Dear Friends in Christ,

As 2018 comes to a close, it is natural to reflect on the past year. Our Church, our Diocese and each of us have been challenged this year. As we face the shameful record of the past and work toward healing, know that your continued prayers, steadfast commitment to your faith and support is a source of great strength for your pastors, fellow parishioners and for me. With our past now made known, we have an opportunity to start anew this Christmas.

As I write this letter, I am reminded of a passage from the Gospel of St. Matthew which says, “All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means “God is with us.”’” (Mt. 1:22-23). I find great comfort in this verse, as it serves as a reminder that even in these most challenging times, the Lord is walking beside each of us, holding each of us in His grace.

The peace and comfort which comes from our Lord are some of His many gifts to us, His children. As we grow closer to celebrating the Christmas Mystery, we prepare ourselves to receive anew the greatest gift we could possibly receive – the Son of God come in our flesh. In Saint John’s Gospel, Jesus tells Nicodemus, “For God so loved the world that He GAVE His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life” (John 3:16). Our Lord gave us his most precious gift. What love that must be. That same love is holding all of us close.

Christmas Day will come and go quickly, but the Lord’s gift to us is never ending. This Christmas season, let us make the time to start fresh and renew our commitment to serving our Lord and Savior. What better gift could we give to Him this Christmas than ourselves?

May our homes and hearts overflow with the richest blessings as we celebrate the Savior’s birth and abiding presence with us in the Church. Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

Your Brother in Christ,

Bishop Ronald Gainer
Bishop Gainer to Host Listening Sessions

Bishop Ronald Gainer will host listening sessions throughout the Diocese of Harrisburg in January and February of 2019. He encourages anyone with questions regarding the Grand Jury Report, the Diocese’s response to abuse, our path forward, or any other questions or concerns to attend one of these sessions. Each session will include opening remarks from Bishop Gainer and retired Pennsylvania State Police Capt. Janet McNeal, recently hired to oversee the youth protection efforts of the Diocese. Following their brief remarks, the floor will be opened for questions.

The schedule for these sessions is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Deanery</th>
<th>Listening Session Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, Jan. 10, 2019</td>
<td>Dauphin</td>
<td>Saint Catherine Laboure Parish 4000 Derry Street Harrisburg, PA</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2019</td>
<td>Adams</td>
<td>Saint Joseph Parish 5055 Grandview Road Hanover, PA</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, Jan. 21, 2019</td>
<td>Cumberland/Perry</td>
<td>Saint Joseph Parish 410 East Simpson Street Mechanicsburg, PA</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, Jan. 24, 2019</td>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>Saint Cecilia Parish 120 East Lehman Street Lebanon, PA</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2019</td>
<td>North/South Lancaster</td>
<td>Saint Leo the Great Parish 2427 Marietta Avenue Lancaster, PA</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2019</td>
<td>Northern</td>
<td>Immaculate Conception Parish 1730 Fowler Avenue Berwick, PA</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, Feb. 21, 2019</td>
<td>Northumberland</td>
<td>Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Parish 599 W Center St Elizburg, PA</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, Feb. 25, 2019</td>
<td>Franklin</td>
<td>Corpus Christi Parish 320 Philadelphia Avenue Chambersburg, PA</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2019</td>
<td>York</td>
<td>Saint Rose of Lima Parish 950 West Market Street York, PA</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In order to make the sessions welcoming and to encourage discussion, video and audio recording will not be permitted.

If you are unable to attend one of these sessions but would still like to ask Bishop Gainer a question, please email your question to AskBishopGainer@hbgdiocese.org.

The Witness Returns January 18

The December 21 edition of The Catholic Witness is the final one for 2018. Our first issue of the new year will be January 18.

You can receive The Catholic Witness via e-mail instead of standard mail. Sign up for the free digital service by logging on to the diocesan Web site at www.hbgdiocese.org. Follow the News/Events tab to The Catholic Witness page and click on the “E-mail Subscription” link.

Or, send your name and street address to witness@hbgdiocese.org, and we’ll sign you up. Each Friday the newspaper is published, you will receive an e-mail with a direct link to the latest edition. Registration with the e-mail service will not cancel your mailed subscription unless you state otherwise.

As parishes, schools and organizations plan their event calendars for the new year, we take this opportunity to let you know our schedule of issue dates and submission deadlines for 2019 are now available. You can find the Publication Schedule and information on how to submit items via The Catholic Witness link at www.hbgdiocese.org. If you would prefer to receive the Publication Schedule and Submission Guidelines via e-mail or standard mail, contact us at witness@hbgdiocese.org or 717-657-4804 and we’ll be happy to send them to you.

Stay in touch with news from the Diocese of Harrisburg by visiting our Web site, www.hbgdiocese.org, and by following us on Facebook and Twitter.

We send you best wishes for a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year!

Photographer’s Note

High atop a mountain ridge that peers down into the little ghost town of Centralia, Pa., sits a beautiful church built in 1911 with striking stained glass windows to filter God’s rays of light. The vivid Nativity window on the cover of The Catholic Witness graces the western side of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Church. Father Michael Hutsko has been the pastor there for the past eight years.

In 1962, an underground mine fire began smoldering in Centralia, sending noxious fumes into the town and eventually forcing all but a few residents to abandon the once-bustling coal town. A year after the Diocese of Harrisburg was formed in 1868, St. Ignatius Church was built in Centralia, and eventually grew into a thriving diocesan parish with more than 3,000 faithful. The last Mass was celebrated at the church in the summer of 1995 before it was razed in 1997 like the rest of the town. Today, Centralia’s fire continues to burn in the Columbia County valley below the rocky mountain ridge where St. Mary’s is quietly still nestled.

Representatives of the Knights of Columbus Pennsylvania State Chapter visited Bishop Ronald Gainer and presented him with several checks to support various ministries, including vocations, retired religious, and Camp Kirchenwald, the summer camp for people with disabilities. In addition to the $12,610 check, raised via the Knights State Convention and Golf Tournament, the Knights also gave Bishop Gainer two additional checks totaling $3,890 to supplement the diocesan ministries, bringing the total to more than $16,500.

Presenting the monies were Andrew Bacha, Diocesan Coordinator; Wayne Freet, Vice-Supreme Master; Father Gregory D’Emma, State Chaplain; Stephen Hudek, General Agent; Mark Jago, State Deputy; Brian Smith, New Council Development; David Sims, President of Diocese of Harrisburg Chapter; and Michael Yakubick, State Program Director.

CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS
Prison Ministry Workshop Focuses on Overcoming Barriers, Changing Lives

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

“For every ‘No’ that we say to fear, guilt, anger and stereotypes, we get to say ‘Yes’ to possibility, to opportunity, to the magnificence of whatever God has in store.”

John Foppe, CEO of Visionary Velocity Worldwide, delivered this message at the Prison Christian Growth Group’s symposium Dec. 15, bolstering the organization’s members in their ministry to inmates.

Foppe’s message of carrying a cross through Good Friday to celebrate Easter Sunday is a lived experience he shares with audiences worldwide. Born with seven birth defects, including no arms, Foppe talks about how he embraced his cross and changed his mindset from pity to possibility.

“If we can learn to surrender to our crosses, a whole world of possibilities opens to us. We become more joyful, we become more sustained and our lives take on a deeper meaning than we could have ever planned,” he said.

“That’s also applicable to those you minister to,” he told his audience, gathered at the Diocesan Center in Harrisburg for their annual prison ministry symposium.

Prison Ministry

The Prison Christian Growth Group is a statewide organization of men and women who visit inmates in 16 county, state and federal prisons throughout Pennsylvania. It originated in 1986 from Faith Sharing Groups formed at St. Catherine Labouré Parish in Harrisburg.

Visits to inmates occur on a weekly or bi-weekly basis in common areas at the prisons. They offer an atmosphere that encourages sharing and listening among PCCG members and inmates, so those in prison have the opportunity to give voice to their faith in a spirit of Christian understanding.

“We pass along the mercy that we’ve been given. It’s that simple,” said Terry Keating of St. Margaret Mary Parish in Harrisburg. He visits inmates at SCI Camp Hill, Dauphin County Prison and Keystone Work Release.

“The inmates have family and friends who don’t even visit. We go in, and we help them feel more human again, telling them someone cares about them, that someone wants to hear what they have to say. We’re there to show the love of Christ,” he said.

“We are committed to bringing the message of Christ to inmates,” said Joe Musto, State Secretary/Treasurer of the PCCG. “We do that by sharing our experience, strength and hope in the Catholic faith. The inmates share their stories, we share our stories. It gives them hope. It gives them joy.”

Musto, of Pittston, Pa., has been involved in the ministry for 25 years.

“All you need to do is share your hope as a Christian,” he said. “Prison ministry doesn’t require any special qualifications, except for clearances. I’ve heard almost everybody in this ministry say they get so much more out of it than they give.”

Ginny Anspach, of St. Philip the Apostle Parish in Millersville, visits inmates at the Lancaster County Prison five times a month.

“The men are very receptive to it. They go from hating God or not knowing him, to loving God. It is an amazing experience,” she said.

“We don’t make judgements on them, we just go in and meet. We make ourselves available to them, and then they go back to their cell blocks and take Christ with them,” Anspach said.

Carrying Crosses

Speaking candidly about his life without arms, Foppe said he meets his condition rather than succumb to it, or create excuses because of it.

He can do most things: dress and feed himself, drive a car, repair things around the house. A husband and a father, Foppe has skied, hiked and toured the globe.

He wears special socks that separate his big toe from the others, so that he can grab and carry things. Tailored clothing allows him to dress himself. He carries a special wallet in his shoe.

“The word ‘Why’ is one we get hung up with when it comes to dealing with our cross…. Instead, I’ve started asking ‘What?’ What do I have control over? What are my resources at hand? What direction do I need to be heading today?” Foppe remarked.

He is accepting of what he cannot do in life: swing a baseball bat or golf club, change a tire, hold his wife’s or daughter’s hand.

“Of course there are limits in life, but the question is what we do in the midst of limitation. Most people run up against a cross in their life and back off. They don’t test it, they don’t push it. All too often, we allow the limiting conditions to define and confine us,” he said.

Foppe shares his story to illustrate Christians must carry their crosses in order to be an Easter people.

“There are difficulties we have or any difficulties experienced by those we are ministering to, we help people keep going, to draw closer to Christ,” he said.

“Through any difficulties we have or any difficulties experienced by those we are ministering to, we help people keep going, to draw closer to Christ,” he said.

“‘This is not a faith for wimps. This faith of ours is one that takes a lot of courage,’” Foppe said. “The ultimate form of tough love is not when we tell somebody ‘No.’ It’s when we get present to the gift that our life is and get tough on ourselves. It’s when we value our life, even when it’s broken, disabled and depressed, and ask God to help restore it.”

(Read more about John Foppe and his ministry at www.visionaryvelocity.com. For information about the Prison Christian Growth Group and how to minister to the imprisoned, visit www.pcggprisonministry.org.)

Holy Family Radio Benefit Dinner

March 1 at the Sheraton Harrisburg/Hershey

Featuring guest speaker Bill Donaghy of the Theology of the Body Institute

Social hour at 6 p.m.
Dinner at 7 p.m.
Live music, door prizes, cash bar

Tickets are $100 per person.
Table of eight with patron listing is $1,200.

Reservation deadline is Feb. 25. Send reservations and payment to:
Holy Family Radio
P.O. Box 6028
Lancaster PA 17607-6028
or register online at www.720whyf.com.

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 717-336-2185.
Diocesan Finance Council
Most Rev. Ronald W. Gainer
Very Rev. David L. Danneker, Ph.D.
Mr. Mark B. Glessner
Ms. Lora A. Kulick, Esq.
Mr. Donald H. Nikolaus, Esq.
Very Rev. Edward J. Quinlan
Mrs. Lisa Rohrer
Mr. Kenneth R. Shotts

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we approach the end of what has been a challenging year, I thank you for your continued financial support to your parish and the Diocese. Many of you have been raising questions about the financial status of the Diocese, especially during the past several months. Detailed on this and the following page you will find a condensed financial report for the Diocese of Harrisburg for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2018 and 2017. As the recipient of your generosity, the Diocese of Harrisburg and I ask your Bishop take the responsibility of carefully managing your gifts very seriously. We are committed to the highest standards of good stewardship, accountability and transparency. While we have had financial challenges this year, through the good stewardship and management of our departments, we ended the 2018 fiscal year able to meet our financial obligations.

Moving forward, I know many of you have concerns about our ongoing Survivors’ Compensation Program. I want to assure you that the funding for this program will come from the Diocese’s available assets, including investments, earnings from investments and recovery from insurance. In addition, the Diocese will also borrow money and, if needed, will sell Diocesan assets to fund this program.

I give you my word that we will continue to be good stewards of your financial gifts. By opening your hearts in generous support for the Diocese of Harrisburg, you share in the ministries of prayer and worship, education and service, social concerns and works of charity that would not be possible without your financial commitment.

I am grateful for the blessings the Lord has given us and for the generosity of Central Pennsylvania’s faithful. Please pray for our Diocese, for our clergy, for our mission and for our stewardship of God’s gifts.

Be assured of my prayers for all of you.

Sincerely,

Rev. Ronald W. Gainer, D.D.
Diocesan Finance Council

A Letter from Bishop Gainer

Most Reverent Ronald W. Gainer, D.D., J.C.L.
Bishop of Harrisburg

Financial Statement Discussion and Analysis

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg Charitable Trust and Affiliates (Diocesan Administrative Entities or “DAE”) in their own particular constituencies.

Catholic Administrative Services at 717-657-4804.

At June 30, 2018, total liabilities of $120.4 million decreased 0.3% over last year’s total liabilities of $120.7 million. Included in this year’s total change is a $1.2 million increase in accounts payable, accrued expenses and deferred revenue, the majority of which relates to the timing of invoices received for payment. Also included in the change in total liabilities is a $383,000 decrease in total deposits payable under the diocesan savings and loan program. The liability for Priests’ Pension and Postretirement Benefits decreased $717,000, and the estimated liability for self-insurance decreased $203,000.

Economic Factors and Next Year’s Budgets

Consistent with its policy of providing financial disclosure, the Diocese of Harrisburg is once again presenting the consolidated financial statements of its Central Offices and Ministries. The consolidated financial statements presented here for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2017 and 2018 were prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and the FOCUS, Diocesan Perpetual Care Funds and the Bishop’s Designated Fund portfolios. Also included in the change in total assets is a $1.5 million reduction in Notes and Loans Receivable, net of the allowable for doubtful loans. The main driver of the change in Notes and Loans Receivable is an increase in the allowance for doubtful loans. Net Property, Equipment and Software also decreased by $1.0 million, principally as a result of depreciation.

At June 30, 2018, total liabilities of $120.4 million decreased 0.3% over last year’s total liabilities of $120.7 million. Included in this year’s total change is a $1.2 million increase in accounts payable, accrued expenses and deferred revenue, the majority of which relates to the timing of invoices received for payment. Also included in the change in total liabilities is a $383,000 decrease in total deposits payable under the diocesan savings and loan program. The liability for Priests’ Pension and Postretirement Benefits decreased $717,000, and the estimated liability for self-insurance decreased $203,000.

Economic Factors and Next Year’s Budgets

Certain information set forth in this section contains “forward-looking information,” including “future oriented financial information” and “financial outlook” (collectively referred to herein as forward-looking statements). Except for statements of historical fact, all information contained herein constitutes forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are provided to allow the readers of this information the opportunity to understand the DAE’s beliefs and opinions in respect of the future.

Although forward-looking statements contained in this presentation are based upon what the DAE believes are reasonable assumptions, there can be no assurance that forward-looking statements will prove to be accurate, as actual results and future events could differ materially from those anticipated in such statements. The DAE undertakes no obligation to update forward-looking statements if circumstances or estimates or opinions should change, except as required by applicable laws. The reader is cautioned not to place undue reliance on forward-looking statements.

The DAE considered many factors when setting the fiscal-year budget, and the anticipated revenues necessary to fund its activities. These factors included changes to the Bishop’s Annual Lenten Appeal, anticipated investment income and gains, as well as the net income or loss from other current operating activities and other capital assets. Lastly, the DAE considered the health and property and casualty insurance markets to determine the bills necessary to ensure the viability of its centrally administered programs.

The DAE also considered staffing needs, both current and anticipated, to conduct its activities and ministries. Staffing cuts and reductions or delays in hiring new staff were made where appropriate, and other budget reductions were proposed to ensure resources were used efficiently. Legal costs associated with the legal action against the Diocese were not budgeted, nor were any settlements to survivors of abuse.

Historically, balanced budgets have been submitted to the bishop’s Finance Council for approval. Actual results can differ materially from budget projections, in part due to some of the items cited above.

Contact the DAE’s Financial Management

This financial report is designed to provide the faithful of the Diocese of Harrisburg with a general overview of the DAE’s finances and to show the accountability and stewardship for the generous gifts it receives from its beneficiaries. If you have questions about this report or need additional financial information, please contact Harrisburg Catholic Administrative Services at 717-657-4804.

(Discussion and Analysis by Don Kaercher, CEO of Harrisburg Catholic Administrative Services.)

Diocesan Annual Financial Report

A Letter from Bishop Gainer

The complete consolidated financial statements for the Diocese of Harrisburg for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2018 and 2017. As the Diocese’s central office to the consolidated financial statements, are available from Har-
### Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$ 3,910,830</td>
<td>$ 3,942,073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes and loans receivable, net</td>
<td>18,713,268</td>
<td>18,282,239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
<td>1,111,487</td>
<td>1,052,916</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable, net</td>
<td>392,392</td>
<td>267,428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents, end of year</td>
<td>$ 6,501,215</td>
<td>$ 5,668,296</td>
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</tbody>
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### Liabilities and Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</td>
<td>$ 32,695,616</td>
<td>$ 32,107,979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payroll</td>
<td>151,868</td>
<td>153,077</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total liabilities</td>
<td>$ 32,695,616</td>
<td>$ 32,107,979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONTINGENCIES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total liabilities and net assets</td>
<td>$ 181,879,860</td>
<td>$ 150,111,808</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Revenues as of the Year Ending June 30, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Change in unrestricted net assets</td>
<td>$ 4,386,426</td>
<td>$ 845,816</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total unrestricted net assets</td>
<td>$ 845,816</td>
<td>$ 44,201,474</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net cash &amp; cash equivalents provided by operating activities</td>
<td>$ 5,668,296</td>
<td>$ 44,201,474</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Expenses as of the Year Ending June 30, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total expenses and losses</td>
<td>$ 9,337,063</td>
<td>$ 3,666,781</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in unrestricted net assets, before other changes</td>
<td>$ 1,739,482</td>
<td>$ 3,794,277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>476,815</td>
<td>230,697</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in net assets</td>
<td>$ 1,739,482</td>
<td>$ 3,794,277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other changes</td>
<td>774,456</td>
<td>567,584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>774,456</td>
<td>567,584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$ 4,504,494</td>
<td>$ 3,860,662</td>
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### Notes and Loans Receivable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Notes and loans receivable, net</td>
<td>$ 18,713,268</td>
<td>$ 18,282,239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes and loans receivable, net</td>
<td>$ 18,713,268</td>
<td>$ 18,282,239</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Other

- **Total liabilities and net assets:** $181,879,860
- **Net cash & cash equivalents provided by operating activities:** $5,668,296
- **Change in net assets:** $1,739,482
- **Contributions:** $476,815
- **Other:** $774,456
St. Catherine’s Students Enjoy Storytime with Bishop

Students at St. Catherine Labouré School in Harrisburg gathered a week before Christmas as Bishop Ronald Gainer read the book “A Child is Born” – a beautifully illustrated rendition by artist Marc-Alexander Schulze set to the words of St. Luke’s Gospel account of the Birth of Christ. The bishop read to four different groups of third, fourth and fifth graders and shared his reflections on St. Luke’s account as well as on the artist’s striking portrayals of Jesus’ coming into a humble stable and manger during that holy night. Afterwards, Bishop Gainer handed out candy canes and shared cookies and hot cocoa with the students, faculty and parent volunteers who provided the many treats.

St. Rose Celebrates Christmas around the World

The musical talents of students at St. Rose of Lima School in Thomasville were on display Dec. 11 during the school’s annual Christmas show. The St. Rose Band performed a selection of popular carols and led the audience in a sing-a-long of “O Come, All Ye Faithful.” Students in grades 1-6 then offered a collection of carols and Christmas traditions from around the world, with favorites from Norway, England, France, Canada, Germany, Italy, Russia, Venezuela, South Africa, Spain, the United States and Japan. Several student soloists were highlighted during a few of the selections.

Enzo Buhrman and Trilsen Lennon join in the “Christmas around the World” show at St. Rose of Lima School.

Ella Stephan, left, plays the flute and Amelia Etter, right, plays the trumpet in the St. Rose Band performance.
By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Fourth-grade students in Bill Traphagen’s STEM class at St. Anne School in Lancaster received an early Christmas present as they participated in the International Hour of Code on Dec. 5. They were gifted with Dot, a green, single-eyed robot no bigger than a softball but packed with programs for coding lessons. Dot plays Duck Duck Goose and Hot “Dotato,” and wears costumes to accompany a story. Dot is the newest robot in Traphagen’s class. It joined sibling Dash, a handful of Ozobots and a host of LEGO Robots this month, much to students’ delight.

The STEM class at St. Anne’s is offered to students in grades K-8. Students learn computer coding, which is the process of instructing a computer on what action to take. We start them off with the basics and work them up little by little in all the forms of coding,” Traphagen said.

Coding the robots allows students to analyze, problem solve, experiment and create.

With Dash, students direct the robot to repeat phrases, produce animal noises, play a tune they wrote on a xylophone, follow a coded path, and launch a catapult at a target.

“I like how Dash has an eye that you can light up and design, and how its ear changes color when it plays the xylophone,” said Maggie Pletcher. “It was fun to hear Dash play a song after I gave it the notes to play.”

Busy at work with the golf ball-sized Ozobots, a handful of students drew paths and color codes on paper for the robots to follow. Each set of codes directed the Ozobot to perform certain movements – fast, slow, left, right or circular – across their drawn designs and shapes.

Some students directed the Ozobot to follow their name in cursive; others set up mini bowling pins to be toppled at the end of a route. According to the Hour of Code’s website, 7 million job openings in the United States in 2015 were in occupations that value coding skills. Yet 60 percent of schools in the country don’t offer computer science.

“The Hour of Code is a global learning event that inspires young people in computer science. Students at St. Anne’s have participated in the international activity for the past several years, and coding is incorporated into their lessons through the year. “We’re lighting the fire in them now that will get them into so many types of careers one day,” Traphagen said.

“They’re having fun while learning, and they have big smiles on their faces. As a teacher, it’s wonderful to see them smiling while they’re learning,” he said.

(For more information about St. Anne School, visit www.stannelancaster.org.)

Bishop McDevitt Announces Guaranteed Admission Partnerships with Universities

Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg has entered into Guaranteed Admission Partnerships with several universities. These partnerships offer guaranteed admission, as well as merit-based scholarships, for Bishop McDevitt students if applicants meet certain GPA and SAT/ACT requirements.

School officials say it is both an honor and a privilege to partner with these schools to provide the means for students to receive a high quality education at an affordable price while continuing to build upon the foundational Catholic values and beliefs held by Bishop McDevitt High School.

The school partnerships are with King’s College, Mount St. Mary’s University, Neumann University, Immaculata University and Seton Hill University.

Bishop McDevitt is currently in discussion with other Catholic colleges and universities as it looks to expand its partnership program. Future Guaranteed Admission Partnerships will be announced as agreements are reached and signed.

(For more information about Bishop McDevitt High School, visit www.bishopmcdevitt.org.)
St. Aloysius Parishioners Rejoice in New Religious Education Center

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

A long-awaited religious education center is now reality at St. Aloysius Parish in Littlestown, southern Adams County.

Parishioners rejoiced in the blessing of the new facility by Bishop Ronald Gainer, who also celebrated Mass for the congregation on Dec. 16, the third Sunday of Advent.

So many Catholics function on a basic level of knowledge about their faith. This space gives us a holy place to learn about the wonderful mysteries of our faith," the bishop told the parishioners.

"We have a God that takes such delight at what we see every day in the mirror. He rejoices, he is happy because he made us; he sings over us, and what a beautiful thought that really is," he said.

The new religious education center replaces the 92-year-old former school building, which also housed parish council meetings and weekly bingo but was in need of utility upgrades and renovations for accessibility.

The facility features five classrooms, storage space and accessible restrooms.

Father C. Anthony Miller, pastor, commended parishioners for their steadfast commitment to the project, which included an array of fundraisers in the past several years.

He succeeded Father James Sterner in June of 2017.

"The parish had been considering this project for at least five years. Knowing that Father Sterner was getting ready to retire, they put it on hold. Once I got here, they were ready to move forward with it," Father Miller told The Catholic Witness.

Fundraisers for the religious education center have included pizza sales, bingo and potpie dinners. The events proved successful; parishioners raised more than $1 million.

"The people of St. Aloysius Parish are known for their generosity, not just to the parish but to the local community as well," Father Miller said, noting their support of New Hope Ministries, Habitat for Humanity and the Cookie Sale to Combat World Hunger.

"They overwhelm me with their generosity. Every time I turn around, our people are looking to help," he said. "Our people are so grateful for everything they have, they are willing and happy to share with others."

St. Aloysius Parish dates back to 1784, when Masses were celebrated in the homes of Catholic families, and then in a former hotel. The church was dedicated on June 3, 1841.

"My hope is the religious education center will serve to remind our parish that our children are the future of our parish," Father Miller said. "We need to do whatever we can to encourage them in practicing the faith and showing them we care."
St. Anne’s Renovated from Rains in Time for 95th Anniversary

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Along with the coming birth of Our Savior, members of St. Anne Parish in Lancaster are celebrating a renovated church this season.

In late July, the church suffered extensive damage from several days of sustained rain. Its flat roof, unable to properly drain the torrent from the downpours, gave way, damaging the center aisle, altar and pews.

For nearly five months, while the church was deemed unsuitable for use, Masses were celebrated in the school gym. An altar was set up on the gymnasium’s stage. Students volunteered to remove chairs from the gym every Monday morning, and arrange them once again at the end of the school week to assist in the set up for Mass.

Work on the roof began in October, the delay due to the amount of area homes and businesses that also suffered damage from the rains. Parishioners placed everything in the church into storage.

“The every time it rained during those weeks, we risked more damage. We were helpless, and just held our breaths until the roof could be fixed,” said Christine Whalen, Parish Manager.

After the roof was replaced, interior repairs began, including fresh paint, a refurbished center aisle and a new altar. New carpet will be installed in January.

To defray expenses, the parish hosted a wine-tasting fundraiser in November, “Raise a Glass to Raise a Roof.” The event raised $12,500.

To date, contributions from parishioners and other supporters has topped $91,900 in donations and pledges.

“The we’re very excited to come back into our church,” Whalen said. She noted that the final Mass celebrated there before the rains was July 26, the Feast of St. Anne.

The parish was doubly blessed by the timing of the renovations. It serves a Christmas Day dinner to the hungry each year in the gymnasium. The move back into the church allows the dinner tradition to continue.

Bishop Ronald Gainer celebrated Mass for the congregation Dec. 15, marking another significant milestone for the church: the 95th anniversary of the first Mass ever celebrated there, Dec. 16, 1923.

“This Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent, is about rejoicing,” Bishop Gainer said in his homily. “God sings and rejoices because of his people.”

He encouraged them to ponder: “What concrete, specific thing – what particular thing – should change in my heart, so that God rejoices, sings because of me?”

St. Anne Parish is home to a vibrant Vietnamese Catholic community, which celebrates its faith with bilingual Masses offered by Father Tri Luong, pastor. Following the Mass on Dec. 15, the parish celebrated its ethnic roots with a dinner of Vietnamese, Italian and German dishes in the gym.
Sand Nativity

The Nativity scene at St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican this year is made entirely of sand. The 52-foot wide sculpture was crafted from sand from Jesolo, an Italian seaside town near Venice.

The artistic director of the “Sand Nativity” is Rich Varano, who has sculpted sand on the beaches of New Smyrna, Fla.

Varano and three other sculptors were charged with creating the intricate sculpture, which, along with a 42-foot-tall red spruce tree donated by the Diocese of Concordia-Pordenone in the northern Italian region of Veneto, was unveiled at the Vatican’s annual tree lighting ceremony Dec. 7. Bas-relief sand sculptures, like the one to be featured in St. Peter’s Square, are a tradition in Jesolo, which, since 1998, has been the home of an annual sand sculpture festival. Varano is an accomplished sand sculptor with over 40 years’ experience and has organized various international sand sculpture festivals, including the annual event in Jesolo.

By Chris Heisey

The Catholic Witness

The spirit of Noreen Neitz, who passed away in July 2013 from cancer, endures at St. Francis Xavier School in Gettysburg, where her advocacy for helping others shined as she served as the spiritual leader for the parish’s youth group. To remember her tenacious spirit, the school community has established a scholarship fund in her name to assist eighth-grade students who demonstrate a commitment to serving the community as she ably did. In addition, the fund provides financial assistance to school families in need.

To raise the monies, the school community holds a Memorial Run and Walk at the school on Table Rock Road in mid-December every year. This year marks the sixth year for the run, which features a 10K and 5K race as well as a 1-mile walk dubbed “Sufficiently Radical,” named for a blog Neitz wrote in her last months while battling cancer. She was also an avid walker who continued to walk even in her last weeks of life.

All runners in the 10K received medals, and the top runners in the 5K were awarded baked goods and prizes for their top finish in various age categories.

More than 250 runners and walkers participated in the event on Dec. 15 in the pouring, wind-driven rain that soaked participants and the course around the school environs, located two miles from town. For more information, visit http://www.sfxcs-pa.org or email nnscholarship@sfxcs-pa.org.

Gettysburg
Faithful Battle Weather for Charitable Remembrance

Right: Rainy weather didn’t dampen the spirit of these ladies as they traversed parts of Gettysburg in the annual event.

Below: Children shield themselves from rain as they participate in the run and walk in memory of St. Francis Xavier Parish’s youth group leader, Noreen Neitz.

CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS
Q&A with Christopher West and Mike Mangione

By The Cor Project

As parishes and families try to keep up with a fast-moving world where the definition and purpose of our humanity seem to constantly change, an eye-opening and breathtakingly beautiful national touring event, “Made for More: Visions of the Promised Land,” will be on April 2 at 7 p.m. at Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg.

“Where do we come from and where are we going? If we don’t have compelling answers to these questions, we have no orientation in our lives,” says Christopher West, world-renowned author and one of the most exciting speakers of our time.

The evening is hosted by St. Joan of Arc Parish in Hershey and is co-hosted/sponsored by St. Catherine Laboure Parish in Harrisburg, Holy Spirit Parish in Palmyra, St. Matthew Parish in Dauphin, Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Harrisburg, and Real Alternatives, which administers the Pregnancy and Parenting Support Services for the states of Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Indiana.

What is Made for More?

Why is this your focus?

West: We call it Made for More because we yearn for so much more than what the world is telling us. The world understands that we are creatures of hunger and passion, but they lead us to what I call “the fast food gospel,” which is the promise of immediate gratification for that hunger. Many people think Christianity, on the other hand, is an invitation to a “starvation diet.” No. That’s not the Gospel. Christianity is an invitation to an infinite feast of life-giving love, and that’s what this event is all about.

Mangione: It’s a presentation meant to meet you where you are and bring you to a place of communion. It is the culmination of Christopher’s 25 years in this work, my 15 in music and our friendship. It is a conversation through sight and sound about how our desires are meant to draw us closer to Him. It is a special and unique opportunity coming to your area.

It is my focus because it addresses the question of what it means to be a human, Christian, Catholic right at a crucial moment in our history. We really need to look at these questions before we lose ourselves and slip into a state of indifference as a culture.

Diocesan Institute for Catechetical and Pastoral Formation

The Diocesan Institute for Catechetical and Pastoral Formation provides academic and pastoral formation for Catholics involved in service to the Church and those seeking personal enrichment. The Institute assists the laity in their lifelong journey of faith formation by providing opportunities for them to deepen their understanding of Sacred Scripture, Catholic theology and authentic spirituality, and by enabling them to develop the necessary skills to become more efficacious signs of Christ’s presence in the world.

To view the current schedule of Diocesan Institute offerings, visit https://www.hbgdiocese.org/adult-faith-formation/diocesan-institute/.

For information about the Diocesan Institute or obtaining catechetical certification in the Diocese of Harrisburg, contact Ryan Bolster at (717) 657-4804, ext. 225 or rbolster@hbgdiocese.org.

Many additional online Catholic adult faith formation resources can be found on the following websites:

- www.CatholicEducationCenter.com
- www.FranciscanAtHome.com
- www.CDU.edu
- www.InstituteforCatholicCulture.org
- www.Formed.org
- www.AscensionPress.com

By Jen Reed, The Catholic Witness

Diocesan News

December 21, 2018

Know Your Diocese

A Look at Diocesan Offices, and How They Serve

The Diocesan Office of Adult Education and Catechetical Formation

“The most valuable gift that the Church can offer to the bewildered and restless world of our time is to form within it Christians who are confirmed in what is essential and who are humbly joyful in their faith” (Pope St. John Paul II, On Catechesis in Our Time, 61.)

Writing these words in 1979, Pope John Paul re-affirmed the Church’s teaching on the critical importance of the formation of Christians through what is known as catechesis (i.e., handing on, or literally, “echoing,” the Catholic faith that we ourselves have received). Chief among the various forms of catechesis, we are reminded by the Church, is the formation of adults, because it is adults who are most capable of, and most responsible for, living as committed disciples of Christ.

The Office of Adult Education and Catechist Formation supports parishes in the provision of lifelong faith formation for adults, including those who are seeking personal enrichment as well as those who wish to be equipped to serve in various parish catechetical ministries (R.C.I.A., children’s religious education, youth ministry, etc.). The office serves as a resource for parishes and individuals by identifying and promoting faith formation materials and by assisting with the implementation of formation programs in parishes.

As the chief catechist in our diocese, Bishop Ronald Gainer relies upon the assistance of many people in teaching the faith, including clergy, religious and hundreds of lay men and women. To that end, our diocese, like most others, employs a catechetical certification process to help ensure those lay faithful who teach in the name of the bishop are well-formed in the knowledge of the Catholic faith and the necessary skills for handing on that faith. The Office of Adult Education and Catechist Formation is responsible for planning and directing the certification program for parish catechists and elementary Catholic school teachers in the diocese. This work includes offering certification courses and workshops on a regular basis through the Diocesan Institute for Catechetical and Pastoral Formation, as well as tracking the progress of participants in the certification process.

Ryan Bolster is the Director of the Office of Adult Education and Catechist Formation. Jane Waldeck serves as Administrative Assistant. For information, contact Ryan at rbolster@hbgdiocese.org or Jane at jwaldeck@hbgdiocese.org, or call 717-657-4804, ext. 229.
Tell me about your childhood.

I grew up in Lancaster. There are six boys and one girl in my family. I’m the third boy. My oldest brother thought he was going to become a priest, and the next one did too, and I never thought about it. I went through college. I went to Lancaster Catholic and graduated in 1980. And then I went to LaSalle University in Philadelphia and graduated with a business degree. At LaSalle, I never even thought about [the priesthood].

I was on the Crew team at LaSalle. Our team, there were really only 18 people, and I think another year there was one with a four-man boat. But it was interesting because, out of 18 guys on that team, three are priests today. One is a Navy chaplain, and the other is in California in an order.

It’s a really disciplined sport. There’s a lot of coordination with that. It’s definitely a team sport. You’re in a shell, which is like a very wobbly canoe. It’s not going to tip over because the oars are there, but it needs to maintain a balance in the middle of the boat. It’s a lot of coordination and discipline.

For exercise now, I take my dog for a walk every day. I have a little black Sheltie named Gracie. I always say, “Everybody always needs a little Grace in their life, don’t they?”

When did you first feel a calling to the priesthood?

I graduated from LaSalle and got a job right out of school at Amp, Inc., which is now TYCO or TE Connectivity. They always hired a group of young college students and I think there were 20 in our group in the marketing division. I was the only single guy there. The guys were engaged. There were a few women in our class as well, and one guy traveled for an entire year. The first year I was out of school, I traveled all over the country, giving talks with a big display truck that was there. I was in 30 states and met a tremendous amount of people.

That’s when I first starting thinking about it – not even about the priesthood. For the first time in my life, I had a check and during that job I could expense everything. I didn’t have to pay for anything. I was very comfortable. Here I had more money than I ever had in my life, and I wasn’t settled, I wasn’t really happy.

I traveled with a different salesman every day and was talking with them, “What is it that makes you happy?” Do I want to be doing this for the rest of my life? That thought permeated for a couple of years, and then they assigned me to Binghamton, N.Y. I was working in Binghamton and I’d go to Buffalo every other week, Utica, Syracuse, Rochester. On top of that, I was going for my M.B.A at SUNY Binghamton. I was busy, traveling a lot and I used to get headaches all the time. I would take Tylenol or Advil every single day. Lent came. I prayed the Rosary every day; in the morning if I didn’t have to leave early, or I would do it before my night class. Two months after Lent, I went to the medicine cabinet because I had a headache, and I thought, “I haven’t had any aspirin for the entire period of Lent, or thereafter.” It was from the Rosary. That kind of started the whole journey toward the priesthood. I’m still very devoted to the Rosary today. I pray all four mysteries. It’s a powerful prayer. It’s repetitive but very calming, I think. I really believe that just settled me down. It’s amazing what prayer can do in your life.

What is the process for becoming a priest? You were comfortable, making money. What was next?

I didn’t tell my parents. They were both very faithful Catholics, and I didn’t want them part of that decision or influenced by it. I made the call to Harrisburg. There is a process. You have to take some tests, there are mental evaluations, essays, letters of recommendation. You have to sit in front of the bishop and the board, and they ask you questions. That was the final step.

I went through that whole process, got accepted, but there was something else I needed to do, and that was to call my boss and tell him that I’m quitting my job. That’s a huge step, because I’m comfortable with my job, I’m doing OK, I’m almost finished with my M.B.A., things are going well with my life, at least exteriorly. I’m going to make this huge change. I’m going to go into something that I have no idea what it’s really about. I didn’t know what a priest was. Does he just say Mass on Sundays? What else does he do besides a funeral or a baptism? It was those questions – What does the priest do? Am I going to be happy doing that? Then the whole question of family. Am I going to miss being married and not having a family?

All these questions are going through my head at this time, and yet at the same time I had to have the courage to do that. He was wonderful, and I must say all the people at AMP who worked with me couldn’t have been more wonderful with it.

How do you keep balance in your life as a priest?

That’s the wonderful thing about priesthood. You experience the joy and pain of people – it becomes part of you. We belong to support groups among priests, so we get together once a month. It’s important to talk and share what’s going on in our lives, just to make sure we’re keeping a balance. It’s an ongoing support system to be able to talk about different things that are going on in our life. Couples have their spouse that they talk to; we run through things with a priest friend.

Balance is so hard for us to create in all our lives. I think we’re all busy and pulled in so many different directions. Talking to a fellow priest, laughing, talking about a scenario or discussing things just creates a better balance in our life.

It’s a great life. It’s a wonderful life. I often think of a young soldier who was in the service in World War II. It’s a true story. He lost his leg in a mine. He woke up and the doctor said, “Young man, I’m sorry. I had to take your leg.” There was a pause before the soldier said, “Doc, I didn’t lose my leg. I gave it away.” I think that’s what a priest does. They give certain things up. But they get back in so many different ways.

(This interview was conducted by Dan Steele of Holy Family Radio for the Catholic Perspective program. Listen to Holy Family Radio at AM 720 or online at www.720whyf.com.)
The Spirituality of Looking at Your Feet, Part III

By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
Special to The Witness

One of my greatest joys working here at the Diocesan Center is being involved with school class trips sponsored by the Office of Catholic History and Archives. The day features several activities for students to learn about our bishops and the history of the diocese. As a presenter, I talk to them about how we as Christians should use technology.

During one group’s visit, a teacher pulled me aside and said, “See that boy over there? He is a Sikh. If you open your session to Q and A, he is going to ask, ‘How do you know God is everywhere?’ No one can answer that for him.”

I did my presentation and had the students giggling a few times. As I opened it up to questions, I deliberately picked students other than the boy that the teacher mentioned. Finally, I called on him and he asked, “How do you know that God is everywhere?”

I put my back to the students and took two steps, blowing on the imaginary planet and said, “I just created the cosmos! The nebulas! All the stars! The amazing life, and the man became a living being” (vs. 7 NIV).

We are “of the earth.” Our bodies have the same minerals that can be found in nature. Our bodies are made from the same “stuff” as the created world around us. Our feet are constantly touching the face of our planet. So are more than 7 billion other people. Our feet are led together as they touch the planet earth. We are connected to everyone, even the individuals we do not know or meet. The virtuous actions I perform affect the lives of others not only around me but also those across the world. By looking at one’s feet, we can be reminded of this simple fact.

In one society connected through the invisible lines of social media, it’s comforting, at least for me, to know that by simply keeping my feet on the floor, I am connected through bonds of love with my billion brothers and sisters!

The next time that you feel pangs of loneliness, put your feet flat on the floor and open your heart to the Love that created you and everything living on this tiny blue planet!

(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.)

Made for More

Continued from 11

is communal between presenters, recipients and the Holy Spirit. I call it the Holy Campfire experience…where we can all gather around and discuss the deepest mysteries of what it means to be human and be part of the human mystery. It is sometimes easier to achieve this with music because, like most art forms, it is often felt first and understood later. My aim is to create an event that brings the audience into the experience rather than just simply watching a talk.

Christopher, what are you trying to convey through your presentation?

West: We’re taking people on a journey through some particular words of Christ. We start with, “They look but do not see.” So we’ve been trained to look at the world, but not see it; to look at the human body, for instance, but not see it. All of creation has a message and Jesus says, “Come and become one who sees.” He’s in the business of giving sight to the blind.

The great battle between lightness and darkness is particularly intense in the world today. The meaning of our humanity is being eclipsed. The goal of this event is really to help turn the lights on for people, so they can see the mystery of God revealed through all of creation, and especially through our own humanity, our own bodies as male and female. Through that “coming to see,” our eyes are opened in stunning new ways to God’s plan for creation and for our own lives.

Mike, what is the “dance” between your music and Christopher’s presentation?

Mangione: There are places music can go that the spoken word cannot. There is so much happening at once: lyrics, melody, instrumentation, etc. All of these things can combine into a potent force that can pierce the heart. Sometimes the spoken word can tease out very clear ideas in a way that music never can. Combined, if done correctly, you can create a full head and heart experience. We try to create an experience where Christopher sets up a thought or a vision and then the music helps to prayerfully reflect upon it.

Is Made for More just for adults and parents? Or can youth attend?

Mangione: Made for More is for everyone who is ready to ponder the questions, “Who am I, what am I, and where am I going?” This event is for married, single, celibate, Catholic, non-Catholic, devout, skeptic, young and experienced.

Why is art and beauty essential to the event?

West: Art is the language of the heart and the heart is wired for beauty, but, sadly, in our modern world, “Anesthetized” actually means “numb to beauty.” We want to wake people up to beauty, and through that, help people get in touch with their deepest yearnings. That’s where we discover the great mystery we are all part of.

How can Made for More transform a parish? How can it help the priest and parish leadership?

Mangione: Made for More can tend- erize the hearts and dig the furrows for the Holy Spirit to drop seeds and cultivate. We provide post-event resources that help those seeds take root and potentially grow into something beautiful and life-giving. Any seeds dropped in the right conditions can provide an abundant harvest.

What would you like attendees to come away with?

Mangione: Empathy, affirmation and hope.

West: That they’re not crazy to yearn for more than what this world offers. They’re not crazy to want to be loved and affirmed as they are, behind the masks and warts and all. They’re not crazy to imagine a world where every tear is wiped from the eye and every cry of the heart is answered. It’s called “the promised land,” and we want to give people a vision of it.
Icon for the Persecuted

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Lewisburg remembered persecuted Christians in a special way Nov. 21. The Knights of Columbus commissioned an icon, Mary Help of Persecuted Christians, which is traveling across the Diocese of Harrisburg and made a stop at Sacred Heart.

The icon depicts various Christians of different ethnicities and backgrounds under the mantle of the Blessed Mother. It shows that Mary is present for everyone, regardless of the challenges or persecutions they may face. Sacred Heart welcomed the icon with a special Mass celebrated by Fr. Dylan Modestus, pastor. The icon remained at Sacred Heart for two weekends, before moving to the next parish to give hope, comfort and inspiration, and to remind the faithful to pray not just for Christians in the U.S., but for those throughout the world.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NATE GUITY, SACRED HEART PARISH
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:
John Feiser
Doris Pohman

Bloomsburg
St. Columba:
Janette E. Mariano

Camp Hill
Good Shepherd:
Ann Malinoski

Catawissa
Our Lady of Mercy:
Theresa Doraski

Chambersburg
Corpus Christi:
Barbara Barrows
Efrain Capestany
John A. DeBross
Margaret (Sally) Jansen
James Tuel
Frances Tuel
George Ward

Conewago
Sacred Heart of Jesus:
Alice Cordts
Gerald J. Grof
Patrick Yealy

Gettysburg
St. Francis Xavier:
Loretta Huff

Greencastle
St. Mark the Evangelist:
Nicholas J. Fratrick

Hanover
St. Vincent de Paul:

Flat Rock
St. Nicholas:
Dorothy “Dottie” Goff

Harrisburg
Holy Name of Jesus:
Mary L. Laslo

St. Francis of Assisi:
Altagracia Morales

St. Margaret Mary:
Thelma Luci
Joseph Tran

Hershey
St. Joan of Arc:
Dr. Gerry Kaiser
Anthony Nestico

Jonestown
Our Lady of Fatima:
Dorothy “Dottie” Goff

Lancaster
Assumption BVM:
Audrey Rose Bohner
Richard Dietrich

Sacred Heart of Jesus:
Joseph Ciabocchi

McSherrystown
Annunciation BVM:
Harper Bair, Jr.

Mechanicsburg
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton:
Linda Consedine
Ruth Fahey
Arlene Primrose
Hubert Rozman

St. Joseph:
Margaret “Marge” Zielonis

Mount Carmel
Divine Redeemer:
Helen P. Bolick
John “Jack” Corbacio
Joseph Louis Fiamoncini
Theresa C. Kijewski
Frank J. Mostik, Jr.
Dolores L. Ulceski

Our Lady of Mount Carmel:
Cecilia Bilder
Annette Gutgold
Margaret May
Edward Pryzbinski

New Cumberland
St. Theresa:
Thomas Brosch
Ruth Ford
James Kubiak
Joseph Yanci

New Freedom
St. John the Baptist:
Frank Kaski
Angela Kobylinski
Marcella Kwoka
Paul Rosul

Deceased clergy

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

Father Stephen Rolko, 1993
Msgr. Joseph Bradley, 1996
Father John Aurentz, 1996
Father Vitale Leonard Casey, 1997
Father Joseph Blascovich, 1999
Father Robert Kobularik, 1999
Deacon Michael Lydon Sr., 1999
Deacon Charles Reucked, 2005
Father Thomas Hentler, 2006
Father Thomas M. McLernon, 2009
Father Paul Aumen, C.PP.S., 2010
Msgr. Leo Birster, 2011
Msgr. Robert C. Gribbin, 2013
Deacon Sabino “Sam” Moschella, 2013
Father Joseph H. Fennessy, 2015
Deacon Andrew Fine, 2018.

FUNDRAISERS & EVENTS

Bingo at Prince of Peace Parish in Steelton, every Monday. Early bird specials begin at 6:45 p.m. and regular Bingo at 7 p.m. A variety of games are offered. Beverages, desserts, French fries and an assortment of sandwiches available. Call the parish office at 717-985-1330 with questions.

St. Cecilia Parish in Lebanon, pork and sauerkraut dinner on Jan. 1 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Lehman Social Hall. Adults $10, children $5. Eat in or take out. Pork and sauerkraut, green beans, apple sauce and a drink.

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The Knights of Columbus of St. Philip the Apostle Parish in Millersville, second Train Show of the season on Jan. 5 from 9 a.m.-noon in the parish gym. Numerous tables of trains and train-related items for sale. Cost to attend is $4. For more information, call Charlie Sauer at 717-872-8481.

St. Cecilia Parish in Lebanon, pork and sauerkraut dinner on Jan. 1 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Lehman Social Hall. Adults $10, children $5. Eat in or take out. Pork and sauerkraut, green beans, apple sauce and a drink.

Lebanon Deanery’s inaugural Twelfth Night Celebration of Music, Jan. 6 at 2 p.m. at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Cornwall. Free Epiphany Sunday concert of choirs and ensembles from across Lebanon County, featuring musicians from Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Lebanon; Holy Spirit, Palmyra; Mary, Gate of Heaven, Myerstown; Sacred Heart of Jesus, Cornwall; St. Paul the Apostle, Annville; and Lebanon Catholic School. A reception follows.

The Knights of Columbus of St. Philip the Apostle Parish in Millersville, second Train Show of the season on Jan. 5 from 9 a.m.-noon in the parish gym. Numerous tables of trains and train-related items for sale. Cost to attend is $4. For more information, call Charlie Sauer at 717-872-8481.

The Catholic Witness

The CrossWord

December 23 and 30, 2018

A H A M T H U G C A B
V I M R O S H O H I O
E L M I T E M R I N D
S L O B B E R S A L T Y
F E E L H O L D
W A T T S J O Y R I B
A S E A W A Y D E N Y
D K L E O N L A N C E
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S E E D Y E S E N E

St. Joseph: Margaret “Marge” Zielonis
Our Lady of Mount Carmel: Cecilia Bilder, Annette Gutgold, Margaret May, Edward Pryzbinski
New Cumberland: St. Theresa: Thomas Brosch, Ruth Ford, James Kubiak, Joseph Yanci
New Freedom: St. John the Baptist: Frank Kaski, Angela Kobylinski, Marcella Kwoka, Paul Rosul

Deacon Charles Reucked, 2005
Father Thomas Hentler, 2006
Father Thomas M. McLernon, 2009
Father Paul Aumen, C.PP.S., 2010
Msgr. Leo Birster, 2011
Msgr. Robert C. Gribbin, 2013
Deacon Sabino “Sam” Moschella, 2013
Father Joseph H. Fennessy, 2015
Deacon Andrew Fine, 2018.

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Theology on Tap, Lancaster meets Jan. 10 at 7 p.m. at Annie Bailey’s Irish Pub, 28 E. King Street. Presenter Father Brian Okowski speaks on “Cleansing the Temple: The Current Church Crisis and an Appropriate Response.” Theology on Tap is a young adult outreach ministry of the Diocese of Harrisburg. All young adults (20s and 30s) are welcome to attend.

St. Anne’s Retirement Community in Columbia, six-week bereavement program meeting Tuesday afternoons Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29, Feb. 5, 12, from 2-3:30 p.m. If interested, call the Pastoral Care Department at 717-285-6121 for more information.
Diocesan Students among Winners in Christmas Artwork Contest for Missionary Childhood Association

By Karen Harding
Special to The Witness

Drawings depicting classic images of the Christmas story, each with a contemporary flair, took top honors in the Missionary Childhood Association’s annual artwork contest for elementary school age children.

In the Diocese of Harrisburg, Colton Baddick of Sacred Heart of Jesus School in Lancaster and Jack DiRienzo from St. John Neumann Parish in Lancaster were selected as two of the 24 national winners of the Christmas Artwork Contest. Their original artwork, selected from among thousands of entries, is currently displayed in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., throughout the 2018 Advent/Christmas season.

On Dec. 7, an awards ceremony at the Shrine, followed by Mass and lunch, was hosted for finalists and their families. After a welcome by Monsignor Vito A. Buonanno, Shrine Director of Pilgrimages, awards were presented by Reverend Leo Perez, OMI, Secretary General of the Pontifical Missionary Union. Winners came from as far as California for the event.

Father Perez spoke about the power of children’s prayers, sacrifices and capacity to evangelize their faith – sometimes through art. He told the students even if they think their work is not good enough, to not be afraid to try, as witnessed by their success in the contest.

The Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) is the Holy Father’s mission society for children. It was established in 1843 by a French Bishop, Charles de Forbin-Jansen, who began the Holy Childhood Association (as it was then known) as an organization of “Children Helping Children.” MCA now exists in 120 countries, and even children in mission countries put together their pennies to help children in other areas who are less fortunate.

In the Diocese of Harrisburg, the MCA assists educators and catechists in showing our children how, by virtue of their baptism, we are all called to be missionaries through prayer and sacrifice. The Diocesan MCA is part of the Office of Pontifical Missions, under the direction of Father Robert F. Sharman.

Talent abounds in the Diocese of Harrisburg, which has been blessed with seven MCA Artwork Contest winners in the past five years. Thanks to all our students who submitted artwork!

The entry form for the 2018-2019 contest can be found on the diocesan MCA website: www.hbgdiocese.org/MCA, or contact the diocesan Missions Office at missions@hbgdiocese.org or 717-657-4804 for more information. Deadline is Jan. 31, 2019.

(Karen Harding is the Diocesan MCA Coordinator.)

MARCH FOR LIFE

Baby Shower

Do you want to support local mothers? Are you unable to attend the March for Life, or want to support local pro-life efforts? Contribute to the March for Life Baby Shower!

Where: Holy Name of Jesus, Harrisburg, PA 17112 (Social Hall, Old Church)
When: Sunday, January 20, 2019, 2 - 4 pm
Needs: Diapers; formula/food; equipment; clothes (new or gently used)

All material gifts will support local pregnancy resource centers. All financial gifts will support “Pennies for Life.” Event sponsored by the Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (HDCCW) and The Respect Life Office of the Diocese of Harrisburg.

Respect Life Mass

Sunday, January 20, 2019, 9:30 a.m.
Good Shepherd Church
3435 Trindle Road
Camp Hill, PA

Every Life:
❖ Cherished
❖ Chosen
❖ Sent