The Catholic Witness Transforms to All-Digital Format
May 11; Here’s What You Can Expect to See

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

The edition of The Catholic Witness you’re currently holding marks the close of one chapter and the opening of another in the newspaper’s 54-year history. Beginning May 11, The Witness will be produced in a digital-only format, featuring an eye-catching new website and an enhanced weekly e-mail.

On our digital platforms, you can expect to see the news articles, feature stories, photos and columns that you’ve come to enjoy, including feel-good stories from Diocesan parishes, inspiring photos capturing the life of the Diocesan Church, the celebration of Catholic education and vocations, and the good works of Diocesan ministries made possible by your support.

The news will come with a new flair, combining written stories with photos, graphics and videos that reflect a lively and active Diocesan Church. We will also continue our regular columns, such as The Called, Musings of a Catholic Evangelist by Sister Geralyn, Saint Spotlight, the Notebook page of upcoming events, and Parish Obituaries.

The digital world allows us to offer expansive news and features beyond a 16-page limit, so we’ll be adding new features and topics along the way. For starters, these will include Pennsylvania Catholic Conference reports from the state capitol, news from the Vatican, and features on people, places and artifacts from Diocesan history.

From there, The Witness will continue to grow and expand further content, bringing you news in a more up-to-date fashion.

The decision to move to a digital-only format...
Holy Family and Lebanon Catholic Schools to Close

By Rachel Bryson, M.S.

Making a recommendation to close a Catholic school is one of the most difficult decisions a pastor can make. Granting permission to close a school is also one of the most difficult decisions for a bishop. These decisions were unfortunately faced by two communities in the Diocese, which announced this week that due to continued financial stress and decreasing enrollment, Holy Family Consolidated Catholic School in Berwick and Lebanon Catholic will both close at the end of this school year (2019/20).

Both schools have been facing enrollment and financial challenges for years and their continued operation is no longer sustainable by the area parishes. As a form of ministry, the parishes in the Berwick and Lebanon areas are involved in the operation of Holy Family and Lebanon Catholic, respectively. The pastors from these parishes officially requested the closure of the schools, citing the continued financial stresses upon the parishes, especially in light of the current health crisis. Bishop Ronald Gainer has accepted the pastors’ recommendations and has granted permission for the closures.

“Making the choice to close a Catholic school is one of the most difficult decisions for a bishop. Although many members of the Berwick and Lebanon communities worked heroically to reverse the financial situations of the schools, the downward trend has continued for years and has reached a point that is no longer sustainable by the parishes without impacting many other ministry programs. It is with a very heavy heart that I grant permission for these closures. While this is a very difficult time, I wish to thank the principals, faculties, staff, parents and students for their dedication.”

~ Bishop Ronald Gainer

news is going to hit our families hard,” said Daniel Breen, Secretary for Education and Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese. “We work to promote Catholic education in the Diocese and the closures we are announcing are truly a last resort. We will be working closely with the leadership of both Holy Family and Lebanon Catholic and also with the families of these schools, to make this transition as smooth as possible.”

Bishop Gainer and Mr. Breen delivered the news to teachers, staff and school board members using video conferencing, as meeting in person was not possible during this time of social distancing. School parents received a letter and video message from Bishop Gainer, who added that he regretted delivering this news that way but had no other options given the pandemic.

“One year ago, we met with the pastors and principals for each school to take a hard look at current and projected financial and enrollment information, as well as to discuss the options to turn around this downward trend. Although there have been valiant efforts by many during the past year, the financial health of Holy Family and Lebanon Catholic has continued to decline,” explained Bishop Gainer.

At the end of this current school year, Holy Family will be facing more than $700,000 in cumulative debt, with Lebanon Catholic looking at a cumulative debt of $2.3 million. As joint ministries of the Berwick and Lebanon area parishes, respectively, all involved parishes felt the current and anticipated future debt would significantly jeopardize the other ministries of the parishes.

As preparations are made to close the schools, the Diocese will support staff members and will work with families who wish to continue their Catholic education at neighboring Catholic schools.

Holy Family, a K through fifth grade school, currently has 62 students and 16 staff. Lebanon Catholic, a K through 12 school, currently has just over 300 students and more than 40 staff members.

“We are grateful to parents for the many years of support they have given to Holy Family and Lebanon Catholic schools and for entrusting their children to the schools for their formation,” said Bishop Gainer. “We also would like to acknowledge the alumni of Holy Family and Lebanon Catholic for their tireless support of their alma maters.”

The schools in the Diocese of Harrisburg enroll nearly 10,000 students and they continue to be recognized for their rigorous academic education while providing moral and faith formation according to the teachings of Jesus Christ. To learn more about Catholic education in the Diocese of Harrisburg, visit www.GoCatholicSchools.org.

DIGITAL Continued From 1

and temporarily suspend the printed version was not an easy one, nor did it come without a sense of disappointment and loss. Simply put, our printing and postage costs cannot be sustained with the loss of revenue to parishes and the Diocese from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We would be remiss if we did not address the readers who have come to rely on the printed editions of The Witness, especially the elderly or those who don’t have access to the internet and the social media world. Know that we will examine options for distribution of a monthly printed newsletter to help keep you connected to news from the Diocese. In the meantime, we encourage recipients of our weekly e-mail to print and share the digital editions with relatives or friends who don’t have internet access.

We turn to this new chapter in the history of The Catholic Witness and invite you to join us as we present news and features in a new and exciting way, and introduce new elements in our digital ventures. See the accompanying ad on page 3 to sign up. Thank you for your continued support, and God bless you.
Holy Family Radio Holds Month-Long Pledge Drive in May

The life patterns of almost everyone have been impacted by the recent health crisis caused by the COVID-19 virus. Holy Family Radio has been a beacon in the night of this terrible storm. For almost 10 years, the station has aired daily broadcasts of the Holy Mass and many other inspirational programs. Holy Family Radio, based in Shiremanstown, is available locally at 720 AM on the radio dial. Its signal can also be streamed 24/7 at www.720whyf.com, or via an app.

“We are absolutely delighted to be able to be there for people with this ministry to share and nourish their Catholic faith during this time of crisis,” said Betty Girven, President of the Board of Directors of the ministry.

The local non-profit has been severely affected by the health crisis. Girven explains, “We had to postpone our Spring Fundraising Dinner. This is traditionally our single biggest source of funds during the year.”

Holy Family Radio hopes to do at least some of that by holding what they pray will be an above average on-air pledge drive during the month of May. The month-long drive will be similar to the one held last October, replacing lengthy interruptions of programming by volunteers extolling the many benefits of a local Catholic radio station with shorter messages highlighting the critical need for funds.

The May drive will be dedicated to the Holy Spirit and the Holy Family. “We are asking people to say a prayer for Holy Family Radio and then to select a date in May and send in their donation,” explained Leona Frances Woskowiak, a founding member of the ministry. She continued, “We got positive feedback about the changes that we made in October to the pledge drive, so we are continuing in that direction and praying that people will respond and help us to continue our work.”

“This is an act of faith on our part,” said Girven. “We most certainly need to have a successful campaign so that we will continue bringing God’s Word to the people. This station belongs to the people of the Diocese. We have faith that the listeners will respond.”

Donations can be made online at www.720whyf.com or via mail to Holy Family Radio, Inc., PO Box 6028, Lancaster, PA 17607-6028. The ministry is volunteer based. Those interested in helping are welcome. Questions can be sent to contact@720whyf.com.

The Catholic WITNESS
The Newspaper of the Diocese of Harrisburg

IS GOING DIGITAL!

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STAY UP-TO-DATE ON THE LATEST NEWS THROUGHOUT THE DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG BY SIGNING UP FOR THE DIGITAL WITNESS TODAY.

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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.

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The Catholic Witness

By Chris Heisey

The Catholic Witness

Give a look back at past issues of The Catholic Witness and what you will take away is a profound perspective on the journey that has been the publishing history of this Diocesan newspaper, which first appeared in print in January of 1966.

It was a broadsheet paper, huge in scale, measuring nearly two feet vertically. With tiny type, eight columns wide, and nearly 100 lines per column, an extraordinary word count of 6,000 words could litter just one page of The Witness. At 16 pages an issue, it was nearly 100,000 words per edition that started arriving that frigid winter into the homes of some 17,000 Catholic souls spread across 15 counties and 7,660 square miles of central Pennsylvania.

Not only did words begin coming into homes, images did as well, telling stories of the LORD and baby Jesus to safety in war-torn Vietnam, where our involvement was escalating.

It is a remarkably searing image that graces page 15. A few pages earlier, we are introduced to the photography of Charles Blahusch – a gentle man who was a photojournalist from the paper’s genesis until he retired in 1997. There on pages six and seven we see his genius at work with a photo essay of where he grew up – Shamokin.

His photo on page six of a coal miner covered in black dust holding a lamp with a quiet smile and twinkle in his eye is one of the paper’s truly iconic images. The lamp that coal miner was holding up stands as an apt metaphor for the work begun in that first edition of The Witness. “Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eyes are healthy, your whole body also is filled of light...” St. Luke (11:34-36) tells us. “See to it, then, that the light within you is not darkness.”

Last year, I received an e-mail from a family member of this long-passed coal miner, who wanted to know if I still had that negative taken by Charlie. The family wanted to make sure that he was never forgotten, and wanted the image so that younger family members could remember their heritage, their family tree, the old way of life that made today possible. I have worked some 9,200 days for the Catholic Church and that day is one of the most memorable and meaningful. To be able to sew 55 years together for a family, a respected photographer and his lasting image was humbling and that day gave me a perspective I will never lose. Tens of thousands of Charlie’s negatives are tucked away in file cabinets in my office. Each piece of Kodak celluloid film sealed with bromide is a treasured piece of history. Light burned unto film that remains alive in a dark world today.

Charlie was a true photojournalist, meaning it was his aim to tell a story with every image. When I took over for him in July 1997, following in his footsteps was a humbling jump into a pool that I knew not how deep the water was. One of the first things I did upon my hire was to pull out the old, dusty bound books that house the back issues and began to study Charlie’s work. And one of the first pages I studied was that coal miner image, and it struck me so profoundly those hot summer days 23 years ago.

Adjacent page seven in that first edition moved me also, as I gazed upon a photo essay of Mount Carmel and Shamokin. There’s an image of the bustling downtown of Shamokin. A Woolworth’s sign is quite prominent, as well as a J.C. Penny’s neon-lettered moniker. The caption below reads, “It is hard to notice any economic distress.” There is a picture of a packed garment factory where scores of women are buried in cloth and sewing machines busy at work – many of them Catholics who supported the more than a half dozen churches crowning the hills of both towns located only several miles apart along the coal-strewn ridges.

Yet arguably, the most telling page ever printed of The Witness is that founding issue’s front page. Dead in the middle is Bishop George Leech’s official portrait photo – taken gracefully by Charlie – and his letter introducing The Witness to the people of the Diocese. The letter begins with Christ’s last words on earth as recorded in Acts 1:8: “You shall be witnesses for me in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria and to every end of the earth.” Soon after sharing those words, Bishop Leech reminded all, Jesus ascended into heaven “lifted up before their eyes and a cloud took him out of sight.”

Bishop Leech goes on to explain...
what the word witness means — “martyr” in Greek — and the bishop wrote that this word is the “noblest title in all the world.” And part of being a witness means “pouring out your lifeblood for Christ” just as Peter did for Christ. We are all to do that, Bishop Leech said in this official letter — as he had been Bishop of Harrisburg since 1935 — 31 years before venturing into publishing a weekly newspaper that would help him “discharge his apostolic duty of teaching, guiding and feeding the flock of Christ.”

Many dedicated witnesses have worked in the newsroom of The Witness over the nearly 55 years of putting ink to paper, and every one of them deserves a thank you for the spirit they brought to it. There has been joy, laughter, sorrow, fits of anger; the creative process can be messy where giving and taking is called upon almost every day. Over the years, multiple employees for The Witness have given 20 years plus to seeing words and images put to print.

The first executive editor was Msgr. Leo Beierschmitt, who teamed with Bishop Leech and Charlie to launch the paper. One quiet summer day two decades ago, I was alone in the newsroom of The Witness over the nearly 55 years of putting ink to paper, and every one of them deserves a thank you for the spirit they brought to it. There has been joy, laughter, sorrow, fits of anger; the creative process can be messy where giving and taking is called upon almost every day. Over the years, multiple employees for The Witness have given 20 years plus to seeing words and images put to print.

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2020 Golden Apple Recipients

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

The Diocese of Harrisburg has announced the seven Catholic school educators who are recipients of the Golden Apple Award for 2020. The annual program recognizes educators for their outstanding devotion to Catholic schools and the students they teach. The awards are based on nominations from school principals, parents, students and fellow teachers, and symbolize an educator’s professional excellence, leadership, commitment to Catholic values, and devotion to teaching in Catholic schools.

The 2020 Golden Apple recipients are:
- **David Geisel** – Social Studies teacher at Trinity High School in Camp Hill
- **Cynthia Gotowski** – Middle school Language Arts teacher at Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary School in Middletown
- **Cheryl Green** – Second-Grade teacher at St. Joseph School in York
- **Jennifer Kukay** – Middle school Religion teacher at St. Patrick School in Carlisle
- **Susan Martin** – Librarian at Lancaster Catholic High School
- **Cecilia Mezza** – Fine Arts teacher and Band Director at York Catholic High School
- **David Rushinski** – Principal at Harrisburg Catholic Elementary School

As part of their recognition, Golden Apple recipients receive a $5,000 cash award, a golden apple, and a certificate of achievement. Awardees are also recognized by the bishop during a dinner, plans for which have not yet been announced.

The Golden Apple Awards program was established by Jack and Rhodora Donahue from Pittsburgh in appreciation for the Catholic school teachers who provided a quality academic and faith-based education for their 13 children. The program is made possible by the generosity of the Donahue Family Foundation. We offer our congratulations to this year’s Golden Apple educators, who shared their thoughts on teaching in a Catholic school. Learn more about the Golden Apple program at www.gocatholicschools.org.

**David Geisel**
“Teaching is about more than just educating. After losing the last quarter of school this past year, it has become even more obvious that teaching is also about sharing moments, whether they be in the classroom, watching students perform doing the things they love, or sharing the grace of God. This is what teaching at Trinity, or any Catholic school for that matter, is all about.”

**Cynthia Gotowski**
“This award is truly an honor. It fills me with a sense of gratitude to teach in a Catholic school. It makes me think of those teachers in my own life who inspired me to be a teacher. I also think of all of my students who walk through my classroom door who inspire me each day to be the best that I can be. I thank everyone for their prayers and support.”

**Cheryl Green**
“When I reflect on my 35 years as a Catholic School educator, I am certain that I have walked in the footsteps of many saints, some who have taught and mentored me and shown me the love of God. They have truly shaped my life. For so great a gift, I am profoundly grateful. In receiving the Golden Apple Award, I will accept it with love and gratitude for all of them.”

**Jennifer Kukay**
“I teach in a Catholic school because I listened to God! He directed my path to St. Patrick School, to share His endless love and mercy with all of my students through service to others. That is my mission as a teacher – to provide students with the opportunity to live out the Beatitudes during the school day, allowing them to practice how to be Christ to others and learn to see Christ in others. Teaching at St. Patrick School is a blessing, a gift from God, and I am privileged to walk with each of my students on their faith journey. At St. Patrick School, I am surrounded by our Catholic faith and everything we do is centered on Christ. Where else would I want to be?”

**Cecilia Mezza**
“As Catholic school teachers, we have the opportunity to give students the support, care and love they need to get through the day and the faith they need to get through their lives. This has taken on a whole different meaning this spring. Teachers are holding online office hours and classes to connect with and see their students face to face. We quite simply miss our students and worry about their wellbeing. Our school is posting daily prayer and morning announcements, having spirit days like “What’s a Reading?” and holding live virtual school Masses. We have continued to celebrate over newborn babies and pray over those we have lost. We refuse to give up the thing we love most about our school, the community and family which makes us York Catholic.”

**Susan Martin**
“Reflecting on why I am dedicated to serving in a Catholic school, all I had to do was look at life since March 13. The last day we were physically in the building, Lancaster Catholic was up and running on-line classes the next week, long before the local public schools. As Librarian I did not have the pressures of the classroom teachers to plan and then teach digitally. I have been in awe of my fellow teachers and school staff members who have done so much for the students from day one of the stay at home order. As teachers and staff we have all reached out to the students and their families to try to bring some “normal” to these trying times. In turn, the students and parents have reached out to us with words of encouragement and thanks. The hardest part of all of this has been not seeing the students, my fellow teachers and staff members in person every school day. This brings me to a good place to end it has been the people – students, teachers, administrators, staff and parents – who have fueled my dedication for the past 42 years.”

**David Rushinski**
“I have chosen to continue to work in a Catholic school, especially Harrisburg Catholic, because I believe the Catholic Church needs to be part of the downtown Harrisburg community. Each and every day, I have the opportunity to assist in spreading the Church’s mission of evangelization to our population. Our population, I believe, is at the heart of the mission of the Catholic Church. Each and every day, I have the opportunity, along with my staff, to work with our school’s population to be sure our families have a Catholic school to call its own.”
Bishop McDevitt High School ~ Class of 2020

Deanna Davis
Susan Dawson
Dylan Detrick
Kathleen Dick
Alec Diehl
Vinh Diep
Charlie-Vuong Duong
Morgan Emery
Hailey Eppinger
Addison Fleming
Ayana Folks
Dylan Gardner
Jacob Gemmell
Matthew Good
Vasilyi Gounley
Erin Hake
Elleehyn Hallock
Luke Hamilton
Krystian Hammaker
Jonah Hancock
Miles Hanna
Gwennyth Harbaugh
Trevor High
George Hollick
Mary Huynh
Alexander Infantino
Skyler Iskric
Alexandra Jackson
Kyle Johnson
Shayla Johnson
Jane Jerosky
Madison Karcesky
Harneet Kaur
Jakob Kelly
Yujin Kim
Zachary Kline
Kristopher Kolb
Ameer Kousonan-Sa-Smith
Anthony Larry
Vincent Le
Joseph Leiter
Rachael Lilly
Joceylin Long
Nyla Lott-Khan
Benjamin Marsico
Tyler Martin
Grace Matte
Francesca Mbibouth
Imani McCray
Devin McDonnell
Gage McFadden
James McInerny
Seamus McLaughlin
Kathryn McNamara
Madison Miller
Zachary Miller
Madeline Montisano
Sawyer Morgan
Isabelle Morrow
Katelyn Murawski
Megan Mwaura
Gina Myers
Colin Nemshick
Martino Neve
Dominic Nguyen
Maria Nguyen
Mary Nguyen
Vuong Nguyen

Avah Noss
Feyisayo Oluleye
Tyler Painter
Mary Parker
Lance Parthemore
Mikayla Pavone
Jaren Paynter
Penelope Peguero
Jacob Pfeifer
Oscar Peske
Anna Phelan
Jayson Piliszt
Mark Pipa
Justin Piper
Hannah Polek
Rakiim Raglan
Zachary Rebackah
Brianna Ribic
Grady Ritchey
Dean Robbins
Colin Roche
Hannasy Rodgers
Emmanuel Rodriguez, Jr.
Lauren Rosce
Justin Ruiz-Velasco
Cassandra Rushinski
Delaneay Ryan
Julia Sallusti
Brittany Saulters
Allison Schaedler
Brennin Schlunderaff
Jenilah Scott
Andrew Seneca
Kellianne Shaub
Collin Shea
Annjah Simpson
Soukoun Sissoko
Emily Sload
Alexander Smith
Nathan Smith
Kathryn Solomon
Angelina Spizzier
Peyton Stakem
Elizabeth Staub
Emily Staub
Isabella Stefani

Jasmine Stonesifer
Shane Stossel
Tara Strachouse
Zachary Strohecker
Alexis Swisher
Jordan Tacas-Trufillo
Yichen Tan
Justin Tang
Courtney Temple
Maria Tic
Natalie Torta
Michael Toth
Alexander Tyson
Luke Venios
Garrett Vranicar
Mitchell Ward
Shaleeyah Watts
Allison Weiss
Benjamin Weiss
Grace Wert
Juaan Wilkerson
Annika Wise
Faith Woods
Kailis Woodworth
Max Wral
Shilin Wu
Rong Yang
Ethan Yeeckley
Vivian Zhang
Zengmin Zhang
Dazhao Zheng
Isabelle Zitto

Student Council Executive Officers Izzy Zitto, Kathryn McNamara, Anthony Larry and Max Wrabel.

The Drama Department performs “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” in a November production. From left are JJ McInerny, Mark Pipa and Annjah Simpson.

The Catholic WITNESS
Delone Catholic High School ~ Class of 2020

Michael Joseph Apgar  Mary Caroline Hoverkamp  Tara Danielle Noel
Brock A. Avery  Matthew Ji  Kelechi Joy Oparanozie
Yuefeng Bai  Corby Lee Keller  Ryan Matthew Overdorff
Nicholas Daniel Baker  Addison Kesselring  Jacob Matthew Pantaione
Easton Biggins  Emily Frances Kiger  Grace Rose Panzino
Christopher Bruha  Deanna Marie Klunk  Helen Mercy Phillips
Ava Corrine Bunch  Katelyn Diane Kohler  Logan S. Pieper
Mary Burke  Emma Elizabeth Landis  Hannah Pierce
Sophia Marie Busbey  Margaret Therese Lawrence  Lucy Alaine Rogers
Kathleen M. Chroniger  Tyler Michael Lawrence  Emma Nicole Russell
Madison Faith Clabaugh  Brooke Alyssa Lawyer  Emily Nicole Ryan
Mason Clabaugh  Gabriel McCabe Lee  Hadlee M. Sanders
Kyle Matthew Denisch  Brett Anthony Leonard  Emma Frances Schneider
Kathryn Grace Derkasch  Lauren Mary Little  Maria Elizabeth Schussler
Joshua Matthew Dietrich  Samuel Dane Long  Colby R. Seeley
Katie Louise Ernst  Nathaniel Patrick Lowrie  Sean Oliver Sheehy
Grace Elise Frizzell  Amie Lauren Luckenbaugh  Joshua Thomas Sherdel
Kylie Peyton Funkhouser  Ethan Grant Malinowski  Madison Sieg
Jacob Reed Goddard  Victoria Catherine Marr  Abigail Kaye Smith
Thomas Joseph-More Griffin  Sarah Valentina McCann  Quinn Francis Neault Smith
Nathaniel William Hall  David Josiah Moffatt  Jeremy Luke Snyder
Joseph A. Hernandez  Rachael Morgan Morehead  Jordan Dale Spory
William Hoff  Kevin Mowrey  Ashley C. Stanley
Sophia G. Holt  Ryan Myers  Austin Ray Staub

Seniors show their spirit in the stadium’s student section. From left are Abigail Smith, Josh Sherdel, Abigail Sutphen, the Squire Mascot, Emma Schneider and Brett Leonard.
CELEBRATING OUR SENIORS

Lancaster Catholic High School ~ Class of 2020

Grace Ann Abel
Hope Amanda Abel
Susanna Marie Avis
Liam Patrick Badger
Daniel Jeremy Baksh
Zaniah Nain Banks
Nicholas Thomas Barb
Bryce Mathew Behmer
Liam Andrew Besecker
Peter Bernard Bilson
Jillian Grace Bradley
Lauren Kathryn Brezina
Gabrielle Anna Bruno
Kolbe Augustine Card
Olive Bennett Chairs
Nuo Chen
Zhijian Chen
Zhi Kang Chen
Da Hae Chung
Brandon Jake Collins
Mary Frances Connolly
Alexis Luis Cruz Jr.
Grace Marie Davies
Gabrielle Elizabeth DeTrempe
Genna Grace Diller
Anthony Emilio Dominguez
Michael Ryan Dougherty
Kevin Joseph Draeger
Shutong Duan
Uyen Thao Duong
Jack Fitzgerald Elliot
Jaime Regina Ely
Victor Manuel Fallas III
Brenda Marie Fertal
Severiano Christopher Flores
Matthew Dennis Flynn
Carrington James Frick
Aidan Taylor Frymoyer
Elizabeth Brittingham Fulton
Zitong Gao
Kameron Nashon Garcia
Henry Thomas Gartley
Bedei Joy Gbala
Nathaniel James Giles
Margaret Rooney Grasberger
Carmen Elena Guzmán
Kathryn Elizabeth Haefner
Lauren Adela Hagan
Jeoffrey Tobias Harley Jr.
Evan Riley Hart
Kaylor Anne Haug
Austin Anthony Helm
Bryanna Tythea Hicks
Katherine Ann Hollister
Rachel Faustina Houser
Matthew Mikel Idoeta
Dylan Ormond Joachim
Emily Ann Julig
Denzel Munga Kabasele
David Kabamba Kamwanga
Todd Michael Kauffman
Kathryn Theresa Keane
Matthew George Keebler
Jenna Lanea Keller
Aaron Joshua Kern
Sydney Rose Kirchner
Oliver Alain Klemmer
Mariania Mary Kocher
Melanie Rose Krady
Martha Joy Lapp
Arianna Josephine Larsen
Hailey Morgan Legenstein
Seung Min Lee
Claudia Nicole Linkey
Elizabeth Jane Lobek
Erica Grace Loiseau
Zachary Shane Luthy
Rachel Anna Mahoney
Christopher Donald Martin
Maria Katherine Martin
Marilia Jade Matters
Anna Josephine Mayer
Peter Thomas Mester
Andrew James Miklos
Zygumt Anthony Mikula
James Michael Mikulski
Angel Martin Millores-Huerta
Kathleen Mae Miller
Gavin William Morales
Anne Christine Morris
Nicholas Dean Moyer
Amanda Elizabeth Anne Mueller
Kenneth Conrad Murphy
Leila Anne Navickas
Joseph Van Nguyen
Andrew Philip Nicklaus

Zoe Zodl Orihuel
Mia Charlotte Palmieri
Ormari Perez-Abreu
Cassandra Lynn Peris
James Joseph Pointer
Anthony Thomas Prisco
Angelina Marie Rann
Brynn Renee Rathsam
Sommer Jade Reeser
Kelixa Rivera
Sarah Leanne Roach
Caroline Martina Rogers
Frankie Jonathan Ruiz
Irvin Allen Ruiz
Katherine Marie Sahd
Angelle Saldua San Jose
Austin James Sauer
Margaret LaRue Scarff
Hannah Grace Schmidt
Cassandra Lynn Schusko
George Albert Seibert III
Peyton Christopher Sheaffer
Anthony Michael Silvio
Leanna Christine Smith
Matthew David Smith
Riley Erin Smith
Tyla Janae Smith
Alexandria Mae Snyder
ZiYi Song
Sophia Lara Sponaugle

www.lcshyes.org

Daniel Travis Stahovich
Alexander John St. Denis
Gavin Michael Sullivan
Jisela Teron
Calan Liam Titus
Alexander Michael Vazquez
Jingyi Wang
Tianxiang Wang
Raymond Arden Wells III
Ian Paul Witkowski
Runxin Wu
Jiayi Xu
Qinyue Yang
Yining Yang
Matthew Steven Zeamer

Student altar servers are recognized for their ministry.

Oliver Klemmer performs as a member of the football team and marching band.
Members of the girls’ basketball team and fellow students celebrate coach Patti Hower’s 750th win on Jan. 3 of this year.

Sami Hatzfeld, Shamar Lawrence and Johanna Stahl carry holy water, prayer cards and a memorial wreath for the school’s Blue Mass on Sept. 11.

Members of the 2019 Homecoming Court celebrate their school spirit.

Seniors can’t resist posing with a giant penguin, a donation to the school’s Toys for Tots collection.

Jessica Ambriz
Lexi Ebersole
Abriana Eisenhauer
James Fenton
Rudolph Flamisch
Gaige Gardner
Samantha Hatzfeld
Alena Jenkins-Miranda
Shamar Lawrence
Joshua Marshall
Caitlyn Murphy
Albert O’Rawe
Johannah Stahl
Karly Zimmerman

www.lebanoncatholicschool.org

Lebanon Catholic School ~ Class of 2020

CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2020
Our Lady of Lourdes Regional School ~ Class of 2020

Bella Antoinette Bach
Hannah P. Bozza
Mackenzie Ann Catino
Aaron Joseph Christiana
Brandon deManincor
Elliott Stephen Dobson
Angeline E. Effinger
Anna Gownley
Kolbi Marie Krebs
Krystof Josef Lapotsky
Katherine Negro
Leanna Lynn Nguyen

www.lourdes.k12.pa.us
Caitlin Michele Shulski
Ethan Arnold Sten

Members of their senior class share one of many moments during their final year at Lourdes.
Trinity High School – Class of 2020

Giana Abbas
Charles Aber
Devon Anastasio
Maya Arora
Abigail Azizkhan
Erika Azizkhan
Cecilia Bailey
Peyton Balaban
Jonathan Banzhoff
Norvell Bartow
Marcus Beckett
Michael Ryan Berrigan
Jillian Bobey
Hannah Borkenhagen

Rachel Brent
Amir Brower-Pitts
Bentley Burke
Andrey Burns
Luke Capper
Jaime Carson
Thomas Chase
Christian Chavey
Ava Christian
Christian Cirelli
Zachary Cirko
Sophia Conrad
Connor Coyle
Patrick Crispino

Caroline Dash
Patrick DeMark
Sara DeMichele
Kathleen Dominguez
Kayla Drabek
Devan Drendall
Alexander Dubbs
Maria Ferraro
Braylee Fetterolf
Matthew Funk
McKenna Geisel
Joseph Geisler
Samuel Gennett
Kaleigh Gill
Ashley Goss
Megan Gouldy
Luke Gratz
Kyle Hamlet
Audrey Hartle
Carlene Hazlett
Minxuan He
Andrew Hess
Matthew Hickey
Helaena Holjes
To’Ron James
Sierra Jones
Jacob Karagiannis
Lauren Karli
Jamie Keenan
Mary Kilcoyne
JungYoon Kim
Seohyun Kim
Samuel Kirchhoff
Jackson Klingaman
Connor Knittle
Carly Koppenhaver
Daniel Kosinski
Jacob Kreiser
Evan Lamarca
Duy Le
Kiera Ledermann
Nakya Lee
Owen Leese
Kayla Macdonald
Scott Majka
Alexa Mandich
Cristina Marcellus
Connor McCarthy
Madeleine McChesney
Alyssa McCombs
Domenico Mirarchi
Andrew Mott
Jack Murray
Alexandra Nadzam
Theresa O’Brien
Angelina J. Niu Olivetti
Caroline O’Neil
Roberto Osorio
David Otteson
Ethan Palmer
Anastasia Parisi
Hyeon Park
Benjamin Patten
Jack Penwell
Mayleigh Perkins
Lina Pham
Maureen Pham
D’Amonte Porter

Isabella Pykosh
Natalie Reyes
Danielle Richards
Sara Richards
Jason Rittman
Scott Andrew Root, Jr.
John Russo
Kathleen Saier
Haley Salus
Raymond Saracco
Nicholas Scherr
Daniel Scott
Rece Shelly
Gabriel Sheridan
Elise Shore
Jason Skreppein
Amanda Smith
Samuel Smithinosky
Sewon Sohn
SeungHyun Song
Michael Soule
Abigail Stackle
Michael Staiger

CHRIS HESEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS
Jaime Carson takes flight in Trinity's performance of Peter Pan.

COURTESY OF TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL
Devan Drendall, front, and Andrey Burns, Jacob Karagiannis, Bentley Burke, Christian Chavey and Sam Smithinosky in the aftermath of a paint war.

COURTESY OF TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL
Hannah Borkenhagen, Megan Gouldy, Jackson Klingaman, Mia O’Brien and Helaena Holjes as the Scooby-Doo gang at Halloween.

COURTESY OF TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL
Cecilia Bailey, Alexandra Nadzam and Kathleen Saier with the plants they grew in French class.
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York Catholic High School ~ Class of 2020

Ashton Ackley
Tyler Anthony
Michael Anzalone
Ethan Ballard
Rebecca Baum,
Samuel Bellomo
Michael Bick
Margaret Bowser
Abigail Brenneman
Benjamin Bullen
Matthew Burnside
Wanting Cai
Christine Catterall
Nicholas Chrismer
Kristen Clarke
Nageea Clay
Gabrielle Coley
Miles Cox
Benjamin Curtis
Jeswin Cyriac
Angela DeBolt
Grace Devlin
Mary Kate Dick
Thao Do

Dylan Durbin
Kennedy Eckert
Victoria Ellis
Grace Euclide
Grayce Fallon
Joseph Fiorenza
Ariyanna Fisher
Allison Flaim
Patrick Freed
Ethan French
Joseph Gaito
Grace Gardini
Paige Gordon
Desriana Hernandez
Dean Holmes
Philip Jahn
Hunter Karpulk
Tyana Keleagetse
Noah Kiel
Maxwell Kile
Qiao Kong
Susan Konstans
Moses Krueger
Seamus Landis

Kendall Laubach
Sean Lavallee
Owen Leese
Bruce Lenon-Mixco
Mengfan Li
Gabriella Malone
Pasen Maynard
Natalie McGarvey
Josephine McKeon
Jessica McMurray
Russell McPaul
Paige Miller
Payton Murphy
Joseph Musso
Benjamin Nelson
Trinity Nelson
Sarah Nigro
Kweku Parker
Breanna Pearl
Madison Perry
Connor Phillips
Fausto Prezioso
Brendan Quaid
Richard Rader
Jeremy Rawicz
Tyler Reimel
Nyjah Roland-Washington
Mikayla Ruby
Giuliana Santamaria
Aaron Sarosky
Lorraine Schlosser

Bruce Lenon-Mixco won the Turnaround Award for the Class of 2020, awarded to a senior who has demonstrated notable growth and a visible turn around over the course of their high school career.

Paige Gordon reads to first graders at St. Joseph School in York during Catholic Schools Week.

Hunter Karpulk is York Catholic’s most decorated senior musician, earning a chair at York County Honors Band, District Band, District Orchestra, and Regional Orchestra.

The senior class leads the way with enthusiasm at the 2020 Mini-THON, raising money for the Four Diamonds fight against pediatric cancer.

www.yorkcatholic.org

Jabbar Sease
Jonathan Shellenberger
Grace Shelley
Dylan Smith
Brady Stauffer
Annie Steinfelt
Cormac Sterling
Elizabeth Steward
Sara Stump
Jaideci Torres
Alaina Uricheck
Michael Weisser
Julia Yanick
Haoshen Zhai
Yue Zhang
Chunfeng Zhou

COURTESY OF YORK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
God’s Grace in the Kindness of Strangers
By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC Special to The Witness

Several weeks ago, I was asked by our local house treasurer to go to the bank for her since she is one of the individuals among us who could be seriously harmed if she caught COVID-19. So, I said, “Sure!” As I prepared to go out to the “outside” world, I went through a mental check list: “Banking stuff?” Check. “Car keys?” Check. “Hand sanitizer?” Check. “Wipes?” Check. Then I got distracted.

Realizing that I was on my lunch hour, I ran out of the house with just the banking items, forgetting the rest of the items on my checklist. Upon arrival at the bank, I parked in the parking lot only to see that the lobby was closed. I thought, “O gee! I guess I will have to go to the drive-through window.”

I drove to the end of the line. To my chagrin, I was number 20 in line. Determined not to add to the air pollution, I turned my car off and waited for the line to move. When it did, I started my car, moved it forward 10 feet and then turned it off. Mind you, my car had not been used for three weeks!

As I approached the window, I realized that there was no hand sanitizer or wipes, and that I had forgotten mine! I anxiously thought, “I have to touch the vacuum tube and the button after all these folks have!” I immediately went into “freak out mode” and began praying, “Jesus I trust in thee!” over and over again.

I watched as the customer before me completed his transaction, blessed myself and then started the car. To my surprise, my battery was now dead! I opened the door of the car and called out, “Can someone push me? My battery is dead!” Two gentlemen got out of their cars and pushed my vehicle out of the way of the traffic at the window. I got out of the car, opened up the trunk and got the jumper cables as I called the convent to have one of the Sisters come meet me at the bank. As soon as I got off the phone, one of the bank tellers — gownned, gloved and masked — came out to me. He asked if he could help with the car. I told him that it was just the battery and that I had called the convent to get a jump. He also asked if he could complete my bank transaction for me. I gladly gave him everything I had.

As I was waiting for one of the Sisters to arrive, I opened up my hood. So picture this: A Sister in a habit holding jumper cables with her hand up on her bright red car, holding a cell phone to her ear.

Nothing like sending an SOS signal out! An employee from Neil’s Funeral Home next door went out of his way and turned around to ask me if I needed help. He cautiously kept a 10-foot distance from me. When he got out of his car, I announced, “I could kiss you but I am not going to!” I then related to him that the battery was dead and that another Sister was coming so I could jump it.

By the time the Sister came to my rescue, a dozen or so people had asked me if I needed help! In the midst of all this craziness, people actually went out of their way to help me! As I drove away, I began to growl to my Beloved. He said, “Are you finished yet? Don’t you realize that with your dead battery, I was protecting you from touching the vacuum tube and button?” I felt like Job and said, “Wow! I am going to be quiet! I am just so slow at learning the lesson that you are watching out for me!” I began to cry, God is amazing! He can take the most horrid thing and beautify it! He takes his agony on the cross and, through it, gives us eternal life!

In addition to this story, I also want to share a prose poem written by Kitty O’Meara, a retired teacher from Madison, Wis. The poem is circulating the internet during the pandemic:

“And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently. And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal. And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed.1

As we find ourselves in the Easter season, rejoicing over the gift of salvation that God has given to us, allow this time to be a moment of grace to deepen your appreciation to what your dearest Lord has given you — even though it might not seem like that right now! It’s a lesson I truly needed to learn!

1https://www.irishcentral.com/culture/irish-american-teachers-poem-covid19-outbreak

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 (317) 367-9306 or email at warrenrjs@aol.com with questions.

Registration forms are available on the HDCCW website http://hdccw.webs.com/retreat

CATHOLIC COMMENTARY

The Catholic WITNESS May 1, 2020

• The Sign of the Times

Reprinted with permission of the Council of Catholic Women, Mount St. Mary’s University, Emmitsburg, Md.

Key on page 15 May 10 and 17, 2020

First among disciples
53 Solid-state drive (abbr.)
54 Bishop’s turf
55 Til

ACROSS
1 Alternative (abbr.)
3 Bumbling insect
4 Be, and be baptized
5 Stitch
6 Opera solo
7 Lighted on altar
8 Easter month
9 Eddy
10 Cliff rim
12 Crucifix
15 Berried shrub
21 Wet dirt
22 Reporter’s question
23 French “yes”
24 Pet
25 British spelling for “paten”
29 Not the shepherd
31 Diffusion of water
32 Momma
33 Estimated time of arrival
34 Ashen
35 Successor
36 “House of ___”
37 10,560 feet
38 Requested
40 Thin strand
41 Lutheran church group
42 Horse hair
46 North northeast
48 Great Basin tribe
49 British drink
50 Sea eagle

DOWN
1 Operation
2 Time frame
3 Reverence
4 Jesus healed more than one
13 Pain
17 Doctoral degree
18 Music speed
19 Defeat
20 Big truck
21 End of Sale (abbr.)
22 Coiled (2 wds.)
26 Quiet down
27 Matched, as in socks
28 Yang’s partner
29 Vows
30 Kitten’s cry
31 Computer language
32 Small particle
33 Permanently damage
34 Reporter
35 Key trait of a deacon
36 Evergreen tree
37 Deer relative
39 Reporter
40 __ Francisco
41 Fry briefly
42 Downwind
43 No room here

**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.

Benton
Christ the King:
Gerald Zeveney

Bloomsburg
St. Columbia:
John F. Miller
Jane H. Heuermann
Margaret S. Spenceberg

Blue Ridge Summit:
St. Rita:
Shirley Ford
Stan McIntire

Bonneville
St. Joseph the Worker:
Charlene Orndorff

Carlisle
St. Patrick:
Thomas J. Dernott
Dorothy G. Valley

Coal Township
Our Lady of Hope:
Loretta Greco
Alphonse J. Sieklicki
Fairfield
Immaculate Conception BVM:
Sylvia Rosensteel
Mary Ann Slazinski

Harrisburg
Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament:
St. Catherine Labouré:
Marguerite MacDonald
Ruth Wittle
Hershey
St. Joan of Arc:
Beth Frola
Vae Tancredi
Kulpmont
Holy Angels:
Joseph Miriello, Sr.
Myron Troyanosky

Lancaster
Assumption BVM:
Rita Boyd
Julia Gottschall

Lebanon
Assumption BVM:
Salvatore H. Ferrara
Edgard Lesher, Sr.
Giuseppa Passalacqua
Gloria Mae Tatar
Cyril W. Werth
St. Cecilia:
Mary Ann Gomez
Judith Long
Elizabeth Rivera

McSherrystown
Annunciation BVM:
Emily Smith
D. Michael Vial

Mechanicsburg
St. Joseph:
Raymond Bolster
Anna Grasha
James Knus
James Smith

Middletown
Seven Sorrows BVM:
Joan Matincheck
Linda E. Roberts

Milton
St. Joseph:
Beatrice Gharett

Mount Carmel
Divine Redeemer:
Carrie M. Sawicki

New Cumberland
St. Theresa:
Joan Costello
Susan Easton
Dorothy Lingenfelter
Joseph Murphy
Joan Raudenbush
Joseph Semenkow
Margaret Zeplin

New Freedom
St. John the Baptist:
Mary “Betty” Colbert
Robert Christian Geiser
Joyce Malone

Quarryville
St. Catherine of Siena:
Julia Eckman
Joe Melkey

Rohrerstown
St. Leo the Great:
Patricia M. Nicklaus
Rene D. Rheault
Patrick V. Wippel

Selinsgrove
St. Pius X:
Anne Veronica

Stavros
St. John the Baptist:
Father John Campion,
2010

St. Mark
St. Mark’s:
Father John Smith, 1999

St. Michael
St. Michael:
Msgr. Hubert J. McGuire, 2003

St. Michael’s
St. Michael’s:
Father Richard P.
Waldron, 2011

St. Nicholas
St. Nicholas:
Bishop Joseph P.
McFadden, 2013

**DECEASED CLERGY**

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

Msgr. George Lentocha, 1997
Father John Smith, 1999
Msgr. Hubert J. McGuire, 2003
Father John Campion, 2010

**YORK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**

York Catholic High School is seeking a part-time Coordinator of Religious Education. Prior experience as a parish catechist, and catechetical certification is preferred, but not required. Position requires coordinating our parish Religious Education program, including the following responsibilities: cultivating a robust evangelical and catechetical program; proposing and initiating that which is necessary for the development of the program; organizing special sacramental activities (such as retreats); and recruiting and maintaining catechists. Interested parties should submit a basic résumé and letter of interest to Father Timothy Marceau, pastor, at frtmaceau@yorkcatholic.org. Questions can also be directed to Father Marceau via email or at 570-275-2512, ext. 2. A more detailed ministry description can be found at www.stjosephdanville.org. Application deadline is May 14.

York Catholic High School is seeking to fill teaching and staff positions for the 2020-2021 school year: English teacher, grades 7-12; Social Studies teacher, grades 7-12; and Math teacher, grades 7-12. Qualified candidates should demonstrate an understanding of the importance their position plays in all aspects of a student’s developmental progress. Candidates must also be knowledgeable in their subject area. Please send a letter of interest to: Kathy Hand, Director of Studies, York Catholic High School, 601 East Springettsbury Avenue, York, PA 17403 or khand@yorkcatholic.org.

**DIACONAL CATECHETICAL CERTIFICATION**

Diocesan Catechetical Certification is available upon request or visit the parish Diocesan Cemetery offices or online at www.hbgdiocese.org/catholic-cemeteries.

**DIOCESAN CATHOLIC CEMETERIES**

As a service for those who are unable to visit the graves of loved ones in Diocesan Cemeteries, a program is offered each spring for flowers to be placed at gravesites. Floral arrangements are placed for Easter, Mother’s Day, Memorial Day, Father’s Day, and for early autumn.

This year, the Diocesan Office of Cemeteries is offering an expanded selection of silk arrangements, which will be placed at graves in advance of the holiday. Flower arrangements may be ordered for one or more of the dates indicated below. Selection and purchase, at the price of $35, can be made at one of the Diocesan Cemetery offices or online at www.hbgdiocese.org/catholic-cemeteries.

Flowers will be placed on the dates below:
- May 18 for Memorial Day (May 25)
- June 15 for Father’s Day (June 21)
- August 31 for Fall Flowers (September 7)

**DIOCESAN NOTEBOOK**

**FUNDRAISERS & EVENTS**

York Catholic High School’s Virtual Green & Gold Gala Auction ends May 2. Bid on a variety of items by visiting York Catholic at www.yorkcatholic.org. 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 Brittany Nicholas at bnicholas@yorkcatholic.org.

**JOB OPENINGS**

St. Joseph Parish in Danville is seeking a part-time Coordinator of Religious Education. Prior experience as a parish catechist, and catechetical certification is preferred, but not required. Position requires coordinating our parish Religious Education program, including the following responsibilities: cultivating a robust evangelical and catechetical program; proposing and initiating that which is necessary for the development of the program; organizing special sacramental activities (such as retreats); and recruiting and maintaining catechists. Interested parties should submit a basic résumé and letter of interest to Father Timothy Marceau, pastor, at frtmaceau@yorkcatholic.org. Questions can also be directed to Father Marceau via email or at 570-275-2512, ext. 2. A more detailed ministry description can be found at www.stjosephdanville.org. Application deadline is May 14.

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**ST. JUDE’S CEMETERY**

St. Jude’s Cemetery will be open to the public the following dates:
- July 4
- August 15
- September 12
- October 31
- November 11

**DIOCESE**

The Catholic WITNESS • May 1, 2020
A Commemoration of God’s Infinite Mercy

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

“The great story of Divine Mercy – mercy poured out for us in the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Christ – is at the heart of the Paschal Mystery,” Bishop Ronald Gainer said in his homily on Divine Mercy Sunday, which he celebrated at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg on April 19.

A live stream of Holy Mass, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament was broadcast on the Diocese’s Facebook and YouTube pages for the faithful to participate. Divine Mercy Sunday is celebrated on the Second Sunday of Easter. The feast day was instituted by St. John Paul II in the year 2000 in conjunction with the canonization of St. Faustina. The Polish nun was entrusted by Jesus with his message of Divine Mercy in a series of private revelation to her in the 1930s.

On this day, the faithful receive special graces promised by Jesus and told to Sister Faustina: “I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the Fount of My Mercy.”