By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

As 15-year-old Ryan Kerris ascended the stairs to the choir loft of St. Lawrence Chapel in Harrisburg for the first time, an expression of awe broadened across his face.

Ryan, a member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Mount Carmel, was introduced to the Latin Mass a year ago, and came to St. Lawrence last month for a chant camp hosted by the Mater Dei Latin Mass Community.

“I don’t know the full Latin language, but last year I discovered the Latin liturgy and I just fell in love with it. When I heard about the chant camp, I just knew I had to attend,” he said.

The day camp, June 24-28, drew upwards of 30 children and teens, who learned about the history of chant, the purpose of music in the liturgy, music notation and singing in a choral setting. The week culminated with the students raising their voices in song for a noon Solemn High Mass in the Extraordinary Form at St. Lawrence Chapel on June 28, the Feast of the Sacred Heart.

“It’s so great to have the traditions of the Church being preserved. It’s so important to learn them so we can continue them into the future,” Ryan said.

Patrick Torsell, Director of Music for the Mater Dei community, coordinated the camp.

“The chant camp is a great opportunity for young people to really enter more deeply into the liturgy and the history of the Church,” he said. “The more that you know about the Mass and chant, the more deeply you can enter into it spiritually. We live in an increasingly secularized world and a lot of people, especially young people, are dying to have spirituality in their lives, something
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On June 22, the Church paused to remember a saint who remained faithful in the face of political persecution, even as it meant death.

Bishop Ronald Gainer celebrated Mass on the Feast of St. Thomas More at St. Theresa Church in New Cumberland. In the Diocese of Harrisburg, the annual Mass is sponsored by the St. Thomas More Society of Central Pennsylvania, established by Catholic lawyers and judges to promote Christian principals in the law in the spirit of St. Thomas More.

The Mass also marked the start of Religious Freedom Week, June 22-29, an initiative of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to reflect, pray and take action for the preservation of religious freedom.

A devout Catholic, a lawyer, scholar, author, government servant and Lord Chancellor, St. Thomas More was imprisoned in the Tower of London and then beheaded by the order of King Henry VIII for refusing to sign the king’s Act of Supremacy – making him head of the Catholic Church in England – and Act of Succession – that only his children with Anne Boleyn, and not of he and his wife Catherine of Aragon, would be successors to the throne.

More was imprisoned from April 1534 until his death on July 6, 1535, and in that time wrote numerous letters which most often spoke of his conscience.

“More saw the parallels between his own suffering and Christ’s suffering. He rejoiced to the extent that he was suffering much like Christ. Both were betrayed, both faced execution,” Bishop Gainer said in his homily.

“There is so much we can learn from St. Thomas More… We use words to express ourselves, but they can also be twisted and used against us. Thomas More would not lie; he felt lying was odious to God…. He never mistrusted God – He trusted Him always,” the bishop said.

“He ultimately felt whatever happened to him happened for the good. He believed that. And good has come out of Thomas More’s life. What happened to Thomas More has led to much good for all of us today,” the bishop told the congregation.

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Food. Clothing. Shelter. We may often find ourselves taking these three basic needs for granted, never having to wonder when we will eat again and where we will sleep. But for far too many men, women, children and families throughout the Diocese of Harrisburg, these three basic needs are challenging to meet.

That’s where the generosity of supporters of the Matthew 25 Grant Program ill in the gaps, providing much needed and, in some cases, life-saving support.

“We travel and meet with these organizations. We meet the people running them and meet their clients,” said Sharon Turner, chairperson of the Matthew 25 Grant Program selection committee. “It’s incredibly rewarding to see what these organizations are doing, some with very little money. They are truly using their time, talent and treasure.”

Turner added that the impact from the Matthew 25 grants is incredible. “Sometimes, this grant is one-third to half of the organization’s budget,” Turner said. “The committee also looks at sustainability when awarding these grants. We understand that our donors want to know that grant care is going into the selection process.”

Through the generosity of those who donated to the Matthew 25 collection this past November, the committee has selected 33 organizations to receive funding. A total of $231,300 has been granted to the following organizations:

**Adams County Emergency Family Shelter: $8,000**

The shelter, started in 1991, is an affiliate of the South Central Community Action Program. This emergency shelter has 10 family rooms and assists families in finding safe, affordable, long-term housing. Annually, the shelter serves nearly 200 individuals, more than half of which are children. The Adams County Emergency Family Shelter is a first-time applicant. The funding will be used to help offset costs of the shelter. Their application was supported by St. Francis Xavier Parish, Gettysburg.

**A Woman’s Concern: $6,000**

This pregnancy resource medical center offers free and confidential pregnancy-related services, including pregnancy testing, ultrasound exams (for eligible clients), community referrals, prenatal and parenting education, and more. This organization tries to reach women at risk of choosing abortion. The grant funding will be used to purchase baby items such as clothing, diapers, hygiene items, etc. A Woman’s Concern’s application was supported by St. Leo the Great Parish, Rohrerstown.

**Birthright of Sunbury, Inc.: $1,000**

Birthright is a pro-life 501(c)3 organization serving the emergency needs of local, poor infants since 1983. Their mission has been supported by fundraisers, churches, civic organizations, foundations, trusts and individual donations. The Matthew 25 grant will be used to purchase powdered infant formula. Birthright’s application was supported by St. Monica Parish, Sunbury.

**Carlisle Area Family Life Center: $2,000**

Established in 1998, this ministry serves expectant mothers and newborn children. The organization provides a “Basket for Baby,” assisting mothers with clothes, diapers and necessities for their newborn. Carlisle Area Family Life Center’s application was supported by St. Patrick Parish, Carlisle.

**Carlisle C.A.R.E.S.: $6,000**

Carlisle C.A.R.E.S. has been serving the Cumberland County homeless since 2004. This shelter was founded in the hope of giving two men, who were sleeping in the courtyard of a local church, a roof over their head. Ten years later, the shelter can now house 50 to 70 individuals nightly. In 2010, the program expanded by offering a “Day Center,” where guests can shower, do laundry, make phone calls and receive mail. St. Patrick Parish, Carlisle, supported the application for Carlisle C.A.R.E.S.

**Catholic Harvest Food Pantry: $7,500**

This ministry distributes food, clothing and personal care items to an average of 700 York County families monthly. The grant will be used to purchase healthy proteins, such as chicken, which are in demand and rarely donated. This ministry has the support of four collaborative parishes and their application was directly supported by St. Joseph Parish, York.

**Christian Churches United of the Tri-County Area, Inc.: $6,000**

This organization was founded to provide emergency assistance to the general public in the wake of the 1972 Hurricane Agnes flood. It is now the central location in Dauphin County for homeless men, women and families seeking emergency shelter, as well as rental assistance, utility assistance and other emergency aid. This organization also provides mentoring and support to ex-offenders and various other ecumenical and community impact efforts. The Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick, Harrisburg, supported Christian Churches United’s application.

**Gettysburg C.A.R.E.S.: $6,000**

Four area churches assist in this collaborative ministry. The Matthew 25 grant funding will be used to provide temporary housing services, life skills training and access to health care through a partnership with Gettysburg Hospital and Family First Health, St. Francis Xavier Parish, Gettysburg, supported Gettysburg C.A.R.E.S.’ application.

**Guardian Angels Outreach Center: $6,000**

Established in 2014, Guardian Angels Outreach feeds and shelters the elderly. Volunteers and parishioners provide home-cooked meals for the less fortunate every Wednesday and also deliver meals to those who are homebound. Holy Angels Parish, Kulpmont, supported Guardian Angels Outreach Center’s application.

**Healthy Steps Diaper Bank: $8,000**

Briefly needed in 2013, this ministry serves babies and toddlers and assists where WIC or Food Stamps do not, as government programs do not allow funding for diapers. Volunteers collect, sort and distribute a supplemental amount of diapers to families in need, enabling them to meet the Department of Health’s diapering guidelines. Parents can also receive training on healthy diapering and potty training. Healthy Steps Diaper Bank’s application was supported by St. Margaret Mary Parish, Harrisburg.

**Lancaster County Project for the Needy: $5,000**

This program distributes food boxes, hats, mittens and scarves to those in need in both Lancaster and Lebanon counties. Lancaster County Project for the Needy is supported by the local community and has more than 500 volunteers. The grant monies will be used to purchase the meals provided to clients at the holidays. Lancaster County Project for the Needy is supported by Assumption BVM Parish, Lancaster.

**Lebanon County Christian Ministries: $6,000**

Beginning in 2012 as a food pantry, Lebanon County Christian Ministries now also provides a shelter and resource center, where guests can prepare their meals, do laundry, take showers, and undertake work and house searches. St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Annville, supported Lebanon County Christian Ministries’ application.

**Manos Unidas Hispanic-American Center, Inc.: $12,000**

This ministry was founded by the Latino Services Task Force, an affiliate of Health Adams County, and St. Francis Xavier Parish in 2006 as a response to the growth of the Hispanic immigrant community. The organization provides housing and food to the most disadvantaged and poor Hispanic families. Manos Unidas Hispanic-American Center will use the grant funding for an After School Snack Program, which serves students in three area schools, and for food supplies for the emergency food bank. St. Francis Xavier Parish, Gettysburg, supported Manos Unidas Hispanic-American Center’s application.

**Mary’s Helpers: $10,000**

This program has served the less fortunate by providing food for impoverished clients within the boundaries of Steelton, Enhart, Oberlin, Bressler and Highspire. Clients are given meat, eggs, milk and fresh produce twice a month. Mary’s Helpers’ application was supported by Prince of Peace Parish, Steelton.

**Morning Star Pregnancy Services: $6,000**

This non-denominational Christian pregnancy resource center offers life-affirming alternatives to abortion. With centers in Harrisburg, New Cumberland and Middletown, Morning Star Pregnancy Services serves mainly impoverished men, women and families involved in unplanned pregnancies or caring for children while living well below the poverty line. This organization serves an average of 3,700 clients annually. The Matthew 25 grant will be used for baby formula and diapers. St. Joseph Parish, Mechanicsburg, supported Morning Star Pregnancy Services’ application.

**Mother Maria Kaups: $2,800**

The Mother Maria Kaups Center serves the low-income residents of Mount Carmel during the week and will use the Matthew 25 grant monies to start a weekend backpack program for children. This program will give school-aged children a bag of food to take home for the weekend. Divine Redeemer Parish, Mount Carmel, sponsored Mother Maria Kaups’ application.

More MATTHEW 25, page 4
Diocesan Staff Changes

Throughout our efforts to be the best possible stewards of the resources provided to the Diocese, we have made some difficult decisions to restructure and resize many of our departments and ministries. In most cases, this restructuring took effect as of June 30. In order to allow for as seamless a transition as possible and to continue serving the parishes and the community of our Diocese, please make note of the following changes.

Office of Education
Mrs. Lisa Riley, Superintendent; Mrs. Mareeta Schmidt, Assistant Superintendent; and Mrs. Lynn Falcone, Office Manager, will all retire as of June 30.

Very Rev. Edward Quinlan has retired from his position as Secretary for the Office of Education and will be the full-time pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Harrisburg. Mr. Daniel Breen will join the Education Department as Secretary/Supervisor for Catholic Education as of July 1. Mrs. Margaret Barrett assumes the role of Associate Superintendent effective July 1. The Education Department can continue to be reached by calling 717-657-4804, ext. 222, or ext. 223.

Tribunal
Dr. Carol Houghton, Chancellor and Judge, has retired as of June 30. Mr. Robert O’Donnell, Case Assessor, will be retiring on December 31.

Mrs. Barbara Roth has been appointed Chancellor for the Diocese, effective July 1. Questions for the Tribunal and Chancery should continue to be directed to 717-657-4804, ext. 304.

Archives
Staffing reductions mean that the Diocesan Archives Office will open on Monday through Friday only. Messages may be left at 717-657-4804, ext. 214, and they will be returned during the office’s open hours.

Mr. Michael Yuriich will remain as Architect, but the Genealogist position, held by Mrs. Meg Ryan, repeatedly has been eliminated as of June 30. This service will no longer be offered.

Office of Communications
Mr. Joseph Aponick, Director of Communications, has retired as of June 30. Questions for the Communications Office should be directed to Rachell Bryson at 717-657-4804, ext. 235, or rbryson@hbgdiocese.org.

Catholic Life & Evangelization
The Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry position, held by Mr. Robert Williams, repeatedly has been eliminated as of June 30. The youth and young adult ministry programs will continue to be overseen by the Catholic Life and Evangelization (CLEV) office. Please contact CLEV at 717-657-4804, ext. 327.

The office manager positions for the campus ministry programs at both Bloomsburg University and Shippensburg University, held by Jean Dubbelt and Ms. Jessica Reinsfelder respectively, have repeatedly been eliminated as of June 30.

The Lay Campus Ministry team has been reduced, following the resignation of Ms.Ann Schwartz from Elizabethtown and Franklin & Marshall Campuses. This position will not be filled. Franklin & Marshall Campus will be served by Father Joshua Cavender and Mrs. Alicia Spiegelhof, and Elizabethtown by St. Peter’s Parish.

Office for Divine Worship
The Administrative Assistant position in the Office for Divine Worship, held by Mrs. Connie Egan, repeatedly has been eliminated as of June 30. Questions for this office should be directed to 717-657-4804, ext. 354.

Office of Catholic Cemeteries
Mr. Tom Brilanski, Cemetery Manager for Gettysburg and Lebanon Cemeteries, retired as of June 30. Ms. Michalene Petica has been appointed as Cemetery Manager effective July 1. Questions for our Catholic cemeteries should continue to be directed to the individual cemetery. Please visit www.hbgdiocese.org/catholic-cemeteries for this contact information.

We thank all of those who are leaving the Diocese for their service and commitment, and extend our prayers and best wishes.

Matthew 25
Continued from 3

New Hope Ministries: $5,000
This Christian-based organization provides assistance with food, housing, utilities, transportation, healthcare, workforce development, job training and youth programs annually for an average of 16,500 low income residents in the Dover, Dillsburg, Hanover and Mechanicsburg areas. New Hope Ministries’ application was jointly supported by St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish and St. Joseph Parish, both of Mechanicsburg.

Off the Streets: $12,000
This ministry, founded in 2010, assists the homeless in finding permanent housing. Providing assistance for working clients through security deposits, Off the Streets helps local homeless agencies house fewer people in shelters, and transitions these individuals and families to a path of self-sufficiency. An all-volunteer organization, Off the Streets will use the grant money to support services and results for permanent housing for families who have been identified and screened. St. John Neumann Parish, Lancaster, supported Off the Streets’ application.

Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen: $6,000
The Church has been steadfast in her support of this vital ministry to the poor and has watched its growth from the base- ment of Cristo Salvador Church to its current prominent location on South George Street in downtown York. Daily, almost 300 people visit the soup kitchen for breakfast and lunch. Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen will use the Matthew 25 grant to purchase food, household items for families, and warm winter items such as hats, scarves, gloves and coats. Immaculate Conception BVM Parish, York, supported the application for Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen.

OMPf Benevolent Society: $3,000
The OMPf Benevolent Society provides food and emergency financial assistance to the Ephrata and Denver areas. Serving an average of 160 households per month, the society also offers emergency assistance for utilities and rent. OMPf Benevolent Society was supported by Our Mother of Perpetual Help Parish, Ephrata.

Power Packs Project: $10,000
Power Packs Project provides a recipe and all of the ingre- dients, plus other support to feed insecure families every week so they have food over the weekend. The Lebanon program was established in 2016 and serves eight elementary schools. More than 850 Lebanon County residents receive food weekly through this program. With the support of the Matthew 25 grant, Power Packs Project will establish a summer program in 2019 to purchase food for families in need. The program has partnered with churches to assist in distributing the food. Power Packs Project’s application was supported by St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Ambridge.

Race Track Chaplaincy of America (Penn National): $5,000
Established in 1984, this ministry serves a community of mixed ethnic backgrounds who live and work at the Penn National race track. The chaplaincy assists families of workers who have lost wages due to injury, sickness and racing cancel- lations. The grant monies will be used to provide assistance to track workers who can’t work due to injury, illness, abuse or abandonment, and to provide rental assistance to prevent evic- tion. St. Katherine Drexel Parish, Mechanicsburg, supported Race Track Chaplaincy’s application.

St. Francis Soup Kitchen: $12,000
This ministry was established in 1980 to provide meals to the poor and homeless of the Allison Hill, Harrisburg area. Until now, members of St. Francis of Assisi Parish have met the food assistance needs of this community, but the area is growing and need in this distressed neighborhood. The soup kitchen, completely staffed by volunteers, serves a hot meal to more than 200 men, women and children six days a week, year round. The Matthew 25 grant will be used to purchase food, kitchen supplies and equipment to provide meals for the homeless in the area. St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Harrisburg, supported the application for St. Francis Soup Kitchen.

Samaritan Fellowship: $12,000
This ministry was established in 1958 to serve people in the Carlisle community who find themselves in need due to unforeseen emergencies. The shelter is supported by 21 churches in the Carlisle area. Primarily staffed by members of St. Patrick Parish, this organization helps individuals and families who are destitute. Samaritan Fellowship will use the grant monies for emergency shelter and aid for families with children facing homelessness. St. Patrick Parish, Carlisle, supported the application for Samaritan Fellowship.

San Juan Bautista Social Outreach: $12,000
This ministry serves less fortunate Hispanics throughout the entire county. This four-week summer recreation ministry focuses on education, personal growth and development. Children are provided breakfast, lunch and snacks and enjoy arts, crafts and swimming. San Juan Bautista Summer Camp is helping the spiritual and educational growth of the attending children in a community that rates as one of the highest in crime. The grant monies will be used to purchase food and camp t-shirts, which serve as a safety and identification, for San Juan Bautista Parish, Lancaster, supported the application for this program.

San Juan Bautista Summer Camp: $7,000
This four-week summer recreation ministry focuses on education, personal growth and development. Children are provided breakfast, lunch and snacks and enjoy arts, crafts and swimming. San Juan Bautista Summer Camp is helping the spiritual and educational growth of the attending children in a community that rates as one of the highest in crime. The grant monies will be used to purchase food and camp t-shirts, which serve as a safety and identification, for San Juan Bautista Parish, Lancaster, supported the application for this program.

Shalom House: $10,000
This ministry was established in 1986 and continues to provide emergency shelter for up to 20 women and children in times of crisis, while working with them to achieve self-suffi- ciency. Shalom House works collaboratively with other com- munity organizations to receive clients and to find permanent housing for those in need. The Matthew 25 grant will be used to provide assistance in finding housing, employment and other services. Shalom House’s application was supported by St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Harrisburg.

Shepherd’s Table: $6,000
The Shepherd’s Table serves nearly 170 hot meals to those in need of food and delivers meals to the homebound each week in the Coal Township area. The grant money will allow the organization to purchase food in bulk, provide food for families in an emergency and to purchase supplies needed to serve meals to the homebound. Our Lady of Hope Parish, Coal Township, supported the application for Shepherd’s Table.

Silence of Mary Home: $6,000
This ministry provides a Christian home for God’s aban- doned or neglected people of all ages in the greater Harrisburg area. Food, clothing and shelter have been given to young immigrants, refugees, pregnant teens and adults, needy moth- ers and fathers with small children, and the elderly, providing assistance, compassion and comfort. The Matthew 25 grant will support the program’s food bank, St. Theresa Parish, New Cumberland, supported the application for Silence of Mary Home.

The Caring Cupboard: $3,000
This ministry in Palmyra began in 2003 as an elementary Sunday school class project, and within three years evolved into the food pantry it is today. The Caring Cupboard will use the Matthew 25 grant monies to increase the amount of fresh fruit and vegetables they can offer. Holy Spirit Parish, Palmyra, supported The Caring Cupboard’s application.

The Lord’s Lunch: $7,000
What originally began as a Girl Scout Award project to provide meals to those in need, now distributes food weekly, supports a food pantry and supports a summer feeding program for school-aged children in the New Freedom area. The grant monies will go towards a weekly meal and non-perishable food items that can be taken home. St. John the Baptist Parish, New Freedom, supported the application for The Lord’s Lunch.

Transitional Housing and Care Center, Inc. (formerly Gate House Shelter): $11,000
This ministry, established in 1997, provides transitional housing to homeless families in York, Lancaster, Lebanon, Columbia and counties and serves 80 to 90 residents annually. The shelter is the only facility in these counties that provides shelter for both homeless men and women, enabling many families to remain intact during their period of transition. The Matthew 25 grant monies will help transition homeless residents to permanent housing and provide life skill training and career counseling. Transitional Housing and Care Center’s application was supported by St. Joseph Parish, Danville.

Total grant money for 2019: $231,300
To learn more about the Matthew 25 grant program, visit www.hbgdiocese.org/giving/matthew25.
By Rachel Bryson, M.S.  
The Catholic Witness

Bishop Gainer Appoints New Chancellor

Barbara Roth has served the Diocese of Harrisburg’s Tribunal office for 40 years. She has worn many hats during this time; secretary, office manager, case manager and advocate are all titles she has carried. But as of July 1, Roth can add another “hat” – chancellor.

“Last week, Bishop Gainer spoke to me to see if I would consider taking on this role,” Roth said. “After speaking with Dr. [Carol] Houghton, I said yes.”

Houghton has served as the Diocese’s chancellor for 29 years and retired from this position as of June 30. Every diocese is required to have a chancellor, but the roles and responsibilities of this position vary based on the needs of the bishop.

“The chancellor is the notary to the bishop,” Roth said. “Their job is to make sure that the bishop’s papers are preserved.” According to Roth, chancellors in the past have had additional duties, based on the needs of the bishop and the diocese.

“Dr. Houghton is a canon lawyer, but sometimes the chancellor hasn’t been,” Roth said. “There have been priests in this role. It can vary.” Roth’s main focus will be to serve as the Diocesan Bishop’s notary and to safeguard his papers. This new role will be in addition to her responsibilities as Case Services Administrator and Advocate with the Tribunal. In these positions, Roth supervises all the administrative personnel for the Tribunal, but not the judicial personnel. As the Case Services Administrator, Roth assists with the case flow and works with both the administrative and judicial staffs to keep the case processes moving. Roth added that as an advocate, she assists people through the marriage annulment process in presenting their case.

“I’m humbled that Bishop Gainer would ask me. This role gives me another opportunity to serve and assist Bishop as our shepherd, to serve our priests and to serve the faithful of the Diocese,” said Roth.

“I’m looking forward to using my organizational skills and attention to detail, and to be another set of hands to help Bishop do his job,” Roth said. “He has a great team of people and I look forward to joining them.”

Even though her role may have changed, Roth added that she is no different than the other lay members of the Church. “I’m just like them. I sit in the same pews. My job just happens to also be my faith,” she said.

Roth and her husband, Tim, live in the Harrisburg area. They have one daughter. When not working, Roth enjoys reading, hiking, sewing, photography and learning the game of Pool.

To learn more about the duties of the Diocesan Chancellor, visit www.hbgdiocese.org/tribunal/office-of-the-chancellor. More information on the Tribunal can be found at www.hbgdiocese.org/tribunal.

Retiring Chancellor Reflects on Service, Looks Forward to New Opportunities

By Rachel Bryson, M.S.  
The Catholic Witness

After a lifetime of service, the Chancellor for the Diocese of Harrisburg, Dr. Carol L. Houghton, STD, JCD, is starting her next life chapter. Dr. Houghton retired from the Diocese on June 30, but not before reflecting back on her 33 years of service.

“I started in a part-time role in June 1986. I was teaching full-time at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary at the time. When I was working part-time, I started in the Tribunal as a Defender of the Bond and then I became a Judge,” said Houghton. “My entire time with the Diocese has been in the Tribunal.”

In April 1990, at the request of the late Bishop Nicholas C. Dattilo, Houghton came full-time to the Diocese and became chancellor and has remained in this position for 29 years. “I am a canon lawyer, but you don’t have to be a canon lawyer to be the chancellor,” said Houghton. “Because I am a canon lawyer, I served as a canonical consultant, providing advice on various canonical issues to the bishops I served with.”

“As the chancellor, I oversaw the historical archives, although the Diocesan archivist had all the daily responsibilities for the archives. By universal law, the chancellor is also the Diocesan notary. Any formal act of the bishop is notarized by the chancellor. I keep the official seal of the Diocese,” Houghton explained.

In addition to her responsibilities as chancellor and as a defender of the bond for the Tribunal, Houghton also recalled her time as a Censor Librorum fondly. “I would review books, prayers and hymns that individuals wanted published,” she said.

During her tenure, Houghton was also involved with the very difficult task of merging parishes. “That was a large undertaking,” she said.

Lancaster, Rome, Texas and Back

Houghton, a native of Lancaster, first started her higher education at Lancaster Theological Seminary, intending to be a Protestant minister. Instead of ending seminary as a minister, she came out Catholic and then traveled to the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas, or Angelicum, in Rome.

Once she completed her education, Houghton worked in the Chancery and Tribunal offices for the Diocese of El Paso for three years, before returning to the Pennsylvania area. “I came back to the area and taught at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary,” said Houghton. “I taught Scripture and Canon Law full-time for five years. After I came to the Diocese in a full-time capacity, I didn’t teach for two years. Then, the Mount needed someone to teach Canon Law, so with the bishop’s approval, I taught Canon Law part-time at the Mount for the next 23 years.”

Honored and Thankful

Retiring from the Diocese is truly a bittersweet moment for Houghton, who expressed her deep joy to have been part of this faith community for so long. “I have a lot of good memories. There have been some difficult times we’ve gone through, but I think that’s true of any ride; it’s had its ups and downs. I connect those good times to the people I’ve worked with; to the bishops, the staff and the people we have served,” she said. “I didn’t look at this as work, but rather as being part of the larger picture. I looked at this as collaborative ministry. Like St. Paul who says we are not all the hand, or the foot, or the ear, but rather as being part of the Body of Christ. We’ve all worked together to bring good to the people of the Diocese.”

Houghton added she is planning to take the summer off and enjoy it, and is open to whatever path God has in store for her. As a teacher at heart, Houghton had one last message to share before closing this chapter.

“Just remember that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, is with us always, and He loves us more than we know. He asks each of us to do what we can for Him in this life, with the gifts He has given us, and to trust Him always. I had a sign in my office for many years that reads, ‘Let your Faith be bigger than your Fear.’ That’s the message I think I would like to share with others.”

On behalf of all those in the Diocese of Harrisburg, thank you, Carol, for your dedicated service.
St. Peter Parishioners in Columbia Celebrate Anniversary of First Church

Celebrating 190 years of their foundation of faith, the community of St. Peter Parish in Columbia gathered for Holy Mass on June 23 to mark the 190th anniversary of the parish’s first church.

“We wanted to take this opportunity to think about our parish history and thank God for St. Peter Parish,” Father Anthony Swamy, MSFS, pastor, said of the occasion.

Bishop Ronald Gainer was principal celebrant and homilist for the anniversary Mass.

“Anniversaries are wonderful celebrations – birthdays, wedding anniversaries and all parish anniversaries are special – but they are not just a look to the past. They are about being grateful for the present and about looking firmly forward to the future with the help of the Holy Spirit,” Bishop Gainer said in his homily. “All elements of time come together when we pause to celebrate an anniversary.”

“Nowhere in the Gospels does Jesus dismiss or send somebody away. He always invites and asks for people to be drawn toward him. There’s a lesson... as we celebrate 190 years,” the bishop told the congregation. “We often say we do not have enough or we are not good enough for that. Our Lord wants co-workers. If we give a little bit, our Lord will always make it be enough.”

Built 190 years ago for a dozen Catholic families who had previously traveled a dozen miles on foot to attend Mass in Lancaster, St. Peter’s original church was first served by priests from Lancaster. Expansion of the church was necessary by 1850 to accommodate the growing number of families in the parish.

That growth continued through the late 1800s, and a new St. Peter Church would be built. Its cornerstone was laid on Aug. 18, 1895, and the church was dedicated on June 20, 1897.

St. Peter Parish is currently home to 600 families. Father Swamy commended their support of community-outreach initiatives, including donations and volunteer hours with Columbia food banks, the St. Vincent de Paul Society and Off The Streets Lancaster, which secures housing for the homeless by assisting with security deposits and furniture. He also commended the parish’s Council of Catholic Women and Holy Name Society, which serve the parish and are instrumental in the annual fish fry.

“Our parishioners are very involved, serving the community and the parish,” Father Swamy said. “I see this anniversary as a time to thank God for our church, and for these 190 years,” he said. “I thank the pastors who served here so generously, and the people who handed on the Catholic faith over all these years. Throughout many challenges, they have kept the faith.”
Fiat Days is a retreat for young Catholic women, ages 15-25, who want to learn more about consecrated life, to deepen their faith, and to better discern God’s call in their lives. Held annually at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., the retreat drew nearly 40 young women to participate in many activities to assist them in their discernment.

Activities during the week included the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, night prayer, talks from religious sisters about vocation discernment and their communities, recreation and sports, great food and discussions. Visit the Diocesan YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/hbgdiocese, for a video highlighting Fiat Days.

“I really enjoyed the opportunity last year to meet a bunch of religious sisters and the opportunity to discern what my vocation is. It’s good to have a retreat that is about growing in a relationship with God and really focusing on what is your vocation, what are you called to do, and what will lead you to God and bring you happiness. [At first] I was really scared about potentially being a religious sister and not being able to have a family, but I was like, whatever my vocation is, that’s what will make me happy because that’s what God’s calling me to.”

~ Maggie McKinnon, St. Joseph Parish, York

“I really love being able to learn more about the sisters and the peace that you get with retreats, having the quiet and prayerful times. I really love the peaceful aspect of it. I’m not sure [if I have a calling], but I’m open and it’s always interested me, especially in the past few years. I’m more so exploring and trying to rule things out to determine what God has planned for me. I really love getting to sit down and talk with the sisters and also Adoration, and getting to sit down and have that one-on-one time with Christ.”

~ Gianna Gibson, St. Mark the Evangelist Parish, Greencastle

“I want to learn the general view of sisters and kind of be open, to figure my options out. I also heard there is glow in the dark Frisbee and I’m supper excited about that, but also to meet the sisters and to get to know them.”

~ Ruth Konkolics, St. Columba Parish, Bloomsburg
Quo Vadis Days Draws Young Men for

"Where are you going?"

Young men ages 15-25 considered this question during the Diocese’s annual Quo Vadis Days retreat, June 23-27. Within the walls and on the grounds of Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., young men engaged in prayer, discernment and camaraderie with priests and seminarians of the Diocese as they considered the vocation to which God calls them.

The retreat included a Holy Hour, Mass, Liturgy of the Hours and the Rosary daily; discernment talks from priests and seminarians; closing Mass celebrated by Bishop Ronald Gainer; a nighttime Rosary procession on the seminary grounds; meals; and time for recreation during games, sports and a water-balloon launch.

Prayer and activities during the annual retreat, which offers participants guidance in discerning single, married or religious life, are featured here in pictures. Watch the Diocese’s YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/hbgdiocese for an upcoming feature video on Quo Vadis Days.

“Stared thinking about the priesthood a few years ago when I came into the Church, and a few friends I went to school with recommended that I come to Quo Vadis. Having four to five days with seminarians and priests and hearing their vocation stories has helped my personal spiritual life…. I’m going to be a freshman at West Chester, and I’ll see where the Lord takes me. I’m open to anything, and I just trust in his love.”

~ Mike Igo,
Immaculate Conception BVM Parish, York

“Coming to Quo Vadis Days these past six years has helped me bring my Catholic faith with me in life. A lot of people, as they enter adult life, start to lose it because of what society tells us. Coming to Quo Vadis Days has helped me understand how I can live my faith in my everyday life.”

~ George Reich,
Mary, Mother of the Church Parish, Mount Joy
Discernment with Priests, Seminarians

“Being here with seminarians and priests is just like hanging with the bros. They’re really cool guys who love Jesus just as much as I do…. Being able to talk to them not only as priests and seminarians but as brothers in Christ really affirms where I’m at in my spirituality, formation and prayer life. Their witness as good and amazing holy men and brothers who are here for me every single day allows me to see how I can be more like that and strive in discernment to see what God wants me to do.”

~ Joe Amidon, St. John Neumann Parish, Lancaster
Chant Camp

Continued from 1

truly set apart. This camp gives kids a chance to really enter into history, philosophy and music all at the same time.

Lessons where taught in a classroom setting, where students learned pronunciation, translation, proper tone and how to “stand well” while singing. Divided into small groups, the campers also visited the chapel and the choir loft, where they applied what they had learned.

“We try to give students as much as a holistic approach as we possibly can to singing and chanting. It takes many elements to really be able to not only sing well, but also to pray well,” Torsell said.

“But by the end of the week, they take the history, the philosophy, the understanding of why music matters in the liturgy and why sacred music needs to be sacred and set apart, and they put it all together to make beautiful music at Mass,” he said.

Helena Jones, 11, has attended the annual camp four times.

“I’ve always found the Latin Mass to be very beautiful, so I wanted to learn to sing along with it. I enjoy letting my voice go to God, and that’s what sparked me to come to this camp,” said Helena, a member of the Mater Dei community in Harrisburg. Learning the translations from Latin to English proved meaningful for her.

“Usually when we start singing something in chant, I ask my director what it means. I feel like if I know what it means, then I actually know what I’m singing and I feel more comfortable,” she said. “If I’m singing the Sanctus, for example, and I didn’t know what it was, I can sing it but I’m really not getting my mind into the song. But if I know what it is, I can understand and better glorify God.”

Helena’s favorite aspect of the week was attending Mass each morning, “because then you grow in the faith,” she said.

At the end of the week, she and her fellow campers raised their voices in unison to honor the Lord.

“Solemn High Masses are the highest form of Mass a priest can sing. This is the first one I’ve ever sung for,” Helena said. “I feel like after all that work during the week, I can make something out of it. It gives me a good way to see the Mass, instead of looking at tall people in front of you as a kid. In choir, I can see the Mass and follow along with what the priest is doing, and it’s a lot of fun.”

Father Gregory Eichman, FSSP, chaplain of the Mater Dei Latin Community, said “The sacred music they’re getting from this chant camp is enabling them to reach back all the way to the beginning of the Church and experience the same chant that has helped so many other Catholics throughout the centuries. It also helps them get away from the strictly profane and secular music to the music that elevates our minds and our intellect and takes us to God.”

“It’s rewarding because we know what we’re offering to them is something that is touching their hearts,” he said.

Chant camp instructors included Father David Franco FSSP, chaplain of the Mater Dei community; Dr. Richard Skirpan, Music Director at The Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick in Harrisburg; and Rick Wheeler, Music Director at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Littleton, Colo.

Wheeler said he aims to expand the students’ knowledge about the ancient rite, the connection between the ancient and the new, and how those traditions remain.

“Getting in connection with our roots gives us strength. Chant and sacred polyphony are always great ways of doing that. They transcend generations,” said Wheeler.

Wheeler assists at the chant camp at St. Lawrence because of his connection to Torsell, who was once lead organist at Wheeler’s parish.

“The kids are loving what they’re doing and, to me, that’s an exciting part of what I do,” Wheeler said. “Some of them have really good training, and others have little training, but there is a lot of natural ability among the whole group. They all present some aspect of learning musically. Over time, you start to see the lightbulb of recognition and they’ll say, ‘Oh yes, now I understand that.’”

Torsell said the students’ inquiries and excitement are indicative of their willingness to participate in chant camp, and of their love for the Church.

“I love to see the kids excited to ask questions about the liturgy, about the organ. To me, it means this isn’t superficial,” he said. “They’re not just here because mom and dad wanted them to be here. They’re not just here to hang out with their friends. If they were, they wouldn’t be asking me questions like that.”

“I think the fact that they’re willing to ask questions – whether it’s about what I just wrote on the board, or whether it’s when we’re in the chapel and they want to know more about the bells or the organ, or why we have to sing something in Latin – those are the kinds of questions that show they’re genuinely interested,” he said. “What we’re giving them is feeding their soul and their intellect.”

(Learn more about Mater Dei’s Chant Camp and music program at MaterDeiPA.com/music.)
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.)

JULY

Seven Sorrows BVM Parish Community Days. July 11-13 at Seven Sorrows School in Middletown. Picnic food, baked goods, indoor flea market, Bingo, kids games and a cash raffle drawing of several $500 prizes. Thursday and Friday from 5-9 p.m., featuring all activities. Saturday from 8 a.m.-noon for flea market, raffle and baked goods, and 5-9 for all activities. Pig roast on Friday. Visit www.ssbsvm.org for more info.


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

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

Parish Beginning Experience Weekend for those Suffering the Loss of a Spouse

Camp Hebron in Halifax, Pa. • November 8-10

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

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

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

Beginning Experience is your Church at work to provide help, healing and spiritual restoration. In the Diocese of Harrisburg, the program is under the Office of Family and Respect Life Ministries. Visit the Diocesan website, www.hbgdiocese.org, and go to Marriage and Family, or visit www.beginningexperience.org. Information can also be obtained by contacting the Harrisburg Beginning Experience Team, Julie, at 717-379-0800 or Eva, at 717-495-9556.

AUGUST

Holy Angels Parish Picnic, Kulpmont. Aug. 2 from 5 p.m.-midnight. Games, chicken, fried fish, hotdogs, raffle, 13-jars and much more. All activities. Visit www.holyangelskulp.org for more info.

Annual Family Picnic of Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Catawissa (near Ideal Park), on the church grounds on Aug. 2 and 3 from 6-11 p.m. Entertainment by Double Talk (hits of the past and present) on Friday evening, and by The Mudflaps (reunion tour with original members) on Saturday evening. Ethnic foods, raffles, gift baskets, music and dancing.

Holy Spirit Parish Summer Festival, Aug. 2-4 at 750 State Drive in Lebanon. Games, food, cash raffle, basket raffle, beer garden, kids’ games, dancing, live music and more. Visit www.holyspiritlebanon.org for more info.

St. Joseph Parish Festival in Trevorton. Aug. 2-4 on the parish grounds in Berwick. Saturday and Sunday from 4-9 p.m. Sunday from noon-9 p.m. Porkette, fireballs, meatballs, sausage, chicken and eggplant parmesan, 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.

Annual Buchanan Valley Picnic at St. Ignatius Loyola Church, Ortonna. 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 Tamson 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, stignatiusloyno@aol.com or www.stignatiusloyno.org.

Holy Rosary Lobster Fest, Aug. 24 from 5-10 p.m. at Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Parish, Elsberry. 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 lobster, $20; burger and hotdog combo, $8. Kings’ games, face painting, bounce house, dunk tank, basket raffle, cash and a lottery tree. Magic show with Brett Kessler at 2 p.m., and live music in the evening. Visit www.stjohnsanderson.org or call 570-379-1099.

St. Catherine Labouré Parish’s Dine on Derry Food Truck Fest. Aug. 18 from 1-6 p.m. on the parish grounds in Harrisburg. Slow cooked BBQ, cheesesteak sandwichs, 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.

Camp for Adults with Disabilities Seeks Volunteers, Sponsors

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

Last year, volunteers from parishes throughout the Diocese participated with volunteers from other faith communities to help make this ministry a success. Persons ages 16 and older are welcome to volunteer for full-time or part-time duties; there is a particular need for male volunteers, 18 or older, who are able to spend the night. All volunteers are required to complete the Diocesan Clearance process and attend a brief training session prior to helping at camp. There is no cost to volunteer and all meals, camping equipment, transportation, etc., will be provided. A non-refundable deposit of $575, but donations in any amount are welcome. They can be sent to the Office of Ministry with People with Disabilities, 4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111. Checks should be made payable to the Diocese of Harrisburg. For more information on volunteering or sponsoring a camper, contact Larry Kiley at 717-677-4804, ext. 322, or lkiley@hbgdiocese.org.

The good old fashioned Conewago Picnic, July 20 from 11 a.m.-9 p.m. at the Picnic Woods, 3113 Centennial Rd., Hanover. Hosted by Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, it’s one of the oldest around, dating back to the 1800s. Enjoy chicken corn soup made in kettles over a fire and baked goods, raffle, 13-jars and much more. A family-style fried chicken dinner begins at 3 p.m. Live music from “Tail in the Saddle Band” begins at 5 p.m. Come and enjoy a day of family, friends and fun! For more information, call Sacred Heart Basilica’s Parish Office at 717-637-2271.

Adams County Irish Festival / Hibernian Hunger Project. July 20 from 9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. at Moose Park in Straban Township, east of Gettysburg, rain or shine. Family fun for all with Irish music all day, dancers, Irish merchandise, food vendors and more. Festival benefits area hunger relief groups. Admission is $10 per person; children 12 and under are free. Bring your own chairs or blanket. Visit www.adamscountyirishfestival.org for more info.

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

San Juan Bautista Parish’s Hispanic Festival. July 24-27 on the parish grounds in Lancaster. Latino cuisine, music and art. Festival is 6-9 p.m. Wednesday, 8-11 p.m. Friday, and 4-11 p.m. Saturday. Visit www.LancasterHispanicFestival.com.

St. John the Baptist Parish Festi- val, New Freedom. July 27 from 4-10 p.m. in the school parking lot. Bingo, games for adults and kids, food trucks, prize wheels, karaoke, entertainment by bluegrass band Mason Line, and Gunpowder Falls Brewing Company selling selling beer.
Tell me a little bit about your childhood.

When I was growing up, my family and I attended Our Mother of Perpetual Help Parish in Ephrata and I went to Our Mother of Perpetual Help School, and then later on I became a member of St. Mary’s in Lancaster. My parents are still alive and live in the home we grew up in. I have one sister. She’s married, and her son just went off to the Pennsylvania National Guard after graduating high school. They live in the Quarryville area of Lancaster County.

When did you first hear the call to priesthood?

My mom will say it was in second grade. The more I learned about the Eucharist, the more I wanted to be a priest. But really, I didn’t start thinking about it until I was in my mid-30s. Probably the thing that drew me was the most was my ability to communicate with other people, my love for other people, my love for Jesus and wanting to share him, and the love of my Catholic faith.

Who was instrumental in your discernment of the priesthood?

There are good priests who influenced my life. The priest I grew up with at Our Mother of Perpetual Help, he just recently passed away, Father Paul Bryan. He was my childhood pastor and I will never forget his influence on my life. He was really wonderful. Father Leo Goodman was the pastor at St. Mary’s in Lancaster when I attended there and was a really big influence on my priesthood as well.

What was your seminary experience like?

I went to Duquesne University for my undergraduate degree in secondary education, social studies. Then I went to St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pa., for six years for my master’s in theology. There are a lot of great aspects about St. Vincent’s. I loved my teachers, I loved the Benedictine prayer life. The Benedictine charisms of hospitality were really amazing.

The thing I tell most people about vocation is that God just wants you to be happy. God wants you to be happy, so don’t be afraid of that. To find out what makes you happy, to find out what God wants you to do with your life, the key is prayer. Pray, pray, pray. Pray in Adoration, pray before Mass, pray during Mass. Have communication with Jesus and a relationship with him, and he will show you what will make you happy.

What aspect of your ministry do you enjoy the most?

It would make it sound, if I liked one more than another, that there are some that I don’t like, and that’s not true. My people repeatedly tell me that I hand it off to the Holy Spirit. Whatever moment I’m in, I love that moment. The people can see that. I love the old, the young. Anything I’m involved in with the parish, I give my 100 percent to.

Tell me something fun about you, or a hobby you have.

I love trains. I collect O-Gauge Lionel Trains. I was so fortunate to be pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes in Enola for two years, right down the road from the largest train yard in America. I get my love of trains from my father. I started that hobby five or six years ago, but my dad has been doing it since I was a baby.

Do you have a favorite book or movie?

I’m a big movie-goer. If I had to pick my favorite movie, I think it would be Schindler’s List, for the passion, the emotion and really good acting. I’m a big comic book fan, so the Avengers movies have been pretty exciting.

One of my favorite books of all time is To Kill a Mockingbird. There are great speeches in there about humanity and love for humanity. If I had to pick a book that influenced my life, it would be He Leadeth Me, by Walter Ciszek. It really drew me to the priesthood and has continued to encourage me throughout my priesthood.

Christine Zeglen, a teacher at Holy Name of Jesus School in Harrisburg, has been nominated for the MacGregor Teacher of the Year award. The MacGregor Teacher of the Year award is sponsored by James F. Harris in honor of his sister, and is awarded to one middle and one high school teacher annually. Each of the 57 National History Day affiliates may nominate one middle and high school teacher each for this award. Zeglen is the junior division nominee from Pennsylvania. The two $5,000 awards are presented to teachers who demonstrate a commitment to engaging students in historical learning through innovative use of primary sources, implementation of active learning strategies to foster historical thinking skills, and participation in the National History Day Contest.

“Teachers are one of the greatest resources children have to develop the skills necessary to become critical thinkers,” said National History Day Executive Director Dr. Cathy Gorn. “The nominees for the MacGregor Award have shown a dedication to teaching that goes beyond the classroom. I congratulate Mrs. Zeglen on her nomination.”

Dr. James F. Harris sponsors the awards in recognition of the pivotal role teachers play in the lives of students. The two national winners were announced on National History Day, June 13. The two national winners were chosen by a team of teachers and historians. Nominees’ work must clearly illustrate the development and use of creative teaching methods that interest students in history and help them make exciting discoveries about the past.

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 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/pcconference/ to purchase tickets via credit card, or register by contacting Pete Socks at 717-521-3137 or psocks@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.
Giving Life for Love
By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
Special to The Witness

Some time ago, I was listening to Catholic radio and the host told the story that is worth repeating.

A young couple, Patricia and Tom, with a four year old named Jimmy, excitedly waited for the birth of another child. Unfortunately, Patricia went into premature labor, and their little girl, Cindy, was born with a rare anomaly in her blood. She needed a blood transfusion. Cindy’s parents were not matched. Jimmy was the only member of the family with a suitable blood type.

Tom, in a very gentle way, tried to explain the situation to his son. He took Jimmy to visit his baby sister and explained how tiny and sick she truly was. Jimmy asked, “Can’t the doctors make her well?”

As the transfusion began, Jimmy squeezed his dad’s hand with all his strength. He admitted that he was scared. Tom said, “Be brave, my son! I am here!”

As the technician inserted the needle, Jimmy’s body jumped as one tear ran down his cheek. “There,” she said, “I’m all done!” Jimmy watched as his blood trickled into the clear plastic bag. His eyes filled with tears, and he looked up at his dad and asked, “When is it going to happen?” Tom looked at him, confused. “When am I going to die?” Jimmy asked. Tom replied, “Why are you asking that?” Jimmy responded through his tears and beaving sighs, “I know I can’t live without blood. I am giving my blood so Cindy can live. That means that I will die.” Tom put Jimmy in his arms, kissed his sobbing son, and said, “Oh my son! My dear, dear son! I promise that you will not die now. The doctors will only take a small amount of your blood. You will run and play with your sister, I promise!”

I could not help think of this story as I continue to reflect on the Sacred Heart and the mystery of redemption. Pius XII, in his encyclical, On Devotion to the Sacred Heart, writes, “The mystery of the divine redemption is primarily and by its very nature a mystery of love, that is, of the perfect love of Christ for His heavenly Father to Whom the sacrifice of the Cross, offered in a spirit of love and obedience, presents the most abundant and infinite satisfaction due for the sins of the human race.”

It is always amazing when we see echoes of this divine love in the heart of human beings; a love that is willing to die so that others might be saved. The Sacred Heart of Jesus truly pumps in the chest of anyone who is willing to die for another. Don’t you think so?

(Originally written by Sister Geralyn Schmidt, the Wide Area Network Coordinator at the Diocese of Harrisburg and the Director of Formation for Wives in the Diaconne 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.)

Saint Spotlight

St. Laurence of Brindisi, O.F.M. Cap.
Feast Day: July 21
Patron of Brindisi, Italy

Giulio Cesare Russo was born in Brindisi, Kingdom of Naples, on July 22, 1559, to wealthy Venetian merchants. His parents died when he was young, and Giulio went to live with his uncle who was a priest. He studied at St. Mark’s College in Venice and at 16 joined the Capuchins in Verona, taking the name Brother Laurence. He became an extraordinary linguist and could read and speak Latin, Hebrew, Greek, German, Bohemian, Spanish and French fluently. He completed his studies of philosophy and theology at the University of Padua and was ordained at age 23.

Because of his fluency in the ancient languages, Pope Clement VIII requested that he preach to the Jewish people of Italy, where the rabbis thought he was a Jew who converted to Christianity. In 1601, he became the imperial chaplain for the army of Rudolph II, Holy Roman Emperor, and recruited Philippe Emmanuel, Duke of Mercouer, to fight against the Ottoman Turks. Father Laurence also led an army of liberators against the Turks, armed only with a crucifix. He was elected major superior of the Capuchin Franciscan province of Tuscany at age 31 and minister general in 1602, becoming responsible for great growth and geographical expansion of the Order.

Father Laurence established Capuchin monasteries in modern Germany and Austria, where his efforts furthered the Counter-Reformation, bringing Protestants back to Catholicism. His favorite blessing was “Mary, with Her loving Son, bless us each and every one.” He retired to a life of prayer at age 59 and was elected vicar general of the Capuchins, the highest office in the Order, but refused re-election in 1605. He then entered the service of the Holy See, where he became papal nuncio to Bavaria. After serving as nuncio to Spain, he retired to a monastery in 1618 but was recalled as a special envoy to the King of Spain. After a serious illness, he died on July 22, 1619, at 60. Father Laurence was canonized on December 8, 1881, by Pope Leo XIII and declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope John XXIII in 1959.

(Compiled by Angela M. Orsini)
**Diocesan Notebook**

(Summit 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.)

**SPIRITUAL OFFERINGS**

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

St. Anne Parish in Lancaster, 40 Hours Eucharistic Devotions, beginning after the Vietnamese Mass at 1 p.m. on July 28, followed by Benediction at 7 p.m. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for Adoration on Monday and Tuesday from 7:30 a.m. until Benediction each evening at 7 p.m. Closing ceremony at 7 p.m. Tuesday. Host homilist is Father Brian O’Kowski. For more information, contact the parish office at 717-392-2225 or StAnne ParishLancaster@hbgdiocese.org.

**PILGRIMAGES & RETREATS**

Pilgrimage to Italy with Father Mark Speitel and members of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Quarryville, Sept. 23-Oct. 2, 2019. Rome, Orvieto, Assisi, Siena, Padua and Venice. Daily Mass, professional tour manager and local guides, 8 nights accommodation in First Class/4 star hotels, breakfast fast and dinner. Land transportation by private de luxe motorcoach, roundtrip from Quarryville to Philadelphia Airport, for $3,475 per person/double occupancy. Contact Karen Hurley at k.m.hurley1@gmail.com or George’s International Tours at 800-566-7499, or parish contact Trudy Sheetz at 717-786-4901.


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

Corpus Christi Men’s Retreat, for all men of the Diocese, Aug. 2-4 at Mount St. Mary’s University in Emmitsburg, Md. Father Bill Garrott, O.P., retreat master, speaks on “The Gospel Tool Box.” Mass on Saturday and Sunday, 24-hour Adoration, Sacrament of Reconciliation, Scriptural Rosary, evening and morning prayer, six meals. $60 deposit required toward the total cost of $170. Contact parish-level retreat coordinator of Keith R. Smith at 717-263-3442 or krksbone@yahoo.com.

The Father Capodanno Knights of Columbus Assembly 3167 day trip on Sept. 4 to the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., to attend the annual memorial Mass in honor of Father Veno. Cost is $40 per person. The celebrant will be The Most Reverend Timothy P. Broglio, Archbishop for the Archdiocese of the Military Services, USA. Contact Terry Shingara 717-657-3335 for more information.

Retreat for Catholic youth and young adult ministers, Aug. 13 at the Ironstone Ranch in Elizabethtown from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. A day of prayer and refreshment for Catholic high school spiritual life directors and chaplains, college campus ministers and parish youth ministers. Mass, Adoration, Confession, prayer and reflection, praise and worship. Directed by John Paul Kasperowicz from Ministry of the Single Hearted. Sponsored by the Diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Cost is $15 before Aug. 1, $25 after. Contact arief@hbgdiocese.org or 717-657-4804, ext. 327.

**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 setonsviron.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 to join us 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.vbs.eterson.org or call the parish office at 717-367-1255.

POLST (Pennsylvania Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment and Advance Health Care Directives presentation. Medical decisions are difficult and at times confusing. This is especially true when it comes to end-of-life decisions. The Aug. 14 Diocesan Conference of Health Care Ministers and Helping Ministries (Parish Caring Community & Parish Nurse Program) meeting welcomes Father David Danneker, PhD, Diocesan Vicar General for Pastoral Care, who will present from the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference. A question-and-answer session follows their presentations. Meeting at the Diocesan Center in Harrisburg, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. RSVP to 717-657-4804, ext. 313, or jcurran@hbgdiocese.org.

**FUNDRAISERS & EVENTS**

The 2019 San Marziale Procession in Kutztown, July 7, beginning at Holy Angels Church at 1 p.m. Procession will showcase “Our Boys Band,” who will play a variety of authentic Italian march music and traditional patriotic songs. Food and refreshments will be 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/SanMarzialeParadeKullmontPa?ref=ts.

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

St. Rita Parish’s 100th Anniversary Tea, July 14 from 2-4 p.m. in the parish hall, Blue Ridge Summit. All current and former parishioners and their families are welcome to attend, but will need a reservation. Contact Alice Humphrey at ahh5121@comcast.net or 717-794-5121, or Rose Hebdia at reheda@comcast.net or 717-762-6257 by June 30.

Harrision Young Adult Catholic summer activities—join the group at the following events, some of which are sponsored by the Diocese: Theology on Tap planning, July 18; HersheyPark on July 20; St. Ann’s Parish picnic, July 21; Our Lady of Lourdes Parish picnic, July 28; 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; Harrision Senators’ game, Aug. 23; and the Scott Hall Presentations event, Aug. 24. Visit the Harrision Young Adult Catholic Facebook group, or contact totharris@gmail.com.

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

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

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. Rain or shine; indoor seating. For tickets, call Joel Harshini at 717-396-0041; Jerry Sauders 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 Knights of Columbus Council 12532.

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

Holy Spirit Knights of Columbus Council #10852 in Palmyra, 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 round balls, beverages, chicken and BBQ pork lunch, as well as numerous raffles and prizes. Register online at www. spiritkofc.org. Contact Dane Schoenbaum at 717-304-3493 or dane.schoenbaum@gmail.com with any questions.
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.

Abbots-town
Immaculate Heart of Mary:
Sharon Assalita

Berwick
Immaculate Conception BVM:
Phyllis J. Dellegrotto

Bonneaville
St. Joseph the Worker:
Helen P. Weaver

Camp Hill
Good Shepherd:
Mary Posavec

Dauphin
St. Matthew:
John Burns

Elizabethtown
St. Peter:
Alfred (Gene) Bevel
Florence McKnight
Alice Zaleski

Fairfield
Immaculate Conception BVM:
Charmaine Goetz

Harrisburg
Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick:
Debra McLanahan
St. Catherine Labouré:
Domenic DePastino
Mary Kanzia

Kulpmont
Holy Angels:
Clara Mrozek

Lebanon
Assumption BVM:
Joanne Ceresini
Charles Norman
St. Cecilia:
Thomas McCarthy

Lewisburg
Sacred Heart of Jesus:
Marilyn Scalamacchia
Edward Zarkoski

Littlestown
St. Aloysius:
George K. Wherley, Sr.

Manheim
St. Richard:
Bartosz Ruzyllo
Josephine Shenk

Mechanicsburg
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton:
Marjorie Nelson
William Reith
Eleanor Solon
St. Katharine Drexel:
Arthur Gray
Sharon Silva
Philip J. Whelan, MD.

Mericburg
St. Luke the Evangelist:
Joan Scarfo

Middletown
Seven Sorrows BVM:
Leonard Dobson, Sr.

Millersville
St. Philip the Apostle:
James Holbriett
Daniel Toner

Mount Joy
Mary, Mother of the Church:
Joan Scranton

New Cumberland
St. Theresa:
Helen Bennett
Robert Donlevy

New Freedom
St. John the Baptist:
Quentin Patrick List
Kathleen M. Schreiber
James Spiegel
Richard Patrick Tyner

Palmyra
Holy Spirit:
Sara Martinez

Rohrerstown
St. Leo the Great:
Ann Huszar
William Kawecki

Steelton
Prince of Peace:
Anna M. Behofcist

York
St. Joseph:
Diane Horton
Lawrence Landherr
Elizabeth Mrowinski

St. Rose of Lima:
William Bork
Helen Hayden

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Spring Grove, Farm to Table Dinner, Aug. 9 at 5:30 p.m. An evening under the twinkling lights of the picnic grove, enjoying meats, cheeses and produce from local farms. Four courses served with wine tastings. Choose from three entrees: lamb $50, beef $40 and vegan $30; add a grazing for an additional fee. Reservations required by July 26. For more info and to order tickets, visit www.sacredheartspringgrove.com or call 717-225-1704.

Good Shepherd School in Camp Hill is enrolling students for PreK3 through eighth grade. Small class sizes, strong academics, athletics, 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 jletersky@gsschpa.org to schedule your private tour.

Trivia Night at Assumption BVM Parish in Lebanon, July 19 in Frederic Hall. Doors open at 6:30 for refreshments and forming teams, trivia starts at 7 p.m. Cost is $10, with all proceeds benefitting St. Mary’s. Everybody gets a prize! Contact chairman Bob Reigh at 717-273-4776.

Job Openings

St. Joseph Parish in Milton is seeking a new parish organist/choir director. If interested in applying, email stjosemilton@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 Catholic Worship Tradition. Salary depends on experience and the amount of services one is able to commit; time expectation is approximately 325-350 hours per year.

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

St. Joseph School in York is seeking an “After Hours Supervisor.” The position requires the creation and supervision of activities for a small class of children after school. Working a maximum of 2.5 hours each school day from 3-5:30 p.m., under the director, the program stays open until 6 p.m. To apply, contact our Extended Day Programs Director, Kim Woźniak, at Wozniak@sjsy.org, or 717-755-1797. Clearances are not required to apply but need to be acquired before school begins. Training available for the successful candidate.

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

Morning Star Pregnancy Services, Harrisburg, is seeking a marketing and communications manager to provide a broad range of communications, marketing and public relations leadership. This includes planning, development and implementation of support materials and services relative to communication/promotions, public relations and all special events. All responsibilities are performed to promote the pro-life mission, vision, and core operational values of Morning Star Pregnancy Services. Send resume and inquiries to lplummer@MorningStarClinics.com.

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Diocesan Notebook continues on page 14

Deceased Clergy

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

Father Joseph Coyne, 2001
Deacon Gerard Kole, 2002
Father Joseph Ceponis, 1997
Father Ramon Rivera-Lopez, 2007
Father Charles Procopio, 1997
Father Daniel Mahoney, 2007
Father Frederick A. Farace, 2018
Deacon Cletus Wagonman, 2001
Deacon Robert E. Weaver, 2018.

Mark Your Calendars!

July

Next Deadline: July 24

The deadline for submissions for the Aug. 2 edition of The Witness is Wednesday, July 24 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.
32nd Annual Pilgrimage to the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, Emmitsburg, Md.

August 1 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

All are welcome this day to join together to pray for peace through the conversion of hearts, and to receive God’s blessings through Mary, Mother of God, and Mother of the Church.

Schedule:
10 a.m. – Welcome, at St. Mary’s Chapel on the Hill
10:15-11:30 a.m. – Sacrament of Reconciliation
11:30 a.m. – Stations of the Cross or Holy Rosary
Noon – Holy Mass in the Grotto, weather permitting
1:15 p.m. – Lunch on your own (bring your lunch)
2:15-2:45 p.m. – Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Prayer of Consecration, in St. Mary’s Chapel on the Hill
3-4 p.m. – Holy Hour with the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, in St. Mary’s Chapel on the Hill

The pilgrimage ends with the conclusion of the Holy Hour.

There is no need to register. Pilgrims must arrange their own transportation, and bring their own lunch and drinks.

Schedule is subject to change.

Free-will offerings accepted at Mass and during the day to fund the pilgrimage.

Messages of Congratulations for Father Cannon

Priests and parishioners have shared messages of congratulations for the Diocese’s newly-ordained priests. The Witness is sharing these messages in its summer editions. Messages here are for Father Matthew Cannon, a native of St. Leo the Great Parish in Rohrerstown, and parochial vicar at Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Harrisburg.

“Every Ordination Mass is a day of special celebration and incomparable joy for the Church. I guess, in a unique way, it is that for any priest but especially for a pastor of one ordained. I have watched Father Cannon over the past eight years of study, grow in faith, hope and love and develop those talents that God has given to him and which he now brings to the priesthood. To see him lie prostrate on our Cathedral floor, recalling the day, 17 years ago, at my own ordination, filled my heart with great thanksgiving to God for this great gift given to him, to all priests and to the Church.

There is a beautiful passage in the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church of the Second Vatican Council that speaks of the Holy Spirit who is always with the Church to guide her into all truth and unity, and there is a quote there that I think captures the joy at an Ordination Mass where it states that “by the power of the Gospel, [the Holy Spirit] enables the Church to grow young, perpetually renews it, and leads it to complete union with its Bridegroom.”

Father Cannon, it was a joy watching you grow in your faith over these years of your seminary formation and see God’s grace prepare you for ordination. I join with all our parishioners with our prayers and best wishes for many years of service to our Diocese. God bless you.”

~ Father Peter Hahn,
Pastor, St. Leo the Great Parish, Rohrerstown

Father Jonathan Sawicki, Diocesan Director of Vocations, places his hands on the head of Father Matthew Cannon as a sign of unity to welcome the new priests ordained on June 1. Father Peter Hahn, pastor of Father Cannon’s native parish, is also pictured during the Rite, with newly-ordained Father Samuel Miller.

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Annual Diocesan Charismatic Day of Renewal

“The Beginning and the End: The Healing of Past Soul Wounds”

September 21 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Diocesan Center, Harrisburg

Father Paul CB Schenck, Presenter

Father Schenck is parochial vicar at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Mechanicsburg and Director of Deacon Formation for the Diocese of Harrisburg.

To register, or for additional information, visit www.aliveinthespirit.net or www.hbgdiocese.org/renewal, or call Joyce at 717-308-7245. By mail, send a check payable to “Diocese of Harrisburg” for $20 per person ($10 for students age 16 through college) to Jackie Curran, Office of Catholic Life and Evangelization, 4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, Pa., 17111. Lunch sandwich choices are ham, turkey, tuna and low gluten salad. Deadline to RSVP for lunch is Sept. 9.

Registrants may bring a non-perishable food item for the Silence of Mary Home.