Salvation History is a Pilgrimage

We are all pilgrims and our entire salvation history can be seen as pilgrimages. This was the message Father Neil S. Sullivan, pastor of St. Catherine Labouré Parish in Harrisburg, presented to those gathered at the Basilica for the opening Mass.

Bishop Ronald Gainer was unable to attend due to continued recovery from double knee surgery.

“From Genesis to Revelation, Scripture is filled with people on the move,” Father Sullivan said. From Noah and the Ark; God calling Abraham to a new land; Moses leading the Israelites out of Egypt; the Three Wise men visiting the Holy Family; and Jesus’ tour of preaching, his triumphant entrance into Jerusalem and then his way to the cross; we can see pilgrimages throughout our history.

“Salvation History is filled with the People of God on the move, of missionaries going across the globe or neighbors going across the street to share comfort and joy,” Father Sullivan said. “And always, always, Jesus accompanies us on the journey.”

Father Sullivan added that on this day of pilgrimage, not only were those gathered remembering the 150 years of the Harrisburg Diocese showing Christ’s faith, hope and love, but each member gathered was also offering God all of the journeys which led them to this moment.

“But it’s not merely the ministry and work of the clergy and religious that made this journey of 150 years,” Father Sullivan said. “This journey was made and continues to be made by the People of God, the living stones who build the Church, carrying the flame of faith burning brightly in their hearts, even at times when winds and rain try to extinguish it.”

This pilgrimage of faith we are all on is leading us to the new Heaven and the new earth recounted in the book of Revelation. But this journey is not one we take alone.

“Like the small pieces that form these magnificent mosaics, we journey together. Each of us, different shapes and sizes, different textures and hues, held together by the mortar of God’s grace to be the Body of Christ,” Father Sullivan said.
Christian Day of Dialogue Challenges Attendees to Consider Personal Response to Violence

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Gun violence, racism, pacifism and the Christian response to violence were the topics of discussion at this year’s LARC Day of Dialogue. The annual gathering is a joint effort of the Lutheran, Anglican and Roman Catholic churches in central Pennsylvania for prayer and greater cooperation between the Churches.

“Nonviolence is a technique, while pacifism is a way of being,” Long said. “Nonviolence is a strategy that’s part of civil resistance, but it’s not the only strategy. There are other ways that we can be nonviolent. For example, we can be nonviolent in our daily living, spiritual and temporal, in private and in public.”

In a presentation on peace and non-violence, Michael Long, Associate Professor of Religious Studies and Peace and Conflict Studies at Elizabethtown College, offered an example of Christian pacifism in history and spoke of recent scholarship on the benefits of civil resistance instead of violence. “You don’t have to be a pacifist to be nonviolent. Nonviolent actions include marches, rallies, boycotts, sit-ins,” Long said. “Nonviolence is a technique, while pacifism is a way of being.”

Miller recounted methods Heeding God’s Call employed to ultimately close a Philadelphia gun shop notorious for sales to gun traffickers. He also spoke of memorials and exhibits his organization presents to remember those lost to gun violence. “In America’s history of social change, it’s not just about gun violence. It’s about the whole conversation,” she said.

In a presentation on advocacy, Bryan Miller, Executive Director of the Philadelphia-based organization Heeding God’s Call to End Gun Violence, talked about advocacy during the annual LARC Day of Dialogue, hosted at the Diocesan Center in Harrisburg.

Miller recounted methods Heeding God’s Call employed to ultimately close a Philadelphia gun shop notorious for sales to gun traffickers. He also spoke of memorials and exhibits his organization presents to remember those lost to gun violence. “In America’s history of social change, it’s not just about gun violence. It’s about the whole conversation,” she said.

“Just as ending racism requires that we reach across racial lines, to heal denominationalism requires that we reach across denominational lines to heal the world. If we think about it, to facilitate healing (the church, the body of Christ, the host at Communion) requires violence. Showing the world that the pieces can come back together, even for a short time, demonstrates that healing can occur. The church must lead the way if this country is to be what it purports to be; it must be the example for all to follow.”

For information about ecumenical and interreligious activities in the Diocese, visit www.hbgdiocese.org/about/diocesan-offices/ecumenical/ or contact FatherLearn at flearn@hbgdiocese.org.
Faith under Fire: Retired Military Chaplain
Tries to Help Another on Road to Sainthood

By Mary Klaus
Special to The Witness

Father Robert Berger may not be a typical Vietnam War veteran. He’s not a typical priest, either. Pastor of Mary, Gate of Heaven Parish in Myerstown for 25 years before he retired in 2017, Father Berger for years combined his calling as a priest with his calling as an Army chaplain.

Now, he’s working on another calling – teaching people about Father Ignatius Maternowski, a Conventual Franciscan and the only Catholic chaplain killed during the D-Day assault in northern France on June 6, 1944. Father Berger hopes to help move Father Maternowski toward sainthood.

Father Maternowski, a 32-year-old Army captain, volunteered to parachute into France with members of the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division. After landing safely, removing his helmet and displaying a chaplain insignia and Red Cross armband, he looked for a building to use as a field hospital to treat the growing number of casualties.

He crossed enemy lines unarmed to meet with a German medic so they could set up a hospital to treat the wounded of both armies. A German sniper shot him in the back as he walked back to his regiment.

Father Maternowski’s body remained on the ground for three days until Allied forces advanced into the area. He was buried near Utah Beach. In 1948, his remains were returned to the United States and buried at the Franciscans’ Mater Dolorosa Cemetery in South Hadley, Mass.

“He was truly heroic,” Father Berger said. “He offered his life for the soldiers. He’s an inspiration.”

Father Berger told Cardinal Edwin O’Brien, a fellow Army chaplain who served with him in Vietnam, about Father Maternowski. Before joining Father Berger in Vietnam, the future cardinal had been chaplain in the same 82nd Airborne Division Father Maternowski served in decades earlier.

After looking at Father Maternowski with the eyes of paratrooper chaplains and seeing a reason for sainthood, Father Berger began researching his life.

The Franciscans agreed with the idea of Father Maternowski’s move to sainthood. A few years ago, a man who was a boy in Normandy during the D-Day fighting and now, a geschist and cousins who served in World War II,” he said. “I had uncles and cousins who served in World War II,” he said. “I had friends who served in the Korean War. I felt a call to the Army too.”

“Father Berger called history ‘a source of life lessons, good and bad. We see what we need to embrace and what we need to avoid. We need to hold onto our past.’”

That, Father Berger said, is what the foundation tries to do by preserving letters, diaries, books and memorabilia of World War II chaplains. For more information on the foundation, visit www.wwiichaplains.com.

Father Ignatius Maternowski, a member of the Franciscan Friars Conventual, was killed on D-Day after negotiating with a German medic for a joint station for the wounded. His story, and that of other World War II chaplains, is being told through the WWII Chaplains Memorial Foundation in Elysburg.

He celebrated Mass in the jungle, sometimes using ammunition boxes or sandbags as an altar. He wore a green chasuble made of parachute material “sort of like a poncho. You couldn’t wear white in the jungle.” He carried Mass supplies in a Mass kit.

Father Berger “went where the soldiers were” to hear confessions, celebrate Mass, take care of the sick, wounded and dying and help bury the dead.

He never lost his love of the military chaplany. Years later, he and two nephews were visiting World War II re-enactments and realized that military chaplains were not represented.

“Father Berger, Matthew Ferdock and David Ferdock founded the World War II Chaplains Memorial Foundation in Elysburg to preserve artifacts pertaining to the chaplains’ mission during World War II, to do research about that mission and to educate the public about it.

“We started collecting items chaplains used in World War II such as Mass kits with containers for hosts and Protestant and Jewish kits for their services,” he said. “We got four World War II vehicles which chaplains used.”

Much of the memorabilia is in military cases for displays or reenactments. “Our goal is to have a museum where people can see it and remember the bravery, service and sacrifice of these chaplains,” he said.

While doing research, Father Berger learned of Father Maternowski, who was “little known and all but forgotten today. His sacrifice of D-Day shall not be buried in time. His selfless actions are what motivates our group to promote him toward sainthood.”

“A lot of people haven’t heard about Father Maternowski. Now, they are starting to,” he said.

The next step is for Father Maternowski to be declared venerable. “We’re not there yet,” Father Berger said.

“We’re also exploring military sources to see if he’s worthy of a medal of honor. We need support and prayers for that too.”

Father Berger called history “a source of life lessons, good and bad. We see what we need to embrace and what we need to avoid. We need to hold onto our past.”

For more information on the foundation, visit www.wwiichaplains.com.

(Mary Klaus is a freelance reporter for The Catholic Witness.)
Collection Will Provide Food, Clothing, Shelter to Those in Our Diocese

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

The faces of those in need of food, clothing, and shelter can be hidden from view, even though we might see them every day. Maybe the woman who sits next to you in church on Sunday is sleeping on a friend’s couch to escape an abusive household. Maybe the little boy who rides the school bus with your child goes to bed hungry most nights. Or perhaps the single parent who lives down the street won’t be able to buy winter clothes for his children because he lost his job.

The Matthew 25 Collection, which will take place in parishes November 18, can help these endeavors.

Funds are awarded in the spring, Roche noted. Monies donated to the collection will directly benefit those in need in the Diocese.

Seventy-five percent of the monies collected are distributed to parish-supported projects like soup kitchens, clothing banks, and food banks. Twenty-five percent of the collection is returned to the parishes for their support of those who need assistance.

“Donors should be reassured that all monies collected for the Matthew 25 Collection will be used exclusively for the purposes of providing resources for food, clothing and shelter,” said Kim Roche, Director of the Diocesan Office of Stewardship and Development. “Each year, the Matthew 25 Committee reviews applications and makes the difficult decision regarding who will receive funding. The number of applications for funding from various organizations and agencies throughout the Diocese far outpace the donations collected.”

Last year’s collection raised more than $187,000 for grants that were given to 30 parish-supported organizations that work to help those in the Diocese.

Applications for grants will be accepted in early 2019 and funds are awarded in the spring, Roche noted.

The collection calls to mind Chapter 25 of Matthew’s Gospel, in which the Lord calls the faithful to practice the Corporal Works of Mercy, such as feeding the hungry, clothing the naked and visiting the sick.

The Matthew 25 Collection benefits parish-supported ministries that provide food, clothing and shelter to people in our local communities.

New Tax laws and the Impact on Charitable Giving

By Kim Roche
Special to The Witness

As we quickly approach the end of 2018, many donors will be thinking about making charitable gifts and wondering how the new tax code may impact their philanthropy. The good news, for many donors, is the effect will be minimal.

Here are some highlights:

• There are seven new tax brackets which lower taxes for all taxpayers. The highest tax bracket is now 36%, down from 39.6%. You may have noticed more take-home pay in your paycheck.
• The standard deduction was raised to $24,000 for married couples, $12,000 for singles and $18,000 for heads of households. Itemized deductions will not reduce income taxes unless the total deductions exceed the applicable deduction amount. Analysts predict that households with incomes of $100,000 and above will continue to itemize their deductions, which would include their charitable gifts.

Although the number of filers who itemize will be reduced, the impact on charitable giving is thought to be negligible as the lower tax rates and robust economy may spur additional gifts.

• The estate tax will remain at 40%, but the exemption doubles from $5.49M to $11.2M for individual estates, and from $10.98M to $22.4M for couples.

Ninety-nine point nine percent of estates will not be subject to these taxes under the new law. Under this change, the cost to make charitable bequests to other heirs is reduced.

• Donors age 70½ can continue to make gifts directly from their IRAs to qualified charities and can direct up to $100,000 annually. This is a great way to support non-profits with pre-tax dollars. The process is simple, and you can direct your gift in support of more than one nonprofit. For example, you can use your IRA to satisfy your Lenten Appeal pledge.

Donors looking to increase their income in retirement while also leaving a legacy for a favorite non-profit may want to consider a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA). Rates for CGAs have increased effective July 1, 2018, and are quite attractive. Charitable Remainder Trusts and Charitable Gift Annuities can be funded with appreciated stocks. No capital gains taxes are due on gifts of appreciated securities, regardless of itemization. With the robust stock market, using these assets may be a way to make philanthropic gifts, such as fulfilling your weekly collection amount with a gift of appreciated stocks.

Giving the right gift at the right time and in the right way can increase the gift and enhance the giving experience. The Diocesan Office of Stewardship and Development is here to help individuals with philanthropic gifts to their parish or in support of Catholic schools. The office recommends that individuals consult their professional advisers before making any gift plans. For more information, please contact Mrs. Kim Roche, Director, Office of Stewardship and Development, at 717-657-4804, ext. 245, or via email at kroche@hbgdiocese.org.

Consider a Charitable Gift Annuity

Looking to increase your income in retirement while supporting the Diocese of Harrisburg and/or our Catholic schools and parishes? A Charitable Gift Annuity may be the right vehicle for you. Rates have increased as of July 1, 2018. Here’s an example of what you could expect for a gift of $25,000 (minimum to establish a CGA is $10,000) with one annuitant.

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</table>

The Diocesan Office of Stewardship and Development can provide personalized illustrations of the potential tax savings you may enjoy while supporting causes you are passionate about. Prior to committing to any charitable gift, consult your personal advisers.

To learn more, contact:
Mrs. Kim Roche
Director, Office of Stewardship and Development
Diocese of Harrisburg
4800 Union Deposit Rd
Harrisburg, PA 17111
Phone: 717-657-4804, ext. 245
Email: kroche@hbgdiocese.org

www.hbgdiocese.org/giving
Lancaster Ministry Helps Homeless Secure a Permanent Place

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

For eight months, Jessica Arias and her two children lived in a shelter.

It wasn’t Arias’ first go-round with homelessness. The first time was when she fled an abusive relationship. The second was after her daughter suffered an unfortunate circumstance.

“I went from couch to couch trying to figure out where to stay. I stayed in a friend’s car. I pondered whether or not I should continue being with my kids, that maybe they were better off staying with family members so I could get on my feet,” Arias said.

She found shelter with the YWCA, and worked to forge a new path. She maintained steady work, continued therapy and looked for a place to live. After eight months in the shelter, she found permanent housing and signed a lease.

Arias, her daughter, 8, and son, 5, slept on the floor the first night in their rental. The place was bare.

“I had absolutely nothing but a few toys for my kids and two suitcases full of clothing,” she said.

Lancaster-based organization Off the Streets furnished everything the family needed.

“They brought furniture, toiletries, towels, beds, dressers – everything that a family would need to be able to start a home,” Arias said.

Arias and her children are among 1,800 people who have found permanent housing through Off the Streets. An outreach of St. John Neumann Parish in Lancaster, the ministry helps homeless people overcome barriers to securing a stable place to live.

The Lancaster chapter of Off the Streets began in 2013 by its founder, Deacon Michael Oles. Its founding chapter is in Connecticut, with outreaches in California and the newly-established OTS Susquehanna chapter in Columbia, Lancaster County.

In Lancaster, Off the Streets connects with social service agencies to provide security deposits and furnishings as homeless people transition into housing. “Some of the people we help are coming from shelters, or living in their cars,” said George Stadler, co-administrator of Off the Streets.

This is where the program steps in to help ensure a successful transition. The all-volunteer ministry is divided into subcommittees of rental previewers, movers, warehouse organizers and fund raisers.

Off the Streets pays security deposits for individuals or families who have a rental agreement and sufficient funds to pay rent, and are vetted through a social service agency. In Lancaster, a security deposit can cost $750.

A team of previewers from the ministry visits the rental before the family moves in, to determine its space and the furnishings that are needed.

Those furnishings are housed at Off the Streets’ storage facility, which holds a wealth of donated mattresses, bedframes, linens, chairs, tables, dishware and other necessary household items. On move-in day, volunteers haul the items by truckload to furnish the space.

The ministry helps 8-10 families a month. It has moved nearly 1,800 people off the streets of Lancaster since it began five years ago.

“We estimate that 80 percent of those we have helped have remained off the streets,” said Lena Hohenadel, publicity volunteer. “Eighty-five percent of those we help are women and children.”

“This program is about respecting the dignity of people,” she said.

“It fills a gap for people who need housing, and it’s been good for our parish because it is a constant means of outreach to others,” said Father Daniel Powell, pastor of St. John Neumann Parish.

Although Off the Streets is a ministry of the parish, it involves the volunteer efforts and support of a number of churches and organizations in the county.

“With Off the Streets, we as a Christian community are reminding people that it’s about showing Christ to others,” Father Powell said.

Gratitude for the Grants

Off the Streets is an all-volunteer ministry. Its efforts are supported, in part, by grant money distributed from the Diocese’s annual 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 Off the Streets. Twenty-five percent of the collection is given back to the parishes for their support of people in need.

“We need grants from organizations like Matthew 25 so that we have the money to provide security deposits,” Stadler said.

Facilitating 8-10 moves per month, the ministry needs $7,000 on a monthly basis to pay rental fees.

Off the Streets has received grants from the Matthew 25 Collection since 2013.

“We appreciate the funding we’ve received from the Matthew 25 grants, and are good stewards of that blessing,” Stadler said.

“As a retired person, I want to spend my time in a way that is beneficial to other people,” he said. “Off the Streets gives me an opportunity to do that.”

“It makes me feel that I am responding to the call in the Gospel of Matthew 25, to give shelter to the homeless in our community,” Arias said.

Arias said Off the Streets has given her hope for her family’s future.

“Off the Streets has definitely changed my life. They reminded me that there are people out there who don’t need to know you to help you,” she said. “You always think, ‘I’m alone. There’s no one out there. People don’t know me, so why would they want to help me?’”

“It feels good to know there are people out there who don’t judge you, who really want to just help. They provided a warm place for us, to be able to walk through and call home,” she said. “When my daughter saw [Off the Streets volunteers] come in with bunks and furniture, she lit up like a Christmas tree. To me, that’s enough, when I know that my kids are happy.”
In addition to traveling together, members of the Church are also under the caring and loving arms of Mary, the Mother of the Church. “She has one arm before us with the model of her discipleship and one arm behind us with her prayerful intercession,” said Father Sullivan. “And she is there at the finish line, calling to us, her eyes fixed on us, encouraging us as we make this journey to where she already is, to be with her Son forever.”

Renewing Faith
Many of those attending the pilgrimage explored the Basilica and attended their choice of four Conversations in Faith sessions after the opening Mass. The rich history of the Basilica, considered America’s Catholic Church, could be seen throughout the detailed mosaics in the chapels, artwork and statues. “I’ve never been here before, so I’m in awe,” said Candy Bott, a parishioner from the Harrisburg Diocese. “We love this. The Church is gorgeous,” said Anthony Devlin, who traveled with his family from St. Joseph Parish in Mechanicsburg.

The pilgrimage not only brought spiritual renewal, but also a sense of peace for the many gathered. “It has been so uplifting and spiritual,” said LaDora Field from St. Joan of Arc Parish in Hershey. “I was looking for some peace and I’ve found it,” said Marge Michalski. Peace and comfort during these times of uncertainty were a message heard throughout the day. During the closing prayer service, Father Joshua R. Brommer, pastor of the Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick in Harrisburg, spoke to the pilgrims about the merciful love and protection provided by the Blessed Mother. “Even in our own time, when we struggle through egregious acts of infidelity perpetrated by members of the Church; even when we find ourselves unsettled and uncertain with leaders who have betrayed our trust; we continue to sing a song to the Almighty who does great things for us and through us,” Father Brommer said. He added that those faithful members of the Church have been entrusted with the work of the Church, which cannot be undermined by the few unfaithful.

Father Brommer then recounted the words of Bishop Ronald Gainer from the opening Mass celebrating the Diocese’s anniversary, specifically that there is “work to be done, and it is the transcendent work of Jesus Christ,” and that it “is the work of Christ and only we...can do it.” “In light of all that has happened in these last few months, these words given new life by Bishop Gainer ring ever truer for you and for me,” Father Brommer said. “The great work of mercy entrusted to us now is the renewal and purification of the Church in Harrisburg. It is mercy because we are being reminded of who we truly are and what truly matters. It is mercy because the grace of humility and even humiliation allows us to become the lowly ones lifted up by the Lord and the hungry filled with good things. And why? So that the Lord may show his strength through our weakness, and his mercy in our brokenness.”

Father Brommer issued the pilgrims a call to action. “As a great crowd of witnesses, renewed and enlivened by this holy pilgrimage, we are called to return to our parishes, our schools, our workplaces, and our homes in the Diocese of Harrisburg recommitted to those good works entrusted to the Church,” he said. “Faithful members of our Diocese have proclaimed the Gospel for 150 years. We must continue what they have begun.”

The 150th anniversary celebration for the Diocese of Harrisburg will continue through March 3, 2019. To view more photos and video from the pilgrimage, visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/DioceseofHarrisburg.
Abuse. Cover up. Scandal. These and many more words have been staples when speaking about the Catholic Church for the past several months. But there is good news and good work the Church and the Diocese of Harrisburg continue to accomplish.

In the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Father David Danneker, Vicar General for the Diocese, presented detailed information on the Church and the Diocese of today.

“When we focus on the negative and tend to notice all that is going wrong in our world, we miss God’s grace and presence before us,” Father Danneker said. “What we focus on is what we give power to. In focusing on the negative, we miss God’s grace. Our own vision can be so attuned to one color. It might be the color of clergy sexual abuse; it might be the color of declining Mass attendance; it might be the color of cynicism. It makes us blind to the colors of God. Colors of compassion, mercy, forgiveness, peace and love.”

He continued that the whole Church has a responsibility to offer decisive leadership in the area of sexual misconduct, adding that “crisis” in Chinese is one word but has two meanings, one of which is “great opportunity.”

“We have a great opportunity facing us,” Father Danneker said. “Crisis is often accompanied by an opportunity for extraordinary growth and leadership. So let me share with you the “good” that is going on in our Church and our Diocese.”

Throughout the United States, the Catholic Church annually provides:

• Education for 2.6 million students every day, at a cost of $10 billion per year. Because these students are in Catholic schools, American taxpayers are seeing a savings of $18 billion.
• More than 230 Catholic colleges and universities, providing higher education to more than 700,000 students
• Medical care for 1 in every 5 people
• Clothing, food and shelter for 1 of every 5 indigents
• More than $10 billion to support various social agencies

The Diocese of Harrisburg has just as impressive details on its work throughout its 15 county region. Father Danneker shared that the Diocese is:

• Providing a Catholic education and instruction to more than 22,200 students through its schools and religious education programs
• Supporting 26 dedicated seminarians studying for the priesthood
• Assisting countless individuals in finding hope and healing through the many addiction resources centers supported by the Diocese
• Providing faith-filled education and inspiration to its members through various conferences. This year’s Women’s Conference brought together more than 750 women from the Diocese, with the Men’s Conference bringing in more than 1,000.
• Expanding and seeing growth through multicultural ministries, including the Black, Hispanic, Korean, Vietnamese and Italian Apostolates, as well as the Ancient Order of Hibernians (Irish Catholic fraternal organization) and the Kolo “Marian” Club (Croatian folklore ensemble).
• Providing ministry to college students through 12 college campus ministries
• Providing chaplains to bring comfort and compassion to those in 14 hospitals, nursing homes and retirement communities
• Bringing spiritual guidance to our incarcerated brothers and sisters in two state penitentiaries and 14 county prisons
• Providing pre- and post-marriage support and education for more than 370 couples
• Supporting the efforts and studies of 40 men in the Permanent Diaconate program

“The Catholic Church helps millions of people every day of the week, every week of the month, every month of the year,” Father Danneker said. “What is essential, is that each of us steps forward in Christ’s name to hold out our hand to someone. There is no other way than to walk with God. I cannot fail but mention how strong Bishop Gainer has been for all of us during this time. So be a proud member of the Church. Speak up for your faith with honor and reverence. Continue to learn what our Church does, not just for our fellow Catholics, but for every religion, every citizen. Never, ever, ever be ashamed to be a Catholic.”

To learn more about the work of the Diocese of Harrisburg, visit www.HBGDiocese.org.
African Saints Celebrated during Pilgrimage

By Rachel Bryson, M.S.
The Catholic Witness

Quick. In the next three minutes, write down the names of as many black Catholic saints as you can.

How many did you get? 20? 15? 10? 5?

This was the start of Dr. Camille Brown’s talk on African Saints during the Diocese’s recent pilgrimage to the National Shrine in Washington, D.C. Many in the crowd had two or three names of African saints by the end of the exercise, but had many more by the end of Dr. Brown’s talk.

“Telling their stories is vital,” Dr. Brown, the associate superintendent for school leadership and community programs for the Archdiocese of Baltimore, said to the crowd gathered in the Queen of Missions Chapel in the Basilica. Dr. Brown added that African saints have wonderful stories, but they are seldom discussed. Take for example Moses’ wife, Zipporah.

“Aaron and Miriam (Moses’ siblings) were on his case because he married a Cushite woman,” Dr. Brown said. “She was a woman of color.”

Dr. Brown added that throughout the Bible, there are many geographical references to the African continent, but we often don’t recognize where these areas are.

“In Acts, there is a story of Philip and an Ethiopian man,” Dr. Brown said. Philip baptized this man, who then returned to his native land. “Because of this text, we know that Christianity was in Africa in the first century.”

Dr. Brown shared many stories of African saints, and those on the path to sainthood, who were martyrs for the Church, including St. Maurice and the Theban Legion. This legion was sent to kill Christians and ordered to worship pagan gods.

“He (St. Maurice) refused. He was given many chances and each time, refused,” Dr. Brown said. “All of his men also refused.” Dr. Brown added the entire Legion, more than 6,000 men, was killed 10 men at a time, in an effort to change their minds.

Another story Dr. Brown shared was about St. Moses the Black. Described as an “outlaw saint,” Moses the Black was a slave, but was so bad, he was kicked out of his master’s house. He ended up on the streets, robbing and being a “villain.”

“He had a conversion and became a monk,” Dr. Brown said. “He was the outlaw saint and his story offers the hope that anyone can change.”

“The Church welcomes everyone and calls everyone to a life of holiness,” Dr. Brown added. “It’s important that we get these stories out. There are countless saints of African descent.”

Those who attended Dr. Brown’s talk left knowing far more about the many African saints within the Catholic Church, with many expressing they intended to learn more.

“I thought the talk was excellent,” said Pearlie Ragsdale, a parishioner of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Harrisburg. “Some of the saints which were mentioned, I knew about, but there are (at least) two I never heard of. When I get home, I’m going to do some research on them. I really enjoyed it.”

To view Dr. Brown’s talk, visit our website at www.HBGDiocese.org.
Learning about the faith and history of the Church was a fun activity for youth attending the Diocese’s pilgrimage. Close to 85 children participated in a scavenger hunt, hosted by the Diocesan Council of Catholic Girl Scouts, American Heritage Girls and Campfire Girls. All youth were invited to participate and explore the Basilica, while searching for eight “hidden” treasures.

“We wanted to put something together for youth during the free time (of the pilgrimage),” said Betty Roksandic, a volunteer with the Scouts. “We wanted to expose the youth to the Basilica so that, hopefully, they will want to come back.”

Roksandic explained that the hunt took place on both levels of the Basilica. Youth were given a workbook passport, with a brief explanation of the items to find, along with a black and white picture. Each participant was also given a sheet of colored stickers, depicting the item to be found. Once the items had been located, the youth had several questions to answer about each item.

At the end of the hunt, youth could show their completed books and receive a commemorative patch, designed specifically for the event.

“We had about 85 kids participate in the hunt, even a few that were not from our Diocese,” Roksandic said. “The kids seemed to find all the places. It’s just something for them to do, so they can come to an event like this and have fun, but also learn.”

“We wanted to give the kids more exposure to some of the details and the history of the Church,” Kerry Walton explained.

“There was so much neat stuff,” said Patti Devlin from St. Joseph Parish in Mechanicsburg. Patti, her husband Anthony and their three children, Dominic, Alexia and Haley, attended the pilgrimage as a family. “This was a great activity for the day and it really got the children involved.”

“We got to learn about the statues and the people they represent,” said Alexia.

Youth were asked to find and answer questions about eight areas of the Basilica in order to complete the hunt. Through the hunt, they learned more about four saints, The Trinity Dome, Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Miraculous Medal and Our Lady of Fatima.

At the end of the hunt, youth were encouraged to participate in a celebratory sing-along.

To view more photos from the scavenger hunt and the pilgrimage, visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/DioceseofHarrisburg.
DELONE CATHOLIC SET FOR ANOTHER NOVEMBER RUN AT STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

Capturing their third District 3 Class 2A championship in a row, Delone Catholic’s girls’ volleyball team is poised to avenge last year’s state final loss. No matter the sport, it is always a bonus to be playing your best come playoff time, and for the Squirettes that seems to be the truth. They played arguably their best match of the season against York Catholic on Nov. 3 at Central York High School to earn their district gold medal. Given the Fighting Irish beat Delone Catholic in the regular season on Sept. 27 for their first win in 10 years over the Squirettes, on paper these two squads are evenly matched. Yet, winning a District 3 title and a berth in the PIAA playoffs these days means beating Delone when it really counts in early November. The win over York Catholic (25-19, 25-15, 25-20) was the Squirettes’ 13th District 3 championship in volleyball.

Delone Catholic trailed in the crucial second set, but an 18-3 run including 10 straight points killed the momentum of the Fighting Irish. York Catholic’s disappointing loss finished their great season at 18-4, as District 3 sends one team into the PIAA 16-team field in Class 2A. It’s the third straight year that Delone (21-3) has denied York Catholic a spot in the state tournament. Delone Catholic outside hitter, Emily Miller, goes high for a kill. She had 15 kills in the championship game.

The state final will be played on Nov. 17. “We are not going there just to be there,” Coach Jason Leppo told the press after his team’s 13th district celebration. “We want to go in with a mindset that we can put together a run.” And run is what Delone Catholic seems to do every November, when they get there together playing their best volleyball.

YORK CATHOLIC PUTS UP GREAT FIGHT AGAINST CAMP HILL IN DISTRICT 3 SOCCER FINAL

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

It has been seven seasons since the Fighting Irish of York Catholic (15-6) played in the District 3 Class 1A soccer final. In their return to the big stage at Hersheypark Stadium on a balmy Halloween night, the Fighting Irish ran into two-time defending District 3 champ Camp Hill, who took all the suspense out of the match from the start.

Scoring just two minutes into the game, the Lions forced York Catholic to play catch-up the remaining 78 minutes. Camp Hill is an athletic and talented squad, and it’s no fluke that they have now won three straight championships after besting the Fighting Irish, 2-0, to complete the hat trick.

Camp Hill also played a physical style of soccer the referees consistently allowed. The Lions contested every 50-50 ball while limiting the Irish’s scoring looks. Never could the Irish — who put plenty of talent of their own on the pitch — get wide on the speedy Lions to stretch the field. It’s not like the Lions had many good scoring chances either, however, the two they did have were buried in the back of the net.

York Catholic had not given up more than two goals all season, and now continue their great season as they move on to the PIAA state tournament where they may just run into the Lions again.

Above: Benjamin Bullen, midfielder for the Fighting Irish, heads a ball forward to create a scoring chance.

Left: York Catholic defender Sean Lavallee battles for a ball against a Camp Hill midfielder.

ROBERT J. CHADDERDON, ELBE PHOTOGRAPHY

Delone Catholic celebrates its 13th District 3 volleyball championship after a three-set win against York Catholic.

CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

Delone Catholic outside hitter, Emily Miller, goes high for a kill. She had 15 kills in the championship game.
York Catholic High School is set to launch a “Grow Today, Impact Tomorrow” capital campaign designed to provide resources for needed renovations and improvements to the high school with a focus on academic, student life and extra-curricular experiences.

The goal is to raise a total of $8 million over three to five years, which will allow for two separate phases of renovation. Among the projects targeted in Phase I are renovated classrooms with facility-wide air-conditioning, upgrades and modernization to science labs and science lecture rooms, facility-wide safety enhancements, including an elevator, the creation of a new Student and Media Center, which will also house a College and Career Readiness Center, student center, renovated chapel and lobby upgrade, and the installation of a turf athletic field that will be used by 12 athletic teams.

“STEM has been a focus of a YC education since the construction of the Brady Science Wing during the Cold War,” said principal Katie Seufert. “While our building has remained much the same, our programs have continued to meet the evolving needs of our students into the 21st century. We are excited to revive the building of the late 1950s to match that of our outstanding 21st century spiritual, academic, and extra-curricular programs.”

The original timeframe for the campaign has shifted, however, as unexpected foundational and lead gifts have already generated $5 million prior to the launch of the campaign. With a projected cost of $4-4.5 million needed to complete Phase I, plans are already underway to upgrade classrooms, including air conditioning, and to install the turf field by the upcoming 2019-2020 school year.

As a result of the funds already in place, the “Grow Today, Impact Tomorrow” campaign will focus efforts on raising the remaining money so that the goals of Phase II of the campaign can be realized. One goal is the conversion and modernizing of the Brady Science Wing that serves seventh and eighth grade students, including air-conditioned classrooms, science labs, central offices, additional restrooms, and safety upgrades. Other goals for Phase II include home and guest grandstands at the new turf field, along with a concession stand, restrooms, and locker rooms at the athletic field.

If the campaign is successful, it will enable York Catholic to be able to increase enrollment from its current 618 students by 20 students a year over a five-year period and lead to the hiring of additional full-time staff. Given the momentum talk the upcoming campaign has already generated, Seufert is optimistic the campaign goal can be reached.

“The response so far has been overwhelmingly positive and we have found the capital campaign is energizing not only our current students and staff, but also re-energizing our alumni and friends in the York community,” said Seufert. “We have been presenting the current needs of the school to alumni as they gather for class reunions, sporting events, and other events, and each time we showcase the plans we have for the school the excitement seems to grow even more.”
The Called
A series of profiles on clergy and religious

Tell me about your childhood.
I had a twin sister who died of spinal meningitis in 1948, when we were three years old. Her name was Frances Ann. When she passed away I was upset of course. My parents said, “God took her home,” and I said, “Well you tell him to bring her right back.” I’ve come to realize that she is my intercessor in Heaven in a very special way. I don’t have any other brothers and sisters.

When did you become interested in the priesthood?
We never missed Mass in junior high and high school, I would go to Benediction on Sundays. Confirmation was a big change in my life. I began to pray. My sponsor gave me a St. Joseph Misericordia, and I began to say those prayers in the evening. Throughout high school and college, I was doing a lot of spiritual reading and going to novenas, trying to get more and more involved in the Church.

My father worked at the top of a coal breaker and he fell and landed on the cement floor. My mother took care of him and was working part time. I commuted to Bloomsburg University and would come home and help care for him. I was thinking about going to the seminary, but how could I?
I became a teacher and was hired in Mount Carmel. I taught high school biology from 1967-1979. Bishop Waltershield (Auxiliary Bishop of Pittsburgh) was in my classroom. I was settled in as a teacher and it was through the Charismatic Renewal that my faith deepened and I entered seminary.

Growing up in my parish at St. Joseph’s, we had the Holy Ghost Fathers and the Conventual Franciscans, and they were all wonderful examples and inspirations for me. I would have become a Franciscan, but I was concerned for my mother at that point, and I wanted to stay in the Diocese. I was chaplain at Holy Spirit Hospital when she died. She saw six years of my priesthood, and I was there caring for her in her last moments.

How did you get involved in Catholic Charismatic Renewal?
Father Lawrence, who is now Msgr. Lawrence and pastor of St. Columbia’s in Bloomsburg, came to Mount Carmel and gave a Life in the Spirit seminar. At this point, I was going to church faithfully, but there wasn’t much faith-sharing you could do. I was hungry for something more. This was in 1967-68.

One day at Mass, I looked up at the tabernacle and whispered, “I don’t know if you’re real or not, but I’m going to keep coming to Mass to set an example for my students.” That very day in the church bulletin, it said Father Lawrence was going to give the talk, the Life in the Spirit seminar. I remember seeing a photo in The Catholic Witness of people involved in Charismatic Renewal, and you saw them with their hands raised. I thought, “They have something that I don’t have.” My mother and I went to the seminar together.

The Renewal reminds us that we are baptized and confirmed, and we believe the gifts of our baptism and confirmation come alive when we pray over people who are hungering for something more. It’s a real growth in spiritual life.

After becoming involved, my spiritual life was no longer personal and private. I would get up and talk about the Lord. That prepared me for seminary and priesthood.

What has changed for you since the release of the Grand Jury report?
We see the horror and the reality of abuse, and can’t even imagine what it did to the victims and how damaged they are. I went online to read the report, and it makes you sick to your stomach. But what sustains me is my faith and that Jesus founded the Church.

I always say that we swim in the faith of the people. When I was in the seminary, our spiritual director said that as a priest, you are going to become overwhelmed with things and you are supposed to be an example to the people, but you’ll swim in their faith because it will be strong and they’ll pray for you. The people in the parish know that I spread broad shame goes over all of us priests in a sense, and so they ask how we’re doing.

Mount Carmel football team comes here for Mass, and then on Friday nights I go to the game. When this was all hitting the news, I thought, “The other team isn’t going to know me, but I still feel it as if even someone insults me.” I bought my ticket and the lady there said, “Father Frank, you just had my father’s funeral. Thank you.” Then I go along and see all the parishioners, and no one was the blob. A guy came up and said, “Father Frank, I haven’t seen you since I was in high school. You’re why I majored in biology and went to become a nurse.” It was an affirmation at a time when I needed it.

I believe that healing will come, the Spirit will come. In the history of the Church, every time there has been horrible things, the Lord raises up new saints and calls people to greater holiness. Praying for reparation for the Church and all the victims is so important. There is hope for the future because our hope is in the Lord, not in ourselves.

Name: Father Francis Karwacki
Assignment: Pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Mount Carmel, and Liaison for Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the Diocese of Harrisburg
Hometown: Mount Carmel
Ordained: April 9, 1983

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.

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. Grannie’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, chances 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 from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the parish hall. Food, chances stands, jewelry, crafts, games for children and a baked goods’ sale. Santa and Mrs. Claus appear from 11 a.m.-2 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.

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 717-309-2485 or visit www.stfxcc.org.

St. Peter Parish in Elizabeth town, holiday craft fair in the new parish hall, Dec. 1 from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. More than 30 vendor tables, unique craft and handmade items, Christmas and holiday items, books, baked goods including pies and cookies, as well as chicken corn soup and lunch.

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

CCW of St. Joan of Arc Parish in Hershey, Christmas bazaar on Nov. 10 from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Grandma’s attic treasures, flea market, baked goods, jewelry, crafts, religious items, Christmas decorations, toys, breakfast, lunch and chances to win gift baskets.

CCW of St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Annville, holiday bazaar on Nov. 17 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. in the parish social hall. Handmade items for decorating and gift giving, homemade candies, cookies, pies and cakes. Café items for breakfast and lunch.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Abbottstown, Christmas bazaar on Nov. 17 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the parish social hall, located at 6084 West Canal Road, Abbottstown. Food, food items, Christmas shopping, breakfast and lunch. Contact Sister Rosanne Karmazin, 717-259-0611.

Divine Redeemer Parish in Mount Carmel, Holiday Fare, Nov. 10 from 11 a.m.-8 p.m. in Divine Mercy Hall. Holiday theme baskets displayed in Divine Redeemer Office, Nov. 25 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and Nov. 10 from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Fair features holiday cookies, ethnic foods, baked goods and raffles.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Spring Grove, Christmas bazaar, Nov. 17 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. in the parish center. Crafters and vendors, children’s room with crafts and face painting, raffle items, homemade pies, kitchen open for breakfast and lunch. Register for breakfast with Santa (children under 10 eat free) at 717-223-1704. Children’s room with crafts and face painting. Silent auction, bake sale, fundraising dinner for 10 prepared by Father Hoke. Visit www.sacredhearts.org.

More BAZAARS & CRAFT SHOWS, page 16
Jubilee: The Holy Ground
The Ellis Family
By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
Special to The Witness

Not long ago, I was having lunch with my sister at a restaurant that was close to being a fast-food place. Our waiter asked, “May I serve you by getting the beverage of your choice?” His uniform was impeccably ironed. There was nothing out of place, soiled or wrinkled. There was something “different” about him in his approach. He gave us a level of attention way beyond the culture of the restaurant.

As we ordered, his entire attention was focused on us. He stood at perfect attention, with his hands behind his back. As he walked away, I said to my sister, “Wow! That was amazing! He is truly different!” Our meals appeared. He presented our plates and said, “It has been my honor to serve you!”

As I ate my hamburger and my sister her hotdog, I pondered what his story was. I asked him, “Who are you?” He laughed and explained that he was a chef in a local restaurant that had been consumed by fire. He said, “I believe that even burgers and hotdogs can and should be a dining experience! I want so desperately to open my own place. This job is just for extra money in order to make that dream come true.” Needless to say, my sister and I gave him a very generous tip. I could not help think about this story as I continue to share stories of people within our Diocese who live their faith. Andrew and Marika Ellis, members of Assumption BVM Parish in Lancaster, are such individuals. Their pastor described them with these words: “Andrew and Marika are raising and homeschooling their 7 children in a beautiful Catholic household. As a Marriage Preparation Mentor Couple and as the Coordinators of our parish based program, they embody the Church’s teaching on the Sacrament of Marriage. With a beautiful spirit of joy, they are not only an inspiration to their children, the homeschool community and the couples they mentor, but they are a radiant light of hope in our parish and the larger community.”

When I caught up with this couple, I wanted them to put into their words how they embody the teaching of the Church about marriage. They both mentioned how they have taught the meaning of marriage and devotion to the Church. They were taught as children what it meant to serve one another. From a very young age, their parents taught the faith by integrating it into the life they lived.

Marika explained, “This has been the central aspect of our marriage. It was on Mercy Sunday that Andrew proposed to me. He had asked my parents for their permission the weekend before. If was after our adoration period and Mercy Sunday devotions when Andrew dropped down on one knee and asked, ‘May I serve you for the rest of your life?”

They both said their personal call of holiness is found within the vocation of marriage. In order to live this vocation to the full, they must serve each other. Their children see this and learn what service is.

Marika explained, “When you have the heart of a servant, your eyes are off yourself; you attend to the needs of your brothers and sisters. In order to practice that, we don’t ask to pass items around our table. We have to be aware of one another’s needs before they have to ask.”

I questioned them further, “How do you mentor couples that have not had the experience of a good marriage as an example?”

Andrew said, “First we have to evangelize them! The strength that one needs to serve your spouse as well as your children must come from a relationship with God that is strengthened through the sacraments and the Church.”

Marika continued, “Christ poured out himself for the Church. Andrew pours out himself out of love to us and we receive that love and give it back to him. Our service is lived by us laying down our life for one another. Jesus is our model in how to do this. The vocation of marriage is a vision [of our] heart[s] of the Trinity. The Father giving Himself to the Son, the Son giving Himself to the Father and the Holy Spirit coming forth from that union.”

Isn’t this what true holiness is all about? Holiness that we are all called to live. Holiness that bears fruit in our life as contagious joy! Holiness that impels us to serve.

How many I serve YOU? This certainly has a different “ring.” Indeed!

(Sister Geralyn Schmidt is the Wide Area Network Coordinator at the Diocese of Harrisburg and the Director of Formation for Wives 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.)

Saint Spotlight

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini
1850-1917
Feast Day – November 13
Patroness of Immigrants and Hospital Administrators

Francesca Cabrini was born in Sant’Angelo, Italy. She joined the Daughters of the Sacred Heart and began working in an orphanage. When it closed, the bishop advised her, along with seven Sisters, to found the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart. In 1889, Pope Leo XIII directed her toward the Italian immigrants in the United States. When she arrived in New York City, there were no accommodations so the archbishop told her to return to Italy. She refused. The immigrants in crowded tenements offered many opportunities for the Sisters to evangelize and minister, becoming a safe harbor. Even though she had a great fear of drowning, Mother made 23 ocean crossings.

“I will go anywhere and do anything in order to communicate the love of Jesus to those who do not know him or have forgotten him,” she said. She had business acumen and established 27 hospitals, orphanages, nurseries and schools in the United States and traveled to Europe and Central and South America. Mother Cabrini died December 22, 1917, in her own Columbus Hospital in Chicago. She became a naturalized citizen and was canonized in 1946 as the first American saint. She is buried in the St. Frances Cabrini Shrine in Washington Heights, New York.

(Compiled by Angela Orsini)

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And remember, previous editions of the newspaper – dating back to early 2011 – are also available online. You can find them at www.hbgdiocese.org. Just follow the News/Events tab to The Catholic Witness page.
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 StPetersBible@gmx.com.

Public square Rosary rallies on the square in New Oxford the second Saturday of the month, in Littlestown 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. Pau- line Center at 1150 Chestnut Street in Kulpmon on Fri- days 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.

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 Deeney prayer groups. Call Joyce at 717-308-7245.

I Thirst Prayer Group gathers for music to worship our Lord, along with Gospel reflections from Father Modestus Nguw, O.P., on Nov. 14 at 7 p.m in the Cafeteria of St. Joan of Arc Parish, Hershey.


Veterans Day Mass, Nov. 10 at 8 a.m., at St. Peter Church in Columbia. Mass will honor veterans, active duty military and their families. Breakfast will follow in the parish center.


Noreen Neitz Memorial Walk to Benefit St. Francis Xavier School

St. Francis Xavier School in Gettysburg and the Noreen Neitz Scholarship Fund are hosting the sixth annual Noreen Neitz Memorial 10K and 5K Run and Sufficiently Radical 1 Mile Walk, Dec. 15. The 10K and 5K begin at 10 a.m., and the 1 mile walk begins at 10:15 a.m. The race and walk will begin and end at St. Francis Xavier School, 465 Table Rock Road, Gettysburg.

Noreen Neitz was the spiritual leader of the St. Francis Xavier youth group and a strong advocate for service to others when she lost her battle with cancer on July 10, 2013. During her last months, Noreen spent much of her time writing on her blog, Sufficiently Radical, and stayed active by walking within a mile of her house. A scholarship fund was developed in her name, encouraging youth to dedicate their time and service to others. The remainder of the proceeds will be used to provide tuition assistance to St. Francis Xavier School families in need.

Proceeds from the event will be divided between the St. Francis Xavier School Development Fund and the Noreen Neitz Scholarship Fund. The scholarship fund will award a portion of funds to 8th grade students attending St. Francis Xavier School who show service to the community and are active members of the parish and its youth group. For more information, call 717-647-9124, or JoAnn, 717-647-2287.

BreakThrough, a Diocesan Catholic praise and worship band, seeks a drummer. Contact Bob Ribic at bobribic2@yahoo.com or 717-571-4217.

The Little Flower Club, Christmas trip to the Pines Dinner Theater in Allentown, Dec. 5. Cost $105 includes bus, lunch buffet, unlimited drinks of coffee, soda and iced tea, all gratuities and taxes. RSVP by Nov. 14. Call Rose Carter at 717-774-6783 or Helen Shirk at 717-774-5671.

I Thirst Prayer Group gathering for music to worship our Lord, along with Gospel reflections from Father Modestus Nguw, O.P., on Nov. 14 from 6:45-9 p.m. at St. Joseph Parish in Mechanicsburg. The 177 Project, an evening of Faith-based Adoration and Live music, provided by nationally known artists Marie Miller and Ben Wagner. The 177 Project aims to hold one of these evenings in all 177 dioceses in the country, and St. Joe’s will host this event for the Diocese of Har- riburg. Tickets are free and available at www.the177project.com. Contact St. Joe’s at 717-766-9453 with questions.

Pilgrimages & Retreats

Holy Land Pilgrimage, Feb. 14-24, 2019. Four nights along the Sea of Galilee, five nights in Jerusa- lem. Pilgrims to Mass at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Church of the Holy Land. Pilgrims will receive a medal. Cost is $1,749, land-only package. Pilgrims must ar- range their own flights. For information or a flyer, contact Julie and Randy Rasp at raps1833@comcast.net or 717-394-7715.

Join Msgr. William J. King on a pilgrimage to Ire- land, leaving Nov. 4 and returning Nov. 13, 2019. For information or a flyer, contact Jeannie Ishman at jeannieish@steas.net.

Join Father Job Foote on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, May 6-15, 2019. Cost of $3,390 includes roundtrip airfare, double occupancy hotel rooms, breakfast and dinner daily, nine days sightseeing in private bus, Christian guide and more. Contact the St. Paul the Apostle Parish at 717-867-1525 or Father Job at 717-875-3569 for information. Informa- tional meeting is Nov. 29 at 6 p.m. in the parish hall.

Pilgrimage to Oberammergau Passion Play, Sept. 8-18, 2020. Join Father Job Foote and St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Amnville on an Austria and Germany pilgrimage that includes Vienna, Salzburg, Munich, and the Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany. Cost of $3,995 includes round-trip airfare, daily Mass in historic churches, first class and select hotels based on double occupancy, first class tickets to the Passion Play, breakfast daily and most dinners, English-speaking tour director, sightseeing and transfers by private motor coach. For information or reservations, call Mary Langan at 717-867-1525 or 717-379-4779.

Fundraisers & Events

BreakThrough, a Diocesan Catholic praise and worship band, seeks a drummer. Contact Bob Ribic at bobribic2@yahoo.com or 717-571-4217.

The Silence of Mary Home is a Christian family home at 200 S. Grant St., in the section of Harrisburg. For information, and to RSVP, call 717-737-4107 (Mon.-Thurs.) or e-mail silenceofmaryvolunteer@verizon.net. Learn about The Silence of Mary Home at www.thesilenceofmary.org.

The Silence of Mary Home’s annual gala, "The Tree of Life," Nov. 18 at the Sheraton Harrisburg- Carlisle Hotel, Harrisburg. Cost is $105 per person. Ticket includes a two-pound container. Holy Name Society sauerkraut sale, $3 per quart, or four quarts for $10. Holy Name Society pepper cabbage sale, $2 per pint, $4 per quart.


Breakfast with Santa at Lancaster Catholic High School, Dec. 8 from 8:30-10:30 a.m. Performances by LCHS’ Fine and Performing Arts students, a mes- sage from Santa and holiday activities. Tickets are $10 for adults, $15 for children 2+ and free for children under 2. Tickets include breakfast, gift bag with toy and goodies. RSVP by Dec. 3 to Tony Brilli at thrill@lcheys.org.

St. Cecilia’s Holy Name Men’s potato filling sale, Nov. 17 in the parish center on State Drive, during the Christmas bazaar, from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Cost is $5 for a two-pound container. Holy Name Society sauerkraut sale, $3 per quart, or four quarts for $10. Holy Name Society pepper cabbage sale, $2 per pint, $4 per quart.

Breakfast with Santa at Lancaster Catholic High School, Dec. 8 from 8:30-10:30 a.m. Performances by LCHS’ Fine and Performing Arts students, a mes- sage from Santa and holiday activities. Tickets are $10 for adults, $15 for children 2+ and free for children under 2. Tickets include breakfast, gift bag with toy and goodies. RSVP by Dec. 3 to Tony Brilli at thrill@lcheys.org.
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.

**Abbottstown**
- Immaculate Heart of Mary:
  - Maria Maxwell

**Berwick**
- Immaculate Conception BVM:
  - Eleanor Gay
  - Helen Koval
  - Jayne McCabe
  - Dennis Tuza

**Bloomsburg**
- St. Joseph:
  - Joseph LaGasse

**Buchanan Valley**
- St. Ignatius Loyola:
  - Gerard Neiderer

**Camp Hill**
- Good Shepherd:
  - Anna Priar

**Chambersburg**
- Corpus Christi:
  - Elizabeth Bates
  - Gertrude Elder

**Kulpmont**
- Holy Angels:
  - Patty Gluchowski Brennan
  - Al Kase

**Lebanon**
- St. Cecilia:
  - Clarice Omelchenko
  - Agnes Repisack

**Lewisburg**
- Sacred Heart of Jesus:
  - Margaret Davidson
  - Dorothy Dittmeier
  - John J. Lococo

**McSherrystown**
- Annunciation BVM:
  - Margaret E. Greenholts
  - James Groff
  - Athena Hertz-Deen
  - Russel Markle
  - Joseph Staub

**Mechanicsburg**
- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton:
  - George Rexford

**Mercersburg**
- St. Luke:
  - Anna May

**Millersville**
- St. Philip the Apostle:
  - James Baron
  - William Dohan
  - John Fowler
  - Johanna Molner

**Mount Carmel**
- Divine Redeemer:
  - Thomas D. Bogovich
  - Anthony J. Wolkoski, Jr.

**New Cumberland**
- St. Theresa:
  - Sheldon Munn

**New Freedom**
- St. John the Baptist:
  - Rose Basta

**New Oxford**
- Immaculate Conception BVM:
  - Lawrence Aumen, Sr.

**Shamokin**
- Mother Cabrini:
  - Violet Fitzpatrick
  - Marcella Hombsky
  - Mary Pacetta

**York**
- Immaculate Conception BVM:
  - Louise Gladfelder
  - David Lutz
  - Bernard Staub
  - St. Patrick:
    - Helen Cavanaugh
  - St. Rose of Lima:
    - Gwendolyn Snyder

**Deceased Clergy**

Please pray for the following clergy who died in November during the past 25 years:

- Father Michael F. Barrett, 1996
- Msgr. Damian McGovern, 2000
- Father Thaddeus Strzelec, 2005
- Father Paul Rindos, 2011

Submit written announcements or photos to witness@hbgdiocese.org. The deadline for submissions for the November 23 edition of The Witness is Wednesday, November 14 at 4:30 p.m. Submit written announcements via e-mail to witness@hbgdiocese.org. Limit 60 words. No ads, posters or PDFs, please.

**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?**

Morning Star Pregnancy Services seeks a Nurse Clinic Manager to oversee the provision of patient care and medical services operations and performs patient care. This position is approximately half-time. Must be at least an RN, CRNP welcome to apply. Salary commensurate with experience. Send résumé and a cover letter to Linda Plummer, Executive Director, lplummer@morningstarclinics.com.

Bus Trip to New York City, hosted by Lancaster Catholic’s Athletic Department, Dec. 9. Departs LCHS at 7 a.m. “Do as you please” trip. Depart NYC at 7 p.m. Cost of $54 includes driver gratuity. Payment due by Nov. 16. Contact Diana Anater at 717-951-5198 or diana_anat@comcast.net.

“BIG BIG Jazz Band Dance” at Lancaster Catholic High School, Dec. 1 at 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. Dance located in gratitude for community support. Snacks, drinks, wine and beer. Must be 21 or older to attend. Table reservations available for groups of 8-10. RSVP by Nov. 20. Contact Betty Isaason at bisaason@lchsyes.org or 717-590-0313.

St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Annville, trip to the Sight and Sound Theater on Dec. 4 for the show, “Jesus.” Meet at St. Paul’s at 8 a.m. for Mass with departure following. Lunch after the show. Cost of $100 includes bus, theater ticket and lunch. RSVP by Nov. 11. Call Mary Langan at 717-867-1525.

Pancake breakfast at Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg, Nov. 24 from 7-11 a.m. All-you-can-eat pancakes, breakfast sausage, coffee, tea, milk and orange juice. RAFFLE PRIZES. Sydney Cooper’s charity event to benefit Bishop McDevitt Swimming and Diving Team.

Morning Star Pregnancy Services seeks a Nurse Clinic Manager to oversee the provision of patient care and medical services operations and performs patient care. This position is approximately half-time. Must be at least an RN, CRNP welcome to apply. Salary commensurate with experience. Send résumé and a cover letter to Linda Plummer, Executive Director, lplummer@morningstarclinics.com.

Submission Deadlines

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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!

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
**PARISH NEWS**

**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 LKaley@hbgdiocese.org or 717-657-4804 ext. 522 prior to November 9, 2018.

**Bazaar & Craft Shows**
Continued from 12

**St. Leo the Great Parish in Rohrerstown**, alternative gift giving fair, Dec. 1 and 2 in Church Room 3, following all Masses. Donate to A Woman’s Concern, Brittany’s Hope, Lakota Indians, Mychal’s Message, Star Light Home for Children in S. India, Mychal’s Message, Star Light Home for Children in S. India, St. Anne’s Retirement Community, Catholic Worker House and the Free Burma Rangers. Give a gift that gives twice. You will receive a card indicating that you made a donation in someone’s honor to the charity of your choice. Cash and checks only; Brittany’s Hope can accept credit cards. For info, contact Jean Markow at 717-333-9307 or jmmarkow20@gmail.com.

**St. James Parish in Lititz**, Christmas bazaar, Nov. 16 from 4-8 p.m. and Nov. 17 from 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Crafts, wreaths, floral arrangements, knitted items, white elephant sale, children’s workshop and pictures with Santa, bake sale, basket raffle, silent auction, 25 cent bingo, fish bowl and prize raffle. St. James Café open Friday and Saturday. Ham and turkey dinner served Saturday from 5-7 p.m. For information, call 717-626-5580.

**Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Lancaster**, Christmas bazaar and craft fair, Nov. 18 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. in the school. Vendors/crafters wanted. Call the rectory office for details, 717-394-0757.

**St. Joseph Parish in Milton**, breakfast with St. Nicholas, Dec. 1 from 9-11 a.m. in the parish center. All-you-can-eat pancakes, sausage, applesauce, coffee, tea and juice. Includes a photo, children’s activities, goodie bags and prizes. Cost is $5 for adults, $3 for children. Bring a pair of mittens to donate to the mitten tree for those in need.

The Columbiettes, St. Joseph’s Auxiliary, 12788, Christmas fest on Nov. 17 at St. Joseph Parish Life & Education Center, Mechanicsburg, from 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Breakfast and lunch, more than 50 vendors, silent and ticket auctions, Scholastic book fair, children’s games and a visit from St. Nicholas.

**CCW of St. Peter Parish in Columbia**, Christmas bazaar on Dec. 2 in the parish center. Handmade craft items, specialty baskets and homemade desserts. Full-course turkey dinner from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Purchase dinner tickets at the parish office or at the door. Donation is $8 for adults, $4 for children, free for children under three.

**St. Rose of Lima Parish in York**, breakfast with Santa, selfies with Santa, food, bingo, raffles, baked items, crafts and games.

**St. Cecilia Parish in Lebanon**, Christmas bazaar on Nov. 17 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at the parish center on State Drive. Sticky buns, donuts, coffee, sugar cookies, strudel (walnut, poppy seed and apricot), gift baskets, chance booth, candy, jewelry, handbag & scarf boutique, flea market, baked goods, Christmas booth. Light lunch available.

**Knights of Columbus Council Formed at St. Philip the Apostle Parish**

By Andrew DiPace, FS Special to The Witness

In August, Knights of Columbus Council #17028 was formed and chartered at St. Philip the Apostle Church in Millersville. Heading the Council is Grand Knight Robert W. Ziemb. The Council included 45 new and transferred members on the charter date of Aug. 1. Father Lawrence W. Sherdel, pastor at St. Philip’s and two terms Pennsylvania State Chaplain, requested the formation of the council. Brian T. Smith, Past Grand Knight, Former District Deputy and current CE New Council Development Chairman, is responsible for the development of new councils.

The officers were officially installed Sept. 23 by District Deputy Robert L. Boule. Shown in the photo: front row, left to right, Joseph Cardella, 2 Year Trustee; Donald Mancuso, 1 Year Trustee; Robert L. Boule, District Deputy, Father Sherdel, James Bomenka, standing in for Stephen Beck, Treasurer; and Brian Garcia, Warden.

Back row, left to right, are Tom Heisler, Inside Guard; Mike Kirkham, Recorder; Andrew DiPace, Financial Secretary; Bob Ziemb, Grand Knight; Scott Wall, Deputy Grand Knight; Nick Potente, Chancellor; Chris Sauer, Outside Guard. Missing from photo is Brian T. Smith, 3 Year Trustee.

The council has embarked on an aggressive program of fundraisers and community programs. There are plans for a veterans meal, a Thanksgiving meal and a blood drive. The council hosted a “trunk or treat” Halloween event in the parish parking lot. The council is planning a basket bingo for the spring, and a portion of the proceeds will go toward repairing or replacing a leaky roof over the classroom area of the church.