After his team won the PIAA Girls’ Class 3A championship over Dunmore, head coach Gerry Eckenrode was asked how his team beat an undefeated and heavily favored Dunmore Bucks team at Giant Center in Hershey, March 21. “I believe in fate,” he said. “I just had a feeling.” In the days before the title game, the cagy veteran coach had thought of Ben Crenshaw’s longshot and improbable win at the 1995 Masters golf tournament just days after his long-time mentor and coach had passed away. “This is a very exciting win for our school and community,” said Delone Catholic Principal Richard LaRocca. “I believe the win is a testimony to hard work, preparation, discipline and positive attitude. We were the definite underdog but that did not discourage our team or Coach Eckenrode.” Fate can be easily dismissed with unbelief, given the long odds underdog Delone Catholic faced against a Dunmore team that put experience, size and terrific outside shooters on the court, not to mention their defensive prowess which was on display in the state semifinal game against Trinity at Pottsville’s Martz Hall three days earlier.

In that game, the Bucks dominated the Shamrocks, who were unable to handle Dunmore’s 2-3 zone. The 50-24 score was not even that close, as Trinity was never able to get a good look at the basket with Dunmore’s swarming defense taking away the Shamrocks’ penetration and inside game.

It seemed nobody gave the Squirettes a chance going into the finals. After all, Trinity easily beat Delone in the Dis-
We Pledge…

Throughout the next several issues of The Catholic Witness, we will publish some of the most frequently asked questions and answers from Bishop Gainer’s recent Listening Sessions. Additional questions and answers can be found on the Frequently Asked Questions page of our Youth Protection website, www.YouthProtectionHbg.com.

Q: Can you explain the Diocese’s stance on Statute of Limitation reform?

A: The Diocese and I as your Bishop have said many times that we support revising the criminal Statute of Limitations. The civil statute of limitations reform, specifically the so-called “window” legislation, is not legislation we can support. An open window on old claims would force the Diocese to severely curtail its ministries. Our Catholic schools, Religious Education programs, RCIA, Respect Life, campus ministries, hospital and nursing home chaplaincy, multicultural ministries, youth athletic programs and the more than 20 human services programs we partially support would all be drastically impacted. As the current steward of the Diocese and its resources, it is my duty to ensure that the Diocese is able to help as many people in need as possible, and a window would make that impossible. Still, the Diocese firmly believes in making restitution to the survivors for the harm done. In addition to the many spiritual and mental health supports available, the Diocese is also offering survivors financial compensation.

Q: Can you explain the role of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference?

A: The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (PCC) lobbies on a number of issues that are consistent with our Catholic faith. The PCC has been lobbying on the Down Syndrome bill (see page 8 for more details on this bill), among many other bills that are related to protecting all life and protecting marriage. The PCC has also lobbied on the statute of limitations bill. Some have alleged that the PCC spends millions and millions of dollars on these efforts. The Catholic Conference does not have millions of dollars. Secondly, it has been alleged that the Catholic Conference is “buying off” state legislators. That again is untrue. The Catholic Conference does not make political donations.

Q: How has or is the Diocese addressing clericalism and a sense of “entitlement” within some members of the clergy?

A: There have certainly been instances of clericalism within the Church throughout its history. We are doing all we can to prevent clericalism, starting with those in seminary. Today’s seminary formation programs address the scourge of clericalism and seek to foster healthy attitudes of humble service in candidates for the priesthood. I also have plans in place, which I will launch shortly, to further prevent clericalism and encourage more involvement from the laity, at both the parish and diocesan levels. I also held meetings with all the priests of the deanery before the public Listening Sessions. During those meetings, I have reminded our priests that authority in the hands of someone who is not humble easily becomes an abuse of power. The power they have is only given to us for service to our brothers and sisters.

I also do not believe in a “top down” Church. I have always believed that I do not have a monopoly on wisdom. I would be foolish to dismiss the opinions of the faithful. I will be reconstituting the Diocesan Pastoral Council, which I am in the process of completing. I take advice seriously and have encouraged my brother priests to do the same. On a larger scale, there have been several models to increase accountability and the involvement of the laity discussed by the USCCB. We have a Diocesan Review Board composed almost entirely of laity, which reviews all accusations. Once the law enforcement investigation has concluded, this board reviews everything and provides a recommendation to me on any additional actions that should be taken.

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

Professional Experience:
• At least 3 years of relevant experience
• Minimum of 2 years of experience using digital platforms for communication/public relation purposes
• Experience with video editing systems

Application Instructions:
Please submit a cover letter, résumé, salary requirements and a link to an online portfolio demonstrating digital communication experience to Rachel Bryson, at rbryson@hbgdiocese.org. For best consideration, please submit all materials no later than April 12, 2019.

Full job description at www.hbgdiocese.org/jobs
Forming Tomorrow’s Catholics: Religious Education in Action

By Rachel Bryson, M.S.

The Catholic Witness

Faith formation can be a challenging task, especially when working with children. While parents are considered the primary teachers for passing on the Catholic faith to their children, they are supported in this role by their pastors, Catholic school teachers and religious education catechists. A sometimes overlooked program, Religious Education in the Diocese of Harrisburg supports parents in passing on the faith to more than 12,000 students.

“I have been involved in religious education for over 35 years in various capacities,” said Patty Wargo, who is one of two Religious Education Coordinators for St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Mechanicsburg. “When Judy Olinger retired, I was asked by Msgr. (William) King to step into the position of Religious Education Coordinator. Unsure of what I would be doing, I took a leap of faith and trusted that God was leading me to a new chapter in my life.”

Robert and Mary Jakielski, who coordinate the religious education program for Mary, Mother of the Church Parish in Mount Joy, have been involved with some form of religious education for the past 32 years. In addition to forming lasting relationships with students and parents, being involved in religious education has allowed the Jakielski’s to impact the religious life of their students.

“Father Rodriguez (the former pastor) renamed the program Fr.I.R.E. (Formation in Religious Education),” Robert Jakielski said. “We try to develop that fire of the love of Jesus Christ in our students and strive for them to develop a personal relationship with Jesus.”

“The part that I find the most rewarding about my service in religious education is when boys and girls that went through the program come back to help as aides, or lectors at Mass, and they tell me how much they enjoyed learning about our Lord in religious education,” said Stacey White, who has served as the Director of Religious Education for St. Joseph Parish in Hanover for 14 years. “That is so rewarding to me because I am humbled to be able to see the fruits of the Lord taking root in these wonderful children.”

Wargo said being part of the ministry of helping children grow in their faith has been one of the most rewarding parts of her work in religious education.

“What is most rewarding is working with children and families and being able to share the message of Jesus with them,” said Wargo. “Jenn Wargo, the Edge/Confirmation Coordinator for St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish.

“I may not be able to travel as a missionary to far off places (I have six kids), but I can share my love of God with those in my parish.”

Growing in Faith

Educating young people on the Catholic faith, teachings and beliefs is certainly a priority for religious education teachers. But these programs, which typically have all-volunteer catechists, also provide an opportunity for the teachers to grow deeper in love with their own faith.

“Since I am a teacher by trade, I have learned that children have a way of challenging me to grow in my faith as well. I am trying to think of ways to help the children of our program develop a personal relationship with God,” Wargo said. “I know when I taught the different grade levels, it was my goal to always be open to God so He could touch the hearts and minds of the children I taught.”

“My work in religious education has forced me to ‘stay on track.’ I cannot tell kids they need to go to penance and never go myself,” said Clancy. “I must look to God for guidance and pray often; things I tell my kids to do.”

“This is not a job as a CRE (coordinator of religious education),” said Robert Jakielski. “We are in ministry to assist our bishop and priest in furthering God’s kingdom in our little corner of the Diocese. Sister Johanna Paruch from Francisкан University in Steubenville, ‘If you are not living this as a vocation, you might as well sell shoes.’”

Clancy added it’s not always easy being a catechist and at times, it can be frustrating teaching the faith. However, the results are worth it.

“Last year I had a tough time getting students to volunteer for a Living Stations that I was trying to resurrect. No one volunteered, but after asking students directly, I got a few. I needed nine and only five showed up for the first rehearsal,” Clancy said. While also planning the Confirmation Mass, Clancy was ready to cancel the Living Stations, but her students inspired her to keep going.

“When they saw the script and the costumes, the students who came volunteered to serve multiple roles to make it work. For the next rehearsal we had a full cast. We performed the Stations two times and both times the students were ‘walking on air’ and filled with the Holy Spirit. They felt God at work through them. It was amazing to watch how excited they were. That moment of seeing these children feel the Holy Spirit is worth every failure, disappointment or frustration that I have felt in my journey as a catechist.”

White shared a similar story of encouraging one of her students to invite a fellow Catholic to Church.

“After a while, that boy, his mom, dad, brother, and sister all came to church at St. Joseph’s,” said White. “Today, all of those ‘children’ have received all of their sacraments and one of them continues to help me at the soup kitchen occasionally, and one of those children helps as an aide in religious education occasionally. This, to me, is what it is all about...spreading the love of Jesus and bringing people home to the Church.”

Both Wargo and Clancy added that the work of religious education is needed now more than ever.

“Religious education is important because it is responsible for carrying on the richness of our Catholic faith. We know that the parents are the first educators. I believe the religious education workshops exist to continue to be that supporting role to teach children to love God and value the gift of faith,” said Wargo.

“The world is confusing today,” Clancy added. “We are here to help support families by representing the truths of Jesus Christ as they try to raise their children in the faith.”

White added that religious education is “important because we need to stand for our faith against the many trials and tribulations of the world. Knowledge is power and freedom. Knowledge of our faith is imperative to living a full and happy life.”

“I believe that God works miracles in all we do and say,” said Wargo. “In a world that is tormented by hatred, I hope that God will continue to bless the Diocese of Harrisburg and strengthen our resolve to stand firm in our Catholic faith and witness to God’s Love and Truth in our world.”

“I am very grateful for the Diocese and the guidance they give the parish in ministering to the families of our Diocese,” added Clancy. “It is vital that religious education programs be supported to keep the faith alive while teaching the truths of Jesus Christ.”

About Religious Education

The Diocese of Harrisburg supports the religious education programs of our more than 90 parishes and missions through contributions to the Diocesan Annual Campaign. This support includes formation training for our volunteer catechists through the Diocesan Catechetical Conference, which averages 350-500 attendees per year; annual regional workshops; retreats and trainings for CRE leaders.

More information on the religious education programs for the Diocese of Harrisburg can be found at www.hbgdiocese.org/religious-education. To learn more about the Diocesan Annual Campaign, including how you can support the important ministries of the Diocese, please visit www.hbgdiocese.org/giving/diocesan-annual-campaign.
Prepare for Easter with PENANCE SERVICES
Parishes throughout the Diocese host Penance Services during the Lenten season. These services typically include an opening hymn, Scripture readings and time for an examination of conscience prior to Confession. The following is a list of Penance Services provided by the parishes.

**ABBOTTSTOWN**
Immaculate Heart of Mary
April 16 at 7 p.m.

**ANNVILLE**
St. Paul the Apostle
April 4 at 7 p.m.

**BENTON**
Christ the King
April 10 at 7 p.m.

**BERWICK**
Immaculate Conception BVM
April 11 at 7 p.m.

**BLOOMSBURG**
St. Columba
April 9 at 7 p.m.

**BLUE RIDGE SUMMIT**
St. Rita
April 6 at 10:30 a.m.

**BONNEAUVILLE**
St. Joseph
the Worker
April 11 at 7 p.m.

**COAL TOWNSHIP**
At Mother Cabrini
April 7 at 7 p.m.

**COLUMBIA**
Holy Trinity
April 14 at 7 p.m.

**CORNWALL**
Sacred Heart of Jesus
April 3 at 7 p.m.

**DANVILLE**
St. Joseph
April 8 at 7 p.m.

**DUNCANNON**
St. Bernadette
April 9 at 7 p.m.

**ELYSBURG**
Queen of the Most Holy Rosary
April 9 at 7 p.m.

**EPHRAIM**
Our Mother of Perpetual Help
April 10 at 7 p.m.

**GETTYSBURG**
St. Francis Xavier
April 8 at 7 p.m.

**HANOVER**
Sacred Heart of Jesus
April 13 at 10 a.m.

**LITITZ**
St. James
April 16 at 7 p.m.

**LEWISBURG**
Sacred Heart of Jesus
April 12 at 7 p.m.

**MOUNT CARMEL**
Divine Redeemer and Our Lady
April 10 at 7 p.m.

**LYKENS**
Our Lady, Help of Christians
April 13 at 10 a.m.

**MANHEIM**
St. Richard
Wednesdays in Lent from 7-8 p.m.

**MARYSVILLE**
Our Lady of Good Counsel
April 11 at 7 p.m.

**McSHERRYSTOWN**
Annunciation BVM
April 10 at 7 p.m.

**MILLERSVILLE**
St. Philip the Apostle
April 7 at 2 p.m.

**MILTON**
St. Joseph
April 11 at 7 p.m.

**NEW HARRISBURG**
St. Catherine of Siena
April 16 at 7 p.m.

**NEW PHILADELPHIA**
St. John Neumann
April 4 at 7 p.m.

**NORTHUMBERLAND**
Sacred Heart of Jesus
April 13 at 10 a.m.

**NYA**
St. Anthony of Padua
April 8 at 7 p.m.

**OCTAVIA**
St. John Neumann
April 4 at 7 p.m.

**ROSEMARIE**
St. Joseph
April 10 at 7 p.m.

**SHAMOKIN**
Mother Cabrini
April 7 at 7 p.m.

**SHIPPENSBURG**
Our Lady of the Visitation
April 10 at 6:30 p.m.

**SUNBURY**
St. Monica
April 9 at 7 p.m.

**TREVERTON**
St. Patrick
April 11 at 7 p.m.

**WAYNESBORO**
St. Andrew the Apostle
April 10 at 6:30 p.m.

**YORK**
St. Rose of Lima
April 8 at 7 p.m.

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**HOW TO GO TO CONFESSION**

1. Prepare by examining your conscience and reflecting on your sins before you enter the confessional. You might review the Ten Commandments or the Beatitudes.

2. Begin your Confession with the Sign of the Cross: “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” You may then say, “Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. It has been [give days, months or years] since my last Confession.”

3. Confess your sins to the priest. If you are unsure of what to say, ask him for help.

4. The priest will propose your penance – such as something for you to do or a prayer to pray.

5. Pray the Act of Contrition as a means of expressing sorrow for your sins and resolving to sin no more.

6. The priest will give absolution by extending his hands over your head. After he says the Prayer of Absolution, respond “Amen.”

7. Go in peace. At dismissal, the priest may say, “God has freed you from your sins. Go in peace.” You can respond, “Amen.”

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**THE ACT OF CONTRITION**
My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy. Amen.

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[www.hbgdiocese.org](http://www.hbgdiocese.org)
Ground Nut Stew
Recipe from Sierra Leone

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. Visit www.crsricebowl.org to learn more.

Makes 4–6 servings
1 onion, chopped
2 T fair trade
1 clove garlic, olive oil, minced

1 red pepper, chopped
4 tomatoes, diced
2 carrots, chopped
1 chili pepper, diced
2 t salt
½ t ground cumin
2 cups white rice

½ t black pepper
3 cups water or as needed
for vegetable broth, plus more as needed
⅛ c creamy
peanut butter

Heat olive oil in large pot over medium heat. Sauté onion and garlic until brown. Add red pepper, tomatoes, carrots, chili pepper, spices and water/broth. Bring to a boil, then cover and cook on low until vegetables are soft. Stir in peanut butter until evenly mixed. Serve over rice.

St. Peter Parish in Columbia, fish fry on Fridays through April 12 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. in the parish center. Fish platter with coleslaw, macaroni and cheese, a vegetable, French fries and coffee or tea. Homemade soups, weekly specials, a la carte items and desserts available. Eat-in or take-out. Stations of the Cross at 7 p.m.

Our Lady Help of Christians Parish in Lykens, fish fry on Fridays through April 12 from 4-7 p.m. in the social hall. A variety of seafood, both baked and fried. Call 717-453-9931 for take-outs. No fish fry on Good Friday.

Immaculate Conception BVM Parish in Berwick, fish dinners on Fridays through April 12 from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Fried fish, baked fish, breaded shrimp, chicken tenders, French fries, baked potato, baked beans, baked macaroni and cheese, corn, coleslaw. Homemade desserts and beverages available for purchase.

Knights of Columbus of St. Jude Thaddaeus Parish in Mifflintown, fish dinners on Fridays through April 12 from 4-7 p.m. in the social hall. All-you-can-eat fried and baked fish, popcorn shrimp, fried clams, French fries, macaroni and cheese, stewed tomatoes, corn, green beans, coleslaw, applesauce, rolls, puddings, and a selection of homemade desserts. Pay at the door: adults $12, ages 6-12 $6; children 5 and under free. For info, call Joe Zarnowski, 908-892-0271.

Holy Spirit Parish in Palmyra, fish fry on Fridays through April 12 from 3-7 p.m. Baked or fried haddock, cray cakes, shrimp, clam strips, pierogis, soup, mac & cheese, homemade desserts. Stations of the Cross at 7 p.m. Shadow Stations are April 19 at 7 p.m.

St. Ann Byzantine Catholic Parish in Harrisburg, fish and perogi dinners, by the Knights of Columbus, Lenten days through April 12 from 4:45-6:45 p.m. in the social hall, every Friday in Lent through April 12. Friday lunches from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., and dinners from 4-7 p.m. For menus and additional information, visit www.saintroseoflimayork.org.

Seven Sorrows BVM Parish in Middletown, fish fry on Fridays through April 12 from 5-8 p.m. in the school cafeteria. All-you-can-eat batter-dipped fish (eat-in only), lemon-pepper fish, crab cakes, jumbo fried shrimp, macaroni and cheese, pierogies, and a variety of desserts. New this year: lobster mac’n’cheese and crabby cheese fries. For take-out, speak with a volunteer at 717-944-5488 after 4 p.m. Handmade chocolate eggs in peanut butter, butter cream, coconut, and peppermint for sale at the dinner. Eggs are dipped in white, dark, or milk chocolate, $1 each. For information and full menu, visit www.ssvbvm.org.

Corpus Christi Knights of Columbus Council #1426 in Chambersburg, fish fry on Fridays during Lent from 5-7:30 p.m. Beer-battered haddock, baked duck, beer-battered shrimp, crab cake. Sides include French fries, coleslaw, green beans, macaroni and cheese, stewed tomatoes. Dinners range from $13-15. Proceeds enable the council to support the needs of the parish and the parish community. Knights of Columbus Hall, 336 East Garfield St. Chambersburg.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Spring Grove, seafood dinners on Fridays through April 12 from 4-7 p.m. at the Parish Center. Large menu, weekly specials. For complete menu, visit www.sacredheartsg.com.

Knights of Columbus of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Abbottstown, Lenten dinners on Fridays through April 12 from 4:45-6:45 p.m. in the school hall, followed by Stations of the Cross in the church at 7 p.m.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Mechanicsburg, fish dinners on Fridays through April 12 from 4-6 p.m. See the weekly menu at https://www.stesas.net/lenten-dinners/.

Knights of Columbus of St. John of Arc Parish in Hershey, fish dinners March 29 and April 12 from 5-8 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Fried or baked fish, French fries or mac & cheese, coleslaw or applesauce. Drinks and desserts available. Proceeds benefit Knights of Columbus charities.

Mary, Gate of Heaven Parish in Myerstown, Fish n Chips dinner, April 13 from 4-7 p.m. Three-piece fish, French fries, coleslaw, drink and dessert for $10. Kids’ portion is $7. Dine-in or take-out. Tickets available at the door.
Tell me a little bit about your childhood.

I have one brother and one sister, my parents are devout. I studied at St. Anthony’s Nursery School in my hometown, Thirumeni, in India. Then I attended primary school and a government high school. I studied at a private college, and then I joined the Missionaries of the Sacred Hearts.

Both of my siblings are married and have families. We had a good Catholic community growing up. We belonged to the Eastern Rite, St. Thomas Christians. It has a strong faith community in India, especially in Kerala. That community is all over the world today, including in America. We had a strict catechism, which we call CCD here, going to Mass on most days. Before we went to school in the morning, we went to church. I was brought to the United States in 1984.

When did you first become interested in the priesthood?

We had CCD starting in first grade. Everyone was to finish the CCD before they went anywhere – those who went to seminary or those who were going to get married. We strictly followed the CCD in everything in our Eastern Rite. I was in eighth grade CCD, and one of the priests from our area who was working in America asked, “How many would like to join the African mission?” I thought I would like to go to Africa, and that began the process for me.

India is mostly populated by Hindus, and we were definitely a minority. Out of 70 of my classmates, four of us became priests. I also saw a lot of priests and nuns from my own parish. I was the 20th priest from my parish. Even among my neighbors, there were so many nuns, so many priests. Some were missionaries and some joined the diocese. The CCD in the school is taken on by the sisters. They gave 100 percent service to the school.

Father Robert said he hoped to find an assignment for me here in the Diocese. In that time, before I was assigned in the Diocese of Harrisburg, I was a chaplain at the Grotto of Mount St. Mary’s. I helped at the Basilica of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg.

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

I have a bicycle, so if the weather is good, I take a ride in the afternoon. We have a chicken pot pie dinner in the parish from September to April every fourth Sunday of the week. Some of that work begins at 4:00 in the morning. I work with them in the mornings sometimes. It’s fun. We also have fundraisers, and I go to those to be with the people. They share their life, their joys and their sorrows. I don’t do too many things to make myself happy; I try to find the fun and joy among the people.

This parish is a wonderful parish. I used to be the parochial vicar at St. Mary’s in Fairfield and St. Rita’s in Blue Ridge Summit. They are beautiful parishes, small parishes where the people are so devout and so interested in our faith.

Do you miss India? Are you permitted to go back home?

We are permitted to visit our parents every year. We had a chapter just last week and now every year it’s approved that we can go home and visit our families. Before that, we were allowed to visit every two years. I usually visit in May because it is a time in India that is considered vacation time.

The Called

A series of profiles on clergy and religious

Father Benny Jose, MSSCC
Hometown: Thirumeni, Kerala, India
Congregation: Missionaries of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary
Assignment: Pastor of St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Bonneauville

What drew you to the Missionaries of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary?

I wanted to become a missionary. The Missionaries of the Sacred Hearts, if you joined them, you could go abroad and preach Jesus.

What do you enjoy most about being a priest?

I enjoy just being with people. Two or three years after my ordination to the priesthood in 2012, I came to the United States. In India, I had one and half years working as a parochial vicar. I’ve always enjoyed working with the people, being with the people. My idea is, “Love the people you serve, serve the people you love.” I enjoy being with them in all aspects of life – in work, in games, in pilgrimages. Just be an example to them.

I was brought to the United States to become a chaplain at a hospital in New Jersey. After four or five months celebrating Mass in a nursing home, I was brought to Fairfield. Father Robert Malagesi asked if I would come to Fairfield. I stayed there for two months, and...
Were You There?
By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC

Special to The Witness

Several years ago, I taught a sixth-grade class that absolutely loved to sing. I quickly discovered that this was the best way to teach them, and I made songs for everything! I can still picture them giggling over memorizing the bones of the body to the tune of “The Battle Hymn of the Republic.”

During the season of Lent that year, our class went weekly to pray the Stations of the Cross. I introduced them to singing the Stations to the tune, “Where You There.” Each Station had a different phrase that explained it. As I listened to the voices of my students echo through the church, I could not help thinking of a saying of St. Teresa of Calcutta: “Suffering itself may be nothing, but suffering shared with Christ’s passion is a wonderful gift.”

Let me explain.

Throughout this Lenten prayer form, we meet individuals who assisted Jesus in carrying out His mission; the salvation of humankind.

We meet Herod, who condemned him. Who of us can remember a time when we did or said something that was “good” despite the reaction of others who shrugged their shoulders or wagged their heads? We stand beside Jesus as he is condemned.

We see Jesus fall under the weight of the cross, not once or twice, but three times. Who of us have not gone to the Sacrament of Reconciliation only to confess the same sin over and over again? Because of the grace of that sacrament, we have the strength to get up and begin again. We stand with Jesus as he struggles to continue His journey.

We meet Mary on the journey and under the cross. Who of us can’t remember a loved one who was sick or hospitalized and how we helped them with our mere presence? In moments like this, we stand with Mary.

We meet Simon the Cyrene. Who of us hasn’t helped others carry their cross despite our personal inconvenience? We become the hands of Simon in the 21st century.

We meet Veronica, who wiped Jesus’ face. Who of us hasn’t cooled the brow of someone with a fever, or tidied the appearance of another? At those times, our towel becomes the veil of Veronica.

We meet the women who grieve for Jesus. Who of us hasn’t listened to the sorrow of someone who has lost a loved one, a job, or a home? In those times, we stand shoulder to shoulder with these women.

We meet the soldiers who strip, nail and crucify Jesus. Who of us hasn’t done something “because everyone is doing it”? Who of us hasn’t used social media or technology in such a way that belittles or objectifies others? Our hands are as bloodstained as those first-century soldiers.

We meet Joseph of Arimathea, who owned the tomb where Jesus was laid. Who of us can’t remember a time in which we too were hopeless? We stand with Joseph dumbfounded in witnessing the empty tomb.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Oh, yes! Then. Now. What a wonderful gift!

http://www.godsons.net/2017/03/were-you-there-when-they-crucified-my-lord.html

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Answers on page 15

Harrsiburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Weekend Retreat

“The Widescreen Life”

June 14-16 at Mount St. Mary’s University, Emmitsburg, MD

Retreat Master: Father Bill Garrett, O.P.
Dominican Friars of the Province of St. Joseph (New York)
www.dominicanpreachers.com

Visit http://hdcw.webs.com/retreat or contact Jeanne Warren: warrenrjs@aol.com or 717-367-9306

Registration deadline is May 27

CATHOLIC COMMENTARY

March 29, 2019 • The Catholic WITNESS - 7
Rally Supports Legislation Restricting Abortion Based on Down Syndrome Diagnosis

By Al Gnoza
Special to The Witness

Twenty-four-year-old Mikayla Holmgren stood before a gathering at the State Capitol on Wednesday, March 20, and defended her existence on earth. Why would she – or anybody – feel the need to do that?

“This world is better with people with Down syndrome,” she said. “I have Down syndrome, but it will not stop me from living a life with purpose.”

Mikayla appeared at a rally at the Capitol Media Center to help support legislation that would restrict abortions that are based solely on a diagnosis of possible Down syndrome. Mikayla and others with Down syndrome are feeling threatened by what has become a world-wide effort to eradicate this syndrome. To counter this movement, Pennsylvania Representative Kate Klunk of Hanover is sponsoring House Bill 321. This bill would offer protection for unborn babies with Down syndrome.

“We are proud and honored to support Rep. Klunk, Rep. Rapp, Sen. [Scott] Martin and other pro-life lawmakers in these efforts,” said Pennsylvania Pro-Life Caucus Executive Director Eric Failing. “We must do everything we can to protect the most vulnerable among us, especially children with Down syndrome. Who, other than God, is qualified to say that they do not deserve to live?”

“There is no justifiable or convenient excuse for aborting an unborn child diagnosed with Down syndrome,” said Rapp. “In Pennsylvania, we as pro-life legislators refuse to join the rabid rush that other states have chosen to eliminate our unborn children, some even up to the moment of birth and after.”

Supporters of legislation that would restrict abortions based solely on a diagnosis of possible Down syndrome rallied at the Capitol Media Center in Harrisburg March 20.

A Perfect Gift
One Mother’s Insight about Raising a Child with Down Syndrome

Soon after the birth of my son Charlie, who has Down syndrome, a visitor asked whether he was “mild, moderate, or severe” — referring to his level of cognitive impairment. I knew the terminology, but the question shocked me. In my arms I held my beautiful baby boy, “bella vista”, of that love. The challenges that come with his diagnosis make up only a small part of life with our wonderful little boy.

Stained Glass
I once read an article in which a woman discussed the reasons for aborting her child with Down syndrome. The deal-breaker was watching a boy with Down syndrome at a restaurant with his parents: they had to hand-feed him a slice of pizza and wipe his face with a napkin.

This hit home for me. We weaned Charlie off a feeding tube when he was seven, spoon-feeding him and often wiping his face afterwards. I wonder how many people saw us and decided a life like his isn’t worth living. Had anyone asked, I would have said, “It might look a little crazy from the outside, but he’s an amazing little boy, and it’s a good life.”

It’s like looking at a stained-glass window from the outside: the colors look dark, and you can’t quite make out the figures. From the inside, however, with the sun shining through it, the effect can be brilliant. From inside of our family, love illuminates our life with Charlie. What may seem dreary to others, perhaps even unbearable, is actually filled with beauty and color. We know, for instance, that Charlie worked hard to gain basic feeding skills that most people take for granted, and we are so proud of his valiant efforts.

Perfection
Many parents want perfect children, and our culture is obsessed with superficial perfection. Photos are airbrushed, and social media depicts seemingly perfect lives. However, God calls us to seek perfection not in appearance or abilities, but in love.

Christians know what perfect love looks like – Jesus offering himself on the Cross. Love in a family where one member has a serious disability may look unappealing from the outside. Indeed, love in any family is messy; there are faces to wipe and sacrifices to make. It’s natural to fear that such sacrifices will require too much, but this is where the deep mystery of sacrificial love becomes apparent.

In our family, we have found that our hearts, rather than being weighed down, have become larger. Caring for Charlie has given us more patience, more compassion, and more love for others – especially those on the outskirts of society, whom Pope Francis so often calls us to care for.

A Fundamental Truth
Perhaps this is why so many families of children with disabilities, despite difficulties, often radiate joy. When I meet another parent of a child with Down syndrome, there is usually a moment of instant recognition and understanding. Our eyes meet, and we smile conspiratorially, as if we’re in on the same secret: the fundamental truth that every life is a good and perfect gift.

Many know this on an intellectual level, but those who love someone with a disability see it in their loved one’s face in a way others for our children have nothing to do with their abilities. We love them simply because of who they are, and understanding this teaches us how to truly love everyone. We also begin to understand our own worth, which depends not on our skills or appearance, but solely on the fact that we are created in the image and likeness of God and loved by Him. Our lives – all our lives – are worth living.
Fish Fry Dinners Reel in Community Camaraderie

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

There’s a definite market for fish during Lent, as Christians plan their meatless Friday meals. In the Diocese of Harrisburg, they don’t have to cast their nets far to find delicious and diverse options.

Based on event promotion in recent editions of The Catholic Witness, nearly half of the Diocese’s parishes are hosting fish fries this Lent.

And they’re reeling in community spirit. At Holy Spirit Parish in Palmyra, John Ciardullo is the unofficial fish fry “captain.”

“It’s all about the community,” he said of the weekly dinners. “Our fish fry is the best way for us at Holy Spirit to share our community with the rest of the local community. What’s the best way to get the local community to see what Holy Spirit is about? Offer great food, a good deal on it, and have great service,” Ciardullo said.

From the helm of Holy Spirit’s fish fry, Ciardullo, decked out in a captain’s hat and t-shirt, sees nothing but friendly waters as he navigates the Friday night dinner tradition.

“This has created an atmosphere where people now want to come and stay to eat, talk and just have a good time,” he said. “And we are so happy that we can do this for them. It is great to see all the families joining together happily. I love it.”

Parish fish dinners are catching similar sentiments throughout the Diocese.

“The dinners are a great outreach,” said Father Donald Bender, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Enola. “We’re bringing in people from outside of our parish, and even from outside of Enola.”

The parish has been hosting the fish dinners for the past four years, with mounting success.

“Last year, we had it in a smaller room, and we were maxing out at 250-300. We decided to move it to our large parish hall this year, and between dine-in and take-out orders we had 320 dinners right off the bat,” he said.

He decided to challenge parishioners to raise the number each week. And they responded, netting 403 dinners the following Friday.

“We ran out of food in two hours! And the best part is, when I challenge to raise the numbers, the kitchen staff doesn’t panic,” Father Bender said.

Volunteers are Hooked, Too

The evolution of the parish fish fry has hooked diners over the years. What started as offerings of fried fish sandwiches and French fries has expanded to include baked fish, seafood, macaroni and cheese, pierogies and meatless pasta at many locations.

Well-seasoned kitchen staff orchestrate coordinated efforts that encompass everything from baking, boiling and plating to doling out dinner rolls and delivering the dinners.

And don’t forget the desserts – homemade cakes, pies, brownies and cupcakes donated by the ladies of the parishes.

“The reality is, we can’t have this kind of success without our volunteers,” Father Bender said. “The team here has been doing it four years, and the Knights of Columbus help serve the meals. We have teens who set up the tables and chairs, ladies donate the desserts. It’s really a community and family event.”

Nicholas Minnich, a student at Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg, has been volunteering at Our Lady of Lourdes’ fish fry for three years. He greets people as they arrive, helps them locate a seat, and delivers their meals.

“It’s just a great experience. Everyone is friendly and happy. Delivering people’s food and seeing them smile makes me happy as a volunteer,” Minnich said.

“This kind of involvement helps introduce me to people throughout the parish. I see people bring friends who don’t go to our parish or might not even be Catholic, and everybody just has a good time here. It really builds community,” he said.

At Holy Spirit in Palmyra, “Capt.” Ciardullo can’t see himself anywhere else on a Friday during Lent than the parish fish fry. He started as a volunteer there 12 years ago and never left.

“The feeling of volunteerism at Holy Spirit is unlike anything I have ever seen,” he reflected. “We have so many people who want to volunteer, I actually have to tell some of them that we don’t have any place for them to work except for cleaning tables, which is always needed. That just speaks volumes about our church community.”

Holy Spirit served 931 meals at its most recent fish fry, nearly tripling its haul from just two years ago.

“The growth is really due to the generosity in both time and money of so many people,” Ciardullo said. “I love every one of them. It is because of the hard work of all of them that we are truly bringing our church community and our local community closer together. There is nothing better than that.”

Hook your dinner at one of the many remaining parish fish fries this Lent. See page 5 for a listing of locations, meals and prices.
District 3 championship game, sending the Squirettes out to the state’s West Region to battle their way through the PIAA state bracket. But battle and travel they did, rattling off four straight wins to earn a trip back to Hershey to face the Bucks.

It’s not that the Bucks had an off day in the final. They shot the ball well and played their normal attacking, pressing defense, but Delone was clearly prepared to handle the pressure. Using 6-foot center Bradi Zumbrum beyond the foul line gave Delone’s two freshman guards an easy target to break the trap. And the center’s ability to quickly move and pass the ball gave the Squirettes great looks. Junior Brooke Lawyer, who went scoreless in the District 3 final, hit four threes in the first half to help build a 35-12 lead midway through the third quarter. “She is the best shooter I have ever coached,” the 20-year coach said afterwards.

“I thought we had a great game plan going in,” Coach Eckenrode said. Watching game film in the middle of the night the coach found flaws in the Bucks’ attack that he could exploit. He won three straight state championships in the mid-2000s and that exact preparation experience was evident on the big stage. “We would not have won this without him,” Zumbrum said.

“As I watched the team, I was so very proud of the leadership, team spirit and all-around character I saw the team display,” said Principal LaRocca. “I feel they were stellar representatives of our school and our athletic program. Our community rallied around them as they left to play the game, and I think they took that with them.”

“Girls executed everything I asked them to do during this run,” Coach Eckenrode said. “They pay attention, they matured…and did everything we drew up to counteract every team we played. I just can’t say enough about them.”

“It is an important win to our school in that it is a shining example of when a team trusts in themselves, in their abilities and in their leadership, great things will happen,” LaRocca added. “It is an important win for our community because throughout the season, the community has been there supporting the Squirettes, participating in fundraisers, and generally being some of our biggest cheerleaders. We are so happy to bring home the gold as the culmination of everything we felt all season long.”

Dunmore was 29-0, and that was no fluke. There was no quit in the talented District 2 team. Delone’s lead was down to six at the end of the third quarter, after a questionable flagrant foul call gave the Bucks a five-point play. But Delone weathered the furious comeback, calmly handling the ball and burying free throws to ice it, 49-43.

It’s fair to say that in a seven-game series, Dunmore might win four games to one against Delone. But the better team does not always win in a pressure-packed, winner-take-all game.

On the locker room dry-erase board prior to the game, Coach Eckenrode wrote the headline for the next day’s newspapers: “Delone Stuns Dunmore.”

Feels like fate.

Rachel Bryson of The Catholic Witness contributed to this story.
Trinity Nearly Stuns Lincoln Park in State Final

Trailing 66-50 with 2:50 left in the game, it looked like Trinity’s tremendous season would end in the Class 3A state final game at Giant Center in Hershey, in front of 4,500 spectators, with a blow out loss to Lincoln Park Charter School from District 7.

But Larry Kostelac’s Shamrocks never quit. Freshman sensation Chance Westry’s 40 points and stellar play almost gave Trinity one of the most incredible comeback victories in the 99 years of PIAA state basketball championship history.

With 1.2 seconds left in the game, Westry stole an inbound pass, but was unable to get the acrobatic jumper off before the buzzer sounded, finishing a wildly exciting and frenetic last minutes of a game that will long be remembered. Lincoln Park’s win, 73-72, didn’t seem to be the story after the game. Rather, the story was Westry’s 40 points – 26 in the second half – which marks one of the best performances in a state final game. And the fact that he’s a freshman makes it even more incredulous.

The comeback was a testament to Trinity’s grit and never-give-up attitude instilled by a seasoned coaching staff who has guided teams to Hershey before.

Trinity lost the game during two stretches of play – one at the end of the first half when they gave up a 7-0 run with a couple of sloppy turnovers that led to a downtown three-ball from the Leopards as time expired. Then midway through the third quarter, the Leopards, whose quick hands and full court pressure translated into 16 steals, held Trinity scoreless for nearly three minutes, which built that huge lead the ‘Rocks had to erase in the fourth.

A dejected, 35-year veteran head coach Larry Kostelac, who last won a state championship in 2003, and was hoping to grab a third, said, “…. Our kids just don’t quit. It’s not the cloth they are cut from…. The sky is the limit for Chance. He’s a great kid, and he is only a kid, and he is a great player. His teammates love him and he loves them.”

To reach the state final, the Shamrocks beat an excellent Bishop McDevitt team out of Philadelphia’s District 12 at Reading’s Geigle Complex. Westry scored 22 points in that game while senior Patrick Walker chipped in 17 to beat the Lancers, 62-56.

After the final, Westry, bathed in the bright lights of more than a dozen media people outside the locker room, was clearly disappointed. “It just wasn’t enough. We fought. We worked hard, but just didn’t get it done.”

Almost. Ask the stunned Leopards.
For the second time in the past four seasons, the Red Raiders of Our Lady of Lourdes Regional School in Coal Township advanced to the state final championship game in Hershey, only to come away with the runner-up trophy.

“There is no dishonor in losing the state final championship game,” longtime Lourdes’ head coach Mike Klembara said outside the locker after his team fell 41-32 to Berlin BrothersValley in the girls’ Class A match-up at Giant Center March 22. “At the start of every season, more than 500 schools in Pennsylvania dream of getting here and we are proud to represent our school community here.”

A slow start doomed the Red Raiders, who were held scoreless in the first quarter against the Mountaineers, located near Johnstown in District 5.

In the state semifinal game against defending state champ Jenkintown, Lourdes scored only seven points in first half of the game, played at Geigle Complex on the campus of Reading High School. But the Red Raiders increased their trapping zone defense against the Drakes to erase a nine-point deficit to advance to Hershey.

They hit several bomb three-pointers to deflate Jenkintown and then, when it turned into a foul-shooting contest, Lourdes’ experienced seniors buried the freebies. It was an impressive state semifinal comeback against a seasoned champion that had made three straight eastern finals, knocking out Lebanon Catholic last season.

But in the championship game, Berlin’s defense extended the perimeter and harassed every look the Red Raiders had. Moreover, Lourdes’ offensive sets were predictable and the Mountaineers jumped passes with their lethal team quickness, forcing 24 Red Raider turnovers. Over the final three quarters, Lourdes played Berlin even, but the hole the slow start created was never fillable against another quality opponent.
Trinity Diver Succeeds at Highest Level

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

All eyes are focused upon you ascend the diving board to make as little a splash as possible. For Erica Kenski, a senior at Trinity High School, her focus this winter won her a Mid-Penn Conference championship, a district championship and a silver medal at the PIAA state championships at Bucknell University a couple of weeks ago.

Her success is extraordinary, given she only started diving when she was a freshman, having been a gymnast during her elementary and junior high years. “There are a lot of similarities to diving and gymnastics,” she said in an interview at Trinity. “Both rely on subjective scoring, that’s for sure, and some of the moves are close, but there are big differences as well. I still have bad habits in my diving that I bring from the mat. Gymnastics got so toxic for me by the time I was in 7th grade, that it just put me in a bad place mentally.”

Trinity has a storied legacy of producing elite level divers – namely Ashley and Bradley Buchter, who dominated Class 2A at the state level for years. Erica started diving while learning from Sarah, she said, and she was able to witness first hand Bradley’s dominance a couple of seasons ago. “I consider myself confident, not cocky,” Erica said. “You have to be confident in diving because it is difficult.”

“I was my most nervous ever at districts this year,” she said, smiling. “I was shaking, plus I added the new dives with high levels of difficulty that I needed to land.”

She’s had close misses in recent years making it to states, because District 3 has a history of producing elite state divers and there are only two spots open to qualify for states. One poor dive out of ten can sink your hopes.

“I was ecstatic to win districts,” Erica said with her hand on the gold medal. “I have been the happiest diving this year.”

To do well at states, where she had “no nerves” in her last appearances, Trinity’s Erica Kenski displays her three winter winning medals.

To do well at states, where she had “no nerves” in her last appearances, was a special experience she will not forget. “I am not a practice person; I like competitions better,” she said.

Perhaps so, but you don’t win gold and silver medals at any level without preparation, hard work and experience. She’s put the work in and she proves that it pays off.

Erica is also talented in the arts. She plays the guitar and flute and has performed in the school’s musicals which has helped her handle having eyes upon her in performance.

Her principal at Trinity, John Cominsky, who witnessed her growth first hand at St. Joseph School in Mechanicsburg, and then at Trinity the last four years, said, “Erica’s journey to the medal stand is simply amazing. To take up diving only in high school and then to win the silver in states in nothing short of remarkable. It speaks to Erica’s athletic ability and to her dedication. The Trinity family is so proud of her.”

“I love Trinity,” Erica said. “We are small enough to know everyone, but you can also talk to someone new and very different than you every day also.”

Next year, her focus will be on diving at the Division I level at LaSalle University for the Explorers. That’s where all eyes will be focused, watching her ascend.

Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Seeks Applicants for Scholarship

The Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women will award a $1,000 scholarship to a Catholic senior high school girl for the freshman year 2019-2020 at an accredited college, university or trade school. Applicants must be sponsored by a mother, grandmother or guardian who is a member of a parish Council of Catholic Women. The applicant and her sponsor must be residents of the Diocese of Harrisburg. Applicants must meet all conditions established by the scholarship committee as set forth in its rules and regulations, which are included in the application packet. Applications are available from parish Council of Catholic Women presidents. For additional information, contact Joyce Scott, Scholarship Chair, at 717-737-0927 or joynbob10@aol.com. The application deadline is May 1, 2019.

Congratulations to St. Joseph’s in York, the Diocese of Harrisburg’s varsity boys’ CYO champions. After winning the Diocesan championship, the team played in the state CYO tournament at Bishop McCort High School in Johnstown, where they placed fourth.
Diocesan Notebook

(Submit written announcements to witness@hbgdiocese.org, nine days before the issue date. No flyers or ads, please. See bottom of page 15 for next issue’s deadline.)

Spirituai Offerings

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

Stations of the Cross and Supper at St. Anne Church in Lancaster, Fridays during Lent, through April 12. Lenten meal from 4:30-6 p.m. and after at 6:30-7:30 p.m., in the parish library, located in the parish rectory. RSVP to the parish office at 717-392-2255. Free-will offering accepted. For details and menu, visit www.stannechurch.org.

Meditative organ music and Stations of the Cross at St. Anthony of Padua Church, Lancaster, Fridays through April 12. Music at 1 p.m., followed by Stations led by Resurrection Catholic School students at 1:30 p.m. On Good Friday, music begins at 11:30 a.m., with St. Anthony’s Youth Ministry presenting Stations of the Cross for Families.

St. Katharine Drexel Parish in Mechanicsburg, Lenten Soup and Speaker Series, April 3, 10 and 17 at noon. Lunch followed by a speaker with a Lenten message of mercy. Contact Becky, rdavis@skdparish.org.

Stations of the Cross every Friday at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Mechanicsburg at 7 p.m. and Mass at 7:30 p.m. until Holy Week.

Pax Christi’s annual Walking Way of the Cross in Harrisburg, April 16, beginning at Front and Market streets. Procession connects Jesus’ journey to the Cross with current themes of peace and justice. The walk is an hour and a half, rain or shine. Call 717-439-6896.

Caerorum at St. Joan of Arc Church in Hershey, April 3 at 7 p.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, song, meditation and prayer. A reception will follow in the cafeteria.

Diocesan Cursillo Movement Mass of Remembrance, April 13 at 10 a.m. at St. Katharine Drexel Church in Mechanicsburg. Celebrated by Father William Weary, Mass is for deceased Cursillistas and deceased family members. Refreshments follow Mass. Send names and year of death of the deceased to hbgcursillosol@gmail.com. For information, visit www.harriscburg-cursillo.org.

Pilgrimages & Retreats

Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat for healing after an abortion, April 26-27 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 717-788-4959 or e-mail undefeatedcourage@gmail.com. All inquiries are confidential.

Pilgrimage to historic Baltimore May 8 with St. Katharine Drexel Parish in Mechanicsburg. Mass at Basilica of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. John Paul II Garden, lunch, Inner Harbor and the Fort McHenry Monument and Historic Shrine. Cost is $55 for Non-National Park Service Pass holders, and $40 for NPSP holders. Register by April 5; contact Lou Schultz at 717-766-5252 or louis1schultz@msn.com.


The Adventurer Club of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Abbottstown, pilgrimage to the St. John Paul II Shrine in Washington, D.C., April 30. For trip cost, which includes dinner, and to reserve a seat, call Janet at 717-633-9384.


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Education & Enrichment

“Faith Understood: An Ordinary Man’s Journey to the Presence of God” author Paul Zucarelli will tell his near-death experience April 7 at 6 p.m. at St. Theresa Parish in New Cumberland. Zucarelli spends his life speaking to others about God’s love for them and the reality of their souls.

Workshop retreat by the Pastoral Care Department of Geisinger Holy Spirit Hospital in Camp Hill, “Greening Our Lives: Moving Toward Wholeness and Wellbeing,” April 26 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Presented by Sister Chris Koelefflohr, IHM. Call 717-763-2118 to register.

Afternoon of reflection, “Instructions for Life,” presented by Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC, May 5 from 2-4:45 p.m. at St. Philip the Apostle Parish in Millersville. Sponsored by the Formation Committee and Knights of Columbus Council 17026. Free-will offering will be collected.

Life in the Spirit seminar, presented by the Upper Room Prayer Group, Mondays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. starting April 22 for six weeks. Seminar in the social hall at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Abbottstown. Childcare provided as needed. Cost is $25 per person includes all tours and transportation by deluxe motor coach leaving/returning from St. Catherine Laboure. Contact Deb at the parish office at 717-564-1321 or dsallldin@gmail.com.

Pilgrimage to the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land and St. John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, D.C., with St. Catherine Laboure Parish in Harrisburg, April 28. Tours of both sites, Mass, Confession, Adoration, Franciscan Crown Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, and personal time. Venerate a relic of St. John Paul II and enjoy sacra- ment. Cost of $35 per person includes all tours and transportation by deluxe motor coach leaving/returning from St. Catherine Laboure. Contact Deb at the parish office at 717-564-1321 or dsallldin@gmail.com.

The Adventurer Club of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Abbottstown, pilgrimage to the St. John Paul II Shrine in Washington, D.C., April 30. For trip cost, which includes dinner, and to reserve a seat, call Janet at 717-633-9384.


Parish in Abbottstown. Childcare provided as needed. Cost is $25. Contact Mary Ann Pitke at Maryann pitke@gmail.com or 717-939-8852 (no calls after 8:30 p.m.) Registration deadline is April 24. Visit https://hdccw.webs.com/2019-hdccw-convention.

Fundraisers & Events

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 $25 at the door.

Preschool story hour at Lebanon Catholic School, April 10 from 1-2 p.m. Children ages 2 and 4 and will enjoy a book, crafts and snacks. RSVP to mwwoodward@lebanoncatholicschool.org or 717-273-3731, ext. 329.

Winner’s choice designer bag bingo, April 7 in the cafeteria at Resurrection Catholic School, Lancaster. Doors open at noon, early-bird game at 1:45 p.m., bingo at 2 p.m. Featuring Coach, Dooney & Bourke, Michael Kors and Kate Spade. Twenty games, three specials, 50/50, basket raffles. Food, prizes and snacks available. Tickets are $20 in advance, $25 at the door. Call nalvarado1990@gmail.com, 717-341-3387.

Little Flower Club in New Cumberland, bus trip to Baltimore June 11. Harbor cruise, lunch at Phillips Seafood, and the Flag House and Fort McHenry for the lowering of the flag at the end of the day. Cost is $140 per person. RSVP by May 5 with Rose at 717-774-6783 or Helen at 717-774-5671.

St. Benedict the Abbath Parish in Lebanon, spaghetti dinner on March 30 from 7-3 p.m. at the parish hall. Meal includes spaghetti & meatballs, salad, bread, a drink choice of tea, fruit punch, water, or coffee, and dessert. Cost is $8. Spaghetti sauce and meatballs provided by Mancino’s Pizza.

Good Shepherd School in Camp Hill, “Lucky Day $10K Giveaway.” Enter to win grand prize of $10,000 or a runner-up prize of $500. Tickets are $10 each or six for $50. Must be 18 to enter. Tickets available at the school and parish office during regular business hours. Drawing May 17 at 7 p.m. during the school’s Spring Fest. Visit www.gsschpa.org for contest rules.

York Catholic High School’s Green & Gold Gala, April 6 at the Country Club of York. Cocktails at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m., and a special program at 8 p.m. Silent and live auctions, and entertainment. Tickets are $100 per person. Net proceeds support the YC Annual Fund which benefits students and the school. Contact LeAnn Citrone at 717-846-8871, ext. 216, or lecrinson@yorkcatholic.org.

Lebanon Catholic School musical, “Once on This Island,” an enchanting fable set in the Caribbean of forbidden love between people from two different worlds. Shows April 12 and 13 at 7 p.m., and April 14 at 1 p.m. Tickets are $8 for students and senior citizens, $10 for adults. Tickets available by calling 717-273-3731, or at the door.

Bishop McDevitt Baseball’s Military Appreciation Day, May 4 during the 11 a.m. varsity game and 2 p.m. JV game at Bishop McDevitt’s baseball field. Between the games, members of the military and National Guard in attendance will be recognized on the field and receive complimentary lunch, and a McDevitt Baseball hat and shirt.

Divine Redeemer Parish in Mount Carmel, potato cakes and haluski dinner, April 12 in Divine Mercy Hall, from 11 a.m. until sold out. Potato cakes $1 each, haluski $3. Eat-in or take-out.

Diocesan Notebook continues on page 15
JOB OPENINGS

Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Marysville, seeking an Office Administrator, 20 hours a week, to provide for the administrative needs of the parish and St. Bernadette Mission in Dunkannon. Submit résumé to the Parish Office 121 William Street, Marysville, PA 17053-1438 or to FrDThomas@hbgdiocese.org. Contact the parish at 717-957-2662 with questions.

Our Lady of Good Counsel in Marysville, seeking a part-time Housekeeper, up to six hours a week, responsible for general cleaning and laundry. Occasional cooking may be required. Submit résumé to the Parish Office 121 William Street, Marysville, PA 17053-1438 or to FrDThomas@hbgdiocese.org. Contact the parish at 717-957-2662 with questions.

St. Joseph School in Hanover, is seeking a School Secretary. Qualified candidate will have strong interpersonal, computer, and organizational skills. Position requires solid, accurate typing skills, and the ability to multi-task effectively as well as being a self-starter. Forward cover letter and résumé to Msgr. Donald Adams, 1996 Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Marysville, 121 William Street, Marysville, PA 17053-1438 or to FrDThomas@hbgdiocese.org. Contact the parish at 717-957-2662 with questions.

Tickets available at the door, $17 for reserved, $15 for adults and $7 for students. Contact Tony Bril at 717-509-0315.
Conference Addresses Facility Maintenance, Management and Safety

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Security products, flooring samples, cleaning supplies and construction models filled the Diocesan Conference Center in Harrisburg on March 20 as part of an event for parish, school and cemetery personnel.

The Facilities Maintenance Risk Management Safety Conference was hosted by the Diocesan Office of Buildings and Properties. It provided a forum for vendors and consultants, and offered presentations on safety, security and insurance.

“The goal of the conference was for our parishes, schools and cemeteries to become familiar with the services and support being offered by local vendors, contractors and consultants,” said Terry Conner, Diocesan Director of Buildings and Properties. “Also, it allowed them to become educated on the proper maintenance and operation of their facilities as well as OSHA requirements, risk management, insurance requirements, liquor enforcement, small games of chance, and security.”

The Office of Buildings and Properties advises and supports parishes and schools on construction, renovation and maintenance, including environmental issues and review of projects.

Presentations during the conference included OSHA requirements, liquor and small games of chance enforcement, security practices for churches, and a panel discussion on insurance.

Nearly 40 vendors advertised services on construction, HVAC systems, maintenance and safety.

More than 150 people attended the event, including parish business managers, school facility managers, cemetery managers and maintenance personnel, Conner said. The event was sponsored by Arthur Funk & Sons, Inc., and included breakfast, lunch and more than three dozen door prizes.

For more information on the services of the Office of Buildings and Properties, contact Terry Conner at 717-657-4804, ext. 260, or tconner@hbgdiocese.org.

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Diocesan Men’s Conference
April 6 from 8:30 a.m.-4:15 p.m.
Bishop McDevitt High School, Harrisburg

Keynote Speaker:
Dr. John Bergsma, popular author and speaker,
Professor of Theology at the Franciscan University of Steubenville
““The Top 3 Reasons I Became Catholic... and Always Will Be:
Perspectives from a Former Protestant Pastor”

Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
Bishop Ronald Gainer, DD, JCL, Principal Celebrant

Three workshop sessions
(Choose from more than 40 workshops)
Eucharistic Holy Hour with Rosary and Benediction
Opportunity for Confession
Continental Breakfast, Boxed Lunch

Final registration: $35 by April 1

Register online at www.hbgdiocese.org/men

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