By Jen Reed  
*The Catholic Witness*

Addressing Catholics through an online stream and live broadcast of Easter Sunday Mass from an empty St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg, Bishop Ronald Gainer shared words once preached by St. Augustine, as fitting today as they were in the times of the sixth-century bishop:

“We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song. So let us sing ‘Alleluia’ now in this world despite being oppressed by so many worries.”

“Augustine’s words preached 15 centuries ago speak to us in a fresh way in our present circumstances. Like the congregation who first heard Augustine, you and I may be oppressed by so many worries but like them we, too, need to be reminded that we are Easter people,” Bishop Gainer said.

“Even this year, even in our present situation of uncertainty, concern and separation, the Good News of Easter rings out unchanged and ever new. Jesus who died on the cross is risen in glory,” the bishop said.

His words of Easter exultation and faith in the Resurrection rang out in a cathedral starkly void of congregants, but to thousands of faithful watching on the Diocesan Facebook and YouTube pages, and via a live television broadcast on ABC27.

The dichotomy of the joyous Easter celebration proclaimed and shared through social media played out in churches across the Diocese, nation and world, as they remained closed to the public in an effort to stem the COVID-19 pandemic.

During Holy Week liturgies, priests connected the current situation of uncertainty, fear, illness and death permeating the pandemic to the experience of Christ and his disciples during that first Holy Week.

On Easter Sunday, homilies heartened the faithful, with uplifting messages of hope in the Resurrection, the victory of light over darkness and Christ’s triumph over sin and death.

“Easter – the Paschal Mystery – assures us that before we ever thought about our sin; before we ever thought about the harm our sin does to us and to others; before we ever thought about the affront that our sins are to God and his love and mercy; before we ever thought to repent of our sins; before we ever thought to beg God for forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation; before all of that – Christ had already borne our sins, died for them and rose victoriously over them. The Via Crucis is now the Via Lucis – the Way of the Cross has become the Way of Light,” Bishop Gainer said.

Under the light of the same Candle, we were baptized, and called to ‘live as children of the Light,’ the bishop remarked.

“And so it is at Easter each year that we need to remember and recommit to the moment when the glorious Christ pulled us to the light and life of the Resurrection through the waters of baptism,” he said. “This we must remember in every circumstance that we are Easter people and we need to sing Alleluia in this life despite the many worries that might oppress us. We need to renew and be renewed by the promises of our baptism. Christ is risen.”

See photos of Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday in Diocesan churches on pages 8-10.
My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The Lord is risen! Alleluia! As we enter this Easter season, I pray you will not let your hearts be heavy with the current health pandemic. The God who conquered death and rose to life is the same God that is carrying all of us through these times. How well did Jesus describe our own time when he told Saint Faustina, “Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy.” As true today as it was in the 190s, mankind seeks consolation in God that is carrying all of us heavy with the current health pandemic.

No soul that has approached Me has ever gone away unconsolated. All misery gets buried in the depths of My mercy, and every saving and sanctifying grace flows from this fountain...Sooner would heaven and earth turn into nothingness than would My mercy not embrace a trusting soul. (Diary of St. Faustina, 1777)

This loving message from our Lord is certainly fitting for our current situation. However, this message is also fitting as we approach Divine Mercy Sunday on April 19. As we will hear in our Gospel reading, our Lord stood before the Disciples who were locked in the upper room out of fear and said, “Peace be with you.” He then gave the Disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit and the ability, or rather responsibility, to forgive or retain sins. Jesus gave the Disciples the responsibility of being instruments of His divine mercy.

Our Lord’s loving mercy is for all. All those who are sick and suffering, All those believers and non-believers. And as we specifically remember on this Divine Mercy Sunday, all those who have suffered the loss of a child through abortion. We are all invited by our Lord to know His mercy, His love, and His healing.

On this Divine Mercy Sunday, I am reminded of the words spoken by Pope Saint John Paul II, who said, “From the beginning of her existence the Church, pointing to the mystery of the Cross and the Resurrection, has preached the mercy of God, a pledge of hope and a source of salvation for man. Nonetheless, it would appear that we today have been particularly called to proclaim this message before the world. We cannot neglect this mission, if God himself has called us to it through the testimony of Saint Faustina.

“The message of merciful love needs to resound forcefully anew. The world needs this love. The hour has come to bring Christ’s message to everyone: to rulers and the oppressed, to those whose humanity and dignity seem lost in the mystery of iniquity. The hour has come when the message of Divine Mercy is able to fill hearts with hope and to become the spark of a new civilization: the civilization of love.

“The Church desires tirelessly to proclaim this message, not only by convincing words, but by the ready practice of mercy. This is why she ceaselessly holds up stupendous examples of individuals who out of love for God and for man “went forth and bore fruit.”

We are indeed living through an extraordinary time, one filled with much uncertainty. But during these times, we cannot forget the ever present mercy offered to all people from our Lord and Savior. Our Lord wants to pour out this mercy on us, especially those hurting because of an abortion. You are not alone. You are loved. There is no unforgivable sin, and God desires nothing more than to forgive and welcome all people as His own.

While we cannot at this time meet in person for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, our Lord is still outstretched his hand of mercy. All you need do is welcome Him and accept the mercy He offers.

I pray that through the intercession of our Blessed Mother, we may all open our hearts to our Lord’s Divine Mercy and that we will be willing to share our stories of His mercy in our lives with all those we meet. 

Sincerely in Christ,

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Dear loyal readers,

The Catholic Witness has been privileged to connect you with the news from parishes, Catholic schools, Charities and our Diocesan programs for more than 50 years. Thank you for your continued support. We now find ourselves in uncharted waters, walking together down a path none of us have ever traveled.

Like all parishes, Catholic schools and businesses throughout our Diocese and Commonwealth, we have also felt the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the Roman Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg had declared Chapter 11 reorganization before this health crisis reached us, the loss of revenue due to the pandemic means that hard, temporary decisions must be made. It is with a heavy heart that we announce the temporary suspension of the printed version of The Catholic Witness, after the May 1 edition.

Make no mistake – the decision to cease printing the paper was not made lightly, but is a temporary sacrifice we must make during these most challenging times. Allow me to emphasize again that this is a temporary measure.

This temporary print suspension does not mean we will stop providing the Catholic news you have come to rely on and enjoy. The news will continue in an all-digital format. We are committed to continue bringing the truth of Christ’s love, to continue sharing the accomplishments of our parishes and schools, to continue celebrating our clergy and religious, and to continue informing you, our readers, with the Catholic news throughout the Diocese and beyond.

Through our all digital format, this news will be delivered weekly right to your email or accessible on The Catholic Witness page of our website.

I am personally inviting you to subscribe to the digital Witness so that you may continue to receive the latest news and information from the Diocese. Our first fully digital Catholic Witness will begin the week of May 3. As with the print edition, the digital version of The Catholic Witness will be offered at no cost. To subscribe to the digital Catholic Witness, please visit www.hbgdiocese.org/the-catholic-witness-newspaper and click on the “Get Our Emails” button, or send your name, mailing address and email address to Witness@hbgdiocese.org. Please know that we will never sell, share or use your contact information for any means other than sharing news from the Diocese.

I know this news may come as a surprise for many of you and I welcome your comments, concerns and thoughts. Please contact me directly via email at rbryson@hbgdiocese.org or you may call me at (717) 657-4804, ext. 235.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding during this difficult time. We are praying for all of you and your families, our clergy and religious, our parishes and schools, our state, and our nation as we all work together to weather this storm. Stay safe.

Blessings,
Rachel Bryson,
Executive Director of Public Relations

The Catholic WITNESS
The Newspaper of the Diocese of Harrisburg

IS GOING DIGITAL!

Due to Covid-19, The Catholic Witness is temporarily suspending its print issues and transitioning to an all digital format.

Stay up-to-date on the latest news throughout the Diocese of Harrisburg by signing up for the digital Witness today.

Please visit: www.hbgdiocese.org/the-catholic-witness-newspaper/ for sign-up details

In our age, media and news reporting are changing quickly. At The Catholic Witness, we want to report the news in ways that reach Catholics instantly.

Our Diocesan newspaper has brought the truth of Jesus to all those who read it. It has challenged and consoled, informed and formed, united and helped its readership.

We will continue to share in the Church’s mission to tell the Good News of Jesus Christ in the context of today’s world.
Intentional Discipleship: Parish Outreach during Pandemic Addresses Material Needs

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

A spirit of unity and discipleship is sweeping through communities to help people in need of assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic, and parishioners throughout the Diocese are among those stepping up to fill in the gaps when layoffs, unemployment and social distancing result in a greater need for food assistance.

Parishioners at St. Joseph Parish in Lancaster formed the Catholic Neighborhood Network to address requests for food assistance in the local community.

Anthony Marcavage, facilitator of the effort, said it “gives the parish an opportunity to put into practice the call for intentional discipleship, which our pastor, Father Allan Wolfe, has been particularly focused on.”

Volunteers started out with phone calls to parishioners – 800 inquiries in all – to ask about needs for pastoral care, grocery purchase and/or delivery and financial issues.

“We found that people were incredibly grateful for the outreach, and then we decided to go beyond the parish, working with a neighborhood group to identify needs and help them,” Marcavage said.

In its first week, the Catholic Neighborhood Network collected, donated and distributed packages that included non-perishable items and homemade food. Delivery efforts maintain social distancing guidelines, with volunteers encouraged to wear masks and directed to drop the packages at the door step when making the delivery. The group also plans to collaborate with the Lancaster Housing Authority on efforts to share food with residents in need.

“I see us having two purposes. If people come and say they have little or no food, I want the group to immediately be able to respond and give them three to five days’ worth of meals. Secondly, we want to connect them to established food pantries and other groups in the community to meet their sustaining need,” Marcavage said.

He expressed his gratitude for the volunteers, who have stepped up in stewardship of time, talent and treasure. “I am really amazed by the group. Some are putting together groceries or delivering them. Others are helping with doing pastoral check-in phone calls,” he said. “Fortunately, the needs have not been overwhelming yet in our neighborhood, but we have a wealth of people coming forward and raising their hand, and standing ready to help.”

At St. James Parish in Lititz, parishioners are collaborating with faith communities in the Warwick Ministerium to offer weekend meals for those who need them.

An extension of its Summer Lunch Program for students in the Warwick School District, the ministerium has been hosting a Saturday-morning drive-through food distribution from the Lititz Church of the Brethren. More than 300 bags of food are shared weekly, made possible by the generosity of the group’s members, including parishioners from St. James.

The ministerium coordinates an e-mail to faith communities early each week with a menu of items to purchase for the upcoming weekend distribution. Rose Barnas, Director of Religious Education at St. James Parish, helps to coordinate among parish members.

“The goodness of people is very evident. This situation we’re in is difficult, but there are so many blessings to be found. I can look and see how God is taking something that is very difficult and making good out of it. You see the generosity of people in giving, in their prayers,” she said.

At the Church of the Brethren’s drop-off site, people give their donations straight from their vehicles to ensure proper distancing. Inside, volunteers unpack and sort the items for pick-up the next day.

“I know our parishioners are donating to the ministerium’s effort,” Barnas said. “They tell me they’re looking for the weekly meal e-mail on Tuesday mornings. They’re helping as volunteers at the Church of the Brethren, too.”

“The ministerium opens the food distribution to anyone. We don’t qualify people. We tell them, ‘If you need food, we have it. Come get what you need,’” Barnas said.

The program has distributed more than 300 meals each weekend, including an Easter meal of ham, potatoes, rolls and Easter candy, as well as items for tuna noodle casserole and tacos or burritos.

Collaboration with the Warwick Ministerium is not new for St. James Parish, which faithfully serves as “home base” for the ministerium’s weekly summer lunch programs that serve 350 hot meals in two local parks twice a week while school is out.

“Our parishioners and the people in the greater community are very much used to working with the ministerium, and with the local food bank,” Barnas said. “The weekend meal program is just something additional for our circumstances. There are people in our community who are in a situation they’ve never been in before with layoffs and unemployment, and fortunately there are people willing to help.”

“This is tough right now for everyone,” Barnas said. “One of the most difficult things is not being able to gather at church. In this parish, when things happen, people congregate in the parish and come to be with their parish family. We don’t have that now. We are also longing for the Eucharist. What we’re doing right now is offering temporal food, which is important, but they’re longing for spiritual food, too. All we can do is help them, and pray.”
**St. Joan of Arc School Raises More than $8,000 to Feed Medical Staff**

By Ayana Elmore

St. Joan of Arc School in Hershey has launched a Meal Donation Program to benefit their local hospital, the Penn State Hershey Medical Center. The private, Catholic elementary and middle school is collecting donations from school families and community members in order to buy meals from local restaurants to feed the healthcare workers at the Med Center. In less than 48 hours of the program’s launch on March 31, the school raised more than $8,000, enough for 700 lunches for medical staff.

This program is beneficial because it not only helps to support the workers at the Med Center, but it also supports local small restaurants that are struggling right now because they have been shut down for dine-in services during the coronavirus pandemic.

St. Joan of Arc School has a deep appreciation for the medical staff not just in Hershey, but throughout the globe, who are working tirelessly to try to keep everyone safe and healthy. On March 25, the school dedicated the day to making thank-you cards for healthcare workers and posted an entire photo album of students showing off their cards on its Facebook page.

Community service has always been at the heart of St. Joan of Arc School. Throughout the year, the school participates in several fundraisers for organizations, such as the Children’s Miracle Network, the Interfaith Shelter for Homeless Families, Mission Children, Britney’s Hope and more.

In the midst of chaos and negativity, it is important to remember that there are always good people who are doing good things. The St. Joan of Arc and Hershey community is solid proof that good people doing good things have a great impact on the world.

For more information about the school, visit its Facebook page at www.facebook.com/stjoanhersheyschool or visit its website at school.stjoanhershey.org.

**Diocesan Scouting Recognition Mass Cancelled**

The Diocesan Scouting Recognition Mass planned for April 26 at St. Catherine Labouré Church in Harrisburg has been cancelled. Congratulations to all Scouts who have completed their projects this year.

**Stay Up to Date with Diocesan News Regarding COVID-19**

Please visit the Faith in time of Coronavirus page of the Diocesan website, www.hbgdiocese.org, for the most up-to-date information regarding the Diocese’s response to COVID-19. The page provides prayer resources, a listing of parishes offering livestreams of Masses, and coronavirus prevention measures and recommendations.

We also encourage you to stay connected to the Diocese via its social media accounts:

- www.facebook.com/DioceseofHarrisburg
- www.youtube.com/user/hbgdiocese
- www.twitter.com/HBGDiocese
- www.instagram.com/hbgdiocese/

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**

Sunday, April 19

Bishop Gainer will celebrate the 9:30 a.m. Mass at Saint Patrick Cathedral.

Following Mass, Bishop Gainer will lead a brief period of Eucharistic Adoration and the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

Mass. Adoration and Chaplet will be livestreamed on the Diocese YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/hbgdiocese
I first really discovered the Divine Mercy message somewhere between the year 2001 and 2002. As the Director of Youth Ministry at Seven Sorrows in Middletown, I was looking for anything that would help the youth of my parish cope in the post-9/11 world. I had heard about St. Faustina’s diary and how wonderful it was, but had also heard how large and difficult it was to read. Then I came across her biography, *The Life of Faustina Kowalska*, by Sister Sophia Michalenko. Faustina’s life and experiences that were shared in this book changed my life and set me on a lifelong path of learning, living and sharing the Divine Mercy message.

Helen Kowalska was born on August 25, 1905, in Głogowice, Poland; the third of ten children. Always a devout child, at the age of seven she heard a voice calling her to religious life. Although her parents were devout, they would not allow her to do this. With only a few years of primary education, she spent her days with the menial tasks of life and working as a housekeeper. With her desire to enter religious life being held up by her parents, she followed her older sister’s lead and took to socializing and having fun as a way to distract herself from these promptings. At a dance in 1925 in Lodz, she had a vision of the Crucified Jesus. She noted that everything faded away as she danced and Jesus appeared at her side and asked, “How long will you keep putting Me off?”

She left home, and after many setbacks and difficulties she entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. For the next 13 years, she suffered many illnesses and served in a variety of convents in Poland. During that time, Jesus appeared frequently to her and instructed her to write down the messages he had for her for the world as well as her life experiences. In 1931, she was instructed by Jesus in a vision to have an image painted of Him with the red and pale blue rays coming from his Merciful Heart, with the words “Jesus I trust in you” printed on the bottom. In 1938, at the age of 33, she succumbed to tuberculosis. For decades, the Divine Mercy fell in and out of favor with the Church and, for a time, due to a poor translation of her diary, was even suppressed.

For me, Divine Mercy very simply and clearly encompasses the whole of the Gospel message. Between her biography, which I have read numerous times, and her Diary, which I read last year and refer to almost daily, a few key things stand out about the message of Divine Mercy and St. Faustina’s life. One of the most amazing revelations for me has been learning of Faustina’s most intimate and personal relationship with our Lord. I understand that each of us has the opportunity to have our own unique relationship with our Savior, and I have no expectations that I could somehow copy her experiences. But the fact that our Savior desires this level of friendship with each of us fills me with such hope.

One of St. Faustina’s primary struggles was acting on the requests of Jesus. He would ask her to take an action and, when she would attempt to do it, she would oftentimes hit roadblocks and trials. She would beg Jesus to explain why he asked her to do things that would then get held up by one of the sisters, a priest or a bishop. This is the first consolation I have taken from Faustina’s life. I have often struggled with discerning God’s will for my life. Should I do ‘A’ or should I do ‘B,’ go here or there? It can be frustrating. Then I read that Faustina, even after having personal conversations with Christ, struggled with the same thing. It has been very consoling. Jesus would respond that we should just be obedient and not worry about outcomes.

In her Diary she writes, “O my Jesus, you do not give reward for the successful performance of a work, but for the good will and the labor undertaken. Therefore, I am completely at peace, even if all my undertakings and efforts should be thwarted or should come to naught” (952). Her words validate the work of submitting our wills to Him and putting our trust in Him alone, not in our successes or failures as the world sees them.

The message that our Savior asked St. Faustina to bring to the world is not new. Mercy has always been a part of the Gospel and woven into our Catholic faith at a deep level, but she tells us that as this current age draws to a close, the world needs to focus more on mercy. The message is as simple as this: ask for His Mercy, be merciful to others, and completely trust in Jesus. Jesus gave us a symbol of his promise in the image of Divine Mercy. When asked by St. Faustina, Jesus explained the image:

“The pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls righteous; the red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls. These two rays issued forth from the depths of My most tender Mercy at that time when My agonizing Heart was opened by a lance on the Cross. Happy is the one who will dwell in their shelter, for the just hand of God shall not lay hold of him” (299).

The explanation that resonated with me most clearly is that trust in Jesus is the essence of the message of mercy. Our Lord explained this with a beautiful analogy of a fountain. When we go to a public fountain, we require a vessel or container of some kind to be able to draw the water. If our vessel is small, we can only bring back a little water; if it’s large, we can bring back more water. Any-one with a vessel can draw water from the fountain. The water is there for us, and no one is excluded. All we need is a vessel. So it is with God’s mercy, Jesus noted, in repeated revelations to St. Faustina, that the fountain is His Heart, the water is His mercy, and the vessel is trust. In her diary, Faustina recounts Jesus’ words: “I have opened My Heart as a living fountain of mercy. Let all souls draw life from it. Let them approach this sea of mercy with great trust” (1520).

Over the last few years, I have come to see a direct correlation between trust and fear. The more I place my trust in Jesus and His Divine Mercy, the less fear I live with. Our incarnate Savior, like us in all things but sin, knows our condition. He knows we struggle with fear and seeks to give us the graces we need to overcome all of our struggles and to help us carry the crosses we must bear. He spoke about this to St. Faustina: “My child, life on earth is a struggle indeed; a great struggle for my kingdom. But fear not, because you are not alone. I am...
Legatus Names Out-Going Head of Harrisburg Chapter as President of the Year

By Jen Reed
*The Catholic Witness*

Hank Christ, a founding member of the Harrisburg Chapter of Legatus, was named President of the Year for the organization. Legatus is an organization where high-level Catholic business leaders can share their faith.

Christ, a member of St. Leo the Great Parish in Rohrerstown, is the second president for the Harrisburg Chapter, which was chartered on May 31, 2016. He completed his two-year term at the end of 2019, and has been succeeded by current president, Camille Kostelac-Cherry.

“This achievement is reflective of the chapter,” Christ said of the award, given at Legatus’ annual Summit in Orlando in January. “My personality is that I’m a team guy. For me, it’s about getting the best people that you can put around you and working hard together. That’s what we do at the Harrisburg Chapter. We have a very strong board, and we accomplish goals together. Everyone works hard to make it happen.”

Legatus – Latin for “ambassador” – is a membership organization for Catholic business leaders committed to learn, live and spread the Catholic faith.

It was established 35 years ago by Tom Monaghan, a practicing Catholic and founder of Domino’s Pizza and former owner of the Detroit Tigers, for Catholic business leaders and their spouses. The organization offers opportunities to retain members.

The Harrisburg Chapter was founded four years ago with 25 member couples; it currently has more than 40.

“Our chapter has been incredibly successful due to enrollment of membership, retention of membership. We are the fastest-growing chapter in the northeast,” Christ noted.

At the 2018 Summit, the Harrisburg Chapter received a record seven national awards, recognizing three individual members in addition to efforts in membership growth and retention, and programming.

Spirituality and ongoing education are at the heart of Legatus; the organization’s monthly meetings feature Mass and the Rosary, guest speakers, networking and peer support.

Bishop Ronald Gainer is the chaplain for the Harrisburg Chapter. Membership in Legatus is by invitation only, and Christ said he is grateful for the one he received from Bishop Gainer to be a founding member in 2016.

“When our chapter started, I had never heard of Legatus,” Christ said. Getting introduced to it, I immediately thought to myself, ‘This is what I’m looking for. It’s a way to be with likeminded Catholics.’”

“Membership in Legatus has really been a wonderful experience,” he said. “I appreciate the opportunity of developing a relationship with the bishop, and with other Catholics. It’s also gotten me closer to the Diocese, and hence closer to the Church.”

“By getting together monthly with likeminded business owners, we give each other strength and encouragement,” Christ added. “I’ve met wonderful, new friends who have common values and we encourage each other in spreading the faith.”

**Mercy**

Continued From 6

always supporting you, so lean on Me as you struggle, fearing nothing.” (1488)

This clearly supports the truth that Jesus desires a personal relationship with us. He longs for us to seek Him and trust in Him in all things. Finally, and most importantly for me, it’s a daily message that Divine Mercy is Jesus’ way of reminding me that my eternal destination is what matters the most to Him. It also conveys that Divine Mercy is a gift I must accept or reject and that my choice matters to Jesus. This is why He is offering the Chaplet and Divine Mercy to us to help us in our struggles. He tells Faustina,

“The loss of each soul plunges Me into mortal sadness.” (1397)

He asks us to accept his mercy and trust in Him regardless of the state of our souls. He revealed to St. Faustina:

“Oh how much I am hurt by a soul’s distrust! Such a soul professes that I am Holy and Just, but does not believe that I am Mercy and does not trust in My Goodness. Even the devils believe in My Justice, but do not glorify My Goodness. My Heart rejoices in this title of Mercy.” (No. 300)

As a lifelong Catholic, I work and yet often fail to live the commands given to us by Jesus in the Lord’s Prayer to “forgive us our trespasses as we forgive others.” To trust in the Heavenly Father to “Give us this day our daily bread.” The message of Divine Mercy not only gives me hope that I can live as Christ calls me to live, but that our Divine Savior has given me a very simple means by which I can obtain the grace needed to act on this call. The simple yet profound message of Divine Mercy is that we ask for mercy, be merciful to others, and trust in Jesus in all things. This has given me a very effective way to practice my faith daily. The beautiful image of Jesus with the rays coming from His Most Merciful Heart and the simple Chaplet are powerful tools to give me strength daily.

Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself. (950)

O incomprehensible and limitless Mercy Divine, to extol and adore You worthily, who can? Supreme attribute of Almighty God, You are the sweet hope for sinful man. Into one hymn yourselves unite, stars, earth and sea, and in one accord, thankfully and fervently sing of the incomprehensible Divine Mercy (951).

**References and Sources**

*Divine Mercy in My Soul*, the Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska.


(Art Bamert, Jr., is the Director of Campus Ministry at Lancaster Catholic High School.)
Images of liturgies celebrated on Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday celebrate Christ’s willingness to die for our sins, his victory over death, and our hope in the Resurrection. The Catholic Witness presents photographs captured by Chris Heisey and Jen Reed from these liturgies at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Mount Carmel, St. Vincent de Paul Church in Hanover and St. John Neumann Church in Lancaster.

“As we continue to deal with all the uncertainties and difficulties of our present pandemic, the fears and the anxieties, let us remember exactly why this Friday is Good, and let us draw our strength, comfort and confidence from the outpouring of Divine Love made perfect, finished, by Christ’s self-sacrificing death on the Cross of our salvation.” ~ Bishop Ronald Gainer

“The Crucifix, which had been veiled in a purple cloth during the Passiontide, is unveiled again on Good Friday."

Clergy read the Passion on Good Friday at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg. From far left are Bishop Ronald Gainer, Father Jonathan Sawicki, Deacon Thomas Lang and Father Joshua Brommer.

The Crucifix is seen as Bishop Ronald Gainer celebrates the Liturgy of the Eucharist on Good Friday.

“On Good Friday, we think of loss. We look around the sanctuary, and we see emptiness. We feel longing. When we think of what the world is going through right now, there is loss.... But we can take the loss we are feeling today and take up our cross. It is through Jesus’ Cross that we have new life.” ~ Father Francis Karwacki

Mary Catherine Wydra serves as cantor, leading parishioners in sung prayer during Holy Week services online.
The Paschal Candle serves as a point of light in a darkened St. Vincent de Paul Church in Hanover. The candle, lit from the Easter fire, is a symbol of Christ, the light that dispels the darkness.

“Through all of Salvation history, God was ever faithful. Even in our sin, God will never turn his love away from us. Jesus gave his life for us; will we not then choose to live our life for God?” – Father Michael Reid

During the celebration of the Easter Vigil, Father Michael Reid, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Hanover, traces the year 2020 onto the Paschal Candle.

A view from the choir loft shows Cathedral organist Evan Brickner playing the Recessional Hymn at the conclusion of Easter Sunday Mass.

Bishop Ronald Gainer delivers his homily on Easter Sunday at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg. The liturgy was broadcast on Diocesan Facebook and YouTube channels, and on ABC27 for those worshiping at home.

Eric Failing incenses the altar as Bishop Ronald Gainer elevates the Eucharist on Easter Sunday at the Cathedral.
Pope Francis’ Easter Blessing: May Christ Dispel the Darkness of Our Suffering Humanity

By Courtney Mares
Catholic News Agency

In his Easter blessing, Pope Francis called on humanity to unite in solidarity and look to the risen Christ for hope amid the coronavirus pandemic.

“Today the Church’s proclamation echoes throughout the world: ‘Jesus Christ is risen!’ – ‘He is truly risen,’” Pope Francis said on April 12.

“The Risen Lord is also the Crucified One ... In his glorious body he bears indelible wounds: wounds that have become windows of hope. Let us turn our gaze to him, that he may heal the wounds of an afflicted humanity,” the pope said in an nearly empty St. Peter’s Basilica.

Pope Francis gave the traditional Easter Sunday Urbi et Orbi blessing from inside the basilica following Easter Sunday Mass. “Urbi et Orbi” means “To the City [of Rome] and to the World” and is a special apostolic blessing given by the pope every year on Easter Sunday, Christmas, and other special occasions.

“Today my thoughts turn in the first place to the many who have been directly affected by the coronavirus: the sick, those who have died and family members who mourn the loss of their loved ones, to whom, in some cases, they were unable even to bid a final farewell. May the Lord of life welcome the departed into his kingdom and grant comfort and hope to those still suffering, especially the elderly and those who are alone,” he said.

The pope prayed for the vulnerable in nursing homes and prisons, for the lonely, and for those suffering from economic difficulties.

Pope Francis acknowledged that many Catholics are left without the consolation of the sacraments this year. He said it is important to remember that Christ has not left us alone, but reassures us, saying: “I have risen and I am with you still.”

“May Christ, who has already defeated death and opened for us the way to eternal salvation, dispel the darkness of our suffering humanity and lead us into the light of his glorious day, a day that knows no end,” the pope prayed.

Before the blessing, Pope Francis offered the Solemn Mass of Easter at the Altar of the Chair in St. Peter’s Basilica without the presence of the public due to the coronavirus. He did not give a homily this year. Instead, he paused for a moment of silent reflection following the Gospel, which was proclaimed in Greek.

“In these weeks, the lives of millions of people have suddenly changed,” he said. “This is not a time for indifference, because the whole world is suffering and needs to be united in facing the pandemic. May the risen Jesus grant hope to all the poor, to those living on the peripheries, to refugees and the homeless.”

Pope Francis called on political leaders to work for the common good and to provide the means for everyone to lead a dignified life.

The resurrection of Christ is “the victory of love over the root of evil, a victory that does not ‘by-pass’ suffering and death, but passes through them, opening a path in the abyss, transforming evil into good: this is the unique hallmark of the power of God,” Pope Francis said.
Is God Punishing Us?

By Father Joshua Brommer
Special to The Witness

Is God punishing us? I read a recent question from a journalist asking what many people of faith are asking now: “Do you think the pandemic is an act of God’s wrath upon humanity?”

To be fair, such a message is not hard to derive from the Scriptures, like the passage we read recently on the Fourth Thursday of Lent, from Exodus. These questions are to be expected. In the first reading, God comes at Moses like a hunting dog that catches hold of its prey by the throat and doesn’t let go. It is relentless and strong and persistent. That’s how God loves us; relentlessly and strongly and persistently. We have no half-hearted God who looks at us and permissively says, “Go and do what you want. It doesn’t matter.” Everything about us, everything we do, everything we suffer, everything we celebrate matters to our God. It always matters to God what we do, how we live, and what happens to us. Remember the lilies of the field in all their splendor and the birds of the air? Jesus asks, “Why are you anxious? Do not worry and say, ‘what are we to eat? What are we to drink?’

You see, the God of Israel, our God, is a jealous God who demands of us an exclusive and faithful love. When Israel fails to love God as He deserves, God responds in a divine way. The Old Testament calls this “wrath.” Far beyond unfettered anger, it’s the response of a heart that is broken after everything has been bestowed upon the beloved. It’s the anguish of someone who has experienced infidelity or betrayal from a dear friend. It’s the passionate love of a Father who wants nothing but the best for His child and is upset when he sees that child making bad choices and going down the wrong path.

God’s wrath is not an expression of anger or hatred for humanity, but a mysterious manifestation of His infinite love and mercy for every human being. It is sin and evil that rouse the anger of God because of His tender love for His chosen people. The Hebrew word for God’s tender mercy is “chesed.” Psalm 30 speaks of it when it says, “His wrath is for a moment, his faithful love (chesed) life-long.” You see, the Old Testament message doesn’t allow the wrath of God to stand alone, unqualified, unchecked. It is always in a kind of poetic tension with His tender, merciful, loving heart. Yet, it is unequal – remember, His wrath is for a moment, His mercy (chesed) is forever.

One scripture scholar likes to use this stunning image for chesed, tender mercy, that brings the two together: God’s chesed is like a hunting dog that catches hold of its prey by the throat and doesn’t let go. It is relentless and strong and persistent. That’s how God loves us; relentlessly and strongly and persistently. We have no half-hearted God who looks at us and permissively says, “Go and do what you want. It doesn’t matter.” Everything about us, everything we do, everything we suffer, everything we celebrate matters to our God. It always matters to God what we do, how we live, and what happens to us. Remember the lilies of the field in all their splendor and the birds of the air? Jesus asks, “Why are you anxious? Do not worry and say, ‘what are we to eat? What are we to drink?’

What are we to wear? Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. Seek first the kingdom and all these things will be given you besides.”

So, is this coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic an expression of the wrath of God? Who of us could possibly answer that question? We might only say “yes” to that in a highly qualified way: if we embrace the full truth that God may be allowing this current evil to happen in order to draw us back to Himself and show to us just how relentlessly, how strongly, how faithfully He loves us. God might be using this to teach us to be a little less self-reliant and to deepen our trust and love for Him.

Is God so angry with humanity that He wants to wipe us off the face of the earth? No. Remember that God promised that He would never repeat the event of the flood again – He sent Noah a rainbow as the sign of this promise. God doesn’t want to destroy His creation – He wants to refashion us. God only wants what is best for us. After all, He sent His only begotten Son into the world, not to condemn but to save. He is our saving God, our redeeming God, our healing God. And, through Christ Jesus, God becomes to us “our Father” for He has chosen us as His adopted children – not to be destroyed but to be built-up and strengthened. If God is upset, it’s because sometimes His adopted children do not live the full beauty of their special place in His divine heart. We don’t need a pandemic to remind us of that, but it surely makes us wake up and pay attention. It’s a resounding reminder to hold on to the truth that God has chosen us for His own and loves us relentlessly. This makes me think of that great quote by C.S. Lewis: “God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our consciences, but shouts in our pains. It is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world.”

Do you hear Him?

(Father Brommer is the pastor and rector of the Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick in Harrisburg. This is the text of his homily for the Fourth Thursday of Lent, March 26, and is reprinted here with permission.)

Flowers will be placed on the dates below:

- May 3 for Mother’s Day (May 10)
- May 18 for Memorial Day (May 25)
- June 15 for Father’s Day (June 21)
- August 31 for Fall Flowers (September 7)
Bishop Leads Live Rosary for Carlisle Students

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness
Bishop Ronald Gainer led the community of St. Patrick School in Carlisle in an online Rosary on April 8, connecting in real time through the Zoom video conferencing app. Nearly 130 students, teachers, parents and staff joined in praying the Rosary, which the school has prayed every morning on the app since the statewide closure of schools in mid March.

From his office at his residence, the bishop led the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary as the community asked the Blessed Mother’s intercession to keep them safe, to heal those who are suffering from COVID-19, and for the protection of medical staff, first responders and other essential personnel. The daily Rosary is coordinated and led by Jennifer Kukay, middle school religion teacher at St. Patrick School. Students are given a link with permissions to join in the prayer and come together as a community. Many students participate in the Rosary daily.

“I’m very happy that your school, and all of our schools in the Diocese, have been up and running from the very start of this time of confinement,” Bishop Gainer said as he greeted the school community. “We are so blessed by that, and I want to thank all of our teachers and principals who are so dedicated and continuing the online education of our precious students.”

Congratulations to the members of St. Catherine Labouré High School Girls’ CYO basketball team, who were league champions this year. The team finished with a record of 12-2. The championships were held in February at St. Joseph Parish in Hanover, with St. Catherine’s winning a closely contested match against St. Joseph’s of York, 8-6, and topping St. Joseph’s in Hanover, 41-8, in the title game. From left in the photo are Olivia Davenport,aitlyn Hillenbrand, Olivia Acri, Meaghan Wilson, Isabelle Zitto and Maria Tice. The head coach is Stephen DeFrank and assistant coach is Susan Spoljaric.

Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Invites all women of the Diocese to join us at the Tenth Annual Weekend Retreat
Mount St. Mary’s University, Emmitsburg, Md.
June 12 – 14, 2020 (Friday evening through noon Sunday)
Retreat Master: Fr. Chris Alar, MIC
Retreat Theme: Mary and Divine Mercy: The Sign of the Times
Father Alar is a nationally known speaker, a host and guest on EWTN. He also hosts the online “Divine Mercy Matters” series. He currently serves as “Fr. Joseph, MIC” the director of the Association of Marian Helpers, and is the head of Marian Press in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, home of the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy.

Registration Deadline: May 25, 2020
Contact Jeanne Warren at (717) 367-9306 or email at: warrenrjs@aol.com with questions.
Registration forms are available on the HDCCW website http://hdccw.webs.com/retreat
The Called
A series of profiles on clergy and religious

Father Kenneth Smith
Hometown: Harrisburg
Education: Good Shepherd School in Camp Hill, Trinity High School, Harrisburg Area Community College, St. Pius X Seminary in Erlanger, Ky., Mount St. Mary’s Seminary and University in Emmitsburg, Md.
Current Assignment: Pastor of St. Katharine Drexel Parish in Mechanicsburg

Tell me a little about your childhood.
My hometown is Harrisburg. I was born in Harrisburg and baptized at St. Margaret Mary Parish in Penbrook. I was raised and grew up in Hampden Township at Good Shepherd Parish in Camp Hill from ages 3-21.
I am the oldest of four children; my younger brother died before birth and I have two wonderful younger sisters. Mom and dad were both Catholic and we were brought up to love God and our faith and to practice it to the best of our ability, learning from their example and teaching. We were an ordinary Catholic family of the time (1957-1984) and we practiced the faith and learned the teachings of Jesus and the Church.

When did you first consider the priesthood?
I first thought about my vocation in fourth grade and it persisted through elementary school and into high school, then it was put on a back burner but persistent through undergraduate school and working as a teller at then Dauphin Deposit Bank, now M&T Bank. I finally applied for the seminary in 1978, three years after high school graduation.

What was your discernment like?
I discerned my vocation through the habit of prayer, Mass, my parents’ faith and example, my support from family and the example of good priests, religious sisters and wonderful people in our parish family at Good Shepherd. I developed a heart to love and serve as the oldest in the family with God’s grace and invitation.

Where have you served?
I have been a parochial vicar, hospital chaplain, high school chaplain and a pastor. I have been ordained for 36 years. I have served in McSherrystown, Harrisburg, Gettysburg, York, Lancaster, Orrantia and Mechanicsburg.

Is there a part of your ministry that you enjoy most?
I love parish life and its variety of pastoral and sacramental ministry. I love the Eucharist and celebrating Mass and the sacraments, especially Baptisms, Penance and Anointing of the Sick. I have been told that I have a special gift with the sick and dying, which has truly formed my life. I spent almost ten years as a hospital chaplain. I love to teach and pass on the faith.

What might you say to a young man who is considering discerning entering seminary and pondering if he’s being called?
“Be still and know that God is God and Father.” He needs messengers and prophetic voices. He needs laborers in the vineyard to gather people unto himself. Pray, pray and pray; listen to the Shepherd’s voice.

What do you like to do when you have free time? What hobbies do you have?
Reading, walking, enjoying nature, traveling. I’ve been to Rome and Italy, the Holy Land, Germany, Austria and Switzerland, Fatima and Lourdes, Greece, Hawaii, the Grand Canyon, to the Caribbean and am planning a pilgrimage in the footsteps of St. John Paul II in Poland. The highlight of my trip to Rome and the Vatican was to personally meet Pope St. John Paul II.
I am blessed to have met some wonderful, great families and people along the way. I am blessed to belong to a wonderful Emmaus priest support group.
I enjoy spending time with my best buddy, my dog, Max, an 11-year-old Lab!
I have a few great priest friends and a good many wonderful people that I call family! I am extremely blessed to be pastor of St. Katharine Drexel Parish – a wonderful parish family I call home.
I love being with family (Carleen and Larry, Zach and Bri, Nat and Rachel, and Kathy) and friends, sharing a good meal and a glass of wine and just being together.
Thank you for sharing my story as I begin my 37th year of ministry in May 2020!

Pennsylvania Catholic Conference Condemns Hostility Toward Asian-Americans, Strongly Opposes Planned Parenthood for Offering Abortions during Pandemic

By the PA Catholic Conference
The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference is asking residents to be on the alert for acts of hostility and/or harassment against Asian-Americans in the midst of the Coronavirus outbreak in the United States.
“We are urging everyone to treat others with compassion during this extremely difficult time,” said Eric Failing, the Executive Director of the PCC.
“We have to get through this together. Targeting completely innocent people simply because of their ethnicity is contrary to what this country and what God-fearing people should be all about. If you see this happening, please get help immediately.”
On April 2, a group of Pennsylvania lawmakers joined PA State Police in citing a rise in hate crimes carried out by those who mistakenly associate COVID-19 with China and Asian-American populations. Community leaders across the U.S. have reported isolated instances of such attacks.
PA Rep. Patty Kim (D-Dauphin) said she is joining with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission to stand behind those residents.
“It is unacceptable (for them to have to) tolerate racial slurs, xenophobic attacks and racial harassment, especially during this global pandemic,” Rep. Kim said. “Pathogens do not discriminate...We stand united together in our fight against hate.”
Failing echoed those sentiments and encouraged Pennsylvanians “to be especially tolerant and compassionate to everyone during this crisis, since tensions may be running much higher than usual.”
The PCC has also condemned Planned Parenthood for continuing to provide abortion services, despite the fact that Governor Wolf has issued an order that prohibits all healthcare providers from performing elective procedures during the current crisis.
“ Abortions are wrong any time – let’s be clear about that,” said Failing. “But that is especially true now during a time of pandemic crisis when our healthcare workers and emergency responders are suffering from shortages of workers and equipment. Allowing Planned Parenthood to perform elective abortions is abhorrent.”
The PCC has received reports that Planned Parenthood has been bringing in patients for abortion procedures and has been asking for donations of healthcare equipment that could be used by hospitals to treat sick people.
“Everybody has been sacrificing during this crisis – that includes residents and businesses,” said Failing. “Everybody, it appears, except Planned Parenthood!”
The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference is based in Harrisburg and is the public affairs arm of Pennsylvania’s Catholic bishops. Stay connected to the PCC at www.pacatholic.com and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/PaCatholic.
Liturgy of the Hours

By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC

Special to The Witness

Many, many years ago, when I was in college, a more “mature” student, who knew I was discerning religious life, suggested that I begin praying the Liturgy of the Hours because “all religious and priests” pray it. She bought me a book of Christian Prayer and then instructed me on how to pray it.

Quite honestly, in the beginning, I viewed it as a drudgery and a burden. She warned me about this. As I persevered in praying just Morning and Evening Prayer, I soon discovered its grace: connection to the Mystical Body of Christ. Truthfully, I didn’t have those words to describe the effect on my heart, but what I did sense was a “presence” in the beginning to describe the effect on my heart. I could feel it as a drudgery and a burden. She warned me on how to pray it.

So, you might ask, “What is the Liturgy of the Hours? I have been a Catholic for “x” amount of years and have never heard about it!”

Let’s begin by describing Liturgy. It’s not just the Mass. Liturgy is about worshiping the Triune God. It’s a two-fold action which includes adoration as well as thanksgiving. It is not dependent on the faithful gathered together in one place. Let me explain. The priest, who acts in persona Christi capitis (in the Person of Christ the Head), gathers up the prayers and praise of the people and offers worship of God in Christ. Through the grace of the Sacrament of Holy Orders, only the priest acts in this manner.

At each and every Mass, the entire Church—those in Heaven, in Purgatory and on earth—is united in its worship of God. EVERY SINGLE MASS! Please ponder on this reality!

With this being said, the liturgy of the Church also includes the Liturgy of the Hours. The Liturgy of the Hours is not a sacrament, but rather the prayer of the entire Church. When the laity pray this form of worship, we exercise our common priesthood, given to us through the Sacrament of Baptism. We truly enter into an action of the Church since it is the prayer of the whole People of God. We spiritually sit side by side with the people of heaven and earth and pray together.

So, what is the Liturgy of the Hours? At a very high level, it’s a set of prayers that the Church has been praying for thousands of years at set times of the day. The prayers are a set of Psalms and other Scripture readings. Some of the components of this form of worship are repeated daily and others are repeated less often. It also includes intercessions for specific needs of the Church.

In addition, there are apps for the Liturgy of the Hours. Laudate and Divine Office are two that I use and both are free. The Divine Office app also contains an audio component. You can pray with the audio to give you a sense of praying with others. The neat thing about this app is that there is also a picture of the globe with tiny white dots that represent those people who are praying with you at that very moment of the day or night—a visible reminder of the global Church.

There are also digital breviers (a book that contains the Liturgy of the Hours). These include iBreviary, Divineoffice.org, Universalis.com and Ebreviary.com.

In times like this, when we hunger to attend the Mass and experience social distancing as well as isolation, we can be united with the Church! Pray the Liturgy of the Hours! Fall in love with it! Be united as one heart and one soul!

(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.)

Author’s Note: I was blessed to make a Holy Year pilgrimage in 1975 to Italy and France. In Lourdes, I was in Le Chacot, at the mill and the Grotto. As I walked there in early evening I was in awe of the flickering candles, the sound of the water flowing from the spring and the River Gave and the beautiful statue of the Blessed Mother softly lit in the grotto niche, all of which transported me to the time of Bernadette who was actually in the presence of Holy Mary. My parents were on the pilgrimage and my mother and I drew water from the spring. Even after 45 years the water she had combined with mine still remains, although I have given some away and brought it to my church on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes to have the congregation blessed. I will never forget this experience.

Saint Spotlight

St. BernadetteSoubiou

Patroness of body illness, poverty, people ridiculed for their faith, and Lourdes, France

Feast Day – April 16

(Compiled by Angela M. Orsini)

In Lourdes, France, a small town at the foot of the Pyrenees Mountains, Marie-Bernarde Soubiou was born on January 7, 1844. Her father was a miller and her mother a laundress. He became sick from the dust of the flour mill and had to rely on small jobs. The loss of money forced them to live in a long-closed, unhealthy, damp prison called Le Chacot. This affected the 4’ 7” Bernadette because of her asthma.

On February 11, 1858, she went out with one of her sisters and a friend near the grotto of Massabiel. The others crossed the River Gave, but Bernadette stayed behind. From the niche in the rock “came a dazzling light and a white figure.” Transfixed, this was to be the first of 18 visions Bernadette would experience. On February 18, The Lady asked her to come to the grotto every day for two weeks. Bernadette’s parents were embarrassed and forbade her to go, but she did not heed them. Some civil and religious authorities thought she was mad, and she was questioned by the police, her priest, the dean and the bishop. Others believed her visions because they were simple and asked for prayer and penance.

On February 25, The Lady told her to drink the water of the spring, wash in it and eat the herb that grew there as an act of penance. Although there had been no spring before, the next day the water was clear and flowed freely. In March, The Lady said, “Tell the priests to come here in procession [pilgrimage] and build a chapel here.” On March 25, the 17th visit, Bernadette asked The Lady her name. She replied, “Que soy er imaculada concepcion” (I am the Immaculate Conception).

Because of her growing notoriety Bernadette joined the Sisters of Charity of Nevers as Sister Marie Bernarde. She spent the rest of her life in the Motherhouse in various capacities. Her asthma resulted in tuberculosis of the lung and bone. In 1862, the Church confirmed the authenticity of her visions. Bernadette died on April 16, 1879, while praying the Rosary. She was 35. Her final words were, “Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for me, a poor sinner, a poor sinner.” Bernadette was canonized by Pope Pius XI on December 8, 1933. When her body was exhumed in 1909, she was found to be incorrupt. After the third exhumation, her body was covered in wax and lies in view at the Chapel of St. Bernadette at the Motherhouse in Neviers, France.

Author’s Note: I was blessed to make a Holy Year pilgrimage in 1975 to Italy and France. In Lourdes, I was in Le Chacot, at the mill and the Grotto. As I walked there in early evening I was in awe of the flickering candles, the sound of the water flowing from the spring and the River Gave and the beautiful statue of the Blessed Mother softly lit in the grotto niche, all of which transported me to the time of Bernadette who was actually in the presence of Holy Mary. My parents were on the pilgrimage and my mother and I drew water from the spring. Even after 45 years the water she had combined with mine still remains, although I have given some away and brought it to my church on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes to have the congregation blessed. I will never forget this experience.
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.

Chambersburg
Corpus Christi:
- Rita Baker
- Lois M. Crist
- Diane Dellane
- John Malone
- Jean Mannhaupt
- Mary C. McKenrick
- Agrupina Ojeda
- John Orsaga
- Dr. Constancio Ramez

Elizabethtown
St. Peter:
- Olga Korol

Hanover
St. Vincent de Paul:
- Margaret Campbell
- Mildred Sponseller

Harrisburg
St. Catherine Labouré:
- Govan Martin, Jr.
- Joanne Updegrove
- Linda Wallace

Hershey
St. Joan of Arc:
- Geraldine Inagliolo

Kulpmont
Holy Angels:
- Peter S. Lentini
- Victor F. Nestico

Lancaster
Assumption BVM:
- Jose Marshall
- Robert Sullivan

St. Anne
Joseph Costello
Rosemary Elbert
Margaret Kruikga

St. John Neumann:
- Joseph Culver
- Mary Frey
- George Hansalik
- Kathleen Sommers

Mechanicsburg
St. Joseph:
- Alexa Byers
- Paul Kelly
- Ann Morey

St. Katherine Drexel:
- Andy Dapkins
- Robert Grant

Millersville
St. Philip the Apostle:
- James Curcio
- Helen Liebl
- Alice Mayer

Mount Carmel
Our Lady of Mount Carmel:
- Elsie Bresadola
- Josephine Wondoloski

New Cumberland
St. Theresa:
- Eugene Pellish

New Freedom
St. John the Baptist:
- Therese Colamarino
- Joan Powers
- John "Jack" Radebaugh
- Joan Roppelt
- Matilda Schneider
- Sandra Smith

Quarryville
St. Catherine of Sienna:
- Joyce Haines

Steeleton
Prince of Peace:
- Mary S. Behofcist
- Julia (Sme) Benkovick

Sunbury
St. Monica:
- Donald G. Geise

York
St. Rose of Lima:
- Alfred Figaszewski

**Deceased Clergy**

Please pray for the following clergy who died in April during the past 25 years:
- Msgr. Donald Adams, 1996
- Father Patrick D'Alessandro, 1996
- Deacon Arthur Colonel, 1996
- Father Anthony Burakowski, 2002
- Father Curtis Delarm, 2005
- Father Mark Matthew Casey, OMI, 2007
- Father Gerald Lytle, 2012
- Deacon Charles Clark, 2012
- Father Daniel Menniti, 2015
- Deacon Thomas Flannery, 2018

**Father Joseph Carolin**

Father Joseph Carolin, a retired priest of the Diocese of the Harrisburg, who longtimest ministered at the South Mountain Restoration Center in Franklin County, died April 10 at Chambersburg Hospital.

At press time for *The Witness*, details were not available regarding arrangements.

**Sister Mary Agnes Shurer, SCC**

Sister Mary Agnes Shurer, Sister of Christian Charity, died on April 4 at the Motherhouse in Mendham, N.J. She was 85.

Born in Williamsport, Pa., in 1934, Sister Mary Agnes entered the community of the Sisters of Christian Charity in 1952. Over the years, she served in education as an elementary and secondary teacher and principal in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Sister Mary Agnes served a community formation directress from 1969-1980 and participated in several formation workshops in Germany and Rome. In her later years she worked as school secretary at Cathedral School in Metuchen, N.J., and then as an assistant to the Provincial Treasurer. In 2015 she joined the retirement community at Holy Family Convent in Danville and in 2018 began her residence at the new Motherhouse in Mendham, New Jersey.

Sister Mary Agnes is survived by two sisters, including Maria Assumpa, SCC.

Private evening prayer with the Motherhouse community was prayed for Sister Mary Agnes with burial in Holy Cross Cemetery. Mendham. A memorial Mass for Sister will be celebrated at a later date.

**Sister Mary Perpetua Gusic, ASC**

Sister Mary Perpetua Gusic, ASC, (Caroline Francies) died April 1 in Reading, Pa. She was 98 years old.

Born April 17, 1921, in Steelton, she made her first profession in 1941. She studied at the Precious Blood Teacher Training Institute in Columbia, Pa., and received her Elementary Teacher Certificate from the State of Ohio Department of Education.

Sister Perpetua taught middle grade students for almost 50 years in Illinois, Indiana, North Carolina, Ohio, Georgia and New Mexico. In the Diocese of Harrisburg, she taught at St. Mary's in Steelton, Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Middle-town and Sacred Heart of Jesus in Lewistown. She also served for several years as coordinator of small communities where she lived.

Sister Perpetua lived Mission in Later Life first at St. Anne's Retirement Community in Columbia, and later at St. Joseph Villa in Reading with the Bernadine Franciscans.

There was a private burial service in the convent cemetery. A Mass of Remembrance will be scheduled at a later date.

**Job Openings**

St. Katharine Drexel Parish in Mechanicsburg, seeking a Business/Finance Manager. Responsible for assisting the pastor in the overall Parish and business administration of the parish regarding finances, buildings and grounds/ maintenance contracts; if/safety and security and fire. This person reports directly to the pastor. A full job description is available upon request or visit the parish website. Candidate should possess an in-depth understanding of business and accounting principles, have strong managerial skills, and be a self-starter. Position requires excellent communication, organizational and managerial skills with considerable problem-solving abilities. Must have a bachelor's degree in accounting or business administration and a minimum of three years' experience in this area. Experience with parish and diocese operations preferred. Salary negotiable due to education and experience. Apply to Father Ken Smith at ksmith@hbgdiocese.com.

**Mark Your Calendars!**

Next Deadline: April 22

The deadline for submissions for the May 1 edition of *The Witness* is Wednesday, April 22 at 4:30 p.m.

Submit written announcements via e-mail to witness@hbgdiocese.org. Limit 70 words. No ads, posters or PDFs, please. A link to the submission deadlines for all editions in 2020 is posted on *The Witness* page at www.hbgdiocese.org.

**DIOCESAN NOTEBOOK**

**Education & Enrichment**

"Recognizing Evil in Today's World," scheduled for April 25 in the former Holy Name of Jesus Church in Harrisburg, has been cancelled. Contact Chris Arnold at 717-379-6041 or joynbob10@aol.com. Application deadline is May 1.

**Pilgrimages & Retreats**

The Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius want to provide a healthy and safe environment for all the guests and retreatants at St. Cyril Spiritual Center in Danville as well as to be in compliance with the latest national and CDC guidelines. Therefore, they have cancelled all retreats during March, April, and May along with hosted groups.

**Fundraisers & Events**

The Annunciation Women of Mercy and Joy in McSherry-town have a visitation group that visits homebound parishioners and gives them a prayer blanket. During this time of social distancing, the group is instead sending cards. If you have someone you'd like to have a card send to, contact Toni Weaver at sweetbaboo2410@gmail.com.

*York Catholic High School’s Virtual Green & Gold Gala Auction, April 27 through May 2. Bid on a variety of items by visiting the York Catholic website www.yorkcatholic.org. Items include: York Catholic student experience, surprise jewel- erty from Smyth Jewelers, Kalahari Resorts Family Four Pack, professional photo session, Hershey Camping Resort pass, various golf four Some, and much more. Proceeds benefit the York Catholic Fund, which invests in tuition assistance, curriculum, technology upgrades, the arts and athletics, resources for teachers, and the beautification and safety of the school. Questions? Contact Brittny Nicholas at bnicholas@yorkcatholic.org.*

*York Catholic High School’s Virtual Open House, April 29 from 6-7:30 p.m. Speak with our dedicated faculty and administration to learn about all YC has to offer students in grades 7-12. Chat with our Athletic Director and Music Coordinator to learn about extra-curricular activities. Sit in on a virtual class with a student to experience teachers and classes. Visit www.yorkcatholic.org to sign-up to receive a professional photo session, Hershey Camping Resort pass, various golf foursomes, and much more. Proceeds benefit the York Catholic Fund, which invests in tuition assistance, curriculum, technology upgrades, the arts and athletics, resources for teachers, and the beautification and safety of the school. Questions? Contact Brittny Nicholas at bnicholas@yorkcatholic.org.***

Private evening prayer with the Motherhouse community was prayed for Sister Mary Agnes with burial in Holy Cross Cemetery. Mendham. A memorial Mass for Sister will be celebrated at a later date.

*Job Openings*

St. Katharine Drexel Parish in Mechanicsburg, seeking a Business/Finance Manager. Responsible for assisting the pastor in the overall Parish and business administration of the parish regarding finances, buildings and grounds/maintenance contracts; if/safety and security and fire. This person reports directly to the pastor. A full job description is available upon request or visit the parish website. Candidate should possess an in-depth understanding of business and accounting principles, have strong managerial skills, and be a self-starter. Position requires excellent communication, organizational and managerial skills with considerable problem-solving abilities. Must have a bachelor’s degree in accounting or business administration and a minimum of three years’ experience in this area. Experience with parish and diocese operations preferred. Salary negotiable due to education and experience. Apply to Father Ken Smith at ksmith@hbgdiocese.com.

**Mark Your Calendars!**

Next Deadline: April 22

The deadline for submissions for the May 1 edition of *The Witness* is Wednesday, April 22 at 4:30 p.m.

Submit written announcements via e-mail to witness@hbgdiocese.org. Limit 70 words. No ads, posters or PDFs, please. A link to the submission deadlines for all editions in 2020 is posted on *The Witness* page at www.hbgdiocese.org.
Heavenly Light: Stained-Glass Windows Add to Splendor of St. Jude Church

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

A parishioner-funded project at St. Jude Thaddeus in Mifflintown has given the gift of additional splendor to the Juniata County church.

Earlier this year, the installation of stained-glass windows replaced the plate glass windows original to the church, built in 2008 to accommodate a growing congregation.

And the result has been a transformative experience.

Parishioner Joseph Zarnowski, who headed-up the project, said the windows add a beauty to St. Jude’s, the only Catholic Church in the county.

“The clear windows that were previously in the church were a bit of a distraction from Mass, because the church is on a highway. You could always see cars going by, and things happening outside,” he said.

Zarnowski considered what the church would look like with stained-glass windows instead. With permission from the pastor, Father William Weary, he reached out to parishioners for their opinion, and found overwhelming financial support for the project.

“Over the course of one or two weekends, enough people contributed to purchase the windows,” he said. “Our people always come through. They are amazing.”

The windows were created by an artist in Virginia, and installed four months ago.

There are ten windows of various sizes – some with liturgical imagery, others with Scripture verses. A plaque with the names of benefactors is located in the narthex.

A member of St. Michael’s Guard, an ecclesial movement of men who serve as altar servers, Zarnowski usually attends several Masses each week. “I truly appreciate the beauty of the windows,” he said.

So does Father Weary.

“These new windows are a beautiful enhancement to both the beauty of the church and the legacy of our parish history,” he said of St. Jude’s, founded in 1959. “I have noticed a very sweet, almost mystical quality to the colors filtering into the worship space on even lightly sunny days. On bright days, a kind of radiance spreads every-