**Eucharist Is Reminder of God’s Love, Call to Unity, Pope Says**

By Cindy Wooden
*Catholic News Service*

The Eucharist is a tangible reminder of God’s love, and receiving Communion is a call to work to build the body of Christ by loving others and shunning all that sows division within a community, Pope Francis said.

The Eucharist should “heal our ambition to lord it over others, to greedily hoard things for ourselves, to foment discord and criticism,” he said June 18, celebrating the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ. “May it awaken in us the joy of living in love, without rivalry, jealousy or mean-spirited gossip.”

Pope Francis celebrated the Mass outside the Basilica of St. John the Lateran, the cathedral of the Diocese of Rome. With an almost constant breeze cooling the warm Rome day, thousands of people – including children who made their first Communion this spring – gathered outside the basilica for the evening Mass.

*More EUCHARIST, page 2*

**Bishops’ Voices Vital in Fight for Religious Liberty**

By Sean Gallagher
*Catholic News Service*

The U.S. bishops voted June 15 to make the Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty a permanent standing committee. The 132-53 vote came on the second day of the bishops’ spring assembly in Indianapolis. There were five abstentions. A simple majority was required for approval.

The bishops’ action came less than a week before the start of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ fifth annual Fortnight for Freedom June 21-July 4. It is a two-week period of prayer, advocacy and education on religious freedom.

Before the vote, Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori, chairman of the committee since its creation in 2011, spoke in favor of making it permanent, arguing the need for the body stretches beyond the specific legal and public policy issues challenging religious freedom that continue to emerge.

“Rather, the very idea of religious freedom and its roots in human nature is challenged,” he said, “along with the right of religious people and institutions to raise their voices in the public square and to perform ministries that serve the common good in accordance with their religious and moral convictions.”

Archbishop Lori also expressed his hope the ad hoc committee’s work up to now and in the future would help “plant the seeds of a movement for religious freedom, which will take years of watering and weeding in order for it to grow, to grow strong and to bear fruit.”

“In the face of these challenges, our voice is vital,” he said. “Debates about religious freedom in our country are often, sadly, polarizing. In our tumultuous political culture, Catholic laity must be equipped to participate in conversations about the future direction of our country.”

Archbishop Lori celebrated the fortnight’s opening Mass the evening of June 21 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Baltimore. The archbishop will celebrate a special closing Mass July 4 in Orlando, Florida, during the Convocation of Catholic Leaders.

In the discussion that followed Archbishop Lori’s presentation, some bishops spoke in favor of establishing a standing committee on religious freedom. Among them was Washington Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl.

“The challenge to religious liberty is a growing one,” he said. “The dominant culture increasingly finds that it’s not just a matter of disagreeing with religious principles and positions. But there’s a certain level of hostility becoming more and more evident…. This problem is not going to go away.”

Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, who was USCCB president when the ad hoc committee was created, also spoke in favor of making it permanent.

He noted that bishops around the world “look to us in the United States [as] real quarterbacks when it comes to the defense of religious freedom” and added that he hears from “our ecumenical partners how deeply they cherish our leadership on this issue.”

“I think it’s enhanced the cause of interreligious and ecumenical dialogue, because we’re not the only ones...”

*More FORTNIGHT, page 12*
Mass of Thanksgiving Celebrates Father Menei’s Golden Jubilee

Family, friends, fellow priests and former parishioners of Father Francis Menei gathered at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg on June 11 – the Feast of the Most Holy Trinity – for a Mass of Thanksgiving to celebrate the priest’s golden jubilee.

The 2017 feast day included two major changes from past practices. First, although Italian dioceses, like many around the world, moved the feast from a Thursday to a Sunday in the late 1970s, the Mass and procession with the pope at St. John Lateran remained on the Thursday until this year.

Second, instead of transporting the Blessed Sacrament on a truck in the Corpus Christi procession this year, it was carried on a platform held aloft on the shoulders of four men. Eight other men carried tall poles holding a canopy over the platform, a task made more difficult by the breeze.

The truck had made its first appearance in 1994 when St. John Paul II began having difficulty walking. He and now-retired Pope Benedict XVI would ride on the truck, kneeling or sitting before the monstrance.

Elected at the age of 76, Pope Francis walked behind the truck for the 1-mile procession in 2013. But beginning in 2014, because of his difficulty walking long distances and in order to avoid drawing attention away from the Eucharist, he met the procession at St. Mary Major instead of participating in it.

In his homily at the Mass, the pope said the Eucharist “is the sacrament of memory, reminding us, in a real and tangible way, of the story of God’s love for us.”

Just as the Israelites were called to remember how God led them safely through the desert, he said, “remembering all that the Lord has done for us is the foundation of our own personal history of salvation.”

“Remembrance is essential for faith, as water is for a plant,” Pope Francis said.

Remembering, he said, keeps people “mindful, never forgetting who it is who loves us and whom we are called to love in return.”

Pope Francis said it seems that today people’s ability to remember and be mindful is weakening.

“Amid so much frantic activity, many people and events seem to pass in a whirl,” he said. “We quickly turn the page, looking for novelty while unable to retain memories.”

But the focus on living for the moment, he said, often means living superficially and without a focus on “who we are and where we are going.”

The feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, the pope said, reaches people even in their “fragmented lives,” reminding them how Christ was broken for their salvation and continues to offer himself in the “loving fragility” of the Eucharist.

“The Eucharist is flavored with Jesus’ words and deeds, the taste of his passion, the fragrance of his Spirit,” he said. “When we receive it, our hearts are overcome with the certainty of Jesus’ love.”

At the same time, the pope said, the Eucharist is a reminder that Christians are not isolated individuals but are called to receive Christ’s body together and to build up the body of the Church.

“In experiencing this Eucharist,” he told those at the Mass, “let us adore the Lord for this greatest of gifts: the living memorial of his love that makes us one body and leads us to unity.”

Eucharist

Continued from 1

Mass and for the Corpus Christi procession later from St. John Lateran to the Basilica of St. Mary Major, about a mile away.

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The Bishop Shanahan Assembly #917 of the Knights of Columbus presented a check in the amount of $1,000 to the Diocesan Office of Vocations on June 12 at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg. Bishop Ronald Gainer, center, and Father Brian Wayne, Diocesan Vocations Director, left, accepted the check from Michael Rybacki, Richard Kovaleski, Faithful Navigator, and Raymond Finkle, Color Corps Commander.

**Job Opening**

**Lay Catholic Campus Minister, Elizabethtown and Franklin & Marshall Colleges**

The Diocese of Harrisburg is seeking a Lay Catholic Campus Minister to serve both Elizabethtown and Franklin & Marshall Colleges near Lancaster. This is a full-time, benefit eligible ten-month professional position, needed to continue and expand two vibrant Catholic Campus Ministries. These are Christ-centered communities serving faculty, staff and students in a college campus environment. Responsibilities include: creating innovative ways to bring people together; responding to inquiries about the Catholic faith; providing opportunities for young adult faith formation; attending weekly campus Masses and coordinating the liturgical leadership team; providing pastoral care to students, faculty and staff; coordinating annual retreats; mentoring and guiding the student Leadership Teams.

Competitive salary. This position requires a fully initiated active member of the Catholic Church. Preferred candidates will have previous experience in campus ministry and/or youth/young adult ministry and a strong academic background in a related field.

All interested applicants should submit a résumé and cover letter by June 30, 2017 to: employment@hbgdiocese.org.

**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 July 7 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.

**Bishop Gainer’s Public Calendar**

- **June 24** – Installation of Father Donald Bender as Pastor, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Enola, 5 p.m.
- **June 25** – Celebrant and homilist for the 100th Anniversary of St. James Church, Lititz, noon.
- **June 27** – Quo Vadis Days, Mount St. Mary’s Seminary, Emmitsburg, Md.
- **June 27** – Installation of Father Robert Gillelan as Pastor, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Lebanon, 7 p.m.
- **July 2** – Celebrant and homilist for the 50th Anniversary of Our Lady of the Visitation Parish, Shippenburg, 11 a.m.
- **July 6** – Fiat Days, Mount St. Mary’s Seminary, Emmitsburg, Md.
- **July 9** – Celebrant and homilist for the Diocesan Mass for couples celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary, Good Shepherd Church, Camp Hill, 2 p.m.

**Alexander Szeles, Who Served Diocesan Finance Committee, Laid to Rest**

Alexander R. Szeles, who gave active service to many diocesan and community organizations, died June 11 at the age of 74.

Szeles was a member of St. Catherine Labouré Parish in Harrisburg, where he served as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, as Co-Chairman of the Development Committee of St. Catherine Labouré Parish, and as Chairman of the Diocesan Finance Committee. He was also a member of the Diocese of Harrisburg’s Finance Committee and Chairman of the Diocesan Finance Committee of St. Catherine Labouré Parish. Szeles was highly involved in the development of the new Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg.

Szeles was a Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. He and his wife, Dori, of 56 years, founded Deloresa House, a home for Mothers and their children. The couple also developed and funded Mother of Good Hope Church in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, along with another church/school outside Durban, South Africa.

He is survived by his wife, four children, 18 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated June 16 at Bishop McDevitt High School. Burial was in Holy Cross Cemetery, Harrisburg.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Catherine Labouré Church, 4000 Derry St., Harrisburg, PA 17111, to Bishop McDevitt High School, 1 Crusader Way, Harrisburg, PA 17111, to Morningstar Pregnancy Center, 503 Bridge St., Suite 10, New Cumberland 17070, or to the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation, 4000 Georgetown Rd., #102, Harrisburg, PA 17109.

**Beginning Experience Program to Offer Weekend for Those Suffering the Loss of a Spouse**

The ecumenical Beginning Experience weekends are a Church-approved program designed for those suffering the loss of a spouse through death or divorce, and are trained in facilitating a weekend. Each Beginning Experience team is certified by the International Beginning Experience Organization.

The Beginning Experience Team in the Diocese of Harrisburg has booked Camp Hebron in Halifax, Pa., for a weekend on Nov. 10-12, 2017.

The weekend is led by persons who have lost a spouse through death or divorce, and are trained in facilitating a weekend. Each Beginning Experience team is certified by the International Beginning Experience Organization.

The following is a testimonial of a person who has attended the weekend:

“I can tell you that my encounter with the Beginning Experience weekend has brought me greater peace and given me an extended family of lifelong friends who I quickly grew to love and lean on. If you or someone you know is suffering the isolation and pain that can accompany the loss of a spouse or marriage, I encourage you to seriously consider attending the Beginning Experience weekend.”

Beginning Experience is the Church at work to provide help, healing and spiritual restoration. Visit the diocesan website at www.hbgdiocese.org, and go to Marriage and Family, or visit www.beginningexperience.org to learn more. Information can also be obtained by calling the Harrisburg Beginning Experience Team at 717-379-0800.
Forgive Us
By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
Special to The Witness

Recently, I was talking with a friend of mine who had just returned home from a rehab facility where she dealt with an addiction. It had been several years since I had seen her, and she appeared to be very different from the person that I remembered. She glowed with utter happiness and joy.

After we embraced and talked for a while about her experience in rehab, I asked her, “Tell me, Judith, as you worked the 12 Steps, what did you learn about yourself?” She looked deeply into my eyes, sighed and said, “I cannot control life! But God can! I finally let him! You see, part of the recovery process led me to realize that the place in which I felt most insecure, most broken, most incomplete, I replaced that spot with the feeling of euphoria in getting high. That escape, the feeling of being free, replaced where God should have been. In short, the drugs became an idol that demanded more and more of me until I was totally consumed by them, and during the process hurt everyone that was closest to me. When I realized that, took an inventory of all my sinful behaviors, and discovered forgiveness not only from God but from those whom I hurt the most, I experienced a freedom that was utterly amazing!”

I could not help thinking of this as I began my musings over the next phrase in the Lord’s Prayer, “Forgive us our trespasses.” The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains this phrase or petition in this way: “Now in this new petition, we return to him [God] like the prodigal son, and like the tax collector, recognize that we are sinners before him. Our petition begins with a ‘confession’ of our wretchedness and his mercy. Our hope is firm because, in his Son, we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. . . . This petition is so important that it is the only one to which the Lord returns and develops explicitly in the Sermon on the Mount. This crucial requirement of the covenant is impossible for man. But with God all things are possible.” (2839, 2841)

Do we, individually, believe that whatever we have tucked under our spiritual bed, or hidden away in our spiritual closet or attic, can be forgiven? When Jesus stretched out his arms and received the nails in his hands and feet, he took our sins upon himself. When he spoke from the cross, “Father, forgive them for they do not know what they do,” he meant us too! Do we really believe that? Have we owned this in our personal lives?

In my conversation with Judith, she focused on what those in recovery call “The Fifth Step.” This step reads: “Admit to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.” When an individual humbly and in all truth acknowledges deep sinful habits and brings them to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the atonement, the forgiveness, the fear, and the energy that it took to hide the secrets evaporates. God’s forgiveness truly transforms!

Judith’s transformation was so real as she faced the demons in her life, it was also physical. She glowed with joy! Remember this the next time you pray the Our Father! 1

1 http://www.allaboutgod.com/forgiving-yourself.html

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Stress in Your Marriage?
Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that feel bored, disillusioned, frustrated, or angry in their marriage. Some experience coldness. Others experience conflict in their relationship. Most don’t know how to change the situation or even communicate with their spouse about it.

This program has helped tens of thousands of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. In the Diocese of Harrisburg, Retrouvaille is under the auspices of the Office of Family Ministries.

For confidential information about, or to register for, the next program beginning with a weekend on Sept. 15-17 in Mechanicsburg, call 800-470-2230 or visit the website at www.HelpOurMarriage.com.

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 camper 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 Volunteer with People with Disabilities, 4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111. Checks should be made payable to the Diocese of Harrisburg.

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Engaging Culture in the New Evangelization is Focus of Fundraiser for Holy Family Radio

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

In our efforts to engage the culture in the age of the New Evangelization, we can turn to the encounters Jesus had with the people of his day as an example of reaching out to various groups, a professor of Sacred Scripture told those gathered for a fund-raising event for Holy Family Radio.

"New media – like Catholic radio – can play a very crucial role in sharing our faith... and we can learn from Jesus’ outreach to the various groups of his day," said Dr. Steven Smith, Associate Professor of Sacred Scripture at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md.

He offered his keynote address during a dinner May 5 at the Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey to benefit Holy Family Radio, which broadcasts on 720 AM the Truth of the Holy Catholic Church for the nourishment of the Catholic faithful, and to share the faith with others.

Dr. Smith, an author and speaker who is also a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Mechanicsburg, looked at six groups in Jesus’ time, how they compare to the "2.0 version" of people we encounter today, and practical ways to share our faith with them.

The first group he examined was the Sadducees, a group that possessed an antiquated faith and had difficulty seeing what God was presently doing in their lives.

"Today, there are folks who, regrettably, have a faith that in many ways is locked in the past," Dr. Smith said.

"Their faith needs to be rekindled."

In encountering those friends of ours who may have a ‘Beam me up, Scotty’ type of theology, "there is hope that God is going to pull me out of trouble," Dr. Smith explained.

This line of thinking turns a blind eye to the value of redemptive suffering, he said.

"In encountering those friends of ours who may have an opportunity to let go of some of their inhibitions and anxieties and come back into the center of their relationship with Our Lord," he said.

The fourth group of which Dr. Smith spoke was the Samaritans – a sect born of the Assyrians’ conquer of ten tribes of northern Israel some 700 years before the birth of Christ. Those who survived the invasion were forced to intermarry, and subsequently lost some of their identity and traditions.

"We all have a spiritual story to share about what God has been doing in our own spiritual journeys. Point them towards that deeper relationship with Jesus," he said.

Jesus also encountered the Pharisees – devout and pious people who separated themselves from the culture and were pre-occupied with the letter of the law.

"An important message to those who have more of a strident faith is the message of freedom that the Lord wants to share with us," Dr. Smith remarked.

"Catholic radio is a great way to introduce folks who have that struggle to think about the various ways that God wants to share his faith with us... They need to hear that sometimes it’s OK to let go."

The next group of which Dr. Smith spoke was the Essenes – an apocalyptic sect that viewed Jerusalem as corrupt, and awaited a “firebrand Messiah” to restore order.

"The connection to the Essenes today is those who have a kind of apocalyptic or anxiety-laden spiritual focus on the Rapture or the end of times," Dr. Smith said.

An apocalyptic focus “offers a pie-in-the-sky solution that things are going to get really bad, and God is going to pull me out of trouble,” Dr. Smith explained.

While we are called to Faithful Citizenship – engagement in political discourse and bringing our faith to the marketplace – there are those whose faith ebbs and flows depending on who is in office and the issues of the day, he said.

In our encounters, we are urged to “call them toward a deeper reality of Jesus Christ, who supersedes our local and national governments,” Dr. Smith said.

"Point people beyond those partisan emotions, feelings and commitments, to put in their proper perspective and look toward to all that we await in the Kingdom of God," he urged.

The final group of which Dr. Smith spoke was the “nones,” people with no religious background.

Just as Jesus reached out to non-believers, we too must share our faith with them.

"We really need to think thoughtfully, practically and prayerfully about these types of encounters," Dr. Smith remarked.

One way to share our faith is through the beauty of the Catholic Church, he offered.

“Beauty, like truth and goodness, is a universal virtue, a universally attractive quality,” he said. "We have an opportunity each day and in many ways to point people toward truth, goodness and beauty."

"Find the beauty," Dr. Smith said. "Find the beauty in other people, the beauty all around us, and point people to it. It’s not necessarily words that are needed to break down barriers; it’s truth, it’s goodness and it’s beauty."

"For all of our engagements with people," he concluded, “what we want them to see is Christ living in us and through us."
Ecumenical Leaders Call for Context, Nuance in Catholic-Lutheran Dialogue

By Colleen Dulle

Catholic News Service

Swiss Cardinal Kurt Koch, renowned for his ecumenical efforts, addressed a Washington gathering of Catholic and Lutheran leaders striving for unity.

Cardinal Koch’s speech took place May 30 at “The 500th Anniversary of Martin Luther’s Posting of the Ninety-Five Theses Conference: Luther and the Shaping of the Catholic Tradition,” held at The Catholic University of America.

In his address, Cardinal Koch called for a new understanding of Martin Luther that takes into account his historical and religious context.

The cardinal, who leads the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, outlined how Luther was grounded in the monastic and mystical traditions of late medieval Catholicism, like Christ-centered theology.

He also pointed out that the terms of the debate call for extraordinary in their time: similar reforms were gaining traction elsewhere, like the “devotio moderna,” or “modern devotion,” movement in the Netherlands that called for humility and simplicity in the Church, or the first multilingual edition of Scripture that was published in Spain in 1515. Luther, the cardinal said, never intended for his reforms to divide the Church, just as medieval reformers such as St. Francis and St. Dominic never intended to found new religious orders. They only intended to reform the Church from within.

Cardinal Koch said the Catholic Church of the Middle Ages was partly to blame for the division.

“If Martin Luther’s call for reform and repentance had found open ears among the bishops of the time and of the pope in Rome, the reform intended to be initiated by him [Luther] would not have become the Reformation. For the fact that the original reform of the Church became instead a Church-dividing reformation, the Catholic Church of the time must bear its share of the blame,” Cardinal Koch said.

He pointed out that it wasn’t until later in his life that Luther began to call into question the role of the Church. Because of this, he said, it isn’t fair to see the posting of Luther’s theses as the moment the Church split into Lutheranism and Catholicism.

Cardinal Koch stated that political leaders in Germany were largely responsible for the formation of a distinct Lutheran Church about 150 years after Luther wrote his theses.

Still, he said, Luther’s essential question about the role of the Church remains important and must be addressed in the dialogue between Catholics and Lutherans going forward.

Additionally, reconciliation must be a guideline theme in the conversation, the cardinal said, referencing Pope Francis’ words in Sweden last year.

Cardinal Koch said that Catholics must continue to apologize for their sometimes-violent offenses, like wars, against other religious groups, just as Lutherans must apologize for the way it has painted the pre-Reformation Catholic Church over the years.

The cardinal also called for a consensus between Catholics and Lutherans on Luther’s doctrine of justification—the idea that a person is saved through faith rather than actions.

“After 500 years of division,” the cardinal said, “we must strive for a binding communion and put it into effect already today.”

Retired Lutheran Bishop Eero Huovinen of the Diocese of Helsinki responded to Cardinal Koch’s address.

He said he agreed with everything the cardinal had said.

Bishop Huovinen focused his response in part on a short text of Gabriel Biel, according to a German Lutheran theologian of Historical Sciences, and the U.S. bishops’ Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs.

Cardinal Kurt Koch, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, is seen at The Catholic University of America in Washington May 30. The Swiss cardinal spoke about Martin Luther and the Reformation of a distinct Lutheran Church about the role and structure of the Church. Because of this, he said, it isn’t fair to see the posting of Luther’s theses as the moment the Church split into Lutheranism and Catholicism. Cardinal Koch stated that political leaders in Germany were largely responsible for the formation of a distinct Lutheran Church about 150 years after Luther wrote his theses.

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Model of Faith and Service, Dr. Maureen Thiec Retires from Delone Catholic after 25 Years as Principal

By Jen Reed

Whenever work needed to be done at Delone Catholic High School, Dr. Maureen Thiec got dirty.

One of the first projects the McSherrystown school tackled after her arrival as principal in 1992 was the construction of new concession stands at the football field. Working alongside several masons and volunteers, Dr. Thiec and her husband, Randy, hauled cinderblock and mixed cement as part of the construction process.

Whenever it was time to “set up and tear down” for school Masses and assemblies, Dr. Thiec was there too, helping to get the job done.

“I’ve found that you can’t expect the students or families to do the work of service unless you model it yourself,” Dr. Thiec told The Catholic Witness. And while she’s not shied away from manual labor, she’s put a focus on service to the Church as well – as a cantor, a lector, and an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.

Service to the Church has long been her approach in life. She was born in Reading, Pa., and was raised with her six siblings in the Philadelphia area before the family moved – first to Maryland and then to Massachusetts.

“My dad always said, ‘Do the best you can with every day of your life,’” she recalled.

Her father had been a seminarian in his younger years. But before he could be ordained to the priesthood, he started to lose his eyesight. With an abundance of the numbers of religious vocations in the 1940s, he ultimately left the seminary.

Service to the Church was instilled in his seven children. “We all carry on the mantra that you work for the good of the Church, that you do for God,” Dr. Thiec said.

She attended Catholic school until her sophomore year of high school, when tuition wasn’t something that the family with seven children could manage. So she finished high school at a public school in Timonium, Md., and then went on to St. Francis University, where she played the organ and sang at daily Mass for the Francisican Friars.

Dr. Thiec’s career in education began in 1978 as a science teacher at a Christian school in Jacksonville, Fla. Her husband, who died last year, served in Jacksonville.

He started to lose his eyesight. With an abundance of the numbers of religious vocations in the 1940s, he ultimately left the seminary.

She became principal of the Christian school in 1981, and then took on that role at Resurrection Parish School, also in Jacksonville.

She was finishing classes for a doctoral degree when her husband’s job took them to Baltimore in the early 90’s, so she began searching for a new job as they relocated.

Through Msgr. Hugh Overbaugh, who was good friends with her father, Dr. Thiec learned of the open principal position at Delone Catholic. She applied for the position, although she wasn’t familiar with the high school, named for attorney Charles J. Dejone, Esquire, who donated the land and the funds for its construction.

“My first question to Sister Marilou MacDonald [Diocesan Superintendent at the time] was who is St. Delone?” Dr. Thiec said.

“I thought the school was named after a saint I’d never heard of,” Dr. Thiec said.

She was selected for the job, and became, at that time, the only lay principal in the Diocese of Harrisburg.

“There was Father Pallard at Lancaster Catholic, Father Quinlan at Bishop McDevitt, Father DeChico at Lebanon Catholic, Sister Rita at Lourdes, Sister Francine at Trinity, and Father Grab at York Catholic,” she pointed out. “And there was me, and we affectionately called me ‘the non-religious principal.’”

She set to work, putting the Catholic faith first.

“You have to put Catholicism first, and make sure the students and faculty understand that’s where your leadership is coming from,” Dr. Thiec remarked.

Her first goals were to establish prayer before the start of every class, and Mass every month.

At the same time, there was a focus on the curriculum, including the improvement of Advanced Placement courses, but also classes like woodshop and electronics.

“We are located in an area that is typically blue-collar, and while 97 percent of our graduates go on to college, we have to be a school for students pursuing a trade or the work force after graduation,” she said. “If parents and students want a Catholic education, we have to make sure that we have courses that will allow them to be the best they can be, no matter what they choose to do in life.”

Dr. Thiec also became directly involved with the students – both in the classroom and in extracurricular activities.

She’s played the role of Grandma in the school’s production of “Fiddler on the Roof,” and sat on the sidelines of the basketball and football games – a number of which were at the championship level – and has taught Algebra for eighth-grade students in the area’s Catholic middle school classrooms.

“I wanted the community to know I’m well-rounded,” Dr. Thiec said. “I like music. I like theater. I like sports. I like everything the students are doing inside and outside of the classroom.”

The Algebra program began in 1996 as a means of retaining students in the area’s Catholic school system.

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When it started, eighth-graders from five Catholic schools came to Delone every morning at 8:00 for an hour-long class with Dr. Thiec, who plans to continue the program this fall at St. Joseph School in Hanover.

During Dr. Thiec’s tenure, Delone Catholic has also introduced band, wrestling and football programs for elementary and middle school students, an annual picnic for third- and fourth-graders, and a Little Squires program for children ages four to six that offers events like an Advent gathering and attendance at a Delone Catholic baseball game.

The Student Council also hosts separate “Delone in the Dark” events for middle school girls and boys that features a Friday night scavenger hunt in the darkened high school.

Dr. Thiec said the accomplishment she is most proud of is the relocation of the school’s chapel from the basement to its first floor in the summer of 2007. The project, she said, put Christ at the center of the school. The relocation and construction was made possible by a gift from the estate of Donald and Mary Small, and the tabernacle and statue from the gift of an anonymous donor.

In conjunction with the school’s 75th anniversary, Delone Catholic undertook its Diamond Decade Initiative, a multiple-phase $6.8 million capital campaign designed to renovate the entire school.

Every decision and initiative were made with the best interest of the students and the future of the school, Dr. Thiec said. She will be succeeded by Richard LaRocca as principal on July 1.

“I hope that as a good leader, I have left the school in a position that it can continue to be strong,” Dr. Thiec said. “God has been with us all this time, and Delone will continue to move forward.”

“God placed me here for a wonderful opportunity. It was a great time in my life, and in my family’s life,” she said. “Delone Catholic was the answer to a prayer for me.”

(Learn more about Delone Catholic High School at www.delonecatholic.org or call 717-637-5969.)
The Missionary Childhood Association is one of four Pontifical Mission Societies. It has a dual mandate of educating children about their part in the Church’s missionary work and challenging them to share what they have with children growing up in mission countries. The MCA is the official mission program in the Diocese of Harrisburg’s elementary schools.

With the motto of “Children Helping Children,” MCA helps children discover their brothers and sisters in mission countries—children just like them—and teaches that their own prayers and personal sacrifices make a faith-filled difference for their mission family.

Sacrifice

The Missionary Childhood Association teaches our children that we are indeed our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers if we are truly Catholic in our hearts. It also teaches them basic stewardship: each Catholic, regardless of age or station, has a responsibility to others. Certainly, prayer is something of which even the youngest is capable—but this is only one of the two pillars of MCA. The second, true sacrificial action, must follow. A popular way for children to collect their sacrifices for the missions is the MCA mite box.

National MCA Christmas Artwork Contest Winners

Madeleine Suhrbier and Evan Sloane from our diocese were selected from among thousands of young artists as winners in the 2015-16 National MCA Christmas Artwork Contest. They received awards from Father Andrew Small, the national director of the Pontifical Missions Societies, in December 2016. Their work was displayed throughout the Advent and Christmas season at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

Our Lady of Lourdes Regional School, Coal Township; semi-annual “Mission March”

Lentocha Award

Presented annually at the Diocesan Education Conference in September, the Monsignor George V. Lentocha Award acknowledges a school whose students have demonstrated exceptional mission awareness and Christian concern for children in developing countries of the world. Last September, the award was given by Bishop Ronald Gainer and Diocesan Director Father Robert F. Sharman to Our Lady of the Angels School, Columbia. It was accepted by Mrs. Michelle Detz, the school’s Mission Moderator. Mrs. Kimberly Winters is the school’s principal.
Association in the Diocese of Harrisburg

Pray for the Missions

We can all be missionaries at home through prayer. An ongoing project allows the Harrisburg Missions Office to distribute World Missions Rosaries, generously made by volunteers in our diocese, to our children. The World Mission Rosary, created by Archbishop Fulton Sheen in 1951, calls to mind the great needs of our mission family in each part of the world.

Father Robert F. Sharman, Diocesan Director, blesses some of the 5,330 World Mission Rosaries sent out to diocesan children this past school year.

Thank You...

to all the principals, teachers, mission moderators, DREs, catechists and parents who help today in developing tomorrow’s missionaries, and for allowing the MCA to partner with you in this wonderful task of planting and nurturing missionary seeds.

In the previous school year, children in the Harrisburg Diocesan schools and parishes contributed $52,637 to children in the missions! (Numbers for the school year just completed are still being tabulated.)

SCHOOLS

• St. Christine School, Carlisle
• Immaculate Conception School, York
• York Catholic High School
• Trinity Catholic School, York
• St. Rose of Lima School, Hanover
• Sacred Heart of Jesus School, Hanover
• Sacred Heart of Jesus School, Gettysburg
• Sacred Heart School, York
• Sacred Heart of Jesus School, Lancaster
• Sacred Heart of Jesus School, Mount Joy
• Sacred Heart of Jesus School, New Holland
• Seven Sorrows BVM School, Lebanon
• Seven Sorrows BVM School, Middletown
• Seven Sorrows BVM School, York
• Sacred Heart of Jesus School, Camp Hill
• Trinity Catholic School, Camp Hill
• St. Patrick School, Carlisle
• Corpus Christi School, Chambersburg
• Holy Name of Lourdes Elementary School, Coal Twp.
• Our Lady of the Angels School, Columbia
• St. Joseph School, Gallitzin
• St. Joseph School, Danville
• Our Mother of Perpetual Help School, Ephrata
• St. Francis Xavier School, Gettysburg
• Sacred Heart of Jesus School, Hanover
• St. Joseph School, Hanover
• Bishop McDevitt High School, Harrisburg
• Holy Name of Jesus School, Harrisburg
• Holy Family School, Harrisburg
• Harrisburg Catholic Elementary School
• Sacred Heart of Jesus School, Lancaster
• Sacred Heart of Jesus School, Lebanon
• Sacred Heart of Jesus School, Lewistown
• Sacred Heart of Jesus School, Williamsport
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PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMS

• Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Catawissa
• Our Lady of Hope Parish, Coal Township
• Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, New Holland
• Our Lady of the Angels Parish, Palmyra
• Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Lebanon
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Retiring as Principal of St. Patrick School in Carlisle, Ricman Fly’s Focus Was on School as Family of Faith

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Stationed in Germany while serving in the United States Air Force, Captain Ricman Fly decided to go on a cruise of the Mediterranean with some of his fellow servicemen. The tour made a stop in Jerusalem, where Captain Fly approached the section of the great Western Wall where visitors place handwritten prayers into its cracks.

That day, Captain Fly – then a bachelor – slid a slip of paper into the wall with the following prayer: “God, one day I would like to have a lot of children.”

He would eventually marry, and God blessed him and his wife, Laura, with a daughter, Darby. As well as the 300 or so students who enliven St. Patrick School in Carlisle each year.

Mr. Fly is retiring from his position as principal, after serving 12 years there.

“It was a very difficult decision to retire, and I’m going to miss this,” he told The Catholic Witness while sitting in his office as the school year drew to a close.

That’s because of the family-like bonds that exist at St. Patrick School, situated on Marsh Drive, where Mr. Fly has treated students as though they were his own children.

“In my time here, I’ve tried to make sure that the atmosphere is very much like a family,” Mr. Fly remarked. “I want the kids to be happy that they’re coming to school, and the parents comfortable sending them here.”

“We’re a friendly, family-oriented, Catholic school. The parents just want the best for their children, and that’s what we want, too,” he said.

Each day, without fail – whether in sun, rain, wind or snow – Mr. Fly has stood in the parking lot to greet students as they arrive and to send them off at the end of the day.

Walking the school halls, lined with student artwork and accomplishments, he has greeted children by name, spoken to them about their schoolwork and hobbies, and sent them off with a hug or a pat on the back.

“My hope for the future of St. Patrick School is that it continues to flourish, that Catholic education in general continues to flourish,” Mr. Fly reflected. “We’re optimistic for our future and the outlook we have here for the students we serve. We fill a very important niche in our society.”

Although his 12 years as principal of St. Patrick’s was the only job he has ever had in education, Mr. Fly has long recognized the value of Catholic schools.

While living in San Angelo, Texas, in the early 2000s, he and his wife sent their daughter, Darby, to Catholic school, where Mr. Fly served as president of the Parent-Teacher Association. He had been retired as a Colonel from the Air Force by the time Darby entered school, and he eventually earned a degree in elementary education.

He felt called to serve in a Catholic school.

“I had served my country, and now there was a call to serve my faith,” Mr. Fly reflected.

Searching for principal openings, he found one at St. Patrick School and applied. He had heard good things about the Carlisle area from fellow service personnel who had been stationed in the area.

Following a first-round interview with Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Sue Ann Stieves, then the Diocesan Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Fly arrived at St. Patrick School for an interview with the pastor at the time, then-Father William Waltersheid, who is now Auxiliary Bishop of Pittsburgh.

“I loved the school right off the bat,” Mr. Fly said.

“I do remember how much it sunk in during the first week that we have all these students and families who are relying on us,” he recalled. “It really hit me that they have faith in us to educate their children academically and spiritually.”

From his first day on the job, he saw the commitment of the faculty and staff to the ministry of Catholic education.

“They have reinforced their dedication every day. That has been very inspirational and very gratifying,” he said.

Of the programs and initiatives St. Patrick School has undertaken during his tenure, Mr. Fly counts the school’s designation as a National Blue Ribbon School in 2007 as the pinnacle. The prestigious award is based on a school’s overall academic excellence, and demonstration that all students can achieve to high levels.

“It’s really quite an accomplishment for the hard work of our kids, the dedication of our staff, and the support that the parents and the parish give us. I’m very proud of that, and that we were the first elementary school in the diocese to achieve it,” Mr. Fly said.

The recognition is given by the United States Department of Education to only 50 schools each year. In the Diocese of Harrisburg, Trinity High School in Camp Hill, St. Joseph School in Mechanicsburg and St. Joan of Arc School in Hershey are also National Blue Ribbon Schools.

St. Patrick’s students also enjoy a state-of-the-art computer lab, a computer bank and SmartBoard in each classroom, as well as the advantages of using the parish’s Reverend Andrew J. Fontanella Parish Activity Center, and an outdoor eight-lane track made possible by an anonymous donor.

Most important is the school’s connection to the parish church — a direct link by an internal hallway that creates a seamless transition between church and school and reinforces the school’s Catholic identity.

Students attend the parish’s Friday morning Mass, and serve as greeters, altar servers, lectors and gift bearers. They also participate in services like the Stations of the Cross, a May Crowning of a statue of the Blessed Mother, the blessing of pets on the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, and Masses on holy days of obligation.

Father William Forrey, pastor, and the parochial vicar — most recently Father Donald Bender, who is now the new pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Enola — frequently visit classrooms and connect with students and staff.

“Here, students are educated in an environment that allows us to talk about Jesus Christ and the importance of him in our lives and our expression of Christian charity,” Mr. Fly reflected.

“Frankly, the school itself, Just walk through the school on any day, and you’ll get the vibe of a family of faith,” he said. “We’ve been here since 1947, and we’ve been showing up for work every day since then.”

Although Mr. Fly’s working days at St. Patrick School have come to a close, his presence will remain. He’d like to serve in a volunteer capacity, and will continue to support students in their extra-curricular activities, such as stage productions, athletic events and fundraisers.

“It’s been a real honor and so gratifying to be part of the lives of the children and their families. We share in their joys, and every now and then we share in a heartbreak. It’s been a blessing from God to work here, and I thank him every day,” Mr. Fly said.

“I’ll be a Celtic forever.”

(For information about St. Patrick School in Carlisle, visit www.spscarlisle.us or call 717-249-4826.)
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.


BONNEAUVILLE – St. Joseph the Worker: Carol Kraus, Margaret Weaver.

BUCHANAN VALLEY – St. Ignatius Loyola: Dorothy Sanders, Jean Sprankle, recently departed souls and the consolation of their loved ones.

CHAMBURG – Corpus Christi: Barbara Jean (Stiffler) Kudasik.

CATAWISSA – Our Lady of Mercy: Billy Joe Houchins.

CUMBERLAND – St. Peter: Mark Bruno.


FAIRFIELD – Immaculate Conception BVM: Douglas Rhoades.

HANOVER – St. Vincent de Paul: John Girard Hemler, Mary Ann Smith.

HARRISBURG – St. Catherine Labouré: Dorothy Kosteleck, Richard J. Murphy, Jr.

HERSHEY – St. Joan of Arc: Al Bos, Vera D’Amelio, Richard DeAngelis, Patrick Quigley, Deloris Summers (Rossi), Mary Tatangelo.


LANCASTER – Assumption BVM: Dr. Robert M. Kemp.


LCSHERRYSTOWN – Annunciation BVM: Janet Reh.


MILLERSVILLE – St. Philip the Apostle: Theresa Beaum, Sebastian Giambanco, Colleen Lorelli, Patricia Sain.

MOUNT CARMEL – Divine Redeemer: Anet “Six” Thong

NEW CUMBERLAND – St. Theresa: Rita Bash, Jeanette Razga.

NEW FREEDOM – St. John the Baptist: Theresa Jacque, Robert Lasher, Sharon Martin, Daniel Shetler, Dorothy Wagner, Daniel Youcouski.

WAYNESBORO – St. Andrew: Henry Powers.

WILLIAMSTOWN – Sacred Heart of Jesus: Elizabeth Carr.

YORK – St. Joseph: Joan Satisoff Weeks; St. Rose of Lima: Donald Chrimer, George Evler, Jr., Anthony Piu.

Lancaster Catholic High School Gives Back Through Music

Lancaster Catholic High School and its Fine & Performing Arts (FPA) Department donated $5,750 to Lancaster County’s Crispus Attucks Community Center this year. FPA Director Tony Brill and the Tri-M Music Honor Society presented a check to Crispus Attucks at a small ceremony in May.

Crispus Attucks Community Center strives to improve the quality of life for youth and families in Lancaster by providing services that promote community prosperity, physical and mental health, and by offering programs and cultural events which preserve the African American heritage.

Lancaster Catholic worked with Carol Rae Culliton, Adam Culliton ’07 and their Robert J. Gunterberg Charitable Foundation in the donation of both the funds and also equipment. The Crusaders delivered used drums and other musical instruments to Crispus Attucks and their “Infamous Unstoppable Drill Team & Drum Squad.”

The Tri-M students held many fundraisers and bake sales to raise funds for a group that will be able to continue to promote community prosperity by empowering the youth of Lancaster County.

“One of our main goals for our students involved in Tri-M is to teach them to give back to their community,” Brill said.

“107 is that we are so proud of our students last year for this past year for raising a record amount of funds to present to the Crispus Attucks program. Having direct involvement with the program and knowing that their program actually provides for so many children in the City of Lancaster allows us to know that these funds will be put to great use. We are so proud to partner with Crispus Attucks and the Gunterberg Charitable Foundation.”

In Tri-M’s four years of existence at LCSH, Brill and the Crusaders have raised over $17,000 for The Milagro House, Schelter Pediatrics, Britta-ny’s Hope and the Crispus Attucks Music Program.

Brill and the Fine & Performing Arts Department were recently awarded with the Middle States’ Program of Distinction in Music.

St. John the Baptist School Participates in 3D Printing Competition

Last month, 11 fifth- and sixth-grade students from St. John the Baptist School in New Freedom competed in a 3D printing competition held at the Lincoln Intermediate Unit in New Oxford. St. John’s School was represented by three teams in the fourth- through sixth-grade division.

The theme was “boating,” and the students had to design and print a boat that would hold cargo and pennies. During the printing time, there were two other STEM activities that the students took part in and were counted in the overall scores. Even though St. John’s School did not win the competition, there were lots of lessons learned that day. As a group, they went on to get a $17,000 grant from the Milagro House, Schelter Pediatrics, Britta-ny’s Hope and the Crispus Attucks Music Program.

Mrs. Michelle Williams and Mrs. Sheila Doyle helped the students prepare for this competition, along with Mr. John Kelchaw as an after school club. The school now has two 3D printers, thanks to the Home School Association and a donation from Fallston Supply, Inc. St. John’s School was the only Catholic school to compete in this competition.

Diocesan Catholic Cemetery Pre-Arrangements

For more information, visit our website www.bishopcatholiccemeteries.org.

Joseph Bilsiky - 717-697-2006

Bilsiky@catholiccemetery.org

Gate of Heaven, horizontal

St. Mary Cemetery, York

Catholic Cemetery, Harrisburg

Holy Cross Cemetery, Lebanon

Resurrection Cemetery, Harrisburg

Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Harrisburg

For more information visit our website www.bishopcatholiccemeteries.org.
Bishops’ Concerns for Religious Liberty, Health Care Echo at Assembly

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, New Jersey, and Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia opened the discussion with a presentation on the consultations and impromptu for the bishops to consider in preparing for the October 2018 Synod of Bishops on youth and vocations.

“The synod indeed comes at a critical time,” Cardinal Tobin said. “We know that there are both challenges and opportunities here in the U.S. The increased amount of disconnectedmillenials is certainly a concern for us, as is the decline and the delay of marriage among young people. Still there are various positive signs to build upon.”

Those signs, he said, include “the high interest among millennials during the liturgical seasons of Advent and Lent” and “the continued importance in our prayers and outreach to young people which have a positive effect on vocational discernment.”

“The Church in the U.S. is poised to engage this conversation for and with young people,” he added.

The bishops were reminded June 15 that the historic Convocation of Catholic Leaders was nearing by Bishop Richard J. Malone of Buffalo, New York, chairman of the USCCB’s Committee on Justice, and Human Development.

The USCCB overwhelmingly approved revisions to the guidelines governing the celebration of sacraments for people with disabilities that take into account medical and technological developments. Passed 180-1 June 14, the revisions in the “Guidelines for the Celebration of Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities” updates a document that was adopted in 1995.

For more information about the USCCB, please visit www.usccb.org/freedom.

Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Ky., former president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, speaks during the opening session of the USCBB annual spring assembly in Indianapolis.

Cardinal DiNardo, the principal celebrant, spoke of the pope’s call to the laity to go forth from our own comfort zones in order to reach all the peripheries in the name of the Gospel and noted that many of them will be discussing this more at the convocation of Catholic leaders in Orlando, Florida, in July.

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The guidelines were developed as a tool to improve access to the sacraments by people with disabilities and reduce inconsistencies in pastoral practice.

Fortnight

Continued from 1

“Take courage,” he said, when the “tasks of the new evangelization and of building a culture of encounter and solidarity seem daunting.”

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Fortnight

Continued from 1

concerned,” Cardinal Dolan said. “So, we need some permanence. We need some stability. And I think this is the way to go.”

Some bishops felt the ad hoc committee did not need to become permanent because they felt religious liberty could be addressed by existing standing committees.

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, New Jersey, also noted that it was “very unfortunate” that the vote on the committee was taking place a day after the bishops allowed its working group on immigration to cease to exist.

However, after the vote on the committee, Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo announced he would allow the working group to continue its efforts, provided it act quickly.

In a news conference after the meeting session, Archbishop Lori said he was grateful “it was not a pro forma discussion, but rather an opportunity for bishops in a wonderfully respectful and dialogical way, to express their views about religious liberty.”

“It’s a big step to establish a standing committee,” he said. “And so no one would expect it to be a walk in the park.”

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Netflix Series on Teen’s Suicide Raises Concerns of Parents, Counselors

By Theresa Laurence

Catholic News Service

The popular Netflix show “13 Reasons Why,” which portrays a fictional teen’s suicide and the aftermath, has sparked the curiosity of young people and the concern of parents and school counselors around the country.

Counselors from Catholic Charities of Tennessee hosted a panel discussion to help guide teachers and parents in talking to teens about the show, which includes graphic depictions of rape and suicide.

Even though suicide is the third leading cause of death in the United States for young people ages 15-24, it remains a somewhat taboo topic, which is one allure of the show, according to counselors.

Catholic Charities counselor Amy Sturm, who is based at Immaculate Conception Church in Clarksville, Tenn., encouraged parents to make time to watch the show with their children and help walk them through the issues they encounter while viewing it.

“A great time to connect with your teen is to watch it with them,” she said during a recent panel discussion at St. Edward School in Nashville. “Then ‘open the door and listen’ in a nonjudgmental way while they share their reactions, she advised.

Sturm, the mother of two teenage boys, said it’s important to have face-to-face conversations about these issues because “so much of their interaction these days takes place through technology,” behind a screen, where they don’t have the opportunity to read facial cues and gauge physical and emotional responses.

Counselors recommend that parents use their discretion about allowing children to watch “13 Reasons Why,” but say that it might be unrealistic to expect that their older teens won’t find a way to watch the much buzzed-about show.

The show, based on the 2007 novel by Jay Asher, has been dominating the conversation this spring, say counselors and teachers.

“This with the show, it seems like a lot of kids already watched it before it was even on the parents’ radar, so we’re playing catch up,” said Lisa McGovern, a licensed clinical social worker, who is supervisor of counseling services for Catholic Charities of Tennessee. “I would encourage parents to be aware of it and be part of the conversation.”

McGovern is concerned about teens binge-watching the show in isolation, especially those who struggle with self-harm, or have experienced sexual assault or suicidal thoughts. “It can really be a trigger for them, bringing that back up to the surface,” she said. If they don’t have a strong support network or the proper resources, “how do they manage those feelings?”

The Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network has offered resources to the community in response to “13 Reasons Why,” which prompted the panel at St. Edward. “While ‘13 Reasons Why’ is far from an ideal portrayal of youth suicide, with the proper guidance it can serve as a tool for a deeper discussion about suicide, mental health, and other issues,” the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network said in a statement.

Catholic Charities counselors addressed some of the individual issues with the show and how to handle them. Part of the problem is what the show leaves out, said McGovern. “It doesn’t really show the mental health issues that often lead to suicide.”

The series portrays several characters as having contributed to the lead character’s suicide, but in reality no one person can or should be blamed for a suicide. “Mental illness is a factor in 90 percent of all suicides, and external factors usually cannot entirely explain why someone chooses to take his or her life,” according to the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network.

Many mental health conditions are common among teens and young adults. One in five live with a mental health condition, half developing the condition by age 14 and three quarters by age 24, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

McGovern emphasized that people struggling with suicidal thoughts should reach out to someone they trust for support.

“When it comes to parents and teens talking about tough issues like rape and suicide, ‘this is not one conversation,’ McGovern said. ‘It should be ongoing.’

Father Matthew Keller, rector of Sacred Heart Cathedral in Gallup, N.M., poses June 8 with a 1969 Pontiac Firebird Convertible that he refurbished for a raffle in support of vocations for the Diocese of Gallup.

Priest’s Love of Cars Helps Raise Funds for Vocations in Poorest Diocese

By Jose Montoya

Catholic News Service

A priest who loves rebuilding hot rods and assisting seminarians is donating a 1969 Pontiac Firebird Convertible that he refurbished for a raffle in support of vocations for the Diocese of Gallup in New Mexico.

This is not the first time that Father Matthew Keller remedied a hot rod. Last year, he fixed up a donated 1972 Chevelle and raised $140,000 for seminarians.

The money helped five seminarians start their journey to becoming priests for the Diocese of Gallup.

“Gallup is a really wonderful and unique diocese,” Father Keller said in a phone interview with Catholic News Service. “We have about 35 to 40 priests and 65 parishes plus our missions.”

Father Keller mentioned that few priests there have only one parish to serve. Gallup is the poorest diocese in the country, and is in dire need of more seminarians.

As the former vocation director for the diocese, Father Keller knows that any financial support is necessary for those interested in the seminary. In many cases, it can cost up to $30,000 for each seminarian to study for the priesthood.

The raffle of the Pontiac is set for June 17, and the nonprofit group www.V8forVocations.org is handling online sales of the tickets, which are $25 each.

In addition to being the rector at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Father Keller also is vicar general for the Diocese of Gallup.

His passion for vehicles began early on.

“I built my first car when I was 16,” Father Keller said. “I was a car guy.”

After he entered the seminary, he sold his 1964 Chevy Malibu SS, leaving his love for cars aside. However, his excitement for hot rods did not stay far.

“One of my friends, who knew I was into cars, we were talking and I was saying I was missing working on cars, he said, ‘You should get a car to work on with the seminarians and use it as a human formation project,’” Father Keller said.

“He was thinking of a personal car for me or the vocations office to use. I thought about this and thought it was a great idea for a fundraiser.”

Father Keller decided to find a vehicle and eventually the 1972 Chevelle was donated to him for the project. In his position, he constantly was working on human formation projects and used this as a way for the seminarians to get closer to each other.

After introducing the idea to other people, he began to refurbish the hot rod. It took him and a group of 20 core workers two years to finish the redesign of the vehicle. After the raffle, he decided to continue the fundraiser by raffling another vehicle.

“Before we were even done with the Chevelle, a second opportunity came along,” Father Keller said.

The opportunity was the chance to purchase the 1969 Pontiac Firebird. Father Keller bought the car in Albuquerque, New Mexico, from a man who was given the car after the death of his father.

“This car only has 79,000 original miles on it,” Father Keller said. “We pulled the drive train out, but the engine did not need to be rebuilt.”

Father Keller did not complete the project by himself.

“We had eight or 10 people who were really core to the project, Father Keller told CNS. “Probably 30 people or more have done something on it.”

He asked for help from the Knights of Columbus throughout New Mexico for assistance with the panels on the vehicle. Also, Rico Motors in Gallup is giving the car a new paint job.

Even though Father Keller had several hands assisting on the Firebird, it still took more than a year to complete.

“It is kind of crazy to do a rebuild in less than a year,” Father Keller said. “This Firebird project took just over a year.”

In addition to helping seminarians, the project also helped grow the community and offered a chance for evangelization.

“One of the surprise elements of the project was how it turned into a community bonding,” Father Keller said. “There was an opportunity for evangelization.”

Father Keller talked about a group of men who weren’t Catholic and how the experience helped them open up to faith. Many people took advantage of the time spent working on the hot rod by having their confession heard in the garage.

The raffle took place June 17. The next project for Father Keller is focused on refurbishing a 1966 Mustang Convertible.
**Saint Leo the Great Parish in Roberstown will sponsor a “Summer Faith Journey – Catholicism: The Pilgrim’s Way” with Bishop Robert Guglielmone’s DVD series. The session will be held on the following Wednesday evenings after 7 p.m., Room 3, at 4 and 7 Church, 26 St. Thomas Aquinas, Theological Center, 4722 Springettsbury Avenue, York, PA 17403. 717-394-0757.

**St. John the Baptist Parish in New Freedom**

Adult Faith Formation Program will be held at St. John the Baptist Parish in Chambersburg, on July 19. All are invited to attend the 39th Men’s Retreat. The retreat begins Friday, July 22, at 8:30 a.m., and continues through Sunday afternoon, Aug. 3, with check-in at 5 p.m. A unique weekend to experience the Christian faith in a new way. Bishop Robert Guglielmone will be the keynote speaker. For more information, contact the rectory at 717-394-0757 or email bweaver@resurrectioncatholicschool.net.

**Ephrata**

This reunion is for all alumni in the classes of 1960 and 2016. More information can be found at ephrataalumni.com. Please mark your calendars for a weekend of fun-filled and educational S.T.E.M. Summer Camp at Our Mother of Perpetual Help School. The Little Flower Club Seniors of St. Theresa Parish in New Cumberland will be offering a 5K fundraiser for a visit to an Amish farm and dinner with the family on Sept. 21, 2017. Cost of $73 includes transportation, dinner and registration for race. Contact information: Bill Egan, 717-743-0717.

**Bucknell University - Assistant Catholic Campus Minister**

The Catholic Campus Community provides faith-based support, ministry, and programming to Bucknell Catholic students and the broader campus community. The position is full-time. Interested applicants should submit a cover letter, resume, transcript, and two letters of recommendation to Director of Catholic Campus Ministry, 1639 McEwen, PO Box 204, Lewisburg, PA 17837. Bucknell@gmail.com. The Catholic Community provides faith-based support, ministry, and programming to Bucknell Catholic students and the broader campus community. The position is full-time. Interested applicants should submit a cover letter, resume, transcript, and two letters of recommendation to Director of Catholic Campus Ministry, 1639 McEwen, PO Box 204, Lewisburg, PA 17837. Bucknell@gmail.com.

**Sacred Heart**

Seeking a Vatican-trained musician with a strong background in music and programming to Bucknell Catholic students and the broader campus community. The position is full-time. Interested applicants should submit a cover letter, resume, transcript, and two letters of recommendation to Director of Catholic Campus Ministry, 1639 McEwen, PO Box 204, Lewisburg, PA 17837. Bucknell@gmail.com.
Ancient Order of Hibernians Pays Respect to Civil War Hero in Harrisburg

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

Mason’s Island splits the sluggishly flowing Potomac River between Leesburg, Va., and Frederick, Md. Today, the heavily wooded island offers a safe haven for fishermen and their canoes which patrol about these deep river waters searching for that elusive monster fish.

In September 1861, the Civil War had just begun in earnest, and northern Virginia was teeming with mounted patrols on both sides. The Union forces were camped along the banks of the Potomac, trailing the beleaguered District of Columbia. The Confederates were marching to the South to defend their home state, and the Union was looking to push any Yankees back across the river.

On September 3, Private Michael Madden of the 42nd New York — The Tammany Regiment — so named after the Democratic Party’s powerful political machine in New York City — dartingly rescued a wounded comrade and swam more than a half mile across the river to the safety of the island provided. For his heroics, he received the Medal of Honor award in 1898, nearly 40 years after saving his wounded friend who had been struck by a Rebel bullet.

After the war, Mr. Madden worked in the railroad business and settled in Harrisburg, living a long life until 1920, when the Irish immigrant died and was buried in Mount Calvary Catholic Cemetery located just off 13th Street.

The Michael Collins Division 1 Chapter of the Ancient Order of Hibernians has been caring for the gravesite, which has unfortunately been the scene of vandalism in the past. The headstone has been bowed over, but not neglected any more, thanks to the men of the Ancient Order — the oldest and largest Irish Catholic organization in America, formed 1836.

On June 3, the chapter, based in Cumberland County, performed an early morning clean-up and short prayer service to honor their fellow Irishman who was a hero in the American Civil War more than 155 years ago.
Art Show Exhibits Students’ Talents

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

The faith-based artwork of diocesan school students was on exhibit in the Archives’ display cases at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg this spring as the Diocesan Department of Religious Education hosted the fifth annual art contest for students to highlight their God-given artistic talents.

Awards were presented to the top-three artists in a senior division for students in grades 10-12 and in a junior division for those in grades 7-9. Judges also awarded ten honorable mention ribbons.

A total of 41 students representing 12 schools participated in the contest this year.

First Place, Senior Division: Emmie Brommer, a junior at Lancaster Catholic High School. She created a water color and acrylic representation of the Corporal Works of Mercy, fashioning seven tiles to illustrate each work, and how we are called to live them out.

Second Place, Senior Division: Patrick Aten, a junior at Lancaster Catholic High School. His ceramic plate, “The Trinity,” illustrates God, the Son and the Holy Spirit – three images in one piece.

Third Place, Senior Division: Reilly Johnson, a senior at Trinity High School in Camp Hill, for the production of the “Tree of Life.”

First Place, Junior Division: “Jesus has Risen,” by John Nguyen, an eighth-grader at Holy Name of Jesus School in Harrisburg.

Second Place, Junior Division: “Tree of Faith,” by Aviana Abbasi, a seventh-grader at St. Joseph School in Mechanicsburg.

Third Place, Junior Division: “St. Dymphna,” by Jillian Wnek, an eighth-grader at St. Leo the Great School in Rohrerstown. Jillian used tin to illustrate her Confirmation saint, with lilies representing the saint known as the “Lily of Fire,” and a crown to represent her martyrdom.

Honorable Mention:
Hanna Salus, St. Joseph School, Mechanicsburg
Rowan Fieldhouse, York Catholic High School
Elizabeth Detz, St. Leo the Great School, Rohrerstown
Eduardo Ruad, Holy Name of Jesus School, Harrisburg
Kathleen Chroniger, Delone Catholic High School, McSherrystown
Kurt Baughman, Bishop McDevitt High School, Harrisburg
Kathryn Ulsh, Trinity High School, Camp Hill
Elizabeth Zonarich, Trinity High School, Camp Hill
Claire Laux, York Catholic High School
Chaundy Titus, Lancaster Catholic High School

Solemn Novena in Honor of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

♀ JULY 8TH - 15TH AT 5:00 P.M. ♀
♀ PREACHED NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL ♀
♀ THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS ♀
♀ OFFERED BY REV. PHILIP WOLFE, FSSP ♀

♀ SUNDAY, JULY 16TH AT 9:00 A.M. ♀
♀ FEAST OF OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL ♀
♀ SOLEMN PONTIFICAL MASS OFFERED BY ♀
♀ HIS EXCELLENCY, MOST REV. W. WALTERSHEID, D.D., S.T.L. ♀

Carmel of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
430 Monastery Rd ♀ Elizabethtown, PA ♀ 17022

Left: A panel of Emmie Brommer’s piece on the Corporal Works of Mercy illustrates the work of visiting the prisoner.
Below: Jillian Wnek’s tin creation illustrates the symbols of her Confirmation saint, St. Dymphna, including a crown and lilies.