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

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

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

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

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

For more information: www.hbgdiocese.org/150

IN THIS EDITION
Page 6: Youth Council gleans apples for hungry
Page 7: Good Shepherd School celebrates 65 years
Page 9: Palmyra parishioners SHINE with fitness

Jennifer Gonzalez receives a hug from her granddaughter after sharing her story of addiction and recovery at Catholic Charities Come and See Dinner. The dinner raises funds for Charities’ homes that assist homeless families, mothers and babies, and women in recovery.

Living Your Purpose Highlighted at Charities’ Dinner
By Rachel Bryson, M.S.
The Catholic Witness
Overcoming and finding your purpose was the message guests enjoyed on Oct. 22 during the 13th annual Come and See Dinner. This annual fundraiser for Catholic Charities raises money for the many home programs Charities operates in the Harrisburg Diocese.

From Addiction to Healing
Jennifer Gonzalez has been walking a rough road, but she is on the path to recovery. A client of Catholic Charities, Gonzalez shared her story of falling into addiction and her journey of recovery.

“When I was 15, I found out I was adopted,” Gonzalez said. “That hit me like a ton of bricks. I almost felt abandoned.” Gonzalez went from an honor roll student who was active in sports, to a troubled teen smoking weed and drinking in a short period of time.

“I took everything my parents taught me and threw it out the window,” she said. Gonzalez’s addiction progressed to where she was using marijuana and heroin. While there were times during her drug use when Gonzalez would get clean, she quickly returned to the drugs because her addiction was now survival behavior.

In 2017, one of Gonzalez’s three children confronted her, saying she was concerned Gonzalez was going to die.

“So I went to detox,” Gonzalez said. “I was lost, hurt, hopeless and empty. I didn’t want to make any decisions. I was there for two months and in that time, my daughter called me and told me two of the people I used with had died (from overdoses).”

In February of 2018, after her detox, Gonzalez arrived at Evergreen House.

“I heard it was one of the hardest programs in Harrisburg, but I was ready for a change. I walked in and I was scared,” she said. “When I first arrived, it was like boot camp. From the time you wake up to the time you go to bed, everything was scheduled out. Their goal was to help us learn how to take care of ourselves, which was something we weren’t doing.”
Come and See
Continued from 1
“Would we look back at my history and what lead to my relapses, because the problem is not a drug; the problem is Jenny. I have a problem,” Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez remained at Evergreen for four months before moving to Crescent Way in Lancaster.

“I’m working on an $8 an hour job and it’s the happiest I’ve been,” Gonzalez said. “I’ve had houses; I’ve had cars; I’ve had credit cards and I blew it all because I didn’t have any love for myself. Today, I’m working on that. I’m grateful to Evergreen. It gives you the opportunity to find your purpose. Every day I was there, I was finding my purpose. And everyday I’m at Crescent, I’m finding my purpose.”

Purpose Driven
Kevin Reilly, the keynote speaker, entertained and inspired the nearly 250 people at the dinner with his own story of resilience and finding your purpose.

Reilly recounted his time playing with the Philadelphia Eagles, specifically the Oct. 19, 1974, game against the Dallas Cowboys. Reilly was the last member of the team to be introduced for the home game, adding the energy in the stadium was incredible. The game was tied at 10 and the Eagles were trying for a 48-yard field goal. Reilly blocked two oncoming Cowboys, getting knocked down, and saw the football pass through the goal posts.

“I couldn’t believe it. We just beat the Dallas Cowboys on Monday Night Football. It doesn’t get any better than that,” Reilly said. “I tell you that story, many, many times.”

That same day, mere minutes after speaking with Frank, Reilly received a call from Rocky Bleier, a former member of the Pittsburgh Steelers who was injured in the Vietnam War, told he would never play football again, but returned and played for 10 years, seeing four Super Bowl wins.

“I knew I wanted to talk to him. At the very end of our talk, he asked if any of the doctors or nurses had come in to talk to me about my limitations. I said no, but I told him about Frank. At the end of my story, he said to me, “You must promise me that you won’t give up on anything unless you try it a dozen times.”

Bleier sent Reilly a poem, which he memorized and repeated to himself anytime he felt like giving up.

“After 39 years, there are only three things I can’t do,” Reilly said. “I can’t play the guitar, I can’t pick crabs and I can’t give the number one sign left handed to angry motorist on I-95.”

Reilly was able to continue running and golfing, and added that our spirit is always stronger than anything which we may be facing.

“Everything cleared. There is nothing in this world that you could gain that will lead you into the next. The only thing that matters is your relationship with God,” he said. “I have never been the same since. I now know my purpose. God just doesn’t give you one or two obstacles. Sometimes he gives you several. But I know with family, friends and faith, we’ll give you the fortitude to get through.”

Jennifer Gonzalez speaks about her path to recovery through Catholic Charities’ Evergreen House and Crescent Way.

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.

About Reilly
Reilly, born in Wilmington, Del., was an exceptional athlete in his youth. He excelled in football and basketball while attending Salesianum High School and secured a football scholarship to Villanova University, where he was named the team’s MVP and All-East linebacker.

In 1973, Reilly joined the NFL when he was drafted, during the seventh round, to the Miami Dolphins. Later that same year, he joined the Philadelphia Eagles and then finished his career with the New England Patriots. Reilly’s NFL career was cut short when he was diagnosed with a rare desmoid tumor.

With his football career over, Reilly entered the business world. He was a senior executive of the Xerox Corporation for more than 30 years.

Reilly is listed in the halls of fame for Salesianum High School, Villanova University and Delaware Sports Museum and Hall of Fame. He has been a radio announcer for the Philadelphia Eagles and is also a qualified peer visitor for Walter Reed National Army Medical Center. Reilly continues to run and golf, which were two sports he was told would be impossible after his surgery.

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The Homes for Healing, located in Harrisburg, serve residents 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, at no charge to clients.

The Interfaith Shelter provides 30-day emergency shelter; assistance in securing permanent housing; food, clothing and baby supplies; and referrals for employment, healthcare and child care.

Lourdes House provides maternity care and residential services to pregnant women and their babies, including childbirth education, parenting classes, transportation and aftercare.

Evergreen House provides a safe and secure environment for women recovering from addiction. The program helps women achieve long-term recovery, find stable housing and learn job skills.

More details on these and the many other programs sponsored by Catholic Charities can be found at www.cchbg.org.
Diaper Bank Ministry Eases Burden for Families

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

(“This is the second in a series of three articles on organizations supported by the Diocese’s Matthew 25 Collection to provide food, clothing and shelter to people in our communities. The collection will take place in parishes the weekend of Nov. 18. Learn more at www.bhgdiocese.org/m25.”)

An adequate supply of diapers for one child can cost approximately $100 per month.

For no-income and low-income families, it’s a cost frequently sacrificed to pay bills or buy food.

When diaper supply runs low, babies and toddlers can be relegated to spend a day in the same diaper, or in a reused one, leading to increased health risks.

Although the government offers assistance programs like SNAP (food stamps) and WIC (a nutrition program for women, infants and children), these programs can’t be used to cover the cost of diapers.

How do no-income and low-income families properly diaper their children?

Healthy Steps Diaper Bank, a ministry in Mechanicsburg, is helping ease the burden.

“Diaper need is a heartbreaking problem. One out of every three families struggle to afford diapers,” said Amanda Barnes, Executive Director of Healthy Steps Diaper Bank. She is a member of St. Margaret Mary Parish in Harrisburg.

In an effort to help local families, parishioner Sue Speese of St. Catherine Laboure in Harrisburg established the organization five years ago.

The ministry is expected to distribute its one millionth diaper by the end of the year.

“Healthy Steps is a lot of help to me,” said one recipient, a single mother of three. “I work at a diner and make enough money to just get by. To some people, it is just a few diapers, but to me it’s a life saver. Sometimes I have to choose between bills and necessary items. The diapers keep my little girl with a dry bottom, and I am able to use the money to help with bills or food.”

25,000 Diapers a Month

Healthy Steps’ home base is located at Mission Central, the United Methodist Church’s warehouse of donations in Mechanicsburg. The workspace is bordered by boxes, pallets and shelves of diapers, which volunteers unpack and sort into bundles of 25.

The diaper bank partners with area agencies to distribute to families in Cumberland, Dauphin, Perry and York counties.

Healthy Steps purchases the diapers through grants and monetary donations; others are acquired through diaper drives.

“We distribute 25,000 diapers a month,” Barnes said.

“On average, you need 8-10 diapers a day to properly diaper a child,” she said.

When families suffer a shortage, they often turn to unsanitary methods.

Some will leave their child in the same diaper all day. Some families have taken a diaper to a windowsill to let it dry out and reuse it,” she said.

She explained that cloth diapers aren’t an option for many low-income families who don’t have their own washing machine. Washing cloth diapers is prohibited at public laundromats.

Families who take their children to daycare are required to supply enough disposable diapers for their child’s stay.

Barnes shared letters of gratitude expressing those challenges:

“With all the other financial responsibilities placed on us since my son’s birth, I am glad diapers are no longer a worry and my son is not wearing a dishtowel until his daddy’s next pay day,” one recipient said.

“The diaper bank is such a blessing to our family. Between diapers for home and daycare, I was spending a little over $100 a month,” another said. “Now with help with diapers, I only need to spend half of that. On one income with two children, every penny is precious.”

Gratitude for Matthew 25

Through its efforts, Healthy Steps Diaper Bank served approximately 900 children in the past year.

Its efforts are supported, in part, by grant money distributed from the Diocese’s Matthew 25 Collection. This year, the collection will take place in parishes the weekend of Nov. 18.

The collection supports efforts to provide food, clothing and shelter to those in our communities.

Seventy-five percent of the money contributed to the Matthew 25 Collection is distributed through grants to parish-supported ministries, like the diaper bank. Twenty-five percent of the collection is given back to the parishes for their support of people in need.

Healthy Steps has received $10,000 in grants from the two previous collections. It uses the money to purchase diapers and the saran wrap and bags for their re-packaging and distribution.

“The Matthew 25 grant is incredibly important to Healthy Steps Diaper Bank, and to helping us carry out our mission,” Barnes said. “The funds are used for all of the supplies we need in order to get these diapers to the families. There are so many things that go in to getting the diapers to the families, and without the money from the Matthew 25 Collection, it would be hard for us to accomplish.”

“We are incredibly grateful to everyone who donates to the Matthew 25 Collection,” she said.

When children have the proper amount of diapers, the incidences of diaper rash, staph infections, urinary tract infections and visits to the emergency room are significantly reduced.

“We are about focusing on the health of babies,” Speese said.

“We want to ensure that families have enough diapers to diaper their children in a healthy manner, so that all children in central Pennsylvania can be clean and healthy,” Barnes said.

The Healthy Steps Diaper Bank repackages diapers from its space at Mission Central in Mechanicsburg. The diaper bank is supported, in part, by grants from the Diocese’s Matthew 25 Collection.

Amanda Barnes, Executive Director of Healthy Steps Diaper Bank, sorts boxes of diapers to be distributed to local families via social service agencies.

CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS
Pope Canonizes St. Paul VI, St. Romero, among Others

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

Carrying Pope Paul VI’s pastoral staff and wearing the blood-stained belt of Archbishop Oscar Romero of San Salvador, Pope Francis formally recognized them, and five others, as saints of the Catholic Church on Oct. 14.

Each of the new saints lived lives marked by pain and criticism – including from within the Church – but all of them dedicated themselves with passionate love to following Jesus and caring for the weak and the poor, Pope Francis said in his homily.

The new saints are: Paul VI, who led the last sessions of the Second Vatican Council and its initial implementation; Romero, who defended the poor, called for justice and was assassinated in 1980; Vincenzo Romano, an Italian priest who died in 1831; Nazaria Ignacia March Mesa, a Spanish nun who ministered in Mexico and Bolivia and died in 1943; Catherine Kasper, the 19th-century German founder of a religious order; Francesco Spinelli, a 19th-century priest and founder of a religious order; and Nunzio Sulprizio, a layman who died in Naples in 1836 at the age of 19.

“All these saints, in different contexts,” put the Gospel “into practice in their lives, without lukewarmness, without calculation, with the passion to risk everything and to leave it all behind,” Pope Francis said in his homily.

The pope, who has spoken often about being personally inspired by both St. Paul VI and St. Oscar Romero, prayed that every Christian would follow the new saints’ examples by shunning an attachment to money, wealth and power, and instead following Jesus and sharing his love with others.

And he prayed the new saints would inspire the whole Church to set aside “structures that are no longer adequate for proclaiming the Gospel, those weights that slow down our mission, the strings that tie us to the world.”

Among those in St. Peter’s Square for the Mass was Rossi Bonilla, a Salvadoran now living in Barcelona. “I’m really emotional, also because I did my Confirmation with Monsignor Romero when I was eight years old,” she told Catholic News Service.

“He was so important for the neediest; he was really with the people and kept strong when the repression started,” Bonilla said. “The struggle continues for the people, and so here we are!”

Claudia Lombardi, 24, came to the canonization from Brescia, Italy – St. Paul VI’s hometown. Her local saint, she said, “brought great fresh air” to the Church with the Second Vatican Council and “has something to say to us today,” particularly with his 1968 encyclical “Humanae Vitae” on human life and married love, especially its teaching about “the conception of life, the protection of life always.”
Delegates from U.S. Offer Perspectives at Synod

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

Young people today are telling Catholic leaders that if they want to persuade the young to follow Christ and pursue a vocation, Church leaders must be models of Gospel behavior, said the head of the De La Salle Christian Brothers.

Members of the Synod of Bishops have made repeated references to the story of Jesus and the rich young man in the Gospel – how Jesus told him to sell everything and follow him; several synod members have cited the passage to affirm that Jesus continues to place tough demands on young people.

But Philadelphia-born Brother Robert Schieler, superior general of the brothers, suggested another way of looking at the story. He asked members of the synod to consider “that we, the Church, are the rich young man.”

When the story is about Jesus’ demands on the Church, rather than on young people today, he said, then it becomes a challenge to the Church “to embrace risk, to be willing to leave our individual and collective comfort zones and to trust in divine providence.”

Young people who challenge the Church in that way, he said, “are trying to tell us: ‘If you are inviting me to consider a Christian vocation, I expect you to model for me Gospel behavior.’”

Brother Schieler was one of several U.S. synod members to address the gathering Oct. 16 and Oct. 17. Byzantine Archbishop William C. Skurla of Pittsburgh used the synod as an opportunity to publicly thank Pope Francis “for restoring our ancient practice of marriage for priests,” including those living outside the traditional East European homeland of the Ruthenian church.

Archbishop Skurla had a very practical suggestion for altering the synod: Each diocese or eparchy should have a priests’ assembly that would include representative young people. The purpose would be to share ideas from the pope, the synod’s final document and, “most importantly,” examples of successful programs already taking place in parishes.

Maronite Bishop Abdallah Zaidan of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles told the synod the Catholic Church needs to figure out a way to get young people as fascinated with God as they are with their phones and tablets.

“We need to be able to relate the Church to the faith to the young,” he said. “We need to coach them to take God with them wherever they go,” just like they take their phones.

“Probably,” he said, “the Church should invest resources to design educational platforms, games and interactive tools on their phones and computers in order to engage young people so they get to know God better and love him more.”

The bishop also pleaded with his Latin-rite brothers to be open and sensitive to the needs of young migrants from Christian communities in the Middle East.

“For many of these displaced people, the Church is a source of comfort and connection to their heritage,” he said. “It offers hospitality, integration into the fabric of society and supports them in their new countries.”

With migrant communities, Bishop Zaidan said, the priests are not only essential spiritual guides, but they help connect migrants to others in the community and to housing and job opportunities.

U.S. Cardinal Kevin J. Farrell, prefect of the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life, said the synod marked a “time of grace” for the Catholic Church, but he spoke even more of “another special time of grace” that was launched with St. John Paul II’s establishment of World Youth Day.

“When the event is well-prepared and bishops consciously devise follow-up activities, he said, World Youth Day has been a verifiable blessing.”

Although synod members only get four minutes each to speak, Cardinal Farrell used his time to cite a report from Uganda showing how young people who participated in World Youth Day are taking up “significant roles in the leadership of the Church” in their country, and a study from Australia in which 98.6 percent of young people under 18 who attended World Youth Day 2005 in Cologne, Germany, said the event strengthened their faith.

And, he cited a report from the U.S. bishops’ conference that “one in five priests ordained in 2013 and one in four religious men and women who professed vows in 2013 participated in and had a good experience of World Youth Day.”

Cardinal Farrell ended by expressing his hope that World Youth Day 2019, which will take place in Panama in January, will be another opportunity to “contemplate and celebrate together the fruits of this beautiful process.”

What the Synod of Bishops?

The Synod of Bishops is a permanent institution of the Catholic Church. It was established by Pope Paul VI in 1965, shortly after the close of the Second Vatican Council, to continue the spirit of collegiality and communion that was present at the Council. The Synod is an assembly of bishops from around the world who assist the Holy Father by providing counsel on important questions facing the Church in a manner that preserves the Church’s teaching and strengthens her internal discipline. Ordained and lay leaders are present at the Synod as auditors, observers and in supporting roles.

What is being discussed at the current Synod?

The focus for the 2018 Synod is “Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment.” It is taking place in Rome, Oct. 3-28.

What is meant by “young people”?

The term “young people,” as defined by the Synod, are those ages 16-29, which includes youth (adolescents) and young adults (collegians and above).

What is meant by “vocations?”

According to the Synod, “vocations” is one’s calling in life, and includes marriage, consecrated life, and ordained priesthood, and in a broader sense, also focuses on the discernment of all life choices in youth and young adulthood.

How can I follow the activities of the Synod?

The USCCB is posting on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram throughout the Synod during the month of October. Follow them @USCCB, and hashtag #Synod2018. Information, articles and updates can also be found at www.usccb.org/about/bishops-and-dioceses/synod-of-bishops/synod-2018/index.cfm.
Youth Council Project Gleans Apples to Help Feed Hungry

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

In the rolling hills of Adams County this time of year, markets, festivals and “you pick” outings abound. Apple orchards rise and fall along scenic roads west of Route 15, drawing visitors for autumn excursions.

On Oct. 14, members of the Diocesan Youth Council (DYC) gathered for their fall meeting in “Apple Country.” As they enjoyed the produce, scenery and activities at Boyer Nursery and Orchards in Biglerville, they worked a service project for those who are less fortunate.

Armed with baskets and proper picking techniques, the teens gleaned Gala Apples that hadn’t been harvested, due to the number of rainy days this season.

Lauren Kofalt, a member of Mary, Queen of Peace Parish in Millersburg who rejoined the Diocesan Youth Council this year after a hiatus, said she returned “to get back to being involved.”

“Like to help people and it makes me feel good to help people,” she said. “That is why I am picking apples today, and I think that is why many of us are here.”

The DYC is under the auspices of the Diocesan Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry. The council is made up of young people from parishes and Catholic high schools in the Diocese. Members gather several times throughout the year to focus on messages and service opportunities to take back to their parishes and schools.

This year, council members will serve at the Diocesan pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., and as small group facilitators at the Diocesan Youth Summit next spring.

The DYC presents an opportunity for high school youth to serve in active leadership roles within the diocese. The teens are nominated by their parish, Catholic high school or Diocesan Committee on Catholic Scouting each year.

The idea for the service project at the orchard stemmed directly from DYC members.

At council meetings, the teens are typically split into deanery groups, and each group undertakes a local service project. This year, the DYC’s Leadership Team elected that all members participate together in the same service project.

Rob Williams, Director of the Diocesan Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry, said he connected the council with Boyer Nursery and Orchards, and the teens set out to plan the project.

“We wanted some of the people who are hungry throughout the Diocese to have a delicious apple or two as a treat. We also wanted the Diocesan Youth Council to see that providing for and serving those who are less fortunate than ourselves is part of our life as Christian Catholic Disciples,” Williams said.

(For more information on the Diocesan Youth Council, including membership opportunities, contact the Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry at 717-657-4804.)
Good Shepherd School
Community Celebrates 65th Anniversary

By Rachel Bryson, M.S.
The Catholic Witness

Celebrations abounded in Camp Hill recently as Good Shepherd School commemorated its 65th anniversary. The anniversary events on Oct. 12 and 13 highlighted the school’s commitment to the Catholic faith and excellent academics, all in a fun, family environment.

“The weekend kicked off with Friday’s ‘Black and Gold Run,’” where students proudly sported our school colors and ran laps to raise money for our continuing efforts to grow Good Shepherd School (GSS),” said Jessica LeTersky, who headed the festival planning committee and is the director of advancement for GSS.

“We wanted to make the run fun for our students and their families, so we encouraged them to be creative. Some sported black and gold tutus, silly hats, socks, etc. Parent volunteers sprinkled the runners with confetti and silly string upon the completion of each lap, and the kids got a huge kick out of that.”

The celebration continued on Saturday with the school’s first Oktoberfest.

“We had a good turn-out, with a mix of Good Shepherd school, parish and religious education families and other members of the local community who all came together for a good time,” LeTersky said.

Between the many food options, games, craft stations, inflatables, a live German polka band, the Chili Cook-Off, rummage sale and the Rubber Soul Brewing Co. Biergarten, a good time was had by all who attended.

“Planning for our Anniversary Weekend’s events began back in the spring, and it was a huge undertaking considering we’d never hosted an event like this before,” LeTersky added. “We couldn’t have pulled it off had it not been for the support of so many enthusiastic volunteers and generous sponsors. It was amazing to see how many parents, grandparents, parishioners and friends of our school stepped up to help make it all come together.”

Chase went “bobbing for apples” during the Oktoberfest.

One Big Family

The dedication of parents, parishioners, community members and alumni of GSS could be seen by the countless volunteers attending the festival, including Kathy Casey and Sister Mary Ann, M.S.C.

“I went to Good Shepherd School for eight years and I taught here for 35,” said Casey.

Sister Mary Ann was a teacher for 20 years at GSS. Both she and Casey continue to substitute for the school.

“You can’t just walk away from this place,” Sister Mary Ann said. “It’s too special. I’m always here.”

“It’s amazing to see how the school has evolved,” said Renie Asken, who has been the school nurse at GSS for at least 15 years. “We’re more like a family. Hands down, I have the best job in the school. I have 206 kids to take care of. The best part of my day is when they give me a hug.”

Asken added the Catholic principles, mission and philosophy of GSS are not only taught, but lived every day in its classrooms.

“Our commitment to teaching the faith has remained steady” throughout the past 65 years, said Dr. Stephen Fry, principal.

“I think the Sisters who founded the school would be impressed. It’s the center of everything we do.”

Fry added that in addition to the commitment to the faith, GSS is also committed to excellent academics.

“We have a 1-to-1 laptop program and in the last few years, we’ve made an investment into STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) programs,” said Fry. “One of the reasons we had this festival was to get the parish, school and our community together.”

“We have such a tight knit family here,” LeTersky said. “Our parents have a great rapport (with administration) and everyone is motivated to grow. Overall, our goal was to celebrate the tight-knit community we’ve created at Good Shepherd over the last 65 years, and to make great efforts to grow that community even more.”

Sheldon Leonard, a teacher at the school, brought his family to the event to help keep Good Shepherd strong. “I like to see people coming together,” he said.

“It’s a good school,” said Raeleine Gervinski.

“I bleed back and gold,” added Asken, referencing the school’s colors.

Long History

Good Shepherd Parish was founded on May 28, 1951, by Bishop George L. Leech. Two years later on September 1, 1953, the school opened its doors for the first time. Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary were the first teachers at the school. Four Sisters taught more than 130 students in four classrooms. In 1957, five more classrooms were added to the school. Just five years later in 1962, an additional six classrooms were added to the school and enrollment had grown to 627 students.

The school and parish continued to grow and in 2003, Bishop Nicholas Dattilo gave permission for Good Shepherd to construct a parish hall and a new education center. The groundbreaking for the education center took place on May 20, 2006. The current Good Shepherd Parish Education Center was blessed by Bishop Kevin Rhoades on August 12, 2007.

Today, the school serves more than 200 students in pre-K through eighth grade. To learn more about Good Shepherd School, visit www.gsschpa.org.

To see more photos and video from the event, visit the Diocese of Harrisburg’s Facebook page.
The Catholic Church is the only organization that dares speak hard truths to women. And I found my freedom in these truths.”

Fulwiler was the keynote speaker at this year’s conference, Oct. 20 at Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg. More than 700 women attended the event, which included Holy Mass, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, a variety of workshops and vendors, and camaraderie.

A former atheist and supporter of the pro-choice movement, Fulwiler shared six stories of personal events that led her to a pro-life conversion and the Catholic Church.

The first occurred during a 20-week ultrasound of the first of her six children.

“I had been contributing to organizations that advocated for abortion during 20 weeks. I’d been in these circles for years where we talked all day long about women’s empowerment,” Fulwiler said.

“Nobody, in any of these circles, ever encouraged me to educate myself on fetal development...or what goes on in my body during pregnancy,” she remarked. “I thought, "If we’re so pro-women, and we want to empower women, why are we withholding information from them?'”

She looked at Church teaching, especially Humanae Vitae – St. Paul VI’s encyclical on sexuality and life – and Theology of the Body – St. John Paul II’s integrated vision of the human person.

“The Catholic Church, which I once thought was so anti-woman, was saying, ‘Get more information, educate yourself, look at what science has to say.’”

By the time she was pregnant with her second child, her conversion to Catholicism was underway.

She was diagnosed with a clotting disorder and placed on medication that risked a 90 percent chance of birth defects if she conceived.

“The Church was the only organization that dared teach me the truth, and to say, ‘If you are in a position where it would be a grave thing to conceive a child, then you need to avoid the act that creates babies.’”

“That was a hard truth. It is a difficult truth, but it is the truth,” she said.

“We have a generation of women who were told to go ahead and engage in the act that creates babies, even if they’re in no way ready to have a baby. Many of them ended up having an abortion because they were truly caught off guard by the bill of goods society sold them.”

Fulwiler’s third pro-life conversion experience came while pregnant with her third child. Her husband had lost his job, they were living with her mother, and her clot-prevention medication was $1,000 per month.

She turned to God, and placed her trust in him. Soon, her husband found a new job with good insurance, and they bought a house well within their budget.

“The lesson here isn’t that you can give God a laundry list of things that you want in life. It is that the Christian life is a difficult path, but God says he will be with us, and we can count on that.”

Fulwiler was on board with Humanae Vitae and Theology of the Body at this point in her life, Fulwiler was writing articles and blogs to share the teachings. One day, she was interrupted by several girls playing “ding dong ditch” – ringing her doorbell, and then running away.

“God spoke to my heart and told me he was sending these girls to me for a reason,” Fulwiler said. She invited them for tea with her wedding china, and soon realized none of them were in stable homes. Fulwiler befriended them, and the relationships continue today.

“Welcoming those girls was the most pro-life thing I had ever done,” Fulwiler remarked.

“I realized that this was the core of Humanae Vitae and Theology of the Body. At its core, openness to life is openness to being inconvenienced by other people,” that to build a culture of life, “we must be willing to be interrupted,” she said.

Several years later, Fulwiler again opened her home, to foster a teenage girl from Columbia.

By this time, the Fulwilers had four children under age five. They lived in a three-bedroom house. And the language barrier with the foster child was nearly unsurmountable.

By the end of the six-week foster program, “I was so run down and felt like an absolute failure. I felt like I wasn’t enough, and that I shouldn’t have brought this girl into our home.”

Before the teenage girl departed for an adoption program, she shared a best friends necklacce with Fulwiler.

“In that moment I realized it’s true that I’m not enough. None of us are enough to really live out our pro-life values. We can’t get this done on our own,” Fulwiler said. “But all God asks is that we give it our best effort.”

The girl was eventually adopted, and keeps in contact with the Fulwilers.

The final piece to her pro-life conversion came after the birth of her sixth child. Following complications, Fulwiler was hospitalized, the baby was in the NICU, and medical bills piled up.

Guilt coursed through Fulwiler as her newborn, with IVs in his head and chest, lied lonely through the night on the other side of the hospital.

Little did she know, her father was with the baby every night, holding him from midnight until dawn.

“My father told me later that he has a lot of regrets about my childhood, about missing so many of my things,” Fulwiler related. He said, “I cannot tell you how much healing it has brought me to be able to do this for you and my grandson.”

“The message is this: When you live these values of Humanae Vitae and Theology of the Body... you will quickly find out that being open to life is being open to loss. It’s being open to suffering. It is being open to mess,” Fulwiler said. “That is part of the beauty of it all. Don’t run away from the mess. It is part of what makes life beautiful.”

Attendee Melissa Batula said that Fulwiler’s keynote “hit on so many levels.”

“It’s ok that we have dirty dishes in the sink. It’s ok that we’re not perfect. To find that human element in her presentation, that was moving,” said Batula, a member of Our Lady of Fatima in Jonestown. The wife, mother of two and caretaker for her nephew is a lector at her parish.

“Being around other ladies today, hearing their perspectives and learning from the stories we share – that’s the best part,” she said of the conference. First-time conference-goer Molly Lahr said she was encouraged by women from her parish and the Council of Catholic Women to come.

“Hearing the guest speaker was very exciting. Listening to her conversion story, it pulled on the heartstrings that God is always present,” said Lahr, youth minister at Seven Sorrows BVM Parish in Middletown and St. Peter Parish in Elizabethtown.

“Coming here, it’s great to see that we’re all from the same faith, gathering together to bring it to others in our communities,” she said.
Faith, Fitness and Fun Highlighted at Holy Spirit Parish

By Rachel Bryson, M.S.  
The Catholic Witness

Working up a sweat and praising the Lord go hand in hand for members of SHINE Faith and Fitness Exercise Ministry. This ministry of Holy Spirit Parish in Palmyra was developed “to get our Church community together to improve health, reduce and manage stress, and share some good times and laughter with fellow parishioners so we can all SHINE BRIGHTER to better serve our Great God.”

“The ministry developed, the seed was planted, by me discovering the adoration chapel at our church and spending time with God, to silence the loudness in my world,” said Tina Kowalski, developer of SHINE and a personal trainer with more than 14 years of experience. “I’m the mother of three boys and life is very hectic and busy with work. Being able to silence my mind and pray in adoration, I continued to receive a nudge to bring an exercise ministry to church.”

SHINE has blossomed from that nudge. Kowalski said the ministry gives members a healthy, safe environment to build relationships with other members of the parish, and a way to improve physical bodies and to “deepen their prayer and faith and spiritual experience through Christian meditation and scripture reading.”

“Each month we offer different talks on the schedule,” Kowalski added. “It’s a very rich and rewarding experience for the many members that come. We laugh and have a good time and enjoy each other’s company. The stories that are shared amongst the group about how God is touching them through this ministry is really inspiring and continues to drive me in the direction of doing more and more in the area of faith and fitness.”

Each class is between 60-75 minutes. Class begins with the opening prayer, and ends with a scripture reading and peaceful reflection during the stretching/cool down portion.

“The most beautiful part, is the last 20 minutes of class. I read scripture to the participants and you are down, seated on the floor, in a comfortable position,” Kowalski said. “It’s your time with God, to channel him in. And we call the Holy Spirit in to join us. We just listen to His words, to calm our minds in this crazy busy world, and we meditate on the scripture for about 15 minutes. It’s quite an experience. It’s kind of like taking scripture and bringing it to life right in our classroom.”

Shining Inside and Out

Judy Dezagottis, one of the many members of SHINE, explained that the program is the full package for nourishing the Catholic soul. “It combines faith, fellowship and fun. It has everything,” she said. “We do meditation at the end, we’ve prayed the Rosary, we’ve done the Divine Mercy Chaplet and we’ve gone on faith walks. It takes care of the mind, body and spirit and that’s what I really like.”

“Everyone in the class is warm, caring, loving. Everybody has energy,” said Alberta Dobson. “You can just feel it, no matter how much we sweat, we laugh. I go to another gym, but I also come here. I come here because we start with prayer and we end with prayer.”

“It’s brought people together that haven’t been together before,” said Tom Kowalski. “Some of the people here, I’ve never seen before because we go to different Masses. But I’ve gotten to meet them and see how they love Jesus just like I love Jesus. It makes us more of a family and a community. It’s just wonderful.”

“I love Shine. Everybody should do it,” Dezagottis said.

Faith and Fitness

Kowalski, a personal trainer by trade, offers a range of classes for the SHINE fitness ministry. Classes include cardio and relaxation, stretch, cardio and strength, chair aerobics, drum fitness and fresh air faith walks.

“I hope to introduce them [the participants] to a healthy fit lifestyle,” Kowalski said. “God graced us with bodies. We are his temple. We carry him inside of us, wherever we go. We need to honor Him by exercising and eating well and I try to infuse that in class. My hope is, I can help someone improve their physical body as well as their spiritual side of the puzzle, because they all go hand in hand, mind, body, soul. It’s all connected.”

Each class begins with prayer, followed by roughly 30 minutes of the core exercise, and then 20 minutes of reflection time. Kowalski added class sizes range from 10-12 people, although she has had as many as 32. Classes are held each Wednesday morning and Thursday evening, with scattered classes on weekends.

Classes are offered at no cost, although a free will donation jar is available.

To learn more about the SHINE Faith and Fitness Exercise Ministry and to view a schedule of upcoming classes, visit https://holyspiritpalmyra.com/sports.

Bazaars and Craft Shows

Find Christmas gifts, shop vendors and enjoy homemade foods at the numerous bazaars and craft shows the Diocesan parishes and schools are hosting in the coming weeks. A list of bazaars and craft shows is also online at www.hbgdiocese.org. Parishes and schools can submit their information via e-mail to witness@hbgdiocese.org. Deadline for Nov. 9 issue is Oct. 31.

St. Joseph Parish in Hanover, holiday bazaar on Nov. 10 at the parish center from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Vendors with decorations and goods for holiday shopping needs. Granny’s Attic, breakfast and lunch. Sponsored by the Fun(d) Committee. Proceeds benefit the parish.

CCW of Our Lady Help of Christians Parish in Lykens, Christmas bazaar on Nov. 10 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the parish hall. Food, chance stands, jewelry, crafts, games for children and a baked goods sale. Santa and Mrs. Claus appear from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

CCW of St. Andrew the Apostle Parish in Waynesboro, Christmas bazaar on Nov. 10 at the parish center. Handmade crafts: home decor, picture frames, kitchen gifts, hand-sewn items, jewelry, Rosaries and Christmas items. Raffle and bake sale, lunch served from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

St. Teresa of Calcutta School, Christmas bazaar and craft show on Nov. 17 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Sacred Heart Gym at the Conewago Campus, Hanover. Commercial vendors and local artisans, classroom basket raffle, silent auction, small games of chance, breakfast and lunch. Santa appears from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

CCW of Corpus Christi Parish in Chambersburg, Holiday craft fair on Nov. 3 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at the parish center. 20 vendors with hand-sewn items, crafts, jewelry, home decor, baked goods, A&D Religious Shop. Breakfast sandwiches, hot lunch and desserts from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Contact Kathy at 717-352-7354.

St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Lancaster, Christmas bazaar on Nov. 10 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Christmas songs performed by St. Anthony’s Ensemble, wreaths, trim-a-tree, crafts, religious items, gift shop, children’s crafts, gift baskets, food, baked goods and jewelry. Raffles for a TV, Echo speaker, Fitbit, jewelry, designer handbag, olive wood Nativity set and gift cards. Raffle drawing at 2 p.m. Contact Livia Riley, 717-299-6617.

St. Francis Xavier Parish in Gettysburg, gift fair and holiday bazaar on Nov. 10 from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Xavier Center. Local vendors and artisans, fair trade items, collectibles, holiday gifts, baked goods, children’s activities. Café with breakfast and lunch items. Door prizes, bucket raffles, and multi-item raffle. Call 717-309-2465 or visit www.sfxtc.org.

St. Peter Parish in Elizabethtown is seeking vendors for its holiday craft fair, Dec. 1 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the new parish hall. Limited to 35 round tables. Visit www.stpeteretown.org and click on the Vendor Craft Fair link or call the parish office at 717-367-1255.

CCW of Assumption BVM Parish in Lebanon, Christmas bazaar on Nov. 3 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at the parish center. Gift baskets, white elephant stand, jewelry, craft table, baked goods, breakfast and lunch.

St. Columbia Parish in Bloomsburg, Winterfest craft and food festival, Nov. 17 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. More than 25 craft vendors, chance tree with gifts for children and adults, crafts, gift baskets, raffle for handcrafted wood items, baked goods and lunch. Benefits the students of St. Columbia School.

CCW of St. Joan of Arc Parish in Hershey, Christmas bazaar on Nov. 10 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Great craft market, baked goods, jewelry, crafts, religious items, Christmas decorations, toys, breakfast, lunch and chances to win gift baskets.

St. Vincent de Paul Knights of Columbus Council 14865, Holiday bazaar on Nov. 3 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. in the gym at 220 3rd Street in Hanover. Vendors, raffles, breakfast and more.
The girls’ tennis teams of Lancaster Catholic and Delone Catholic had excellent seasons this fall, competing in the District 3 championships in the singles’, doubles’ and team championships at the Hershey Racquet Club.

In the doubles’ Class 2A championship, the Lancaster Catholic duo of Riley Smith and Isabel Midcap entered as the number one seed, and lived up to their billing by breezing through their bracket to win in the final against a Wyomissing duo, 6-2, 6-2, to capture the gold medal. The win marked the school’s first District 3 tennis championship.

Delone Catholic’s Ellie Neudecker won the silver medal in singles’ competition, losing 6-1, 6-0 to Wyomissing’s Alex Jadic. She bested two other Spartan players in the quarter and semi-final matches to advance to the final.

The team championship final featured Lancaster Catholic against number-one seeded Wyomissing, with the perennial tennis favorite besting the Crusaders, 3 to 1. No school has won more district tennis titles than the Spartans in the past two decades. The Crusaders finished their excellent season at 15-2.

For the first time in 44 years, the Fighting Irish of York Catholic have an excellent chance to post an undefeated regular season and win their third straight York Area League Division III crown. A Week 10 win over winless York Tech, a team they have dominated in recent years, will give the Irish that elusive perfect slate heading into the District 3 playoffs, where they will be the favorites to reclaim the Class 2A title after falling short in the championship game last season.

Why York Catholic has a chance at perfection is due to their convincing 35-7 win over Delone Catholic, played at York Catholic on Oct. 19. The Squires were unbeaten until they ran into a Fighting Irish team that totally dominated the line of scrimmage, which gave running back Cole Witman open lanes as he piled up 220 yards on the ground. The Squires’ defense had only given up 43 points in their seven previous games, so this convincing performance by the Fighting Irish came against a stout opponent.

York Catholic’s defense contributed by forcing four interceptions, thwarting Delone’s ability to do what they do best – run the ball, control time of possession and manage field position.

Above: Delone Catholic and York Catholic take a knee for prayer prior to their game. Both teams came into the tilt undefeated.

Left: York Catholic’s Cole Witman runs for some of his 222 rushing yards. Witman is the son of former NFL running back Jon Witman, who played many seasons for the Pittsburgh Steelers.
St. Patrick Students Lead Living Rosary

The more than 300 students at St. Patrick School in Carlisle observed the Month of the Rosary with a Living Rosary in the parish activity center Oct. 18. Those in the upper grades stood in the shape of a Rosary while leading prayers and sharing the mysteries. The remainder of the students sat on the floor, surrounding the Living Rosary as they prayed aloud. Faculty, staff and parents also joined in the prayerful display, honoring Our Lady.

Sixth-grader Denver Hoffman holds the crucifix as St. Patrick students present a living Rosary. Behind him is eighth-grader Antonio Centenera, representing the first bead.

A Mass Celebrating the Gifts of People with Disabilities

Principal Celebrant
Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer

Sunday, November 18, 2018 • 11:30 a.m.
Saint Catherine Laboure Church
4000 Derry Street • Harrisburg

A light reception will follow the Mass. To assist with planning, it is requested that those attending from outside Saint Catherine Laboure Parish or in need of special accommodations, kindly RSVP to KLiley@hbgdiocese.org or 717-657-4804 ext. 322 prior to November 9, 2018.

St. Joseph Students Experiment with Agriculture

The Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation, a division of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, recently brought agriculture education to St. Joseph School in Mechanicsburg.

The bureau’s Mobile Agriculture Education Science Lab creates an opportunity for students to learn about agriculture in a fun and hands-on way. The Mobile Lab comes equipped with all the materials and supplies for various experiments completed throughout the week. A certified teacher travels with the lab to lead each class in their experiments.

Examples of experiments at St. Joseph School included: making plastic from corn, creating crayons from soybeans, the science of making chocolate, and creating glue from milk. Parents and grandparents served as lab assistants to help students perform their experiments. All students in grades K-8 participated in the Mobile Ag Lab and learned first-hand the role agriculture plays in our lives.

Seventh graders Saumya Grover and Mirella Pomilla react to a successful experiment.
Tell me a little bit about your childhood – parents, siblings, etc.

I had a wonderful childhood growing up in Kenya. My father worked as a customs agent. At that time, Kenya was a British Colony. My father would accumulate his leave and every five years, he would get three months off. The government paid for us to travel back to Goa. When I was 11, it was one of the times we went back to Goa. While I was there, my dad decided to enroll me in boarding school, which was run by the Capuchins. We had close to 600 boarders and 1,500 students who traveled daily to class. The school enrolled those in fifth grade through high school. My parents went back to Kenya, but my grandparents lived close.

I understand your journey to the priesthood took a unique path.

When I was about 13, I got these feelings that God was calling me to be a priest. So I asked one of the priests at the boarding school how to do that. The priest talked to me and, at the school, we had a separate school and separate housing for those who thought they were called. It was more like a preparatory school. So I was enrolled, but I also still went to my regular classes. There was more praying and more spiritual focus with this side of the school. I remember one evening, I was around 15, the rector came in. We [the students] all slept in this huge hall. It was early when the rector came in and roused me from sleep and asked me to follow him. I didn’t know why. I remember him telling me that he liked me very much and he was there for me. Before I knew it, he grabbed me, embraced me and kissed me.

I remember pushing away and going back to the dorm. There were lots of thoughts in my mind; I knew it wasn’t right but I didn’t know how to handle it, who to tell. When you are living in countries like Asia, the idea of shame is very strong and you don’t want anything to bring shame to you or your family. And so I didn’t say anything. But I didn’t feel right anymore and then I saw a way out. Around that time, my dad corresponded with me that he was returning to Goa. My family came back from Kenya and that was my out. I finished my Catholic schooling closer to our home. The whole idea of vocation had gone out the window. My family was disappointed.

I finished high school, went to work for a newspaper as a journalist and then was accepted to university in the United States. Time went by and I married, but my marriage ended in divorce after 23 years. I was away from the Church for a while and my faith wasn’t very strong. During the time of my divorce, I didn’t want my marriage to end because I believed that once married you are married for life, but also because divorce would bring shame to my family. So that kind of prompted me to be more prayerful. Eventually, my marriage did end and then I attended a retreat sponsored by my parish for men. And it was there that I came back to the faith; I was just lifted up. After the retreat, I started feeling these promptings again of returning back to religious life and that God was calling me. The feelings were very strong and I couldn’t deny them.

After my divorce, I received a letter from the Capuchins soliciting funds for the mission in Papua New Guinea and Puerto Rico. Normally, I would throw those things out, but I kept this one. As the promptings were coming, I was reading about Mother Teresa’s life. I ended up calling the number on the letter and said, “I got this letter in the mail and I want to talk to you about what I’m feeling.” They put me in touch with the vocations director. I was 43 at the time. Normally the cut off is 40 and they couldn’t do anything until my children were 18. The vocations director recommended I visit one of their friars, who was a hermit. I remember saying to the Lord, “Lord, it doesn’t look like this is happening,” and I felt the Lord saying to me, “It takes three strikes to be out of the game and you were given two.” My divorce was finalized two days before I went to visit the friar. Because of my children’s ages, the friar asked if I wanted to do some mission work in Papua New Guinea and use this work to discern if religious life was what God was calling me to do. My two years there confirmed it.

Once I came back, I got an annullment and completed the application. On September 11, 2001, I was driving from Ohio to enter the postulate in Philadelphia to become a friar. At the end of postulancy, that was the year that Pope John Paul II was celebrating World Youth Day in Toronto. Three of us decided to go. We stayed with the friars there. They were holding a picnic for all the Capuchins attending. While there, there was an Indian friar who was an older looking man. I asked his name and it was the rector from Goa. That brought back a lot of memories. When we came back from Toronto, I was in turmoil again and was asking myself if I really wanted to continue. I was praying the Lord would give me some kind of sign. It happened that a few Sundays after that, in the Gospel. Jesus was giving the Bread of Life discourse and was asking his disciples if there were going to leave him and they said, Lord to whom would we go? So that was my answer to stay. I continued and in 2008 I was ordained a priest of the order.

Are there any messages you’d like to share with someone who may be struggling with their faith, because of the abuse crisis?

I was out of town the week the Grand Jury report came out and I remember thinking all that week about the people of the parish. What should I do? What should I say to them? The Lord put it into my heart, to tell my story. After I gave my homilies and shared my story, I had about 13 parishioners come and speak to me. All of them were victims of abuse. Only one was clergy, the rest were family members. And we talked. We carry our crosses but we also know the Lord is there helping us. It may take time because we all come at this at different levels, but in the end, no amount of litigation or compensation can take that pain away. The only thing that we can do is to not let the person [abuser] define who we are, to break the chain, to forgive the person who abused us. Even if it’s breaking it one link at a time.

Pregnancy and Parenting Resource Center Cuts Ribbon at New Site

A Woman’s Concern, a pregnancy resource center founded in 1972, has been located in downtown Lancaster on Duke Street for more than 20 years. In August, the center opened a new set of doors to help support the community. The new location triples the size of the original office. Now located at 1102 Millersville Pike, A Woman’s Concern offers free, confidential care, support and services to women and families in need.

The grand opening and ribbon cutting for A Woman’s Concern was Sept. 15, the rector came in. We [the students] all slept in this huge hall. It was early when the rector came in and roused me from sleep and asked me to follow him. I didn’t know why. I remember him telling me that he liked me very much and he was there for me. Before I knew it, he grabbed me, embraced me and kissed me.

The grand opening and ribbon cutting for A Woman’s Concern was Sept. 20. The event provided an opportunity for the dedicated supporters of A Woman’s Concern’s capital campaign—the Expanding Hope Project—to join in a blessing and ribbon cutting ceremony as well as tour the new facilities. Father Peter Hahn, pastor of St. Leo the Great Parish in Rohrerstown, blessed the building.

“We are so blessed to have this new main office which allows us to significantly expand our services, programs and resources to serve more families in Lancaster,” Executive Director Jill Hartman said.

The center provides free pregnancy and parenting services, including pregnancy testing, non-diagnostic ultrasound exams, parenting education and support. Education is an important part of A Woman’s Concern programming before, during, and after pregnancy. Through the Parenting Education Program, mothers and fathers can sharpen parenting skills while earning “points” for the purchase of new items for newborns and babies from the centers vastly enhanced baby boutique.

In addition to these services, Hartman noted that A Woman’s Concern is “looking at expanding services to fathers, offering additional medical services, and continuing to reach out to the Hispanic and Latino community.” Currently, a bilingual team member is available to provide parenting classes in Spanish.

For more information on A Woman’s Concern, contact Mary Ann Albertini at MaryAnnA@PregnancyLancaster.com.
Jubilee: The Holy Ground
Becky Broderic
By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
Special to The Witness

Some time ago, I traveled to Chicago to train a Sister from my congregation’s western province on web design. Not having a direct flight, I had a layover in Columbus, Ohio. When I disembarked the plane for the layover, I stopped at a kiosk for some yogurt and fruit. As I was eating and watching people swirl all around me, an impeccably dressed man in his 30s sat next to me. He was eating his lunch as well. After 10 minutes of silence, he turned to me and asked, “How is the nun business?” I giggled and said, “Of all the questions I have ever been asked about religious life, that was a first!” His question began a 30-minute conversation about work and faith, and faith and work that still makes me smile. He was a salesperson representing a German company that manufactured prosthetic limbs. He described his profession as one that brings hope to wounded warriors and those involved in tragic accidents. Our conversation focused on how we lived out our lives of faith within the workplace as well as our individual lives.

I could not help thinking about this story as I continue to share stories of people within our Diocese who live their faith. Becky Broderic, a member of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Carnwali, is one such individual. In 2013, during the Year of Faith, Becky’s pastor described her with the following words: “Becky has served as the Religious Education Director for many years, she coordinates our RCIA program and monitors the bible study courses. She continues to teach and learn and offers a wonderful example of our faith.”

When I caught up with her for an interview, she said a lot has changed since 2013 as she tries to serve the Church. One thing that has remained constant for her is talking about the faith. When I pressed her as to why, she said, “Because I LOVE the faith! I love everything that is good, beautiful and true!”

She went on to explain, “My Catholic faith means so much to me. You see, I went to Catholic school for 12 years, educated my children in the Catholic schools where they share the faith. My husband died a number of years ago and that loss just deepened my faith. I can’t go on without it.”

She went on, [My faith] “reminds me that God created me out of love. [By] living within that love and a number of years ago and that loss just deepened my faith. I can’t go on without it.”

We continued, “God’s mercy is so awesome! The more you learn about it, the more you know about who God is. That’s how we can love our one beautiful life, by showing mercy to others. We can’t fix all the issues in our society, but we are called to pray. This calls me to learn how to trust, to hold on to the heart of Jesus. Trusting in God is hard, but in reality it’s all about allowing God to take control.”

It seems to me that Becky indeed has a firm grasp on the “business of faith,” and that is truly holy. (Sister Geralyn Schmidt is the Wide Area Network Coordinator at the Diocese of Harrisburg and the Director of Formation for Houses in the Diaconate Program. An educator for 30 years, she is responsible for Professional Development Programs for every age learner. Through her presentations, she challenges her audiences to be the individual God has called them to be.)

Day of Dialogue: A Christian Response to Violence
November 5 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Diocesan Center, Harrisburg

The annual Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic Day of Dialogue is one of several activities resulting from the 1993 Covenant among the local leaders of these churches. This year’s event will feature three speakers who will discuss different aspects of the Christian response to violence.

―Christian Response to Gun Violence‖
Bryan Miller, Executive Director,
Heeding God’s Call to End Gun Violence, Philadelphia

―Christian Response to the Violence of Racism‖
Rev. Dr. Gayle Fisher-Stewart,
Assistant Pastor at Calvary Episcopal Church, Washington, D.C., Founder of the Center for the Study of Faith in Justice

―Christian Response to Violence – Peace and Non-Violence‖
Michael Long,
Associate Professor of Religious Studies and Peace and Conflict Studies, Elizabethtown College

Day of Dialogue includes joint prayer according to the three religious traditions. Cost of $30 includes lunch. Discounts for registrations from the same parish.

Register online at www.hbgdiocese.org/larc

Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
"Thoughts from a Catholic Evangelist"

54. Danish physicist
55. St. Thomas’ name means
56. Before, poetically
57. Cease
58. Harvard’s rival

DOWN
1. Pacific Time
2. Wing
3. Luau dish
4. _odorata_ (perume plant)
5. Assistant
6. God’s goodness
7. Shade tree
8. Hairstyle
9. Risen Christ was, by his disciples
10. Not right hand
12. Good Shepherd does with scattered ones
14. Northern Rhodesia
15. Used marriage sacrament
20. Sorbet
21. Beach ground
22. Domain
24. Muscular
26. Abraham’s nephew
28. Incense has
29. My ___ and My God
32. Whale hunter
34. Discs
36. Licensed practical nurse
38. Slackness
40. Descendant
42. Fit
43. Above
44. Dr. Jekyll’s “partner”
46. Attention disorder
48. South by east
50. Communication Workers
51. Chrism
52. Compass point

The CrossWord

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Sunday readings: Is 53:10-11; Heb 4:14-16; Mk 10:35-45 and Jer 31:7-9; Heb 5:1-6; Mk 10:46-52

ACROSS
1. Italian for “'pope”
5. “From _ to _”
8. Sign language
11. Plod
12. Not boy
13. Fixed charge
14. Monkey has, ape doesn’t
15. Eve’s husband
16. Arbitor
17. Mesoamerican
19. Accustomed
20. Prophet book with 66 chapters
23. East southeast
25. _-covered apple
27. False god graven image
30. Compass point
31. Capuchin monk color
33. Physician
35. Painter of Christ of St. John of the Cross
37. His will shall be accomplished (2 wds)
39. Ly (pl.)
41. Presents
42. James’ brother
45. Sepals of a flower
47. Climbing vine
48. Blood/water flowed from Jesus’
49. Eastern church holy image
53. Sleeping place

43. Above
44. Dr. Jekyll’s “partner”
46. Attention disorder
48. South by east
50. Communication Workers
51. Chrism
52. Compass point

(Key on page 15)
Diocesan Notebook

Compiled by Jen Reed

Spiritual Offerings

Holy Hour of Reparation hosted by St. Peter Parish, Columbia, at St. Mary’s Chapel, Wrightsville, the first Friday of the month at 7 p.m. Spend an hour in prayer in the presence of the Lord. For information, contact David at StPeterBible@gmx.com.

Public square Rosary rallies on the square in New Oxford the second Saturday of the month, in Lititz the third Saturday of the month, and in Hanover the fourth Saturday of the month. For information, call Grace at 717-624-2180.

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

Friday evening prayers for healing in the Church. St. Joseph Church, Mechanicsburg. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 7 p.m. with Evening Prayer, followed by prayers for victims of abuse and prayers for healing for the Church. Concludes with Night Prayer and Benediction at 8:30 p.m.

Mass with prayers for healing, Nov. 6 at 7 p.m. at St. Theresa Church, New Cumberland. Father Samuel Dubois, celebrant. Sponsored by the Pilgrims of Praise and Life in the Spirit prayer groups. Call Mary Ann at 717-564-7709 or Loretta at 717-737-7551.

Charismatic Mass with prayers for healing, Nov. 13 at St. Rose of Lima Church, York. Father Daniel Richards, celebrant. Praise and worship music begins at 6:30 p.m., Mass at 7 p.m. Sponsored by York Deanery prayer groups. Call Joyce at 717-308-7245.

Caelorum at St. Joan of Arc Church in Hershey, Nov. 7 at 7 p.m. Praise, worship and adoration of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist. Father Michael Hartian who visited Chernobyl in 2016 and 2018. Event is Nov. 4 at 11:45 a.m., following the 10:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy. Event will also discuss the ministry of the Sisters of St. Basil to the orphans in Ukraine. Presented by the Fox Chase Basilian sisters.


Education & Enrichment

Six-week bereavement program at Anne’s Retirement Community in Columbia. Tuesday afternoons, Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27, Dec. 4, 11, from 2-3:30 p.m. Call the Pastoral Care Department at 717-285-6212 for more information.

The 20th Anniversary Fan the Fire Youth Rally at St. Joseph Church, York, Nov. 17 from 9:30 a.m.-8:15 p.m. Keynote speaker Roy Petitfils, Sean Patrick Malloy Worship Band, workshops, Mass with Bishop Gainer at 6:40 p.m. Information, promotional video and registration online at www.fanthefire.com.

St. Ann Byzantine Parish in Harrisburg will host a presentation on the nuclear disaster in Chernobyl by Michael Harlan who visited Chernobyl in 2016 and 2018. Event is Nov. 24 at 7 p.m., beginning Oct. 25, or Sundays at 12:15 p.m. or 7 p.m., beginning Oct. 28. Materials include a workbook; suggested donation is $10-$15. For more information or to register, contact Becky Davis at 717-697-8716 or rdavis@skdparish.com.

Pilgrimages & Retreats

Holy Land Pilgrimage, Feb. 14-24, 2019. Four nights along the Sea of Galilee, five nights in Jerusalem. Personal tour guide and coach bus. Father John Gordon of the Diocese of Newark will join pilgrims. Cost is $1,749, land-only package. Pilgrims must arrange own flights. For more information, contact Julie and Andy Raspi at raspi1833@comcast.net or 717-394-7715.

Join Msgr. William J. King on a pilgrimage to Ireland, departing Nov. 4 and returning Nov. 13, 2019. A special presentation on the trip will take place Oct. 30 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Mechanicsburg. For additional information or a flyer, contact Jeanie Iśman at jeanieis@stesas.net.

Fundraisers & Events

Shining Light Thrift Shop in Harrisburg needs winter clothing, shoes/sneakers/boots, unisex tee shirts, artwork, flat screen TVs, electronics, domestics, jewelry, furniture (no beds), household appliances, and credit card gift cards with remaining balances for use as a donation. Located at 1310 N. 3rd St. Hours: Wed.-Sat. from 10-4:30 p.m. Drop off behind the shop. Call Mario at 717-234-2436.

Holy Name of Jesus Knights of Columbus Council #14081 “all-you-can-eat” pancake breakfast, Nov. 11 from 9 a.m.-noon. Tickets are $5 at the door. Menu includes choice of sausage and a refreshment. All proceeds will assist projects sponsored by the K of C.

Bingo Bash to benefit Good Shepherd School, Camp Hill, Nov. 2 at 7 p.m. in the parish hall. Admission includes 9 cards for 20 games. Cost is $25 in advance, $30 at the door if seating is available. Concessions and raffle tickets available. Adult-only event. For more information, call contact Jody Blem at 717-372-7930.

Birthright of Sunbury’s 35th anniversary dinner celebration, Nov. 3 at 6 p.m. at the Masonic Building in Northumberland. Social, dinner, program, silent auction. Tickets are $30 per person, $210 for a table of eight. For information or tickets, call 717-698-8567.

Spaghetti dinner at Holy Name of Jesus Church, Harrisburg. Oct. 27 from 4-7 p.m. in the social hall. Homemade meatballs, pasta, salad bar, homemade dessert and beverage. Tickets available at the door: $8 for adults, $4 for children ages 6-11, free for children age 5 and under. Sponsored by the CCW.

The Music Society of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Spring Grove presents “Choral Fantasia,” song and choreography performed by select ensembles of Spring Grove and West York high schools, Nov. 9 from 7-8 p.m. in the parish center. Featuring a combined finale, “A tribute to the Armed Forces.” Visit www.sacredheartsg.com for details.


Our Mother of Perpetual Help School in Ephrata, Treasure Island Auction, Nov. 3 at the Father Jackson Center. Preview auction items at 6 p.m., auction begins at 7 p.m. Refreshments and heavy hors d’oeuvres. Items include a wood pellet smoker, Kalahari resort package, raffle baskets and gift certificates. Tickets are $20 at the door, or call 717-736-2414. Must be at least 21 to attend.

Mary Gate of Heaven Parish in Myerstown, spaghetti dinner on Nov. 10. Take out from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sit down dinner from 4-7 p.m. Cost of $8 includes spaghetti with meat sauce, bread & butter, salad and Jello. Baked goods available for purchase.

‘Rock the Church’ Plans Christmas Show

“Rock the Church Lights up Christmas” will be Nov. 30 at 7 p.m. at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Lancaster. The event features local musician Liz Fulmer, the ensembles from St. Anthony of Padua and San Juan Bautista parishes and the student choir, the Singing Saints. FunFest has released three CDs: Tall Tales; Heaven Knows, an album of original, faith-based music; and Ellipsis, a folk-pop album of original, contemporary Gospel music.

The photo shows Resurrection Catholic School music teacher Joshua Vyskocil leading the student choir, the Singing Saints, at “Rock the Church” in 2017. “Rock the Church” was named in 2015, its inaugural year, when the school’s theme was “Resurrection Rocks.” The event is free; donations may be offered.

Diocesan Notebook continues on page 15
OBITUARIES

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

Bloomburg
St. Columba:
John Metrichyn

Bonneville
St. Joseph the Worker:
Paul Walter, Sr.

Camp Hill
Good Shepherd:
Kathleen Houck
Martha “Jean” McCurdy

Gettysburg
St. Francis Xavier:
Linda Carabajal
Paul J. Walter, Sr.

Hanover
St. Vincent de Paul:
Sandra Buelow
Joseph McCleary

Harrisburg
Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick:
Romayne McMahon

Holy Name of Jesus:
Phyllis A. Bernard

St. Catherine Labouré:
Ramon Fernandez
Helen Suknica

Hershey
St. Joan of Arc:
Randall B. Hansen
James O’Connell
Rose Resanovich

Kulpmont
Holy Angels:
David Clayberger
Elizabeth Katona
Rose Zawalick

Lancaster
Assumption BVM:
Betty Forsythe
Elizabeth Vaccaro

Sacred Heart of Jesus:
Kathleen Beck
Kathryn Buckwalter
Jeanne Marie Donley
Walter Finch
Carmelita Joyce
G. Paul Keddy
Deacon Robert Weaver

Lebanon
Assumption BVM:
Pio Maria Amealda
Rose Marie Barry
Joseph Bleistine
John Catchmark

John Richard Colantuono
William Satchwell

McSherrystown
Annunciation BVM:
James L. Groff

Mechanicsburg
St. Joseph:
Carolyn Corrigan
Carol Crupi

Middletown
Seven Sorrows BVM:
Francis Dinga
Arta Matinchek

Mount Carmel
Divine Redeemer:
Alma J. Coroniti
Elizabeth Fusetti
Joseph P. Tomtishen

New Cumberland
St. Theresa Parish:
Mary Hogan
Viola Leik
Louise Oley

New Freedom
St. John the Baptist:
Jean Perrone

Palmyra
Holy Spirit:
Daniel T. Francis
Donna M. Pavone

Steeleton
Prince of Peace:
Anne Vukmanic

York
St. Joseph:
Annamarie Potter

St. Patrick:
Kathleen Chambers
St. Rose of Lima:
Gwendolyn Snyder
James Stephan

Father Anthony J. Larry OSFS

Father Anthony J. Larry, OSFS, a professed member of the Wilmington-Philadelphia Province of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales for 59 years, died Sept. 10. He was 78.

A native of Wilmington, Del., he entered the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales in August 1957. He was ordained to the priesthood on Oct. 21, 1967, at the Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul in Philadelphia.

In the Diocese of Harrisburg, Father Larry ministered at Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg, St. Michael Parish in Shamokin and St. Bernard Parish in New Bloomfield. He also served in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, and in Virginia, Delaware and Maryland.

Father Larry had been assigned to the Oblate retirement community for children ages 3-10. Meatballs-to-go.

2:00 p.m. to receive your patch and return to Memorial Hall by 4:00 p.m. to receive your prize.

Do you feel lost, alone or bored in your marriage? Do you feel frustrated, hurt or angry with your spouse? Are you constantly fighting? Or, do you simply shut down? Have you thought about separation or divorce? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retreat provides marriage help!

Each participant will receive a Patch for the Gloucesterport Retreat.

The next Retrouvaille weekend is scheduled for January 11-13, 2019.

The program is under the auspices of the Diocesan Office of Family and Respect Ministries.

For more information and to register, visit www.retrouvaille.org or call 717-356-2185.

Diocesan Notebook
continued from page 14

St. Joan of Arc School in Hershey, PTO spaghetti dinner, Nov. 17 in the school cafeteria. Live entertainment and basket raffles. Dinner includes tossed salad, Italian bread, spaghetti and meatballs, dessert and choice of beverage. Tickets are $10 for adults, $8 for seniors, $5 for children ages 3-10. Meatballs-to-go. Dine-in (4-8 p.m.) or take-out (4-7 p.m.). Tickets at the door or through the school office, 717-533-2854.

Mary Gate of Heaven Parish in Myerstown, homemade pie sale for Thanksgiving. Apple $9, pumpkin $8 and mince $12. Homemade breads available: plain pumpkin $5, and pumpkin with nuts $6. Contact Janet Feathers at 717-933-4409 to order. Pickup Nov. 17 from 3-5 p.m.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Williamsport, homemade pork and sauerkraut dinner, Nov. 6 from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and 4-7 p.m. Includes mashed potatoes, apple sauce, roll, dessert and beverage for $9. Eat-in or take-out. Event also includes a Chinese auction; need not be present to win. Call Down at 717-647-9124 or JoAnn at 717-647-2287.

Polish pottery bingo at Immaculate Conception BVM Parish in Berwick, Nov. 11. Doors open at 12:30; games begin at 2 p.m. Twenty games, door prizes, raffles. Tickets are $20, available at the parish office, 570-759-8113. Homemade food and desserts available.

Bahret Religious Goods’ Open House, Oct. 27 at 10 a.m., celebrating the opening of its new church goods store and the reopening of its retail store in the West Shore Farmers Market in Lemoyne. Blessings will be at both stores, with light refreshments and a chance to win prizes. Bahret’s two stores feature Rosaries, statues, books, candles, hosts and other church supplies. Call 717-412-0506 for information.

Bus to the Bible Museum in Washington, D.C., Dec. 5. Sponsored by the St. Joseph Leisure Club. For information, contact Marge Frantz at 717-697-8993 or Jeanie Ishman at 717-737-8600.

Knights of Columbus at St. Philip the Apostle Parish in Millersville, train show on Nov. 17 from 9 a.m.-noon in the parish gym. Numerous tables of trains and train related items for sale. Cost is $4 to attend. For information on the show, or to sell or learn about trains, call Charlie Sauer at 717-872-8481.

Submission Deadlines

The deadline for submissions for the November edition of The Witness is Wednesday, October 31 at 4:30 p.m. Submit written announcements via e-mail to witness@hbgdiocese.org. Limit 60 words. No ads, posters or PDFs, please.

Join the National Shrine Scavenger Hunt!

Hosted by the Diocesan Council of Catholic Girl Scouts and Campfire Girls. Open to all youth attending the pilgrimage to the National Shrine in Washington on Nov. 3. There is no need to be a Scout to participate.

Each participant will receive a special edition commemorative 150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Harrisburg patch!

Pick up your instructions at Memorial Hall beginning at noon and return to Memorial Hall by 2:00 p.m. to receive your patch and be part of a celebratory sing-along. Good Luck!

Retrouvaille Weekend for Troubled Marriages

January 11-13, 2019

Do you feel lost, alone or bored in your marriage? Are you frustrated, hurt or angry with your spouse? Are you constantly fighting? Or, do you simply shut down? Have you thought about separation or divorce? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille provides marriage help!

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The CrossWord

PAPA AGE ASL
SLUG GIRL FEE
TAIL ADAM REF
ARTIE MONT
ISRAEL ESE
CARAMEL TDOOL
ENE BROWN DSC
DALLI THELORD
PAS AWARDS
JOHN CALIX
LVM STIDE ICON
BEE ROHR TWIN
ERE END YALE
Resurrection School Students Treated to Tricks of the Wild

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

When a presenter gets “oohs” and “ahhs” from their audience, it’s usually a good sign their message is being warmly received. Students and faculty at Resurrection School gave the message of wildlife preservation and natural resource conversation a rapt audience at their Lancaster school Oct. 18.

Kelly Bitner is Zoo America’s wildlife education specialist. The wildlife park is located adjacent to Hershey Park, and this year marks the zoo’s 40th anniversary. It’s the only zoo in the United States that is a sanctuary to wildlife that can be solely found in North America.

“What I want to teach the children today is how important it is to conserve natural spaces so our wildlife has a place to live,” Bitner said. “I also want to dispel a few myths about wildlife that many people have, and teach them some fun facts about these animals.”

Bitner’s wildlife road companions were a Gopher Snake, Pancake Lizard, Barred Owl, Striped Skunk and American Alligator. She shared each animal up close and personal to the delight of all the students, no matter kindergartner or eighth-grader. The interactive program gave students the chance to ask questions and to get within inches of these teaching creatures, which in the wild can be elusive, nocturnal and quite wary of people.

The students’ excellent questions yielded some fascinating answers. A Gopher Snake is not poisonous, although it does have the markings that many people have, and teach them some fun facts about these animals.

Barred Owls weigh less than a pound and are Pennsylvania’s most common owl, usually seen and distinctly heard around swamps and streams. Arguably, the student’s favorite animal that day was the three-year-old alligator, Yoda. Fifty years ago, the alligator was an endangered species, nearly wiped out by hunters who killed the gators for their valuable skins used in the apparel industry. Today, more than a million gators — which can grow up to 14 feet and recycle some 2,000 teeth in their 50-year life span — lumber and swim in America’s Gulf States’ swamps and rivers.

(Resurrection Catholic School enrolls students in K-8. For information, visit www.rcspa.org or call 717-392-3083.)