Catholic Charities Foster Care: Leading Children to Hope

In the Diocese of Harrisburg, Catholic Charities Specialized Foster Care program provides temporary, safe, nurturing homes for children who have been separated from their families by the court. It’s a service that’s been provided for 39 years. Sometimes, placement is made with families who open their hearts and homes to care for children in need. Other times, a plan for permanent placement is needed.

Can you picture yourself as a foster parent? Read the success stories and learn more via the feature story on page 9.

An artistic rendering of a picture of Joel and Christine and their recently-adopted daughters on the path of their future as a family. The couple adopted the sisters after serving in Catholic Charities’ Foster Care program.

Bishop Expresses Sadness and Remorse for Actions Detailed in Grand Jury Report

A redacted version of the long awaited report into child sexual abuse throughout six Catholic dioceses in Pennsylvania, including Harrisburg, was released on Tuesday, August 14. The Grand Jury report lists the names of 45 clergy in the Harrisburg Diocese accused of child sexual abuse.

Bishop Ronald W. Gainer released the names of more than 70 accused clergy members on Aug. 1 after an extensive internal investigation. The Diocese emphasized that this is a list of accusations; no assessments of credibility or guilt were made in creating this list.

Bishop Gainer stated his sadness and remorse for the actions of the clergy members described in the Grand Jury Report, along with a promise that these actions will not happen again:

“I read the Grand Jury Report on child sexual abuse with great sadness, for once again we read that innocent children were the victims of horrific acts committed against them. I am saddened because I know that behind every story is a child precious in God’s sight; a child who has been wounded by the sins of those who should have known better.

“As I stressed last week when we released information regarding our own internal review of child sexual abuse in the Harrisburg Diocese, I acknowledge the sinfulness of those who have harmed these survivors, as well as the action and inaction of those in Church leadership who failed to respond appropriately.

“In my own name, and in the name of the Diocesan Church of Harrisburg, I express our profound sorrow and apologize to the survivors of child sex abuse, the Catholic faithful and the general public for the abuses that took place and for those Church officials who failed to protect children.”

More REPORT, page 2

Mass for Forgiveness

Friday, August 17
St. Patrick Cathedral
212 State St., Harrisburg PA 17101

• Mass at noon
• Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 6 p.m., followed by closing Service of Repentance

www.hbgdiocese.org
“We will continue to make amends for the sins of our past, and offer prayers and support to all victims of these actions. We are committed to continuing and enhancing the positive changes made, to ensure these types of atrocities never occur again. Since the turn of the century, the Church has instituted policies that take clear and decisive action to prevent future abuse.

“I want children, parents, parishioners, students, staff, clergy and the public to know that our Churches and our schools are safe; there is nothing we take more seriously than the protection of those who walk through our doors. We send every and all complaints to the proper legal authorities. The safety and well-being of our children is too important not to take immediate and definitive action.”

The Diocese of Harrisburg has developed an aggressive Safe Environment Program with a comprehensive set of procedures to address allegations of child sexual abuse by Catholic clergy, employees or volunteers. This program also includes guidelines for reconciliation, healing, accountability and prevention of future acts of abuse.

The Youth Protection efforts in the Diocese of Harrisburg include:

- An aggressive program to root out abusers in ministry or employment within the Diocese. If anyone has even one proven allegation, they are barred permanently from ministry or employment.
- Reporting every allegation received to the District Attorney of the county involved.
- Helping survivors heal. The Diocese’s Victims Assistance Coordinator works with survivors and families.
- Screening all employees and volunteers with multiple background certifications; abusers are ineligible for hire and not permitted to volunteer in any capacity.
- Training employees and volunteers to recognize and report abuse. All clergy, every employee and every volunteer must successfully complete a state approved online training program on how to recognize and report child abuse.
- Teaching students how to stay safe. Students receive instruction in age-appropriate child abuse awareness programs.
- Providing ID badges for all persons who have completed the requirement of our Diocesan Youth Protection Program.
- Executing a prudent and prompt inquiry and reporting of every accusation. If law enforcement declines to act, the Diocese contracts with professional investigators, not clergy or Church employees, to conduct an independent and thorough investigation.
- Openly communicating with all involved and supporting due process.
- Compiling with national standards for youth protection and independently audited annually.

Anyone who suspects or would like to report child abuse should do so with these two steps:
1. Call the toll-free PA Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-932-0313.
2. Report suspected child abuse by a church official, employee or volunteer, to the Diocese by calling the toll-free hotline at 1-800-626-1608 or email: ReportAbuse@hbgdiocese.org. It is critical the Church be made aware of any complaints immediately so we can take appropriate action.

More information on the Diocese youth protection programs can be found at www.youthprotectionhbg.com.

~ Bishop Ronald W. Gainer, Bishop of the Diocese of Harrisburg
Rachel Bryson Appointed as Executive Director for Public Relations

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Rachel Bryson, M.S., has been named to the newly-created position of Executive Director for Public Relations for the Diocese of Harrisburg. She began her position on July 30.

In her role, Miss Bryson is responsible for developing and implementing the communications initiatives in the Diocesan Strategic Plan, executing all strategic communications and media relations, expanding the use of digital media, and overseeing the editorial content, news operations, product development and business affairs of The Catholic Witness.

A native of the diocese, Miss Bryson attended St. Mary Immaculate Parish in Greensastle, and was homeschooled along with her sister and two brothers. Following high school graduation, she attended Shippensburg University, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in communication/journalism with an emphasis in broadcast journalism in 2007. In 2013, she earned a master’s degree in strategic communications/public relations from Shippensburg. She is currently pursuing her Accreditation in Public Relations (APR).

Miss Bryson’s career in communications began at WHAG TV, where she worked in television news production. She then served as a communications specialist and one of two official national spokespersons for the American Beekeeping Federation. When this appointment ended, Miss Bryson returned to her journalism training and worked in television news production with her sister and two brothers. Following high school graduation, she attended Shippensburg University, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in communication/journalism with an emphasis in broadcast journalism in 2007. In 2013, she earned a master’s degree in strategic communications/public relations from Shippensburg. She is currently pursuing her Accreditation in Public Relations (APR).

Miss Bryson’s career in communications began at WHAG TV, where she worked in television news production. She then served as a communications specialist and one of two official national spokespersons for the American Beekeeping Federation. When this appointment ended, Miss Bryson returned to her journalism training and worked in television news production with her sister and two brothers. Following high school graduation, she attended Shippensburg University, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in communication/journalism with an emphasis in broadcast journalism in 2007. In 2013, she earned a master’s degree in strategic communications/public relations from Shippensburg. She is currently pursuing her Accreditation in Public Relations (APR).

Miss Bryson is a member of Good Shepherd Parish in Waynesboro. While studying for her master’s degree, she assisted the Communications Department at Shippensburg in receiving national accreditation for its program, and completed an internship in internal communications at Volvo Construction Equipment. Before joining the Diocese, Miss Bryson served as the Director of Communications for the American Trauma Society, Pennsylvania Division, and as Communications Director for Cumberland County government. She has a wealth of experience in media relations, public relations, internal and external communications, writing and editing.

“I am definitely looking forward to working with all the departments at the diocesan level, and all our parishes and schools with their communication efforts,” Miss Bryson said. “I am eager to work with them to ensure that in everything we do communications-wise, we are all reaching for the same goals and being strategic in those efforts.”

Miss Bryson is a member of Good Shepherd Parish in Camp Hill, and is an avid beekeeper. She can be reached at the Diocesan Center at 717-657-4804, ext. 203, or rbryson@hbgdiocese.org.

Diocese Names Kim Roche as Director of Stewardship and Development

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Kim (Laukaitis) Roche has been selected as Director of the Diocesan Office of Stewardship and Development, a newly-established position at the Diocesan Center in Harrisburg. Mrs. Roche began her duties on July 16.

A native of the diocese, Mrs. Roche was raised in Lancaster. She attended Our Mother of Perpetual Help Parish and School in Ephrata, and graduated from Lancaster Catholic High School in 1979. She earned a bachelor’s degree in biology from Moravian College in Bethlehem, Pa., a master’s degree in biology with a concentration in genetics from UNC Charlotte, and a teaching certificate from Albright College in Reading, Pa.

Mrs. Roche’s career in development began at Our Mother of Perpetual Help School in 1999, when she was asked by the principal to work part-time in development. From there, she accepted a full-time position at Lancaster Catholic High School and would go on to work for her alma mater for seven years, live in the Office of Advancement and two in the Athletic Department.

Prior to accepting the position with the Diocese of Harrisburg, Mrs. Roche worked as a Major Gifts Officer at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster for nearly ten years. In that role, she worked with donors in support of the philanthropic goals of the college by securing both outright and deferred support.

“People think long and hard about how they want to make charitable gifts. Development is about building relationships with benefactors and examining where their interests and priorities of the institution come together to have an impact,” Mrs. Roche said.

As Director for the Office of Stewardship and Development, she envisions her role as “being a resource for our high schools, elementary schools and parishes as they move forward with campaigns, as they look to expand their donor base, and as they position themselves in the best way to inspire philanthropic support.”

Development and stewardship are focused on creating authentic relationships between donors and institutions. Mrs. Roche remarked. “It goes beyond processing checks and gifts. It’s about making sure donors are aware of the needs of institutions, and how they can be charitable with their dollars.”

Mrs. Roche is a member of St. John Neumann Parish in Lancaster. She and her husband, Brian, are the parents of four children, ages 24-29. She can be reached at the Diocesan Center at 717-657-4804, ext. 245, or kroche@hbgdiocese.org.
Charismatic Day of Renewal

“Wind and Fire of the Holy Spirit”

September 22 from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Diocesan Center, Harrisburg

Keynote Speaker: Sister Pamela Smith, SSCM, Ph.D.
Secretary for Education and Faith Formation
for the Diocese of Charleston, S.C.

- Keynote address on “The Holy Spirit and Biblical Living”
- Mass celebrated by Father Francis Karwacki, Diocesan Liaison for the Charismatic Renewal
- Afternoon presentation on “Discernment and Healing,” followed by a Healing Session
- Breakout session for those who are new to Catholic Charismatic Renewal
- Breakout session for young adults by Father Dwight Schaline
- Music ministry by contemporary group “BreakThrough,” led by Bob and Lori Rhic

Registrations received by Sept. 10 include lunch. Register online, and learn more about the Day of Renewal, at www.aliveinthespirit.net.

Jubilee: The Holy Ground

Prayer Transition

By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC

Special to The Witness

Many years ago, when I was a novice, I was given an assignment to interview one of our Jubilarians. Sister Leonard was celebrating her 60th anniversary and was in her late 90s. She truly left me inspired to follow a gracious God. I will never forget some of the words she shared with me as she prepared to celebrate her jubilee. During the interview, she mentioned, “Jubilarians are all about remembering what was, and what is, as one looks to the future and to praise the good God through it all!”

In the Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick in Harrisburg, as we gather to celebrate the Eucharist, we pray the diocesan jubilee prayer. For those of you who haven’t come across it, here it is:

Almighty Father, through the work of providence You established the Diocese of Harrisburg ‘for a lasting remembrance’ of the Church of Christ in south central Pennsylvania.

We thank You for the generations of faithful Catholics whose lives have witnessed to the Gospel and have made Your Son present through divine worship, by charitable works, teaching, and healing.

For those who have gone before us in faith, grant an eternal place in Your heavenly kingdom.

For those who continue the ministry of the Church today, bestow Your grace and strength to remain faithful and zealous.

And, for those who will inherit the work of Your hands, accomplished in and through us, pour out Your heavenly blessing, so that what has been done with Your help in our Diocese may come to full maturity in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Amen.

Since our diocesan jubilee year began, my articles have focused on the servants of God, the venerable, the blessed, and the saints who have traversed and lived within our beloved diocese, making it holy by their presence. By their lives, they pointed to a higher reality – God’s mercy and love. Their legacy can be seen in the faithful Catholics who worship week after week in our parish communities.

But the holiness within our diocese cannot only be seen within the lives of those individuals publically declared “holy.” There are countless individuals who live hidden sanctity, who sit next to you in the pew in your parish church. Pope Francis explains it like this: “[T]he testimony of faith comes in very many forms, just as in a great fresco there is a variety of colors and shades; yet they are all important, even those that do not stand out. In God’s great plan, every detail is important, even yours, even my humble little witness, even the hidden witness of those who live their faith with simplicity in everyday family relationships, work relationships, and friendships. There are the saints of every day, the ‘hidden’ saints, a sort of ‘middle class of holiness,’ as a French author said, that middle class of holiness to which we can all belong.”

For the remainder of our Jubilee year, I now turn to the “hidden” saints among us. The individuals that I will highlight have been brought forth by the pastors of our diocese during the Year of Faith. Through the stories of their lives, God’s handwork is truly manifested! I hope the stories of these amazing men and women leave you inspired to follow the Lord closer! God bless!”

1https://www.americamagazine.org/content/ignatian-educator/hidden-saints

Stress in Your Marriage?

Attend a Retrouvaille Weekend

Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that feel bored, disillusioned, frustrated or angry in their marriage. Some experience coldness. Others experience conflict in their relationship. Most don’t know how to change the situation or even communicate with their spouse about it. This program has helped tens of thousands of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. In the Diocese of Harrisburg, Retrouvaille is under the auspices of the Office of Family and Respect Life Ministries.

For confidential information about, or to register for the next program beginning with a weekend on Sept. 14-16 in Mechanicsburg, call 800-470-2230 or visit the web site www.HelpOurMarriage.com.

Sign Up to Receive The Witness Electronically

You can read The Catholic Witness online, wherever you go! Through a free e-mail service, you can receive 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.
Palliative Medicine: What a Patient Visit Looks Like

Care for Quality of Life

The first thing Dr. Bobonich or Kelly McCormack, DNP, a certified nurse practitioner, will do during the palliative medicine consultation is establish who they are and what their intention is when meeting with the patient. “We are the people who ask, ‘Where is this journey going?’” Dr. Bobonich explains. “We are not the people who look at a target organ, like a cardiologist who looks at the heart or a nephrologist who looks at the kidneys. We look at the whole person.”

As part of the interview, Dr. Bobonich and Dr. McCormack always ask the patient what they know about their disorder, what they have been told or how sick they think they are, understanding that most patients are very in tune with how sick they are. “Once we clarify what we do and what the patient is dealing with, we move on to the real value of this meeting, which is how to help the patient live well,” Dr. Bobonich says. “Sometimes we get to that in five minutes, or sometimes it is six hours later until we get everything straight.”

Once a plan of care is established, addressing symptoms is the second mission of palliative medicine. “We are here to clarify goals and to deal with symptoms. Very often, symptoms are not managed well because the goal has been on fixing the disease process,” Dr. Bobonich explains. “When you can’t fix the process, sometimes managing the symptoms is exactly what the patient wants. Not only does it improve the patient’s quality of life, it also can improve the length of their life.”

The third priority for palliative medicine is determining the best placement for a patient following a hospital stay. “This involves negotiating with the family in terms of where the patient wants to be, what can the family afford, is this a hospice patient, and can this patient return to independent living,” Dr. Bobonich says. She adds that this can be a time-consuming process, as “it requires a careful reassessment of the patient’s capabilities, as well as psychosocial, economic, ethical and moral wishes of the patient.”

Palliative medicine also requires a collaborative effort with other providers, most often including case management and social work colleagues. In the case of a patient who is going home with hospice care, Drs. Bobonich or McCormack will arrange for hospice personnel to meet with the patient and family in the hospital room. In addition to ensuring they understand the patient’s needs, a lot of thought is given to making the right match in terms of which hospice and what services the patient needs.

“There is a lot of networking that goes on even after the decisions are made to ensure the smoothest transition possible to the next living residence.” Dr. Bobonich says. “Sometimes they are getting better; sometimes they are not. But the patients always feel better.”

(For more information on Geisinger Holy Spirit’s inpatient palliative care services, call 717-972-4217.)

Palliative Medicine

I would like to share my story of converting from my Baptist religion of 25 years in a very small church in New England to my current Catholic religion of 33 years and now living in East Berlin.

It was an interesting chain of events that brought me to this wonderful life, one that I really could not have anticipated. But before I share my story, my hope is that someone reading this may want to consider making the same good choice of becoming Catholic that I made. It has turned out to be very rewarding, and has totally changed my life for the better.

There were eight years between being a Baptist and becoming Catholic that I sort of fell away from religion. I was married and raising three children, and was dealing with a very bad marriage that ended up in a tough divorce. Eleven years later, I met and married a very devoted cradle-Catholic man who had attended Catholic school for years. It was during that time period that I chose to become Catholic.

We were members of a very large Catholic church in Rockville, Md., for about 30 years. I found belonging to a very large church, for me, was not as rewarding as I hoped it would be. I grew up in the country, and living in a large metropolitan area was not really my cup of tea. So after retirement, we moved to East Berlin about four years ago. We were looking for a small, country church and found just what we were looking for at Immaculate Heart of Mary. That move has dramatically changed my life.

The second time we attended Immaculate Heart, I was hooked! It only took two visits. I quickly realized I had chosen a religious paradise. The parishioners were very welcoming, straight from the beginning. The priest, Father Timothy Marone, was also what I was looking for. He was a great priest, a great speaker and a great communicator.

The third year we were there, I was diagnosed with lung cancer. It was caught early, and practically everybody at church was very supportive and prayed constantly for my recovery. With God’s grace, I was cured.

Today, my husband and I are involved in our church, and have a great new religious family that is filled with love and support. We are one big family, which is something I had never experienced before with my religion. I am finally fulfilled in my religion, and more importantly, I think it was God’s plan for me. I am an example that it’s never too late to be at peace with your religion. I now have a wonderful and changed life.
Stewardship Conference: A Great Opportunity for Growing in Your Faith

By Jim Gontis
Special to The Witness

Do you sometimes feel as though you need a “shot in the arm” to rekindle the fervor of your Catholic faith? On Sept. 19 and 20, just such an opportunity for growth in our Catholic faith is being held in Elizabethtown. The 2018 Stewardship Conference will be at the beautiful Stone Gable Estates, owned by David and Tiernay Abel. The property features the historic Star Barn Village and Ironstone Ranch.

This conference and retreat in one, will feature six keynote talks, 24 workshops, Mass both days, and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Taking place on 275 acres, conference attendees can also enjoy the outdoor Stations of the Cross and a beautiful Marian grotto. There will be opportunities for recreation, including horseback riding, wagon rides, campfires, a vineyard and more.

The conference features an outstanding panel of speakers, including opening keynote speakers Msgr. John Esseff and Sister Cor Immaculatum, IHM, from the Diocese of Scranton. Other keynote speakers include Jason Evert, Father Michael Gaitley, MC, Father Sean Kilcawley, Damon Owens, Devin Schadt, and Christopher West. Workshop presenters include David Abel, Crystalina Evert, Tom Fertal, Dr. Peter Kleponis, Bob Longo, Megan Murphy, John Knutha, Ron Hoover and Roland Warren.

Conference participants are sure to enjoy the many keynote and workshop topics: Parenting with Purity, New Evangelization in a Hyper-Sexualized Culture, Women Made New, Building a Family Legacy, What’s so Great about being Catholic, The Second Greatest Story Ever Told, How We Lost the Meaning of Sex, Gender, Marriage & Family and How to Reclaim it, Winning the Battle: Porn-Proofing Marriages and Families, The Joy to Be, How to make Sure the Unborn have not just Life, but Abundant Life, and St. Maximilian Kolbe: Mary’s Instrument of Mercy.

Our faith is a faith that sings. In that vein, there will be outstanding hymns and spiritual songs led by Marty Rotella of Spirit Power and well known Irish tenor, Mark Forrest.

Of course it would hardly be a Catholic conference without the Sacred Liturgy as a central focus. The principal celebrants of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be Bishop Alfred Schleif of Allentown and Msgr. William King, pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Mechanicsburg. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will also be offered on both days of the conference.

This event is being sponsored by “Stewardship: A Mission of Faith” for which David Abel has been the principal sponsor. The mission is to be an instrument of unity in the one body of Christ by feeding the hungry hearts of God’s children. Stewardship started with producing and distributing booklets and posters, at no charge, to churches throughout the United States. These resources were created to spread the Gospel message of stewardship, namely, that everything we have is a gift from God that we are to use to help others.

Today, “Stewardship: A Mission of Faith” is a family of ministries with a global reach, planting seeds of faith around the world through the ministries of the Chastity Project, The Fathers of St. Joseph, Integrity Restored, Joy Job, and Spirit Power. Stewardship has collaborated with the Diocese of Harrisburg in various ways, including providing and filling display racks in parishes and schools with solid Catholic literature, providing speakers for the Bishop’s annual visits to our diocesan high schools, promoting and fostering Gospel reflection groups, as well as providing promotional materials for diocesan conferences, such as the annual Men’s and Women’s Conferences.

The Stewardship Conference begins with registration at 7:30 a.m. on Sept. 19, with the opening session and keynote starting at 9 a.m. It concludes with a Holy Hour at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 20.

In this outstanding opportunity to “rev up” our spiritual engines, to enhance our knowledge and love of the faith, and to grow in grace!

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

Prayer, Penance, Pub: The Latest in Young Adult Ministry

By Mariah Chuprinski
Special to The Witness

Life can be hectic at 23. With a commute, budding career and social life, it’s difficult to prioritize prayer. Parish life, especially extra-liturgical groups, are mostly catered to children and families, with young adults falling somewhere in the middle. Father Joshua Cavender, parochial vicar at St. Patrick Parish in Carlisle, saw a need for a ministry geared toward Catholics in their 20s and 30s. He began a new group at his parish called P3, which stands for Prayer, Penance & Pub.

The premise is simple – bring young adults together for a Holy Hour in Eucharistic Adoration, offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation to anyone willing, and end the night with social time at a local restaurant.

As a seminarian at Mount St. Mary’s in Emmitsburg, Md., Father Cavender heard a visiting priest speak about a new young adult ministry he had started in the Diocese of Arlington, Va.

It was P3. And it was drawing more than a hundred young adults to church every week!

After his ordination, Father Cavender decided to try the ministry idea at his own parish in the Diocese of Harrisburg. This ministry began in April and has continued monthly since then.

“There seems to be a little crazy when you are 21 to 35, so I wanted to make a time when there was an hour of silence to be with the Lord, let him deconstruct the craziness of life, and have some time for friendship with each other,” Father Cavender said.

Annalise Anderson attended P3 in July and said she loves the Eucharistic Adoration. “I think there’s a need for this ministry, bringing people to Jesus with fellowship. It’s a great ministry for people our age,” commented Missy Sutfill of Carlisle.

Afterward, some 15 young adults gathered at the nearby Chili’s to share a beer and some appetizers. Father Cavender, a youthful, lighthearted priest whom young adults may view as a role model, posed an ice breaker to make some introductions. Easy conversation, and a few laughs, soon followed.

“This is just a time to meet with other people in similar situations,” Father Cavender said, after leading grace. “We’re just having fun here.”

Warren Herman of Hanover attended P3 for the first time in July. Asked why he came, he noted, “I think there’s value in not being isolated and meeting people with similar spiritual interests.”

There are four main pillars to Christian life, said Becky Davis of Mechanicsburg: “prayer, fellowship, sacraments and service. This event has three of those four pillars.”

When asked if he will continue to host P3 in the future, Father Cavender said he was initially unsure whether it would continue after the summer months. However, after observing an increasing number of participants each month, he said he is glad to offer the event indefinitely. The next P3 gathering will be held Aug. 21 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Patrick Church on Marsh Drive in Carlisle.

“I’m open to whatever comes next. I just wanted to put people in front of Jesus and see what happens,” he said.

(Mariah Chuprinski is a member of St. Catherine Labouré Parish in Harrisburg. She is part of the leadership team of Harrisburg’s Theology on Tap group, and is coordinating feature stories for The Catholic Witness on young adult ministry in the diocese. Mariah can be reached at mchuprinski@gmail.com.)
Pope Revises Catechism to Say Death Penalty is ‘Inadmissible’

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

Building on the development of Catholic Church teaching against capital punishment, Pope Francis has ordered a revision of the Catechism of the Catholic Church to assert “the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person” and to commit the Church to working toward its abolition worldwide.

The catechism’s paragraph on capital punishment, 2267, already had been updated by St. John Paul II in 1997 to strengthen its skepticism about the need to use the death penalty in the modern world and, particularly, to affirm the importance of protecting all human life.

Announcing the change Aug. 2, Cardinal Luis Ladaria, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, said, “The new text, following in the footsteps of the teaching of John Paul II in ‘Evangelium Vitae,’ affirms that ending the life of a criminal as punishment for a crime is inadmissible because it attacks the dignity of the person, a dignity that is not lost even after having committed the most serious crimes.”

“Evangelium Vitae” (“The Gospel of Life”) was St. John Paul’s 1995 encyclical on the dignity and sacredness of all human life. The encyclical led to an updating of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which he originally promulgated in 1992 and which recognized “the right and duty of legitimate public authority to punish malefactors by means of penalties commensurate with the gravity of the crime, not excluding, in cases of extreme gravity, the death penalty.”

At the same time, the original version of the catechism still urged the use of “bloodless means” when possible to punish criminals and protect citizens.

The catechism now will read: “Recourse to the death penalty on the part of legitimate authority, following a fair trial, was long considered an appropriate response to the gravity of certain crimes and an acceptable, albeit extreme, means of safeguarding the common good.

Today, however, there is an increasing awareness that the dignity of the person is not lost even after the commission of very serious crimes. In addition, a new understanding has emerged of the significance of penal sanctions imposed by the state. Lastly, more effective systems of detention have been developed, which ensure the due protection of citizens but, at the same time, do not definitively deprive the guilty of the possibility of redemption.

Consequently, the Church teaches, in the light of the Gospel, that “the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person,” and she works with determination for its abolition worldwide.

In his statement, Cardinal Ladaria noted how St. John Paul, retired Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis had all spoken out against capital punishment and appealed for clemency for death-row inmates on numerous occasions.

The development of Church doctrine away from the death penalty as a possibly legitimate punishment for the most serious crimes, the cardinal said, “centers principally on the clearer awareness of the Church for the respect due to every human life. Along this line, John Paul II affirmed: ‘Not even a murderer loses his personal dignity, and God himself pledges to guarantee this.’

Pope Francis specifically requested the change to the catechism in October during a speech at the Vatican commemorating the 25th anniversary of the text’s promulgation.

The death penalty, no matter how it is carried out, he had said, “is, in itself, contrary to the Gospel, because a decision is voluntarily made to suppress a human life, which is always sacred in the eyes of the Creator and of whom, in the last analysis, only God can be the true judge and guarantee.”

Cardinal Ladaria also noted that the popes were not the only Catholics to become increasingly aware of how the modern use of the death penalty conflicted with Church teaching on the dignity of human life; the same position, he said, has been “expressed even more widely in the teaching of pastors and in the sensibility of the people of God.”

In particular, he said, Catholic opposition to the death penalty is based on an “understanding that the dignity of a person is not lost even after committing the most serious crimes;” a deeper understanding that criminal penalties should aim at the rehabilitation of the criminal and a recognition that governments have the ability to detain criminals effectively, thereby protecting their citizens.

The cardinal’s note also cited a letter Pope Francis wrote in 2015 to the International Commission Against the Death Penalty. In the letter, the pope called capital punishment “cruel, inhumane and degrading” and said it “does not bring justice to the victims, but only fuels revenge.”

Furthermore, in a modern “state of law, the death penalty represents a failure” because it obliges the state to kill in the name of justice, the pope had written. On the other hand, he said, it is a method frequently used by “totalitarian regimes and fanatical groups” to do away with “political dissidents, minorities” and any other person deemed a threat to their power and to their goals.

In addition, Pope Francis noted that “human justice is imperfect” and said the death penalty loses all legitimacy in penal systems where judicial error is possible.

“The new formulation of number 2267 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church,” Cardinal Ladaria said, “desires to give energy to a movement toward a decisive commitment to favor a mentality that recognizes the dignity of every human life and, in respectful dialogue with civil authorities, to encourage the creation of conditions that allow for the elimination of the death penalty where it is still in effect.”

Protesters calling for an end to the death penalty unfurl a banner before police arrest them outside the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington Jan. 17, 2007. Pope Francis has ordered a revision to the catechism to state that the death penalty is inadmissible and he committed the church to its abolition.

The Revised Text

2267. Recourse to the death penalty on the part of legitimate authority, following a fair trial, was long considered an appropriate response to the gravity of certain crimes and an acceptable, albeit extreme, means of safeguarding the common good.

Today, however, there is an increasing awareness that the dignity of the person is not lost even after the commission of very serious crimes. In addition, a new understanding has emerged of the significance of penal sanctions imposed by the state. Lastly, more effective systems of detention have been developed, which ensure the due protection of citizens but, at the same time, do not definitively deprive the guilty of the possibility of redemption.

Consequently, the Church teaches, in the light of the Gospel, that “the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person,” and she works with determination for its abolition worldwide.

Basilica of the National Shrine Holds Spiritual Beauty for Diocesan Pilgrims

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

See the beauty, history and ethnic chapels of the largest Roman Catholic church in North America. Celebrate with the Diocese of Harrisburg for its 150th anniversary through a pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, Nov. 3.

Designated by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops as a National Sanctuary of Prayer and Pilgrimage, the basilica is the nation’s preeminent Marian shrine, dedicated to the patroness of the United States, the Blessed Virgin Mary, under her title of the Immaculate Conception. It is oftentimes affectionately referred to as America’s Catholic Church.

Bishop Ronald Gainer will lead the diocesan pilgrimage as part of the celebration of the diocese’s sesquicentennial anniversary. The last time the people of the diocese gathered for a pilgrimage to the basilica was October 2012.

The Nov. 3 pilgrimage begins at 9 a.m., and will include the Sacrament of Penance, the celebration of Mass by Bishop Gainer, Eucharistic Adoration, speakers for afternoon’s “Conversations in Faith,” private prayer, self-guided tours, and the praying of the Rosary in English, Spanish and Vietnamese. The day will conclude with a celebration of Divine Mercy and Entrustment to Our Lady of Mercy at 3 p.m., with departure at 4 p.m.

The lower level of the basilica features a Crypt Church. More than 80 chapels and oratories on the lower level include the Infant Jesus of Prague, Our Mother of Africa, Our Lady of La Vang (Vietnames e), Our Lady of Marizell (Austria), Our Lady of Brezje (Slovenia), a papal exhibit and a hall of American saints.

The lower level also includes a Catholic gift shop, a Catholic book store and a cafeteria that seats 250 people. Pilgrims are welcome to bring their own picnic lunch.

Chapels and oratories in the Great Upper Church – with its grand mosaic-tile domes – include Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady of Korea at Cana and Mary, Queen of Ireland. The various images and chapels of Our Lady are representative of the many ethnicities of the people of the Diocese of Harrisburg, and fitting to ponder in this anniversary year.

The pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception will be one for “A Lasting Remembrance.” Buses are being sponsored by parishes and are departing from sites across the diocese; interested pilgrims should contact their parish to make travel arrangements.

For more information, visit www.hbgdiocese.org

Pilgrimage FAQs

Is there a cost to attend?
While there is no cost to attend and participate in the actual pilgrimage, there may be some expenses incurred, for example, travel expenses and lunch. A collection will be taken at Mass, and that offering will be given to the shrine to assist with the ministry of offering people a place of pilgrimage and prayer, with beautiful sacred art and a richness in Catholic and American culture.

Is bus transportation available?
Many parishes have reserved buses for the convenience of their parishioners. Each parish makes its own arrangements for departure, cost, etc. Information should be provided through the parish. A listing of parishes who are providing buses will be posted on the diocesan website at www.hbgdiocese.org/150.

Can we park on-site if we wish to drive?
Pilgrims are welcome to drive to the National Shrine. Free and ample parking is available in a parking lot on Harewood Road, directly across the street from the shrine. Driving directions will be provided on the diocesan website.

What about meals?
The shrine has a cafeteria on the lower level that can accommodate approximately 250 people at one time. Pilgrims are also welcome to bring their own picnic lunch. While there are no outdoor picnic tables, the grounds of the shrine are very spacious and pilgrims should be able to find spots outdoors, weather permitting. The pilgrimage schedule provides ample time for lunch.

Is the shrine accessible to persons with disabilities?
Yes. There is an entrance off the main plaza area that can accommodate someone with difficulty walking or in a wheelchair. On this level are also the cafeteria, book store and gift shop. An elevator is available to transport pilgrims to the Upper Church. Should you need special assistance with bus seating, please contact the parish coordinator to make those needs known. For other accommodations such as large print materials or materials in Braille, please contact the diocesan Office for Persons with Disabilities at (717) 657-4804 ext. 322.

For more information:
For more information about the national shrine, visit www.nationalshrine.com. For more details about the pilgrimage, visit www.hbgdiocese.org/150. Diocesan contact for specific questions: Karen Harding at 717-657-4804 ext. 240, or email kharding@hbgdiocese.org.
By Mary Klaus

The Catholic Witness

What do Babe Ruth, Cher, Simone Biles and Steve Jobs have in common? The famous baseball player, singer, Olympic medalist and entrepreneur all were in foster care—just as 10 young-sters now are in Catholic Charities Specialized Foster Care program.

“We provide temporary, safe, nurturing homes for children who have been separated from their families by the court,” said Kelly Bolton, director of Catholic Charities Adoption Services and Specialized Foster Care. “If a child cannot be returned home, we develop a plan for permanent placement.”

Catholic Charities’ foster care program, which marked its 30th year, finds placement for children from birth to 18 years old, with the median age of 7. The children come from all 15 counties of the diocese, although most referrals come from Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, and York counties.

Placement involves training the foster parents and matching them with the children.

“The top priority of foster care is to meet the needs of the child,” Bolton said. “First, a lot of foster parents place and neglect children who experienced trauma, which can change their brains. They need special care. The primary goal is to return them to their birth parents when possible.”

Foster parents must have legal clearances and undergo training in first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and parenting foster children, as well as attachment, grief/loss and other topics. Their homes must meet state regulations for foster care homes.

Once foster parents are approved, Bolton matches the needs of the child with the strength of the foster parent. Foster parents can be single or married, with or without children. They get a monthly reimbursement for fostering.

“Foster care is a calling,” Bevan said, “but a few have called her ‘Mom.’” She says she tries her best to keep her house peaceful and calm. This helps with their healing because many come from chaotic families and have various emotional and mental health issues.

“Yes, I get attached to them,” she admitted. “I give every bit of my love to these children and I don’t hold back. They all have different personalities and I treat them all as if they were my own.”

She especially fell in love with Frances, whom she has had since birth.

“At the time, I was taking care of her half-sister, age 6, and her half-brother, age 4, because their mother was in jail,” Miss Bevan said. “She got out of jail a few weeks before Frances was born. Frances was born addicted to opioids.”

Soon, her half-siblings went to their paternal uncle. “Every time they terminated the mother’s paternal rights and Frances was available for adoption.”

“When her Catholic Charities case worker asked if I was interested in adopting Frances, I immediately said yes,” Miss Bevan said. “She was the daughter of my heart from the beginning. I had fallen in love with her.”

She was baptized earlier this month at St. Catherine Labouré Church.

“She’s a happy, little girl,” Miss Bevan said.

Miss Bevan, who works fulltime as a legal assistant at a local company in Hershey, said her employer is very good at letting her balance work and family life. She also said her parents and siblings are supportive and have welcomed Frances into the family.

Foster care is a calling, Bevan said, and not for everyone. She said she prayed “a lot” before becoming a foster parent and never has regretted it.

“A foster parent needs to be strong, realistic and have a lot of support,” she said. “I love seeing how these children grow physically and emotionally in the short amount of time I have them. I love being able to bring them some peace and love. I’ve taken several of the children to the ocean, an opportunity they never had, and it was wonderful to see their joy.”

She praised Catholic Charities for being open-minded, whether the foster parents were married or single, Catholic or non-Catholic.

In Franklin County, Joel and Christine recently adopted two sisters whom they had been fostering for two years. The young couple got involved in foster care eight months after getting married.

Some people have children biologically,” Joel said. “We decided we wanted to foster, then adopt. We want our kids to know that they are our Plan A, not Plan B. We chose to expand our family this way.”

Joel and Christine went to Catholic Charities, took the required foster parent training and eventually got two little sisters to foster. They said they fell in love with the girls right away—and the feeling was mutual.

“I see the look in their eyes when they know what they wanted to call us, they choose ‘Mommy Christine’ and ‘Daddy Joel,’” Joel said. “Then they started calling us Mom and Dad.”

Although Joel and Christine aren’t Catholic (he is a pastor of a Protestant church), they called Catholic Charities “a wonderful” experience for them.

“The Lord laid on my heart to become a foster mother,” Christine said. “My fear was I’d love the children and then they’d be taken away from me. But we were able to adopt our girls.

Catholic Charities had younger children coming through and that’s what we wanted. Catholic Charities worked well with us.”

Her husband, who spent six months of his childhood in foster care, said that for parents who want to try this, it’s a myriad of training and issues within the child welfare system, flexibility in dealing with the children and a strong support system.

“Loving a foster child makes you vulnerable to heartbreak because you get so attached,” he said. “Foster parents need to approach it like they were foster parents. Fostering is not for everyone. But it worked for us and we’re open to doing it again.”

He said that foster parents who adopt can choose to have an open adoption (allowing the birth parent to be involved in the child’s life) or a closed one. Joel and Christine soon will be moving out of state to be near to their families. Meanwhile, he said, it’s been a summer of celebration.

After the girls were adopted, Joel and Christine gave them necklaces with the Irish Claddagh, a symbol representing love, loyalty and friendship. “Joel gave me a Claddagh ring when he said he loved me,” Christine said. “We wanted our girls to know that we love them forever.”

They had an adoption celebration party with 100 guests and special refreshments.

“We’re thankful to Catholic Charities and recommend them to anyone who wants to foster and/or adopt,” Joel said. “They treat the kids as people, not numbers, and love the kids too. They helped us find our girls.”

Learn More about Becoming a Foster Parent

Training class for the foster care program starts in mid-September. Contact Kelly Bolton at 717-564-7115 or kbolton@cccbh.org for more information. Also see www.cccbh.org for additional information on Catholic Charities’ Foster Care.
How can we best carry out Christ’s exhortation to be peacemakers? A panel of internationally renowned scholars discussed this question on June 28 at the summer conference, Pro Vita 2018: Blessed Are the Peacemakers, at St. Patrick Church in Carlisle. The event was organized by the St. Gabriel Respect Life Ministry.

“The Catholic Church is present in every conflict zone around the world,” declared Dr. Maryann Cusimano Love, professor of International Relations at Catholic University, and advisor to the Vatican and State Department. The Church occupies a unique role as both religious institution and state. With a seat at the United Nations, and diplomatic relations with 177 other states, the Church inhabits a global platform for visionary peace and moral imagination, including a proper understanding of “the enemy.” All wars today are civil wars, and Catholics are often present on both sides. This allows for a distinctive role in preventing and mitigating conflict, brokering peace, and reintegrating. In addition to public advocacy in the political and social realms, the Church consistently engages in “invisible peace building,” for example, religious sisters building schools and hospitals.

Dr. Susan Hayward, Senior Advisor for Religion and Inclusive Societies at the U.S. Institute of Peace, discussed that women and children now comprise the majority of casualties in war. When states fail, religious institutions rise to meet basic human needs, both physical (food, shelter, medical care) and metaphysical (bolstering spirituality and hope). Additionally, religious institutions transform societies beyond the church walls.

Dickinson College Visiting Professor of Philosophy, Dr. Jean-Pierre Karagwey of Rwanda, noted during the conference that within religion, possibilities for both peace and violence coexist. Perpetrators of genocide often manipulate religious language, cloaking their behavior in terms of human rights. The social teaching of the Church is comprehensive and well established, but not always well understood. The laity needs to understand how to apply these rich teachings to concrete reality, he said. The Church can establish conditions which increase the likelihood that peace will flourish by clarifying its moral reasoning, and by offering mechanisms to facilitate forgiveness and reconciliation.

Dr. Thomas Matyók, director of the United States Air Force Negotiation Center, referred to such interpersonal reconciliation as the “ditch digging of peace making.”

“Religious freedom is inversely correlated with religious violence,” he assured. Where it is present, other freedoms, for example, of the press, tend to coincide. Christina Li, advisor in the Office of Religion and Global Affairs at the Department of State, explained that sometimes, religious beliefs of political actors drive a conflict; at other times, economic and other grievances take precedence. Frequently, the most effective route to achieving peace involves laying groundwork via interpersonal ditch digging. Government’s role is to offer citizens the security of stable rule of law; religion can undergird the emergence of political stability by offering reasons for forgiveness and reconciliation.

“The Catholic Church has been part of all peace and reconciliation commissions in Colombia,” noted Dr. Emmanuel Nsangi, a native of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, shares his musical gifts at the conference, where he spoke about the deaths of his parents in their homeland.

The Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (HDCCW) recently sponsored an art contest for girls in grades 9-12 in the Diocese of Harrisburg. Participants were asked to design the cover for the folder for the HDCCW’s April 16, 2018 Convention. The art had to be an original drawing or painting based on the convention theme, “Caring for God’s Creation.” The HDCCW thanked all the entrants for their beautiful works of art and announces the contest winners:

• 1st Prize of $150: Caelin Elizabeth Gram, a 12th grade student at Bishop McDevitt High School and a parishioner of St. John Neumann Parish, Lancaster. Her submission was in colored pencil.

• 2nd Prize of $75: Savannah Raciopps, a 12th grade student at Bermudian Springs High School and a parishioner at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Abbottstown. Her submission was in watercolor.

• 3rd Prize of $50: Angela Capp, a 10th grade student at Pennsylvania Leadership Charter School and a parishioner of St. John Neumann Parish in Lancaster. Her submission was in colored pencil.

Honorable Mention:
• Sarah Gacka, 9th grade Homeschool student and a member parishioner of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Lewisburg
• Kailin Noll, a student at York Catholic High School and a parishioner at St. John the Baptist Parish in New Freedom
• Sarah Mahoney, a 9th grade student at Lewisburg Area High School and a parishioner at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Lewisburg
• Morgan Everett, a 10th grade student at Danville Area High School and a member of St. Joseph Parish in Danville
• Danielle Jurina, a 12th grade student at Bishop McDevitt High School and a parishioner at St. Catherine Labouré Parish in Harrisburg
• Madeleine Tenny, a student at Bishop McDevitt High School and a member of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Lewisburg
• Sophia Rueda, a 10th grade student at Lebanon Catholic School
• Maya Skettini, a 10th grade student at Lebanon Catholic School

The Catholic Church has been part of all peace and reconciliation commissions in Colombia, praised Dr. Thomas Matyók, director of the United States Air Force Negotiation Center. The HDCCW thanked all the entrants for their beautiful works of art and announces the contest winners:

• 1st Prize of $150: Caelin Elizabeth Gram, a 12th grade student at Bishop McDevitt High School and a parishioner of St. John Neumann Parish, Lancaster. Her submission was in colored pencil.

• 2nd Prize of $75: Savannah Raciopps, a 12th grade student at Bermudian Springs High School and a parishioner at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Abbottstown. Her submission was in watercolor.

• 3rd Prize of $50: Angela Capp, a 10th grade student at Pennsylvania Leadership Charter School and a parishioner of St. John Neumann Parish in Lancaster. Her submission was in colored pencil.

To hear the conference presentations, and to browse an extensive library of topics, including right to life, genetic modification, poverty, immigration, climate change, and peacemaking, visit St. Gabriel Respect Life’s website at www.stgabrielcarlisle.org.
God’s ‘Persistent’ Voice Spurs Knights Family of the Year to Serve

By Paul McMullen
Catholic News Service

A little more than two decades after they met at an ice cream social on the second day of class at Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio, Ryan and Elizabeth Young head the Knights of Columbus International Family of the Year.

With five of their seven children in tow, the parishioners of St. Martin de Porres Parish in Poughkeepsie, New York, accepted the honor Aug. 8, day two of the Knights 136th annual national Supreme Convention at the Baltimore Convention Center. The theme of the Aug. 7-9 convention was “Knights of Charity.”

It was the second straight week in which the Youngs had their minds on Maryland. They’re the founders of Camp Veritas, a summer camp for Catholic high school students that began in 2008 in New York, spread to locations in Ireland and Florida, and spent the week of July 29-Aug. 4 at Summit Lake Camp in Emmitsburg. “We were getting a lot of kids from the south, enough to consider another location, and I had attended Mount 2000 on a number of occasions,” Ryan Young explained, referring to the retreat for high-schoolers sponsored by the seminarians of Mount St. Mary’s. “I saw Emmitsburg

and the fire that had already started there. “We had 305 souls in Emmitsburg last week, including 70 staff,” he told the Baltimore Archdiocese.

The Youngs of Poughkeepsie, N.Y., are the Knights of Columbus Family of the Year at the Baltimore Convention Center. Members of the family, honored Aug. 8, are from left, Christopher, 17; Mary, 9; Ryan, the father; Grace, 12; Elizabeth, the mother; Justice, 8; and Trinity, 15. The family also includes Faith, 2, and Xavier, 5 months.

Catholic Review, the news outlet of the Catholic News Service

If you’re interested in helping those in need, serving your parish, growing in your faith or having exclusive access to top-rated insurance protection for your family, then the Knights of Columbus is the organization for you.

The Knights of Columbus is a band of brothers, a network of men in communities around the world dedicated to doing good in the service of God and neighbor.

They help meet the needs of those in the local community, provide “Coats for Kids” and “Food for Families,” support programs that benefit people with intellectual disabilities, aid victims of natural disasters and other catastrophic events local and worldwide, donate wheelchairs to people without mobility at home and abroad, and save lives through initiatives such as the “Ultrasound Program.”

Charity is the first principle of the Knights of Columbus. Knights are men who get things done. They volunteer time to serve parishes and communities, and by working together, they were able to donate more than $1.4 billion and 664 million volunteer hours to worthy causes in the past decade.

Unity and fraternity are the second and third principles of the Knights of Columbus. The Knights of Columbus was founded so that men could work together to serve their parishes and communities, protect the well-being of the Catholic families, and support each other in faith and in many other ways along life’s journey. The Knights of Columbus offers its members the opportunity to grow in their faith by living the example of a charity that evangelizes and by personifying what it means to be a Catholic gentleman through the practicing of good works.

Join the Knights of Columbus

From charity for worldwide causes, to helping closer to home with volunteer activities, to a top-rated insurance program that protects those closest to you, the Knights makes the most of its brotherhood.

Make a stand among them, and you can discover how easy it is to make a difference in your life and that of others.

Visit www.kofc.org/join, and look for Knights of Columbus in your parish for information.
Charities’ ‘Come and See’ Dinner Will Feature Former NFL Player Kevin Reilly

By Pete Biasucci
Special to The Witness

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg has been doing “double time” over the past year. Because the agency maintains two accreditations which run concurrently, staff members have been busy ensuring compliance with hundreds of administrative and programmatic standards. Catholic Charities is one of two agencies in the state that maintains both a state-wide accreditation by the Pennsylvania Association of Non-Profit Organizations (PANO) and an international accrediting body, the Council on Accreditation (COA).

“The Standards for Excellence Accreditation program is granted to well-managed, responsibly governed organizations that are deserving of the public’s trust,” explains Tish Mogan, Standards for Excellence Director for PANO. “The board and staff of Catholic Charities have shown an extensive level of commitment to this process, and their pursuit of the Seal of Excellence confirms that they believe strongly in promoting a culture of ethics in their operations and governance.”

Although the agency already has multiple accountabilities that include funders, government, the agency board, auditors and licensing entities, accrediting bodies add another layer of oversight and review. “It is about best practice,” noted Pete Biasucci, who spearheaded the effort for the agency. “The standards that are held by accreditors measure the depth of compliance in a number of areas and offer the current thinking in terms of administrative policies and service practices.”

Although there is some overlap in the reviews, the PANO reaccreditation process focuses largely upon governance, fiscal and board responsibilities, while COA is much more broad and service focused. “Our COA review lasted a year beginning with a survey of agency clients, board members, staff, contractors and community members. The process then moved to the creation of a self-study that involved each agency program and the submission of over 400 documents, followed by a four day on-site review,” Mr. Biasucci said.

Dr. Mark Totaro, agency CEO, summed up the effort: “This simultaneous reaccreditation by the two organizations was a monumental task. The amount of time and effort spent by our entire staff was incredible. It is a good check and balance to incorporate best practices both organizationally and programmatically.” We proudly display both organizations logos on our business cards and stationary. Furthermore, it informs donors and funding sources that we have been through the scrutiny and have met the requirements and standards to ascertain compliance and certification.”

For information on Catholic Charities and its programs and fund-raisers in the Diocese of Harrisburg, visit www.cchbg.org.

(Place Biasucci is the Assistant Executive Director of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg.)

Catholic Charities Receives Two Accreditations

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Mental Health Counseling

In Lancaster, York, Harrisburg and Abbottstown

• Adult Individual Counseling
• Child and Adolescent Individual Counseling (ages 5-17)
• Couples Counseling
• Family Counseling
• Faith-Based Counseling Available
• Co-Occurring Disorders Treatment
• Psychiatric Evaluations
• Medication Assessment and Medication Management

Charities’ ‘Come and See’ Dinner Will Feature Former NFL Player Kevin Reilly

14th Annual 5K Run and Walk September 22

On the grounds of the former State Hospital Campus in Harrisburg

The Shelter Shuffle, sponsored by Catholic Charities, benefits the Interfaith Shelter for Homeless Families. The residential program keeps homeless families of all ages and genders together in times of crisis. Since its opening in 1992, the shelter has helped nearly 14,000 clients.

• Cash prizes for top runners
• Awards for runners by age group
• Shirts for pre-registered participants
• Refreshments and door prizes
• Strollers and pets welcome
• Parking and restrooms available

Registration begins at 8 a.m. Race begins at 9 a.m. Cost is $20 before Sept. 1; $25 after that date.

For more information, or to sign up, contact Chris Meehan at 717-657-4804, ext. 284, or cmeehan@cchbg.org.
Bishop Gainer to Take Part in Pilgrimage to Centralia Aug. 26

A pilgrimage to the Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Centralia, Pa., will take place on Sunday, Aug. 26. The pilgrimage begins at noon with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy with Bishop Andriy, Apostolic Administrator of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia, as the main celebrant and homilist. Bishop Ronald Gainer will give a reflection and lead pilgrims in the praying of the Living Rosary at 2 p.m. in front of a historic and jeweled 18th century copy of the Icon of Our Lady of Pochaiv.

At 3 p.m., Akafist to the Mother of God will be sung. A candlelight procession to the church for the celebration of a Moleben to the Mother of God with Bishop Andriy as main celebrant and homilist will take place at 4:30 p.m. At the conclusion of the Moleben, prayers for healing and the anointing with holy oils for the healing of soul and body will be held.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available throughout the day. There will be religious goods for sale, which will be blessed at the conclusion of the Living Rosary in the outdoor chapel. Food service will be provided from 1-4 p.m.

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church is located two blocks north of Route 42 in Centralia at 1130 Summit Hill Rd., Aristes, PA 17920. Handicapped parking will be provided on the church grounds. Off-site parking and shuttle van service will be provided from specially designated areas near the church. For more information, contact the church rectory at 570-339-0650.

Boy Scout Troop 103 in Hanover Celebrates Centennial

With 145 guests in attendance, Boy Scout Troop 103 of St. Joseph Parish in Hanover celebrated its 100th anniversary on June 16 in the parish social hall. Festivities highlighted the history and tradition of the troop, its mission of character development, love of the outdoors, being in service to others, achievement, recognition, and the overall benefits of following the laws and oath of scouting. The parish’s Holy Name Society, the troop’s sponsoring organization, jointly celebrated their 95th anniversary of service to the church. Society Chaplain Jack Keppes spoke to the crowd about his life as a young scout and how it laid the foundation for his work and his ongoing devotion to God and to the Church.

Parish clergy – Msgr. James Lyons, Father Ryan Fisher, Father Joseph Gotwalt and Deacon Tom Aumen – and Father Michael Reid II from St. Vincent church. For more information, contact the church rectory at 717-318-1300.

The troop committee recognized three adult scouters, Earl Hertz, Dick Crouse, and Ken Zinn, with 50-year veteran pins. Klein, Jr., received recognition for their Lifetime of Outstanding Service to Scouting. Msgr. George W. Rost, 2012

The troop committee recognized three adult scouters, Earl Hertz, Dick Crouse, and Ken Zinn, with 50-year veteran pins. Klein, Jr., received recognition for their Lifetime of Outstanding Service to Scouting.

Another special guest was Msgr. Thomas Slough, 2009. "I know how it laid the foundation for his work and his ongoing devotion to God and to the Church. Parish clergy – Msgr. James Lyons, Father Ryan Fisher, Father Joseph Gotwalt and Deacon Tom Aumen – and Father Michael Reid II from St. Vincent church. For more information, contact the church rectory at 717-318-1300.

The troop committee recognized three adult scouters, Earl Hertz, Dick Crouse, and Ken Zinn, with 50-year veteran pins. Klein, Jr., received recognition for their Lifetime of Outstanding Service to Scouting.

Another special guest was Msgr. Thomas Slough, 2009. "I know how it laid the foundation for his work and his ongoing devotion to God and to the Church. Parish clergy – Msgr. James Lyons, Father Ryan Fisher, Father Joseph Gotwalt and Deacon Tom Aumen – and Father Michael Reid II from St. Vincent church. For more information, contact the church rectory at 717-318-1300.

The troop committee recognized three adult scouters, Earl Hertz, Dick Crouse, and Ken Zinn, with 50-year veteran pins. Klein, Jr., received recognition for their Lifetime of Outstanding Service to Scouting.

Another special guest was Msgr. Thomas Slough, 2009. "I know how it laid the foundation for his work and his ongoing devotion to God and to the Church. Parish clergy – Msgr. James Lyons, Father Ryan Fisher, Father Joseph Gotwalt and Deacon Tom Aumen – and Father Michael Reid II from St. Vincent church. For more information, contact the church rectory at 717-318-1300.

The troop committee recognized three adult scouters, Earl Hertz, Dick Crouse, and Ken Zinn, with 50-year veteran pins. Klein, Jr., received recognition for their Lifetime of Outstanding Service to Scouting.

Another special guest was Msgr. Thomas Slough, 2009. "I know how it laid the foundation for his work and his ongoing devotion to God and to the Church. Parish clergy – Msgr. James Lyons, Father Ryan Fisher, Father Joseph Gotwalt and Deacon Tom Aumen – and Father Michael Reid II from St. Vincent church. For more information, contact the church rectory at 717-318-1300.
Public square Rosary rallies take place on the squares in New Oxford, Littlestown and Hanover monthly at noon. The rally in New Oxford is every second Saturday, Littlestown is the first Saturday of the month, and the rally in Hanover is every fourth Saturday of the month. For information, call Grace at 717-624-2180.

A Charismatic Mass with prayers for healing will be celebrated Aug. 30 at St. Rose of Lima Church in York by Father Stephen Logue, parochial vicar. Praise and worship music will begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by Mass at 7. Open to all. Tickets are $20 in advance, $25 at the door. No credit cards accepted. For more information, call Joyce at 717-387-7245.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is available at the St. Pauline Center at 1150 Chestnut Street in Kutztown on Fridays from noon-10 p.m., and Saturdays from 5 a.m.-7 p.m. The Chapel of Divine Mercy is prayed in the chapel on Fridays at 3 p.m.

Good Shepherd Parish in Camp Hill invites all families who have experienced the loss of a child (through miscarriage, abortion, stillbirth or early death) to be included in this year’s remembrance. Those who have not been given a name can be listed with your last name, such as “Baby Jones.” The names will be brought to the altar to be remembered by our parish family. Names of children (infants who died in previous years) will also be included in this year’s remembrance. Submit your child’s name for remembrance by mailing to the Parish Office at 3431 Iowa Road, Camp Hill, PA 17011. Be sure to include “Mass of Remembrance.” You may also call Geri Andregic at 717-761-4789 or email your child’s name to andregic@gmail.com. Everyone is welcome to attend this Mass.

An Ecumenical Prayer Service to honor our first responders is scheduled at Prince of Peace-Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Steelton on Sept. 1 at 7 p.m. and at 7:30 a.m. the following day. All first responders to join with the Borough of Steelton and Prince of Peace Parish at 815 South Second Street, Steelton, for this event. A light reception will follow the service in the gym of Caelorum.

Caelorum at St. Joan of Arc Church in Hershey will be held Sept. 5 at 7 p.m. Join your brothers and sisters in Christ as we praise, worship and admire our Lord Jesus Christ in Eucharist. Father Modeste will preside. A reception will be held immediately following the Caelorum in the cafeteria. For more information, call 717-583-0240. All are welcome, please join us!

The 8th pilgrimage to the Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg, Md., is being sponsored by the Diocese of Harrisburg and the Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the Assumption of Mary Parish in Abington, will take place Nov. 11-17, 2018. The group will be assisting with the care of homeless and abandoned children and adults. Estimated airfare is $560 or less; passport required. For more information, contact Rob Judge at km hurley@gmail.com or George’s International Tours at (800) 566-7749, sales@georgiats.com or visit www.georgiats.com.

Third Order Secular Carmelites of Ellysburg invite you to attend a retreat Sept. 28-30 at Villa Sacra of Life. The retreat master will be Father Salvatore Sciuira, O.C.D., Provincial Delegate of the Washington Province. Father Salvatore’s theme is “The Experience of God,” and consists of sessions on accountability, schedule of activities, cost and registration. For more information, visit mgs@secarm.us or 570-925-6246.

The 8th pilgrimage to the Missionaries of the Poor in Kentucky, joined with parishes of Immaculate Conception Church in Abington, will conclude at 3:15 p.m. Experience spiritual renewal and rejuvenation on the land where St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first native-born American to become a saint in the Catholic Church, spent time. A day in the life includes morning Mass, breakfast and daytime activities, with plenty of time for prayer, discussions, and vigils. The retreat concludes at 3:15 p.m. with Mass, dinner and the return to Abington by 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend this retreat. For more information, call 717-761-4789.

Holy Spirit Knights of Columbus #10502 in Palmyra is holding a gold out at Gurten Golf Club in Lebanon on Aug. 24. A 4-person scramble format with 9 holes starting at 7:30 a.m. The event includes range balls, beverages, chicken and BBQ pork lunch, as well as numerous raffles and prizes. Register online at www.sportsclub.com. Contact Dan Schoenbaum at 717-304-4394 or dan.schoenbaum@gmail.com. All proceeds go to benefit the Holy Spirit Knights of Columbus.

Catholic inspirational speaker Allison Griggs will present “Foundations of Faith,” a day-long event to be held at Immaculate Conception BVM Parish in New Oxford Aug. 25 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Allison will share the easy and powerful ways we can incorporate prayer, sacrament and Scripture into our everyday life to strengthen our faith. Cost of $20 per person includes lunch. Register in advance by contacting Pete Sock at psocks@socks.com or 717-521-3137.

Compiled by Jen Reed

Diosciana Notebook
PHILADELPHIA, PA – The Catholic Diocese of Philadelphia is proud to present “Education & Enrichment,” a new section of the Diocesan Notebook continuing on page 15.

Diocesan Notebook
PHILADELPHIA, PA – The Catholic Diocese of Philadelphia is proud to present “Education & Enrichment,” a new section of the Diocesan Notebook continuing on page 15.
Diocesan Notebook continued from page 14

Harrisburg Catholic High School grads from the 1930’s, 1940’s, and 1950’s are invited to an All Decade Reunion on Aug. 26 from 1-4 p.m. at the Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey. Cost is $35 per person. Register online at www. bishopmcdevitt.org or call Cheri Comasco at 717-236-7973, ext. 2313.

Divine Redeemer Parish in Mount Carmel will hold a designer purse dinner in Divine Mercy Hall (400 Block of West Cherry Street) Aug. 26. Doors will open at 1 p.m. and bidding will start at 1:15 p.m. A silent auction is $15 per person. For more information, call 717-597-5849.

St. Joseph Parish in Hanover will have an indoor yard sale Aug. 18 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. in the parish social hall, 5125 Grandview Road. Breakfast and lunch meals will be available. Parish families are invited to sign up. Proceeds will benefit St. Joseph Parish.

St. John the Baptist Parish in New Freedom is holding a golf outing at Bon Air Country Club in Glen Rock on Sept. 14. A 4-person scramble format starting with a continental breakfast at 7:30 a.m. and a shotgun start at 8 a.m. $100 per person fee includes 18 holes of golf, cart, refreshments during the round, dinner, and a raffle for a new set of golf clubs. For more information, call 717-233-3062.

St. Catherine of Siena Parish Knights of Columbus, Quarryville, will have a cash bingo on Aug. 16, 10 a.m. Entry fee is $10. Tickets can be purchased at the bar or during Bingo Night at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 200 S. Main St., Quarryville, at 8 p.m. in the month. Prizes will be awarded. For more information, call 717-754-2156 or Greg Martin at 717-858-5818.

The Annual Crusader Legacy Golf Classic on Sept. 24 at Bent Creek Country Club. The event benefits the LCHS Crusader Athletic Endowment. Tickets are $125 per person or $500 for a foursome. Includes dinner and awards ceremony. For information, contact JoAnn at 570-259-9299.

The 81st Annual Mass & Dinner on Sept. 28 at the Pauline House at 1136 Chestnut Street in Kulpmont on Monday evening. Dinner guest is $100. For information and registration, contact Michael Massie at 570-236-7922 or cmassie@bishopmcdevitt.org.

Habit for Humanity is seeking a Coordinator of Parish Youth Ministry to support the music director. Applicants should be familiar with the Liturgy and able to lead the youth ministry to lay the groundwork for these programs and develop a comprehensive youth ministry to meet the needs of the youth. For information, contact Mathew Moloney at 717-422-1362 or mmoloney@bishopmcdevitt.org.

St. Mark and St. Luke Parishes’ 3rd annual Dinner on Derry Food Truck Fest Aug. 19 from 1-6 p.m. on the parish campus in Harrisburg. Food truck vendors for every taste (even vegetarian!). Slow-cooked BBQ, cheesesteak sandwiches, pepperoni rolls, halal chicken, fresh baked goods, kettle treats. Bingo, raffles, face-painting, indoor mini-golf, plus surprises for the adventurous. Information at www.scbgh.org.

Catholic men and women volunteers are needed for prison work/release ministry team (about 4-6 hours monthly), visiting Keystone Correctional Center in Harrisburg. No experience necessary; orientation to be scheduled by the Prison Christian Growth Group (PCGG). Find information and application at www.prisonchristian.org or by calling Peggy Keating at trking@hotmail.com or call 717-512-0144.

Job Openings

Coordinator of Parish Youth Ministry

– Seven Sorrows BVM Parish, Middletown, and St. Peter Parish, Elizabethtown, are seeking a Coordinator of Parish Youth Ministry to oversee and assist in the planning to introduce the LIFETEEN and EDGE programs along with the youth ministry coordinator to lay the groundwork for these programs and develop a comprehensive youth ministry to meet the needs of the youth. For information, contact Mathew Moloney at 717-422-1362 or mmoloney@bishopmcdevitt.org.
The 35th Annual Hispanic Cultural Festival hosted by San Juan Bautista Parish in Lancaster was a success with record-breaking turnout, despite the challenge of inclement weather.

“What an exciting festival this was for our parish and for our Lancaster community as a whole!” Father Allan F. Wolfe, pastor, expressed. “Festivalgoers braved rainy weather and showed up in droves to try delicious food, enjoy live musical entertainment and many other exciting activities, such as children’s rides, raffles and much more.”

First-time attendees Lauren Kaelin and Jim Senft of Lititz said, “This is our first time here and we love the cultural and very welcoming vibe here! This is truly one of those events that makes Lancaster such a fun city, and having this is so important to the cultural vibe in Lancaster. We are lucky to have this event for people in our community. And of course it doesn’t hurt that the food is amazing! We’re glad the rain held off so we could make it!”

Father Wolfe continued, “We employed new marketing tactics this year that enabled us to reach a broader demographic and geographic region. This year we saw a large turnout from other communities and counties, which is great because every dollar earned from this festival goes right back into the parish, so that we can continue contributing to the well-being of Latinos and non-Latinos in the city and beyond. We are so very grateful to our generous sponsors and members of our community who made our 2018 Festival a success. We cannot wait to see them again next year!”

Since 1984, San Juan Bautista has hosted this Hispanic Festival for the Lancaster community. With a wide variety of food, native costumes, representation-al arts and crafts, and ever-popular Latino music, the festival highlights many cultures that make up Lancaster’s vibrant Hispanic community.

Lancaster Parishes Plan Eucharistic Procession

The Lancaster parishes of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, San Juan Bautista and St. Joseph are organizing a Eucharistic Procession to take place Sept. 22, the eve of St. Padre Pio’s Feast Day. The procession will be approximately one mile long and will last for two hours.

The day will begin with Mass at St. Joseph Church, 440 Saint Joseph St., at 8:15 a.m. The procession will begin at 9 a.m., and will include stops at Historic St. Mary’s Church at 119 S. Prince St., and the Lancaster County Courthouse’s King Street steps. It will finish at San Juan Bautista Church, 425 S. Prince St. at approximately 11 a.m. There will be free food and fellowship immediately following the procession, at a location to be determined.

In a Eucharistic Procession, members of the Body of Christ process with the Blessed Sacrament, celebrating it and signifying God’s presence in our world and in our lives. The Eucharist is carried through the streets in a solemn procession with singing, praying as the Christian people give public witness of faith and devotion.