Reveling in finally reaching the ordination day of four men to the diaconate on Aug. 22, Bishop Ronald Gainer said such days of celebration and joy are much needed in a time of face masks and social distancing.

“We have all been counting the days, and counting the days, and counting the days,” he said of the previously twice-delayed liturgy for the men. Two of them are Diocesan seminarians, one is a former minister in the Church of Christ and Episcopal priest, and one is a native of India in formation for a religious order that serves in the Diocese.

Bishop Gainer ordained four men to the diaconate on Aug. 22. From left are Deacon Peter Rettig, Deacon Aaron Lynch, Deacon Norbert Suresh, MSSCC, and Deacon William Barbee.

“I know that there are broad smiles on your faces right now, even though I can’t see your faces,” Bishop Gainer told the candidates: William Barbee, Aaron Lynch, Peter Rettig and Norbert Suresh. The Rite of Ordination was celebrated at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg in front of a limited number of close family and friends. The Mass was also streamed live on the Diocese’s YouTube Channel.

The deacons are continuing to serve in the parishes they have been recently assigned to: Deacon Barbee at St. Margaret Mary Parish in Harrisburg; Deacon Lynch at St. Catherine Labouré Parish in Harrisburg; and Deacon Rettig at St. Francis Xavier Parish in...
Gettysburg.
Deacon
Suresh,
MSSCC,
who has
been living
and serving
with his
order in
Fairfield
while
completing
studies
at Mount
St. Mary’s
Seminary in
Emmitsburg,
Md., is
waiting to receive his diaconate assignment from
his order.

In his homily, Bishop Gainer cautioned the
candidates against the temptation of considering
diaconate ordination solely as a milestone toward
priesthood.

“There is a temptation, I know, for you to see
this ordination simply as a movement toward
your true vocation, since each of you aspires
to be ordained a priest. It’s a temptation that all
of us, I think, might fall into. We might rejoice
today just because you are one step closer to the
priesthood. That is understandable. But today’s
sacramental celebration is more than a stepping
stone to your final goal,” he said.

The bishop read to the candidates the words
Recall the act of the washing of the feet, where
it is explicitly shown that the teacher, the Lord,
acts as a deacon, and wants those who follow
him to be deacons, and carry out this ministry for
humanity to the point that they even help us wash
the dirty feet of the people entrusted to our care.
This dimension seems to be one of paramount
importance.”

Ordination to the diaconate is “the beginning of
an ordained servanthood that must remain visible
throughout the rest of your lives,” Bishop Gainer
told the men. “If your diaconal ordination is only
seen as a progression towards something else,
and the diaconal dimension does not remain

More DEACONS, page 3
manifest throughout the rest of your lives, you may be ordained priests or even someday ordained bishops, but you will not be good priests or good bishops. Servanthood modeled on the life of Christ the Servant must remain an essential part of who you are.”

Deacon William Barbee, a husband, father, grandfather and former minister in the Church of Christ and the Episcopal Church – is in formation for the Diocesan priesthood under the Church’s Pastoral Provision. The provision provides a structure for the formation of married former Anglican clergy members to be ordained Catholic priests.

The Vatican created the Pastoral Provision in 1980 in response to requests from clergy and laity of the Episcopal Church seeking full communion with the Catholic Church. The provision is under the auspices of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Deacon Barbee, who is originally from Illinois, said his 28 years of service as an Army chaplain introduced him to various denominations, including Lutheran and Catholic chaplains that became close friends.

Theological discussions with fellow chaplains put the search for truth on his heart during his time as chaplain with the Church of Christ, where he had ministered since 1980.

While assigned to Fort Hood, Texas, he and his wife Cindy began attending an Episcopal church. He was ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church in 1995. Continued discussions with his close chaplain friends and continued studies, however, led him and his wife to enter the Catholic Church in 2015 while assigned to the Carlisle Barracks.

“I saw the fullness of the Church, through history, through liturgy, but primarily through doctrine,” Deacon Barbee said. “In the Episcopal Church, I loved the people and I respect the Church, but doctrinally, the Catholic Church has it. It has the authority. It has the magisterium. You can sink yourself into the Truth.”

“It came to a point where I had to say to myself and to Cindy, ‘I may never be a Catholic priest. That might not happen. But I know one thing for sure, I have to be Catholic. I’m going to move regardless,’” he said.

Eventually, he connected with Father Paul Schenck, who had been a minister in the Anglican tradition prior to his ordination as a Diocesan priest, to explore joining the ranks of the priesthood.

In November of 2018, Bishop Gainer assigned him to serve at St. Margaret Mary Parish in Harrisburg, where he’ll continue as he awaits ordination to the priesthood.

Deacon Barbee said he has enjoyed his work in the parish, and looks forward to continued service.

“For me, it’s been a real joy to go in with the children in the school. They ask some really good questions, and sometimes it’s hard to find the answer. I’ll have to say, ‘I’ll get back with you on that one!’ And sometimes I do hospital visits and Communion to the shut-ins and homebound, and also nursing home ministry. I also serve as an Extraordinary Ordained Deacon.

More DEACONS, page 4
Minister of Holy Communion and lector,” he said.

Deacon Aaron Lynch, a native of St. Patrick Parish in Carlisle and a seminarian at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia, first heard the call to priesthood in middle school and high school. He said the messages were like small tugs.

“There’s just something in you that knows, and I think every priest and every consecrated religious has that feeling,” he said. “It might not be what I want, but it’s what God wants me to do, whether I enjoy it, or want it or not. If it’s what God wants me to do, it will ultimately make me happy.”

“Discernment of a vocation, at least in my experience and in the experience of a lot of young men, is a lot of guys have a fairly clear idea that this is what God wants me to do, and it’s training our own hearts to be obedient to that pull. You discover that you love this vocation deeply,” he added.

Assigned to St. Catherine Labouré Parish in Harrisburg earlier this summer, Deacon Lynch said he looks forward to continuing his service in the deacon’s role as Minister of the Word, Altar and Charity.

“I’ve been in seminary for seven years now, and I’ve been in formation for the Diocese of Harrisburg for over seven years. I feel like my ministry is just now beginning,” he said. “All of this time has been preparation, and I’m aching to begin. I want to preach. I want to baptize. I want to witness marriages. I want to visit the sick.”

“I’m chomping at the bit to finally get there after all this time,” he added. “I have a great desire to give the grace of Christ to people in a unique way. I’ve been doing a lot of these things and I feel prepared, and I’m anxious to begin doing them in a priestly way.”

Deacon Lynch expressed gratitude for the support he and his fellow seminarians have received from the people in the Diocese, through prayers, financial contributions and friendship.

“Receiving unconditional love from someone I’ve never met but who has been praying for me in such a deep, intimate and spiritual way is a very humbling experience and a very joyous one,” he said. “The people of God have been very kind and generous to me and my brothers, and there isn’t a ‘Thank you’ big enough for that.”

“Pray for vocations, pray for my brothers, pray for your priests, and pray for all the people who are helping them,” Deacon Lynch asked the faithful of the Diocese. “Pray for all the people who are working in the parishes during this very difficult time. Things are crazy and we need to be patient. We need to pray for guidance from the Holy Spirit; we can’t do this alone.”

Deacon Peter Retti said his consideration of the priesthood came when his religion teacher at St. Maria Goretti High School in Hagerstown, Md., told the class, “You can have a personal relationship with God.”

He liked the sound of it, and made a visit to the Adoration Chapel on campus.

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“People were sitting there in silence and I didn’t quite understand why, but I wanted to figure out why,” said Deacon Rettig, a native of St. Andrew the Apostle Parish in Waynesboro.

“God spoke to me and told me he was there, just internally, like a little movement in your soul, and I kept going back a few days to the Adoration Chapel to pursue that voice that I heard. There was this desire to figure out what it was, to know who it was. After a few days, the thought of the priesthood just kept popping into my head. It wasn’t a self-produced thought. You know when it is, and it wasn’t.”

To further his discernment, he attended the Diocese’s Quo Vadis Days discernment camp, where he prayed a novena to St. John Vianney, the patron saint of parish priests. Again, he felt the presence of God, calling him to enter seminary.

After two years of studies at Louisiana State University, he entered St. Charles Seminary in Philadelphia, where he earned his degree in philosophy. Further studies led him to the University of Navarra in Spain and then to Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md.

Deacon Rettig has been serving at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Gettysburg this summer, and will continue there as a deacon.

“Three things I’m very much looking forward to are, Exposition with Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, baptisms and preaching,” he said.

“With baptisms, you get to see somebody born into the faith. That’s the beginning of their Eternal Life. With Adoration, you’re before Jesus Christ, and that speaks for itself. With preaching, I’ve given some reflections and I’ve found it so much fun.”

Deacon Rettig said he is approaching diaconal ministry with commitment.

“I feel very comfortable approaching this commitment because it’s a vocation. There are some fears here and there – Am I going to be good at this? Will I not be good at this? – but those come and go and they’re solved by the grace of God,” he said.

“When people ask me how I’m doing, I say I’m living the dream. My family members say, ‘You’re a lot happier. You sound way more chipper than you did in college.’ Well, I’m going the way I’m supposed to go. I feel like I’ve been called by God to do it, and I think it’s the only way to satiate those feelings and find true happiness. I’m approaching commitment with a lot of joy,” he said.

Deacon Norbert Suresh, MSSCC, is a native of India. He has been studying at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., for the past two years and resides at his congregation’s House of Studies in Fairfield.

“My faith journey started from my mother. She is a very devoted woman. I recall going with her to Mass. I used to help the priest celebrate the Mass, being an altar server. Being able to be so close to the Altar of God and seeing how the priest was so close, I was so much inspired,” he said.
“In high school, I expressed the idea to my parents about becoming a priest, and they were very happy about that. After tenth grade, I told our former parish priest. He also was very happy. He showed me the Missionary priest who was working in our parish at the time for six months. I said, ‘Yes, Father. I can be a religious priest.’”

Deacon Suresh joined the Missionaries of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary in 2008, and completed his high school education with the order. He spent a year learning English before studies in philosophy and a novitiate year in 2015.

While he was studying theology, he was invited by the order to study at Mount St. Mary’s.

“It was very difficult for me to come here, because my mother gets sick now and then. I thought, ‘If I’m in India, I can see my parents all the time.’ I have one brother and two sisters. I said, ‘I have only one brother. If I miss the chance to see his marriage, I will never see it,’” Deacon Suresh said. “So at the beginning, I said I am not interested in coming to America. But if God-willing they asked me again, my brother gets married and my mom gets well, then it is God’s plan that I come to America. So here I am.”

The Missionaries of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary were founded in 1836 by St. Gaetano Errico, a native of Naples, Italy.

“The basic mission, the charism of our congregation is spreading the love of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary,” Deacon Suresh said. “The work of the apostolate is administrating any of the sacraments in the parish, teaching in the school. In any of the work we do, we should show the devotion of the Sacred Hearts to others.”

Deacon Suresh professed his vows with the order on May 5, 2019. During his time in Fairfield, he has been assisting at Masses at Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Fairfield as acolyte and Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. He said he is looking forward to serving the people of the parish, who have welcomed him like family.

“This many years, I have experienced God’s mercy and love throughout my life, so I am eagerly looking forward to show that same love to the people through my service and ministry,” he said.

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To report suspected abuse of a minor by a church official, employee or volunteer, also please call the Diocese of Harrisburg Youth Protection Hotline: 1-800-626-1608 or email: ReportAbuse@hbgdiocese.org

Para reportar la sospecha del abuso de un menor, llame al número de teléfono gratuito Línea de Ayuda Abuso del Niño Pennsylvania 1-800-932-0313
Para reportar la sospecha del abuso de un menor a manos de un oficial, empleado o voluntario de la iglesia, también llame al número de teléfono gratuito de ayuda diocesana: 1-800-626-1608 o envíe correo electrónico: ReportAbuse@hbgdiocese.org
When Gail Ferree first laid eyes on the man who would become her husband, she was smitten.

“I got butterflies in my stomach when he came home from the military and I saw him. We weren’t dating yet, but my sister’s husband said to me, ‘I can tell by the way you’re looking at Donald that you like him.’

Gail’s sister and Donald’s brother were married to each other, and both had encouraged their siblings to start dating.

“I fell in love with her because I liked the way her hair looked, and her beautiful eyes,” Mr. Ferree recalled. Soon, their attraction took on a deeper meaning.

“I saw that she was a kind person, always going out of her way to help other people,” Mr. Ferree said. Their shared values drew them closer.

“I realized he was everything that I ever wanted,” Mrs. Ferree said. “I think our shared values helped us throughout our marriage and in our raising our family.”

Mr. and Mrs. Ferree, members of St. Joseph Parish in York, are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this year. They are among the more than 300 couples indicated to the Diocese who are celebrating their golden jubilee in 2020.

Annually, the Diocesan Office of Family and Respect Life Ministries hosts a Mass and reception to celebrate and recognize the couples. Typically held at Good Shepherd Church in Camp Hill with family in attendance, this year’s Mass was shared via livestream from St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg on Aug. 23 as Bishop Ronald Gainer asked God’s blessing upon the couples.

The Mass included a worship aid filled with wedding photos and current pictures of many of the couples, as well as pop culture highlights from 1970. During the Mass, the couples were led in the renewal of their commitment made 50 years ago.

“I’m confident that 50 years of marriage have taught you to be flexible and to expect the unexpected,” the bishop said to the husbands and wives, acknowledging not only the adaptation to the Mass, but also the alterations and even cancellations of the couples’ own anniversary celebrations.

“We honor you not just for the number of years that have passed since your wedding day; rather, we celebrate and honor you for promises kept over the years, no matter what those years asked of you,” Bishop Gainer said.

“We celebrate vows faithfully lived – for better, for worse; for richer, for poorer – vows that were kept in sickness and in health. We thank Our Lord, who joined himself to you, who became the sacramental bond of your married love, and who gave you the needed grace to live faithful through time and through the surprises that life handed you in your vocation of married love,” he said.

“Congratulations, and may God bless you abundantly with many more happy, healthy, and grace-filled years of marriage.”

Watching the livestream of the Mass from their living room chairs, the Ferrees said it was a fulfilling and beautiful experience.

“It was a blessing. I’m thankful that we’ve had the Church throughout our marriage, and in raising our two daughters. Our faith is most important,” Mrs. Ferree said.

The Ferrees say communication and respect have also been hallmarks of
their marriage, because disagreements are bound to happen.

“I tell my daughters and their husbands – who are raising our three grandchildren – the relationship has to be give and take, 50/50. You have to share things and talk things out,” Mr. Ferree said. “Sometimes when we have a discussion and we’re not agreeing, I’ll say to her, ‘Happy Valentine’s Day.’ We say that as a reminder that we love each other, always.”

“Never lose respect for one another,” Mrs. Ferree offered. The key is keeping God in our lives. Sometimes one of us feels one way about something and the other feels another way, but we always agree to be kind and patient with each other.”

For Anthony and JoAnn Niekrewicz, their Catholic faith has been instrumental in their marriage from the start, even back to when ten-year-old JoAnn was grieving the loss of her father.

A native of Brooklyn, she was angry with God over the death of her father, and decided to sit on the steps of the church rather than go to Sunday school.

That’s when Father Calder approached, a priest who would become instrumental throughout the Niekrewicz’s lives. That first day, he let young JoAnn express her anger. The following Sunday, he took her by the hand and gently led her to class.

“He offered me a true helpmate. We tend to agree on many things, but when we don’t, we just agree to disagree and move on,” she recalled.

Anthony and JoAnn Niekrewicz, Married June 20, 1970
what life was all about and what my goal should be in life, helped me be closer to Jesus and to know that kind of relationship would be important for me to see in whoever would be the man in my life,” Mrs. Niekrewicz said.

Father Calder married the Niekrewicz’s in the Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Brooklyn. They fondly remember their wedding day, even though it was bittersweet from the loss of JoAnn’s father and Anthony’s brother.

“I used to ask my brother, Tommy, advice when I was dating. He said, 'I like this girl JoAnn a lot.' I said, 'I do too.' So another reason I love JoAnn so much is because my brother did, and so did my mom and dad, tremendously. God blessed me with the right girl,” Mr. Niekrewicz said.

“I feel that God has richly blessed us in many ways, materially, spiritually and with family,” he said, referring to their three daughters and seven grandchildren. “As time goes on, I feel that I love JoAnn more so than when we were younger. That too is a blessing.”

The Niekrewicz’s are members of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in York, and recently sponsored a married couple who joined the Catholic Church.

“It’s a blessing to be able to say that we’ve been married 50 years in the light of God, and to thank him for what he’s done for us,” Mrs. Niekrewicz said.

“Life changes, and 50 years is a long time. In every challenge, I felt Jesus with us. We talk to him in the morning and at night, and he’s the one who helped get us here,” she said. “Life isn’t easy. Marriage isn’t easy. I look to our faith to guide us through.”

A self-acknowledged “professional volunteer” for the Diocese and her parish, Terri Rosenstein has always appreciated the Diocese’s annual celebration of golden jubilee couples.

For nearly a dozen years, she’s assisted with preparing the reception after the Mass, reveling in meeting the guests of honor and hearing stories of their 50 years together.

With her and her husband Michael’s 50th anniversary this year, she was prepared to set up the reception, attend Mass with her husband, enjoy some cake, and then clean up at the end of the event.

Instead, she watched the livestream of the Mass with Michael – a bit disappointed that it couldn’t take place in person, but immensely appreciative of the liturgical celebration just the same.

“I’ve always been a big supporter of this Mass because I think we should recognize people who have made it 50 years, especially today,” said Mrs. Rosenstein.

Having mentored interfaith couples in marriage preparation classes at their home parish of St. Joseph’s in Mechanicsburg, the Rosensteins are candid about what it takes to make a marriage work.

“We encouraged them to have discussions about family, faith and children right from the beginning,” said Mrs. Rosenstein.

It comes from first-hand experience. Mrs. Rosenstein was raised in the Catholic Church; Mr. Rosenstein in the Jewish tradition.

“Older generations, at the time we got married, looked down upon the idea of marrying someone from another faith, but times have certainly changed,” Mr. Rosenstein said. “We were very fortunate in terms of our own immediate family supporting us. I loved Terri’s parents, and a good part of it was how accepting they were of me, recognizing that I was of a different faith. We
didn’t directly have resistance, but you could certainly see it around you then.”

“I have to say that I’ve been very blessed. Michael has always been very supportive of the Catholic Church and raising our kids in the faith. He has gone to numerous workshops and Masses, and given his time to the Church,” Mrs. Rosenstein said. “St. Joe’s is like our second home. We have many dear friends there and raised our four kids there.”

“Sure, it hasn’t been 50 years of bliss; you have roadblocks, but you work through them,” she added.

The Rosensteins married the summer after college graduation – she from Arizona State University and he from the University of Arizona. A year later, and with a four-month-old son, they drove cross country to Pennsylvania for a job opportunity.

“It was an exciting time, sort of a new adventure,” Mr. Rosenstein said. “We struggled at first, but no more than others our age. We were raising a toddler without any real parental involvement, and that was difficult because we did miss having our parents and family around us. But, we treated it as something exciting.”

It was a typical start for couples of their generation, Mrs. Rosenstein said. “You got married young, started a family, scrimped your pennies. You were excited when you bought your first house because you had saved for it, and you filled it with hand-me-down furniture. But then you kept progressing,” she said.

“The thing we’ve talked about with our friends as we’ve reached this milestone is that, you became grateful,” she added. “We have everything we need. We don’t need another thing, in the house. We have children and grandbabies. You come to learn how blessed you’ve been.”

Mr. Rosenstein agreed, and offered these words to couples hoping to reach their 50th anniversary some day: “The most important thing is communication. If you talk through all the subjects – spirituality, finances, anything – the most important thing is to be honest with each other. You need to be honest and faithful, and if you do that, you have a chance of going beyond the first five, seven or ten years to have a long lasting relationship.”

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The pro-life organization Undefeated Courage unveiled its mobile ultrasound unit with a ribbon-cutting and blessing earlier this month.

The organization ministers to abortion-minded women to offer them life-affirming alternatives, and has prayer chapels in the vicinity of abortion clinics in Harrisburg and York.

The mobile ultrasound unit, dubbed “Little Bee,” was blessed by Bishop Ronald Gainer in front of a gathering of supporters and benefactors Aug. 20 at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Enola.

The recreational vehicle has a beautifully-designed interior with attractive furnishings designed to make women feel comfortable and welcome. A private room is fully equipped with an ultrasound machine, and furniture is conducive to one-on-one counseling.

Little Bee was made possible through the generosity of several Knights of Columbus.

Councils in the Diocese, including:
• Council 871 of St. Joseph Parish in Hanover
• Council 9875 of St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Annville
• Council 8891 of St. John the Baptist Parish in New Freedom
• Council 11805 of St. Bernard Parish in New Bloomfield
• Council 13692 of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Abbottstown
• Council 8151 of Our Lady of Counsel in Marysville and St. Bernadette in Duncannon
• Council 10827 of St. James Parish in Lititz
• Council 10502 of Holy Spirit Parish in Palmyra
• Council 3625 of Prince of Peace Parish in Steelton
• Council 6353 of St. Joseph Parish in York
• Council 12788 of St. Joseph Parish in Mechanicsburg
• Council 12404 of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Enola

Undefeated Courage will host a kick-off with Little Bee before the start of the 40 Days for Life fall campaign in Harrisburg. The event will be Sept. 21 at 11 a.m. in the parking lot of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish in Harrisburg. 40 Days for Life, a semi-annual public, pro-life witness, is Sept. 23-Nov. 1.

For information on Undefeated Courage and how to financially support efforts for the launch of the mobile ultrasound unit, visit www.undefeatedcourage.org or e-mail undefeatedcourage@gmail.com.
Five Adorers with Ties to Diocese Celebrate Milestone Jubilees

Five Adorers of the Blood of Christ with ties to the Diocese of Harrisburg are celebrating milestone anniversaries this year.

Sister Bernice (Celestine) Klostermann, is celebrating 60 years. She made her first profession on July 1, 1960 and her final vows on July 1, 1965. Sister Bernice was born in St. Rose, Ill. She earned a bachelor’s degree in Latin in 1964, and a master’s in elementary school administration in 1979, both from Saint Louis University. She also has an associate’s degree in data processing from Belleville Area College in Belleville, Ill., and a certificate in theology from Fontbonne University in St. Louis.

Sister Bernice began her ministry as a Latin teacher in Belleville. She then taught elementary students in Illinois in Missouri. She was a bookkeeper at Southern Illinois Hospice in Belleville and secretary for the small business department at Belleville Area College. She worked with Project Unmet Needs at Maria’s Vineyard in Cairo, Ill., for several years.

Sister Bernice served her community as co-director of the ASC Associate program for the former Ruma province, then as administrator of the Ruma Center. For nearly 20 years, she has been coordinator of Sisters at St. Anne’s Retirement Community in Columbia, Pennsylvania.

Sister (Mary) Kathleen Washington is celebrating 65 years. She made her first profession on August 12, 1955 and her final vows on August 12, 1959. Sister Kathleen was born in Johnson City, N.Y., and earned a bachelor’s degree in history from Mount Mercy College in Pittsburgh in 1962. She earned a master’s in history in 1970 and a doctorate in history and fine arts in 1991, both from Catholic University in Washington, D.C. She also took continuing education courses at universities in Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York and Maryland.

A lifelong educator, Sister Kathleen taught students at the elementary, secondary and university levels. She taught middle grades at St. Mary’s in Steelton, at St. Joseph Academy in Columbia and at Lancaster Catholic High School, where she also served as assistant director of curriculum. She also taught in North Carolina and Ohio. Her university service included Villanova, York and Immaculata in Pennsylvania.; the University of Dayton in Ohio; Mount St. Mary’s in Emmitsburg, Md.; St. John on Staten Island and Iona in New Rochelle, N.Y.

Sister Kathleen’s community service was primarily research, both in the former province of Columbia and also in the ASC General House in Rome. While still maintaining her connection to Immaculata University, Sister Kathleen is now Living Mission in Later Life at St. Anne’s Retirement Community in Columbia.

Sister Theresa Marie Smith, is celebrating 70 years as a vowed member of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ. She made her first profession on August 12, 1950 and her final vows on August 12, 1955. Sister Theresa Marie was born in Hanover and earned a bachelor’s degree in history from Mount Mercy College, now Carlow University, in Pittsburgh in 1962. She also did graduate work in history at Catholic University in Washington, D.C.

Sister Theresa Marie spent 13 years as an elementary teacher in several states: St. Mary School in Steelton, St. Joseph Academy in Columbia, and in Illinois and North Carolina. She
was engaged in many areas of ASC community service, including dorm moderator at St. Joseph Academy, formation director for novices and postulants, and provincial superior.

A final ministry, in pastoral and liturgical services, grew from her participation in the Pastoral Leadership Institute in San Antonio, Texas, where she took workshops in spirituality, formation, administration, theology and catechetics. At San Juan Bautista Parish in Lancaster, she served for six years as a pastoral assistant and another 15 years as Director of Religious Education in the Hispanic community. Sister Theresa Marie now resides at St. Anne’s Retirement Community and is Living Mission in Later Life.

Sister Jean Marie Landis is celebrating her 75th anniversary. She was born in Marietta, and earned a certificate in licensed practical nursing from Mercedian School of Nursing in Scranton in 1958. She graduated as a clinical pastoral assistant from Holy Spirit Hospital in Camp Hill in 1978.

Sister Jean Marie’s early ministry was teaching kindergarten at St. Mary School in Steelton, and in Georgia and North Carolina. After working at St. Anne Home for the Aged in Columbia, for two years, she pursued an education in nursing. Following her training as an LPN, she was a nurse at St. Anne’s Home for 14 years. She then did five years of light nursing duties while working for certification as a pastoral care assistant.

Sister Jean Marie returned to St. Anne’s in the pastoral care department where she ministered for 27 years. Even when she began Living Mission in Later Life, she still volunteered at St. Anne’s as much as she was able. She now resides in Annunciata Hall at St. Anne’s Retirement Community.

Sister Cleta Marie Reineberg is celebrating her 75th anniversary. She made her first profession on August 12, 1945 and her final vows on August 12, 1950. She was born in York and earned a bachelor’s degree in 1964 and a master’s degree in 1972 – both in education from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh.

Sister Cleta Marie’s ministry in education spanned 50 years and included both junior high and high school students. In addition to teaching, she also served as principal in several schools, at the elementary and high school levels. On the elementary level, she taught at St. Mary in Steelton, St. John in Enhaut and Seven Sorrows in Middletown, as well as in Indiana, Illinois, North Carolina, Missouri and New York. On the high school level, she taught at Sacred Heart in Lewistown and St. Joseph Academy in Columbia. She also was principal at St. Joseph Academy.

Sister Cleta Marie served her community as the Local Coordinator of the Center in the former Columbia province. She then served as co-director of the ASC Associate Program in the Columbia area until she retired. She is now Living Mission in Later Life at St. Anne’s Retirement Community.

(For more information on the jubilarians, visit www.adorers.org/jubilees.)
Sister Mary Ellen Tennity, IHM, General Superior, received the vows in the name of the Church for the Congregation. During the Rite of Perpetual Profession, Sisters Christina Marie Roberts and Sister Mary Kathryn Teresa Clemmer then publicly professed vows of chastity, poverty and obedience to God in the service of the Catholic Church. Afterwards, Sister Christina Marie and Sister Mary Kathryn Teresa signed vow cards and received newly engraved rings signifying their vowed commitment.

Sister Kathryn Teresa is the daughter of Marvin and Mary Clemmer of York, where they are parishioners of St. Joseph Parish. Sister Kathryn is a graduate of Atholton High School and the Catholic University of America. She received her MEd from Providence College in 2010. After her first vows, Sister Kathryn taught at St. Agnes Elementary School in West Chester, Pa. This year, she will continue to participate in the life and mission of the IHM Congregation as she teaches fourth grade at St. Catherine Labouré School in Harrisburg.

On Aug. 10, Stephanie Conrad was received into the IHM Congregation as a novice in the Rite of Initiation into Religious Life. The entrance into the novitiate marks a woman’s formal introduction to religious life. At the private ceremony, prayers, daily living of community life and participation in the mission of the IHM Sisters. As a first year, or canonical novice, she will take part in classes related to prayer and theology. In the second year of her novitiate, she will also learn more about the mission of the IHM Congregation, “to evangelize, to catechize, and to teach” and prepare to actively participate in this mission.

The Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of the Immaculata branch of the Congregation comprise approximately 667 Sisters who currently staff Catholic schools, parishes and outreach programs in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Virginia, North Carolina, Florida and in the South American country of Peru. The charism of the sisters is Love, which continues to manifest itself today in the sisters’ joyful service of God and his people; creative Hope, which puts all its confidence in God’s loving Providence; and Fidelity, which inspires fervor in their vocation in Christ and in their mission in the Church. For more information, visit www.ihmimmaculata.org.
Tell me about your childhood.

I am from the northwestern part of Uganda, near the border of Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. I come from a large family. I have five brothers and three sisters. My dad died in 2000. My mom is still alive. It was because of their lifestyle. My dad was principal of an elementary school, and because of that he moved from one area to another. We grew up not in our own village where we were born, but about seven miles away.

Growing up, there was also a church nearby, less than a five-minute walk. Both my mom and my dad were daily Mass-goers for morning Mass. My dad would go to Mass before going to the school. As we grew up, that was what we were also doing. They liked the church very much. When my dad retired, he became an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, and there they do more than what is done here. They lead Sunday services and give out Holy Communion in case the priest needs to go out to another chapel for prayers.

That’s what my dad did.

When did you start thinking about the priesthood?

When I was young. When we were young and playing around, and since we had been going to church, I remember one time we were playing with my brothers and sisters and the kids around. I got the idea of getting a banana leaf, which is wide and long. I split it in the middle and put it on like a chasuble hanging in the front and the back. There was sap in the banana leaf, and my mom was not pleased with that! You don’t get that off once it is stained. That was the only time I did that – I never did it again!

That was how I started thinking about being a priest. In the parish, we had a vocation group. As I continued going to church, I became an altar server as soon as I made my first Holy Communion. I served all the years I was at home, and in the choir. That was how the vocation came.

Back to my parents, we always had the Rosary and Night Prayer. That, no one could escape. After dinner we would have Night Prayer and the Rosary and then we would go to bed.

Did you go to Catholic school?

At the time I was growing up, we didn’t have Catholic school. In the home and how we led our lives was how we got the vocation. Because of that, my brother is also a priest in the Apostles of Jesus.

How did you come to know the Apostles of Jesus?

It was because of those priests who were in our parish, who were missionaries. That was why I wanted to become a missionary. They were explaining in their vocation group the difference between a diocesan priest and a religious priest. As I wanted to go to the Apostles of Jesus, I had an uncle who was in the diocesan seminary, but he didn’t become a priest. He left after philosophy. He actually discouraged me from joining the Apostles of Jesus. It was very far away; more than 100 miles to their seminary. Where he was for the diocese, he was less than 40 miles. He said, “When you go there, they eat camel meat,” and I didn’t like that. That almost led me not to go, but when I talked with my mom, she said, “They will not be eating that meat every day. The day that they do it, don’t eat. You will not die of hunger.” So I went to the Apostles of Jesus.

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What was seminary like in Uganda?

It was a little tough with the Apostles of Jesus, because that area was one of the insecure areas. During the war with General Idi Amin, there was a full army barracks in the area. All the soldiers deserted the place and left their ammunitions there, so the people just went in and took it to their homes. Each person had a gun, and it was very insecure. This was in 1980, after the overthrow in 1979.

1980 was when I joined, and I went into the minor seminary, after grade seven. It was the first time that I was so far away from home and had to stay quite a long time.

In Uganda, we have systems. You have three months, then one month vacation. Because of the distance between seminary and home, we would go home two times a year. It was a good experience. Some would have a problem waking up early to go to Mass, or thinking that there were too many prayers, but because of what I had already at home, I didn’t have a problem.

I did my novitiate in Nairobi, Kenya, about 600 or 700 miles away from home. But the training I already had in the minor seminary prepared me for staying away from home for a long time. Novitiate was two years, without going home.

When were you ordained?

I was ordained to the diaconate in the major seminary in Nairobi. Ordination to the priesthood was done at home, in Orussi. At that time, it was just one diocese, the Diocese of Arua. Now, we have a different diocese.

There were 28 ordained in my class, in 1992. We were all from different areas.

How often do you return to Uganda?

I get back once a year. I was there in January and February this year, and when I came back, the pandemic started.

Where have you served, and how did you come to the United States?

My first assignment was in Uganda, where I was for six years. It was in the northeastern part of Uganda. There are many languages in Uganda, but where I was assigned, we had a dialect. With that language, there are a lot of similarities to mine, so it was just about switching some words here and there.

After that, I was assigned to Ethiopia, where I worked for 15 years. That was challenging, because they speak Amharic as their national language. I had to learn that language, which is very difficult. In English and in my native language you form the words, but in Amharic, there is a different way of writing and you don’t just put letters together. I learned it for nine months. The parish I was sent to, it had two different tribes with two different languages, so I ended up learning three languages in Ethiopia. The northern part is Orthodox but autonomous. In the southern part, there are mostly Protestants. You have Orthodox as the majority, then the Muslims, the Protestants and the Catholics, who are a very small percent. Our parishes were mostly in the south.

After Ethiopia, I was assigned to the Diocese of Harrisburg. I went to Sacred Heart in Lewistown in 2013 with Father Weary. I worked with him for two and a half years. The two or three parochial vicars there were from Nigeria.

Then I was assigned to Hershey Medical Center for one and a half years, then I came here to Lykens. I’ve been here three years.

When you were thinking of being a priest, did you ever think you’d wind up in a small town in Pennsylvania?

No, not even a little bit (laughing). I didn’t think I’d go to anywhere in the U.S. or even Europe. I just thought of being in Uganda. But that is what it means to be a missionary.

In this Diocese, there are five of us who are Apostles of Jesus. We have our regional house in the Allentown Diocese, so it is easy to meet with the others. We also have many in New York, where we meet often.

What is most rewarding for you as a priest?

The celebration of the Mass. Also visiting the sick. In visiting
the sick, it’s not only administering the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, but just being a presence. I think that is fulfilling for me and for the person I am seeing. At Hershey, I used to say to someone who was in their hospital bed and could not get to church, “When you are not able to get to church, the Church gets to you.”

What do you enjoy in your free time?
I like to read. I read anything. I read mostly spiritual books, and some magazines just to know what is going on.
I like soccer. I don’t play, I watch it on TV. I try to follow it quite a bit. We played all the time as children. We would wrap pieces of cloth with a banana leaf to make a ball. It doesn’t bounce, but you can kick it.

How do you prepare your homilies?
I read the Readings for the upcoming Sunday, and then I reflect about them. Most of the time, I go back to my experiences and use that. I’ll also read commentaries from others. I like to teach from my experience. I also think the people like it that way because it applies more to what is taking place.

What is it like to be a priest during the pandemic, and the challenges of ministry?
The challenge is that our work rotates on being around people. Not being able to do that is a challenge. As with everything, we know our strength comes from inside the Church, so more prayers and more time for spiritual readings is the only thing that has kept us going.
Our people are coming to Mass. We follow all the guidelines. We have between 30 and 40 people coming for services on Saturday and Sunday. For daily morning Mass, we have six or seven who come.

How do you deal with the cold weather here, being from Uganda?
I try as much as possible to keep warm (laughing). As I always say, it’s very beautiful to look at the snow – from inside! I try to minimize

Is there anything else you would like to say?
My time here has been very rewarding and fulfilling. It’s a very different experience from where I’ve been. I came here in June of 2017, and before coming here I had already planned for my 25th anniversary in Uganda. When I came here, I thought it would be too soon to go Uganda, so I postponed it. In December, I told the people I was going to celebrate my 25th anniversary on the 12th. I said, “If you like, we can have some snacks.” They said, “No, you can’t have just snacks.” They prepared so much more, and I was so impressed. It was such a cold night, but the people came out. I thought it was a really good thing of how the people responded, even though I was still new and I didn’t know many of them. But that’s what they did.
I would also like to say something about my family. My dad – because of being so involved in the Church – made us all go to school. My family has almost all the different aspects of life. I’m the second born. My older sister went to the convent, but she left. Then she joined the military, and now she is retired. One brother and I are priests. One is a medical doctor. One sister is a nurse. They are all in Uganda. We have a teacher in the family, and one who is trying to do business. One sister is a housewife, living in the Congo. When we are home, we always try to come together.
When I go home, I stay mostly with my mother. She is 79, and already she has some problems going to daily Mass like she would like. You appreciate more the time that you spend with family.

(Interview conducted by Chris Heisey, The Catholic Witness.)
Can Listening Ease Violence?

By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
Special to The Witness

A few years ago, I had the privilege of a visit from my sister, my brother-in-law and my five-year-old nephew, Johnnie. Since he was a bundle of energy, we decided to go to a family activity center in Lancaster, where Johnnie could run, explore and have fun.

I had never been to such a place, and I was intrigued to see what it was all about. My nephew immediately fell in love with a huge jungle gym. It not only had places to hang from, but had swings, stairs, a cannon that could fire soft foam balls, several slides of different lengths, and a basketball hoop. It extended three floors above the ground. Needless to say, it was a magical place that could captivate any child.

My nephew quickly made friends with several boys who were also playing in the confined area. After about 20 minutes a girl entered the area. In response, one of the boys screamed, “It’s a girl!” To which all the boys screamed and ran from her. Johnnie began throwing the sponge balls at her, screaming “Death to all evil girls!”

My sister completely lost her temper. She called Johnnie out of the jungle gym and gave him time out. Being a sensitive child, he began to fill up with tears. After the time out, my sister sat him down and explained to him why his behavior was so wrong. He was to protect girls and women, not “kill” them with balls! His retort to my sister was, “But girls have cooties!”

My sister calmly informed him, “Dear, I am a girl. Do I have cooties?” He shook his head no. She continued, “Then treat her the way you treat me.”

I can see that he really didn’t understand. I personally wondered, “Where did he learn those actions from? Why do all of us – not just five-year-olds – respond with angry words and actions from time to time?”

As I watched Johnnie go back to the jungle gym to play with the girl, I saw him apologize for screaming at her. She shrugged her shoulders and began to swing from a rope suspended above the ground floor. I thought, “Was she unaware of what he had done, or did she just take it in stride? Had she already learned to ‘expect’ this type of treatment?”

From the Tweets, Facebook posts and things we see on TV, we are all bombarded with images and words of – I dare say it – violence, hatred and disrespect, especially in the pandemic world. It seems to me that no one has respect for anyone or anything anymore. I could not help thinking of this as I continue my series on listening. Kay Lindahl, author of The Sacred Art of Listening: Forty Reflections for Cultivating a Spiritual Practice, asks us:

“Can listening – and other sacred arts of conversation and relationship – help to create a less violent world? Absolutely! … Am I willing to take the time to slow down, breathe and ask myself if what I am about to say will violate someone or something? Am I willing to listen to what I don’t want to hear and still respond with respect, compassion, and love instead of fighting back? Am I willing to admit that nurturing nonviolence in the world begins with listening to those places in me where I can nurture peace?”

Re-read the paragraph above and then look inside yourself.

Where have we, as a society, turned? It seems that it’s ok to say and do anything just because we WANT to do or say it! I still can’t forget one of the protestors’ signs at the capital as we began to shut down at the start of the pandemic: “Selfish and proud of it!” Really?

This is the antithesis of what Christianity is all about. We must, on a daily basis, identify within ourselves what promotes violence and rid that from our being. Personal prayer, personal penance as well as the Sacrament of Reconciliation are essential tools in the process. Living the virtue of humility centered in Christ is the framework for the building of the vision of non-violence.

All of us must treat others the way our God treats us: full of mercy and love.

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.

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<th>Annville</th>
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<td>St. Paul the Apostle: Theresa Kozlusky</td>
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<td>St. Vincent de Paul: Mary Bowling, Theresa Naylor, Emerita Ruiz Ecker, John Milkovich</td>
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<td>St. Theresa: Amy Mahlmeister, Joan Sheehan, Gloria Torchia</td>
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<td>New Freedom</td>
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<td>St. John the Baptist: Charles Lapinsky, Louis Bensinger, Robert P. Murphy, Gloria Jean Snyder, Donald Baumiller, Raymond Edward Dulik, Jr.</td>
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Deceased Clergy

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

- Deacon Morris MacAdam, 1996
- Msgr. Thomas McGough, 1997
- Msgr. Leo A. Beierschmitt, 2002
- Deacon John Rocco, 2002
- Father Francis Lahout, 2003
- Father Hugh J. McLaughlin, 2005
- Msgr. Francis Hudak, 2005
- Father Charles Slough, 2009
- Father Joseph Kofchock, 2010
- Msgr. George W. Rost, 2012
- Deacon Frank Eckman, 2012
- Msgr. Thomas Smith, 2014
- Father Kenneth Lawrence, 2017

Not Willing to Let Go of Your Marriage?

Many couples continue to struggle in a marriage, but are not willing to give up on each other. Retrouvaille is a program designed to help struggling marriages regain their health. It helps a husband and a wife rediscover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. The program is highly successful in saving hurting marriages, even bringing reconciliation to couples who have already separated or divorced.

For more information about weekends for couples, contact retrouvaillehbg@gmail.com or 717-356-2185.
Diocesan Mass for Young Adults, Oct. 3 at 7 p.m. at St. Catherine Labouré Church in Harrisburg. Celebrated by Bishop Ronald Gainer. Young adult Catholics in their 20s and 30s are welcome and encouraged to attend. Sponsored by the Diocesan Office of Evangelization and Catechesis.

40 Days for Life Fall Campaign in York, Sept. 23-Nov. 1 on the sidewalk in front of Planned Parenthood at 728 S. Beaver Street. Pray and offer other alternatives to abortion-minded women. Covid-19 precautions observed. For more information or to sign up to keep vigil for one hour or more per week, visit www.40daysforlife.com/york. For questions, contact Tom Evans at 717-235-8833 or 717-999-4025.

Good Shepherd Parish in Camp Hill’s Mass of Remembrance for all families who have experienced the loss of a child (through miscarriage, abortion, stillbirth or early death), on Sept. 16, at 7 p.m. in the church. Take this opportunity to remember your children, and to name them if you have not. Those who have not been given a name can be listed with your last name, such as “Baby Jones.” Names will be brought to the altar to be remembered by our parish family. Names of children who have been submitted in previous years will be included in this year’s remembrance. Submit your child’s name for remembrance by mailing to the Parish Office at 3435 Trindle Road, Camp Hill, PA 17011 and marking the envelope “Mass of Remembrance.” You may also call Mrs. Geri Andregic at 717-761-4789 or e-mail your child’s name to andregicg@gmail.com. Everyone is welcome to attend this Mass.

Live, virtual Caelorum with praise, worship and Scripture reflection, Sept. 2 at 7 p.m. A link to the live event will be available on the Caelorum Facebook page (search Caelorum Community on Facebook). Call Lou at 717-215-4175 with any questions.

16th Annual Catholic Charities Shelter Shuffle 5K Run/Walk, Oct. 10 in a virtual format. Due to the restrictions of large group gatherings because of the coronavirus pandemic, this year’s Shelter Shuffle will be a virtual event. Registrations must be received by Sept. 21 in order to receive an event shirt. No extra shirts will be ordered. For more information, including online registration or donations, visit www.cchbg.org. Proceeds benefit the Interfaith Shelter for Homeless Families in Harrisburg.

St. Ann Byzantine Catholic Church in Harrisburg’s Drive Thru Slavic Food Fest, Sept. 19 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., or until sold out. Hot platters of halupki (cabbage rolls), perohi, kielbasa, and halushki for $12. There will be no hot ala carte items. Frozen foods will also be available. Nut rolls with walnut, poppy seed or apricot filling are $10. Frozen perohi by the dozen with potato & cheese, farmer cheese, cabbage, sauerkraut, prune or apple fillings will be sold for $6. Smoked kielbasa will be available in rings or sticks for $7. Quantities are limited, the sale is on a first come, first served basis, no orders will be taken. Church is located at 5408 Locust Lane, Harrisburg, PA. Visit www.StAnnByz.org.

Morning Star’s first-ever 30-minute Virtual Annual Life Saving Banquet will be held online September 3, at 6:30 p.m. This is Morning Star’s biggest fundraising event of the year to support their life-affirming mission—to reach more abortion-vulnerable women in Central PA. Hear a ministry update and client stories, plus they will share a big announcement! Register online at www.SupportMorningStar.com or call 717-920-0411.

Sacred Heart of Jesus School in Lancaster’s virtual “Recess: At Home,” Greek take-out dinner (Pastitso, lasagna, baklava) will be available for pick-up on Aug. 28. Tickets must be purchased in advance. A virtual silent auction opens Aug. 28 and ends Aug. 29. To order tickets and view the auction items, visit https://www.accelevents.com/e/sacredheartschool.

St. John the Baptist School in New Freedom, Food Truck Fundraiser, Sept. 16 from 4-7:30 p.m., to support the school. Bring your lawn chair or blanket to sit and relax while enjoying your food. Follow the Food Truck Fundraiser event on Facebook to get the most up to date information as to what food trucks will be in attendance.

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For your safety, CDC, state and local guidelines will be followed by patrons and vendors. For any questions or comments, email sshaffer1@sjbnf.org.

York Catholic High School’s 30th Annual Golf Tournament, Sept. 21 at the Out Door Country Club in York. Registration for this four-person scramble tournament starts at 7:30 a.m. with play beginning at 8 a.m. Cost is $100 per person and includes greens fee, cart rental, refreshments on the course, lunch and prizes. Proceeds benefit the York Catholic Fund. Sponsorships are available. Registration closes Sept. 11. For more information or to register, contact Laurie Moir at 717-846-8871 or lmoir@yorkcatholic.org.

Resurrection Catholic School in Lancaster will hold its annual Golf Outing on Sept. 15 at Meadia Heights Golf Course in Lancaster. For information on registering as a foursome, or if you would like to become a sponsor, contact Amanda Lyda at 717-475-6330.

The 37th Annual Hispanic Cultural Festival: Take-Out Edition, Aug. 31-Sept. 5 at San Juan Bautista Parish in Lancaster. With COVID regulations in place, San Juan Bautista will offer a modified festival, with food served to go and music livestreamed online. Festival culminates at 10 p.m. Saturday with a Grand Raffle of three large cash prizes of $5,000, $4,000 and $3,000. Traditional Hispanic cuisine includes empanadas, chorizo con arepa and gaseosa colombiana from Colombia; pinchos, pasteles and alcapurrias from Puerto Rico; and burritos, fajitas, tacos, tamales and enchiladas from the Mexican community. Entertainment to be announced. For more information, visit www.LancasterHispanicFestival.com.

Autumn-Fest 2020, hosted by The Carlisle Area Family Life Center, Carlisle’s only pro-life pregnancy and family resource center, Friday, Sept. 18 from 6-9 p.m., at the pavilion behind the LeTort View Community Center on the Carlisle Barracks. Enjoy a pulled pork dinner, listen to the Bluestone Bluegrass Band and practice social distancing under the stars. Silent and live auctions. Tickets are $35 each and available at CAFLC or by calling 717-243-6544. Ticket price includes dinner and two drinks. Tickets must be purchased by Aug. 31 for planning purposes.

Education & Enrichment

York Theology on Tap will meet Sept. 22 at The First Post, 3691 E. Market St., York at 7 p.m. The topic for this event is “Trusting Providence in a Coronavirus Pandemic.” Speaker is Warren Herman, director of St. Michael Ministries for Spiritual Deception Education, and facilitator of the group, From New Age to True Faith. He is a member of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Hanover. All young adults in their 20s and 30s, married or single, Catholic or non-Catholic are welcome to join in this event. No RSVP required. Theology on Tap is a Young Adult Ministry and evangelization outreach of the Diocese of Harrisburg.

Upcoming Women of Grace studies and events. Join us for this virtual event as we explore, “The Rosary: Your Weapon for Spiritual Warfare” by Johnnette Benkovic Williams and Thomas Sullivan. This 10 session book study/review will be Saturday mornings from Sept. 12 through Nov. 21, through audio conferencing or Zoom. Participants will explore why the Rosary is the perfect defense for our current times. Books should be ordered by Aug. 24. For more information, contact Chris Arnold at carnold@womenofgrace.com or 717-379-6041.

“Surviving Divorce: Hope and Healing for the Catholic Family” ministry will be offered at Good Shepherd Parish in Camp Hill. Sessions are Tuesdays from 6:30-8 p.m., beginning Sept. 1. The ministry offers hope and healing to those who have experienced the pain and loneliness of a broken marriage. It features 12 video presentations that cover topics such as shock and grief, anger and forgiveness, money issues, dealing with children and a former spouse, and annulment and remarriage. This program is for the newly separated and divorced and those still struggling with issues many years later. Through presentations and personal testimonies, participants are able to find answers to their questions, restore their hope, and begin authentic healing. For information and registration, contact Deb at dsalldin@thegoodshep.org or 717-761-1167.

St. John the Baptist in New Freedom is hosting a 12-week Surviving Divorce program which brings hope and healing to those who have experienced a

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broken marriage. It includes 12 video presentations featuring a psychologist, priests and personal testimonies from Catholic men and women. Topics covered include shock and grief, anger and forgiveness, money issues, dealing with children and a former spouse, and annulment and remarriage. Program is based on the teachings of the Church and is open to anyone who needs comfort, counsel and clarity after separation or divorce. For information, visit http://www.catholicsdivorce.com.

The program begins Sept. 9 at 6:45 p.m., and will take place via Zoom meetings. A $25 fee includes the Surviving Divorce Personal Guide and all program materials. Register by Sept. 1 by contacting facilitators Deb Cousin at deb.cousin@verizon.net or Pat Smith at dontel972@aol.com.

Job Openings

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in New Holland is seeking a Parish Office Administrator, responsible for the daily operation of the parish office, including clerical work, administrative functions and bookkeeping tasks. Applicants must have excellent customer service and organizational skills; proficiency in Microsoft applications, especially Word, Outlook and Excel; a background in business and bookkeeping or accounting in order to handle the office functions relating to cash receipts, accounts payable and payroll/benefits within strict time constraints; and familiarity with office equipment and general office procedures. This is a 30 hour per week position that requires successful completion of extensive background checks. E-mail résumé and cover letter to Father Steven Fauser at FrSFauzer@HBGDiocese.org.

Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament has an opening for a part-time Maintenance person for the church and rectory. Please contact Trish at olbsfinance@gmail.com or call the rectory at 717-233-1014, ext. 102, for more information.

St. Joseph School in York is seeking a nurse and a primary classroom aide. Part-time nursing position is throughout the 10-month school year, keeping our students safe and healthy. Requires a mature, professional, committed individual, with excellent communication, organizational and interpersonal skills who is a practicing Catholic, with a background in the health care field as an R.N. or degree in nursing. Contact Mrs. Corrinne A. Eck at 717-755-1797 or eck@sjy.org, for additional information or to submit résumé. Ten-month classroom aide position will supervise and support students in non-instructional areas such as student lunch programs, car line duty, actively monitoring recess, and transitions between classes; regularly assist with student health and safety protocol; provide support to homeroom teachers to include assigned clerical duties, making copies, changing bulletin boards, etc.; and serve in a substitute role when necessary. Send a letter of interest with a résumé to Mrs. Corrinne A. Eck, Principal at 2945 Kingston Rd., York, PA 17404 or eck@sjy.org or call 717-755-1797 for additional information.

St. Joan of Arc School in Hershey is looking to hire the following employees, due to increasing enrollment and moving into a new school building. Clearances are needed for all positions: three classroom aides Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. for pre 3, pre 4 and middle school; support aide, Monday-Friday as needed; after-school care director, five days a week from 3-6 p.m.; and a custodian for Monday-Friday from 2:30-10:30 p.m. Send résumé or questions to Sister Eileen at sreileen@stjoanhershey.org or call 717-533-2854, ext. 118.

St. Patrick School in Carlisle seeks caregivers for after-school extended day program, CARES. This is a five-day, part-time position from 2-5:30 p.m.; or Tuesday/Thursday position from 2-5:30 p.m.; or Monday/ Wednesday/Friday position from 2-5:30 p.m. Workers should be adaptable and willing to work with children from ages 3-14. Pay starts at $10 an hour, subject to applicant’s experience. Tuition discount is a possibility for those with students at the school. Visit www.spscarlisle.org or contact Principal Antoinette Oliverio at aoliverio@spscarlisle.org for more information or to set up an interview. Though it is not a requirement to have a teacher’s certification, it is necessary to complete all Diocesan clearances, including Act 34 (PA State Police Background Clearance), Act 151 (PA Child Abuse History Clearance), Act 126 (Child Abuse Recognition and Reporting Training) and FBI clearance.