Survivor Compensation Program Open

By Rachel Bryson, M.S.
The Catholic Witness

The Diocese of Harrisburg and Bishop Ronald W. Gainer opened its Survivor Compensation Program on Tuesday, Feb. 12. The program will be administered by Commonwealth Mediation & Conciliation, Inc. (CMCI).

“The establishment of the Survivor Compensation Program is another step forward in our Diocese’s efforts to show our support to survivors of clergy child sexual abuse. While we understand that financial compensation will not repair or erase the heartache and damage done by the abuse these survivors have suffered, we know this support can help to improve their lives. These settlements will serve as further recognition that the Church acknowledges these terrible abuses did occur and we hope that this Program will help advance survivors on their path towards healing.”

~ Bishop Ronald W. Gainer

In my own name, and in the name of the Diocesan Church of Harrisburg, I express our profound sorrow and apologize to the survivors of child sexual abuse, the Catholic faithful and the general public for the abuses that took place and for those Church officials who failed to protect children. We have and continue to take steps forward to ensure these abuses never occur again.”

Independent Management

Bishop Gainer has said for several months that this Program will be independent of the Diocese. Keeping his word, the Program has been developed and will be overseen by Mr. Paul Finn of Commonwealth Mediation & Conciliation, Inc. Mr. Finn and his firm successfully oversaw similar programs in the Archdiocese of Boston, the Diocese of Provi-
Bishop Requests St. Michael Prayer said at Masses

By Rachel Bryson, M.S.

The Catholic Witness

Prayer is a powerful shield against the forces of evil, especially the prayer to St. Michael the Archangel. Bishop Ronald Gainer has asked all parishes to begin reciting this prayer at all weekend Masses by the first Sunday of Lent, which is March 10. Bishop Gainer made the decision to introduce this custom of saying the St. Michael prayer at Masses after receiving many requests from parishioners and clergy.

"The challenges of our present time have shaken the faith and broken the hearts of many of the Catholic faithful throughout the Church. I have had opportunities to listen to the cries of outrage and concern at deanery gatherings, after visits to parishes, and through the many letters I have received," said Bishop Gainer in a letter to the faithful.

As people of faith, we commonly turn to prayer for strength and help in times of trouble, and the "communal prayer of the Church is powerful," continued Bishop Gainer.

"Over the last several months, many parishes have begun to recite the prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel at the celebration of Mass and many other parishes and individuals have asked me to mandate the use of the prayer throughout the Diocese," said Bishop Gainer.

"After discussing the issue with the Council of Priests and in light of those many requests, I am asking that all parishes begin to recite the Prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel either before or after Holy Mass, or at the conclusion of the parish announcements made at Mass, by the First Sunday of Lent." St. Michael the Archangel is considered the guardian and protector of God’s people. He continues to battle against evil and is a source of strength for those tempted by infidelity, doubt, discouragement and despair.

Bishop Gainer Continues Listening Sessions

Bishop Ronald Gainer will continue to host listening sessions throughout the Diocese of Harrisburg in February. He encourages people 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 and comments.

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.

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.
Compensation

Continued from 1

dence, the Diocese of Springfield (MA), the Diocese of Jackson (MS), the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, as well as in the Horace Mann School (Bronx, NY), and the Kamehameha School (Honolulu, HI). Furthermore, he has mediated claims involving the Rhode Island Station Fire (Providence, RI), Deutsche Bank (New York, NY), and the Big Dig Tunnel Collapse.

Funding for the Survivor Compensation Program will come in the form of a loan from the Priest’s Retirement Fund, other existing Diocesan assets and hopefully from insurance proceeds. Money that is collected in the parishes and for the Diocesan Annual Campaign (formerly known as the Bishop’s Lenten Appeal) will not go towards the funding of this Program.

Program Details

The Survivor Compensation Program will include settlements for abuse by Diocesan Priests, Deacons and Seminarians, and Religious Order Priests who served in the Diocese of Harrisburg at the time of the abuse.

To participate in the Program, a claimant must have previously identified themselves to the Diocese on or before February 11, 2019. The claims period will run for 90 days, from February 12 through May 13.

Additional information regarding eligibility and the Program are detailed online at www.youthprotectionhbg.com. Survivors who come forward after the February 11, 2019 deadline will be considered for future participation in the Program.

Participation in the Survivor Compensation Program does not disqualify survivors from receiving additional counselling through the Victim Assistance Coordinator and Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities provides counselling services and/or reimbursement for counseling services with an approved provider.

Under Bishop Gainer’s leadership, the Church has released all allegations received against priests, clergy or seminarians and posted that list publicly to the Diocese of Harrisburg.

This Program is one piece of the Diocese’s efforts to address child sexual abuse within the Church. Under Bishop Gainer’s leadership, the Church has released all allegations received against priests, clergy or seminarians and posted that list publicly to the Diocese of Harrisburg.

Details Regarding the Survivor Compensation Program:

The Program is intended to provide compensation to those survivors of childhood sexual abuse committed by clergy and certain other persons associated with the Diocese of Harrisburg.

I. Eligibility for the Program:

A. Claimants eligible:

1. The person is alleging childhood sexual abuse. “Childhood sexual abuse” means sexual molestation or sexual exploitation of a child (a person under the age of 18) and other behavior by which an adult uses a child as an object of sexual gratification, including attempted behavior.

2. The allegation is against a priest, deacon, or seminarian of the Diocese; OR the allegation is against a priest or deacon from another diocese who had faculties in the Diocese at the time of the abuse; OR the allegation is against a priest or brother from a religious order who had faculties in the Diocese at the time of the abuse.

3. The person has previously identified themselves as a survivor of childhood sexual abuse to the Diocese on or before February 11, 2019.

B. Claimants NOT eligible:

1. The person has previously settled the claim with the Diocese.

2. The childhood sexual abuse has no connection to the Diocese of Harrisburg (e.g., a claim of abuse in New Mexico by clergy in New Mexico).

II. Program Administration

A. Administrators

1. The Program will be administered by Commonwealth Mediation and Conciliation, Inc. (CMCI), including Paul Finn, Jon Prouty, Brian Mone, and Robert Berks.

2. The administrators will be completely independent from the Diocese.

III. Program Process

A. Claims Period

1. The Claims Period of the Program will run for 90 days: from February 12, 2019 through May 13, 2019.

2. Within 14 days of the close of the Claims Period, CMCI shall notify all claimants as to their eligibility, under the criteria set forth above.

3. CMCI will hear all claims, and make settlement offers to the claimants on or before June 28, 2019.

B. Claims Submission

1. Claims will be made by eligible claimants on a Program questionnaire.

2. Claims will be submitted directly to CMCI.

3. CMCI also has a telephone number that claimants or potential claimants can call.

4. Regardless of whether the claimant is eligible for the Program, any claim submitted by a claimant to the Program that involves a victim whose claim has not been previously reported to law enforcement will be reported by the Diocese to ChildLine and the appropriate District Attorney.

C. Claims Administration

1. CMCI will administer all claims through in-person meetings with claimants in central Pennsylvania, at a venue to be announced. This venue will not be a Diocesan property.

a) Claimants who decline an in-person meeting will still be eligible for a settlement offer.

b) The Diocese will not attend or otherwise participate in the in-person meetings; the meetings will solely involve CMCI administrators, the claimant, and any persons the claimant invites to attend, including counsel, spouses, witnesses, etc.

2. Claimants can participate in the Program with or without an attorney.

3. After hearing all claims, CMCI will make final settlement offers to those claimants that CMCI, and CMCI alone, deems entitled to an offer.

a) The Diocese has no veto power over, or input into, the settlement offers.

b) CMCI will make settlement offers to those claimants that CMCI deems have sufficiently established the veracity of their claim.

c) The offers by the administrators are final.

4. If the claimant accepts the settlement offer, the claimant must execute a standard release of claims against the Diocese before the offer is paid by the Diocese.

a) Claimants who participate in the Program without an attorney must be advised by an attorney about the meaning of the release before the release is executed by the claimant. A sample review will be supplied at no cost to the claimant.

b) In all cases, the Diocese must receive a separately executed form stating that the claimant has been advised about the release by an attorney.

c) All releases must be notarized when executed.

5. The Diocese will pay all accepted offers within 30 days after receipt of the executed release from the claimant.

6. Regardless of whether a settlement is entered into with a survivor, counseling services will still be made available to the survivor through the Diocese’s Victim Assistance Coordinator. Even if the survivor executes a release of claims against the Diocese and receives a settlement payment, the survivor can still seek counseling services.
February is Black History Month. Presented here are glimpses into the lives of men and women of African descent who are currently on the road to sainthood. The profiles are presented as one of numerous resources provided by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in observance of Black History Month. Visit http://usccb.org/issues-and-action/cultural-diversity/african-american/resources/index.cfm.

**Venerable Pierre Toussaint** (1776-1853)

Venerable Pierre Toussaint was born a slave in Haiti. He was a philanthropist and founder of many Catholic charitable works. As a slave, Venerable Pierre Toussaint was brought from Haiti to New York and apprenticed under a popular hairstylist in the city. He eventually became the most sought-after hairdresser of high society women. Upon the death of his master, he gained his freedom and was very successful as one of the country’s first black entrepreneurs. He became quite wealthy, but instead of spending lavishly on himself, he supported the Church and the poor. He and his wife sheltered orphans, refugees and other street people in their home. He founded one of New York’s first orphanages and raised money for the city’s first cathedral. Even during yellow fever epidemics, Toussaint risked his life to help others by nursing the sick and praying with the dying. “I have never felt I am a slave to any man or woman but I am a servant of Almighty God who made us all. When one of his children is in need, I am glad to be His slave.”

**Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange** (1813-1862)

Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, where she lived all of her life. She was determined to help those in need for the love of Jesus and for the sake of the Gospel. Henriette was also a person who suffered as she made her way through life, bearing crosses. She taught that sanctity can be attained in following the path of Jesus. It was in this manner that she dealt with her troubles and major obstacles to achieve her goals. Some of the troubles Henriette met were the resistance of the ruling population to the idea of a black religious congregation; the lack of finances to do the work; the taunts and disbelief of people in her mission; the lack of support from both the Church and civil authority; and poor health. However, Henriette practiced heroic virtue. She had faith, and lived in hope and love. She was compassionate, forgiving, and merciful. She believed in justice and was not afraid to do what was right in the eyes of God. God blessed her efforts. In 1842, she founded the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family. Henriette died November 17, 1862. Her funeral was held at St. Augustine Church. Her obituary states, “Miss Henriette Delille had for long years consecrated herself totally to God without reservation to the instruction of the ignorant and principally to the slave.”

**Father Augustus Tolton** (1854-1897)

Father Augustus Tolton was the first Roman Catholic priest in the United States publicly known to be black when he was ordained in 1886. A former slave who was baptized and reared Catholic, Tolton studied formally in Rome. He was ordained in Rome on Easter Sunday at the Cathedral Basilica of St. John Lateran. Father Tolton led the development and construction of St. Monica’s Catholic Church as a black “National Parish Church,” completed in 1893. Father Tolton’s success at ministering to black Catholics quickly earned him national attention within the Catholic hierarchy. “Good Father Gus,” as he was called by many, was known for his eloquent sermons, his beautiful singing voice and his talent for playing the accordion. He is the subject of the 1973 biography Father Augustus Tolton: Missouri’s First Black Catholic Priest by Sister Caroline Hemesth.

**Julia Greeley** (1833 and 1848-1918)

Julia Greeley was born into slavery, at Hannibal, Missouri, sometime between 1833 and 1848. Freed by Missouri’s Emancipation Act in 1865, Julia subsequently earned her keep by serving white families in Missouri, Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico—though mostly in the Denver area. Julia entered the Catholic Church at Sacred Heart Parish in Denver in 1880, and was an outstanding supporter of all that the parish had to offer. The Jesuits who ran the parish considered her the most enthusiastic promoter of devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus they had ever seen. Every month she visited on foot every fire station in Denver and delivered literature of the Sacred Heart League to the firemen, Catholics and non-Catholics alike. A daily communicant, Julia had a rich devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and the Blessed Virgin and continued her prayers while working and moving about. She joined the Secular Franciscan Order in 1901 and was active in it till her death in 1918. As part of the Cause for Canonization, Julia’s mortal remains were transferred to Denver’s Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception on June 7, 2017.

**Lenten Day of Reflection**

**“Mental Illness or Demonic Attack?”**

**Father John A. Szada, Jr., guest speaker**

March 16 from 8:30 a.m.-noon
Diocesan Conference Center, Harrisburg

The Harrisburg Diocesan Guild of the Catholic Medical Association and the St. Thomas More Society of Central Pennsylvania invite all Catholic physicians, lawyers, judges, healthcare workers, mental health professions, medical students and law students to attend.

The morning includes a Penance Service, fellowship, reflection and Holy Mass. A free-will offering will be accepted. RSVP by March 8 to kneri@hbgdiocese.org.

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**Job Opening ~ Superintendent of Schools**

The Diocese of Harrisburg is seeking the next Superintendent of Schools to provide administrative leadership for 37 schools serving 10,000 students within 15 counties of Central Pennsylvania. The Superintendent of Schools will lead a team of assistant superintendents and principals in carrying out the Diocesan Educational mission, while being responsible for students achieving academic excellence in our pre-kindergarten, elementary and secondary schools.

**Minimum Requirements:**

- Active and practicing member of the Catholic Church
- Strong knowledge of and belief in the philosophy, doctrine and teaching mission of the Catholic Church
- Master’s Degree in Education, or a related field
- A least five years’ experience as a Catholic School administrator (principal) At least five years’ experience teaching in a Catholic school

**Application Process:**

- Complete the Diocesan Professional Employee Application found on the Diocesan website: www.hbgdiocese.org/catholic-schools/employment-applications
- Provide a current résumé, a Pastor’s Letter of Recommendation, required clearances, an essay on the Mission of Catholic Education and your interest in this key position

**Submit Application Packet information by March 15, 2019 to:**

**Secretary for Education**

Attn: Superintendent Application
Diocese of Harrisburg
4800 Union Deposit Road
Harrisburg, PA 17111
717-657-4804, ext. 222
aceverest@hbgdiocese.org

The Mass is held annually during Black History Month to celebrate the faith, culture and gifts the African-American community brings to the Church.

“We give thanks to God for the diversity of the Church, and for calling us all together in the one Body of Christ,” Bishop Ronald Gainer said in welcoming the congregation.

He invited members of the African-American and African Catholic community to join the Diocese’s Black Catholic Apostolate. The ministry was established in 1986 to address the economic and spiritual concerns of all persons of African ancestry, and to promote leadership, foster evangelization, and address issues of racial injustice through family and educational programs.

Auxiliary Bishop Roy Campbell of the Archdiocese of Washington delivered a homily on the virtues of faith, hope and love.

Reflecting on the Second Reading, he said, “All the things we say about true love, what is this love that allows us to help our neighbors. What is this love that allows us to love our children even before they’re born? What is this love that allows us to love each other so much, that they love their children even before they’re born? What is this love that allows us to help our neighbors, even if it means sacrificing ourselves?”

“This love is God,” he said. “All the things we say about true love, we can say about God. He is patient, He is kind, He never fails. He is not quick tempered, and he certainly does not hold a grudge,” Bishop Campbell remarked. “God calls us, through our baptism, to be like him. This means to love as he loves us. God’s love is for everyone, and he wants us to love as he loves – unconditionally.”

He spoke of the faith and action of a number of African-American heroes, and the example they give of God’s love. Among the models he named were Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Harriet Tubman and Nelson Mandela. He also spoke of the lives of Servant of God Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange, who founded the Holy Family to provide orphanages and schools in New Orleans.

“Too often, we underestimate seeing the image of God – the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word. As small as they may be, all have the potential to turn a life around. People come into our lives for a reason. Embrace them, and you embrace God,” he said.

At the conclusion of the Mass, Bishop Gainer blessed an icon of the Blessed Mother which was presented to Gwen Summers, for her decades of service as coordinator of the Black Catholic Apostolate. Angélique Mbassi, a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Mechanicsburg, will succeed Summers on March 1.

Mbassi, a native of Cameroon, said serving the apostolate is “my way of responding to a call.”

“I was born into a Catholic family – the oldest of 11 children – that raised me in the faith. I love to serve the Church,” she said.

“I’m very happy to give testimony, and to help lead others to the Lord,” Mbassi said. “I’m looking forward to my work with the apostolate, and using my gifts for Black Catholic ministry in the Diocese.”

(Auxiliary Bishop Roy Campbell of the Archdiocese of Washington delivers a homily on the virtues of faith, hope and love.)


Deacon Lawrence Crudup and Bishop Ronald Gainer present Gwen Summers with an icon in gratitude for her years of service as coordinator of the Black Catholic Apostolate.

Auxiliary Bishop Roy Campbell of the Archdiocese of Washington delivers a homily on the virtues of faith, hope and love.

By Jen Reed

The Catholic Witness

Learn more about the Black Catholic Apostolate at www.hbgdiocese.org/multicultural-ministries/ or by e-mailing Jaclyn Curran, Coordinator of the Diocesan Office of Multicultural Ministries, at jcurran@hbgdiocese.org.)
Orrstown Bank recently contributed $13,000 to the Diocese of Harrisburg’s Neumann Scholarship Foundation for scholarship assistance for students in Diocesan schools. The contribution was made possible by the business’ participation in the state’s Educational Improvement Tax Credit program, which provides tax credits to businesses that contribute to scholarship organizations, such as the Neumann Scholarship Foundation. Shown from left in the photo are Miro Gojmerac, Branch Executive Officer and Small Business Lender, Orrstown Bank; Donald Kaercher, Chief Financial Officer for the Diocese of Harrisburg; Father Edward J. Quinlan, Diocesan Secretary for Education; and Mike Jaeger, Director of Cash Management Sales, Orrstown Bank. For information on the Neumann Scholarship Foundation and the tax credit programs, visit www.hbgdiocese.org/giving.

Last Call: Matthew 25 Grant Applications

The Diocese of Harrisburg is currently accepting applications for its Matthew 25 grant program. Grants are made available annually to organizations within the Diocese that provide food, clothing and shelter. Grants are available for parish and pastor supported initiatives.

Organizations interested in applying for a grant should visit www.hbgdiocese.org/m25 for more details and the grant application. Applicants must be located within the 15 counties of the Diocese of Harrisburg, have a mission in accordance to the teachings of the Catholic Church, be an approved 501(c)(3) and propose to use any awarded grant monies specifically for food, clothing and shelter needs.

All Matthew 25 grant applications are due on Thursday, Feb. 28. Completed applications should be returned to the Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg, Office of Stewardship & Development, Matthew 25 Grant Application, 4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111-3710. Questions regarding the application process can be sent to the Grant Review Committee at sturner@1923@outlook.com.

Secondary Principal Opportunity

Bishop McDevitt High School, Harrisburg www.bishopmcdevitt.org

Minimum Qualifications
Practicing, knowledgeable Catholic
Thorough understanding of Catholic School Philosophy
Commitment to modeling the values of Catholic Educational Leadership
PA Administrators Certificate (or in process)
Catechetical Certification (or in process)
5 years of teaching experience

Preferred Qualifications
(in addition to the above):
3 years of Administrative experience
Catechetical Certification (or in process)
Master’s Degree in Educational Administration

Submit application by March 4:
Livia Riley
Superintendent of Schools
Diocese of Harrisburg
4800 Union Deposit Road
Harrisburg, PA  17111-3710
(717) 657-4804, ext. 222
lriley@hbgdiocese.org

Harrisburg Catholic Elementary School is very diverse. It’s full of people from different backgrounds, heritages and ethnicities. Many of the teachers are very intelligent and understanding.

Going to a private/Catholic school is a great opportunity. It’s a very small school, great for making a lot of new friends. We have special events like Catholic Schools Week, where we have special activities set for each day. The curriculum challenges you and pushes you past your limit.

There are two buildings at HCE too, so you can put your younger children in this school too.

I’ve been going to HCE for 9 years (my whole academic life). There was never a time I ever felt un-included. There’s never any fights, and when switching classes, it’s usually monitored. Through the years, you learn various things about Jesus and other religions.

So consider sending your child to Harrisburg Catholic Elementary School.

Sincerely,
Jania Queen

Hello, my name is India and I’ve been attending Harrisburg Catholic Elementary School since kindergarten. It has many amazing teachers that really expand your knowledge. The school also shows your children the goodness of God and how to follow his light through the Catholic faith.

Our school is also involved with sports, music, technology, art and Student Council. Those are the fun classes and groups that many of us enjoy here.

Our school is a small, safe and controlled environment where kids can connect with the things and people around them. If these things are what you are looking for, then you should really consider HCE.

Sincerely,
India Smith

Harrisburg Catholic Elementary (HCE) is the best school. You should send your son or daughter if you want them to make friends from Pre-K to 8th grade.

Here are some reasons why. You don’t have to worry about fights happening. Your kids will go to the State Museum, the State Library, City Island and Strawberry Square. Our school also has great food. Your son or daughter will make friends very fast.

Those are just some of the reasons why you should send your child/children to HCE.

Sincerely,
Jesiah L. Sumpter

I strongly believe that more parents should send their children to Harrisburg Catholic Elementary School.

This school is significantly better than many public schools. The teachers pay attention to many of the students’ needs. They pay attention when a student is out of sorts or acting differently. They do their best in making sure the students understand.

You will see that your child will get the help they need to succeed in school.

Sincerely,
Maria Garcia

Spirited Competition Leads to Record-Breaking Collection

The York Deanery schools kicked off Catholic Schools Week with the annual Battle of the Buildings event at York Catholic High School on Jan. 26. Teachers competed against each other in Minute-to-Win-It-type games while students, parents and faculty members cheered them on.

A deanery-wide Mass opened the evening, which drew more than 500 students, teachers and supporters from six Catholic schools: St. Patrick and St. Joseph in York; St. Rose of Lima in Thomasville, St. John the Baptist in New Freedom, St. Joseph in Dallastown and York Catholic High School.

St. Patrick School conquered the competition in this year’s spirit-building event.

In addition to the fun and games, the schools found a way to help the community. Instead of charging a fee at the Battle of the Buildings event, attendees donated canned goods for the Catholic Harvest Food Pantry. When all of the counting was complete, the students collected more than 21,000 items. Catholic Harvest Food Pantry reported that the collection weighed approximately 12,500 lbs., and was by far the biggest single event donation they had ever received.

Hello, my name is India and I’ve been attending Harrisburg Catholic Elementary School since kindergarten. It has many amazing teachers that really expand your knowledge. The school also shows your children the goodness of God and how to follow his light through the Catholic faith.

Our school is also involved with sports, music, technology, art and Student Council. Those are the fun classes and groups that many of us enjoy here.

Our school is a small, safe and controlled environment where kids can connect with the things and people around them. If these things are what you are looking for, then you should really consider HCE.

Sincerely,
India Smith

COURTESY OF YORK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Faculty from the York Deanery’s six schools play Musical Chairs in their annual Catholic Schools Week competition.
Catholic Schools Week 2019

Corpus Christi School in Chambersburg held a “Chick-fil-A and Dress-Down Day” to raise money for the Support Our Seminarians program, an initiative of parishioner Barb Tritle to provide care packages to seminarians. Pictured are sixth graders Emily Lutton and Maryn Henry. The students raised more than $500.

The Delone Catholic High School Squire visited the pep rallies at the high school’s partner elementary schools during Catholic Schools Week. The Squire is pictured with priests who also joined in the fun.

St. Joan of Arc School in Hershey kicked off Catholic Schools Week with an inspiring message from its heroes, Kaitlyn Buser and Devon Pulasaki. Both girls have beaten cancer!

Students at Our Mother of Perpetual Help School in Ephrata sort items to make care packages for deployed members of the military.

Dylan Adams, second-grade student at St. Patrick School in York, celebrates with classmates after winning the spelling bee. Catholic Schools Week at the school also includes an annual service project at the Catholic Harvest Food Pantry. Henry Stevens and Cydney Roberts learned about healthy food choices for people in need.

Students at St. Catherine Labouré School in Harrisburg hold items presented at Mass that are representative of some of their Catholic Schools Week activities: links from the school-wide Kindness Chain, original artwork that graced the cover of the Sunday bulletin, one of the cans used by the Student Council to raise money for pediatric cancer, a book from the Book Fair, a school uniform, a mission bank representing more than $300 collected that week for the missions, and a yellow “Royal Way” phrase.

St. Joseph School in Hanover celebrated Catholic Schools Week by celebrating the many ways students learn, serve and lead. Many students participated in the opening Liturgy as altar servers, choir members, gift bearers and lectors. Other activities included a candy gram service to benefit the Sisters of Divine Mercy, “Super Hero Training Camp” demonstrating physical education, a roller skating party, and the American Heart Association’s “Kids’ Heart Challenge,” in which students raised more than $7,500.

St. Joan of Arc School in Hershey kicked off Catholic Schools Week with an inspiring message from its heroes, Kaitlyn Buser and Devon Pulasaki. Both girls have beaten cancer!

Each year during Catholic Schools Week, Holy Name of Jesus School in Harrisburg chooses a mission project to benefit the community. This year’s project was a collection of socks and underwear for children. First graders made construction paper dinosaurs in underwear to help advertise the project. Pictured from left are Connor Oswald, Justin Bolster, Salvatore Madaffari, Brinley Gerhards, Eve Polek, Bryce Muretic and Claire Weikert.

Students from Lebanon Catholic School, under the direction of Lauren Shuyler, presented the National Anthem prior to Catholic Schools Night at the Hershey Bears’ hockey game Jan. 26. More than 500 students, teachers and families attended the game, which is an annual kick-off to Catholic Schools Week in the Diocese.

Ava Bulger, a sixth-grade student at St. Joseph School in Danville, reveals the winning cupcake for her class. The winners of Cupcake Day get to go to lunch with the principal.

Brooklyn Marks, third grader, celebrated Catholic Schools Week during a Mad Tea Party, held as part of this year’s theme of Fairy Tales.

Students from St. Anne School in Lancaster enjoyed a special Mass during Catholic Schools Week, and fun with a bingo game.
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

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St. Theresa School in New Cumberland started the week with a prayer service and a presentation by Mrs. Noll, Director of Religious Education, on how great it is to be in St. Theresa School. During the Week, Father Samuel Dubois spoke about vocations and gave a special recognition to Randy Meholick and his crew for the great work they do for the school and parish.

Resurrection Catholic School in Lancaster celebrated the week by shining a light on the values of Catholic education. Fifth-grade teacher Alane Klepper handed breakfast-to-go to parent Susan Cunningham during morning drop-off to thank parents and guardians, who were also invited in to the school for breakfast. Fourth graders joined their kindergarten buddies in “This Little Light of Mine” during a ceremony to thank community members who support the school with donations, time and funds.

St. Joseph School, Mechanicsburg, students were treated to an ice cream sundae bar thanks to the Home and School Association. Students wrapped up Catholic Schools Week with a pep rally in the gym to celebrate their school spirit.

During Catholic Schools Week, York Catholic High School students visited elementary students at St. Joseph School in York for activities. Abby Wurzbach read to the students, while Sarah Volk led a craft project.

Students from Sacred Heart of Jesus School in Lancaster perform “The Big Bad,” a courtroom comedy about the Big Bad Wolf. They also showed love for their school during a “Bring a Friend to School” event.

Students at St. John the Baptist School in New Freedom enjoyed School Spirit Day during Mass, as well as Crazy Hat Day.

ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA
LOCK-IN-MARCH 15TH, 16TH
WORKSHOP-MARCH 16TH

Join us for an overnight event learning about Mother Teresa.

4th Grade and Up-Sat
Friday, March 15, Registration 7:00 PM - Saturday, March 16, Pickup: Noon
Friday: Movie, Anyway Prayer Plaques, and Snack
Saturday: Breakfast, Soup Jars, Story, Take Home Craft, Snack, and Stations of the Cross

K-3rd Grade-Sat
Saturday, March 16 at 9:00 AM-Pickup: Noon
Saturday: Soup Jars, Story, Take Home Craft, Snack, and Stations of the Cross

Church of the Good Shepherd, 3435 Trindle Road, Camp Hill PA 17011
Register at www.hbgdiocese.org by March 1, 2019
For more information contact OYYAM at 717-657-4804 x327

Peace begins with a smile!
—Mother Teresa
Linebacker-Turned-Evangelizer Challenges Students to be Love and Light in the Church

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Former NFL linebacker Eric Mahl shared his message of identity and discipleship with Diocesan high school students, challenging them to “become the Church you’ve always longed to be.”

Dubbed “Animahl” for his aggressive play and ability to bench press 450 lbs., the former Cleveland Brown traded his helmet and pads after the 2005 season to share the mercy of Christ everywhere he goes.

Mahl, who now evangelizes with the National Shrine of the Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Mass., spoke to students at all seven of the Diocese’s high schools Feb. 4-7. His presentation was made possible by Stewardship: A Mission of Faith, an organization in Elizabethtown devoted to spreading the Gospel message of stewardship and planting seeds of faith. The organization has offered presentations in Diocesan high schools for the past several years.

The assemblies featured remarks from Bishop Ronald Gainer, who told students he wanted them to “know of Christ’s profound love” for them. He joined in distributing prayer cards of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Father Michael E. Gaitley’s “33 Days to Morning Glory” retreat booklet in preparation for Marian Consecration.

“Jesus is enough,” Mahl told students. “You live in a stormy world, and things get rough. Encounter Jesus in the silence of prayer, when no one’s watching. Encounter him in Scripture…. See how he is in every circumstance, and allow your gaze upon the Truth of who he is to transform you.”

Authentic Identity
An Ohio native and Kent State graduate, Mahl set out early in life to be the best to ever play professional football. He was raised Catholic and attended Mass weekly, but only because he didn’t want to disappoint his grandparents, he admitted.

Programs during his senior year of Catholic school began to plant the seeds of faith for him, and by the time he was in college, he began to develop a prayer life and spend time in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. As he learned more about the faith and deepened his relationship with Christ, he began to focus on glory for God instead of himself.

In 2005, Mahl played for the Browns, but felt something was missing in life. Hearing a call to follow Christ, he gave up everything he had and joined a Carmelite hermitage in Texas, where he lived and prayed for three years. Mahl then found his way to Massachusetts to evangelize through the ministries of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception.

Today, Mahl, a husband and father, takes to the streets to share the message of Jesus’ Divine Mercy.

In his presentations to Diocesan students, he encouraged them to find their authentic identity.

“Authenticity is the beautiful purpose of who you are is that you’re called to bring the healing. God works through us and we tell you to go into the world and make it better. That’s your purpose,” he said. “You are the Church, the Body of Christ. Be that to the world. Everywhere you go – at school, at home, at practice, during a game, while singing in the choir – be the Church.”

Mahl challenged the students to “become the Church that you’ve always longed to be. Become the love that you’ve always wanted.”

“When there is division, anger, scandal, sin, storm and darkness, be healing, love and light,” he said.

In interviews with The Catholic Witness at Delone Catholic High School in McSherrystown and Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg, seniors said they appreciated Mahl’s authenticity and his challenge for them.

“I appreciated that he offered a personal experience, and that he’s a family-man who gave us a challenging message instead of giving us what we wanted to hear,” said Rachel Swingler of Delone.

“Being students, we have only seen so much in life. I appreciated having someone come in who is a really good example of a lifestyle we can strive for in different ways,” said Daniel Sweeney of Delone. “It was nice to have a role model come in and keep us on the right track with ideas and perspectives that will help us continue our relationship with Jesus.”

Classmate Parker Staub said he identified with Mahl’s own experience as a teen who didn’t always feel comfortable to share his faith with others.

“It’s extremely difficult to be confident in your faith. The way the world is, it makes that gesture of coming forth hard,” Staub said. “So it’s more important than ever that we rely on our faith. I’m coming to find my relationship with God is the most reliable thing in the world.”

Bishop McDevitt seniors Molly Huynh and Walli Chen found value in Mahl’s identity.

“It’s about authenticity,” Chen said. “There’s nothing wrong with wanting to play football professionally. There’s nothing wrong with the limelight. But he gave the impression that his genuine self is in giving back and living a life of humility. He found what he would be fulfilled with in life.”

Huynh agreed. “His talk was not so much about his accomplishments but who he is as a person. Because this wasn’t about a man in the NFL but about a man who found his faith, everyone could connect to him because we’re all on our own faith journey,” she said.

Senior Theresa Nguyen said she walked away with the message that happiness is found in a relationship with Christ.

“You can know about the Catholic faith, but you have to really live it to experience it. In a time when things are very messy in the world, you can turn to Christ because that’s where you’ll find your peace,” she said.

(Jen Reed, The Catholic Witness)

Learn more about Stewardship: A Mission of Faith at www.stewardshipmission.org.)

Students at Bishop McDevitt turn their attention to Eric Mahl during their assembly presented by Stewardship: A Mission of Faith Feb. 7.

Left: Bishop Ronald Gainer shares Father Michael E. Gaitley’s “33 Days to Morning Glory” retreat book with Bishop McDevitt students.
Bill Donaghy to Keynote on ‘The Art of Being Human’ at Holy Family Radio Benefit Dinner

Our popes and bishops have urged us to help spread the Gospel message far and wide. Many find that challenging. But one local independent apostolate is hard at work heeding that call.

Holy Family Radio went on the air with WHYF AM 720 in August of 2011. It is the only Catholic Radio station in the Diocese of Harrisburg and is supported by listener donations.

You can assist the apostolate in its ministry of evangelization by attending its Spring Benefit Dinner late in its ministry of evangelization. Through his work with the Pontifical Mission Societies, he has given New Evangelization. Through his work with the Institute for the Theology of the Body Institute, he has recently entered full-time work as an instructor for the Certification Program, an international speaker, and curriculum specialist.

Donaghy recently co-authored with Chris Stefanick the RISE 30 Day Challenge for Men, which calls men to new depths in their Catholic masculine identity and vocation.

Doors for the evening open at 6 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m. The evening begins with a social hour, cash bar, door prizes and a variety of special gift baskets. The cost for the event is $100 per person. Sponsorships for the dinner and craft beers of the region are available at event.saintpatrickfund.org

ST. PATRICK’S EVE WINE & CRAFT BEER TASTING

MARCH 16 @ 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Experience the best wines and craft beers of the region in the beauty of the historic Star Barn and support a scholarship fund for needy students in the Diocese of Harrisburg.

ST. JACOB’S CATHOLIC SCHOOL For的手 ON THE ROAD 2019

The evening is hosted by St. Joan of Arc Parish in Hershey and is co-hosted/sponsored by St. Catherine Labouré 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.

Tickets are $20.
Contact Lou Felice at 717-215-4175 or mathfamily1@yahoo.com.

MADE FOR MORE VISIONS OF THE PROMISED LAND

Featuring Christopher West and Mike Mangione
April 2 at 7 p.m.
Bishop McDevitt High School, Harrisburg

The national touring event, “Made for More: Visions of the Promised Land,” weaves music, video, images and the spoken word into a message of hope. Join Christopher West, world-renowned teacher of St. John Paul’s Theology of the Body, and folk/Americana musician Mike Mangione as they offer a vision of the Gospel like you’ve never heard.

The evening is hosted by St. Joan of Arc Parish in Hershey and is co-hosted/sponsored by St. Catherine Labouré 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.

Tickets are $20.
Contact Lou Felice at 717-215-4175 or mathfamily1@yahoo.com.

HOLY MASS WITH THE RITE OF INSTITUTION OF ACOLETS

Please join Bishop Ronald W. Gainer as Celebrant and Homilist for this special Mass to install the Candidates in formation for the Permanent Diaconate into the Ministry of Acolyte

Sunday, February 24, 2019
2:00 p.m.

Saint Catherine Labouré Parish
4000 Derry Street
Harrisburg, PA 17111

An instituted acolyte is specially appointed by the Church to assist the deacon and to minister to the priest. His duty is to attend to the service of the altar and to assist as needed in the celebration of the Mass. This is an important step along our candidates’ formation path.
**DIOCESAN NEWS**

**The Called**

*A series of profiles on clergy and religious*

**Name:** Father Anthony Swamy  
**Parish:** St. Peter, Columbia  
**Hometown:** Chikballapur, approximately 60 kilometers from Bangalore, India.  

**Education:** St. Joseph School through seventh grade, non-Catholic school for eighth through tenth grade, and St. Joseph College, a Jesuit school, for eleventh and twelfth grades. Formation process was in several different states in India.

Tell me a little bit about your childhood – parents, siblings, etc.

I have five siblings, four of which are still living. I am the youngest. One of my sisters is a nun and then I also have a niece who is a nun. In my extended family, we have dozens of religious and three priests.

Were you always interested in becoming a priest?

The parish I attended was founded in 1702 by Jesuit missionaries. When I was in sixth grade, the sister was talking about the history of the parish. She told us that in 300 years, there had been no vocations to the priesthood from the parish. She was asking us who would be a priest and I raised my hand. So that was really when my vocation started. That’s how the seed of vocation was planted. But when I was in the tenth grade, I lost my father and I wasn’t sure if I could go to seminary. I thought I would stay back to take care of my family. A missionary came to our parish and he asked me if I thought I was thinking about seminary, so that was kind of my second calling, reminding me of my promise. My family and father agreed that I could join. In my third year of seminary, my one brother died in an accident. That was another time when I thought, couldn’t continue or do I need to return home and take care of my mother? I talked to my mother and my sisters and they said, go back to seminary, God will take care of us. Even during these major catastrophes in life, I still felt God was calling me. And I was ordained in 1995.

For 20 years, Ascension has been producing Catholic faith formation resources, and a good number of the more than 50 programs available from Ascension have been used in parishes throughout our Diocese. Most popular are Ascension’s Bible studies, including The Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation, but a growing number of sacramental preparation programs and faith formation programs for both adults and youth are available as well.

**Spotlight on Adult Faith Formation: Ascension**

By Sandy Oravec

**Gospel of John**  
• The Prophets: Messengers of God’s Mercy  
• Revelation: The Kingdom Yet to Come

**Sacramental Preparation Programs:**  
• Belonging: Baptism in the Family of God  
• Chosen: Your Journey Toward Confirmation  
• Joy-Filled: Preparation for First Holy Communion  

**Adult Faith Formation Programs:**  
• A Biblical Walk Through the Mass  
• Mary: A Biblical Walk With the Blessed Mother

**Oremus: A Guide to Catholic Prayer**  
• An Introduction to the Theology of the Body  
• Epic: A Journey Through Church History  
• Walking Toward Eternity: Engaging the Struggles of Your Heart  

**Mompoinfort:** Finding Peace & Joy in Your Vocation as a Mother

**What have been some of your experiences as a priest?**

I have worked in formation, schools, colleges, parishes, orphanages, and I volunteered with Mother Teresa’s sisters and with the lepers. I have 17 years of teaching experience, including teaching English as a second language. My order started a college and I was qualified, so they asked me to be the principal – we don’t call them a president – of the college. We started with nine students, but after eight years, we had more than 1,000. I felt that I needed to do pastoral ministry. I resigned as the principal and asked to be assigned to a parish. That’s how I ended up coming to the United States in 2013.

**Can you tell me more about working with the leper community?**

My first time working with them, we stayed for a month in the colony and that was challenging. In the beginning, it was hard to see them with deformed bodies. It was hard physically and emotionally to witness the lack of God’s grace worked in us and the longer we worked, we found great joy working with them.

My second experience with them was for 10 years. We were able to nurse their wounds, which is so difficult, because we didn’t want to remove part of their flesh. For one or two days, we couldn’t eat because it was so hard on us. But during the course of time, all of us who were working there found joy. It was good to sit with them and pray. One of the lepers was so talented, he would compose music and we would sing together in the evening. I still hold it as one of the very precious times. Maybe those experiences are also teaching me for my future ministry. If God wills, when I go back to India, I want to serve the destitute, especially the old and dying. In 2016 when Mother Teresa was canonized, a thought came to me and it had stayed with me, that I should serve the destitute, especially those who are old and dying, who cannot die peacefully. It’s not to give anything medically, but to give them a human love so before they die, they feel loved. I’m still praying about this.

Tell me something fun about you, or a little known fact?

I enjoy watching comedies. When I was in the college with a stressful job, I enjoyed coming home and watching Tom and Jerry. Among my friends, I was known to be very witty.

Do you have any hobbies?

Reading is one, and I used to collect stamps. Now I like to read more of the theology and scholarly books. And I used to read a lot of novels.

Anything else you would like to add?

I am so grateful that as a Missionary of St. Francis de Sales, the Diocese has given me this opportunity. The faith here is really amazing. Sometimes when I sit in the confessional and hear the faith of people, it challenges me. And I want to thank Bishop Guiner for giving me the opportunity to be here.
Consecrated Life
Building the Kingdom, Brick by Brick

By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
Special to The Witness

Some time ago, when I was teaching middle school, I was discussing the parables Jesus used to teach about the Kingdom of God. Some of the images Jesus used were lost on my 12-year-old students. I asked them, “What common image would Jesus use to describe the Kingdom of God?” Miguel, my resident philosopher, raised his hand. “The kingdom of God is like an apartment building!” he exclaimed.

“I asked them, “What common image would Jesus use to describe the Kingdom of God?” Miguel, my resident philosopher, raised his hand. “The kingdom of God is like an apartment building!” he exclaimed.

“Each brick represents each of us. No one brick is perfectly identical. The cement that holds the bricks together is the prayer that we say together.”


The story of St. Margaret of Cortona

Margaret was canonized on May 16, 1728, by Pope Benedict XIII. She was a nun who wrote a diary recording the revelations she received. The message and devotion to Jesus as the Divine Mercy was based on the teachings of St. Faustina, a Polish nun who wrote a diary recording the revelations she received.

“Start each and every day with a newness found in the Nativity, a passion found in the ministry of Jesus and a thirst that echoes Christ on the cross.”

That’s something indeed earthly and yet other-worldly! (Sister Geralyn Schmidt is the Wide Area Network Coordinator at the Diocese of Harrisburg and the Director of Formation for Wives in the Diocesan Program. An educator for 30 years, she is responsible for Professional Development Programs for every age learner. Through her presentations, she challenges her audiences to be the individual God has called them to be.)

Saint Spotlight

St. Margaret of Cortona
1247-1297
Patroness of the falsely accused, the homeless, single mothers, orphans and against temptations
Feast Day: February 22

Margaret was born in Laviano, Italy, in 1247. After her mother died, her father remarried and she and her stepmother did not get along. Margaret became reckless, her reputation suffered and at 17 she ran away with the son of the purported Lord of Valiano. She lived with him for ten years as his mistress, bearing him a son. One day, his unaccompanied dog led her to the forest where he had been killed.

Shocked, Margaret began a life of prayer and fasting, returned all gifts and went to her father’s home with her son. Her stepmother would not allow them to stay, so Margaret took him to the Franciscan Friars in Cortona, where he eventually became a friar.

Margaret began fasting, eating only bread and vegetables. She joined the Third Order of St. Francis, leading a life of prayer, penitence and begging. She established a hospital for the sick, homeless and impoverished. In order to secure nurses, she founded the Tertiary Sisters known as le poverelle – the little poor ones. Once in prayer she heard the words, “What is your wish, poverella?” She replied, “I neither seek nor wish for anything but you, my Lord Jesus.” Margaret also established an order devoted to Our Lady of Mercy, where the members committed themselves to support the hospital and help the impoverished. She participated in public affairs twice – following Divine command – challenging the Bishop of Arezzo, Guglielmo Uberti Pazzi, because he lived like a prince. She lived out her remaining years in the ruins of the Church of St. Basil, now the Church of Santa Margherita, where she died. Her body now lies in a silver casket in that church. Margaret was canonized on May 16, 1728, by Pope Benedict XIII.

Parishes Co-Host Father Alar for Lenten Retreat on Divine Mercy

Father Chris Alar, Director of the Association of Marian Helpers in Stockbridge, Mass., will present a Lenten message of Mercy at St. Katharine Drexel Parish in Mechanicsburg March 10-12 from 6-8 p.m. The parish mission will examine Christ’s message of Divine Mercy, the meaning of the Mass and the sacraments, and answers to common questions about the faith. There will also be a blessing with a relic of St. Faustina.

The message and devotion to Jesus as the Divine Mercy is co-hosted by St. Theresa Parish in New Cumberland; Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Marysville; St. Bernadette Mission in Duncannon; Good Shepherd Parish in Camp Hill and Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Emla.

For more information, contact Bill Benning at 717-571-8808 or St. Katharine Drexel Parish at 717-697-8716.

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, disianto1@comcast.net
Mariella Amato, 717-278-9420

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Father Alar will preach at all Masses and will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. He is a priest of the Congregation of Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He hosts the online service “Divine Mercy Matters” at www.divinemercymatters.org, and is a regular host and guest on EWTN. Father Alar was the keynote presenter at last year’s Diocesan Men’s Conference.

The Lenten mission is co-hosted by St. Theresa Parish in New Cumberland; Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Marysville; St. Bernadette Mission in Duncannon; Good Shepherd Parish in Camp Hill and Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Emla.

For more information, contact Bill Benning at 717-571-8808 or St. Katharine Drexel Parish at 717-697-8716.
Diocesan Notebook
Compiled by Jen Reed

**Spiritual Offerings**

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

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

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at the St. Pauline Center at 1150 Chestnut Street in Kutztown on Fridays from noon to 4 p.m. The 7 p.m. Chaplet of Divine Mercy is prayed in the chapel on Fridays at 3 p.m.

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

St. Joseph Parish in York, Mass celebrating the gifts of people with disabilities, Feb. 24 at 12:30 p.m. A Sign Language interpreter will be present. If you would like to attend and need an accommodation, please email St. Joseph Parish, SJC@sjoy.org or call the parish at 717-755-7503 for more information.

Caelorum at St. Joan of Arc Church in Hershey, March 15-16-17, Get to start your Lenten season in praise, worship and adoration of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist. Father Modestus will preside. A reception will be held following the Caelorum in the cafeteria. For more information, call 717-583-0240.

**Pilgrimages & Retreats**

Join Father Kenneth Smith for a pilgrimage to Greece in the spring. Call 717-594-9340 or visit St. John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, D.C., March 28. Hosted by St. Catherine Labouré Parish in Harrisburg. Includes tours of both sites, Mass, Consecration, Adoration, Franciscan Crown Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet and personal time for exhibits and walking the grounds. Cost of $35 per person includes all tours and transportation by deluxe motor coach leaving/ returning from the parish. For information or ticket purchase, contact Deb at the parish office, 717-564-1321 or dadiilgam@gmail.com.

**Education & Enrichment**

St. John the Baptist in New Freedom, adult formation course in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd-Level 1 will be offered for $399. An evening class providing education for children. The course grounds the catechist in the theory and practice of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and how to develop and facilitate an Atrium for 3-6 year olds. Course dates are March 2-3, April 6-7, May 18-19, Aug. 24-25, Sept. 7, Oct. 12 and Nov. 16. Contact Sister Jane Keller at 717-235-2439 or srjkeller@sjbfn.org to register or to observe a session.

St. Anne’s Retirement Community in Columbus, six-week Bereavement Process, March 5, 12, 19, 26, and April 2 and 9 from 2-3:30 p.m. Call the Pastoral Care Department at 717-285-6121 for more information.

Mary, Gate of Heaven Parish in Myerstown, “Respect for Life” talk, March 12 at 7 p.m. Sandi Paveglio from St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Annville will be the guest speaker.

Grieving with Great hope workshop for people who are mourning the loss of a loved one, at St. Catherine Labouré Parish in Harrisburg, April 5 from 7:30-9:30 p.m. and April 6 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Presented by John and Sandy O’Shaughnessy, founders of Good Mourning Ministry, a Catholic bereavement apostolate, who will offer personal and practical insights, tips and tools to help you through your personal journey of grief. Cost is $20, includes all materials, snacks and lunch. For information or to register, visit www.schbfg.org or contact the parish office at 717-564-1131.

“Why the Catholic & Protestant Bibles Differ” presentation by Father Dwight Schlaline, Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. at St. John of Arc Parish cafeteria in Hershey, sponsored by the I Thirst Prayer Group. Learn why the differences matter and what they can tell us about the Word of God. For more information, call 717-215-4175.

Women’s Lenten afternoon of reflection sponsored by Corpus Christi Parish Council of Catholic Women, March 9 from 1-3:45 p.m in the Corpus Christi Parish Center, Chambersburg. Led by Jim Gontis, Diocesan Director of Evangelization and Catechesis. Theme is “God is Calling.”Sacrament of Reconciliation from 3:45-4:45 p.m, and Mass at 5 p.m. for those who wish to stay. No cost for the program, which includes light refreshments, Bring a Rosary. Register by March 4 to Angela Danko at 301-502-6511 or AJDanko@comcast.net.

Forgiveness Prayer workshop, March 9 from 9 a.m.-noon at St. Rose of Lima Convent in York. Learn the Forgiveness Prayer, a way to open to God’s healing presence and action when hurt, wounded or offended. Workshop will also provide an opportunity for group forgiveness and healing. Bring your own lunch. Register with Rich Erdlen at richriny23@gmail.com or 717-779-8750.

Theology on Tap Lancaster, “Life as a Catholic Legislator” with Sen. John DiSanto, March 14 at Annie Bailey’s Irish Pub (second floor) in Lancaster. Happy hour half at 7 p.m., speaker and Q&A at 7:30 p.m. Theology on Tap is a young adult outreach ministry of the Diocese of Harrisburg. All young adults (20s and 30s) are invited.

Tacos and Teologia, a bilingual/English version of Theology on Tap, Feb. 22 at 6:30 p.m. at Immaculate Conception BVM Parish in York. Straight talk, tacos and fellowship. “Stump the Padre,” featuring Father Timothy Morse, Father Luis Rodriguez, Father Ryan Fischer and Father Jonathan Sawicki. All young adults (20s and 30s) are invited to attend.

**Fundraisers & Events**

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 available for sale. Tickets are $20 in advance, $25 at the door. For more information, call 757-590-5849, 570-975-5613 or 570-205-8751.

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, Coach, Kate Spade, rover dinner, raffles, kitchen. Inelement weather date is Feb. 24. Tickets are $25; must have paid admission ticket to play. Those who use must be accompanied by a paying adult to play. Call 717-359-4513.

York Catholic High School’s “Welcome Wednesday,” Feb. 20 from 10-11 a.m. for families who want to take a tour while classes are in session. VC Student Ambassadors will escort families to visit a typical school day. Contact Heather Hoffman at 717-846-8871, ext. 220, or hhholman@yorkcatholic.org.

12th Annual St. Margaret Mary 5K race/walk, March 9 at 8:30 a.m., 2826 Herr St., Harrisburg. Benefits St. Margaret Mary School. Information and registration at www.run5k.webs.com.

St. Mary’s Church, Fairfield, all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner in the parish hall on Feb. 17 from 3-6 p.m. Spaghetti, meatballs, sausage, salad, bread stick, drinks and dessert. Cost is $8 for adults, $5 for children 6-12 and free for those under 6. Call 717-642-8815.

Ancient Order of Hibernians Michael Collins Division of Cumberland County, annual St. Patrick’s Day Party, March 9 at the West Shore Elks Club. Social hour at 5 p.m. Irish dinner at 6 p.m. Includes corned beef (Irish Sausage) and cabbage. Cash bar, The Lena McGinley Irish Dancers and music by Down by the Glenside. Proceeds benefit Trinity H.S. Scholarship Fund. Tickets are $35 per person ($30 each for groups of 8) and must be purchased prior to the event. Contact Tom Zugay at 717-761-2950 or Tzugay1958@gmail.com.

Sacred Heart Preschool in Lancaster, American Girl Bingo on March 1. Early bird game at 16:5 p.m. for 2019 Doll of the Year, regular bingo at 6:30 p.m. for dolls, pets, furniture and accessories. Doors open at 5 p.m. Drawings, food, prizes, doll hair salon. Tickets are $24 for adults, $12 for children accompanied by a paying adult. Event is at Harbimestone Elementary School, Lancaster. Call 717-468-1101.

Knights of Columbus of St. Theresa Parish in New Cumberland, fish fry March 8 from 5-7:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Adults $10, children $5.

Prince of Peace Parish in Steelton, annual fastnacht sale. Cost is $9 per dozen, $5 per half dozen. Order by Feb. 26 at 717-690-1550 or doonparishfundraising@gmail.com.

Knights of Columbus Council #3525 of Prince of Peace Parish in Steelton, all-you-can-eat breakfast, March 10 from 9 a.m.-noon in the gym. The parish breakfast features bacon, sausage, blueberry muffins, orange juice and coffee. Cost is $8 and can be paid at the door. Call 717-985-1330.

St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Annville, spaghetti & meatballs dinner, March 5 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and 4-7 p.m. Italian bread, Italian bread, dessert, choice of coffee, iced tea or orange drink. Cost is $8 for large, $6 for small. Carry out available – bring your own containers.

Harrisburg Catholic Elementary School Open Houses, Feb. 28 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Cathedral campus for pre-school through eighth grade, and March 1 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Holy Cross campus for pre-school and kindergarten.
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.

Anville
St. Paul the Apostle:
Barbara Arnold
Witold Gardyasz
Sandy Klein
Louis “Gene” Mongelluzzi

Bloombuurg
St. Columba:
Stanley Matylewicz

Blue Ridge Summit
St. Rita:
Alice Garland

Bonneaville
St. Joseph the Worker:
Sue Miller

Chambersburg
Corpus Christi:
Ernestina Ellis
Marie Golden
Louis J. Greiner
Irene Janovec

Danville
St. Joseph:
Joseph Mazzolli
Mary Tomcavage

Elizabethtown
St. Peter:
Adella Root

Fairfield
Immaculate Conception
BVM:
Joseph Scheer

Gettysburg
St. Francis Xavier:
Thomas H. Buhi
Eleanora M. Donnelly
Edelmla L. Garcia

Greencastle
St. Mark the Evangelist:
William “Bill” H. Hayes

Hanover
St. Joseph:
Nancy E. Janoski
James R. Jones
Mary L. Weaver

Harrisburg
Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick:
Casimir Erzegovich

Holy Name of Jesus:
James M. Grosse
Toni A. Mahoney

Lit-uptown
St. Francis of Assisi:
Francisco Diaz Ruiz

Hershey
St. Joan of Arc:
Dorothy Everest
John “Sparky” Sachette
Irene Schuck

Kulpmont
Holy Angels:
Marian Cremona
Carl Thurner

Lancaster
Assumption BVM:
Ella Lochonc

St. John Neumann:
Francis “Chip” Errigo, Jr.
John “Jack” Wood, Sr.

St. Joseph:
Gerard DiCrocco
Richard J. Frey
Betty Graybill
James Martin Thompson
Kathleen Patricia “Pat” Zeller

Lebanon
Assumption BVM:
Louis “Gene” Mongelluzzi

Defede:
Annmarie Wntermyer

Lewisburg
Sacred Heart of Jesus:
Julia Tressler

Littlestown
St. Alphonsus:
Dennis M. Henley, Sr.

Lykens
Our Lady Help of Christians:
Lewis Giufiani

McSherrystown
Annunciation BVM:
Anastacia Miller

Mechanicsburg
St. Joseph:
John Ascari
Robert McCallister
St. Katharine Drexel:
Joan Michelotti

Middletown
Seven Sorrows BVM:
Angela Feeney
Kathy Stago

Mount Carmel
Our Lady of Mount Carmel:
Mary Ellen “Marion” Schu

New Cumberland
St. Theresa:
Kathy Richie

New Freedom
St. John the Baptist:
Mark R. Winkler

Palmyra
Holy Spirit:
Theresa Cordaro

Selinsgrove
St. Pius X:
Charles H. Kerstetter

Steelton
Prince of Peace:
Joseph M. Vasco

York
St. Joseph:
Dr. George Johnson
Mary P. Sciortino

St. Patrick:
Denise Traum

Diocesan Notebook

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Family campus for kindergarten and first through fourth grades. Call the school at 717-232-2551 or 717-234-3797.

Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg, “A Night of the Arts: A Pops Concert and Art Exhibit,” March 2. Exhibit featuring student works of visual art begins at 6:30 p.m. The Pops Concert begins at 7 p.m., featuring student solo and group performances, as well as the Bishop McDevitt bands and choirs. Tickets are $10 for adults, $5 for students (children 5 and under are free). Refreshments will be served.

Knights of Columbus, St. John Neumann Council 12532 in Lancaster, pancake breakfast, Feb. 17 from 7 a.m.-1 p.m. (after all Masses) at St. John Neumann Parish. Free-will offering with donations to benefit the St. John Neumann Capital Campaign and Knights of Columbus Council 12532.

Haiti Mission Committee of St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Annville, silent auction Feb. 16 from 6:30-9 p.m. and Feb. 17 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Chili taste-off Saturday evening. Items for bid include gift certificates, theme baskets, household items, artwork and jewelry. Cash or check accepted. Contact Jim or Terri Mascoli at 717-274-3709 or jmascoli@verizon.net.

St. Cecilia’s Big Bingo, March 17 at St. Cecilia Parish Center on State Drive in Lebanon. Sponsored by the Holy Name Society. Doors and kitchen open at 11 a.m., Bingo starts at 1 p.m. 24 cash games, 50/50 and jackpot. Tickets are $25.

Holy Infant Parish in Manchester Easter eggs for sale. Homemade chocolate peanut butter and coconut. $1 each. Call the parish office at 717-266-5286 to order.

Soup and chili cook-off at Holy Family Parish in Harrisburg, March 9 from 1:30-4:30 p.m. Taste all the homemade soups/chili and vote for your favorite! Eat-in or take-out.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Council of Catholic Women in Williamstown, homemade haluski sale, March 5. Cost is $9 per quart. Order by Feb. 26 at 717-647-9182. Pick up at Sacred Heart Social Hall, March 5 from noon-4 p.m.

JOB OPENINGS

St. Joseph Parish, Mechanicsburg, seeking a Parish Manager to oversee the day-to-day operation of the parish. Areas of responsibility include personnel, building and grounds, contracted services, liaison with Parish Administrative Committees and budget management. Call the parish at 717-766-9433 for the job description. Interested candidates should send a letter of interest, resume and pastor’s recommendation form to St. Joseph Parish, Office 410 East Simpson Street, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055, Attn: Finance Administrator, or e-mail to finance@sjosephmech.org by Feb. 22.

Holy Name of Jesus School in Harrisburg, seeking a part-time administrative assistant. Must be well-organized, able to multi-task, be computer literate in Microsoft Office Suite, and willing to learn and maintain the school website. The job description also includes answering the phone and door. For additional information, call Sister Rita at 717-657-1704. If interested, please send/email/drop off a copy of your résumé to Sister Rita at sisterrita@holynamoefjesus.com.

Morning Star Pregnancy Services is hiring a Clinic Nurse Manager. The Nurse Manager oversees the provision of patient care and medical services operations and performs client/patient care. Position will be approximately half-time. Must be at least an RN, CRNP welcome to apply. In pregnancy medical clinics like Morning Star, medical professionals provide client teaching, STI testing and treatment, abortion pill reversal instruction, and other medical services and education. Salary commensurate with experience. Submit cover letter and résumé to L.Plummer@morningstarclinics.com. For more information call Linda Plummer, Executive Director, at 717-901-3377.

Morning Star Pregnancy Center training new volunteers, male and female advocates to counsel men and women who use the center’s services. Sessions are at the center’s Harrisburg office, Feb. 11, 25 and March 4 (March 11 snow date) from 6-7:30 p.m. Volunteer opportunities available at Harrisburg, Middletown and New Cumberland locations. Contact Diane at ddevan@morningstarclinics.com or 717-901-2799.

Catholic men and women volunteers needed for prison ministry team, about three hours monthly, visiting Dauphin County Prison (Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings), Camp Hill Prison (Friday and Saturday mornings) and Keystone Work Release (Sunday afternoons). No experience necessary, orientation to be scheduled. Prayer Christian Growth Group, www.pgctrainingministry.org. Contact Bob Ribic at bobribic2@yahoo.com or 717-571-4217.

The Diocese of Scranton is seeking a Superintendent of Schools. For a comprehensive description of the position and required qualifications, visit www.dioceseofscranton.org. Submissions due by March 4 at James Burke, Diocesan Secretary for Human Resources, 300 Wyoming Ave., Scranton Pa., 18503, or Jim-Burke@dioceseofscranton.org.

Submission Deadlines

The deadline for submissions for the March 1 edition of The Witness is Wednesday, February 20 at 4:30 p.m. Submit written announcements via e-mail to witness@hbgdiocese.org. Limit 60 words. No ads, posters or PDFs, please.

DECEASED CLERGY

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

Father Brian Conrad, 2011
Deacon James Smeerger, 2011
Father Joseph Hilbert, 2014
Father Louis P. Ogden, 2015
Father Philip Mack, 2018

The Diocese of Scranton is seeking a Superintendent of Schools. For a comprehensive description of the position and required qualifications, visit www.dioceseofscranton.org. Submissions due by March 4 at James Burke, Diocesan Secretary for Human Resources, 300 Wyoming Ave., Scranton Pa., 18503, or Jim-Burke@dioceseofscranton.org.
U.S. Catholic Officials Welcome Catholic-Muslim Document Signed by Pope

Catholic News Service

The declaration signed by Pope Francis and Sheikh Ahmad El-Tayeb, the grand imam of al-Azhar, during the pope’s trip to the United Arab Emirates “is a clarion call for robust dialogue that leads to peace,” said the Catholic chairman of the National Catholic-Muslim Dialogue and the chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs.

“In our increasingly hostile world in which violence too often predominates between Christians and Muslims – violence that has led to tragic consequences for the most vulnerable humans – we welcome with great joy this historic joint statement on human fraternity,” said Cardinal Blase J. Cupich of Chicago and Bishop Joseph C. Bambera of Scranton.

Pope Francis and Sheikh El-Tayeb, a leading religious authority for many Sunni Muslims around the world, signed “A Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together” Feb. 4 in Abu Dhabi.

“We, who believe in God and in the final meeting with him and his judgment, on the basis of our religious and moral responsibility, and through this document, call upon ourselves, upon the leaders of the world as well as the architects of international policy and world economy, to work strenuously to spread the culture of tolerance and of living together in peace,” the document said.

They also urged religious and political leaders to “bring an end to wars, conflicts, environmental decay and the moral and cultural decline that the world is presently experiencing.”

But the centerpiece of the declaration was a call on Christians and Muslims to recognize and respect one another and work together for the good of humanity.

Commenting on the document Feb. 8, Cardinal Cupich and Bishop Bambera urged “all people of goodwill, especially leaders of nations and religious groups,” to read and study the declaration “in the hope that it might serve as a resource to overcome division through a renewed commitment to dialogue and the establishment of goodwill.”

Witness, Discipleship are Key to Missionary Work, Pope Says

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

Proclaiming the Gospel is not the same thing as proselytism and often means simply being a neighbor and friend to someone while living an authentically Christian life, Pope Francis said.

Mission “is that dynamic that leads you to be a neighbor to others to share the gift you have received: the encounter of love that changed your life and led you to consecrate your life to the Lord Jesus, good news for the life and salvation of the world,” the pope said Feb. 8.

Pope Francis spoke about mission and witness during a meeting with the Missionaries of Africa and the Missionaries of Our Lady of Africa, men’s and women’s religious orders founded 150 years ago by Cardinal Charles Lavigerie of Algiers, Algeria.

“Encouraging the missionaries to continue being ‘nomads for the Gospel,’” the pope asked them to be “men and women who are not afraid to go into the deserts of this world and seek together the means for accompanying brothers and sisters to the oasis that is the Lord so that the living water of his love can quench their every thirst.”

To be a missionary, the pope said, a Christian first must be a disciple of Jesus.

And while the missionaries may be working in situations where an explicit invitation to follow Christ is not possible, he said, their own lives must be firmly rooted in “listening to his word, the celebration of the sacraments and service to your brothers and sisters so that your gestures manifest his presence, his merciful love and his compassion to those to whom the Spirit sends and leads you.”

Pope Francis prayed that the Holy Spirit would continue to make the Missionaries of Africa and the Missionaries of Our Lady of Africa “builders of bridges” and promoters of a “culture of encounter” and dialogue where everyone involved “learns to draw riches from the diversity of the other.”

The missionaries’ dialogue with Muslims deserves particular recognition and the gratitude of the Church, the pope said.