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.
The Catholic Witness

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 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 teleconferencing, 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.
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.
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 175,000 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 local Church, along with wire service images that funneled in from all over the world.

That first issue of The Witness shows an American soldier hauntingly carrying a statue of the Blessed Mother 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 parishes 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...
Noblest

Continued from 4

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 Witness office in the early morning, and in came a long-retired Msgr. Beierschmitt who was in the mood to talk. It was not long after that he passed away, but the wisdom he shared about starting the paper and what he believed it meant to be a “journalist” fascinated me.

“Always just tell a story, just tell stories, Chris; that is what a newspaper is. What life is — stories,” he told me, rubbing his goatee beard like a modern day Moses. I never saw him again, but it is one conversation I will never forget.

The first day I walked into Charlie’s old office to begin being a witness, there on the mounted cork board was a tattered Pennsylvania map with a red push tack jammed right through the middle of the folded map. It struck me odd that torridly hot July 17, 1997. Why a map? Why not something less cold? It was as if I did not know the way, or my way around, the journey lying ahead. It offended me, but I am easily angered and offended.

So I quickly took the map down, and grumbled to myself about not needing a map to find my way. Rather prideful and arrogant on my part, since Charlie was only trying to help me. He was sending me a message, lighting the way.

One of my favorite photographers is Mathew Brady, who gained fame during the Civil War making some of the first photojournalistic images of battlefields. He died blind, broke and alone, but when asked near the end of his life why he pursued photography as a calling, he summed it up beautifully, “A Spirit in my feet said, ‘Go,’ so I went.” That was the spirit Charlie’s map was meant to share.

Numbers are a joyful way I celebrate life. Numbers hardly ever lie; they are honest, revealing, humbling and give perspective. I roughly estimate that I have traveled some 900,000 miles across this Diocese, seeing just about every one of its 7,660 square miles covering events, doing projects in more than 100 parishes, 45 schools and other entities affiliated with the Church in Pennsylvania and beyond. I have worked for four bishops, fifty if you count my ten years at Holy Spirit Hospital. Each has had a loving and deeply enriching part of making me appreciate working for this Diocese. Each bishop is the paper’s publisher, ever since Bishop Leech graced the paper’s first front page in 1966.

Scores of priests have been a blessing to me. They welcome me so warmly when I show up at their churches to be a pest with a camera. We truly have many wonderful priests in this Diocese — that is a truth I have experienced so often it cannot be false. And the same goes for our religious who go out of their way to lovingly welcome and serve Christ every minute of every day.

My gratefulness extends to the lay people of this Diocese. Almost every time I am out in the Diocese, I am thanked, welcomed and encouraged. I cannot put a number on that reality, but there are thousands to say thank you to.

Mine eyes have witnessed beautiful light over the years. I love the old churches of our Diocese. If you have never visited the old 1799 (same year George Washington died) built St. Peter’s Church in Elizabethtown, the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Conewago or St. Ignatius Church in Buchanan Valley, please go. The small country church of Our Lady of Refuge in Doylesburg is a gem in a tucked away part of the Diocese in western Franklin County. Our cities have magnificent churches — the two St. Mary’s in Lancaster and in York, as well as St. Joseph’s in Lancaster and Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament in Harrisburg are magnificent. Above all, my favorite sacred place to shoot in the Diocese is St. Patrick’s Cathedral. The mix of divine natural light and artificial light is different every minute, every day of the year, and has never been the same to study all the times I enter.

Light is God’s message to us from the very beginning. “Let there be light” (Gen 1:3-4) are the first words God spoke in creation. And he said that it was “good.” I have met many photographers who do not seek light, study light, capture it, preserve it, share it, and they are the worse off for that lack of seeing deeply. Being a witness in my view is appreciating light — believing in it — sharing it every day with others as best you can.

The Catholic Witness is embarking into more digital platforms and less printed pages these days. But Bishop Leech’s words and those of Holy Scripture have the same ring to us still today. “God speed The Catholic Witness on its errand of truth and love,” Bishop Leech concludes his introductory letter.

We all can take peaceful perspective from Bishop Leech’s words written more than five and a half decades ago, and might we nobly continue on that errand of truth and love as a witness.
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.gocatholicsschools.org.

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.”

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 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’cha 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.”

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.”

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.”

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.”
CELEBRATING OUR SENIORS

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  
Vasilly Gounley  
Erin Hake  
Ellehcyn Hallcock  
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 Jurosky  
Madison Karcesky  
Harneet Kaur  
Jakob Kelly  
Yujin Kim  
Zachary Kline  
Kristopher Kolk  
Ameer KousonSanong-Smith  
Anthony Larry  
Vincent Le  
Joseph Leiter  
Rachael Lilly  
Jocelyn Long  
Nyla Lott-Khan  
Benjamin Marsico  
Tyler Martin  
Grace Matte  
Francesca Mbibouth  
Imani McCray  
Devin McDonnell  
Gage McFadden  
James McInerney  
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  
Avana Noss  
Feysayo Oluleye  
Tyler Painter  
Mary Parker  
Lance Parthemore  
Mikayla Pavone  
Jaren Paynter  
Penelope Peguero  
Jacob Peifer  
Oscar Peske  
Anna Phelan  
Jayson Pilsitz  
Mark Pipa  
Justin Piper  
Hannah Polek  
Rakiim Ragín  
Zachary Rebarchak  
Brianna Ribic  
Grady Ritchey  
Dean Robbins  
Colin Roche  
Hannasy Rodgers  
Emmanuel Rodriguez, Jr.  
Lauren Roeseke  
Justin Ruiz-Velasco  
Cassandra Rushinski  
Delaney Ryan  
Julia Sallusti  
Brittany Saulters  
Allison Schaedler  
Brennin Schlauderaff  
Jenilah Scott  
Andrew Seneca  
Kellianne Shaub  
Collin Shea  
Annijah Simpson  
Sounkoun Sissoko  
Emily Sload  
Alexander Smith  
Nathan Smith  
Kathryn Solomon  
Angelina Spizzieri  
Peyton Stakem  
Elizabeth Staub  
Emily Staub  
Isabella Stefanić  
Jasmine Stonesifer  
Shane Stossell  
Tará Strackhouse  
Zachary Strohecker  
Alexis Swisher  
Jordan Tacas-Trufillo  
Yichen Tan  
Justin Tang  
Courtney Temple  
Maria Tice  
Natalie Torta  
Michael Toth  
Alexander Tyson  
Luke Venios  
Garrett Vranic  
Mitchell Ward  
Shaleeyah Watts  
Allison Weiss  
Benjamin Weiss  
Grace Wert  
Juwaan Wilkerson  
Annika Wise  
Faith Woods  
Kailis Woodworth  
Max Wrelbel  
Shilin Wu  
Rong Yang  
Ethan Yeckley  
Vivian Zhang  
Zengmin Zhang  
Dazhao Zheng  
Isabelle Zitto

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

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

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

Senior altar servers Colin Roche, Voung Nguyen and Thomas Bailey are pictured in the school’s chapel.
Delone Catholic High School ~ Class of 2020

Michael Joseph Apgar
Brock A. Avery
Yuefeng Bai
Nicholas Daniel Baker
Easton Biggins
Christopher Bruha
Ava Corrine Bunch
Mary Burke
Sophia Marie Busbey
Kathleen M. Chroniger
Madison Faith Clabaugh
Mason Clabaugh
Kyle Matthew Denisch
Kathryn Grace Derkasch
Joshua Matthew Dietrich
Katie Louise Ernst
Grace Elle Frizzell
Kylie Peyton Funkhouser
Jacob Reed Goddard
Thomas Joseph-More Griffin
Nathaniel William Hall
Joseph A. Hernandez
William Hoff
Sophia G. Holt

Mary Caroline Hoverkamp
Matthew Ji
Corbyn Lee Keller
Addison Kesseling
Emily Frances Kiger
Deanna Marie Klunk
Katelyn Diane Kohler
Emma Elizabeth Landis
Margaret Therese Lawrence
Tyler Michael Lawrence
Brooke Alyssa Lawyer
Gabriel McCabe Lee
Brett Anthony Leonard
Lauren Mary Little
Samuel Dane Long
Nathaniel Patrick Lowrie
Amie Lauren Luckenbaugh
Ethan Grant Malinowski
Victoria Catherine Marr
Sarah Valentina McCann
David Josiah Moffatt
Rachael Morgan Morehead
Kevin Mowrey
Ryan Myers

Tara Danielle Noel
Kelechi Joy Oparanozie
Ryan Matthew Overdorff
Jacob Matthew Pantaione
Grace Rose Panzino
Helen Mercy Phillips
Logan S. Pieper
Hannah Pierce
Lucy Alaine Rogers
Emma Nicole Russell
Emily Nicole Ryan
Hadlee M. Sanders
Emma Frances Schneider
Maria Elizabeth Schussler
Colby R. Seeley
Sean Oliver Sheehy
Joshua Thomas Sherdel
Madison Sieg
Abigail Kaye Smith
Quinn Francis Neault Smith
Jeremy Luke Snyder
Jordan Dale Spory
Ashley C. Stanley
Austin Ray Staub

www.delonecatholic.org

Matthew Steinberg
Sophia Strickler
Abigail Jane Sutphen
Logan Alexander Sweeney
William Patrick Sweeney
Emma Marie Trump
Sherlyn Uribe
Abbey Denise Welsh
Brenna Ann Yingling
Alejandro Rafael Zepeda

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.

Senior Marching Band member Kathryn Derkasch is pictured with her mother Kerilyn Derkasch on Senior Night.

Seniors prepare for a dissection in Anatomy and Physiology Class.

Peer Ministers are seen with the Angel Tree project. Seated are Tyler Lawrence and Ryan Overdorff. In the back are Austin Staub, Katie Kohler, Michael Apgar, Madison Sieg, Kathleen Chroniger and Maggie Lawrence.
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
Oliver Bennett Chairs
Nuo Chen
Zhijian Chen
Zhikang 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
Berdadette 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

Jeffrey Tobias Harley Jr.
Evan Riley Hart
Kaylor Anne Haug
Austin Anthony Helm
Bryanna Tyshia Hicks
Katherine Ann Hollister
Rachel Faustina Houser
Matthew Mikel Idota
Dylan Ormond Joachim
Emily Ann Julig
Denzel Munga Kabasele
David Kabemba Kamwanga
Todd Michael Kauffman
Kathryn Theresa Keane
Matthew George Keebler
Jenna Laniea Keller
Aaron Joshua Kern
Sydney Rose Kirchner
Oliver Alain Klemmer
Mariah Mary Kocher
Melanie Rose Krady
Martha Joy Lapp
Arianna Josephine Larsen
Hailey Morgan Legenstein
Seung Min Lee
Claudia Nicole Linkey
Elizabeth Jane Loebeck
Erica Grace Loiseau
Zachary Shane Luthy
Rachel Anna Mahoney
Christopher Donald Martin
Maria Katherine Martin
Marlia Jade Matters
Anna Josephine Bayer
Peter Thomas Mester
Andrew James Miklos
Zygmunt 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 Zodi 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
Irving Allen Ruiz
Katherine Marie Sahd
Angel Salcudia San Jose
Austin James Sauer
Margaret LaRue Scarff
Hannah Grace Schmidt
Cassandra Lynn Schusko
George Albert Seibert III
Peyton Christopher Sheaffer
Anthony Michael Silvillo
Leanna Christine Smith
Matthew David Smith
Riley Erin Smith
Tyla Janae Smith
Alexandria Mae Snyder
Zyi Song
Sophia Lara Sponaugle

Student altar servers are recognized for their ministry.

www.lchsyes.org

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

Oliver Klemmer
performs as a member of the football team and marching band.

Chris Martin and Kelixa Rivera study in English class.
Lebanon Catholic School ~ Class of 2020

Members of the girls’ basketball team and fellow students celebrate coach Patti Hower’s 750th win on Jan. 3 of this year.

Sami Hatfeld, 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 Hatfield
Alena Jenkins-Miranda
Shamar Lawrence
Joshua Marshall
Caitlyn Murphy
Albert O’Rawe
Johanna Stahl
Karlo Zimmerman

www.lebanoncatholicschool.org

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
Jessica Hope McMurtrie
Katherine Negro
Leanna Lynn Nguyen

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

Senior cheerleaders Anna Gownley, Mackenzie Catino, Kolbi Krebs and Caitlin Shulski share their school spirit.

Members of their senior class share one of many moments during their final year at Lourdes.

COURTESY OF LOURDES REGIONAL
The Class of 2020 of Our Lady of Lourdes Regional School.

Anna Gownley and Hannah Bozza, kneeling, and Krystof Lapotsky, Kolbi Krebs, Caitlin Shulski, Mackenzie Catino and Elliott Dobson show off their decorated door for Catholic Schools Week.

COURTESY OF LOURDES REGIONAL
Caitlin Shulski, Kolbi Krebs, Hannah Bozza, Anna Gownley and Mackenzie Catino at the Senior Powder Puff Game.
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 Karl
Jamie Keenan
Mary Kilcoyne
JungYoon Kim
Seohyun Kim
Samuel Kirchhoff
Jackson Klingaman
Connor Knittle
Carly Kopenhaver
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 Sajer
Haley Salus
Raymond Saracco
Nicholas Scherr
Daniel Scott
Receive Shelly
Gabriel Sheridan
Elise Shore
Jason Skreppen
Amanda Smith
Samuel Smithkosky
Sewon Sohn
SeungHyun Song
Michael Soule
Abigail Stackle
Michael Staiger

www.thsrocks.us

Matthew Strawser
Seamus Sweeney
Lance Thompson
William Thropp
Chexin Wang
Xinyi Wang
Cole Warnick
Grace Webster
Madelyn Weiss
LiHong Weng
Jennifer Wilson
Dominic Zampogna
Alessandro Zangari

Devan Drendall, front, and Andrey Burns, Jacob Karagiannis, Bentley Burke, Christian Chavey and Sam Smithnosky in the aftermath of a paint war.

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

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

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
Devan Drendall, front, and Andrey Burns, Jacob Karagiannis, Bentley Burke, Christian Chavey and Sam Smithnosky 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.
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.

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

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.

CO8RTESY OF YOR. CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Bruce Lenon-Mixco

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
Desiriana Hernandez
Dean Holmes
Philip Jahn
Hunter Karpulk
Tyana Keleagetsie
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
Paisen 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
Nylah Roland-Washington
Mikayla Ruby
Giuliana Santamaria
Aaron Sarosky
Lorraine Schlosser

www.yorkcatholic.org

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

May 1, 2020 • The Catholic WITNESS • 13
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 announced, “I could kiss you but I am not getting out.” 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 sobbing 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 to 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 (717) 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

HarriscorstWord

May 3, 10 and 17, 2020

BY MARY McCAIN

First among disciples

1. Alternative (abbr.)
2. Bumbling insect
3. Beats per minute
4. “...and be baptized”
5. Stitch
6. Opera solo
7. Lighted on altar
8. Easter month
9. Eddy
10. Cliff rim
11. Crucifix
12. Berried shrub
13. Wet dirt
14. Reporter’s question
15. French "yes"
16. Pet
17. British spelling for "paten"
18. Not the shepherd
19. Diffusion of water
20. Mommie
21. Estimated time of arrival
22. Ashen
23. Succor
24. “House of...”
25. 10,560 feet
26. Requested
27. Thin strand
28. Lutheran church group
29. Horse hair
30. North northeast
31. Great Basin tribe
32. British drink
33. Sea eagle
**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 Zevency
- **Bloomsburg**
  - St. Columba: John F. Miller, Jane H. Heuermann, Margaret S. Spoonenberg
- **Blue Ridge Summit**
  - St. Rita: Shirley Ford, Stanley McIntire
- **Bonneville**
  - St. Joseph the Worker: Charlene Orndorff
- **Carlisle**
  - St. Patrick: Thomas J. Derrmot, Dorothy G. Valley
- **Coal Township**
  - Our Lady of Hope: Loretta Greco, Alphonse J. Sieklicki
  - St. Jerome: Patricia A. Fiege, Margaret S. Sponenberg
  - Marytown: James T. Fiege, John E. O'Neill

**DOCESAN CATHOLIC CEMETRIES**

Spring/Fall Flower Program

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 Catholic 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 Marcroez, pastor, at frtmac@skdparish.com. Questions can also be directed to Father John at fax email or at 717-570-2151, 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:

- Individuals rooted in faith, willing to support Gospel values, and willing to inspire students through their word and example to accept and live these values and teachings.
- Certified and related Bachelor Degree in appropriate major, state and federal clearances required. Send résumé, certification, Diocesan application (minus the fee), a copy of state and federal clearances, and letter of interest to: Kathy Hand, Director of Studies, York Catholic High School, 601 East Springettsbury Avenue, York, PA 17403 or khand@yorkcatholic.org.

St. Katharine Drexel Parish in Mechanicsburg seeks a Business/Finance Manager, responsible for assisting the pastor in the overall financial and business administration of the parish regarding three major areas: finances; buildings and grounds/maintenance contracts; IT/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. The ideal candidate is a mature, responsible person who should possess an in-depth understanding of business and accounting principles, have strong management skills, and be a self-starter. This position requires excellent communication, organizational and managerial skills with considerable problem-solving abilities. This person 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 diocesan operations would be preferred. Salary is negotiable due to education and experience. Applicants can apply directly to Father Ken Smith at kmsmith@skdparish.com.

**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
- Father John Campion, 2010
- Father Richard P. Waldron, 2011
- Bishop Joseph P. McFadden, 2013

**Puzzle**

The CrossWord

- Found on 14

**DIOCESAN CATHOLIC CEMETERIES**

Spring/Fall Flower Program

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 Catholic 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)
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.”