Mass Celebrates the Giftedness God Has Bestowed on Every Person

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Greeting people as they arrived for the Diocese’s annual Mass Celebrating the Gifts of People with Disabilities, Jenny Laudeman demonstrated loud and clear the message she wanted to share.

“I want to tell the people coming to the Mass today to be nice and loving and kind to others, especially people with special needs,” she said. “Make them happy; don’t make them sad. Make them feel joy and happiness and love. Treat them just like anyone.”

Laudeman, 37, has Down syndrome. A member of St. Joseph Parish in York, which hosted the Mass on Nov. 17, she said she volunteered to serve as greeter.

“I like to help people out,” she said, as she distributed worship aids for the Mass, and welcomed parishioners and guests with a friendly smile and a ready-to-serve attitude.

The annual Mass is sponsored by the Diocesan Office of Ministry with People with Disabilities, and recognizes and elevates the gifts of persons with disabilities. The Mass welcomed in a special way those who have physical or developmental disabilities, and the inclusion was evident during the parish’s regular 12:30 Sunday Mass, as people with walkers, wheelchairs, white canes and a service dog entered.
Inaugural Summit Gives Best Practices for Communications

In an outreach to parishes and schools on best practices for websites, social media and media relations, the Diocesan Communications Office presented its inaugural Communications Summit, Nov. 13 at the Diocesan Center in Harrisburg. The interactive training offered ideas, tips and “how-to’s” for effective communications, including ways to connect to young people through social media, insights into creating and maintaining an attractive website, and how to interact with members of the media.

Attendees joined in person and remotely for the summit, which featured presentations and interactive dialogue led by Rachel Bryson, M.S., Diocesan Executive Director for Public Relations; Jordan Zabady, Diocesan Social Media Specialist; and Al Gnoza, Communications Director of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference.

The Communications Office is readily available to assist parishes and schools with ideas and advice on social media sites and media interaction; contact communications@hbgdiocese.org or 717-657-4804.

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.
MASS
Continued from 1
the pews.
Several persons with disabilities served as greeters, lector and altar servers, and members of the deaf community were also present to worship, with the assistance of Sign Language Interpreter, Ginny Stack.
Awaiting the start of Mass with fellow altar servers, Joey Gerzewski said “I come here to this Mass on the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, as we begin to prepare our hearts for the coming of the Lord during the Holy Season of Advent.”
“When I come to Mass, I just want to feel the presence of God in my heart, and we should all try to do the same,” said Gerzewski, a member of St. Rose of Lima Parish in York.
In his homily, Bishop Ronald Gainer said a disability is often the first thing people notice about others.
“But today, we recognize the giftedness of every one of us,” he said. “We come to worship here at Mass in absolute peace, when each one of us can be ourselves, and not have to worry or be embarrassed, concerned or anxious. We can be ourselves here before the Lord as he has made us and bring ourselves, with our gifts and our limitations, to worship Jesus Christ.”
“Those of you who have a family member – son, daughter, brother or sister – with some disability know much better than I how your family member is a teacher, and how you have learned from them, how your unconditional care for your loved one has brought you to a new level of being yourself and holiness, drawn out from you certain strengths and virtues you never thought you had, didn’t have, except for the grace of God,” he said.
“Today, we thank God for all of that, and the love that you receive in return from your family members. God is great. He has gifted all of us, and today we celebrate the gifts of every one of us,” the bishop said.
At the conclusion of the Prayers of the Faithful, the bishop imparted a special blessing for those with disabilities:
“Lord our God, today we lift up to You all those with special needs. We ask You to fill them with every grace and blessing. May they offer their bodily limitations in union with Christ on the cross for the salvation of souls. In hours of loneliness or discouragement, we ask that You be with them, giving them strength and a tangible sense of Your love and peace. For their loved ones, accompany them on their journey and ease their anxiety and fears. Surround them with the love and strength of others, so they may experience the healing presence of the communion of saints. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.”
For more information about the Office of Ministry with People with Disabilities its programs, services and resources, contact Larry Kiley, Director, at 717-657-4804, ext. 322 or lkiley@hbgdiocese.org, or visit www.hbgdiocese.org/disabilities-ministries.

Robert Farabaugh, Jr., a member of Holy Infant Parish in Manchester, serves as lector for the Mass, celebrated Nov. 17 at St. Joseph Church in York.

Angie Cruz, left, and Karen McFadden share a light-hearted moment as they approach the baptismal font. At far right is Karen’s daughter, Hillary.

JEN REED, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

RESOLVE TO SAY NOTHING NEGATIVE ABOUT YOUR SPOUSE TODAY.

“...WITH ALL LOWLINESS AND MEEKNESS, WITH LONG SUFFERING, FORBEARING ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE...”

EPHESIANS 4:2

HelpOurMarriage.org

Not willing to let go of your marriage? Many couples continue to struggle in a marriage, but are not willing to give up on each other. There is hope. Retrouvaille is a program designed to help struggling marriages regain their health. It helps a husband and a wife rediscover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. The program is highly successful in saving hurting marriages, even bringing reconciliation to couples who have already separated or divorced. For more information about the January 17-19, 2020 Weekend for couples, contact the registration team at retrouvaillehbr@gmail.com or 717-356-2185.

John Michael Carollo and Jenny Laudeman seek out the camera as Jenny greets people arriving for Mass.
U.S. Bishops Vote for Conference Leadership

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) have elected a new secretary for the Conference, as well as a chairman of the Committee for Religious Liberty, and chairman-elect of five additional standing committees at their Fall General Assembly in Baltimore.

On Nov. 12, the bishops elected Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles as president of the conference and Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron of Detroit as vice president. Both the new president and vice president begin their terms at the conclusion of this year’s General Assembly. Archbishop Vigneron has served as the Conference secretary since 2018 and will vacate that office upon assuming the vice presidency. In order to accommodate this leadership change, the bishops voted for a new Conference secretary in the afternoon session. Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the Military Services, USA, was elected secretary of Conference in a 112-87 vote over Bishop Daniel E. Thomas of Toledo.

Bishop George V. Murry, SJ of Youngstown was elected as chairman of the Committee for Religious Liberty in a 121-121 vote over Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski of Miami and fills the vacancy created earlier this year after the committee chairman stepped down due to health reasons. The tie vote resulted in deference to Bishop Murray by nature of age seniority; he assumed his post at the end of the Fall General Assembly and will serve through November 2021 at which time he will be eligible for re-election.

The remaining five will serve for one year as chairman-elect before beginning a three-year term at the conclusion of the bishops’ 2020 Fall General Assembly. The bishops elected as chairman-elect are:

- Archbishop Jerome E. Listecki of Milwaukee, as chairman-elect of the Committee on Canonical Affairs and Church Governance in a 144 to 97 vote over Bishop Mark L. Barchak of Altoona-Johnstown.
- Bishop David P. Talley of Memphis, as chairman-elect of the Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs in a 123 to 114 vote over Bishop Steven J. Lopes of The Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter.
- Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens, auxiliary bishop of St. Paul and Minneapolis, as chairman-elect of the Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis in a 151 to 88 vote over Bishop Thomas A. Daly of Spokane.
- Bishop David J. Malloy of Rockford, as chairman-elect of the Committee on International Justice and Peace in a 140 to 101 vote over Bishop Jaime Soto of Sacramento.
- Bishop James V. Johnston, Jr. of Kansas City-St. Joseph, as chairman-elect of the Committee on Protection of Children and Young People in a 167-77 vote over Bishop W. Shawn McKnight of Jefferson City.

The bishops voted with 6 votes in favor, 4 against, and 3 abstentions.

In other items, the bishops approved:

- A short letter and five short video scripts to supplement Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, the bishops’ teaching document for the faithful on the political responsibility of Catholics. The short letter was approved 207-24 with 5 abstentions; the vote on the video scripts was 227-5 in favor with 4 abstentions.
- In a vote of 220 to 7 with 2 abstentions, the body of bishops voted to approve the Conference’s Subcommittee on Hispanic Affairs to lead the process of developing a new comprehensive vision for Hispanic/Latino ministry in response to the V Encuentro process.
- The bishops voted with 211 in favor, 11 against and 1 abstention of approval of the 2020 proposed budget, presented by the Committee on Budget and Finance.

At Annual Fall Assembly in Baltimore, U.S. Bishops Approve Action Items on Agenda

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), during their meeting Nov. 11-14 for their Fall General Assembly in Baltimore, voted on nine action items. The bishops voted to approve the 6th edition of the Program of Priestly Formation for use in the dioceses of the United States with 226 votes in favor, 4 against, and 3 abstentions. The vote required affirmation by two-thirds of the Conference membership and is subject to recognitio by the Vatican Congregation for Clergy.

The Latin Church members of the USCCB voted to approve two translations by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL). The first vote on a translation of the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults as the base text for a future edition of this rite in the dioceses of the United States was approved with 217 votes in favor, 3 against, and 3 abstentions. The second vote on a translation of the Hymns of the Liturgy of the Hours for use in the dioceses of the United States was approved with 205 votes in favor, 5 against, and 2 abstentions. In other items, the bishops approved:

- The results of the vote by diocesan and eparchial bishops for a three percent increase in the diocesan assessment for 2021, was 111 to 55, which fell short of the necessary majority. Ballots will be mailed to bishops not present in order to have a conclusive vote.
- The full body of bishops also approved the Revised Strategic Priorities for the 2021-24 USCCB Strategic Plan by a vote of 214 to 4 with 2 abstentions.
- By a voice vote the majority of members present and voting, the bishops also approved to support the request of Cardinal Philippe Barbarin of Lyon asking the Holy Father to name Saint Irenaeus a Doctor of the Church.
- The bishops also elected the following members to the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Board of Directors: Bishop Frank J. Caggiano of Bridgeport, Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso, and Bishop Anthony B. Taylor of Little Rock.
By Rachel Bryson, M.S., The Catholic Witness

“Our job is to take Christ out and reach all those who have fallen away.” These opening words from Peter J. Murphy, PhD, opened his keynote address to the more than 300 men and women who gathered for the annual Diocesan Catechetical Conference on Nov. 9. The event, hosted by the Diocesan Office for Evangelization and Catechesis, was at the Diocesan Center in Harrisburg.

Murphy, the Director for Families and Schools of Discipleship Mission Team for the Diocese of Green Bay, Wisconsin, and the former Executive Director of Evangelization and Catechesis for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, told the catechists gathered that there are really only two things they need to do to evangelize—listen to the Holy Spirit and go do it.

“We are all agents of evangelization,” said Murphy. “We’re all called to go out and make disciples. Every Christian is challenged, to go out and reach all those who have fallen away.”

If you’re talking to someone and it starts moving in an evangelizing direction, how do you draw that out?”

The evangelization process is having a dialogue where we’re not talking so much at first. We ask questions and get to the point where we can share our story,” added Murphy.

Murphy challenged the catechists attending the conference to keep in mind that experience, more than knowledge and facts, are what our Millennial brothers and sisters are looking for, and that when evangelizing, we need to personalize God’s love.

“This is our challenge as Catholics. Have we personalized that encounter? If your second grader asks if Christ is really in the Eucharist, you can say yes, cite the Catechism and then give your personal encounter. Does Christ really forgive our sins? Yes, let me tell you how he helped me. As disciples who are going out and making disciples, we have to be willing to offer that. God is love because here’s how he loved me,” said Murphy. “When you overcome that fear...the Lord’s going to use it. And you’re going to discover gifts and charisms that you didn’t realize you had. That’s the Holy Spirit working through you.”

Prior to Murphy’s keynote, Bishop Ronald Gainer opened the conference with Mass and the presentation of the 2019 Catechetical Awards.

During his homily, Bishop Gainer thanked those gathered for answering the call from Christ to, “be His teachers, to let your lips be His in imparting the truths of our faith to children, to teens, to young adults, to adults; in Catholic schools, parish religious education programs, in the RCIA programs welcoming back our brothers and sisters who have been away and in sacramental preparation in the many, many diverse forms of catechesis. Thank you for giving your talents, your knowledge and living in the faith, to be shared with those coming to the Church to grow in that faith.”

Bishop Gainer added to the catechists that, “as you continue to grow in your own personal holiness, as you embrace more fully these transformative truths of our faith and come into greater intimacy and communion with the living person of Jesus Christ, may you have every gift of the Holy Spirit to be able to share that mystery that we enjoy with those who come to us, hungering for the truth, which is Jesus Christ.”
St. Joseph School in Hanover Earns Middle States Re-Accreditation

Last month, St. Joseph School in Hanover earned re-accreditation by the Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools, a worldwide leader in accreditation and continuous school improvement.

“Middle States accreditation serves as an independent validation of the good work we do,” said Terrance Golden, M.Ed., principal. “We are proud to have earned re-accreditation and look forward to continuing to work to provide high quality education for our students.”

Accreditation is a multifaceted evaluation process that schools and school systems voluntarily use to demonstrate they are meeting a defined set of research-based performance standards. The 12 Middle States Standards for Accreditation are: mission; governance and leadership; school improvement planning; finances; facilities; school organization and staff; health and safety; educational program; assessment and evidence of student learning; student services; student life and activities; and information resources.

The accreditation process began with a self-study and included input from various stakeholder groups including teachers, parents, students, school board members and parish committees. Following the self-study, a team of volunteer educators from Middle States member schools conducted an on-site peer review visit in May of 2019 to observe school operations and interview various stakeholder groups.

The visiting team made its recommendation to the Middle States Association Commissions, which voted on the accreditation in October.

“The Middle States accreditation process brings together school leaders, teachers, parents and students to develop a strategic plan for the future that is built upon continuous school improvement,” said Lisa Marie McCauley, Ed.D., president of the Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools. “Middle States accredited schools benefit from the power of peer review and should be commended for their commitment to collaboration, growth and advancing student achievement.”

Middle States Honors Dr. Burke as Outstanding Volunteer

The Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools (MSA-CESS) recently announced that Nancy Burke, Ed.D., a longtime educator and the former principal of Trinity High School in Camp Hill, is a recipient of this year’s F. Laird Evans Outstanding Volunteer Award.

“Nancy’s professional experience and leadership style have made her an asset to Middle States and to our member schools,” said Lisa Marie McCauley, Ed.D., president of the Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools. “Middle States volunteers share a passion for improving education and making a difference for schools and students throughout the world, and Nancy is proof of that.”

Presented annually, the F. Laird Evans Outstanding Volunteer Award recognizes a dedicated volunteer who has advanced the mission of the Middle States Association to foster continuous school improvement through accreditation, so all students receive the highest quality education possible. Volunteers serve on accreditation teams that evaluate schools based on an established set of protocols and standards designed to reflect proven practices in education.

F. Laird Evans is the former president of the Middle States Commission on Elementary Schools and an ardent supporter of school accreditation.

Burke, who served as Trinity High School’s principal until her retirement in 2009, has led teams of educators on visits to schools around the world, including Catholic, Islamic and charter schools and a school for the deaf.

In addition to serving as principal, Burke has held adjunct faculty positions at Harrisburg Area Community College and at Pennsylvania State University’s Harrisburg campus. She served as Administrator Pro Temp of Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg earlier this year.

Burke earned her undergraduate degree in biology and a doctorate in educational leadership from Immaculata University, Immaculata, Pa. She also holds a master of science degree in biology from Shippensburg University.

“This is a wonderful honor, and I have deeply enjoyed my time as a Middle States volunteer,” said Burke. “The Middle States accreditation process gives schools and school systems the opportunity to bring students, teachers, administrators and parents together to create plans aimed at ongoing growth and improvement. It’s a rewarding process to be a part of.”

Art Contest – Design a Convention Cover

For girls in grades 9-12 in the Diocese of Harrisburg

The Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women are sponsoring the contest for an original piece of art for the cover of the program for their 95th Annual Convention in April.

The theme is: “Rejoice and Be Thankful”

Grand prize: $150
Second prize: $75
Third prize: $50

Artwork should be designed for a 9x12 program cover. Must be an original drawing or painting.

Mediums include watercolor, oil, acrylic, charcoal or pencil. Contest judged by local artists on the Board of the HDCCW.

Deadline to enter is January 20, 2020.

For information, questions, contest guidelines, contact 717-860-0700 or hdccw1@gmail.com
The Legend of Sleepy Hollow has ever since been a popular tale of haunted mystery and human intrigue. Set along the Hudson River in Tarrytown, N.Y., “this sequestered glen has long been known by the name of Sleepy Hollow,” Irving wrote. “A drowsy, dreamy influence seems to hang over the land and to pervade the very atmosphere.”

Add a haughty, superstitious school master named Ichabod Crane, a wealthy, pretentious Katrina Van Tassel and a fearsome soldier-ghost dubbed by locals as the Headless Horseman, and the makings of a great drama come alive.

And come alive in a spirited performance of the legend is exactly what the Bishop McDevitt Crusader players did Nov. 8-10 in the school’s fall drama production. Beautifully acted and superbly costumed, more than 35 cast and crew under the direction of Nathan Delp brought the early 19th Century tale to life in vivid fashion.

Ichabod Crane was convincingly played by James McInerny, and his love interest Katrina Van Tassel, was played splendidly by Hannah Arnold.

“The Legend of Sleepy Hollow is a drama about storytelling,” Mr. Delp said after the production. “Narrative is perhaps the best way to unveil human truth. In telling stories, we can better experience life and better understand ourselves and others.... Thank you to all who came to share in our story and much thanks to a fantastic cast and crew.”
Trinity Eagle Scout Helping to Keep Normandy Alive

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

“I do not want what these guys did to ever be forgotten,” Christopher Adam, a Trinity High School sophomore, said about his recently completed Eagle Scout project at the United States Army Heritage and Education Center in Carlisle.

Seventy-five years ago this past June 6, 160,000 Allied Troops stormed a 50-mile stretch of five beaches near Normandy, France, to liberate Europe from the grasp of Adolf Hitler and his Nazi forces. 16 million Americans fought in World War II, and less than 500,000 are still alive today – some 1,100 die every day, so the sands of time are slowly marking the passing of the Greatest Generation.

“I probably spent about 1,500 hours on this project,” Christopher said. “Nothing good comes without hard work. That much I learned for sure.”

His project is a sculpture action and memorial site dedicated to the heroic fighting on Omaha, Utah, Gold, Juno and Sword beaches, which fronted the heavily-fortified beach walls that were littered with German heavy artillery and machine guns. Nearly 3,000 Americans lost their lives in just a few hours’ time that fateful June day in 1944.

On Nov. 9, all of Christopher’s hard work culminated with a powerful and poignant dedication ceremony attended by more than 400 people braving a chilly but pleasant morning. Nearly 30 WWII veterans attended the ceremony that featured patriotic musical renditions, the unveiling of the sculpture set and a unique moment in which the veterans partook.

Two summers ago, Christopher and his family traveled to Normandy, and there he collected a small sample of sand, which each veteran poured around the base of the monument. The 90-plus year-old veterans were visibly touched when pouring the sands, bringing Normandy to Carlisle.

“I really wanted a real element of Normandy to the project,” Christopher said. Mission accomplished.

Christopher spent more than a year and a half on the project, and the monument site, dubbed Liberation Pointe, also contains a number of educational boards that are wonderfully detailed and highly informative. And the research was all done by Christopher, which arguably is the most impressive touch brought to this stellar Eagle Scout project.

“I obviously need to thank my family, especially my mom and dad, for taking me places to learn and for giving me a kick in the butt when I most needed it... All my teachers and friends have been very complimentary about the project and I am thankful to all the many sponsors and supporters for this project,” Christopher said. “Really thankful.”
From Dismissive Shrugs to First Vows
Lourdes Graduate Professes First Vows as Sister of Sts. Cyril and Methodius

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Sitting at Mass during her freshman year at Our Lady of Lourdes Regional School in Coal Township 20 years ago, Mary Mensch shrugged off the celebrant’s message about homemrown vocations.

When Father Charles Persing predicted, “There will be one priest and one sister from this student body,” Mensch allowed the possibility to pass right over her, confident that the priest’s estimation was made for another girl.

With certainty, she told herself “It will be somebody else. I’ll never be a religious Sister.”

As it turns out, Father Persing’s prediction was right on target. And Mensch, while conceding that two of her peers certainly could live a religious vocation, missed the mark a bit.

On Sept. 14 of this year, she professed her First Vows with the Sisters of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, as Sister Mary Kate.

The other student at that Mass was Jonathan Sawicki, now a Diocesan priest, and Director of the Diocesan Office of Vocations.

Invitation Leads to Spark
Living a life in the faith wasn’t foreign to Sister Mary Kate when she was growing up in Elysburg. She went to Mass at Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Parish every Sunday, and welcomed her grandmothers’ own faith journeys – one Catholic, one Methodist – as positive influences. She often walked to church with her maternal grandmother, who lived in Centralia and sang in the choir.

“It was so normal for me to be in the church setting when I was little, but I just never really had the spark for religious life,” Sister Mary Kate recalled.

Though she didn’t feel it, those around her saw it, including a staff member and two Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary at Lourdes.

“I wasn’t listening to those possible promptings that were so very clear to them,” Sister Mary Kate said.

But one gentle invitation a few years later, as a senior at Bloomsburg University, put her on the eventual path to religious life.

“One of my friends invited me to go to Mass at the Newman House. It was as simple as that,” Sister Mary Kate said.

“I wasn’t as active in the faith as much as I should have been in college. I honestly think that one invitation to get me back to Mass was what sparked me to really start thinking that I was missing something in life.”

Over the next few months, she became involved in parish life at Holy Rosary, and connected with its then-pastor, Father Al Sceksi. She took a full-time job after college graduation, but still felt a longing that she couldn’t quite explain.

“My heart didn’t seem to be into the jobs I had...and I couldn’t shake the feeling that there was something in me, drawing me to God for something more,” Sister Mary Kate said. “I felt like there wasn’t a depth to any of the positions that I had. Yes, they taught me a lot about life, work ethic and dealing with people, but there was a spiritual sense that was missing from them.”

She prayed. She read spiritual books. She looked at religious orders. Still, she felt unsure of the path to religious life that God was putting before her.

And then Father Sceksi suggested that she connect with the Sisters who were just 15 minutes away, in their motherhouse in Danville.

“He asked one day, ‘How is your discernment going?’ and I just kind of moaned about it. ‘He said, ‘Why don’t you go up and talk to the Sisters of Sts. Cyril and Methodius?’”

“I’m so happy that he put that out there, and gave me that ‘God-nudge,’” Sister Mary Kate reflected. “I remember sitting in the chapel and saying to Jesus, ‘If you want me here, you have to help me get here, because I can’t do this on my own.’”

Life as a Religious
Sister Mary Kate said she found herself attracted to the Sisters of Sts. Cyril and Methodius because of their Jesus-centered and Mary-modeled life, as well as their focus on elder care, ecumenism, education and evangelization.

She became an affiliate with the congregation in 2014, which began her official discernment process in what the order calls a “covenant relationship.” She visited the motherhouse monthly to talk to the Sisters and attend Evening Prayer and dinner with them, and spoke regularly with the Vocations Director.

In October 2015, she applied to the community, a process that included getting medical and financial documents in order, and presenting recommendations to attest to her character.

She entered the congregation in July of 2016, and spent her postulant year in community and prayer. She took classes at the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio while living in community with three other Sisters, and then spent six weeks working with the poor in St. Helena Island, S.C.

Sister Mary Kate was then accepted as a novice, and spent time at the motherhouse in Danville, where she studied in-depth about the congregation and grew in her relationship with Jesus. This was followed by parish work in two houses of religious Sisters, in Endicott, N.Y., and in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Sister Mary Kate professed her First Vows on Sept. 14 at the Basilica of Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Danville. She is currently assigned at St. Gregory the Great Parish in Bluffton, S.C., where she works at the parochial school and visits those in nursing homes.

She will be in temporary profession for the next three to five years, before making Final Vows.

“The Sisters in our community have offered me so many insights and helped me grow to be such a better person,” Sister Mary Kate said. “They have enriched my life so much, and I am so grateful for every one of them. I try to model what they’ve taught me in focusing on Jesus and a personal relationship with him.”

“This whole experience, this whole process, has been very life-giving for me,” she reflected. “It’s given me the piece that was missing, I feel very full, very complete.”

And now she can’t see herself as anything but a religious Sister.
**Trinity Falls in its Goal to Net a State Championship**

By Chris Heisey

The Catholic Witness

When you make it all the way to the PIAA 2A state semifinal, the last thing any team wants is to not play their best game. Unfortunately for the Trinity girls’ volleyball team at Shamokin High School on a snowy, mid-autumn night Nov. 1, the Shamrocks went cold against the Mounties of North Penn Liberty, losing in straight sets to the northern Pennsylvania District 4 team.

Trinity never had a defensive answer for the Mounties’ superb outside hitters, who varied their kills down the line and cross court to befuddle Trinity’s normally solid defense. Give credit also to the Mounties’ libero, Ali Koval, who dug every hit ripped her way by Trinity. It was arguably the difference in a match the Mounties won, 25-21, 26-24, 25-18.

The ‘Rocks were behind nearly the whole way, but held a 4-1 lead in the second set, when they lost five pressure-packed straight points to the Mounties, killing any momentum Trinity had gained after losing the closely contested first set. The ‘Rocks struggled in their serving game throughout with 15 unforced errors that gave North Penn Liberty free points that a fundamentally sound team used as a confidence builder to attack and pressure Trinity even more.

Trinity finished their best volleyball season in the school’s history at 22-2.

**Pioneers Overcome McDevitt Lead for Upset Win**

By Chris Heisey

The Catholic Witness

With a 20-point lead at halftime in the District 3 Class 4A semifinals, the safe bet would have been to wager that the Bishop McDevitt Crusaders would advance to the championship for a rematch with Berks Catholic in the final. But 30 second-half points by underdog Lampeter-Strasburg doomed the Crusaders, who were crippled by several key injuries and costly mistakes on which the opportunistic Pioneers capitalized on a perfectly cool night for football at McDevitt’s Rocco Ortenzio Stadium on Nov. 15.

The Crusaders were penalized 70 yards in the first 15 minutes of the game. A fumble, a missed extra point and a shanked punt also happened early, still McDevitt’s defense gave up only two first-half first downs to a Pioneer squad that hung 44 points on York Suburban a week before to topple the bracket’s number one seed.

A 96-yard touchdown pass in the second half and a key interception swung momentum against McDevitt as a hungry Lampeter-Strasburg pounced on the defending District 3 champ Crusaders, who were never able to regain the momentum. Bishop McDevitt finished the season 8-4 after the 30-27 loss.
Trojan Horse Wins Battle Against a Gallant Delone Catholic

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

Starting the football season with three straight losses usually doesn’t give an ordinary team much hope in making it to the post-season. But on a frigid, frosty night in November, you find out why Delone Catholic is rather extraordinary during the District 3 Class A championship played against the Upper Dauphin Trojans on the Trojans’ field in Elizabethville in front of a very partisan crowd.

The undefeated Trojans have averaged more than 50 points per game, led by senior quarterback Macklin Ayers, who, at 6'3” and 210 lbs., is the reason Upper Dauphin’s offense has the horsepower to score seven-plus touchdowns a game. The Penn State-bound signal caller scored all five of the Trojan touchdowns against Delone Catholic. And though Ayers ran the ball for more than 220 yards on 24 carries, the Squires battled a talented Upper Dauphin squad to the final play.

Down 16 points with 2:34 to play, the Squires marched down the frost-covered field to score. After a successful two-point conversion, the never-quit Squires lined up for an onside kick that they recovered to stun the Trojans. Twenty yards from a potential tying touchdown, Delone had several cracks at the endzone in the waning seconds to catch the Trojans. In the end, Delone’s last-gasp passes fell incomplete, and the home team got the celebration they wanted – the school’s first district championship, winning 36-8.

Last year, the Squires lost in overtime in the final, and this year’s loss was another disappointment for the Squires. But the grit and togetherness this football team shows in how it competes is not ordinary in any manner. “I am always humbled that our kids fight the way they do for Delone Catholic,” head coach Corey Zortman said to the press afterwards. “You grow to love them, and when someone puts their faith in you as a coach, that’s a responsibility. I don’t take it lightly.”
Tell me a little bit about your childhood.

I grew up in the southern tier of the Diocese, along the Mason-Dixon line. My hometown is Hanover, Pa. I grew up in the parish of St. Vincent de Paul. When I was in seventh grade, we moved out of the formal boundaries of St. Vincent into the parish boundaries of the Church of the Annunciation. I went to Religious Education at St. Vincent from first grade through fifth grade, and then from sixth on, I went to Annunciation. At Annunciation, I think it was there that I realized, “Wow! Our faith is awesome.” I had great teachers at Annunciation and that’s where I then went to Mass.

We’re form-able in sixth, seventh and eighth grade, preparing for Confirmation. Those teachers were awesome and they lived the faith, too. I saw that in them. I saw their good example.... My sixth, seventh and eighth grade teachers at Annunciation in Religious Education were women, and one was a Sister – Sister Maria May.

I think the seed of my vocation, of course, began at home with my parents. They were and they are today very hard workers. I’m a cradle Catholic. My mother’s side is Italian, my father’s side is German, and it is a super loving family. They’re awesome parents. They’re happy I’m a priest, they just don’t get to see me so much. But definitely my vocation began in the domestic Church of the home. My mother is all about hospital-ity. You’re always welcome at the table.

When did you start giving serious thought about the priesthood?

I started thinking really seriously about a priestly vocation at Annunciation. If you’ve ever been to that church, it’s beautiful, and beauty is attractive. In those grades, I was attracted to the Mass. My mother, at that time, worked at Double-day, a book publishing company in Hanover, and my father ran a restaurant. I had very busy par-ents, and sometimes they worked on Sundays. Here I am, probably after eighth grade, saying, “Ok, it’s Sunday morning. Who’s taking me to Mass?” So I walked. I walked up the hill, went across Main Street and went to Mass. It was attractive to me. It had an objective beauty and attraction to me.

How did your faith grow as you got to high school?

I never went to Catholic school until I entered the seminary. I went to Conewago Valley Elementary School in Hanover and then I went to New Oxford High School.... I wish I would have gone to Delone Catholic. I think a Catholic school education would have been great. But maybe it’s good I didn’t. God had his hand on this. I didn’t have religion every day. In high school, I would have to seek out answers to questions I had about the faith, whether it be the saints or Mary. I’d have to go to the priest at Annunciation or St. Vincent’s and ask the questions.

I was thinking in high school about priesthood, just as I was in sixth, seventh and eighth grade. But I was on the fence. My voca-tion was a boxing match with Jesus. Jesus was calling and I just put on the gloves to punch him away. In high school, as I was dis-cerning, I didn’t seek out priests or people in my life that would help me discern.

When did you decide to enter the seminary?

After high school, I made a bar-gain with God. I said, “God, I think you’re calling me to the priesthood, or you might be calling me, but I’m going to go to college.” I went to Western Maryland College in Westminster, Md. – it’s now called McDaniel College – and my thought was that if I did very poorly, then I knew I was called to the priesthood. That’s how I went through three and three-quarters of my four years.

Then I graduated from college and I had almost a sickening feel-ing that, “Oh my gosh, I still have this.” Because I commuted to college, I would serve daily Mass at the time for the pastor, Father Bernard Quinn. I saw the good that he was doing in the parish. Just being around him, listening to him, seeing how good he was to the parish.

I remember going to Father Quinn and I was still on the fence. He said, “What are you afraid of? They don’t take the key and throw it away. Seminary is where you discern.” I don’t think I ever under-standing that I could come out of the seminary if I felt I was called to the married life or the single life, so I went to St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe.... I was ordained in 2003 to the priesthood by Bishop David Zubik, because Bishop Dattilo was very ill on my ordination day.

You are the Judicial Vicar and a pastor. Tell me about those roles.

The Judicial Vicar of the Diocese is the one who oversees the work and ministry of the Tribunal. We do more than decrees of nullity, or annuements. Anything Canonical in terms of the law in regards to the sexual abuse of minors by cler-ics, marriage law, permission for Catholics to marry non-Catholics, permissions for wedding venues. Anything Canonical, I advise the bishop on.

St. Matthew’s is the perfect fit for me. I’m at the Diocesan Center Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and sometimes on Saturday because I help with God’s Plan for Love, marriage prep. Because I see in the Tribunal what breaks marriages up, a very important part of my ministry is to prepare couples who are getting married. We want them to know what married life is all about: fidelity, per-manence, children.

Because of my ministry as Judicial Vicar, with marriage prep and as liaison for the St. Thomas More Society, I need a small parish. St. Matthew’s is nestled between two mountains and has about 350 families. Going back to the parish in the evening and to have parish-ioners’ support is a blessing.

What aspect of your ministry do you enjoy most?

One of my favorite things is ministry to the sick. When I’m in the hospital or visiting the home-bound, I love to sit and chat with them. Especially when being with people who have been parishioners at St. Matthew’s for a long time, to hear about what it was like back then, what they’ve done over the years. These are the people who made the parish what it is today, and to hear them talk about it is so fascinating. And then I’m able to bring them Our Lord in the Eucharist. Ministry to the homebound is something I take one entire day to do, but I wish I could do it more often. You leave there so uplifted. They’re great wit-nesses to the faith.

Father Paul Clark, J.C.L.

Hometown: Hanover, Pa.


Assignment: Judicial Vicar for the Diocese of Harrisburg and Pastor of St. Matthew Parish in Dauphin

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Be a ‘Thanks-Giver’
By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
Special to The Witness

Recently, a colleague came up to me in our employee break room and announced, “I have a challenge for you!” “Really?” I asked, “Please explain.” He said that for about 20 years, he has felt a whole lot of anger toward the culture’s ingratitude. “We have all forgotten what Thanksgiving is all about! It has melted into a day of football and parades. Does the American culture really have nothing in which to be thankful? We have forgotten all about it! I challenge you to write an article about it!”

After this conversation, as I filled up my mug of coffee, I thought, “We are truly called by God to be ‘thanks-givers!’” Let me explain. Paul writes in one of his letters, “Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” I really think that there are two distinct aspects of being a thanks-giver, like having a drumstick in each hand: gratitude and humility.

According to Dictionary.com, gratitude is a “feeling of appreciation for a gift or kindness offered.” Cicero, a Roman philosopher and an individual who is a bit wiser than most, declared, “Gratitude is the greatest of virtues!” Modern psychologists have also discovered that grateful people are happier, less depressed, less stressed, and more satisfied with their lives. Yet, being grateful doesn’t come natural to us. But if we choose to look at life through grateful-colored glasses, focusing on our blessings, problems and concerns are put in right perspectives. This is not easy. It takes a conscious decision.

So, as we sit down and chomp on our first drumstick, I challenge you find a blessing in every circumstance in which you find yourself. What’s the benefit? It strengthens our “holiness” muscle in four ways: It honors God and strengthens our faith, it becomes the foundation on which we can worship God, it strengthens our relationship with others and it can dramatically change how we experience our world.

As you “chew” on the taste of the drumstick of gratitude, take a swig of water and pick up the other one: humility.

What is your image of a humble person? For me, it is someone who is free from arrogance, who grows out of recognition that all we have comes from God. We cannot exhibit humility without being a “thanks-giver.” So you might wonder, “How can you practice humility?” First, like gratitude, it is a conscious choice born from a practice to examine your conscience on a daily basis using these questions: 1. How have I complimented or con-gratulated others today? 2. Did I volunteer to clean up after an event or offer to be of service to someone even if that service was “beneath” me? 3. Did I admit when I was in the wrong and try to make amends to that person besides saying, “I am sorry?”

True humility lies in praising and exalting God. It lies in truly being grateful and living as a “thanks-giver.” As you gather with friends and family this Thanksgiving, and pass the turkey, don’t forget the drumsticks of gratitude and thanksgiving!

1 Thessalonians 5:18

(Sister Geralyn Schmidt is the Wide Area Network Coordinator at the Diocese of Harrisburg and the Director of Formation for Wives in the Diaconate Program. An educator for 30 years, she is responsible for Professional Development Programs for every age learner. Through her presentations, she challenges her audiences to be the individual God has called them to be.)

Masses for Healing from Addiction

The Diocesan health care chaplaincy program is working with parishes to host Masses for Healing from Addiction. The Masses will provide spiritual support to those who suffer from addiction and to their loved ones. Dates will be added to the list as Masses are scheduled. The list can also be found at www.hbgdiocese.org/healthcare-ministry/.

November
St. Philip the Apostle, Millersville, Nov. 23 at 10 a.m.
St. Rita, Blue Ridge Summit, Nov. 30 at 4:30 p.m.

December
St. Vincent de Paul, Hanover, Dec. 5 at 7 p.m.
St. Joseph, Milton, Dec. 10 at 9 a.m.

January
Our Lady of Good Counsel, Marysville, Jan. 3 at 8:30 a.m.
St. Joseph, Milton, Jan. 5 at 7 p.m.
St. Peter Son Korean Community, Enola, Jan. 12 at 10 a.m.
St. Monica, Sunbury, Jan. 22 at 6:30 p.m.
Holy Angels, Kulpmont, Jan. 23 at 7 p.m.

February
St. Catherine Laboure, Harrisburg, Feb. 1 at 9 a.m.
St. Joseph, Milton, Feb. 7 at 9 a.m.
Prince of Peace, Steelton, Feb. 9 at 10:30 a.m.

March
St. Joseph, Milton, March 4 at 6 p.m.
St. Ignatius Loyola, Buchanan Valley, March 18 at 6 p.m.
Assumption BVM, Lancaster, March 25 at 7 p.m.

April
St. Joseph, Milton, April 21 at 9 a.m.

May
Our Lady of Good Counsel, Marysville, May 1 at 8:30 a.m.
St. Joseph, Milton, May 4 at 9 a.m.
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Mechanicsburg, May 16 at 5 p.m.

June
St. Catherine Laboure, Harrisburg, June 20 at 9 a.m.
St. Joseph, Milton, June 24 at 7 p.m.
Spiri tual Offerings

Feast Day celebration and 40 Hours at Christ the King in Benton. Feast Day is Nov. 24, with 40 Hours every day until closing. Mass is Sunday, Monday and Tuesday at 9 a.m. Services in the evening Sunday, Monday and Tuesday at 7 p.m. and closing Tuesday at 7 p.m. Homilist is Father Michael Rothan, Catholic Campus Ministry at Bucknell University.

Ecumenical, interreligious candlelight remembrance service for anyone who has experienced the death of a friend, family member, or loved one to suicide, Dec. 8 at 6 p.m. at Sacred Heart Basilica in Conewago. Light refreshments in the parish hall following the service. All are welcome to this time to come together and know you’re not alone.

Caerleon at St. John of Arc Church in Hershey, Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. Spend an evening with our Lord in Adoration, song, meditation and praise, and feel his presence and mercy. A meditation and praise, and feel his presence and mercy. A

First Friday, Night of Adoration featuring harpist Mary-Kate Spring Lee, at St. Matthew Church in Dauphin on Dec. 6. Holy Mass at 7 p.m., followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, prayers and the Rosary accompanied by soft harp music written and played by Mary-Kate Spring Lee, a local harpist, vocalist and song writer. Time for personal prayer and an opportunity to see the Blessed Sacrament.

Charismatic Mass with prayers for healing. Dec. 3 at 7 p.m. at St. Theresa Church in New Cumberland, celebrated by Father Tiburzio Anthony Raja. For more information, call Mary Ann at 717-564-7709.

Education & Enrichment

“WinDowns,” a ministry for widowed, divorced and singles, invites anyone who has lost a loved one to attend. For more information, call 1-833-WIN-DOWN, ext. 2.

Spiral Day workshop for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Jan. 11 from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 at St. John the Baptist School in New Freedom. Workshop will present on the Montessori-based spirituality of C.S. -22 and the spiral curriculum. For more information, contact Cecile Pock at 717-652-3598.

St. Katharine Drexel Parish Council of Catholic Women in Mechanicsburg will hold a Christmas dinner meeting at Progress Grill, Dec. 13 at 7 p.m. Father Jonathan Sawicki, Vocation Director for the Diocese of Harrisburg, will speak on “St. John of the Cross: An Advent Reflection.”

Discernment workshop for Catechists of the Good Shepherd, Jan. 11 from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 at St. John the Baptist School in New Freedom. Workshop will present on the Montessori-based spirituality of C.S. -22 and the spiral curriculum. For more information, contact Cecile Pock at 717-652-3598.

Theology on Tap in York, featuring Kevin Bankos, York Catholic High School girls’ basketball coach, Nov. 26 at The First Post Grill, 2000 N. George St. This is a new event. For more information, call Father Jonathan Sawicki.

Pilgrimages & Retreats

Day of Vocation Discernment with the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Dec. 15, from 3-6 p.m. at Villa Sacred Heart in Danville. Open invitation to single Catholic women ages 18-40 for conversation, prayer and supper for those inquiring about religious life. The congregation has been living and serving within the Diocese of Harrisburg for more than 100 years. RSVP by Dec. 12 at scmymccomunion@gmail.com.

Celebrate 100 years since the birth of St. John Paul II with Father Tukura Pius Michael, O.P., pastor of St. Pius X Parish in Selinsgrove, on a 12-day pilgrimage, Aug. 3-14, 2020, visiting Poland and Prague. Land only price: $2,950 pp in double occupancy, first class hotel accommodations, private motor-coach transportation, all breakfasts and eight dinners, and professional guided sightseeing. Registration deadline is April 30. Contact St. Pius X at 717-334-4221, visit https://www.sfxcs-pa.org/ or email nnscholarship@sfxcs-pa.org.

The New Holland Knights of Columbus, Council #13451, selling wreaths for the “Wreaths Across America Project.” These wreaths will be placed at headstones during ceremonies at Mount Carmel Gap National Military Cemetery on Dec. 14 at noon. To purchase a wreath, call Dave Galle on 717-381-5627 or Pat Mulroe at 717-419-6880. Wreaths can also be purchased after Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in New Holland the weekends of Nov. 16 and 17 and Nov. 23 and 24.

St. Joan of Arc School in Hershey, annual PTO Spaghetti Dinner. Includes pasta, salad, breadsticks, dessert and items for $8 for adults, $6 for children ages 3-10, and free for children under 3. Meatballs available to go.

Job Openings

St. Benedict the Abbot Parish in Lebanon seeks a bilingual (English/Spanish) parish secretary. Above-average keyboard skills, excellent organizational and strong interpersonal skills with the ability to follow instructions as well as work independently. Proficient in Microsoft applications, especially Publisher, Word, Outlook, and Excel. Responsible for the daily operation of the parish office, including supervising logistical aspects of all on and off-site events. Maximize event efficiency by interfacing with various committee personnel. Effectively handling confidential correspondence. Managing active church contact list, maintaining the list of more than 400 members and serving as primary contact for all church related inquiries, while reporting directly to the pastor or his designee. Submit résumé at the parish office, 1300 Lehman St. Lebanon, PA or by email to sbaubers@hbdiocese.org. For questions, contact the office at 717-450-4506 or sbaubers@hbdiocese.org.

Good Shepherd Church in Camp Hill seeks full-time administrative assistant. Must be proficient with current technologies, data entry, coordinating meetings, maintaining records with a high degree of accuracy and confidentiality. Work with frequent interruptions, act as liaison between the community, the school and other internal and external stakeholders, answer incoming phone calls, task focused, purchasing, and organizing and scheduling school events. Send résumé and cover letter to Michael Pietropolu, Principal, at mp1400polu@gschools.org.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Lancaster seeks a part-time parish secretary/bookkeeper to perform a broad range of administrative duties. Responsibilities will include daily office operation, reception, records management, filing, mailings, bookkeeping, youth protection and clearance maintenance and other duties as needed. Candidate must be capable of multitasking. A minimum of one year of experience in the field of general office procedures and equipment operation. Proficiency in Microsoft Office applications is required. All Child Protection Clearances and procedures for Employees in the Commonwealth of PA are required. For more information, contact the parish office at 717-394-0757, to apply, submit your resume and cover letter to Michael Pietropolu, Principal, at mp1400polu@gschools.org.

St. Joseph Parish in Mechanicsburg seeks a part-time church maintenance/custodian to provide operational support services for the campus under the direction of the Parish Manager. Responsibilities include minor maintenance, cleaning, supplies, mailings, and other needs of the campus. Interested candidates should call the parish office at 717-766-9433 for the job description and send a letter of interest, completed application and current résumé to St. Joseph Catholic Church, 410 East Simpson Street, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055, Attn: Parish Manager or email these documents to parishmanager@stjosephparish.org by Nov. 27.

The Sisters of Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Danville seek an office assistant to join their small office staff. Position will perform clerical tasks, answer phones, order supplies and do some billing. Other duties include assisting office managers and executives with preparing documents, organizing files, managing existing documents and helping keep the office organized. Email resume to financio@scmdanville.org.

Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish in Harrisburg seeks a weekend organist/choir director for three weekend Masses and one choir rehearsal each week. Interested candidates should submit a résumé and cover letter to Michael Pietropolu, Principal, at mp1400polu@gschools.org. Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish in Harrisburg seeks a weekend organist/choir director for three weekend Masses and one choir rehearsal each week. Interested candidates should submit a résumé and cover letter to Michael Pietropolu, Principal, at mp1400polu@gschools.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.

Bloomburg
St. Columba:
Rose Marie Kranig

Camp Hill
Good Shepherd:
Mildred Miller
Robert Ratkay

Columbia
St. Peter:
Joseph Hartmann
Charles Hartman
Elizabeth McBride

Conewago
Sacred Heart of Jesus:
Leona Klink

Fairfield
Immaculate Conception BVM:
James Ritchie, Jr.

Hanover
St. Vincent de Paul:
Ryan Pugaczewski
Robert Slesser
Kermitt Smith

Harrisburg
Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick:
Caroline P. LaSliav
St. Catherine Laboure:
Herbert Stoner
Hershey
St. Joan of Arc:
Duane Ryan

Kulpmon
Holy Angels:
John Andrusko

Lancaster
Assumption BVM:
Catherine Saraco
St. Anne:
Anthony Arcudi
Mary Jane Autrey
Eleanor R. Cassidy
Carole L. Coady
Gloria Haefner
Joseph Huxta
Carmella Mazzeare
Josephine Sabatine

St. John Neumann:
Elmer Bare
Theodore Kita

Lebanon
Assumption BVM:
Marguerite Barry
Jay E. Gable
Judith Herman
Harold Jones
Monica Klick

Lewistown
Sacred Heart of Jesus:
Carole (Soccio) Clark
Lena Collins
Thomas Debick
Catherine East
Lillian Kepler
June Rupp

McSherrystown
Annunciation BVM:
Gwendolyn Hartlaub

Mechanicsburg
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton:
William Bakos
Catherine Belsky
Frank Hereda
James McGonigle
St. Joseph:
Raymond Stacknick

Middletown
Seven Sorrows BVM:
Alfreda Fure
Edward Tennis, Sr.

Millersville
St. Philip:
Ronald Watson

Mount Carmel
Divine Redeemer:
Barbara Evert
Charles Korzeniecki

Our Lady of Mount Carmel:
Dorothy Ecker
Vincent McMadden, Jr.

New Cumberland
St. Theresa:
Maria Lazzarevich
Samuel D. Trist

New Freedom
St John the Baptist:
George McMinity
Joseph O’Keefe
Vivian Parker
Diana Schwarzman

Rohrerstown
St. Leo the Great:
Mary A. Bernhardt

Selling Grove
St. Pius X:
Beatrice Shue

Steelton
Prince of Peace:
Mary Manley

Williamstown
Sacred Heart of Jesus:
Doris C. Schaeffer

York
St. Joseph:
Craig Hershock
St. Patrick:
Richard Reed
St. Rose of Lima:
Daniel Cupp

PARISH BAZAARS

(A listing of parish bazaars is also online at www.hbgdiocese.org. Submit parish bazaar announcements via e-mail to communications@hbgdiocese.org.)

The Columbiettes, St. Joseph's Auxiliary 12788 in Mechanicsburg, seventh annual Christmas Fest on Nov. 23 at the St. Joseph Parish Life & Education Center, Mechanicsburg, from 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Breakfast and lunch available for purchase. 60 craft vendors, a silent auction, Scholastic book sale, raffle, bake sale, musical performances, children's games and a visit from St. Nicholas.

St. Columba Parish in Bloomburg’s Winterfest. Nov. 23 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the corner of 3rd and Iron Streets. Craft vendors, wood products, activities for children, homemade baked goods, lunch items to eat in or take out, dollar tree, holiday music and performances, and gift basket raffle of crafts, jewelry and more. Benefits St. Columba School.

The CCW of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Cornwall, inaugural Christmas bazaar, Nov. 23 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. in the parish center. Handmade crafts, candles, wreaths, centerpiece, Christmas decorations and ornaments, white elephant, raffles, homemade Christmas cookies. A kids’ craft project will be available while you shop.

St. Cecilia Parish in Lebanon, Christmas bazaar, Nov. 23 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. in the hall on State Drive. Walnut, poppy seed and apricot studded, sugar cookies, gift baskets, chance booth, candy, jewelry, handbag boutique, flea market, baked goods, Christmas bag. Light lunch will also be available.

Christmas Festival at St. Rose of Lima School in Thompsville, Dec. 7 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Breakfast with Santa, pictures with Santa, kids’ Advent craft, face painting, children’s Bingo and games, raffle baskets, gift card Bingo, bake sale, food and fun. For tickets, sign up, or info, contact Jill at 717-585-8034 or jpoole68@yahoo.com.

St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Bonneauville, Christmas bazaar on Dec. 7 in the parish center from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. A variety of vendors with crafts, homemade candy, etc. Breakfast and lunch served. Santa will make a visit for children.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Spring Grove, Christmas bazaar on Dec. 7 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Two floors of vendors, raffles, children’s activities and silent auction. Food served throughout the day. RSVP for 8 a.m. Breakfast with Santa or for more information, call 717-225-1704. www.sacredheartsgs.com/events.

St. Peter Parish Council of Catholic Women in Columbus, Christmas bazaar on Dec. 7 at 5:30 p.m., and Dec. 8 a.m., in the parish center. Hand-made craft items, specialty baskets, homemade desserts and door prizes.

Sunday features a full-course turkey dinner from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Tickets available in advance through the parish office or at the door the day of the event. The Youth Choir, under the direction of Carole Derni, will provide entertainment.

The Women’s Auxiliary of St. Philip the Apostle Parish in Millersville, 25th annual Christmas craft show and sale, Dec. 7 from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. More than 70 vendors with handmade wares for sale. Women’s Auxiliary will sell homemade cookies and chicken corn soup. Free parking and free admission.

St. Jude Thaddeus Parish in Mifflintown, Women’s Guild Christmas Cookie Walk & Bazaar, Dec. 7 in the church social hall from 9 a.m.-noon (or while supply lasts). Purchase an empty container for $10 and fill it with your choice from a wide variety of homemade Christmas cookies. Safe features handmade crafts and needlework, homemade candies, and a White Elephant table with assorted Christmas items. Doors open at 8 a.m. with free coffee. For directions or more information, contact Joyce Price, 717-994-0209.

PARISH NEWS

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people may e-mail a résumé to ourladyintheblessedsacramentparishharrisburg@hbgdiocese.org. No phone calls, please.

Holy Family Radio in Shiremanstown, seeking a development coordinator for the day-to-day sales and development activities of Holy Family Radio, AM 720. The position will work closely with the fundraising committee; secure sponsors, underwriters, donations and grants; build a database of potential donors and supporters; and create a strategic plan for development. Part-time position up to 20 hours per week, hour salary and commissions. Submit résumé and cover letter to HolyFamilyRadio@comcast.net.
Mechanicsburg Faithful Salute their Veterans in Thankful Fashion

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

Veterans in the greater Mechanicsburg area were honored by students, faculty and other members of St. Joseph School on Veteran’s Day. The 11th of November marks the end of World War I in 1918, and for the past 101 years, Americans have been recognizing that armistice day by paying tribute to its 1 million living service men and women.

Students paid tribute to the more than 30 veterans and their families in attendance in an assembly that featured musical performances by the liturgy and handbell choir; first grade and kindergartners performed patriotic songs as well. Students also participated in an educational trivia game that featured attributes of all five American military branches of forces.

St. Joseph School donated a check for $1,200 to the Wounded Warrior Patrol, which is a Central PA non-profit mission that supports wounded veterans and their families with recreational snow skiing and snowboarding as well as other activities to help bond during the physical and emotional rehabilitation of wounded veterans.

Students support each other during the Hero Walk that honored the parish families who have and are serving the nation’s Armed Services.

St. Joseph School in Mechanicsburg opens its poignant Veteran’s Day celebration by presenting the nation’s colors.

For those interested in learning about the Wounded Warrior patrol, visit www.woundedwarriorpatrol.org for more information.

Diocesan Catholic Cemeteries

WREATH PROGRAM

Honor your deceased loved ones this Christmas with a festive tribute. Memorial wreaths or flowers for your loved one’s final resting place are available from the Diocesan Office of Catholic Cemeteries.

All memorial tributes will be reverently placed on or about the second week in December.

To arrange for your remembrance, please visit your local Diocesan cemetery office or visit www.hbgdiocese.org/catholic-cemeteries. Please ensure that your order is received by December 2, 2019. All memorial tributes that remain in good condition will be displayed until the spring clean off.

The Diocesan Office of Catholic Cemeteries wishes you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

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