Golden Anniversaries Serve as a Testament for Marriage

By Rachel Bryson, M.S.
The Catholic Witness

The year was 1969. Apollo 11 landed on the moon, Sesame Street debuted, gas was 35 cents a gallon and Woodstock attracted more than 350,000 rock and roll fans. The year also saw the marriage of more than 340 couples in the Diocese of Harrisburg.

More than 100 of those 347 couples were recently recognized during a special Mass celebrated by Bishop Ronald Gainer. The 50th Anniversary Mass, annually hosted by the Diocesan Office of Family and Respect Life Ministries, the Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women and the Senior Adult Ministry, was celebrated at Good Shepherd Church in Camp Hill on Sunday, July 14. Surrounded by family members, friends and other loved ones, the golden anniversary couples took this opportunity to renew their commitments to each other, to God and to the Church.

“Let me say congratulations to our 50th wedding anniversary couples and what a joy it is to gather together with you, with your families and friends in this Diocesan celebration,” said Bishop Gainer. “Our records show that there were 347 couples in our Diocese who this year are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. What a great blessing and what a great witness you all give to this beautiful sacrament Christ has given to us in the Church.”

“A wedding anniversary doesn’t just celebrate the passing of time. Fifty years is a long time and it’s a wonderful testimony to both of you, to each of you spouses and all of you together, of the commitment you made on your wedding day. For better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, whatever life held in store for you, you would remain faithful to those wedding vows,” continued Bishop Gainer. “So we celebrate not just 50 years, but fidelity through those 50 years. We live in a world that it is becoming more and more likely that people don’t keep their promises. Words are spoken and taken lightly. But you spoke those words from the core of your being and you have remained faithful through these years to what you said before God and one another and the Church. For that we thank you. You are more valuable than any homily or sermon I could preach today because your lives give witness to the teaching of the Church. Your lives give witness of the love Christ has for his Church, which is embodied in the love you have for one another, and your love for your families.”

Recommitment

“Blessed are you, Lord, for in the good and the bad times of our life you have stood lovingly by our side. Help us, we pray, to remain faithful in our love for one another, and your love for your families.”

IN THIS EDITION
Page 4: Remembering Maretta Schmidt
Page 5: Holy Trinity School opens in York
Page 6: Catholic Charities seeks foster care parents to offer love and support for children

More WEDDING MASS, page 2
Wedding Mass
Continued from 1
Gainer, and among their families and friends, the 140 couples attending recommitted themselves to each other, just as they did 50 years ago.

“The best thing is that we were friends before we got married. We loved the companionship and just being together. Having your ‘best friend’ become someone you can trust and share everything with,” said Hans and Marge Mijocевич from St. Patrick Parish in Carlisle.

“Our faith in God and His mother keep us from stumbling around in the dark,” said Leonard and Janet Buckley from Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Conewago. “All the major decisions in our life were made with prayer.”

“We always prayed and worshipped together and always kept our third partner in the marriage, the Lord, the center of our relationship,” said Fred and Barbara Persing from Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Mount Carmel.

“Being of the same faith has given us a solid foundation and a way to handle life’s ups and downs. We realize that neither of us is perfect,” added George and Patricia Delaney from St. Joseph Parish in Mechanicsburg. “Our faith has given us opportunities to meet and to form close relationships with people who share similar values and lifestyles.”

“Love and faith reinforce each other, with both providing something that you can count on and which will always be there when you need it the most,” said Lee and Barbara Woodmansee from St. Rose of Lima Parish in York.

Serving as a testament for marriage, the couples celebrating had some advice to give those just starting their marriages.

“Making God your number one priority, respect for each other’s feelings, good communication daily, learning to listen, making small sacrifices for each other, complimenting one another, but most importantly, keeping your love strong, that way you will achieve unity in your family,” advised Juan and Analis Ortiz from St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Lancaster.

“Communicate, cooperate, be affectionate, be honest and responsible, be as selfless as possible,” said the Delaneys. “Have both common and differing interests, as well as a good sense of humor, and a fair amount of maturity.”

For more photos from the 50th Anniversary Mass, visit the Diocese of Harrisburg’s Facebook page. More information and resources on the Diocesan marriage and family ministry can be found on Marriage and Family page of our website, www.hbgdiocese.org.

Correction
The Mother Maria Kaupas Center, which was recently awarded a $2,800 grant through the Matthew 25 program, will use the majority of these funds to establish a diaper bank for families in need. This information was incorrectly reported in the July 5 issue of The Catholic Witness. We apologize for the misinformation.
Dr. Scott Hahn to Present at Event in New Oxford in August

Well-known Catholic author and speaker Dr. Scott Hahn will return to New Oxford on Aug. 24 for a day-long event, sponsored by Breadbox Media – the national, Catholic, podcasting network operating within the Diocese of Harrisburg. Dr. Hahn will deliver three talks throughout the day: Silent Knight, Holy Knight; The First Society; and The Hour is Coming.

Pete Socks, Breadbox Media General Manager and a member of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Conewago, is looking forward to bringing Dr. Hahn back to the area.

"Last time we had Scott here was in 2014, and the event was a huge success," he said. "This year, I look to build upon that success and also introduce people to what Breadbox Media is all about. This event is Breadbox Media's first regional conference, and it is exciting to have Scott Hahn as our first speaker, and I look forward to seeing everyone there."

Dr. Hahn holds the Father Michael Scanlan Chair of Biblical Theology and the New Evangelization at Franciscan University of Steubenville, where he has taught since 1990 and is the Founder and President of the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology. In 2005, he was appointed as the Pope Benedict XVI Chair of Biblical Theology and Liturgical Proclamation at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pa. Dr. Hahn is also the bestselling author of numerous books, including The Lamb’s Supper and Reasons to Believe and Signs of Life. He lives in Steubenville, Ohio.

The event will be at the New Oxford High School Auditorium, 130 Berlin Rd., New Oxford. Doors open at 8 a.m., and the day will conclude at approximately 3 p.m. Tickets are $25 and include lunch. Visit Breadbox Media at www.breadboxmedia.com/paconference to purchase tickets via credit card, or register by contacting Pete Socks at 717-521-3137 or pete.socks@breadboxmedia.com. Checks can be made payable to Breadbox Media and sent to 70 Race Track Rd., Hanover, PA 17331.

Breadbox Media is a national, Catholic, podcasting network featuring over 60 shows from Lisa Hendey, Catholic Answers, Scott Hahn, John Michael Talbot, Father Dwight Longenecker, Women in the New Evangelization, the Diocese of Harrisburg and more. You can find their complete lineup at www.breadboxmedia.com.
Colleagues in Education Remember Maretta Schmidt as Christian Model of Grace, Generosity, Encouragement

By Jen Reed

The Catholic Witness

"The full measure of a man is not to be found in the man himself, but in the colors and textures that come alive in others because of him." - Dr. C. S. Lewis

These words from Albert Schweitzer were one of several inspirational quotes and prayers embedded in Maretta Schmidt’s e-mail signature – words that fittingly defined the imprint she left on those who knew her.

Schmidt, who served as principal and Assistant Superintendent in the Diocese of Harrisburg, died on July 8 at UPMC Pinnacle Orthopaedic Community Hospital in Harrisburg, following a battle with breast cancer. She was 72.

The funeral Mass was celebrated July 20 at St. Matthew Church in Dauphin, where Schmidt and her husband, Donald, were parishioners.

Colleagues are remembering Schmidt as a grace-filled mentor and friend who celebrated their joys, consoled them in grief, and modeled kindness and encouragement.

“The first word that comes to mind when I think of Maretta is ‘grace’ – grace in the way she always carried herself and grace in the way she handled all of the difficulties that came her way,” said Ryan Bolster, Director of the Diocesan Office of Adult Education and Catholic Formation.

A private person, Schmidt was not one to dwell on her own challenges and difficulties – including the stroke her husband suffered and her bouts with cancer.

But in her trials, she was a model for others.

‘Maretta provided for me a tremendous witness to the sanctity of marriage with her unfailing devotion to Don,” Bolster reflected. “From the many stories she told about their lives together before his stroke, it was obvious that she mourned the life they once had. And yet, her love for him was so clear in the way she cared for him and devoted herself to him…. She set an example of what married love and fidelity is to look like, especially when life does not turn out the way it is planned on the wedding day.”

Father Edward Quinlan, who retired as Diocesan Secretary for Education on June 30, first met the Schmidt family in 1989, when he was appointed pastor of St. Matthew Parish.

He said he watched as Schmidt faced the challenges of her husband’s health with “immense grace.”

“She spent the rest of her days caring for him as well as maintaining her work responsibilities,” he said.

‘Our Time was Her Time’

Having earned master’s degrees in secondary education from Shipensburg University, the Schmidts married on Aug. 28, 1970. They raised three children, and Maretta took a position teaching English at Harrisburg Area Community College.

She became principal of Good Shepherd School in Camp Hill in 1997, and strengthened the school’s Catholic identity and reputation for academic excellence.

“The Catholic atmosphere, a sense of respect and reverence, and high expectations were achieved, due in great part to Maretta’s giving spirit and leadership qualities, which she exhibited in a very quiet and unassuming manner. Nothing seemed ever too much for her,” said Sister Mary Ann Lawrence, M.S.C., a member of the faculty at Good Shepherd during Schmidt’s tenure.

“Maretta was a woman of deep faith and an inspiration to all. She deeply cared for every teacher, student and parent. She was always available – before school, during school and after school. Our time was always her time,” Sister Mary Ann said.

Susan Glessner, former health and physical education teacher at Good Shepherd, said, “Her first loves were her family, but her students were right behind them.”

“She was an advocate for every single child who crossed her path” and “challenged her faculty to be better teachers as well as better human beings,” Glessner said.

“I don’t think she ever knew the difference she made in so many people’s lives,” she said.

Renie Asken, school nurse at Good Shepherd, said Schmidt “modeled kindness, respectfulness and strength in faith” and “was passionate about supporting all of the needs of the students on every step of their journey.”

“She knew how to light up a mind, fire up a spirit and make each and every student feel as if he or she was a bright and rising star,” Asken said.

The friendship between Schmidt and Asken formed during community service activities, school yearbook production, talent shows, Habitat for Humanity projects and singing telegrams on birthdays.

“Every encounter with Maretta enriched your life,” Asken said.

Maretta Schmidt

A Model of Kindness

In August 2008, Schmidt became the Diocesan Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Schools and Government Programs.

She worked diligently on teacher evaluations, served as a mentor for new teachers, and worked closely with schools to ensure completion of paperwork for federal programs.

“It was a gift that she shared her educational experience with us at the Diocesan level,” said Livia Riley, who retired on June 30 as Diocesan Superintendent.

She worked with Schmidt in the Diocesan Secretariat for Education for 11 years, recommending that Schmidt come aboard as Assistant Superintendent.

“I always knew her as a wonderful lady, and truly a model of Christ,” Riley said.

As Assistant Superintendent, Schmidt was a “prayer partner” for students at Good Shepherd. “She enjoyed visiting them and seeing the kids in the school,” Riley said.

Schmidt also implemented the annual Diocesan Speech contest, which invited middle school students to display their talents in various speech categories in front of volunteer judges each March at the Diocesan Center.

“She thought it would be a great opportunity for students to express themselves in this kind of venue. With her English background, it was an undertak ing that she knew well,” said Riley, who noted that Schmidt would begin planning in August for the March event.

“She had a reputation for being a great educational leader,” said Father Quinlan, pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Harrisburg. “In addition to her professionalism, she had a deep spiritual side. In her communication, she never missed the opportunity to point the recipient toward the greater things, toward God.”

Members of the Secretariat for Education treasure the cards, notes and tokens Schmidt shared to mark holidays and birthdays.

“Maretta loved words, and words that were hopeful, gentle and kind – every word that would make someone feel better and truly raise them up,” said Ann Everest, administrative assistant.

“Working furiously to get my tasks done before leaving on a trip, she would approach me and gently whisper, ‘Have a wonderful time; take this with you,’ and set a small stone or shell on my desk that said ‘Breathe,’ or ‘Believe,’ or ‘Relax,’” she said.

Holidays and birthdays were always cause for Schmidt to lead the celebration in the office.

“Maretta loved every holiday, even if it was a minor holiday. She would always have little gift bags for everyone,” said Margaret Barrett, Diocesan Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Schools and Curriculum Development. “She made every birthday special – she always found the perfect gifts, including monsters, source of strength and support” when Sieg’s mother was diagnosed with cancer.

Sieg said Schmidt frequently connected with her to see how her role as a friend and mentor had changed over time, and how her mother was faring. Sieg said Schmidt “touched not only my life, but also my heart.”

“Maretta was such a special person,” said Susan Mareck, principal of St. John the Baptist School in New Freedom. “Whenever you would see her, she always had a smile and kind word for you. One of the things I appreciated about her, but she always remembered your family and would ask specifically about how they were and what they were doing. She was so very encouraging and supportive when things could be frustrating at our schools, and always knew exactly what to say that would help us solve the problem and give us strength to know we could achieve success.”

“Our world would be so much better if it were filled with people like Maretta,” Mareck said. “She would be greatly missed.”

The full obituary is online at www.pennlive.com/obits. Memorial donations can be made to Catholic Relief Services at www.crs.org or the American Breast Cancer Foundation at www.abcf.com.

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And remember, previous editions of the newspaper – dating back to early 2011 – are also available online. You can find them at www.hbgdiocese.org. Just follow the News/Events tab to The Catholic Witness page.
Holy Trinity School Brings St. Patrick and St. Joseph Schools Together to Strengthen Education in York Deanery

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

A new Catholic school is open in the city of York, forged from two school communities on mission to strengthen Catholic education in the deanery.

Holy Trinity School, which became official on July 1, is a merger of St. Patrick School in York and St. Joseph School in Dallastown. The new school is located in the former St. Patrick’s building.

The creation of Holy Trinity School is a response to community members’ concerns for continuing Catholic education in the York Deanery, given evidence of declining enrollment and financial challenges.

“We were looking at how we could sustain and strengthen Catholic education,” said Kathleen Smith, formerly the principal of St. Patrick’s and the inaugural principal of Holy Trinity.

Parish and school leadership from both communities examined facilities, resources and populations, and selected to establish the school on St. Patrick’s campus.

“It was a difficult decision, but we’ve come out stronger together as we bring the best of both worlds,” Smith said.

Margaret Snyder, formerly the principal of St. Joseph School, will serve as vice principal of Holy Trinity.

Snyder and Smith both commended parish leadership for their commitment, foresight and guidance, including Father Keith Carroll, pastor of St. Patrick Parish, Father Jonathan Sawicki, former pastor of Immaculate Conception BVM Parish in York, and Father Mark Weiss, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Dallastown.

New Beginnings

Preparing for the first day of school on Aug. 21, teachers and administrators are setting up classrooms, refining lesson plans and forging relationships.

A new logo and mascot, new uniforms and new signage are currently being revealed.

One of the first things students in her class will encounter is a colorful, ten-foot carpet with a cartoon image of Jesus with the children. The rug will serve as a reading space for our kids and helping our families grow,” Snyder said of the St. Joseph community. “You can have a stronger relationship with your families and your kids, and the students are like my own kids. There wasn’t anything I wouldn’t do for them, and continue to do for them.”

To help facilitate the change, the school communities hosted meetings for parents, gatherings for families, and “shadow days” for students.

“St. Pat’s was so welcoming to our families, and the parents here in York reassured the parents from St. Joe’s that this change would be okay. The parents here really served as a bridge,” Snyder said. “Our parents are realizing their kids are coming to a school where they will feel loved and safe.”

“I love Catholic education,” she said. “You can have a stronger relationship with your families and your kids, and the students are like my own kids. There wasn’t anything I wouldn’t do for them, and continue to do for them.”

For Dodson, moving her classroom into a familiar piece. For the kids from St. Patrick School building in York.

“Parents are looking forward to see how this new school will be even better,” Smith said.

That doesn’t mean the communities didn’t feel loss when their schools closed.

“Leaving was hard for all of us,” Snyder said of the St. Joseph community. “You could tell by the parents and the kids how much they loved St. Joe’s. We made sure every activity we did at the end of the year was fun. We knew it was going to be hard, but we made the most of it. Most of our kids are continuing in a Catholic school, which is what we wanted. That’s what’s most important.”

Snyder had been at St. Joe’s for 39 years. It’s where she began her teaching career.

“Holy Trinity is offering more than either school could individually,” Smith said.

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Closing Mass

St. Patrick Parish in York invites members of the community for Mass to close the school, Aug. 18 at 10:45 a.m. in Brenner Hall. Come celebrate 168 years of school history and reminisce over years past and the lives that St. Patrick School shaped. A social will follow Mass, with light refreshments in the courtyard and school cafeteria. Alumni are invited to bring old uniforms, report cards and photos to help honor the tradition of the school and its students. Tours of the school will be available. RSVP to Denise Runk at 717-854-8263 or spcsoffice@stpatrickyork.net by Aug. 14.

First Day Celebration

Holy Trinity School will celebrate the first day of school on Aug. 21 at St. Patrick Parish. Join the community for the first school Mass, celebrated by Bishop Ronald Gainer at 9 a.m. in Brenner Hall. A ribbon cutting and light refreshments will follow. Visit www.htcysyork.org for upcoming events and activities, and to see the new uniforms. A new school slogan and mascot will be revealed on Aug. 31.

“I’m very excited for the new year,” she said. “As teachers, we spend time in the summer thinking of new, fun things to bring into the classroom. To do this now in a new place as teachers here – Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Snyder, Father Carroll, Father Weiss. I firmly believe that Holy Trinity School will keep the presence of Catholic education in the city of York,” she said.

New Opportunities

Snyder and Smith said students at Holy Trinity will be the beneficiaries of the best from St. Joseph’s and St. Patrick’s.

“Holy Trinity is offering more than either school could individually,” Smith said.

These include a Spanish class, which had been offered at St. Joseph’s, music and band programs, and clubs.

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Preparing for the first day of school on Aug. 21, teachers and administrators are setting up classrooms, refining lesson plans and forging relationships.
Catholic Charities’ Foster Care Program Seeks Parents to Provide Meaningful Influences in Children’s Lives

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

An ornamental stone in Susan Betcke’s home is decorated with the names of each child she has fostered for the last seven years. The keepsake is also adorned with drawings of the children’s favorite things, like animals and hobbies.

There are currently 27 names on the stone, a reminder of the lives Betcke has helped to change as a foster mother with Catholic Charities’ Specialized Foster Care and Adoption Services.

“I have always loved children and have been working with children since I was 11 or 12. I was babysitting, working in the church’s nursery. I’ve also gone to help out at camps, worked in daycares and now currently work in schools. It’s been on my heart to be a parent, and as a single woman, the best way to do that is adoption,” said Betcke.

“It’s been on my heart to reach kids who need homes. I see the need of older children needing families, needing homes and needing love, and needing people to accept them where they’re at,” she said.

Catholic Charities’ Specialized Foster Care program provides temporary and safe care for children who have been removed from their birth parents by the court.

Children come to the program through referrals from county children and youth agencies, and range in age from newborn to 18.

“These are kids who have suffered some kind of abuse and/or neglect, so they might have some developmental or physical delays, and we train our families to care for the children at their developmental age rather than their chronological age,” said Kelly Bolton, program director.

Catholic Charities places 20-30 foster children into loving homes each year, through both short-time and long-term care. Most of the children are part of a sibling group.

“We have a critical need for foster families to provide for the children in our area, and who are willing to help children through school placement, counseling and care for certain physical or developmental needs,” Bolton said.

Foster parents can be single people or married couples, provided they are over 21, have steady income and a reliable vehicle, and obtain required state and federal clearances. They are not required to be Catholic. The majority of foster parents in Catholic Charities’ program are not Catholic, Bolton said.

“A foster parent is a giant part of our team. Without them, we’re not taking placements and we’re not helping children. We need to make sure they feel supported to be able to make a difference in a child’s life,” she said.

The Benefit of Catholic Charities

Betcke said she was drawn to Catholic Charities’ foster care program because of the one-on-one assistance it provides.

“They were able to give the attention that I needed,” she said. “Any time I had a question or a concern, I would have an immediate phone call or response in an e-mail, or somebody coming to my house. It was easy to have contact with the caseworkers there at the office.”

Catholic Charities trains and certifies foster parents prior to placement, educating them on potential behavioral issues and offering practical advice for real-life situations.

Once a child is placed, licensed staff conduct routine in-home visits and are available 24/7.

“We are an on-call service. If there is any problem or concern, at any time of day or night, families can speak to us immediately,” Bolton said.

Catholic Charities offers group training, which allows foster parents to come together and share ideas and experiences.

“They are people who are going to understand what you’re going through,” Betcke said. “We’re meeting on a monthly basis with people who really do understand where our hearts are and what this is all about.”

The ages and length of stay of the foster children are as various as their backgrounds, interests and personalities.

“Betcke has welcomed children for as little as one day to as long as 15 months. The children placed in her care have been as young as 12 months and as old as 12 years. She has a soft spot for sibling groups. What I did is, ‘We are not perfect, but we are patient and if you’re willing to go with the flow, you can be an amazing foster parent.’”

She’s seen the growth first-hand. The first siblings she welcomed into her home were four sisters who grew up a few blocks from her home in Harrisburg. The oldest is now in high school, and she passes Betcke’s house every day on her way to school.

“Always make a point to say hi,” and has “talked about her memories of her time when she was at my home. It was only for ten days, but it was a meaningful ten days for her,” Betcke said.

Positive Influences in a Child’s Life

“My primary role is to make sure that the kids feel safe and loved in the time that they’re with me, and that I help them to become the best person that they could possibly be,” said Betcke.

On May 15 of this year, she adopted siblings she had fostered for more than a year: Carlos, 7, and Elena, 10.

“They are both very bright children. Carlos loves to play with Legos, he loves to draw, and he loves to read Dogman books… Elena loves to work with children. She has thoroughly enjoyed equine therapy and her time with horses. They have both enjoyed sports: Judo, basketball. Carlos is playing baseball. Elena is involved in the Girls on the Run. They have become a part of not just my life, but the lives of all of my friends and family. It’s been a joy to have them,” Betcke said.

Not every foster child becomes eligible for adoption, however. But that doesn’t make a foster parent’s role any less significant.

“The program is child-focused. Every child comes into the program with the goal of returning home or returning to kinship. The goal is to put the family back together once the issues are resolved,” Bolton said.

“Foster families have to be willing to allow communication and visitation between the child and the birth family. Sometimes that’s easy, and sometimes it isn’t easy. We want them to understand that even if a child returns home and adoption is not possible, that child has gained so much from being with them.”

Betcke acknowledged it’s difficult to say goodbye to a child you’ve loved and welcomed into your home and family.

“But in the end, I know that during the time they were with me, they could experience love, they could experience safety and I was able to provide that for them. Even though it’s difficult, I know it’s going to help them in their future to have healthier relationships and to have had experiences in life that maybe they wouldn’t have had,” she said.

Knowing full-well the impact of foster care, Betcke welcomed four-and-five-year old sisters into her home two weeks after adopting Carlos and Elena.

“These two girls moved in and were part of our lives from the first day,” she said.

“I have five available beds in my home for foster children: two in one bedroom, which is where Carlos sleeps, and three in the other bedroom, which is where Elena sleeps. As long as I am able and God touches my heart, I will welcome children into my home,” she said.

Catholic Charities’ Specialized Foster Care will begin a new training group for foster parents in September. Anyone interested in learning more about foster care, the program or the process should visit www.cchbg.org or call the program office at 717-564-7115.

“When I stood before the judge to adopt my children, I had a letter that I asked permission to read. One of the things I said is, ‘We are not perfect, but we are perfect for each other.’ We indeed do not need to be perfect to be foster parents,” Betcke said.

“I believe as much as I have given love to each of the children that have been in my home, they have also given to me. They have taught me resiliency. They have taught me that life doesn’t have to be as sad as it seems. You can go on and you can still smile. You can still find joy in life,” Betcke said. “All of the things that these children have gone through, yet they love life and they keep smiling and keep learning to grow and share and be a part of a new family.”
St. Rita Parishioners Unite for Parish Centennial

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Rooted in a faith foundation grown a from a small chapel in the pastoral land of southern Franklin County a century ago, the Catholic community at St. Rita Parish in Blue Ridge Summit is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.

Several decades before St. Rita Parish was formally established, Catholics in the area of the Pennsylvania-Maryland border attended Mass in St. Joan of Arc Chapel – the first Masses regularly celebrated in Blue Ridge Summit.

Today, its community of 325 families continues to shine as a beacon in the Cumberland Valley, with parish and community-based ministries and carrying on faith traditions.

In recognition of the parish’s centennial, Bishop Ronald Gainer was the principal celebrant for Mass at St. Rita’s on the evening of July 8.

He was joined at the altar by priests of the Missionaries of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, who have served the parish since 1993, including Father Peter DiTomasso, current pastor. Priests of the area also concelebrated.

“Parish life is essential to the nourishment of our Catholic faith and life in Christ. Since 1993, St. Rita’s has had the wonderful pastoral leadership of the Missionaries of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary – and we thank them for the dedicated service to our Diocese,” Bishop Gainer remarked.

In his homily, the bishop told the congregation that the day’s Readings were specifically selected for the parish anniversary.

“In the New Testament, liturgy has three principle functions. Divine worship is clearly one, that we offer our prayers to God through liturgy. It is also where we have a proclamation of the Good News – the Gospel of Christ. And the third is charity – what we do for others in the spirit of love,” Bishop Gainer said. “These three have been the true history of this parish for 100 years. Each of these are part of right worship that Christ spoke to in the Gospel.”

St. Rita Parish, originally named St. Joan of Arc, was established in 1920, along with nearby Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Parish in Fairfield.

Within two years, it grew from the original chapel – first to the Blue Ridge Summit Library for Masses, and then into a former lodge hall purchased for $1,500. The hall served as the parish church for 45 years.

The parish’s second pastor, Father Matthew Patrick Sullivan, changed its name to St. Rita’s and purchased the property for the current church.

Ground was broken for the new church in April 1964. The first Mass was celebrated there on Nov. 29 of that year. The parish social hall was built two decades later.

On Sept. 13, 1993, the Missionaries of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary assumed charge of St. Rita’s and Immaculate Conception parishes, and continue to serve the Catholic communities.

Historically, St. Rita Parish and its surrounding area – including nearby Fort Ritchie – have been summer respite for government officials in Washington, D.C. The parish is home to many retired members of the military and former government employees, Father DiTomasso noted.

“As we celebrate this anniversary, I hope the parishioners see that the Church is a family. Like all families, we go through struggles and challenges, but we do so as a family,” Father DiTomasso said. “We stay together with the help of God and rely on our faith to get us through those struggles.”

Ministries at St. Rita Parish include a prayer chain for people who are ill, music ministry, visitation to the home-bound, a youth group, St. Rita’s Women’s Society, the Knights of Columbus, the Landings program for those seeking to return to the Church, and That Man Is You, a nationwide program through which men encounter God within the context of their marriages and family life.

As part of the centennial celebration, St. Rita’s hosted a women’s tea in July, and is planning a joint parish picnic with Immaculate Conception Parish, Aug. 4 from 1-5:30 p.m. at Carroll Valley Park. Food and games will be provided. All are welcome to attend.

Parish in Fairfield.

As part of the centennial celebration, St. Rita’s hosted a women’s tea in July, and is planning a joint parish picnic with Immaculate Conception Parish, Aug. 4 from 1-5:30 p.m. at Carroll Valley Park. Food and games will be provided. All are welcome to attend.

Above, left: Lauren Hays holds her mother’s hand during Communion.

Above, right: Altar server Joshua Orlando assists Bishop Ronald Gainer in presenting a Papal Blessing to the parish in commemoration of the centennial.

Left: Kalisa Miller receives the Precious Blood.

Current and former pastors of St. Rita’s and area priests concelebrate the parish’s anniversary Mass with Bishop Ronald Gainer on July 8.

St. Rita’s in Blue Ridge Summit has been a Catholic presence in southeast Franklin County for 100 years.

CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Celebrates a Century in New Holland

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Nestled in “Pennsylvania Dutch Country,” among Amish homesteads and Baptist churches, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish has been a bastion of the Catholic Church for a century. For 100 years, parishioners have upheld the parish’s mission of living “the Catholic Tradition of Word, Sacrament, social justice, and respect for life” while welcoming all into “a believing, worshiping, loving, and serving community.”

On July 27, Bishop Ronald Gainer celebrated the parish’s centennial Mass, commending the community for its faithfulness.

“Many of our ancestors did without to get us to this wonderful anniversary moment – 100 years,” he told the congregation. “We pray the One that brought us to this parish centennial moment continues to bless this faithful community.”

“A parish is the family of all your families, and that is true at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish,” Bishop Gainer said. “This parish has a wonderful sense of history – how you have preserved your history and the beautiful production of your anniversary program is a testament to your appreciation for your history. You are to be commended on your wonderful work.”

Catholicism in New Holland, located on the eastern edge of Lancaster County, can be traced to the mid 1700s, when Jesuit Missionaries celebrated Masses in private homes. The parish was originally a mission of the Redemptorists in Ephrata, whose congregation staffed Our Lady of Lourdes until 1999. In 1916, a Redemptorist priest traveled by horse and buggy to New Holland to tend to the flock, and rented the former Town Council Chamber on Main Street for $7 per month to celebrate Mass every other Sunday.

In 1920, a priest was assigned to the New Holland community. Masses were celebrated weekly in a chapel dedicated to the Little Flower. As industry grew in the area, so did the number of Catholics, and in 1940, ground was broken for a 90-seat chapel. The first Mass was celebrated there on Christmas Day in 1940. On April 20, 1941, the chapel was dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes.

Soon, the number of parishioners outgrew the chapel. In 1970, Masses were held in the Ritz Theater while a Building Committee examined the need for a new church. The current church was completed on Sept. 2, 1972. Our Lady of Lourdes became a parish on Jan. 5, 1977.

In 1991, Father John Schmalhofer became the first Diocesan priest assigned as pastor, and he served until 2012. During his time at Our Lady’s, he oversaw the capital campaign and construction of a parish center.

Ministries at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish serve the parish and local communities and include prayer groups, youth ministry, a Knights of Columbus Council and Ladies’ Auxiliary, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, a meal ministry and support of the New Holland Food Bank.

“We are the eastern most parish in Lancaster County, in a predominantly Amish and Baptist area. It is great to see the Catholic faith alive here at Our Lady’s,” said Father Steven Fauser, who was appointed pastor in June. “In 100 years, the parish has grown and thrived. I’ve found it to be a wonderful, warm and friendly parish. The people here are very devoted to the parish and love their faith. We’re very much looking forward to the next 100 years of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish.”
Danville Parishioners Celebrate 150 Years of Beloved St. Joseph Church

Located in the center of town, St. Joseph Church in Danville has been a centerpiece in the Montour County community for 150 years. Its historic bell tower has been a landmark and timekeeper for decades, and its interior has witnessed the celebration of the sacraments, welcomed Diocesan bishops, and echoed the prayers of generations of Catholics.

Parishioners marked the church’s milestone during a Mass celebrated by Bishop Ronald Gainer on July 28.

“My first words to you are congratulations on your 150th anniversary. What a wonderful milestone to celebrate together,” Bishop Gainer told the congregation. “Imagine the generosity and the sacrifice freely given by all the departed faithful for you to reach 150 years.”

“We gather as a family of faith, a family of God…. We dedicate churches because this is a sacred place where we lift up to God our prayers and he pours down in abundant fashion His grace,” he said.

St. Joseph Parish, with roots dating to the early 1800s, was established in 1845. The flourishing iron industry drew an influx of workers to the town, and the parish’s first church was built that same year. Within two decades, the congregation outgrew its worship site, and the current church was dedicated on July 25, 1869.

The bell in the church steeple dates to 1880. The four-sided clock atop the 90-foot tower served as a timepiece for Danville’s inhabitants, tolling the time for Masses and the start and end of the workday. The parish undertook a fundraiser in 2003 to restore the historic piece, which is operational today.

St. Joseph Church was renovated in 2012. The efforts included new doors, organ, sound system and lighting, as well as the presidential chair in the sanctuary. The refurbishment of the marble, pews and floors and the mural of Christ’s crucifixion lent to a bright and emboldened interior.

In conjunction with the 150th anniversary, St. Joseph Parish created a self-guided tour book for visitors’ education and inspiration of the church and its statues, windows and altar furnishings.

The anniversary celebration is part of an ongoing year, “The Day of the Lord,” at St. Joseph’s, said Father Timothy Marcoe, pastor.

“This year, we are focusing on making The Lord’s Day holy. For the average Catholic in the pew, the experience of The Lord’s Day is attending Mass. However, the day extends from Mass to a time of rest, renewal and service. That’s a challenge, especially today as people see Sunday as another opportunity to get things done,” Father Marcoe said.

The parish, therefore, is hosting various events on Sundays throughout the year to bring families together for renewal and service,” Father Marcoe said, adding, “It is my hope that our individuals and families come together as a parish in particular to celebrate The Lord’s Day.”
Vacation Bible School

Unlocking the Mass
Vacation Bible School at St. Peter Parish in Elizabethtown focused on the “Marvelous Mystery of the Mass.” More than 60 children participated in the four-day event with faith lessons, games, music, crafts, snacks and camaraderie and a host of events that allowed children to learn the “hows” and “whys” of the Mass. Father Bernard Oniwe, OP, pastor, participated in the activities, demonstrating his knowledge of the Mass, as well as his singing and dancing skills.

Camp Healing
Vacation Bible School at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Abottstown drew 61 children from July 15-19 for “Camp Healing.” Participants learned about people in the Bible whom Jesus healed in some way: Bartimaeus, the Blind Man, Zacchaeus, the Woman at the Well, Jairus’ daughter, and the paralytic. The parish has offered Vacation Bible School since 2006. For the past three years, the parish has created its own themes to help reinforce what the children hear at Mass and to give quality time to explaining Bible stories on their level, according to Sister Rosanne Karmazin, who led the children in the week.

Roaring for God
“Roar – Life is Wild, God is Good” drew children to Vacation Bible School at Holy Spirit Parish in Palmyra, June 17-21. The week of faith lessons, food, fun, crafts and games illustrated for the children how God’s goodness shines in all of life’s circumstances.

God’s Globetrotters
Holy Angels Parish in Kulpmont welcomed 50 children for “God’s Globetrotters” Vacation Bible School, which introduced participants to apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary throughout the world. Children enjoyed songs, videos, stories, crafts and snacks related to each apparition: Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico, Our Lady of Lourdes in France, Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal, as well as the Assumption. Between each lesson, children participated in a simulated airplane flight as they journeyed the globe.
**Prince of Peace Picnic**

Summertime means parish festivals in the Diocese of Harrisburg, and there's no shortage of the family-friendly events that feature ethnic foods, live musical entertainment, raffles, vendors and games for kids and adults. Prince of Peace Parish in Steelton held its annual picnic at Cibort Park in Bressler on July 14. Attendees enjoyed the cultural flair of the parish, with ethnic foods like sarma and cabbage and noodles, and a polka band. The event also drew picnigoers for traditional carnival food, a host of homemade desserts, games and camaraderie.

**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.)

**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. on 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. Joseph Parish Festival in Danville, Aug. 17 starting at noon.** Halupki, halushki, pierogis, potato pancakes, walking tacos, baked desserts and more. Kids’ games, face painting, bounce house, dunk tank, basket raffle, cash raffle and a lottery tree. Magic show with Brent Kessler at 2 p.m., and live music in the evening. Visit www.stjosephdanville.org or call 570-275-2512.

**St. Catherine Labouré Parish’s Dinner on Dairy 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.sclhbg.org.

**Annual Buchanan Valley Picnic at St. Ignatius Loyola Church, Orrtanna,** Aug. 24 from noon until dusk, rain or shine. Home cooked family-style ham and chicken dinners, $11 for adults, $5 for children ages 6-12, and free for children 5 and under. Picnic has been a tradition for more than 175 years. Nestled in the quaint, and beautiful hills of Buchanan Valley, historically known for the capture of Mary Jemison in 1758 by the Indians, an old-fashioned picnic with games for children, drawings, Bingo, music and good food. For more information, contact the parish at 717-677-8012, stignatiusofloyola@hbgdiocese.org or www.stignatiusofloyola.org.

**Holy Rosary Lobster Fest,** Aug. 24 from 5-10 p.m. at Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Parish, Elysburg. Lobster dinners, ethnic foods, games, basket raffle and entertainment. All live, steamed and lobster dinners must be pre-ordered by Aug. 10. Go to www.qmhr.net and click on the lobsters or e-mail sheila@qmhr.net for more information or to place an order. Lobster dinners, $25: steamed Maine lobster, fingerling potato and corn steamer bag, cole slaw or cucumber salad, butter & lemon, and two beverage tickets. Lobsters are picked up on the docks in Portland, Maine, and steamed on site at the parish.

**3rd Annual Central Pennsylvania Crab, Beer and Wine Festival,** Sept. 21 from 4-8 p.m. at Trinity High School in Camp Hill. Artisan beer and wine from local breweries and wineries, steamed Harbor House crabs, Redd’s barbecue, music from the Jewett Brothers Band. Adult-only event, must be 21 and have identification. Event held under a tent, rain or shine. A portion of proceeds benefit the Central PA Food Bank. Cost for all-you-can-eat food and two drinks is $50 before Aug. 15, $60 before Sept. 21, and $70 day of event. All-you-can-drink wristbands are $35. Visit www.pacrabfest.org.
Tell me a little bit about your childhood.

I grew up about five miles from here, on Ross St. in a Lancaster, a city row house. A middle class upbringing with very devout and faithful parents. My mom and dad were both Catholic. I was the youngest of five children, and I was blessed with their example of faith. We grew up about four blocks from St. Anne’s Church, so we went to St. Anne School and then I attended Lancaster Catholic High School and graduated in 1974.

My childhood was almost idyllic. We never locked our doors. We used to ride our bikes all through the city, play at the playground. It was a very stable, very loving and very good childhood.

Were you always interested in becoming a priest?

My mother was a Byzantine Catholic, she was of the Eastern Rite of the Catholic Church. Her youngest brother was a priest so, as far back as I can remember, we had Father Andy – my uncle – as kind of a witness to that life. It always struck me that it was a possibility and maybe God was calling me there. My mother’s twin brother was a deacon – as kind of a witness to that life. It was a priest so, as far back as I can remember.

What ultimately drew you to the priesthood?

It was the example of good, holy priests that showed me this was a viable option, that the possibility existed that God was calling me. Father Andre Meluskey was very influential. He was pastor at St. Anne’s when I was in high school and college. Father Bernardo Pistone, who was living here as a retired priest for the last five years, was very influential when I was working downtown Lancaster as a lawyer. I’d go to the noon Mass at St. Mary’s and I would see him. I would see Father Tom Grillinski, who was another great example of priesthood. A Redemptorist priest by the name of Father Don Miniscalco, from Philadelphia, came to give a mission at St. Anne’s when I was about 30 years old. It all began to just manifest itself as possibly where God was calling me and what the vocation in my life would be.

What was your seminary experience like?

I began to really discern the call to priesthood seriously when I was about 33. I had thought about it to the point where I called Msgr. Bill Richardson, who was just leaving as Diocesan Vocation Director. Then it was a couple more years and I continued to discern. I didn’t formally enter the seminary until I was 38. At that time, the Diocesan thought that other men would go to the St. John XXIII Seminary in Weston, Mass. It was a seminary designed by Cardinal Cushing in Boston for older and second-career vocations. I went there at 38 years old in 1995. There were about 75 men there, and I was one of the younger. There might have been a handful younger than I. Most were in their late 40s, early 50s, or even in their 60s.

My seminary experience was terrific. It was a solid formation. The thing that was nice in that sense, it was tailored to older men who had experience in the world and responsibilities. I don’t think the particular “house rules” were as demanding or rigid. They gave more freedom than maybe some of the seminaries for the younger men. But it was very supportive, very good. I met a lot of wonderful men and professors, and am very thankful for it.

What aspect of your ministry do you enjoy most?

The priest is basically one who serves people in the name of Jesus Christ, who is called to bring the love, the truth and the life of Christ to others. I think that almost any priest would say what they love most is engaging the people, serving the people.

For me, I met with couples preparing for marriage and for baptism, I had a funeral Mass, and we had our normal Confession schedule. It was one of those full days in the life of a priest in which you are trying to minister and care for God’s people. That’s my vocation. It’s a blessing beyond words to be able to engage them and to help them find – in whatever situation in life – the power of Christ’s presence and his peace.

It’s something that I don’t think a lot of people focus on: the priest is called into the most intimate, profound, transcendent moments of the human condition. I’m meeting after this interview with a family to plan for a funeral. You deal with the grief and the sorrow, and you try to bring the hope of the Resurrection to that situation. Meeting young couples who are engaged to be married, they have the excitement and the anticipation of the youthfulness that is theirs. You try to share that and also show that this is a vocation that they are undertaking. When couples come to prepare for baptisms, or when they come for Confession or spiritual direction and they’re trying to just seek a little guidance, they share with the priest things that they don’t share with others. It’s very humbling, and it’s a great privilege and honor to be brought into those moments to try to bring the love of Christ.

St. Leo the Great Parish is also blessed with a school. What is it like to work with young people?

When St. Leo’s was established in 1964, Bishop Leech built the school first. The vision was, we were going to have a new parish, so let’s have the school as the first structure erected. The school is part of our DNA, if you will, and for about the first 25 years or so, Mass was in the school building in what is now our cafeteria. The church was built later in 1991.

What does that do, is the vibrant life of the parish brings so many young families into our community. Young families are the lifeblood of any parish. Every Sunday, children are crying at Mass. Ofentimes, people will say, “Father, how about those children crying at Mass?” I say, “If we don’t have children crying at Mass, we have a huge problem.” To me, the sound of children crying at Mass is a sign of vitality.

We’re very blessed with a large enrollment. I think last year we were around 350 students in our K-8 school. We were able to build an addition four years ago and modernize our existing area of the school.

It’s great to go in and prepare the second-graders as they’re getting ready for first Holy Communion, and the eighth-graders as they’re getting ready for Confirmation, to go in and just answer their questions, and just to be a presence to them. We were blessed a couple of years ago when Father Dan Richards was ordained, he was here and he was a seminarian just started here, and he and I are planning for next year, how we’re going to serve the students and be a witness to them of faith.

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

One of the things that I did when I was a younger man right out of law school is, I became a long-distance runner. It was something that I really enjoyed. I don’t think people know that I’ve run 11 marathons in my life. When they hear that, they’re kind of taken aback. To me, the training of the marathon was a great discipline and a great exercise. It was something I enjoyed. The thing about the marathon was, you had to prepare to accomplish. I think that’s a lesson in life, it’s a lesson in prayer. If the priest is not imbued in his Daily Office, his life of prayer, you’re going to see that in his preaching. And if he is, you’re going to see it in preaching. You can’t fake it when you go to the marathon. You’ve either put the miles in, or you haven’t. Similarly in the effort we have to do each day to serve the people of God, you have to be disciplined.

Register online at www.cchbg.org.
A Love to Set the World on Fire

By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC

The Catholic Witness

Just after Easter, I received a card from one of the readers of The Catholic Witness. The cover of the card featured a reproduction by Virginia Thomas of the Apparition of Jesus to St. Margaret Mary. In this rendition of the apparition, St. Margaret Mary and Jesus’ glances are completely enwrought in each other. In her writings, St. Margaret Mary said of her experience of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, “One day, as I knelt before the Blessed Sacrament exposed on the altar, … Jesus Christ, my sweet Master, presented Himself to me, … with His five wounds shining like so many suns. From all parts of His Sacred Humanity there issued flames but especially from His adorable breast, which was like a furnace. Opening it, He showed me His loving and lovable Heart as the living source of those flames. Then he revealed to me all the unspeakable marvels of His pure love… .”

As I opened the card, I was encouraged, by its sender, “Keep up the great work and don’t grow weary. Flipping again to the front of the card, I thought, “To the readers of The Catholic Witness.” The cover of the card featured a reproduction by Virginia Thomas of the Apparition of Jesus to St. Margaret Mary. In this rendition of the apparition, St. Margaret Mary and Jesus’ glances are completely enwrought in each other. In her writings, St. Margaret Mary said of her experience of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, “One day, as I knelt before the Blessed Sacrament exposed on the altar, … Jesus Christ, my sweet Master, presented Himself to me, … with His five wounds shining like so many suns. From all parts of His Sacred Humanity there issued flames but especially from His adorable breast, which was like a furnace. Opening it, He showed me His loving and lovable Heart as the living source of those flames. Then he revealed to me all the unspeakable marvels of His pure love…”

Throughout his entire life, as noted in the Scriptures, Jesus perfectly fulfilled the will of God because of love. Think about these moments:

- The word of God, creator of the entire universe, became human within Mary’s womb
- As a child, Jesus was obedient to Joseph and Mary.
- Through the sweat of his brow and the work of his hands, Jesus was a carpenter. In his work, he was obedient to God.
- That same love impelled Christ during his public ministry. His long apostolic journeys, always on foot; all his miracles; bearing fatigue, hunger, thirst; nightfall:105—7:10; 10:5—7:10.

Within the image of the Sacred Heart, we find Jesus’ three fold love: of the Father, of the Spirit and of all mankind. Because Jesus is truly human, he can love us with a human heart. Because he is truly divine, he shows us how God loves. Through this focus, we can understand, “Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. Then I said, ‘Here I am; it is written about me in the scroll— I have come to do your will, my God’” (Heb 10:5—7:10).

It is my prayer that all of you experience just a spark of the love with which Christ loves us and, through that experience, love all those who pass your journey. What a different world this would be! 


Encyclical of Pope Francis Xvii, Devotion to the Sacred Heart, May 15, 1656, paragraphs 64-88.

(Sister Geralyn Schmidt is the Wide Area Network Coordinator at the Diocese of Harrisburg and the Director of Formation for Wives in the Diaconic 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.)

The Catholic Witness

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

The CrossWord

Answers appear on page 15

ACROSS
1  Future Farmers of America (abrev)
4 “What ___ is This?”
9 Silent
12 Decoration
13 Measuring instrument
14 Compass point
15 Executive
16 Swelling
17 Compass point
18 Music rate
20 “Christ your life ___”
22 Wing
24 The Dead
25 What you once were (2 wds.)
26 2018 Movie
27 Genetic code
28 Distant
29 Planet
30 Aspire
31 Makes food laws (abrev)
32 # of commandments
33 Facial twitch
34 “___, drink and be merry”
35 Facial twitch
36 Water’s moon move
37 Wrote Tom Sawyer
39 “He had a bountiful harvest (2 wds)”
40 Dances around
41 Gone to lunch
42 Store
43 “___ the men servants”
44 Lower ear part
47 Pre-Columbian America empire
49 Rotating mechanism
50 Cat’s cry
51 Two-masted sailboat
52 Pea holder
53 Wine fruit
54 Pea holder
58 Line of crops
59 Chinese drink
60 “As countless as the ___”
61 Night bird

DOWN
1 Truth
2 Not a slave
3 Particle
4 “Shrimp ___”
5 Owned
6 Notion
7 “Light your ___”
8 Hung artfully
9 Plateau
10 Former Soviet union
11 Cat cries
12 __ ___ is earthy
13 Put to death parts that are ___
14 Monk brew
15 Rosemary month
16 Close to the ground
17 Genetic code
18 Distant
19 Aspire
20 Makes food laws (abrev)
21 Put to death parts that are ___
22 Monk brew
23 Rosary month
26 Close to the ground
27 Genetic code
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61 Night bird


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CATHOLIC COMMENTARY
August 2, 2019 • The Catholic WITNESS • 13
**Diocesan Notebook**

*(Submit written announcements to witness@rcspa.org by the fourth Tuesday of the month)*

**Spiritual Offerings**

**Mass with prayers for healing, Aug. 6 at 7 p.m.**
St. Therese Church, New Cumberland. Father Dwight D. Schaline, pastor of Our Lady of the Visitation Parish in Shippensburg and chaplain at Shippensburg University, will celebrate. For information, call Mary Ann at 717-564-7709.

**Conewago District Council of Catholic Women, 82nd Annual District Mass & Dinner, Sept. 12 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Abbottstown.** Mass at 6 p.m., celebrated by Father Michael Reid. Chicken dinner in the parish social hall. Cost $10 per person. Guest speaker, Mary Furlong, a member of CDCCW who spent 18 months teaching at the Kachebere Seminary in Malawi, will speak on “Voice of Malawi: Global Catholicism in a Developing Nation.” Other presentations are planned. Women of the diocese are invited to attend. Contact Pat Slonaker at 717-624-3245 or paslonaker@comcast.net by Aug. 30.

**Good Shepherd Church in Camp Hill, Mass of Remembrance for families who have experienced the loss of a child through miscarriage, stillbirth or early death, Sept. 14 at 10 a.m.** Babies who have not been given a name can be listed with your last name, such as “Baby Jones.” Names will be brought to the altar to be remembered by the parish family. Names of children submitted in previous years will be included this year. Submit names for remembrance to Good Shepherd Church, 3435 Trindle Road, Camp Hill, PA 17011 and mark the envelope “Mass of Remembrance,” or to Geri An- Trindle Road, Camp Hill, PA 17011 and mark the envelope “Mass of Remembrance,” or to Geri An- Trindle Road, Camp Hill, PA 17011 and mark the envelope “Mass of Remembrance,” or to Geri An- Trindle Road, Camp Hill, PA 17011 and mark the envelope “Mass of Remembrance,” or to Geri An- Trindle Road, Camp Hill, PA 17011 and mark the envelope “Mass of Remembrance,” or to Geri An- Trindle Road, Camp Hill, PA 17011 and mark the envelope “Mass of Remembrance,” or to Geri An-

**Pilgrimages & Retreats**

**Oblates of St. Benedict retreat, Sept. 7 at St. Joseph Church in Lancaster.** “A Careful Watch: Vigilance in the Rule of St. Benedict,” presented by Father Mateo Zarmora, OSB, a priest of the Diocese of Lexington, Ky. Mass in the lower church at 8:15 a.m., retreat concludes at 3:15 p.m. Bring your own lunch. Cost is $15 per person, RSVP by Sept. 3. Find information from Sharon Ogden at 717-560-2873 or seojogden2@aol.com.

**Retreat at St. Aloysius Parish in Littlestown, “Mary: Our Exquisite and Empowering Soul Friend on the Journey,”** Sept. 7 from 8:30 a.m.-noon. Presented by Sister Eileen Quinn. Refreshments included. Contact Kathleen Hunter to RSVP, kkas3820@comcast.net or 410-259-2159. No cost to attend.

**Mission trip to the Missionaries of the Poor in Kingston, Jamaica, Nov. 2-10.** Members of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Abbottstown will travel on a mission trip, working with Father Ho Lung, caring for castaways in Kingston, including men, women and children. The mission trip is one of service. Contact Roy Wainwright at roywainwright3@gmail.com or 717-619-7243. Find more information at www.ihmparadise.org/29.

**St. Peter Parish in Columbia, pilgrimage to Oberammergau, Germany.** Eleven-day Alpine Europe tour with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to attend the world-famous Passion Play in 2020 in Oberammergau, Germany. The villagers of Oberammergau first performed the play in 1634 in fulfillment of their promise to God for sparing them from the Black Plague, and it is presented there every 10 years. Cost is $4,199 (includes taxes and airline surcharge). The trip will leave from Philadelphia airport and be hosted by Bishop Brocious. Contact Mary Loreto at maryloretogmail.com or 717-286-7239. Calls will be returned in the evening or weekends.

**“A Call to Prayer,” Marian pilgrimage in Centralia at Assumption BVM Church on Aug. 25 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m.** Led by Archbishop Boyrs Gudziak and bishops of the Eastern and Latin Catholic Churches, including Bishop Ronald Gainer. Recitation of the Rosary, Divine Liturgy at noon, outdoor living Rosary, Confession, candlelight procession with the icon of Our Lady of Pochaiv and prayers for healing at 5 p.m.

**Transportation & Enrichment**

**POLST (Pennsylvania Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment) and Advance Health Care Directives by Father Mateo Zarmora, OSB, a priest of the Diocese of Lexington, Ky.** Mass in the lower church at 6:30 p.m. by The New Spirit Contemplative Group. Mass begins at 7 p.m. Sponsored by The Spirit of Love & Mercy at St. Rose of Lima and the Come & See Prayer Group at St. Patrick Parish. Call Joyce, 717-308-7245.

**Sister Eileen Quinn’s Bible Study/Friend on the Journey, Sept. 7 from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.** Presented by Sister Eileen Quinn. Refreshments included. For information, or to register, contact Chris Arnold at carnold@womenofgrace.com or 717-761-4789.

**Jolante Benkovic Book Study “Experience Grace in Abundance: Ten Strategies for Your Spiritual Life” at Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Harrisburg beginning Sept. 14 for 10 weeks. Sessions begin at 9:30 a.m. in the former church. For information, or to register, contact Chris Arnold at carnold@womenofgrace.com or 717-379-6041.

**1 Thirst Prayer Community’s Bible Study/Praying the Scripture Summer Series at Good Shepherd Church in Camp Hill,** featuring sessions (10 a.m.-noon) beginning Sept. 10, or Thursday evening sessions (6:30-8:30 p.m.) beginning Sept. 12. Twelve sessions in the fall and 12 sessions beginning January 2020. Registration opens Aug. 5. Call Augie Pfeifer at 717-737-8713 with questions.

**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, an organization serving those who are homeless locally and is supported in part by St. John Neumann Parish in Lancaster. Forms are online at www.hartzpt.com/fall-blast-5k-runwalk/careable-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 more, or off the Streets at www.ofthestreetsnow.com or Facebook at Off The Streets Now Lancaster PA.

**St. John Neumann Parish Knights of Columbus Council 12532, Pig & Corn Roast, Aug. 18 from noon-3 p.m.** in the parish’s St. John XXIII Center, Lancaster. Pork sandwich, with or without homemade barbecue sauce, roasted corn, baked beans, apple sauce, a beverage and ice cream. $10 per person; children 4 and under are free. For information or to register, call Joel Harshorn at 717-396-0041; Jerry Sauers at 717-344-0927; or the parish office at 717-569-8531. Proceeds benefit council causes, including pro-life efforts and St. John Neumann Parish.

**Assumption BVM Parish in Lebanon, yard sale, Aug. 10 from 8 a.m.-noon in the rear parking lot and parish center.**

**Holy Spirit Knights of Columbus Council #10502 in Palmyra, golf outing at Iron Valley Golf Club in Lebanon, Aug. 24. Four-person scramble format with 8 a.m. shotgun start.** $90 per person fee includes range balls, beverages, chicken and BBQ pork lunch, as well as numerous raffles and prizes. Information available at www.spiritcrane.com. Contact Dane Schoenbaum at 717-304-3493 or dane.schoenbaum@gmail.com with any questions.

**Good Shepherd School in Camp Hill is enrolling students for PreK3 through eighth grade.** Small class sizes, strong academics, athletic, extra-curricular activities. Enrichment clubs, full-day PreK3, PreK4 and kindergarten. Financial aid, including tuition assistance, transfer grants and referral bonuses are available. Call the school office at 717-737-7261 or email jeter sky@gsschpa.org to schedule your private tour.

**Resurrection Catholic School in Lancaster, golf outing at Medead Heights on Sept. 10. Registration at 10 a.m., shotgun start at noon.** Four-person scramble. $90 per person. Two some and singles will be paired up. Hotdog and beer lunch, barbeque dinner, and contests on the course, including a $10,000 prize for a hole in one. Sponsorships for tables, golf carts, holes and pin flags available. Event benefits technology for students. For information or to register, call 717-392-3083 or e-mail dwalker@rcspa.org.

**St. Joseph Parish Fun(d) Committee, indoor summer yard sale on Aug. 10 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m.** in the social hall at St. Joseph Parish in Hanover. Breakfast and lunch served. Proceeds benefit St. Joseph Parish. Contact Joni Gudziak, 717-543-7859, or by contacting the parish office, 717-453-7895, or by contacting the parish office, 717-453-7895, or by contacting the parish office, 717-453-7895, or by contacting the parish office, 717-453-7895.

**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, an organization serving those who are homeless locally and is supported in part by St. John Neumann Parish in Lancaster. Forms are online at www.hartzpt.com/fall-blast-5k-runwalk/careable-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 more, or off the Streets at www.ofthestreetsnow.com or Facebook at Off The Streets Now Lancaster PA.

**ST. JOSEPH PARISH FUN (D) COMMITTEE, INDOOR SUMMER YARD SALE on Aug. 10 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** in the social hall at St. Joseph Parish in Hanover. Breakfast and lunch served. Proceeds benefit St. Joseph Parish. Vendor space available. Call 717-524-6656 for information.

**Cash Bingo, hosted by our Lady Help of Christians PCCW in Lykens, Aug. 11, in the parish social hall. Doors open at 11:30 a.m.; early bird begins at 12:30 p.m. Twenty games, specials, 50/50 and more. Kitchen open for food and drinks. Cost is $20. Tickets available at the parish office, 717-453-7859, or by contacting Deb Bower, 717-215-6784, or Ann Marie Kolva, 717-571-8031.**

Diocesan Notebook continues on page 15
**OBITUARIES**

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

- **Bloomsburg**
  - St. Columba: Helen J. Speer, Gerald L. Zambit
  - Buchanan Valley: St. Ignatius Loyola: Helen J. Kimple
  - Camp Hill: Good Shepherd: Anne Boyle
  - Shirley McKee
  - Royce Worthington
  - Katawissa: St. Francis Xavier: Frances Brehm
  - Our Lady of Mercy: Helene Malley
  - Chambersburg: Corpus Christi: Deborah A. Babuk
  - Bridgetta Buhun
  - JoAnn Gallagher
  - Walter E. Miner
  - Mary Ann Moer
  - John O’Shaughnessy
  - Amelo Russo
  - Samuel A. Tarquinii
  - Coal Township: St. Patrick: Margaret Klimek
  - St. Joseph: Suzan Tinsley
  - Dauphin: St. Matthew: Maretia Schmidt

- **Greentsburg**
  - St. Francis Xavier: Geronima Vargas Salinas

- **Hanover**
  - St. Joseph: Mary O’Donnell
  - James M. Redding, Sr.
  - Amanda Sneringer
  - Lewis Gilmore Von Lossberg
  - Donald E. Weddle

- **Harrisburg**
  - Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick: Debra McLeanhan
  - St. Catherine Labouré: Bernard Burborow
  - Shari Ann Ebner
  - Charles Frye
  - John Gacesa, Sr.
  - St. Margaret Mary: Elaine Murphy
  - Mary Anne Whitman
  - Olga Yakowenko

- **Hershey**
  - St. Joan of Arc: Jim Gazpari
  - Isolina “Selina” Leoni
  - Bob Mielcy
  - Mae Piconi

- **Kulpont**
  - Holy Angels: Rita Doaty
  - James R. Kornkiewicz

- **Lancaster**
  - Assumption BVM: Marilyn Clement
  - Larry Horne
  - Hank Roux

- **Mechanicsburg**
  - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton: Gwendolyn Nancarvis
  - St. Joseph: Israel A. DeFlurio, III
  - Elizabeth “Betzy” Podjde
  - Steven H. Smith

- **McSherrystown**
  - Annunciation BVM: Cyprian Gehhart
  - Thomas Martin
  - Sylvia Stock
  - Alfred Young

- **Middletown**
  - Seven Sorrows BVM: Theresa Novak,

- **Milton**
  - St. Joseph: Lisa Reichelederfer

- **Mount Carmel**
  - Divine Redeemer:
    - Michael J. Bednarz
    - Anne M. Harrison
    - Mary Ann Rhoades

  - Our Lady of Mount Carmel:
    - Theresa Skavery

- **New Cumberland**
  - St. Theresa:
    - Margaret Agri
    - Anthony Rutkowski

- **New Freedom**
  - St. John the Baptist:
    - John Riley
    - Allan Wood

- **Palmyra**
  - Holy Spirit:
    - Raymond R. Seibert

- **Rohrerstown**
  - St. Leo the Great: Naomi Mary Roehm
  - Dr. John F. Schroeder

- **UP TO DATE**

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

- Deacon Morris MacAdam, 1996
- Msgr. Thomas McGough, 1997
- Msgr. Leo A. Beierschmitt, 2002
- Deacon John Rocco, 2002
- Father Francis Lahout, 2003
- Father Hugh J. McLaughlin, 2005
- Father Daniel O’Connor, 2006
- Father Joseph Kofchock, 2007
- Father Francis Hudak, 2008
- Father Joseph Kofchock, 2010
- Msgr. Thomas R. Brennen, 2011
- Msgr. George W. Rost, 2012
- Deacon Frank Eckman, 2012
- Msgr. Thomas Smith, 2014
- Father Kenneth Lawrence, 2017.

**DECEASED CLERGY**

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

- Deacon Morris MacAdam, 1996
- Msgr. Thomas McGough, 1997
- Msgr. Leo A. Beierschmitt, 2002
- Deacon John Rocco, 2002
- Father Francis Lahout, 2003
- Father Hugh J. McLaughlin, 2005

**JOB OPENINGS**

Lancaster 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.lancastercatholicschool.org. Positions include health, 401K and tuition benefits.

**T CROSSWORD**

Mark Your Calendars!

**August**

The deadline for submissions for the August 16 edition of The Witness is Wednesday, August 7 at 4:30 p.m. Submit written announcements via email 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.
Masses for Healing from Addiction

The Diocesan Office of Health and Pastoral Care Ministry is working with parishes to host Masses for Healing from Addiction. The Masses will provide spiritual support to those who suffer from addiction and to their loved ones. Dates will be added to the list as Masses are scheduled. The updated list can be found at www.hbgdiocese.org/healthcare-ministry/.

August 2019
Mount Carmel, Our Lady of Mount Carmel │ August 7 at 6:30 p.m.

September 2019
Catawissa, Our Lady of Mercy │ September 1 at 8 a.m.
Milton, Saint Joseph │ September 13 at 9 a.m.

October 2019
Milton, Saint Joseph │ October 1 at 9 a.m.
Berwick, Immaculate Conception BVM │ October 27 at 9:30 a.m.

November 2019
Fairfield, Immaculate Conception BVM │ November 2 at 5 p.m.
Milton, Saint Joseph │ November 6 at 7 p.m.
Orrtanna, Saint Ignatius Loyola │ November 13 at 6 p.m.
Columbia, Holy Trinity │ November 14 at 7:30 p.m.
Millersville, Saint Philip the Apostle │ November 23 at 10 a.m.
Blue Ridge Summit, Saint Rita │ November 30 at 4:30 p.m.

December 2019
Milton, Saint Joseph │ December 10 at 9 a.m.

January 2020
Milton, Saint Joseph │ January 5 at 7 p.m.
Enola, Saint Peter Son Korean Community │ January 12 at 10 a.m.
(Korean language)

February 2020
Milton, Saint Joseph │ February 7 at 9 a.m.
Steelton, Prince of Peace │ February 9 at 10:30 a.m.

March 2020
Milton, Saint Joseph │ March 4 at 6 p.m.
Orrtanna, Saint Ignatius Loyola │ March 18 at 6 p.m.

April 2020
Milton, Saint Joseph │ April 21 at 9 a.m.

May 2020
Milton, Saint Joseph │ May 4 at 9 a.m.

June 2020
Milton, Saint Joseph │ June 24 at 7 p.m.

Summer Drama is King

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

For the past four summers, St. Theresa School in New Cumberland has offered a musical theater camp for elementary students. The several-week program is hosted at Trinity High School in Camp Hill, where the camp attendees are treated to wonderful production quality sound and lighting systems to enhance the musical production. This year’s chosen production was The Lion King, mirroring Disney’s summer blockbuster release in theaters.

The camp is run by BJ Meagher, the Director of Bands at Trinity, who, along with several assistants, help the attendees with singing, acting, choreography and set creation. The costumes and sets are fashioned out of basic items transformed into striking props.

More than 25 young people attended the camp and performed a striking and beautifully performed rendition of the famous African story to culminate the drama learning experience. To learn more about the camp, contact Meagher at bmeagher@thsrocks.us.

Simba, portrayed by Noah Rakotoari Manana, considers his future as the king of the animals.

As Nala and Simba, Kaitlyn Do and Noah Rakotoari Manana, proudly display the new addition to their pride.