Catholics line the aisles at the Shrine of the Miraculous Medal in Harrisburg on June 13 to venerate the heart of St. Jean Vianney. The first-class relic of the patron saint of priests concluded its nine-month tour of the United States before returning to Ars, France, that day.

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

The incorrupt heart of St. Jean Vianney drew hundreds of Catholics for veneration of the first-class relic in Harrisburg on the morning of June 13. It was the final stop of a 9-month pilgrimage sponsored by the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus, through the generosity of the Shrine of Ars, France, the town where St. Jean Vianney served as a parish priest in the 1800s.

St. Catherine Labouré Parish hosted the relic for public veneration and Holy Mass in the morning, drawing throngs of people to the Shrine of the Miraculous Medal. Priests, deacons, seminarians, religious Sisters, adults and children lined the shrine’s aisles to wait their turn to venerate the relic, flanked by Knights of Columbus and kneelers for people to bring their prayer intentions.

Debora Sloane wiped tears from her eyes after venerating the relic.

“It’s very moving. When you get up close, you can’t describe it,” she said. “When I got nearer to the relic and there were just a few people in front of me, the emotions took over. It’s powerful.”

Debora and her husband, Chris, came with their three sons for what they considered a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. They are members of the Mater Dei Latin Mass Community in Harrisburg.

“St. Jean Vianney is very dear to my heart because I got to visit Ars twice, and saw his incorrupt body, and where he served,” said Chris Sloane. “I began a devotion to him a long time ago because of that. With three sons, if God wills them to the priesthood, I pray to St. Jean Vianney daily, that if God is calling, he will lead them to act.”

First-Class Relic of St. Jean Vianney’s Heart
Concludes National Tour at Shrine in Harrisburg

IN THIS EDITION

Page 2 – Bishop Gainer Reflects on USCCB Meeting
Page 3 – Catholic Scouting instills leadership in today’s youth
Page 6 – Priest visits Normandy for D-Day Anniversary
Bishop Gainer Reflects on June USCCB Meeting

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I recently returned from the General Assembly meeting for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and I am encouraged by the progress that was made during this meeting. Many topics were discussed, but at the forefront of our discussions were ways to hold bishops accountable for abuse and/or negligence in reporting abuse.

This past year has been a very difficult one for our Church and I wish to share some of the important steps that were taken during this meeting. We approved the establishment of a national third-party (i.e. independent) abuse reporting system. This system will be available to receive confidential reports of potential violations by bishops, including abuse allegations and allegations of misconduct. The system will be operational no later than May 31, 2020 and reports may be made via phone and online.

Additionally, we also approved the measure, “Acknowledging Our Episcopal Commitments,” which implements a code of conduct for all bishops, including an affirmation that the 2002 Dallas Charter does apply to bishops, priests and deacons equally. Under this measure, all bishops promise to have a zero-tolerance policy for abuse and to follow any and all codes of conduct of our respective dioceses.

We also approved non-penal restrictions that can be placed on a former bishop who resigns or is removed from office due to grave reasons. This protocol allows the USCCB president to restrict bishops who were removed or resigned for reasons related to sexual abuse or abuse of power.

Moreover, we approved a plan to implement Pope Francis’ recent Motu proprio in the United States, including an outline for the involvement of the laity. I wish to assure you that reporting all abuse allegations to a third-party (i.e. law enforcement), having a zero-tolerance policy for abuse of any kind, following all codes of conduct and including lay members in Diocesan oversight are already procedures that have been followed for as long as I have been your Bishop.

While these steps will never erase the harms done in the past, they are positive steps forward and a firm commitment from the bishops to protect all children and to hold all offenders accountable. These procedures are still in the early stages, but we as a Diocese will continue to update the faithful as new details are available. As always, if you have a question regarding our response to clergy abuse and our path forward, please contact me at Ask-BishopGainer@HBGdiocese.org.

I pray that the Lord will continue to bless each of you and our Church during this season of renewal.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer
Bishop of the Diocese of Harrisburg

Clergy Assignments

The Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer, Bishop of Harrisburg, has made the following appointments:

Effective July 1, 2019:

• The Reverend Martin O. Moran from pastor, St. Patrick Parish, Carlisle, to campus minister, Bloomsburg University, Bloomsburg, and administrator, Christ the King Mission, Benton.
• The Reverend Donald H. Bender from pastor, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Enola, to pastor, St. Patrick Parish, Carlisle.
• The Reverend Richard J. Mowery from campus minister, Bloomsburg University, and administrator, Christ the King Mission, Benton, to pastor, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Enola.
• The Reverend Richard J. Mowery from campus minister, Bloomsburg University, and administrator, Christ the King Mission, Benton, to pastor, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Enola.

Sts. Thomas More and John Fisher, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops celebrates Religious Freedom Week. In the midst of our current challenges, join us as we seek the kingdom and find Strength in Hope.

Learn more at

www.usccb.org/ReligiousFreedomWeek

Sign up for action alerts from the USCCB at www.votervoice.net/USCCB/home to engage government officials and advocate for religious liberty!

The Catholic Witness

The Most Rev. Ronald W. Gainer, DD., JCL, Bishop of Harrisburg

Executive Director for Public Relations:
Rachel Bryson, M.S.
rbryson@hbpgdiocese.org

Managing Editor:
Jennifer Reed
jreed@hbpgdiocese.org

Photojournalist:
Chris Heisey
cheisey@hbpgdiocese.org

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@hbpgdiocese.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.

The Catholic WITNESS
THE NEWSPAPER OF THE
DIocese of HARRISBurg, PENNSYLVANIA

The mission of The Catholic Witness is to be of personal and practical help as we try to be loyal and true witnesses for Christ in our daily living, spiritual and temporal, in private and in public.

Publisher:
The Most Rev. Ronald W. Gainer, DD., JCL, Bishop of Harrisburg

Managing Editor:
Jennifer Reed
jreed@hbpgdiocese.org

Photojournalist:
Chris Heisey
cheisey@hbpgdiocese.org

4800 Union Deposit Road
Harrisburg, PA 17111-3710
Phone: 717-657-4804
FAX: 717-657-7673
witness@hbpgdiocese.org

Yearly subscriptions derived from diocesan revenues from parishes. Non-parishioners: $12.00.

Moving? Send us your old and new addresses via mail or e-mail. Allow three weeks for delivery to resume.

www.hbgdiocese.org
Scout Mass Illustrates Activities that Help Scouts Grow in Faith

By Rachel Bryson, M.S.
The Catholic Witness

Celebrating the achievements of Diocesan youth was on full display on Sunday, June 16 with the annual Scout Mass. Bishop Ronald Gainer congratulated and distributed awards to members of the Diocese’s Girl and Boy Scouts, American Heritage Girls and Venture Crew troops. Parents, family and friends came out to congratulate the scouts for their hard work and achievements in receiving awards directly related to their Catholic faith.

Joanna Reynolds, chairperson for the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting (DCCS), a program supported by the Diocesan Annual Campaign, explained that there are many awards and recognitions the scouts could earn related to their faith, including the Pope Pius XII award.

“The Pope Pius XII (award) is for ninth grade and up and talks about your role as a Catholic and your religious life. It really develops a sense of religion in the scouts,” said Reynolds. This awards project specifically includes teaching youth how they can be involved in their parish after high school.

Another award Reynolds has worked with is the Ad Altari Dei program. “In the Ad Altari Dei Program, we talk about how Scouting Law relates to the seven Sacraments and living a good and pious Catholic life,” Reynolds said. “I’ve done a number of the Ad Altari Dei and the kids get very involved in that. They learn much more about their religion and the significance of the sacraments. What the Mass means in the terms of how it relates to their daily lives. I think it’s a really important program for the formation of good adults in the community that can bring them closer in touch with their faith and develop those good Catholics.”

Linda Lehman, a parent of two Eagle Scouts and a Girl Scout Gold Award recipient, has also facilitated the Pope Pius XII program.

“It makes them think about what happens after high school. They research different jobs and interview people in the jobs they think they might want,” Lehman explained. “They then come back and tell me how, if they had that job, their role could be useful to the parish and community. We also talk about the volunteer opportunities with the parish to show the youth that they can stay involved with the parish after they graduate.”

“The most important thing is that it just connects all of our Catholic youth to their faith, along with scouting,” said Liz Mahoney, who serves on the DCCS. “The actual relationship with scouting and the Catholic Church has gone on for over a hundred years, and it continues to remain strong. These programs allow all of these scouts that connection where they can feel comfortable talking about their faith. It’s one of the programs to keep our youth interested in their Catholic faith.”

During his homily, Bishop Gainer told the scouts that, “Scouting is an important ministry in the life of our Diocese.” He added that on this Holy Trinity Sunday, we should remember that the Trinity is not a puzzle to figure out, but rather is about experiencing the love the Christ.

“It is not about explaining it, but rather experiencing the mystery,” said Bishop Gainer. Bishop added that as a scout, you could watch a video explaining how to make a campfire, but it would not be the same experience as building a campfire in person. “Scouting is also about experiencing things for yourself,” said Bishop Gainer.

Rosa Azzato and Michael Astfalk are two such scouts that have been experiencing their scouting journeys for many years. “I really like bonding with all my friends in Girl Scouts and learning new activities,” said Azzato. “You can do religious activities and learn about your faith and also fun activities like volunteering at food banks.” Azzato, a member of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Harrisburg, has been involved with Girl Scouts since first grade. She added her experiences in scouts played a role in her decision to attend college for Occupational Therapy.

“I’ve been in Boy Scouts since I was a Tiger in kindergarten, so it’s been a long time,” said Astfalk, a member of Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Middletown. “What I really enjoy is going out, making friends, being with new people and getting to know my fellow scouts at different camp outs and events. My favorite thing to do as a scout is to teach them (younger scouts) the ropes and watch them grow and develop. I’ve learned a lot. If you’re not trying it, you could be missing out on something great.”

“It’s tremendously important to the Diocese. It keeps the kids focused and gives them a moral compass to follow,” Lehman said.

“I think these programs do what really isn’t present elsewhere in Scouting by giving back to the community through a person’s religion, for us, Catholicism,” said Reynolds. “One of the major tenets is belief in God. When the Scout gives the Scout Law, that’s one of the tenets they talk about. It’s just a very important program for the Diocese to recognize these kids. They really learn a lot about their religion.”

“It’s really important and it’s such a wonderful thing that Bishop recognizes them on a day like today. It’s such a wonderful program,” added Mahoney.

Bishop Gainer distributed patches, medals and awards in recognition of the Scouts’ faith, hard work and dedicated service to the community. Catholic Scouting is under the auspices of the Diocesan Office of Youth and Young Ministry. This office, through the generous support of contributors to the Diocesan Annual Campaign, offers support to the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting (DCCS) by providing resources and emblem recognition programs for Scouts and their pack leaders. The DCCS also provides guidance, direction and leadership for the scouting programs in the Diocese of Harrisburg. For more information, visit www.hbgdiocese.org/youth-and-young-adults/catholic-scouting.

Questions on the Diocesan Annual Campaign should be directed to the Diocesan Office of Stewardship and Development by calling 717-657-4804, ext. 336, or via email at development@hbgdiocese.org.

(To learn more about the Diocesan Annual Campaign, including how you can support the important ministries of the Diocese, visit www.hbgdiocese.org/giving/diocesan-annual-campaign.)
Outgoing Secretary for Education Carried forth Mission of Schools’ Identity, Education, Affordability

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

In his 22 years as Diocesan Secretary for Education, Father Edward J. Quinlan focused on a trifecta of criteria essential to the success of Catholic schools: that they be authentically Catholic in identity and mission; that they offer quality education; and that they are affordable for families.

When we say that the human person is a composite of body and soul and has an eternal destiny, how can you possibly prepare someone for the rest of their life without reference to their spiritual dimension? Our Catholic education does that very well,” he said.

Father Quinlan, the Diocesan Secretary for Education since 1997, is retiring at the position at the end of this month. Daniel J. Breen, who previously served as Principal of Sacred Heart Cathedral School in Knox Valley, Tenn., will succeed him as Secretary and as Superintendent of Schools on July 1. Father Quinlan remains pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Harrisburg.

Catholic School Experience
Ordained to the priesthood in 1978, Father Quinlan’s first administrative experience in Catholic schools came during his second assignment as an assistant priest at the Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick in Harrisburg, where he served at the Cathedral School.

Though he never particularly sought out ministry in Catholic education, his next assignment would take him to Holy Spirit School in Mount Carmel, a consolidated school for the Mount Carmel parishes. Father Quinlan was assigned as executive director there in 1984, and the school—which is now closed—had 350 students.

As his ministry would come to focus on Catholic education, Father Quinlan earned a master’s in administration through Marywood University in Scranton, Pa., and a state certification in administration. He went on to serve as principal of Delone Catholic High School in McSherrystown, and as assistant to the principal, and later principal, of Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg.

He was pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Danville for several years before being named Associate Secretary for Education for the Diocese of Harrisburg in 1996, succeeding Msgr. Robert Lawrence as Secretary for Education in 1997.

“I found my prior experience in Catholic schools to be absolutely essential to my position as Secretary for Education,” Father Quinlan said. “You have to understand how a school operates, especially Catholic schools with limited staff and limited budgets. You have to understand how those parts fit together and actually work in a school.”

Three-Fold Focus
During his tenure as Secretary, Father Quinlan oversaw several departments, in addition to the Department for Catholic Schools. These included the Religious Education Department, the Office of Adult Education and Catechist Formation, and efforts in the Diocese’s Safe Environment Program.

A mainstay of his ministry, however, was working to ensure that Diocesan schools cultivated their Catholic identity, offered an excellent education, and remained economically viable.

On Catholic mission and identity, Father Quinlan spoke of the joint effort of the Department of Catholic Schools, the Education Department of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference and the bishops of Pennsylvania on a statewide mission and identity policy.

“It spells out why we do what we do, why we expect what we expect from teachers, staff and administrators, and why we have the programs we have in terms of formation of our young people in the faith,” he said.

On the quality education Catholic schools offer, Father Quinlan touted the elementary school curriculums for all subject areas established and maintained by committees of Catholic school educators; the Diocesan wide-area network that enables schools to connect and learn via video-conferencing; and standardized testing that allows parents and school administrators to measure student, curriculum and teacher performance.

“Our students continue to do very well at all levels,” Father Quinlan remarked. “As they graduate high school and go on to college, they do well there also. … We offer a structure and an environment conducive to their success. If you don’t have that kind of environment, you’re really cheating your kids. If you have good, reasonable expectations for students, they will rise to what you’re asking of them.”

Speaking about affordability of a Catholic school education, Father Quinlan lauded Pennsylvania’s Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) programs. The programs provide businesses with a tax credit for donating to a nonprofit scholarship organization, such as the Diocese’s Neumann Scholarship Foundation, which provides tuition assistance for families.

“We are blessed in Pennsylvania to have the tax credit program,” said Father Quinlan.

This year, through business participation in the programs, $3.6 million in scholarship assistance is being provided to Catholic school students.

Father Quinlan expressed his gratitude for the faculty, staff and administration of Diocesan schools, and the staff of the Secretariat for Education for their efforts in ensuring quality Catholic education for students.

“The dedication of our people in Catholic schools and the formation programs we have for them have contributed to a healthy system, and one that is well supported at the Diocesan level by our staff, our Bishop, our finance office, and our Communications Department,” he said. “There is a whole, unified structure here that is supportive of the mission of Catholic education.”

“I think we can be very proud of our schools, and very proud of the people who work in them. The overwhelming majority of our principals, teachers and staff are there because they love their job. They love the mission of education, and they love that they can do it in an environment that permits them to express their faith,” he said.

(Bishop McDevitt President Appointed)
Retiring Superintendent Says 37 Years in Diocese is Where God Wanted Her to Be

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

In 1974, Livia Riley was a first-year teacher at St. Anthony of Padua School in Lancaster, welcoming 40 students into her classroom and wondering what God had in store for her.

“Never forget that first day,” said Riley. “I was 21 years old. I stopped on the landing between the second and third floors, and stood there thinking, ‘I wonder where this will lead me.’”

Then I went to my desk in the fourth-grade classroom. The bell rang, and 40 kids came in. It was the day I said ‘yes’ to God.”

Riley, who has served as Diocesan Superintendent since 2008, is retiring at the end of this month after 37 years in Catholic education.

“I’ve always felt like I was a daughter of the Diocese,” said Riley. She taught at the former St. Anthony’s for all but five years between 1974 and 1991 – the hiatus spent in public school to teach in special education in order to earn permanent certification.

When St. Anthony’s merged with St. Mary’s and St. Joseph’s to form Resurrection Catholic School in Lancaster in 1991, Riley stayed on for six years, until she took the helm as principal of St. Anthony School in Lancaster. With the encouragement of colleagues, she was named Diocesan Assistant Superintendent in 2003, and Superintendent a decade ago.

“When I left St. Anne’s as principal, one of my students said, ‘Mrs. Riley, you’re climbing on the corporate ladder to heaven,’” she recalled. “Every move just seemed like a natural progression to where I was meant to be.”

Sister Marilou MacDonald, IHM, and Sister Sue Ann Steves, IHM, her immediate predecessors as Superintendent, “were wonderful mentors to me when I was a principal and when I was a fellow colleague at the Diocesan Center,” Riley said.

“I feel like I was always encouraged by the administration here at the Diocese to think, ‘If there’s an opportunity, then you should apply,’” said Riley, the first layperson to serve as Superintendent.

A Call to Help People

Riley didn’t set out to be a Catholic school teacher. Instead, she’d intended to follow in her mother’s footsteps.

“My father was an accountant. He and my mother had four children, all girls. His hope was that one of us would take over his business. Being the oldest, I thought I would try it,” Riley said.

She majored in business at York College, and took a job at an electronics company in New Cumberland after earning an associate’s degree in accounting.

“It didn’t take long to realize that accounting was just not for me,” she said. “I guess I should have listened to my mother from the start. She knew I needed something else.”

Riley returned to York College to focus on behavioral science. During her senior year, she interned at the former Springettsbury Elementary School in York, where she worked with children with emotional challenges.

“I enjoyed it, because I wanted to do something that would help people,” she said.

She went to Millersville University for graduate school, and focused on special education. While working on her teaching certificate, she applied for an opening at St. Anthony School, in her home parish.

“You eventually wind up on the path where God wants you to be,” Riley remarked. “My father-in-law was the maintenance man at St. Anthony’s, and he’s the one who told me they were looking for a teacher that would be the start to my work in the Diocese.”

As Diocesan Superintendent, Riley was tasked with efforts to strengthen curriculum and Catholic identity.

“It was critical work, and very important to me,” she said.

One of her first endeavors was to incorporate Diocesan history into fourth-grade curriculum. She’s also proud of elementary students’ performance on the Iowa test: 95 percent score above the national average in language skills; 90 percent score above the national average in reading; and 85 percent score above the national average in math.

During Riley’s tenure, the Diocese developed and grew the wide-area network (WAN), which connects the schools for real-time video-conferencing and distance learning. The launch of the WAN in 2010 was funded by a $1.75 million grant through the Capital Area Intermediate Unit and Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13.

The WAN has contributed to the STREAM (science, technology, religion, engineering, arts and mathematics) initiatives flourishing throughout Diocesan schools. “These developments in technology and new ways of thinking ensure that our students are ready for success in higher education and in jobs,” Riley said.

Another highlight for Riley is the annual Golden Apple Awards. Now in its 14th year, the program recognizes Catholic school educators for their professional excellence and commitment.

“The program gives us an opportunity to showcase our dedicated educators,” Riley said. “We’re very grateful for the generosity of the Donahue Family Foundation for making the program possible.”

Riley said she is most proud of the Diocese’s Instructional Support Program, which has implemented new programs and expanded existing ones to support children with learning disabilities and special needs.

“I think that’s the program I’m most proud of, because of my background in special education,” Riley reflected. “We now have a Diocesan Instructional Support Committee that helps fund our Autism Spectrum Disorder Program that educates teachers in working with students who have Autism.”

She said the greatest attributes of the Diocesan schools are “their family atmosphere, dedicated staff and authentic Catholic identity… Our students always shine, and we have the privilege of educating the whole child, academically and spiritually.”

“I’m so proud of our principals and teachers, because they see this as a vocation. I am so grateful for their dedication,” she said.

She spoke highly of the staff in the Department for Catholic Schools, saying “None of the programs we’ve undertaken could have been accomplished without their support… I’m going to miss everyone in the office, because we were a team and family.”

Riley also expressed her gratitude for her husband and two sons for their support of her work in Catholic education.

“Retirement is bittersweet,” she said, with tears in her eyes. “I hope I served everyone well. I know I’m leaving with our students in a good place. They are flourishing, and their Catholic identity is intact.”

(Learn more about Catholic schools in the Diocese at www.gocatholicschools.org.)
Shamokin Pastor Pays Tribute to Fallen Chaplain during D-Day Services

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Father Martin Kobos, OFM Conv., was among the thousands of people in Normandy, France, in early June to commemorate the 75th anniversary of D-Day and remember the men who gave their lives to liberate Western Europe from Nazi Germany in 1944.

The pastor of Mother Cabrini Parish in Shamokin is not a World War II veteran, but his solemn visit to France still carried symbolic weight: to honor the life, service and sacrifice of a fellow Conventual Franciscan, Father Ignatius Maternowski.

Capt. Maternowski, Catholic chaplain of the 82nd Airborne's 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, was the only U.S. military chaplain killed on D-Day, June 6, 1944. On June 8 of this year, the town of Gueutteville, France, honored him with a memorial service attended by delegates from the United States and France.

Father Kobos was among the speakers at the ceremony, representing the Minister Provincial of the Conventual Franciscans, who was attending the order’s General Chapter in Rome. Father Kobos was joined by Dr. John Dabrowski, representing the WWII Military Chaplains Foundation and its founder, Father Robert Berger, a retired colonel from the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps and a priest of the Diocese of Harrisburg.

During the ceremony, Father Kobos presented a Congressional citation on Father Maternowski’s sacrifice, an American flag, and the flag of the 508th regiment to Daniel Briard, representing the U.S.-Normandy Memory and Gratitude Association.

“He had to brush away tears when I made the presentation, with the whole notion of symbolic gifts,” Father Kobos said. “The people of the region are tremendously grateful for the sacrifice of the Allied Soldiers, and Father Maternowski is well honored here.”

Dr. Dabrowski, in his remarks, said “The lot of the U.S. soldier was equally the fate of his chaplain. Both endured the same perils in combat, the same long stretches of boredom, and the same homesickness. The chaplains traveled over battlefields under fire. They did so for two reasons: it was their duty; and they were genuinely and sincerely concerned for the safety of their flock: the American GI.”

Life for Liberty

On June 6, 1944, some 150,000 Allied Troops invaded Normandy in Operation Overlord. Paratroopers descended inland to defeat German troops from the swarm of soldiers storming the beach.

Upon landing in Normandy, Father Maternowski came upon a number of wounded paratroopers whose glider had crashed. He and a medic brought them to a café/grocery store that had been converted into a small aid station.

Realizing the troops required more extensive medical care than what the small station provided, Father Maternowski entered German territory to propose a combined aid station in a house the Germans had overtaken in Gueutteville. A German medic accompanied the chaplain to assess the situation in Allied territory, and agreed to the proposal.

The two returned to the German-occupied medical station for preparations. As Father Maternowski began his walk back to the wounded Allied troops, he was shot and killed by a German sniper.

Father Maternowski’s body remained on the road in Gueutteville for several days until American soldiers from the 90th Infantry Division recovered him. His body was buried on Utah Beach, and several years later was reinterred at the Conventual Franciscan Friar Cemetery in South Hadley, Mass.

The Franciscan Friars Conventual of Our Lady of the Angels Province and the WWII Chaplains Memorial Foundation have begun promotion of Father Maternowski’s cause for canonization.

Keeping the Memory Alive

In Gueutteville in early June, Father Kobos celebrated Mass in memory of Father Maternowski, who is memorialized in the small town with a monument depicting the chaplain administering last rites.

This house that had been overtaken as the German medical station Father Maternowski proposed for combined aid is still standing. In 1948, the family, whose descendants still live there, created a shrine to the Blessed Mother. Father Kobos visited the home and blessed the shrine. He also met Louis Marion, who, at age 17, witnessed Father Maternowski’s death.

“From this experience in Normandy and in Gueutteville, walking where Father Maternowski walked, he has become more real to me,” Father Kobos said. “I can claim that I have a brother who came in on D-Day and sacrificed his life for liberty.

“His story is taking on a life of its own. The U.S. military is interested in his story. The Franciscans have an interest because he is a brother priest. The people of Normandy continue to pay respect to him. Each one of these groups have a hand in keeping his memory alive,” he said.

“France gave the United States the Statue of Liberty in 1886, representing freedom and fraternity. Fifty-eight years later, we returned a gift to France, in the treasure of our youth,” Father Kobos said. “Father Maternowski was one of those who carried the torch of liberty back to the French people, bringing light to their land darkened by war.”


This marble monument in Gueutteville, France, depicts Father Ignatius Maternowski administering last rites.

Father Martin Kobos, OFM Conv., blesses graves at the Normandy American Cemetery, the final resting place of more than 9,000 Americans who gave their lives in World War II.

Father Martin Kobos, OFM Conv., blesses a Marian shrine built into the walls of a home that once served as a medical station for German soldiers. Father Ignatius Maternowski hoped this site could be a place to treat Allied and German soldiers.
St. Jean Vianney

Continued from 1

“When we found out that the relic was going to be here, we knew we had to make it work to come venerate it. It is a great gift,” he said.

The Curé of Ars

Jean Vianney was born in a small village in France in 1786, at a time when the faith was under attack, as churches were destroyed, and bishops, priests and religious martyred. The attack on the Church, however, only strengthened his desire to become a priest. He was appointed the parish priest of the small town of Ars, France, in 1818, from which he came to be known as the Curé (priest) of Ars.

He was so well-known for his spiritual counsel that he spent up to 18 hours a day hearing the confessions of people who came from throughout Europe. Because of his success in bringing souls to Christ, he was attacked and tormented by Satan. Aware of Satan’s attempts, the priest would out-talk the devil and dismiss strange events by saying, “It’s just the devil.”

He died on Aug. 4, 1859, at the age of 73. He was canonized by Pope Pius XI on May 31, 1925, and was declared the patron of parish priests four years later. His incorrupt body is entombed above the main altar in the Basilica at Ars, France.

The pilgrimage of his heart began in November, as the Knights of Columbus sponsored the solemn tour throughout the United States. The relic’s appearance in the Diocese of Harrisburg was arranged with the assistance of Michael O’Connor, Supreme Secretary of the Knights of Columbus, who was former State Deputy for Pennsylvania, and Mark Jago, current State Deputy.

“There is a great sense of awe, being in front of this relic. An ever greater gift is what we have every day on the altar: the Blessed Sacrament. The response from people is that it is jump starting their devotion to the faith, and bringing them back to some of the things that have fallen out of regular use, such as frequent Confession, or being with our Lord during a Holy Hour,” Jago said.

“We’ve been very fortunate in Pennsylvania because we’ve had the relic on display for veneration in all eight of our Dioceses,” said Jago, a member of St. Patrick Parish in Carlisle.

The Diocese of Harrisburg was the final stop of the pilgrimage. The relic made its return flight to Ars, France, a few hours after the public veneration at the Shrine.

An Example for All

Parishioners from across the Diocese filled the Shrine for veneration and for Mass, celebrated by Father Neil S. Sullivan, outgoing pastor of St. Catherine Labouré Parish, who became pastor of Good Shepherd Parish in Camp Hill on June 17. Several priests concelebrated the Mass.

“What a great honor we have to be with the relic of the heart of Jean Vianney. His heart was joined to Our Lord, and he strived to live with his heart to beat and to love like Jesus’ own heart,” Father Sullivan said in his homily.

“While he is the patron saint of priests, he really is an example to all of us, that our hearts may beat with Jesus’ heart – one of grace, of mercy, of service, of sacrifice, of peace,” he said.

“As we gather today to be fed by God’s Word, and to be fed by the True Body and Blood of Jesus, as we gather with the saints in great communion, may we ask his intercession – certainly for seminarians and for priests, that their hearts may be always fixed and completely given – that our hearts might truly belong to God and to beat every second in service, in humility and in love.”

Father Neil Sullivan celebrates Mass at the Shrine of the Miraculous Medal, where parishioners gathered to venerate a first-class relic of St. Jean Vianney on June 13.

An easel holding an icon of St. Jean Vianney forms a heart shape around the altar and the first-class relic.

“His is an amazing story! We just couldn’t get enough reading about him and how he out-talked the devil,” said Matthew, a member of St. Joan of Arc Parish in Hershey, who attended with his family.

Matthew brought prayer intentions as he prayed in the presence of the relic. His father, Kevin, is President and CEO of Real Alternatives, a pro-life organization that administers the Pregnancy and Parenting Support Services for Pennsylvania, Michigan and Indiana.

“My prayer today was for my dad’s work and for the mission of Real Alternatives, which sometimes comes under attack for pro-life efforts,” Matthew said. “So I prayed that God would be a shield for the ministry.”

Matthew said he read up on the life and ministry of St. Jean Vianney on the way to see the relic.

“His is an amazing story! We just couldn’t get enough reading about him and how he out-talked the devil,” he said. “It’s interesting, because we really don’t know these amazing things about our saints unless we really dive into their stories. I was blown away when I read about him. Knowing that his heart would be here today, there was no way I could pass up this opportunity.”

Father Sullivan said in his homily.
The Missionary Childhood Association

Creative Fundraising for the Missions

From ice cream socials and a missions carnival, to decorating contests and penny wars, schools and parishes find fun ways to raise money for the missions.

The Monsignor George V. Lentocha Award is given annually to a school at the Diocesan Education Conference in recognition of their participation in the mission awareness program of the MCA. Last September, for the third year in a row, it was awarded to Our Lady of the Angels School, Columbia, by Reverend Robert F. Sharman, Diocesan Director, and Very Rev. Edward J. Quinlan, Secretary for Education. The school also celebrated 20 years of missions support totaling more than $27,700.

Religious education classes at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Mechanicsburg, learned about sacrifice as part of the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

Harrisburg Catholic Elementary School had an ice cream social for the missions.

Students at Our Lady of Lourdes Regional School, Coal Township, gave their offerings during the semi-annual "Mission March."

Our Lady of the Angels School, Columbia, held a "Decorate a Cookie" activity at a harvest fair.

Sacred Heart School, Lewistown, used a bulletin board to track monies the classes raised for the missions.

Our Mother of Perpetual Help School, Ephrata, sold Santa hats for the MCA, as well as school supplies.

St. Joseph School, Dallastown, held a pumpkin-decorating contest.

Artistic talent is showcased in the annual MCA Christmas Artwork Contest. Shown at the 2017-18 awards ceremony in December are winners Colton Baddick, right, of Sacred Heart of Jesus School, Lancaster, receiving his plaque from Father Leo Perez, OMI, of the National Office of Pontifical Missions; Jack DiRienzo, left, of St. John Neumann Parish, Lancaster, with his parents.

Two more Diocesan winners were recently announced in the 2018-19 contest: Sydney Dissinger from Our Mother of Perpetual Help School, Ephrata, and Mary Grace Duncan of St. Columba School, Bloomsburg. They will receive their awards in December at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., where their artwork will be displayed throughout the Advent/Christmas season.
The **Missionary Childhood Association** is the official mission program in the Diocese of Harrisburg’s elementary schools and parishes.

With the motto of **Children Helping Children**, MCA helps to make children aware of their brothers and sisters in mission countries—children just like them—and teaches that their own prayers and personal sacrifices make a faith-filled difference for their mission family.

See [www.hbgdiocese.org/MCA](http://www.hbgdiocese.org/MCA) for more information.

---

**Thank you...**

...to all the principals, teachers, mission moderators, DREs, catechists and parents who help today in developing tomorrow’s missionaries and for allowing the MCA to partner with you in this wonderful task of planting and nurturing missionary seeds. In the previous school year, children in Diocesan schools and parishes contributed **$45,642** to the Missionary Childhood Association! (Numbers for the school year just completed are still being tabulated.)

---

**SCHOOLS:**

- **Holy Family Consolidated School**, Berwick
- **St. Columba School**, Bloomsburg
- **St. Joseph School**, Hanover
- **St. Francis Xavier School**, Gettysburg
- **Bishop McDevitt High School**, Harrisburg
- **St. Teresa of Lourdes Elementary School**, Coal Township
- **Our Lady of Lourdes High School**, Coal Township
- **Our Lady of the Angels School, Columbia**
- **St. Teresa of Calcutta School (K-3)**, Conewago
- **St. Joseph School**, Dallastown
- **St. Joseph School, Danville**
- **St. Teresa School**, McSherrystown
- **Our Lady of Hope Parish**, Coal Township
- **Holy Trinity Parish, Columbia**
- **St. Peter Parish, Columbia**
- **St. Joseph Parish, Dallastown**
- **St. Vincent de Paul Parish**, Hanover
- **St. Joan of Arc Parish, Hershey**
- **St. John Neumann Parish, Lancaster**
- **Sacred Heart School**, Mechanicsburg
- **Seven Sorrows BVM School**, Middletown
- **St. John the Baptist School**, New Freedom
- **St. Leo the Great School, Rohrerstown**
- **Our Lady Help of Christians Parish**, Lykens
- **Our Lady of Lourdes Parish**, New Holland
- **St. Margaret Mary School**, Harrisburg
- **St. Theresa School, New Cumberland**
- **Our Lady Help of Christians Parish**, Lykens
- **Annunciation BVM Parish**, McSherrystown
- **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Mechanicsburg**
- **Divine Redeemer Parish, Mount Carmel**
- **Mary, Mother of the Church, Mount Joy**
- **St. Bernard Parish, New Bloomfield**
- **Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, New Holland**
- **Holy Spirit Parish, Palmyra**
- **Prince of Peace Parish, Steelton**
- **St. Monica Parish, Sunbury**
- **St. Patrick Parish, Trevorton**
- **St. Andrew Parish, Waynesboro**

---

**PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

- **Our Lady of Hope Parish, Coal Township**
- **Holy Trinity Parish, Columbia**
- **St. Peter Parish, Columbia**
- **St. Joseph Parish, Dallastown**
- **St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Hanover**
- **St. Joan of Arc Parish, Hershey**
- **Holy Angels Parish, Kulpmont**
- **St. John Neumann Parish, Lancaster**
- **St. Joseph Parish, Lancaster**
- **St. Aloysius Parish, Littlestown**
- **Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Lykens**

---

**Prayers for the Missions**

The cornerstone of prayers for the missions is the **World Mission Rosary**. Each decade is a different color, signifying different areas of the world. When the Rosary is completed, our Diocesan children have given a big hug to the whole world.

---

**St. Francis Xavier School**, Gettysburg, prays the World Mission Rosary with candles.

**Holy Angels Parish**, Kulpmont, illustrates prayers for the Americas with red bandanas.

**Students at Sacred Heart of Jesus School in Lancaster** learn about the missions.


**Bishop McDevitt High School**, Harrisburg, holds a Rosary Rally for world missions.
Parish Festivals & Picnics
(Also listed online at www.hbgdiocese.org. Parishes and schools can submit an announcement of their festival or picnic via e-mail to communications@hbgdiocese.org.)

**JUNE**

**St. Joan of Arc Parish Festival**, June 20-22 from 5-10 p.m. on the parish grounds in Hershey. Homemade food, with takeout available starting at 3:30 p.m. Children’s games and activities, silent auction, money raffles, games of skill, Bingo, kids’ inflatable face painting, video game truck, basket raffles, jewelry sales, Tour of Hershey raffle, plant sales and a Christian Pulisic jersey raffle. Musical entertainment Thursday by DJ Dave Willey, Friday by the Happy Slovones, and Saturday by Everyday People. Call 717-533-7168 or visit www.sjafestival.com.

**Mary, Gate of Heaven Parish Summer Fest**, June 20-22 from 5-10:30 p.m. on the parish grounds in Myerstown. Food court, midway with games, basket raffles, bounce houses and train rides. Book sale from noon-10 p.m., bingo nightly in air-conditioned hall. Live music each night from 7-10 p.m. features Ricky and the Rockets on Thursday, Smokin’ Solos on Friday, and Firestorm on Saturday. Free parking and admission.

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel’s Parish Festival**, June 21 and 22 from 5-11 p.m. at 4th and Market streets in Mount Carmel. Theme baskets, ethnic foods, baked goods, games, baby contest, pet contest and raffles. Entertainment by Light Switch on June 21, and DJ Mike on June 22. Pre-sale of ethnic foods Friday from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. in the parish hall.

**JULY**

**Prince of Peace Parish Picnic**, July 14 from noon-8 p.m. at Cibort Park in Bressler. Foods include lamb, sanma, pork, barbecue, potato salad, cabbage and noodles, French fries and funnel cakes. Desserts include strudel, lemon pita, homemade cakes and cupcakes. Entertainment by The Happy Slovones and Reminisce. Call the parish at 717-985-1330 for information.

**Summer Festival**, sponsored by the Sisters of Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Danville, July 13 from 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Flea Market, silent auction, homemade baked goods, handcrafted items, a book store, Sisters’ artwork, and religious articles. Ethnic foods such as holupky, haluski and potato pancakes, as well as hot dogs, hamburgers, ice cream and more. Games for children and adults, raffles, and bingo.

**The good old fashioned Conewago Picnic**, July 20 from 11 a.m.-9 p.m. at the Picnic Woods, 3113 Centennial Rd., Hanover. Hosted by Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, it’s one of the oldest around, dating back to the 1800s. Enjoy chicken corn soup made in kettles over a fire; carry-out’s only begin at 9 a.m. Bake sale, kids’ games, raffles, 13-jars and much more. A family-style fried chicken dinner begins at 3 p.m. Live music from “Tall in the Saddle Band” begins at 5 p.m. Come and enjoy a day of family, friends, fun and food! For more information, call Sacred Heart Basilica’s Parish Office at 717-637-2721.

**Slavic Fest at St. Ann Byzantine Catholic Parish in Harrisburg**, July 21 from noon-9 p.m. Divine Liturgy (Mass) at 10 a.m., homemade Eastern European foods to eat in or take out. Dance to The Polka WHOOOO and The Polka Quads. Take a Church tour and see world class iconography, hear chanting and singing demonstrations. Shop in the Eastern European market. Play games for young and old, bingo, win at the huge theme basket and cash raffles. Free admission and parking. Call 717-652-1415 or visit www.stannbyz.org.

**San Juan Bautista Parish’s Hispanic Festival**, July 24-27 on the parish grounds in Lancaster. Latino cuisine, music and art. Festival is 6-9 p.m. Wednesday, 6-11 p.m. Friday, and 4-11 p.m. Saturday. Visit www.LancasterHispanicFestival.com.

**AUGUST**

**St. Benedict the Abbot Summer Festival**, Aug. 2-4 at 750 State Drive in Lebanon. Games, food, cash raffle, basket raffle, beer garden, Kiddie Land, live music and more.

**St. Joseph Parish’s Italian Festival**, Aug. 2-4 on the parish grounds in Berwick. Friday and Saturday from 4-9 p.m., Sunday from noon-9 p.m. Porkette, fireballs, meatballs, sausage, chicken and eggplant parmesan, burgers and hotdogs, haluski, potato pancakes, French fries, pizza, chicken fingers, ice cream, homemade baked goods and dried pasta. Fried dough on Friday and Saturday only. Pasta dinner on Sunday only. Adult beverage pavilion, live bands, games of change, kids’ games, and cash and basket raffles.

**St. Mary’s and St. Rita’s Picnic** for Immaculate Conception BVM Parish in Fairfield and St. Rita Parish in Blue Ridge Summit, Aug. 4 from 1-5:30 p.m. at Carroll Valley Park. The parishes will provide food and games for kids and adults.

**Holy Spirit Parish Summer Festival**, “Aloha!” Aug. 9 and 10 from 5-10 p.m. on the parish grounds in Palmyra. Food, fun and fellowship the Hawaiian way, including a pig roast, ethnic food, drinks, kids’ games and music.

**St. Patrick Parish Festival**, “The Land of Make Believe,” Aug. 9 and 10 from 5-10 p.m. at the parish grounds in Trevorton. Ethnic foods, games for children and adults, Bingo in the parish hall, theme baskets, cash raffles, cake & sweets raffle, big prize rip-off stand and live music nightly.

**St. Catherine Labouré Parish’s Dinner on Derry Food Truck Fest**, Aug. 18 from 1-6 p.m. on the parish grounds in Harrisburg. Slow cooked BBQ, cheesesteak sandwiches, pepperoni-stuffed pretzels, plus sweet treats including Farm Show milkshakes. Bingo, raffles, face painting, indoor mini-golf and carnival. See the entire list of food trucks (including menus) at www.sclhb.org.

---

The Serra Club of Harrisburg recently hosted its annual Mass and Appreciation Dinner for religious Sisters, honoring them for their service to the Church. Bishop Ronald Gainer joined in the event at the Diocesan Center in Harrisburg, which included a social hour and prayer before dinner, a sing-a-long and a gift bag and plant for each Sister. The Serra Club’s mission is to foster and affirm vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. The Serra Club of Harrisburg meets the second Wednesday of the month at the Diocesan Center for Mass, prayer, dinner and a presentation by clergy, a seminarian or representative of a Diocesan ministry. The club welcomes others to join in praying for vocations. For more information, contact Paul Dlugolecki at paul.dlugolecki@gmail.com.
DIOCESAN NEWS

June 21, 2019 • The Catholic WITNESS - 11

Camp for Adults with Disabilities Seeks Volunteers, Sponsors

The Diocesan Summer Camp for Adults with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities is seeking volunteers to assist at its residential camp, Aug. 11-16. The camp takes place at Camp Kirchenwald in Lebanon County and serves the needs of approximately 40 adults. The camp has been held annually for the past 33 years and is primarily dependent on volunteer support. It is a program of the Diocesan Office of Ministry with People with Disabilities.

Last year, volunteers from parishes throughout the Diocese participated with volunteers from other faith communities to help make this ministry a success. Persons ages 16 and older are welcome to volunteer for full-time or part-time duties; there is a particular need for male volunteers, 18 or older, who are able to spend the night.

All volunteers are required to complete the Diocesan Clearance process and attend a brief training session prior to helping at camp. There is no cost to volunteers; all meals, events, campground activities, etc., are included. A deadline of June 30 for expressing volunteer interest is requested in order to facilitate planning efforts. For additional information and a volunteer application, visit: https://www.hbgdiocese.org/event/camp-kirchenwald/.

Donations are also being sought to defray the cost for campers to ensure that each individual who would like to attend is able to do so, regardless of finances. A full week of camp costs $575, but donations in any amount are welcome. They can be sent to the Office of Ministry with People with Disabilities, 4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111. Checks should be made payable to the Diocese of Harrisburg. For more information on volunteering or sponsoring a camper, contact Larry Kiley at 717-657-4804, ext. 322, or lkiley@hbgdiocese.org.

All Saints Cemetery Hosts Outdoor Mass on Memorial Day

All Saints Cemetery in Elysburg recently hosted its 31st annual Memorial Day Mass, honoring the memory of loved ones. Father Ryan Fischer, pastor of Divine Redeemer Parish in Mount Carmel, was the celebrant. More than 200 attendees brought lawn-chairs for the outdoor Mass, which included traditional funeral and Patriotic hymns and prayers for the deceased.

Local parishioners served during the Mass: Amanda Horan, a student at Bloomsburg University, was altar server and Eucharistic Minister; Mary Wagner of Holy Angels Parish in Kulpmont, served as Eucharistic Minister; Stephen Gresh IV, a student at St. Francis University, served as lector; and Eric and Jennifer Seidel of Mother Cabrini Parish in Shamokin led the congregation in song. At the conclusion of Mass, Brian Leslie played Taps in memory of all veterans.

Knights of Columbus Council 628 of Mount Carmel assisted for the Mass. Sir Knight Michael White supplied the Grotto of Our Lady of Fatima, the Infant of Prague statue and flower arrangements placed next to the altar.

In May, the month that the Catholic Church devotes to the Blessed Mother, students and faculty at Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary School in Middletown prayed the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary every Wednesday. The parish’s Fatima Pilgrim Statue was displayed for students to learn about Marian apparitions and offer personal prayer intentions during the Rosary. Different grades led the Mysteries along with Molly Lahr, Youth Director. One student participant mentioned the Rosary was a “great opportunity to recite in front students and [is] looking forward for Miss Molly to have the event next May.”

York Catholic girls’ lacrosse reached the PIAA Class 2A semifinals, where they ran into Springfield-Delco at Exeter High School on a sunny June 4. The Fighting Irish had possession with a minute left with a chance to tie the score, but Springfield-Delco, the eventual state champion, made a key defensive stop to preserve their 11-10 lead and end the Irish’s fantastic season (23-2). The Fighting Irish will return eight starters in 2020.
The Called
A series of profiles on clergy and religious

Tell me a little bit about your childhood.
I grew up in Lebanon, and am the younger of two siblings. My sister is two years older. My dad’s side of the family is from Lebanon; he grew up there as a Catholic. Mymom was in a military family, and they moved around growing up. She ended up going to Lebanon Valley College and became Catholic while she was there, and it’s also where she met my dad.

I grew up going to Catholic school. At the time, it was Our Lady of the Valley elementary school. I went to Lebanon Catholic, and graduated from there in 2004. I initially went to college, and before graduating college, I decided to discern the seminary.

Were you always interested in becoming a priest?
I do remember having a few thoughts here and there, growing up in a Catholic family, going to Catholic school, having the priest come in and do vocation talks. But it was never something that I really gave any serious consideration to until I was in college. I went to Millersville. I started there and really didn’t have any clear sense of where I wanted to go or what I wanted to do with my life. I was studying education, thought about being a teacher, but didn’t really have a strong sense that that’s where I was called. I really spent my freshman year just trying to come to some kind of clarity about what am I going to do with my future.

It was during that time that I started also having a kind of deeper engagement with my faith, going to Mass more regularly. I got to know the priest on campus there – Father [Raymond] LaVoie was the chaplain at the time – and he helped me through some things. As a result of simply growing in my faith, I started thinking about the priesthood and eventually started discerning the seminary. After my freshman year at Millersville, I entered the seminary.

What was your seminar experience like?
I went to St. Charles in Philadelphia. I was there for three years to finish my undergraduate. After finishing at St. Charles, I was sent to Mount St. Mary’s for theology. I did two years at Mount St. Mary’s, then took a pastoral year, which is a break from seminary to work full-time in a parish. I was at Good Shepherd in Camp Hill for my pastoral year. Then I went back and did the last two years at Mount St. Mary’s and was ordained.

I did eight years overall, which, when you’re starting out, certainly seems like a long time, but looking back, thank God it was that long. It takes time not only to learn all of the things that are required to be a priest, but really to just have that certainty and to be able to go through that process and knowing that yes, this is what God is calling me to. Then by the time you’re ready for ordination, you know for a fact that this is your vocation, this is where God is calling you. You’re able to step forward and say, “Yes, I will serve God and his Church in this way without any hesitation.”

What is your favorite aspect of your ministry?
One thing I’ve always really enjoyed is teaching. When I started in college, that was something that I felt drawn to, and there have been a number of different ways as a priest that teaching has entered in my life. My first assignment was St. Leo the Great in Lancaster, and I taught eighth-grade religion at the school there. The last two years, I’ve been teaching Latin at York Catholic High School.

Obviously, teaching is an important part of being a priest overall, in the role of preaching and helping people who are coming into the Catholic faith or who are already Catholic and are growing in their faith. That’s one of the areas I’ve found most rewarding and I really enjoy doing.

What makes a good homily? How does a priest prepare every week?
I remember a professor in the seminary, talking about homiletics and saying, ‘There’s nothing as useless as the answer to a question nobody is asking.’ Sometimes you get a really interesting thought, but if nobody really cares, it doesn’t make for a good homily. It has to be something that is going to help people and connect to them. I pray with the Scriptures, I look at what’s upcoming, and I also try to think, ‘What is something that I could reflect on or talk about that’s really going to help people in their own lives as Christians?’

What hobbies do you have?
I like to play golf. It’s something I grew up doing with my dad. He worked at a golf course in Lebanon. It’s something I had kind of gotten away from in the seminary, but since ordination have gotten back into it. Actually, I play a lot with Father Hahn, who was my first pastor at St. Leo’s, as well as other people and parishioners. It’s a good way to get outside, turn off the cell phone and have some peace for a couple of hours.

I try to stay active in different ways. I’ve gotten into running more recently. My sister has done a bunch of marathons and she keeps pushing me. I’m not that far yet, but we’ve done a couple 10Ks together. This past year, we did the Thanksgiving 10K in Harrisburg. It’s something that kind of pushes me, and that I challenge myself to.

What are your favorite books or movies?
I don’t watch a ton of movies, but some of the classics, like The Godfather, are movies that I love. Ones that have a compelling storyline and are exciting. Those are the kinds of movies I enjoy.

I do like reading a lot. I’ve read a lot of that. Probably one of my favorite books is Brideshead Revisited. It’s a great novel about how God’s grace can work in people’s lives, even though they’re not aware of it.

This past Lent I read another good book. I’m involved in a group called Exodus 90, and one of the things that’s involved with Exodus 90 is giving up things like television and electronic entertainment. Doing that in Lent, I had a lot more time, so I read the Lord of the Rings trilogy. Having seen the movies when they came out, I enjoyed reading the book and getting the story as it was really meant to be.

Spotlight on Adult Faith Formation: Franciscan University’s Catechetical Institute

In 2016, the Catechetical Institute of Franciscan University of Steubenville was launched in order to serve the Church in the formation of those who are responsible for forming others in the Catholic faith. Since that time, the Institute has already produced nearly five dozen formation materials offered through the Institute for a monthly fee.

While the resources of the Catechetical Institute are primarily intended to “form those who form others,” the online workshops are also ideal for personal enrichment. Those who are not directly involved in the formation of others, but who desire to grow closer to Christ through personal faith formation, are encouraged to explore and make use of the wealth of resources that the Catechetical Institute has to offer.

To learn more about Franciscan University’s Catechetical Institute, contact Ryan Bolster at 717-657-4804, ext. 225, or rbolster@hbgdiocese.org.
The Sacred Heart
By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
Special to The Witness

Some time ago, while I was teaching in the Bronx, a Redemptorist priest from Japan who was staying in the rectory and studying at Fordham University came to the convent for Mass. It was the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Most feast days within the Church’s calendar are celebrated on a specific date each year. This feast day is always 19 days after Pentecost, which is dependent on Easter. This year, the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is June 28.

I will never forget the priest’s homily. In absolutely impeccable English, he said that when he was in the seminary in Japan, he thought this feast was truly a “western” notion. You see, as a Japanese young man, the image of the “western” Jesus holding his heart totally repulsed him. He explained that most Japanese are brought up eating fish. To hold a bloody piece of meat in one bare hand is repulsive in his culture. Because of this, he was prejudiced against the devotion to the Sacred Heart. That was until his brother met a wonderful woman and fell in love. He said that his brother explained to him, “Loving someone the way I love Yousi means that I have given her my heart and she has given me hers.”

The priest went on to explain that sentiment perfectly personifies Ezekiel 36:26: “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh” (NIV). It also explains that Christ wants to give us His heart in which to love the Father, he said.

I could not help but think of this as I begin to discuss devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The heart is a universal symbol of love. In “A Heart on Fire: Rediscovering Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus,” author Father James Kubicki, SJ, writes, “The feelings of one’s heart, though sometimes sentimental, run deeper than the strongest emotions. … The heart is a symbol of true love, that love for which every human person is searching. Yet, we so often look for love in the wrong places. … Our [mis]use of the heart symbol shows that we have a confused idea of love. … Made in the image and likeness of God who is Love itself, we are built for infinite love.”

Pius XII, in his encyclical, On Devotion to the Sacred Heart, when describing this devotion, writes, [The] Heart of the divine Redeemer … demands in a special way that the highest form of worship be paid to it, arises from the fact that His Heart, more than all other members of His body, is the natural sign and symbol of His boundless love for the human race.” (22)

It is my prayer that during the month of June that you would spend some time contemplating the Sacred Heart of Jesus as well as God’s merciful and boundless love for you. It is a love that knows no end! Give Him your heart! He hungered to give his to you as well!

‘Kubicki, James. A Heart on Fire: Rediscovering Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Ave Maria Press, (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.)

Upcoming Retrouvaille Weekend for Couples
September 27-29, 2019 • Mechanicsburg, PA

Is your marriage going down the right road … or is it a little off track?
Life can be difficult, and so can the challenges you face in marriage.
Does the distance between you seem wide?
Are you already separated?
Looking for a better way?
Retrouvaille can help, and offers hope for a better relationship.

Retrouvaille is a peer ministry of volunteer couples that can help you learn the tools of healthy communication, build intimacy and heal, just as they have done in their own marriages. Retrouvaille is Christian-based, and Catholic in origin, but welcomes couples of all faiths as well as non-religious couples. Retrouvaille can help get your relationship back on track. In the Diocese of Harrisburg, Retrouvaille is under the auspices of the Office of Family and Respect Life Ministries.

For more information, or to register, call 717-356-2185 or visit: HelpOurMarriage.com

The CrossWord

Answers on page 15

51 Elisha plowed with
52 "Drink the ___"
53 Cologne
54 Cot
55 (call attention)
56 Epochs

DOWN

LISTEN

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 Listening
2 Master of ceremonies
3 "At the ___ before the earth"
4 "… of Life"
5 "All ___ and were satisfied"
6 Floor plan
7 ___ and wine
8 de Janeiro
9 To sin
10 up
13 Winter malady
18 "Much more to ___"
19 (2 wds)
20 "When the Lord ___"
21 Playing
23 ___ of Life
24 Lordly title
25 "… this bread"
26 Central nervous system
27 Wager
29 "I ___ set the ___ limits"
30 Farming club (abr.)
31 Roman three
32 Football assoc.
33 Wing
34 Type of grass
35 Trainer
36 Favor
37 Stringed instrument
38 Makes money
39 "Drink the ___"
40 ___ this bread"
41 Central nervous system
42 Pairs
43 Asian country
44 ___ of oxen
45 Watch chain
46 Wood chopper
47 Crimson
48 American Cancer Society
49 Watch chain
50 Incense smell

Readings:
Pro 8:22-31; Rom 5:1-5; Jn 16:12-15 and 
Gn 14:18-20; 1Cor 11:23-28; Lk 9:11b-18 and 1 Kg 19:16b, 19-21; Gal 5: 1, 13-18; Lk 9:51-62

ACROSS

1 Hoist
2 Loose gown worn at Mass
3 Ump
4 Ruler
5 Sticky black substance
6 "Call down from heaven"
7 "The Siege of ___"
8 for an ___
9 "The ___ possessed me"
10 Capital island
11 Scene
12 Music used as practice
13 Part of a min.
14 Wipe up
15 From Asia
16 Sheet
17 Threw up
18 Snow
19 Tiny insect
20 To be sick
21 Poland
22 Pacific
down

23 Plaything
24 Roman three
25 ___ de Janeiro
26 Central nervous system
27 Wager
28 ___ this bread"
29 (2 wds)
30 Farming club (abr.)
31 Roman three
32 Football assoc.
33 Wing
34 Type of grass
35 Trainer
36 Favor
37 Stringed instrument
38 Makes money
39 "Drink the ___"
40 ___ this bread"
41 Central nervous system
42 Pairs
43 Asian country
44 ___ of oxen
45 Watch chain
46 Wood chopper
47 Crimson
48 American Cancer Society
49 Watch chain
50 Incense smell

© 2019 www.tri-c-a-publications.com
Diocesan Notebook

(Submit written announcements to witness@hbgdiocese.org, nine days before the issue date. No flyers or ads, please. The deadline for the July 5 edition is June 26 at 4:30 p.m.)

Spiritual Offerings

Medjugorje prayer program. Join Father Dan Powell and the “Women at the Well” for an evening of prayer, Confession, Holy Mass, an update on Medjugorje and personal testimonies, and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, on June 25 at St. John Neumann Church in Lancaster. Schedule begins with Confession at 5:30 p.m., the Rosary at 6 p.m., Mass at 6:30 p.m., presentation on Medjugorje at 7:30 p.m., and a Holy Hour and Confession at 9 p.m.

Mass with Charismatic prayers for healing. July 1 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Abbottstown. Praise and worship led by youth ministry at 6:30 p.m. Mass celebrated by Father Dwight Schaline at 7 p.m. Individual prayer available. Sponsored by the Upper Room Prayer Group. For more information, contact Janet at 717-259-7798.

Charismatic Mass with prayers for healing. July 2 at St. Theresa Church in New Cumberland. Father William Weary, pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Lewistown and St. Jude Thaddeus Parish in Mifflintown, celebrant. For more information, call Mary Ann at 717-564-7709.

Caerolm on July 10 at 7 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc Church in Hershey. Spend the evening with Our Lord in adoration, song, meditation and prayer, and feel the power of his presence and mercy. A reception will be held immediately following in the parish center. All are welcome to attend.

Pilgrimages & Retreats

Join St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Annville for the Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany, Sept. 8-18, 2020. Classic Austria and Germany pilgrimage includes Vienna, Salzburg, Munich, and the famous and historic Passion Play in Oberammergau, which has been performed every 10 years since 1634. Tour provided by Nawas International Tours, Darien, CT. Price is $3,959 and includes round-trip airfare from Newark, daily Mass in various historic churches, accommodations at first class and select hotels based on double occupancy, first class tickets to the Passion Play, breakfast daily and most dinners, English speaking tour director, comprehensive sightseeing and transfers by private motor coach. For more information, or to reserve your space, call Mary Langan at 717-867-1525 or 717-379-4779.

The Father Capodanno Knights of Columbus Assembly 3167 day trip on Sept. 4 to the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., to attend the annual memorial Mass in honor of Father Vincent Capodanno. Cost is $440 per person. The celebrant will be the Most Reverend Timothy P. Broglio, Archbishop for the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA. Contact Terry Shingara 717-657-3335 for more information.

Education & Enrichment

The National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Civil War Tours every Saturday at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., through Aug. 24 at the Shrine in Emmitsburg, Md. Learn about the troops that came through Emmitsburg prior to the Battle of Gettysburg, and how the Sisters helped them however they could. Tour is $8/adult, $6/younger than 17, free for children six and younger. The tour lasts 45-60 minutes. Purchase tickets at seton Shrine.org or at the door.

Vaucanson Bible School at St. Peter Parish in Elizabethown, July 21-25 from 6-8:30 p.m. Celebrate the “Marvelous Mystery of the Mass.” All children in K through 6th grade are invited for faith lessons, music, crafts, snacks and games. Registration open until mid-July. Cost is $20 per child ($10 for each additional child, $50 family cap) and includes a T-shirt and supply package. Vaucanson students must have Diocesan clearances. For information and registration, visit www.skpeterstown.org or call the parish office at 717-367-1255.

God desires us to flourish. The I Thirst Prayer Community meets June 26 at 7 p.m. in the parish center at St. Joan of Arc Parish in Hershey, to pray through Isaiah 55. Bring your Bible or Bible app as we listen to what God is saying to us in this Scripture. For information, call Lynn Schuck at 717-503-1600.

Fundraisers & Events

A & B Religious & Gift Shop in Hanover is closing June 29. 2020. Register and bid gift certificates before June 29. Shop owners are grateful for the prayers, support and business over the years. Shop is located at 1150 Elm Ave., Hanover.

Summer music theater camp at Trinity High School in Camp Hill, July 8-26 from 9 a.m.-noon weekdays. Featuring “King Lion, Kids,” for students who have completed grades 4-7. Public performance July 26 at 7 p.m. Camp features sessions in vocal music, choreography, drama exercises, fun activities. Students will audition for roles and stage production with costumes, lights and mics. For information and registration, contact bmeagher@thsrocks.us.

The 2019 San Marziale Procession in Kulpmont, July 7, beginning at Holy Angels Church at 1 p.m. Procession will showcase “Our Boys Band,” who will play a variety of authentic Italian march music and traditional patriotic songs. Food and refreshments available at the Holy Angels picnic grounds. Those who wish to walk in the procession are asked to meet at 12:30 p.m. at Holy Angels Church. Procession will be live-streamed. Visit www.facebook.com/SanMarzialeParadeKulpmonPa?ref=ts.

Midsummer Moon Madness 5k run/walk to benefit the Silence of Mary Home in Harrisburg, July 20 at 8:30 a.m. at Bishop McDevitt High School. Pre-register at Active.com or get information at www.theherschoffroad.com. $75 cash prizes for the overall male and female winners and age group awards. For more information, contact Bill Schuck at 717-877-1193.

St. Rita Parish’s 100th Anniversary Tea, July 14 from 2-4 p.m. in the parish hall, Blue Ridge Summit. All current and former parishioners 12 and older are welcome to attend, but will need a reservation. Contact Marie Hughes at rebehdah@comcast.net or 717-794-5121, or Rose Hebda at 717-726-6257 by June 30.

St. Catherine Laboure Knights of Columbus Council 12811 in Harrisburg, “Knight out” at the Harrisburg Senators’ baseball game on June 25 for council members and their families. Contact a council member for information.

Harrisburg Young Adult Catholic summer activities—join the group at the following events, some of which are sponsored by the Diocese: movie night, July 3; Fourth of July party, July 4; tubing and kayaking on July 6; Theology on Tap planning, July 18; HersheyPark on July 20; St. Ann’s Parish picnic, July 21; Our Lady of Lourdes Parish picnic, July 28; white-water rafting in the Poconos, Aug. 3; parish picnic service project at Holy Infant, Aug. 4; Mass, picnic and hike, Aug. 11; Mass on the Feast of the Assumption, Aug. 15; Renaissance Faire, Aug. 17; Dinner on Derry food truck fest at St. Catherine’s, Aug. 18; Harrisburg Senators’ game, Aug. 23; and the Scott Hahn presentation in New Oxford, Aug. 24. Visit the Harrisburg Young Adult Catholic Facebook group, or contact totharrisburg@gmail.com.

Hartz Physical Therapy’s Fall Blast 5k Run/Walk benefitting Off the Streets Lancaster, Oct. 5 in Lititz. Family-friendly event for runners of all levels. All proceeds benefit Off The Streets Lancaster, which secures housing for those who are homeless locally and is supported in part by St. John the Baptist Parish in New Freedom. Registration opens in July. Be a sponsor or make a donation. Forms are online at www.hartz.com/fall-blast-5k-runwalk/charitable-causes/ or find more info on Facebook at Fall-Blast-Hartz Physical Therapy. The goal is to help at least 28 families and individuals. Learn about Off the Streets at www.offthestreetsnow.com or on Facebook at Off The Streets Now Lancaster PA.

Car show, hosted by Knights of Columbus Council 13110 of St. Katharine Drexel Parish in Mechanicsburg, June 22 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on the parish grounds. Food, drinks, dash plaques, trophies and entertainment. Free admission for spectators.

Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg, “Pop-Up Shop” open house, July 17 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Meet the Admissions Team, tour the campus, learn about the school’s new 1-1 tablet program and see a demonstration from the Robotics Class. Enrollment open for all grades. Tuition assistance available. Call 717-236-7973 or visit www.bishopmcmdievitt.org.

Job Openings

St. Joseph School in York is seeking a part-time Technology teacher for the 2019-2020 school year. Requirements include teaching computer skills to grades K-6 with some additional technology support responsibilities. This a three-day weekly commitment. Interested candidates must possess a valid PA Instructional I teaching certificate. Forward a cover letter, résumé and background clearances to Corinne A. Eck, 2945 Kingston Rd., York, PA 17402, eck@sjy.org or call 717-755-1797 for an appointment. Employment application online at www.hbgdiocese.org/catholic-schools/employment-applications.

St. Joseph School in York is seeking an “After Hours Supervisor.” The position requires the creation and supervision of activities for a small class of children after school. Working a maximum of 2.5 hours each school day from 3:30 p.m., under the director, the program stays open until 6 p.m. To apply, contact our Extended Day Programs Director, Kim Wozniak, at Wozniak@sjy.org, or 717-755-1797. Clearances are not required to apply but need to be acquired before school begins. Training available for the successful candidate.

Lebanon Catholic School is seeking a Spanish teacher and school nurse. Candidates must be supportive of our Catholic mission and present required clearances. Job descriptions can be found at www.lebanoncatholic.org. Positions include health, 401(k) and tuition benefits.
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.

Blue Ridge Summit
St. Rita:
William LaTulp

Danville
St. Joseph:
Francis Pickin
Alex Poplawsky

Fairfield
Immaculate Conception BVM:
Mary Hetlyn

Greencastle
St. Mark the Evangelist:
Patricia Grace Lawans
DuBois

Hanover
St. Joseph:
Donald Baucker

Harrisburg
Holy Name of Jesus:
Dr. Charles E. Chambers
Barbara A. Fick
Rosalie A. Pasquini

St. Catherine Labouré:
Ruth Traino

St. Margaret Mary:
Jeffrey Edwards
Louis Fiocchi
Paul Mohlar

Mount Carmel
Our Lady of Mount Carmel:
Jean Bogart
Jean Kovaleski
Elizabeth Robbins

New Cumberland
St. Theresa:
Joseph Amato
Mary “Kory” Leftwich
Art Scoring

New Freedom
St. John the Baptist:
Marcia “Marcy” Amspacher
Sean Latansh
Mary Sutt

Palmyra
Holy Spirit:
Donna Hник

Rohrerstown
St. Leo the Great:
Joseph W. Ryan

Sunbury
St. Monica:
Nancy Rocuba

York
St. Joseph:
Jack Angelo
Mary Ann Stengel
Mary Terrasi
Bernard Vottero

St. Patrick:
Bernard Wisman

St. Rose of Lima:
Romayne Yanek

Father Francis T. Menei
Father Francis T. Menei, 80, died June 6 at Misericordia Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in York. He had been a priest of the Diocese of Harrisburg since 2002. He was a graduate of the Philadelphia Public School System and St. Charles Borromeo College and Seminary, Overbrook, and obtained his Masters Degree at the University of Notre Dame.

Father Menei was ordained on May 20, 1967, in the Cathedral of Sts. Peter & Paul in Philadelphia. From 1967 to 1969, he served as a parish priest in Philadelphia, and from 1969 to 1979 he was a teacher at Cardinal Dougherty High School. In 1979, he was named Chaplain of the Philadelphia Prison System, and shortly afterward at Graterford Penitentiary. He later became Chief Chaplain for the entire Commonwealth of PA State Penitentiaries, with his office in Camp Hill and his residence at St. Ann’s in Steetont.

In 2002, Father Menei transferred to the Diocese of Harrisburg and was appointed pastor of St. Richard Parish in Manheim, where he served until his retirement in June of 2014. Upon retirement, Father Menei served as spiritual director for the North American Lourdes Volunteers, an association that accompanies people with serious illnesses and disabilities to the holy site of Lourdes, France. As spiritual director, Father Menei offered daily Mass for the association, and accompanied pilgrims twice a year.

Father Menei was the son of the late Frederick J. and Rose M. Covello Menei and is survived by a brother, numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews.

The Mass of Christian Burial was June 14 at St. Catherine Labouré Church in Harrisburg. Burial was in the Priests’ Circle at Holy Cross Cemetery, Harrisburg. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Misericordia Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, 998 S. Russell St., York, PA 17402.

New ‘I Thirst’ Prayer Community
at St. Joan of Arc Parish Announced
The I Thirst Prayer Community is a group of people who want to learn more about their faith, and the true meaning and understanding of Scripture in the Bible in order to grow in holiness and enter into an intimate relationship with God.

Peter and the first disciples received the Holy Spirit, lived in community with one another, supported one another, and went out to make Christians of all nations as commanded by Jesus. The I Thirst Prayer Community at St. Joan of Arc Parish in Hershey has received the same Spirit and are called to live in community and make disciples of all people.

The community meets on Wednesday evenings from 7-8:30 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc Church, prays together, attends a time of Eucharistic Adoration, studies the Bible with group discussion, interprets how Scripture “speaks,” has a quarterly Healing Mass for those in need of comfort, has a quarterly Healing Mass for those in need of healing, and offers fellowship and support for members.

The goal of the group is for members to have a personal relationship with God through prayer, Scripture study and fellowship to enrich lives and become true disciples of Jesus Christ. All are welcome to attend.

The next meeting of the I Thirst Prayer Community is June 26 at 7 p.m. in the parish center at St. Joan of Arc in Hershey. The group will pray through Isaiah 55. Attendees should bring a Bible or Bible app. For more information, call Lynn Schuck at 717-503-1600.

Beginning Experience Weekend
for those Suffering the Loss of a Spouse
Camp Hebron in Halifax, Pa.
November 8-10
The ecumenical Beginning Experience 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.

The following is a testimonial of a person who attended the Beginning Experience Weekend:

“I can tell you that my encounter with the Beginning Experience weekend has brought me greater peace and given me an extended family of lifelong friends who I quickly grew to love and lean on. If you or someone you know is suffering the isolation and pain that can accompany the loss of a spouse or marriage, I encourage you to seriously consider attending the Beginning Experience weekend.”

Beginning Experience is your Church at work to provide help, healing and spiritual restoration. In the Diocese of Harrisburg, the program is under the Office of Family and Respect Life Ministries. Visit the Diocesan website, www.hbdiocease.org, and go to Marriage and Family, or visit www.beginningexperience.org. Information can also be obtained by contacting the Harrisburg Beginning Experience Team, Julie, at 717-379-0800 or Eva, at 717-495-9586.
**Bishop Blesses Building Foundation as Carmel Construction Progresses**

By Jen Reed  
*The Catholic Witness*

Construction of the Carmel of Jesus, Mary and Joseph continues in Fairfield, Adams County, as volunteers are hand-building the Vestry, which will contain the recreation and work rooms for the Discalced Carmelite Nuns.

Nine Discalced Carmelites moved from the at-capacity Carmel of Jesus, Mary and Joseph in Elysburg to the Fairfield Carmel last July. The blue-prints for the monastery farmstead require authentic materials and craftsmanship for a chapel, a refectory, a novitiate, a building for the professed, a caretaker’s home, chaplain’s quarters and a guest cottage.

Bishop Ronald Gainer visited the Carmel on June 17, where he met with the nuns and volunteers who are completing the stone work. He blessed two large rocks at the base of what will be the workhouse, and secured them with mortar. He also placed a small stone, which the Mother Superior brought from the Holy Land.

The recreation and work building will be 3,750 square feet, and built of reclaimed wood and stone masonry. It will take approximately 12 months to complete.

For information about the Discalced Carmelites, the progress of the monastery in Fairfield, and volunteer efforts, visit www.fairfieldcarmelites.org.

**Messages of Congratulations for Father St. Hilaire**

Priests and parishioners have shared messages of congratulations for the Diocese’s newly-ordained priests. The Witness is sharing these messages in the June and July editions. Messages here are for Father Andrew St. Hilaire, a native of St. Katharine Drexel Parish in Mechanicsburg, and parochial vicar at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Gettysburg and campus minister at Gettysburg College.

“[June 1] was a celebration of joy, new life and an Easter springtime of new beginnings! Father Andrew’s ordination as a priest is the first in our young parish’s life. Andrew is a remarkable young man who has a love for the Church and the people of God and has a servant’s heart after the Heart of Jesus. He is a servant leader! His parents, Gary and Sylvie, and family are great examples of love, service and leadership and domestic Church, where he was able to hear the quiet voice and invitation of the Good Shepherd to come and follow Him. We are very proud of our native son and our hearts overflow with joy and thanksgiving to God.”

– Father Kenneth G. Smith, pastor, St. Katharine Drexel Parish

“Father Andrew’s ordination to the priesthood will have special significance to the teens at St. Katharine Drexel Parish. Father Andrew has played a very important role in their lives as one of the 8th grade summer Faith Formation catechists. Father Andrew was a mentor and role model for many in his classes, and has made a lasting impact on the teens of our parish. We are very fond of him, and so proud of the work God is doing through him.”

– Natalie Pronio, St. Katharine Drexel Youth & Young Adult Ministry

“Father Andrew’s yes to the priesthood is a gift to our entire parish family. He is a witness of faith and sacrifice that inspires each of us to follow in that example. He gives us hope that the future of the Church is in good hands.”

– Becky Davis, Pastoral Associate, St. Katharine Drexel Parish

“This was my first time attending an ordination. It was so awesome, for more than one reason. This sacrament is very impressive and beautiful to see the Holy Spirit in each of those entering the priesthood. [Also] the love shown by the bishop, priests, deacons, family and friends. I was so proud to have our first parishioner from St. Katharine Drexel be ordained a priest. Father Andrew is such a gift to all and will be an amazing priest. Thank you, Andrew, for answering God’s call.”

– Jan Cassidy, St. Katharine Drexel Parishioner

“I have had the pleasure of knowing Father Andrew for many years. He is an amazing young man. St. Katharine Drexel Parish is so blessed, as is the Diocese of Harrisburg, to have a man of his integrity, caliber, kindness and faith enter the priesthood. Father’s first Mass held at St. Katharine Drexel was beautiful—it brought tears to my eyes. We are so proud of him and the good works that he will do and continue to do for the people of our Diocese and more. Thank you, Father Andrew.”

– Jodi Bova, Parish Manager, St. Katharine Drexel Parish

Andrew St. Hilaire pledges his obedience to the bishop and his successors during the Promise of the Elect at the Mass of Ordination to the Priesthood on June 1 at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg. Father St. Hilaire is the parochial vicar at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Gettysburg and campus minister at Gettysburg College.