Candidates for Permanent Diaconate Installed as Acolytes in Next Step toward Ordination

By Rachel Bryson, M.S.
The Catholic Witness

Surrounded by the love and support of family, pastors and friends, 37 men in the Diocese’s Permanent Diaconate Formation Program were installed as Acolytes on Sunday, Feb. 24 at St. Catherine Labouré Church in Harrisburg. Joy and answering the call to service was spoken of frequently throughout the Mass.

“It is a joy for us to gather today, on this Sunday to celebrate this institution of your husbands and fathers,” said Bishop Ronald W. Gainer, who was the principal celebrant and homilist for the Mass. “We need days like this to remind us of such willingness to serve.”

After each candidate was presented, Bishop Gainer spoke to the men and their families about the calling they had answered. He explained that the Gospel reading from Luke is both simple and complex, and calls us to be more like God. Sometimes, we may find ourselves asking “What was I thinking?” after making decisions.

“I hope our candidates are not thinking that,” Bishop Gainer said to the crowd. He added that we are all called to break the cycle of fear, vengeance and hate.

“Often, we work by the model of, ‘You scratch my back and I’ll scratch yours,’” said Bishop Gainer. “There is a negative side to this thinking. According to that logic, if you hurt me, I will hurt you.”

The Old Testament reading from Samuel offers a perfect example of this. David has an opportunity to eliminate his enemy, King Saul, but chooses to break the cycle.

Bishop Gainer added that when making decisions of how we will treat people, we can choose to live by grace.
Deacon Martin Patrick McCarthy, 71, of Mount Carmel Township passed away Feb. 14 at his home.

Born in Ashland on March 3, 1947, he was the son of the late Martin Vincent and Eleanor (Devine) McCarthy. He graduated from St. Mark’s Seminary in Erie, Pa., in 1965. He received a BS in political science from Temple University in 1969 and was employed by the Philadelphia Police Department for six years. He went on to be a special investigator in the Pennsylvania Inspector General’s Office for six years. He went on to be a special investigator in the Pennsylvania Inspector General’s Office for six years.

He acquired his principal certification at Bucknell University in 1998. He was appointed principal at St. Monica School in Sunbury in 1999. He returned to Our Lady of Lourdes in 2009 and served as principal and administrator until his retirement in November 2017.

He was accepted into the Permanent Diaconate program for the Diocese of Harrisburg and was ordained a deacon in May 2010. Deacon McCarthy was assigned to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, where he served until his death. Deacon McCarthy was instrumental in the success of the parish’s annual summer festival. He was president of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and a 4th Degree Knight of the Bishop Lawrence Schott Knights of Columbus Council 628. He was also known as “Meteorologist at Lourdes,” predicting daily weather and subsequent school delays and closings.

Surviving, in addition to his wife, Maryrose B. McCarthy, are a daughter, two grandchil-
dren, a sister, two brothers-in-law, a sister-in-law, a nephew and two nieces. He was preceded in death by his parents, a sister and a brother-in-law.

A Mass of Christian Burial was concelebrated Feb. 23 in Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Mount Carmel. Bishop Ronald Gainer was the principal celebrant, with Father Francis J. Karwacki, pastor, and Father Andrew Stahmer, pastor of Holy Angels Parish in Kulpmont, as concelebrants. Burial was in All Saints Cemetery, Elysburg.

Expressions of sympathy can be made to Our Lady of Lourdes Regional School, 201 Clinton Ave., Coal Township, PA 17866 or Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 47 S. Market St., Mount Carmel, PA 17851.

Deacon Martin McCarthy

Bishop Gainer’s Listening Session in Berwick Rescheduled

Due to inclement weather, the listening session at Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, 1730 Fowler Ave. in Berwick on Feb. 20 was postponed. The session will now be Thursday, March 14 at 6:30 p.m.

This is the final in the schedule of listening sessions Bishop Ronald Gainer has held throughout the Diocese. 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. The 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 session welcoming and to encourage discussion, video and audio recording will not be permitted.

If you were unable to attend a session but would still like to ask Bishop Gainer a question, please email your question to AskBishopGainer@hbgdiocese.org.

Bishop Gainer’s Public Calendar

- March 1 – Holy Family Radio fundraiser dinner, Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey, 7 p.m.
- March 2 – Mortel Foundation High Hopes for Haiti Gala, Purcell Friendship Hall, Hershey, 6 p.m.
- March 3 – Closing Mass for the 150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Harrisburg, Good Shepherd Church, Camp Hill, 3 p.m.
- March 7 – Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Margaret Mary Church, Harrisburg, 7 p.m.
- March 9 – Sacrament of Confirmation, Holy Name of Jesus Church, Harrisburg, 10 a.m.
- March 10 – Rite of Election, St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg, 4 p.m.
- March 12 – 65th Anniversary Mass for Good Shepherd Church, Camp Hill, 8:30 a.m.

Job Opening ~ Social Media Specialist

The Diocese of Harrisburg is seeking a Social Media Specialist, responsible for providing creative and technical expertise in planning, producing, and implementing high-quality multimedia materials across several platforms in an integrated fashion. As a member of the Diocese’s communication department, the specialist will develop and maintain a robust online presence, specifically with social media, while also assisting with digital press materials, website content development, media production, and operation of the Diocese’s Cable TV channel and radio programs.

Education/Training:
- Bachelor’s degree in public relations, journalism, communication or similar field.
- An equivalent amount of work experience in the communication industry may be considered in lieu of a degree.

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 (principals).

Job Application Process:

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
- aeverest@hbgdiocese.org

For best consideration, please submit all materials no later than April 12, 2019.

Full job description at www.hbgdiocese.org/jobs
“We must let Christ and his love be in that space [of decision making],” he said.

This message of allowing Christ and his grace to enter that space where decisions are made is something all of us should heed.

When speaking to the Acolyte candidates, Bishop Gainer said these men have already been serving in a companion role as a husband and father.

“But today, you become companions to our priests and deacons,” said Bishop Gainer, adding that it is absolutely necessary to be a true companion with our risen Lord. “You must be a companion in order to accompany others on their journey to eternal life.”

After the message to the candidates, each candidate was presented to Bishop Gainer, who gave him a vessel with bread while saying, “Take this vessel with bread for the celebration of the Eucharist. Make your life worthy of your service at the table of the Lord and of his Church.”

Institution into the Ministry of Acolyte is one of the steps on the path toward ordination. Acolyte means “attendant” in Greek, and is indicative of the new role the men now have in serving at the altar. These duties include aiding the deacon and the priest in liturgical celebrations; distributing Communion as an Extraordinary Minister in the absence of a deacon or priest; exposing the Blessed Sacrament for adoration by the faithful in the absence of a deacon or priest; and instructing the faithful who serve in liturgical celebrations. Acolytes may also distribute Communion outside of Mass and participate in the care of the sick.

The men who were installed as Acolytes will now spend a little more than a year assisting at their local parishes. Their Ordination to the Diaconate will be in the spring of 2020.

**The Acolytes**

Please pray for these men and their families as they prepare for Diaconate Ordination in the spring of 2020.

- Steven L. Auchey
- Thomas W. Ballinger
- David A. Barto
- Shawn A. Biter
- Alex A. Bogdanoff
- Virgilio A. Centenera
- Joseph Cingle
- Chris J. Darrup
- Michael R. Derois
- Brian G. Fabian
- Carl B. Freidhoff
- Joseph M. Gusherowski
- Thomas A. Hewitt
- James V. Koch
- Walter J. Kozlowski
- Frank A. Kuchinski
- James Lawson
- Christopher D. Livelsberger
- Patrick A. McCormack
- Michael D. McGovern
- Jorge L. Nazario
- Samuel D. Nicola
- Thomas E. Owsinski
- Carlos Pichardo
- Stephen P. Pichler
- Henry J. Reese
- Chad M. Reigel
- Jorge L. Reyes
- William D. Roesch
- Scott A. Root
- George B. Salzman
- Richard D. San Severino
- Daniel R. Signore, III
- Francis J. Skorija
- Armando Torres, Jr.
- Anthony J. Weaver, Jr.
- Robert P. Wislock
Cardinal Cupich Asks for New Structure to Ensure Bishops’ Accountability

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

The Catholic Church needs “new legal structures of accountability” for bishops accused of sexual abuse or of negligence in handling abuse allegations, Cardinal Blase J. Cupich of Chicago told the Vatican summit on safeguarding.

Addressing Pope Francis and some 190 presidents of bishops’ conferences, heads of Eastern Catholic churches, religious superiors and officials of the Roman Curia Feb. 22, Cardinal Cupich provided details of what some people have described as a “metropolitan model” of accountability, although he insisted the model would involve laypeople.

Church territories are grouped into provinces with an archdiocese, which is the metropolitan see, and neighboring dioceses. Under the current law governing the Latin-rite Church, the archbishop or cardinal leading the metropolitan see has very little responsibility for the province; that would change under Cardinal Cupich’s proposal.

The guidelines also would name an alternate — perhaps the neighboring metropolitan or the senior diocesan bishop — in cases where the accused is the metropolitan archbishop.

The proposal made by Cardinal Cupich at the Vatican summit on child protection and the clerical abuse scandal was similar to one he made in November to the full U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The cardinal also included elements of proposals the U.S. bishops had planned to vote on in November, but the Vatican had asked them to hold off until after the Feb. 21-24 Vatican summit. The common elements included setting up a toll-free number or website for reporting bishops and establishing a fund to pay for investigations of bishops accused of abuse or negligence.

The Chicago prelate told reporters later that his presentation had two main differences from what the U.S. bishops initially proposed: using metropolitanas gives the process a regional character that is especially important for ensuring outreach to and follow up with the victim; and the U.S. bishops’ proposal was voluntary, whereas his would be obligatory.

Responding to questions about trusting bishops to investigate brother bishops, Cardinal Cupich said that is another reason why he insisted laypeople be involved in receiving and investigating allegations; it is essential for the transparency of the system.

Cardinal Cupich’s presentation at the summit focused on increasing accountability but doing so in a “synodal” fashion by including laypeople “in a discernment and reform that penetrates throughout the Church” and by formulating laws and procedures that flow from the Church’s reality as a spiritual institution.

“We must move to establish robust laws and structures regarding the accountability of bishops precisely to supply with a new soul the institutional reality of the Church’s discipline on sexual abuse,” the cardinal told the summit.

Cardinal Cupich said the need for a system where bishops, aided by lay experts, hold other bishops accountable could be seen in the events of “this past year,” presumably referring to the Pennsylvania grand jury report on abuse and the case of former Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, who, in 2018, was found to be credibly accused of the sexual abuse of a minor and was dismissed from the clerical state in February after being found guilty.

“This past year has taught us that the systematic failures in holding clerics of all rank responsible are due in large measure to flaws in the way we interact and communicate with each other in the College of Bishops in union with the successor of Peter,” Cardinal Cupich said.

Before the summit began, each participant was asked to meet with and listen to a survivor or survivors of abuse. The meeting included testimony from survivors, and the main speakers and the survivors gathered outside the meeting all insisted that listening to the victims is the first step.

In general, Cardinal Cupich suggested each bishops’ conference “establish standards for conducting the investigations of bishops,” which, he said, “should involve and consult lay experts.”

The Catholic faithful should know how to report allegations of abuse or negligence involving a bishop, he said, and should involve “independent reporting mechanisms in the form of a dedicated telephone line and/or web portal service to receive and transmit the allegations directly to the apostolic nuncio,” who is the pope’s representative in the country, and to the metropolitan see or a panel of lay experts, depending on the system designed by the local bishops.

Cardinal Cupich’s model mirrored in many ways the procedures used for investigating an allegation against a priest. He would have a metropolitan archbishop and lay review board, or at least lay experts, conduct an initial review of the allegations. If the allegation seemed credible — or as the cardinal said, “has even the semblance of truth” — the metropolitan would request from the Vatican the authority to begin a full investigation; the Vatican approval is necessary because, according to Church law, only the pope investigates and disciplines a bishop.

The results of the full investigation would be forwarded to the Vatican, which determines whether a trial is warranted and how it should be conducted.

Archbishop Charles Scicluna of Malta, who handles abuse cases as adjunct secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, told reporters later, “the supreme pontiff — the pope — has a special jurisdiction over the bishops that has to be respected.”

At the same time, he said, “it is within the context of communion that we have to live accountability,” which means other bishops and laypeople always must be involved.

Annulment Presentations Scheduled

The Tribunal of the Diocese of Harrisburg will offer presentations concerning divorce and annulments from the Catholic perspective in the coming months. These presentations will be helpful for divorced Catholics, divorced people who wish to marry Catholics, parish leaders involved in the RCIA process and those who have a vested interest because of family or friends.

Presentations will include a question-and-answer session and an opportunity for private conversation with Tribunal staff and representatives. For more information, call 717-657-4804 or send an e-mail to tribunal@hbgdiocese.org.

- March 21 — St. Joseph, York, 7 p.m.
- March 25 — Diocesan Conference Center, Harrisburg, 7 p.m.
- May 8 — St. Joseph, Danville, 7 p.m.
- June 4 — Our Lady of the Visitation, Shippensburg, 7 p.m.
- June 10 — St. Patrick, Carlisle, 7 p.m.
Summit Affirms Need to Hold Bishops Accountable, U.S. Cardinal Says

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

The Vatican summit on child protection and the clerical sexual abuse crisis affirmed the U.S. bishops’ strong belief that bishops and cardinals who abuse children or cover up abuse must be held accountable, said Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston.

The cardinal attended the Feb. 21-24 summit as president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

“The world has been headache enough to me that several speakers were insisting that ‘any loopholes’ existing in how bishops are treated – if they are accused of abuse or of negligence in handling allegations – ‘must be closed,’” Cardinal DiNardo told Catholic News Service.

Most people feel “justice was done” when the Vatican dismission Theodore E. McCarrick, the former cardinal and archbishop of Washington, from the clerical state, he said. But he and many U.S. Catholics are still awaiting a promised Vatican report on how the former cardinal could abuse minors and sexually harass seminarians for so long and still rise through the hierarchical ranks of the Church.

The calls at the summit to hold bishops accountable, he said, affirmed the U.S. bishops’ in their efforts to establish standards of conduct for bishops and procedures for reviewing complaints against bishops. The bishops had planned to vote on the proposals in November, but the Vatican asked them to delay considering the measures until after the summit.

Cardinal Blase J. Cupich of Chicago presented a step-by-step plan for bishops’ accountability at the summit Feb. 22 using what has been described as a “metropolitan model” that would rely on the metropolitan, or bishop of each Church region coordinating the initial investigation into complaints made against a bishop in that region. The guidelines also would name an alternate – perhaps the regional metropolitan or the senior diocesan bishop – in cases where the accused is the metropolitan archbishop.

Both Cardinal Cupich in his presentation and Cardinal DiNardo in his comments Feb. 24 insisted that model would need to include the involvement of laypeople.

Cardinal DiNardo said it obviously would cover up to the entire U.S. bishops’ conference to determine what proposal they will approve, but it could end up being “a kind of fusion” of a “metropolitan model” and the establishment of a special commission of mostly laypeople to receive and initially review complaints against bishops.

While some commentators thought the U.S. bishops’ proposals turned too much responsibility over to laypeople, Cardinal DiNardo said, “in our proposals the work of the layty is to collaborate – that’s important” – and almost all the speakers at the summit insisted on the need to involve laypeople in the process.

The ideal, Cardinal DiNardo said, would be to ensure the lay board has a certain “independence without losing being part of the Church.”

In a statement issued later, the cardinal said the U.S. bishops would intensify their guidelines for handling abuse allegations.

He also noted that at the summit “a range of presenters, from cardinals to other bishops to religious sisters to laywomen, spoke about a code of conduct for bishops, the need to establish specific protocols for handling accusations against bishops, user-friendly reporting mechanisms and the importance that the Church already in itself represents an atrocity – that case will be played in the healing process.”

“Achieving these goals will require the active involvement and collaboration of the laity,” he said. “A comprehensive range of skills is required to assess allegations and to ensure that local policies and procedures are regularly reviewed so that our healing response continues.”

On a more global level, Cardinal DiNardo told CNS, the summit seemed to be effective in getting all the world’s bishops on the same page in placing victims and survivors at the center of the Church’s concern, rather than the Church’s reputation and its personnel.

The focus on victims was not simply a slogan, he said. In the general sessions and small groups there was discussion of “ways in which we can show that: ways of repentance, ways of moving forward, ways of compassion, ways of accommodation.”

“As always, what is striking are the statements, the witnessing of the victims,” he said, as was the response from the former archbishop of Baltimore, a leader of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, that “there is the issue of violence against women and women religious.”

Another emphasis, the cardinal said, was on safeguarding programs for clergy, religious, Church employees, volunteers and students – something the Church in the United States already is doing and will continue to do.

Colombian Ruben Salazar Gomez of Bogota, in a formal speech to the summit, blamed “clericalism” for promoting a culture within the Church where power could be used and abused and where “abuse is being covered up.”

Cardinal DiNardo said he would lay the blame less on “clericalism” and more on “a sense of entitlement” among some clergy and bishops. “That can be very dangerous, particularly in a personality that already is not very healthy,” he said. Programs of priestly formation must prepare priests for a lifetime of vulnerability, not entitlement.

Cardinal DiNardo also said he appreciated how Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle of Manila, Philippines, looked at the wounds inflicted on victims by the Church as being the wounds of Christ.

The risen Christ appeared to the disciples “with all of his wounds,” Cardinal DiNardo said. “The apostles are in the upper room because they are frightened out of their wits. And it’s interesting: Jesus can walk through closed, physical space. There’s only one thing closed he can’t get through, and that’s a closed human heart, and that’s what we are trying to work on.”

Pope: No More Excuses; Time for ‘All-Out Battle’ against Crime of Abuse

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

The pope has come for an “all-out battle” against the abuse of minors, erasing this abominable crime from the face of the earth, Pope Francis said, closing a global four-day summit on child protection in the Catholic Church.

For quite some time, the world has been aware of the “serious scandal” the abuse of minors by clergy has brought to the Church and public opinion, both because of the dramatic suffering it has caused victims and because of the “unjustifiable negligence” and “cover-up” by leaders in the Church, he told people gathered in St. Peter’s Square.

Since the problem is present on every continent, the pope said he called leaders of the world’s bishops and religious superiors to Rome because “I wanted us to face it together in a co-responsible and collegial way,” he said after praying the Angelus Feb. 24.

“We listened to the voice of victims, we prayed and asked for forgiveness from God and the people hurt, we took stock of our responsibility, and our duty to bring justice through truth and to radically reject every form” of sexual abuse and the abuse of power and conscience, he said.

“We want every activity and every place in the Church to be completely safe for minors,” he said, which means taking every possible measure so that such crimes never happen again.

It will also entail working with great dedication together with people of good will wherever in order to fight this “very grave scourge of violence” that affects hundreds of millions of minors around the world.

The pope’s noonday summary of the meeting came after he delivered his closing remarks at the end of Mass Feb. 24.

He regarded the frescoed walls and ceiling of the Sala Regia, the pope told some 190 cardinals, bishops and religious superiors from around the world, “the time has come, then, to work together to eradicate this evil from the body of our humanity by adopting every necessary measure already in force on the international level and ecclesial levels.”

However, despite the importance of knowing the sociological and psychological explanations behind this criminal act of abuse, he said, the Church must recognize this is a spiritual battle against the “diabolical forces.”

“I see the hand of evil that does not spare even the innocence of the little ones. And this leads me to think of the example of Herod who, driven by fear of losing his power, ordered the slaughter of all the children of Bethlehem,” the pope said.

Just as the pagans once sacrificed children on their altars, such cruelty continues today with an “idolatrous sacrifice of children to the god of power, money, pride and arrogance,” he said.

While the majority of abused minors are victims of a person they know, most often a family member, he said, it is “all the more grave and scandalous” when a member of the Church, particularly a priest, is the perpetrator “for it is utterly incompatible with the Church’s sanctity and clerical credibility.”

“Consecrated persons, chosen by God to guide souls to salvation, let themselves be dominated by their human frailty or sickness and thus become tools of Satan,” he said.

There is no excuse for abusing children, who are an image of Jesus, he said, which is why he has become increasingly obvious “the gravest cases of abuse” must be disciplined and dealt with in “civic and canonical processes.”

“Here again I would state clearly: if in the Church there should emerge even a single case of abuse, all other matters must be left aside,” he said.

In fact, he said, the Church should recognize that people’s anger over the mishandling of abuse is nothing other than a reflection of “the wrath of God, betrayed and insulted by these deceitful consecrated persons.”

“We are the echo of the silent cry of the little ones who, instead of finding in them fathers and spiritual guides, encountered tormentors will make hearts dulled by hypocrisy and by power,” Pope Francis said. “It is our duty to pay close heed to this silent, choked cry.”

The Church must combat this evil, both inside and outside its walls, he said, and protect children “from ravenous wolves.”

The Catholic Church must “hear, watch over, protect and care for abused, exploited and forgotten children, wherever they are,” he said. And to do that, the Church “must rise above the ideological disputes and journalistic practices that often exploit, for various interests, the very tragedy experienced by the little ones.”

Because concrete measures will need to be adopted on a local level, the pope pointed to the work of international organizations in their “Seven Strategies for Ending Violence against Children” and guidelines and other resources produced by the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors.

The Church, he said, must concentrate on the protection of children, being serious in bringing justice and healing to victims and undergoing genuine purification; proper training for priests and religious is necessary, as are strong guidelines by bishops’ conferences.

“Let us urge all Catholics to help the Church to be liberated “from the plague of clericalism, which is the fertile ground for all these disasters.”

“The best results and the most effective resolution,” he said, will occur when the Church commits itself to “personal and collective conversion, the humility of learning, listening, assisting and protecting the little ones.”

On behalf of the whole Church, the pope also thanked “the vast majority of priests who are not only faithful to their celibacy but spend themselves in a ministry today made even more difficult by the scandals of few – but always too many – of their confreres.”

He also thanked the faithful who recognize the goodness of their ministers and pray for and support them.

“I make a heartfelt appeal for an all-out battle against the abuse of minors both sexually and in other areas, on the part of all authorities and individuals, for we are dealing with abominable crimes that must be erased from the face of the earth,” he said.
Giving Up What You Don’t Have

By Patricia DeStefano
Special to The Witness

It was almost Lent. I was finding that giving up what I desired was more difficult than giving up something I already had.

No matter what I owned, many magazines and TV commercials showed things that looked more appealing. There were so many good things to seek after, even if not needed. According to the world, everything advertised was a “must have.” There was always the next place or thing on my wish list. I was certain the next possession, large or small, was the item I sensed was missing in my life.

But what was really missing? Could it be someone beyond what this world had to offer could give me lasting happiness? I was so busy finding out. God was about to change my thinking and show me another direction.

It was February and I was a mother of two small children when I became ill and was unexpectedly admitted to a hospital at the age of 29. Doctors planned to resolve my medical problem but God’s plan was different. In his goodness, he allowed me to think I was dying. Everything was now on hold. But what was really missing? Could it be someone beyond what this world had to offer could give me lasting happiness? I was soon going to find out.

God was showing me that where your treasure is, there also will be your heart be.”

My treasures and heart had once been with the world. Now my happiness was no longer based on things. For the first time, I felt free from being chained to this world. The constant yearning for more and more was draining. I did nothing to bring about this freedom; my turning to Christ freed me.

That Lent, I gave up what I didn’t have. God showed me how fading all this life’s offers are. By giving up what I didn’t have, I left more room for God. My mind was no longer crowded with desires for things of this world. For so many years, I had been seeking yet never finding what I was searching for.

Giving up something this Lent? You can give up something you already have, and what you don’t have. It’s far better to give up seeking what the world has to offer. It won’t give lasting happiness. Only one person holds the key to true happiness. In giving up what you own or don’t have, you will gain much more. God will replace it with something more lasting. Now, when I see an ad saying something is the newest must-have item, I wonder, “According to whom?” Jesus Christ is the only real must-have. (Patricia DeStefano is a member of St. Leo the Great Parish in Rohrerstown.)
Lenten Alms Change Lives

Through CRS Rice Bowl, faith communities in every Diocese throughout the United States put their faith into action through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. The iconic Rice Bowl is a staple on the table of Catholic families across the country during Lent. This simple cardboard box collects donations of Lenten alms, supporting the work of Catholic Relief Services in 45 countries.

This year, you can connect to the CRS Rice Bowl app and put Lent at your fingertips with new daily reflections and recipes, integrated social sharing and a new way to track your Lenten sacrifices. Find it in Google Play and the App Store.

Through the efforts of our families, schools and parishes, contributions to CRS Rice Bowl help the Diocese and Catholic Relief Services provide for others by meeting the basic needs of food, shelter and clothing.

Participate by accessing a variety of resources, including reflections, stories of hope and Lenten recipes, at https://www.crsricebowl.org.

Shakshouka (from Gaza)

Gather your community, your friends or your family for a simple, meatless meal for an opportunity to eat while living in solidarity with your brothers and sisters around the world. When you’ve cleaned your plate, remember to put the money you saved by not buying meat – an average of $3 per person per meal – into your CRS Rice Bowl to feed your brothers and sisters in need.

Makes 4 servings
3 T fair trade olive oil
1 onion, chopped
2 garlic cloves, minced
1 7oz can green chilies
1 28oz can diced tomatoes
1 T ketchup
2 t salt
4 eggs

Heat oil in a large pan. Sauté onions and garlic. Add chilies, including juice, and cook until soft. Add tomatoes, ketchup and salt. Cook tomatoes down to a sauce. Make four holes in the sauce with a spoon. Crack the eggs into the holes and cover until the eggs cook. Leave yolks runny.

Forgiveness and Reconciliation:
The Great Work of Love in a Wounded World
by Sister Catherine Nerney, SSJ

Saturday, March 16th, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

At the heart of the human journey to forgive and reconcile lies a divine gift. Come, open yourself to the healing grace that God longs to give to each of us personally for the sake of all of us, and for the sake of this wounded world that our God so loves. This retreat day will focus on stories, divine and human, through which we hope to recognize the face of the Living God, beckoning us to receive the gift and share the great work of love that is forgiveness and reconciliation.

Offering: $50 for Program with a full Dinner at noon
Payment is due by registration deadline: March 8, 2019
Register with PayPal online at www.sscm.org or send a check payable to “SSCM” to:
Registrar, 1002 Railroad Street, Danville PA 17821

Sister Catherine T. Nerney, SSJ, has served as the Director of Chestnut Hill College’s Institute for Forgiveness and Reconciliation since its opening in 2009. A Professor in the college’s Religious Studies and Philosophy Department, Sister Catherine received her Ph.D. in Systematic Theology from The Catholic University of America with a specialization in the Theology of the Church. Her latest book, The Compassion Connection: Recovering our Original Oneness, was published by Orbis Books in 2018.

Join Us for a Lenten Day of Retreat at St. Cyril Spiritual Center, Danville, PA

Join the Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women’s 40 Day Lenten Challenge

Beginning Ash Wednesday, place one of these items into to a box or bag each day:
• An Article of Clothing
• Nonperishable Food
• $1.00 Donation

At the end of Lent, take a picture of yourself and your collection, or just your collection, and e-mail it to hbgdhcw@gmail.com.

We want to share your Lenten works of mercy! Then, donate the items to your favorite charity.
CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG, PA. INC.

79 Years of Providing Help & Creating Hope

COMBINED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
JUNE 30, 2018 AND 2017

ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$3,080</td>
<td>$3,090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable, net</td>
<td>461,351</td>
<td>743,138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
<td>3,167</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bequests and restricted funds held by and due from the Diocese of Harrisburg</td>
<td>388,906</td>
<td>361,699</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due from the Diocese of Harrisburg</td>
<td>1,020,574</td>
<td>670,203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funds held in trust by others</td>
<td>1,397,440</td>
<td>1,378,062</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property and equipment, less accumulated depreciation</td>
<td>35,287</td>
<td>58,375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total assets</td>
<td>$3,309,805</td>
<td>$3,214,567</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</td>
<td>$580,065</td>
<td>$644,523</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security deposits</td>
<td>2,385</td>
<td>2,925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred revenue</td>
<td>15,190</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total liabilities</td>
<td>525,640</td>
<td>647,448</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted net assets</td>
<td>997,819</td>
<td>827,358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted net assets</td>
<td>388,906</td>
<td>361,699</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanently restricted net assets</td>
<td>1,397,440</td>
<td>1,378,062</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total net assets</td>
<td>2,784,165</td>
<td>2,567,119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total liabilities and net assets</td>
<td>$3,309,805</td>
<td>$3,214,567</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COMBINED STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Changes in unrestricted net assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenues and gains</td>
<td>$3,080,597</td>
<td>$3,883,832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government funding, principally fee-for-service</td>
<td>1,050,283</td>
<td>989,758</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program service fees</td>
<td>3,025,309</td>
<td>3,199,068</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>142,805</td>
<td>189,364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way allocation</td>
<td>656,800</td>
<td>619,343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other contributions and bequests</td>
<td>45,197</td>
<td>51,420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distributions from funds held in trust</td>
<td>250,477</td>
<td>242,439</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental income</td>
<td>154,801</td>
<td>217,803</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous income</td>
<td>19,378</td>
<td>68,617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total unrestricted revenues and gains</td>
<td>7,272,986</td>
<td>8,407,852</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>544,260</td>
<td>412,530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expiration of restrictions</td>
<td>3,793</td>
<td>4,583</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total unrestricted revenues, gains &amp; other support</td>
<td>7,276,779</td>
<td>8,407,852</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses and losses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programs</td>
<td>1,050,283</td>
<td>989,758</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counseling services</td>
<td>2,388,572</td>
<td>2,424,679</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-home counseling services</td>
<td>1,862,045</td>
<td>1,996,514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialized youth services</td>
<td>79,062</td>
<td>705,520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialized residences</td>
<td>891,698</td>
<td>1,401,407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigration/refugee services</td>
<td>877,509</td>
<td>831,897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and general</td>
<td>50,661</td>
<td>50,661</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>46,496</td>
<td>46,496</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation expense</td>
<td>19,378</td>
<td>68,617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenses</td>
<td>7,949,104</td>
<td>8,445,216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in unrestricted net assets before</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diocese of Harrisburg allocation</td>
<td>(672,325)</td>
<td>(37,364)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diocese of Harrisburg allocation</td>
<td>1,050,283</td>
<td>989,758</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in unrestricted net assets</td>
<td>170,461</td>
<td>805,422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changes in temporarily restricted net assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>31,000</td>
<td>3,316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>(2,393)</td>
<td>(3,316)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in temporarily restricted net assets</td>
<td>27,207</td>
<td>1,287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changes in permanently restricted net assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net gains on funds held in trust by others</td>
<td>19,378</td>
<td>68,617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in permanently restricted net assets</td>
<td>19,378</td>
<td>68,617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in net assets</td>
<td>217,046</td>
<td>872,773</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets, beginning of year</td>
<td>2,567,119</td>
<td>1,694,347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets, end of year</td>
<td>$2,784,165</td>
<td>$2,567,119</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The accompany notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

A copy of the latest audit report is available upon request by contacting Catholic Charities
4800 Union Deposit Road / Harrisburg, PA 17111
(717) 657-4804 / Fax (717) 657-8683
**CATHOLIC CHARITIES**

### RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS
- **WILLOW WAY**
  Harrisburg, PA  
  (717) 412-4594

- **CRESCENT WAY**
  Lancaster, PA  
  (717) 412-4594

- **EVERGREEN HOUSE**
  Harrisburg, PA  
  (717) 412-4594

- **LOURDES HOUSE**
  Harrisburg, PA  
  (717) 412-4865

- **INTERFAITH SHELTER FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES**
  Harrisburg, PA  
  (717) 652-8740

### IMMIGRATION & REFUGEE SERVICES
- Harrisburg, PA 17111  
  (717) 232-1165

  Employment Services / ESL Services
  Refugee Resettlement / Legal Services

### FAMILY BASED PROGRAMS
- **YORK/ADAMS PROGRAM**
  Abbottstown, PA  
  (717) 259-9537

### YOUTH SERVICES
- **ADOPTION SERVICES & SPECIALIZED FOSTER CARE**
  Harrisburg, PA  
  (717) 564-7115

- **INTENSIVE DAY TREATMENT**
  Lancaster, PA  
  (717) 295-9630 /9631/9632

- **INTENSIVE FAMILY SERVICES**
  York, PA  
  (717) 843-7986

- **PARADISE SCHOOL PROGRAM**
  Abbottstown, PA  
  (717) 259-9537

### COUNSELING OFFICES
- **CAPITAL REGION OFFICE**
  Harrisburg, PA  
  (717) 233-7978

- **LANCASTER OFFICE**
  Lancaster, PA  
  (717) 299-3659  
  (717) 392-2113 (espanol)

- **YORK OFFICE**
  York, PA 17103  
  (717) 845-2696

- **PARADISE OUTPATIENT SERVICES**
  Abbottstown, PA  
  (717) 259-9537

### NUMBER OF CLIENTS SERVED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FAMILY MEMBERS PROGRAM</th>
<th>SERVED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adoption ..................</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialized Foster Care</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster Intensive Day Treatment</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRS - English As A Second Language</td>
<td>216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRS - Employment Services</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRS - GAIN Program ..........</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRS - Resettlement Program ........</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRS - Match Program ..........</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRS - Legal Advising Services ....</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York Intensive Family Services</td>
<td>474</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York/Adams Family Based ....</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paradise School .........</td>
<td>252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evergreen House ........</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crescent Way ............</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willow Way .............</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interfaith Shelter ....</td>
<td>432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lourdes House - Residents ..</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lourdes House - Babies ...</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Counseling ....</td>
<td>278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster Counseling ....</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paradise Counseling ......</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York Counseling ........</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL .................. 3,075**
The Catholic Witness
March 1, 2019

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

MCDEVITT’S SHIELDS SECURES DISTRICT 3 HISTORY;
TRINITY MAKES STATEMENT ON THE MATS

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

In the history of PIAA District 3 sports, only 14 wrestlers have won four consecutive titles. Bishop McDevitt senior Chase Shields (126 lbs.) is one of them.


Shields’ teammates, Nate Smith (120 lbs.) and Tyler Martin (138 lbs.) also captured district gold. The trio owns nine of Bishop McDevitt’s 17 district titles since the school resumed its wrestling program in 2013.

Smith, a junior, won his third title by beating Caydin Wickard of Boiling Springs, 14-7, and Martin, also a junior, reclaimed his 138-pound championship by beating Jack Coulston of Boiling Springs in overtime, 3-1. McDevitt’s Tahir Layton joined the trio in the finals, earned silver at 285 lbs.

Trinity High School in Camp Hill also made a statement on the mats, sending four wrestlers to the semifinals. The Shamrocks, Mid-Penn Capital Division Co-Champions this year, finished the district tournament with five wrestlers on the podium: Patrick DeMark (126 lbs.), Daniel Kosinski (152 lbs.), Makoa Neibel (160 lbs.), Dominic Kelly (195 lbs.) and Maximus McMurray (285 lbs.).

Lancaster Catholic’s Eric Howe, a place-winner at 106 lbs., will join McDevitt and Trinity’s podium wrestlers in regional competition March 1 and 2 to vie for spots in the PIAA State Championship bracket. The State Championships are March 7-9 at the Giant Center in Hershey.

By Donna Walker
Special to The Witness

A daily dose of religious learning gives Niang Kim something she values. The seventh-grade student at Resurrection Catholic School in Lancaster was born in Myanmar. Her first language is Tedim and her second language is Burmese, though she reveals no trace of an accent.

She said she likes Resurrection, “Because you’re in a safe place, and you get to do religion every day and learn more about God every day.”

A firm belief in the value of Catholic education led retired pharmacist Gerald Ganse to form the Catholic Education Foundation to help students like Kim. The four-year-old independent nonprofit raises money for tuition assistance.

“The number one obstacle to Catholic education funding,” Ganse said. His own education at St. Joseph School and Lancaster Catholic High School in the ‘50s and ‘60s didn’t cost his family anything. Today, tuition at Catholic schools in Lancaster County can cost anywhere from $3,200 to $4,880 for elementary school, and $8,500 for high school.

Tuition was not a barrier to Ganse’s education, and he wants the same opportunity for children in Lancaster because it strengthens the faith.

“The decline in enrollment in Catholic schools is a warning that without proper education of our children, our faith will slowly fade out in our society,” he said.

Ganse visited Resurrection Jan. 29 and met the students awarded tuition assistance grants from CEF, specifically from the Dr. Albert J. and Mrs. Ave Marie (Butz) Schreder and Family fund.

“Being able to meet and greet the student recipients…provides energy that what we are doing is a valued commitment to our Catholic faith,” he said.

The Catholic Education Foundation is an alternative method for Catholics to steward their treasures, Ganse said, and gives a maximum return on investment for donors’ wishes. “It provides an opportunity to participate with us in our vision and mission for Catholic education in Lancaster County.”

To learn more about CEF, contact Ganse at 717-577-2735.

(Donna Walker is the Marketing Director at Resurrection Catholic School.)

MCDEVITT’S SHIELDS SECURES DISTRICT 3 HISTORY;
TRINITY MAKES STATEMENT ON THE MATS

Eyeing a historic fourth District 3-AA championship, Bishop McDevitt’s Chase Shields puts a tilt on his opponent in opening-round action.

Gerry Ganse, left, founder of the Catholic Education Foundation, stands with Antonio Garcia, Niang Kim, Emily Settle and May Settle at Resurrection Catholic School following a ceremony to thank school supporters, like the CEF which provides tuition assistance to families in Lancaster County.

COURTESY OF RESURRECTION CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Catholic Education Foundation Offers Tuition Assistance

By Donna Walker
Special to The Witness

Tuition was not a barrier to Ganse’s education, and he wants the same opportunity for children in Lancaster because it strengthens the faith.

“The decline in enrollment in Catholic schools is a warning that without proper education of our children, our faith will slowly fade out in our society,” he said.

Ganse visited Resurrection Jan. 29 and met the students awarded tuition assistance grants from CEF, specifically from the Dr. Albert J. and Mrs. Ave Marie (Butz) Schreder and Family fund.

“Being able to meet and greet the student recipients…provides energy that what we are doing is a valued commitment to our Catholic faith,” he said.

The Catholic Education Foundation is an alternative method for Catholics to steward their treasures, Ganse said, and gives a maximum return on investment for donors’ wishes. “It provides an opportunity to participate with us in our vision and mission for Catholic education in Lancaster County.”

To learn more about CEF, contact Ganse at 717-577-2735.

(Donna Walker is the Marketing Director at Resurrection Catholic School.)

TRINITY MAKES STATEMENT ON THE MATS

Trinity’s Daniel Kosinski scores a pin against his first-round opponent at 152 lbs. Kosinski placed fourth in the district.
MCDEVITT SWIMMER IS A CHAMPION WORKING HARD TO REPEAT

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

When Mark Spitz won his sixth swimming gold medal in world-record time at the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich, West Germany, he said something remarkably prescient about his looming seventh and final Olympic race, and how pressure can affect a true champion. “I know I say that I don’t want to swim before every event, but this time I’m serious. If I swim six and win six, I’ll be a hero. If I swim seven and win six, I’ll be a failure,” Spitz told ABC Sports.

He won that seventh race in world-record time by mere inches, and with it lucrative immortal Olympic fame, and his troubling pre-race assertion nearly a half century ago has been rightly drowned by historical amnesia. But, what is true is that champions feel pressure to repeat their winning feat no matter the size of the stage.

Bishop McDevitt’s Josiah Lauver won two gold medals (freestyle and backstroke) as a junior at the PIAA state swimming championships last March at Bucknell, and was named the “Swimmer of the Meet” for his overall performance in those races and in helping the Crusaders’ relay teams to podium finishes.

“There is no question I feel pressure, actually a lot of pressure to do well at districts and states. I do have a target on my back,” Josiah said after practice at Central Penn Fitness Center, located about two miles from Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg. “But we have been working really hard and that is how I am dealing with the pressure. You have to put the work in the pool. Nerves can be a good thing for a swimmer and they can be bad thing also,” he said.

He is not talking about winning or defending. He’s talking about working, enjoying his teammates and preparing to be as fast as he can at the upcoming meets in March. That’s just not him sounding mature, that’s him being so.

He says his biggest fan is his father, who is an assistant for the McDevitt swim team and who also swam competitively in high school and college. His sister is also an assistant and helps him prepare for competition. He has been swimming since he was five years old, so this year marks 13 years of swimming seriously. His high school coach, Kurt Sprowls, has also been with him all the way through the junior swimming circuit before moving up to be the Crusaders’ head swimming coach a few years ago. That consistency has been a positive influence as well for Josiah.

Not only is he grateful for his coaching and family support, he appreciates his teachers at McDevitt who support him and his team. “The teachers have been terrific,” Josiah said. “They ask about the meets, and how we are doing and that means a lot to me and my teammates. It’s really nice to have that understanding support.”

Next year, Josiah will swim for Georgetown University. The Hoyas do not offer scholarships in swimming, but he said the Jesuit school in Washington, D.C., fit him the best academically, and as a business major, that was most important to him.

While swimming is surely an individual sport, it’s the team aspect that he enjoys the most – namely the relay teams. “We are in here practicing every day together so it is really nice to work together, to compete together for each other. I enjoy that the most,” he said. He feels that the Crusaders’ 4 x 100 freestyle relay team has an excellent shot at winning a state gold medal come mid-March. That’s what they are working hard for, building to, and looking forward to, he said.

Spoken like the true champion he already is.

Students Pen for Patriots

Several students in grades six through eight were honored by VFW Post 5265 in Spring Grove for winning essays on “Why I Honor the American Flag.” The top-ten place winners in the “Patriot’s Pen Essay Contest” included Kylah Gans and Emily Werner of St. Rose of Lima School in Thomasville (second and ninth place), and Madison O’Brien of St. Teresa of Calcutta School in McSherrystown. The students received recognition and awards at a banquet hosted by VFW Post 5265.
Tell me a little bit about your childhood.

My dad was raised Catholic and my mom is a convert. My sister and I were raised Catholic, but we weren’t brought into the Church until we were 9 or 10. I continued my education through public school, and did CCD and LIFE TEEN. I was a Boy Scout, I did martial arts, I was involved in every church activity there was to do. I was an altar server from the first moment I was allowed. I started lecturing when I was 12 in 8th grade. In high school, my parish started an emoce program; the older servers took on a greater degree of responsibility and we were encouraged to become Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. I often brag that I did everything on the altar except the priest’s job! I even worked as a volunteer at the front desk for a couple months before graduating high school. I took off a lot of school days for the Archdiocese of Baltimore, “come and see” days, seminars to triarize.

Were you always interested in becoming a priest?

I certainly don’t consider myself to be one of those who, at the age of 5, dreamt of being a priest. I wasn’t doing the kids’ Mass and the Playsky altar. I first started thinking about it around the time of my Confirmation retreat, the normal time when the priest gets up at the very end and says, “If you are interested in a vocation, please come forward.” I did feel called. I felt at peace. I wasn’t doing the kids’ Mass and was also kind of intimating. The video they showed us, “Fishers of Men,” has an opening shot with a priest coming up to a car wreck and running in slow motion – in a cassock, no less! – slid- ing up to a person and administering Last Rites. I was like, “I don’t know if I want to be a Batman.” There were also a lot of things I wasn’t mature enough or ready enough to commit myself to, so I actually wound up running away from the vocation a little bit. When I got to college, despite all the stuff I had been doing in the parish, I didn’t really have that well-developed relationship with Christ himself. Because of that, I kind of regretted not for a couple years. When my college chaplain got me more involved in the Neumann House at Millersville. With that, I started growing in my understanding of who Jesus is, and having that relationship with him through prayer and by started coming the attraction to the seminary again. I remember praying and liter- ally asking God, “What do you want me to do with my life?” The word “priest” would just come to me.

I will say I made one mistake with my discernment, and this is one thing I will always advocate young men to do. I made the decision to go to divinity school about it until the last minute. If you are even considering it, let your priest know so he can help you along the way. Don’t do it later on, when you’re feeling more con- vinced of your calling.

What have been some of your experiences as a priest?

The big thing I’ve been investing a lot of my time into is young adult ministry. In a lot of parishes I’ve been to, it seems the parish is almost completely dominated by the older generation. It doesn’t bode well when your entire parish is over 50 and you have a lot of families in their twenties and thirties. I’ve been investing myself in trying to build relationships with the younger gener- ation. I’m trying to start a young adult min- istry to get them to understand the things of the Church are real, and that the Church is for people of all ages. I’ve been follow- ing the Theology on Tap model, and we’ve been starting one in Chambersburg. A lot of people are starting to find their niche in the Church because of it.

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

I’ve done martial arts since I was 5, I studied formally until I was 18, and contin- ued to do it on my own as I can. People seem to get a kick out of that – no pun intended! I have to black belt in karate, a mid- level belt in Taekown Do, and I was part of an MMA club at Millersville for a se- mester or two in college.

I enjoy reading, video games, movies. I like to parcel apart the Marvel and DC movies especially, or any movie with a deeper message behind it. If you saw “A Quiet Place,” I love dissecting the good, the bad and the holy behind those kinds of movies. One of the Theology on Tap events we’re planning will involve watching a movie and parceling out the good, the bad and the holy.

There are movies for escapism, when it’s just fun to kick back and let the movie hap- pen. In today’s culture, there are movies that are holy; movies that are diabolical. It’s good to have your group wear when those latter things occur. I have quoted and referenced movies in my homilies. I’ve used a quote in the confessional from “Bat- man Begins.” Bruce’s dad asks him, “Why would we even need a hero? It’s hard to pick ourselves up.” I re-orientate it to give the message that we fall so we can learn to get God pick us back up.

Parish Fish Dinners
Submit your parish’s information via e-mail to communications@hbgdiocese.org. A listing of diners is also available at www.hbgdiocese.org.

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

Divine Redeemer Parish in Mount Carmel, Lenten dinner March 8 in Divine Mercy Hall from noon-2 p.m. and 4-6 p.m. Macaroni and cheese (with or without fish), stewed tomatoes, coleslaw, roll and dessert. Cost is $10 with fish, $8 without.

Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Elysburg, fish dinners March 8, 22, April 5 and 12 from 4-6:30 p.m. in the social hall. Baked haddock, buttered parsley potatoes, vegetable, coleslaw, roll, butter, dessert and beverage. Eat-in or take-out, Cost is $9. Stations of the Cross follow at 7 p.m.

Our Lady of the Blessed Sacra- ment Knights of Columbus Council #15137 in Harrisburg, fish dinners Fridays March 8-April 12 from 4-6:30 p.m. in the parish hall. Menu includes coleslaw, choice of sauce and beverage. Eat-in or take-out, Cost is $9. For info, call 652-0545 or visit www.stannbyz.org.

St. Monica Parish in Sunbury, Lenten suppers on Fridays March 8-April 12 from 4-6 p.m. in the parish center. Varied menu. Weeks 1 and 4, breaded/baked fish, macaroni and cheese, stewed tomatoes, coleslaw, bread & butter. Weeks 2 and 5, baked fish, salmon, baked potato, green beans, coleslaw, bread & butter, dessert. Weeks 3 and 6, cheese ravioli with marinara sauce, salad, apple sauce, bread & butter, dessert. Cost is $10 for adults, $5 for children 12 and under. Stations of the Cross follow at 7 p.m. in the church, except for Good Friday at noon.

Knights of Columbus Council #8151 of St. Matthew Parish in Dau- berger, fish dinners March 8, 22, April 5 and 12 from 4-6:30 p.m. in the parish hall. A variety of seafood items and fried and fried chicken. French fries, baked potato, baked macaroni and cheese, corn, green beans, coleslaw, home- made desserts and beverages available for purchase. Cost is $10 for adults, $5 for children 12 and under.

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Emlenton, fish dinners Fridays March 8-April 12 from 4-7 p.m. in the parish hall. Seasoned baked cod, church-made macaroni & cheese, church-made pierogi, veg- gie or stewed tomatoes, coleslaw, roll, dessert and beverage. Eat-in or take-out, Cost is $10 for adults, $5 for children 12 and under.

St. Ann Byzantine Catholic Par- ish in Harrisburg, fish and perogi dinners, Wednesdays during Lent, beginning March 6, from 4-6 p.m. in the parish hall. Dinners are $11. Homemade soups, halushki, mac & cheese, side dishes included. Stations of the Cross will be held Wednesdays during the dinners and on Friday lunches from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., as well as on Saturdays in Lent from 9 a.m.-noon. Fillings include potato and cheese, sauerkraut, sauerkraut and farmer cheese and apple. Smoked Kielbasa rings and sticks also for sale. For information, call 717- 352-0458 or visit www.stannbyz.org.

Holy Angels Parish in Kulpmont, Friday lunches from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in the activity center from 4-6 p.m. Baked fish, potato, vegetable, soup and salad bar, fruit cup, bread, dessert and beverage. Cost is $9 for adults, $5 for children 12 and under.

St. Francis Xavier Parish in Gettys- burg, fish fry on Fridays March 15-April 12 from 5-7 p.m. in Parish Hall, 456 Table Rock Rd. Eat-in or take-out, Cost is $10. For info, call 717-334-4045 or visit www.stfccc.org for menu and more information.

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Emlenton, Lenten dinners on Fridays March 15-April 12 from 4-7 p.m. in the parish hall. Seasoned baked cod, church-made macaroni & cheese, church-made pierogi, veg- gie or stewed tomatoes, coleslaw, roll, dessert and beverage. Eat-in or take-out, Cost is $10 for adults, $5 for children 12 and under.

Holy Spirit Parish in Palmyra, fish fry on Fridays March 8-April 12 from 3-7 p.m. in the parish hall. Breaded or fried haddock, crab cakes, shrimp, clam strips, pierogi, soup, mac & cheese, and homemade desserts. Stations of the Cross are at 7 p.m. on Fridays. For menus and additional information, visit www.saintroseoflimayork.org.

St. Rose of Lima Parish in York, seafood dinners, March 6 from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and every Friday in Lent through April 12. Friday nights in Lent and every Friday in April, fish and chicken dinners from 4-7 p.m. For menus and additional information, visit www.stroseoflimayork.org.
Lenten Lesson in the Grocery Store

By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC

Special to The Witness

Recently, I had a very interesting conversation about the faith in one of the most non-theological environments: the grocery store. I was standing in the pasta and tomato sauce aisle when a young woman approached me.

“Pardon me, Sister. May I ask you a question?” I nodded as I picked up a box of pasta and looked at her straight on. She continued, “Do you think that humankind is living a less moral life and, as result, is suffering more now than in past years?” The pain in her eyes was clearly visible.

Putting down the box of pasta, I said, “The human condition has not changed since Adam and Eve first sinned. However, what has changed is the way it can be communicated. Because of social media, we know almost instantly of the tragedy and human suffering in the world. I think that because of its instant spread, it can seem worse. Remember, Jesus has overcome all suffering and moral depravity by his death and resurrection. He is our hope. Look to Him!”

Tears welled up in her eyes and she gave me hug as she whispered, “Thanks!” and went on her way.

I could not help think of this as I begin a new series of reflections during Lent. For me, Lent is always a time in which I focus on the amazing gift of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection. This is not only a personal gift but also a communal one. Let me explain.

St. Paul speaks of Jesus as the new Adam. He is the epitome of what being human should be like. The fact that the Word of God was born of a woman, walked the face of the earth, suffered and died, and then rose from the dead forever changed the human condition.

I came across a blog that described this concept in this way: “Christ did not suffer and die so that we do not have to – he suffered and died so that our suffering and death could be transubstantiated into a means of life. He embraced the cross not to keep us from it, but so that our crosses could be changed from instruments of death into healing remedies that bring life… We are incorporated into him and we live in communion with him. This communion means that we share in his life – not by making some act of intellectual assent, but by living his life after him. And living his life after him requires carrying the cross after him and sharing in his death. The cross is the price of eternal life.

This is the meaning of Jesus when he said, ‘Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.’ Could there be any clearer sign that he did not come to keep us from the cross? No, rather he came to transform our crosses into the means of life.”

Honestly, I can never go down the pasta aisle without thinking of Christ and that young woman. One conversation has forever changed my perspective. All I can say to her is, “Thanks, and praise God!”

https://www.catholicgentleman.net/2017/03/lent-suffering-and-the-death-that-brings-life/ (Sister Geralyn Schmidt is the Wide Area Network Coordinator at the Diocese of Harrisburg and the Director of Formation for Wives in the Diaconate Program. An educator for 30 years, she is responsible for Professional Development Programs for every age learner. Through her presentations, she challenges her audiences to be the individual God has called them to be.)

Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women’s 94th Annual Convention

All women of the Diocese are cordially invited to attend “Celebrating Mary Our Mother”

Saturday, May 11, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
The Diocesan Center, 4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, PA.

Principal Celebrant and Homilist is Father David Danner, Diocesan Vicar General

Concelebrated Mass with Priests and Deacons of the Diocese

Keynote speaker Megan Murphy is a dynamic Catholic speaker, teacher, and evangelist engaging audiences of all ages in the New Evangelization. She is featured at conferences, retreats, seminars, universities, and youth and young adult events. She serves her home parish as Youth Minister and an Instructor for the Family Catechesis Program. For more information on Megan, visit meganmurphyministries.com.

Afternoon workshops (opportunity to attend two sessions)

Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC - “Establishing a Relationship with Mary”

Terri Rosenstein – “Living the Joyful Mysteries”

June C. Alexander - “Understanding the Perpetual Help Icon”

Ann Koshute, M.T.S. – “Celebrating Mary Our Mother”

Holding my Mother’s Hand: Thoughts from a Catholic Evangelist

Answers on page 15

CrossWord

Readings: Sir 27:4-7 1 Cor 15:54-58 and Lk 6:39-45 and Dt 26:4-10; Rom 10:8-13; Lk 4:1-13

ACROSS

27 Purple season
28 Ursa ___
30 Digit
31 ___ Christ
32 ”Strong hand and outstretched arm”
35 Christmas song
36 Epiphany light
37 Stack of paper
39 Brother’s sons
40 20. 13 12
41 ___ plate of dirt
43 School group
45 Next Vatican Council
47 Glide
51 Distress call
53 Tempted Jesus
54 Blessed ___ you"
55 Noah’s boat
56 Where a yoke goes

DOWN
1 Her
2 British drink
3 Colony insect
4 White meat of chicken
5 Easter month
6 Manger
7 Chinese grapefruits
8 Sub-continent
9 Harm
10 Married
11 Pen fillers
12 Promising beginner
13 She
14 Deli order
15 Common pope name
24 We believe in ___ God
25 Brick worker
26 Australian suburb
27 Common pope name
28 Jesus nothing for 40 days
33 Uncooked
34 Mr’s wife
35 Mouse catcher
36 When the sieve is ___
37 Part of a brake
38 Rub out
39 Stress disorder
40 Plateau
41 Fibber
42 Pen stuff
43 ___ Maria
44 Plate
45 Deer relative
46 Deer relative
47 Manger
48 ___ Maria
49 Twitching
50 Deer relative

© 2019 www.tri-c-a-publications.com

Catholic Commentary
March 1, 2019 • The Catholic Witness • 13
Diocesan Notebook

Compiled by Jen Reed

SPIRITUAL OFFERINGS

Mass with prayers for healing will be celebrated March 5 at 7 p.m. at St. Theresa Church in New Cumberland by Father Donald Bender. Sponsored by the Pilgrims of Praise and Life in the Spirit prayer groups. Call Loretta at 717-737-7551 or Mary Ann at 717-564-7709.

Caecorum at St. Joan of Arc Church, Hershey, March 13 at 7 p.m. Praise, worship and adoration of Jesus Christ in His Church. Eucharist. Father Modestus will preside. A reception will be held following the Caecorum. For information, call 717-583-0240.

Christ the King Church in Benton, “Soup and Stations” every Friday in Lent. Soup at 6 p.m., Stations at 7 p.m.

The Benton Community Lenten Services, Sundays at 7 p.m. March 10 at Christ the King, March 17 at Benton UMC, March 24 at Benton Christian, March 31 at Assemblies of God, April 7 at Walker UMC and April 14 at Presbyterian.

Mass for healing in support of those who have lost a child, March 31 at 6 p.m. at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Cornell. Find comfort through prayer and support of other families who have lost a child after an accident, disease, drug overdose, military service, miscarriage, stillbirth, suicide, etc. Call 717-273-1574.

40 Days for Life in Harrisburg, March 6-April 14. Pray and fast for an end to abortion. 40-day vigil in front of Planned Parenthood on North 2nd Street. For information, and to volunteer, contact Paul Dadowski at 412-849-1592 or dadowski@yahoo.com, or visit www.40daysforlife.com/HARRISBURG.

Stations of the Cross and Supper at St. Anne Church in Lancaster, Fridays during Lent, March 8-April 12. Lenten meal from 4:30-6 p.m. and after at 6:30-7:30 p.m., in the parish church, located in the parish rectory. RSVP to the parish office at 717-392-2225. Free-will offering accepted. For details and menu, visit www.stannechurch.org.

PILGRIMAGES & RETREATS

Join Father Pang Tcheou for a pilgrimage to the Passion Play in Oberammergau, May 19-29, 2020. Roundtrip airfare from Philadelphia International Airport to Germany, First Class admission tickets to see the Passion Play; also visiting Innsbruck, Salzburg, Vienna, and more; 9 nights accommodations in First Class and select hotels; breakfast daily, six dinners; land transportation by private motorcoach; all entrance fees, daily Mass, and more for $3,999 per person/double occupancy. Contact Father Tcheou at fatherpang@gmail.com or Mary Mother of the Church Parish at 717-635-4903, to sign up and receive a trip registration packet.

Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat for healing after an abortion, April 26-28 at a confidential location in the Diocese of Harrisburg. The weekend retreat is for anyone seeking healing after an abortion. Visit www.rachelsvineyard.org for information. To register, call 717-788-4850 or e-mail rachelsvendesecure@gmail.com. All inquiries are confidential.

Spring retreat and pilgrimage to the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land and St. John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, D.C., April 28. Hosted by St. Catherine Laboure Parish in Harrisburg. Cost of $35 per person includes all tours and transportation by deluxe motor coach. Contact Deb at the parish office, 717-564-1321 or deb@stclbin.org.

Lenten retreat on mercy with Father Chris Alar, Director of the Association of Marian Helpers in Stockbridge, Mass., at St. Katharine Drexel Parish in Mechanicsburg. March 26, 6-8 p.m. Exploring Christ’s message of Divine Mercy, and a blessing with a relic of St. Faustina. Father Alar will preach at all Masses and will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Contact Bill Benning at 757-5882 or St. Katharine Drexel Parish at 717-697-8716.

Lancaster Court Queen of Peace #1023 of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Lenten retreat March 17 from 1-4 p.m. at St. Philip the Apostle Parish in Millersville. Sister Mary Paul Giordano, DM, and co-presenters will explore The Work of Resting. Refreshments provided, Free-will offering accepted. RSVP to Margaret Giordano at mgiorlando.sultzbach@gmail.com or 717-390-9035.


Life teen retreat on life’s big questions, March 23 from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. at St. Columba Parish in Hummels Wharf. Hosted by Father Ryan Fancesko of Divine Redeemer Parish in Mount Carmel. Bring a bagged lunch; dinner provided. Cost is $15. Register with Karen Konkolics, 570-441-3459 or kkonkolics@gmail.com.

EDUCATION & ENRICHMENT

St. Anne’s Retirement Community in Columbia, six-week Bereavement Program, 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, Queen of Heaven Parish, Mount Joy, “Restored for Life” talk, March 12 at 7 p.m. Sandy Paveglio to St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Annville will be the guest speaker.

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 Graphics and Franciscan Sisters of Christian and Catechesis. Sacrament of Reconciliation from 3:45-4:45 p.m., and Mass at 5 p.m. No cost for the program. Bring a Rosary. Register by March 4 to Angela Danko at 301-302-6511 or ADJdanko@comcast.net.

Forgiveness Prayer workshop, March 9 from 9 a.m.-noon at St. Rose of Lima Convent in York. Learn the Forgiveness Prayer. Workshop will also provide an opportunity for Centering Prayer. Free of charge. Bring your own lunch. Register with Rich Erdlen at richinyork23@gmail.com or 717-779-8750.

Theology on Tap Lancaster, “Life as a Catholic Legislator,” with Sen. John DiSanto, March 14 at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Lancaster, 6 p.m. Pops Concert begins 4:45 p.m., and Mass at 5 p.m. No cost for the procession. Father Modestus will preside. A reception will be held following the processional. Cost is $8 at the door.

St. Richard Parish in Manheim, annual spaghetti dinner, March 1 from 4:30-8:30 p.m. Adults $9, children 18 and under eat free. Spaghetti and meatball (seconds on spaghetti only), salad, bread with butter, dessert, soda, coffee and tea. Tickets sold at the door.

Knights of Columbus Council #17028 of St. Philip the Apostle Parish in Millersville, final Toy Train meet of the season, March 16 from 9 a.m.-noon. Vendors buying and selling toy trains, operating train layouts. Admission is $4. Call Charlie Sauer at 717-872-8481.

Bingo of vintage Longaberger baskets, hosted by Knights of Columbus of St. Philip the Apostle Council #17028 in Millersville, March 31 at the parish. Doors at 1 p.m., games at 2:30 p.m. Proceeds to help repair church roof. Tickets are $20 in advance, $25 at the door. Contact Chris Smith at 717-808-6436.

The Catholic Woman’s Club, 51st Annual Fashion Show and Luncheon, “Jewels of Spring – Wear Your Bling,” April 13 from 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Country Club of York. Cost is $35 per person. Guests welcome. Contact Beth Brennan 717-495-0947 or bsbrennan@comcast.net. RSVP by March 31.

The St. Joseph Parish Fun(d) Committee in Hanover, Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, March 5 from 4-6:30 p.m. in the parish social hall. Pancakes, sausage, applesauce, fastnacht, desserts, and soft drinks. $6 for adults, $3 for children 12 and under, children under 3 eat free. Proceeds benefit the parish.
OBITUARIES

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

Abbottstown
Immaculate Heart of Mary:
Ron Fillibees
Geraldine Glass
Warren Glass
Thomas Harbaugh
John Melhorn

Berwick
Immaculate Conception BVM:
Helen Carter
Jean Isvak
James Spear
Betty Worman

Bonneville
St. Joseph the Worker:
Edward T. Little

Camp Hill
Good Shepherd:
Ann Crawford
Fred Vlasek

Fairfield
Immaculate Conception BVM:
Emelia Carrick
Alfred Hetlyn

Gettysburg
St. Francis Xavier:
Rosemary Schreno

Hanover
St. Joseph:
Patsy A. Finch
Glady M. Reck
St. Vincent de Paul:
Winifred E. Petry

Harrisburg
Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament:
Anne Buller

Lancaster
Assumption BVM:
Jeanette Moe
Patricia Thornton
S. Catherine Laboure:
Mildred Coburn
Florence Foda
St. Margaret Mary:
Charles I. Glanz, II
Michael Librandi
Veronica McCollum
Veronica “Ronnie” Rolla
Barbara A. Romanowski

Hershey
St. Joan of Arc:
Frank Bolduc
Josephine Bricker

Lebanon
Assumption BVM:
Jennie Beam
Marianne Lynch
James Morgan
Regina Reiley
Sacred Heart of Jesus: G. Thomas Diehl
John M. Fanale
James Edward Gilman
Patricia Ann Johnson
Rita Smith Wade-El

Lewistown
Sacred Heart of Jesus:
Julia M. Tressler

Manheim
St. Richard:
Thomas P. "Tom" Lacey, Jr.
John “Jack” Muldowney
McSherrystown
Annunciation BVM:
Nancy Niederrr
Mechanicsburg
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton:
Bernard P. "Bert" Bertolino
St. Joseph:
Mary Barkofsky
Bert Bertolino
St. Katharine Drexel:
Frank Alba
Dolores (Dol) Dexter
Chesterann Monko

Middletown
Seven Sorrows BVM:
Richard Handley
Earl Shelley, Jr.

Mount Carmel
divine Redemeer:
Richard C. DiRienzo
Rose Kuznicki

New Bloomfield
St. Bernard:
Emory Galic
Joseph Matanis
Edward Simoncelli

New Cumberland
St. Theresa:
Adam Castner
Donald Henkel
Marie “Bernie” English

York
Immaculate Conception BVM:
Marjorie Fernandes
St. Joseph:
Lloyd Mullen, Jr.
Mary-Ellen Schmidt
Helen Stiles
Rocco Zappia
St. Patrick:
Norman Owens
Zigmund Sadauskas
St. Rose of Lima:
Lester Salzgiver

Sister Kathleen Brabson, S.S.J.
St. Joseph Sister Kathleen Brabson, formerly Sister Thomas Audrey, died Jan. 23 at St. Joseph Villa, Flourtown, Pa. She was 71. She entered the Sisters of St. Joseph, Chestnut Hill, in 1966 and professed her final vows in 1973 when she was missioned at Sacred Heart, Conewago. Sister Kathleen ministered in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and the Dioceses of Harrisburg, Trenton and Wilmington. In the Harrisburg Diocese, she taught at Sacred Heart of Jesus School in Conewago from 1969-1975 and in the Theology Department at Delone Catholic High School, McSherrystown, from 1981-1987. At the time of her passing, she was president of Mount St. Joseph Academy, Philadelphia. The funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Joseph Villa, Flourtown, on Jan. 29.

Sister Julia Tierney, OSF
Franciscan Sister Julia Tierney, formerly Sister Jarlath Anne, 88, died in Ridley Memorial Hospital in Aston, Pa., Feb. 15. She had been a professed member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia for 69 years. Born in County Mayo, Ireland, she entered the congregation in 1946. Sister Julia earned a B.A. in English from Neumann University in Aston, Pa., in 1970, and an MA in education from Boston University in 1978. Sister Julia ministered in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, the Archdiocese of Boston, and the Diocese of Trenton. She served for 10 years in the Diocese of Harrisburg, at St. Joseph School in Lancaster and at Holy Trinity School in Columbia. In later years, Sister Julia’s ministry took her to collegiate levels where she served as a lecturer in Puerto Rico, Israel, and Africa. She also served in the Diocese of El Paso as coordinator of volunteer care.

The funeral Mass was Feb. 19 at Assisi House in Aston. Burial was in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery in Aston.

Annual Deb Loss Scholarship
Indoor Yard Sale, March 9 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at the St. Joseph Parish Center, Hanover. Breakfast and lunch available for purchase. More than 40 vendors expected. All proceeds benefit the St. Joseph’s School Scholarship Fund.

Bingo for Babies, to benefit the Carlisle Area Family Life Center, hosted by Knights of Columbus Council #4057, March 1 at St. Patrick Parish in Carlisle. Tickets are $25 at the door for sandwich, chips and drink and 20 games of Bingo. Desserts, snacks and raffle tickets available for purchase.

Paska bread sale at Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Elysburg. Raisin bread with a hint of orange, $6 per loaf. Call the parish office at 570-672-2302 to order, and indicate your pick-up date (Wednesdays March 13-April 10 from 8 a.m.-noon) or after weekend Masses.

Job Openings
Lebanon Catholic School seeking a receptionist, hourly position and currently temporary until the end of the school year, with the possibility of becoming a 10-month position with the start of the new school year. Qualified candidates must have updated clearances upon employment. Send application to www.lebanoncatholicschool.org to Deb Waters, Principal, at dwaters@lebanoncatholicschool.org.

St. Patrick Parish in Carlisle, seeking a Parish Finance Administrator, responsible for the financial management, human resource administration, and administrative support needs of the parish. Position reports to the pastor, with a close working relationship with the parish manager. Call the parish office at 717-243-4411 for the job description. Interested candidates should send a letter of interest, résumé, and a pastor’s recommendation form to St. Patrick Church, 152 East Pommert Street, Carlisle, PA 17013 (attn: Parish Finance Administrator), or email shisham@stpatrickchurch.org.

Next Deadline
The deadline for submissions for the March 15 edition of The Witness is Wednesday, March 6 at 4:30 p.m. Submit written announcements via e-mail to witnesses@bhgdiocece.org. Limit 70 words. No ads, posters or PDFs, please.
Bishop McDevitt Chorale Performs at Iconic Festival in Heinz Chapel

By Nate Delp
Special to The Witness

St. Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians eloquently describes the Mystical Body of Christ as one body with many parts. These parts are interdependent and work together to bring glory to God. One crucial part of our human body is the voice. With a few words, one might change someone else’s life. They could cut deeply, leaving scars that never fade, or they can invigorate, raising someone up to be the best self that God has created them to be.

The voice can also showcase God’s infinite capacity for beauty and goodness through song. Christ’s message also centers on the connections we make. Just as the parts of the body are all connected and necessary for the healthy and productive function of the body, so too are the harmonies of a well-rehearsed choir.

This beautiful metaphor was exemplified by the Bishop McDevitt High School Chorale on Feb. 16 and 17. The students, under the direction of Chad Reed, were blessed to be showcased at the University of Pittsburgh Heinz Chapel Chamber Choir Festival over Presidents’ Day Weekend. The festival was founded by Professor John Goldsmith (Heinz Chapel Choir Director, 1989-2014) to encourage the students on their trip to Pittsburgh McDevitt High School, and accompanied by composer’s beautiful vision of harmony becomes recognizable to everyone. The choirs, bands and actors of the Diocese have rehearsed to bring beauty and necessary for the healthy and productive function of the body, so too are the harmonies of a well-rehearsed choir. This beautiful metaphor was exemplified by the Bishop McDevitt High School Chorale on Feb. 16 and 17. The students, under the direction of Chad Reed, were blessed to be showcased at the University of Pittsburgh Heinz Chapel Chamber Choir Festival over Presidents’ Day Weekend. The festival was founded by Professor John Goldsmith (Heinz Chapel Choir Director, 1989-2014) to encourage the students who attended this festival. The Chorale was adjudicated by two college choral directors and received extremely positive feedback. In addition to this excellent festival experience, the weekend included a choral clinic at Duquesne University, a trip to see and hear the Grammy award-winning Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, a beautiful Mass at St. Paul Cathedral, and a tour of the Cathedral of Learning at the University of Pittsburgh. The two days together, while educational and productive, were reminiscent of a family trip, full of laughter, friendship and quality time spent growing closer together and encountering interesting characters along the way.

This is the first time a choir from Bishop McDevitt has been invited to perform in the 29 years of the festival’s existence. To the untrained and uneducated ear, it is hard to fully comprehend the intricate harmonies of a full choral arrangement, and yet we can still innately recognize the skill it takes to not only perform, but also to compose such masterpieces. The young performers of our Diocese are also to compose such masterpieces. The young performers of our Diocese are living witnesses to the great glory to be found in the connections within the mystical body of Christ. When we each do our part as we were designed to, the master composer’s beautiful vision of harmony becomes recognizable to everyone. The choirs, bands and actors of the Diocese have rehearsed to bring beauty to audiences. We may not always see or understand the harmonies that God intends, but if we trust his directions and perform our part, his harmony will be apparent to the world.

(Nate Delp is a teacher at Bishop McDevitt High School, and accompanied the students on their trip to Pittsburgh.)

See These and Other Bishop McDevitt Students in Upcoming Performances:

- A Night of the Arts: Pops Concert and Art Exhibit at Bishop McDevitt, March 2 at 7 p.m.
- Cinderella: Enchanted Edition, spring musical at Bishop McDevitt, March 14 and 15 at 7 p.m., and March 16 at 3 p.m.
- Wind Ensemble/Jazz Band Performance at the State Capitol Building, March 21 at noon.
- Chorale Singing at St. Joan of Arc Church in Hershey, March 31 at the 10:30 a.m. Mass.
- Chorale Singing at St. Joseph Church in Mechanicsburg, April 7 at the 11:30 a.m. Mass.
- Jazz Ensembles Concert at Bishop McDevitt, May 9 at 7 p.m.
- Chorale Concert at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg, May 3 at 7 p.m.
- A Spring Evening of Music, spring concert at Bishop McDevitt, May 16 at 7 p.m.