishop Gainer provided a revelatory look and expansive historical reflection on the fascinating life of the Ireland missionary. After Mass, an Irish-themed luncheon featuring Irish delicacies, drink and music was held in Bishop Rhoades Hall at the Cathedral, and was hosted by its parishioners and rector, Father Joshua Brommer.

Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Invites all women of the diocese to join us at the 

Eighth Annual Retreat

Mount St. Mary’s University, Emmitsburg
June 8 – 10, 2018 (Friday evening-Sunday Noon)  
“Mother of Mercy, Our Life, Our Sweetness and our Hope”
Retreat Master: Very Reverend Neil S. Sullivan
Pastor, St. Catherine Labouré Parish, Harrisburg
Father Neil Sullivan was ordained to the priesthood in 1997. He is a frequent retreat leader, workshop presenter on liturgical theology and serves as a liturgical consultant in a variety of capacities. He is a member of the leadership team and liturgical coordinator for the Mid-Atlantic Congress on Pastoral Leadership.
Registration Deadline: May 21, 2018  
Contact Barbara McCarthy at 717-534-1858 or FranBartMc@ao.com with questions or to register.
Registration forms are also available on the HDCCW website http://hdccw.webs.com/calendar

Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat
For Those Suffering from an Abortion
April 13-15 in Columbia, PA
The retreat is confidential.
If you or someone you know is suffering from an abortion experience, call 717-788-4959 or visit www.rachelsvineyard.org.
Come, and let the healing begin.
By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

True heroes, the ones that work for powerful change in a peaceful manner, often pass with little attention given to their lifetime of giving selfless sacrifice to others. This past autumn, one of those selfless heroes died peacefully in silence, old and frail, life having taken its toll. There in a humble Saint Louis nursing home, the nation lost a hero who helped shine light upon this nation’s enduring darkness.

March 165 was one of the most tumultuous months in American history, smack in the middle of a decade filled with open strife. Not only was the nation debating President Lyndon Johnson’s war escalation policy in Vietnam, the roiling discontent of the Civil Rights Movement in the Deep South went from simmer to boil on March 7, 1965, shocking an arguably inattentive country into taking notice. The march on that fateful day started a chain reaction of events that changed the country for good.

Of all places, it was Selma, Alabama, a small, obscure town tucked along the banks of the Alabama River some 50 miles west of Montgomery — the state’s capital — where the pot would boil over. Referred to by Alabamians as “The Black Belt” (and is still today), it is home to African Americans that outnumber whites by more than a 3 to 1 margin. Surrounded by cotton fields stretching for dozens of miles, Selma sits in Dallas County, where in 1965 some 15,000 African Americans lived and worked in the fields for nearly nothing as cotton pickers.

Only 300 of those black Americans were registered to vote, almost a century removed from when the 15th Amendment for 95 years was passed by ¾ of the states in 1870, prohibiting blacks from voting. "The amendment become law. Though it was law, it was never practiced in the South. In Alabama, African Americans had to schedule an appointment at the county courthouse to register. Many did not have telephones or transportation to get to the office, and if they did they were greeted by three white county registrars along with a multi-page questionnaire that asked civic questions no citizen of Alabama could answer, much less a black citizen who rarely had access to formal public education in segregated schools that littered the state.

On “registration days,” more and more blacks began showing up in groups to protest this outrageous practice of voting discrimination. Soon, these groups were met with armed police officers in riot gear to turn them away. In Alabama, black codes laws dating back to the pre-Civil War days prohibited blacks from congregating into groups unless in a church. Supported by code laws, white police officers could freely beat blacks at will if they failed to disperse.

Just weeks before March 7, African American protester Jimmy Lee Jackson was shot in the abdomen by an Alabama state trooper near Marion, some 35 miles north of Selma, while protecting his grandfather. Shot in cold blood in front of witnesses, troopers left Jackson for dead as he bled on a diner floor. He died a few days later in a black hospital, where medical care was crude at best.

Outraged by the senseless killing, a march was planned on Sunday, March 7, after church services by the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee and the Dallas Voters League. In addition, the Reverend Martin Luther King threw his support behind the movement, though there were many blacks in Selma who were long past seeking non-violent means to ending the overt racial prejudice. Ignoring the 15th Amendment for 95 years was proof to many of what non-violence had achieved the past century.

Selma’s newly-elected mayor was Joseph Smith, and like his right-hand-man on the police force was Sheriff Jim Clark, an avowed white supremacist who was so itching for a black and white fight. In town also was John Lewis, an African American national civil rights proponent, who was there to lead the march.

The focal point for the clash about to happen was the Edmund Pettus Bridge — a sprawling iron girded bridge that spans the Alabama River just outside of town. The rusted, iconic bridge still stands today, and as you walk the incline span, it’s impossible to see over the arch to what awaits on the decline. When the marchers descended, they witnessed more than 100 police officers waiting with billy clubs and fire hoses. Onward the marchers strode, arm in arm, and as expected the police officers began clubbing and hosing the protesters. John Lewis, who has now been the U.S. Congressman from Georgia’s 5th District for more than 40 years, was cracked over the head by an officer’s club, fracturing his skull open.

But what made the march so effective was that the media could use the bridge as a platform to capture searing images. Black-and-white footage and telling still photos of white officers beating and hosing unarmed black Americans in cold blood brought the struggle for civil rights into every home in America. Front pages of newspapers as well as the evening news showed the bloody clash and repugnant behavior of Sheriff Clark’s officers, along with Alabama state police officers. Captured on film audio, hurling racial epithets, the
police sounded like bigoted thugs using the n-word repeatedly with threats of violence.

The Pettus Bridge was named ironically after Edmund Winston Pettus, a Confederate General, a U.S. Senator, and a Grand Dragon of Ku Klux Klan in the 1870s, was the perfect setting to put on display Alabama’s no-longer-hidden race.

When Dr. King heard of the “little trouble” in Selma, he quickly arrived from Atlanta, driving the three hours in the middle of the night. Just days later, King led the marchers across the Pettus Bridge on their way to Montgomery on a sunny March 21. In the crowd of marchers were some 400 Catholic priests and nuns who saw the horrific images on television and had traveled to Selma to support this civil rights movement.

Obtaining permission from Cardinal Joseph Rit- ter, the Archbishop of Saint Louis, several Franciscan Sisters of Mary and Sisters of Saint Joseph joined the marchers. Msgr. Doyle, the cardinal’s secretary, told the nuns, “It is time the Church become visible on national and international levels.”

Carroll Retzer thought the march was “an excellent opportunity,” according to the sisters. Few whites were happy with the march, including the Archbishop of Mobile, Ala-

Sister Mary Antona Ebo, an African American Sister of Mary, was there in the crowd, quietly listening to those words. With the solemn blessing of her archbishop to help change the nation, she marched courageously in a peaceful manner, ever

The Sisters of Selma - - Bearing Witness for Change

The Edmund Pettus Bridge was built in 1940 with its impressive half-mile stretch across the Alabama River. The iconic span still carries Route 80 into downtown Selma, some 50 miles from Montgomery in south central Alabama.

Continued from 6

Three days for the marchers to complete the 50-mile trek along Route 80 to Montgomery, which today still looks much like it did 55 years ago. Camp-

The Edmund Pettus Bridge was built in 1940 with its impressive half-mile stretch across the Alabama River. The iconic span still carries Route 80 into downtown Selma, some 50 miles from Montgomery in south central Alabama.

The Edmund Pettus Bridge was built in 1940 with its impressive half-mile stretch across the Alabama River. The iconic span still carries Route 80 into downtown Selma, some 50 miles from Montgomery in south central Alabama.
Pregnancy Center in York Transforms to ‘Love and Serve More Moms’

Women’s Care Center Opens at New Location

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Every expansion, development and change in the nearly 30-year history of what was previously known as the Pregnancy & Family Resource Center in York has been one of intentional growth in its mission of loving and serving women facing an unexpected pregnancy.

The pro-life ministry began in 1990 as the Pregnancy Problem Center, offering confidential services, pregnancy testing, baby items and referrals at its first location adjacent to St. Patrick Church on Princess Street. Later, it was renamed the Pregnancy & Family Resource Center, and expanded to include obstetric ultrasounds and additional services with its move to a larger facility on Hartley Street on the west end of town near the business district of Route 30.

Today, the program is continuing to expand its mission of caring for mothers, babies and families with a new name and location: at the Women’s Care Center on Richland Avenue, across the street from St. Rose of Lima Church. The name change reflects a partnership with Women’s Care Center, founded in South Bend, Ind., in 1984. With 28 centers in ten states (Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin), the program has grown to become the largest, most successful pregnancy resource center in America.

“We had been doing very well in our mission, but we wanted to be even better,” Executive Director Linda Skeehan, R.N., said of the decision for the York ministry to become a licensee of Women’s Care Center. “We wanted to step up our service to more women and more babies, and it’s so much easier to step things up when you have a proven and successful model to follow.”

Mrs. Skeehan and the local Board of Directors of the Pregnancy & Family Resource Center first learned of Women’s Care Center from Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, who is a member of the organization’s Board of Directors in Indiana. Before long, Mrs. Skeehan, Lynn Newcomer, President of the Pregnancy & Family Resource Center and its Co-Founder, and Melinda Waterbury, Assistant Director, headed to Indiana to visit several Women’s Care Center locations and learn about its way of focusing on loving moms, saving babies and providing support to families.

“We saw that their program was doing all of the things that we had been doing here in York – and that they were serving more people,” Mrs. Skeehan told The Catholic Witness.

After deciding to partner with Women’s Care Center, the Board of Directors in York purchased the new location on Richland Avenue last spring, and spent the next several months renovating and preparing the facility – a former carriage house – to welcome expectant mothers when its doors first opened on Jan. 12 of this year.

Women’s Care Center is a welcoming and safe place where women come to know that they are truly loved, and where counselors walk with them on their journey. It’s a place where mothers and fathers can take steps toward self-sufficiency and successful parenting. The organization also continues to offer adoption education and referrals.

The two-story center in York, with bright pink signage and décor on its stone façade, immerses women in a caring atmosphere that is far from a clinical environment. A grand staircase, plush furnishings and natural light give way to private and comfortable rooms for counseling, professional obstetric ultrasounds, a charming boutique with baby and toddler-care items, and space for group parenting classes. The group classes are a new offering made possible because of the space in the new location.

“Partnering with Women’s Care Center makes it possible for us to run an operation like this, in a place like this,” Mrs. Skeehan remarked. “Without the support of Women’s Care Center, without being in affiliation with their organization, it would be difficult for a pregnancy center to offer all of these amenities to those we serve.”

Women’s Care Center provides all of the training for counselors and client care staff, the educational materials for parents, the décor and furnishings, and a blueprint for successful fundraising.

As a licensee, Women’s Care Center of York is responsible for its own funding. As such, Mrs. Skeehan expressed gratitude for the support received, especially from the Catholic Churches in the York Deanery as well as nearby Calvary United Methodist Church and St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church, and the local councils of the Knights of Columbus.

Volunteers, donors and the Board of Directors are critical to continuing the mission of being a beacon of hope for women facing an unexpected pregnancy, Mrs. Skeehan said.

Women’s Care Center will participate in Give Local York on May 4, a one-day online giving event to raise funds for area organizations. Contributions can be made to the center on that day at www.givelocalyork.org.

Those who are interested in supporting the center can also do so through monetary donations, infant and toddler items, and via volunteer efforts for fundraising events and teaching parenting classes.

“As above all else, our job is to provide support to moms, dads and families. We care about every aspect of every mother: her life, her health, and her baby,” Mrs. Skeehan said. “There is no judgment here, just love and support.”

“Through our partnership with Women’s Care Center, we are on track to serve more women than ever before,” she said. “We have found where we’re supposed to be, what we’re supposed to be doing, and how we’re supposed to be doing it.”

(Learn about Women’s Care Center online at www.supportwomenscarecenter.org. To learn how you can donate or volunteer for the center in York, call 717-854-6285.)
The parkland victims in prayer services and activities that focused on faith and solidarity.

“It was obvious in the aftermath of the tragedy that youth wanted to respond in some way on the one-month anniversary. It’s a real-world issue that has an impact on these kids’ lives,” said Katie Seufert, York Catholic High School Principal.

After Bishop Ronald Gainer conducted a listening session with diocesan high school seniors a week after the school shooting, Mrs. Seufert convened the class at York Catholic.

“We’ll be responding the York Catholic way on March 14 via a student-led prayer service,” she told them, and invited their leadership.

Fifteen students stepped forward to organize and prepare the prayer service, and the entire student body – grades 7 through 12 – responded in reverence, silently and respectfully entering the school auditorium, where senior leadership presented a slideshow featuring photos of the 17 victims from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and Scripture passages.

In honoring the memory of those who died, the students called their peers to action in affirming one another. They distributed 600 sticky notes to the student body and asked them to write 17 positive things they would do to lift each other up.

Rows of colorful sticky notes eclipsed the display cases in the school’s lobby, messages with #whatsyour17yc:

“Pray for 17 people who may need it.”

“Talk to 17 people I don’t know that well.”

“Pray for 17 minutes for the 17 who died.”

“Say hi to 17 kids I don’t know.”

“I will give 17 hugs.”

“I will smile at 17 people to help brighten their day.”

Mrs. Seufert told The Catholic Witness that the entire project was student-driven and student-led, giving them a voice and a platform to work for values and change.

“The reverence and the respect they showed at the prayer service was profound. They were silent as they gathered, and they stayed silent until they left,” she observed. “As they posted their notes, they shed tears and hugged each other. And now there are inspirational notes and uplifting actions all throughout the building.”

“Teenagers have a lot to share. They are very optimistic, and I think we all could learn a great deal from their age group,” Mrs. Seufert remarked. “I am inspired by their leadership in our Catholic schools at this moment in time in our country.”

Student Council President Brian Hand begins a prayer service in memory of the students and teachers killed last month at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida.

CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

Right: Kadie Kamara and Torrey Thomas post their 17 actions for positive change.

Below: Tyler Bain and Jamie Muller add to the hundreds of sticky notes for #whatsyour17yc following the prayer service.

Prayer
Continued from 1

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**Annual Scout Recognition Mass**

**Sunday, April 22 at 2:00**

**Good Shepherd Church, Camp Hill**

**Mass with Bishop Ronald Gainer**

All Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, American Heritage Girls and Trail Life USA Members who have earned religious awards are invited to attend.

Scouts who have completed any of the Catholic religious awards are encouraged to attend.

If you are being recognized, please arrive by 1:30 p.m.

Registration is open until April 13 at www.hbgdiocese.org.

For more information, contact:
Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry
717-657-4804, ext. 327.

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**A Retreat for College-Aged Young Adults and Recent Graduates**

**Saturday, April 14 from 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish • 310 Hertzler Road, Mechanicsburg**

The season of Easter is a perfect time to get away to refresh and renew ourselves while growing in relationship with Our Lord and with other young adults.

For more information, contact your Catholic Campus Ministry office or the Diocesan Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry
717-657-4804, ext. 327 • oyyam@hbgdiocese.org

Online registration is available at www.hbgdiocese.org
By Chris Heisey  
*The Catholic Witness*

It would have taken the perfect game by Our Lady of Lourdes Regional School to compete with a Kennedy Catholic basketball team in the state finals that was not only big, athletic and talented, but poised and confident to match their basketball prowess. Given that Kennedy Catholic cruised through the state playoffs by beating their opponents by 40-plus point margins, competing against a team that plays above the rim, rather than below, was going to be a tall order.

To beat this great Kennedy Catholic team – defending state champs and perennial favorite to win in Hershey – Lourdes would have needed to handle the ball flawlessly, shoot threes at a very high percentage and handle the Golden Eagles’ size inside. Yet, it proved too mighty a feat, as Lourdes fell to Kennedy Catholic, 78-36, in the PIAA Class A state final at the Giant Center in Hershey on March 26.

The junior-laden Golden Eagles scored the game’s first 30 points holding the Red Raiders scoreless in the first quarter. Kennedy’s full court press and half court trap gave the Red Raiders fits from the start.

When David nailed the giant Philistine in the forehead killing him with a mere stone, it took the perfect shot under intense pressure to slay the mighty warrior Goliath, Holy Scripture tells us. Lourdes did not handle the Golden Eagles pressure, and it was a disappointing way to end a fantastic season for Lourdes (25-5). In the PIAA eastern final a week earlier, Lourdes played solidly as they handily beat a very good Faith Christian team with super outside shooting and their patented tenacious 2-3 zone defense.

“We did not play our best game on the floor today,” head coach James Sandri said after the state final. “We just did not play our best. We were a little shell shocked those first few moments and we were never able to recover. I am so proud of my team, though, and I would not trade any one of my 16 players for any others. I really mean that.”

Twenty eight years ago, Lourdes beat then-Kennedy Christian to win the 1990 state championship in Hershey.
Coming off very successful Mid-Penn and District 3 championship performances, Bishop McDevitt’s Josiah Lauver, a junior, headed into the PIAA state swimming championships at Bucknell University in mid-March as a number one seed in the 200-yard freestyle and a number three seed in the 100-yard backstroke. After winning the 200-yard freestyle on the first day of competition, Lauver broke the 50-second barrier in the 100-yard backstroke to earn his second state gold in as many days. McDevitt’s medley relay teams posted two top-five performances, of which Lauver was also a member. He also was honored with “Swimmer of the Meet” by the PIAA for his four-medal performance.

After the meet, Lauver told the press that “We all did so great. I love relays, that is my favorite part about the meet.”

**LADY CRUSADERS OF ST. TEREISA OF CALCUTTA SCHOOL WIN GIRLS’ VARSITY STATE CYO TOURNAMENT**

With an unblemished record of 33-0, the Lady Crusaders of St. Teresa of Calcutta School in the Adams Deanery are this year’s champions of the diocesan and state CYO tournaments at the girls’ varsity levels. The achievements are of significant note for St. Teresa of Calcutta School, which opened in the fall of 2017 with grades K-3 in Conewago, and grades 4-8 in McSherrystown.

In the state CYO championship, the Lady Crusaders topped St. Jude from the Diocese of Erie, 48-29, in the finals held March 11 in Erie.

Prior to the state tournament, students, faculty and family members of the Lady Crusaders gathered in the McSherrystown Campus gymnasium on March 8 to give the girls’ varsity team a send-off to remember. Cheerleaders were on hand to raise the excitement level. Prior to their departure, the Lady Crusaders presented Father Charles Persing, Executive Pastor of St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School, a plaque commemorating their win at the 2018 Diocesan Tournament.

A Welcome Home Victory Celebration was held on March 12. The team gathered at the Southeastern Adams Volunteer Emergency Services Company 29 and climbed aboard a fire truck for their victory ride. The SAVES fire truck and a police escort drove past the Conewago Campus and down Main Street in McSherrystown, stopping at the McSherrystown Campus for a reception.

On March 14, the Borough of McSherrystown, along with Mayor Anthony J. Weaver, issued a Proclamation of Special Recognition acknowledging the Lady Crusaders and their “outstanding teamwork.” March 16 was set aside as a Special Day of Recognition in the Borough of McSherrystown for the 2017-2018 St. Teresa of Calcutta Girls Varsity Basketball Team. Team members, pictured, are, front row: Abigail Vingsen, Emily McCann, Abbey Jacoby, Camryn Felix and Kellee Staub. In the middle row are Coach Alan Felix, Coach Mike Hoddinott, Maggie Hughes, Olivia Snyder, Gabby Roberts (an 8th grader at St. Joseph, Hanover), Meredith Wilson, Giana Hoddinott, Makenna Mummet, Marissa Miller, Coach Tony Miller and Coach Tommy Hartlaub. In the back is Coach Leland Hughes.

**Lancaster Catholic State Basketball Finals Coverage**

Coverage of the PIAA 4A Girls’ Basketball Championships, featuring the Lancaster Catholic Crusaders, will appear in the April 13 edition of The Catholic Witness, as this week’s edition went to press one day before the Crusaders were set to play for the state championship. We will follow-up with our coverage of that game in the next edition.

**ST. TEREASA SAINTS CAPTURE BOYS’ VARSITY STATE CYO TOURNAMENT**

The St. Theresa Varsity Boys’ Basketball Team from New Cumberland claimed the Pennsylvania State CYO Basketball Tournament Championship, held this year at Trinity High School in Camp Hill. It was the first ever state championship for the St. Theresa boys’ program in nearly 70 years since the school’s inception in 1948.

The team had won the 66th Annual Harrisburg Diocesan Championship, held at St. Patrick School in Carlisle on March 23-25, and qualified for The Final 8 in the State Championship Tournament. In state competition, they bested Mary the Mother Redeemer of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia Archdiocese and St. Thomas More of the Diocese of Allentown to advance to the program’s first appearance in the state championship game since 1963. The Saints were victorious in their title game appearance, beating Sacred Heart of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, 53-44. The team finished the regular season and post season with an overall record of 32-4.

In addition, the team won the Harrisburg League with an 18-0 record and finished third in the prestigious Crusader Showcase Classic at St. Paul’s School in Baltimore. This year’s team also played national competition in Maryland from the Archdiocese of Washington D.C. and the Archdiocese of Baltimore. With this season’s accomplishments, the St. Theresa Varsity Boys’ basketball program now has four Harrisburg Diocesan Championships (2011, 2013, 2017 & 2018) and one Pennsylvania CYO State Championship in the last eight years. The 2017-18 team members included; Jack Staul, Tyler Houser, Charlie Werner, Chance Westry, Evan Scott, Gabe Deppen, Ethan Pfeffer, Jacob Shull, Danny Britten, Daniel Maiely, Malachi Palmer, Cooper Manley, Jordan Negley and Joe Charbonneau, and team managers Tucker Grace and Landon Kuntzelman. They were coached by Jason Grace, head coach, and assistants Scott Rider, Steve Kuntzelman and Chris Schemke.
Future Priests Must ‘See Where Mercy is Needed,’ Nuncio Tells Seminarians at the Mount

By George P. Matysek Jr.  
Catholic News Service

The apostolic nuncio to the United States challenged an audience of seminarians, faculty and staff at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., to see future priests not as functionaries of the sacred or managers of a business, but as compassionate pastors and missionaries who joyfully announce the Gospel.

“The future priest must have the ability to see where mercy is needed and the healthy zeal to make himself readily available to apply the healing balm of God’s mercy with the love of a genuine father and pastor,” Archbishop Christophe Pierre said in a March 8 address to about 200 people in Emmitsburg.

The Church needs a new missionary spirit, the French prelate insisted, one that encounters and engages an increasingly secularized world. Priests must be fundamentally trained to be heralds of the good news, he said.

“At times, we have this self-referential mentality,” he explained. “The pope is fighting against that. We are at the service of the people. We have a special ministry to help the people to live their vocation.”

Drawing from Pope Francis’ 2013 apostolic exhortation, “Evangelii Gaudium” (“The Joy of the Gospel”), and “The Gift of the Priestly Vocation,” a document from the Vatican’s Congregation for Clergy, the archbishop said theological and philosophical training in the seminary must first inculcate a sense of humility before God.

“Kneeling before God, with an open heart and an open mind, one learns amid the complexities of life and culture how to discern the path of truth that leads to authentic joy,” Archbishop Pierre said.

Referring to a talk by Pope Francis to Polish Jesuits in 2016, the nuncio said future priests should be attuned to the divine and the diabolical in the world. They must be able to discern what is from God and what is from the devil, he said, and have the ability to help people discern the “shades of gray” that prevail in life.

Seminarians also should be open to authentically engage with the world, he added. “For that to happen, the Christian must be firmly rooted in his own baptismal identity, orthodox in faith and have a profound sense of belonging in the Church,” he said.

Some in seminary formation may become obsessed with academics, the archbishop said, forgetting about the spiritual foundation. People often approach him to request good spiritual directors, the nuncio said. Parish priests themselves should be able to provide that outreach, he said.

“We should be equipped for spiritual direction,” he said. Archbishop Pierre advised seminarians to recognize that their lives as priests will be ones of “permanent change.” He urged them to take the study of philosophy seriously and to continue studying long after they are ordained.

“Permanent formation is so important to understand the future,” he said.

At the outset of his talk, the archbishop said he wanted to “increase” the seminarians’ love for Pope Francis. Later, in a brief question-and-answer session, he noted that some Americans have a “total misconception of the pope.”

“Don’t spend your life reading the blogs about the Holy Father,” he warned. “Forget about that because you are wasting your time.”

Thomas O’Donnell, a 24-year-old first-year seminarian studying to be a Baltimore archdiocesan priest, said later that the nuncio reminded seminarians the Church is not at the service of some insular sect, but has a universal mission.

“The Gospel is for the world, which is precisely why we need to study as much as we can, from many disciplines, and to go out to evangelize,” said O’Donnell, a member of St. Mark Parish in Catonsville, Md.

During his visit, Archbishop Pierre blessed a new statue of Blessed Stanley Rother, an alumnus of Mount St. Mary’s Seminary who was assassinated while ministering in Guatemala.

The Oklahoma priest was beatified last September during a Mass celebrated in Oklahoma City.

CNS/ANDREW MCDONALD, COURTESY MOUNT ST. MARY’S SEMINARY

Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States, addresses seminarians, faculty and staff March 8 at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md.


cry out’ pope tells young people at palm sunday mass

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

Celebrating Palm Sunday Mass with thousands of young people, Pope Francis urged them to continue singing and shouting “hosanna” in the world, proclaiming the lordship of Jesus and following his example of outreach to the poor and suffering.

“The crowd that shouted ‘hosanna’ as Jesus entered Jerusalem included all those for whom Jesus was a source of joy, those he healed and forgave, and those who welcomed him after they had been excluded from society, the pope said in his homily March 25. But others were irritated by Jesus and tried to silence his followers, the pope said. In the same way, people today will try to silence young people who continue to follow Jesus, because “a joyful young person is hard to manipulate.”

“There are many ways to silence young people and make them invisible,” the pope said. There are “many ways to anesthetize them, to make them keep quiet, ask nothing, question nothing. There are many ways to sedate them, to keep them from getting involved, to make their dreams flat and drab, petty and plaintive.”

Pope Francis asked the young people “not to keep quiet. Even if others keep quiet, if we side with those people, readers keep quiet, if the whole world keeps quiet and loses its joy, I ask you: Will you cry out?”

Gabriella Zuniga, 16, and her sister Valentina Zuniga, 15, were among the thousands in St. Peter’s Square. The sisters, students at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Flordia, had participated March 24 in the local Rome “March for Our Lives,” calling for gun control.

The Palm Sunday Mass marked the local celebration of World Youth Day and included the more than 300 young adults who, at the Vatican’s invitation, had spent a week discussing the hopes, desires and challenges facing the world’s young people and ways the Catholic Church should respond.

At the end of the Mass, they formally presented their final document to the pope; it will be used, along with input from the world’s bishops’ conferences, in drafting the working document for the Synod of Bishops in October, which will focus on young people, faith and vocational discernment.

Holding five-foot tall palm branches, the young adults led the procession to the obelisk in the center of St. Peter’s Square. They were joined by others carrying olive branches and by bishops and cardinals holding “palmarelli,” which are intricate, woven palm fronds.

In his homily, Pope Francis said that the Palm Sunday Mass, which begins with the singing of “hosanna” and then moves to the reading of Jesus’ passion, combines “stories of joy and suffering, mistakes and successes, which are part of our daily lives as disciples.”

The acclamation of the crowd praising Jesus as he enters Jerusalem gives way to the shouts of “crucify him” as Jesus suffers, and then the reading of Jesus’ passion, combines “stories of joy and suffering, mistakes and successes, which are part of our daily lives as disciples.”

The Gospel also demonstrates how the joy Jesus awakened in some is “a source of anger and irritation for others,” Pope Francis said, and the same is true today.

Joy is seen in all those “who had followed Jesus because they felt his compassion for their pain and misery,” the pope said.

“How could they not praise the one who had restored their dignity and hope? Thiers is the joy of so many forgiven sinners who are able to trust and hope once again.”

But others in Jerusalem, “those who consider themselves righteous and ‘faithful’ to the law and its ritual precepts” and “those who have forgotten the many chances they themselves had been given” find such joy intolerable, the pope said.

“How hard it is for the comfortable and the self-righteous to understand the joy and the celebration of God’s mercy,” he said.

“Hard it is for those who trust only in themselves, and look down on others, to share in this joy.

The shouts of ‘cruelty him’ did not begin spontaneously, the pope said, but were incited by those who slandered and gave false witness against Jesus, “spinning” facts and painting them such that they disfigure the face of Jesus and turn him into a “criminal.”

Thiers, he said, was “the voice of those who twist reality and invent stories for their own benefit, without concern for the good name of others” and “the cry of those who have no problem in seeking ways to gain power and to silence dissident voices.”

Pope Francis told the young people gathered in the square that in the face of such attempts to demolish hope, kill dreams and seeking ways to gain power and to silence dissonant voices.”

Pope Francis told the young people gathered in the square that in the face of such attempts to demolish hope, kill dreams and seek power and to silence dissonant voices.”

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CNS/ANDREW MCDONALD, COURTESY MOUNT ST. MARY’S SEMINARY

Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States, addresses seminarians, faculty and staff March 8 at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md.

CNS/ANDREW MCDONALD, COURTESY MOUNT ST. MARY’S SEMINARY

Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States, addresses seminarians, faculty and staff March 8 at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md.
A religious sister who is the longtime chaplain of the Loyola University Chicago men’s basketball team credited the pregame prayer and the players’ solid teamwork for the Ramblers’ success in the NCAA Tournament.

“Our team is so great and they don’t care who makes the points as long as we win the game,” Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt, 98, told a reporter withtruTV March 15 after the team’s thrilling, last-second 64-62 win over the University of Miami. Donte Ingram had scored the winning 3-point basket at the buzzer during the first-round game in Dallas. It was Loyola’s first NCAA Tournament win since 1985.

At press time for this edition, Loyola was preparing for a trip to the Final Four on March 31.

In the locker room before the game, Sister Jean said, she told the team: “We want to win, we want to get the big ‘W’ up there, and we did.”

The Sister of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary made the comments in an interview courtside after the win over the Hurricanes. The TV reporter noted that as chaplain, she always gives detailed feedback after games in emails to Loyola’s coaches and players.

“What’s your feedback to the team” on the win, the reporter asked. “Oh, thank God, thank God we did it, because we knew we would do it,” replied Sister Jean. “And when we were in the locker room ahead of the game, we just knew we would do this.”

In the pregame prayer, “we asked God to help us and I told God that we would do our part if he would do his part,” she said. “And I [prayed] the referees would call the right kind of game, that nobody would get injured, that we’d play with confidence and . . . we’d win the game, and then at the end when the buzzer rang, we’d want to be sure the score said we had the big ‘W.’”

The 1963 Loyola team won the national championship. When asked what made the 1963 Loyola team special and what this team has in common with theirs, Sister Jean said: “They share the ball, they don’t care. They just share the ball,” she said of the current players. “They have great team play and they’re really good guys. And so was the team of ’63.”

Sister Jean has been the team’s chaplain since 1994. In January 2017, she was inducted into Loyola’s sports hall of fame.

Over the years, she has become has become a fixture on campus, even getting attention as well. She has become a target for persuasion. But the dialogue among them is less than convincing.

Andrew Hyatt’s "Paul, Apostle of Christ" (Sony), however, only part of that potential is realized.

Writer-director Andrew Hyatt’s somewhat flawed script fleshes out the bare bones available to us from the canonical sources with believable human details. But it unwisely presents famous verses and, indeed, whole passages of Scripture as deriving from Paul’s spontaneous conversation.

This includes his famous discourse on love preserved in the 13th chapter of First Corinthians – and familiar to wedding guests everywhere.

The story gets off to a sufficiently dramatic start. In the wake of the Great Fire of Rome in A.D. 64 – which the Emperor Nero notoriously blamed on the followers of Jesus – Christians are being subjected to a massive persecution and Paul (pleasingly sonorous James Faulkner), as their most prominent leader, has been arrested, tried and condemned to death.

Thus Luke (Jim Caviezel) is taking a huge risk when he resolves to return to the Empire’s capital and visit Paul in his cell at the Mamertine Prison. Fortunately, he has the help of two early Christian leaders mentioned in the Bible, husband and wife Aquila (John Lynch) and Priscilla (Joanne Whalley).

The spouses are at loggerheads over whether the believers still under their protection should remain in Rome or flee. Some in the community also yearn to take up arms and avenge themselves on the authorities.

Though Paul rejects any notion of violent resistance, he is reluctant to give orders about whether his fellow Christians should stay or go. Instead, he and Luke eventually strike on the idea of recording Paul’s conversion and their missionary travels together, along with other events, in the text that will become known as the Acts of the Apostles.

This new narrative, they hope, will offer encouragement to those facing possible martyrdom.

For a different reason, Luke’s nascent history is of interest to Paul’s chief jailer, Prefect Mauritius Gallus (Olivier Martinez). An essentially humane man torn between the rigor with which he is expected to deal with his captive and his vague attraction to the transcendent values of the Gospel, Mau- ritius is perplexed by Luke’s curious behavior in sneaking into his prison.

Mauritus also is preoccupied by the failing health and possibly impending death of his beloved daughter. But his ambiguous outlook keeps him wavering on the question of whether to reach out to skilled physician Luke for aid. Though his pagan gods are not answering his prayers, he fears angering them by inviting a Christian into his household.

Mauritus is obviously meant to serve as a foil for the two disciples and as a target for persuasion. But the dialogue among them is less than convincing and, with at least one exception, poorly calculated to hold the audience’s attention as well.

Catholic viewers will appreciate a scene in which Paul celebrates the Eucharist and gives Luke Communion as well as the way those facing slaughter in the arena prepare themselves by reciting the Our Father.

In fact, “Paul, Apostle of Christ” works better as an easy and enjoyable introduction to its two central figures’ lives and works than it does considered strictly as a piece of cinema. As a valuable resource for catechetical instruction, moreover, the movie makes acceptable and worthwhile fare for teens, despite its unspiring, albeit momentary, presentation of the sufferings to which Paul himself and many of his contemporaries in the early Church were subjected.

The film contains scenes of brutality and torture with some gore, a few gruesome images and mature references, including to prostitution. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II – adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 – parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.
Obituaries

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

Annonville
St. Paul the Apostle:
Catherine J. Donnomyer
Berwick
Immaculate Conception BVM:
Margaret Carter
Camillo “Cami” Melchiore
Bloomsburg
St. Columbia:
Lawrence F. Recla, Sr.
Zdenka Kaderka-Toms
Camp Hill
Good Shepherd:
Marie Scotchlas
Columbia
Holy Trinity:
Maurita Keim-Murry
Walter Nau
Joseph Palmieri
Conewago
Sacred Heart of Jesus:
Mary P. Groft
Gettysburg
St. Francis Xavier:
Don Markle
Harrisburg
Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick:
H. William (Bill) McIntyre
St. Catherine Labouré:
Debbie Bayura
Laurette Gioffre
Thaddeus Spevack
St. Francis of Assisi:
Dinas Vega
St. Margaret Mary:
Bernard Curran
Donnie Michis
Antoinette Willett
Christine Yeckley
Hershey
St. Joan of Arc:
Richard Amibli
Julia Castelli
Rosanne Morelli Claypoole
Antonia “Toni” Otero
Theresa Patt
Stanley Stewart
Kulpmont
Holy Angels:
Rose Marie C. Marquette
Michael P. Nemeth
Forrest Shurock
Lancaster
Annunciation BVM:
Michael Brogan
Elizabeth Haberstroh
Leo Morgan
Lewistown
Sacred Heart of Jesus:
Thomas Charles Bell
Dominic A. Damincantonio
Thomas Charles Zanylo
Lykens
Our Lady, Help of Christians:
Theresa M. Hassinger
Nancy Helen Schoppe
Mecherstrown
Annunciation BVM:
Joan Keepers

Mechanicsburg
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton:
Francis “Frank” Paluska
St. Joseph:
John Campbell
St. Katharine Drexel:
Mary Wright
Mount Carmel
Divine Redeemer:
Marcella Kaselonis
New Cumberland
St. Theresa:
Francis Donlevy
New Freedom
St. John the Baptist:
Ray Bitram
David A. Brown
Elizabeth K. Rene
Vernetta Rollison
Robert G. Schuchart
James Woods
New Oxford
Immaculate Conception BVM:
Edythe Dell
Palmyra
Holy Spirit:
Mary Louise Niedwick
Rohrersstown
St. Leo the Great:
Laura Barry
Frank Cruz
Dr. Frank Essis, Jr.
Edward J. Flick, Jr.
Mary McKenna
Aaron J. Roda
Steelton
Prince of Peace:
Patricia Dry
Lottie Spandler
Waynesboro
St. Andrew:
Paul A. Schur
Marie T. Wishard
Williamstown
Sacred Heart of Jesus:
James Francis Fitzpatrick
York
St. Joseph:
John Larkin
Ann Marie Lincoln
George M. Trout, Sr.
St. Patrick:
Mary Catherine Duffy
Maurice “Mo” Rane
Thelma Tassinari

REMEMBER OUR DECEASED CLERGY

Please pray for the following clergy who died in April during the past 25 years:
Deacon Halmon Banks Sr., 1993
Mgr. Donald Adams, 1996
Father Patrick D’Alessandro, 1996
Deacon Arthur Colonell, 1996
Father Anthony Burakowski, 2002
Father Curtis Delarm, 2005
Father Mark Matthew Casey, OMI, 2007
Father Gerald Lyle, 2012
Deacon Charles Clark, 2012
Father Daniel Menniti, 2015.

Distinguished Alumni from Lebanon Catholic School to be Recognized at Legacy Gala and Awards Dinner

After reestablishing a distinguished awards program in 2017 following a decade-long hiatus, Lebanon Catholic School is pleased to announce six new members to this esteemed group of the school’s Catholic family and community, who remain strong and steadfast examples of moral character and those who have wholeheartedly contributed to the school’s success.

The six recipients, who have made noteworthy contributions to society and whose accomplishments have brought credit to Lebanon Catholic School by distinguishing themselves in their careers, in service to their communities and/or through continued support of Lebanon Catholic are: Dr. Joseph Bering ‘48 (Distinguished Alumnus), William Orr IV ‘03 (Distinguished Alumna - Rising Star under 40 years of age), Monsignor Paul D. Weaver (posthumously) and Mr. Norbert Danz (Athletic Hall of Fame), Mr. Thomas Beazley (Outstanding Teacher Award) and Hon. Francis X. Ryan (Cardinal William H. Keeler Faithful Servant Award).

The award winners will be honored at the second annual Legacy Gala and Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner on Saturday, May 5, in the grand ballroom at the Harrisburg-Hershey Holiday Inn in Grantville.

Many deserving candidates were nominated by the Lebanon Catholic community and determined by a committee that reviewed the nominations. This year, however, it means to reflect the ideals of commitment, excellence, and service. They give witness to the heart and spirit of Catholic education. Each has set the bar high for all of us and we look forward to celebrating their accomplishments on May 5,” stated Mrs. Rose Kury, Principal.

Tickets for the Second Annual Legacy Gala & Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner are $85. Tables of eight may be reserved. The traditional call to post will sound in celebration of the 144th running of the Kentucky derby. Guests will enjoy an evening of southern hospitality and merriment, a delicious 4-course seated dinner, live entertainment by Pentagon and a silent auction. Proceeds will benefit the Lebanon Catholic School Scholarship and School Enrichment Fund. Sponsorships are available. Online reservations may be made on the school’s website: http://www.lebanoncatholicschool.org/support. For more information, please contact the Advancement Office at 717-273-3731, ext. 327.

Our Mother of Perpetual Help School Students Place in Chemistry Competition

Students from Our Mother of Perpetual Help School in Ephrata recently competed in the 2018 Lancaster County “You Be the Chemist Challenge,” held on March 5 at Manheim Central Middle School. The contest, for students in grades 5-8, involves the knowledge of chemistry concepts and how to use them in the real world. Seventh-grade student Tyler Miller, Matt Mercer and Sam Cassidy survived the first elimination, finishing in the first half of participants. Matt came in third place overall, making him eligible to go to the state competition, to be held at Penn State on April 14. Sam finished in 4th place overall, making him the alternate for the state competition. Also representing Our Mother of Perpetual Help School in the challenge were sixth-grade students Sydney Dissinger and Luke Hinojosa.

Our Mother of Perpetual Help School welcomes children from local Catholic parishes, as well as interested members of the general community. The school is accredited through the Middle States Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools. For more information, call 717-738-2414 or visit www.omph.org.

Workshop on Palliative Care to be Held at Geisinger Holy Spirit for Chaplains and Caregivers

“Palliative Care: Experiencing a Full Life” will be held in the auditorium at Geisinger Holy Spirit Hospital in Camp Hill on May 25 from 4-8 p.m. The presenters will be Dr. Arlene Bobovich, MD, Dr. Horacio Zalot, PhD, Dr. Bobonich, Palliative Care Director at Geisinger Holy Spirit, will speak on “So Much More to Give: A Palliative Perspective as Life Closes.” She will explore the origins of palliative care medicine, its mission and goals, and a review of individual perspective with a view of helping persons experience life to the full.

Dr. Zalot, an ethicist from the National Bioethics Center, will present on “Ethical Issues Around Care for the Dying.” He will explore ethical challenges surround end-of-life decision-making, including the determination of ordinary versus extraordinary means of care, criteria for withholding or withdrawing life-sustaining treatments, and proper application of the Church’s teaching on medically-assisted nutrition and hydration (feeding tubes).

The day will include a prayer service, small group gatherings, and question-and-answer sessions with Dr. Bobonich and Dr. Zalot, noon Mass and lunch. Chaplains can earn 4.75 CEUs. For more information, call 717-738-2414 or visit www.omph.org.
York Catholic High School Spring Celebration presented by the Fine and Performing Arts Departments at YCHS will be held on Friday, April 13 at 7 p.m. at Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg. THIS FUNDRAISER FOR THE SCHOOL IS A NIGHT OF SILENT AND LIVE AUCTIONS, AS WELL AS A BINGO BASH WITH 20 GAMES PLUS THREE SPECIALS. ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT YORK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL.

The Fine and Performing Arts Departments at YCHS are excited to announce our 2018 Spring Celebration, a night of music, art, and entertainment. The event will feature a variety of silent and live auctions, as well as a Bingo Bash with 20 games plus three specials. All proceeds will benefit York Catholic High School.

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Nearly 300 faithful gathered for the first diocesan Lenten retreat for the Hispanic/Latino community, held Feb. 24 at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg. The theme for the day was *Merciful like the Father.*

The retreat was a family affair, with workshops for children (bilingual), teenagers (in English), women and men (in Spanish). While these groups had their own workshops and opportunities to pray the Stations of the Cross, they gathered together to hear the keynote address and to conclude the retreat with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Deacon Asterio Velasco, Hispanic Coordinator for the Archdiocese of Newark and Episcopal Regional Chairperson for the V Encuentro, was the keynote speaker and the presenter for the men’s workshop; Carmen Cruz, pastoral associate from San Juan Bautista Parish in Lancaster, was the presenter of the women’s workshop; Pam Gent, youth minister for Corpus Christi Parish in Chambersburg, was the presenter for the teens’ workshop; and Edna Negrón from San Juan Bautista Parish and Nelly Gómez from St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Harrisburg accompanied the children.

Priests from the diocese heard confessions as part of a day of prayer and fasting.

“His Son is always with us. The Father is always with us,” Deacon Asterio shared as the community adored the Blessed Sacrament on the altar through prayer and music, “and we are his children forever.”

To learn more about Hispanic Ministry in the diocese, visit www.hbgdiocese.org/hispanicministry, call 717-657-4804, ext. 313, or visit its Facebook page, www.facebook.com/hispanichbg.

*(Jaclyn Curran is the Diocesan Director of Multicultural Ministries.)*