Eclipse a Way to Appreciate Creation
By Dennis Sadowski
Catholic News Service

A total solar eclipse is a rare event, something to appreciate and enjoy in the mind of Jesuit Brother Guy Consolmagno, director of the Vatican Observatory. So as the first eclipse crossed the country from coast to coast in 99 years Aug. 21, Brother Consolmagno wasn’t going to do anything but take it in and think about the beauty and mystery of God’s creation.

The astronomer urged an audience in a packed Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Hopkinsville during a pre-eclipse program in this southwestern Kentucky town near the point of maximum eclipse to take the time to reflect on what the two minutes and 40 seconds of totality means to them.

Father Kenneth Lawrence

Father Kenneth Lawrence
Had ‘Shepherd’s Heart,’ ‘Pastoral Spirit’

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Father Kenneth Lawrence, a priest of the Diocese of Harrisburg for 57 years, was a quiet leader who was always available to people, and who put his vocation before his own needs, several of his brother priests said in the days after his death.

Pastor emeritus of Holy Trinity Parish in Columbia, Father Lawrence died in his bed there on the morning of Aug. 24. He was 82.

The funeral Mass was celebrated Aug. 29 at Holy Trinity Church. Burial was in St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery, Hanover.

Msgr. Robert Lawrence spoke of his brother – older by six years – as having “a shepherd’s heart and a pastoral spirit.”

“His shepherd’s heart is that whole sense of being concerned about the parishioners and their welfare. And his pastoral spirit was of being a pastor and loving the people he served,” said Msgr. Lawrence, pastor of St. Columba Parish in Bloomsburg.

“He was a quiet leader. He never wanted any fanfare, but just to be the pastor and shepherd of his people, being there for every aspect of their Catholic Groups Mobilizing in Hurricane Harvey’s Aftermath

By Rhina Guidos
Catholic News Service

Catholic dioceses and charities are quickly organizing to help in the aftermath of a Category 4 hurricane that made landfall with heavy rains and winds of 130 miles per hour late Aug. 25 into the Rockport, Texas area, northeast of Corpus Christi. The National Weather Service said in a tweet Aug. 27 that the rainfall expected after the hurricane and storm are over “are beyond anything experienced before.”

Hurricane Harvey is said to be the strongest one to hit the United States in more than a decade and perhaps the strongest one to make landfall in Texas.

Catholic Charities USA, as well as the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Disaster Services, announced early on Aug. 26 that they’re mobilizing to help an as-yet-unknown number of persons affected by the hurricane. The Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops has a list of charities helping with the disaster listed on its website at https://txcatholic.org/harvey.

Authorities reported at least five

By Jen Reed, The Catholic Witness

Fifth-graders Natalia Herchelroath, Kara Shumaker, Kieran Finegan, and Helena Fry react as they view the solar eclipse at Good Shepherd School in Camp Hill Aug. 21. A number of schools across the diocese used the event as an educational experience. See page 6.

More ECLIPSE, page 1

CNS/COURTESY TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT

A Texas National Guard soldier carries a woman on his back Aug. 27 during rescue operations in flooded areas around Houston, Texas.

More HURRICANE, page 12

More FATHER LAWRENCE, page 10

Jen Reed, The Catholic Witness
Holy Name of Jesus School in Harrisburg opened its doors for the new academic year on Aug. 28, welcoming an enrollment of 396 students—37 more students than the previous school year.

Sister Rita Smith, SSJ, school principal, said she attributes this enrollment increase to the high standards of education there.

Teachers enthusiastically welcomed the students to an educational environment, “Where learning and love go hand in hand.” The students were also introduced to the theme for the year, “Love your neighbor as yourself” in the Student News produced by the students for the students.

The school’s Student Council representatives have already shared planned activities and events as well as ways to incorporate the theme into their daily lives.

For more information on Catholic education in the Diocese of Harrisburg, visit www.gocatholicschools.org.

Love of Neighbor is Focus on First Day at Holy Name of Jesus School
“A little mercy makes the world less cold and more just.”
~ Pope Francis, Angelus, March 17, 2013

In his 2016 Urbi et Orbi address, to the city and the world, Pope Francis reminded us, “The Lord…enables us to see with his eyes of love and compassion those who hunger and thirst, strangers and prisoners, the marginalized and the outcast, the victims of oppression and violence.”

By opening our eyes to the suffering and injustice in the world, we can open our hearts to the call of Pope Francis that “efforts be made everywhere to promote the culture of encounter, justice and reciprocal respect, which alone can guarantee the spiritual and material welfare of all people.”

We can join Pope Francis and be a witness of charity by supporting the Peter’s Pence Collection, which will be taken up in parishes in the Diocese of Harrisburg during Masses on the weekend of Sept. 10.

The Peter’s Pence Collection unites us in solidarity to the Holy See and its works of charity to those in need. Your generosity allows the pope to respond to our suffering brothers and sisters.

The purpose of the Peter’s Pence Collection is to provide the holy father with the financial means to respond to those who are suffering as a result of war, oppression, natural disaster, and disease.

(To learn more about the collection and how you can help, visit www.peterspence.va, and take part in the collection during Masses on the weekend of Sept. 10.)

Vatican and Diocesan Surveys for Youth Close September 15

The Vatican and the Diocese of Harrisburg are surveying youth and young adults about their engagement with the faith, ahead of a Synod next fall.

In focusing on young people, faith and vocational discernment at the Synod, the Church will examine how she can lead young people to recognize and accept the call to the fullness of life and love, and to ask young people to help her in identifying the most effective ways of announcing the Good News.

The surveys can be found at www.hbgdiocese.org/synod2018, and will remain open until September 15.

Mass of Consecration to Our Lady of Fatima

Concelebrated by the Bishops of Pennsylvania

Wednesday, September 27 at Noon
St. Patrick Cathedral, 212 State Street, Harrisburg

On this day, the Bishops of Pennsylvania will gather to celebrate the Holy Eucharist, during which Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, OFM Cap., Metropolitan Archbishop of Philadelphia, will consecrate the province to Our Lady of Fatima in this 100th anniversary year of her apparitions.

All are invited to attend this Mass, which is an opportunity of grace for the Church in Pennsylvania.

Fishers of Men Dinner

To benefit the Seminarians of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg
Friday, October 6, 2017, 6:00 p.m.

at the Cardinal Keeler Center
4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg

Cost is $150 per plate
$800 per table of six or $1,000 per table of eight.

Sponsored by the Office of Vocations

Visit our website at www.hbgdiocese.org/fishersofmen for more information or to register.
Lead Me Not into Temptation

By Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
Special to The Witness

Recently, while I was traveling, I visited a restaurant where everything was made from scratch. At the entrance to the dining room was a display of a plethora of cakes, pies and other sweet treats from the Italian and Greek heritage. I could not help but salivate as I walked past the cases. I kept on saying to myself, “Lead me not into temptation!”

We enjoyed our meal and then came another moment of truth when the waitress asked if we wanted dessert. Once again, this time audibly, I declared with a smile, “Lead me not into temptation!” The Sisters with whom I dined ordered dessert. I watched, smiled, and sipped on my coffee as they finished what they both declared, amidst giggles, was “sinfully delicious!”

As I sipped and they stated their satisfaction about dessert, again I prayed, “Lead me not into temptation.”

I was reminded of this as I share my reflection on the phrase “lead us not into temptation” found in the Lord’s Prayer.

I always thought it odd that we would pray that God would not lead us into temptation. The Catechism of the Catholic Church makes it perfectly clear (2846) that God would never lead any of his children to temptation. This is not what this phrase means. “It is difficult to translate the Greek verb used by a single English word: the Greek means both ‘do not allow us to enter into temptation’ and ‘do not let us yield into temptation.’ … [In this phrase] we ask him not to allow us to take the way that leads to sin. We are engaged in the battle ‘between flesh and spirit. …’”

We do not engage in this battle without “heavenly” armor. We have four “weapons” to assist us to walk away from temptation. They are: discernment, firmness, vigilance and perseverance.

Discernment – The teacher of discernment is the Holy Spirit. In the midst of temptation, the Holy Spirit gives us the wisdom to understand the difference between trials that are a part of living life and are necessary for our growth as well as true temptation that leads us to sin, separation from God and death. At the same time, through the aid of the Holy Spirit, we must determine between the act of being tempted as well as consenting to the temptation. There should be a constant dialogue between our heart and the promptings of the Holy Spirit. They are like tiny whispers between the center of our heart and the Holy Spirit. Even if one is not aware that this is occurring, they exist.

Firmness – The Catechism calls this a “decision of the heart” (2848). If we would truly open our heart to the working of the Holy Spirit, the Father gives us strength to dismiss the temptation as it truly is – a lie that the Evil One deceives us to think is good. How does one tap into the strength so we can see the lie for what it is? Prayer! We are all called to pray every single day. It is through prayer that we deepen our relationship with God, who in turn pours grace into our hearts, on our lips and in our ears, temptations have no strength to harm us.

Perseverance – By praying this petition, we recognize that temptation is a part of the human condition until we die. We persevere by hoping and trusting that God’s mercy and love is greater than any temptation and sin that we face or commit. The Sacrament of Reconciliation gives us the grace when we do fall under temptation and sin to get up and try again and again.

One might think of these four “weapons” as four tasty treats sitting in a front display case calling out, “Taste me!” Now, armed with these weapons you too can proclaim, “Lead me not into temptation!”

(Sister of Christian Charity, Geralyn Schmidt, is the Wide Area Network Coordinator at the Diocese of Harrisburg and the Director of Formation for Wives in the Diaconate Program. An educator for 30 years, she is responsible for Professional Development Programs for every age learner. Through her presentations, she challenges her audiences to be the individual God has called them to be.)
Bishops Form New Body to Address Sin of Racism That Afflicts Nation

Catholic News Service

Saying there is an urgent need to address the sin of racism in the country and find solutions to it, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has established a new Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism and named one of the country’s African-American Catholic bishops to chair it.

Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, USCCB president, initiated the committee Aug. 23 “to focus on the sin of racism in our society, and even in our Church, and the urgent need to come together as a society to find solutions to the sin.”

He appointed Bishop George V. Murry of Youngstown, Ohio, chairman of the USCCB’s Committee on Catholic Education, to chair the new ad hoc committee.

“Recent events have exposed the extent to which the sin of racism continues to afflict our nation,” Cardinal DiNardo said in a statement. “The establishment of this new ad hoc committee will be wholly dedicated to engaging the Church and our society to work together in unity to challenge the sin of racism, to listen to those who are suffering, to be in some toppling in the love of Christ to know one another as brothers and sisters.”

The naming of members to serve on the new body will be finalized in coming days, the USCCB said in an announcement. It added that the committee’s mandate “will be confirmed at the first meeting, expected very shortly.”

“I look forward to working with my brother bishops as well as communities across the United States to listen to the needs of individuals who have suffered under the sin of racism and together find solutions to this epidemic of hate that has plagued our nation for far too long,” Bishop Murry said in a statement.

A challenge, he said, is “to find solutions to the sin of racism in a way that that was going on in the United States and that there was so much disregard for people,” said Bishop George V. Murry of Youngstown, Ohio, a Jesuit and the chair of the USCCB’s Committee on Catholic Education, to chair the new Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism.

The bishops issued a pastoral in racism titled “Brothers and Sisters to Us,” in which they addressed many themes, but the overarching theme that ran through it was so much disregard for people,” said Bishop George V. Murry of Youngstown, Ohio, a Jesuit and the chair of the USCCB’s Committee on Catholic Education, to chair the new Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism.

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At Good Shepherd School, Eclipse Offers Educational Opportunity

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

The solar eclipse offered lessons in astronomy and responsibility for students at Good Shepherd School in Camp Hill, where STEM education is a focus. Aug. 21 marked the first day of school for grades 1-8 – kindergarteners started the following day – and classrooms were equipped to make the solar spectacular the target of the day’s lesson plan.

With live feeds from NASA projecting real-time views of the eclipse onto the classroom whiteboards, teachers and students looked on as the event traveled the width of the country, from Oregon to South Carolina. Students in the elementary grades participated in hands-on projects to learn about the positions of the earth, moon and sun during an eclipse, and when the next one will occur. Those in middle school experienced the phenomenon first-hand, stepping outside with NASA-approved eclipse glasses to take a glimpse of its beauty.

"It was amazing!" Jessica Miller exclaimed as she handed one of several pairs of glasses to share with a classmate.

"I didn’t expect the sun to be as deep orange in color, or so small,” she observed. “I thought the sun would have been much brighter through the glasses, like yellow or white, but that shows how the glasses give us a real look at the "sun.”

Classmate Maddie Sprow said she was amazed by the live coverage of the towns Sunday, which the light from the sun was totally eclipsed, but I’m so happy that our school allowed us to have this experience today," Maddie said.

Good Shepherd School was one among a number of the schools in the diocese to give students the opportunity to view the eclipse.

"We were excited to give our students this chance, to be part of something so significant,” said Dr. Stephen Fry, Principal.

"We also wanted to give them the opportunity to learn more about what happens during an eclipse.”

"Today was such a special day, and to have it take place on the first day of school really set the tone for the year,” he said. "STEM education continues to be a focus for us, and the eclipse offered us a great chance to incorporate STEM into our first day of the year.”

Stephanie Miller, who teaches middle school science and math, purchased the set to make s’mores.

"They shared the glasses, they made sure all their classmates had to opportunity to view the eclipse, and they enjoyed it together,” Ms. Miller said. “It turned out to be a wonderful experience to get them excited for the whole school year. This is something they’ll always remember, and that momentum will continue.”

Second grader Aarush Padyala underlines facts about previous solar eclipses as part of a classroom assignment.

Cousins Alayna Lafontaine, Addison LeTersky and Shane LeTersky react as they get their first glimpse of the solar eclipse at Good Shepherd School Aug. 21.

Several schools in the diocese offered educational activities in conjunction with the eclipse.

Students at Corpus Christi School in Chambersburg spent Aug. 18 learning about solar eclipses and worked on art projects to help them understand the event. Younger students participated in activities with UV beads to see the effects of ultraviolet rays, and whether solar viewing glasses, regular sunglasses, sunscreen and other items would protect the beads from the rays. Other students participated in activities regarding the sun’s corona and constructed a solar ice tea station and solar ovens to make s’mores.

Corpus Christi students were equipped with viewing glasses in anticipation of the Aug. 21 eclipse, but the viewing event was cancelled in light of the local school district’s closure. Still, the students enjoyed a safe viewing experience at home.

St. Joseph School students in Mechanicsburg had an unforgettable first day of school as they met their teachers, reunited with friends, and viewed the solar eclipse. Students gathered outside in the afternoon, wearing their solar eclipse glasses provided by the school, to view the first eclipse of their lifetime.

The next great eclipse across North America is set to take place on April 8, 2024, covering such locations as Dallas, Indianapolis, Cleveland, Buffalo and Montreal.
Eclipse Offers Lesson in Faith and Science

By Father Mark Weiss

I am a man of faith and science. The first time in my life that I realized that both could work interchangeably was when I was a young boy. There were evenings when I would take my family dog on walks down the street and gaze up at the nighttime sky and marvel at the stars that twinkled some billions upon billions of miles away. It was this appreciation of our cosmos that also helped me to marvel at the majesty of God and the great order of the universe He created.

With that being said, Aug. 21 provided a unique opportunity for millions of people in America to see either a partial or total eclipse of the sun by the moon. The path of totality (the 70-mile-wide shadow of the moon that touched down on Earth from Oregon to South Carolina) created a unique spectacle to behold. As an amateur astronomer, I was not going to miss this opportunity!

Days leading up to this great event, I was planning to travel to Columbia, South Carolina, where a parish rectory was going to welcome me. However, cloud forecasts were not promising, so at the last minute I changed my plans to travel to just outside of Hopkinsville, Kentucky, Tennessee, with Father Bri-an Wayne, a priest friend and Vocations Director of the Diocese of Harrisburg, and his niece, who had family that invited us to stay with them and be part of the eclipse party.

Solar eclipse glasses were not enough for me. I was able to bring my six-inch aperture 750mm refractor telescope to view this eclipse – with a solar filter, of course! I didn’t want to burn my eyes out! I wanted to soak in every bit of detail of this experience.

As the moon was slowly covering up the image of the sun, I could see some sun spots through my telescope. Sun spots are darker, cooler regions that appear on the surface of the sun from time to time. When the moon covered about 80 percent of the sun, I could see the brightness of day dimming. The temperature dropped a few degrees. It is amazing to know that the sun is 400 times larger than the moon and also happens to be roughly 400 times farther away in distance, which creates this optical view in the sky as if they were both the same size.

How wonderful it is that God created our solar system in such order! He would provide us humans the opportunity to witness the breathtaking beauty of the total eclipse of the sun that many atheists have even described as a spiritual experience. For me, it provides a self evident belief in God from nature that is more in line with the thoughts of St. Bonaventure.

When totality occurs – when the moon completely covers the sun – you are left with a dark spot in the sky that has an aura of light surrounding it, which is the sun’s corona: the luminous plasma atmosphere of the sun which cannot normally be seen with the naked eye. The sky darkens to where you can see other stars and planets. Summer-time crickets start chirping as if it was really night time. With my telescope, I could briefly take off my solar filter and see the sun’s detail, and I noticed a bright red solar prominence. A solar prominence is a bright filament of the sun extending thousands of miles up from the sun’s surface into the corona and looping down in an arc anchored to the sun.

Knowing that the total eclipse was going to last a little longer than two minutes, I didn’t just want to see this celestial event through my telescope, but through my own eyes as well to take in the experience and marvel at what God had provided for me. I thought as a priest that I probably could make use of this experience for a couple of different homilies.

The day after the eclipse, we celebrated the memorial of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Because Mary is rightly called the Mother of Jesus, we can look to the Davideic tradition of Israelite kings in which a king’s mother is often referred to as the Queen of Israel. Mary is our Queen of Heaven and Earth because Jesus is the Supreme King of the Universe.

Our Catholic faith tradition has always had a special role of Mary along with Jesus in guiding us in our faith. Jesus is the Son of God that has saved humanity from the darkness of sin. The sun that brightens our day is often recognized as essential for our life here on Earth, and to me is likened to the importance of Jesus in our lives. Mary, by her life and response to God, is to me like the moon that reflects the light of her Son.

The moon has its own unique contributions to the history of our planet and its life, albeit different from the sun.

Many different cultural traditions in the history of humanity have often depicted the moon as an adversary that ruled the day and the night. For me, the total eclipse represents the unique harmony of the sun and moon working together in providing this dazzling display. I also see the unique harmony of Jesus and Mary providing for us a wonderful sign of faith to guide us as Christians.

May God bless you! Keep looking up and prepare for 2024 when a total eclipse will happen again in the United States! Make your plans now!

(Father Mark Weiss is pastor of Holy Infant Parish in Manchester and Chaplain of Trinity High School in Camp Hill.)

Eclipse

Continued from A1

Tens of thousands of people had descended on Hopkinsville, a city of 33,000 an hour northwest of Nashville, Tennessee, by late Aug. 20. Thousands more arrived the morning of the eclipse. Brother Consolmagno said he was as excited as anyone to view this eclipse – with a solar filter, of course! I didn’t want to burn my eyes out! I wanted to soak in every bit of detail of this experience.

He repeated a similar message to his students today at the Monastery of St. Clare in St. Louis. The order excitedly anticipated the event, cloud forecasts were not promising, so at the last minute I changed my plans to travel to just outside of Hopkinsville, Kentucky, Tennessee, with Father Brian Wayne, a priest friend and Vocations Director of the Diocese of Harrisburg, and his niece, who had family that invited us to stay with them and be part of the eclipse party.

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May God bless you! Keep looking up and prepare for 2024 when a total eclipse will happen again in the United States! Make your plans now!

(Father Mark Weiss is pastor of Holy Infant Parish in Manchester and Chaplain of Trinity High School in Camp Hill.)
Standing at the entrance to Camp Kirchenwald, a 340-acre site with wooded trails, a lake, a swimming pool, athletic fields and cabins in Colebrook, Alicia Kocher was eager to reunite with her camp family – participants and volunteers with whom she has formed bonds over the past 20 years.

Miss Kocher was 13 years old when she first volunteered at the Diocesan Camp at Kirchenwald, a weeklong August tradition that has been welcoming people with mild to moderate intellectual disabilities for more than 30 years.

Now, Miss Kocher, a Dauphin resident, is a familiar face there; a friend to participants and her fellow volunteers.

“It’s like a reunion of family when we come here,” she told The Catholic Witness. “You get an incredible sense of community when you’re participating with the folks who come.”

This year’s Diocesan Camp at Kirchenwald was held Aug. 13-18. But the connections made here last throughout the year, as participants and volunteers stay in touch through phone calls, text messages and social media.

“You can’t help but love the people who show up, and many of them have been showing up year after year,” Miss Kocher observed. “You can’t help but build community among the campers and the folks who come out to experience life with them.”

The Diocesan Camp at Kirchenwald has been an initiative of Diocese of Harrisburg since 1986, and is a program of the Office of Ministry with People with Disabilities. This year, some 47 volunteers staffed the camp for 43 participants – 28 men and 15 women – ranging in age from 18 to more than 70 years old.

Approximately half of the participants at this year’s camp live at home with their parents or in a private residence; the other half live in group homes.

Volunteers from some 20 parishes joined participants in a variety of activities, including nature walks, swimming, arts and crafts, games, a carnival, a talent show and meals.

“Our volunteers are an incredible asset,” said Larry Kiley, Director of the Office of Ministry with People with Disabilities. “We can’t thank them enough. Donations have doubled this year, allowing us to further reimburse the cost of camp for participants.” The cost for the full week of camp is $575.

The Diocesan Camp at Kirchenwald offers a time of respite for the participants’ family members and caregivers, and it’s also a time of renewal for volunteers, Miss Kocher observed.

“I look forward to camp the way that people look forward to Christmas and New Year’s,” she said. “It’s my renewal period.”

“Day-to-day life can bog you down,” she said, “but when you’re around the folks at camp, you see how grateful they are for the time you spend with them. They find happiness in walking to the lake, setting the dinner table, or helping to clean up after an activity. The campers show me how blessed I am.”

Volunteers this year ranged in age from 17 to more than 70 years old; 25 men and 22 women.

While some of them shared God-given talents in activities such as fish-
“Day-to-day life can bog you down, but when you’re around the folks at camp, you see how grateful they are for the time you spend with them. They find happiness in walking to the lake, setting the dinner table, or helping to clean up after an activity. The campers show me how blessed I am.”

~ Alicia Kocher, 20-Year Volunteer

Want to Volunteer Next Year?

In 2018, the Diocesan Camp at Kirchenwald will be held Aug. 12-17. Anyone age 16 and older can volunteer for full-time or part-time duties. All volunteers are required to complete the Diocesan Clearance process and attend a brief training session.

For more information on volunteering or how to sponsor a camper, contact Larry Kiley at 717-657-4804, ext. 322, or lkiley@hbgdiocese.org.
Father Lawrence

Continued from 1

lives,” he said.

Kenneth Lawrence was born Oct. 7, 1934, one of 12 children of Earl and Ethel Lawrence of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Hanover. He attend St. Vincent de Paul School, and after eighth grade entered St. Charles Minor Seminary in Catonsville, Md. After completing studies there, he went on to St. Mary Major Seminary in Baltimore.

"I was six years younger than Ken, and I looked up to him, especially when he was in the seminary,” Msgr. Lawrence said. “Then I decided that I would like to become a priest too, so he had a lot of influence in my decision to enter the seminary and study for the priesthood.

Two of their sisters also entered into a religious vocation: Sister Mary Ann Lawrence, M.S.C., and Sister Jane E. Lawrence, S.S.J.


As pastor, Father Lawrence also served at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Gettysburg (1983-1994) and Holy Trinity Parish in Columbia from 1994 until being named pastor emeritus there in 2015.

He also served as Dean of the North Lancaster Deanery and as a member of the Diocesan Finance Council and Presbyteral Council for a number of years.

Father Stephen Kelley, pastor of Holy Trinity Parish since last June, witnessed the love that Father Lawrence had for the parishioners and the students at Our Lady of the Angels School, and vice versa.

“He was always a presence to the people,” Father Kelley observed. “Even when he was in pain, when he was sick, he was always at things and always supporting the parish. He was there as a reminder of God’s presence. He was supportive of the many things that the parish did in community life, and at Our Lady of the Angels, even when it was uncomfortable for him because of his health. He always made the effort to go outside of himself to be with the people. He had a great love for the school and the schoolchildren, and that love was mutual.

When Father Kelley became pastor, Father Lawrence turned over the ship to the incoming priest, yet made himself available when guidance was sought.

“He was always available to help, and that was invaluable for me, especially in a parish that is so respectful of its traditions,” Father Kelley said. “He could explain why things were done in a certain way, how I might approach situations I had never encountered. He was always available to me for assistance, and continued to be a father figure for me and for the parishioners. He would consistently say, ‘You’re the pastor. It’s your parish. I’m not going to get in the way.’ In that way, he assisted in the transition.

When Father Lawrence could no longer celebrate daily Mass as his health continued to decline, “he still made the heroic effort to come for the celebration of the Sunday Mass. That’s a tremendous example of carrying our crosses with grace,” Father Kelley said.

Msgr. Lawrence noted that on certain occasions when Father Lawrence was unconscious in the past few weeks, he would lie in bed and move his arms and hands as if he was celebrating Mass.

“He would go through the motions of raising the host and the chalice, receiving Communion, and giving Communion to the people,” he said. “To me, that was a tremendous blessing for him.”

Father Kyle Sahd and his brother, Deacon Timothy Sahd, were in their early teens when Father Lawrence was appointed pastor of their home parish of Holy Trinity in 1994, and served as altar servers for his Mass of Installation. They established a relationship that they need,” he said.

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Father Kyle Sahd and his brother, Deacon Timothy Sahd, were in their early teens when Father Lawrence was appointed pastor of their home parish of Holy Trinity in 1994, and served as altar servers for his Mass of Installation. They established a relationship with their pastor as they continued as altar servers and were part of the parish youth group, and as Father Sahd served as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion before entering the seminary.

Now pastor of St. Mark the Evangelist Parish in Greencastle and St. Luke the Evangelist Mission in Mercersburg, Father Sahd said that Father Lawrence played a role in his own discernment.

“First and foremost, he was a true pastor, in that he went about the work of a priest and was very diligent in seeing that people were taken care of spiritually,” he said. “Going to hospitals, nursing homes, people who needed to see a priest. He was always available. He was a true priest in that he gave himself for the people of the parish. He was very diligent in making sure people received the sacraments. He never put his interests above the life of the parish. He had a quietness about him, and that was his humility.

“In that, he was a beautiful example for me in that you don’t need to be real showy, but rather make sure that the people receive the spiritual nourishment that they need,” he said.

“Whether he was sick, whether he was feeling OK, his vocation came first,” Father Sahd said. “It was all about his love for the priesthood and for the people. Even when he was sick, he continued on about carrying out the work of Christ.”

Father Lawrence was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers. He is survived by nine siblings and numerous nieces and nephews.

Condolences may be sent to his brother, Msgr. Robert Lawrence, St. Columba Parish, P.O. Box 829, Bloomsburg PA 17815.

Workshop for Parish Archivists, Historians and Administrative Staff

Saturday, September 9 from 9 a.m.-noon
Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg

The Archives Department of the Diocese of Harrisburg is very pleased once again to host this event.

Our guest speaker will be Father Lawrence McNeil, historian, retired pastor in the Diocese of Harrisburg, and adjunct faculty member at Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md.

Some of the topics he plans to cover include:

• Recognizing the importance of the history of each parish
• Discussing how to preserve, and use, an archives
• Determining the historical value of items don’t always hold monetary value, but offer the historical connection to our faith

If you would like to attend the workshop, please complete the registration form on the diocesan website at www.hbgdiocese.org/archivesworkshop. The $15 registration fee includes all materials, light refreshments, and a box lunch.

We encourage you to continue making a positive difference in your parishes, and please do not hesitate to contact the Diocesan Archivist, Michael Yurich, at 717-657-4804, ext. 214, if you have any questions.

Are you called to be a Spiritual Guide?

The Diocese of Harrisburg

Formation for the Ministry of Spiritual Direction

Formation for the Ministry of Spiritual Direction is accepting applications from those individuals who may be called to be a “true servant of the living tradition of prayer.” (CCC 2690)

This three year program of formation is designed for adults experienced in the spiritual life who are seeking to discern this call and to deepen “the gifts of wisdom, faith, and discernment” (CCC 2690) given by the Spirit for this ministry, as well as the necessary qualities, presence, and interpersonal skills.

Formation sessions will meet monthly at the Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, PA.

Candidates should contact their pastors for applications and other pertinent materials.

For more information:

Please contact:
Sr. Geralyn Schmidt, SCC
srgschmidt@hbgdiocese.org
717.885.4168

Applications due by September 25, 2017
Women’s Conference Will Deliver Mary’s Message from Fatima

By Eva Gontis
Special to The Witness

October, it’s a simply lovely month. It’s a time when we think about changing weather, leaves turning colors, a sigh for the end of summer, and a crispness in the air that renews and enlivens us. It is also the month of Mary. She is especially honored as Our Lady of the Rosary, and October is dedicated to her under this title. You have almost certainly heard this is the 100th anniversary year of Our Blessed Mother’s apparitions to the three shepherd children at Fatima. A diocesan conference for women is being held just one day after the anniversary of the final apparition, at which occurred “The Miracle of the Sun.”

Why did Mary come to Fatima? She came as she always does, to point us toward the healing, merciful love of her Son, Jesus Christ. She came to bring us to establish devotion to her Immaculate Heart so that she might lead us to His Sacred Heart. She came to call us to pray for and do penance for the conversion of sinners. She came as our mother and as our teacher, ultimately, to point the way to Heaven…to point the way for us, our children, our spouses, our parents, our brothers and sisters, and all our loved ones.

In keeping with this landmark year, the theme this year for the 3rd annual Diocese of Harrisburg Women’s Conference is: “Lead All Souls to Heaven” – Mary’s Message to Us from Fatima.” Our Lady called us from Fatima to be people of the Rosary, people of the Eucharist and people of sacrifice. She calls us all to a life of holiness and penance, winning souls for her Son.

At the first conference in 2015, 700 women attended. In 2016, more than 800 came. What have some of these women been saying? Here are just some of the comments that attendees had from past conferences:

“I needed this time so much!”
“The fellowship was wonderful.”
“Adoration and Mass with my Sisters in Christ was uplifting.”
“The speakers were great. I learned so much.”
“It was inspiring to hear the voices of so many women raised in song and praise to our Lord.”
“This conference helped me.”

“Wow! I needed this so much. I can’t wait for next year’s conference.”
“Tantum Ergo, anyone?”

Other than those attending, “Tantum Ergo,” anything?

Conference – Fresh start anyone? Some 20 to 30 priests will be on hand this day to hear Confessions so that we can be bathed in the mercy of the living God and cleansed by the Blood of the Lamb!

Hundreds of Women Joined in Worship and Praise before Our Eucharistic Lord Jesus. We will also pray the 5 Joyful Mysteries together. Imagine the buckets of grace that will be poured out on those attending. Tantum Ergo, anyone?

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass Celebrated by Bishop Gainer – The Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, the word of God proclaimed and preached, worshipping with women from all over the diocese, all with our Chief Shepherd as Principal Celebrant and Homilist. What more could we want? What a great culmination to our day!

Delicious Food for Breakfast and Lunch – food and the faith: a perfect union!

Amazing Items for Sale to nurture and adorn your Catholic faith, from books to jewelry and more!

Wonderful Apostolates with their Displays and members eager to explain their mission!

Ladies! Mark this day on your calendars and come with your friends! It will be a day to receive, reflect and rejoice, and be strengthened as women to live lives of joy and grace!

(Eva Gontis is a homemaker and the mother of eight children. She is the wife of Jim Gontis, Director of the Diocesan Office of Evangelization and Catechesis. A member of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Harrisburg, Eva holds bachelors degrees in English Literature and Classical Civilizations from U.C. Irvine, and a Masters Degree in Theology from Franciscan University of Steubenville.)

Save the Date for LARC Gatherings

Annual Lutheran-Anglican-Roman Catholic (LARC) Vespers
Sunday, October 22 at 4 p.m.
United Lutheran Seminary
Gettysburg Campus Chapel

Annual LARC Day of Dialogue
Monday, October 23, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg

These events will take special note of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, as well as our progress on the path to Christian unity. The speaker for the Day of Dialogue will be Bishop Emeritus Donald J. McCoil, who had a key role in creating the document “Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry and Eucharist,” which summarizes Lutheran-Catholic dialogue since 1965.

Additional information for registration will be forthcoming; watch the diocesan website at www.hbgdiocese.org and upcoming editions of The Catholic Witness.
Lisa Rehr embraces her four-year old son Maximus as they await to be evacuated.

In a catastrophic and devastating way this weekend, bringing with it severe flood ing and high winds which have taken hu man life, caused countless injuries, and severely damaged homes and property throughout the region,” said the cardinal in an Aug. 27 news release. “The effects of this storm continue to put people in harm’s way, with horrific scenes playing out all around, such as those of people trapped on their rooftops as water continues to rise around them. Many dioceses of the Church in the United States have been affected; many others will be as the storm continues.”

He asked for prayers but also for assistance for those affected. One of the first to pledge help was the Diocese of Brownsville, Texas, where Bishop Daniel E. Flores authorized a second collection to be taken up at the diocese’s local churches on the weekend of Aug. 26-27 to send to Catholic Charities in nearby Corpus Chris ti and “other places hardest hit by loss of power, storm damage, flooding.”

“It’s been hard to communicate with other areas,” said Bishop Flores in an Aug. 26 interview with Catholic News Service, so it’s hard to gauge the extent of the damage. But he said his diocese wanted to get a head start to quickly divert help where it is needed and as fast as possible.

If the Rio Grande Valley, where Bishop Flores’ diocese is located, was spared the major impact of Hurricane Harvey, then the diocese had a duty to help their neigh boring states to the north, in the coastal areas of Corpus Christi and Galveston-Houston, which seemed to be hit hardest, he said. Hurricane Harvey seemed to enter near Corpus Christi and affected seven coastal counties in Texas and one Louisiana parish.

“We continue to pray for every or everyone affected by the hurricane and those who are at risk as the storms continue,” said Bishop Flores in a statement.

Though the brunt of the hurricane’s winds has passed and Harvey was down graded to a tropical storm hours after landfall, heavy rains and "catastrophic flooding" are expected for days, said the National Hurricane Center.

“We have to remember … the families affected by flood damage in the next few days in other parts of the state will be in need of relief,” said Bishop Flores. “We will assess better how we can help as we get further information about the needs from the Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops and Catholic Charities.”

In an Aug. 26 statement published by the Galveston-Houston archdiocese, Cardinal DiNardo said powerful winds and heavy rainfall have already impacted many lives and homes throughout the region, and many in the southern counties of his arch diocese have already suffered substantial property damage and losses.

In Houston, the country’s fourth largest city with 6.6 million residents, many struggled seeking safety in flooded residential streets, which were expected to get up to 50 inches of rainfall by the time the rain stops sometime at the end of August. “Numerous homes in these communities are currently without power. Several forecasts anticipate additional storm damage and flooding in the coming days, along with high winds and tornado activity,” Cardinal DiNardo said.

Up to 250,000 have been reported without power in Texas, a number that was expected to rise.

San Antonio Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller said in a statement that the arch diocese pledged its support to recovery efforts that will start after the rain and wind subside.

“Like many thoughts and prayers are with the people of the dioceses of Corpus Christi and Victoria, as well as the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, as they cope with the damaging effects of Hurricane Harvey,” he said. “The people of San Antonio have opened their arms to welcome evacuees of this historic hurricane, and Catholic Charities of the archdiocese has been assisting and will continue to assist in a variety of ways those impacted by this natural disaster.”

Bishop W. Michael Mulvey, of the Diocese of Corpus Christi, said he was grateful to the bishops who reached out to him and to his diocese. He said the true damage around the diocese still is not known and officials are waiting for conditions that will allow a better assessment of the damage.

In his statement, Cardinal DiNardo asked for prayers for emergency personnel and volunteers who are out and about in dangerous conditions and also “for those residing in our archdiocese, in Texas and along the Gulf Coast, be safe and may God have mercy on those affected by Hurricane Harvey.”

Casualties as of Aug. 27, but because of safety issues, not many emergency teams have been yet able to respond to the aftermath and much of the damage is unknown. Texas Gov. Greg Abbott declared the state a disaster area, which will allow federal money to help in reconstruction. Catholic groups said they want to help with the immediate needs of the communities affected.

“We will be sending in rapid-response teams to help our impacted St. Vincent de Paul councils and we are coordinating nationally with the Knights of Columbus, Knights of Malta and [Catholic Charities USA],” said Elizabeth Disco-Shearer, CEO of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul USA.

Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, on Aug. 27 urged “all people of good will to closely monitor future calls for assistance for victims and survivors in the days ahead.”

The cardinal also is the head of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, one of the hardest-hit areas.

“Hurricane Harvey hit the Gulf Coast in a catastrophic and devastating way this weekend, bringing with it severe flooding and high winds which have taken human life, caused countless injuries, and severely damaged homes and property throughout the region,” said the cardinal in an Aug. 27 news release. “The effects of this storm continue to put people in harm’s way, with horrific scenes playing out all around, such as those of people trapped on their rooftops as water continues to rise around them. Many dioceses of the Church in the United States have been affected; many others will be as the storm continues.”

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A condominium complex is reduced to rubble Aug. 26 after Hurricane Harvey struck in Rockport, Texas.

Diocese to Collect for Disaster Relief

A special collection will be held in all parishes of the Diocese of Harrisburg this weekend, Sept. 2 and 3, for Hurricane Harvey relief efforts. This is a part of the U.S. Catholic Bishops’ emergency collection to assist the millions of persons who were affected by this unprecedented catastrophic weather event.

For those unable to donate this weekend, parishes will be accepting donations for the next two weekends. These donations should be marked for Hurricane Harvey Relief. Contributions can also be made online at www.HbgDiocese.org/donate via the Natural Disasters option.

Bishop Ronald Gainer of the Diocese of Harrisburg is urging all Catholics to offer prayers for those affected, including the first responders, and to also give generously. He cited the plea of Bishop José H. Gomez, Archbishop of Los Angeles and Vice President of the USCCB, “Our hearts and prayers go out to the families that have lost loved ones and to all who have lost homes and businesses along with their sense of peace and normalcy. We also stand with our brother bishops in the region who have the difficult task of providing pastoral care in these most trying times while managing their own losses. Our prayerful and financial support is urgently needed.”

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Intermediate 45 is seen submerged from the effects of Hurricane Harvey Aug. 28 in Houston.

CNS/ADREES LATIF, REUTERS

Lisa Rehr embraces her four-year old son Maximus as they await to be evacuated Aug. 26 from Rockport, Texas.

CNS/ADREES LATIF, REUTERS
Francis released a statement Aug. 21 urging respect for the life and dignity of migrants and refugees.

The pope’s message for the annual event was released Aug. 21, which is earlier than normal, to stimulate Catholic involvement in the U.N. process for developing and adopting a Global Compact for Migration and a Global Compact on Refugees.

Since the U.N. General Assembly voted in September 2016 to draw up the compacts, the Vatican and many Catholic organizations have been participating in the discussions and hearings to formulate them. The U.N. hopes to have a draft of the compacts ready by February and to present them to the General Assembly in September 2018.

Approving the development of the compacts, “world leaders clearly expressed their desire to take decisive action in support of migrants and refugees to save their lives and protect their rights,” the pope said in his message. He urged Catholics to get involved by lobbying their governments to include in the compacts proposals that would ensure the welcome, protection, promotion and integration of migrants and refugees.

The pope added, “every stranger who knocks at our door is an opportunity for an encounter with Jesus Christ, who identifies with the welcomed and rejected strangers of every age.”

“The Lord entrusts to the Church’s motherly love every person forced to leave their homeland in search of a better future,” Pope Francis wrote. To fulfill its duties toward migrants and refugees, he said, the Church needs “all of its members to act in solidarity with them, whether it is in countries of departure, transit, arrival or return.

In the message, Pope Francis called for countries to: “increase and simplify the process for granting humanitarian visas and temporary asylum; refuse or prohibit official temporary visas to people fleeing conflict; uphold the rights and dignity of migrants and refugees ‘independent of their legal status’; educate people in migrant-sending countries about their rights and obligations abroad; stop the detention of underage migrants; provide migrants, refugees and asylum seekers with work permits so they can begin supporting themselves and contributing to their new communities; and guarantee the right of all migrants and refugees to practice their faith.

“Considering the current situation, welcoming means, above all, offering broader options for migrants and refugees to enter destination countries safely and legally,” the pope said.

And, he said, even when faced with situations in which someone has entered a country without the proper legal permits, “collective and arbitrary expulsions or deportations not only violate the life and fundamental rights, particularly where people are returned to countries which cannot guarantee respect for human dignity and fundamental rights.”

Nations and local communities, the pope said, need to do more to integrate migrants and refugees in the community that welcomes them. Integration does not mean the newcomers will be asked to give up their cultural identity, but that they will have opportunities to share their cultures and to discover the cultural heritage of their new communities.

Pope Francis signed the message Aug. 15, the feast of the Assumption, and concluded it to all the world’s migrants and refugees and the aspirations of the communities which welcome them so, that responding to the Lord’s supreme commandment, we may all learn to love the other, the stranger, as ourselves.”

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Iceland is on its way to “eliminate” people with Down syndrome, a report from CNS News explained, causing uproar in the pro-life community over the high numbers of abortions following prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome.

With only one or two people, on average, born with Down syndrome each year, Iceland’s population exemplifies what pro-life leaders say is the tragic reality of an abortion-driven society.

CBS news correspondent Elaine Quijano spoke with Icelandic geneticist Kari Stefansson, the founder of a genetic group named deCODE Genetics, which looks at the genetics of Iceland’s genomes. He told Quijano, “We have basically eradicated, almost, Down syndrome from our society.

“After being asked what it means for Iceland as a “society” that nearly all women choose abortion after Down syndrome diagnosis, Stefansson responded that it is a result of genetic counseling.

“And I don't think that heavy-handed genetic counseling is desirable,” Stefansson told CBS. “You’re having impact on decisions that are not medical, in a way.”

The head of the Prenatal Diagnosis Unit and Landspitali University Hospital in Iceland, Hildur Hjartardottir, said in an interview with Quijano that by suggesting women get tested for genetic abnormalities like Down syndrome, they could be directing people toward abortion.

“We try to do as neutral counseling as possible, but some people would say that just offering the test is pointing you towards a certain direction,” Hjartardottir told CBS.

With the spread of these diagnostic tests in Iceland, as well as the increase in accuracy since their introduction in the early 2000s, nearly 100 percent of women in Iceland choose abortion following a positive prenatal testing for Down syndrome.

In the United States, more than 67 percent of women who are told that their unborn child may have Down syndrome choose an abortion, with some organizations reporting a higher number, 85 to 90 percent.

However, states are starting to enact laws that prohibit abortions due to genetic abnormalities, race, sex, or ethnicity. In 2013, North Dakota banned abortion due to fetal genetic abnormality and since then, other states such as Louisiana have passed similar laws, with more states trying to do so.

Through a social media campaign, the March for Life organization is asking CBS to “air a segment about the happiness and benefits Down syndrome children bring to families,” according to a tweet by March for Life president Jeanne Mancini Aug. 15.

In an interview with Catholic News Service Aug. 16, Mancini said that while the

CBS story said that Iceland is “eliminating” people with Down syndrome, it is far worse.

“We would say that they are eradicating people with Down Syndrome,” Mancini said.

Mancini pointed out that while approximately 20 percent of the U.S. population is aborted, the number of people with Down syndrome who are aborted is frighteningly disproportionate.

“Studies have shown that between 85 and 90 percent, depending on which reports you use, of these special little ones who are diagnosed with Down syndrome are terminated,” Mancini said. “We are moving in the direction of Iceland.”

Emmy award-winning actress Patricia Heaton tweeted Aug. 14 in response to the CBS report: “Iceland isn’t actually eliminating Down syndrome. They’re just killing everyone that has it. Big difference.”

A 2011 Harvard study by Brian Skotko, Susan Levine and Richard Goldstein examined the self-perception of people with Down syndrome ages 12 and up. Among the 208 people surveyed, 99 percent of people with Down syndrome were “happy with their lives,” 97 percent “liked who they are” and 96 percent “liked how they look.”

Ultimately, the study concluded, “the overwhelmingly majority of people with Down syndrome surveyed indicate they live happy and fulfilling lives.”

While many women may feel pressured to choose abortion following a diagnosis of Down syndrome, groups such as the National Down Syndrome Adoption Network guide expectant mothers through the process to help them decide which families and individuals are seeking to adopt and help those who choose to place their child in that adoption program.

Parents are seeking people who want to adopt children with Down syndrome,” Stephanie Thompson, director at the National Down Syndrome Adoption Network, told CNS in an interview Aug. 16.

Thompson, who is the birth mother of a child with Down syndrome, offers counseling to families who receive prenatal diagnosis notifications, offering information to parents.

On average, about 50 families sit on the registry at the National Down Syndrome Adoption Network, waiting to adopt.

“It is incredible to me that a country is terminating a life that people are praying for, that they want to include in their family, they want to take care of, and they value so much,” Thompson said. “They went through a home study process, fingerprinting, background checks. The saddest thing is they continued in and inspecting their home and it took three months and thousands of dollars of their life.”

The National Down Syndrome Adoption Network currently offers adoptions within the U.S., Thompson is positive that some adoption agencies in countries around the world who are waiting to adopt children with Down syndrome as well.
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.

ABBOTTSTOWN – Immaculate Heart of Mary: Robert Alonso, Lucretia Breighner.

BONNEAUVILLE – St. Joseph the Worker: Dorothy Crough.

CAMP HILL – Good Shepherd: Marie Hansarick.

CHAMBERSBURG – Corpus Christi: Leon F. Brennan, Mariana Perry Cave, Dr. Harold A. Lehrian, Rosa Celeste Mazareegos-Valdez, Martha McCray, Thomas George Pastor, Jeremiah Anthony Reihart, Ruth Anna Rice, Rolf-Andreas Rosenberry.


GETTYSBURG – St. Francis Xavier: Nancy Rider.

GREENCASTLE – St. Mark: Eva Butala.

HARRISBURG – St. Catherine Labouré: Frances Ruhl, Elvina Trombino, Margaret Mary: John Moretz.


KULPMONT – Holy Angels: Lawrence W. Morata.

LANCASTER – Assumption BVM: Charles Frey, Elaine McLain.

LEBANON – Assumption BVM: James Mills, Susanna E. Wile.


MIDDLETOWN – Seven Sorrows BVM: Carol Fernback.


NEW FREEDOM – St. John the Baptist: Donald Sanders.

QUARRYVILLE – St. Catherine of Siena: Thomas Jones, Jr.

YORK – St. Patrick: Ronald Rohrbaugh.

Immaculée Ibagaizi to Speak at Seven Sorrows Parish This Month

Rwandan genocide survivor, author and inspirational speaker Immaculée Ibagaizi will share her story “Left to Tell: A Story of Faith, Hope and Forgiveness” at Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Middletown Sept. 27 and 28 at 7 p.m.

Born and raised in a small village in Rwanda, Africa, she hid for 91 days with seven other women in a 3-by-4-foot bathroom as millions of men, women and children – including her family – were slaughtered during the 1994 genocide.

Immaculée will share her story and her message of hope and forgiveness during her speaking engagements. Doors open at 6 p.m. both evenings. A book signing, fellowship and refreshments will follow. A free-will offering will be taken the night of the event.

“Our parish is so blessed to have Immaculée here to speak. Her personal story is so engaging – as well as incredibly inspiring,” said Father Edward Keating, pastor of Seven Sorrows Parish. “As she said in her book, ‘There was a woman in Atlanta who approached me in tears at the end of the talk I gave. She told me that her parents had been killed in the Nazi Holocaust when she was a baby: ‘My heart has been full of anger my entire life… I’ve suffered and cried over my parents for so many years. But hearing your story about what you lived through and were able to forgive has inspired me. I’ve been trying all my life to forgive the people who killed my parents and now I think I can do it. I can let go of my anger and be happy.’”

“As Immaculée says, ‘The love of a single heart can make a world of difference.’ Her story does heal hearts, and she is making a difference and making the world a better place,” Father Keating said.

For more information, call the parish at 717-944-3133 or visit www.ssbvm.org.

Day of Prayer and Reflection at Good Shepherd to Feature Charismatic Priest

Father Ariel Hernandez, a well-known Charismatic priest, will visit Good Shepherd Church in Camp Hill on Sept. 9.

Born and raised in Argentina and currently serving as pastor of Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament Parish in Newfield, N.J., Father Hernandez has experienced Our Lady Queen of Peace’s intercessions for him, as she has helped lead him on an amazing journey of faith. His bi-lingual healing Masses have been a blessing to many, and he is custodian of a miraculous image from Argentina, known as Our Lady of Schoenstatt, which will be present at the Day of Prayer and Reflection.

The day will begin at 11 a.m. with Morning Prayer and praise and worship, followed by a presentation on holiness and a reflection. Recitation of the Rosary at 1:15 p.m., followed by a second presentation on holiness, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Holy Mass will be celebrated at 5 p.m., followed by a Charismatic Healing Service.

All are invited to attend, and may attend for part of the day or the entire day.

For more information, call the parish office at 717-761-1167.

Gary Zimak Will Lead Retreat at St. Catherine Labouré in Harrisburg

A familiar presence on Catholic radio, TV and at parishes/conferences around the United States and Canada, dynamic Catholic speaker Gary Zimak will lead a mini-retreat, “Pray, Hope and Don’t Worry” at St. Catherine Labouré Parish in Harrisburg Sept. 23 from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

In 2008, Zimak was working as a project manager when he felt the call to form “Following The Truth,” an apostolate dedicated to leading souls to Jesus Christ and His Catholic Church. Initially performing his work for the Lord on a part-time basis, a job layoff in 2012 gave him the opportunity to make a bold move. After much prayer, he decided to “step out of the boat” and become a full-time Catholic lay evangelist. He went from a guaranteed six figure income to no guarantee of any income. Since that time, he has traveled throughout the United States and Canada, bringing thousands of people closer to Jesus Christ.

Zimak is the author of A Worrier’s Guide To The Bible, Listen To Your Blessed Mother, From Fear To Faith, Find A Real Friend In Jesus and Faith, Hope, and Clarity. He is recognized as the leading Catholic speaker on the topic of overcoming anxiety. Zimak has appeared on several EWTN television programs, including “Women Of Grace,” “At Home With Jim And Joy,” “Bookmark” and “The Journey Home.” He is the host of Spirit In The Morning on Holy Spirit Radio, The Gary Zimak Show on BlogTalkRadio and a regular guest on Catholic Answers Live, EWTN’s The Son Rise Morning Show, Catholic Connection and numerous other radio programs.

During this morning mini-retreat, participants will explore “How to Get Personal with Jesus,” “The Secret to Happiness,” and “What Does God Want Me To Do?” Mass will be celebrated at 9 a.m., and the Rosary will be prayed at 12:30 p.m. For more information, contact Deb at the parish office at 717-564-1332 or dgelbaugh@sclhbg.org.

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, divorce or separation.

Hundreds of persons have been helped to move towards successful, productive, happy lives by attending one of these weekends.

The Beginning Experience Team for the Diocese of Harrisburg has booked Camp Hebron in Halifax, Pa., for a Beginning Experience 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 contacting the Harrisburg Beginning Experience Team: Julie at 717-379-0800, or Eva at 717-495-9856.

Introducing a New Above Ground Crypt Building with Attached Niches at St. Theresa’s Cemetery

A Preplanning Option for Catholic Burials

For more information, contact Kevin Shervinsky, Manager

172 All Saints Road

Elysburg, PA 17824

(717) 672-2672

kservinsky@hbgdiocese.org

The Catholic Witness • September 1, 2017
Compiled by Jen Reed

SPIRITUAL OFFERINGS

Good Shepherd Parish in Camp Hill invites all families who have experienced the loss of a child (through miscarriage, abortion, in utero death, or the loss of a child in the Mass of Remembrance) on Sept. 16 at 10 a.m. in the church. Those who have not had the opportunity to say their final goodbyes may attend the event. A Mass will be celebrated following the 10 a.m. Liturgy in honor of the Baby of Jesus. The names will be brought to the altar to be remembered by our parish family. Names of children who have been submitted in the past may be remembered as well. For information and assistance, call Gen Andregic at 717-763-4789 or andregicg@gmail.com.

PILGRIMAGES AND RETREATS

A secular Carmelite retreat will be held Sept. 20-23 at St. Cyril of Jerusalem Retreat Center in Lansford. The cost is $200. For more information, call Sr. Olivia 610-898-3120 or visit www.carmelitesouthernpa.org.

Consulting the Heart of Jesus Retreat will be offered at St. Katharine Drexel Church, Mechanicsburg. This 3-day retreat will meet once a week, Tuesday night, Oct. 3 to Oct. 10, from 6:30-9 p.m. The cost is $15. For more information, call Linda 717-472-2166.

Catholic Woman's Day at Trinity School of Sacred Heart will be held on Saturday, Oct. 7, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Speaker is Bernadette Wurmser. Cost is $40. For more information, call Bernadette 717-416-4100 ext. 329, or email bwurmser@trinityhs.org.

THE DOSSIER OF ROBERT W. McCOLLUM, CRAPM, St. Leo the Great Parish in Millersville will offer a Jeff Cavins “Finding Your Way to the Kingdom” formation program. This 24-week Ascension Press study explores the life and mission of Jesus. Beginning Oct. 1, each session is held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in St. Leo’s Social Hall. All are welcome. For information, call the parish office at 717-394-1872.

Grieving people often feel lost, alone and misun- derstood. Griefshare, a video-based small group Bereavement Support, focuses on the video work of Christ-centered grief support led by trained facilitators. Two weekly Griefshare sessions will begin at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, in the Fellowship Hall. Call 662-2505 to sign up and be placed in a session. There are no meetings Thanksgiving week. There is no cost to attend Griefshare and meals are available. Calling before coming is encouraged. Call Judy Neiburger 717-235-2116, ext. 21.

St. Theressa Parish in New Cumberland will host a Dr. Marcellino D’Ambrosio, aka Dr. Italy, for a parish mission called “Finding Your Way to the Kingdom” starting Sept. 18 and ending Sept. 25. Two evening retreats each night at 6 p.m. and Mass will be celebrated each day by the priest, followed by a period of Adoration on Sunday, confessions on Monday, and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. By participating in this exciting program you will re-energize your faith and remember why we were being Catholic.

Christian music legend John Michael Talbot’s “Lifetimes of Music & Ministry” Concert Tour is coming to New Oxford High School, 130 Berlin Rd., on Sept. 19 at 7 p.m. The concert is free and open to both the Catholic and Lutheran perspectives about what happened at the Reformation 500 years ago. What was the impact on Christians of the Protestant and Catholic churches? What has it been like in more recent decades? And what does the future hold for Christian unity? Guest presenters will be Rev. Dr. Maria Elena Professor of Modem Church History and Global Missions and Director of Ministry in Practice at Lutheran Theological Seminary. For more information, call Rev. Dr. Scott Lace at 717-748-1850 or Rev. St. Joseph Parish in Danville and Director of the Diocesan Office for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs. For more information, call the parish at 717-259-0681.

Finding Your Way to the Kingdom will be offered at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Harrisburg for a second consecutive year. In response to growing interest, the Fr. Bill Walsh Center of Spiritual Development in collaboration with the Holy Spirit Parish in Camp Hill will hold its second annual “Cruise for a Cause” car show on Sept. 9 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. All cars are welcome to participate in the cruise and have their cars available for the cruise. Prizes will be awarded to the best vehicle in several target categories, elephant trophies for winners, and for longest distance, pastor’s choice, and Grand Knight awards. Registration for participating vehicles is $10 in advance and $13 on the day of the show. Dash plaques for the first 50 vehicles registered or pre-registered. Event is open to the public and children’s activities will be offered. For information, call Jim Hagen at 717-639-9983 or kofcjimh@gmail.com.

Job Openings

Mary Mother of the Church Parish in Mount Joy is seeking an organist. Interested applicants should send degree or equivalent preferred. Experience in accompanying at Catholic Masses preferred. Position requires competent playing of liturgical music and knowledge of liturgical and sacramental and devotional services, also coordinates cantors and organists. Contact Father Pang Tieu at 717-653-4903, bethoven1@gmail.com.

Misericordia Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in York is seeking a licensed practical nurse (LPN) with over 40 years of military service. Classes will be held from 7-8:30 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays beginning Oct. 9 and ending Dec. 11, 2017. For more information, call 717-521-3137.

A panel discussion on the Reformation, “As It was in the Beginning, Is Now... And What Shall Be?” will be held at Immune Church of Mary Parish Social Hall in Abbotstown Sept. 29 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Learn from both the Catholic and Lutheran perspectives about what happened at the Reformation 500 years ago. What was the impact on the churches? What has it been like in more recent decades? And what will the future hold for Christian unity? Guest presenters will be Rev. Dr. Maria Elena Professor of Modern Church History and Global Missions and Director of Ministry in Practice at Lutheran Theological Seminary. For more information, call Rev. Dr. Scott Lace at 717-748-1850 or Rev. St. Joseph Parish in Danville and Director of the Diocesan Office for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs. For more information, call the parish at 717-259-0681.

FUNDRAISERS & EVENTS

St. Joseph Parish in Danville will hold its parish festival Sept. 16 from noon-8 p.m. Great food includes halupki, pierogis, potato pancakes, walking tacos, baked desserts and more. Food and beverages available for purchase. For pre-registration and additional information, call 717-259-0681.

Knights of Columbus Council 9875 of St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Annville will host its third annual “Cruise for a Cause” car show on Sept. 9 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. All cars are welcome to participate in the cruise and have their cars available for the cruise. Prizes will be awarded to the best vehicle in several target categories, elephant trophies for winners, and for longest distance, pastor’s choice, and Grand Knight awards. Registration for participating vehicles is $10 in advance and $13 on the day of the show. Dash plaques for the first 50 vehicles registered or pre-registered. Event is open to the public and children’s activities will be offered. For information, call Jim Hagen at 717-639-9983 or kofcjimh@gmail.com.

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St. Joseph Parish Yard Sale is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and the St. Joseph Parish Life and Education Center in Mechanicsburg. Sept. 9 from 7-9:30 a.m. Vendor set-up at 6 a.m. Cost for a space is $10. No food or beverages available for sale. For more information, contact Rev. Fr. Mark McLaughlin at marcmcla@gmail.com.
New stained-glass windows at St. Pius X Church in Selinsgrove illustrate, from left, the Sacrament of Baptism, Jesus with the children, and the Sacrament of Confirmation.

New Windows at St. Pius Church Illustrate Tangible Signs of the Faith

Three new stained-glass windows at St. Pius X Church in Selinsgrove offer striking illustrations of the Catholic faith: the Sacrament of Baptism, Jesus with the children, and the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The parish recently installed the windows to begin replacing the plate glass ones that were original to the church, which was dedicated in the spring of 2008. The new stained-glass windows are on the northern side of the church.

Bishop Ronald Gainer celebrated Mass at the church on Aug. 20, during which he blessed the new windows, donated by parishioner Pauline Gemberling. The centerpiece, featuring Jesus with the children, in memory of her husband, Bruce.

According to Father Tukura Pius Michael, OP, pastor of St. Pius Parish, windows illustrating the Sacraments of Matrimony and Holy Orders will be forthcoming to replace the plate glass windows on the southern side.

Light creates a silhouette as Bishop Ronald Gainer celebrates the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Bishop Ronald Gainer greets Pauline Gemberling, who donated one of the windows in memory of her husband.