Celebrating 140 Years of Catholic Education in Gettysburg

Bishop Gainer Celebrates Holy Mass at Saint Francis Xavier School

On a beautiful, sunny Monday April 23, Bishop Gainer made a pastoral visit to Saint Francis Xavier School, Gettysburg, where he celebrated Holy Mass for the students, faculty, parents and school supporters. Catholic education began in Gettysburg in 1878 and that vibrant faith tradition continues 140 years later in arguably one of the world’s most historic towns.

Right: Matthew Grenchik, eighth grader, stands during the Gospel reading at Mass.

Below: Altar servers, from left, Keefer Stiles, Griffith Kotlinski and Tyler Hillson begin the procession for Mass. Tyler Hillson recently won the grand champion honor at the York County Science and Engineering Fair for research on the various components of baseball soil. Griffith Kotlinski won reserve champion for his work on airplane dynamics.
The Catholic Witness • April 27, 2018

The Diocese of Harrisburg joyfully announces the 2018 Ordinations

Priesthood

- Benjamin Jay Dunkelberger
- Stephen John Logue
- Richard James Lyons
- Matthew Christopher Morelli
- Kenneth Charles Roth
- Timothy James Sahd

Saturday, June 2, 2018, 10:00 a.m.
Saint Patrick Cathedral
212 State Street, Harrisburg, PA

Diaconate

- Matthew Edward Cannon
- Samuel Edward Miller
- Andrew Philip St. Hilaire
- Joshua Robert Weaver

Saturday, May 19, 2018, 10:00 a.m.
Saint Patrick Cathedral
212 State Street, Harrisburg, PA

“We are here today to say thank you in a profound way to the faithful who have given their courage, commitment and sacrifice to Catholic Education here in Gettysburg since 1878.”

~ Bishop Gainer

Top, left: Kelli Eisenberg, choir director and music teacher, enthusiastically leads the student choir during Holy Mass at Saint Francis Xavier School, Gettysburg.

Top, right: Denae Bello participates in sung prayer; an act of faith performed for seven score years in Gettysburg.

Right: Father Daniel Mitzel, right, pastor, Saint Francis Xavier Church, Gettysburg, and Father Edward Quinlan, Diocesan Secretary for Education, recess out of the Saint Francis Xavier Center after Holy Mass.
Diocese Celebrates National Merit Scholars

By Jen Reed

The Catholic Witness

Six diocesan high school students who have been named as finalists in this year’s National Merit Scholarship Program were recognized during a special luncheon with Bishop Ronald Gainer and staff of the Diocesan Department for Catholic Schools on April 12 at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg. This year’s finalists are Elizabeth Witten, Laura Weiss, Cora DeFrancesco and Jared Novacich of Trinity High School in Camp Hill; Brian Druby of Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg; and Maria Howe of Lancaster Catholic High School.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an annual academic competition for high school students to receive recognition and college scholarships. Nearly 1.5 million students enter the program each year. To become a Finalist, a student must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by the high school principal, and earn SAT scores that confirm the student’s earlier performance on the qualifying test. The student must also complete an application and essay detailing their participation and leadership in school and community activities.

Elizabeth Witten is a member of the Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick in Harrisburg. She was adopted from China as a child and has been taking classical Chinese dance classes since she was four years old. She participates in a Big Sister, Little Sister program through the Families with Children from China adoption group. Elizabeth enjoys reading and creative writing, and maintains membership in both the Book Club and Writer’s Club at Trinity. She volunteers at the Red Land Community Library. Elizabeth plans to major in computer science in college.

Laura Weiss is a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Mechanicsburg. She participates in several musical groups, including the Harrisburg Symphony Youth Orchestra and the Messiah College Choral Arts Society. She is a cantor, choir member and altar server for her parish. At Trinity, Laura serves as Senior Class Treasurer on Student Council and has sung with the concert choir and guitar group. Laura also serves as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. She swims competitively for Trinity’s varsity team and leads as a team captain. Laura enjoys reading, traveling, and outdoor activities, and plans to study biology/biochemistry in college.

Cora DeFrancesco is a member of St. Bernard Parish in New Bloomfield. She is the president of Trinity’s Writer’s Club and the secretary of the Student Council, and a member of the Dance Team, French Club and the Speech and Debate team. She is passionate about astronomy and enjoys hosting observation parties at school. One of her favorite memories at Trinity was watching the total eclipse with her friends on Aug. 21, 2017. She plans to major in astrophysics next year.

Jared Novacich is a member of St. Katharine Drexel Parish in Mechanicsburg, where he has been an altar server for eight years. He is an Extraordinary Ministry of Holy Communion at Trinity, and serves as President of Trinity’s National Latin Honor Society and Latin Club. He also leads a small group of ninth-graders through Peers Actively Listening (PALs), Trinity’s peer mentoring program. Jared teaches Latin to elementary students for the Latin Club at Dickinson College, and works with St. Joseph School’s Mathcounts Club, where he helps coach the competition team. Jared plans to pursue a degree in chemical engineering.

Brian Druby is a member of Holy Spirit Parish in Palmyra. At Bishop McDevitt, he is a Student Ambassador, and a member of the Math National Honor Society and the Boys’ Tennis Team. Brian is also President of the Future Business Leaders of America and the Vice President of the National Honor Society. Outside of school, he volunteers as a teacher’s aide for his parish’s religious education program and plays CYO basketball.

Maria Howe is a member of St. John Neumann Parish in Lancaster. At Lancaster Catholic High School, she has been on the Distinguished Honor Roll every quarter of her high school career. Maria enjoys writing, music, marching band and helping others. She has served as a National Honor Society tutor, President of the school’s chapter of Future Business Leaders of America, and as an LCHS Student Ambassador. At her parish, Maria serves as a pianist, altar server and cantor. She has also volunteered with Saint Mary’s Works of Mercy Summer Camps for the past several summers. Maria plans to study actuarial science in college.

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 1-800-932-0313. 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, assistance available to victims and Youth Protection efforts of the Diocese, please visit: www.hbgdiocese.org/safeyouth.
Jubilee: The Holy Ground

Archbishop Fulton Sheen

By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC

Special to The Witness

Some time ago, a young couple waited very anxiously for the birth of their sec- ond child. Because of pre-natal disorders, pregnancy was a big test. A lot could couple spent many moments together praying for their unborn child’s health and wel- fare. Their 5-year-old son, Jason, also prayed while he waited with much excitement for his little brother or sister.

When the unborn baby was sufficiently developed, Mom was induced and young Madison was born! Immediately after her birth, it became apparent that Madison would need a blood transfusion. Because of the abnormal blood chemistry, the baby was only one in the family who could give blood to Madison the much-needed transfusion.

In the waiting room of the hospital, dad sat Jason in his lap on the large chairs and began to explain what Madison needed from him. As Dad spoke, Jason’s eyes got bigger and bigger. When dad was finished, he said, “Buddy, do you have any questions?” Jason said, “A few… Will it hurt?” With that, dad looked up at the doctor standing behind him. The doctor declared, “All you will feel is a prick in your arm for just a second. That prick is really quick.” Jason, looking up at dad and the doctor, continued, “If I don’t do it, will Madison die?” The doctor whispered, “Prob- ably, son.” Jason then said, “Ok. Dad. I love Madison, my sister, enough to give her my blood.”

Jason was put on a gurney, and he was pricked, he didn’t even wince. Dad was standing near him said, “You are so brave, my son!” As Jason watched the prec- ious red liquid leave his arm and begin to fill up a plastic bag, tears began to form and wash over his cheeks. He looked up to his attentive father and said, “When is it going to happen?” Confused, Dad said, “What do you mean?” Jason continued, “When is Jesus coming for me?” “What?” Dad asked. “I am giving my blood so Madison can live. You said that I can’t live without blood. When am I going to die?” It was now Dad who had tears in his eyes. “Oh, no son. You will not die because you gave your blood. That’s all. You will not take that much blood. You will be Madison’s brother forever as well as my teacher about the true meaning of love.”

I could not help thinking about this story as I begin reflect upon the Venerable Arch-bishop Fulton Sheen. Archbishop Sheen was a radio talk-show host as well as a televi- sion star from the 1930s to 1950s. His television program, Life is Worth Living, aired on Tuesday nights at 8:00 p.m. and had an audience of 30 million people. Ac- cording to Wikipedia, he received 8,500 letters weekly from his fan base and received an Emmy Award for his efforts.

It is my hope that during the 150th anniversary of our beloved diocese, we too expe- rience a spark of divine love and share it with others. Because of modern technology, you can view the very same address by Fulton Sheen on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L-vrnkI-
a728.

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Warriors for Christ

By Jim Gontis

Special to The Witness

Every year in our diocese, hundreds of young people receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, not to mention many adults through parish RCIA programs. Our son, Michael, was one such person. As we drove him home from his Confirmation, we smelled the delightful and otherworldly scent of the Chrism that smothered in his hair. It’s a scent that…after each one of our children was baptized, we would enjoy that scent for days, breathing in the “odor of sanctity.”

It gave me pause, reminding me in a very tangible way of the connection between Baptism and Confirmation. What does it really mean, that Confor-mation completes or perfects the grace of Baptism? Aren’t baptismal graces enough to get to heaven? Yes. However, God began a work in us, where he is bringing us more and more into his likeness and conformity with Jesus Christ.

The prophets of the Old Testament foretold the coming of the Messiah and that the spirit of the Lord would rest upon him, and that he would save his people. But in God’s plan, it was not to end with the coming of the Messiah; his saving mission was to continue on with his followers. In the Sacrament of Confirmation, those being confirmed are given special graces to continue the saving mission of Christ. Christ means “anointed one,” the Messiah, the one set aside and consecrated for a special purpose to help the world be saved. As Christ was the “anointed one,” Christians are the anointed ONES.

That special oil poured onto priests, prophers and kings to set them apart for a special purpose is put on our foreheads in Confirmation. By the words, “Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit,” we now have Christ’s seal on our fore- heads and permanently and for all eternity in our souls. We are more perfectly con- forming to Christ and his mission of saving souls. In Baptism, we receive that seal as well, that “indelible mark” that reads “I belong to Jesus and His Catholic Church.” In Confirmation, we receive another seal that may read, “Conformed in Christ, longing to Jesus and his Church, and Commissioned by Jesus to save souls.”

Men who are ordained as priests are consecrated to Jesus in a new way and are anointed again. They receive ANOTHER seal that may read, “Commis- sioned by Jesus to serve as dispensers of his grace and to act in his very person.” Each sacramental act of anointing confirms us more perfectly into the Body of Christ.

The Sacrament of Confirmation is not to be taken lightly. Baptism makes us a part of God’s family, citizens of the Kingdom of God. Confirmation raises us to the next level and makes us “part of God’s army.” One of the most impor- tant effects of Confirmation is that it “gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit” (CCC 1303). Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obli- ged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed (CCC 1285). That is why it is so important for us to cultivate a love of the Word of God and to pray daily and meditate on it…a “cloak of salvation…a buckler of faith, and a fearsome helmet against all the works of the adversary” (CCC 1297).

What good soldier, after joining the military, going through boot camp, and become a fully initiated member of the military after receiving his orders from his commanding officer, looks at the commanding officer and says, “Oh, so I’m supposed to do something now? I thought I was all done and could go back home, sit on my couch, and just play video games on my XBOX.” That would be ridiculous. Does a good soldier say, “Everything I needed to know about the military, I learned in boot camp. I’m all done now. I don’t need to learn anything else. And I will remain being a good soldier without any effort on my part.”? I’m as a soldier as the one who has done three tours in combat, who has completed many missions, has obeyed commands, and heroically and loyally followed his call beyond what was just required.” Also ridiculous!

We the confirmed have Jesus’ marching orders, also called the Great Com- missions, that has been given to us in Matthew 28:19-20, “Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that he has commanded.” In order to teach “all that he has commanded,” we need to be well versed in his teachings and commands. We need to read more, learn more, practice our faith more with loving abandon all that Jesus safeguarded in the Sacred Scripture, Tradition, and official teachings of his Catholic Church. We need to immerse ourselves in our faith, grow, and change by frequent confession and frequently receiving Jesus’ Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity in the Holy Eucharist. Let us draw on the graces we received in Confirmation and lovingly and virtuously serve our King! (Jim Gontis is the Diocesan Office for Evangelization and Catechesis, and the Director of Sports Ministry for the Diocese of Harrisburg.)
An organization of 1,200 priests has called for revisions in the way seminarians are prepared for ministry so that the U.S. Catholic Church can better address challenges that include declining membership and falling seminary enrollment.

The Association of U.S. Catholic Priests addressed five areas of concern, saying that priests must get closer to the people they serve and better understand what it means to be a disciple of Jesus as envisioned by Pope Francis.

The concerns were outlined in a March 29 letter and eight-page document sent to Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, New Jersey, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations.

The committee, which includes eight other archbishops and bishops, is reviewing the Program for Priestly Formation, the fifth and most recent edition of which was published in 2006. The committee is expected to submit revisions for a new edition of the guide at the November 2019 USCCB fall general assembly.

The committee’s work partly comes in response to the December 2016 release by the Vatican Congregation for Clergy of “The Gift of Priestly Vocation,” a detailed set of guidelines and norms for Latin-rite priestly formation. The new guidelines and norms also ensure continuing education, training and support for priests.

The Vatican document and the work of the USCCB committee were the catalysts that led the AUSCP to offer its views during the revision process. In its letter, the organization said the current edition of the U.S. norms “needs more than minimal editing.”

The AUSCP represents a minority of the total number of U.S. priests. Overall, there are 37,959 priests, according to the 2017 edition of the Official Catholic Directory.

“The over years, I’ve gotten more and more concerned of the distance that exists between priests and people,” said Father Ronald C. Chochol, a retired priest in the Archdiocese of St. Louis and chairman of the AUSCP’s Working Group on Priestly Formation.

He added that the organization’s members have become increasingly concerned that the church has not adequately addressed a series of challenges that have emerged in recent decades because priests are not as closely connected with the people they serve.

“The issue is maybe this system, this model (of formation) is not adequate to the present,” Father Chochol told Catholic News Service.

“The issue is for all of us. It’s not just for priests. We know how crucial the role of priest is to the church. It’s time to step back and see what’s being called for,” he said.

The AUSCP’s recommendations were influenced by several challenges facing the U.S. Catholic Church: the departure of millions of Catholics from active participation and membership in the church; the decreasing number of priests and men entering studies for the priesthood; the declining number of church marriages and baptisms; fewer parishes; and the “growing identification of Americans as ‘spiritual’ rather than ‘religious.’”

The working group’s report also questioned the current seminary model used to train priests. Among the organization’s recommendations was a plan to have seminarians live in parishes while they complete their studies so they can better understand the lives of people they will eventually serve.

“The working group emerged from the organization’s annual meeting in June in Atlanta. There, those in attendance decided that formation was a top priority to address.

Working group members included eight senior priests, with all but one ordained or within a decade of the Second Vatican Council, which was convened from 1962 through 1965.

Father Chochol told CNS that the organization’s membership felt it was important to stress that the “pastoral values” of Vatican II be “consistently and persistently affirmed” in the revised Program of Priestly Formation.

The working group called on the USCCB committee to consult with laypeople, “who are affected by the priests our seminaries educate,” as they review formation practices.

“They (seminarians) need to have from the very beginning what it means to work with others,” he explained, “what it means to be discipless, what it means to be in a parish, to be in a group ... so that would be their priority, learning in their parish; learning in the group, learning in the group of Jesus and learning how to share the good news with others.”

AUSCP urged the committee to see the importance that priest candidates “start their formation by working with other lay Catholics in the service of others, living among God’s people as disciples, as fellow parishioners, as collaborators in God’s work.”

The recommendations included taking steps to better address sexuality and celibacy; strengthening support during the discernment process by including laypeople and women working with seminarians; and assuring that those responsible for formation – administrators, spiritual directors, “formators,” advisers, professors – have “either significant pastoral experience or a strong and developed pastoral sense and intuition.”

Father Chochol said the organization planned to promote its document among priests in the hope of gaining a broad backing.

Iowa Bishop to Lead Team in Bike Ride across Hawkeye State

By Barb Arland-Fye

Catholic News Service

Bishop Tom R. Zinkula of Davenport takes his cue from Pope Francis. Go out to the peripheries, to the margins. Be a sheep-herd who lives with the smell of sheep.

The bishop will probably get a whiff of a few sheep along with cattle, pigs and other critters that populate Iowa’s rural landscape during the Register’s Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa this summer. The noncompetitive ride, best known as RAGBRAI, is organized by The Des Moines Register daily newspaper.

Bishop Zinkula will exchange his miter for a bicycle helmet to lead the diocese’s “Pedaling to the Peripheries” team of 20 bicyclists and support crew for RAGBRAI XLVI. This year’s 428-mile ride starts July 21 in Onawa and ends July 28 in Davenport, his “home turf.”

There will be eight overnight stops along the way.

“He’s a bishop, more open to asking questions, like everyone else on the tour. People will catch on quickly, when he celebrates Mass the first night and shares in other faith-building experiences throughout the week.

Some of the thousands of bicyclists on the tour may feel more inclined to participate, on their own playing field and not in a church. They may be intrigued to learn he’s a bishop, more open to asking questions, which Bishop Zinkula said he’ll be glad to answer.

“It will be an opportunity to connect with people. I’m sure there will be many who will be surprised to learn that I am a bishop. It will catch them off guard. I will simply be another bicycle rider. Hopefully they will experience me as an equal and open up,” he said.

This year’s tour will be Bishop Zinkula’s third RAGBRAI. In 1980, he rode the tour during the transition from his one-year job as an actuary to his entrance into law school. In 1983, he did it again, during the transition from law school to his three-year job as an attorney.

“I’ve also done a day or two of RAGBRAI here and there over the years,” he said.

“What I like about the tour is seeing parts of Iowa I have never seen before, and you get a leisurely, up-close look when you are riding a bike,” he remarked.

“I also like meeting many fun and interesting people during the course of the week -- fellow riders, townsfolk, etc. Finally, there is a lot of good food and plenty of exercise.”

Pedaling to the Peripheries organizer Jim Tiedje, a retired banker and member of Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish in Davenport, has experience organizing RAGBRAI teams with his brother, Bill.

“There’s something about the humaneness of a bishop going out and doing what other normal people do, for people to see the bishop riding a bike,” Tiedje said.

He said he also looks forward to the hospitality that is a staple along the route.

“It’s amazing how people open their doors and to doors to us, they go out of their way to be welcoming,” he explained. “It serves as a reminder to our parishes about the importance of welcoming others.”

| Priest’s Group Recommends Revisions in the U.S. Priestly Formation | Iowa Bishop to Lead Team in Bike Ride across Hawkeye State |
New President of Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Examines Fresh Perspectives to Engage More Members

By Mary Klaus
The Catholic Witness

Alycia Laureti remembers her grandmother belonging to the Council of Catholic Women. So when Laureti moved to the Harrisburg area, she hesitated to join "because I thought it was a group of older women sitting around praying the Rosary all the time."

Yet she wanted to become more involved in St. Catherine Labouré Catholic Parish in suburban Harrisburg, so she joined the parish CCW. Soon, she was leading it.

Eight years later, Laureti not only is president of the St. Catherine CCW, she is the CCW district president and recently was installed as the president of the Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women.

Laureti was installed as president of the Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women during the organization's 93rd annual convention held at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg on April 16.

"We pray the Rosary," Laureti said. "But the mission of the Council of Catholic Women is service to our parishes and community. In today's society, that is really needed. Pope Francis talks about evangelization. A lot of what each council does is just that."

Laureti, who moved to this area for her job, said that she was the youngest CCW member. "I'm younger (in her 30s), single (the majority of CCW members are married) and childless (most CCW members are mothers and grandmothers.) She brings energy, enthusiasm and efficiency to a job she never envisioned holding.

"Yes, we pray the Rosary," Laureti said. "But the mission of the Council of Catholic Women is service to our parishes and community. In today's society, that is really needed. Pope Francis talks about evangelization. A lot of what each council does is just that."

Laureti, who moved to this area for her job, said that she was the youngest member when she joined St. Catherine's CCW. That council, which had taken a break for a while, had recently started up when she joined.

"I found it interesting," Laureti said. "After I was there six months, the president had to step down and I was elected president. I felt I was too new, but suddenly I was nominated and elected. I thought that God felt I was up for the challenge, so I accepted it. I've been president ever since."

Laureti, a research analyst for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, brought a fresh perspective to her parish CCW position. She wanted to attract new, younger women but realized how busy they are with commitments to their husbands, children and careers.

"So we took a new direction," she said. "We got a Facebook page of our own. We got a website, a brochure and newsletter. We made business cards. We started virtual membership in which women sign up as members, get on our e-mail list and help when they can. Our membership increased. All of our members may not make the monthly meetings, but they help where they can on our activities."

She wants to bring some of those ideas into all levels of the Council of Catholic Women. She said that the diocese has the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, nine District Councils of Catholic Women and 44 parish Councils of Catholic Women. Laureti was installed as president of the Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women during the organization's 93rd annual convention on April 16 at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg.

"Ultimately, I'd like to find out why more women don't come to the convention," she said. "We miss those ideas into all levels of the Council of Catholic Women. She said that the diocese has the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, nine District Councils of Catholic Women and 44 parish Councils of Catholic Women. She said that the diocese has the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, nine District Councils of Catholic Women and 44 parish Councils of Catholic Women. Laureti was installed as president of the Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women during the organization's 93rd annual convention on April 16 at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg.

Using the theme, "Caring for God's Creation," the convention featured a Mass concelebrated by Bishop Ronald W. Gainer and several priests, and a keynote speech by Rose Folsom, founder of Virtue Connections, on "Cultivating the Garden of Your Soul."

It also included four workshops, including one by Laureti on "Women Disciples: Sharing Our Gifts with Others," a mediation room, exhibits, a sale, a silent auction to benefit the organization's scholarship fund and a prayer service.

Laureti said that during her two-year term, she wants to "bring new blood into the organization. I'd like to see all the districts involved in more community service projects. I'd like to involve people in an easier way."

One way to do that is by using today's technology, she said, noting that conference calls can bring women together from throughout the 15-county diocese. She also wants the CCW to consider changing the annual convention from a Monday to a Saturday, saying that some women might be able to attend that way. She said she likes having workshops at the convention and would like to see even more workshop options.

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"Ultimately, I’d like to find out why more women don’t come to the convention,” she said. “We miss those who don’t come. Being president of the diocesan council seems like a daunting task, but I can do whatever I put my mind to if I trust that God will lead me.”

(All women in the diocese are welcome to join the Council of Catholic Women. For information on their activities, or to join, contact a member of your parish CCW, or visit www.hdccw.webs.com.)

(Mary Klaus is a freelance reporter for The Catholic Witness.)
Is My Dad in Heaven?

By Cindy Wooden

Catholic News Service

After circling a massive, crumbling public housing complex on the outskirts of Rome, Pope Francis had an emotional encounter with the neighborhood’s children.

“Come, come to me, Emanuele,” he prayed. “O God, who loves us facing of this hour as we bear witness to your courage for the living of these days, for the children of God?”

Father’s heart. God has a dad’s heart. And with a dad who was not a believer, but who had the courage to cry in front of all of us. If that man was able to make his children like that, then it’s true, he was a good man. He was a good man.”

What does your heart tell you?” the pope asked Carlotta. She said, she are, too. “Right, and I’ll explain,” the pope told her. “We are all children of God. Everyone. Everyone.”

Pope Francis meets with children during a pastoral visit at Saint Paul of the Cross Church near Rome where they asked him some profound questions.

The nonbaptized, members of other religions, those who worship idols, “even the mafiosi,” who terrorize the neighborhood around the parish, are children of God, the pope said.

“God created everyone, loves everyone and put in everyone’s heart a conscience so that as tragic as those incidents are, they are tragic and predictable. Because while we abhor police brutality, and Dr. King was talking about police brutality — did you know that? — in 1963.”

He quoted Rev. King from his “I Have a Dream” speech: “Some are asking, ‘When will be satisfied?’ We will not be satisfied as long as the Negro is the victim of the unspeakable horrors of police brutality.”

Rev. Warnock said, “We are living in an evil time. The country is deeply divided, and the church is strangely silent at a time when we need — sorely need — a voice of faith and moral courage.”

He also touched on themes of criminal justice and prisons, poverty, and healing America in the 45-minute sermon, which was punctuated by applause and “Amens” from the congregation.

Faith traditions represented at the prayer service included Muslim, Jewish, Mormon, Baptist, Lutheran and Catholic. Civic leaders, including Pugh, DeSouza and others from government, participated.

A combined gospel choir, led by Kenyatta Hardison, music director at Cardinal Shehan School, led the congregation in song. Her school’s choir, now famous for its viral video and appearances on local and national TV, sang its rendition of Andrea Day’s “Rise Up.”

Successor to Civil Rights Leader Urges Unity in Baltimore

By Christopher Gunty

Catholic News Service

The Rev. Raphael G. Warnock invited the newspaper editor among those at a Catholic prayer service April 12 at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen in Baltimore to join hands with those near them.

“Where is this?” Rev. Warnock said.

And he answered, “It is the story of God imbed with love and justice,” and so I asked, “Where is this?” Rev. Warnock said.

He also touched on themes of criminal justice and prisons, poverty, and healing America in the 45-minute sermon, which was punctuated by applause and “Amens” from the congregation.

“Is My Dad in Heaven?”

By Cindy Wooden

Catholic News Service

The story of Baltimore that you won’t see on the news.

Catholic and other faith leaders and Baltimore officials and civic leaders, including Pugh at the service, will keep telling that story “until hope conquers fear and until people begin to think of Baltimore as a city of neighborhoods and not a city of violence,” Archbishop Lori said to applause.

Rev. Warnock also reflected on the Freddie Gray anniversary, noting that Gray lost his life in 2015, “but I submit to you, Baltimore, that as tragic as those incidents are, they are tragic and predictable. Because while we abhor police brutality, and Dr. King was talking about police brutality — did you know that? — in 1963.”

He quoted Rev. King from his “I Have a Dream” speech: “Some are asking, ‘When will we be satisfied?’ We will not be satisfied as long as the Negro is the victim of the unspeakable horrors of police brutality.”

Rev. King “recognized that there was racial bias and he was honest about it. Transl: It was the 1963 version of ‘Black Lives Matter,’” Rev. Warnock said. “Don’t get mad at me and don’t get mad when folks say, ‘Black lives matter.’ That’s part of what it means to be an oppressed people. All lives matter, of course. And that’s the point.”

He called Rev. King a truth-teller. “He was the best kind of patriot because he loved the country enough to tell the country the truth.”

And the country needs more of that today, he said in his sermon. “Now is the time for truth-telling. Now is it time to call the nation to be the best. To stand tall with moral excellence. To push past the predictable partisan arguments of the public square and catch a glimpse of the vision of a new heaven and a new earth.”

It’s bigger than Republican politics, bigger than Democratic politics, he added. “It is God’s vision of a new heaven and new earth. And whenever people of faith catch a vision of what God intends, it makes folks on the right and the left uncomfortable.”

Before the prayer service, in an interview with the Catholic Review, Baltimore’s archdiocesan news outlet, he said the country needs more of the nonviolent civil disobedience espoused by Rev. King, and which Archbishop Lori promoted in a pastoral letter released in February, “The Enduring Power of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s Principles of Nonviolence.”

Rev. Warnock warned, “We are living in an evil time. The country is deeply divided, and the church is strangely silent at a time when we need — sorely need — a voice of faith and moral courage.”

He also touched on themes of criminal justice and prisons, poverty, and healing America in the 45-minute sermon, which was punctuated by applause and “Amens” from the congregation.

Faith traditions represented at the prayer service included Muslim, Jewish, Mormon, Baptist, Lutheran and Catholic. Civic leaders, including Pugh, DeSouza and others from government, participated.

A combined gospel choir, led by Kenyatta Hardison, music director at Cardinal Shehan School, led the congregation in song. Her school’s choir, now famous for its viral video and appearances on local and national TV, sang its rendition of Andrea Day’s “Rise Up.”
‘Mortel High Hopes for Haiti Foundation’ Gifts Impoverished with Education

Clergy, Supporters Accompany Bishop for Dedication of School

By Mary Klaus
The Catholic Witness

When Dr. Rodrigue Mortel sees a young Haitian woman named Adeline, he realizes that his mission of empowering his native land through education has come full circle.

Dr. Mortel – a deacon at St. Joan of Arc Parish in Hershey, a retired cancer surgeon and a renowned educator, lecturer and author – remembers the day in 2001 when little Adeline said that she wanted to go to school.

Her dream came true, thanks to the school system founded by the Mortel High Hopes for Haiti Foundation. Seventeen years later, Adeline teaches at the foundation’s pre-school, which Bishop Ronald Gainer dedicated in January.

“My vision is to empower these kids through education and to give them the tools they need to change the country,” Dr. Mortel said. “I want them to become community leaders. Education will help them do that.”

Born, raised and educated in Haiti, Dr. Mortel knows first-hand what it’s like to grow up in one of the poorest countries in the world. When he was 11, his family was evicted from a mud hut but after they couldn’t afford $4 a month in rent.

“I remember my mother saying ‘This would not have happened if I had been educated,’” he said, pain darkening his brown eyes. At that moment, he resolved to get educated and ascertain a home for his mother.

Fighting overwhelming odds in a country where education is a luxury, not a given right, Dr. Mortel earned a medical degree in Haiti, took graduate studies in Montreal, then went on for further training in New York City. He specialized in gynecologic oncology and was a founding director of the Penn State University Cancer Center. He spent decades taking care of patients, but never forgot his roots.

In 1997, he started the Mortel Family Charitable Foundation to educate economically, socially and educationally deprived children in his homeland. Dr. Mortel selects “the poorest of the poor” to participate in an educational system which ranges from preschool to adult literacy. The system is supported by the foundation and sponsors.

“Our students are hand-picked,” Dr. Mortel said. “We go in to towns and villages and select the kids with the most needs. In Haiti, the poor have such limited access to school.”

The foundation covers four areas of education: The Patricia Chairs Preschool in St. Marc allows 100 three-year-olds and 100 four-year-olds to start the learning process.

Les Bons Samaritans in St. Marc, which opened in 2001, has 508 kindergarten through sixth-grade students. Children get a free education plus breakfast and a meal following classes. They also get yearly physical and dental exams.

James Stine College in St. Marc, which opened in 2011, has 585 sixth through 12th grade students. Students get a free education plus breakfast and a meal following classes.

The Adult Literacy Program has 150 people taking a three-year course. This program addresses the high illiteracy rate in Haiti. Parents of students in Les Bons Samaritans are given priority for admission.

In January, Dr. Mortel and nearly two dozen foundation supporters headed to Haiti to dedicate the Patricia Chairs Preschool. The group included Bishop Gainer, Father Alfred Sceski, pastor of St. Joan of Arc Parish, and Father Philip Burger, pastor of Good Shepherd Parish in Camp Hill and former pastor of St. Joan of Arc.

“Haiti is so very poor,” said Father Sceski. “The poverty we have in this country doesn’t compare to Haiti because we have running water, electricity and sewer systems. Yet the Haitians are a beautiful, faith-filled people. They have hope despite their desperate situation.”

He said that the education system which the foundation sponsors gives Haitians hope. Others on the trip agreed.

Greg Kadel, a retired endodontist from Hershey and a member of the High Hopes board, called the preschool dedication ceremony in the school’s courtyard, “an extra special experience. So was the Mass the bishop and priests celebrated in a rural setting, almost like having the pope come to downtown Harrisburg. It added a magical aura.”

Mr. Kadel was impressed at the comprehensiveness of the education system, which starts with 3-year-olds.

“Early education works,” he said. “By the time these students take tests to get into grade school and high school, they have better scores. Dr. Mortel picks the poorest of the poor from the streets, kids with distended bellies and little or no clothing. He only takes one child per family so that spreads the wealth of education.”

Mr. Kadel said he was impressed with the music, computers and library at the elementary school. He said children look “spiffy” in their uniforms, are fed two meals daily and learn life skills in addition to academic subjects.

The James Stine College, the foundation’s high school, has a high rate of graduation. Mr. Kadel said that many graduates go on to college or to trade schools. The adult literacy program allows parents and children to share education.

“The whole idea is for the students to learn together, later work together and change Haiti,” Mr. Kadel said.

Rachel Bowles of Westminster, Md., also went on the trip, called the preschool “an oasis. You walk from dirt streets into a clean, well-built beautiful school. There’s a courtyard with beautiful murals and playground equipment. The kids come here and forget they live in the poverty of Haiti.”

More DEDICATION, page 9

Assisted by Deacon Rodrigue Mortel, Bishop Ronald Gainer blesses The Patricia Chairs Preschool in St. Marc during a trip in January with nearly two dozen supporters of the Mortel High Hopes for Haiti Foundation. The school allows 100 three-year-olds and 100 four-year-olds to start the learning process.

COURTESY OF DR. RODRIGUE MORTEL

Students perform a celebratory dance during the dedication of the Patricia Chairs Preschool in St. Marc. Bishop Ronald Gainer, Father Alfred Sceski, Father Philip Burger and Deacon Rodrigue Mortel participated in the dedication ceremony.

Ms. Bowles watched the toddlers learning colors, shapes, songs and prayers. “They all seem so full of joy and energy,” she said. “They love being in school and know it’s a big deal. The pre-school gives them a good foundation for a lifetime of education.”

Cindy Goldsworthy of Hershey, a retired school administrator and member of the Mortel Family Charitable Foundation Board of Directors, has been on four trips to Haiti.

“I believe in the power of education,” said Ms. Goldsworthy, an educational consultant and retired Derry Twp. School District assistant superintendent. “We need educated individuals to address the social and political problems of Haiti. High Hopes has a comprehensive approach to education that you don’t see in developing countries.

She recalled meeting Carl, a smiling kindergarten student who loved the sun.

“We had the kids draw on muslin squares with markers,” Ms. Goldsworthy said, adding that the squares are being made into a quilt. “Carl drew pictures of the sun on four of his squares. He was so pleased with himself that it was adorable.

The students were engaged, happy and eager to show us their work. Our kids in the United States are more privileged but take it for granted.”

She found the dedication ceremony “touching” and was amazed at the reverence showed to Bishop Gainer. “I sat there with tears in my eyes,” she admitted. “These children have nothing, but appreciate the clean, well-kept classrooms and the food. It’s humbling and heartwarming to watch. This program is all about high hopes.”

Dr. Mortel said that the dedication ceremony included a special blessing from Bishop Gainer and a reception celebrating the “whole spectrum of life” that the education system includes.

“During our trip, Bishop Gainer celebrated Mass every day, not in churches but outside between the ocean and the mountains,” he said, “kind of like Jesus by the lake. Bishop Gainer celebrated Mass in French in a makeshift chapel and did surprisingly well.”

Dr. Mortel said that some of the students who have been through the whole High Hopes educational system are now in medical school or studying business administration or agriculture.

“My mother would be quite happy about all of this,” he said. “She would be smiling from heaven.”

Dr. Mortel said that he sees the face of Jesus in the poor and hungry of Haiti, which he called “a challenging place where poverty, a lack of basic necessities like power and clean water, environmental conditions and other factors threaten our students and families. We try to obtain the resources needed to educate, inspire, and support Haiti’s next generation of leaders.”

That education is working on the hearts and brains of the students, Dr. Mortel said.

“In Lent and Advent, the kids collect pennies, buy food and deliver the food to the prisoners,” he said. “These kids are together from preschool through high school. They’re like brothers and sisters. I see a future in them.”

(For more information, visit www.HighHopesForHaiti.org)

(Mary Klaus is a freelance reporter for The Catholic Witness.)

Students in Haiti demonstrate their musical abilities as supporters of the foundation visit during a trip in January.
Voters’ Guide ~ Pennsylvania Primary 2018
Election Day is May 15

The Catholic Witness presents here a Voters’ Guide in anticipation of the May 15 Primary Election. Across the next several pages, you will find candidates’ responses to questions developed by the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (PCC), the public affairs agency of the Pennsylvania Catholic bishops.

The Catholic Witness surveyed the candidates for Congress and Pennsylvania Senate and House of Representatives whose districts are within the Diocese of Harrisburg. The names of those who responded are printed in bold in their respective candidate list; survey questions and candidates’ responses to each question follows. The PCC will survey candidates for Governor, Lt. Governor and U.S. Senator and those responses will appear in the May 11 edition of The Witness as well as on pacatholic.org.

The Catholic Witness and the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference neither support nor oppose any candidate.

Here, you will find links to the U.S. Bishops’ document “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship,” video resources, prayers, information on Catholic social teaching, and Church documents.

The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference also offers resources on its Web site:
www.pacatholic.org

As Catholics, we are part of a community with profound teachings that help us consider challenges in public life, contribute to greater justice and peace for all people, and evaluate policy positions, party platforms, and candidates’ promises and actions in light of the Gospel in order to help build a better world. You can find material that aids to education and inform, along with resources to help voters prepare for the election, at:
www.pacatholic.org

STATE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Candidates for State Senate
(Bold denotes candidates who responded to survey)
Judith Ward (R-30): Support. I have voted for EITC expansion as a representative, and am sponsoring legislation to create PA Education Savings Accounts.
Ryan Aument (R-36): Support.
Michael Folmer (R-48): Support. School Choice is the only way to fix our broken education system.

Candidates for House of Representatives
(Bold denotes candidates who responded to survey)
Susannah Walker (D-13), John Lawrence (R-13), Suzanne Delahunt (D-37), Melinda Fee (R-37), Michele Wheeler (D-41), Brett Miller (R-41), Jennie Porter (D-43), Keith Greiner (R-43), Michael Waschovi (D-47), Keith Gillespie (R-47), Deborah Baughman (D-78), Jesse Topper (R-78), Richard Rogers, Sr. (R-81), Richard Irvin (R-81), Kimberly Hart (R-82), Johnathan Hershey (R-82), Tracy Powell Mrtle (R-82), James Junkin (R-82), Joseph Ughetto II (R-82), Jerald Leach (R-82), Joshua Fultz (R-82), Beth Laughlin (R-82), Terrance Sheller (R-82), Nicole Sherlock-King (R-82), Linda Sonnich (D-84), Garth Everett (R-94), Jennifer Rager-Kay (R-95), Frederick Keller (R-95), Karen Anderson (R-96), Mark Keller (R-96), Sean Quinnin (D-97), William Rothman (R-97), Jean Foschi (D-98), Sheryl Delozier (R-98), Robert Kaufman (R-98), Paul Schemel (R-98), Marty Quincy (D-99), Daniel Mosel (R-91), Kurt Holland (R-91), Shanna Danielson (D-92), Joshua Hershey (R-92), Dawn Keefer (R-92), Curtis Werner (R-92), Meggan O’Rourke (R-93), Matthew Schemel (D-93), James Cox, Jr. (R-99), Keith Greiner (R-99), Elizabeth Malaskey (D-99), David Zimmerman (R-99), Bryan Cutler (R-99), Cesar Liriano (D-101), Francis Ryan (R-101), Russ Diamond (R-102), Patty Kim (D-103), Anthony Harrell (R-103), Patricia Smith (D-104), Susan Helm (R-104), Eric Epstein (D-105), Adam Klein (R-105), Andrew Lewis (R-105), Robert Myers III (D-106), Jill Lint (R-106), Thomas Mehaffie (R-106), Sarah Donnelly (D-107), Kurt Masser (R-107), Lynda Schlegel Culver (R-108), Edward Sanders III (D-109), David Millard (R-109), Michael Tobash (R-125), Douglas Metcalfe (D-128), Mark Gillen (D-128), Tricia Wetz (D-129), James Cox, Jr. (R-129), Sarah Hammond (D-129), Kate Klink (R-129), Erin McCracken (D-171), Kerry Benningshoeloff (R-171), Matthew Nelson (R-193), John Wardle (R-193), Torren Ecker (R-193), Andrew Myers (R-193), Barry Cookley (R-193), Seth Grove (R-196), Sherwood McGinnis (D-199), Barbara Gleim (R-199), Jason Kelso (R-199)

Candiate for U.S. House of Representatives
James Junkin (R-82): Oppose. I support school choice, however the current grant system is detrimental to our public school system.
Jerald Leach (R-82): Support.
Joshua Fultz (R-82): Support.
Linda Sonnich (D-84): Oppose. The current system of voucher does not work too many public schools are facing funding shortages. The current system needs to be revised and a fair voucher system with actual costs incurred by private school and the private school needs guidelines that they must meet the same state educational standards as the public school.
Jean Foschi (D-88): Oppose.
Paul Schemel (R-90): Oppose.
Dawn Keefer (R-92): Support. I absolutely support money following the child and the freedom to choose your education. My children attend St. Joseph School in Mechanicsburg, PA.
David Hickernell (R-98): Support.
David Zimmerman (R-99): Support. I strongly believe parents should decide on the school for their children. Every child is unique, with differing needs. One size does not fit all.
Francis Ryan (R-101): Support. I support school choice and have an established voting record on tax credits as well.
Susan Helm (R-104): Support.
Edward Sanders III (D-109): Oppose. I believe any school receiving public funds should be held to the same standards in which public schools are.
James Cox, Jr. (R-129): Support.
Kate Klink (R-169): I would support only if the grants were targeted to those most in need, and so long as it does not divert money from our public schools.
Torren Ecker (R-193): Support.
Andrew Myers (R-193): Undecided.
Barry Cookley (R-193): Support.
Sherwood McGinnis (D-199): Oppose. I support public education and would oppose any legislation that weakened or undermined the public education system. If funding sources were committed to maintaining high quality public education, I might consider a well-managed grants system which in turn, would require its own source of funding. Quality education is key.
Jason Kelso (R-199): Support.

Which statement reflects your position most accurately?

a. I support legalized abortion.
b. I oppose legalized abortion in all circumstances.
c. I oppose legalized abortion, except when the life of the mother is in danger or the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest.

State Senate
Judith Ward (R-30): c. I was a cosponsor and voted for the legislation reducing the legal time for an abortion from 24 to 20 weeks. Also a co-prime sponsor on HB 2050 that would ban the practice of abortion due to the diagnosis of Down Syndrome.

What is your position on legislation that would provide direct grants to parents to choose the schools that they believe are best suited for their children, including non-public schools?

a. I support legalized abortion.
b. I oppose legalized abortion in all circumstances.
c. I oppose legalized abortion, except when the life of the mother is in danger or the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest.

STATE HOUSE
Keith Greiner (R-43): Support.
James Junkin (R-82): Oppose. I support school choice, however the current grant system is detrimental to our public school system.
Jerald Leach (R-82): Support.
Joshua Fultz (R-82): Support.
Linda Sonnich (D-84): Oppose. The current system of voucher does not work too many public schools are facing funding shortages. The current system needs to be revised and a fair voucher system with actual costs incurred by private school and the private school needs guidelines that they must meet the same state educational standards as the public school.
Jean Foschi (D-88): Oppose.
Paul Schemel (R-90): Oppose.
Dawn Keefer (R-92): Support. I absolutely support money following the child and the freedom to choose your education. My children attend St. Joseph School in Mechanicsburg, PA.
David Hickernell (R-98): Support.
David Zimmerman (R-99): Support. I strongly believe parents should decide on the school for their children. Every child is unique, with differing needs. One size does not fit all.
Francis Ryan (R-101): Support. I support school choice and have an established voting record on tax credits as well.
Susan Helm (R-104): Support.
Edward Sanders III (D-109): Oppose. I believe any school receiving public funds should be held to the same standards in which public schools are.
James Cox, Jr. (R-129): Support.
Kate Klink (R-169): I would support only if the grants were targeted to those most in need, and so long as it does not divert money from our public schools.
Torren Ecker (R-193): Support.
Andrew Myers (R-193): Undecided.
Barry Cookley (R-193): Support.
Sherwood McGinnis (D-199): Oppose. I support public education and would oppose any legislation that weakened or undermined the public education system. If funding sources were committed to maintaining high quality public education, I might consider a well-managed grants system which in turn, would require its own source of funding. Quality education is key.
Jason Kelso (R-199): Support.

Which statement reflects your position most accurately?

a. I support legalized abortion.
b. I oppose legalized abortion in all circumstances.
c. I oppose legalized abortion, except when the life of the mother is in danger or the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest.
Ryan Aument (R-36): c. I also voted in favor of legislation to reduce legal time to obtain an abortion from 24 to 26 weeks.
Michael Folmer (R-48): c. All life is sacred.

STATE HOUSE
Keith Greinner (R-43): c.
James Junkin (R-82): c.
Jerald Leach (R-82): c.
Joshua Fultz (R-82): c.
Linda Sosniak (D-84): c.
Jean Foschi (D-88): a. I am baptized Catholic. I attended Catholic school in DuBois, PA and graduated from Central Christian High School. I am aware of the Church’s position on abortion. Abortion must be safe and legal. Better sex education and health care will dramatically curb the abortion rate.

Paul Schemel (R-99): b.
Dawn Keefe (R-92): c.
David Hickenrell (R-98): c.
David Zimmerman (R-99): c.
Even on the line I checked, this should be last resort. Francis Ryan (R-101): c. I believe that life begins at conception and all life must be protected, born and unborn.
Susan Helm (R-104): c.
Adam Klein (R-105): c.
Edward Sanders III (D-109): a. As an individual who identifies as a Christian, I personally believe there are better options. However, I believe this decision to be between a woman, her family, her doctor, and faith.
James Cox, Jr. (R-129): b. All life is valued by God, regardless of how it begins.
Kate Klunk (R-169): c.
Torren Ecker (R-193): c.
Andrew Myers (R-193): b.
Barry Cockley (R-193): b.
Sherwood McGinnis (D-199): a. I believe that decisions regarding women’s health care and quality of life should be those of the person most affected, not the state. In the case of Christian, I personally believe there are better options. However, I believe this decision to be between a woman, her family, her doctor, and faith.

What is your position on legislation that would add state restrictions to existing federal prohibitions concerning the hiring of undocumented immigrants or providing healthcare or government services to the undocumented immigrant?

STATE SENATE
Judith Ward (R-30): I support prohibitions on hiring undocumented immigrants, while I share and understand the desire to help all, government has a duty to limit taxpayer dollars to taxpayers.
Ryan Aument (R-36): Support.
Michael Folmer (R-48): Support.

STATE HOUSE
Keith Greinner (R-43): We need to be vigilant in our approach when dealing with undocumented immigrants. This is clearly more of a federal issue. Any additional state restrictions would have to be reviewed in a holistic and responsible manner.
James Junkin (R-82): Support.
Jerald Leach (R-82): Support.
Joshua Fultz (R-82): Support.
Linda Sosniak (D-84): Oppose.
Jean Foschi (D-88): Oppose.
Paul Schemel (R-99): Support.
Dawn Keefe (R-92): a. I am a pro-life leader. I fully support vetting legal citizens for services. Further, we already have provisions to assist refugees which would assist vulnerable individuals in compromised circumstances.

Which statement reflects your position most accurately?

a. Pennsylvania’s anti-discrimination laws for housing, employment and public accommodation should include “sexual orientation” and “gender identity or expression” as protected classes, no exceptions.
b. Pennsylvania’s anti-discrimination laws for housing, employment and public accommodation should include “sexual orientation” and “gender identity or expression” as protected classes, but should contain exceptions in narrow circumstances to protect religious institutions.
c. Pennsylvania’s anti-discrimination laws for housing, employment and public accommodation should include “sexual orientation” and “gender identity or expression” as protected classes, but should contain exceptions in narrow circumstances to protect religious conscience for business owners.
d. Pennsylvania should not amend its anti-discrimination laws to add “sexual orientation” and “gender identity and expression” as protected classes at this time.

STATE SENATE
Judith Ward (R-30): b. Partnering with the private sector will increase efficiencies and the services available.

STATE HOUSE
Keith Greinner (R-43): A forensic audit needs to be done on our human services budget to determine where we can get the most value for our dollar and eliminate waste. Public-private partnerships should be encouraged.
James Junkin (R-82): a.
Jerald Leach (R-82): a.
Joshua Fultz (R-82): a.
Linda Sosniak (D-84): c.
Jean Foschi (D-88): b.
Robert Kauffman (R-89): a.
Paul Schemel (R-90): b.
Dawn Keefe (R-92): a. Cut the red tape and allow churches and community organizations to meet the needs. They usually do it more effectively and efficiently.

Which statement reflects your position most accurately?

a. Pennsylvania should cut public spending on health and human services programs and provide greater incentives for private non-profit organizations to meet local needs.
b. The state government should provide more funding for public-private partnerships that provide health and human services programs.
c. Pennsylvania’s state and local governments should assume more responsibility for providing health and human services to people in need.

STATE HOUSE
Keith Greinner (R-43): c. As an individual who identifies as a Christian, I personally believe there are better options. However, I believe this decision to be between a woman, her family, her doctor, and faith.

Paul Schemel (R-99): d.
Which statement reflects your position most accurately?

a. As an individual who identifies as a Christian, I personally believe there are better options. However, I believe this decision to be between a woman, her family, her doctor, and faith.
b. As a former member of a Catholic hospital I believe private organizations are best suited to help those in need.
c. As an individual who identifies as a Christian, I personally believe there are better options. However, I believe this decision to be between a woman, her family, her doctor, and faith.
d. As an individual who identifies as a Christian, I personally believe there are better options. However, I believe this decision to be between a woman, her family, her doctor, and faith.
Assuming there is money in the state budget, what is your position on increasing funding for textbooks and instructional materials for non-public school students at the same rate as increases in subsidies for public school students?

STATE SENATE

STATE HOUSE


STATE SENATE

STATE HOUSE

Susan Helm (R-104): Support. The Bible states an eye for an eye. However, I think there has to be no doubt whatsoever that the person is guilty.

Which statement reflects your position most accurately?

a. Religious childcare and pre-kindergarten providers should be subject to government review of educational content.

b. Religious childcare and pre-kindergarten providers should follow state standards for health and safety of children, but be free to determine their own educational content based on the teachings of their faith tradition.

c. Religious childcare and pre-kindergarten providers should be free from government regulation.

STATE SENATE

STATE HOUSE

Which statement reflects your position most accurately?

a. U.S. Congress should maintain federal funding for the Medicaid program to strengthen it as a safety-net for low-income, elderly and disabled people.

b. U.S. Congress should cap federal funding and issue block grants for Medicaid giving more responsibility to the states.

c. Children’s welfare should be protected and certain anti-discrimination law. I see no need to change.

d. Current law already includes race and gender in discrimination in itself should never be allowed. Our goal should be to bring the community together so as to enhance understanding of each member.

STATE HOUSE

Jason Kelso (R-199): a.

What is your position on the death penalty?

STATE SENATE

STATE HOUSE

Support. I support funding public and private schools the same for textbooks and instructional materials.

Francis Ryan (R-101): Support. Susan Helm (R-104): Support. However I am on the Appropriations Committee and there is not more money in the state budget. Adam Klein (R-105): Support. Edward Sanders III (D-109): Oppose. Financially, incarceration for life can many times cost less than the death penalty. Also, there are times individuals are wrongly accused and charged. I believe incarceration for life allows for adequate reflection also.

Which statement reflects your position most accurately?

a. U.S. Congress should maintain federal funding for the Medicaid program to strengthen it as a safety-net for low-income, elderly and disabled people.

b. The Catholic Church is opposed to the death penalty. I believe incarceration for life allows for adequate reflection also.

c. The Catholic Church is opposed to the death penalty. I believe incarceration for life allows for adequate reflection also.

d. The Catholic Church is opposed to the death penalty. I believe incarceration for life allows for adequate reflection also.

Which statement reflects your position most accurately?

a. Religious childcare and pre-kindergarten providers should subject government review of educational content.

b. Religious childcare and pre-kindergarten providers should follow state standards for health and safety of children, but be free to determine their own educational content based on the teachings of their faith tradition.

c. Religious childcare and pre-kindergarten providers should be free from government regulation.

Which statement reflects your position most accurately?

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b. Religious childcare and pre-kindergarten providers should follow state standards for health and safety of children, but be free to determine their own educational content based on the teachings of their faith tradition.

c. Religious childcare and pre-kindergarten providers should be free from government regulation.

STATE SENATE
Candiates for United States Congress
(Bold denotes candidates who responded to survey)

Susan Quick (D-9), Dennis Wolfe (D-9), Gary Wegman (D-9), Scott Uehlinger (R-9), Daniel Meuser (R-9), George Halvocov, Jr. (R-9), Eric Feigl-Ding (D-10), George Scott (D-10), Robert Howe (D-10), Christina Hartman (D-10), Shavonni Corbin-Johnson (D-10), Scott Perry (R-10), Jessica King (D-11), Lloyd Smucker (R-11), Chester Beller (R-11), Marc Friedenberg (D-12), Judith Herschel (D-12), Douglas McLinko (R-12), Thomas Marino (R-12), Brent Ottaway (D-13), Travis Schooley (R-13), Stephen Bloom (R-13), John Eichelberger, Jr. (R-13), Douglas Mastriano (R-13), Bernard Washabaugh II (R-13), Dr. John Joyce (R-13), Arthur Halvorson (R-13), Benjamin Hornberger (R-13), Halvorson (R-13), Bernard Washabaugh II (R-13), Dr. John Joyce (R-13), Arthur Halvorson (R-13), Benjamin Hornberger (R-13),

What is your position on providing a federal tax credit to businesses that donate to scholarship organizations that provide scholarships for middle and low-income students at private and religious schools in grades kindergarten through 12?

Daniel Meuser (R-9): Support.
Scott Perry (R-10): Support. Anytime that anyone can get tax relief, I support that; we pay too much in federal tax as it is – we at least should be able to provide options for kids so they’re not trapped in failed school systems.
Lloyd Smucker (R-11): Support.
Chester Beller (R-11): Support.
Travis Schooley (R-13): Support.
Dr. John Joyce (R-13): Support. I could support this bill as long as it doesn’t take federal dollars away from public schools.
Arthur Halvorson (R-13): Support. I believe in school choice and see parochial school support as an important feature of good education policy.

Which statement reflects your position most accurately?

a. I support legalized abortion.
b. I oppose legalization in all circumstances.
c. I oppose legalization, except when the life of the mother is in danger or the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest.

Daniel Meuser (R-9): c.
Scott Perry (R-10): c.
Lloyd Smucker (R-11): c.
Chester Beller (R-11): c.
Travis Schooley (R-13): b.
Dr. John Joyce (R-13): c.
Arthur Halvorson (R-13): b. In the very, very rare circumstance where the life of the child must be extinguished to save the mother, criminal penalties against med professionals should be waived.

What is your position on legislation that would permit undocumented immigrants who have lived in the United States for a number of years, have worked and built a life in our country, and who do not have criminal records to register with the government and take steps to earn legal status?

Daniel Meuser (R-9): I support President Trump’s plan on securing the border. Once our borders are secure, then I am open to having further discussions on immigration reform.
Scott Perry (R-10): Support. Steps to earning legal status already exist, and they should be followed.

Lloyd Smucker (R-11): Support. Those who have broken the law must not be granted citizenship.
Chester Beller (R-11): Support.
Travis Schooley (R-13): Support, with condition. The process to become a legal citizen needs to be improved. It costs too much and takes too long. I support the statement, however I feel that people who did not follow the law need a fine of say ($100?) then register, then begin steps to become legal.
Douglas Mastriano (R-13): Oppose. I would only support if those who illegally entered the country cannot vote for 25 years and it prohibits family chain migration. Additionally, those in this special status will be considered on probation and should they break the law during this period, be deported.
Dr. John Joyce (R-13): Oppose. I would oppose amnesty and would not vote for any proposals to deal with workers until we secure our borders.
Arthur Halvorson (R-13): Oppose. A nation relies on real borders and the rule of law. Amnesty undermines both. Otherwise law-abiding illegal aliens should have an opportunity to apply for admission from outside the country.

What is your position on efforts to pass legislation (i.e., the Federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act) that would make sexual orientation and gender identity or expression protected classes that are equivalent to other protected classes (e.g., race, religion, sex, etc.)?

Daniel Meuser (R-9): Oppose.
Scott Perry (R-10): Oppose. I strongly support equal protection under the law as provided by the U.S. Constitution.
Lloyd Smucker (R-11): Oppose. Nobody should face discrimination under any circumstances.
Chester Beller (R-11): Oppose.
Travis Schooley (R-13): Oppose.
Douglas Mastriano (R-13): Oppose.
Dr. John Joyce (R-13): Would need to see details of the legislation. Certainly do not support bills that would open up bathrooms and locker rooms to opposite sex in schools. Arthur Halvorson (R-13): Oppose. Such legislation, aside from advancing a toxic liberal social agenda, would also unfairly constrain the liberties of even the smallest proprietorships to hire in accordance with conscience.

Which statement reflects your position most accurately?

a. Congress should maintain federal funding for the Medicaid program to strengthen it as a safety-net for low-income, elderly and disabled people.
b. Congress should cap federal funding and issue block grants for Medicaid giving more responsibility to the states.

Daniel Meuser (R-9): b.
Scott Perry (R-10): b.
Lloyd Smucker (R-11): b.
Chester Beller (R-11): b.
Travis Schooley (R-13): a.
Douglas Mastriano (R-13): b. The safety net has become a hammock. We require responsible spending and caps to the funding at the Federal level.
Dr. John Joyce (R-13): b. Arthur Halvorson (R-13): b. This is the best approach, allowing states to experiment competitively with various methods of allocating scarce public resources to needy beneficiaries.

Pennsylvania U.S. Congressional Map 2018
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.

Berwick
Immaculate Conception BVM:
Ann Kondrech

Camp Hill
Good Shepherd:
Theresa Comstock
Nancy Koberlein
Janet Weiss

Columbia
Holy Trinity:
Robert Martin
Mary Trupe

Dallastown
St. Joseph:
Charles Barshinger
David Brown
Paul Cameron
Thomas Ryan Joyce
Emma Jane Nold
Elizabeth “Kitty” Rene Shirley Schilling
Patricia Ann Smith
Dorothy Tully

Doylestown
Our Lady of Refuge:
Anthony D’Orazio

Gettysburg
St. Francis Xavier:
Edward Hernandez
Samuel Jay Spiese, Jr.
C. Joseph Steinour
Michael J. Wolo

Hanover
St. Vincent de Paul:
Charmaine Neiderer
Dora Sneeringer

Harrisburg
Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick:
Patrick Reilly
Holy Name of Jesus:
William F. Moser
St. Catherine Labouré:
Jennifer Norris
St. Margaret Mary:
Barbara Fried

Littlestown
St. Aloysius:
John Stuller, Jr.
Manetta Redding

Lancaster
St. John Neumann:
Ed Carty
Patricia Frey
George Knediesen
Maureen Loefredo
Anne Martin

McSherrystown
Annunciation BVM:
Mary R. Redding

Milton
St. Joseph:
Gene Caico
Jack Russell

Mount Carmel
Divine Redeemer:
Raymond Cristan, Sr.
Benjamin Robert Frank, Jr.
Mildred R. Greco

New Cumberland
St. Theresa:
Gary Canfield

New Freedom
St. John the Baptist:
William Cassidy
Nancy Gillingly
Margaret Johnson
Beda Obrigkeit
Mary Patera
Dorothy Marie Wood

Shamokin
Mother Cabrini:
Robert Barlow
Virginia Checchi
Paul Kuczewski
Gertrude White

Shippensburg
Our Lady of the Visitation:
Margaret Steinour

Steelton
Prince of Peace:
Betty Lou Lescanec
Christopher George Ulsh

Waynesboro
St. Andrew:
Joseph E. Adams

York
St. Rose of Lima:
Josephine Bisserman

Corpus Christi Students Continue to Grow

Nick Shelly & Gabrien Hawk, eighth-graders conduct experiments in the mobile science lab.

The Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation, a division of Pennsylvania Farm Bureau (PFB), brought agriculture education to Corpus Christi Catholic School in Chambersburg, Monday, April 16 to Friday, April 20. Second grade teacher, Mrs. Beth Lechleitner, coordinated this educational program. Mrs. Lechleitner was the PA Farm Bureau Ag Teacher of the Year for 2017 and continues to bring agricultural education to her 2nd grade students as well as the rest of the school.

The Farm Bureau’s Mobile Agriculture Education Science Lab creates an opportunity for students to learn about agriculture, Pennsylvania’s number one industry, in a fun and hands-on way. The Ag Lab program helps teachers educate more students about the importance of agriculture.

The students entered the Mobile Lab to perform science experiments that teach lessons focused on farm, food, fiber and the environment. Classroom teachers chose the labs for their students and a certified teacher, Mr. Mark Kline, who travels with the lab, led each class in the science experiments. The lab is equipped with all the materials and supplies needed for the experiments. Examples of the experiments that were taught in the lab include: germinating seeds under different conditions, creating crayons from soybeans, and testing the water capacity of different soils. All the students at Corpus Christi School had an opportunity to visit the lab several times.

First-graders learn all about the science of popping popcorn.

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You can read The Catholic Witness online, wherever you go! Through a free e-mail service, you can receive an e-mail with a direct link to each edition as it is published. Sign up for the e-mail service by logging on to the diocesan Web site at www.hbgdiocese.org. Follow the News/Events tab to The Catholic Witness page and click on “Sign Up for Our E-mail.”

Registration with the e-mail service will not automatically cancel your mailed subscription. If you prefer to receive the online version instead of a copy in the mail, e-mail your name and mailing address to witness@hbgdiocese.org.

And remember, previous editions of the newspaper – dating back to early 2011 – are also available online. You can find them at www.hbgdiocese.org. Just follow the News/Events tab to The Catholic Witness page.
Spiritual Offerings
Caerlton at St. John of Arc Church in Hershey will be held May 2 at 7 p.m. Join your brothers and sisters in Christ as we celebrate the beginning of our Easter Season as we praise, worship, and sinews the heart in the Holy Eucharist. Father Modeste will preside. A reception will be held immediately following the Caerlton in the Cafeteria. For more information, call 717-544-6609 or email fathermodeste@gmail.com.

A public square Rosary rally takes place on the square in New Oxford every second Saturday of the month at noon. The next Rosary rally will be May 12.

Pilgrimages and Retreats
Camino Pilgrimage, September 27-October 1, 2018. Join the "Road" along the Camino Portuguese this fall. Diocesan and Mrs. Michael Oles from St. John Neumann Parish Fall. For more information, contact the Office of Faith and Ministry, or call 717-727-5735 or 717-722-4870 for additional information.

St. Rose of Lima School in Thomasville will hold its 5th Annual Sp & Sound Theatre performance. For more information, email stroselimaoffice@gmail.com or call 717-482-6510. Space is limited, so early registration is encouraged.

Education & Enrichment
Jody Cole will be conducting a Byzantine icon writing (painting) workshop at her Mechanicsburg home studio in May. Participants can earn $115 for a 10-hour workshop, which includes all supplies. Participants will be able to choose from a 12"x15" Holy Face of Christ (beginners), Our Lady of the Assumption (intermediate), or the Icon of St. John Chrysostom (advanced). For more information, contact Jody Cole at 717-919-8971 or jcoleartis@gmail.com.

Father Paul CB Schenck, EdD, parochial vicar at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Mechanicsburg, will present a session on end-of-life decision making in a one-hour seminar at St. Katharine Drexel Church, Mechanicsburg, May 8 at 7 p.m. Father Schenck holds an undergraduate degree in science, graduate degrees in theology, psychology, and bioethics, and the doctor of education in applied pastoral practice. He is certified by the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Pittsburgh on the subject of danda and pernicious. His seminar will include questions of agency, treatment decisions, and so-called "quality of life." There will be a question-and-answer period. Everyone is invited to participate.

A seminar will be held at Geisinger Holy Spirit for chaplains and caregivers on May 2, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Geisinger Cancer Institute. The program provides a day of continuing education and professional development through expert presentations. For more information, contact Geisinger Holy Spirit at 717-544-6609 or 717-544-6610.

Angels and Demons: Who are they and why they matter. Adam Blai, perfum (meaning "expert") of religious demog- 

World Youth Day Panama City ~ January 21-28, 2019

A pilgrimage for post high school young adults ages 18-35 from the Diocese of Harrisburg and the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

Young adults ages 18-35 from around the world with gather with the Holy Father for a week of engaging prayer, vocation, holy young, powerful catechesis with bishops from around the world, concerts from Catholic artists, and an unforgettable vigil and Mass with the pope.

A non-refundable deposit of $500 is reserved to your spot. Diocese of Harrisburg.

For more information, contact: Robert Williams Director, Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

Or visit: www.hbdgsdiocese.org/youngchurch

Diocese of Harrisburg
717-657-4408, ext. 323
cwilliams@hbdgsdiocese.org

The Annunciation Women of Mercy and Joy in McSherrystown are hosting the first concert for the first concert for May 5 at 7 p.m. The second concert will be held at Grace United Methodist Church in Lebanon on May 6 at 3 p.m. Compositions by Mozart, Ralph Vaughan Williams, and Joseph Haydn will be performed. The concerts will be conducted by Artistic Director and Conductor, Joseph Smith, and accompanied by Chorus Master and Pianist/Organist, Daniel Glessner, who is also an organist and chorister, and our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish will offer a free offering will be taken at each performance. For more information, contact Kathy Keel at kathykeel@comcast.net or 717-545-1448.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Mechanicsburg is hosting a Bike Rodeo on Saturday, May 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (rain date: Sunday, May 20). This Community Children's Bike Safety Event will include the opportunity to ride through an obstacle course, meet an Upper Allen Twp. bicycle police officer, learn basic bike maintenance, and learn simple bike maintenance. Helmets and close-toed shoes are required for participation. We'll also be accepting used bikes for donation to Operation Wildcat: Project Bike, which assists stu- dents in the Mechanicsburg School District. For more information, contact LaDawn@AHS.idaes.net.

Knights of Columbus of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Abbottstown will be hosting a Designer Purse Bingo on May 5, at Deleone Catholic High School, McDan- hery. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Games start at 7 p.m. John Schlaflie at 717-667-4535 or Bill Zimmerman at 717-529-4870 for additional information.

St. Joseph Parish Youth, Knights of Colum- bus Council 6353, will be hosting a Designer Purse Bingo on Saturday, May 5, at Deleone Catholic High School, McHeron- ryn. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Games start at 7 p.m. John Schlaflie at 717-667-4535 or Bill Zimmerman at 717-529-4870 for additional information.

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Job Openings
Immediate openings in the Good Shepherd School for Children in McSherrystown. The program provides students in Pre-K through 12th grade with a safe, fun environment where they can complete homework assignments, engage in activities and play with peers. ASC follows the school calendar on week- days, Monday through Friday. On days when school is in session, seeking ASC aides. Schedule is flexible based on your availability. Childcare experience preferred. Responsibilities include supervising students at all times during ASC hours. Also responsible for assisting students with homework, supervising active playtime and distributing snacks. All applicants must pass a criminal background check and obtain mandatory clearances prior to employment. Hourly wage based on experience in the area. Parents: You may bring your school age children with you to ASC free of charge. Seeking ASC Director. Schedule is flexible based on your availability (usually around 20-25 hours per week). The position requires a high school diploma or GED and possess a current Pennsylvania state certification. Childcare experience preferred. Responsibilities include supervising students at all times during ASC hours, assisting with active playtime and distributing snacks. All applicants must pass a criminal background check and obtain mandatory clearances prior to employment. Hourly wage based on experience in the area. Parents: You may bring your school age children with you to ASC free of charge.

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Girl and Boy Scouts across the diocese pose for a group photo with Bishop Ronald Gainer after he celebrated Holy Mass for the Scouts at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Camp Hill, on Good Shepherd Sunday, April 22. After Mass, Bishop Gainer distributed patches, medals and awards in recognition of the Scouts’ faith, hard work and dedicated service to the community. Catholic Scouting is under the auspices of the Diocesan Office of Youth and Young Ministry. The office offers support to diocesan Scouting committees with resources and emblem recognition programs for Scouts and their pack leaders. For more information, visit www.hbgdiocese.org/youth-and-young-adults/catholic-scouting.

Call for a brochure or to register: 800.713.9800

Early registration price $3,599 + $319* per person from Washington Dulles if deposit is paid by 5-20-18

Base price $3,699 + $319* per person after 5-20-18

*Estimated Airline Taxes & Fuel Surcharges are subject to increase/decrease at ticketing (30 days prior)

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Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg, PA

IRELAND
AUGUST 28 - SEPTEMBER 8, 2018

Celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Diocese of Harrisburg and visit the grave of St. Patrick, the Diocese’s Patron Saint on a 12-day pilgrimage to the Emerald Isle with the Bishop of Harrisburg, Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer.

- Explore the history
- Witness the faith
- Gather the graces