Feeding the Hungry

Our Daily Bread Serves Meals, Fellowship in York

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

2.5 million. That’s the number of total meals served as Our Daily Bread soup kitchen marks 35 years of serving the hungry in the city of York. 2.5 million breakfast and lunch plates have been prepared and served five days a week since 1983.

It’s a sobering statistic, one that illustrates the stark need people have for life’s basics of food and drink. On any given weekday, an average of 275 meals are served at Our Daily Bread, located on South George Street next to Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish and in view of St. Patrick Parish across the corner.

Volunteers from 60 area churches and synagogues staff the soup kitchen. On a rotational basis each congregation is charged with preparing meals, serving patrons, washing dishes and clearing tables. George Russo has volunteered every Wednesday for the past five years as a dish washer. He also previously helped with food prep.

“It is really eye opening to see how many people are in need of food on a daily basis,” said Mr. Russo, a member of St. Joseph Parish in Dallastown. According to the United States Census Bureau’s 2017 report, the 12-month per capita income in the city of York is $15,732. Thirty-six percent of its population lives in poverty. Unemployment is at 8.1 percent. “It wasn’t for the soup kitchen, there would be a lot of hungry people. On a slow day, we have about 150 people who come in. On a busy day, we’re serving at least 300,” Mr. Russo said.

In 2016-2017, Our Daily Bread served 82,710 meals, nearly double the total of its first year. “When we first started in 1983, we thought it was going to be a temporary thing,” said Paula Koch, founding manager. At the time, unemployment in the city was at 10.5 percent. State-run mental health hospitals were closing, leaving some patients with nowhere to live but on the street.

Mrs. Koch worked to establish the soup kitchen at the request of her pastor, the late Msgr. Thomas Brenner of St. Patrick Parish. The ministry began as an outreach of the nine Catholic parishes in the York Deanery at the time, in conjunction with Catholic Charities. Still, the goal even then was to involve area churches and synagogues in the interreligious effort. Our Daily Bread was originally located in the kitchen at the former Cristo Salvador Hispanic Catholic Parish. The first meal was served on Sept. 13, 1983. “Sister Monica and I made enough macaroni and cheese to serve 400 people, but 12 showed up,” Mrs. Koch recalled.

Word quickly spread, and the number of patrons grew. More than 44,000 meals were distributed in the first year. Volunteer efforts also increased. Dedicated teams from local faith communities are currently committed to full support and operation for 85 percent of the time.

A group of 50 women from Yorkshire United Methodist Church, for example, are dedicated to the first Wednesday of every month. The groups are responsible for providing a hot lunch casserole on a specific day, delivering the pans of food to the soup kitchen, and then filling patrons’ trays with the casserole, vegetables, bread and butter, dessert and a beverage.

Barbara Flickinger, who coordinates Our Daily Bread volunteers from Yorkshire UMC, has been serving at the soup kitchen for 28 years. “This is one of the things that is dear to my heart,” she said. “I was born in York city, lived downtown while I was growing up, and know of the great need.”
Dear Bishop Gainer,
I have heard several questions from the members of my parish regarding the Grand Jury Report, and one question has repeatedly stood out: Are the sacraments administered by sinful ministers valid? Could you provide some guidance?

Yours in Christ,
A Concerned Catholic

Dear a Concerned Catholic,

This is a question which Catholics and our Christian brothers and sisters have asked for centuries. The short answer is yes.

Around 300 A.D., the Church faced the Donatist controversy. During the persecution of Diocletian, many Christians suffered martyrdom rather than betray their faith. However, there were those who escaped martyrdom by burning incense to the Roman gods or giving their books of Scripture over to be burned. Both laity and clergy had denied the faith in the face of persecution. The question came up: Are the sacraments conferred or received by these sell-outs still valid? The answer was yes. The ministers are instruments; it is Christ himself who works in his sacraments to communicate grace.

Out of this controversy, the Church discerned that sacraments work ex opere operato or "by the very fact of the action being performed." A sacrament celebrated with proper form, matter, and intention is valid. Even intention is hard to mess up, since it is the Church's intention which suffices for the valid celebration of a sacrament. Therefore, a minister who is distracted and not able to concentrate still administers valid sacraments. [ST III.64.8]

The good news of the sacraments is that they don't depend on us; they depend on Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. St. Thomas Aquinas taught that "the sacrament is not wrought by the righteousness of either the celebrant or the recipient, but by the power of God." [ST III.68.8] Sacraments confer Christ's grace, not our own. This is why we speak of the minister acting in persona Christi, that is, "in the person of Christ." If sacraments depended on the worthiness of the minister, we would be in constant doubt regarding every sacrament we have received. Thankfully, this is not the case; it is Christ who works in the sacraments and guarantees their validity. The Catechism of the Catholic Church sums it up by saying, "From the moment that a sacrament is celebrated in accordance with the intention of the Church, the power of Christ and his Spirit act in and through it, independently of the personal holiness of the minister." If you received a sacrament by a bishop, priest, deacon, or lay person with a moral failing, the sacrament is still valid. That being said, ministers of sacraments should be holy images of Christ, whom they represent. St. Thomas Aquinas again teaches that "...there can be no doubt that the wicked sin by exercising the ministry of God and the Church, by conferring the sacraments." [ST III.64.8] Conferring a sacrament while in a state of sin is itself a sin and calls for repentance and conversion.

Likewise, those who receive sacraments should be in a state of grace. The character of the person receiving a sacrament does impact how fully he or she receives the fruits of that sacrament. For example, a person about to be confirmed should be well instructed in the faith and be ready to live out the mission of Christian witness given in the sacrament. Those who marry should truly intend to love and honor each other for the rest of their lives [Rite of Marriage, Exchange of Consent]. Those who have sinned are called to turn from sin, amend their lives, and participate in the Sacrament of Penance, before giving or receiving sacraments.

Christ's grace is given unfailingly in the sacraments. The grace given depends on Christ, not on the minister. That grace calls the minister and the recipient to be holy, as Christ is holy.

May God Bless you,

Bishop Ronald Gainer

---

**Q&A on Safety in the Diocese of Harrisburg's Catholic Schools**

By Livia Riley
Diocesan Superintendent

**Q: What kind of safety procedures are in place at our schools?**

All of our Catholic schools comply with the Diocese of Harrisburg and Pennsylvania law regarding youth protection. Our schools also provide safe environment lessons to our students, ensuring they understand ways to be safe and what to do if they don’t feel safe. All of our schools and procedures are audited annually to ensure compliance with Diocesan and State regulations.

In the event an allegation would be made against one of our teachers, we immediately report that allegation to law enforcement, Child Line and the Diocese. Any teacher, principal, aid, volunteer, etc. accused of inappropriate contact with a minor is immediately suspended from their position, pending the outcome of law enforcement’s investigation.

**Q: How do I know that my school is following the policies and doing what it should be doing?**

All of the youth-related activities in the Diocese, not just the schools, undergo an annual independent audit. The audit, completed by StoneBridge Business Partners, evaluates our compliance with the youth protection guidelines established by the U.S. Council of Catholic Bishops. Through this audit, we report the total number of youth in our programs (schools, religious education, etc.); the total number of clergy, and paid and volunteer staff who work with these youth; the types and quantity of background checks completed; opportunities we are providing for continued training for these individuals; and an evaluation of our safety programs and procedures.

**Q: I see people wearing ID badges. What do they have to do with keeping my child safe?**

Every person who works with children in the Diocese of Harrisburg, whether a teacher, principal, volunteer, vendor, etc., is required to complete a range of background checks. These badges are a visual means of indicating who has completed these checks and is authorized to work with our youth.

Since the early 2000s, all volunteers who work with children in a Catholic school or religious education program have been required to complete a full background check and training. The State of Pennsylvania did not require these checks for volunteers until 2015.

**Q: Do the background checks for teachers, volunteers, priests and those who have regular contact with children in our Catholic schools meet Pennsylvania’s standards?**

Yes, we are required to meet all Pennsylvania state standards for every individual who works with our youth. Anyone who has not completed the background checks may not be in our classrooms.

**Q: Are the schools and teachers doing anything to help teach children how to stay safe?**

Protecting the children in our care is one of the top priorities for the Diocese. Whether in our Catholic schools, religious education programs or one of the many other youth programs hosted by our parishes, the Diocese has implemented many safety programs and protocols since 2002. In both our schools and religious education programs, all students in first, fifth and ninth grades complete our Safe Environment Program. This program uses age appropriate lessons to teach children a range of personal safety topics.

The lessons cover topics including good touch, bad touch and saying no; the importance of using the buddy system; being aware of your surroundings and never hitchhiking; what to do if approached by a stranger; how to handle a range of situations when home alone; why it’s important to tell your parents if you are communicating (verbally or written) with an adult; avoiding drugs and alcohol; and the importance of speaking up if you or a friend are in danger.

In addition to the classroom lessons, parents also receive additional materials to assist them in their own safety discussions with their children.

---

**We Pledge...**

---

**Q&A with Bishop Gainer**

---

**Q: How do I know that my school is following the policies and doing what it should be doing?**

All of our Catholic schools comply with the Diocese of Harrisburg and Pennsylvania law regarding youth protection. Our schools also provide safe environment lessons to our students, ensuring they understand ways to be safe and what to do if they don’t feel safe. All of our schools and procedures are audited annually to ensure compliance with Diocesan and State regulations.

In the event an allegation would be made against one of our teachers, we immediately report that allegation to law enforcement, Child Line and the Diocese. Any teacher, principal, aid, volunteer, etc. accused of inappropriate contact with a minor is immediately suspended from their position, pending the outcome of law enforcement’s investigation.

**Q: How do I know that my school is following the policies and doing what it should be doing?**

All of the youth-related activities in the Diocese, not just the schools, undergo an annual independent audit. The audit, completed by StoneBridge Business Partners, evaluates our compliance with the youth protection guidelines established by the U.S. Council of Catholic Bishops. Through this audit, we report the total number of youth in our programs (schools, religious education, etc.); the total number of clergy, and paid and volunteer staff who work with these youth; the types and quantity of background checks completed; opportunities we are providing for continued training for these individuals; and an evaluation of our safety programs and procedures.

**Q: I see people wearing ID badges. What do they have to do with keeping my child safe?**

Every person who works with children in the Diocese of Harrisburg, whether a teacher, principal, volunteer, vendor, etc., is required to complete a range of background checks. These badges are a visual means of indicating who has completed these checks and is authorized to work with our youth.

Since the early 2000s, all volunteers who work with children in a Catholic school or religious education program have been required to complete a full background check and training. The State of Pennsylvania did not require these checks for volunteers until 2015.

**Q: Do the background checks for teachers, volunteers, priests and those who have regular contact with children in our Catholic schools meet Pennsylvania’s standards?**

Yes, we are required to meet all Pennsylvania state standards for every individual who works with our youth. Anyone who has not completed the background checks may not be in our classrooms.

**Q: Are the schools and teachers doing anything to help teach children how to stay safe?**

Protecting the children in our care is one of the top priorities for the Diocese. Whether in our Catholic schools, religious education programs or one of the many other youth programs hosted by our parishes, the Diocese has implemented many safety programs and protocols since 2002. In both our schools and religious education programs, all students in first, fifth and ninth grades complete our Safe Environment Program. This program uses age appropriate lessons to teach children a range of personal safety topics.

The lessons cover topics including good touch, bad touch and saying no; the importance of using the buddy system; being aware of your surroundings and never hitchhiking; what to do if approached by a stranger; how to handle a range of situations when home alone; why it’s important to tell your parents if you are communicating (verbally or written) with an adult; avoiding drugs and alcohol; and the importance of speaking up if you or a friend are in danger.

In addition to the classroom lessons, parents also receive additional materials to assist them in their own safety discussions with their children.
Letter to an Angry Young Catholic

A letter from one hurting member of the Body of Christ to another as we reel from the abuse crisis

By Kathy Alton
Special to The Witness

Dear Jessica,

I’ve been thinking a great deal about your email over the past couple of days. I am honored that you would share your pain and confusion with me. I, too, am hurting. I certainly don’t have all the answers, but I can share with you what is on my heart. I’m not saying my thoughts are right or wrong, or that anyone else should feel this way – it’s just where I’m at as I process the grand jury report.

To be honest, I haven’t slept well since the report was released. The report haunts and sickens me. The fact that the institution that I love and have dedicated my life to has been complicit in this evil has propelled me into agonizing soul-searching. My heart aches for the victims, for the faithful in the pews who are struggling with this horrific revelation, and for all the good and holy priests who have been betrayed by their leaders’ failure of integrity.

As horrified as I am, Jessica, I will not leave the Catholic Church or my post as a teacher of the Faith. I echo the words of St. Peter, “Where would I go?” (Cf. Jn 6:68).

Sex abuse is in every religion. Every institution, for that matter. It is not just a Catholic problem. It is a human problem. Tragically, it is everywhere. Probably the most disturbing part of the sex scandal for me is that the predator priests took the holiest gifts God has created and twisted them in the most diabolical way. A mentor of mine is fond of saying, “The devil does not have his own clay.” By that he means the devil cannot create. He can only take what God created as good and distort it. The devil targets sex and the Church.

Why sex? Because it is one of the most beautiful gifts God gave humanity. It is the foundational sign of God’s love for us. In Ephesians 5, right after Paul states that the “two shall become one flesh,” he writes, “This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ and the church” (Eph 5:31, 32). St. Paul is saying sexual union within marriage is a symbol God’s love for us. It’s a sign of how close God wants to be to us. Sexual predators take this sacred gift and pervert it into something evil.

Why does the devil target the Church? Because he knows it’s the real deal. His primary mission is to keep us from seeing that truth. In this technological age, many forget or deny the supernatural nature of the Church. We dismiss the Church as a product of human imagination and invention. If the Church were merely the product of men, it would have come and gone long ago. There have been plenty of corrupt leaders throughout the Church’s history and the Church has survived. Jesus promised that the gates of hell will not prevail against his Church and I believe that promise (Mt 16:18).

The Church is not the hierarchy. It is the people. I truly believe that the Catholic Church is the Body of Christ on earth. At this point in history, that body is wounded beyond recognition, just as Jesus’ body was on the cross. We are at a Good Friday moment. Things seem as dark as they can get.

My soul-searching would not be complete without examining my own complicity. I have never covered up sex abuse, but there are more times than I’d like to admit when I’ve missed opportunities to start a conversation about the harmful effects of our culture’s objectification of the human person and pornification of just about everything, from car ads to deodorant.

To really understand the root causes of the sex scandals that have rocked the Church, the military, entertainment, sports, politics, etc., we need to face the reality that sex has become so cheaply divorced from its original meaning and beauty.

The antidote to the pervasive sexual brokenness in our world is the teaching of St. John Paul II on the Theology of the Body (TOB), but these teachings are relatively unknown, even by many Catholics. I speak from experience when I say studying TOB is hard work, but the graces that flow from it are freeing, healing and of ultimate importance. God has given us these teachings for a time such as this, Jessica! And to paraphrase St. Joan of Arc: “You were born for a time such as this!” You are searching for light amidst the darkness. Thank God your heart is still open and searching! I urge you to learn more about the Theology of the Body. A good place to start is tobinstitute.org or corproject.com. Prepare to have your eyes opened. (Kathy Alton teaches theology at Lancaster Catholic High School.)

Q&A

Continued from 2

Q: Are the safety procedures for the Diocese’s schools the same for its Religious Education programs?
Yes. The Diocese’s religious education teachers are required to have the same clearances as our school teachers.

Q: If I suspect abuse, should I tell the teacher, the principal or the police?
You can tell any or all. We routinely instruct the children in our programs to tell an adult (teacher, principal, aid, volunteer, etc.) if anything happens. We are all mandated reporters and if we receive a report, even third or fourth hand, we immediately call the local authorities, Child Line and the Diocese.

Q: What can I do to help my school be a safe place for all children?
Make sure your children understand the importance of telling an adult if they see or hear anything unusual. We also recommend you get to know your child’s teachers and be an active participant in PTO meetings, school outings and parent teacher conferences.

Q: Do you have any advice on how I can talk with my child about the abuse reported in the Church? The topic of sex abuse, particularly child sex abuse, is a daunting one for parents. Every parent should consider the best age-appropriate ways to discuss this topic. Below are some points to consider from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, and First Things:

• Make sure you are composed before you talk with your child.
• If you believe your child is aware of abuse news concerning the Diocese, start the conversation. Not talking about a difficult event can make the event even more threatening in your child’s mind.
• Listen carefully to what your child is asking or talking about.
• Clarify your child’s concerns before you answer. Sometimes we make assumptions and give more information than what is needed.
• Keep your answers simple and brief. Don’t answer questions that have not been asked and don’t overload your child with information beyond his/her level of understanding.
• Assure your child that you and other adults are doing everything possible to make sure they are safe.
• Be careful making guarantees that such a thing won’t happen again. Words like “never” and “always” should be used carefully because small children trust that this is a promise from you.
• Explain that we do not know why people treat other people badly.
• Try to limit your child’s exposure to media coverage.
• Let your children know about successful community efforts. You may want to share positive media images, such as reports of individuals helping those in need.

Q: Why should I send my child(ren) to a Catholic school?
Catholic schools offer a faith-based education with a track record of academic excellence.

More information on the Diocese of Harrisburg’s Catholic schools can be found at www.hbsdioce.se.org/catholic-schools. Learn more about our efforts to protect youth at www.YouthProtectionHBG.com.
Jubilee: The Holy Ground
Paul Little

By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
Special to The Witness

Be forewarned, if you hate bugs and stories about them, you might want to skip over the introductory story.

Many years ago, when I was in college, I worked as waterfront director for a small day camp in north- east New Jersey. The camp served approximately 100 children ages 5-15. The waterfront employees were responsible for daily swimming lessons, water and boating safety lessons, and an all-camp swim in the late afternoon. The waterfront staff was also involved in other activities that were the backbone of the life within our little camp.

During one all-camp softball game, when I was pitching to the batter so that they could connect with the ball, I noticed that one of the 13 year olds had an odd collection of “badges” hanging from his camp sweatshirt. These badges were light brown and quite numerous. As I investigated, I could see that they were the exoskeletons of various stages of cicadas’ development. You see, as a cicada grows, its exoskeleton becomes too small. As a result, the insect molts its exoskeleton and emerges from the shell. This takes place four times during its life span. Camper Chris had several stages of exoskel- etons attached to his sweatshirt.

I pointed out to him while he was at bat that his collection seemed to be “extra celestial.” In re- sponse, he gave me a joyfully grand smile. Then I said, “Um, you want to explain your exoskeleton museum?” His smile got broader as he related to me the story of the cicada’s life cycle.

He explained that a parish priest long ago told him about the 150th anniversary of the diocese of Harrisburg. His focus has now moved to those individuals who do ordinary things in an extraordinary manner.

An example of such an individual is Paul Little from Corpus Christi Parish in Chambersburg. When I initially contacted him and told him of the change that being with God has made in his life, he screamed out, “God can be seen all around us.”

I was reminded of this story as I continued to write about the 150th anniversary of our diocese. My focus has now moved to those individuals who do ordinary things in an extraordinary manner.

The Corpus Christi Men’s Retreat began at Mount St. Mary’s in Emmitsburg, Md., in the 1920s and was sponsored by different organizations until 1967. It moved to the Malvern retreat center until 1978 and then back to the Mount after that. Last year, the re- treat drew nearly 400 men, and focused on “Be a Man.” This year marked the retreat’s 40th anniversary, through Corpus Christi, and Bishop Ronald Gainer was the retreat master.

As Mr. Little talked about the men’s retreat, I got a sense from him of the blessing that every partici- pant received during the weekend. He went on to ex- plain to me that as “the guys” gather together, sing and pray, a bond is created. As this fraternity deepens, it gives every participant a chance to focus on their relationship with God. “The quiet reflection time, away from the stresses of domestic and work life has a profound effect on the men. The retreat is an environment in which the participants are not afraid to express their faith openly,” he said. “This changes lives.”

I pressed him, “What about your service as an Ordinary Minister of the Eu- charist to the homebound of your parish?”

He explained that a parish priest long ago asked for volunteers to step up and bring the Eucharist to those who cannot attend Mass. He was most happy to accommodate. He explained, “This is the legacy of ac- tive Catholics: to make sure everyone who wants to participate in the Eucharist can. The Eucharist is the greatest gift. It means everything. It means so much to me to bring Jesus to others. After all, they are my extend- ed family. …It is my heart’s desire that every man who has experienced changes within other men. God’s grace is indeed all around us. So the next time you hear the whine of a cicada, remember Chris and Mr. Little!

(Sister of Christian Charity, Geralyn Schmidt, is the Wide Area Network Coordinator at the Diocese of Harrisburg and the Director of Formation for Wives in the Diocesan Program. An educator for 30 years, she is responsible for Professional Develop- ment Programs for every age learner. Through her presentations, she challenges her audiences to be the individual God has called them to be.)

Presentations on Annulments

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

September 17 – St. Joseph Parish, Hanover, 7 p.m.
November 5 – Diocesan Center, Harrisburg, 7 p.m.

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

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 delivery to resume.

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

To report suspected abuse of a minor by a Church official, employee or volunteer, also please call the diocesan toll free hotline: 1-800-626-1608

The Catholic Witness
THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE
DIocese of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

The mission of The Catholic Witness is to be of personal and practical help as we try to be loyal and true witnesses for Christ in our daily living, spiritual and temporal, in private and in public.

Publisher:
The Most Rev. Ronald W. Gainer, DD, JCD Bishop of Harrisburg
Executive Director for Public Relations:
Rachel Bryson, M.S.
rbryson@hbgdiocese.org
Managing Editor:
Jennifer Reed
jreed@hbgdiocese.org
Photographer:
Chris Heisey
cheyesy@hbgdiocese.org

4800 Union Deposit Road
Harrisburg, PA 17111-3710
Phone: 717-657-4804
Fax: 717-657-7673
witness@hbgdiocese.org

Yearly subscriptions derived from diocesan revenues from parishes. Non-parishioners:
$12.00.
Moving? Send us your old and new addresses via mail or e-mail. Allow three weeks for delivery to resume.

The Catholic Witness (ISSN 0008-8447, USPS 557 120) is published biweekly except Christmas/New Year and July by the Harrisburg Catholic Publishing Association, 4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
The Catholic Witness, 4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111-3710.

www.hbgdiocese.org
Bishop Gainer’s Mother, Anna Krollick, Laid to Rest

Anna M. Krollick, 95, entered eternal life on September 1, 2018, at her home in Harrisburg, accompanied by her loving caregivers.

Anna was born on May 24, 1923, in Heckscherville, PA. She was the daughter of the late George and Mary (Herzakach) Meko and the last surviving of their eight children. She was predeceased by husbands, Francis Gainer and Alexander Krollick. Anna lived most of her life in Pottsville, PA. She worked at Onyx Blouse, Pottsville, and the Wearever Pen Company, Deer Lake.

She was a dedicated member of Mary, Queen of Peace Catholic Church where she served as an active member and president of the Women’s Guild and sang in the choir. Anna loved travel, watching birds and delighted in the visits of family and friends. She is survived by her son, the Most Rev. Ronald W. Gainer, eight nephews, one niece and many great nephews and nieces.

A viewing was held on Saturday, September 8, 2018, at St. Catherine Laboure Roman Catholic Church, 4000 Derry St., Harrisburg. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated September 8 in the church with the Most Rev. Ronald W. Gainer, her son, Bishop of Harrisburg, as celebrant. Interment was in Holy Cross Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Diocese of Harrisburg - Seminarian Fund, 4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111 or St. Catherine Laboure Church.

The Harrisburg Diocesan Guild of the Catholic Medical Association invites all Catholic physicians, healthcare workers, medical students, residents and their families to attend their ANNUAL WHITE MASS Sunday, October 14 at 9:30 a.m. St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg

Father Paul C.B. Schenck, Celebrant and Homilist

RSVP for reception to kneri@hbgdiocese.org

Annual Dinner to Benefit Catholic Charities’ Residential Homes

Monday, October 22 • Diocesan Center, Harrisburg

Keynote Speaker: Former NFL Player Kevin Reilly, who will share his personal story of finding God in hardships

5:00 p.m. Reception and Silent Auction
6:00 p.m. Dinner by 2 Gals Catering
7:00 p.m. Kevin Reilly’s Keynote

Dinner reservations are $100 per person. Event sponsorship levels are available. Cash, check, Visa and MasterCard accepted for the silent auction.

For information and special arrangements, contact Chris Meehan at 717-657-4804, ext. 284, or cmeehan@cccbg.org.

Lasting Remembrances: People of the Diocese Share Faith Experiences

In celebration of its 150th anniversary, the Diocese of Harrisburg celebrates the faith of its parishioners through videos submitted by parishioners, clergy and religious who share personal memories and experiences that connect them to the faith. Go to www.hbgdiocese.org/150 for more information on the diocese’s history, events and “Lasting Remembrances” videos.
“Some of the patrons will thank each server along the line and issue a blessing, like ‘God bless you.’ Others will say thank you once in a while. And there are some who just will not be friendly. But they all have different circumstances and we understand that,” Mrs. Flickinger said.

The soup kitchen pulses with a neighborhood atmosphere. Music plays. Patrons engage in conversation. Volunteers welcome guests as they enter, and frequently inquire about their day, their family or their health.

“It’s beautiful to see the volunteers from different faiths interacting with the patrons,” said James Koch, Paula’s husband. He succeeded her as manager eight years ago when she entered nursing school.

“When people ask me what the benefit of this work is, I tell them it’s the people on both sides of the counter: the volunteers and the patrons. So many of them come in for the fellowship, the community,” he said.

Many times, those who come in for a meal also just need someone to hear their story, Mrs. Koch observed.

“What most of them have lived through is just awful,” she said. “There is community here.”

Beyond the volunteers, Our Daily Bread is also supported by local businesses that donate bread, donuts and excess food. Still, the soup kitchen must purchase items like vegetables, beverages and desserts, as well as breakfast items like eggs, pancakes and cereal if they aren’t stocked with donations.

To that end, the ministry is grateful for monetary donations to make necessary purchases. It has also benefitted from grant money awarded through the Diocese of Harrisburg’s annual Matthew 25 Collection in November. This year’s collection is Nov. 17 and 18.

“We just can’t say enough about the community support and the volunteers who have come here for years to give their time,” Mrs. Koch said.

“I think it’s great that this is an interreligious effort, and not an effort of one particular church,” Mr. Russo said. “Everybody has the same goal, and that is to feed whoever comes through the door. We couldn’t possibly do this five days a week without the help of all the churches.”

(For information on assisting Our Daily Bread as a volunteer or donor, contact James Koch at ourdailybreadyork@gmail.com or 717-848-1674.)
The Diocese of Harrisburg and Bishop Ronald Gainer will host a pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on Nov. 3, in celebration of the Diocese’s 150th anniversary. If you are planning to attend, you won’t want to miss these features.

1. The Great Dome — The Great Dome is a hallmark of the Basilica. Its diameter is more than twice that of the central dome of St. Mark’s in Venice, Italy.

2. The Knights Tower — A gift of the Knights of Columbus, the 56-bell carillon it houses rises 329 feet. Though its actual height is not equal to that of the Washington Monument (555 feet), its geographical location, more than 200 feet above sea level, causes it to rise nearly as tall as the Washington Monument.

3. Memorial Hall — At its center stands the statue of Mary, Mother of Mankind. It was the first commissioned piece of art for the Shrine and was dedicated on May 8, 1937. Surrounding it are tablets of Trévainte marble and Radio Black American marble walls and columns, on which are inscribed the names of benefactors and those whom they wished to memorialize—individuals, families, religious, clergy, and religious community. All are enrolled in the perpetual remembrances of the Shrine.

4. Pope Paul VI Coronation Tiara — This tiara was worn by Pope Paul VI at his coronation on June 30, 1963. On Nov. 13, 1964, Pope Paul VI removed the tiara from his head and placed it on the altar as a manifestation of the “renunciation of human glory and power” and as “the new spirit of the Church purified.” Francis Cardinal Spellman requested the honor of obtaining this tiara and putting it to use for the poor. In recognition of the generosity of the American people to help the hungry and dispossessed peoples of the world, the Pope granted the request. It was presented to the National Shrine on Feb. 6, 1968, by Archbishop Luigi Raimondi, Apostolic Delegate to the United States. This is the only papal tiara displayed outside of Rome.

5. Our Mother of Africa Chapel — This chapel features the sculpture of Our Mother of Africa and Her Divine Son, and a narrative bas-relief of the Passion of Christ. The mosaic, Christ in Majesty, in the north apse of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, was dedicated in October 2008. Among its many features are the Mysteries of Light rendered in mosaic, completing the representation of all the mysteries of the Rosary in the National Shrine. The crucifix that adorns the chapel was blessed by Pope Benedict XVI during his visit to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on April 16, 2008.

6. Cornerstone of the National Shrine — Located on Sept. 23, 1920, the cornerstone is located in what is now the Oratory of Antipolo. This quadrangular four-ton block of highly polished black New Hampshire granite contains the memberships scrolls of Salve Regina, the original newsletter of the Shrine, coins “of the realt” and the certificate of attestation.

7. Christ in Majesty — Located in the North Apse, this mosaic is one of the largest of Christ in the world at 3,610 square feet. It contains 3.5 million tesserae of mosaic in 3,000-4,000 total shades of color, 300 of which are shades of red and 200 of which are shades of gold. On the day of dedication, Nov. 20, 1959, this mosaic was the only interior ornamentation of the Upper Church. This is a Byzantine representation of Christ—the Apocalyptic Christ who comes as the absolute reproving Lord and final judge (raised right eyebrow) and with the love and compassion of the Good Shepherd (relaxed left eyebrow). The scarlet cloak signifies Christ as the Redeemer. The span between Christ’s hands (of his outstretched arms which reach out to embrace the world and which are in a position of prayer) is 34 feet across. The span of each hand is five feet across, while the span from his chin to hairline is 7 feet tall.

8. Upper Church Sacristy Door — The two bronze grille doors weigh a ton each, yet are perfectly balanced to close with the push of one finger. The left gate features symbols representing Mary as the Immaculate Conception and the purity of the sacrifice of the Mass: the chalice, host and fleur de lis. The right gate features symbols representing the Christ Child, the four books of the Gospel and the Ten Commandments.

9. Our Lady of Czestochowa — The icon of Our Lady of Czestochowa displayed in this chapel is an exact copy of the original, even down to the slashes, scar and scratches that were a result of the Hussite attack on the original. In 1976, Karol Cardinal Wojtyla, the Archbishop of Krakow, visited this chapel and celebrated Mass in the Upper Church. He returned to the National Shrine and this chapel three years later as Pope John Paul II. The marble tablet on the wall in front of this visit can be seen.

10. Our Lady of Pompeii Chapel — This chapel was dedicated in October 2008. Among its many features are the Mysteries of Light rendered in mosaic, completing the representation of all the mysteries of the Rosary in the National Shrine. The crucifix that adorns the chapel was blessed by Pope Benedict XVI during his visit to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on April 16, 2008.

More information on the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception can be found at http://www.nationalshrine.com. Learn more about the Diocese of Harrisburg’s pilgrimage at www.hbgdiocese.org/150.
Diocesan Pilgrims Gain Spiritual Lessons, Conquer Fears on Journey to Ireland

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Rosemary Connelly had never traveled outside of the United States, or been on an airplane. She is afraid of heights. And she is discerning her path in life since her husband’s death in 2016. Yet, there she was on a flight with nearly 70 other pilgrims traveling from the Diocese of Harrisburg to Ireland for a 12-day pilgrimage to the Emerald Isle, Aug. 28-Sept. 8.

She had signed up for the pilgrimage just five days before its deadline – no passport or birth certificate on hand.

“I felt that if it was meant for me to go, everything would go well,” Ms. Connelly, a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Abbottstown, told The Catholic Witness. Her paperwork immediately fell into place. “This was a sign from God that I was to go on this trip,” she said.

She was drawn to the pilgrimage – celebrated in observance of the diocese’s 150th anniversary – because of her late husband’s Irish heritage. And because she’s searching for where to go next in life.

“Since my husband’s death, I have been drowning in sorrow. The loneliness is overwhelming at times. I felt I had no hope left,” Ms. Connelly remarked. “I felt I had to… contemplate where my life is to go next. It is still not clear to me what my purpose is, but I do feel that my life has changed to the positive side. I have grown closer to God and my Catholic faith.”

In Ireland, her faith was buoyed in observance of the diocese’s 150th anniversary – because of her late husband’s Irish heritage. And because she’s searching for where to go next in life.

“The sites we visited were extremely remarkable and, when visiting them, you come to the conclusion that there is a God,” Ms. Connelly said.

The pilgrimage circumvented Ireland, from Dublin to Bellair, Knock, Kilkennery, Limerick and Cork.

Among the highlights: the Down Cathedral, burial place of St. Patrick; the patron saint of the Diocese of Harrisburg; St. Columba’s Cathedral, which dates to the early 1600s; the Basilica of Our Lady of Knock, Our Lady appeared in 1879; and the Basilica of Our Lady of Knock, where Our Lady appeared in 1879.

COURTESY OF ELIZABETH HART
The celebration of Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral.

For Elizabeth Hart, a member of St. Catherine Labouré Parish in Harrisburg, the Mass and visit at the Basilica of Our Lady of Knock was the most moving experience.

“In 1879, the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, John the Evangelist, angels and the Lamb of God appeared before 15 people of varying ages on a rainy evening. We attended a healing Mass at the basilica, and it was very touching to see the people who came here for not only physical healings, but for spiritual healing as well,” Ms. Hart told The Catholic Witness via e-mail while on the pilgrimage.

“There is an anointing of the sick before the of the Mass. For me, this was a very emotional time and I could not help but think of all of the mercy that God gives to us,” she said.

Ms. Hart journeyed with a fellow parishioner of St. Catherine Labouré Parish, home of the Shrine of the Miraculous Medal. The travels with fellow Catholics afforded them the opportunity to share the message of the Miraculous Medal, and gift several pilgrims with the medal.

“Traveling with other pilgrims really has given me a chance to share my faith with others and also receive great insight on other people’s spirituality,” she remarked.

“Even though there are elements of this trip that are like a vacation, I don’t think anyone has lost sight of the main reason we are here,” Ms. Hart wrote. “Being able to attend daily Mass and receive the Eucharist and saying Rosaries while riding from place to place on the bus provides time for reflection and draws us closer in communion. Ireland is such a beautiful place where you can really experience God’s creation in all its glory.”

Still, one doesn’t have to travel overseas for a pilgrimage, she said, pointing to historic churches within the Diocese of Harrisburg – and the pilgrimage to the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 3 – as perfect opportunities.

“Every person on pilgrimage comes with their own personalities, backgrounds and opinions. … At the end of the day, when we all go to Mass, in my own experience, I am reminded that we are all part of the Body of Christ and it becomes easy to put aside the worldly differences that we may have,” Ms. Hart said.

“That is one of the beauties of the Catholic faith for me.”
Women’s Conference to Highlight Life and Love, Celebrate Humanae Vitae

By Eva Gontis
Special to The Witness

The Diocese of Harrisburg invites all women to the 4th Annual Diocesan Women’s Conference on Oct. 20 at Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg. This year marks the 50th anniversary of Blessed Pope Paul VI’s landmark encyclical, Humanae Vitae. The conference will celebrate the spirit of this encyclical through a day of fellowship, prayer, evangelization, reconciliation, and rejoicing.

Jennifer Fulwiler, renowned author, speaker and radio personality, will bring her passion for the truth, her wit and wisdom in recounting her conversion story and becoming a champion for life. She will share her journey from a hardened atheist to a Catholic, pro-life, pro-family and pro-truth wife and mother. In a world that challenges true womanhood, the conference will uplift, affirm, challenge and inspire. More than 900 women attended this event last year. Married or single, with or without children, lay or religious, every woman is called to a vocation of holiness.

The day begins with a continental breakfast. After breakfast, attendees can peruse a variety of vendors with inspirational books, beautiful devotional gifts, jewelry and much more. Vendors will be present all day for everyone to discover treasures and shop at their leisure.

Bishop McDevitt’s spacious Finestra Hall will be filled with the music of Women at the Well, as they help to prepare hearts for Jennifer Fulwiler’s message of joy. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction will follow the keynote, and the musical talents of the ladies of Women at the Well will lead this sacred time of prayer and worship of our Lord. Exhorted and edified by the keynote speaker and disengaged from worries and worldly concerns through prayer and worship, hearts, minds and souls will be fed by an abundance of knowledgeable and inspiring speakers. Workshops, 36 in all, will be presented on a variety of topics from devotions and apologetics, to prayer and parenting, and everything in between.

Lunch will be available during all three speaker sessions. Conference participants will be given a choice of two speaking sessions with a third session left open for lunch. During all three sessions, as women will also have the opportunity for reconciliation with our Lord. Is there something you’ve been holding onto from which you need to be healed? Have you been thinking about going to confession, but it’s been too long? This conference will offer a blessed time for renewal. Priests throughout the diocese will be available to hear confessions. Aids for going to confession will be provided outside the confessional, including a guide on how to go to confession and an examination of conscience.

In the afternoon, the conference will feature the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, celebrated by Bishop Ronald Gainer.

Don’t miss this wonderful opportunity to join with women throughout the diocese for respite and renewal.

For more information, including a schedule of the day, a listing of workshop topics and cost, visit www.hbgdiocese.org/women or contact Jim Gontis at jgontis@hbgdiocese.org.

(Eva Gontis is a wife, a mother of 8, and a member of the Diocesan Women’s Conference Committee.)

Holy Family Radio
Light in the Darkness Pledge Drive

Many enjoy the listening alternative and faith-deepening opportunities that a local Catholic radio station provides.

From September 18-20, Holy Family Radio, AM 720, will hold its Light in the Darkness pledge drive. This listener-supported, not-for-profit charity depends on listeners for support of its efforts to bring the Word of God to the people of the Diocese of Harrisburg.

Please consider supporting this local independent Catholic ministry. Call 717-525-8110 or visit www.720whyf.com for information. Prayer requests are always welcome.

Fishers of Men Dinner
To benefit the Seminarians of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg

Friday, October 5, 2018, 6:00 p.m.
at the Diocesan Center
4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg

Cost is $150 per plate
$800 per table of six or $1,000 per table of eight.

Sponsored by the Office of Vocations
(717) 657-4804 ext. 282

Visit our website at www.hbgdiocese.org/fishersofmen for more information or to register.
Delone Catholic Edges York Catholic in Competitive Match

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic

Last November, the Squirettes of Delone Catholic came within a few points of winning a state championship in girls’ volleyball. It was a disappointing end to a fantastic season—one that included a District 3 championship in which they bested York Catholic, 3-1, in a competitive final.

On Sept. 4, the two teams clashed again in an early-season match that was every bit as competitive in a hot, steamy Sheppard Gym at Delone Catholic. The Fighting Irish won the second set, but Delone rallied to win the third before edging the Irish by a couple of points in the fourth to top their rival.

Clearly the heat—with an index reading of 103, making the real-feel in the gym even worse—adversely affected both teams. But Delone won the long rally and crucial deciding points late in several sets for the win.

While both squads lost key players to graduation, there is plenty of experience left on the court to be playing in November, when the stakes are high again and the heat index is a forgotten discomfort.

York Catholic’s Student-Athletes Gather for Rosary Rally

The sports season at York Catholic High School kicked off with a Rosary Rally on Aug. 30, with student-athletes from the school’s sports teams in attendance.

The Rosary Rallies, which are held in each of the diocese’s seven high schools, are a diocesan initiative of evangelization through sports. The rallies are also connected to the SportsLeader apostolate, which is based out of Kentucky and is in more than 100 high schools across the country.

Two years ago, the Diocese of Harrisburg became the first diocese in the country to implement the SportsLeader program in all of its high schools. At the same time, Bishop Ronald Gainer appointed a Diocesan Director of Sports Ministry, James Gontis.

SportsLeader has 4 basic pillars: virtue formation, Catholic identity, mentoring and ceremonies. The Rosary Rallies are part of the Catholic identity pillar.

Father Jonathan Sawicki, chaplain at York Catholic High School, leads student athletes in a Rosary Rally at the high school to start the fall sports season on Aug. 30. The Rosary Rally is an initiative of the SportsLeader program, which was implemented in all of the diocese’s high schools two years ago.
Young Pilgrims Welcome World Youth Day Cross, Marian Icon to U.S. Cities

Catholic News Service

Despite the nearly 100-degree temperatures, Jaime Reyna found purpose in his four-hour drive from Corpus Christi to Houston.

With five teens from the Diocese of Corpus Christi, where Reyna serves as Diocesan Youth Ministry Director, she made a pilgrimage to the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Houston, which hosted the World Youth Day Cross and Marian Icon Aug. 23.

The two symbols of World Youth Day, the massive international celebration of the Catholic faith with young adults to be held in Panama in January, visited the archdiocese nearly one year to the date since Hurricane Harvey came ashore in 2017. The storm devastated several dioceses along the Texas Gulf Coast, including Reyna’s Corpus Christi, Victoria, Galveston-Houston and Beaumont.

More than 1,000 people joined Reyna for the three-and-a-half-hour celebration, which included veneration and procession of the cross and Icon, as well as a Liturgy of the Word at which Auxiliary Bishop George A. Sheltz of Galveston-Houston and Auxiliary Bishop Roy Campbell Jr. of Washington presided.

The Corpus Christi teens helped carry the cross, which Reyna called a blessing. “The fact that they were going to be able to touch and carry the cross just like they do at World Youth Days, that some of them will never experience for different reasons, the fact that they were able to carry it here, they’ll have a story to share with not only their friends, but maybe their children. It meant a lot for them, and they shared it with me and I think they’re looking forward to share it with everybody else at home,” she said.

The cross and the icon were on a nine-day tour across the U.S. Aug. 19-27. On the Palm Sunday immediately following each World Youth Day, the cross is transferred from the youth of that year’s host country to the Youth of the country hosting the next celebration. Because Panama is such a small country, the current tour was expanded to include Central America, the Caribbean, and five U.S. cities: Chicago, Miami, Houston, Washington and Los Angeles.

In Washington, Aug. 25, a procession with the cross began at the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, where Panama Archbishop José Domingo Ulloa Mendieta welcomed the pilgrims from the country for January’s celebration.

Neida Morales, a 19-year-old who traveled to Washington from North Carolina, is planning to go to Panama. She said she is looking forward to “getting closer to God, trying to figure out what’s my purpose in life” while there.

Similarly, Helen Trimble, a member of St. Mary of the Mills Parish in Laurel, Maryland, said she is “hoping to have a better idea of what I want to do with my life and what my calling is.”

As the throng prepared to process to several monuments along the National Mall, Bishop Sheltz reflected in all we say and all we do.”

“I Have a Dream” speech, in which he was “speaking of a dream for racial harmony ... a focus on the dignity of human persons and how that dignity should be reflected in all we say and all we do.”

As the young people processed down the National Mall, the pain of the sex abuse crisis in the Church was felt heavily. Members of the World Youth Day Cross Leadership Team said they planned to offer the procession “in prayer for the wounded state of Christ’s Church, our city, and our world.”

In remarks to the young people, Auxiliary Bishop Roy Campbell, Jr. of Washington said, “The cross that each of us bear has been made heavier by the recent terrible revelation of decades of sexual abuse of the people of God.”

He added that survivors of abuse “should not have to suffer by carrying the cross of suffering, humiliation or shame.” He encouraged participants to pray for those victims and to act as “instruments of God’s peace” to prevent future abuse.

Young adults from St. Dominick Parish in Washington were among those who carried the cross during the procession. The prayer intentions for that part of the journey were for those with disabilities and for those affected by the abuse scandal.

Once the group had processed to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, Bishop Barry Knestout of Richmond, Virginia, reflected on the civil rights leader’s “I Have a Dream” speech, in which he was “speaking of a dream for racial harmony ... a focus on the dignity of human persons and how that dignity should be reflected in all we say and all we do.”

The route also took participants to the Washington Monument and the Smithsonian Castle, where Auxiliary Bishop Mario Dorsonville of Washington reflected on the cross that immigrants have to bear.

“We can say, ‘I will help you,’” Bishop Dorsonville told the young people, encouraging them to listen to Pope Francis’ call to move from a culture of indifference to a culture of solidarity.

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 will gather with the Holy Father for a week of engaging prayer, vibrant liturgy, 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 required to reserve your spot. Total cost for the pilgrimage is $3,200.

For more information, contact:
Robert Williams
Director, Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry
Diocese of Harrisburg
717-657-4804, ext. 328
rwilliams@hbgdiocese.org

Or visit www.hbgdiocese.org/youngchurch

#Panama2019

Faithful pray before the official World Youth Day Cross and Marian Icon during a prayer vigil with the World Youth Day symbols at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Houston Aug. 23.

CNS/JOEL M. RODRIGUEZ, TANEA CATHOLIC HERALD

Young people carry the official World Youth Day Cross in a procession across the National Mall in Washington Aug. 23. The cross and a Marian icon toured the U.S. Aug. 19-27.

CNS/ADOLPH LIPPMANN, CATHOLIC STANDARD
Families Called to Share Joy, Love, Life with the World, Pope Says

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

In a stadium of Catholic families from around the world, Pope Francis told the laypeople they are the vast majority of Church members and that, without them, the Church would be cold, a collection of statues.

“God wants every family to be a beacon of joy of his love to our world,” the pope said Aug. 25, celebrating the Festival of Families in Dublin’s Croke Park Stadium.

The Irish dance troupe Riverdance thrilled the crowd and brought a big smile to Pope Francis’ face. “The Priests,” a classical Irish trio of priests, performed, as did Nathan Carter, an Irish country singer, and tenor Andrea Bocelli.

Families from India, Canada, Iraq, Ireland and Burkina Faso stood on stage near the pope while pre-recorded video versions of their testimonies played.

The Canadian couple, Marissa and Aldo d’Andrea of Toronto, spoke about their 54 years of marriage, their four children and 13 grandchildren — and one on the way.

The Iraqi couple, Enass and Saeed Mekhael, are refugees living in Australia. Enas’ brother was Father Ragheed Aziz Ganni, a 35-year-old Chaldean Catholic priest murdered in 2007 at a parish in Mosul, Iraq.

The families, who have faced joys and heartache and have held on to each other and to their faith, are models of how each Catholic family is called to give a witness in the world to the love of God, the pope said.

“That is what holiness is all about,” he said. “I like to speak of the saints next door, all those ordinary people who reflect God’s presence in the life and history of the world.”

Pope Francis insisted, “The vocation to love and to holiness is not something reserved for a privileged few,” but is a call that comes with baptism.

One key aspect of God’s love is God’s willingness to forgive, and that is an essential part of family life, too, the pope said.

Every family experiences tensions and arguments, the pope said, but “sometimes you are angry and tempted to sleep in another room — alone and apart — but just knock on the door and say: ‘Please, can I come in?’ All it takes is a look, a kiss, a sweet word and everything returns to normal.”

Pope Francis said the stories shared by the couples clearly show the strength and power that come from faith and from the grace of sacramental marriage.

“The love of Christ that renews all things is what makes possible marriage and a conjugal love marked by fidelity, indissolubility, unity and openness to life,” he said. “God — Father, Son and Holy Spirit — created mankind in his image to share in his love, to be a family of families and to enjoy the peace that he alone can give.”

Many seats in the stadium remained empty. Years of revelations of the extent of decades of physical, sexual and emotional abuse by Church officials and their long-delayed response to the problem have devastated Irish Catholics, sent church attendance plummeting and contributed strongly to the waning influence of the Irish hierarchy in public discourse.

Earlier in the day, Pope Francis spent 90 minutes meeting privately with eight survivors of the abuse. One survivor, Father Patrick McCafferty, tweeted that it was “an excellent meeting in every respect.”

“I think all this with the abuse is taking its toll,” said Laura Egan of Dublin, who attended the Croke Park event. “I came to see the last pope in 1979. Pope Francis is a wonderful man. I do think he can bring the Church through this abuse scandal, but it’s those in the Vatican who need to do something about it. That insider circle has a lot of power. I think Francis can make that happen.”

Paul Doherty, 53, a security guard from County Meath, told Catholic News Service, “the faith is still strong here, but this is a very different Ireland from the one Pope John Paul II visited. Hopefully this will strengthen the faith here.”
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:
Michael R. Yalch

Catawissa
Our Lady of Mercy:
William “Bill” Krasiewski

Danville
St. Joseph:
Frank Maciejewski

Elizabethtown
St. Peter:
Henry Chipriano

Harrisburg
Holy Name of Jesus:
Gladys L. Dougherty
Robert J. Heisse
John E. Koury
Cynthia L. Myers
Michelle A. Rametta
Thomas J. Smiek
St. Catherine Laboure:
Betty Ciaccio
Thomas Hayden
Michael Sullivan

Hershey
St. Joan of Arc:
Agnes McCarty
Vincent Pasquini
John Robbins

Lancaster
St. John Neumann:
Ed Pezenosky

Lebanon
Annunciation BVM:
Arlene Allwein
Edward Allwein
Eleanor Bamberger
Maryann Overson
Edward Schlegel, Sr.

Mechersrytown
Annunciation BVM:
Mary Neiderer

Mechanicsburg
St. Joseph:
Frank Mosher
Louis Reday

Middletown
Seven Sorrows BVM:
James Douglass
Michael Pakosky
Dorothy Viola

Millersville
St. Philip the Apostle:
Isabel Brown
Linda Losto
Barbara Raymond

Mount Joy
Mary, Mother of the Church:
Mary Sheetz

New Cumberland
St. Theresa:
Lorraine Siegfried

New Oxford
Immaculate Conception BVM:
Julianna Wright

Shamokin
Mother Cabrini:
Patricia Bidding
Beatrice (Betty) Bradley
William (Whitney) Edmondson
Lawrence (Hap) Kinder

Steelton
Prince of Peace:
Elizabeth Benko

York
St. Rose of Lima:
Levere Smith

Sister Joan of the Cross
Sister Joan of the Cross (Joan Kennedy Bourne), 87, a member of the Discalced Carmelite Nuns of Danville, passed peacefully to God on Aug. 10 at Emmanuel Center in Danville. Born in Easton, Md., on January 13, 1931, she graduated from Mount St. Agnes Academy in Baltimore, Md., in 1949. A year later, in 1950, Sister Joan entered the Carmelite Monastery at Loretto, Pa. She received the Habit of the Order on April 21, 1951, and made Profession of Vows on April 26, 1952. In September of 1953, she joined five other nuns from Loretto to make the foundation of the Carmelite Monastery in Mount Carmel. Sister Joan was a council member in the monastery and a generous community member. She served as soloist in the liturgies of the Holy Mass and Divine Office, was an excellent cook and baker, a seamstress, did much care of the monastery grounds and offered service in whatever was needed. She held leadership roles in the Carmelite Communities Associated and in the Association of Contemplative Sisters. Dedicated to the eucumenical movement, she assisted the local churches in prayer services at the monastery for several years in promotion of this, and was a signer of a covenant for unity among the churches.

In addition to her brother Michael and sister Patricia, she is survived by numerous nieces and nephews and grandnieces and grandnephews. She was preceeded in death by her parents and brothers, Thomas, Rev. Peter Bourne, and James.

York Catholic Students Excel on AP Exams

The scores of the national Advanced Placement (AP) exams for high school students in and near York Catholic students have excelled again.

Advanced Placement (AP) courses offer high school students college level rigor with AP students dedicating long hours of study that begin during the summer months and end in May with a national exam. AP courses are offered through College Board, and exams are four hours long. Exams are graded on a scale of 1-5, with one the lowest grade possible and five the highest. Many colleges and universities accept a score of three or higher for college credit, a motivating factor for the enrolled student. AP exams are four hours long. Exams are graded on a scale of 1-5, with one the lowest grade possible and five the highest. Many colleges and universities accept a score of three or higher for college credit, a motivating factor for the enrolled student.


Diocesan Notebook

Compiled by Jen Reed

Spiritual Offerings

Public square Rosary rallies take place on the squares in New Oxford, Littlestown, and Hanover monthly. For information, call Grace at 717-624-2180. In New Oxford is the second Saturday of the month, the rally in Littlestown is the third Saturday of the month, and the rally in Hanover on the second Saturday of each month. For information, call Grace at 717-624-2180.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is available at the St. Pauline Center at 1150 Chestnut Street in Hanover, on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., and Saturdays from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Chaplet of Divine Mercy is prayed in the chapel on Fridays at 3 p.m.

Cana Couples in Christ, an evening of prayer and refreshments for married couples, will take place Sept. 28 from 7-9 p.m. at St. Joseph Church in York. Experience the superabundant joy of marriage with other couples in a Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration followed by “The Cana Story.” Reflect on the mystery of marriage through the eyes of Mary in the life of her son. Following the Holy Hour, dinner and wine and cheese social RSVP to Deacon Neil at crispio@jsy.org or 717-755-7703.

A Mass and reception for couples in the Cumberland/Perry Deanery were married in the diocese will be held October 23 at 3 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Enola. For further information or to make a reservation, please call 717-766-3436. Deadline for reservations is Oct. 5.

Rosary Coast to Coast. Join St. Joseph Parish in Hanover on Oct. 7 to pray and call upon God through the power of intercession of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Pray a rosary and return home. The program will begin with Eucharistic Adoration with musical accompaniment by the Hernandez family from 4-3 p.m., Scriptural Rosary from 4:30-4:45 p.m. and Marian and patriotic songs from 4:30-5 p.m. More information is available at rosarycoastto coast.com, or contact Dan Mlinek at dmlinek@comcast.net.

Caeolrum at St. John of Arc Church in Hershey will be held on Oct. 3 at 7 p.m. Join your brothers and sisters in Christ as we pray, worship and celebrate Jesus Christ with your Holy Eucharist. Father Modestus will preside. A reception will be held immediately following the Caeolrum in the cafeteria. For more information, call 717-583-0240. All are welcome, please join us!

An evening of prayer in honor of St. Therese, The Little Flower, will be held on Oct. 1 at St. Therese of the Child Jesus Church in McSherrystown. Father Kenneth Smith will be the homilist.

A Mass with Prayers for Healing will be celebrated at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Mechanic Mill on Sept. 27 at 7 p.m. Father Francis Karwacki, the pastor, will be the principal celebrant with Father Ryan Fisher and Father Steven Freiner, OFM, Conv. cocelebrating.

Pilgrimages & Retreats

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., will take place on Nov. 3. Bishop Ronald Gainer will lead our diocesan delegation to pray at the shrine, to celebrate the shrine’s 150th anniversary. The schedule for the day includes Mass and time for confessions, private prayer, touring of the shrine, and visiting the gift shop and gift shops or hand-made crafts to eat in the cafeteria. Those wishing to attend should contact their parish, as the parishes will be making their own arrangements for bus transportation. More information about the shrine’s determination of pickup locations, times, cost, etc. Smaller parishes may wish to join with others in reserving buses as a region. For those wishing to drive on their own, there is ample parking at the Shrine. A schedule for the day and a list of parish buses are available online at www.hbgdiocese.org/150.

Join Father Dwight Schlainke on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land from January 7-17, 2019. The pilgrimage includes 7 nights in host hotels, licensed Christian guide, accommodation in First Class hotels (five nights in Jerusalem, three nights in Tiberias, on the shore of the Sea of Galilee), full-time English-speaking guide, breakfast and dinner daily, land transportation by deluxe motorcoach, roundtrip motorcoach transport from the airport to Jerusalem in mid-December, roundtrip airfare from Dulles to Tel Aviv on Lufthansa, and more, for $3,289 per person double occupancy. For complete details, please contact Michael K. George at mtg@georgeinternationaltours.com or George’s International Tours at (800) 566-7499, sales@georgeint.com or visit www.georgeinternationaltours.com.

A pilgrimage to the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg, Md., is being sponsored by St. Catherine Labouré Parish in Harrisburg on Sept. 27 with departure at 8:45 a.m. and return at 4 p.m. Day includes orientation and film, historic homes guided tour, chapel and altar of relics tour, Mass, Confession, Eucharistic Adoration for personal time for prayer, viewing exhibits and walking the grounds. The cost of $30 per person includes all tours and transportation by deluxe motorcoach for coach leaving returning from St. Catherine Labouré. For more information or ticket purchase, contact Deb at the parish office: 717-564-1321 or dsaladin@gmail.com.

“Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus” pilgrimage to Israel “The Holy Land” with Father Luis R. Rodriguez, pastor of Corpus Christi Parish in Chambersburg. Eleven days, departing Jan. 13 and returning Feb. 2, 2019. Experience Bethlehem to the place of the Ascension. Cost is $2,995. Includes travel to and from the airport, roundtrip airfare, breakfast and dinner daily. Extras are insurance and tips. For more information and to register, contact Evelyn F. Egerlander at 717-554-3834 or evelyn@select-int.com. Whole itinerary can be viewed at selectinternationaltours.com.

Education & Enrichment

Two Evenings with Father Dave Pivonka, TOR, at Xavier Center in Gettysburg Oct. 23 and 34. These evenings will be for information about the Holy Spirit in our lives. An internationally popular speaker, Father Pivonka is a member of The Oblates of the Virgin Mary and is president of the Franciscan University of Steubenville. Cost is $15 and can be purchased at the door. Menu inclusions include choice of sausage and a refreshment. All proceeds benefit St. Catherine’s Home for Children in Harrisburg. For more information, call 717-755-7703 or visit www.stcatherinehlc.org.

Morning Star to hold Shooting Star 5K Run and Walk for Life. On Sept. 22, Morning Star will hold a Morning Star 5K Run at 7 a.m. and the Shooting Star 5K Run (at 8 a.m.) and Walk for Life (at 10 a.m.) at Harrisburg’s City Island. Check-in time is one hour ahead. Run registration is $25 until Sept. 14 and $30 thereafter. Walk is free. All proceeds are earned through $25 in sponsorships. Free pancake breakfast and fun games and rides! Register at www.SupportMorningStar.com or call 717-920-0411 for more information.

Join your friends in pro-life, and co-chairs Dr. Michael Moritz and his daughter Katie, for a one-of-a-kind event, Women’s Care Center’s annual fundraiser, “A Night on the Ranch.” The event will be held Sept. 27 at 6 p.m. at the Country Club of York and benefits moms, babies and families in our community. The evening features high-end prize packages, food, games, dancing, lawn games of fun! For more information, please call 717-624-6369 or e-mail Linda Skehan at linda@yorkpregnancycenter.com. You may also register online at www.wccluxurybingo.org. Seating is limited; make your reservation today!

Oktoberfest – The Carlisle Area Family Life Center’s only crisis pregnancy and family resource center. Oktoberfest event on Sept. 21 from 6-10 p.m. at the Carlisle Ribbon Mill, 320 East Louther Street. Traditional German food and beer will be served. Bring your friends and family to the Egerlander German Band. Enjoy bidding on silent and live auction items. Tickets are $35 each, wine is $15 per bottle, but does not include beer, auction or raffle items. To register for tickets, call CAPLCF at 717-243-6544. All proceeds benefit the Carlisle Area Family Life Center.

Holy Name of Jesus Knight of Columbus Council #14081 in Carlisle will host a trip to the Seeing Eye Dog School in New Jersey, Oct. 10-11. Trip includes a visit to the New Jersey governor’s residence, a working shadow day at the Seeing Eye Dog School and departure at St. John Neumann Church in Lancaster, Oct. 10 at 7:45 a.m. Cost is $75 per golfer, $300 per foursome. Events include breakfast, greens fees, cart and lunch. Call 1-800-482-6510 or e-mail development@georgesint.com.

St. Anne-Neumann Travel Club in Lancaster will host a trip to the Seeing Eye Dog School in New Jersey, Oct. 10-11. Trip includes a visit to the New Jersey governor’s residence, a working shadow day at the Seeing Eye Dog School and Departure St. John Neumann Church in Lancaster, Oct. 10 at 7:45 a.m. Cost is $75 per golfer, $300 per foursome. Events include breakfast, greens fees, cart and lunch. Call 1-800-482-6510 or e-mail development@georgesint.com.

Market Street. GSS Oktoberfest will provide fall fun for the whole family, and will feature food & beverages, music, crafts & games, inflatables and more! If you are a GSS alumni, please update your contact information and stop by our Alumni Tent at Oktoberfest. We love to hear what our GSS grads are up to! Volunteering opportunities are available; contact Jessica LeTersky at jletersky@gsschpa.org or 717-737-7261 for more info.

“Swing for the Sisters” golf tournament to benefit the Sisters of St. Joseph will be held on Sept. 29 at Flatbush Golf Course in Littlestown. Four-person scramble format. Registration and continental breakfast from 7:30 p.m., shotgun start at 10 a.m. and awards at noon. Prizes for first place, closest to the pin and longest drive in men’s and women’s categories. Various sponsorship levels available. Cost is $75 per golfer, $300 per foursome. Events include breakfast, greens fees, cart and lunch. Call 1-800-482-6510 or e-mail development@georgesint.com.

Diocesan Notebook continues on page 15
Students in grades K-6 are invited to learn all about cheerleading with the York Catholic varsity cheerleaders on Sept. 29 from 9 a.m.-noon at York Catholic. Participants will learn cheers, chants and a dance. K-6 cheerleaders who participate will get an opportunity to join the varsity squad on the sidelines at the YC football game on Oct. 12. Costs: $25 for 1 child, $35 for 2 children, and $45 for 3 children. To register, contact Heather Hoffman at 717-846-8871, ext. 220, or Sept. 19.

York Catholic High School will be open to the public on Sept. 26 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. for families who want to take a tour while classes are in session. One of the YC Student Ambassadors will escort families and let them observe a typical school day. All visitors will have a chance to meet the Admissions Director to have questions answered. If you have any questions prior to “Welcome Wednesdays,” please contact Heather Hoffman, Director of Admissions & Enrollment, at 717-846-8871, ext. 220, or hhoffman@yorkcatholic.org.

Women’s Parish on Bonneville will hold its 16th annual golf tournament on Sept. 29 at 8 a.m. at Meadowbrook Golf Course in Gettysburg. Tournament will be a four-person scramble. Cost is $55 per golfer, $220 per team, and includes 18 holes, cart, beverages, snacks, dinner and prizes. Register online at www.stjosephtheworkerpa.org. For more information, call Jeff Small at 717-334-8542 or the parish office at 717-334-2510.

St. Katharine Drexel Parish’s Food Truck Fest will be Sept. 23 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Parish Center on Seminaris Way, Gettysburg. After the Joy Mass, featuring special music by Women’s Procession, the entrance is located across from the school parking lot in Penbrook. The entrance is located at 2821 Herr St., Harrisburg. Information at www.stjosephtheworkerpa.org. No pre-designed ads, posters or signs. No items, TVs or electronic items. Thursday of each month from 3-7 p.m.; third Thursday of each month from 8 a.m.-noon. Please attach a piece of paper to your vehicle with yourfirst name, last name and vehicle license number. Donations accepted during business hours, tax receipts given. Think of us when you have extra clothes, furniture, electronics, kitchenware, and household items. Contact Linda Plummer, Executive Director, at 717-901-3377 or lplummer@morningstarchoices.com, fill out the volunteer application at www.SupportMorningStar.com/get-involved.

St. Mary Margaret Mary Flea Market: The St. Margaret Mary Flea Market will be held on Sept. 23 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the front yard at St. Mary Margaret Mary Parish, 2826 Herr Street, Harrisburg. Proceeds benefit the Parish. Contact Carole AUbert, 717-233-3062 or e-mail msulliv@stmaryparish.org.

Trinity High School in Camp Hill is seeking a wrestling coach. Chris Barrick, Trinity’s former wrestling coach, is stepping down from his position to tend to family obligations. He leaves Trinity after a year in the spot of head coach. Those interested in applying for the position can find more information about the requirements on the school’s website (www.thstrocks.us), by contacting Gary Bricker, Athletic Director (gbricker@thstrocks.us), or by calling Trinity at 717-761-1116. Applications are due by Sept. 22.

Deadline for Notebook Submissions The deadline for submissions for the September 28 edition of Notebook is Wednesday, September 19 at 4:30 p.m. Announcements should be sent to e-mail at wisness@hbgdiocese.org. No pre-designed ads, posters or PDFs, please.
Theology on Tap Gains Traction in Diocese of Harrisburg

By Mariah Chupriniski

Special to The Witness

It takes some creativity to balance beer and theology, but Theology on Tap does just that.

Since the early 1980s, the unique, informal program has emerged to give young adults a setting to explore the faith among friends. Though the format of the program varies from place to place, most groups meet monthly in a public bar or restaurant. After attendees settle down with drinks and appetizers, a noteworthy Catholic takes the floor to speak about a faith-based topic of interest to the group. A question-and-answer portion usually follows, as well as a time to socialize.

In the Diocese of Harrisburg, Theology on Tap groups in Harrisburg, Lancaster, and York have been active on-and-off since 2009.

Today, nine years after its inception in the diocese and 37 years since the idea was first voiced, Theology on Tap is thriving both locally and in innumerable groups throughout the Church. But the origin of the now-international movement may yet be obscure.

The Early Years

The idea for a ministry specific to Catholic young adults began simply: with a conversation.

In 1979, Father John Henry Newman, a college minister, and several of his parishioners and friends met to explore ways of engaging college students in parish life, yet who had aged out of people not quite ready to engage in parish life.

Today, more and more parishes followed suit, creating their own programs funded by individual parishes, or an Aug. 30 phone call with Father Cusick told The Catholic Witness in a Sept. 6 phone call.

He saw a need for a ministry for young adults—a setting to explore the faith among friends. He knew the need for a ministry for young adults—a setting to explore the faith among friends. He knew that such a ministry would be popular, so he contacted the diocese and 37 years since the idea was first voiced, Theology on Tap is thriving both locally and in innumerable groups throughout the Church.

But the origin of the now-international movement may yet be obscure.

The name was used effectively to attract the most alienated part of the Catholic population. Finally, we had a ministry —in-dig enous, unique and exclusive to that part of the world. Father Cusick said.

The name also was used effectively to attract the most alienated part of the Catholic population. Finally, we had a ministry, which catered specifically to young adults.

Father Cusick, a retired priest of the Archdio- cesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, said that he can trace the beginning of Theology on Tap to the summer of 1999, when a small group of young adults met at his home to discuss ways to reach out to their peers. The group decided to start a ministry that would provide a place for young adults to explore their faith in a comfortable setting.

The group soon grew to include more than 20 young adults, and Father Cusick began to share his vision with other priests in the diocese. Over the next few years, other parishes in the diocese began to adopt the model, and the program quickly spread to other dioceses across the country.

By late 2002, Theology on Tap had spread to more than 50 dioceses, and the program began to take on a life of its own. Father Cusick and other clergy members and lay people, Theology on Tap took off in Chicago.

By late 2002, Theology on Tap had spread to more than 50 dioceses, and the program began to take on a life of its own. Father Cusick and other clergy members and lay people, Theology on Tap took off in Chicago.

Contrary to its current barroom setting, Theology on Tap initially met in parishes. When more than 200 people attended the first meeting in a parish hall in 1981. More and more parishes followed suit, creating their own programs funded by individual parishes. In one meeting alone, 1,200 young people affiliated with Theology on Tap showed up for a social event, according to Father Cusick.

In response to growing numbers within the diocese, Father Cusick became the Archdiocesan Director of Young Adult Ministry, a newly-created position that he held from 1985 until his retirement in 2013.

Before long, the Chicago group received more and more calls from dioceses across the United States for assistance in starting their own chapters. It became a bigger job than the Chicago leadership team could handle.

In response, Father Cusick contacted New Jersey-based RENEW International, a Catholic non-profit that implements catechetical and evangelistic programming in parishes.

Father Cusick’s invitation was accepted, and RENEW took over the administration of Theology on Tap in the mid-1980s.

Six Catchy Syllables

Early on, it became clear that the simple, likable name “Theology on Tap” was powerful in attracting the many young people to the gatherings.

“The name was used effectively to attract the most alienated part of the Catholic population. Finally, we had a ministry —in-dig enous, unique and exclusive to that part of the world,” Father Cusick said.

Coined by a young man known to Father Cusick who is now a Chicago-area lawyer, the name was a way to protect the name and got it copyrighted through RENEW.

The non-profit owns the rights of the Theology on Tap logo and its name, according to Milissa Else, Director of RENEW’s Pastoral Services.

When U.S. and international dioceses contact RENEW to begin new chapters, they pay a small program fee to gain the right to use the name and the logo in promotions. Additionally, RENEW provides organizational assistance to new programs.

Ms. Else suggested that Theology on Tap is an integral aspect of the success of the New Evangelization in today’s world.

“We’re all called as Catholics to be witnesses of the Gospel to young people today, and Theology on Tap provides an invitation to realize that call,” she said.

Indeed, leaders in countless dioceses around the world have established Theology on Tap groups in Harrisburg, Lancaster, and York, and the program continues to spread.

On Tap in Central PA

Lancaster was the first location to organize a Theology on Tap group in the Harrisburg Diocese in 2009, closely followed by the Harrisburg group meeting at The Firehouse on Second St., the Lancaster group meets at Annie Bailey’s Irish Pub on East King St., and the York group meets at The First Post on East Market St.

Across the board, past and present leaders of Theology on Tap emphasized that for the program to be successful, it must maintain a clear focus on evangelization – of reaching the people who otherwise would not enter a church building. It must also lead young people back to participate in parish life.

“It’s a good evangelization tool and a way to reel them in: people are more comfortable in a bar with a drink in their hand,” said current York leader Christina Bair, of York.

Most seemed to agree that if Theology on Tap places too much of an emphasis on socializing, it may lose traction and fizzle out.

“We hoped it would be a conduit, so that as you grow and mature in the faith, you’ll serve in your parish. Our parishes are struggling, and we need young people involved,” said Ms. Vukelic.

Scott Anthony, an original organizer of the York chapter, agreed. “I think it can be important for young adults to have a place to go for fellowship… but as one goes in discipleship, that calls for more of an outreach mentality: a recognition that we are ALL called to missionary work,” he said.

Father Cusick said that if Theology on Tap loses its original intent – to bring an underrepresented age group back to full participation in the Church – it may die out.

“The death of it is if it becomes a click or a club, if there is no welcome or outreach to new or different people,” said Father Cusick.

But there is reason for hope that Theology on Tap may continue to bear good fruit in the Diocese of Harrisburg for years to come.

“When they get involved, many will strengthen their commitment to the Church,” said Mr. Christ.

For a listing of social media contact in- formation for the Theology on Tap groups in the diocese, visit www.hbgdiocese.org/ youth-and-young-adults/theology-on-tap/. (Mariah Chupriniski is a member of St. Catherine Labouré Parish in Harrisburg. She is a past leader 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 mariahcprinski@gmail.com.)

Young adults, gather with your peers for an evening of Mass, Hors D’oeuvres, Dinner, Drinks and Music

5:00 p.m. Mass
St. Rose of Lima Church
950 W. Market Street, York PA 17401

6:30 p.m. Social
The Veranda Room at the York Fairgrounds
334 Carlisle Avenue, York PA 17404

Cost is $15 in advance, $20 at the door
Get Connected is sponsored by the Diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry.