Conference Inspires 900+ Men to Be Like Saints

By Rachel Bryson, M.S.
The Catholic Witness

More than 900 men from across the Diocese raised their voices in praise and honor to our Lord on Saturday, April 6, during the annual Men’s Conference for the Diocese of Harrisburg. Held at Bishop McDevitt High School, men were encouraged and “Called to be Saints,” and found renewal through the more than 40 workshop options. Before beginning their workshops, those attending heard from Dr. John Bergsma on his conversion to Catholicism and why he will never leave the Church.

Confession, Scripture, Eucharist

It was during the summer of 1996 or 1997 when Dr. John Bergsma was driving past St. Alphonsus Catholic Church in his small town in Michigan, when he had a strong desire to go to Confession. "That in itself may not seem surprising to you," Bergsma said to the more than 900 men gathered for the conference. “However, what made it unusual is, first of all I wasn’t Catholic and secondly I was the pastor of the Protestant church four blocks away.”

Bergsma was led to this urge for Confession, in part, through his preaching of the New Testament to his congregation. He had made it to James 5:16, which states to confess your sins to one another and pray you may be healed.

“I thought, ok, how I am going to tell my congregation we’re going to start applying this verse? How are we going to do that? Pass a mic at Sunday service?” said Bergsma. “I couldn’t find a way to do it. But then I started to think about the Catholic Church and draw on my extensive knowledge of Catholic liturgy, piety and theology…from movies. Great catechetical resource. But from watching movies, I had a basic idea of how Catholic Confession worked. You go into the closet, make the Sign of the Cross, say ‘Forgive me Father for I have sinned.’ I began to reflect on that and thought, ‘My goodness, Catholics have a way to reflect on this scripture. They have a way of obeying James 5:16 that avoids scandal and bad counsel and con-
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: What role did homosexuality play in the sexual abuse crisis? A: The issue of same-sex attraction and relationships, and the role these may have played within this situation are complex to answer. There are many theories regarding the underlying cause of child abuse within the Church, with one of the most prominent being a homosexual subculture. However, there are other reasons for abuse, including the assailant’s need to exert power and money I place in the collection... to the highest standards of good stewardship, accountability and transparency. You give money for a specific program/service; those collections support. We respect the wishes of our donors. When you give money for a specific program/collection (Matthew 25, Pentecost, Diocesan Annual Campaign) these dollars are restricted to the specific programs and services those collections support. As such, we do not nor would we use monies generously donated to a specific program for non-program related expenses. Also, the Diocese cannot take money from a parish in order to meet our financial obligations. Annually, we do publish our Diocesan Financial Report in The Catholic Witness and post this information to our website – www.hbgdiocese.org/about/diocesan-offices/diocesan-annual-financial-report/.

Q: What increased role will lay members have in the Diocese? A: I fully support involving the laity more in our operations. Currently, all parishes are to have at a minimum a Pastoral Council and a Finance Council. At a recent meeting of the Priest Council, the creation of a Development Council was recommended for parishes. Additionally, we currently have a Diocesan Review Board, made up almost entirely of lay members which reviews every allegation of abuse once law enforcement has completed their investigation. This board then makes a recommendation to me on any further actions we should take. I will also be reconstituting our Diocesan Pastoral Council in the near future. I look forward to working with this council as we address pastoral issues, together, to rebuild the trust in our Diocese and Church.

FAQs from Bishop Gainer’s Listening Sessions

We Pledge... conclusions on this issue. If there are members of our clergy with these tendencies, these men are still expected to uphold the promise of celibate chastity they made when taking Holy Orders. If an ordained priest is found to be living an active same-sex lifestyle, he is removed from ministry for violations of celibate chastity. Additionally, our screening process for men in seminary formation is very intensive. If deep seated same-sex tendencies are discovered during this process, the candidate is dismissed from formation.

Q: How can I be sure the money I place in the collection plate is going where I intend? A: We have a moral obligation to respect the wishes of our donors.

Job Openings ~ Cemetery Maintenance and Service

Part-Time (up to 29 hours a week) at Holy Cross, Lebanon Full-Time at Gate of Heaven, Mechanicsburg

Applicants must have skills in grounds maintenance. The ability to operate a backhoe is highly desirable. Other equipment that will be used: tractor, pickup, mowers and a variety of small equipment related to cemetery maintenance and operation. Must be a good team player who is able to take direction and demonstrate tact, courtesy and diplomacy. Applicant must have valid clean PA driver’s license. Work is performed both indoors and outdoors. This is a manual position requiring physical fitness with the ability to lift (up to 50 lbs. regularly and 100 lbs. occasionally), bend, stoop, climb and be mobile (on your feet) for most of the day. Applicants must be able to work in all weather conditions to tight deadlines.

For Holy Cross in Lebanon, send résumé and cover letter to PEichelberger@hbgdiocese.org. Call 717-394-2231 for more details.

For Gate of Heaven in Mechanicsburg, send résumé and cover letter to TBriansky@hbgdiocese.org. Call 717-697-0206 for more details.

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

“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 for Mass, Father David Danneker, Diocesan Vicar General

Keynote speaker Megan Murphy, 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 – “Boxes of Joy”

Ann Koshtne, M.T.S. – “Holding my Mother’s Hand: Understanding the Perpetual Help Icon”

Moving? Send us your old and new addresses via mail or e-mail. Allow three weeks for delivery to resume.
Principal’s Academy: Training Tomorrow’s Education Leaders Today

By Rachel Bryson, M.S.
The Catholic Witness

It’s not easy being a teacher and even less so being the leader of a school. Building strong leaders to sustain quality Catholic education is one goal for the Diocese of Harrisburg, and this goal is brought to fruition through our Principals’ Academy. This program, which is supported through the Diocesan Annual Campaign, trains selected teachers in our Catholic schools to step into the principal role.

“We are beginning our fifth cohort. The first cohort was with Marywood University and the last four are with Immaculata University,” said Livia Riley, Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese. “Presently, 18 principals have completed the academy. The new cohort is formed every four years. The program is invaluable because it sustains quality Catholic leadership within our Diocese.”

Loretta Witkowski, principal at Corpus Christi School in Chambersburg, is one of those leaders who completed the program.

“Being recommended and selected for the Principal’s Academy helped me prepare for the next step in my career. I am a life-long learner and am always working toward the next level. The Principal’s Academy helped me achieve my current level as Principal,” said Witkowski. “From the beginning in year one up to the end of year three, it was constant learning. Some of the classes built on courses I had previously taken. For instance, I had taken communication courses, but at the Academy, we had communication for leaders. There were a number of courses that specifically helped with my day-to-day as a principal, specifically observations and evaluations as well as school law.”

Lindsay Salmon, principal of St. Andrew Catholic School in Waynesboro, echoed Witkowski’s sentiments.

“As with many employees of the Diocese, I found myself with an unexpected opportunity to grow professionally. I had always envisioned myself teaching; however, I knew I was ready for a change, but I thought that meant I would begin pursuing my middle school certification to teach in our new middle school at St. Andrew,” said Salmon. “I had already received my Master’s in Education so I certainly would have never enrolled in more higher education courses for administration had this amazing opportunity not come along. The ease of entering the program was wonderful as the Diocese handled taking care of registration and scheduling courses. The courses were taken during the summer over a three-year time span which allowed time to fit the principal certification into my schedule.”

“The last several decades have revealed a lack of leadership in Catholic education as reported on by the U.S. Bishops and the Congress for Catholic Education,” said Jesse Read, associate principal at St. Teresa of Calcutta School in Hanover. “Harrisburg recognizes and acts upon that serious need. We need good leaders, not just good managers. In our society’s fast-changing and confusing times, men and women of solid vision for our Holy Mother Church. By investing in them we invest in future Catholic school leaders,” said Read. “Catholic schools are one of the great weapons of evangelization for our Holy Mother Church. By investing in them we invest in the great adventure of saving souls on the ground level of our society.”

No Small Task

An intense program, the Academy forms teachers into administrators in just three years.

“Me and my classmates were provided very engaging classes on the many facets of education administration – community relations, legalities, teacher supervision, special education, etc.,” said Read. “The texts were valuable, and the professors natural mentors. I think the best instruction we learned came from the administrative experience from the excellent instructors via Immaculata University.”

“The Principals’ Academy was an extremely intense program, but it provided those of us with more than just an education,” added Salmon. “Taking courses with the group in my cohort allowed us to create a support network among ourselves. We celebrate each other’s successes and ask and receive advice from one another as we take on our new positions. Creating this community was so much more meaningful than taking courses online with strangers.”

Mary Jo Pronio, principal at St. Margaret Mary School in Harrisburg, said the training program teaches each participant to think more strategically about the challenges they may face and how to address those challenges.

“Our instructors from Immaculata University, former principals, shared many of their own personal experiences to help model for us decision-making, human resources, leadership, team building, develop common curriculum and assessments, examine data, and collaborate on determining and implementing best practices and how to supervise,” said Pronio. “This program paired me with some of the most intelligent, inspirational and motivated people. We worked together to problem solve, research, and present our findings. We learned from each other’s strengths and recognized our weaknesses. We looked forward to seeing each other and shared family stories, school stories and became good friends to be able to call on when one has a question.”

Thank You

“I would just like to thank all contributors of the Diocesan Annual Campaign so that we can continue to offer these programs to our employees,” said Salmon.

“I am very grateful for the opportunity I had to attend the Principal’s Academy,” added Witkowski. “Not only did the educational aspect benefit me, but the ability to get to know my leadership, the superintendent and assistant-superintendents, has been such a blessing to me in my current position as a new Principal.”

“I can’t commend the Diocese enough for investing in future Catholic school leaders,” said Read. “Catholic schools are one of the great weapons of evangelization for our Holy Mother Church. By investing in them we invest in the great adventure of saving souls on the ground level of our society.”

About

The Principals’ Academy is a program offered by the Department of Education, of the Diocese of Harrisburg, to assist qualified persons in completing the requirements for Pennsylvania State Certification in school administration. The purpose of the Academy is to provide selected individuals, who are committed to Catholic education in the Diocese, with the support needed to complete the necessary graduate courses at a certified institution of higher education and further administrative formation particular to a Catholic school in the Diocese of Harrisburg. As a program supported by the DAC, the Diocese pays for participants to take up to six graduate education credits per year, throughout their time in the program.

Individuals who have at least five year’s teaching experience and hold an active Instructional I teaching certificate may be invited by the Superintendent of Schools to participate in the Academy. Candidates who successfully complete the program commit to three years of employment in the Diocese after receiving their certification.

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.
**Made for More: Christopher West Speaks on Theology of the Body in Harrisburg**

By Mariah Chuprinski
*Special to The Witness*

“We live in a world that looks but doesn’t see,” said Christopher West, speaking from the auditorium stage at Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg.

West visited the Diocese on April 2 with folk musician Mike Mangione, asserting that human beings are “Made for More,” as the talk was titled, based on St. John Paul II’s teachings on the Theology on the Body.

“When we look but don’t see, we stop at the surface. We are trained very well in the modern world to look, evaluate, size people up based on how they please us,” West said to more than 600 listeners.

“It is in truly seeing a person that we view a human life as indispensable, unrepeatable and irreplaceable,” West explained.

We see the beauty of the human person through the complementary roles of male and female in the “fullness of eros,” West said.

Often, our modern culture confuses the Greek word eros with erotica, as West himself did in his youth, overcome with lustful desires. It wasn’t until he read St. John Paul II’s 129 lectures on the Theology of the Body – delivered between 1979 and 1984 in St. Peter’s Square in Rome – that West’s long-held notion of the human body and sexuality changed.

West is now the founder of the Theology of the Body Institute – based in Quarryville, Lancaster County – which offers courses, certifications, programs and speakers on St. John Paul II’s teachings.

“Erotica is the cheap, pale mockery of eros,” West said.

True eros is only fulfilled in God, where Christ embraces the Church as His bride through beauty revealed through the material world: through a good beer, art, music, nature and in the marital embrace of a man and a woman, he said to illustrate some examples.

The senses, naturally, are tied to the body.

“I was interested to see Christopher’s understanding of how important the body is, that we’re not just spirit, we’re body, and what role that plays in the Church … how you can respect your body and learn from God the importance of it, and how it plays a role in our salvation,” said Al- len Fry, a recently-married man from Mechanicsburg.

West explained that dating apps and websites often reduce a man or woman to just his or her physical attributes on a cell phone screen, and stop short of seeing a unique, irreplaceable person. On behalf of all men, West apologized to women in the audience who have been wronged in relationships.

“I’d like to say to each of you, my sisters, I’m so sorry for the ways that I and other men have looked at you but have not seen you. We’ve swiped you away for whatever reason, or in looking at you were pleased by some qualities you had and then used and discarded you. Please forgive us, for we know not what we do,” he said.

For some, West brings a new perspective on Church teachings that many Catholics memorized in their youth.

“I liked the questioning: what do I want out of it? What am I looking for? Growing up, you didn’t question anything, you memorized, learned, you went to church, went to confession, it was by rote. To question more is quite interesting, to explore more things than we thought of before,” said Dolly Marencic of Palmyra.

“Made for More” was funded by St. Joan of Arc Parish in Hershey, according to lead organizer Lou Felice, and was co-hosted by four other parishes and a nonprofit: St. Catherine Labouré Parish in Harrisburg, Holy Spirit Parish in Palmyra, St. Matthew Parish in Dauphin, Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Harrisburg and Real Alternatives, a pregnancy and parenting support nonprofit. About 30 volunteers participated in the promotion and ticket sales of the event.

Several parishes will be offering continued Theology of the Body formation through a ten-part video and study group. Those interested can register at madeformoreburg@gmail.com.

“The more you come to see how awesome the human being is, the more you recognize that for most of our lives, we’ve looked but have not seen,” West said.

“When that happens, we get a world we’re in today.”
Life and Death: Lessons My Mother Taught Me

By Bonnie Finnerty
Special to The Witness

On Jan. 18, 2019, I eagerly accepted the position of Education Director at the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation. My former career as a teacher coupled with my life-long advocacy of life issues led me to believe this was the job for which I had long been searching.

Part-time and close to home, I could still juggle the responsibilities of family life and volunteer work. In addition, I was blessed to work with authentically kind, compassionate and committed people with whom I felt an instant bond.

The overwhelming joy I felt at this new chapter in my life was tempered, however, just three days later, when we learned that my active 82-year-old mother had pancreatic cancer. Her doctor surmised that she might live until Easter.

Suddenly, everything was re-prioritized. How can I best spend these last precious months with my mom? How can I ease her pain? How can I help her and my dad, indeed all of our family, including her beloved 16 grandchildren, prepare for her departure from this world?

As it turns out, my mom did not have a few months. She had 18 days. We were praying with her when she peacefully drew her last breath on Feb. 8.

During her brief but intense illness, my mom endured excruciating pain, some from the cancer and some from the innumerable blood clots that riddled her entire body. At times she called out in prayer, imploring God to take her, as her loved ones sat helplessly by, shedding tears as we stroked her face and held her hand.

When witnessing the slow but inevitable death of a loved one, there is a dark temptation to end their pain and hasten their journey home to God through doctor-prescribed suicide. But our family and its matriarch knew that was not our call.

While we sought the best palliative care for her, we knew there was a plan, a timetable, a moment long determined when she would transition into eternal life. And as hard as her path was to get there, we could only love her on her way as best we could. During those 18 days, my mother gave us the ultimate pro-life witness: the peaceful surrender to life’s natural course, bravely bearing her suffering, giving us comfort with her courage, patience and steadfast faith.

Such a testimony echoed a climactic moment 32 years earlier, when I returned home from college my freshman year to tell her I was pregnant. Seeing me crying in the kitchen, she became alarmed, thinking the very worst. I could hardly speak the words, but when I did, she said, “Is that ALL? I thought you were dying of cancer! A parent herself, Johnson gives her assurance to other parents, ‘Is that all? I thought you were dying of cancer!’

‘Unplanned’ Actress Says Film is ‘Going to Change History’

By Denis Grasska
Catholic News Service

To say that actress Ashley Bratcher is enthusiastic about her latest film project is an understatement.

“I think it’s going to change the way people think about this,” she said, regarding the real-life story upon which the film is based. “I really do. I think it’s just that impactful.”

Bratcher portrays Abby Johnson, the former Planned Parenthood clinic director who became an outspoken pro-life activist, in “Unplanned.”

Opened nationwide in theaters March 29, the film is based on Johnson’s book of the same title and recounts how Johnson, once honored by Planned Parenthood as its “Employee of the Year,” came face-to-face with the reality of abortion and converted to the pro-life cause.

Bratcher knows the story’s transformative power because she has felt it herself.

Though she auditioned for the role without even knowing that Johnson was a real person and not the fictional creation of a screenwriter, Bratcher later went home and did some research online. She watched a video of Johnson sharing her story and, she said, “it shook me to my core.”

Bratcher had identified as pro-life, but admits that she had been “middle-of-the-road” on the issue, having limited understanding of fetal development, not knowing much about what an abortion procedure actually involved, and being unwilling to tell another woman what to do, “so to speak, ‘her body.’”

But that video filled the gaps in her understanding, she said, and “really convicted me in my spirit to say, ‘Wow, people don’t know this. ... America needs to know the truth.’”

If video footage of Johnson describing her experience in words can be that powerful, a dramatization would be even more powerful, she said.

“If you’re going to support something, you need to know what that is and what it looks like, and that’s exactly what this film is going to show them.”

However, that all changed in September 2009, Johnson said, when she was asked to provide “an extra set of hands” during an ultrasound-guided abortion.

“I saw this 13-week-old baby appear to fight and struggle against the abortion instruments, trying to move away, to find a safe place,” said Johnson, who became Catholic in 2012, “and I knew then that there was life in the womb, that there was humanity there, and that what I had just witnessed was truly an injustice.

The filmmakers’ effort to share Johnson’s eye-opening experience with theatergoers meets with an R-rating from the Motion Picture Association of America for “some disturbing/bloody images.”

Johnson sees “a political agenda at play” in the rating decision, but also feels that the MPAA “stumbled backwards into the truth” that abortion is inherently violent.

“I don’t think the irony is lost on anyone that a 15-year-old girl can’t go watch this movie without her parents’ consent, but can go get an abortion without her parents’ consent,” she said. “But I hope that it won’t deter parents from taking their kids.”

Both the real-life Johnson and her onscreen counterpart hope that the film’s audience will include both pro-life theatergoers and those who support legal abortion. And they said it will challenge both sides.

For those who are “pro-choice,” Johnson said, “If you’re going to support something, you need to know what that is and what it looks like, and that’s exactly what this film is going to show them.”

But, she added, “even within our own pro-life movement, there’s room for conversion,” especially among those who are “willing to check a box and say that they’re pro-life, but they’re not actively engaged in the movement.”

In another interview with a Catholic paper, the “Catholic Viewpoint of the Diocese of Green Bay,” Johnson said she also hopes the film opens the hearts and minds of Catholics in particular.

“Over 50 percent of women having abortions are coming from our churches,” she said. “I wholeheartedly believe that God is going to put the right people in that theater to see this film. I’m excited to see what happens.”

(“Unplanned” is currently scheduled at a number of theaters located within the Diocese. Visit www.unplannedtickets.com for locations and information.)
Bishop Gainer Recognizes Work of Lay Members

By Rachel Bryson, M.S.  
The Catholic Witness

It takes many hands, working together, to spread the Good News and fulfill the mission of the Church. On Sunday, March 31, Bishop Ronald Gainer recognized 10 lay members for their efforts to do just that. In its inaugural year, Bishop Gainer presented the Lorica Award to one recipient from each of the Diocese’s 10 Deaneries.

Presenting the awards at the conclusion of Solemn Vespers for those candidates joining the Church this Easter, Bishop Gainer said in his homily that, “We should also live these days of Lent and then the Easter season to follow with a new fidelity and determination to responding to the Lord’s call.”

“In today’s reading, St. Paul is talking about running the race to win,” Bishop Gainer continued. “Paul’s words are meant for all of us. Yes, he was speaking to the faithful in Corinth, but he was also speaking to us here in Harrisburg today. Christians who take the easy way will not get anywhere.”

The 10 recipients of the Lorica Award for its first year included:

- Amelia Contreras, St. Francis Xavier Parish, Gettysburg, Adams Deanery, for her work on behalf of the Latinos in her parish and throughout Adams County, especially through her work to establish Manos Unidas.
- Sister Romaine Niemeyer, SCC, Geisinger Holy Spirit Hospital, Camp Hill, Cumberland/Perry Deanery, for her dedicated service to the sick and as an advocate for health care services for all.
- Connie Hannah, Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick, Harrisburg, Dauphin Deanery, for her commitment to the poor and vulnerable as a founding member and dedicated volunteer of The Shining Light Thrift Shop.
- Paul Little, Corpus Christi Parish, Chambersburg, Franklin Deanery, for his generous spirit that humbly seeks to serve his fellow parishioners in hidden and visible ways without seeking praise.
- Ann Marie Boltz, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Lebanon, Lebanon Deanery, for her commitment to serving the young people of her parish with enthusiasm and faithfulness.
- Sister Anna Cosgrave, OSF, Holy Trinity Parish, Columbia, North Lancaster Deanery, for her selfless commitment to the homebound and sick of the parish.
- Linda Walborn, St. Monica Parish, Sunbury, Northern Deanery, for her steady leadership in parish administration and unwavering devotion to the service of her brothers and sisters.
- Sister Monica Imgrund, RSM, St. Patrick Parish, York, York Deanery, for her tireless efforts as pastoral associate, touching the lives of countless individuals who have known her compassion and care.
- Receiving this award is very humbling. When I opened the letter from Bishop Gainer, I saw the prayer in it that I have been using in my ministry for all these years. The Lord’s ways are so unbelievable sometimes,” said Amelia Contreras. “I am very honored and blessed to receive this award.

The Lorica Award was given annually by the Bishop of the Diocese of Harrisburg to lay persons who have contributed significantly to the life of the local Church and exemplified the Catholic Christian way of life. Named after the renowned prayer attributed to St. Patrick, the recipients will have demonstrated that they have “bound to their heart” the strength of the Triune God through integrity of faith and generosity in service so that it might truly be said of them, “Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me, Christ in the mouth of every one who speaks of me, Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me.”

Any practicing Catholic who is registered at one of the parishes or missions within the Diocese of Harrisburg, or is serving in one of the apostolates of a community of consecrated men or women in the Diocese, may be nominated for the award by their pastor or superior. Nominations are due by October 31 of each year. More information on the nomination process will be published this summer.

Derrick Rosenstein Joins Diocese

By Rachel Bryson, M.S.  
The Catholic Witness

Bringing 10 years of parish management experience, Derrick Rosenstein recently joined the Diocese of Harrisburg as the Director of Parish Administrative Services.

For the past ten years, I was the Parish Manager at Good Shepherd Parish in Camp Hill, supporting the pastor with the overall operation of the parish and school with respect to personnel, finances and budgeting, maintenance, buildings and grounds,” said Rosenstein. “This was a rewarding opportunity thanks in no small part to the wonderful Good Shepherd Parish community.

In his new role, Rosenstein will provide accounting and operational support for all parishes and schools within the Diocese.

“We are excited to partner with the parishes and enhance Harrisburg Catholic Administrative Services’ ability to support and help our parishes and schools succeed and thrive in a complex and challenging environment,” he said.

Outside of work, Rosenstein enjoys chasing around his two children, ages eight and 11, and spending time with his wife. He is an avid reader and a “huge” Pittsburgh Penguins fan.

Rosenstein has also taught seventh grade Religious Education at St. Joseph Parish, Mechanicsburg, for the past six years.

Rosenstein can be reached at the Diocesan Center at 717-657-4804 ext. 299, or drosenstein@hbgdiocese.org.
San Juan’s Summer Camp for At-Risk Youth Receives Donation for Safety Awareness

San Juan Bautista Parish’s Summer Camp received a donation worth more than $1,500 from PPL as part of the “Good Catch” Safety Program during a check presentation last month.

“We are grateful to the employees of PPL who chose our Summer Camp as one of their designated recipients,” said Father Allan Wolfe, pastor. “What an impact this will make in our work to serve our children, most of whom do not get the opportunity to go on vacation or ‘do something fun’ like many children do in the summer. This donation is a perfect example of community working together to better advance the welfare of our children, and it is a true investment in their futures.”

PPL’s Good Catch Safety Program encourages employees to identify unsafe situations and stop them. Employees are encouraged to submit their “good catch” to management so it can be shared with others to make the workplace safer. For every “good catch” made throughout the year, PPL departments are able to donate money to a charity of their choice. Customer services chose San Juan Bautista’s Summer Camp as one of its receiving organizations because the camp was identified as an organization that promotes safety awareness to their children.

Summer Camp Director, Linda Torres, said, “What a gift this is for the children in our summer camp! I see first-hand, year after year, the impact that our camp has made, and continues to make, in the lives of these children. My own son attended for years and rose from a camper to a Junior Counselor to now a Counselor — it’s his way of ‘giving back’ to the organization who empowered and equipped him over the years. His story is just one of many stories of lives that have been impacted by this summer camp. We have such big dreams for our children, and as the director, I am grateful for this donation which will enable us to expand our activities for our children this year, while keeping them safe, of course!”

State Champions with Bishop

Delone Catholic High School’s girls’ basketball team and Bishop McDevitt High School’s 400 freestyle relay team were treated to a luncheon with Bishop Ronald Gainer at the Diocesan Center in Harrisburg on April 8 for their state championship performances this year.

The Squirettes won the PIAA Girls’ Class 3A Championship last month, beating Dunmore by a score of 49-43 to earn their school’s fourth state basketball title since 2003. Bishop McDevitt swimmers won the PIAA Class 2A Boys’ 400 freestyle relay with a time of 3:08.89. The Crusader boys’ swimming team also won the District 3-AAA swim meet and finished third in the state as a team.

Bishop McDevitt’s gold-medal 400 freestyle relay team of Patrick Hemingway, Zack Miller, Jonah Hancock and Josiah Lauver and coaches Kurt Sprowls and Doug Lauver, join Bishop Ronald Gainer at the luncheon for state champions.

Students and staff work on projects prior to PPL’s check presentation to San Juan Bautista’s Summer Camp in Lancaster.
World Day of the Sick
Commemorated
with Mass at Lebanon VA

By Rachel Bryson, M.S.
The Catholic Witness

Caring for the sick is a virtue of the Catholic Church. Bishop Ronald Gainer recently commemorated World Day of the Sick at the Lebanon Veterans Affairs hospital.

After celebrating Mass in the hospital chapel, he visited with several patients. The Mass and visits were originally scheduled for February 11, but were postponed until March 27 due to winter weather.

Before a crowd of 60-plus people, Bishop Gainer said he was glad to be able to celebrate the 27th annual World Day of the Sick with Mass.

“I am grateful and blessed by the opportunity to be here,” the bishop said. “Following this Mass, I will visit some patients. I am also grateful for those who are viewing this Mass in their rooms who are patients. May God be with you.”

Bishop Gainer explained in his homily that St. John Paul II designated World Day of the Sick on the 11th anniversary of his diagnosis with Parkinson’s disease.

“He had hope that this would be a day when the whole Church prayed for those suffering,” Bishop Gainer said. He continued that this day is also a time to pray for and remember all those working in the healthcare industry, especially those who are showing the “compassion and love of Christ. We pray for all those who bear the cross of sickness in any form.”

The bishop added that during this Mass to commemorate World Day of the Sick, we should think of what Jesus did for us and how he approached Calvary.

“Those here in the hospital who are being treated, you are sharing in the cross of Christ,” he said. “He (Jesus) did not come to take away our suffering. He came to be immersed in it. He used it as a means for our salvation.”

The Lenten journey we are currently in reminds us of that, added Bishop Gainer. In reflecting on the scripture readings, he said the message today was about the law and our attitude towards it.

“Many times, we look on rules as restrictions that confine and limit us,” the bishop said, adding that in the first reading from Deuteronomy, Moses was telling the Israelites that they should not look on laws as something the confines, but rather as something that makes them the chosen people of God.

“What is the difference between a basketball court and a hardwood floor?” asked Bishop. “It’s the lines.”

About
World Day of the Sick is observed annually on February 11. Instituted by St. John Paul II, the day encourages Christians to offer prayers for those suffering from illnesses and to also pray for those working in healthcare.

In his letter on World Day of the Sick, Pope Francis stated, “I express my gratitude and offer my encouragement to all those associations of volunteers committed to the transport and assistance of patients, and all those that organize the donation of blood, tissues and organs…. Your volunteer work in medical facilities and in homes, which ranges from providing health care to offering spiritual support, is of primary importance. Countless persons who are ill, alone, elderly or frail in mind or body benefit from these services. I urge you to continue to be a sign of the Church’s presence in a secularized world.”
Conference

Continued from 1

Dr. John Bergsma, Professor of Theology at the Franciscan University of Steubenville, speaks with conference attendees following his keynote presentation.

“it’s a great event. It seems like it’s been growing every year. It’s helped me and I’ve attended many of the years they’ve had it,” said John Shifter.

“I think it’s a great event, particularly the presenters,” said Rick Cook. “It seems like there are a lot more diverse topics and it’s very enjoyable. I attended one session on the devotion to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. It was a small group but I felt like it was very well presented.”

“This is my third year attending the conference and I have seen the numbers grow,” said Ray Riner. “There are days where you’re here strictly as a volunteer for the St. Michael’s Guard to assist at Adoration and Mass.”

“The Men’s Conference is really a part conference, part retreat, in which men gather with other men from all parts of the Diocese of Harrisburg and beyond, united in the bonds of Christ,” said Jim Gontis, Director of Evangelization and Catechesis for the Diocese. “The enthusiasm of the men that had in listening to Dr. John Bergsma’s journey into the Catholic Church was both encouraging and edifying. They learned, they laughed, and they enjoyed.”

Gontis continued that, “A lot of men came up to me and to others on our committee throughout the day saying how much the Men’s Conference means to them and how much they enjoyed it. They talked about everything from learning more about the faith in the keynote and various workshops, to the personal time in our Lord’s presence in the Mass and Holy Hour, to the opportunity to unburden themselves in Confession, to being in the company of, and listening to, the teaching and preaching of our Chief Shepherd, Bishop Gainer, to simply enjoying each other’s company.”

“Jesus’ life can be detachment,” at the Diocesan Men’s Conference.
Speech Contest

Dozens of students from Diocesan schools demonstrated their public speaking abilities in persuasive speech, oral interpretation, and duo dramatic interpretation at the Diocese’s annual Speech Contest on March 29 at the Diocesan Center in Harrisburg. Students’ scores were based on evaluations given by volunteer judges, and awards were given to the top three winners and honorable mention place winners in each category.

Oral Interpretation
1st Damyan Petryshak, St. Columba, Bloomsburg
2nd Emma Duffy, St. Margaret Mary, Harrisburg
3rd Robert Newcomber, Holy Name of Jesus, Harrisburg
Honorable Mention, Seth Hilfiger, St. Joseph, Hanover
Honorable Mention, Gwyenth Beiter, St. Joseph, Danville

Duo Dramatic
1st Avery Gates-Sell and Justin Smith, St. Teresa of Calcutta, Adams Deanery
2nd Megan Watson and Karis Calla, St. Margaret Mary, Harrisburg
3rd Ty Barlett and Eve Polek, Holy Name of Jesus, Harrisburg
Honorable Mention, Morgan Pierce and Alina Shannon, St. Columba, Bloomsburg
Honorable Mention, Grace Everett and Luke Hilkert, St. Joseph, Danville

Persuasion
1st Mya Sponsler, Holy Name of Jesus, Harrisburg
2nd Brinley Gerhards, Holy Name of Jesus, Harrisburg
3rd Andrew Zeglen, Holy Name of Jesus, Harrisburg
Honorable Mention, Elizabeth Bailey, St. Margaret Mary, Harrisburg
Honorable Mention, Aristole Rock, St. Joseph, Danville

The Diocese’s annual Spelling Bee, hosted by the Catholic Schools Department, brought individual school champions to the competition at the Diocesan Center in Harrisburg on April 3. The Diocesan champion is David Siahaan, center, of Corpus Christi School in Chambersburg. The runner-up was Bianca Po, right, of St. Joseph School in Dallastown, and Camille Gross of St. Patrick School in Carlisle, left, placed third.

The Religion Department at Lebanon Catholic recently led students in the “33 Days to Morning Glory: A Do-It-Yourself Retreat In Preparation for Marian Consecration.” Begun when Eric Mahl visited Lebanon Catholic – and all Diocesan high schools in February – the junior and senior high religion classes concluded the retreat with Marian Consecration in the school chapel on March 25 the Feast of the Annunciation.

St. Joseph School York hosted students from St. Joseph School in Dallastown and St. Patrick School in York for a presentation by Miss Pennsylvania, Kayla Repasky, and to prepare blankets to donate to Project Linus as part of the 10,000 Acts of Kindness Campaign in York. Nearly 500 students from the three schools prepared 20 blankets for the local York Project Linus. These blankets were given to children who are terminally ill, suffered trauma or are in need of a blanket.

Repasky’s personal platform is Think First America, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that presents programs called “Think Before You Post.” The presentation teaches students how big the internet is, how to utilize social media, and the importance of being kind on the internet. Her goal is to have students recognize that the internet is a great source when used appropriately, and that it is important to use it to promote ourselves in a positive way. The second education program, “Think First, Be Kind,” was shared with grades K-3 to teach students character traits of kindness and respect, to recognize bullying, and what actions to take if bullying is occurring.
Assembly Receives Star Award

The Msgr. John J. Lawley Assembly #973 of the Knights of Columbus, Lebanon, received the Knights of Columbus Star Assembly Award for the 2017-2018 Fraternal Year. The award is presented to assemblies that excel in membership recruitment, sponsor patriotic activities, report to the Supreme Council and keep members informed of assembly activities.

The Msgr. John J. Lawley Assembly #973 has been recognized with this award for assisting veterans in attending weekly Mass at the Lebanon VA Hospital; laying wreaths on the veterans’ graves at Fort Indiantown Gap National Cemetery through the Wreaths Across America Program; donating money to the Knights of Columbus Military Chaplains’ Scholarship Fund; and during the 2017-2018 Fraternal Year, raising $15,000 to send five veterans to the International Military Pilgrimage in Lourdes, France.

In the photo, District Master Sean Connelly, right, presents the Star Assembly Award to Faithful Admiral and Past Faithful Navigator Paul Lorenzetti, center, with current Faithful Navigator James Dezagottis, left.

Harrisburg Knights Earn Star Award

On Feb. 28, members and families of The St. Catherine Laboure Knights of Columbus Council #12811 in Harrisburg attended a social meeting, during which the council received the Star Council Award for the 2017-2018 Fraternal Year. The prestigious award from Supreme Council recognizes outstanding achievements for membership, service programs and insurance.

During the ceremony, the invocation was given by Father Neil Sullivan, pastor, and the award was presented by Knights of Columbus State Deputy Mark Jago.

Day of Reflection for Deaf Catholics

May 18, 2019

9:00-9:30 a.m. Registration/Continental Breakfast
9:30 a.m. –12:00 p.m. “Understanding the Mass” Reverend Michael Depcik, OSFS
12:00-1:00 p.m. Luncheon
1:00-4:00 p.m. “Understanding the Mass” Continued Opportunity for Confession
4:00 - 5:00 p.m. Mass

Saint Joseph Church
Brindle Hall
400 E Simpson Street
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Sponsored by the Diocesan Office of Ministry with People with Disabilities and St. Joseph Parish

The retreat will be conducted in ASL. There is no charge for this event, but RSVP is required, along with requests for special accommodations, diet restrictions, etc, by May 1, 2019 to Larry Kiley at LKiley@hbgdiocese.org, or by calling 717-657-4804, ext 322.

Sign Up to Receive The Witness Electronically

Read The Catholic Witness online, wherever you go! Through a free e-mail service, you can receive an e-mail with a direct link to each edition as it is published. Sign up for the e-mail service by logging on to the Diocesan web site at www.hbgdiocese.org. Follow the News/Events tab to The Catholic Witness page and click on “Sign Up for Our E-mail.”

Registration with the e-mail service will not automatically cancel your mailed subscription. If you prefer to receive the online version instead of a copy in the mail, e-mail your name and mailing address to witness@hbgdiocese.org.

And remember, previous editions of the newspaper – dating back to early 2011 – are also available online. You can find them at www.hbgdiocese.org. Just follow the News/Events tab to The Catholic Witness page.
Tell me a little bit about your childhood.

I have two older brothers and a younger sister. We grew up in Perry County, a very rural area. A lot of woods, and plenty of space to play. We always attended Mass, and went to CCD. We occasionally took trips to see my grandmother in Massachusetts, and went to Knebels’ park. In fourth or fifth grade, I was in the concert band. I started with the trumpet and then moved to baritone. When I was in high school, my mom started playing the organ for our First Friday Devotions. I was always perfect, but when my siblings weren’t, I would be kindly invited and “volunteered” to attend the Devotions – and that worked out well because it helped in my discernment.

When did you first become interested in the priesthood?

I was in fourth grade. It was during Mass, right after the consecration. I remember this feeling in my heart of, “I want to do that.” It was a different feeling than wanting to do something like drive a Ferrari or go to a movie. It was a feeling that that is what I was supposed to be doing. I remember going to my pastor, Father Sharman. I said, “I want to be a priest.” He said, “Pray, trust in the Lord, and follow where he leads you.”

It wasn’t until I went to high school and went on the Quo Vadis Days retreat, met seminarians and priests and realized that each one has their own personality and things they like. I saw the bonds and friendships they shared, and also how happy they were. It wasn’t a burden for them to be there, and they were happy to be priests. It was also the first time I really started to pray consistently, using the Liturgy of the Hours.

Talk about the transition from high school to seminary.

I used to be very shy and introverted, which most people find hard to believe. When we first got to the seminary, as we were unloading our things, the guys who had been there for several years came out to introduce themselves and help us carry our things up three flights of stairs. It was my first time living away from home.

I remember in my first few classes in Latin, which I had never studied before, I would stare at the board and think, “This makes no sense.” But even sitting with the guys who had studied it in Catholic high school, I knew we were all on a level playing field.

It was very different living in an environment where the faith was so central to every aspect of our day, from our classes to our conversations, and we were all there because we felt we were called. There is a bond that forms there.

What do you enjoy most about being a priest?

Well, it’s easy to decide what I’m going to wear in the morning!

Really, I enjoy being able to interact with lots of different people. We have a wonderful office staff at the parish. I get to see them every morning, see how they’re getting how help them in the spiritual aspect of their faith by leading them closer to Jesus.

Pope Francis encourages us in the idea of “accompaniment.” As a priest, I am walking with the people of God as I walk a faith journey on my own. It’s about meeting people where they’re at. I think the greatest privilege is working with people who are in situations and have this idea that the priest can’t do anything about it. I always tell people, whatever the situation is – and it might need hard work – we can always work with it. When people talk to me about a challenge they’re facing, I tell them, first of all it will be OK, and show them the compassion that God has for all of us. Hearings are missions and probably my favorite thing as a priest. What’s exciting is seeing the grace of God at work in someone’s life. There are times when someone is so burdened, and being able to absolve them and say “God loves you, it doesn’t end, it never goes away,” is such a blessing and privilege in my life.

We have a school attached to the parish. It’s a challenge they’re facing, I tell them, first of all it will be OK, and show them the compassion that God has for all of us. Hearings are missions and probably my favorite thing as a priest. What’s exciting is seeing the grace of God at work in someone’s life. There are times when someone is so burdened, and being able to absolve them and say “God loves you, it doesn’t end, it never goes away,” is such a blessing and privilege in my life.

I think the greatest privilege is working with people who are in situations and unite themselves to Jesus in their difficult circumstances is a blessing.

We have great staff in the parishes, and all these people do their work in the background. They don’t get awards or anything, but do such great work. And the people at the Diocesan Center do great work too.

If you have a challenge or a difficulty, priests are there as spiritual fathers. Let us know. We can’t always fix things. A lot of things aren’t fixable. But we’re there to be with you.

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Spotlight on Adult Faith Formation:
The Catholic Education Center

For 12 years, the Catholic Education Center has been Faithfully Teaching the Faith. Colette Lienhard, the founding director of the CEC, and also one of its course instructors, was mindful of the demands on people’s schedules when she began creating courses.

“As a parish catechetical leader and a school administrator, I saw how difficult it was for volunteers and teachers to come to training sessions and keep track of hours for certification. Working around commute times, child-care, and demanding family schedules is very difficult,” she said. Soon Lienhard found a solution for ministry training and record-keeping.

In collaboration with her diocese, Lienhard wrote the Catholic Education Center’s first five courses, which are based upon the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Each online course teaches the content in ten easy-to-read lessons and reinforces the content with quizzes that provide immediate feedback for learners. Classroom ideas are provided for teachers, and course participants are encouraged to download lessons and PowerPoint presentations for use in the classroom.

Over the years, new courses were developed for the Catholic Education Center by experts with years of classroom experience. Based upon the needs and requests of teachers and catechists, more than 30 additional courses, such as the catechism, the Bible, classroom management, faith formation, evangelization, and specific ministries. These courses are offered continuously online and are a wonderful opportunity for those who wish to learn at their own pace. For school teachers and parish catechists in the Diocese of Harrisburg, the Catholic Education Center developed customized online courses which may be taken in order to fulfill requirements for diocesan catechetical certification.

Many of the courses offered by the Catholic Education Center, while intended primarily to form teachers and catechists, would certainly be appropriate for other adults looking to further their personal faith formation. Some of the CEC’s course titles are:

- The Virtues
- Catholic Parenting
- Building the Domestic Church
- Church History
- The Second Vatican Council
- Catholic Medical Ethics

To learn more about formation available from the Catholic Education Center, visit www.catholiceducationcenter.com.
CATHOLIC COMMENTARY

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Diamonds in Suffering

By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC

Special to The Witness

Several people have asked me if it is difficult to write articles every other week. Frankly, I always have said, “Not really, because I write them in sequence and leave a very large gap before I begin writing again. This “gap” allows the Holy Spirit to do his work on my perspectives in life.” You see, I strive constantly to be open to a really good story! So that each article flows into the other, I open up the fourth article I wrote on suffering, I read, “An open heart and a receptive spirit are diamonds in the mud of suffering.”

Initially, I thought, “Wow! That’s a great quote!” I read it again. But then, I wondered where it came from. I couldn’t remember. I turned to Google to find out.

The quote came from a book called, The Velveteen Woman, Becoming Real Through God’s Transforming Love, by Brenda Waggoner, (pg. 118).

When the Word of God leaped down from heaven into the womb of Mary, Jesus entered into a broken world of human suffering and sinfulness brought on by the sin of Adam and Eve. He did so in order to show us how to live a truly human life; a life devoted to the love of the Father, a life centered on humility and obedience that can be rooted in the abundant grace that the Father graciously gives.

The Gospels allow us to be companions to Peter, James and John. They fall asleep, but through the writers of the Gospel, we can experience how Jesus enters into the totality of suffering. As Jesus enters into prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, he asks his friends to keep watch with him, to support him by their prayers and presence. They fail.

There are no fixes, no “smelly stickers” making it all ok. Jesus cries out, sweats blood in the agony of the knowledge of what is coming. He shouts out for all history, “Not my will, but yours be done!”

This attitude redeems the sin of our first parents. But the attitude has to be lived out in action – death on a cross. Yet, the story does not end in bitter suffering and the darkness of that day. In the new light of Easter Sunday, alleluia’s can be sung!

Those alleluia’s are also a part of our individual story as well. They might not come as quickly as we desire them, but they will come! Look to Jesus, whose heart was always open to the Father! Look to Jesus because he shows us how to love and how to hope! Look to Jesus because he is our diamond, our light, in the darkness of suffering.

Wow! An open heart is indeed a diamond in suffering!

(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.)

Harrsburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Weekend Retreat

“Widescreen Life”

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


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

Registration deadline is May 27

Harrsburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Seeks Applicants for Scholarship

The Harrsburg 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.

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

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

In the Diocese of Harrsburg, the Beginning Experience ministry is under the auspices of the Office of Family and Respect Life Ministries. The next Beginning Experience weekend in the Diocese will be May 3-5 at Camp Hebron in Halifax.

The ecumenical weekends are an approved program designed for those suffering the loss of a spouse through death, divorce or separation. Hundreds of persons have been helped to move towards successful, productive, happy lives by attending one of these weekends. The weekend is led by persons who have lost a spouse through death or divorce and are trained in facilitating a weekend. Each Beginning Experience Team is certified by the International Beginning Experience Organization.

Visit www.hbgdiocese.org and go to “Marriage and Family” or visit www.beginningexperience.org. Information can also be obtained by contacting the Harrsburg Beginning Experience Team: Julie at 717-379-0800 or Eva at 717-495-9586.
**Diocesan Notebook**

*Submit written announcements to witness@hbgdiocese.org, nine days before the issue date. No flyers or ads, please. See bottom of Notebook section for next issue's deadline.*

**Spiritual Offerings**

**Pax Christi's annual Walking Way of the Cross in Harrisburg**, April 19 at 10 a.m., starting 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.

**Divine Mercy Sunday Eucharistic Holy Hour at St. Anne Church in Lancaster**, April 28 at 2:30 p.m. Father Deogratias Rwegasira, AJ, will celebrate the liturgy. Women at the Will lead a song and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Father Tri Luong will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The parish will also pray the Divine Mercy Novena beginning on Good Friday, through a daily e-mail chain. To participate in the prayer chain, contact Caitlyn at elusdablon@gmail.com.

**Pilgrimages & Retreats**

**The Adventure Club Immuculate 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.

**Pilgrimage to Germany and Austria for the Passion Play in Oberammergau**, with Father Robert Malagesi and St. Andrew Parish in Waynesboro, June 16-26, 2020. Visiting Heidelberg, Rhine Valley, Innsbruck, Salzburg, Vienna, Altotting, Munich, Rothenburg and Passion Play in Oberammergau. Cost of $4,179 includes airfare from Washington, D.C., daily Mass, accommodations at first-class/select hotels based on double occupancy, first class tickets to the Passion Play, breakfast daily and most dinners, tour director and transfers by private motorcoach. Contact Susan Wyatt at 717-762-1914 or office@standrewsbo.org.

**Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish Pilgrimage** hosted by the Council of Catholic Women. Join Father Ted Keating, pastor, on May 18 to the National Centre for Padre Pio in Abbottstown, beginning with 8 a.m. Mass at Seven Sorrows in Middletown. Bus departs by 8:45 a.m. and returns approximately 4 p.m. Transportation and gratuities $40 per person. Hot buffet optional for $18. RSVP by April 15. Call Aimee Answay at 717-939-1526 before 9 p.m.

**Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, The Camino-The Way**, by bus, escorted by Father Joseph Gotwalt, Sept. 10-21, 2019. Barcelona, Pamplona, Burgos, Leon, cathedrals, wineries, UNESCO world heritage archeological site, a chocolate museum and 10-12 days of walking. Cost of $4,190 is based on double occupancy, first class tickets to the Camino-The Way, accommodations at first-class/select hotels, breakfast daily and most dinners, tour director and transfers by private motorcoach. Contact Janet at 717-259-0511, ext. 7.

**Discovering Christ, seven-week series of teaching and exploring answers**, Tuesdays April 23-June 4 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Abbottstown. Childcare provided as needed for children three and older. Call Sister Rosanne at 717-259-0511, ext. 7.

**A Summer Faith Journey with Bishop Barron**, “Untold Blessings – Three Paths to Holiness,” at St. Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort Parish, June 5, 12 and 19 after 7 p.m. Mass. A 35-minute DVD, shown in Rooms 3 and 4, will be followed by discussion led by Father Peter Hahn, pastor. Summer refreshments, no RSVP or homework required. For information, contact the parish office at 717-394-1742, ext. 2.

**Lancaster Teology on Tap**, May 9 at Annie Bailey’s Irish Pub at 7 p.m. Topic is “Hiring God as Your Co-Worker: An Interview Needed.” Presented by Father Robert Kreckel, who will share stories of his faith in his career as a pharmacist and a professor of Pharmacology at St. Francis University. All young adults (20’s and 30’s) welcome. Check out Lancaster Teology on Tap on Facebook.

**Pro-life town hall lunch**, April 24 from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at The Pike Restaurant in Gettysburg. PA Pro-Life Federation Executive Director Michael Ciccocioppo and Education Director Bonnie Finneity will share up-to-date information on a variety of pro-life topics and answer questions about current efforts to bring about a culture of life in our state and the nation. Benefiting the Pennsylvania for Human Life – Adams County Chapter and the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation. RSVP required by noon on April 18. Attendees will order and pay for lunch. Contact Ruth Santino at 717-677-6833, ruthsantino@yahoo.com or Suzanne Landis at 717-677-5562, landiss77@gmail.com.

**“In the Deep: Finding Peace through Prayer,”** Immaculate Conception BVM Parish in Fairfield, June 1 from 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Presented by speaker and writer Dan Burke. Early-bird tickets are $20 before April 20, $25 after, and $30 at the door. Call 717-642-8815 or visit www.Avila-Institute.org for events.

**York Teology on Tap**, April 23 at The First Post (second floor), featuring Tom Costello, a teacher missionary with The Cultural Project International. Topic is “Why God, Why? Trusting through the Discernment Process.” Happy hour at 7 p.m., presentation at 7:30, followed by Q&A. All young adults (20’s and 30’s) welcome. Visit Facebook.com/YorkTeology for details.

**FUNDRAISERS & EVENTS**

**Good Shepherd School in Camp Hill, “Lucky Day $10K Giveawy.”** 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 Festival. Visit www.gsschpa.org for contest rules.

**Lebanon Catholic School musical, “Once on This Island,”** an enchanting fable set in the Caribbean. Features a boy, 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.

**St. Patrick School in Carlisle, summer camp**, June 10-Aug. 16, Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Open to ages 3-12, available weekly or through the summer. Students can also sign up for five or two days a week. Outdoor and indoor play time, STEM activities, art and crafts, sports and exercise, field trips; Bible study and rest time for younger ones. Visit www.spscarlisle.org, or call 717-240-4826.

**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.

**Bishop McDevitt High School Class of ’79, 40th reunion,** May 25 at Best Western of Union Deposit, Harrisburg. For details, join the Facebook group at Bishop McDevitt Class of 1979, e-mail bishopmcd.Modules@gmail.com. Contact Janeen Cruz at 717-571-0761, Lisa Ketterer Reiger at 717-877-8382 or Francis Filippelli Kishbach at 717-802-0823.

**Egg hunt at Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in McSherrystown,** April 14 after the 10 a.m. Mass. Hunt will be in front of the school, for children up to age 10. In case of inclement weather, the event will be in the school hall. Sponsored by the Annunciation Women of Mercy and Joy.

**St. Rose of Lima School in Thomasville, 100th anniversary celebration,** April 27. Mass at 4 p.m. at St. Rose of Lima Church, celebrated by Bishop Ronald Gainer. Dinner reception at Our Door County Club in York. Purchase reception tickets, $50, at www.saintroseoflimayork.org.

**The Music Society of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Spring Grove, Organ Concert and Community Hymn Sing,** May 5 from 4-5 p.m. in the church. Guest organist Todd B. Davis was featured in the magazine, “The American Organist,” in October 2018. See the special events heading at www.sacredheartsg.com for details.

**St. John the Baptist in New Freedom, Lenten dinner on April 12 from 4-7 p.m. in the social hall.** Selections include Italian breaded haddock, breaded shrimp, pasta with homemade marinara sauce, lentil soup, tossed salad, and bread. Kids’ meal with fish sticks, tater tots and applesauce. Homemade desserts. Beverages included. Dinner platters range from $8-$20; kids’ meal $7. For full menu, visit “Upcoming Events” at www.sbjnf.org.

**St. Paul the Apostle Pro-Life Committee is showing the film “Gosnell” on May 5 at 5 p.m. at the Allen Theatre, Annville Pa. This film is the true story of the investigation and trial of Dr. Kermit Gosnell, based on the book “Gosnell: The Untold Story of America’s Most Prolific Serial Killer.” Free-will donations accepted at the door benefit Understed Courage, a pro-life organization. Rated PG-13. Contact sandrapav@verizon.net.

**Lancaster Catholic High School hosts ‘The Confessinals,’ performing hits of the 60s, 70s and 80s, May 11 from 7:30-10 p.m. in the cafeteria. Snacks, drinks, beer and wine. Must be 21 or older. Event is free. Contact 717-509-0313 or Betty at bissacoun@lchsyes.org to RSVP by May 3. Tables of 8-10 can be reserved.

**York Catholic High School’s Spring Open House,** May 1 from 6-7:30 p.m. Prospective high school students interested in enrolling may stop by the school and talk with faculty and staff. For information, call the school at 717-846-8871, ext. 220.

**York Catholic High School’s art students will host a public display of their work at the school,** April 30, May 1-2 from 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and April 30 from 7-8:30 p.m. More than 350 students receive art instruction in pencil drawing, canvas painting, marker designs, portraits, linoleum block prints, watercolors, charcoal drawings and sculpture. For information, call the school at 717-846-8871.

**York Catholic High School’s Spring Concerts, featuring the Senior High Concert on April 28 at 6 p.m. with the Concert Band, Concert Choir, and Jazz Band, and the Junior High Concert on April 29 at 7 p.m. with the Junior High Chorus and Junior High Band. Free admission.**

**Diocesan Notebook continues on page 15**
OBITUARIES

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

Anville
St. Paul the Apostle:
Marge Podged
Lambert Warman, Jr.

Bloomsburg
St. Columbia:
Richard K. Hall

Buchanan Valley
St. Ignatius Loyola:
John "Jack" Hector

Camp Hill
Good Shepherd:
Theresa Askey
Barbara O’Gorek

Columbia
St. Peter:
Howard Eck

Conewago
Sacred Heart of Jesus:
Robert Miller

Elizabethtown
St. Peter:
Mary Cravens

Elysburg
Queen of the Most Holy Rosary:
Marie Apichell
Margaret Mary Bradley

Hershey
St. Joan of Arc:
Richard Accers
Joe Caliero
Sally Kaiser
Robert McRedmond

Lancaster
Assumption BVM:
Harry Ille
St. Anne:
Mary Jane Autrey
Carole Coady
Carmella “Dolly” Mazzarese

Lebanon
Assumption BVM:
Anthony B. Kuzo

Mechanicsburg
St. Joseph:
Jean Geoffner
Joseph Guilday
Leonard S. Keever
John Loiper
Chester Rogowicz

Middletown
Seven Srovers BVM:
Martha Jansen

Millersville
St. Philip the Apostle:
Lawrence Gallagher
Al Matyi
Richard Mercadent

Mount Carmel
Divine Redeemer:
Marita T. Barletta
Alexander S. Filoshko

Our Lady of Mount Carmel:
Nicholas Bizzaro Jr.
Nancy Boylan
Robert Lazarks

New Cumberland
St. Theresa:
Richard Crossley
Maria Teresa Piscioneri

New Freedom
St. John the Baptist:
Alfred R. "Rick" Barbour, Jr.
Justine N. Boyle
David Denoncourt
Alonzo D. Sribe
Ann Nefford
Mary S. Peck
Dianne J. Steward

John Tuminello
June Young

New Oxford
Immaculate Conception BVM:
Jean Overbaugh

Palmyra
Holy Spirit:
Dorothy A. Mchel
Dorothy H. McKinley
Clairence F. Patteson

Father Louis J. Petruha, OFM Cap.

Father Louis Petruha, OFM Cap., died March 31 at UPMC Shadyside Hospital in Pittsburgh following an extended illness, surrounded by his Capuchin brothers, family and friends. He was 80 years old.

Born John Paul Petruha on Feb. 20, 1939, he grew up in the Stanton Heights neighborhood of Pittsburgh. He entered St. Fidelis College and Seminary in Herman, Pa., in 1953. At the end of his sophomore year in college, he entered the Capuchin noviceate in 1959, where he received his religious name, professing his first vows on July 14, 1960. He received a bachelor’s degree in Philosophy from the seminary and professed his final vows in 1963 while studying theology at Capuchin College in Washington, D.C. He was ordained to the priesthood in the chapel of St. Fidelis on October 24, 1965. He completed his Master’s Degree in Religious Education at Capuchin College the following year.

With the exception of a single year serving as an instructor at the Capuchin Novitiate in Antaman, Md., (1966-67) and five years forming future Capuchin priests and brothers at Capuchin College as Spiritual Director and then Guardian (1975-80), Father Petruha spent his entire priestly life in parish work, serving in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Maryland. In the Diocese of Harrisburg, he served as pastor of St. Joseph Parish in York from 2001-2005.

As his health began to fail during his last years in York, Father Petruha served as Senior Priest at Our Lady of the Mountains Parish in Cumberland, Md., where he continued to his priestly ministry until his medical conditions deteriorated.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Augustine Church in Lawrenceville on April 6. Burial was in the friars’ plot of St. Augustine Cemetery. Donations in memory of Father Petruha can be made to the Capuchin Friars, 220 37th Street, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15201.

Sister Anne Marie Shuster

Sister Anne Marie Shuster, 75, of Fairview Twp., New Cumberland, died April 2 at her home. She was a professed hermit in the Diocese of Harrisburg.

She retired as an administrator for the Commonwealth of PA, Dept. of Education, Bureau of Certification in Harrisburg. On April 4, 2016, she professed to become a Hermit Sister in a ceremony presided over by Bishop Ronald Gainer and Father Phil Burger. Born Jan. 7, 1944, in Sellerville, she was the daughter of the late Francis H. and Anne M. Byers.

She was a graduate of St. John Paul the Great School, South Abington Township, Pa., 18411. She graduated from North Catholic High School, Pittsburgh, in 1962, and from the Capuchin Sisters’ St. Mary Academy, Pittsburgh, in 1965, with a degree in Business Administration.

She then entered the Capuchin Sisters’ Redemptoris Mater Seminary of Pittsburgh, where she professed her first vows in 1967 and her solemn vows in 1972.

Her religious name was Sister Cecilia Maria of Jesus, and she served as a teacher in the Diocese of Harrisburg at St. John the Baptist School in Dunmore, St. Mary’s School in Wilkes-Barre, and St. Joseph School in New Cumberland. She was a member of the Daughters of St. Paul for 28 years and served as a sister consultant for the Diocese of Harrisburg.

Sister Cecilia Maria died April 2 at the Convent of Our Lady of Divine Providence in Soquel, Calif. Surviving are her sister, Sister Margaret Marie of Jesus of the Convent of Our Lady of Divine Providence in Soquel, Calif.

Spend the summer at Lancaster Catholic. Academic camps with SAT prep, fine and performing arts camps with drama classes, athletic camps with boys’ and girls’ basketball camps. A full listing of summer camps can be found at www.lchsyes.org/summercamps/. Early bird registration ends May 1.

Food Truck Festival, presented by St. Fidelis College and Seminary, will be held June 16 from 6-9 p.m. at the college. Admission is free. Food trucks will include Fischy’s, Fuzzy’s, Lady K’s, and Simply. Entertainment includes corn hole and ladder ball, hair braiding, face painting and live music. Details can be found at kaupascenterdrc@ptd.net with questions.

Job Openings

Mother Maria Kaupas Center in Mount Carmel, seeking a project manager. Partial funding for the part-time position provided through a grant from the Koch Foundation. Duties include planning and overseeing community service projects by college-age volunteers and working with Bucknell University students through the Coal Region Field Station. Send resumé to the Mother Maria Kaupas Center, 438 W. Avenue, Mount Carmel 17851 or kaupascenterdrc@ptd.net. Contact Jake Betz at 570-339-3450, ext. 7, or kaupascenterdrc@ptd.net with questions.
St. Joseph Parish in Berwick observed the solemnity of its patron saint in March with a concelebrated Mass, followed by a reception in the church hall featuring the traditional St. Joseph Altar.

The tradition is from Sicily, and recounts a table prepared with an assortment of foods the people prepared in honor of St. Joseph, to whom they prayed while in the grips of a famine. Today, the tradition features breads, pastries and cookies on a decorated table, and sometimes includes photos of deceased loved ones.

Father Matthew Larlick, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, learned about the custom from friends in the seminary. The first St. Joseph Altar at the parish was held in conjunction with the parish’s 90th anniversary in 2018. Father Larlick hopes it will become an enduring tradition and part of parish life.

Diocese’s Annual Scout Recognition Mass

Sunday, June 16 at 2:00 p.m. | Good Shepherd Church in Camp Hill

All Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, American Heritage Girls and Trail Life USA Members and their families are invited to attend. Scouts who have completed any of the Catholic religious awards in the past year will be recognized for their accomplishments.

Recognition information and registration is under the Youth tab at www.hbgdiocese.org. For more information, contact 717-657-4804, ext. 327.