Bishop Ronald Gainer washes and kisses the feet of members of the Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick in Harrisburg during the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord’s Supper. The washing of the feet calls the faithful to imitate Jesus’ example of service.

Easter Letter from Bishop Gainer

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“Christ, my hope, is risen!”

(Easter Sequence)

Since these words were written in the 11th century, they have become part of the Easter celebrations of the Church. This powerful message concludes the testimony attributed to Saint Mary Magdalene in the Easter Sequence. She is the first eye-witness who recounts the signs of the glorious Resurrection. As the “apostle to the Apostles,” as Saint Thomas Aquinas calls her, she becomes the first evangelist in the life of the Church after the Resurrection, bearing witness to the beautiful truth of hope she held deeply in her heart, as a woman “who so loved Christ and was so greatly loved by Christ” (Rabanus Maurus, de Vita Mariae Magdalanae, prologus).

Saint Mary Magdalene rightfully takes her place among the Lord’s disciples; she stood by the Cross on Good Friday because of her faithful and tenacious love for Him; and, she went to the garden tomb early on Easter morning where she would become the first “witness of Divine Mercy” (Gregory the Great, XL Hom. In Evangelia, lib. II Hom 25,10). In her encounter with the Risen Lord, Jesus entrusts to her the good news of His Resurrection, a message of hope in the power of divine mercy that will draw the Apostles from the despair of deadly defeat into the victorious joy of new life. The Gospel reminds us that she not only told them about the Resurrection but also where to find the Risen Lord, “He has been raised from the dead, and he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him” (Matt 28:7).

With the Church throughout the world, we, too, will give voice to these words of the Easter Sequence on Easter Sunday that proclaim our faith and entrust to us the same work of evangelization. In a time when many members of the Church feel a sense of uncertainty and despair, it might be helpful for us to remember that the work of proclaiming the Good News begins within the
The Catholic Witness concludes its series on 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: How will the Diocese demonstrate greater transparency? A: We are being vigilant in our efforts to share information with our pastors, parishioners, staff and the public on Diocesan operations. Through our renewed communication efforts to publish this information in The Catholic Witness, on our website and through the media, we will be found on the Frequently Asked Questions page of our Youth Protection website and through the media, we will be sharing and trust will be restored through our renewed communication efforts to publish this information.

Q: Has the Diocese been accepting the best men to join our clergy? A: During my day, if you didn’t break the rules and passed the tests, you were ordained. Today, each candidate for seminary must undergo state background checks, trainings and thorough counseling and evaluation before even being admitted into seminary. These men are then evaluated every year throughout their six to eight years of formation, to determine if they should be advanced to the next level of formation. We have a rigorous program in place to ensure we are only accepting the best men to join our clergy in service of our Church.

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Diocesan Institute Strives to ‘Go and Make Disciples’

By Rachel Bryson, M.S.
*The Catholic Witness*

“Teach me knowledge and good judgment, for I trust your commands.” This request from Psalm 119:66 inspires all to continually seek knowledge and information on our faith. This quest is exactly what the Diocesan Institute for the Diocese of Harrisburg works to fulfill.

“The Diocesan Institute for Catechetical and Pastoral Formation provides academic and pastoral formation for adult Catholics involved in service to the Church, as well as those seeking personal enrichment,” said Ryan Bolster, Director of the Diocesan Office for Adult Education and Catechist Formation. Bolster oversees the Institute and its progranming.

“The Institute assists the laity in their lifelong journey of faith formation by providing opportunities for them to deepen their understanding of Sacred Scripture, Catholic theology and authentic spirituality, and by enabling them to develop the necessary skills to become more effective ministers in the service of the Catholic faithful in the Diocese of Harrisburg.”

The Institute, which is supported through the Diocesan Annual Campaign, is open to all adults who wish to learn more about the Catholic faith. There are very modest registration fees, which are used to defray the cost of the instructors.

“Courses are offered at the Diocesan Center and at parishes and schools throughout the Diocese,” Bolster said. “Many are also available via webinar, allowing for live, remote participation. Because the webinars are recorded, they are also available for viewing at a later time.”

According to Bolster, there are a wide range of class topics offered through the Institute.

“Courses covering the basic teachings of the Catholic faith are offered (e.g. The Creed, Liturgy and Sacraments, Morality, Scripture, Prayer), as well as methodological courses for those who teach the faith,” said Bolster.

“The Institute offers more specialized formation courses for those who are involved in various types of parish ministry (e.g., youth ministry, adult education, R.C.I.A.). Lastly, elective offerings on a wide variety of topics related to the Catholic faith are offered.”

Evangelizing through Education

Before ascending into Heaven, Jesus instructed His disciples to make disciples of all nations, or to teach. “From the beginning, teaching what Christ Himself handed on to His Apostles has been an integral part of the Church’s continuing mission to make disciples. From then until today, by Christ’s design, the bishops, successors of the twelve Apostles, are responsible for teaching the Catholic faith. The Diocesan Institute exists to help form those in our Diocese who assist Bishop Gainer in the Church’s mission to make disciples,” said Bolster.

Many courses in the Diocesan Institute are available via webinar, allowing for live, remote participation from the comforts of home.

Dan Morrow is one of those who has participated in the Institute.

“I have found the courses to be well structured. The information is presented in an easy to understand fashion with ways that we can apply it to our lives. The recorded versions of the course are nice because they include audio recordings of the instructors teaching the lesson with power points included,” Morrow said.

Morrow added the Institute is an important program for the Diocese because, “it provides teachers with content that directly impacts their teaching. It is also very convenient as teachers can opt to work on the course at home which can fit around their busy schedules.”

Bolster continued that, “as important as it is for those who teach the faith to ‘know their stuff,’ that’s not nearly enough. When it comes to the person-to-person business of making disciples for Christ, most effective are those who witness to the truth of what they teach with their very lives. They don’t just teach the faith – they live it for others to see. The Diocesan Institute assists Catholics in assuming their God-given responsibility for personal lifelong faith formation as Disciples of Christ, in the service of making disciples.”

You Make a Difference

The Diocesan Institute is one of the many programs supported by the Diocesan Annual Campaign. Through the support of the laity across the Diocese 15 counties, each member is helping fulfill the Lord’s command to “go and make disciples.”

“The Church teaches us that adult faith formation takes precedence over all other forms. This is so because adults are in the best position to live the demands (of) the Gospel to the fullest and thereby serve the Church’s mission of proclaiming the Gospel to the world,” said Bolster. “And when it comes to passing on the faith, parents, teachers and other adults cannot give to children and adolescents what they themselves do not have. As such, adult faith formation is vital to the life of Church, and the Diocesan Institute provides such formation in our local Church.”

To view the current schedule of Diocesan Institute offerings, visit the Institute’s page under the Education tab of the Diocesan website, www.hbgdiocese.org. For information about the Diocesan Institute or obtaining catechetical certification in the Diocese of Harrisburg, contact Ryan Bolster at 717-657-4804, ext. 225, or rbolster@hbgdiocese.org.

To learn more about the Diocesan Annual Campaign, including how you can support the important ministries of the Diocese, please visit www.hbgdiocese.org/diocesan-annual-campaign.

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

And remember, previous editions of the newspaper – dating back to early 2011 – are also available online. You can find them at www.hbgdiocese.org. Just follow the News/Events tab to The Catholic Witness page.
Exemplary Service and Growth Result in Consecutive Double Star Award for Knights at Holy Infant Parish

By Jen Reed

The Catholic Witness

A flourish in membership numbers and a dynamic quantity of activities have earned the Father Edward Gerrity Council #10474 of the Knights of Columbus a prestigious accolade from the Supreme Council: the Double Star Council Award.

The award is given to councils that exhibit service to the Church and community, increase members’ awareness of the fraternal benefits of the organization’s insurance program, and double their quota for new membership. Of the 16,000 Knights of Columbus councils worldwide, less than 4 percent earn the Double Star each year.

Council #10474, from Holy Infant Parish in Manchester, has received it for the second year in a row.

“It is certainly not an easy task to do, but we have a wonderfully active council with a great mix of older and younger members,” said Grand Knight Robert Farabaugh. “Not only do these men answer the call to be a Knight, they volunteer to be active in the council as well,” he said.

Attracting Members

If a council wants to attract and retain members, it must be active in its endeavors to serve, said Farabaugh. At Holy Infant, council activities number nearly 40, enough to suit every member’s interest while fulfilling the worldwide organization’s commitment to community, faith, family and pro-life values.

Among the activities: the March for Life in Washington, D.C., recitation of the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet four times a year, a Mass for couples serving the York Deanery split parish. When the more than 600 Knights of Columbus Council #10474 earlier this year. From left are Father Joseph Stahura, a retired priest of the Diocese; Dr. Mark Tolaro, CEO of Catholic Charities; Robert Farabaugh, Grand Knight of Council #10474; and Christopher Meehan, Director of Development for Catholic Charities.

A $2,000 donation to the Priests’ Retirement Residence in Harrisburg was made by Knights of Columbus Council #10474 earlier this year. From left are Father Joseph Stahura, a retired priest of the Diocese; Dr. Mark Tolaro, CEO of Catholic Charities; Robert Farabaugh, Grand Knight of Council #10474; and Christopher Meehan, Director of Development for Catholic Charities.

5,000 hours of service.

“The Knights are Catholic men who love their faith and have a real calling to share it,” said Father William Forrey, pastor of Holy Infant Parish. “It means a lot to me as a pastor, knowing that if there is any need, I can turn to the Knights.”

Activities for Everyone

Council #10474 was established in 1990, and named for Father Edward Gerrity, who was assigned as Holy Infant’s first pastor after it was elevated from a mission to a parish. When the more than 600 Knights in a council serving the York Deanery split into separate councils at the parish level, Jerry Zurick went door-to-door with his cousin to recruit the 30 men needed for its formation at Holy Infant.

“There weren’t a lot of council projects back then, but we had a good core, and some of our founders are still members,” said Zurick, who still serves on the council.

The Knights had intended to purchase a council home years ago, and built up quite a savings for it. However, when it was decided by the Supreme Council that individual councils could no longer own property, the Knights at Holy Infant used the funds to benefit the parish.

“When Holy Infant Parish built a new church in June of 2016, the council gave $170,000 to the project: $100,000 toward the church, $50,000 for a new pavilion and $20,000 for the rectory,” said Charles Zitnick, a Knight and the chair of the parish’s Building Committee.

Other charitable donations are made possible through the council’s main fundraisers: weekly Bingo and an annual chicken barbecue.

“The Bingo takes a lot of man hours to run every week. We have a number of members who are dedicated to it, and then we have extra people who show up to help. You can’t do it without the dedicated volunteers,” said Richard Hazenstein.

The fundraisers enable the council to offer financial support to a bevy of projects. These have included a $10,000 donation to York Catholic High School’s Capital Campaign; yearly financial support of a seminarian and the Diocese’s Quo Vadis Days vocation retreat; the purchase of an ultrasound machine for the Women’s Care Center in York; yearly $1,000 donations to area food pantries; $1,000 scholarships for a graduating senior and for a student to attend a parochial school; support for local first responder units; and yarn for the parish’s Prayer Shawl Ministry.

But they aren’t stopping there. Farabaugh said this year’s plans include a CPR class for parishioners, a novena for the unborn, formation of the “That Man is You” program, involvement with Habitat for Humanity, and the purchase of picnic tables for the parish pavilion.

For council members, participation in the Knights of Columbus is all about service.

“In life, I realized I was placed on this earth to serve. There is so much that can be done,” said Terry Bradunas. “It started when I once stopped to change a tire for some women in the pouring rain. The feeling of service was so great, I couldn’t kick it. That’s a feeling all of us have when we serve.”

“I’ve always tried to help out where I could,” said council member Gary Clemens, a former Scout leader and member of the Veterans’ Honor Guard. “Since I’ve gotten into the Knights of Columbus, I’ve found it is the best organization I’ve ever been in. What I do is part of something that has a greater impact beyond myself. This organization, especially at Holy Infant, makes a positive impact on everything it does.”

Learn more about the mission of the Knights of Columbus and find a council at www.kofc.org.
Clergy Changes Effective June 17

The Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer, Bishop of Harrisburg, has made the following appointments, effective June 17, 2019.

- The Reverend Monsignor William M. Richardson from pastor, Mary, Gate of Heaven Parish, Myerstown, to retirement.
- The Reverend J. Michael McFadden from pastor, St. Theresa of the Infant Jesus Parish, New Cumberland, to retirement.
- The Reverend Paul C. Helwig from pastor, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Parish, Harrisburg, to retirement.
- The Very Reverend Jonathan P. Sawicki from pastor, Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, York, and chaplain at York Catholic High School, to Vocation Director for the Diocese of Harrisburg with residence at the Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick, Harrisburg.
- The Very Reverend Neil S. Sullivan from pastor, St. Catherine Laboure Parish, Harrisburg, to pastor, Good Shepherd Parish, Camp Hill.
- The Very Reverend Stephen W. Fauser from pastor, St. Peter Parish, Elizabethtown, to pastor, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, New Holland.
- The Reverend Brian J. Wayne from Vocation Director for the Diocese of Harrisburg and campus minister, Millersville University, Millersville, to pastor, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Lancaster.
- The Reverend Leo M. Goodman from pastor, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Lancaster, to pastor, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Parish, Harrisburg.
- The Reverend Philip G. Burger from pastor, Good Shepherd Parish, Camp Hill, to pastor, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Abbottstown.
- The Reverend Michael E. Messner from pastor, Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Lancaster, and campus minister at Franklin and Marshall College, to pastor, Mary, Gate of Heaven Parish, Myerstown, and chaplain, Lebanon Catholic School.
- The Reverend Timothy D. Marcone from pastor, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Abbottstown, to pastor, St. Joseph Parish, Danville.
- The Reverend Kyle Sahd from pastor, St. Mark the Evangelist Parish, Greencastle, and St. Luke the Evangelist Mission, Mercersburg, to pastor, St. Theresa of the Infant Jesus Parish, New Cumberland, and chaplain to SCI, Camp Hill.
- The Reverend James E. Lease from pastor, St. Joseph Parish, Danville, to pastor, St. Catherine Laboure Parish, Harrisburg.
- The Reverend Kevin J. Coyle from parochial Vicar, St. Catherine Laboure Parish, Harrisburg, and chaplain, Bishop McDevitt High School, Harrisburg, to pastor, St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Annville.
- The Reverend Michael G. Metzgar from parochial vicar, Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Harrisburg, to pastor, Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Lancaster.
- The Reverend John M. Kuchinski from parochial vicar, St. Francis Xavier Parish, Gettysburg, and campus minister, Gettysburg College, to pastor, Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, York.
- The Reverend Joshua R. Cavender from parochial vicar, St. Patrick Parish, Carlisle, and campus minister, Dickinson College and Dickinson School of Law, Carlisle, to campus minister, Millersville University, Millersville, and Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster.
- At the request of Archbishop Douglas Nowicki, OSB: The Reverend Job Foote, OSB, from pastor, St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Annville, to reassignment by his community.
- The Very Reverend Stephen W. Fauser from pastor, Good Shepherd Parish, Camp Hill, to pastor, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Abbottstown.
- At the presentation of the Very Reverend Dominic Eshikena, OP, Vicar Provincial for North America and the Caribbean: The Reverend Bernard Ayo Oniwe, OP, from administrator, St. Peter Parish, Elizabethtown, to pastor, St. Peter Parish, Elizabethtown.
- At the request of Archbishop Douglas Nowicki, OSB: The Reverend Job Foote, OSB, from pastor, St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Annville, to reassignment by his community.

The Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick’s Mercy Matters Committee, together with Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg’s Office of Immigration and Refugee Services and the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, has re-scheduled “Human Trafficking in our Midst: A Catholic Response” to May 13, at 6:30 p.m., in Cathedral Hall, Harrisburg.

Human Trafficking is not just an issue in large cities around the country; it occurs right here in south central Pennsylvania. Eliminating human trafficking and empowering survivors has been a historic concern of the Catholic Church. Learn more at this free presentation.

Holy Hours for Ordination

Friday, May 31, 2019

MATTHEW CANNON
6:00 p.m. at Saint Leo the Great Parish, Lancaster

SAMUEL MILLER
7:00 p.m. at Saint James Parish, Lititz

ANDREW ST. HILAIRE
7:00 p.m. at Saint Francis Xavier Parish, Gettysburg

JOSHUA WEAVER
7:00 p.m. at Saint Joseph Parish, Mechanicsburg

Presentation on Human Trafficking

May 13 at 6:30 p.m.
Cathedral Hall, Harrisburg

The Diocese of Harrisburg joyfully announces the 2019 Priesthood Ordination

Ordination to the Priesthood

Saturday, June 1, 2019, 10:00 a.m.

MATTHEW EDWARD CANNON
SAMUEL EDWARD GOOD MILLER
ANDREW PHILIP ST. HILAIRE
JOSHUA ROBERT WEAVER

Saint Patrick Cathedral
212 State Street, Harrisburg, PA
Hope from the Ashes: President, Archbishop Vow to Rebuild Notre Dame

By Cindy Wooden

The president of France and the archbishop of Paris have vowed to rebuild Notre Dame Cathedral after a devastating fire, continuing what a professor of architecture described as the natural lifecycle of a historic building.

Steven W. Semes, a professor and director of graduate studies in the Historic Preservation Program at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, said he was as shocked and stunned as everyone watching on television as the building burned April 15.

“Like all historic monuments,” he said, Notre Dame Cathedral is “the result of hundreds and hundreds of years of development” with an initial idea, a long and labor-intensive construction process, design changes, additions, demolitions and remodeling over and over again as fashions and usages change.

So, from the initial construction, which began in 1160, the cathedral “was transformed multiple times,” he told Catholic News Service in Rome, where he regularly teaches. When one looked at Notre Dame before the fire, “we weren’t seeing the cathedral as it was built, we were seeing it through layers of change.”

“Buildings and cities do change through time,” Semes said. “We wouldn’t go see a painting by Rembrandt that four people had painted over, but we look at almost any historic building and we see something that has been restored multiple times — sometimes restored in a way very faithful to an early state and sometimes not.”

By April 16, adding that the priest showed “no fear at all as he made straight for the relics inside the cathedral, and made sure they were saved. He deals with life and death every day and shows no fear.”

The priest was said to be at the top, or “hot end” of the human chain that included city workers and church caretakers who entered the burning cathedral to save irreplaceable religious items and pieces of art.

French Culture Minister Franck Riester said the saved items include the crown of thorns said to have been worn by Jesus before his crucifixion and a tunic once worn by St. Louis in the 13th century.

During the night of April 15, before the flames were extinguished, Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo tweeted an image of the roof timbers, Hurley told The Catholic Witness. “Despite the devastation, these symbols of faith and devotion still stand as signs of inspiration to all who see them. In this unanticipated aftermath of our pilgrimage through France, we are also called to give witness to our faith and thanks for the blessings we receive from our loving God,” she said.

The key to understanding Notre Dame Cathedral was summarized by Paris Archbishop Michel Aupetit in a television interview in the wee hours of April 16: “Why was this beauty built? What jewel was this case meant to contain? Not the crown of thorns (a relic saved from the fire), but a piece of bread that we believe is the body of Christ.”

Pope Francis, in a message April 16 to Archbishop Aupetit, expressed his solidarity with the sadness of Parisians, calling Notre Dame “an architectural jewel of a collective memory, the gathering place for many major events, the witness of the faith and prayer of Catholics in the city.”

The pope also expressed his confidence that the cathedral would be rebuilt and continue its vocation as “a sign of the faith of those who built it, the mother church of your diocese, (and) the architectural and spiritual heritage of Paris, France and humanity.”

French President Emmanuel Macron expressed determination to rebuild, and said, “we realize once again that the Christian roots of the country are still at the heart of France.”

(Contributing to this story was Jen Reed of The Catholic Witness.)

Fire Chaplain Helped Save Artifacts

By Catholic News Service

A hero emerging from the Notre Dame Cathedral fire April 15 is Father Jean-Marc Fournier, chaplain of the Paris Fire Brigade, who is credited with saving a reliquary containing the crown of thorns and the Blessed Sacrament from the burning cathedral.

The fire chaplain reportedly demanded to be allowed into the cathedral along with firefighters to retrieve the cathedral’s relics.

“Father Fournier is an absolute hero,” a member of the Paris fire department told reporters April 16, adding that the priest showed “no fear at all as he made straight for the relics inside the cathedral, and made sure they were saved. He deals with life and death every day and shows no fear.”

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During the night of April 15, before the flames were extinguished, Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo tweeted an image of theuide it and maintaining it. This is truly an act of devotion; it is a kind of sacramental.”

Karen Hurley, a parishioner in the Diocese of Harrisburg, was at the cathedral less than two weeks before the fire, with a group of pilgrims visiting the Shriners of France as part of the 70th anniversary celebration of St. Catherine Laboure Parish in Harrisburg.

“We humbly gathered in prayer and worship at the foot of the marble Pietà and majestic golden cross which now amazingly appear in photographs to be unscathed though surrounded by rubble of burnt wood.”

A reliquary containing what tradition holds is Jesus’ crown of thorns is displayed during a ceremony at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris on March 21, 2014. The reliquary was saved by a human chain, led by Father Jean-Marc Fournier, Chaplain of the Paris Fire Brigade.
Beloved sons, on the anniversary of that day when Christ our Lord conferred his priesthood on his Apostles and on us, are you resolved to renew in the presence of your Bishop and God’s holy people, the promises you once made?

Are you resolved to be more united with the Lord Jesus and more closely conformed to him, denying yourselves and confirming those promises about sacred duties toward Christ’s Church which, prompted by love of him, you willingly and joyfully pledged on the day of your priestly ordination?

Are you resolved to be faithful stewards of the mysteries of God in the Holy Eucharist and the other liturgical rites and to discharge faithfully the sacred office of teaching, following Christ the Head and Shepherd, not seeking any gain, but moved only by zeal for souls?

“I am.”
HOLY WEEK

HOLY WEEK of the Sick provides the sick with a remedy for illness of mind and body, so that they may have strength to bear their suffering, resist evil and obtain the forgiveness of sins.

Sacred Chrism, mixed with fragrant balsam, takes its name from Christ, “the anointed one of the Lord.” It is used in the Sacrament of Confirmation, the anointing of priests and bishops during ordination, and in the dedication of new churches and altars. In Confirmation, Christians receive the spiritual anointing of the Holy Spirit as Chrism is placed on their foreheads.

Priests, through the anointing of their hands during ordination, are consecrated to offer sacrifice; bishops are anointed on their heads as a sign of their share in the priesthood of Jesus Christ.

At the conclusion of the Chrism Mass, the oils were taken to the Diocesan Center in Harrisburg, where they were distributed for priests to take back to their parishes.

The Commitment

Standing before Bishop Gainer and in front of a full and supportive congregation, the priests of the Diocese renewed the commitment to priestly service they first made at their ordination. The congregation then stood behind the priests, as the bishop addressed them: “As for you, dearest sons and daughters, pray for your priests, that the Lord may pour out his gifts abundantly upon them, and keep them faithful as ministers of Christ, the High Priest, so that they may lead you to him, who is the source of salvation.”

The assembly responded, “Christ, hear us. Christ, graciously hear us.”

In those moments, surrounded by his brother priests, and with the prayerful support of the faithful, Father Stephen Kelley said he reflected on “the awesome responsibility that has been put into our hands, the beautiful call we have to bring God’s mercy to his people.”

“Young people should be grateful for the role that has been given to them,” he said. “It humbles me every time we enter back into our commitments,” said Father Kelley, pastor of Holy Trinity Parish in Columbia. He was ordained on June 1, 2013.

“Who am I that I have been chosen to have this role in people’s lives?” he reflected. “We are invited to people’s death beds, to be there at the most sacred and precious times of their lives because God called us to. For the faithful to allow us to represent Christ to them is something I couldn’t live up to, were it not for God’s grace. This is his plan for us as priests, and it’s incredibly wonderful to have this vocation.”

Father Michael Reid, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Hanover, said the Renewal of Commitment to Priestly Service this year took on a different meaning for him in the wake of the clergy sex abuse scandal.

“When the Grand Jury Report came out [in August], I had a sense of being alone as a priest. It was a time of deep reflection for me. I was mourning for the individuals who were abused. This Chrism Mass had a greater meaning of being a part of the priesthood, showing that we are not alone in the priesthood of Christ and the building up of God’s Kingdom. There is a spirit of unity in the grace of our ordination,” said Father Reid, who was ordained on June 3, 2000.

The prayers of the faithful are truly uplifting,” he said. “Through my years of discernment and in seminary, people would often say, ‘Please pray for me,’ and I came to realize that the moment to pray for people is the moment they request it. When people see me now and ask for my prayers, I stop right there and pray with them.

“Prayers are so powerful,” he said. “Hearing the prayers of the people at the Chrism Mass reminded me of all the people I’ve served and the number of people who continue to pray for me. It shows the heartfelt care and concern of the people for their priests.”
The greatest and most noble of all solemnities, the Easter Vigil is the night when the Church keeps watch and awaits Christ’s return in glory. Its fire and candles symbolize the light of the Resurrection.

The Easter Vigil is celebrated in parishes throughout the diocese. Bishop Ronald W. Gainer celebrated the Easter Vigil at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg. It began outside with the lighting of the Easter Fire, symbolizing that there is no darkness or death that Christ cannot conquer.

With the congregation assembled, the Easter Candle was brought forward as the symbol of the light of Christ scattering the darkness, and lit from the fire. The congregation then processed into the darkened cathedral with candles, until the cathedral lights were lit for the continuation of the liturgy.

At the Easter Vigil, the Liturgy of the Word begins with the entire history of salvation in the readings from the Old and New Testaments.

It is also during the Easter Vigil that new members of the Catholic Church are baptized, confirmed and receive Holy Communion for the first time.

The vigil culminates with the celebration of the Eucharist in the middle of the night, making this night the most noble of all solemnities.

“Therefore, O Lord, we pray you that this candle, hallowed to the honor of your name, may persevere undimmed, to overcome the darkness of this night. Receive it as a pleasing fragrance, And let it mingle with the lights of heaven. May this flame be found still burning by the Morning Star: the one Morning Star who never sets, Christ your Son, Who, coming back from death’s domain, has shed his peaceful light on humanity, and lives and reigns for ever and ever.”

~ From the Easter Proclamation (Exsultet)
Only Risen Christ Can Bring Peace, Pope Says at Easter

By Junno Arocho Esteves  
Catholic News Service

As the machine of warfare continues to churn out more dangerous weaponry, only the power and joy of Christ’s resurrection can fill hearts with comfort and peace, Pope Francis said before giving his Easter blessing.

“May the one who gives us his peace end the roar of arms – both in areas of conflict and in our cities – and inspire the leaders of nations to work for an end to the arms race and the troubling spread of weaponry, especially in the economically more advanced countries,” the pope said as he prepared April 21 to give his Easter blessing “urbi et orbi” (to the city and the world).

Jesus’ resurrection from the dead is not only the start of a true renewal that “begins from the heart, from the conscience” but also the beginning of a new world “free from the slavery of sin and death” and now open to God’s kingdom of “love, peace and fraternity,” he said.

The pope’s prayer for peace came a few hours after news broke of multiple bombs that exploded in several churches and hotels in Sri Lanka, killing and wounding hundreds in the capital city of Colombo and the neighboring cities of Negombo and Batticaloa.

After giving his blessing, the pope expressed “sadness and pain” at the attack before leading the crowd in several moments of silent prayer for the victims.

“I wish to express my affectionate closeness to the Christian community, struck while it was gathered in prayer, and to all the victims of such cruel violence,” the pope said. “I entrust to the Lord all those who have been tragically lost and I pray for the wounded and all those who suffer because of this tragic event.”

According to the Vatican, an estimated 70,000 pilgrims attended the Easter evening Mass in St. Peter’s Square, where a vast floral arrangement adorning the steps leading to the basilica highlighted the festive atmosphere.

Pope Francis did not deliver a homily during the Mass; instead, an announcer invited the crowd to remain in silent prayer for several minutes. As a hushed silence filled the packed square, Pope Francis remained with eyes closed, hands folded and head bowed in prayerful reflection.

Standing on the central balcony of St. Peter’s Basilica after celebrating the morning Mass, the pope prayed that the risen Christ shine his light upon “those experiencing hardship, pain and suffering,” especially in Syria, Yemen, Libya and the Holy Land.

“May the light of Easter illumine all government leaders and peoples in the Middle East, beginning with Israelis and Palestinians, and spur them to alleviate such great suffering and to pursue a future of peace and stability,” he said.

The pope prayed that Jesus would bring peace to the African continent, which he said was “still rife with social tensions, conflicts and at times violent forms of extremism that leave in their wake insecurity, destruction and death, especially in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Cameroon.”

He also prayed for peace in Sudan as well as neighboring South Sudan, whose leaders were recently at the Vatican for a spiritual retreat.

“May a new page open in the history of that country, in which all political, social and religious components actively commit themselves to the pursuit of the common good and the reconciliation of the nation,” the pope said.

Turning his attention toward Latin America, Pope Francis prayed for peace in Nicaragua so that a “negotiated solution” would bring peace to its people.

He also remembered the suffering people of Venezuela who “lack the minimal conditions for leading a dignified and secure life due to a crisis that endures and worsens.”

The pope prayed that political leaders in the country would put an “end to social injustices, abuses and acts of violence” while taking concrete steps “to heal divisions and offer the population the help they need.”

Before delivering his blessing, Pope Francis urged Christians to be renewed by the living Christ who “is hope and youth for each of us and for the entire world.”

“May the risen Christ, who flung open the doors of the tomb, open our hearts to the needs of the disadvantaged, the vulnerable, the poor, the unemployed, the marginalized, and all those who knock at our door in search of bread, refuge, and the recognition of their dignity,” he said.
Businesses Offer Scholarship Assistance through Diocesan Foundation

UGI Energy Services recently contributed $4,000 to the Diocese of Harrisburg’s Neumann Scholarship Foundation for scholarship assistance for students at Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg. The contribution was made possible by the business’ participation in the state’s Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit program, which provides tax credits to businesses that contribute to scholarship organizations, such as the Neumann Scholarship Foundation.

Shown from left in the photo are Jackie Nawa and Greg Oleksa of UGI; State Rep. Andrew Lewis of the 105th District; Father Edward J. Quinlan, Diocesan Secretary for Education; Bishop McDevitt High School student Megan Mwavra; Dr. Nancy Burke, Administrator Pro Tem of Bishop McDevitt High School; Pam Witmer of UGI; John Fulponi, Constituent Relations Specialist for Senator John DiSanto’s Office; and Erin Davis, Director of Development for Bishop McDevitt High School.

For information on the Neumann Scholarship Foundation and the tax credit programs, visit www.hbgdiocese.org/giving.

First National Bank recently contributed $100,000 to the Diocese of Harrisburg’s Neumann Scholarship Foundation for scholarship assistance for students in Diocesan schools. The contribution was made possible by First National Banks’ participation in the state’s Educational Improvement Tax Credit program, which provides tax credits to businesses that contribute to scholarship organizations, such as the Neumann Scholarship Foundation.

Shown from left in the photo are Troy Erdman, Relationship Manager, First National Bank; Beth O’Brien, Treasury Management Representative, First National Bank; Father Edward J. Quinlan, Diocesan Secretary for Education; Tony J. Sacco, President, Capital Region, First National Bank; Donald Kaercher, Chief Financial Officer for the Diocese of Harrisburg; Kim Roche, Director of Development for the Diocese of Harrisburg; and Greg Conrad, Regional Market Executive, First National Bank.

For information on the Neumann Scholarship Foundation and the tax credit programs, visit www.hbgdiocese.org/giving.

God-Given Talent, School Support are Keys for Student’s Spot in Carnegie Hall Performance

By Lisa Maddux
Special to The Witness

For Antonio Centenera, an eighth-grader at St. Patrick School in Carlisle, the way to get to Carnegie Hall is more than just practice.

A combination of natural skill, support at home and encouragement in school and extracurriculars has led the 14-year-old student to earn a spot performing this June at the world-renowned New York City venue.

Antonio’s audition for the American Association for Development of the Gifted and Talented earned him a gold medal and a performance spot in the Weill Recital Hall of Carnegie Hall on June 23. He’ll be one of 16 pianists in eight age groups to share that honor.

Antonio’s mother, JoAnn, said she and her husband Billy can only take credit for introducing Antonio and his fraternal twin brother Jose to music at an early age.

“From his very first lesson at the age of 4 ½, I could tell that Antonio had a real appreciation for music and rhythm,” Centenera said. “He didn’t just bang away on the piano keys like most toddlers his age would do. He played on the keys purposefully and would respond to the sounds he was creating.”

By 8, Antonio composed his first song. At 10, his first orchestral arrangement made its debut at the St. Patrick School band’s Spring Fine Arts Night recital.

Antonio auditioned for the Carnegie Hall competition with the complex Toccata in D Minor by Prokofiev. While he clearly can master the technicalities, it’s the more creative side of music that has Antonio hooked.

“I love the expressive side of music,” he said. “The goal is to make a unique interpretation of the piece, and to put your own style into the notes of the composer. That’s why I love it so much. Playing the piano is like pouring my very soul out onto the keys; it’s like singing a song.”

But just because it’s enjoyable doesn’t mean Antonio doesn’t work at it. He practices every day and puts in a few hours every weekend. Antonio and his mom credit his piano teacher of nearly 10 years, Ann Shurtz, with helping to nurture his gift.

“Ann has this unique ability to inspire young people to become passionate musicians,” Centenera said.

“Music has become like a second language to him.”

“We are very grateful to all of Antonio’s teachers at St. Patrick School who have helped him develop into the responsible and faith-filled young man he has become so far,” she said. “A lot of credit goes out to teachers Karen Berry (music), Sheila McKim (choir) and Lisa Delaney (band), who have helped foster his passion for music over the years.”

Despite his successes, Antonio views music as something that will stay more fun than work in the future. In fact, he has some big ideas when it comes to where his career path may lead.

“Right now I do think of piano as more of a hobby than a professional goal. I think that God gave me this great gift to help people, but I don’t know how yet,” he said.

“I’ve been thinking for some time now that I might be called to the priesthood; I really enjoy bringing people closer to Christ,” Antonio said. “I want everything that I do with God’s gifts to be for His glory.”

(Lisa Maddux is the Development Director for Saint Patrick School in Carlisle, www.spscarlisle.org.)
New Catholic Meditation App Breaches Secular Digital Market

By Mariah Chuprinski
Special to The Witness

Our Father... Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.

How many times have you prayed the words? Innumerable. But with all your heart, all your mind and all your soul, have you truly entered into them? A new app makes that possible. Named “Hallow,” it offers guided meditation sessions over the course of five, 10 or 15 minutes that lead users through prayer, calmly and carefully, step-by-step.

“We wanted to go out and teach the world how to pray,” said Alessandro DiSanto, a 2012 Bishop McDevitt High School graduate and one of the app’s founding members.

The app takes users through a nine-day introductory series, which acquaints first-timers with the practice of sitting in silence with God.

Users can pick from a male or female narration, as well as silence, Gregorian chant or ambient sounds as background music, to “gradually turn [their] attention to God,” as the narrator says in each session.

But it’s not just for beginners. Hallow has proven to be a resource for those already in the practice of prayer. It livens up any prayer routine, like Headspace and Calm use traditional Buddhist visualization techniques and breathing exercises in their secular, mass-market meditations.

Alex Jones, Hallow’s CEO and co-founder, wondered if the Catholic Church had “this meditation stuff,” DiSanto said. “Very ignorantly, he thought it should be a religious experience. It was more inwardly focused. We thought it was helpful, but it was more inwardly focused. We thought it should be a religious experience, not just the end in and of itself,” said DiSanto, who now is the head of finance and strategic partnerships for Hallow.

They sampled some popular meditation apps, like Headspace and Calm, to de-stress for a few minutes during a demanding work week.

“We thought it was helpful, but it was more inwardly focused. We thought it should be a religious experience, not just the end in and of itself,” said DiSanto, who now is the head of finance and strategic partnerships for Hallow.

They decided to try some things, said DiSanto, who now is the head of finance and strategic partnerships for Hallow.

It was almost out of a movie: “we are today without the Holy Spirit,” DiSanto said.

Hallow now employs five full-time and five part-time staffers, with plans to grow.

Structured to Pray

Hallow is structured in three categories: challenges, “praylists” and dailies.

Dailies – accessible in the app’s free version – include meditation, using Lectio Divina on the Gospel passage of the day, the Rosary, examen, and spiritual writing, where writing prompts direct the user to write a reflection in a journal.

“I love new meditations for the Rosary. I’ve been trying to do a daily Rosary, so Hallow has really helped me,” said Ann Deegan, a parishioner at the Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick in Harrisburg. “Once you start, it doesn’t allow me to get distracted as much during the Rosary.

Praylists are prayers molded into a series based on topics like joy, humility, love, finding calm, hope, gratitude and making decisions. Most are broken into approximately nine sessions, so users can pray over the course of nine days – a modern twist on the traditional novena.

Andrea Mahoney from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Mechanicsburg recently prayed through the Letting Go Praylist, meditating on the passage where Jesus tells His disciples to deny themselves and pick up their cross to follow Him.

“The word ‘deny’ stuck out to me in particular because I felt as though the Lord was asking me to deny my own plans for my life and desires completely, and lay them at the foot of His cross. It was a beautiful invitation to recommit myself to Him,” she said.

Challenges use Lectio Divina to guide users to meditate on a certain passage of scripture, like the Passion narrative, broken into the Stations of the Cross, or the Our Father.

“Just is a consciousness thing. It brings into your mind and consciousness a relationship with God. Everyone hears that God is alive, a living God, and he wants to have a relationship with us. We need to spend time getting to know him,” said Mike Pipa, a parishioner of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Harrisburg.

Some users praise the app’s accessibility and mobility.

“It can pray everywhere! I was praying in the sauna. I took my phone with me and sat in the sauna and did the Rosary. You can take it anywhere, pray anywhere!” said Tanya Dayton, who also attends Holy Name of Jesus Parish.

Dayton didn’t expect to like it because she is trying to limit her use of technology.

“But I really like it – it’s so easy to follow. It’s not overwhelming, it’s very simple,” she said.

The Hallow team expected its target audience to center around young professional women. But the team found that the actual population of users are more widely diverse.

Avid app users tend to be around a life event or change in lifestyle, like high school or college students, young professionals who have recently entered the workforce, recently married people, new parents, and empty-nesters, DiSanto said.

And it’s an evangelization tool, too, as prayer can be perceived as separate from one’s pre-held notion of “church,” DiSanto explained, reaching people who may have been away from the Church.

“Prayer sidesteps all the massive issues. This is just you and God,” DiSanto said.
Mary: Trust, Hope and Strength

By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
Special to The Witness

Some time ago, I came down with a case of the shingles at a place on my body where the sun doesn’t shine. I had always heard that this virus was very painful. In reality, I had no idea how painful it actually would be.

On the second day after my diagnosis, as the rash blossomed, the pain was horrible. I could not sit, stand or even lie down. I could not pray. All I could do was finger the beads of my Rosary, allowing the tears to stream down my face. I prayed, “Dearest Jesus. How, as a human, could your body with.

I could not help but think of this as I begin a new series of articles on our Blessed Mother. Whenever I think about her, I think of her trust in God. I came across a blog written by Phylicia Masonheimer that declared the following: “Trusting God is essential because it is by depending on Him that we receive the peace, joy and strength to endure whatever life gives us. Trusting God gives us confidence and security in our decisions. In truth, the entire Christian walk boils down to simply trusting God.”

Isn’t the entire story of our Blessed Mother, Mary, all about her trust in God’s plan for her? But what does trust look like? In her blog, Masonheimer notes three aspects of trust. The following aspects in bold are hers, but the reflections are mine.

Trusting God means knowing God – The word “know” indeed carries weight in Mary’s life. When the Angel Gabriel approaches her about the conception of Jesus, she answers, “How can this happen, I do not know man?” This “knowing” alludes to the intimate relationship between husband and wife. Our relationship with God must be this personal, this intimate; not just knowing about God. How can we deepen our knowing of God? Scripture and the sacraments. By studying God’s word and receiving grace freely given in the sacraments, we can build a foundation for trust.

Trusting God means listening to God – In order to truly listen to Him, we must spend quality time in prayer. Prayer is a two-way conversation. We speak and then we need to listen. God will truly speak to us in a way that we can understand. This requires a heart that is still enough and open enough to listen to the gentle whispers of God’s voice.

Trusting God means believing God – I truly believe that each of us struggle to believe in what God promises. Isn’t this the root of the sin of Adam and Eve? They doubted what God told them was truth. I know that when we have a hard time believing what God promises, we are being tempted, like our first parents.

One of the amazing aspects of Mary is that she knows how hard life can really be! If we contemplate her story, she becomes for us a role model in following her son. She is indeed a woman of trust, a woman of hope, a woman of strength!

1https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Co-Redemptrix

(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.)

Holy Family Radio Pledge Drive is May 7-9

Support Local Catholic Radio

Since 2011, Holy Family Radio (AM 720 WHYF) has been broadcasting outstanding Catholic programming over the airwaves in central Pennsylvania and online at www.720whyf.com. With the recent addition of podcasts for all its locally produced programs, the station is continuing to expand its efforts to proclaim the Gospel far and wide.

None of this is possible without the generous support of listeners. Please be sure to tune in during Holy Family Radio’s “Light in the Darkness” pledge drive, May 7-9. You will hear about the many ways in which local Catholic radio is doing the work of evangelization in our area. Bishop Ronald Gainer will participate in the pledge drive on May 8 from 2-4 p.m.

Learn more at www.720whyf.com or call 717-525-8110.

The Golf Classic benefits the Interfaith Shelter for Homeless Families, which provides services to men, women and children.

• 11:30-12:30: Registration and lunch
• 1:00: Shot-gun Start
• 6:30: Dinner, Prizes, Silent Auction
• $100 per golfer

Sponsorships available

• Registration deadline is May 6.
• Contact Chris Meehan at 717-657-4804, ext. 284 cmeehan@cchbg.org

17th Annual Interfaith Shelter Golf Classic

Colonial Country Club
Monday, May 13, 2019

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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.
Diocesan Notebook

(Summit 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

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 Well will lead 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 clalusablon@gmail.com.

Commonwealth Interfaith Service: Prayers for Justice and Peace, April 29 at 6 p.m. at the Hadde Mosque on Division Street in Harrisburg. The Diocesan Office for Ecumenical & Interreligious Affairs is participating in this service to work for a more just and peaceful world. A reception will follow.


Caerlathom at St. Joan of Arc Church in Hershey, May 1 at 7 p.m. Commune with our Lord, Savior and Redeemer in Adoration, song, meditation and praise. A reception will be held immediately following in the cafeteria. All are welcome, bring a friend.

Pilgrimages & Retreats

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, Altoetting, Munich, Rottene burg 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 Su san Pyatt at 717-762-1914 or office@standrewbo.org.


Travel to Ireland with Msgr. William J. King and members of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Mechanic burg, Nov. 4-13, 2019. Dublin; an overnight at the Cliffs of Moher; the Ring of Kerry; and Blarney Ireland’s oldest city and home to Waterford Crystal; and pharmacology at St. Francis University. All young adults (20’s and 30’s) welcome. Check out Lancaster Theology on Tap on Facebook.

“Into the Deep: Finding Peace through Prayer,” Immuculate Conception BVM Parish in Fairfield, June 17-21 from 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Presented by speaker and writer Dan Burke. Tickets $25, or $30 at the door. Call 717-642-8815 or visit www.Avala Institute.org/events.

Summer Bible School at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Mechanicsburg, June 17-21 from 9 a.m.-noon for ages three through fifth grade. Check in with St. Catherine Laboure and encounter exciting characters from the Bible whose lives were transformed by angels. Information and registration at www.stes.net/summer-bible-school.

Grief support group program at St. Catherine Laboure Parish in Harrisburg, Wednesdays from May 1-29 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Based on the Grieving with Great HOPE series developed by John and Susan Selby, the program explores the experience of the loss of a loved one. Light refreshments are built into the schedule for fellowship. Need not attend all sessions. Pre-registration is not required, but requested. Contact the parish office at 717-564-1321 or parish@schlb.org.

“Come to The Banquet,” a day of parish renewal at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Abbottstown, May 11 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. featuring Father Stan Fortuna, CFR, a popular Catholic speaker and musician and a founding member of the Community of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. Food festival follows at noon in the social hall, and the day concludes with a concert performance by Father Fortuna. Cost of $5 for adults, $3 for youths ages 13-17, $2 for children ages 6-12. Contact the parish at 717-259-0611 or Luz Socrates at 717-873-3650 or luzvsc@gmail.com.

Summer Music Theater Camp at Trinity High School in Camp Hill, June 1-26 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. featuring the Annunciation Women of Mercy and Joy, a musical about a modern-day saint. Students will audition for roles and stage production. Fee $100 with Scholarships available. Contact the parish at 717-249-4826.

Fundraisers & Events

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 throughout the summer. Students can also sign up for five or two days a week. Outdoor and indoor play time, STEM activities, arts and crafts, sports and exercise, field trips; Bible study and rest time for younger ones. Visit www.spscarisle.org, or call 717-249-4826.

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. sacramid.org for details.

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 Prolife Serial Killer.” Free-will donations accepted at the door benefit Underdeiled Courage, a pro-life organization. Rated PG-13. Contact sandrapav@verizon.net.

Lancaster Catholic High School hosts “The Confessionals,” 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 bissaeason@lcshsyes.org to RSVP by May 3. Tables of 8-10 can be reserved.

York Catholic High School’s spring “Open Houses” are May 1 from 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Prospective junior high and senior high students and their families are welcome to tour 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 5-9 p.m., and May 1 from 6-7:30 p.m. Art students receive an art instruction in pencil drawing, canvas painting, maker 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.

Send 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.

The Annunciation Women of Mercy and Joy, ladies tea on May 5 from noon-2 p.m. in the school hall at St. Teresa of Calcutta in McSherrystown. Tickets are $12. Door prizes and raffle prizes. Tickets sold by Msgr. Michael Massak starting weekend of April 27 and 28, or call Toni Weaver at 717-632-5357.

Bike rodeo at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Mechanicsburg, May 19 from 1-3 p.m. Children can ride through obstacle courses, learn bike safety and maintenance and meet a bicycle police officer. Must bring helmet and closed-toe shoes to participate. Neighborhood ride for children 12 and older. Accepting donations of used bikes. Rain date is May 25 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Visit www.stes.net/bike- rodeo.

Mother’s Day 5K at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Mechanicsburg, May 12 at 2 p.m., to benefit maternal health organizations that provide counseling and services to women facing postpartum condition events. Event is for the whole family. Run or walk, strollers and wheelchairs welcome. Information and registration at www.5kmothersday.com.

Summer music theater camp at Trinity High School in Camp Hill, July 8-26 from 9 a.m.-noon weekdays. Featuring “Lion King, Kids.” Students will audition for roles and stage production with costumes, lights and music. For information and registration, contact bmegheger@ghsrocks.edu.

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PARISH NEWS

Father Deogratias Rwegasira, AJ, will celebrate the liturgy. Women at the Well will lead 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 clalusablon@gmail.com.
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.

Bonneauville
St. Joseph the Worker:
Robert Golden
Lillian Staub

Camp Hill
Good Shepherd:
Vitty Grabauskas
Jane Ratkaj

Columbia
Holy Trinity:
Glady's Dinkel
Betty Klostj
Sue McVey
Dominic Roda
Jeanette Shee
August Weis

Conewago
Sacred Heart of Jesus:
Richard P. Smith

Dallastown
St. Joseph:
Julia Dehler
Donald Gladelter
Laverne Godfrey
Catherine Hake
Michael Kachurak
Douglas Knight
Edwin Leary
Verna Payer
Mary Shaffer
Baby Tucker

Elizabethtown
St. Peter:
Robert Grogan

Gettysburg
St. Francis Xavier:
Marie C. Beard
Charolotte E. Tate

Hanover
St. Joseph:
Roland A. Boone, Sr.
Thomas K. Knurl, Sr.
Doris A. Livelsberger
St. Vincent de Paul:
Charles Britcher
Beatrice Calder
John F. Lang

Harrisburg
Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick:
Walter Shaurll Holder
Mother Dei Community:
Sister Anne Marie Shuster
St. Catherine Laboure:
Evelyn Bloss
St. Margaret Mary:
John Boneberger
Jo'Anne Parise

Hershey
St. Joan of Arc:
Lorraine Petrow
Theresa McLaughlin

Lancaster
St. John Neumann:
Bonnie Amico
Clyde Pearson
Edward Soldner
William Theros

St. Joseph:
Adriana Joy Fittipaldi
Jere K. Gabriel
Dolores Agatha Gibble
Regina C. Hohenwarter
Virginia Strosser

Lebanon
Assumption BVM:
Rafael Abeleda, MD
Anna Speraw

McSherrystown
Annunciation BVM:
Joan Hagerman
Bruce Harwood
Thomas Livelsberger
Dolores Miller
Robert Small
Eugenia "Jean" Sterner
Dorothy VonSas
Nyad Wagner
John Walker

Mechanicsburg
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton:
Madeline Grimm
Donald Keller
St. Joseph:
Greta Guilday

Mount Joy
Mary, Mother of the Church:
Theresa Lombardo

New Cumberland
St. Theresa:
Richard Greene
Helen Wojcikiewicz

New Freedom
St. John the Baptist:
Lucy Montanarelli

Gail Elaine Shirley

Palmyra
Holy Spirit:
Eugene C. Flanick

Steelton
Prince of Peace:
Catherine Labashousky
Carmelia (Carm) Urich

Sunbury
St. Monica:
Peter Gallo

York
Immaculate Conception BVM:
Willfredo Colon-Laporte
St. Rose of Lima:
Bernard Gebhart

Sister Mary Helen Scicchitano

Sister Mary Helen Scicchitano, a member of the Daughters of Our Lady of Mercy, Villa Rossello, Newfield, N.J., died on April 9 at Misericordia Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in York.

Born in Mount Carmel, she was the daughter of the late Carmen and Catherine Scicchitano. She entered the Congregation of the Daughters of Our Lady of Mercy in York in 1949. Sister Helen earned a bachelor’s degree in elementary education from College Misericordia, Dallas, Pa., and a master’s in secondary education from Seton Hall University, South Orange, N.J.

She taught for many years in elementary schools administered by the religious order in Massachusetts and New Jersey. In the Diocese of Harrisburg, Sister Helen taught at St. Joan of Arc School in Hershey and Prince of Peace School in Steelton, and was principal at St. Peter School in Elizabethtown. In later years, Sister Helen ministered as General Counselor at Harrisburg Area Community College.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Villa Rossello in Newfield, N.J., on April 13. Burial was in Pietà Cemetery on the grounds of Villa Rossello.

DECEASED CLERGY

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

Father John Campion, 2010
Magr. George Lentocha, 1997

The names of the deceased clergy are published on April 26 page 17 of the Witness.

St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Hanover, chicken BBQ on May 11 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Tickets must be purchased by May 4. Tickets are $9 and include half a chicken, baked potato, applesauce, roll & butter. Tickets at the parish office or call Pat Hubbard at 717 521-2111. We will also have a flower sale and bake sale. Eat in or take home. All events will be held in the gym.

Interact Club of Delone Catholic High School, annual Sleep Out for the Homeless April 26-27. Students will collect donations from motorists and pedestrians in front of the school in McSherrystown from 7-11 p.m. on Friday. Students will then spend the night outside of Delone to raise awareness of the homeless situation in our community. For information, call 717-729-9065. Proceeds will be donated to the Hanover Area Council of Churches for the benefit of its homeless shelter.

Sacred Heart Spring Grove Art Camp for ages 5-12, June 10-14 from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (snack provided). Camp is free of charge, accepting 50 participants. Theme is “Imperfectly Perfect.” Each child will receive a free smock on the first day of class and a free t-shirt at the end of camp. Prior art experience is not required. Donations welcome; cost to offset one camper is $50. Register under the events tab at www.sacredheartsbg.org.

Mark Your Calendars!

Next Deadline: May 1

The deadline for submissions for the May 10 edition of The Witness is Wednesday, May 1 at 4:30 p.m. Submit written announcements via e-mail to witness@hbgdiocese.org. Limit 70 words. No ads, posters or PDFs, please. A link to the submission deadlines for all editions in 2019 is posted on The Witness’ page at www.hbgdiocese.org.

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Catholic Kite Day at St. Teresa’s

Students from St. Teresa of Calcutta School in the Adams Deanery ran across the fields of the school’s Conewago campus on April 12 for Catholic Kite Day. The outdoor activity was the culmination of a STEM lesson in which students from both campuses – grades K-3 at Conewago and grades 4-8 at McSherrystown – designed and built kites. Rainy skies held off for most of the afternoon’s kite flying session, which included a repair station for solutions to resume flight. Learn more about St. Teresa of Calcutta School at www.stck8school.org.

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.