Surrounded by the prayers of a standing-room only congregation of priests, religious and lay faithful, and through the Laying on of Hands and the Prayer of Ordination, four men were ordained to the priesthood on June 1.

St. Patrick Cathedral was filled with overjoyed family, friends and faithful; jubilant hymns; and incense carrying prayers to heaven for the four new priests: Father Matthew Cannon, Father Samuel Miller, Father Andrew St. Hilaire and Father Joshua Weaver.

"In these challenging days for the Church, you and I look for signs of hope. We need confirmation for new beginnings and a new vitality in our Church," Bishop Ronald Gainer said in his homily. "This morning, my brothers and sisters, we are given that evidence in the willingness, the courage, the trust and the obedience of your sons and grandsons, our brothers and friends, who present themselves now for priestly ordination."

The assignments for the new priests were announced at the conclusion of the holy and sacred Mass: Father Cannon, parochial vicar at Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Harrisburg; Father Miller, parochial vicar at Good Shepherd Parish in Camp Hill; Father St. Hilaire, parochial vicar at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Gettysburg and campus minister, Gettysburg College; and Father Weaver, parochial vicar at St. Catherine Labouré Parish in Harrisburg and chaplain, Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg.

"Our four brothers have given every indication that this is God’s will for them," Bishop Gainer said. "And, as in the Church’s earliest days, so also today, through the imposition of the hands of the apostles, and the hands of their successors, and through the invocation of God, the Holy Spirit, they are about to be ordained into the one priesthood, the priesthood of Jesus Christ, in order to bring the Word of God, the new life of the sacraments and the example of Jesus’ humble service to grace the lives of others."

Photos from Ordination to the Priesthood and interviews with the new priests are featured on pages 6-9. Watch a full-length video of the Mass on the Diocese’s YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/hbgdiocese, or at www.hbgdiocese.org.
BISHOP GAINER’S PUBLIC CALENDAR

- **June 8** – Confirmation for Mater Dei Latin Mass Community, St. Lawrence Chapel, Harrisburg, 10 a.m.
- **June 9** – Mass for Solemnity of Pentecost, St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg, 9:30 a.m.
- **June 10-14** – USCCB Meeting, Baltimore
- **June 16** – Diocesan Scout Mass, Church of the Good Shepherd, Camp Hill, 2 p.m.
- **June 17** – Blessing of Monastery Foundation, Carmel of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Fairfield, 3 p.m.
- **June 22** – St. Thomas More Feast Day Mass, Saint Theresa Church, New Cumberland, 9 a.m.
- **June 23** – Installation of Father Bernard Oniwe as Pastor, St. Peter Church, Elizabethtown, 5 p.m.

Clergy Appointments

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

**Effective June 15, 2019:**
- At the presentation of the Very Reverend Thomas Betz, OFM Cap., Provincial Minister for the Province of Saint Augustine, The Reverend Reginald Damian Tlae, OFM Cap., to Chaplain, Pinnacle Health Systems Harrisburg and Osteopathic Campuses with residence at St. Francis of Assisi Rectory, Harrisburg.

**Effective June 17, 2019:**
- The Reverend Matthew E. Cannon, newly ordained, to Parochial Vicar, Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Harrisburg.
- The Reverend Samuel E. Miller, newly ordained, to Parochial Vicar, Good Shepherd Parish, Camp Hill.
- The Reverend Andrew P. St. Hilaire, newly ordained, to Parochial Vicar, St. Francis Xavier Parish, Gettysburg, and Campus Minister, Gettysburg College.
- The Reverend Joshua R. Weaver, newly ordained, to Parochial Vicar, Saint Catherine Laboure Parish, Harrisburg, and Chaplain, Bishop McDevitt High School, Harrisburg.

**Effective June 19, 2019:**
- The Reverend Javed Kashif from Chaplain, Pinnacle Health System, Harrisburg and Osteopathic Campuses, to part-time Parochial Vicar, Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Lancaster, and part-time Chaplain, Lancaster General Hospital.

**Effective June 24, 2019:**
- The Reverend Tiburtius Antony Raja to Parochial Vicar, St. Patrick Parish, Carlisle, and Campus Minister, Dickinson College and Dickinson School of Law, Carlisle.

**Effective July 1, 2019:**
- The Reverend Stephen J. Logue from Graduate Studies to Parochial Vicar, St. Leo the Great Parish, Rohrersville.

**Effective July 15, 2019:**
- The Reverend John B. Bateman to Canonical Consultant, Diocesan Tribunal, Harrisburg, with residence at Seven Sorrows BV M Parish, Middle-town.

Catholic Witness

“...We have a single mission with our communications: to be the voice for faith, hope and truth in a world consumed by denial, despair and deception. Through your support, we can continue to reach hundreds of thousands of people, Catholic and non-Catholic alike, with this message of salvation.”

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

100% of the Communications Campaign money which stays in the Diocese of Harrisburg is used to support the following Communications Ministries:
- “Invitation to Mass” radio messages from Bishop Gainer
- Weekly “Gospel Reflections” from Bishop Gainer
- “Catholic Perspective” radio program
- INSIGHT bi-weekly e-newsletter
- Advertising Diocesan ministries/programs
- Underwriting “The Parish Bulletin Board” on Holy Family Radio, WHYF AM 720

The Catholic Communications Campaign collection will be taken at all Masses the weekend of June 16th. Fifty percent of the monies collected remain in the Diocese. The remaining 50% support communication projects throughout the world. To give online, please visit www.hbgdiocese.org/cpc.

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www.bishopmcdevitt.org

Minimum Qualifications
- Practicing, knowledgeable Catholic
- Thorough understanding of Catholic School Philosophy
- Commitment to modeling the values of Catholic Educational Leadership
- PA Administrators Certificate (or in process)
- Catechetical Certification (or in process)
- 5 years of teaching experience

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- 3 years of Administrative experience
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Desirable Leadership
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Submit application to: Livia Riley
Superintendent of Schools
Dioce of Harrisburg
4800 Union Deposit Road
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lrely@hbgdiocese.org


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www.hbgdiocese.org
Black Catholic Apostolate Fosters Evangelization with Celebration of Heritage

New Coordinator Leads Community in Honoring Gwen Summers

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

The Diocese’s Black Catholic Apostolate was established more than 30 years ago to address the economic and spiritual concerns of people with African ancestry, and to promote leadership, foster evangelization and address issues of racial injustice through family and educational programs.

Today, those undertakings remain a mission of the apostolate, even as it begins a new chapter of leadership and expanding programs.

In March, Angéle Mbassi succeeded Gwen Summers as coordinator of the apostolate. Summers, who served for more than 25 years, was honored on May 19 during a Mass that featured African and African-American faith and culture at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Harrisburg.

The Mass included prayers and hymns in French and English, and in languages native to Cameroon and Congo. The spirited music and the camaraderie among the congregation heartened those unfamiliar with the African languages to join in the chorus and responses.

“This is our first Mass celebrating both African and African-American faith and culture,” Mbassi told The Catholic Witness. The apostolate traditionally hosts a Mass in February to commemorate Black History Month.

“The history of the Black Catholics here traces to Africa. This celebration means something for us, because it is cultural,” she said.

In his homily, Deacon Lawrence Crudup said “It gladdens the heart of God when we all get together. God’s dwelling is with the human race. He wants to be among us. He is for us.”

“I am heartened as I look out at the congregation here and see many different races and tongues,” he remarked.

Looking to the future of the Black Catholic Apostolate, Mbassi said a monthly Black Catholic Ministry Mass and a Black Catholic apostolate drew dozens of community members on May 19 to the St. Francis of Assisi Soup Kitchen in Harrisburg.

Members of the Diocese’s Black Catholic community enjoy camaraderie during a social after Mass celebrating African and African-American heritage.

A girl raises her arms while praying the Our Father during Mass at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Harrisburg.

At the conclusion of the Mass at St. Francis on May 19, Summers passed a candle to Mbassi in a culturally-significant illustration of change in leadership. Mbassi, who refers to Summers as “Mama,” held her predecessor in a loving embrace as the congregation sang.

Members of the apostolate and the St. Francis community celebrated Summers’ service during a social after Mass at the St. Francis of Assisi Soup Kitchen.

Under the auspices of the Diocesan Office of Multicultural Ministries, the Black Catholic Apostolate is indirectly supported by the Diocesan Annual Campaign.

“Ministry to our African and African-American brothers and sisters has always been of utmost importance to our Diocese. This is true for communities with diverse backgrounds. Culture defines who we are and inevitably culture also influences our relationship with God,” said Jaclyn Curran, Coordinator of the Office of Multicultural Ministries.

“There is no mold that dictates how we worship or how we pray. We see this with the Polish, Hispanic/Latino and Vietnamese communities. Since its genesis in 1986 under the guidance of Deacon Halmon and Vem Banks, we have supported and encouraged our African and African-American friends to embrace and highlight their culture in everything we do as Church. In recent months, Angéle has made great strides in reaching out to communities. Although this applies to all ministries, to simply know they are not alone and we are here for them makes a big difference. As we continue to reach out and to know the spiritual needs to the community, it is my hope that they feel they can also reach out to me and share: What can we do to help strengthen your relationship with Jesus Christ?”

(Learn more about the Black Catholic Apostolate at www.hbgdiocese.org/multicultural-ministries/. 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.)
Diocesan High Schools ~ Class of 2019

Catholic Schools

Congratulations, Graduates!

Catholic schools throughout the Diocese are sharing graduation photos to celebrate student achievements. Watch the Diocese’s Facebook page for a slideshow of these and many more graduation pictures. Learn more about Catholic schools in the Diocese at www.gocatholicschools.org.

Elizabeth Carol Teresa Angus, Samuel Peter Bates, Gabrielle Elizabeth Bender, Kathryn Anne Bernick, Caroline Mee Bero, margaux Victoria Bissette, Adam Gerald Boudreau, Connor Joseph Brennan, Russell Michael Brown, Jr., William Joseph Bucher, Brynn Lee Butler, Jamie Elizabeth Cap, Arianna Doyle Caruso, Mark Daniel Centurione, John Andrew Christie, Aaron Taylor Coleman, Maribeth Maureen Connolly, Maura Grace Consedine, Molly Elizabeth Crowell, Alexander J. D’Amico, Nicholas J. D’Amico, Claire Elizabeth Dailey, Grace Ann Daley, Leah Frances Deppen, Isabel Maria Diaz, Ana Patricia Dominguez, Matthew Davis Donley, Kimberly Teresa Dudding, Lilly Elaine Easton, Patrick Michael Eiler, William Robert Ewan, Ellen Teresa Franz, Mary Theresa French, Tristan Robert Gil, Benjamin Paul Gnall, Meghan Elizabeth Grady, Franchetta Josephine Groves, Simon Srouji Gunther, Jensen Riley Haas, Ethan Joseph Huberman, Maria Roseanna Hekalew, Lydia Maria Hereshko, Emily Elizabeth Hine, Jonathan Andrew Hoyle, Kassidy Ruth Ingram, Rebecca Anne Jackson, Lulu Jiang, Kathryn Cecilia Johnson, Piper Lindsey Johnson, Riley Patrick Johnson, June Jung, Dominic Raphael Kelly, Meredith Leigh Kelly, Erica Ashley Kensi, Caroline Corrina Killian, Mia Mairead Kilroy, Lauren Rose Koranda, Molly McHale Krzywicki, Aya Marie Lacoco, Mariel Braxlyn Latimore, Erica Megan Lawrence, Nikolaos Andrew Lgeo, Patrick Talbert Levin, Jianghao Lin, Delaney Maura Lindholm, Matthew Todd Long, Alexis Nicole Majka, Giovanna Maria Malay, Veronica Angela Marinelli, Paxton Marie Masaracchia, Mariya Abigail Matthews, Makenna Renae May, Joseph Claires McCormick, Sunshine Armani McClare, Michael James McDermott, Cameron Jeffrey McKay, John Paul McKeen, Carson Daniel McNally, Jeffrey Scott Miekeley, Nathah

Trinity High School

Stephanie Uroda, Valedictorian

Yun Miller, Nathaniel John Miller, Samantha Lauren Miller, Steven Thomas Mitzyk, Conor Michael Moore, Bailey Roselyn O’Donnell, Madison Marie Olivero, Teresa Roseanne Osciowski, Juyoon Park, Andrew Anthony Pastor, Cameron K Piscione, Catherine Mary Plocher, Cheyenne-Grace Brooks Pohl, Nicholas Igor Poplaski, James Francis Post, Sophie Elizabeth Potok, Samuel Thomas Predmore, Brenna Nicole Quagliani, Claire Elizabeth Quinn, Sara Kelly Quinn, Olivia Anne Ritiri, Samantha Carol Rolney, Brianna Eliza Ruda, Lauren Nicole Seubert, Kenet Fredrika Sinkler, Margaret Anne Sobotta, Abigail Lane Sohonge, Naomí Rose Sonnerville, Eileen Margaret Spila, Kevin Ellis Stager, Ryan Albert Stager, Joseph Michael Stanisic, Anthony Michael Starvaggi, Treasure Lee Stewart, Luke Joseph Stiewy, Madison Marie Tara, Naomí Benyam Tegene, Hailey Marie Thumma, Brandy Dinh Tran, Lauren Elizabeth Tribek, Catherine Anna Turchetta, Stephanie Nicole Chunflung Uroda, Kaelen Angel Veres, Patrick Kelly Walker, Emily Marie Ward, Christopher David Williams, Samuel Lucas Wise, Olivia Marie Wyland, Kayla Marie Young, Molly Catherine Young, Andrew Elliott Zak, John Edward Zak, Katherine Palmer Zak, Christen Mary Zuvich

Delone Catholic High School

Rachel Nicole Singer, Valedictorian

Lauren Trimmer, Salutatorian


Bishop McDevitt High School

Rachel Nicole Singer, Valedictorian

Lauren Trimmer, Salutatorian

New Priests Share Insights on Discernment, Hope for Church

When did you first hear or consider the call to be a priest?
For me, it was as early as fifth grade. I heard the call for the first time around 10 years old. At the time, I didn’t really know what to think of it. I had always been in touch with the faith and had been excited about my faith. I always remember sitting in the school Mass on Fridays and really just being amazed at what the priest did on the altar, and being in awe of what he did.

That feeling really carried with me as I got older. In high school, I had a good friend and we started talking, and that’s how I found out he was discerning the priesthood at the same time. This was the first time that, other than my family, that I had someone my own age that I could talk to and share with about what I was feeling.

As I got to the end of high school, I wasn’t ready to make that final decision, that final jump into seminary. I really prayed and asked our Lord, “Lord, I’m really not sure what you’re calling me to do right now, but I know you’re definitely calling me to something special, whatever that is.” So I went through a year of college at St. Vincent’s and got involved in campus ministry. My experience there was good, but I never really felt fulfilled. I really sat down and started praying, asking the Lord what to do. That’s when it was clear to me that I should enter seminary and discern the priesthood, and nine years later, here I am.

What compelled you to finish formation at the Mount?
St. Charles was a great experience, a great seminary and I really enjoyed my time there. A big reason I thought about the Mount, was because of Quo Vadis Days. When I went to Quo Vadis Days for the first time, Father Matthew Cannon really opened my eyes to see that priests have fun. They play sports, they play board games, they watch movies. Growing up, I thought priests just said Mass and read their Bibles all day. That was my perception of priests, and Quo Vadis Days really opened my eyes to see not only how joyous priests are and how much they love their priesthood, but also how much fun they have.

When I was at that retreat, I also really liked going to the Mass. At the time I couldn’t put my finger on it, but there was something about the Mount that I liked, being there in the seminary and the chapel. That stayed with me and when the time came of deciding where I wanted to go for Theology, I’d been praying about it and said the Mount. Looking back, it was really a good decision. I’m fortunate and blessed to call myself a graduate of the Mount.

Were there people or factors that were instrumental in your discernment and/or your decision?
My parents first and foremost. I remember sitting down with them and saying I was going into seminary. My mom, throughout my childhood, would often say, “Matty, have you thought about the priesthood?” and I would say, “Mom, I’m not becoming a priest, stop asking.” I didn’t really think the priesthood was for me at the time. But moms have that sixth sense. She saw that call in me even before I fully embraced it.

I sat both of my parents down and they have been supportive since day one. They have been so supportive. It’s been a long journey, been nine years. I thank God that I’ve been blessed with parents who have supported me. I have two younger brothers and they were also supportive. Next year, I’m going to preside over the wedding of my brother Mike and his fiancé. My grandparents as well. I do have some religious in my family. My grandfather’s brother was a priest and his cousin is a Sister of Mercy.

What’s going through your head as you begin your priestly ministry?
It’s overwhelming in a good way. It’s an amazing blessing I have been given by God….I can’t wait to be a servant to God’s people. I can’t wait to be a witness to the Gospel. I can’t wait to live the parish life. It’s going to be an amazing journey.
ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD

Father Samuel Edward Good Miller
Parochial Vicar, Good Shepherd Parish, Camp Hill
From St. James Parish in Lititz
Warwick School District
St. Charles Borromeo Seminary
Mount St. Mary’s Seminary

When did you first hear or consider the call to be a priest?
I hadn’t paid really any attention to a call to the priesthood until I was in high school, because that is when I started taking my Catholic faith seriously. The youth group took a trip to a Steubenville conference in Atlanta, where we were exposed to a group of people very much on fire with their faith. It was something I had never seen before. Being cradle Catholic, you get used to going through the motions, but these people were in love with their faith and on fire with being Catholic. It was something I never thought I’d want, but it made me realize I want that! I started in my senior year really taking it seriously, and then I thought, “Ok, now it’s time to figure out what I want to do. Do I go to college? Maybe I start thinking about priesthood.”

I had looked back through my life at a couple signs. I was an altar server at St. James growing up, and we wore black cassocks. One day, I was wearing a white shirt underneath and I pulled the cassock up to see what I would look like if I was wearing a collar. Even when I was kind of lukewarm in my faith, I always wanted to serve well. It was one of those indicators that pointed me toward priesthood.

I didn’t know anything about seminary, so senior year I got in touch with the Vocations Director at the time and he and I met to discuss if I had a possible vocation. He was very positive and confident that I might be called to the priesthood, so he talked to me about what seminary was like. I went with him and a couple guys in the Diocesan van down to St. Charles Borromeo in Philadelphia, which really helped. Seminary was a big unknown for me. I didn’t really know what seminary life was like. It was one of those indicators that pointed me toward priesthood.

How has the support you’ve received from the people of the Diocese enabled you to focus on your formation for the priesthood?
The support is critical, and it has taught me to be grateful and responsible. One of the guys who graduated ahead of me said it well: When you realize you have people at your back who are supporting you through seminary, it motivates you to do your best for them. They’re taking their hard-earned money and giving it to the Diocese to support us, so that we can in turn serve them as priests. Their support financially is a motivating factor for me. You have all these people supporting you, and you’ve got to do your best for them.

Your ordination was less than a year after the Grand Jury Report on sexual abuse by clergy. What impact has this had on your formation and desire to become a priest?
The world has seen, very clearly, the horrible things that priests have done. It has made me want to be the best priest I can be – not in a proud way to show the world that there are good priests, because all people have to do is look around to see good priests. I just want to join into that chorus of those guys who are doing all the hard work, to continue to build up a good image of the priest. The sanctity of the priest passes on to the people. A holy priest influences his people, and it makes us work that much harder to be good and holy.

The candidates prostrate themselves in front of the altar as the congregation invokes the intercession of the saints on their behalf.

The traditional reception of first priestly blessings begins as Bishop Ronald Gainer receives a blessing from Father Samuel Miller.

Bishop Ronald Gainer places his hands on the head of Samuel Miller. It is through the Laying on of Hands and the Prayer of Ordination that a man is ordained a priest.
When did you first hear or consider the call to be a priest? When I was five, I wanted to be a priest, according to some of the stories given by my parents. My reason at the age of five was kind of comical, because I thought priests were really cool because they dressed up as wizards at Mass. Also at the age of five, I thought girls had “cooties,” so I thought “No cooties and I get to dress up like a wizard!” This whole thing sounded cool to a five year old!

Apparently, I thought bishops were even cooler, because they dressed up as wizards at school and they carried a stick. At a Vacation Bible School, the pastor asked, “Who wants to be a priest?” Everyone raised their hand except for me. The pastor said, “Andrew, why don’t you want to be a priest?” I said, “I want to be bishop. I want the hat and the stick!” He laughed and said, “You have to be a priest first, so raise your hand.”

I got a greater understanding of the priesthood naturally as I matured, and frankly it was something that just kept following me. I think the witness of many priests in my life who have been very generous, giving of themselves to community in service to God, and it was something that always was an attraction and I could never really shake it off. It was really an organic development for me and never disappeared until the conclusion that yes, this is really what the Lord is calling me to do. It was so logical that it would have been foolish for me to ignore it.

How has the support you’ve received from the people of the Diocese enabled you to focus on your formation for the priesthood? As I’ve always told the people in the Diocese, we don’t just become priests for them, we become priests because of them. Through the support of the Pentecost Collection, we’re able to go to school and get the training we need to be good priests. We cannot go to seminary, if it wasn’t for their Pentecost Collection support. We can’t do what we do, we can’t train the way we’re able to train as priests, if it wasn’t for the collection. I am exceptionally grateful to the Diocese for helping me get to this point. I wouldn’t be here without the Diocesan support. I’m very thankful for those who are making the sacrifice to contribute to the Pentecost Collection. I only ask that they would consider adding the sacrifice of prayer, to pray for all of us who are making the sacrifice to contribute to the Pentecost Collection.

I am a very hopeful disposition, and it’s one of intentionality. Hearing the news of the Grand Jury Report just made me much more intentional and focused, and frankly more intense about wanting to be a good priest, and wanting to regain that trust and respect.

In my case, I think the reaction has been just the same as everyone else’s has been: sadness, disappointment, frustration, anger, hope. Even my brother seminarians have spoken up, saying, “Many of us hadn’t even been born when those atrocious things occurred, but we can be part of the solution today.” I think it’s a very hopeful disposition, and it’s one that I take to heart. I may not have been alive during those problems, but I can be part of the solution today. That starts with how I am as a priest and how I conduct myself, and I how I lay down my life for those that the Lord has called me to serve.

Father Andrew St. Hilaire receives a paten and chalice from Bishop Ronald Gainer. In receiving the elements that will become the Body and Blood of Christ, the new priests are instructed to conform their lives to the mystery of the Cross.
Father Joshua Weaver smiles as he and the newly-ordained priests exchange a Sign of Peace with all priests present.
York Catholic Girls’ Lacrosse Nabs First District 3 Title

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

Success for the Fighting Irish of York Catholic girls’ lacrosse program has long been tradition, but never have they been able to capture that elusive Class 2A district trophy – not until 2019 that is.

After losing a one-goal game to Kennard-Dale in the York Area league final two weeks prior, the Fighting Irish were all but guaranteed a rematch with their rival in the District 3 final at Central Dauphin’s Landis Field, Harrisburg, under the lights on May 22.

Given the Fighting Irish mostly field all freshmen and sophomores, playing poorly in a big game like a district final would be understandable. The Fighting Irish played poorly for exactly 63 seconds, giving up two quick strike Ram goals to trail early. After that, York Catholic did what very good lacrosse teams do no matter what experience they have – they won face-offs and fought for hard-to-win groundballs. A team that wins the groundball battle in lacrosse wins 85 percent of lacrosse games played at any level. And the Fighting Irish scored six unanswered goals by winning key possessions off of loose groundballs.

Leading 11-5 at half, the Fighting Irish seemed to be in complete control. But with that big lead, York Catholic stopped attacking the cage and momentum swung back to the Rams as they held the Fighting Irish scoreless for nearly 20 minutes in the second half. As good as York Catholic was on offense in the first half, they were equally solid on defense in the second half as the Rams scored three times to close the gap, 11-9, with eight minutes left. York Catholic’s Grace Doyle scored a huge goal, the Irish’s only second-half goal, with five minutes left to make it 12-9, and that tally took the steam out of the furious Ram comeback.

After the game and medal presentations, both teams gathered for a combined team photo. It was a touching moment for all lacrosse fans there, as it put on display the deep respect these two rival lacrosse programs have for one another. And it also showed the true sportsmanship spirit that marks competitive lacrosse that dates back some 400 years when Native Americans first played the game. That enduring spirit is clearly alive and well in York County.

At press time, the Fighting Irish had advanced to the final four in the PIAA state playoffs.

As a sign of mutual respect, players from both Kennard-Dale and York Catholic pose for a combined team photo after the District 3 championship game.

Quo Vadis Days
Vocation Retreat for young men ages 15-25
Sunday - Thursday
June 23-27, 2019
Mount St. Mary’s University & Seminary, Emmitsburg, MD
$50 Registration Fee

For registration forms for either retreat please contact:
the Office of Vocations at 717-657-4804 ext. 282

Fiat Days
Vocation Retreat for young women ages 15-25
Sunday - Wednesday
June 30 - July 3, 2019
Mount St. Mary’s University & Seminary, Emmitsburg, MD
$50 Registration Fee

The Fighting Irish celebrate their first District 3 championship in girls’ lacrosse. With a young, talented team, this may be the start of many to follow.
York Catholic Breaks Ground to Enhance Student Experience

By Lori Keith
Special to The Witness

York Catholic High School broke ground on the first phase of its “Grow Today, Impact Tomorrow” capital campaign, designed to provide resources for needed renovations and improvements to the high school with a focus on academic, student life, and extra-curricular experiences.

Bishop Ronald Gainer led the blessing of the site on May 29.

Phase one projects include renovated classrooms with facility wide air-conditioning; upgrades and modernization to science labs and lecture rooms; facility-wide safety enhancements, including an elevator; the creation of a new Student and Media Center which will also house a College and Career Readiness Center; student center, renovated chapel and lobby upgrade; and the installation of a turf athletic field for 12 athletic teams.

“STEM has been a focus of a YC education since the construction of the Brady Science Wing during the Cold War. While our building has remained much the same, our programs have continued to meet the evolving needs of our students into the 21st century. We are excited to revive the building of the late 1950s to match that of our outstanding 21st century spiritual, academic, and extra-curricular programs,” said principal Katie Seufert.

The goal is to raise $8 million, over three to five years, to allow for two separate phases of renovation. With a projected cost of $2 million needed to complete the first phase, plans are in motion to upgrade classrooms, including air conditioning, and to install the turf field by the upcoming 2019-2020 school year.

The second phase includes the conversion and modernization of the Brady Science Wing that serves seventh and eighth grade students, including air conditioned classrooms, science labs, central office, additional restrooms and safety upgrades. Other goals include home and guest grandstands at the new turf field, a concession stand, and modernization of the Brady Science Wing.

The Catholic Witness

Late Charge Not Enough for Delone in District Softball Championship

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

A 45-minute rain delay in the sixth inning of the District 3 Class 3A softball championship at Millersville University on May 28 almost proved to be the turning point for the Squirettes of Delone Catholic.

Down 5-2 to the Kutztown Cougars when a thunderstorm set upon Seiber Softball Stadium, the Squirettes returned to the plate shortly before 11 p.m. and began nipping at the Cougars’ heels.

Leading off the final inning with a walk and then a double from Lauren Little, Delone quickly loaded the bases after Kutztown pitcher Olivia Kardohley hit a batter and walked two more.

As two Squirettes crossed home plate and closed the deficit to one, Delone’s dugout emptied of teammates clamoring the fences to spark a rally.

Kutztown, however, changed pitchers, calling on its bullpen to keep Delone at bay, with bases loaded. The Cougars held on for the 5-4 win.

The weather-ruddied championship started nearly an hour and a half after the scheduled first pitch, as the 2A title game earlier in the evening experienced a lightning delay.

Early defensive errors on Delone’s part gave Kutztown the edge throughout the matchup. Delone had its best offense in the fourth inning, with hits by Katie Ernst and Emma Schneider, to send its first runner across the plate. The Squirettes, however, had 8 errors on the night, three of which led to three Cougar runs in the sixth.

Both teams moved on to state play, with Delone advancing and Kutztown losing in the first round at press time June 4.
Tell me little about your childhood—parents, siblings, etc.
I grew up in Lancaster, which is a lot bigger now than it was. I have two brothers. I was the middle child. When I was young, we moved to Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish on the west end of town. They had a school and we all went there. My brothers and I also all went to Lancaster Catholic High School. Our parents actually also went to Lancaster Catholic High School.

Were you always interested in becoming a priest?
When growing up as an altar server, I always had people from daily Mass come up to me, even some of the Sisters who ministered at the parish, and ask “Have you ever thought of becoming a priest?” I would say no, and they said, “Well, you would be good at it.” It wasn’t something that I said “never” too, but I never felt extra called to it. Then at about 19 years old, I was trying to figure some stuff out about where I was going and what I was doing. At the time, I wasn’t going to church, so it was a double call. God called me to get back to church and also to be a priest, which I thought was pretty strange.

Since you were not going to church at the time, what really drew you to the priesthood?
In trying to think about what I wanted to do with my life, I was interested in doing a lot of service. I wasn’t thinking of service to advance in a career, but just a constant service profession I would do throughout my whole life. Mulling that over in my head and figuring out where that was leading me, it just came to me in a moment of clarity. It was God that intervened in that place, saying, “Remember all those Gospels you heard throughout your whole life going to church and hearing about what Jesus did and hearing about what he called his followers to do—that’s the type of service you can do. There’s the Gospel and I have a special role for you in that.” That’s where it all kind of came together, seeing the priesthood as a work of service for people.

Can you tell me a little about your seminary experience and the continuing of your discernment process?
For seminary, I went to St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe. It was a very, very good experience. We had only about six guys there from Harrisburg at the beginning, which was neat. Our class sizes were fairly small. It was a great place and being with the Benedictines was a nice experience too. We were right next to a college there, so there was some interaction in ministry with college students. We also had some good ministry placements. The best one was the psychiatric hospital out in Western Pennsylvania. That was my favorite apostolic ministry, I think because there were a lot of thoughts and expectations or thoughts and unknowns about a place like that. We had an excellent coordinator out there who would coordinate with the seminaries each year and everyone would give you an orientation. Even in the place called forensics, which was for those people who had committed a crime but were also in need of a psychiatric hospital, that had a little bit of unknown to it as well. But making that human connection with people, I don’t care where you are, making that connection with people really helped me to see God working through them and working through me. And it was simple ministry. Simple conversations, prayer groups and just experiencing the beauty of God’s people.

What makes your ministry in Mount Carmel unique?
The most stark difference, at the beginning, was the size and the amount of the demands. At St. Joe’s (Hanover) something was coming at you all the time. Here, it’s a little more quiet, which is a really interesting shift. It’s a lot less hectic. But the same thing is the love of God’s people I’ve experienced here. That’s the same. I’ve experienced the same amount of support, love and kindness. There are really salt of the earth people here. Up here, there is a lot of history of very hard working families. It’s really a community that my predecessor, Father (Martin) Moran, really wanted to see revitalized. There are a lot of great things happening and there are a lot of dedicated people up here.

Tell me something fun about you, or a little known fact.
I like the outdoors a lot. Even though my last name is Fischer, I really stink at fishing. But I thought maybe I’d get into that sometime soon because I really like quiet and being able to get away. Our life as Diocesan priests is tremendously busy. About 95% of my time is with people, so I find silence and solitude really recharging. One of my favorite places to go on retreat are to monasteries, where you generally have silence. I really enjoy that solitude, that quiet, that prayer rhythm. But also nature. I find hiking very, very fun, and camping. Also movies, I really love movies.

Do you have a favorite book or movie? Why?
I really like to read about the saints. I have a book right now about Catherine of Siena. I’ve really been taken by her story and how powerful she was. About how much she was able to accomplish and how many souls she was able to affect. And just her boldness to call people, even very influential clerics and even the pope himself, to call people to task. She’s so slouch, but at the same time she has this humility that is really amazing. A friend also gave me To Kill A Mockingbird. I loved that book and then I watched the movie. I also love Humphrey Bogart movies.

To that 19 year old who might be discerning, what advice would you give to that young man or woman considering religious life?
The first thing would be to go to Adoration. That was the place that I found God gave me the most powerful indications of “keep going” or “maybe you’re going to take a turn here.” Number two would be to seek out a spiritual advisor, preferably somebody who is along that same path you are. So for a young man to look toward a priest. To be able to talk to somebody and have that prayer. It’s nice to be able to ask somebody those questions about what to expect. Number three, ask a lot of questions. You have to know yourself, but you also have to ask a lot of questions.

Patron of Lisbon, lost items, American Indians, elderly people, faith in the Blessed Sacrament, and Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land
Fernando Martins de Bulhões was born in Lisbon, Portugal, on August 15, 1195. He entered the Canons Regular of the Order of the Holy Cross at the Augustinian Abbey. After ordination, Franciscan Friars settled near the Abbey. Fernando was attracted to their simple, evangelical life and joined, taking the name Anthony. He set sail for Morocco to preach, became ill and headed back to Portugal, but the ship was blown off course. He landed in Sicily and ended up in Tuscany. At the Franciscan Assembly in 1221 in Assisi, his preaching ability was noticed and St. Francis himself assigned him to the rural hermitage of San Paolo. “Happy the man whose words issue from the Holy Spirit and not from himself,” he preached.
In 1228, he served as envoy from the general chapter to Pope Gregory IX. At the papal court, his preaching was hailed as a “jewel case of the Bible” and he was commissioned to produce his collection, Sermons for Feast Days. Pope Gregory described him as the “Ark of the Covenant.”
Anthony became sick in 1231 and went to the woodland retreat at Camposampiero, where he built a cell under the branches of a walnut tree. He died on the way back to Padua on June 13, 1231, at the Poor Clare monastery near Padua. Anthony wanted to be buried in a small church, however, due to his notoriety, construction of a large basilica began around 1232. It is said upon his death children in the streets cried and all the bells of the churches rang of their own accord. Another story regards his tongue, which is displayed for veneration in a large reliquary along with his jaw and his vocal cords in the chapel where he is buried. When his body was exhumed 30 years after his death, it had turned to dust, but the tongue was claimed to have glistered and looked as if it was still alive and moist. Anthony was canonized on May 50, 1232, by Pope Gregory IX, and on January 16, 1946, Pope Pius XII declared him a Doctor of the Church.

(Compiled by Angela M. Orsini)
Mary's Fiat
By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
Special to The Witness

Some time ago, a Sister in my congregation just didn’t feel right. She ached all over and was tired all the time. After a visit to the doctor and several tests, she was diagnosed with bone marrow cancer. The doctors told her that her kidneys were giving out as well. Dialysis would assist her kidneys in their function, but there was no cure and no treatment for her terminal cancer. Upon hearing the news, she whispered, “Fiat!” and signed medical papers for palliative care that would make her as comfortable as possible. When our religious community at large was given the news, several of us began to tear up and felt awe at Sister Margaretta’s courage. She was called to her heavenly home a mere 10 days after diagnosis.

This story reminded me of the quote written by Archbishop Alban Goodier, Archbishop of Bombay, India, in the book, Prince of Peace, 1913: “This Fiat of Mary is more than her own word. It is the conclusion and fulfillment of all her own longings, and of all the longings of all the holy souls that had preceded her since the days of Eve. ‘Let it be done, let it be done,’ had been the prayer of all the ages, and at last the word had been said which was the ‘Amen’ of the litany. She speaks in the name of all the world, in the name of all creation; for her Fiat is the acceptance for them of that union with God for which, as St. Paul says, all creation yearns.

Reread the words that are in bold face. The ‘yes’ of Mary is an echo found throughout all of time from those souls who are willing to proclaim that God is absolutely amazing. The modern Church calls this evangelization!

Her declaration of evangelization can be found in her song of praise, the Magnificat. Within it, she declares her unique gifts and talents as well as God’s favors on all of humanity. She screams out about how God blesses the small and weak who believe in him.

She cries out what God has done in her life.

By the power of our baptism, Jesus gives us the power to proclaim our personal magnificat; what God has done for us. This is our story of how grace transforms us! This is how each of us can live our faith out loud! It is my prayer that you will find your song of praise written on your heart and proclaim it to the entire world!


(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.)

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

Holy Trinity Parish Festival, June 5-8 from 6-10 p.m. at the parish in Columbia. Rides, food, games and more.

St. Cecilia Parish Festival, June 7, 6 and 8 at 750 State Drive in Lebanon. Meals served from 4-7 p.m. each evening includes lasagna or stuffed shells on Thursday, fried fish and mac & cheese on Friday, and roast beef and filling on Saturday. Homemade baked goods available. Entertainment from 7-10 p.m. each night featuring Johnson Brothers at 6 p.m. featuring games, Bingo (7 p.m.), kiddieland and a “prizes galore” tent. Entertainment features Lite Fries, Brickers Fries, Sam & Jo Gyros, Roadside Grille and Pretzels, Vietnamese Catholic Association of York, Z&D cello’s Pizza, Rita’s Water Ice, Smoothie King, Aunt Lydia’s.

St. Margaret Mary’s Spring Festival, June 8 from 6-9 p.m. on the church grounds in Harrisburg. Children’s games, face painting, photo booth, food by the Knights of Columbus and food trucks, entertainment by Sean Malloy on Saturday evening, new 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. Stands open at 4 p.m. Free parking.

St. Joseph Parish Carnival, June 11-15 from 5-10 p.m. on the parish grounds in York. Sunshine Shows, entertainment by Sean Malloy on Saturday evening, new games, raffles and children, beer garden and a $10,000 cash raffle. Food trucks from Big Chipper BBQ, Marzollo’s Pizza, Rita’s Water Ice, Smoothie King, Aunt Lydia’s Pretzels, Vietnamese Catholic Association of York, Z&D Fries, Bicklers Fresh Fries, Big Mac, roadside grille and Bake My Day. Purchase tickets at the parish office or at the carnival. Mass is at 4 p.m. on June 15.

Mother Cabrini Parish Picnic, June 14 from 5-10 p.m., June 15 from 5-10 p.m., and June 16 from 2-10 p.m. at the RCA Picnic Grounds in Ranshaw, rain or shine. Homemade pierogi, pigeons and haluski. Refreshments, games, prizes, music, lottery scratch-off ticket decoration and a “prizes galore” tent. Entertainment features Lite Switch on Friday from 7-10 p.m., Double Talk on Saturday from 6-9 p.m.; and Memory Lane on Sunday from 6-9 p.m. Mark your calendars and join us for this special Father’s Day fun celebration. Come join us for some ‘ol fashioned Coal Region fun, food and hospitality. See you there!

St. Mary’s Cultural Festival, June 14 from 5-9 p.m. and June 15 from noon-9 p.m. at Immaculate Conception BVM Parish in York. Classic Latin American and classic American food and entertainment. Raffle, bake sale, kids’ games and face painting.

Divine Redeemer Parish Summer Festival, June 14 from 4-10 p.m. and June 15 from 3-10 p.m. on the parish grounds in Annville. Food court, midway with games, basket raffles, raffles, face painting, photo booth, food by the Knights of Columbus and food trucks, entertainment by Pentagon on Saturday from 7-10:30 p.m., and the New Individuals on Sunday from 6-9:30 p.m. Stands open at 3 p.m. on June 14 and noon until 11 p.m. on Sunday and Saturday. Free parking.

St. Paul the Apostle Parish Summer Bazaar, June 15 and 16 on the parish grounds in Annville. Live music, raffles, ice cream, a beer garden, fried shrimp, fries, grilled cheeseburger, hot dogs, funnel cake sale is June 14 from 4-10 p.m. and June 15 at noon. Entertainment by Swing Masters Polka Band on Friday and Looker on Saturday.

St. Paul’s Summer Festival, June 16 and 17 at 650 State Drive in Lebanon. Games, food, cash raffles, and entertainment by The Polka Quads. Take a Church tour and see world relics. Liturgy (Mass) at 10 a.m., homemade Eastern European food to eat in or take out. Dance to the Polka Whooo and 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.

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.

Holy Spirit Parish Summer Festival, “Alohah” 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 raffle stand and live music nightly.

St. Catherine Laboure Parish’s Dinner on Derry Food Truck Fest, Aug. 18 from 4-8 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.schbg.org.

JULY

Prince of Peace Parish Picnic, July 14 from noon-8 p.m. at Cibor Park in Bressler. Foods include lamb, sarma, pork, barbecue, potato salad, cabbage and noodles, French fries and funnel cakes. Desserts include stuffed, lemon pila, homemade cakes and cupcakes. Entertainment by The Happy Slovenes and Reminiscos. Call the parish at 717-985-1330 for information.

Summer Festival, sponsored by the Sisters of Saints 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, haluskhy and potato pancakes, as well as hot dogs, hamburgers, ice cream and more. Games for children and adults, raffles, and bingo.

Slavic Fest at St. Ann Byzantine Catholic Parish in Harrisburg, July 20 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 Whooo 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.

AUGUST

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Diocesan Notebook

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

SPRITUAL 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 how the Sisters helped them however they could. Tour is $8/adult, $6/youth ages 7-18, free for children six and younger. The tour lasts 45-60 minutes. Purchase tickets at setonshrine.org/civil-war-tour or at the door.

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/youth ages 7-18, free for children six and younger. The tour lasts 45-60 minutes. Purchase tickets at setonshrine.org/civil-war-tour or at the door.

Vacation Bible School at St. Peter Parish in Elizabethtown, July 21-25 from 6-8:30 p.m. Celebrate the “Marvelous Mystery of the Mass.” All children in K4 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 song DVD. Interested volunteers must have diocesan clearances. For information and registration, visit www.stpeteretown.org or call the parish office at 717-367-1255.

FUNDRAISERS & EVENTS

Summer music theater camp at Trinity High School in Camp Hill, July 8-26 from 9 a.m.-noon weekdays. Featuring “Little League, 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 feature “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/SanMarzaleParadeKulpmontPa?ref=ts.

Linemen clinic with Dolphins coach Pat Flaherty, for football players entering grades 7-12, June 22 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Delone Catholic High School’s J.T. Flaherty Field in McSherrystown. Registration begins at 8 a.m. Registration forms available on the clinic’s Facebook page (Mason Dixon Linemen Clinic), at www.DeloneCatholic.org or by e-mail at masondixonlinemen@gmail.com.

Our Lady Help of Christians Council of Catholic Women in Lykens, chicken barbecue and bake sale, June 8 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in the social hall. Tickets are $10 for half chicken, baked potatoes, corn, applesauce, roll and butter. Take-out only. Bake sale takes place during the fundraiser.

St. Andrew’s Annual CCYW Yard Sale in Waynesboro, July 6 from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and June 8 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the church. Household items, décor, collectibles, antiques, toys, children’s clothes, books, crafts, furniture, small appliances, jewelry, tools, lawn and garden, etc. For information, call Kathryn Osbourn at 717-352-3472 or Colleen McManus at 412-951-0209.

The Annunciation Women of Mercy and Joy in McSherrystown are selling tickets for a raffle basket valued at $300 for Father’s Day. Tickets are $1 each or six for $5. Tickets available after Masses at Annunciation BVM Church in McSherrystown June 8 and 9.

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.thesilenceofmary.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 children of the parish and their families are welcome to attend, but will need a reservation. Contact Alice Humphrey at ahlj121@gmail.com or 717-794-5211, or Rose Hebdah at rehbeda@comcast.net or 717-762-6257 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 youth group at the following events some of which are sponsored by the Diocese: Dinner and mini golf June 10; Jubilee Day in Mechanicsburg, June 20; St. Joan of Arc Parish festival, June 21; Blessed is She picnic at St. Katharine Drexel Parish in Mechanicsburg, June 22; movie night, July 3; Fourth of July party, July 4; tubing and kayaking on July 6; Theology on Tap: Fr. Anthony, July 18; Humor: Pat Flaherty, July 21; Our Lady of Lourdes Pilgrim Picnic, July 28; whitewater 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.

JOB OPENINGS

St. Joseph Parish in Milton is seeking a new parish organist/choir director. If interested in applying, e-mail stjosephmilton@verizon.net or call the parish office at 570-742-4356 for more information. Persons should have experience playing and directing Catholic Liturgy. They need to have a great love and knowledge of the faith and be willing to serve. Salary depends on experience and the amount of services one is able to commit; time expectation is about 325-350 hours per year.

Resurrection Catholic School in Lancaster seeks a second-grade teacher for the 2019-2020 school year. Candidates must have a bachelor’s degree and a valid PA teaching certificate in elementary education. Complete the application packet at www.hbgdiocese.org/catholic-schools/employment-applications and submit to the Diocesan Education Office. Send letter of introduction and resume to Brenda Weaver at 521 E. Orange Street, Lancaster, Pa., 17602 or bweaver@rcspa.org.

Lebanon Catholic School seeks a director of advancement to advance the mission of the school through fundraising and constituent relations. Position will be responsible for the development of a strategic plan for advancement for presentation and implementation, and for managing all aspects of advancement. Bachelor’s degree or higher in business, marketing, communications or related field. Minimum of 3-5 years of experience in business, sales, marketing or advancement. Send a cover letter and resume with three references, to Mrs. Deb Waters, Principal, at dwaterls@lebanoncatholicschool.org.

Dioecesan Notebook continues on page 15
St. Anne, Resurrection Students Receive Scholarships to Lancaster Catholic

Four students from St. Anne School and one from Resurrection School, both in Lancaster, have received scholarships to attend Lancaster Catholic High School. Annabelle Kiefer and Rebekah Citsay, from St. Anne’s, received Academic Achievement Scholarships, awarded to five students with the highest scores on the LCHS entrance test. Alison Brewer received the Academic Excellence in Science Scholarship, and William Scott received the Academic Excellence in History Scholarship. Griffin Stefanow of Resurrection School received the Excellence in Religion Scholarship. Lancaster Catholic awards these scholarships to incoming freshmen for excellence in academic subjects, fine and performing arts, and Catholic faith and service. Students are required to submit an essay along with letters of recommendation supporting their excellence in their areas of choice. One $1,000 scholarship is awarded in each category.

DIOCESAN NOTEBOOK CONTINUES ON PAGE 14

York Catholic High School is seeking a science teacher and development officer. The science teacher is a 10-month position (available fall 2019) for grades 7-12. Certification and related bachelor degree in appropriate major; state and federal clearances required. The development officer is a 12-month position (available fall 2019) for incoming freshmen and grades 7-12. Certification and related bachelor degree, technical skills particularly in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Power Point. Knowledge of donor perfect preferred. State and federal clearances also required. For both positions, send résumé, certification, Diocesan application, a copy of state and federal clearances, and letter of interest to Sheila Gick, Administrative Assistant, York Catholic High School, 601 East Springettsbury Avenue, York, Pa. 17403, 717-846-8871, ext. 217, sgick@yorkcatholic.org.

St. John Neumann Parish in Lancaster is seeking a director of education (DRE), fine for all aspects of the religious education programs of the parish and oversight of adult education. Candidates must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with an extensive knowledge of Catholic teachings. Successful candidates must demonstrate strong communication skills and the ability to administrate and provide direction to all the Religious Education programs. Bachelor’s degree and a minimum of three years of teaching experience preferred. Submit cover letter and résumé with three references to Thomas Conner, Parish Manager, St. John Neumann Church, 601 E. Delp Road, Lancaster, Pa., 17601 or tconner@sjnlancaster.org.

Seven Sorrows BVM Parish in Middletown is seeking a music director/organist to lead sacred music for three weekend Masses, Holy Days of Obligation and funeral and wedding liturgies. Position also leads the adult choir (September-May) with one rehearsal per week. Successful candidate must be proficient at organ and piano. The organ is a three manual Rodgers pipe/electronic combination. Bachelor’s degree in music or extensive experience desired. Thorough knowledge of Roman Catholic liturgy required. Position opens in July. Candidate must also live and exemplify the values of the Catholic faith. Submit résumé to fkeating@srvbvm.org or Father Edward Keating, pastor, 280 N Race St, Middletown, Pa., 17057, by June 14.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

JUNE

Next Deadline: June 12

The deadline for submissions for the June 21 edition of The Witness is Wednesday, June 12 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.
Franciscan Center Undertaking Efforts to Address Sustainability in Coal Region

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

The Franciscan Friars who minister in Coal Township, Shamokin and Trevorton are undertaking a new ministry that will address sustainability in the Coal Region.

The Franciscan Center, located in the former rectory at Our Lady of Hope Parish in Coal Township, will serve as a meeting space and housing facility for groups and interns focusing on ways to address socio-economic and environmental issues in the area.

Bishop Ronald Gainer blessed the center on Memorial Day in front of a crowd of community members, local leaders, priests and seminarians of the Franciscan Friars.

“We draw our inspiration for this effort from our Holy Father and his encyclical, Laudato Si,” said Father Martin Kobos, OFM Conv., pastor of Our Lady of Hope Parish in Shamokin.

In the encyclical, Pope Francis appeals for “a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet….since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all.”

Those associated with the Franciscan Center are trusting that it becomes a place where the “new dialogue” can take shape.

“Under the Franciscan Center, we have already formed the Anthracite Region for Progress, which regularly pulls together business leaders from Coal Township, Shamokin and Trevorton to discuss projects that would revitalize the area and care for the environment,” Father Kobos said.

This summer, the center will begin welcoming interns from the Bucknell Center for Sustainability & Environment, from Bucknell University in Lewisburg and the Shepherd Higher Education Consortium on Poverty—a consortium of 26 colleges and universities that leads the development of undergraduate poverty studies. Seminarians for the Conventual Franciscans will also spend two weeks there, working at various ministry sites.

Partnerships currently include local legal services, support agencies and a police department.

“The fall of the Anthracite Coal Industry and the economic decline of Shamokin/Coal Township and the surrounding area have placed a heavy burden on the people of this area, not to mention the effects on the land,” said Kathy Jeremiah, director of the Franciscan Center. “But our community spirit is still very much alive and acts as a ray of hope for people looking to see their hometown thrive once again. Working with local, state, federal officials and academia alongside our faith-based community has a much larger impact when trying to achieve economic and environmental revitalization as we are accomplishing.”

Collaboration for Ministry
The establishment of the Franciscan Center was inspired by the Mother Maria Kaupas Center in nearby Mount Carmel. A ministry within Divine Redeemer Parish, it was founded in 2015 as a center for volunteerism and community service.

Eager to have a similar networking site in the interest of community sustainability, the Franciscan Friars met with staff of the Mother Maria Kaupas Center and the Franciscan Friars’ Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation (JPIC) ministry in 2017.

“The Mother Maria Kaupas Center was our inspiration, and the people there have been helpful to us,” said Father Kobos, who also credits Father Michael Lasky, OFM, Conv., Chair of the JPIC Commission, and Father Steven Frenier, OFM Conv., pastor of Our Lady of Hope Parish, for the center’s establishment and the fruits it has already borne.

“One of the greatest challenges is sharing the good news of what has been accomplished with the people of the community in a way that invites them to participate in the various collaborative efforts with which we engage,” Jeremiah said. “We truly believe everyone has a gift to give, given by God, and we pray they come to share that gift through the Franciscan Center and our work for revitalization of our region and common good of everyone.”

Father Kobos is optimistic for the center, and for the collaboration and engagement it will foster for the future of the region. He is also hopeful for involvement from additional community members, leaders and business men and women.

“The center and the people who are working from it are doing so much extraordinary work in an effort that builds bridges and strengthens community. I am almost beside myself because so much good is happening,” he said.

(Learn more about the Franciscan Center and is partners by contacting Kathy Jeremiah at kathy.j@ola.org.)

Members of the community gather May 27 for the blessing of the Franciscan Center, which will serve as a place for networking and collaboration on opportunities for sustainability in the Coal Region.

One of the rooms in the Franciscan Center, located in the former rectory on the grounds of Our Lady of Hope Parish. The center will be a place for community leaders, groups and college interns to focus on strategies and actions that address socio-economic and environmental issues in the region.