Four men were ordained to the diaconate on May 20 at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg, in anticipation of their ordination to the diocesan priesthood next year. In his homily during the Mass, Bishop Ronald Gainer told the deacons – pictured from left, Timothy Sahd, Kenneth Roth, Richard Lyons and Benjamin Dunkelberger – “You will begin today a new relationship to the Mystery of the Eucharist.” See pages 2-4 for coverage.

**State Department Implements Reinstated ‘Mexico City Policy’**

**Catholic News Service**

Reinstatement of the “Mexico City Policy,” as provided for in President Donald Trump’s Jan. 23 executive memorandum, took effect May 15.

“[It] ensures that U.S. taxpayers will no longer subsidize foreign nongovernmental organizations that perform or promote abortion on demand,” said the co-chair of the Congressional Pro-Life Caucus.

President Trump’s memorandum also expanded the policy, now called “Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance,” according to Rep. Chris Smith, R-New Jersey, who is the caucus co-chair.

“This humane policy seeks to respect and protect the precious lives of unborn girls and boys from the violence of abortion,” Rep. Smith, a Catholic, said in a statement. “The new policy doesn’t cut global health assistance by so much as a penny.”

The policy was first put in place by President Ronald Reagan in 1984. It was named for the city that hosted the U.N. International Conference on Population that year and where Reagan, then in his first term as president, unveiled it.

According to a fact sheet posted on the website of the U.S. State Department, President Trump’s memorandum directed the U.S. secretary of state “to implement a plan to extend the Mexico City Policy to ‘global health assistance furnished by all departments or agencies.’”

It said Secretary of State Rex Tillerson approved a plan, giving the policy its new name and outlining how U.S. government departments and agencies will apply its provisions to foreign nongovernmental organizations that receive U.S. funding for global health assistance.
Diaconate Ordination Calls Men to Live Lives Ordered to Service

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

“Our Lord’s words, ‘I came not to be served, but to serve,’ are at the very center of Christian existence, which is called ‘diakonia.’ This dimension comes directly from Christ; it is in him, and from him. In his dimension, God enters the world by becoming man. As man, he becomes a servant, for every man is God’s servant. This is the order of Creation. Christ comes to renew this service, since men had rejected it, and therefore Christ undertakes this service himself. Thus, diakonia as a dimension of the entire Christian existence must be the topic and goal of the formation of every Christian, but in particular, the priest and the bishop. The theology of service is of primary importance for Christian formation. The Mystery of the Eucharist, the sacrament of permanent service, the sacramental continuation of God’s servant, who said, ‘Take and eat,’ as if it was a constant self-emptying consistent with the nature of food and simultaneously the sign of personal communion.” (‘In God’s Hands: The Spiritual Diaries of Pope John Paul II’)

Reading aloud this excerpt from the recently-released English translation of “In God’s Hands: The Spiritual Diaries of Pope John Paul II,” Bishop Ronald Gainer told the congregation gathered on May 20 for the Ordination to the Diaconate that the saint’s words remind the faithful that each of our lives must be ordered to service.

“The Holy Father’s words place the Eucharist within this context of service or diakonia. The self-emptying of Christ in the gift of the Eucharist perpetually drives home to every one of us who receive and adore Christ in the Eucharist that diakonia must characterize all of us.”

Deacon Benjamin Dunkelberger, Deacon Richard Lyons, Deacon Kenneth Roth and Deacon Timothy Sahd received the Sacrament of Holy Orders at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg May 20, and will spend this summer in diaconal ministry before returning to the seminary for their anticipated ordination to the priesthood next year.

During the Rite of Ordination, the candidates receive a gesture of applause from the congregation after Bishop Ronald Gainer accepts them for ordination.
The men kneel as Bishop Ronald Gainer prays the Prayer of Ordination.

Continued from 2

The fifth member of their class – seminarian Stephen Logue – is studying at the Pontifical North American College in Rome and will be ordained to the diaconate in Rome in September. He is a native of St. Patrick Parish in York.

Summer Assignments

Deacon
Benjamin Dunkelberger
Corpus Christi Parish,
Chambersburg

Deacon
Richard Lyons
St. Catherine of Siena Parish,
Quarryville

Deacon
Kenneth Roth
St. Catherine Labouré Parish,
Harrisburg

Deacon
Timothy Sahd
St. John Neumann Parish,
Lancaster

Deacon Dunkelberber is a member of St. Bernard Parish in New Bloomfield; Deacon Lyons a member of Immaculate Conception BVM Parish in York; Deacon Roth from St. Aloysius Parish in Littlestown; and Deacon Sahd from Holy Trinity Parish in Columbia, the brother of Father Kyle Sahd of the Diocese of Harrisburg, and Father Chris Sahd of the Diocese of Scranton.

“We are each a project of God. We each carry within ourselves a personal vocation, a calling, and an obligation to follow God’s design for our lives,” Bishop Gainer said in his homily. “What a marvelous work of grace it is that these men began to discern that God had a rather particular vocational project in his heart for their lives!”

Directly addressing the candidates prior to their ordination, the bishop remarked, “Ordinations always take place in the context of the Eucharist. Through Ordination to the Diaconate, Benjamin, Richard, Kenneth and Timothy, you will begin today a new relationship to the Mystery of the Eucharist. You will assist the priest at the altar in the celebration of the Mass, and you become today an Ordinary Minister of Holy Communion. Always keep the Lord, who gives himself to us as food and drink in the Eucharist, and the Lord who dwells among us in the Tabernacle, at the center of your life and of your ministry.”

“All that you do in your diaconal ministry finds its source and its summit in the Eucharistic Mystery,” he told them. “Your Ministry of the Word is designed to prepare our sisters and brothers for their sacramental encounter with Christ in the Eucharist. Your Ministry at the Altar is designed to assist the priest who stands before the Church as...
Ordination of New Deacons

another Christ, who celebrates in the person of Christ as head of His Body, the Church. Your Ministry of Charity is itself an extension of the Eucharist. By recognizing his Real Presence on the altar and in the tabernacle, we are better able to recognize his face, his presence in all our sisters and brothers, especially those who are poor or needy.

“My brothers, never forget, never ignore the centrality of our Eucharistic Lord for the ministry you are about to enter,” he told them.

Continued from 3

another Christ, who celebrates in the person of Christ as head of His Body, the Church. Your Ministry of Charity is itself an extension of the Eucharist. By recognizing his Real Presence on the altar and in the tabernacle, we are better able to recognize his face, his presence in all our sisters and brothers, especially those who are poor or needy.

“My brothers, never forget, never ignore the centrality of our Eucharistic Lord for the ministry you are about to enter,” he told them.

Following their summer assignments, the deacons will return to seminary to complete their formation; Deacon Dunkelberger and Deacon Roth to Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., and Deacon Lyons and Deacon Sahd to St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Wynnewood, Pa.
Anniversaries of Ordination to the Priesthood

Congratulations and Prayerful Best Wishes to the following priests celebrating milestone anniversaries of their ordination this year.

Father Walter A. Sempko
67 Years
Priests’ Retirement Residence, Harrisburg

Father Clarence A. Olszewski
60 Years
Priests’ Retirement Residence, Harrisburg

Father Robert F. Berger
55 Years
Priests’ Retirement Residence, Harrisburg

Father Carl T. Tancredi
50 Years
Chaplain, York College of Pennsylvania

Father Francis T. Menei
50 Years
Priests’ Retirement Residence, Harrisburg

Father John McLoughlin, CSSR
25 Years
Our Mother of Perpetual Help Parish, Ephrata

Father Allan F. Wolfe
25 Years
St. Joseph Parish, Lancaster

Father Daniel F. X. Powell
25 Years
St. John Neumann Parish, Lancaster

Principal Opening at St. Joseph School, York

The Department of Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Harrisburg is currently accepting applications for Principal at St. Joseph School in York for the 2017-2018 school year.

www.sjyschool.com

Minimum Qualifications: Practicing, knowledgeable Catholic; Thorough understanding of Catholic School Philosophy; Commitment to modeling the values of Catholic Educational Leadership; PA Administrators Certificate (or in process); Catechetical Certification (or in process); 5 years of teaching experience

Preferred Qualifications: (in addition to the minimum qualifications listed above): 3 years of Administrative experience; Catechetical Certification (or in process); Master’s Degree in Educational Administration

Desirable Leadership Characteristics: Experience at marketing, recruitment, and fiscal management; Collaborative leadership style with good interpersonal and team-building skills; Oral and written communication and motivational skills; Experience in instructional leadership; Curriculum development; teacher supervision, and effective instruction; Knowledge and application of instructional technology; Ability to effectively represent the school and the Church

Send application and letter of interest TO THE DIOCESE by June 2, 2017:
Livia Riley, Superintendent of Schools Diocese of Harrisburg 4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, PA 17113-3710 (717) 657-4804, ext. 222 Email: lriley@hbgdiocese.org

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Witness Readership Survey Underway

We Want to Hear from You!

For the first time in its more-than-50-year history, The Catholic Witness newspaper is conducting a survey of its readers, and we encourage your participation. The survey is anonymous and will provide us with information on how you – our readers – experience the diocesan newspaper, and will identify your reading interests and impressions of its content and distribution.

It will also allow readers to share their own comments and observations via open-ended questions. Ultimately, your participation in the survey will help guide decisions on how we might better serve you.

Results of the survey will be provided to staff of The Catholic Witness, its publisher, Bishop Ronald Gainer; its Advisory Board; and the Diocesan Communications Office to help steer discussions on future developments and refinements.

The survey is available online until June 9 at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TheCatholicWitness2017

A number of hard copies are available for readers who wish to participate but who do not have computer access. A hard copy may be requested by calling 717-657-4804, ext. 208, and leaving a message with name and address.

We thank you for your participation.

Papal Blessing Parchments from Vatican

In a change of procedure implemented at the Vatican, Papal Blessing Parchments are now only available directly from the Vatican. The blessings are issued on hand-crafted parchment rolls that are drawn up by calligraphers. Those interested in obtaining a Papal Blessing Parchment must contact the Office of Papal Charities, Vatican City, directly. A link to this office is posted on the diocesan Web site under the Resources tab at www.hbgdiocese.org or by visiting Vatican.va and searching, “Papal Blessing Parchments.” The Apostolic Blessing is granted for the following occasions: Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, Marriage, Priestly Ordination, Religious Profession, Secular Consecration, Ordinations of Permanent Deacons, Marriage Anniversaries (10, 25, 40, 50, 60 years)*, Priestly Ordination, Religious Profession, Birthdays (18, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100)* Catholic individualis* or families* (with name and surname of the spouses united in a religious marriage).

Requests marked with an asterisk (*) need to have approval of the Pastor. Requests for papal blessings for other occasions will not be accepted.

A link to this office is posted on the Diocesan Web site under the Resources tab at www.hbgdiocese.org or by visiting www.vatican.va and searching “Papal blessing parchments.” Please note that when making international calls from the USA, you must first dial the US exit code of 011. This is followed by the code for the country you are dialing, then the phone number. The country code for Vatican City is 379 and for Italy is 39.

Volunteers Needed for Camp Kirchenwald

The Diocesan Summer Camp for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities is seeking volunteers willing to assist at its residential camp, August 13-18, 2017. The camp takes place at Camp Kirchenwald in Lebanon County and serves the needs of approximately 40 adults each year. Anyone age 16 and older is welcome to volunteer for full-time or part-time duties; there is a particular need for male volunteers, 18 or older, who are able to spend the night. All volunteers are required to complete the Diocesan Clearance process and attend a brief training session prior to helping at camp. A deadline of June 30, 2017 for expressing volunteer interest is requested in order to facilitate planning efforts.

Sponsor a Camper - Would you like to sponsor a campership for a person with a disability who might not otherwise be able to afford camp? The Diocese of Harrisburg is seeking donations to defray the cost for campers. A full week of camp costs $575, but donations in any amount will be welcomed. They can be sent to the Office of Ministry with People with Disabilities, 4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111. Checks should be made payable to the Diocese of Harrisburg.

For more information on volunteering or sponsoring a camper, please contact Larry Kiley at 717-657-4804, Ext. 322, or e-mail lkiley@hbgdiocese.org.

Bishop Gainer’s Public Calendar

- May 26 – Bless Window in Memory of Father Louis Ogden, Bishop McDevitt High School, Harrisburg, 11 a.m.
- June 1 – Priest Anniversary Celebration, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 5 p.m.
- June 3 – Priesthood Ordinations, St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg, 10 a.m.
- June 8 – Prelural Council Meeting, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, 10 a.m.
- June 10 – Confirmation at Mater Dei Community, St. Lawrence Chapel, Harrisburg, 11 a.m.
After having Mass on the altar of St. Mary’s on the shore of the Mediterranean). A one-hour drive from Rome and on (who is buried with St. James in the crypt of the Church of St. Peter’s, which is the most powerful one was at the tombs of St. Gregory the Great, St. John Paul II, and St. John XXIII). The city really does breathe Catholicism. We stopped to pray at a church that would not let us inside due to a renovation occurring. How fitting that was for us to be there, and even though we have been an ocean apart for some time now, we chatted and hung out as if it was a typical gathering at the seminary or a rectory. There, we got to try pizza in its birthplace, as well as the monstrosity of land known by us as Mount Vesuvius. There, we got to toss a coin into the mouth of the volcano and visit museums with gorgeous paintings and sculptures, and of course I could not allow myself to be on the Mediterranean Coast without splashing around in its waters.

I must say however, that of the whole trip, one of the best experiences besides the obvious spiritual and cultural activities was a visit with the very own Cardinal Edwin O’Brien, Grand Master of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. We got to catch up with them a number of times during our trip, over good meals and gelato. With Stephen, we compared experiences of our respective seminaries, and Father Bateman shared some of his great stories about his journeys with the Cardinal as he visits Knights all around the world. The camaraderie amongst the seminarians and priests of our diocese is very special; priests and seminarians from other dioceses also recognize this unique bond we have. While spending time with them, I reflected on the great blessing it is to have the ability to wander the streets of Rome in the company of my brother seminarians and priests who live there, and even though we have been an ocean apart for some time now, we chatted and hung out as if it was a typical gathering at the seminary or a rectory.

Our Church is Catholic, meaning Universal, and because Rome is the center and head of it all, there is a wonderful paradox of being able to feel that universality within a single city of the world. That, taken with walkin in the footsteps of countless saints and experiencing the many, many cultural and historical aspects that helped define our Church and our Western way of life, has no doubt had impacts on me that will last for a long time. This is one of my greatest joys for all of you who may read this reflection of mine, and thank you for your continued prayers and support for all of us who are training to be your priests in the Diocese of Harrisburg.

(Gregory D. Kramp, a seminarian of the Diocese of Harrisburg, is in his second year of Theology studies at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md. He is a native of St. Philip the Apostle Parish in Millersville. )

Holy Hour for Ordination
Friday, June 2, 2017

JOSHUA CAVENDER
6:30 p.m. Saint Peter Historic Church
1 Saint Peter Place
Elizabethtown, PA

KEVIN COYLE
6:00 p.m. Saint Patrick Shrine Church
152 East Pomfret Street
Carlisle, PA

MICHAEL METZGAR
6:00 p.m. Saint Patrick Shrine Church
152 East Pomfret Street
Carlisle, PA

Ordination to the Priesthood
Saturday, June 3, 2017, 10:00 a.m.

JOSHUA ROBERT CAVENDER
KEVIN JOSEPH COYLE
MICHAEL GEORGE METZGAR

Saint Patrick Cathedral
212 State Street
Harrisburg, PA

Mount St. Mary’s seminarians Damon Tritle and Gregory Kramp of the Diocese of Harrisburg, and Thomas Kappes from the Diocese of Lafayette, Ind., share a moment with Father John Trigilio, who serves on faculty at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary and is pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Marysville and St. Bernadette Parish in Duncannon.
Fatima Seers Become Church’s Youngest Non-Martyred Saints

By Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

Standing before the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima in Portugal, May 12. The pope canonized the two seers at a May 13 Mass that marked the 100th anniversary of the Marian apparitions.

In his homily at the canonization Mass, the pope reflected on the brief lives of the young siblings, who are often remembered more for the apparitions rather than for their holy lives.

But it is Mary’s message and example, rather than an apparition, that is important, he told the crowd, which Portuguese authorities estimated at about 500,000 people.

“The Virgin Mary did not come here so that we could see her. We will have all eternity for that, provided, of course, that we go to heaven,” the pope said.

Instead, he continued, Mary’s messages to the young children were a warning to all people about leading “a way of life that is godless and indeed far from God in his creatures.”

“The hopeful message of Fatima, he said, is that men and women have a mother and like children clinging to her, “we live in the hope that rests on Jesus.”

Pope Francis called on the pilgrims to follow the example of the three Fatima seers to bridge the gap between believers and non-believers and to “keep the sorrows of the human family, as they mourn and weep against St. John Paul II on the feast of Our Lady of Fatima, May 13, 1981. Returning to the little chapel for a nighttime vigil, Pope Francis reminded pilgrims to pray, as Mary taught the children at Fatima, for “those most in need” of God’s mercy.

People raise candles as Pope Francis leads the blessing of candles at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal, May 12.

Pope Francis places flowers near a statue of Mary as he prays in the Little Chapel of the Apparitions at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal, May 12.

Mary’s example of believing and following Jesus is what matters most; she cannot be some image “of our own making,” he said.

On the eve of the 100th anniversary of the Marian apparitions at Fatima, Portugal, the pope asked tens of thousands of pilgrims May 12 to reflect on “which Mary” they choose to venerate, “the Virgin Mary from the Gospel” or “one who restrains the arm of a vengeful God?”

Is the Mary they honor “a woman blessed because she believed always and everywhere in God’s words or a ‘plaster statue’ from whom we beg favors at little cost?” he asked.

As the sun set at the shrine dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima, pilgrims held thousands of lit candles, filling the square with a fiery light before Pope Francis led them in praying the Rosary.

Pope Francis recited a prayer he wrote, an expanded version of the traditional “Salve Regina” (“Hail Holy Queen”).

Alternating his verses with a choral refrain venerating the “Queen of the Rosary of Fatima,” the pope consecrated himself to Mary and entrusted to her intercession a suffering humanity where blood “is shed in the wars tearing our world apart.”

Begging Mary’s assistance, the pope prayed that believers would “bear down all walls and overcome all boundaries, going to all peripheries, there revealing God’s justice and peace.”

“In the depths of your being, in your Immaculate Heart, you keep the sorrows of the human family, as they mourn and weep in this valley of tears,” the pope prayed.

He also presented himself before the image of Mary as “a bishop robed in white,” a reference to the third secret revealed to the children at Fatima. Published 83 years after the apparitions, the vision described the image of a “blessed dressed in white” shot down amid the rubble of a ruined city.

The official Vatican interpretation, discussed with the visionary Sister Lucia dos Santos before its publication, was that it referred to the persecution of Christians in the 20th century and, specifically, to the 1981 assassination attempt on the life of St. John Paul II.

As Blessed Paul VI and retired Pope Benedict XVI did before him, Pope Francis placed a small silver vase containing 24-karat gold roses at the foot of the statue. Embedded in the statue’s crown is one of the bullets used in the assassination attempt against St. John Paul II on the feast of Our Lady of Fatima, May 13, 1981.

By following their example, the pope said, Christians can become “a source of hope for others” and “a model of evangelization,” particularly because Christian men and women can look at her and see that “humility and tenaciousness are not virtues of the weak but of the strong.”

Those who choose God’s punishment of sinners, he said, commit “a great injustice” to him by not recognizing that sinners “are forgiven by his mercy.”

“Mercy has to be put before judgment,” he said, “and, in any case, God’s judgment will always be rendered in the light of his mercy.”

“With Mary, may each of us become a sign and sacrament of the mercy of God, who pardons always and pardons everything,” he said.

Fatima Seers Become Church’s Youngest Non-Martyred Saints

By Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

Standing before the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima in Portugal, May 12, Pope Francis canonized two shepherd children who saw Mary at Fatima, but more importantly, he said, they heeded the call to pray for sinners and trust in the Lord.

“We declare and define Blessed Francisco Marto and Blessed Jacinta Marto as saints,” the pope said May 13 as hundreds of thousands of pilgrims broke out in applause before he finished speaking.

The relics of the young shepherd children, encased in two thin golden crosses, were placed in front of the famed statue of Our Lady of Fatima, the “lady dressed in white” as the siblings and their cousin described her.

The Marian apparitions began May 13, 1917, when 9-year-old Francisco and 7-year-old Jacinta, along with their 10-year-old cousin Lucia dos Santos, reported seeing the Virgin Mary. The apparitions continued once a month until Oct. 13, 1917, and later were declared worthy of belief by the Catholic Church.

After contracting influenza, Francisco died April 4, 1919, at the age of 10, while Jacinta succumbed to tuberculosis on May 20, 1920, at the age of 9.

The children, beatified by St. John Paul II in 2000, are now the youngest non-martyrs to be declared saints by the Catholic Church.

Before his arrival at the shrine, the pope met privately with Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa and then made his way into the sanctuary that houses the tombs of Sts. Francisco and Jacinta and St. Lucy of Santos, hermitess and a saint.

As Blessed Paul VI and retired Pope Benedict XVI did before him, Pope Francis placed a small silver vase containing 24-karat gold roses at the foot of the statue. Embedded in the statue’s crown is one of the bullets used in the assassination attempt against St. John Paul II on the feast of Our Lady of Fatima, May 13, 1981.

Returning to the little chapel for a nighttime vigil, Pope Francis reminded pilgrims to pray, as Mary taught the children at Fatima, for “those most in need” of God’s mercy.

“On each of the destitute and outcast robbed of the present, on each of the excluded and abandoned denied a future, on each of the orphans and victims of injustice refused a past, may there descend the blessing of God, incarnate in Jesus Christ,” he said.

Pope Francis held up Mary as a “model of evangelization,” particularly because Christian men and women can look at her and see that “humility and tenaciousness are not virtues of the weak but of the strong.”

Those who choose God’s punishment of sinners, he said, commit “a great injustice” to him by not recognizing that sinners “are forgiven by his mercy.”

“Mercy has to be put before judgment,” he said, “and, in any case, God’s judgment will always be rendered in the light of his mercy.”

“With Mary, may each of us become a sign and sacrament of the mercy of God, who pardons always and pardons everything,” he said.
By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

One hundred years after her first appearance to three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal, Our Lady continues to reach the hearts of the faithful with her message for conversion of heart and for prayers for peace in the world.

Thousands gathered in Fatima May 13 as Pope Francis canonized two of the three young seers – Francisco and Jacinta Marto – and still thousands more around the world commemorated the centennial of the apparitions, including a congregation at Our Lady of Fatima Mission in Jonestown.

“I have a great sense of warmth, love and spiritual dedication with this anniversary,” Sharon Allen told The Catholic Witness as she sat in one of the wooden pews in the quaint church, with a Rosary in one hand and a white rose in the other.

She had made a pilgrimage to Fatima, Portugal, several years ago, and so the praying of the Rosary and the Holy Mass celebrated at Our Lady of Fatima Mission in Jonestown May 13 brought back memories and inspiration.

“I have a great devotion to the Blessed Mother – she just pulls my strings,” said Ms. Allen, a member of St. Benedict the Abbot Parish in nearby Lebanon, and of the Legion of Mary.

The mission’s celebration that day was to have begun with the praying of the Rosary outside at the statues of Our Lady of Fatima and the children kneeling before her. The outdoor scene, complemented by flowers and lush greenery, fronts the mission’s property along the intersection of Route 22 and North Mill Street in Lebanon County, and often attracts visitors who stop to pray.

But rain on May 13 moved the congregation indoors, where adults and children knelt in the pews and prayed the Rosary in front of a statue of Our Lady of Fatima that graces the church’s interior.

Father Michael Rothan, pastor of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish – of which Our Lady of Fatima is a mission – and of St. Benedict the Abbot Parish, celebrated Mass, and in his homily read the account of Our Lady’s first appearance to the children 100 years ago.

“Isn’t it fascinating how God does not always come to those who very strongly believe?” Father Rothan remarked, noting that the children had been praying a truncated version of the Rosary just prior to the Blessed Mother’s appearance.

“It seems at times when we do not listen to the promptings of Our Lord, he sends his Mother to give us a ‘spiritual kick in the pants,’ as all mothers are wont to do,” he said.

The message of Fatima 100 years ago remains one for the faithful today, said Anne Marie Boltz, Director of Religious Education at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish.

“For me personally, I wonder why people stopped praying. I wonder why it always takes a tragedy for us to seek the Lord,” she said. “Admittedly, we can all be a little guilty at times of letting it slide. I want to go back to prayer, to the message Our Lady gave to the children, for peace in our world.”

Upcoming Celebrations at Fatima

June 13 – Outdoor Scriptural Rosary at 6:45 p.m., followed by Mass. Bring lawnchairs.

July 13 – Outdoor Rosary at 6:45 p.m., followed by indoor Mass, celebrated by former pastor, Father Michael P. Reid, II, followed by an ice cream social.

August 1 – Outdoor Rosary at 6:45 p.m., followed by a Vigil Mass.

September 13 – Outdoor Rosary at 6:45 p.m., followed by Mass.

October 13 – Candle procession at dusk as we pray the Rosary, through church grounds, as well as the local community park, which borders the grounds, followed by Mass and a potluck dinner.

Above: A scene depicting Mary’s appearance to three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal, in 1917 graces the property of Our Lady of Fatima Mission in Jonestown, and often attracts visitors traveling along Route 22.

Below: A girl joins the congregation in praying the Rosary.

Above: A statue of one of the shepherd children to whom Our Lady appeared sits on the lectern at Our Lady of Fatima Church in Jonestown as the congregation receives Holy Communion.

Left: A statue of Our Lady of Fatima is seen as Father Michael Rothan celebrates Mass May 13, the 100th anniversary of the Blessed Mother’s first appearance to three children in Fatima, Portugal.
By giving to the Pentecost Sunday Collection, you help support the future of our diocese. Men who will serve the faithful of central Pennsylvania. Men who will baptize your children, offer you absolution when you have sinned, celebrate the Holy Eucharist in your Church, marry you and your beloved, and anoint you when you are sick.

Becoming a Priest

Did you know that it takes an average of $300,000 for a seminarian to become a diocesan priest?

Did you know that the Pentecost Sunday Collection is currently the primary source of funding for seminarian formation?

Did you know that the Pentecost Sunday Collection yields an average of $395,000 annually?

Did you know that we have been blessed by a significant increase in the number of seminarians in the past 8 years? Currently we have 30+ men in various stages of study to become a priest for the Diocese of Harrisburg.

By giving to the Pentecost Sunday Collection, you help support the men who serve the People of God. You help with their formation and preparation to take on the awesome and profound responsibility of walking a journey with His people in the presence of our Lord. Through your generosity, our priests’ formation continues through educational opportunities, spiritual direction and retreats.

BISHOPS are said to have the fullness of the priesthood because they alone have the authority to offer all seven sacraments: Baptism, Penance, Holy Eucharist, Confirmation, Matrimony, Anointing of the Sick, and Holy Orders.

PRIESTS have the power and authority to celebrate five of the sacraments: Baptism, Penance, Holy Eucharist, Matrimony, and Anointing of the Sick.

DEACONS can celebrate two of the sacraments: Baptism and Matrimony (provided that it is a wedding without a nuptial Mass).

By giving to the Pentecost Sunday Collection, you help support the men who for decades faithfully served the People of God. You help with their pension and extraordinary medical expenses. Similar to the challenges that face the Social Security system and most pension funds, there are a greater number of priests today who are living longer. As a result, gifts to the Pentecost Sunday Collection are necessary in order that sufficient funds are available to pay the retired priests their benefits when they come due.
PENTECOST SUNDAY COLLECTION  
JUNE 4, 2017

“Your prayers and generosity help form priests and deacons who, in turn, become dispensers of God’s mysteries. Your love and support of the preparation process for Ordination inspires and enables these men to deeply discern how God has chosen them to become ‘friends of Christ.’ They will strive to imitate Him who is gentle and humble of heart, chaste, humble and obedient to the Father’s Will. With your continued assistance our Diocese will be blessed with many good and holy priests and deacons willing and ready to journey with you and your families and lead you to His Kingdom.”

Most Reverend Ronald Gainer  
2017 Pentecost Letter

Diocese of Harrisburg’s Ministries Budget

SEMINARIANS .......................................................... $1,382,949
Gifts provide room and board, tuition, discernment retreats, and summer work programs for the seminarians. Assistance is also provided for books and medical insurance.

VOCATIONS .................................................................. $118,063
Gifts fund the work of a director who coordinates vocation programs in parishes and schools. Discernment retreats are also an important part of this ministry.

PRIEST CONTINUING FORMATION .................................. $117,200
Gifts provide for the Office for Continuing Formation of Priests, the director, and formational programs for the priests of the diocese that will assist them in their ministries.

PRIEST STUDY ................................................................ $90,554
Gifts provide for expenses related to graduate studies for priests who continue their formation in specific areas of ministry. Many of these priests return to a ministry directly associated with a diocesan office. These funds also cover tuition, room and board expenses, and monthly compensation for the priest.

RETIR ED PRIEST & SUPPLEMENTAL MEDICAL EXPENSES...$200,000
Gifts cover payment of extraordinary medical expenses for priests and assist the Diocese of Harrisburg with the pension for our retired priests.

PERMANENT DIACONATE FORMATION ............................... $159,653
Gifts provide for the expenses related to the renewal of the Permanent Diaconate Formation program. Deacons proclaim the Gospel and preach and teach in the name of the Church. As ministers of the Sacraments, they baptize, lead the faithful in prayer, witness marriages, and conduct wake and funeral services.

PERMANENT DIACONATE CONTINUING FORMATION .......... $24,800
Gifts provide for expenses of continuing educational and spiritual programs.

Total Ministries Budget ............................................. $2,093,219

Ways to Invest in our Diocesan Priests, Seminarians, and Deacons

One-Time Gift
A one-time, outright gift can be made to the Pentecost Collection at any time during the year.

Payment Methods
Cash paid at your parish
Check made payable to the Diocese of Harrisburg
Stocks and Securities
Credit Card (Visa and MasterCard)

Visit Our Website
Visit www.hbgdiocese.org/pente for more information or to make a donation via Visa or MasterCard.

“The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus...”
Saint John Vianney
2017 Golden Apple Recipients Reflect on Educating as Act of Love

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

For the 12th consecutive year, the Diocese of Harrisburg bestowed Golden Apple Awards on seven Catholic school educators for their outstanding devotion, during a dinner at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg on May 9. The awards are based on nominations from school principals, parents, students and fellow teachers. The 2017 Golden Apple recipients are:

• Ann DiNovis – Middle school math and science teacher at Our Mother of Perpetual Help School, Ephrata
• Amy Erb – Second-grade teacher at St. Joseph School, York
• Gary Hatez, Jr. – Social Studies teacher at Delone Catholic High School, McSherrystown
• Linda Hostetter – Second-grade teacher at St. Joseph School, Dallastown
• Stephanie Kveragas – Second-grade teacher at Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary School, Middletown
• Dr. Maureen Thiec – Principal at Delone Catholic High School, McSherrystown
• Megan Wertz – Sociology/ Psychology and History teacher at York Catholic High School

The 2017 Golden Apple recipients gathered with Bishop Ronald Gainer prior to the awards dinner on May 9. Across the front, from left, are Megan Wertz, Dr. Maureen Thiec, Bishop Gainer, and Amy Erb. In the back row, from left, are Linda Hostetter, Ann DiNovis, Stephanie Kveragas and Gary Hatez.

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. As part of their recognition, Golden Apple recipients receive a $5,000 cash award, a golden apple, a certificate of achievement and an individual photo with the bishop, prior to the awards dinner. The program is made possible by the generosity of the Donahue Family Foundation.

For more information about Catholic schools in the diocese, the Golden Apples program and how to nominate an educator, visit www.hbgdiocese.org/catholic-schools.

Recipients Reflect on Educating as an Act of Love

As part of their nomination packet for the Golden Apple Awards, each educator wrote an essay illustrating their vocation based on Pope Francis’ observation from March 1, 2014: “Let us thank all those who teach in Catholic schools. Educating is an act of love similar to the quotation from Pope Francis that educating is an act of love as a 2nd grade teacher is sharing the journey of learning about and receiving the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion with children. In the verse John 6:51, Jesus says, “I am the living bread that came down from Heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever, and that bread I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.”

I am unaware of any other job that can lead children to the gift of life itself. Witnessing the true belief of Our Lord in His Eucharistic presence through the eyes of a child is most definitely the greatest reward.”

Gary Hatez, Jr.

“I wholeheartedly agree with the quotation from Pope Francis that educating is an act of love similar to the giving of life. A career in the education profession was always something that I dreamed of from an early age. Experiencing the love and dedication of the Catholic school educators that helped make me who I am today has instilled in me a love of Catholic education that I still possess. For the past nine years, I have had the tremendous opportunity to beh...
The Diocese of Harrisburg and the Delone Catholic High School Board are pleased to announce the appointment of Richard V. LaRocca as the school’s new Principal effective July 1. Mr. LaRocca has over 30 years of experience in education.

Richard V. LaRocca currently serves as the Assistant Principal at Poolesville High School with the Montgomery County Public Schools in Maryland. He will succeed Dr. Maureen Thiec who will be retiring at the end of this school year.

Mr. LaRocca holds a BA in History and Spanish from Cornell University, an MBA in Technology Administration from Strayer University, and a Master of Education degree from the University of Northern Colorado. He also holds a Teaching Certificate and Administrative Certification from the State of Maryland.

Mr. LaRocca and his wife of 31 years have five children and are the proud grandparents of four grandchildren.

Delone Catholic High School has 450 students in an academically challenging curriculum preparing students for higher education and employment. More information is available at www.delonecatholic.org.
Bishop Gainer Advises on Prayer Confession during Holy Family Radio Program

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Bishop Ronald Gainer answered questions from radio listeners during a live program on Holy Family Radio, AM 720, on May 8. The focus of questions and conversation centered on ways for deepening prayer life and growing closer to Jesus.

Holy Family Radio broadcasts the Truth of the Holy Catholic Church for the nourishment of the Catholic faith, and to share the faith with others.

Tune in to Holy Family Radio at 720 on your AM dial, or listen live online at www.720whyf.com. Check out an upcoming edition of The Catholic Witness for a feature piece on the station’s recent fund-raising dinner, with guest speaker and author Dr. Steven Smith of Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., on the topic of evangelization.

The following is an excerpt of Bishop Gainer’s responses to listeners’ questions.

Q: What methods can we employ to expand our spiritual life?

A: We’ve always talked about Lent as being the center season of the liturgical year, the 40 days of conversion and repentance, and we’re now in the Easter season. These two seasons are really the highlight of our liturgical—and I should say, our spiritual—year.

There is a quote from one of my favorite authors, Pope Leo the Great, a tremendous fifth century Bishop of Rome who did much to clarify the role of the Bishop of Rome. At the beginning of Lent, we always read from one of his sermons. One sentence in that classic sermon of St. Leo the Great always sticks with me: “During the season of Lent, the Church is a body of works of penance, in order that we may be able to please the Christian ought to be doing throughout the whole year.”

The season of Lent is a time of greater intensity for that triad of the spiritual life: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. We try to concentrate through a variety of means during the season of Lent in order to prepare ourselves to really experience through the Rite of Sprinkling and the celebration of the Easter Vigil the most solemn moment of the year, the Resurrection of Our Lord. In a way, it’s not just penance on the part of the individual, but penance on the part of the Church, one which they will faithfully live as adults. The problem is our freedom. God gave us free will, and no matter how hard parents try and how genuinely they witness to the faith, at some point their children will make a free will decision.

First of all, I don’t think parents can ever blame themselves for children who drift away from the Church. They can only pray that the grace of God will invade their lives and bring them back. We see that happening every day, so if you are a parent whose child has drifted from the Church, continue to pray for them, and maybe have a discussion with the Bishop of Rome, who wrote a letter to Mary. Wonderful things sometimes happen through Mother Mary’s maternal intercession.

What’s important for a parent is to see if your faith, as a parent, is authentic, and that it makes a difference in your daily life. … To what extent is our faith, our liturgical life, our spiritual life evident at home? When your children come home from school and they see you in prayer, they see your commitment to your spiritual life. When they come home and you’re showing them how to pray, and how you make the decisions you make, I think that should create something that they want for themselves.

Our faith, the Scriptures, the teachings and the spiritual life of the Church have the Truth. We have goodness and we have genuine beauty. We’re wired as a person for that. Our minds seek the Truth, our wills seek the good, we seek the truly beautiful. We have those in Jesus and in our Catholic faith. If we can witness to those, then that ought to attract any person.

Q: How do we develop good habits of prayer, especially during such busy lives?

A: I think the first commitment to be serious about prayer and to find growth in the ways of prayer is the commitment of time. For me, for instance, it has to be early in the morning because my day gets away from me. You have to find the time. If you say, ‘I’ll fit prayer in today when I can,’ we can’t find that it doesn’t happen. Just as you would schedule a doctor’s appointment, you have to find the time, and you’ll say, ‘Jesus, let’s have a conversation every day at 6:30.’ Your day has to have prayer factored into it.

The second thing is that prayer is an art. It’s not a science. You can’t read a book and listen to a tape and say, ‘This is how I have to pray.’ When I was a young seminarian, our priests were facing each other; they were choir stalls, so we were looking across at other seminarians. I remember watching a seminarian who seemed to be absolutely ecstatic in prayer. He was motionless. It seemed to me he was in another world in conversation with Our Lord. Then I am, fidgeting, looking around and dropping my books. What I found out in this experience is that I was thinking that a prayer—a special kind of person. The truth is, every person is a special kind of prayer—Paul tells us this in Romans 8:26. He says the Spirit comes to our aid in our weakness, because we don’t know how to pray as we should. Prayer is the work of the Spirit in us. It’s not just my trying hard. It’s a surrendering to the power of the Spirit, who leads us into Communion with God the Father and God the Son.

Conversation is an art. For some it comes easy, others have to work at it. Prayer is that conversation between myself and God.

Q: I’m finding that my prayer is more about my needs and my wants. Is that a bad way to pray?

A: God wants to hear from each one of us, and only you can bring your needs to his ear. Our Father and Jesus delight when we turn our needs to them. It’s saying, ‘I’m not in control of my life, and I turn to you with this need and this anxiety and this fear, and I place it in your hands. I trust your love for me, I trust your mercy.’

It’s not at all a bad thing to pray about your concerns. Just as a parent would love to hear what’s going on in his children’s lives, Our Father delights when we bring him our needs and the things that are happening in our lives. It’s an act of trusting God and knowing that he cares.

At the same time, we certainly want to expand. A good way of distinguishing the different types of prayer is ACTS: Adoration, Contrition, Thanksgiving and Supplication.

Your prayer is that of supplication; you’re turning to God to help you with your needs, concerns, anxieties. We should also set aside time for Adoration: ‘God, I worship you. Lord Jesus Christ, my heavenly Father, your holy name is good to say at the end of the day. A daily Act of Contrition helps us prepare for Confession. And there are also prayers of Thanksgiving: ‘I thank you for your grace, I thank you for all that you provide. I thank you for your blessings.’

While your prayers of supplication are fine, try to make room in your prayer for adoring God, thanking him, and asking for your sorrows for things you’ve done or that you fail to do.

Q: How often should we go to Confession?

A: Certainly, we should be regular. What does that mean for each individual? I think we have to determine that for ourselves. It is one of the great privileges of a priest so there’s no one person who has to do this on a monthly basis. A brother or sister just open their heart and their conscience, and confide to Christ where they need forgiveness in their lives, and then to be able to say, “I absolve you of your sins.” It’s always a humbling and wonderful experience to be able to impart God’s forgiveness, to bring peace, and to lift those burdens from the shoulders of our brothers and our sisters.

If I had to, I would try monthly Confession, minimally. I think it’s absolutely atrocious that the greatest sin of the 21st Century is that we lost our sense of sin. We don’t talk about sin. We deny sin, and yet we see all around us evidence of some very serious guilt in the lives of people: depression, divorce, schism between husband and wife, affairs. We don’t talk about sin, we don’t talk about the spiritual needs of the soul, the minds, the hearts and the souls of the people. The effects of sin are so obvious, and yet we refuse to call things sin as a culture. We have to get back to calling sin “sin,” and then look for the remedies, and the main one is the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

If it’s been a long time, come back. Come back home to the sacrament. We hunger to know our merciful God more fully, and there’s no place like the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Give yourself that gift, because God wants to give you the gift.

As sons and daughters of God, we are called to communicate with everyone, without exception.

Joey Flaherty, MSGS 50th World Communications Day 2016

June 18
50% of the Funds Support Local Efforts
SUPPORT THE CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

“...if you failed to do.
...expressing your sorrow for things you’ve done or that...”
Priest’s Remains Exhumed, Verified as Part of Beatification Process

By Diane Clay
Catholic News Service

Early on the morning of May 10, the remains of Father Stanley F. Rother were exhumed from Holy Trinity Cemetery in Okarche, Okla., and transported to Oklahoma City.

As required by the Catholic Church for the beatification process, his remains were examined by medical professionals and re-interred in the chapel at Resurrection Cemetery in northwestern Oklahoma City.

In March, the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City announced that Father Rother, one of its native sons who worked in Guatemala and was brutally murdered there in 1981, will be beatified Sept. 23 in a ceremony in downtown Oklahoma City.

Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Vatican Congregation for Saints’ Causes, will celebrate the beatification Mass along with Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City. Thousands of cardinals, bishops, priests, deacons and other Catholics from across the United States are expected to attend.

Pope Francis recognized Father Rother’s martyrdom last December, making him the first martyr born in the United States and clearing the way for his beatification.

Archbishop Eusebius J. Beltran, the archbishop of Oklahoma City, then headed by Archbishop Eusebius J. Beltran, opened the priest’s sainthood cause in 2007. At the request of his parishioners in Guatemala, Father Rother’s heart is enshrined inside the Guatemalan church.

“The witness of Father Rother’s life and death has been a source of encouragement and inspiration to me as a seminarian, priest and now as a bishop. I consider it a great gift to be entrusted with overseeing the continuation of his cause for beatification and canonization begun by Archbishop Beltran,” Archbishop Coakley said in a statement.

“He beatification is an unexpected blessing for Oklahoma and the United States as we celebrate this ordinary man from humble beginnings who answered the call to serve an extraordinary life,” he said. “His witness will continue to inspire us for generations.”

Before the exhumation of Father Rother’s remains in Okarche, his family led a procession to the gravesite and participated in a prayer.

Once the vault was removed from the gravesite, it was transported to Oklahoma City where his remains were removed, examined and verified. He was placed in a new casket with golden vestments alongside a document signed by those in attendance. A red ribbon was wrapped around the casket and sealed with a wax seal of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

Archbishops Coakley and Beltran led the priests in the singing of “Salve Regina,” a Gregorian chant hymn, before the casket was lowered into a crypt at Resurrection Cemetery.

A closing prayer service wrapped up the solemn process.

“It was a holy day. Father Rother’s presence was felt by many, and we are blessed as the Catholic Church in Oklahoma to present Father Rother’s life to the world,” Archbishop Coakley said.

A temporary sign marks the gravesite at Holy Trinity Cemetery in Okarche where the original vault and casket were reburied. A permanent memorial marker will be placed. His remains will stay in the chapel at Resurrection Cemetery until his shrine is completed.
Bishops among First Signatories to Pledge to End Death Penalty

By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

Bishops attending a meeting were among the first to sign the National Catholic Pledge to End the Death Penalty at the U.S. bishops’ headquarters building May 9.

Each person taking the pledge promises to educate, advocate and pray for an end to capital punishment.

“All Christians and people of good will are called today to fight not only for the abolition of the death penalty, whether legal or illegal, and in all its forms, but also in order to improve prison conditions, with respect for the human dignity of the people deprived of their freedom,” Pope Francis has said. This quotation kicks off the pledge.

The pledge drive is organized by the Catholic Mobilizing Network.

“The death penalty represents a failure of our society to fulfill the demands of human dignity, as evidenced by the 159 people and counting who have been exonerated due to their innocence since 1973,” the organization says on the pledge sheet following space for someone’s signature.

Quoting from the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the network added, “The death penalty is not needed to maintain public safety, punishment must correspond to the concrete conditions of the common good and (be) more in conformity to the dignity of the human person.”

After capital punishment was halted nationwide briefly in the 1970s, more than 1,400 people have been executed since then, according to the Catholic Mobilizing Network. “The prolonged nature of the death penalty process can permeate the trauma for victims’ families and prevents the opportunity for healing and reconciliation called for in the message of Jesus Christ.”

The idea for the pledge campaign took root in January, said Catholic Mobilizing Network executive director Karen Clifton in an interview with Catholic News Service. It is supported in part by a $50,000 grant from the U.S. Bishops’ Catholic Communication Campaign.

Clifton said Arkansas’ bid to execute eight death-row prisoners in a 10-day span in April — four were ultimately put to death — “exacerbated the situation and showed it as a very live example of who we are executing and the reasons why the system is so broken,” she said.

Penalties for crime “are supposed to be rehabilitative, but also restorative. The death penalty is definitely not restorative,” Clifton said. Those on death row are not the worst of the worst, they’re the least — the marginalized, the poor, those with improper (legal) counsel,” she added.

Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Florida, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, said he and his fellow bishops have voiced their views strongly with Gov. Rick Scott of Florida, where capital punishment is legal and where prisoners have been executed.

Bishop Dewane, in recalling Pope John Paul II’s successful personal appeal to the governor of Missouri to spare a death-row inmate’s life during the pope’s visit to St. Louis in 1999, said the example offers hope. “It’s a great example,” he added. “You never know how your words will be taken, or accepted.”

Bishop Jaime Soto of Sacramento, California, who was one of a number of bishops who signed the pledge following a daylong meeting May 9 at the U.S. bishops’ headquarters building in Washington, said the Church’s ministry to prisoners is another source of hope. “It’s the ministry of companionship that’s so important,” he noted.

Bishops said the ministry of accompaniment also is necessary for the victims of crime. He recalled an instance when a priest of his diocese, who was expected to attend a meeting of priests, had to bow out “because he had to bury someone who had been killed by violence in his neighborhood. ... We are not recognizing that the futility of the death penalty system.”

Capuchin Father John Pavlik, president of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, told CNS in an interview is a key tool in the toolbox in spreading information opposing the death penalty. CNSM, he said, has a person on staff to monitor issues surrounding justice and peace, and has consistently communicated capital punishment information to CNSM members.

Father Pavlik said he takes inspiration from an Ohio woman whose child was murdered decades ago. The killer was arrested, tried and convicted on a charge of capital murder, “and she has spent the last 25 years advocating against the execution of this man.” The priest also voiced his distaste at the “disregard for life” that had tried to execute eight death-row prisoners in such a short time because “the drug (used in the fatal injection) was going to expire.”

Immigration, Religious Liberty and Synod on Agenda for Bishops’ Meeting

By Rhina Guidos
Catholic News Service

The procedural ballot is full of issues for U.S. bishops to tackle at their upcoming spring assembly June 14-15 in Indianapolis.

They will discuss issues ranging from immigration to religious freedom, as well as the Synod of Bishops on youth and the Fifth National Encuentro gathering, both coming up in 2018.

“We’re certainly going to talk about the upcoming convocation in Orlando, some of the specific plans,” said Bishop Oscar Cantu of Las Cruces, New Mexico, referring to the “Convocation of Catholic Leaders: The Joy of the Gospel for the Poor,” July 1-4 in Orlando, Florida.

“Other topics of interest for all of the bishops have been the fifth Encuentro, coming up in 2018, how things are developing in that.”

Bishop Cantu, a member of the Committee on International Justice and Peace of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, will address the persecution of Christians abroad.

“With regard to our bishops’ meeting, there is the concern of the plight of Christians in parts of the world where they’ve been persecuted, whether it’s in Africa or Syria or in any other part of the world,” he said.

Bishop Cantu also will give updates about the work of his committee, which has taken him to see some of the hardships Christians face in places like Asia and the Middle East. After taking his annual trip to the Holy Land in January, Bishop Cantu said he traveled to Iraq and Kurdistan. He witnessed some of the work by church members, which included the building of schools, churches and universities for displaced communities of Christians forced to leave their homelands.

“The archbishops have done heroic work,” he said.

For example, Archbishop Bashar Warda of the Chaldean Archeparchy of Irbil, Iraq, built a university so that young people who were displaced from Mosul could continue to study, said Bishop Cantu.

“He did that in very short order. He talked to me about that two years ago, that he wanted to create a university and so when I was there in January, I asked him how those plans were going. He said, ‘Oh, we’ve been up and running for a year and half.’ I was just absolutely astounded. He’s got this, a vision, this ‘do it’ mentality. They’ve just been working constantly to give Christians every opportunity and every reason to stay in Iraq.”

Another archbishop had access to a small plot of land, and there, he built a church, he built an elementary school and a university.

“It’s amazing, just absolutely amazing, what they’ve done in such short time and to keep their people together and to give them a sense of identity and of support,” he said.

Bishop Cantu also met with Church members in dangerous zones to talk about what Americans have been advocating, particularly for establishing safe zones for Christians in Syria and Iraq, on their behalf.

“They said they don’t like that idea, they don’t think it’s a good idea to have a specifically Christian zone because that would make them a target for their enemies,” he said. “They want to live in an integrated society with proper security and full citizenship … that’s what they believe will give them the greatest security, so we want to clarify that, as a point for safety for them, a clarification for their voice.”

The bishops also will discuss the 2018 Synod of Bishops, in which the pope wants discussion about “young people, faith and vocational discernment,” as the theme of the gathering.

The bishops also will discuss and vote on whether to establish the Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty as a permanent USCCB committee. They also will consider for discussion and votes revised Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments With Persons With Disabilities; a collection of blessings in Spanish; and a new translation of the Order of Blessing the Oil of Catechumens and of the Sick and of Consecrating the Chrism.

The public sessions of the bishops’ assembly will be held all day June 14 and half a day June 15. An executive session may include “the inroads we have made into having a relationship with the new administration” in the White House, as well as the challenges, said Bishop Cantu, who also may give an update on his March meeting with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson.

“We certainly expressed our concern last November about the attitude and the plight of immigrants,” he said.

The bishops also may receive an update on President Donald Trump’s executive orders dealing with his travel ban, which is tied up in the courts, yet is affecting refugees coming into the country. The bishops have issued statements opposing the original order and its revision.
“The new pro-child, pro-woman safe- guards do not reduce funding for global health assistance by so much as a dollar,” Rep. Smith said, adding that President Trump included three abortion excep- tions in his memorandum for the policy – for rape, incest and to save the life of the mother.

“Nothing in the policy prevents foreign NGOs from treating injuries or illnesses that were caused by any abortion,” the congressman added.

“For years, pro-abortion organizations have used U.S. taxpayer funds to weaken, undermine, or reverse pro-life laws in other nations and systematically destroy the precious lives of unborn children,” Rep. Smith wrote. “Scores of countries throughout the world have been besieged by aggressive and well-funded campaigns to overturn their pro-life laws and poli- cies.”

“The Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance Policy will significantly miti- gate U.S. taxpayer complicity in global abortion,” he said.

U.S. foreign policy “should consistently affirm, care for and tangibly assist women and children,” Rep. Smith said, calling for increased access to maternal and prenatal care, safe blood and better nutrition, and the expansion of essential obstetrical ser- vices, “including skilled birth attendants, while improving transportation to emer- gency care facilities to significantly reduce maternal mortality and morbidity.”

He urged there be “a priority for pro- grams that ensure adequate nutrition and supplementation for moms and children during the all-important first 1,000 days of life.”

“No one is expendable or a throwaway. Every human life has infinite value. Birth is merely an event, not the beginning of the life of a child,” Rep. Smith added.

Reagan’s Mexico City Policy was in place until President Donald Trump’s office. He revoked it 1993, doing away with it so quickly following his inauguration that some participants in the March for Life on May 22, 1993, 22 days after the inaugu- ration, carried “Impeach Clinton” signs.

In 2001, President George W. Bush re- instated it in two days into his presidency, eliminating the Mexico City Policy. He terminated it in May 1993, to the consternation of conservative leaders and the Republican Party. Bush reinstated it in May 2001, to the consternation of conservative leaders and the Republican Party.

“Such an attack can have no justification. I thank the emergency services for their prompt and speedy response which saved lives,” he continued. “We join in prayer for all those who have died and for the injured and their families and all affected by this tragedy. We must all commit ourselves to working together, in every way, to help the victims and their families and to build and strengthen our community solidarity.”

Bishop Mark Davies of Shrewsbury, whose diocese covers southern parts of Manchester, wrote to his clergy, urging them to pray for the victims and their fami- lies.

“We let us also keep in prayer the po- lice and emergency services, together with all hospital staff and chaplains,” he said in his letter.

The bishop added: “Together with church and religious leaders in Greater Manches- ter and around the country, I offer the people of the United Kingdom and the victims of this atrocity, will lead us all to shadowed by this brutality, will lead us all to such prayer and active charity.”

Pope Nombrates Callista Gingrich Ambassador to Vatican

Catholic News Service

As he prepared to meet Pope Fran- cis for the first time, President Don- ald Trump formally nominated Cal- lista Gingrich, wife of former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, to be the new U.S. ambassador to the Holy See.

The White House announced the nomination late May 19, as President Trump was beginning his first overseas trip, a trip that would include a meeting with Pope Francis May 24 at the Vatican.

The nomination of Mrs. Gingrich, 51, a former congressional aide, had been rumored for months. If con- firmed by the Senate, she would suc- ceed Ambassador Ken Hackett, who retired in January. She would be the third woman to serve as U.S. ambas- sador to the Holy See after Linda Boggs, who held the post in 1997- 2001, and Mary Ann Glendon, who

documents as well as other materi- als related to her husband, Republican Newt Gingrich, who served from 1995 until 1999 as the 50th Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

In 2010, the company released the film “Nine Days That Changed the World” about Pope John Paul II’s nine- day pilgrimage to Poland in 1979 and how it played a part in the fall of com- munism in Europe.

Callista Gingrich graduated from Lu- ther College in Decorah, Iowa, in 1988, majoring in music, a passion that has remained with her throughout her life. She is a longtime member of the choir at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington.

Some, like John Schlageter, execu- tive director of the Bethlehem Univer- sity Foundation in Washington, hailed the choice.

“It might make me biased, but I think that her years of singing in the choir at the national shrine has given her a back stage pass to some of the most important events in the life in the church in the United States, including two papal visits,” said Mr. Schlaget- er, who is a friend of the couple. The Gingriches are patrons of Bethlehem University, the first Catholic univer- sity in the Holy Land founded by the Vatican and the De La Salle Christian Brothers, he said.

Mr. Schlageter said Callista Gin- grich’s time producing the documen- taries as well as her deep passion for pro-life. She has long worked to include all voluntary fami-
The names of the following deceased persons have been submitted by their parishies. Please remember in your prayers the happy repose of these recently departed souls and the consolation of their loved ones.

ANNVILLE – St. Paul the Apostle: Helen Ceresini, Michael Keefer.
BLOOMSBURG – St. Columbus: Donald M. Farver.
BLUE RIDGE SUMMIT – St. Rita: Joseph Carter.
CAMP HILL – Good Shepherd: Augusto Chilmaza.
COAL TOWNSHIP – Our Lady of Hope: Eleanor Kozlowski.
COLUMBIA – Holy Trinity: Susan DeLeon.
CONEWAGO – Sacred Heart of Jesus: Leona McIntyre.
GETTYSBURG – St. Francis Xavier: Carolin Klock, Denise Kriger-Cutshall, Florence Metz.
HARRISBURG – Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament: Alice Spencer; St. Catherine Laboure: Catherine Boyle, Barbara Markiewicz, Robert Rady.
HERSHEY – St. Joan of Arc: Nilda Bonfanti.
NEW OXFORD – Immaculate Conception BVM: Marie Groff, Mary Schrader.

YORK Catholic High School Teacher Honored

York Catholic High School teacher Carolyn Obermeier was honored at a school-wide assembly as an Outstanding Teacher in advance of National Teacher Appreciation Week (May 7-12) by local McDonald’s owner-operators, Chris and Steve Lesher of York.

Mrs. Obermeier created the Academic Assistance Center at York Catholic more than 10 years ago. The center serves more than 100 students daily. Mrs. Obermeier serves on the Student Services Team and Student Assistance Program, and also coaches the junior high cross-country and track teams.

Mrs. Obermeier’s students were excited to hear she had been chosen for the award. Sophomore Luke Kordaz said, “Mrs. Obermeier has a way of learning my strengths and weaknesses and customizing her instruction to help me to better understand what I am studying.” Junior Carlin Mayer said, “She’s my second mom. She pushes me and helps me not want to give up.”

Following a speech about the importance of teachers, delivered by State Representative Carol Hill-Evans, the Lesher introduced Mrs. Obermeier as this year’s recipient of the award. The students gave Mrs. Obermeier a standing ovation when her name was announced and were thankful for her service to York Catholic.

Highmark Foundation Honors School Nurse at St. Patrick’s in Carlisle

To the students of St. Patrick School in Carlisle, she is known as “Nurse Mary.” Mary Gronkiewicz is there to help with everyday scrapes and illnesses, but also works with some students to manage significant life challenges.

Ms. Gronkiewicz was recently honored by the Highmark Foundation in its third annual Advancing Excellence in School Nursing Awards, created to honor and recognize the important role that school nurses play in keeping children healthy.

St. Patrick School Principal Ricman Fly highlighted Ms. Gronkiewicz’s dedication over her years of service.

“She has helped thousands of students, parents, and faculty with health-related issues. She is a wonderful blessing to all she meets,” Mr. Fly said.

Ms. Gronkiewicz was recognized in the Spirit of the Year category, in which winners serve as a role model and display a love for the school nursing profession; compassion and caring for students, staff and families; and a willingness to learn and advance the school nursing profession. Ms. Gronkiewicz was presented with $1,500 to use for professional development or health-related programs at St. Patrick.

School secretary Kathy Hawkins has worked with Ms. Gronkiewicz for 11 years and sees the nurse’s influence on a daily basis.

“Nurse Mary has been invaluable to the children and staff at St. Patrick School,” Ms. Hawkins said. “She has gone above and beyond any normal nurse duties. She takes the time to get to know each child personally and provides tender and loving care to all students. She treats the children like they are her very own.”

“We are so blessed to have her as part of our faculty.”

Ms. Gronkiewicz has been a nurse at St. Patrick School for 16 years. Her previous professional expertise was as a nurse in the Navy. She said one of the biggest misconceptions of her job at the school is that she only has to deal with cuts and bruises. She said the job really can involve so much more these days.

And that’s one of the reasons Highmark decided to honor school nurses.

“I continue to be impressed by the advanced knowledge and skills demonstrated by school nurses,” said Highmark Foundation President Yvonne Conohan.

“With an increasing number of children entering schools with chronic conditions such as cardiac issues, autism, autoimmune diseases and cancer, school nurses face the challenge of managing their care during the school day.”

Civil War Tour Every Saturday at National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Beginning on May 27, the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg, Md., will offer its Civil War Tour every Saturday at 1:30 p.m., through Saturday, Sept. 2. Previously, this tour was only available by reservations made in advance.

“We’re seeing interest more than ever in our Civil War tour, so we’ve decided to offer it every Saturday during the busy summer months,” said Rob Judge, Executive Director of the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. On the tour, visitors will learn about the troops that came through Emmitsburg prior to the Battle of Gettysburg, as well as the Sisters’ work in caring for the wounded in Gettysburg once the battle was over. The tour costs $10 per person and lasts about 45-60 minutes.

People may sign up ahead of time for a tour by emailing office@seton-shrine.org or going to setonshrine.org/civil-war-tour. Signing up ahead of time isn’t required; visitors may simply come for a tour about 10 minutes prior to the 1:30 p.m. start time.

“On this tour, visitors will discover a side of the Civil War they haven’t heard before,” said Judge. “After the battle was over, Sisters from Emmitsburg came to help where they were needed. These women cared for wounded, several churches in Gettysburg, as well as in field hospitals on sites at Gettysburg College and the Lutheran Theological Seminary. We welcome everyone to discover the Civil War story of these amazing women.”

If you go: Simply come to the Shrine’s Visitor Center a few minutes before the 1:30 tour begins on Saturdays from May 27 through Sept. 2, or you may sign up ahead of time by emailing office@setonshrine.org, or at setonshrine.org/civil-war-tour. Admission to the Visitor Center and Museum are free, and parking is free. The Seton Shrine is located at 339 South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, MD 21727.

To report suspected abuse of a minor, call the toll free PA Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-932-3913

To report suspected abuse of a minor by a church official, employee or volunteer, also please call the diocesan toll free hotline: 1-800-626-1608

Diocese of Harrisburg
Youth Protection Program

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To report suspected abuse of a minor by a church official, employee or volunteer, also please call the diocesan toll free hotline: 1-800-626-1608
A pilgrimage to the Holy Land with Father Luis Rodriguez to celebrate the national centenary, will take place from Jan. 29 to Feb. 6. Contact Galilea, Cana, Bethlehem, the Dead Sea, Jericho, the Wailing Wall, Jerusalem, the Mount of Olives and more. Land and air from Newtown, $2,689. For more information, contact Sylvia at Select International Tours at 1-800-842-4842 or syvilsa@select-int.com.

National Blue Army Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima pilgrimage with Father Robert Festa, who co-chairs the 100th anniversary of Our Lady’s third apparition on July 13, 1917. Special events are planned at the shrine. Have a day of quiet reflection and join in the pilgrimage program. Father Richard Owens O.F.M. will be traveling with the J.O.Y. ministry of St. Joseph Parish in York. The Fatima Shrine is in Roquehampton. Cost: $35 per person. Meditation; driver’s tip; on-coach movie; donation to shrine and on-bus snacks. There will be three lunch options. One dinner stop on the way back to York. A 50-seat elite coach is reserved. Must be 21 or older. The pilgrimage will depart at 7:30 a.m. and return to the Diocese approximately 7 p.m. for return reservations or questions, call Margaret Miller at 717-286-4757. J.O.Y. Travel Coordinator.

Annual Women of Grace Malvern Retreat, July 7-8 at Malvern Retreat House. “Our Lady and the Triumph” presented by Father Jordan Hite, TOR. The Mass is Saturday 5 p.m. and Deacons; 11:45 a.m. Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament & Intercessory Prayers on June 2. The schedule is: 6:30 a.m. Holy Mass followed by Exsultate and Give Thanks & Intercessory Prayers for the Lay and Deacons; 9:15 a.m. Sacrament; 11:45 a.m. Mass. For more information, call 717-846-4935.

Our Lady of the Visitation Catholic Church in Shippenburg is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its dedication on July 2, 2017. Bishop Ronald Gainer will celebrate Mass at 11 a.m., followed by a picnic from 12:3-3:30 p.m. in the social hall. There will be a vendors service at 4 p.m. Please join us in prayer to commemorate this exciting milestone.

The Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick in Harrisburg will host its first Friday Devotions of Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament & Intercessory Prayers on June 2. The schedule is: 6:30 a.m. Holy Mass followed by Exsultate and Give Thanks & Intercessory Prayers for the Lay and Deacons; 9:15 a.m. Sacrament; 11:45 a.m. Mass. For more information, call Mary Ann at 717-564-7709 or Loretta at 717-737-7551.

Corpus Christi Men’s Retreat: All men in the Harrisburg Diocese are invited by Corpus Christi Parish in Chambersburg to attend the 39th Men’s Retreat. The retreat begins Friday, Aug. 4, and continues through Sunday afternoon, Aug. 6. Location of the event is again Mount St. Mary’s Seminary, Emmitsburg, Md. The pastor of Holy Comforter St. Cyprian Parish of Washington, D.C., is this year’s retreat master. Theme: “Journey to the Normal Chris-FOX:

The Little Flower Club Seniors of St. Theresia Parish in New Cumberland is offering a trip to a visit Mary on the 13th day of the month at 6:30 p.m. through Oct. 13 behind the Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick in Harrisburg. The trip includes Mass, professional local guides, conference talks, daily Mass, Confession, and much more. For more information, contact Gil Condror at 717-966-0753 or vulmos1@verizon.net.

Delone Catholic High School in McSherrys- town is hosting its annual Father’s Day Cash Raffle. Drawing will be held on Father’s Day, June 18, and tickets are $2 each. 1st prize $200, 2nd prize $150, 3rd prize $100. Contact Margaret Miller at 717-674-9124 or m.miller@pct.com. Information about the clinic will be updated regularly on the clinic’s Facebook page: May 26, 2017 - En Catholic Witness - 19
On Mother’s Day, St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Annville broke ground for a tribute garden to remember infants and young children who have died. The garden will be a sanctuary where parents and families can grieve, pray and reflect.

Named The Garden of Hope, it will welcome visitors with a beautiful landscape and a wide walking path that will wind its way through trees and beautiful greenery leading up to the memorial.

The center of the garden will feature the statues of Our Lady of Hope and the Sacred Heart of Jesus to enhance the prayerful atmosphere. Our Lady of Hope is an image of Our Blessed Mother pregnant with our Savior, Jesus Christ. The Garden of Hope will memorialize infants lost during pregnancy or birth, SIDS, stillbirth, miscarriage or termination of pregnancy – any kind of loss of a child – where people can openly share and remember.

In keeping with the suggestion of Pope Francis, through his Encyclical Laudato Si, (“On Care for our Common Home”) the plants in the landscaping will be native, non-invasive plant species to ensure the integrity of the natural landscape, the least amount of watering, the most disease-resistant plants and the lowest amount of pesticide use possible.

Although the Garden of Hope will serve as a memorial to the unborn and children who died early in life, this garden is meant to be an opportunity for all members of the St. Paul Parish community, the greater community of Annville, the Lebanon Deanery and the Diocese of Harrisburg to honor or remember any child or loved one.

A section of pavers in the garden will be reserved exclusively for parents and families of babies lost in utero, in infancy and toddlerhood. Those who would like to honor their deceased child, or who are interested in becoming a benefactor of the project, may contact the parish office at 717-867-1525 for information.

St. Paul Parish Breaks Ground for Garden of Hope

Altar serves, from left, Emily Maag, Jonathan Graham and Amber LaGrelius, lead a procession from the church to the site of the groundbreaking ceremony, following Mass on Mother’s Day, May 14.

Ella and Elise Coleman carry flowers during the celebration on Mother’s Day.