Students Receive Blessings in York Catholic’s Renovations

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Students at York Catholic High School began their year with striking renovations on campus aimed at enhancing their academic and extra-curricular experiences. Through the efforts of its “Grow Tomorrow” Capital Campaign, York Catholic unveiled a new turf athletic field on Aug. 19 and celebrated a ribbon-cutting ceremony for renovated classrooms and facility-wide improvements on Sept. 5.

The enhancements mark the first of the Phase I work; additional upgrades this school year and through the summer of 2020 will include the modernization of science labs and lecture rooms, facility-wide safety enhancements, the creation of a Student and Media Center, and renovations to the lobby and chapel.

Excitement surrounding the new developments was evident at the first unveiling of York Catholic’s newest feature, the turf field, on Aug. 19.

Accompanied by performances from the high school marching band and cheerleading squads, the field’s ribbon-cutting ceremony featured the introduction of the school’s fall sports teams, celebrating the talents of nearly 300 musicians and athletes. Father Daniel Richards, school chaplain, blessed the field, and families and students were welcomed on to the new turf, emblazoned with an image of the Fighting Irish’s mascot.

“One of the major changes we have...
Job Opening ~ Executive Office
Full-Time
Administrative Assistant
The Diocese of Harrisburg is seeking a confident self-starter with superior administrative and secretarial skills who is able to take direction and follow through on duties and responsibilities with minimum supervision. Preferred candidates will be able to demonstrate experience and/or knowledge of human resource topics such as I-9’s, visas, payroll and benefits. Proficiency in using all MS Office programs is essential.

Must exhibit professionalism at all times and maintain strict confidentiality in all matters. Candidates must possess high levels of verbal, interpersonal and written communication skills. Must have an eye for detail and an ability to work with financial figures. Must be able to use some independent initiative and judgment. Knowledge of Diocesan and parish structure is helpful. Must be a Catholic in good standing. Competitive salary & benefits.

Send résumé and cover letter to employment@hbgdiocese.org
Closing Date: October 4, 2019

The Diocese of Harrisburg is seeking a development database administrator responsible for the utilization, oversight and advancement of the development database. Working directly with development colleagues, the database administrator is primarily responsible for database cleanup, complex queries, exports and reports, ensuring correct entry in the database and supporting regular auditing to ensure data integrity. Other duties as assigned by Director of Development.

The ideal candidate will have experience in fundraising database administration, donor and gift tracking and reporting, data analysis and prospect research experience, preferably using Raiser’s Edge.

Candidates should be detail-oriented with strong organizational, analytical and planning skills. Excellent time management skills and computer proficiency. Sound judgement relating to confidential projects, donor and/or prospect matters. Excellent customer service skills required.

Bachelor’s degree or equivalent work experience. 2-3 years of experience in gift processing and/or database management in a nonprofit environment.

Send résumé and cover letter to employment@hbgdiocese.org

The Diocese of Harrisburg is seeking an archivist to handle the general processing, filing and maintenance (including basic conservation) of Canonical Archives, Sacramental Archives and Historical Archives for the Diocese. In conjunction with volunteers for archival work, this position directs the safekeeping of archival documents and materials.

Candidates should possess a thorough knowledge of archival principles and practices, including standard management and technical/analytical skills. Strong memory recall. Ability to communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing. Knowledge of Catholic history, doctrine and tradition, including working knowledge of Canon Law as applied to archives. Position requires creativity, decision-making, interpersonal skills, use of discretion, teamwork, service orientation, and public relations. An ability to foster the Church’s mission and parish/school relations, as well as independent judgment/action. Proficiency with PC software, microfilm reader and all basic office equipment, including experience with spreadsheet and/or word processing software.

Qualifications: Minimum of a bachelor’s degree in archives/records management or library science and a minimum of one-year experience with diocesan/religious/parish archives and two to four years of experience with professional archives; or any equivalent combination of education and experience which demonstrates the knowledge, skills and abilities to perform the above-described essential functions. Ideal candidate would possess Society of American Archivists’ certification. Specific experience in Church organizational and operations procedures or a complex, multi-unit organization (preferably nonprofit) with service orientation. Must be a practicing Catholic. Valid driver’s license required. Bilingual in Spanish preferred.

Send résumé and cover letter to employment@hbgdiocese.org

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The Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer, Bishop of Harrisburg, cordially invites you to the annual Fishers of Men Dinner to benefit the Seminarians of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg
Friday, October 4, 6:00 p.m.
at the Diocesan Center
4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg
Individual guest $150
Table for 6 guests $800
Table for 8 guests $1,000
Sponsored by the Office of Vocations (717) 657-4804 ext. 282
Visit our website at www.hbgdiocese.org/fishersofmen
for more information or to register.

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BISHOP GAINER’S
PUBLIC CALENDAR

• September 15 – Celebrate Mass for Sisters of Sts. Cyril and Methodius’ 100th Anniversary, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, 11 a.m.
• September 18 – Celebrate Mass for Diocesan Education Conference, Bishop McDevitt High School, Harrisburg, 10 a.m.
• September 19 – Celebrate Mass for 2nd Annual “Stewardship: A Mission of Faith Fall Conference,” Star Barn, Elizabethtown, 9:30 a.m.
• September 21 – Celebrate Mass for Knights of Columbus and attend banquet, Mary Gate of Heaven Parish, Myerstown, 4 p.m.
• September 22 – Celebrate Mass for 40 Days for Life Campaign, St. Patrick Church, York, 5:30 p.m.
• September 28 – Homilist at Mass for Daughters of Mercy Centennial Mass, Villa Rossello, N.J., 11 a.m.
• September 29 – Celebrate Diocesan Hispanic Mass, Corpus Christi Church, Chambersburg, 1 p.m.

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

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Parishes Offer ‘Surviving Divorce’ Program for a Path toward Healing

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

A year ago, Pat Smith was in turmoil. Her marriage of 40-plus years had just ended in divorce. “I was totally devastated. I felt ashamed. I felt like I was a failure,” she said.

She was unsure of where to turn – or whether she should even open up about her new reality and her emotions.

People who are divorced can experience a strange dichotomy, Smith explained: “On one hand, you think, ‘Keep it to yourself. No one needs to know.’ But then, ‘I need someone I can talk to about this.’”

A cradle Catholic and a member of St. John the Baptist Parish in New Freedom, Smith found counsel in her pastor, but longed to connect with people who were experiencing the fear, questions and grief that come with divorce.

“I really needed to talk to someone else who was going through what I was going through,” Smith said.

Knowing that her parish routinely offers programs distributed by Ascension Press, Smith searched the platform’s materials, and found the Surviving Divorce program. The 12-week series is designed to offer resources that bring hope and healing to Catholic men and women who are divorced or separated.

Soon, Smith connected with fellow parishioner Deb Cousin, and the two received permission from their pastor, Father Robert Yohe, to bring the program to St. John’s.

The women are now co-facilitators of Surviving Divorce, which will begin its third 12-week run at the parish later this month.

Fresh from her divorce when the series started there last fall, Smith assisted with the program behind the scenes while attending as a participant.

“When we put announcements out about this last year, we quickly realized the need for it was real,” she said. “We got calls from people in Harrisburg, Duncannon. Two people drove 45 minutes or more than an hour to come the first time.”

Examining the Practical, the Emotional and the Spiritual

Surviving Divorce is one of the faith-based programs that several parishes in the Diocese of Harrisburg offer in ministry to divorced Catholics. It was written and co-produced by Rose Sweet, a Catholic author, speaker and expert on pastoral issues of divorce.

“The program covers the practical, the emotional and the spiritual, and pulls all three together. That’s what makes the ministry successful,” said Cousin. “By the end of the program, participants are starting to grasp where they’re at and what they’re dealing with, without their emotions being the controlling factor.”

The program features video testimonies from a psychologist and priests, as well as Catholics who have experienced divorce. Topics examine grief, anger, forgiveness, money issues, children, custody, the sacraments, annulments and remarriage.

“The program offers you a path for healing, while being with others who are going through what you’re experiencing,” said Cousin, who divorced in 1984, and whose current marriage was convalidated when she joined the Church several years ago. “You start to see how the Holy Spirit is working in your life.”

Sweet said she co-produced the program to be designed as a healing ministry for men and women.

“Divorce cuts deep. Marriage is the very core of our families and of who we are as people. We come from families, we want to belong to families, and divorce is an attack on that,” she said. “It’s also an attack on the most personal part of the person – your love, your sexuality, your identity.”

She uses a medical analogy to get to the heart of the program for divorced Catholics.

“If you were feeling pain and went to a doctor who gave you some medicine, sure, you would feel better. But a good doctor says, ‘Let’s also take an X-ray, let’s take a blood test and look inside.’ That’s what a faith-based program does,” she said. “For true healing, we’ve got to go deeper.”

“We look at emotions, spouses, custody, kids, budgets and all of those things, but at the end, we go deep: Where are you going? What do you really want out of life? What do you really believe?” Sweet said.

“This program draws people in on their emotions and how to handle what they’re dealing with, but ultimately it’s about evangelization and personal conversion to Jesus,” she noted.

A Path toward Healing

In the Diocese of Harrisburg, the Surviving Divorce program is supported by the Diocesan Annual Campaign. The Diocesan Office of Family and Respect Life Ministries solicited volunteers from parishes for a training session on Surviving Divorce. Funds from the Annual Campaign were used to purchase training materials, including leaders’ guides and the program’s DVDs.

“There is still today a lot of stigma that comes with being divorced in the Catholic Church, and that’s also why this ministry is important,” said Cousin. “People do feel shame or discomfort in saying, ‘I’m Catholic, and I’m divorced.’ This ministry shows them that the Church knows they’re hurting, and it wants to provide healing.”

That feeling of shame, Sweet said, often prevents people from coming forward for help.

“Let’s say, for example, I was married to an abusive husband. I’m glad he’s gone now, but I still feel shame because I picked him, or I failed, or I could have done better,” she said. “But if I don’t address that, I’m going to carry it for the rest of my life,” she said.

Fear is also a factor. “There is fear of hard work, fear of letting go of certain things. Only when you get to a place of enough pain are you ready to find help,” she said.

Surviving Divorce focuses on healing and renewal.

“Our program does not promote divorce and annulments. We promote the Truth,” Sweet said.

“All of our materials encourage people to come and find healing. If you got divorced yesterday or 20 years ago, there is always something in this program for you,” she said. “If we will give him ourselves, God will bring great good out of our divorces.”

(See the accompanying box for a list of divorce ministry programs offered by parishes. For more information on Surviving Divorce, visit www.catholicsdivorce.com. To learn about the Diocesan Annual Campaign, visit www.hbgdiocese.org/DAC.)

Parish-Based Divorce Programs

The Diocesan Office of Family and Respect Life Ministries provides this list of parish-based divorce programs. Contact the parish facilitator or coordinator for more information.

Cumberland-Perry Deanery
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Mechanicsburg
“Recovering from Divorce for Catholics”

This fall’s 13-week program has already begun; for information about future offerings of the program, contact Cindy Nelson, 717-439-7691 or cnelson1201@gmail.com

Dauphin Deanery
St. Catherine Labouré Parish, Harrisburg
“Surviving Divorce”

This fall’s 12-week program on Thursdays starting Oct. 10, 7-9 p.m. For more information, or to register, contact Patrick at 717-564-1321 or dsalldin@schlhbg.org

Lebanon Deanery
Mary, Gate of Heaven Parish, Myerstown
“Surviving Divorce”

12-week program on Thursdays starting Oct. 10, 7-9 p.m. For more information, or to register, contact Patrick at 717-333-8098 or psweeney53@verizon.net

York Deanery
St. John the Baptist Parish, New Freedom
“Surviving Divorce”

12-week program begins Sept. 18 at 6:45 p.m. For more information, or to register, contact Deb Cousin at deb.cousin@verizon.net or Pat Smith at dontel972@aol.com
How Catholic Charities are Helping in the Wake of Hurricane Dorian

By Michelle La Rosa

Catholic News Agency

With Hurricane Dorian leaving widespread destruction in the Bahamas and along the eastern U.S. coast, Catholic agencies are coordinating response efforts for those affected by the storm.

“The devastation, especially on Abaco and Grand Bahama, is significant,” said Nikki Gamer, media relations manager for Catholic Relief Services. Dorian slammed into the Bahamas as a Category 5 hurricane on Sept. 1, becoming the strongest hurricane ever to make landfall there.

For the next 36 hours, the storm pounded the islands, stalled by an unusual wind pattern over the western Atlantic. When the storm finally moved on, it left entire neighborhoods under water, with storm surges up to 18 feet higher than normal tide levels, according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center.

Many residents are now homeless, with little ability to communicate with their loved ones as they face ongoing flooding. The International Red Cross suggested that up to 13,000 homes in the Bahamas may have been destroyed or suffered severe damage from the hurricane, which saw winds exceeding 100 mph. The U.N. World Food Programme is estimating that some 60,000 people may need immediate food aid.

Gamer told CNA that Catholic Relief Services is still working to assess the needs in the area, but it is clear that the destruction is extensive.

“We will be sending a member of our emergency response team to the Bahamas in coordination with a representative of Caritas Granada to support assessments and early response programming,” she said.

“Our sending of major emergency response is at the Bahamas,” she said, and “strong relief efforts are in place.”

“As with all disasters, people in South Florida – and around the world – seem to be at their best,” Agosta commented. “Donations to the Catholic Charities’ website, www.miamiarch.org, have been rapid and constant. It is with these donations, of which 100% is used for relief efforts, that the Archdiocese can respond to the needs of the people; at first, ships with goods, including diapers, formula, rice and, then financial resources to help recover.”

Meanwhile, Catholic Charities agencies further north are providing assistance as well.

Daniel Altenau, communications director for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Raleigh, North Carolina, told CNA that the agency “has been simultaneously working to help families recover and prepare for the next storm ever since the destruction of Hurricane Florence.”

That hurricane hit North Carolina last fall, causing serious flooding, power outages, and an estimated $17 billion in damages in state.

Altenau said the goal has been to work with partner agencies to help families be better prepared for future storms.

“In the days leading up to Dorian making landfall, our Wilmington office worked with families to distribute preparedness supplies and review the disaster plan to make sure they stayed safe during the storm,” he said. “Our offices across the diocese have been sharing information about shelter openings and evacuation orders.”

Hurricane Dorian hit South Carolina as a Category 2 storm.

Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Raleigh are beginning the process of “distributing donated supplies such as food, water, cleaning supplies, diapers, and hygiene items,” Altenau said.

The agency is currently collecting donations at www.CatholicCharitiesRaleigh.org/disaster aid in recovery efforts.

Register online at www.ccbhg.org.

The Shelter Shuffle benefits the Interfaith Shelter for Homeless Families, a residential program in Harrisburg that keeps families of all ages and genders together in times of crisis. Last year, the program, a ministry of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg, served 432 individuals.

Registration fee is $20 before Sept. 1, $25 after, and free for participants that raise more than $50 in sponsorships.

Register online at www.ccbhg.org.

15th Annual 5K Run & Walk

September 28, on the grounds of the former State Hospital campus in Harrisburg

Registration at 8 a.m.
Race begins at 9 a.m.

- Cash prizes for top runners
- Awards for runners by age group
- Shirts for all pre-registrants
- Refreshments and door prizes
- Strollers and pets welcome

The Shelter Shuffle benefits the Interfaith Shelter for Homeless Families, a residential program in Harrisburg that keeps families of all ages and genders together in times of crisis.
The National Conference of Burmese-American Catholics gathered for its tenth annual conference at Trinity High School in Camp Hill, Aug. 31-Sept., returning to the roots of the now-national organization.

The purpose of the NCBAC is to bring together Burmese Catholics living in the United States, and provide opportunities for growth in the faith, prayer, worship and community building. It is under the auspices of the Asian-Pacific Islander Subcommittee of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church.

More than 1,200-strong at the national gathering at Trinity, the national conference was born of two small communities of Burmese Catholics in the Harrisburg and Emmitsburg, Md., areas more than a decade ago. The communities, including first- and second-generation Burmese, gathered for Christmas, Easter and other liturgical holidays, noted John Sailon, founder of the NCBAC. Sailon, who lived in Harrisburg from 2002-2011, was a member of those small groups, which eventually grew to include members from Buffalo and Baltimore.

Encouraged by the idea for a national gathering, and ways of assisting refugees from Myanmar (formerly Burma) coming to the United States, Sailon met with members of the Asian-Pacific Islander Subcommittee to discern a national Catholic organization for natives and descendants of the southeast Asian nation.

On Sept. 5, 2010, five members were selected to the official National Conference of Burmese-American Catholics. Its inaugural conference was held in Harrisburg, with subsequent gatherings taking place across the country.

“We’re very excited and happy to bring the conference back to its roots in the Diocese of Harrisburg, where it started ten years ago,” Sailon told The Catholic Witness. Its highlight was a spirited Mass celebrated by Bishop Ronald Gainer and concelebrated by Burmese-American priests from around the country.

With the theme of “Carry Your Own Cross Daily and Follow Me,” the two-day conference included workshops on various aspects of Church teaching, breakout sessions for youth, cultural entertainment, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and outdoor Stations of the Cross at the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes in Emmitsburg.

“Through the annual conference, we can celebrate our Burmese faith and culture together, and that is important to help Burmese people maintain their Catholic faith,” Sailon said.

“The language barrier is the first challenge to Burmese Catholics coming here to live with family, or as refugees,” Sailon said. “They can’t go to Confession in English, they go to Mass in a language they don’t understand.”

“At this conference, and in the Mass here, they are excited to listen to the Mass and hymns in their own language, and to speak responses and pray in their native tongue. It makes them feel connected,” he said. “Without this, they might lose their faith connection. We want them to survive spiritually and faithfully.

As part of its efforts, the NCBAC offers leadership training, especially for youth, communication for social and leadership purposes, mutual support and spirituality development and responsibility. Members are encouraged to participate in these programs throughout the year.

“We don’t want our Burmese people to lose their faith,” Sailon said. “These gatherings and opportunities are necessary for them. We want them to keep their faith rooted in their hearts.”

(For information about the National Conference of Burmese-American Catholics, visit www.ncbac.us.)
St. Joseph Parish in York Celebrates Capuchin Franciscan Friars’ 40 Years There

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

The people of St. Joseph Parish in York demonstrated their love and gratitude for the Capuchin Franciscan Friars who have served their parish and school for 40 years with an anniversary Mass on Sept. 7.

The celebration extended to nearly 20 Capuchins who have previously served St. Joseph’s, and who returned to the parish to concelebrate Mass with Bishop Ronald Gainer and Father Thomas Betz, OFM Cap., Provincial of the Capuchin Friars’ Province of St. Augustine, based in Pittsburgh.

Father Stephen Fernandes, OFM Cap., pastor of St. Joseph’s, said the celebration was generated entirely by a committee of parishioners who wanted to show their appreciation for the order’s ministry.

“They have a great love for us friars, and, in turn, we are grateful for what they do for us,” he said. “After Masses, all the friars from the parish come and greet the people who are leaving the church, and meet them together as a community. We also make it a point to go to the school and have lunch with the students.”

Community and connection with the parish parallels the communal life of the order, which was founded in 1536.

“Our charism has always been to try to recapture the spirit of Francis of Assisi, especially in the contemplative dimension, so living in community is important to us,” Father Fernandes said. “We have a communal prayer life; we pray morning, evening and night prayer together, we take our meals together.”

Currently, three Capuchins live at St. Joseph’s Friary.

Father Fernandes, who has been pastor of St. Joseph’s for four years, spoke of the legacies of former pastors Father John Daya and the late Father Louis Petruha, who died in March of this year.

“Father Louis was seen as an enduring fatherly figure for his gentle ways and always being open to the people and their needs. He’s certainly left a legacy here from his 13 years,” he said. “Father John was here for 15 years and was also so well loved by the parishioners. When he was transferred, the parishioners worked to pay off the debt as his farewell gift.”

In his homily during the Mass, Bishop Gainer noted that the Capuchin Franciscans arrived at St. Joseph Parish in 1979, at the invitation of Bishop Joseph Daley.

During the course of those 40 years, the parish moved from its previous location downtown to its current site in east York, and undertook the construction of the current church, which opened in 1996.

Tonight, we celebrate 40 years of the ministry of the Capuchin Franciscan Friars and their ministry here, to continue to make St. Joseph’s the vibrant, alive community of faith and service that you are,” Bishop Gainer said.

“In the Bible, 40 years is considered a generation. You might say that we celebrate today the first generation of the Capuchins’ wonderful care here, and we look forward to the continuing of their presence and their ministry here.”

Following the anniversary Mass, the parishioners gathered with the friars for a potluck dinner of international cuisine, reflective of the ethnic communities at St. Joseph Parish.

Capuchin Franciscans also minister at St. Francis of Assisi Parish and Holy Family Parish in Harrisburg.
Father Bateman, a priest of the Diocese of Harrisburg, returned to the Diocese this summer following more than three years in Rome, where he served as Secretary to the Grand Master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and earned a degree in Canon Law. Currently serving as a Canonical Consultant in the Diocesan Tribunal, Father Bateman offered this reflection on his time of service and study in Rome:

It is SO good to be home! After three-plus years living/working/studying in Rome, I am very happy to be back in the Diocese. My journey to Rome to work for Cardinal O’Brien (who is the Grand Master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem), receive my degree in Canon Law and actually become a member of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre was truly led by God. The blessings that God has showered upon me these past three-and-a-half years are clear evidence of the Lord’s presence and direction.

As with each time of transition in our lives, the end of my time in Rome allowed me to reflect on my experience there and things that I have seen or understood more clearly. I write to share with you some of my own personal thoughts and insights.

The Universal Church. One of the wonderful things about my work for Cardinal O’Brien and the Order of the Holy Sepulchre was the opportunity to have an experience of the Universal Church. The Grand Master, Cardinal O’Brien, works very diligently to personally visit as many members of the Order as possible, and so travel was a normal part of life. We were not making tourist trips, but pastoral and spiritual journeys – and every one of them allowed me to gain a tremendous experience of the worldwide Church. Visiting the members of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre throughout Italy and Europe, in South Africa and South America, in Australia, Asia and North America enabled me to see the One, Holy, Catholic Church as her people live the faith in their particular cultural and historical situations. Yet, through it all, despite differences of culture and language, we are One Body in Christ (cf. 1 Cor 12:12-27).

The Importance of Pilgrimage. If you’ve ever had the opportunity to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and see Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee, the Upper Room, Mount Calvary and, of course, the empty Tomb, you know how your faith-life is changed by such an journey. One of the responsibilities (and joys) of members of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, whose sole purpose is to support the Church and the Christians in the Holy Land, is to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. There, they have the opportunity to meet the “living stones” of Christ’s Holy Land: the Christian people who live in Palestine, Israel and Jordan.

How remarkable it is to see not only the historic sites, but to be enriched by visits to the people of lively parishes; to places of refuge and care that comfort the sick and elderly; to places of education at the many schools of the Latin Patriarchate and Bethlehem University in Palestine, where Christians and Muslims study together with a spirit of joy, peace and mutual respect and understanding.

If our lives are changed by seeing the places of the Holy Land, how can they not also be changed by encounters with the “living stones?” Through pilgrimages to the Holy Land with the Order or my own personal pilgrimages, my eyes and heart have been opened to a greater faith and deeper love and concern for the often persecuted Christians of the Holy Land.

The Institutional Church. Living in Rome is a unique experience. To be so close to our Holy Father and the tombs of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul (St. Paul is my Confirmation patron) and to so many saints who lived and worked and died in Rome helped me to better love the Church.

For some people, the Church might appear to be a bureaucratic structure, and certainly that exists because we are human beings in need of structure. But what most are not able to see or experience is the humanity of the Institutional Church: so many men and women, priests, men and women religious, who all work diligently and faithfully to build up and provide for the needs of the Church through their work in the Roman Curia. My experiences in Rome allowed me to see the love and sincere concern that they all have to help provide for the needs of God’s people from every part of the world. Certainly there’s a bureaucracy involved, but I will never forget the human faces of all those working so hard behind the Vatican walls.

The Spirit of Gratitude. While reflecting on my time in Rome, the most overwhelming sense that I have is a spirit of gratitude: First, gratitude to God for having called me to work and live for a few years in the Eternal City of Rome; gratitude to Bishop Gainer for having allowed me this unique opportunity; gratitude for all the people that I was privileged to meet and to serve during my time of service to the Order of the Holy Sepulchre; gratitude to Cardinal O’Brien, with whom I worked so closely and whose humility, spirituality and love have helped to continue forming my priestly-heart. But, most of all, gratitude to be HOME!! – to be back among you, the people of God here in the Diocese of Harrisburg.

COURTESY OF FATHER JOHN BATEMAN
Father Bateman celebrates Mass in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, the site of Jesus’ crucifixion and tomb.

Father Bateman celebrates Mass in the Tomb of St. Peter. The tomb is located in the gated area behind the altar.

FEATURES ON THE FAITHFUL

Catholic Charities’ Annual ‘Come and See’ Dinner

October 23 at the Diocesan Center in Harrisburg

Featuring Guest Speaker Teresa Tomeo

Catholic talk show host and bestselling author

5:00 p.m. – Reception and Silent Auction
6:00 p.m. – Dinner by 2 Gals Catering
7:00 – Remarks by Teresa Tomeo

The annual fundraising event benefits Catholic Charities’ residential programs: Lourdeshouse Maternity Home for pregnant women, Evergreen House for women on the road to recovery, and the Interfaith Shelter for Homeless Families.

Teresa Tomeo hosts the Catholic Connection radio program and The Catholic View for Women television show on EWTN. She is an author of several bestselling books, and a columnist and special correspondent for OSV Newsweekly. As an international speaker, Tomeo addresses media awareness and activism, and shares the story of her reversion to the Catholic Church.

Individual dinner reservations are $100 per person. Various table sponsorship levels are available.

RSVP at www.cchbg.org

Contact Chris Meehan for information at: 717-657-4804, ext. 284 or cmeehan@cchbg.org
now is the different colored lines on the field. This al-

allows us to have marching band and 13 different teams

that will be able to utilize this field,” said Kevin Bankos,

athletic director.

“York Catholic is blessed with the many donors

who not only made this project possible, but also with

those who have made the reality of the many campus

improvements over this summer,” said principal Katie

Seufert. “As a result of their generosity, we have up-

graded to this beautiful field, refurbished our gym floor,

renovated 24 classrooms and two hallways, improved

technology and installed brand new larger lockers and

air conditioning.”

Freshly renovated classrooms and hallways wel-

comed students for the start of classes after the Labor

Day weekend. Bishop Ronald Gainer visited the school

on Sept. 5 and blessed the renovations, following a

school-wide Mass celebrated in the auditorium.

“Let me say how happy I am and how blessed I feel

to have the opportunity to join with you on the third
day of school at York Catholic. I hope and pray and am

convinced this will be the beginning of a wonderful

experience and a great adventure in your life,” Bishop

Gainer told the students.

He also expressed gratitude for supporters of the

Capital Campaign that has resulted in physical changes
to the school.

“We want you to succeed in the world,” Bishop

Gainer said, “and I trust that you get the very best aca-
demic formation here. Academic excellence is one of
the trademarks of our Catholic schools. But it goes far
beyond forming your minds, enriching your intellects.
Your whole person has a mind, a heart, a body and an
immortal soul…. You come here to be enriched, to be

educated, and to be formed by the Word of God and the
Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.”

Following the Mass, Bishop Gainer joined school of-

ficials – including Principal Katie Seufert – in a ribbon-
cutting ceremony.

The $4.5 million

Phase I renovations

are made possible by

donors to the Capital

Campaign, which was

announced in Novem-
ber of last year.

The goal is to raise

a total of $8 million

over three to five

years, which will al-

low for two separate

phases of renova-

tion. Phase II will

include converting

and modernizing the

Brady Science Wing

that serves seventh

and eighth grade stu-
dents, central offices,
additional restrooms,
and home and guest

grandstands, conce-

sion stand, restrooms,
and locker rooms at the athletic field.

“While our building has remained much the same,
our programs have continued to meet the evolving
needs of our students into the 21st century,” Seufert
said. “We are excited to revive the building of the late
1950s to match that of our outstanding 21st century
spiritual, academic, and extra-curricular programs.”

(For information about York Catholic High School
and its Capital Campaign, visit www.yorkcatholic.org)
Lelandon Catholic Kicks off School Year with Mass and Blessing of Renovated Gym

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

The Lebanon Catholic School community of students, families, faculty members, alumni and supporters gathered on Assumption Hill Sept. 1 for a “back to school” Mass that included the blessing of the school’s renovated gym by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

The gym is the hub of activities at Lebanon Catholic, which enrolls students in PreK-12, and the site of the first community-wide liturgy that kicked off the start of a new school year.

The gathering showcased the best of Lebanon Catholic: its faith-based education, talents and service of students as altar servers and musicians, support of alumni and the home of athletics and the arts.

The Mass was celebrated for the intention of Edward Werth ’47, longtime assistant girls’ basketball coach and father of Patti Hower, girls’ basketball coach. Werth died on July 27.

In his homily, Bishop Rhoades, a 1975 graduate and current Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, spoke of the example of humility that the Blessed Mother offers, as she “lived as the lowly handmaid of the Lord.”

“To be humble means to be truthful about ourselves,” he said, noting that the word “humility” comes from the Latin word humus, which means earth or soil.

Humility, he said, “is the fundamental virtue of the Christian life.”

The renovations to the freshly painted gym include energy efficient LED lights, new basketball backboards and winches to raise them when not in use, and a refinished floor. The installation of a new stage curtain and a permanent sound system are on the horizon, along with a sign donated by the Class of 2019 that will read, “Welcome to Assumption Hill.”

The renovations were made possible by a generous benefactor from the Class of 1958 and proceeds from last year’s Aaron’s Rhythm and Brews Festival, an annual event that celebrates the life of Aaron Neubauer, ’97, who died in 2015. (An announcement for this year’s event is on page 15 of this edition)

Coupled with the recent addition of new bleachers and new chairs for the floor, the renovations have generated a fresh and welcoming space at Lebanon Catholic.

Principal Deb Waters, ’94, noted that the gym serves as “our Church for liturgical celebrations, our theatre for musicals and plays, our auditorium for assemblies and graduation, our classroom for Phys Ed classes, our sports venue for volleyball and basketball, and our multi-purpose space for fundraisers, gatherings and events for students, donors, alumni and the community. As this is the space that most of our visitors pass through, our renovation shows the care and stewardship worthy of the service it performs, and provides a safe and clean atmosphere for those who gather there.”

“By having this gym blessed – this space that serves so many purposes here on Assumption Hill – I pray that all of the activities that take place here and the individuals who gather here continue to give honor and glory to God,” Waters said.

“We are already blessed by the many benefactors whose generosity demonstrates their faith in the vitality and future of our school.”

Learn more about Lebanon Catholic School at www.lebanoncatholicschool.org or by calling the school at 717-273-3731.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades is greeted by Lebanon Catholic faithful after Mass.
Diocesan Runners Warm to Occasion in York

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

With temperatures near 90 and heat indices much higher, cross-country runners from five diocesan schools gathered at John Rudy Park just north of York to run in the annual Diocesan Invitational on Aug. 30.

The course features steep ascents and long descents as the taxing 3.1-mile course meanders along the northern slope of Mount Zion along Codorus Creek. The five high schools that competed were Bishop McDevitt, Delone Catholic, Lancaster Catholic, Trinity and York Catholic.

In the girls’ race, Trinity edged York Catholic by a single point to win the team event. Freshman Alina Torchia led the Shamrocks with a strong second-place finish behind the race’s winner, Katelyn Deitrick, a sophomore from Bishop McDevitt who posted a solid time of 22:14.

St. Paul the Apostle told the early Christians in Corinth: “Do you know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win.” (Cor. 9:24 NAB). Those words were also true in the boys’ race as McDevitt’s Manny Rodriguez, senior, and York Catholic’s Joseph Rizzuto battled over the last quarter mile in a dead sprint to the finish line, stride for stride, with Rodriguez edging Rizzuto truly by a nose. Both ran the race to win in a spirited way, finishing the course with the same time, 18:07.

The Bishop McDevitt boys’ won the team event with an impressive score of 29, with five of their runners placing in the top 15. Lancaster Catholic finished second, followed by Trinity. The District 3 championships will be in October and the PIAA state championship races in early November when the oppressive weather will be a distant memory.

Trinity Off to Great Start

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

If you want to be the best, you know you must beat the best. The Trinity Shamrocks are 3-0 a third of the way through the football season, and it’s the best start in years for a program that has struggled mightily in recent seasons. Last year, the ‘Rocks went 0-9 before beating crosstown rival Camp Hill in the season finale. And they also lost convincingly to Delone Catholic by 40 points to open 2018.

But Trinity traveled to McSherrystown on Aug. 23 and stunned the Squires, last season’s District 3 runner-up, beating them by 15 points to open the season. If that wasn’t a statement win, the ‘Rocks beat defending District 3 champ York Catholic in York the following Friday to quell any doubt that Trinity is for real.

Trinity runs a spread, no huddle offense which puts dangerous speed on the edges and gives athletic quarterback Danny Scott multiple options to get the ball in the hands of players who know how to find open space. If defensive pressure does come, Scott is plenty capable of scampering for yards when the play brakes down. He did that numerous times in the ‘Rocks’ 48-0 win over Marion Catholic at Trinity’s Cobo Field on Sept. 6, the home opener. On a perfect Friday night for football, Trinity scored five touchdowns in the first 17 minutes to run away from the Colts with ease.

Blowout wins also make statements. Leading 34-0 with only 12 seconds left in the first half, Trinity stopped a Colts’ touchdown drive inside their five-yard line. One might expect them to take a knee and head to the locker room. Not so. Two passes and a called timeout later, and the ‘Rocks almost made it to midfield as the horn sounded. Message sent. Under head coach Todd Ryan, Trinity will play a full-throttle 48 minutes of football every Friday night.

No question, Trinity has stern tests ahead in Mid-Penn Capital Division league play. Steel High to name one, Milton Hershey to name another and Middletown arguably will be the best the ‘Rocks must face come mid-October. But, to be the best – Trinity seems to already know – you must beat the best.
Our Lady of the Visitation Parish to Host Pro-Life Symposium

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish in Shippensburg will host a multi-generation family conference, “Rediscovering the Pro-Life Family,” Sept. 21 from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. The event will feature Dr. Monica Miller, noted author, activist and university professor.

The event aims to educate, unify and energize attendees by affirming the transformative power and moral urgency of the pro-life message, exploring its centrality in fostering healthy, loving families and repairing the culture.

Dr. Miller is the founder and director of Citizens for a Pro-Life Society, and has been active in the pro-life movement since 1976. She is a Professor of Theology at Madonna University in Livonia, Mich., and author of several books.

The day will begin with Mass at 8:30 a.m., followed by a light breakfast and registration.

Father Dwight Schlaline, pastor, will join Shawn Biter and John Thornton in presenting “Reclaiming Our Masculine Role as Provider and Protector in Today’s Society” at 9:30 a.m.

Dr. Miller will speak at 10:30 a.m. on “How Abortion Undermines Women’s Rights, Subverts Fatherhood and Destroys the Family Structure.”

Following lunch, Bradley DeFlumeri, JD, will offer a brief look at pro-life victories in the legislature. At 12:15 p.m., Becky Biter and Lori Peters will present “Embracing Our Feminine Genius: Authentic Femininity Versus Radical Feminism.”

Cost is $20 per person, $15 for additional family members. Online registration is recommended; same-day registrants are welcome. Contact Bradley DeFlumeri, OLV Pro-Life Ministry Secretary, at 801-404-7717, or Joanne Meehan, OLV Pro-Life Ministry Coordinator, at 717-491-6495 or mosesmeehan@gmail.com.

San Juan Bautista Preschool Celebrates 15 years of Early Childhood Development

By Annie Celotto

September 2 marked the 15th anniversary of San Juan Bautista Preschool in Lancaster, and its commitment to early childhood development. The celebration kicked off this month with a campaign to raise $15,000 in 60 days, with a matching gift, giving the school the potential to raise $30,000.

The anniversary also celebrates the high school graduations of the preschool’s first graduating class 15 years ago.

“What a joyful time it is for our parish, our children and their families! To celebrate and kick off this momentous occasion with the high school graduation of our first preschool class is so bittersweet to me,” said Father Allan Wolfe, pastor of San Juan Bautista Parish.

“Our Lord in Scripture said, ‘Let the little children come to me’ – this is our motto at our Preschool Center. Our goal is not just to form minds, but to form souls set on fire with love of Jesus! Our children don’t just develop bilingual skills, sign-language skills and early development skills, but they learn how to be disciples of Jesus, putting him first in all that they do,” he said. “And as it pertains to the campaign, it is my hope that this campaign not only enables us to raise funds to continue to reach more children, but also that it helps us to heighten awareness about the work that is done for our children."

Inspired by Christ, the Master Teacher, the mission at San Juan Bautista’s bilingual preschool is to provide quality care and education for young children, ages 1-4. The preschool strives to create an environment in which all children, parents, staff and volunteers are welcome in the name of Jesus.

Milzy Carrasco, the mother of a former preschool student who recently graduated from high school, said, “I absolutely love San Juan Bautista and the work that they do through their preschool, after-school program, free summer camp and religious education program!”

“Their commitment to integrating faith with learning really helped to set all of my children on the right trajectory in life,” Carrasco said. “Early childhood development is of utmost importance for our children, and San Juan Bautista gets that. And on an even more personal note, I am a Catholic because of San Juan Bautista’s Preschool! I’m a convert to the faith, and it was seven months after my kids started preschool that I converted…. What exciting times for our children and their families!”

For information on San Juan Bautista Preschool or its campaign, visit www.SanJuanBautistaPreschool.com or contact Annie Celotto at 717-392-4118, ext. 311.

(Annie Celotto is the Director of Advancement at San Juan Bautista.)
Tell me a little bit about your childhood.

I was born in 1966 in a town called Bumalah, in Uganda. I’m one of nine; I have seven brothers and one sister. I am the second born. I went to Immaculate Conception Elementary School, which was about three miles from home. I used to walk every day, including Sunday as well, because I had to go to church on Sunday. The only exception when I would be home was Saturday. I did a lot of walking, and we used to go in large groups. I enjoyed going to school, and I never realized how far it was until now, because growing up, it was just fun to walk.

Immaculate Conception had Sisters there who were members of the staff and teachers. They talked to us all the time about being priests and being religious. Every young person who went through the school considered in that moment the call to religious life. As early as fourth grade, I thought of going to the seminary. We had the Sisters teaching us, and the Sisters were so nice to us that when they were asking, “Who wants to be a priest?” none of us would put up our hands. When they asked, “Who wants to be a Sister?” all of us did! We were more inclined to become Sisters than priests because of the influence of the Sisters.

My siblings and I went to completely different schools. My dad had realized he wanted me to be in that school because it was a better education than the rest of the schools. At the same time, it was very expensive, and he could not afford to have all of us there.

Tell me about what it was like to grow up in Uganda.

We grew up in a community. We’d go to go school, we had little soccer balls to kick along the way and immediately begin playing around. After school, it could take us two to three hours getting home, but it was a lot of fun. Along the way, people of the community would offer food and snacks, and encourage you. If you did anything wrong, the village elders could discipline you. If you accepted the correction, it was fine. If you didn’t, they would let your parents know what you did and they would give your punishment.

When did you discern the priesthood, and where did you go to seminary?

In fourth grade, all the boys in my class wanted to apply to go to the seminary. We used to have what was called a pre-seminary. You’d go there because they wanted you to have a good understanding of the Latin language before you entered the seminary. All of us in fourth grade, whether we understood what seminary was or not, it was a great honor for you to be there. All of us thought about it, and all of us applied.

My dad said, “You know I cannot really afford for you to go to the seminary,” I went back forth with my dad until I was not able to do it, and then I forgot about it. I went to public high school, and while I was there, I came to think seriously about the priesthood. In the public high school, there was a priest who used to come to celebrate Mass for the students. He asked me one time if I would help him to set up in the dining hall for Mass. I did that for one year. Usually, he would get a different student to help the following year, but he asked me again, so I did it two years in a row.

After graduation, I had enrolled to go to the school of journalism. The priest I assisted called me and said, “Have you thought of joining the seminary for the Apostles of Jesus?” I had never heard about them before. He walked me through as this being a religious missionary order, different from the diocese. But at that time, my dad had just died and my intention was like, I don’t think I want to be a priest in this circumstance because I have many siblings and I need to go to college and get a job to help my siblings and my mom.

I began looking for a scholarship to go to the school of journalism. But this priest kept calling me, asking me to think about it. He said, “Sitting there, and make your application right now. I’m going to give you a cover letter.” At that time, I wasn’t convinced, so I wrote just one paragraph. Then the priest wrote the cover letter for me. Within two weeks, I received my reply that I had been accepted. So I thought, let me go there and see what happens. I didn’t think I was going to last a day – I really didn’t. But I joined the group there and we became a family, and soon I was forgetting about whatever ambition I had, and here I am.

When and where were you ordained?

I was ordained in Uganda at my home parish of the Immaculate Conception on July 29, 2000. It was a wonderful coincidence in that, usually, the ordinations take place at the cathedral. With the year 2000 being a Jubilee Year, the bishop said he wanted every person in their respective parish to have an experience of what ordination is. I was the first to be ordained at Immaculate Conception Church in the presence of everybody. In Uganda, we have open-air Masses, and 3,000 people came. It was wonderful.

My first assignment was in Tanzania. I spent three years there. At the completion of my third year, I came to the Diocese of Harrisburg and was assigned to St. Rose of Lima in York for about three years. Then, I went to St. Joseph’s in Mechanicsburg for about three years. I was then at Bucknell University for three years, and am now in my seventh year at St. Monica’s.

What do you enjoy most about being a priest?

When I got out to minister to the sick, in those moments when people are in pain and they’re able to look at you as a sign of consolation, that, I think, gives me more fulfillment than anything. You go in and see somebody’s in pain, and they think, “Father is here, I’m going to be fine.” “Father is here, the priest is going to go away.” “Father is here, and if I die, I’m going to heaven.” That, to me, is very fulfilling as a priest.

What do you enjoy in your free time?

I walk; I love playing golf. When I was growing up in Uganda, it was something that I never heard of. There was only one golf course in Uganda. To show how exclusive it was, the captain was the Head of State of the country. In the hometown where I grew up, there was a course there, with one hole. It was so protected that you couldn’t even go near it! So when I came to the U.S. and I was in York, there was a public course and I could go there anytime. There were parishioners who took me, and it was great.

I also read. One of the books that helps me is not even a very spiritual one, but it helps situate me, and it helps me to understand the faith and how to be a missionary priest – meaning that you’re not ministering in your own culture, but in what is called to be your new family. That book, which I first read in high school and continue to return to is “Things Fall Apart.” It was written in Africa at the time of the first evangelization and colonialism, and those who were successful in missionary work and those who were less successful.

I also like Shakespeare, “The Merchant of Venice” by Shakespeare, and also “Strangers in a Strange Land” by Archbishop Chaput, which talks about contemporary life in the United States.

You’ve helped to continue the faith in your hometown in Uganda.

It has been a wonderful privilege for me to live here. In 2018, I asked Bishop Gainer to grant me permission to have a second collection at St. Monica’s, and people have been very generous. I’ve been able to raise almost $10,000 to be used in completing a church at home, St. Augustine, which had been a mission church of Immaculate Conception. With all the improvements, they are thinking about how it can be a permanent parish.

I’m appreciative of being in the Diocese of Harrisburg, almost 16 years now. It has been great in all the places where I’ve worked, and I want to express my sincere appreciation to everybody for their goodness, generosity and sharing their faith with me.
Listen

By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
Special to The Witness

Once upon a time, a young person came across a cottage deep within a forest. This cottage was a truly magical abode since it was the home of the Master Builder. Upon approaching the front door, the young person raised their hand to knock. The door opened and a voice said, “Welcome my daughter/son! Come right in!”

As the young person’s eyes adjusted to the room’s lighting, they saw the project on which the Master Builder was working; a life-size crucifix. The Corpus was lying on the table while the cross was propped against the wall.

The young person marveled over its beauty and approached this work of art with great reverence, and walked all around the table to examine it from every angle. It seemed alive, even though the grain of the wood was very much apparent.

The Master Builder smiled and whispered, “Touch it!” The young person hesitantly reached out to touch the wood, and was transported to another place and time: to Mount Calvary, sitting on the apex of the cross with Jesus hanging from it. The young person looked out from the cross across the ages and saw myriads upon myriads of individuals from every race pilgrimaging toward the cross in a serpentine fashion. The crowds were too numerous to count. The young person was truly moved to see the depth of their holiness and love.

The young person asked, “Who are these people?” The Voice of the Master Builder said, “These are the ones who have completely responded to the grace of salvation. The Lamb will shepherd them and lead them to springs of eternal life.”

Off to the left was a very large group of people, also from every race and nation, encircling within and around themselves. The young person cried out, “Who are they?” The Voice responded, “They have sinned, been wicked and done evil; they have rebelled and departed from my commandments and my laws. They have hardened their hearts against my prophets. They have all lost hope and now they live in despair.”

Tears gushed down the young person’s face. “Is my brother/sister/son/daughter in their midst?” The Voice whispered back, “Yes!” With that, the young person wailed in grief.

Coming back to their senses and realizing that once more they stood in the Master Builder’s cottage, the young person whispered, “Why did you show me this?”

“My love for you is beyond what you can comprehend. I know that you understand and know this from the depth of your soul. Listen to their stories and lead them toward me by showing your love of them. I will be with you through every step of the way.”

You might ask, “What is purpose of this story?”

YOU ARE the young woman, the young man, in this story! God has called YOU to proclaim his love to those you live with and meet every day! YES, YOU! How do you do that? Though sacr - cred listening, sacrificial living and steadfast guiding toward Christ. Come, let us do this together!

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

Caregivers Invited to Annual Day of Respite and Refreshment

The fifth annual Caregivers’ Day of Prayer and Care – an event for people who serve as caregivers for a family member, friend or neighbor – will take place at Trinity High School in Camp Hill on Saturday, Oct. 26.

“This day is free and open to everyone who is a caregiver”, says Chris Leukas, Co-Chair of this year’s event, coordinated by the Cumberland/Ferry Deanery.

“We want people to know how much their caregiving means, how holy and valuable it is,” Leukas said. “You are an advocate, driver, chief cook and bottle-washer, driver, medical assistant, cleaner, teacher all rolled-up into one. It can be exhausting and isolating at times. The purpose of the day is to give caregivers an opportunity to refresh, renew, refocus, and reconnect.”

The day begins with a continental breakfast at 9 a.m. Participants will then hear keynote speaker Sister Geralyn Schmidt on “The Virtue of Caregiving” and participate in a poignant prayer service.

Following a catered lunch, attendees can choose from a wide range of activities to enjoy. Activities include a dessert bar, samplings of local beverages, demonstrations with service animals, cornhole games, cake decorating and flower arrangement lessons, card and gift bag decorating, and haircuts, chair massages, hand massages and manicures.

The event concludes at 3:30 p.m. Participants can stay for the entire day, or a portion.

Caregivers are those who provide help and attention people with various needs: chronic illness, mental or physical challenges, autism, age-related challenges, addiction, dementia/Alzheimer’s, cancer patients, or those undergoing intense rehabilitation. Caregivers may have primary responsibility for helping a loved one, or have professional care assistance.

Many sponsors and area churches make this annual event possible. Messiah Village, local Knights of Columbus councils, area businesses, organizations and individuals have generously donated their time and talents to provide this special day of respite and refreshment.

There is no cost to attend, but pre-registration is encouraged by Oct. 17. Visit www.caregiversdayofprayerandcare.org or call 717-258-1104.

CATHOLIC COMMENTARY

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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.
Pilgrimages & Retreats

St. Katharine Drexel Parish in Mechanicsburg, a one-day pilgrimage to the St. Anthony Chapel in Pittsburgh, Oct. 23. The chapel is home to nearly 5,000 relics from all around the world. Pilgrimage includes Mass and a private tour. Return trip includes a visit and self-directed tour of the Flight 93 National Memorial in Shanksville. Without a boxed lunch, the cost of the trip is $49; with a boxed lunch, the cost is $61. For information or to register, contact Lou Schult- zu at LouisSchultz@msn.com or 717-503-5322.

Education & Enrichment

“YES, YOU Can Evangelize!” presented by Pete Socks of Breadbox Media, a national Catholic podcasting network, Sept. 26 at 7 a.m. at St. Leo the Great Parish in Rohrersville. Socks’ blogs, www.catholic-bookblogger.com, include book reviews and Catholic commentaries at the national level. Snacks and conversation will follow the presentation. No RSVP required.

Bishop Robert Barron’s study program, “The Mass,” offered at St. Leo the Great Parish in Rohrersville beginning Oct. 2 after the 7 p.m. Mass. View the DVD one-on-one and discuss the readings as a group. Learn to fully understand and appreciate the source and summit of the Catholic faith. To register, or for more details, contact henrychrist50@gmail.com.

Bible study, “Revelation: A Kingdom Yet to Come,” at Sacred Heart Basilica Parish Hall, Cone-wago, beginning Oct. 17 at 6:30 p.m. Cost is $25. Eleven-week study broken into five weeks this fall, with the remaining six weeks in the spring. Register by Oct. 10. For more information, contact JoAnn at Sacred Heart Parish Office, 717-637-2721, or John Barrett at 717-633-1082.

The “I Thirst Prayer Community” of St. Joan of Arc Parish in Hershey’s Life in the Spirit seminar. Oct. 18, 19 and 23. Speakers will help you understand the gifts of the Spirit and become more aware of God’s presence in every moment of your life. For information and to register, call Lynn at 717-503-1600.

St. Joseph Parish in Danville, study and discussion group on Dies Domini (“Keeping the Lord’s Day Holy”), apostolic letter by St. John Paul II, Oct. 6, 13, 20 and 27. Meet in St. Hubert Hall after the 10:30 a.m. Mass each Sunday. The study is in conjunction with the parish’s 150th anniversary theme, “Celebrating the Day of the Lord.” Contact El- len Matragnar at 570-275-0972 or ematra@ptd.net to register. Building is handicapped accessible.

An overview of the Theology of the Body offered as a two-five session series at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Gettysburg, Tuesdays Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 from 9-10:30 a.m. Adults are invited. The study is in conjunction with the parish’s 150th anniversary theme, “Celebrating the Day of the Lord.” Contact El- len Matragnar at 570-275-0972 or ematra@ptd.net to register. Building is handicapped accessible.

Companions in Hope monthly support group for survivors of suicide loss. If you have lost a child, spouse, family member or friend to suicide, Companions in Hope offers survivors a place to be heard and cared for with others who have suffered such loss, and find hope in Christ. Meetings are the last Sunday of the month at 6 p.m. at St Joseph Parish, York. Participants may bring a friend to accompany them. Contact Theresa Knier at takbjk@comcast.net or 717-495-0084.

Fundraisers & Events

Harrisburg Life Chain at Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Harrisburg, Oct. 6 from 2-3 p.m. on the front of the parish grounds. Bring lawn chairs and a water bottle. Signs will be provided. Visit www.LifeChain.net for more information.

St. Theresa Parish in New Cumberland, 4th annual Fall Fun Fest, Sept. 21 from 4-10 p.m. at St. Thera-esa School. Basket raffles, bingo, children’s games and activities, face painting, food trucks, games of skill, money raffles, photo booth, craft beer, wine and entertainment. For information, e-mail Mark Reilly at markreilly@verizon.net or call the parish office at 717-774-5918.

St. Theresa School in New Cumberland and Knights of Columbus Scholarship Golf Tournament, Sept. 20 at Valley Green Golf Course in Eti-ers. Visit the school website for golf registration and sponsorship information, www.staithersonsacchshool. org. All registrations include continental breakfast, greens fees, cart, lunch, beverages and contest holes. Proceeds benefit Knights of Columbus scholarship programs.

St. Mark and St. Luke End of Summer Bazaar, Sept. 14 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. in the St. Mark Social Hall, Greencastle. Homemade baked goods, indoor plants, Rosaries and books for sale. Silent auction, basket raffle, free kids’ games and more. Food menu includes sausage & pepper subs, beef brisket, piero- ries, mac & cheese, pretzels, nachos and ice cream. No admission fee, plenty of parking!

American Girl Doll Bingo to benefit Divine Re-edeemer Parish in Mount Carmel, Oct. 12 in Divine Mercy Hall. Doors open at 11 a.m., Bingo at 1 p.m. Cost is $25 in advance, $30 at the door. Food available for purchase. Bring your doll to be eligible for a prize. Tickets available at the parish office during normal business hours.

York Catholic High School’s “Welcome Wednes- day,” open to the public on Sept. 25 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. for families to tour while classes are in session. YC Student Ambassadors will escort families to observe a typical school day. Visitors will have a chance to meet with the principal, teachers and students. Contact Heather Hoffman, Director of Admissions & Enrollment, at 717-846-8871, ext. 220, or hoffman@ yorkcatholic.org.

York Catholic High School invites future stu- dents to athletic events. Students in grades 1-6 can spend time with players and coaches, listen to coach- es’ pregame instructions, participate in team prayer, sit together during the games and practice in the stands for a picture. Games include: boys’ soccer, Sept. 18 at 5:45 p.m.; football, cheerleading and marching band, Sept. 20 at 7 p.m.; girls’ soccer, Sept. 24 at 5:45 p.m.; and volleyball, Oct. 1 at 7 p.m. For information on time and location to meet before events, contact Dustin Boeckel, Futures Events Coordinator, at dboeckel@ yorkcatholic.org.
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.

Bonneville
St. Joseph the Worker:
- Elizabeth McCarthy
- Tony Spagnolo
- St. Margaret Mary:
- Ann Heiden
- Theresa A. Pyzikiewicz

Camp Hill
Good Shepherd:
- Edellen Backer
- Ann Hamilton
- Peg Napoli

Dallastown
St. Joseph:
- Joan M. Holtzapple
- Theresa M. Mayo
- Mark Anthony Monroe

Elizabethtown
St. Peter:
- Dolores Ryan

Harrisburg
St. Catherine Labouré:
- David Caruso

Lykens
Our Lady Help of Christians:
- Judith U. Yanosak

McSherrystown
Annunciation BYM:
- Janet Smith

Mechanicsburg
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton:
- Joseph Gallucci
St. Joseph:
- Pete Carrozza
- Teresa Gavin
- John Manganello
- Joann Rezzo
St. Katharine Drexel:
- Edward Bublinec

Kulpstown
Holy Angels:
- Mary Ann Glowaski

Lancaster
St. John Neumann:
- William Espey
- Flo Howard
- Donna McCauley
- Pat Tomlinson

Littlestown
St. Alloysius:
- Joan Barnes
- Dorothy Rogers

St. Benedict the Abbot:
- Elizabeth McCarthy
- Tony Spagnolo
- St. Margaret Mary:
- Ann Heiden
- Theresa A. Pyzikiewicz

St. Joseph:
- Pete Carrozza
- Teresa Gavin
- John Manganello
- Joann Rezzo
St. Katharine Drexel:
- Edward Bublinec

St. Philip the Apostle:
- Thomas Cauler
- Teresa Miller
- Rhisha Scholbaier

St. Joseph:
- Harold Prentiss

Mount Carmel
Divine Redeemer:
- Gerald M. Ibanez

Our Lady of Mount Carmel:
- Rita Bierowski
- Mary Ann Schuck

New Cumberland
St. Theresa:
- Joan Barge

Rohrerstown
St. Leo the Great:
- Maryanne Cantwell

Shamokin
Mother Cabrini:
- Ronald Anderson
- Phyllis Barrett
- Joseph Maliszewski
- Dorothy (Dolores) Vanaskie
- Norman Weikel

Shippensburg
Our Lady of the Visitation:
- Margaret Barrett

Steelton
Prince of Peace:
- John A. Szada, Sr.

Sunbury
St. Monica:
- Ruth Heintzelman

Trevorton
St. Patrick:
- Albert J. Lagerman, Sr.

York
St. Joseph:
- Hilda Dietz
- Dottie Moquin

Morning Stars Clinics is seeking a P/T educator to teach nationally recognized curriculum in Dauphin/ Cumberland Counties. Program empowers teens to make healthy decisions regarding relationships and risk behaviors. Also promotes sexual risk avoidance to achieve best outcomes. E-mail Leslie at lmoyer@morningstarclinics.com.
House Speaker Applauds Decision to Uphold Prayer in Sessions

Pennsylvania Speaker of the House Mike Turzai (R-Allegheny) is praising a decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals which will uphold the traditional practice of having a session-opening prayer.

“We are pleased that the Third Circuit has found that our prayer complies with the United States Constitution,” Turzai said, “and has issued a precedent-setting decision entirely in the House’s favor. As a result, we expect the House to be able to resume its tradition of welcoming guest chaplains as it has in the past.”

In 2016, a group of atheists and other non-believers sued the House, claiming their exclusion as guest chaplains violated the Constitution. The plaintiffs also challenged the presiding officer’s traditional request to rise for the prayer and the pledge to the flag.

Last year, a federal judge in Harrisburg ruled in favor of the plaintiffs and limited the practice to member-led prayers. But the House appealed.

“By a 2-1 vote the panel held the House’s prayer practices were constitutional because they fit within the long history of legislative prayer in this country,” Turzai said. “The majority explained that ‘only theistic prayer can satisfy the historical purpose of appealing for divine guidance in lawmaking.’”

The Court also ruled as constitutional that all in attendance be required to rise for the prayer and the pledge.

(The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference is the public affairs arm of Pennsylvania’s Catholic bishops and the Catholic dioceses of Pennsylvania. Stay up-to-date with news on issues of concern to Catholics at www.pacatholic.org.)