Anger, Hurt, Hope for Healing Expressed at Diocese’s First Listening Session

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

An estimated 400 people gathered at St. Catherine Labouré Church in Harrisburg Jan. 10 for the first of nine Listening Sessions the Diocese of Harrisburg is holding throughout its 15 counties in January and February. Taking turns at microphones set up in the church, parishioners and survivors asked questions and expressed anger, frustration and hurt to Bishop Ronald Gainer. The bishop is hosting the sessions with Janet McNeal, the Diocese’s newly-contracted Safe Environment Coordinator, in the wake of the Grand Jury Report on clergy sex abuse.

Among those who spoke was Susan Strawcutter, who was sexually abused by a priest when she was in sixth grade.

“arid, we need to rebuild this Church and heal it, but with honesty and transparency, please,” she said at the microphone.

Strawcutter, a member of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Harrisburg who tries to attend daily Mass, told The Catholic Witness she attended the listening session – and might attend future ones – to hear what the bishop and others say, “with the hope for awareness that more lay involvement is needed in support of victims and healing, including those who were abused and those in the pews who are hurting.”

In opening remarks at the session, Bishop Gainer pointed to changes the Diocese has made to help make amends for the abuse and reduce the risk of it occurring again. These efforts include:

• Turning every allegation of abuse over to the proper authorities instead of performing an internal investigation;
DIOCESAN NEWS

Session

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• The release of names of accused clerics and seminarians;
• The reconstitution of the Diocesan Pastoral Council to give laity a voice in helping resolve pastoral issues;
• The establishment of a Survivor Compensation Fund, administered independently of the Diocese, to provide financial resources and other assistance to survivors;
• A contract with an independent Safe Environment Coordinator, Janet McNeal, who will review the Diocese’s current youth protection programs, meet with survivors and develop new policies and programs.

These points and others are more fully presented in a booklet the Diocese is distributing at all listening sessions, as part of its “We Pledge” promise.

During the nearly two-hour session, people expressed support for survivors, who shared impassioned remarks about their hurt and anger. To the survivors, Bishop Gainer apologized for the abuse and the past failures of the Church. Both he and McNeal said they are open and ready to meet with any survivors of abuse.

Many in the crowd expressed frustration, wanting to know why abusers weren’t previously detected, urging the Diocese to be more transparent with its procedures, at 717-657-4804, ext. 322, or lkiley@hbgdiocese.org.

Speaking with reporters after the session at St. Catherine’s, the bishop said he welcomes the opportunity to hear from people throughout the Diocese.

Hearing their concerns, frustrations and anger is “one step forward for a better, safer Catholic Church,” he said.

Rita Wambach and Barbara Glessner, members of the Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick in Harrisburg, told The Catholic Witness they attended the session to support the bishop and the survivors of abuse.

“The victims have been hurt terribly. I can’t imagine what it was like for them to speak in front of everyone, and the suffering they’ve experienced. It was good to see the bishop has opened his arms to them,” Wambach said.

“Given the seriousness of the topic, I thought tonight was very compassionate and a good way to help restore things,” said Glessner. “It filled me with faith that things will be better for our Church’s future.”

Strawcutter said she believes in the bishop’s sincerity to hear what people have to say.

“I walked away feeling free. My shackles of 60 years were off,” she said.

She said she spoke at the session to help herself and other survivors heal.

“I speak for my church. Help it, clean it. But don’t leave it,” Strawcutter said.

She doesn’t agree with every decision the Diocese has made regarding abuse and the aftermath of the Grand Jury Report, but has a vested interest in the Church because of her faith, and the lives of her great-nieces and grandchildren.

“I want my parents’ path in the faith to be followed,” she said.

“I hope Bishop Gainer knows what good priests the Diocese has now. I hope he supports them in their pastoral ministry to survivors and in their own healing from this,” said Strawcutter, who said she has found support from a young priest who previously served at her parish.

“I saw the look of Christ’s pain in the face of that priest when I told him I had been abused,” she said. “He has been a support for me, and I hope other survivors could be as blessed with healing.”

“I stand in solidarity with victims, and with the hope for change and healing,” Strawcutter said.

Upcoming Listening Sessions

Bishop Ronald Gainer will continue to host listening sessions throughout the Diocese of Harrisburg in January and February. He encourages anyone with questions regarding the Grand Jury Report, the Diocese’s response to abuse, our path forward, or any other questions or concern to attend one of these sessions.

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.

If you require special accommodations for accessibility, contact Larry Kiley, Office of Ministry with People with Disabilities, at 717-657-4804, ext. 322, or lkiley@hbgdiocese.org.

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

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CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS
Women’s Group in McSherrystown Shines Light on Corporal Works of Mercy

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

In his sermon on the Last Judgment, Christ calls his followers to charitable action through the Corporal Works of Mercy: feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit the imprisoned and bury the dead.

“Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.” (Mt. 25:40)

It’s a familiar passage for many, and a mission for the Annunciation Women of Mercy and Joy.

Organized three years ago at Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in McSherrystown, the Women of Mercy and Joy bring the Corporal Works of Mercy to the community.

Their efforts include a prayer shawl/blanket ministry, visitation to the homebound, a luncheon for couples celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary, and a service project for homeless veterans. The group donated $300 to a family from Puerto Rico who came to the area after a hurricane destroyed their home.

Activities and fundraisers also abound, as the group hosts an Easter egg hunt, a ladies’ tea, a parish picnic and a Christmas bazaar each year. Proceeds have benefited the parish debt reduction and Boy Scout projects.

“We share the Good News. While we work to bring the mercy of Jesus, we also want to share the joy of our Catholic faith,” said Toni Weaver, president of the group.

“We work to contribute what we can, and how we can,” she said of the 20 members.

Eleven ladies meet once a month to conduct the prayer shawl/blanket ministry. Some of the shawls and blankets are distributed by the ladies when they visit the homebound. Other members serve on the Christmas bazaar committee, meeting weekly from March to November to plan the event.

Bereavement ministry is another aspect of the Women of Mercy and Joy. Member Evelyn Pavlak, for example, attends parish funerals. “I’ll explain to people why I’m there, and that I’m a member of the Women of Mercy and Joy. It’s part of our mission,” she said.

Ladies in the group’s remembrance and support ministry follow up with families of parishioners who have died. They send sympathy cards and memories throughout the year, such as on Mother’s/Father’s Day, or on an anniversary. They also reach out to the family a few months after the death of their loved one, to help with any needs.

“Our hearts are really into what we do,” said Kathy Murren, the group’s vice president. “Our group of ladies are 60, 70, 80 years old, and we love what we do. Even when one of our own members gets sick, we’re right there bringing soup, lunches, whatever. We’re a good support group for people.”

One of their most recent efforts was a visit with parishioner Elizabeth Lawrence, who will celebrate her 99th birthday in February.

Lawrence, who lives in McSherrystown with her daughter, received a prayer shawl from the group and welcomed them to take seats in the living room.

Five ladies of the Women of Mercy and Joy – Toni Weaver, Kathy Murren, Evelyn Pavlak, Darlene Barnhart and Pat Murren – listened as Lawrence shared memories of the neighborhood where she has lived her entire life.

“This is just grand! I love it,” Lawrence said of the visit. “I don’t get a whole lot of people visiting because so many work these days, but every now and then the ladies will come to see me.”

Visits to the homebound are casual and unstructured. The ladies allow their host to lead the conversation, asking questions to spark additional memories, or praying as a group if the person requests it.

“I love bringing such joy and happiness to the homebound,” said Pat Murren. “They know we’re there because we care and want to make them happy. We want them to know they haven’t been forgotten.”

From ministry to the bereaved and homebound to events and activities for the parish, the Annunciation Women of Mercy and Joy have undertaken a flurry of efforts in their three years of existence.

“I can’t imagine I’d be doing these things if I wasn’t part of this group,” Kathy Murren said. “The Holy Spirit is definitely leading us.”

The group is looking for more women to join as they continue their efforts to affirm family life, marriage, the elderly, the infirm and parish life.

“Being part of this group is very rewarding,” said Darlene Barnhart. “People will tell you how happy you make them feel, and you hope that the encounter draws them closer to God and to the Church.”

“I’m happy to put my efforts into this group,” she said.

St. Joseph Sister Ann Marie Wierman, who coordinates pastoral ministries at Annunciation Parish, called the Women of Mercy and Joy “a dynamic group” that focuses on spirituality, hospitality and visitation “to parishioners in need of their watchful care.”

She commended the women for working to establish new and more meaningful ways to serve the parish.

“They are joyful when spending time together as women of the Church, intent upon supporting one another in their life of faith,” Sister Ann Marie said. “Many see them as arms of the parish intent upon sharing the Gospel by their generous acts of love and kindness to everyone.”

(For more information on the Women of Mercy and Joy, contact Toni Weaver at 717-632-5357 or sweetbaboo2410@gmail.com.)
Catholic Schools Week 2019

January 27-February 2

#CSW19

Catholic Schools Week is an annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. This year, the week is January 27-February 2. This year’s theme is “Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.” During the week, schools mark the celebration with Masses, open houses, and activities for students, families, faculty, parishioners and the larger community. These activities often include recognition of first responders, military personnel, community leaders, bus drivers, teachers and volunteers; special lunches with parents or grandparents; volunteer hours at local food banks; and amusing assemblies or games.

Through these events and activities, schools focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to our Church, our communities and our nation.

Connect with your school to learn about its activities for the week, and see a list of the schools’ open houses on page 6. The Catholic Witness will feature coverage of Catholic Schools Week activities in its upcoming editions.

Learn more about Catholic schools in the Diocese at www.gocatholicschools.org.

Sister Danielle Truex, IHM, principal of Sacred Heart of Jesus School in Lancaster, reviews materials with Isiah Caine and Taamir Brice-Young.

Mason Laubach, Emily Marino, Elise Ferdock and Alex Holoviak enjoy camaraderie at St. Columba School in Bloomsburg.

Excellent Academics

95% of our Elementary students score above the national average in Language skills.

90% of our Elementary students score above the national average in Reading.

85% of our Elementary students score above the national average in Math.

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Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg • 4800 Union Deposit Road • Harrisburg, PA 17111 • (717) 657-4804
Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed

Diocesan Schools: Forming Students for Success

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Catholic school pride runs deep in the Diocese of Harrisburg. Each school celebrates its family-like atmosphere, dedicated staff, successful students, strong curriculum and unique activities. They celebrate student achievement in class, in the arts and in athletics, and acclaim devoted teachers and benefactors.

While each is unique in its spirit and community, the 40 schools in the diocese share a commonality: investing in the future of students with a faith-based education.

“Catholic education is an investment in the future,” said Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Danielle Trues, principal of Sacred Heart of Jesus School in Lancaster.

“We’re bringing children and families with diverse experiences, gifts and talents together into a community where we can support them and form the next generation of leaders in our Church and in our society,” she said.

“The ability to work with parents and students in order to teach them the values they will draw upon for the rest of their lives is such a gift that we are able to give,” she said.

Student Success

Academic success is a hallmark of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Harrisburg. Consider these statistics for elementary students:

• 95% score above the national average in language skills
• 90% score above the national average in reading
• 85% score above the national average in math

“We don’t concentrate on testing; we don’t teach to the test, and yet our students are scoring high on the ITBS national test,” said Dave Webb, who teaches language arts and religion at St. Columba School in Bloomsburg.

“We offer strong academics in a faith-filled environment,” Webb said. “We offer a very well-rounded education that produces well-rounded students who are prepared for whatever comes their way in high school and throughout life.”

Student success at the secondary level is evidenced by high graduation rates and scholarship offers. More than $40 million in scholarships offered to them.

Partnering with Parents

Parents are the primary educators of their children, and Catholic schools partner with them in the education of students.

Dana Baker, fourth-grade teacher at St. John the Baptist School in New Freedom, enrolled her three children in Catholic school two years ago.

“I didn’t feel like my kids were being given the foundation they needed to be successful people, to be good people,” Baker said. “My husband and I wanted more for our children.

Her daughter is now in eighth grade at York Catholic High School, and her sons are in fourth and sixth grades at St. John the Baptist, where Baker teaches.

“Since they’ve been in Catholic school, I’ve seen such a positive change in my kids,” Baker said. “They’ve grown in responsibility, accountability and confidence because of how [the schools] prepare the students for life.”

“Catholic school has transformed our whole life,” Baker said. “Our quality of life is above and beyond what I ever dreamed it would be.”

As a teacher and a parent whose children have attended Catholic school, Jane Lobeck encourages parents to see what a faith-based education offers.

“Students receive spiritual warmth and love in a Catholic school that maybe they won’t find in a different school,” said Lobeck, kindergarten teacher at Sacred Heart of Jesus School in Lancaster.

“It’s been so important to me that my kids went to Catholic school,” Lobeck said. “I recognized that the schools were willing to work with me as a parent. My children received a different perspective of the faith through the various teachers they encountered. They became so strong in their academics, with the faith being the backbone.”

Exceeding Expectations

As principal, Sister Danielle understands “there are things that parents come to expect” when they send their child to a Catholic school.

Among them are an environment of family and faith.

“We’re so focused on building up our families and our children together in faith and community,” Sister Danielle said. “Our ability to reach each individual child…stems from our Catholic faith and our belief in the dignity of every person.”

Formation of students in the faith starts with reminding them of God’s love, said Webb.

“We get them into a frame of mind to be filled with the love of God,” he said. “Prayer in class, recitation of the Rosary and school-wide Masses help the students grow in that love. “I see it in their joy, manners, respect and self-discipline,” Webb said.

Kathleen Gaughenbaugh, who teaches language arts and science at St. Columba, said the school offers “an extended family, a second home” to students. “They know they are safe and loved here.”

Now in her 40th year in Catholic education, Gaughenbaugh has taught three generations of families.

“That’s an important testimonial from parents. They received an excellent Catholic school education, and they want the best for their children as well,” she said.

She urges parents considering a Catholic school to see the “lively, inquisitive, joyful, confident and cooperative” students in action.

“Come to the school, get a feel for the environment, go from class to class, see what a vibrant community it is,” she said.

Baker, a parent of three, said prospective parents can expect their children to receive support, kindness and a quality education.

“We give students a quality education and a foundation in the faith. Catholic schools offer an amazing opportunity to enrich their lives, their family and their faith,” she said.

Learn more about Catholic schools in the Diocese at www.gocatholicschools.org.

York Catholic High School students Kadie Kamara and Torrey Thomas post notes with actions for positive change.

Above: Aubree works with an educational game in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Program at St. John the Baptist School in New Freedom.

Right: Seventh-grader Richard Brown, Jr., conducts a chemistry experiment at St. Joseph School in Danville.
Catholic Schools Week OPEN HOUSES

The following open house information was submitted by schools in the request of The Witness. The listing is also available online at www.gocatholicschools.org, where you can also find a listing of Diocesan schools and information on Catholic school education.

Lancaster Catholic to Host Piano Bar, Swing Dance Night, Mardi Gras Celebration

Lancaster Catholic High School’s Fine & Performing Arts Department is hosting two upcoming evenings of music. Piano Bar Night is Jan. 26 at 7:30 p.m. This 21-and-older event features snacks and drinks. Reserve a table for 8-10 people in your party. Swing Dance Night, open to all ages, is Feb. 23 at 7 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Temple Avenue jazz quintet will provide music. Lancaster Swing Dance Club will offer dance lessons.

Admission to both events is by donation to the Fine & Performing Arts Department. Contact Tony Brill at 717-509-0313 or thril@lchsyes.org with your name, number attending, and phone number. RSVP for Swing Dance Night by Feb. 20.

Lancaster Catholic is hosting Mass and a jazz concert on Mardi Gras, March 5, at 6:30 p.m. Mass will be celebrated in the chapel by Father Steven Arena, school chaplain. Following Mass, the St. Joseph School, Camp Hill jazz band will perform. Lancaster Catholic students will perform a dance. Admission to both events is by donation to the Fine & Performing Arts Department.

St. Joseph School, Danville

Sunday, Jan. 27 from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Call the school at 570-784-5932.

St. Francis Xavier School, Gettysburg

Monday, Jan. 28 during Monday Morning Prayers, Muffins and Music at 8:15 a.m. Student-led tours from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m., or by appointment. PreK4, kindergarten and new student information and registration night. PreK4 starts at 6 p.m. Call the school at 717-334-4221.

St. Joan of Arc School, Hershey

Sunday, Jan. 27 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Visitors are welcome any day during Catholic Schools Week. Call the school at 717-533-2854.

St. Joseph School, Danville

Sunday, Jan. 27 from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Call the school at 717-275-2435.

St. John School, Mechanicsburg

Wednesday, Jan. 30 from 9-11 a.m., and 1-2 p.m. Call the school at 717-766-2564.

St. Joseph School, York

Wednesday, Jan. 30 from 6-8 p.m. Tour the school and meet teachers and students. Contact Kristin Byrnes Baker, Development Director, at development@ssjy.org or 717-755-1797.

St. Margaret Mary School, Harrisburg

Sunday, Jan. 27 from 9-11 a.m. Registration dates are Feb. 3 and 10 from 1-3 p.m. Call the school at 717-232-3771.

St. Patrick School, Carlisle

Sunday, Jan. 27 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; Tuesday, Jan. 29 from 9-11 a.m.; and Thursday, Jan. 31 from 5-7 p.m., or call to schedule a private tour. Call the school at 717-249-4826.

St. Patrick School, York

Tuesday, Jan. 29 from 9-11 a.m. and 6-7:30 p.m. Call the school at 717-854-8263.

St. Teresa of Calcutta School, Conway

Kindergarten Open House, Sunday, Feb. 3 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Conway camus. Tour the school, meet administration and faculty. RSVP appreciated, but not required. Contact Mrs. Gay at 717-637-3135.

St. Theresa School, New Cumberland

Open house, Sunday, Jan. 27 from 9 a.m.-noon. Taste & See event and curriculum fair, Thursday, Jan. 31 from 6:30-8 p.m. Call the school at 717-774-7464.

St. Rose of Lima School, Thompsonville

Tuesday, Jan. 29 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Call the school at 717-792-0889.

St. Joseph School, Hanover

Friday, Feb. 1 from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Call the school at 717-632-0118.

St. Leo the Great School, Rohrerstown

Sunday, Jan. 27 after 11 a.m. Mass, and Tuesday, Jan. 29 from 8:45-11 a.m., and 6:15-8 p.m. Call the school at 717-394-1742.

York Deaney Schools Kick off Catholic Schools Week with Annual ‘Battle of the Buildings’

The York Deaney schools are uniting for a friendly competition to kick off Catholic Schools Week. The annual “Battle of the Buildings” will be Jan. 26 from 6-7:30 p.m. at York Catholic High School. Faculty members from York Catholic, St. John the Baptist in New Freedom, St. Joseph in Dallastown, St. Rose of Lima in Thomasville and St. Joseph and St. Patrick in York will compete in “minute to win it”-type games while students cheer them on to victory.

The price of admission is a non-perishable food item for the Catholic Harvest Food Pantry. Every school will have a special table to collect donations. The top three schools with the most donations earn points for their team. The public is invited to attend.
Knights’ Collections Benefit Families at Christmas

Knights of Columbus Councils in the Diocese of Harrisburg held special collections in advance of Christmas to help families in need.

St. Catherine Labouré Knights of Columbus Council 12811 in Harrisburg had its 10th annual council Christmas party, asking families to bring items to help support Morning Star Pregnancy Services’ pro-life efforts of supporting women, men and infants. Through the collection, the Knights contributed diapers, wipes and other infant items.

The Knights of Columbus of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Harrisburg, in conjunction with the St. Vincent DePaul Society, conducted their annual Christmas Giveaway last month. The Knights donated bags of groceries to needy families in the Harrisburg area, and the St Vincent DePaul Society distributed gifts to the children of the families. The food and presents were distributed from the cafeteria of Holy Name of Jesus School. The organizations have distributed more than 350 bags of groceries and presents to 150 families each year for the past six years.

During the Christmas season, the Msgr. George V. Lentocha Knights of Columbus Council 3501 in Middletown sponsored a “Keep Christ in Christmas Poster” contest. This program is designed to allow young people to engage their creative talents and imaginations while understanding the true, spiritual meaning of Christmas. More than 40 children from Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish and School created posters to share their faith and knowledge that Jesus is the reason for the season of Christmas. Jude Henderson won the 11-14 age division, and Gracie Reider won the contest for students ages 8-10. The two first-place posters will advance to the Pennsylvania state level judging and have a chance to advance to the Knights of Columbus international judging level.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Mental Health Counseling

In Lancaster, York, Harrisburg and Abbottstown

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

Catholic Charities Diocese of Harrisburg

“Providing Help, Creating Hope”
www.ccbhg.org

Epiphany Concert Series Celebrates Spirit of Christmas

St. Joseph Parish in York hosted an Epiphany Concert Series Jan. 4-6, leading into Epiphany Sunday. Parishes from York and the greater York area were invited to showcase their various musical types, groups, soloists, ensembles and choirs to celebrate the continuing Christmas season and the spirit of community. The churches that participated included Eastminster Presbyterian Church, York First Church of the Brethren, Pine Grove United Methodist Church, St. John the Baptist Church of the Brethren, Pine Grove United Methodist Church, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church and Christ United Methodist Church. The program created a unique blend of different concerts each night. In addition to the concert, cookies, cakes and Christmas treats were served throughout the evening.

HDCCW Prayer Shawl Retreat

February 23
Good Shepherd Parish, Camp Hill

The Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women invites women of the Diocese to their 8th annual Prayer Shawl Retreat.

The retreat will begin with Mass at 9:30 a.m., followed by knitting /crocheting, praying the Rosary, fellowship and lunch.

The retreat will conclude at 2:30 p.m.

Beginners are welcome to this day of sharing and fellowship in this special ministry.

Cost of $10 includes lunch. Advance registration is required.

Call or text Kathy Kokoski at 717-448-8899 or Debbie Black at 717-514-8815, or email them at kakoko120@comcast.net or mvdb01@verizon.net to register.

RSVP deadline is Sunday, February 10.
Italian Community Shares Gifts on Feast of Epiphany

By Jen Reed
*The Catholic Witness*

Catholics of Italian heritage celebrated their culture at the annual Italian-language Mass on the Feast of the Epiphany at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg. The annual Mass is a spiritual activity sponsored by the Diocese’s Italian Apostolate.

Hymns, chants, prayers and responses in Italian echoed through the Cathedral during the Mass, celebrated by Father Joshua Brommer, chaplain of the apostolate.

“For people who speak Italian, or even for those who are second or third generation Italian, the Mass is a great way to return to our heritage,” said Maria DiSanto, who co-chairs the Italian Apostolate Committee with Mariella Amato.

“To see the Cathedral full for the Mass, even including its regular parishioners, was an inspiring sight,” DiSanto said.

During the liturgy, Father Brommer, who is pastor of the Cathedral Parish, blessed the Nativity scene. In his homily for the Feast of the Epiphany, he spoke about true gift-giving.

“What gift are we to give our newborn King, who does not need a gift?” he posed. “We should give the gift that has been given to us at Christmas. It is the ultimate re-gifting to share Christ with the world…and in that giving, it allows us to become more like Christ.”

At the conclusion of the Mass, a reception abundant with Italian dishes took place in the Cathedral’s social hall. The food was fully prepared and donated by members of the committee. Pasta, salad and breads were also prepared for the dinner that the Cathedral Parish hosts for the homeless on Sundays.

In addition to the Mass on the Feast of the Epiphany, the Italian Apostolate participated in the festival of foods for the kickoff celebration of the Diocese’s 150th anniversary, and will serve foods after its closing Mass on March 3.

The apostolate also gathers to celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph in March. For this annual celebration, the Sicilian community prepares a traditional altar of breads and fruit, which are blessed and distributed to people in need.

The Mass for the Feast of St. Joseph will be at the Church of the Holy Spirit in Palmyra on March 17 at 1 p.m. The traditional St. Joseph Altar, built by the Sicilian community, will be located in the parish’s former church.

“We try to incorporate as much as we can into our apostolate,” DiSanto said. Father Brommer and Father Anthony Dill, pastor of Holy Spirit Parish, hear Confessions in Italian, and the apostolate has celebrated weddings and baptisms in Italian over the years.

“A lot of people really enjoy the fellowship of our community, especially during our two annual Masses,” DiSanto said. “If that brings people to church and moves them to return to Mass and deepen their faith, that’s a good thing.”

Left and below: Members of the Diocese’s Italian Apostolate host a reception of dishes, fruit and desserts they prepared and donated for a reception after Mass.

**ITALIAN MASS FOR THE FEAST OF SAINT JOSEPH**

*LA SANTA MESSA PER LA FESTA DI SAN GIUSEPPE*

Sunday, March 17 at 1 p.m. • Church of the Holy Spirit
300 West Pine Street, Palmyra, PA 17078

Father Joshua R. Brommer and Father Anthony Dill, Concelebrants

Special thanks to:
- Father Joshua R. Brommer, Chaplain for the Italian Apostolate Ministry
- Father Anthony Dill, Pastor of Holy Spirit Parish
- Mario Billow of Daily Funeral Home

Through the generosity of the Collura and Manzella families, we will have a traditional St. Joseph Altar created in the social hall where

The Italian Apostolate Ministry Committee will provide a dinner reception after Mass

For more information, contact:
- Maria DiSanto, 717-554-5698, disanto1@comcast.net
- Mariella Amato, 717-278-9420
January 18, 2019

• The Catholic WITNESS

SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH

Membership Sunday Collection ~ February 3

By your Baptism, YOU are a MISSIONARY

Called to share your faith,
to pass on the “Good News” of Jesus among the mission poor,
touching the lives of families, refugees, orphans,
the sick, the elderly,
those who live without the hope that comes from Christ our Lord!

Join in the worldwide mission of Jesus.
Join the Propagation of the Faith,
a Pontifical Mission Society.

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Reverend Robert F. Sharman, Diocesan Director

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
OFFICE OF PONTIFICAL MISSIONS
Diocese of Harrisburg
4800 Union Deposit Road
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www.hbgdiocese.org/missions

A Missionary in Guatemala
Blessed Stanley Rother

Father Stanley Rother is both the first recognized martyr and the first priest in the United States to be beatified. In his Angelus message on September 24, 2017, Pope Francis said: “Yesterday, in Oklahoma City, the missionary priest, Stanley Francis Rother, killed in hatred of the faith for his work of evangelization, and work to promote the human dignity of the poorest people in Guatemala, was proclaimed Blessed. May his heroic example help us to be courageous witnesses to the Gospel, committed to working on behalf of the dignity of man.”

Stanley Rother felt called to the priesthood at an early age, but difficulties with Latin initially made him think of leaving the seminary. However, he persevered and was ordained in May 1963. For one of the sacred images commemorating his ordination, Father Rother chose the words of St. Augustine: “For my own good I am a Christian, for the good of others, I am a priest.”

In June 1968, he joined the Oklahoma mission in Guatemala and was assigned to a local church in the Diocese of Sololá. In Santiago Atitlán parish, he was called Father Aplas (the Tzutujil word for “Francis”). Father Rother learned both Spanish and Tzutujil, one of the 21 Mayan dialects spoken in Guatemala, to the point of being able to celebrate Mass in the Tzutujil language and even translate the New Testament into the local language.

His work as a parish priest also involved a lot of physical labor. Taking advantage of his agricultural experience from Oklahoma, he helped develop agricultural projects by participating in the creation of a farmers’ co-op. In addition, Father Rother helped found a weavers’ co-op and a credit union. He also helped build a school, a hospital in nearby Panabaj, and the first Catholic radio station in the region.

Cardinal Amato, who presided over the beatification of Father Stanley Rother, said in his homily, “From 1971 until 1981, numerous killings of journalists, farmers, catechists and priests, all falsely accused of communism, took place in Guatemala. This was a real and true time of bloody persecution for the Church. In this situation, Father Rother, aware of the imminent danger to his life, prepared himself for martyrdom, asking the Lord for the strength to face it without fear. He continued, however, to preach the Gospel of love and nonviolence.”

Father Rother’s name appeared on a list of people sentenced to death and, due to danger, he and a confrere left Guatemala in 1981 and returned to Oklahoma, but only for about three months. His heart had remained with the Guatemalan people, and in a December 1980 letter to the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, Father Rother wrote, “This is one of the reasons why I must stand up to violence: the pastor cannot escape at the first sign of danger.”

Shortly after his return to Guatemala, Father Rother was killed at the age of 46 at 1 a.m. on July 28, 1981, in the church’s rectory in Santiago Atitlán. The perpetrators of the crime, three masked men, were never identified. Although Father Rother’s body is buried in Resurrection Memorial Cemetery in Oklahoma City, his heart will always be with the people he loved, and in fact, it is kept in St. James the Apostle Church in Santiago Atitlán. (From the Pontifical Missionary Societies and Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.)

CNS/ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY ARCHIVES
Father Stanley Rother is pictured in an undated photo.

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Father Stanley Rother is shown baptizing a child in this undated photo.
**BISHOP McDEVITT SWEEPS TRINITY ON HOME COURT**

By Chris Heisey  
*The Catholic Witness*

Only ten miles of road separate Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg and Trinity High School in Camp Hill. Not much separates them on the basketball court, either, when it comes to talent, tenacity and toughness. These are three traits that will certainly serve both the Crusaders and the Shamrocks come playoff time in late February and March.

In a double header played at McDevitt’s Saint Sebastian Gym, on Jan. 5, a sell-out crowd was treated to two terrific basketball games – first the girls’ squads, both coming in undefeated – followed by the nightcap with the boys’ teams, who are also having playoff-certain seasons.

In the girls’ game, the Crusaders jumped out to a quick 12-point lead behind the deadly long range three-point shooting of Olivia Fasick (1,000-point scorer) who has a knack for creating shooting space with her patented step-back jump shot with a range beyond 20 feet. But the Shamrocks stayed close by tightening up their perimeter defense and upping the intensity on the floor. While the Crusaders had a decided advantage in quickness and speed, the Shamrocks’ are loaded with athletic size, led by Sunshine McCrae (1,000-point scorer), which gave the Crusaders fits on the defensive end, especially in the second half when Trinity attacked the paint and climbed to within two, 45-43, with three minutes left.

But a 9-0 McDevitt run, led by Fasick and her teammates’ solid free-throw shooting, sealed the win for the Crusaders. In District 3 Class 4A power rankings, the Crusaders are atop the pack, but lurking just below them are the defending state-champion Crusaders of Lancaster Catholic, who amazingly haven’t lost a game since 2016.

The boys’ game was equally as entertaining, which McDevitt won, 78-72. The Crusaders played stifling man-to-man defense that completely took away the Shamrocks’ outside shooting game. Both like-minded-style teams got in foul trouble early when the officials got uncomfortable with the frantic pace and physicality and used their whistles to unfortunately wrestle control of the game.

The Shamrocks were tagged with 41 fouls, including three technical fouls, which led to the Crusaders’ six-point win. Trinity’s super-freshman Chance Westerly scored 27 points and is clearly a Division-I caliber player. When you play smothering defense the way the Coach Mike Gaffney’s Crusaders do, beating them in District 3 Class 4A will be a tall task. Trinity’s Coach Larry Kostelac, who notched his 700th victory at this season’s beginning, has a team that will certainly be playing in mid-March in Class 3A on the road to Hershey to bring home more basketball championship trophies.
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/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.InstituteofCatholicCulture.org
www.Formed.org
www.AscensionPress.com

Spotlight on Adult Faith Formation:
Institute of Catholic Culture

Looking for opportunities to grow in your life of faith in 2019? Consider participating in any of these upcoming free live webinars offered by the Institute of Catholic Culture:

Ministers of Fire: A Patristic Study of the Angels
Presented by Msgr. Charles Pope
Tuesdays, Jan. 22, 29 and Feb. 5 from 8-9 p.m.

Island of Salvation: The Birth of Celtic Christianity
Presented by Timothy O’Donnell, S.T.D.
Sunday, Feb. 10 at 6 p.m.

Liturgy & Life: Restoring Liturgical Catechesis
Presented by Rev. David Anderson
Tuesdays, Feb. 19, 26, March 12 and 19 from 8-9 p.m.

Witnesses for Christ: Understanding the Age of the Martyrs
Presented by Christopher Check
Sunday, Feb. 24 at 6 p.m.

I Arise Today!: The Breastplate of St. Patrick
Presented by Joseph Pearce
Sunday, March 17 at 6 p.m.

Like a Lamb: The Suffering Servant & the Prophecy of Isaiah
Presented by Msgr. Charles Pope
Saturday, April 13 at 6:30 p.m.

To register, or for more information about these and all of the adult faith formation resources offered by the Institute of Catholic Culture, visit www.instituteofcatholicculture.org. Membership in the ICC is free and gives users access to live webinars, as well as more than 800 hours of on-demand audio and video presentations on a wide variety of topics. Discussion/study questions for presentations are also available, making this online faith formation ideal for both individuals and small groups.

Beginning Experience is the Church at work, providing help, healing and spiritual restoration. Visit www.hbgdiocese.org and go to “Marriage and Family” or visit www.beginningexperience.org. Information can also be obtained by contacting the Harrisburg Beginning Experience Team: Julie at 717-379-0800 or Eva at 717-495-9586.

‘Beginning Experience’ Planned for Those Suffering the Loss of a Spouse

For people suffering the loss of a spouse through death, divorce or separation, Beginning Experience weekends can offer help.

In the Diocese of Harrisburg, the Beginning Experience ministry is under the auspices of the Office of Family and Respect Life Ministries.

The next Beginning Experience weekend in the Diocese will be May 3-5 at Camp Hebron in Halifax.

The ecumenical weekends are an approved program designed for those suffering the loss of a spouse through death, divorce or separation. Hundreds of persons have been helped to move towards successful, productive, happy lives by attending one of these weekends.

The weekend is led by persons who have lost a spouse through death or divorce and are trained in facilitating a weekend. Each Beginning Experience Team is certified by the International Beginning Experience Organization.

“I can tell you that my encounter with the Beginning Experience weekend has brought me greater peace and given me an extended family of lifelong friends who I quickly grew to love and lean on,” a recent attendee said. “If you or someone you know is suffering the isolation and pain that can accompany the loss of a spouse or marriage, I encourage you to seriously consider attending the Beginning Experience weekend.”

Beginning Experience is the Church at work, providing help, healing and spiritual restoration. Visit www.hbgdiocese.org and go to “Marriage and Family” or visit www.beginningexperience.org. Information can also be obtained by contacting the Harrisburg Beginning Experience Team: Julie at 717-379-0800 or Eva at 717-495-9586.
Deacon John Mowery
Deacon John A. Mowery, Jr., died Dec. 20 at Colonial Park Care Centre in Harrisburg. He was 80 years old. Deacon Mowery was a member of the Diocese of Harrisburg and was assigned to Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish in Harrisburg, and was well known for his work with youth and as a retreat director. He served on the Advisory Board for the Dauphin County Area Agency on Aging, Charter President of Capitol Area Sertoma Club, member of the Holy Rosary Council 869 Knights of Columbus, and Bishop J.W. Shanahan Assembly Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus. He was active with the Boy Scouts of America, serving 25 years as a Troop Scoutmaster. He also served the Keystone Area Council, Hidden Valley Scout Reservation as Program Director, Aquatics Director, Camp Director, Wood Badge Staff, and most recently Camp Commissioner. He had been Director for the National Camp School for the Northeast Region and was a Vigil Honor Mem- ber of the Order of the Arrow. He received the St. George Award from the Diocese for his work with Scouting. He was also awarded the Distinguished Commissioner Award from the Boy Scouts of America and its Silver Beaver Award. Deacon Mowery was the son of the late John A. Mowery, Sr., and Dorothy T. Shindler Mow- ery and is survived by one brother and his wife, and several nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Dec. 28 at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Church in Harrisburg by Bishop Ronald Gainer. Burial was in Resurrection Cemetery, Harrisburg. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Hidden Valley Scout Reservation, Keystone Area Council BSA, 1 Baden Powell Lane, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050.

Sister Thomasine Smith, SCC
Christian Charity Sister Thomasine Smith died Dec. 26 at the Motherhouse in Mendham, N.J. She was 74. Born in Hanover, she entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Christian Charity in 1962. In her early years of religious life, she worked as a homemaker in convents in Pennsylvania and at the Motherhouse in New Jersey. After 33 years in that ministry, she cared for her elderly mother for three years. Sister Thomasine then began a new ministry as Pastoral Associate at St. Mary’s Parish in Wharton, N.J., from 2001-2013. She organized the religious educa- tion program for children and provided social and spiritual activities for senior citizens. Following her years of apostolic service, Sister was assigned to the Holy Family Convent in Danville due to health rea- sons, and in July 2018 moved to the new Motherhouse in Mendham. Sister Thomasine was preceded in death by her par- ents and four siblings, including Msgr. Thomas Smith. She is survived by eight siblings, including Sister Mary Mark Smith, SCC. The Mass of Christian Burial was Jan. 2 at the Motherhouse with burial at Holy Cross Cemetery on the Motherhouse property, Mendham, N.J.

Sister Margaret Appell, OSF
Franciscan Sister Margaret Appell, formerly Sister St. Margaret, died in Assisi House in Aston, Pa., Jan. 4. She was 87. Born in Baltimore, she entered the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia in 1949. She earned a bachelor’s degree in education from Villanova University and a master’s in education administration from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Sister Margaret ministered in the Dioceses of Tren- ton, Camden and Wilmington and in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. From 1983-1989, she served on the provincial council for the Sisters of St. Francis’ St. Anthony Province and served as provincial coordina- tor of education. In the Diocese of Harrisburg, Sister Margaret taught at St. Gertrude School in Lebanon and at Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph schools in York. In 2013, she moved to Assisi House, the congregation’s retirement residence in Aston, where she served in prayer and hospitality ministry until her death. The Mass of Christian Burial was Jan. 9 at Assisi House. Burial was in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery, Aston.

Sister Mary Matthew Janciar, ASC
Adorers of the Blood of Christ Sister Mary Matthew Janciar died Jan. 6 at St. Anne’s Retirement Community in Columbia. She was 93. Born in Johnstown, Pa., she entered the Congrega- tion of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ in 1939 as a high school student. As a young sister, she studied at the Precious Blood Teachers Institute and taught primary grades at St. Mary’s School in Steetlon and in Chicago and St. Louis. She earned a bachelor’s and master’s in French from Saint Louis University in 1955 and 1958. From 1958-1979, Sister Mary Matthew taught at St. Joseph Academy and the Precious Blood Teacher Training Institute in Columbia, and in 1972 at Lan-caster Catholic High School. In addition to teaching, Sister Mary Matthew also directed Scholastics from 1973-1977. She also served her community of Ador- ers throughout the 1970s and 80s as local coordina- tor for the motherhouse and St. Anne’s Home for the Aged, and as provincial councilor. From 1989-1994, Sister Mary Matthew was admin- istrator of Hispanic Ministry at Our Lady of Guadal- upe Parish in Lebanon. She also served in ministry at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Harrisburg from 1994- 2008. The Mass of Christian Burial was Jan. 11 at St. Anne’s Retirement Community, Columbia. Burial was in the convent cemetery.

Sister Mary John Goles, ASC
Adorers of the Blood of Christ Sister Mary John Goles died Jan. 6. She was 94. Born Mary Valeria in Steelton, she attended St. Joseph Academy in Columbia before entering the Con- gregation of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, then asked to enter the Adorers She attended the Precious Blood Teacher Training Institute in Columbia and Mount Mercy College and Duquesne University, both in Pittsburgh. She earned a bachelor’s degree in education at Duquesne. Sister Mary John taught elementary school, and sometimes doubled as principal, from 1942-2001 in Pennsylvania, Indiana, Ohio, North Carolina, Georgia and Missouri. In the Diocese of Harrisburg, she taught at Seven Sorrows School in Middletown, St. Mary’s School in Steelton and Sacred Heart School in Lewis- town. The Mass of Christian Burial was Jan. 12 at St. Anne’s Retirement Community, Columbia. Burial was in the convent cemetery.

Sister M. Cabrini Steber, SS.C.M.
Sts. Cyril and Methodius Sister M. Cabrini Steber, 92, died at Emmanuel Center in Danville on Dec. 19. Born in Coxeville, Pa., she graduated from St. Cyril Academy in Danville and entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius there in 1945. She received a bachelor’s in education from Marywood University and a master’s in education from Scranton University. For more than 40 years, Sister Cabrini taught in parish schools in New York, Pennsylvania and South Carolina. She also served as principal/local coordina- tor for 21 years. Later, she served in various capacities at Maria Hall and Maria Joseph Manor in Danville, including receptionist, appointment escort, resident visitor and coordinator of volunteers. She contracted Guillain-Barre disease when she was missioned to St. John the Baptist School in Pittston, Pa. Paralyzed from the waist down, she prayed for a miracle to Sister Maria Kaupas, S.C., foundress of the Sisters of Saint Casimir. She recovered and spent the rest of her life in fruitful ministry. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Ma- ria Hall in Danville on Dec. 22. Burial was in the Sis- ters’ cemetery.

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Registration with the e-mail service will not automatically cancel your mailed subscription. If you prefer to receive the online version instead of a copy in the mail, e-mail your name and mailing address to witness@hbgdiocese.org. And remember, previous editions of the newspaper—dating back to early 2011—are also available online. You can find them at www.hbgdiocese.org. Just follow the News/Events tab to The Catholic Witness page.
The Spiritualty of Looking at Your Feet, Part IV

By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
Special to The Witness

The Gracious God, whom I reverently call “My Beloved,” taught me a very important lesson when I went on my annual retreat in October. As the days have sped by since then, I realize the lesson He showed me is an important aspect of the “Spirituality of Looking at Your Feet.”

I have often declared to others, “I struggle, almost daily, in fact, to achieve balance between all the different elements that are a part of my life: work, prayer, community and leisure.” Many of you are probably in agreement.

Kay Lindahl, the author of the book I read during my retreat, reflects, “I used to view my life through the lens of balance.” I was eager to learn how to acquire this skill in order to achieve some sort of peace in my life. I wondered before I dove in to the book, “Was this the grace of the retreat?”

As the retreat ended, I began to chew on those words. I have discovered the way we integrate the whole, or rather, the way we orientate ourselves to God, is by looking at our feet. Consider this piece a P.S. to the previous three articles I have written on this topic.

Only when we can truly integrate God into whatever and wherever “our feet” are doing can true peace be found. By integrate, I mean from the depth of our core, our heart, our entire being: Can I bring God there? It is only by the integration of all the pieces of the puzzle of life and by finding Him, our Beloved, in the midst of all activity which is part of our life, that peace can grow and bear fruit.

Now, be forewarned, I am not talking about a life that is pain free. It’s the brining of His presence where we find our feet that brings peace. With this understanding, even if there is pain in the present, knowing this situation is the will of God, peace can be ours. The peace that I speak about is deeper than feeling or emotions. It is the peace that comes from knowing that you are truly loved and cared for by “the Beloved.”

It’s like standing with your feet firmly planted on earth and your eyes and heart directed toward Heaven! How’s that for a post script?


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

Blessed Sacrament

Answers on page 15

51. Took water from well
52. Building addition
53. Pop
54. # of stone water jars
55. Mesh
56. Prayer ending

DOWN
1. Sleep disorder
2. Mollusks
3. Victory shines like one
4. Eye infection
5. Easter symbol
6. Tangles
7. A disciple can be one
8. National police
9. Atmosphere
10. Compass point
13. That (possessive)
18. "___ life"
20. Pumps up
23. "___ witnesses"
24. Thai
25. Globe
26. Vane direction
27. Beer container
28. Vane direction
29. White-tailed sea eagle
30. Flurry
31. Males
32. Pastry
33. Surf
35. Ad's song
38. "For ___"
39. "He rejoices in his bride"
40. Church pathway
41. Devil
42. Prisoner of war
44. Popular gym/pool site
45. Spots
46. Day of the week (abbr.)
47. "Christus ___"
49. Sandwich

Readings: Is 62:1-5; 1Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1-11 & Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10; 1Cor 12:12-14, 27; Lk 1:1-4, 4:14-21
Diocesan Notebook
Compiled by Jen Reed

Pilgrimages & Retreats
Join Msgr. William J. King on a pilgrimage to Ireland, departing Nov. 4 and returning Nov. 13, 2019. For information or a fler, contact Jeannie Ishman at jeannieish@steas.net.

Join Father Job Foote to 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 717-875-3369 for information or reservations.

Pilgrimage to Oberammergau Passion Play, Sept. 8-18, 2020. Join Father Job Foote and St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Annville on an Austria and Germany Pilgrimage that includes Vienna, Salzburg, Munich, and the Passion Play in Oberammergau. Germany. Cost of $3,959 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.

Father Peter Di Tomasso, M.S.S., C.C., and UNITOURS will lead a pilgrimage to see Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico, Sept. 8-15, 2019. Cost of $2,439 includes round-trip airfare, hotel accommodations, air-conditioned motorcoach, a full-time tour guide, meals per itinerary, and departure tax and current fuel charge. Call Father Peter at 717-642-8815 for a brochure with more details.

Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela: The Camino-The Way, escorted by Father Joseph Gotwald, Sept. 10-21, 2019. Travel the Camino by bus, not by foot. Pilgrimage includes Barcelona, Pamplona, Burgos, Leon, cathedrals, wineries, UNESCO world heritage archeological site, chocolate museum and more. For information and a brochure, contact Father Gotwald at 717-637-4625 or 220 Third St., Hanover, Pa.

Join Father Dwight Schaline of Our Lady of the Visitation Parish in Shippensburg for a pilgrimage to the Oberammergau Passion Play, May 20-30, 2020. Trip will also include Budapest, Vienna and Prague. An informational session will be Jan. 31 at 6:30 p.m. at Our Lady of the Visitation Parish in Shippensburg. For more information, contact Travis Detwiler at travisdetwiler@gmail.com or 717-809-0672.

Ioiconographer Jody Cole is conducting a Byzantine icon writing (painting) retreat April 1-5 at the Jesuit Center in Wernersville, PA. The total cost of the retreat, which includes all supplies, room and board, is $596. Participants will be able to choose from the 9 x 12” Christ of Divine Mercy (detail), Mother of Mercy (Ostra Brama) or Christ the Bridegroom (detail). To register, contact Melinda Leonowitz 610-670-3642 or go online at jsuitcenter.org. For more information, contact Jody Cole at 717-919-8791 or jcoleicon@aoel.com.

Education & Enrichment
“Surviving Divorce” program at St. John the Baptist Parish, New Freedom, begins Feb. 6 at 6:45 p.m. Twelve-week program includes videos featuring a psychologist, priests and personal testimonies. Topics include shock and grief, anger and forgiveness, money issues, dealing with children and a former spouse, and annulment and remarriage. Visit www.catholicdivorce.com and www.sjbfn.org. Cost is $25. Contact Deb Cousin at debcousin@verizon.net, Pat Smith at donettel972@aol.com or the parish office at 717-235-2156 for information.

“33 Days to Merciful Love: A Do-It-Yourself Retreat in Preparation for Consecration to Divine Mercy” at St. Katharine Drexel Parish in Mechanicsburg, in preparation for the parish mission with Father Chris Alar. Classes are Sundays at 12:15 p.m. starting Jan. 27 and Thursdays at 9:45 a.m. starting Jan. 31. The Consecration date is March 12 at 7 p.m. during the parish mission. Classes meet downstairs in the parish library. Contact Becky Radvis at skdparish.com for information.

A Bible study, “Follow Me,” meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John, in the parish hall at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Hanover. The eight-week course is a guide to a personal encounter with Christ. “Follow Me” invites you to experience the joy of a renewed friendship with Christ. The study begins Jan. 31 from 6:30-8 p.m. Cost is $20 to cover materials. Contact the parish office at 717-637-2721 or John Barrett at 717-633-1082 for more information.

Discover freedom from sin. Do you suffer or find yourself falling into the same bad habits of sin, have an addiction or have a friend/family member who suffers an addiction; or are you simply trying to live with as little anger and turmoil in your life as possible? I Thirst Prayer Group presents “UN-BOUND: Freedom in Christ,” a two-part series of spiritual prayer to discover the basis of sin and to eradicate it from your life. Sessions are Jan. 16 and 23 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria of St. Joan of Arc Church, Hershey. Call Lou at 717-583-0240.

Theology on Tap, York. Jan. 22 at The First Post (second floor) in York. Kelly Ann Cloak, wife, mother and volunteer, will speak on “Finding Joy – A Reflection of the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary.” Happy half hour starts at 7 p.m., speaker at 7:30 p.m., followed by Q&A. Theology on Tap is a young adult ministry and evangelization outreach of the Diocese of Harrisburg. All young adults (20s and 30s), single, married, Catholic or not, are invited to attend. Visit www.facebook.com/yorktheology.

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, bus trip to the Ark Encounter & Creation Museum, April 29-May 3. Cost is $569.00 pp (double occupancy) and includes motor coach transportation, four nights lodging, eight meals, four breakfasts, four dinners, admission to the Ark Encounter, Creation Museum, Newport Aquarian, Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Gardens. Call Fred Maurer at 717-273-7930.

The CCW of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Williamsstown, Sweetheart Valentine’s Day Raffle on Feb. 10. Prizes are $200, $100, $50, and two $25 prizes. Tickets are $2 and can be obtained by calling Dawn at 717-647-9124, Anne at 717-646-9182 or any member of the parish CCW.

Divine Redeemer Parish in Mount Carmel, “Kitchen Extravaganza Bingo,” Feb. 17 in Divine Mercy Hall. Doors open at 1 p.m. Bingo starts at 2 p.m. Food will be available for sale. Tickets are $20 in advance, $25 at the door. For advance tickets, call 570-590-5849, 570-975-5613 or 570-205-8751.

St. Cecilia Parish in Lebanon, annual spaghetti dinner on Jan. 26 from 11-6 p.m. at the parish center on State Drive. All-you-can-eat spaghetti, never-ending salad bar, bread bar, a drink and dessert. Cost is $9 for adults, $5 for a child’s portion. Children under three eat free. Eat in or take out.

Halupki dinner at St. Ann Byzantine Catholic Church in Harrisburg. Jan. 27 from 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Halupki are an Eastern European specialty sometimes referred to as cabbage rolls. An adult dinner is $11, a child’s dinner is $5 for ages 5-10, and age four and under are free. The meals and a late carte portions are available to eat in or take out. For more information, visit www.stannbyz.org.

Free-throw contest for boys and girls ages 9-14, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 6810, Jan. 20 from 1-5 p.m. at St. Leo the Great School in Rohrerstown. Register at the door with proof of age and written parental consent. No fee to participate. Contestants may participate in only one Knights of Columbus free-throw contest per year. Winners progress through local, district and state competition. For additional information, contact George Elko at 717-203-6210 or GMElkog@comcast.net.

Diocesan Notebook continues on page 15
OBITUARIES

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

Abbottstown  In immaculate Heart of Mary: Beverly Hershey
Annville  St. Paul the Apostle: Jean Perazzoli
Berwick  Immaculate Conception STM: Dorothy Harmon Carl Nasatka Connie Stephens
Buchanan Valley  St. Ignatius Loyola: George J. Hippensteel, Sr.
Camp Hill  Good Shepherd: Robert Haertsch Dorothy Hrinda Elayne Viani
Elysburg  Queen of the Most Holy Rosary: John O. Burba
Gettysburg  St. Francis Xavier: Lexus Felton James A. Munshour
Greencastle  St. Mark the Evangelist: Patricia A. Landerman
Hanover  St. Vincent de Paul: John Livelsberger
Harrisburg  Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick: Guido Barbarosa
Holy Name of Jesus: M. Frances Carter Francis J. Mikula Linda J. Milbourne Irene C. Williams
St. CatherineLabour: William Kuba Frank Sasa Edward Williams
St. Margaret Mary: William J. McCloskey Thomas W. Reiley Julia Skender James Slyman
St. Joan of Arc: Veronica Rowland Eilene Shank Sero Star toni
Kulpmont  Holy Angels: Robert Daniels Rosa Quagliara
Lancaster  Assumption BVM: Berthold J. Hartmann
St. John Neumann: Nancy Kegel
St. Joseph: Helen B. Bitts Beatrice “Betty” R. Gallagher Joan M. Hauck
Ellis C. Kimmich Robert Paul Zeller
Lebanon  Assumption BVM: Victor Han ner
Lewisburg  Sacred Heart of Jesus: Ellen Craugh Joseph Mitchell
Lehigh Town: Sacred Heart of Jesus: Mary Druckenmiller Robert “Bob” Hockenberry
McSherrystown  Annunciation BVM: Yvonne Keeney David Swope
Mechanicsburg  St. Joseph: Kiki Goode Richard Hedin
Mooresburg  St. Luke the Evangelist: Maureen E. Zahor
Millersville  St. Philip the Apostle: Dorothea Beiler Florence Haertler Alexander Matyi, IV
Milton  St. Joseph: George Hogan Joseph J. Kruper Eleanor Valashin
Mount Carmel  Divine Redeemer: Dora L. Snipkie
Our Lady of Mount Carmel: Sharon Megosh
New Cumberland  St. THERESE: Dr. Raymond Grandon Mary Laughlin Gertrude Soulland
New Freedom  St. John the Baptist: Paul Adams Maxine Perrone Elizabeth Ann Rufo Steven Schuman Tricia Sentf
Rohrerstown  St. Leo the Great: James J. Cox John S. Tardibuono
Selinsgrove  St. Pius X: Jean Conz
Shamokin  Mother Cabrini: Daniel Arnold Tobias Haupt Clara Ivanski Julene Jarosky Mary Klemanski Nancy McElwee
Shippensburg  Our Lady of the Visitation: Frances “Edith” Hayes William “Rocky” Rees
Steeleton  Prince of Peace: Marija Babich Mary C. (Gustin) Kuharic John Zales
Trevorton  St. Patrick: Lee E. Morgan

DECEASED CLERGY

Msgr. Francis Kumontis, 2009
Father Thomas F. Langan, 2012
Father Michael Homola, 2013
Father C. Robert Nugent, 2014
Deacon Ralph Runkle, 2005
Father Raymond Orloski, 2016
Father Wallace E. Sawdy, 2006
Msgr. Mercurio A. Fregapane, 2017

Free-throw contest for boys and girls ages 9-14, sponsored by the Palmyra Knights of Columbus, Jan. 27 at 1 p.m. at Palmyra Middle School. Register at the door with proof of age and written parental consent. No fee to participate. Contestants may participate in only one Knights of Columbus free-throw contest per year. Winners progress through local, district and state competition. For additional information or an entry form, contact Jim Albus at jalbus350@comcast.net.

Coach, Cash and More! Bingo, Feb. 17 at St. Aloysius Parish Hall in Littlestown. Doors open at 11:30 a.m., bingo at 1:30 p.m. Featuring Coach, Kate Spade, Michael Kors and more. Door prizes, raffles, kitchen open. Inclement weather date is Feb. 24. Tickets are $25; must have paid admission ticket to play. Those under 18 must be accompanied by a paying adult to play. Call 717-359-4513.

Our Lady of Hope Parish in Coal Township is seeking a Director of Music/Organist. The parish hopes to fill the position by the end of January. Responsibilities include overseeing, planning and preparing music for two weekend liturgical celebrations that include a traditional adult choir. The individual will direct and coordinate all musical needs for the parish and attend parish staff meetings. Send résumé and cover letter to Rev. Steeven G. Frenier at FrSFrenier@hbgdiocese.org, or Our Lady of Hope, 863 West Chestnut Street, Coal Township PA, 17866.

Holy Name of Jesus School in Harrisburg is seeking a part-time cafeteria position. Monday through Friday in the school cafeteria. If interested and for details of the position, contact Sister Rita at 717-657-1704 or sistrertina@holynameofjesus.com.

 JOB OPENINGS

Submission Deadlines

The deadline for submissions for the February 1 edition of The Witness is Wednesday, January 23 at 4:30 p.m. Submit written announcements via e-mail to witness@hbgdiocese.org. Limit 60 words. No ads, posters or PDFs, please.

Puzzle on page 13
Women Religious Vow Solidarity in Fight against Human Trafficking

By Dennis Sadowski
Catholic News Service

There was a time years ago when Flor Molina was working in a Southern California sewing factory, earning a scant wage and sleeping at night in a storage room not far from the factory floor.

On top of that, her bosses forbid her from talking with the other employees.

It was not the life she imagined when she accepted an offer 16 years ago from a factory recruiter in her native Mexico who promised good pay and decent housing.

After 40 days in the factory, Molina escaped and found help. She realized she had become a victim of unscrupulous human traffickers whose only value to them was her labor.

Now 46 and living in Los Angeles, Molina told her story at a recent Borders Are Not Barriers conference dedicated to stopping human trafficking.

“This is a global crime. It’s affecting all kinds of our brothers and sisters,” said Sister Anne Victory of Cleveland, a member of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary. She is president of U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Cleveland, a member of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary.

She is president of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary who are part of CATHII, the Internal and International Human Trafficking Action Committee in Montreal.

Measuring women from the global south who live amidst dire poverty to prevent young people from being trafficked inspired two members of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary who are part of CATHII, the Internal and International Human Trafficking Action Committee in Montreal.

Sister Claudette Bastien and Sister Lise Gagnon agreed that it was helpful to “feel the passion” of the international response to trafficking.

“‘It’s good to know we are together,’” Sister Lise said. “But trafficking isn’t limited to people from poor communities south of the U.S. border. Benedictine Sister Teresa Ann Wolf, director of the Benedictine Multicultural Center in Watertown, South Dakota, knows trafficking occurs even in her part of the country.

She cited the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in western South Dakota, which draws hundreds of thousands of people, as being a regular target of sex traffickers. She compared the event to a Super Bowl host city where sex trafficking spikes each February.

Beyond that, the state’s fall pheasant hunting season also presents another window for trafficking, she said.

The Benedictine’s effort focuses on building a broad network in the community, including law enforcement to find assistance for women who find themselves being trafficked and educational programs at schools and community groups.

Near the end of the meeting, Sister Gabriella called on the women religious to become more organized than the traffickers.

“Human trafficking is increasing,” she said in a call to action. “Women and children face discrimination and the patriarchal order of society. ... We’re called to recognize the presence of God in our brothers and sisters.”

Showcase and Teach Your Culture through Food

The closing celebration for the 150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Harrisburg will include an Ethnic Food Festival to represent the rich cultures that are part of our Diocese. The festival will take place after the Closing Mass at Good Shepherd Church on Sunday, March 3 at 3 p.m.

Most of the groups that were part of the Ethnic Food Festival for the Opening Mass for the anniversary year will participate at the Closing Mass. A limited number of spaces are available for those wishing to showcase and share ethnic foods. Food will be complimentary; there are no sales.

Anyone interested in sharing their dishes for the Closing Mass celebration must contact Jaclyn Curran at jcurran@hbghdioce.org as soon as possible. The deadline to request space to participate is Feb. 18.