The Catholic Witness

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Live Broadcasts Rally Communities to Discover Catholic Schools

By Jen Reed

The Catholic Witness

In a series of unique events demonstrating the unity, faith and contributions of its Catholic schools, the Diocese’s Department of Education headed out on the road November 15-19 for daily Facebook Live broadcasts featuring its elementary and secondary schools.

Dubbed the “Catholic Schools Road Show,” the daily broadcasts streamed live from Diocesan high schools, hosted by Daniel Breen, Diocesan Secretary for Education and Superintendent of Catholic Schools.

With a pep-rally feel, the broadcasts featured a representative number of students and administrators from each host high school and its feeder schools. Principals and students shared information about their schools after an opening prayer from the high school chaplain. Inspired by marching bands, cheerleaders, mascots and their peers, staff and students competed in “Minute to Win It” games, in a display of competition and sportsmanship.

The road show was held during Discover Catholic Schools Week, a recently-new initiative of the National Catholic Educational Association. Similar to Catholic Schools Week, which begins each year on the last Sunday in January, Discover Catholic Schools Week offers Catholic schools an additional week to leverage their good news. The celebration is designed to help schools connect with prospective families, donors, educators and other community members to showcase what makes Catholic schools the best option when families

More CATHOLIC SCHOOLS page 3
By Beth Kennedy

Special to The Witness

The Diocese of Harrisburg will hold the Retirement Fund for Religious collection December 11-12. The parish-based appeal is coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) in Washington, D.C. Proceeds help religious communities across the country care for aging members.

Last year, the Diocese of Harrisburg donated $45,119.01 to the collection.

“I am continually heartened by the overwhelming generosity of U.S. Catholics,” said NRRO Executive Director Sister Stephanie Still, a member of the Sisters of the Presentation of San Francisco. “Even in difficult times, they find a way to give back to those who have worked tirelessly to serve our Church and our world.”

The Diocese of Harrisburg also collaborates with the Diocese of Allentown and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia to distribute funding to local religious communities for retirement needs.

Hundreds of U.S. religious communities face a large gap between the needs of their older members and the funds available to support them. Historically, Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests—known collectively as women and men religious—served for little to no pay. As a result, many communities now lack adequate retirement savings.

At the same time, health-care expenses continue to rise, and an increasing number of older religious require specialized services. NRRO data shows that 26,330 women and men religious in the United States are older than age 70. The total cost for their care exceeds $1 billion annually.

Distributions are sent to each eligible order’s central house and provide supplemental funding for necessities, such as medications and nursing care. Donations also underwrite resources that help religious communities improve eldercare and plan for long-term retirement needs.

Religious orders typically do not receive diocesan funding but rather are financially autonomous and thus responsible for the support and care of all members. While many dioceses hold separate appeals for their retired priests’ fund, the once-yearly Retirement Fund for Religious collection is for members of U.S. religious orders and benefits both men and women religious.

The 2020 appeal raised $20.7 million, and funding was distributed to 321 U.S. religious communities.

“We are blessed by countless supporters who share our mission to ensure all religious can enjoy a safe and modest retirement,” said Sister Still.
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are looking to find the right school.

“In the road shows, we were trying to present our schools in a new light, to show the connectedness and unity among our schools, and to have some fun as a community,” said Breen. “I particularly enjoyed hearing students speak about their school experiences, and that’s an element we need to highlight more in the future.”

While the hope was to have around 10,000 people view the videos, total combined views grew to more than 18,400 people by November 22.

“It was gratifying to see how many people viewed the videos,” Breen said. “I think it shows that there is a real hunger for Catholic education in our Diocese.”

Breen was accompanied on the visits by co-workers in the Education Department, Margaret Barrett, Associate Superintendent, and Crystal Noel, Academic and Data Specialist.

The road show featured stops at Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg, Trinity High School in Camp Hill, York Catholic High School, Delone Catholic High School in McSherrystown, and Lancaster Catholic High School, with students and staff from their supporting parochial schools in attendance.

The visit to Our Lady of Lourdes Regional School in Coal Township, which had been planned for Nov. 12, was postponed due to Covid concerns at the school. The Education Department is working to reschedule a visit with Lourdes.

Matthew Shore, principal of St. Theresa School in New Cumberland, accompanied students Hudson, Maria and Sam to the road show at Trinity on Nov. 17.

“Not just for our area, but for all high schools and their partner schools within the Diocese, it was a nice opportunity for the greater community to see and/or maybe even understand for the first time that we are, in a sense, our own ‘districts’ (a.k.a. deaneries) as we truly look to promote a K-12 Catholic educational experience for all,” he said of the road show.

Students at St. Theresa School celebrated Discover Catholic Schools Week with a Spirit Week that included a skating party, a family night out for dinner, a pep rally and a Veterans Day assembly.

The Director Marketing and Enrollment at St. Teresa of Calcutta School in Adams...
County, Melissa Guy joined students for the live broadcast at Delone Catholic on Nov. 18.

“IT was great for representatives from each school in our deanery to get together to celebrate our common vision - educating students not only in the core academic subjects, but also in the Catholic faith and traditions,” she said. “The middle school student representatives from St. Teresa of Calcutta School – Matthew, Emily and Owen – also enjoyed their experience. They were proud to be a part of something that could help their school and enjoyed the hospitality of our host school.”

Guy added that Discover Catholic Schools Week celebrations at St. Teresa of Calcutta included a service project to deliver goodie bags and thank-you cards to local nurses, and social media posts of “legacy families” celebrating three and four generations of families who attended the schools from which St. Teresa of Calcutta School was formed.

The road shows were an all-around success for the 36 Catholic schools in the Diocese and their approximately 10,000 students. The celebrations came on the heels of the news that Diocesan Catholic school have seen an enrollment increase of 6.5% over the numbers from last fall. It marks the first enrollment increase since 2013. The increase equates to more than 580 new students attending the Catholic schools in the Diocese, and represents the single largest one-year increase on record.

“As a Diocese, we are providing trainings and resources to our schools and strive to walk alongside them in the whole enrollment process. This enrollment growth, which is the first we have experienced in eight years, is a positive sign that Catholic education is strong in our Diocese,” said Breen. “It is also a sign that families are seeing the added value of what we offer, and that we are looking to the future as a system of schools.” “This increase is the direct result of the daily excellence of our teachers, and of the tireless efforts of our principals, presidents, pastors, and school leaders in offering exceptional schools where our students thrive,” he said.

Families are always welcome to explore the benefits of a Catholic education. Please visit www.GoCatholicSchools.org to learn more. The Facebook Live videos can be viewed at www.Facebook.com/DioceseofHarrisburg.
San Juan Bautista Parish Welcomes Bishop from Puerto Rico for Celebration of Heritage

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

With devotion and festivity, members of San Juan Bautista Parish in Lancaster celebrated an historic event in the life of their parish on Nov. 19, giving honor to their Puerto Rican heritage.

Celebrating the feast of Our Lady of Providence, the patroness of Puerto Rico, parishioners welcomed Bishop Alvaro Corrada del Rio, S.J., Bishop Emeritus of Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, for a festive Mass followed by a Marian procession and celebration with food and music.

During the Friday evening Mass, Bishop Ronald Gainer blessed a statue of Our Lady of Providence, which was adorned in a sea of flowers and prayer cards.

Devotion to Our Lady of Divine Providence originated in Italy, and was brought to Puerto Rico in the early 1850s by the Servite Fathers. She was declared the patroness of Puerto Rico by Pope Paul VI on November 19, 1969.

San Juan Bautista Parish was founded by parishioners of Puerto Rican heritage, and continues to support efforts to assist people in their homeland, said Father Luis Rodriguez, pastor. He said the parish has given financial support to help 16 churches there, and two, 52-foot trailers of goods to assist those still reeling from the effects of Hurricane Maria.

Father Rodriguez met Bishop Corrada del Rio through a classmate during a recent visit to Puerto Rico, and invited the bishop to the Marian celebration.

As part of the occasion, the parish acquired the statue of Our Lady of Providence, as well as a first-class relic of Blessed Carlos Manuel Rodriguez (1918-1963), the first Puerto Rican to be declared blessed. The relic will be enshrined in a niche in the church.

A woman processes with the flag of Puerto Rico during Mass celebrating the Marian feast of the patroness of the Latin American territory.
Following the celebration of Mass by Bishop Corrada del Rio, parishioners participated in a joyful Marian procession with the statue of Our Lady of Providence, walking the chilly streets of the neighborhood to Plaza San Juan, where a festive gathering with food and music continued into the night.

“This is a celebration of the crossroads of faith and culture, and a celebration of the leadership of the Spanish-speaking community,” Father Rodriguez said. “It’s a great way to celebrate that the Catholic Church is fully alive and joyful. We are taking the faith out into the streets, so people will see that San Juan Bautista Parish is here, and it’s alive.”
Parishioners in the Diocese Send 3,655 Boxes of Joy to Children in Seven Countries

CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

Bishop Ronald Gainer blesses the nearly 2,000 Boxes of Joy, packed and ready to be shipped from the Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women’s project. Council members and Cross Catholic Outreach representatives collected and sorted the boxes at the Diocesan Center in Harrisburg earlier this month. Pictured with the bishop, are, from left, June Lawrence, development officer for Cross Catholic Outreach; Audra Shaub, co-chair of the HDCCW’s International Commission; Mary Ann Wayne, a coordinator of the Diocese’s Box of Joy program; and Diane Roskos, co-chair of the HDCCW’s International Commission.

By Jen Reed

The Catholic Witness

More than 3,600 children in seven poverty-stricken countries will receive Christmas gifts this year, thanks to the people of the Diocese of Harrisburg.

Through Cross Catholic Outreach’s Box of Joy program, headed up locally by the Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (HDCCW) and several Knights of Columbus councils, the children will be gifted items like toys, books, clothing, toiletries and games.

Cross Catholic Outreach partners with bishops, priests, religious and lay workers to provide food, water, housing, education, orphan support, medical care, microenterprise and disaster relief to the poorest of the poor in over 30 countries around the world.

Its Box of Joy program brings Christmas cheer to children in Guatemala, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Grenada and Honduras. The effort is made possible by the efforts of parishes, schools, groups and individuals.

Participation and promotion of the Box of Joy program has been an annual activity of the HDCCW for the past few years, stemming from the National Council of Catholic Women’s association with Cross Catholic Outreach as a partner agency.

Mary Ann Wayne, a coordinator of the HDCCW’s Box of Joy program, said the effort fits perfectly with the mission of the Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, which is “to support, empower and educate all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership and service; to inspire while promoting Gospel values in a constantly changing world.”

“The International Commission of the HDCCW aims to bring awareness of and present ways to help our fellow humans around the world,” Wayne said. “We are all brothers and sisters in...
Christ. With the pandemic and natural disasters in places like Haiti, the need for Cross Catholic is even greater. Many watch the news and wonder how to help. The Box of Joy program is one small way.”

Catholic parishes, schools and groups organize the boxes with small gifts like toys and school supplies, and adding essentials, like soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes, as well as a few treats like hard candy and coloring books. Participants include $9 in each box to cover shipment from the local drop-off center to the child.

On November 8 and 9, nearly 2,000 boxes were dropped off at the Diocesan Center in Harrisburg, assembled by parishes that have a Council of Catholic Women. Bishop Ronald Gainer, who serves as the chairman of the board of directors for Cross Catholic Outreach, blessed the boxes before they were shipped to recipients.

Wayne said local participation has increased since the HDCCW took on the project in 2019. “What we have seen over the past three years is that parish coordinators underestimate the reception of the program in their parishes. Each year almost every parish hands in more boxes than the year before,” she said.

The HDCCW tallied the donated boxes along with the efforts of several Knights of Columbus Councils in the Lancaster and York areas who parishes don’t have a Council of Catholic Women.

In total, the people of the Diocese sent 3,655 shoeboxes to Cross Catholic Outreach.

“To all those who filled a box and prayed for the child who will receive this Christmas gift – perhaps the first one they have ever received – thank you from the bottom of my heart,” Wayne said. “May God bless you and your loved ones as you have blessed these children.

“I would also like to thank Bishop Gainer for his beautiful blessing of the boxes, and the children, and their families, and for taking time out of his very busy schedule to join us,” she added.

Pope Francis has imparted an Apostolic Blessing on Cross Catholic Outreach and its benefactors on the occasion of 20 years of providing spiritual and material support to the poor and marginalized of the world. Each person who contributed a Box of Joy this year shares in this special blessing from the Holy Father.

For more information about HDCCW and how to participate next year in the Box of Joy Program, send an email to hdccwinternationalcommission@gmail.com or go to https://crosscatholic.org/box-of-joy.

To report suspected abuse of a minor, please follow these two steps:

1. Call the toll-free PA Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-932-0313

2. Report suspected abuse of a minor by a church official, employee or volunteer by calling the diocesan toll-free hotline at 1-800-626-1608

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU REPORT SUSPECTED ABUSE WITH BOTH LAW ENFORCEMENT AND THE DIOCESE.

Email: ReportAbuse@hbgdiocese.org
Generous Trinity High School Community Continues Tradition of Sharing the Love of Christ

By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

To be sure, the school community at Trinity High School in Camp Hill has been doing a food drive to help those in need in the greater Harrisburg area for many years.

This year, that visibly tangible generosity is no different, as the school collected more than 4,000 personal care items and some 300 lbs. of food stores that were loaded onto a moving truck from New Hope Ministries of Mechanicsburg – a Christian social service agency that shows the love of Christ by serving those in need in the community. The ministry helps some 2,000 area neighbors who need help, especially so in the coming holiday and looming cold seasons.

On Nov. 22, students, faculty and administration gathered all the stores in the school’s hallways and transported the hundreds of boxes of personal care items, cleaning supplies and food items outside, where they were loaded into a 40-foot moving truck. This year’s emphasis focused more so on personal care items, including diapers and paper products that needy families struggle to meet the cost.

Faulkner Automotive Group, which owns 25 dealerships in eastern Pennsylvania, is a proud sponsor of Trinity High School, and donated $5,000 to the school this month to help with the drive. Several representatives from Faulkner assisted with the loading of items onto the truck. Half of the monies donated by Faulkner will be shared by Trinity and go to New Hope Ministries to help them with the financial costs of their ministry. In addition, the school is also donating $500 to the St. Francis of Assisi Parish Soup Kitchen in Harrisburg to help them through the Christmas season.

Deacon Scott Root, Trinity’s campus minister, organized and collaborated with the school and businesses to pull together everything from collecting the items and arranging the needed help to get the generous collection of items to New Hope.

“As a school community, we are just grateful that we have been blessed and have the ability to help others,” Deacon Root said after all was loaded. “We want the community to understand that Trinity takes very seriously our call as a Catholic school that we are to be out in the community, not just in the school educating our students, but taking the love of Christ out into the community where there is need.”

Trinity’s principal John Cominsky helps deliver items.

Trinity’s Elizabeth Howard helps load up personal care items collected for New Hope Ministries.
By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

Giving a presentation on death, judgment, heaven and hell, the keynote speaker at this year’s Diocesan Catechetical Conference on Nov. 13 told attendees we should “live our lives with the end in mind.”

Scott Sollom, associate professor of Theology and Catechetics at Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio, led a lineup of eight presentations at the conference, themed “Catechizing for Conversion.” Speakers, in their workshops, presented practical tips, anecdotes and Church teaching valuable for catechists in educating on topics such as the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, sanctifying grace, apologetics and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

In his keynote address on death, judgment, heaven and hell, Sollom noted that they’re often referred to as “the four last things,” but said the nickname falls short.

“The last things are not meant to come last at all. Instead, the reality of our own impending death and judgment should inform this present moment,” he remarked. “We want our lives to become molded by the sure knowledge of our meeting with Christ, face to face…. The last things should come first.”

The most important thing to know in eschatology – the theology on death, judgment, heaven and hell – is that Jesus wins. “We have Jesus, who has ‘gone here and done that,’” said Sollom, who went on to examine each of the “four last things.”

Death is the separation of body and soul. The body dies, but the soul, instilled by God, continues. Death, Sollom said, is a time of choosing whether you will be for or against God.

Our judgment, he continued, is connected to our faith in Jesus. Borrowing an explanation from renowned philosophy professor Peter Kreeft, Sollom asked conference attendees to consider what evidence they would give to be allowed to enter heaven if they died today.

“There is only one answer: Jesus. There is nothing of our own accord that makes us worthy. He is the very cause of

Father Edward Connolly distributes Holy Communion during the celebration of Mass. His presentation focused on misconceptions about angels and demons.
our sanctification,” Sollom said.

Hell is the continued rejection of Christ, said Sollom, who pointed to St. Catherine of Siena’s vision of the four pains of hell: deprivation of seeing God, agonizing over what has been lost, seeing the Devil as he really is, and customized suffering.

“Hell is real. To believe that no one goes to hell is incorrect,” Sollom emphasized.

He also spoke on purgatory, a place of purification after death and before entering heaven. “It’s not a second chance or an opportunity to take a mulligan,” he said. “It’s a practical matter: The Lord is perfect, so how can I be in perfect communion with Him if I’m not purified?”

Heaven, then, is the fulfillment of everything we desire, and everything we should strive for. “In heaven, we remain ourselves…. We are there together, the real ‘us,’” he said.

“We are fulfilled. No more mourning, no weeping, no crying, no pain, no death, no remnants from sin. All the peace and love that God intended for us at Creation is now restored for eternity,” he said.

Sollom said eschatology can be summed up in this way: “Death is a participation in the death of the Lord. Jesus is the final judge. Heaven is a perfect life with Jesus and the Father and the Holy Spirit, and hell is the definitive exclusion from the life that Christ has offered.”

“A second summary is a repeat: it’s worth it,” he concluded.

Witnesses to Truth

The annual Catechetical Conference, sponsored by the Diocesan Office for Evangelization and Catechesis, is geared toward directors and coordinators of religious education, catechists, youth ministers and RCIA instructors. This year’s event was offered virtually and in-person at the Diocesan Center in Harrisburg on Nov. 13, with a record number of 390 registrants combined.

Livestreaming was provided through the efforts of the Diocesan Office of Communications.

The day-long conference began with the celebration of Mass by Bishop Ronald Gainer and included eight presentations, the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, lunch, vendors and Evening Prayer.

In a second presentation, “The Ecclesial Method,” Scott Sollom offered a walk-through of concrete ways catechists can teach the faith.

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Sollom encouraged catechists to rely on the Catechism as a means of linking everything to Christ when they teach. “The Catholic faith is not a random assortment of stuff. If people don’t see it as a whole, they won’t get the full picture, the full beauty,” he concluded.

Continuing with the day’s theme, “Catechizing for Conversion,” Bishop Ronald Gainer offered a presentation on “The Holy Eucharist and Conversion.”

“We are a Eucharistic Church. If it’s true that the Church draws her life from the Eucharist – and it is – then when faith in Christ’s Real Presence among us wanes, the Church itself declines. When Eucharistic practice diminishes, the Church suffers because we draw our life from the Mystery of the Eucharist,” the bishop remarked.

“We have a problem of a catechetical disaster, you might say. We’re all in that battle, and I thank you for your engagement to teach correctly and to awaken in those you are catechizing a love for our Eucharistic Lord,” he told the catechists.

“The Eucharist is the Most Blessed Sacrament, the sacrament par excellence,” Bishop Gainer said. “In the other sacraments, we are united to Christ by a participation in His grace. But in the Eucharist, since Christ exists substantially – Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity – we receive the very substance of Christ Himself.”

“Those things being true, there should be a conversion, a change in us who receive the sacred Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist,” he said.

“How can we approach this sacrament not in a state of awe, but in a state of absolute wonder and amazement?” the bishop proposed. “There is a sense that it has been lost, and so part of our role as catechists is to be witnesses to the truth of the Eucharist and to help those who want to serve somehow arrive at this amazement…. We ourselves must be awed; we must be astonished.”

On Grace, Angels, Demons and Apologetics

Afternoon workshop sessions continued with the theme of catechizing to bring people into intimacy with Christ, and featured presentations by Kristine Hammar, Bob and Noelle Cybulski, Father Paul Clark, Father Edward Connolly and Father William Weary.

Hammar, chair of the Religion Department at Delone Catholic High School in McSherrystown, spoke about catechizing on sanctifying grace versus mortal sin, a topic that is “in so many ways the missing link for many Catholics.”

She centered her presentation on the parable of the Ten Virgins, five of whom have enough oil for their lamps and five of whom do not. The parable teaches us to be prepared for the second coming.

“How do we be sure we’re ready? The oil is the gift of sanctifying grace,” Hammar said.

“Students don’t hear the term ‘sanctifying grace’ enough, so I speak of it often,” she said. “We need to be attuned to the ways God has provided to us through the sacraments, to enter into the life of grace and to live where God has called us to live, to grow in the life of grace.”

Father-and-daughter duo Bob and Noelle Cybulski, youth minister at Assumption BVM Parish in Lancaster and associate director of campus ministry at Lancaster Catholic High School, respectively, led a crowd-participation workshop on how to get young people excited about the faith. The Cybulskis called upon in-
person participants to join several recreations of activities they present at youth group sessions to make the faith understandable, relatable and fun – including a faith-based scavenger hunt, a re-enactment of the parable of the Good Samaritan and a prayer circle.

Pointing to recent studies showing that 63% of youth leave the Church between the ages of 10 and 17, and that 85% of young adults stop practicing the faith in college, Bob Cybulski remarked that “The reason kids are leaving the Church is, we don’t have time for them and sometimes they think we don’t care for them…. We have to look at how we feed them.”

In a presentation on the Sacrament of Conversion, Father Paul Clark offered a look at Church teaching and Canons on the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and things catechists can do to alleviate penitents’ fears or misunderstandings about Confession.

“There is a horizontal dimension to sin, and a vertical one. We sin against God and all of heaven, but we also sin against each other. Sin affects all of us,” said Father Clark, the Diocesan Judicial Vicar and the pastor of St. Matthew Parish in Dauphin.

“People ask, ‘Why do I have to go to the Church to confess? Why can’t I just go to God?’ Well, you can go directly to God, but you also have to say sorry to the Church for your sins…. In the sacrament, the priest represents the Church,” he said.

“It is a sacrament instituted by Christ, and it is a healing sacrament,” Father Clark said. “Christ comes to us and heals our soul that we wounded by sinning.”

In his presentation on angels and demons, Father Edward Connolly, pastor emeritus of St. Joseph and St. Vincent de Paul parishes in the Diocese of Allentown, cleared up misconceptions about angels and demons.

“Angels are holy ones, and they are also watchers. They watch us, and they watch the face of God,” he said.

“Angels are from themselves and of themselves. An angel has a self-reflexive intellect and free will, as you and I. But they don’t have any matter about them. They are pure spirits, having no physical form.”

Where angels love order, demons love the opposite: chaos. Demons are former angels who were cast out of the Divine Presence for disobedience to God, Father Connolly explained. He also addressed the misconceptions that those who have died can become angels, and that demons are not real.

“Demons do exist,” he said. “But why would they be after us? Revenge. They resent God, and because they can’t get after Him, they attack those who are vulnerable whom He loves, to undo the work of salvation.”

Addressing the arguments that Catholics are confronted with about Church teaching on such areas as Confession, the Real Presence and the sanctity of marriage between one man and one woman, for example, is necessary for defending the faith, said Father William Weary, in his presentation on apologetics.

“We are in a pandemic physically and biologically, but also a pandemic of error in our society and in our culture. We have to inoculate our students against this virus of heresy and apostasy. Apologetics is the defense of the faith, and it’s so important for us to do in our curriculum and in teaching. Apologetics can be a type of spiritual vaccine against those errors,” said Father Weary, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Lewistown and St. Jude Parish in Mifflintown.

There are some Catholics who don’t believe in Christ’s presence in the Eucharist, or who go against the Church’s pro-life teachings, and catechists are charged with proclaiming the truth with charity, said Father Weary.

“We do not want to be defined as what we are against; we want to be defined by what we are for. That’s one of the criticisms of apologetics, that it’s too negative,” Father Weary said. “But not to do it at all is a disservice to our students. We want to be able to arm and equip them to defend the faith.”
Resurrection Catholic School in Lancaster Celebrates 30\textsuperscript{th} Anniversary

By Jen Reed  
*The Catholic Witness*

It’s an exciting year for students at Resurrection Catholic School in downtown Lancaster. From a red-carpet welcome on the first day of school in August and Italian ice treats in September, to an outdoor fall fest last week, school administrators and teachers are treating students to a special activity each month to mark Resurrection’s 30\textsuperscript{th} anniversary. The school was established in 1991 upon the consolidation of St. Mary, St. Joseph and St. Anthony of Padua Schools, which have a rich history of serving families and educating students for more than 166 years.

Resurrection Catholic School is located in the former St. Anthony’s School building, constructed in 1895. It is the oldest continuously operating Catholic school building in Lancaster County.

Today, Resurrection is supported by Assumption BVM, St. Joseph, St. Anthony of Padua and San Juan Bautista parishes in Lancaster, and St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Quarryville.

Current and former pastors of the supporting parishes joined Bishop Ronald Gainer in concelebrating a special Mass for the school’s anniversary on Thursday, November 11, gathering students, faculty and supporters at St. Anthony of Padua Church for the liturgy. Concelebrants were Father Bernardo Pistone, Father Matthew Morelli, Father Leo Goodman, Father Allan Wolfe and Father Pang Tcheou.

“Inviting the bishop to celebrate our 30\textsuperscript{th} anniversary Mass is an invitation to celebrate

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CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

Kindergarteners Amy Drahovsky and Alec Schober stand reverently during the Mass.
this milestone within the precepts of our faith, and what better celebration to have as a Catholic school,” said Principal Jeffrey Hughes.

“He’s excited for our children to be able to have Bishop Gainer as our celebrant for Mass. The students appreciate our pastors, too. We want them to know how awesome this occasion is. We’ve talked to them about how this anniversary is such an exciting day and time,” he added.

Resurrection Catholic School is a PreK-8 school, with 115 students and growing.

The school has a robust 1-to-1 program, in which students in grades 2-8 are supplied with their own Chromebook, and students in kindergarten and first grade have their own iPads.

Hughes said he hopes this anniversary year, provides students with a sense of being part of a connected Catholic family.

“The celebrations surrounding our anniversary give us a chance to be together and celebrate as an entire school community,” he said. “We have a wonderful family here.”

Learn more about Resurrection Catholic School at www.rcspa.org.

Students present Bishop Gainer with a painting of flowers made with their thumbprints.

“Excellent Academics
95% of our Elementary students score above the national average in Language skills.
90% of our Elementary students score above the national average in Reading.
85% of our Elementary students score above the national average in Math.

Affordable Tuition
We are committed to making Catholic education an affordable option for families. Financial Aid and Scholarship programs are available to help with the cost of attending our schools.

High Graduation Rates
Over 98% of our students graduate from High School.

College Scholarships
Annually over $40 Million in scholarship funds are offered to graduates of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Harrisburg.

Tuition Assistance and Scholarships are available. Learn more at a school near you.
Find a school at www.GoCatholicSchools.org

Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg • 4800 Union Deposit Road • Harrisburg, PA 17111 • (717) 657-4804
Making modifications to a season-long field show just days before the biggest marching band tournament of the year can be a risky gamble. Get it right, and a band can propel itself to the top of the score sheet; err just a bit, and judges’ scores can sink hopes for a championship.

For the York Catholic Marching Band, the risk was worth the reward. Alterations to its “Hephaestus’ Workshop” show three days prior to the Cavalcade of Bands Championship in Hershey spelled out sweet success, as the 33-member group took first place in the tournament.

The band scored a 91.585 with its performance, its highest score in remembered history, according to marching band director Cecelia Mezza.

“Our goal for the night was to earn a 90 and to leave it all on the field,” she said of their Nov. 14 performance at Hershey Park Stadium. “I was so happy for our students. They have worked so hard all season, and to have that recognized by surpassing their own goal was amazing.”

The band also earned the High Music Award for its division.

The Cavalcade title is the band’s second consecutive championship, having also reached the pinnacle with its first gold medal in 2019. Cavalcade of Bands did not have a championship in 2020 due to Covid safety concerns.

“Our students are amazing. They are the reason that we made it as far as we did,” said Mezza, who is chair of...
the school’s fine arts department. “They are dedicated, talented and willing to work hard every day, regardless of the weather. They put all of their energy into performing the show and communicating the storyline to the audience. It is so much easier to be apathetic and say that what we are doing is good enough, but the band didn’t do that. The band kept reaching for the next goal, and then the next. They are simply amazing people and we are so lucky that we get to teach them every day.”

Senior Emily Danczyk, the band’s high winds/clarinet section leader, credits the entire band’s dedication for the championship title, especially with the last-minute changes to the show. “Up until three days before championships, we were changing the drill, incorporating new visuals, cutting and rearranging show music,” she said. “Executing the show’s final songs were no longer muscle memory, as so many pieces changed. It took drive, initiative, honesty and determination from each student and staff member to make this happen.”

“Ms. Mezza always says, ‘Marching band is a sport of perfection,’ because each individual person must contribute their all to the whole, as there are no substitute performers, no off days, no redos,” Emily added.

This year’s drum majors are Nate Gingerich and Chris Gick.

“Marching band is a wonderful experience for those who want to develop and follow their passion for music,” Chris said. “I first joined the band my freshman year and I have always enjoyed playing music with my friends in the band. This activity helps people grow in their musical abilities and gives them an opportunity to meet new people in our school.”

“Being one of the drum majors, I had high standards for our band going to championships,” he added. “I was aware that our show was good enough to win first place. Since June, our band has been working extremely hard to make our show the best it could be, and I am very proud of all the YCMB members for their dedication to our show. I knew that what we performed Sunday night was very good, yet the first place announcement was still one that brought an immense amount of joy to everyone there.”

More than back-to-back championships, the York Catholic Marching Band is celebrating its bonds. “To me, marching band is all about family. I’ve met my best friends through marching band, and it has been incredibly special to perform with them these past six years, let alone stand together at Hershey Stadium to accept a first place championship win with a score over 90,” Emily said. “This season was incredibly fun to perform. Even though we were breaking school records at every competition, the scores were the last thing on my mind: first came wanting to enjoy the people I was surrounded by.”

Mezza hopes these connections, heightened by the Cavalcade championship, will ultimately be a boost for students and for the school. “For the students in the band, I hope this achievement solidifies for them that hard work pays off, and that when we work together we can achieve great things,” she said. “For many of our seniors, this is the culmination of six years of hard work. The tears of joy were flowing before we even left the field. The students knew they had given their all and already reached their goal of ‘leaving it all on the field.’”

“The YCMB staff is small but mighty. Mike McGuinness and Cheri Bogart help to make marching band a wonderful place to be every day. They are dedicated and hard working and support the students in everything they do. The band parents and families are the most supportive people you will ever meet. They serve pulled pork on Friday nights and travel to competitions on Saturdays. We could not have gotten here without all of them. This was truly a group effort,” Mezza said.

Learn more about York Catholic by visiting www.yorkcatholic.org.
November 24, 2021 • The Catholic WITNESS- 18

Trinity’s Impressive Two-Year Run Closes with State Silver

By Jen Reed
The Catholic Witness

The reigning District 3 Class 2A girls’ volleyball champs and defending PIAA gold medalists headed into this year’s state championship game on Nov. 20 seeking a back-to-back state title.

And regardless of the outcome, they knew it would be an emotional match, contested against District 7 juggernaut North Catholic.

“Coming into the game, I told some of my teammates, ‘No matter what happens today, there will be tears for so many different reasons,’” said senior Ryanne Whiteman, who plays libero.

Win or lose, it would be the final time this close-knit and storied team would play together. The Shamrocks graduate ten seniors after a year that saw just one defeat in the regular season, and one in which they lost 6-foot-5 senior Lauren Trumpy to a torn ACL but rallied to remain at the top of the rankings.

After a hard-fought game in front of a packed gymnasium of Trinity supporters at Cumberland Valley High School, the Shamrock’s state-title run came to an end, falling to North Catholic 25-20, 25-19 and 25-23.

And while there were tears of sadness when the Shamrocks lined up to receive their silver medals, the emotions seemed more about the end of a special team than about the loss of the game itself.

“I was trying to tell them not to cry, which is impossible because everyone is crying,” head coach John Barrick said of his post-game talk with the players. “We’re losing 10 seniors, we have a sister combo that’s not ever going to play together again. For us, we lost one of the top players in the state in Lauren, but we still managed to get here and we were very close to pulling it off. There’s not a lot of teams that can be that deep, so we’re very fortunate and blessed.”

Barrick gave credit to North Catholic, led on the floor by junior outside hitter Ally Feczko who had 25 kills on the day.

It was a closely-contested match most of the way, with the lead swinging between both teams by one or two points for much of the first two sets.

Trinity jumped out to a three-point lead early in the third – its biggest lead of the game – and led most of the final set until North Catholic tied it at 18. The momentum swing and North Catholic’s solid play was more than the Shamrocks could answer in defending their state title. North Catholic went on to win their second PIAA

More VOLLEYBALL, page 19
championship in three years.

“This past week, we sat down and talked a lot about having gas left in the tank,” Whiteman said. “Our practices are insanely intense. Our entire crew is so talented that we are going hard all of the time, and we knew that’s what we would have to do today. Today was an amazing day, and a really fun match. It was the most fun I’ve had this season. We knew it was going to be tough. [North Catholic] played their butts off on the other side of the court, and I give them full credit. They were amazing.”

Whiteman, a senior who will continue her volleyball career at Juniata College next year, offered some bolstering words for her Trinity teammates, too.

“As soon as the ball dropped to the floor for the final point and sadly landed in front of Jesslyn Ross, I immediately went to her and said, ‘You got this next season,’” Whiteman said. “The sophomore class is so talented, the juniors are going to lead the way as captains, and I think they will be here again next year. I want them to know that the seniors are by no means disappointed, because everyone gave all that they had.”

Coach Barrick is hopeful for next season, too, as Trinity returns 14 sophomores and juniors.

“When Lauren went down early in the season, I was able to look at my bench and say, ‘Ok, you’re next. You’re in,’” Barrick said of the depth. “If any positive could come out of it, it’s the player who ended up taking her spot – Melissa Zack – a sophomore. We didn’t have to wait until next year to get her in; here she is playing now. We went the whole way through the state tournament and she played great. I’m so pleased that she can be a firm foundation for us next year.”

“A while ago in our gym, we took one of our White Boards and drew a medal. We made 37 pie pieces out of it, and each person on the team signed their sliver of the pie piece to show how important each and every person is in our gym,” Barrick said. “Even if they’re not playing, they play so hard at practice, giving it everything they have every single day, and that shows up on the court. Those who don’t play are so enthusiastic, and we need that. It’s important to have all that support behind us at all times.”
By Chris Heisey
The Catholic Witness

If you are playing a home game in November in the District 3 football championships, it means one thing – you have had quite a successful season. And that is what the Fighting Irish of York Catholic had this year.

On a calm but cold and frosty Friday night, Nov. 12, York Catholic beat the Trojans of Upper Dauphin in every aspect of the game to easily win, 35-8, to capture the District 3 Class 2A championship.

“It feels great,” Head Coach Eric DePew said after the game, drenched by cold water after his elated players dumped the cooler on him in celebration. “We had a bad taste from last season’s championship [a loss to Camp Hill]. From day one, these kids talked about winning the District 3 championship. And they did it. This is just a great group of kids to coach.”

Upper Dauphin was no slouch coming in. Averaging nearly 50 points a game, the Trojans use every trick in the book offensively, totally designed around counter misdirection and stealth ball faking. The Fighting Irish held the potent Trojan offense scoreless the first half taking a 28-0 lead into halftime behind the stellar play of quarterback Levan McFadden, who directed the Irish offense with several great throws and nifty runs.

The Trojans also self-destructed with numerous motion penalties that put them in long yardage downs, and when they fell behind they turned the ball over to a York Catholic defense that hunted the ball on every down.

The 10-0 Fighting Irish celebrated heartily after the game with a sense of satisfaction in avenging last season’s district disappointment. In the state quarterfinals, the Fighting Irish fell 24-7 to the Burrs of West Catholic in Philadelphia, which is a program familiar with playing deep into the state playoffs every season. Class 2A football in Pennsylvania is loaded with programs that win convincingly at every level, with the likes of Southern Columbia, Mount Carmel, Beaver Falls, and West Catholic.

York Catholic belongs in that great class above. They have had the successful seasons to prove it, and one gets the feeling that a signature win at the next level is a taste not so far off for the Fighting Irish.

York Catholic Wins its 3rd District Football Championship in Six Years

York Catholic celebrates the 3rd District 3 title in six years in rousing fashion.

CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

York Catholic’s Isaiah Dyer gets behind an Upper Dauphin to score on a fly pattern.
Squire Country boasts an illustrious history of playing great football across ten decades at Delone Catholic, and playing for District 3 championships has become a time-honored tradition come every chilly November.

Not since 2012, however, has Delone Catholic been able to bring the gold hardware back home to Squire Country. One reason is that Steel High has become the obstacle to winning the Class 1A championship. Last season the Squires fell at home to the Rollers, and this year on a wet then cold and breezy Nov. 12 at War Memorial Stadium on Cottage Hill in Steelton, the Squires lost 42-20 in a closer game than the scoreboard told.

The Squires converted a sloppy Roller handoff in the first two minutes of the game to jump out to a 7-0 lead. And for much of the first half, the Squires held Steel High’s potent and speedy offense in check. Tied 7-7 with only 30 seconds left in the first half, the Squires played a solid 23½ minutes of football to hang with a team that puts speed and quickness at just about every position. It is why Steel High won a state championship last season.

But a shanked punt set up an easy touchdown with just seconds left in the first half, and never again did Delone have momentum in the game. When the Rollers scored on their first possession of the second half to make it 21-7, the air from the Squires collectively was lost in the 20mph breeze whipping across Cottage Hill.

The Squires struggled with their kicking game and also turned the ball over several times. If you’re going to beat Steel High with a seasoned, though still underclassman Alex Zerby at quarterback, the Squires needed to play almost a flawless football game to beat a Roller program also on their home turf.

Delone Catholic controlled the line of scrimmage all game as they usually do, and that too is a tradition in Squire Country. The Squires rarely get beat up front – but miscues that lead to falling behind by a couple of scores puts pressure on their Wing-T counter offense game, which is not designed to dig out of steep deficits in an old, rusty steel town where winning is also a time-honored tradition.
By Shannon Mullen
*Catholic News Agency*

The U.S. Catholic bishops overwhelmingly voted to approve a new document on the Eucharist Wednesday that highlights the sacrament’s indispensable role in the life of the Church.

The vote, coming during the annual fall assembly of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore, was 222 to 8, with three abstentions.

Voting was anonymous and conducted electronically. A two-thirds majority was necessary for the document’s adoption.

The product of months of debate and revisions, the final text avoids any overt references to whether bishops and priests ought to deny Communion to public figures at odds with Catholic teaching on abortion and other moral issues.

Instead, the document aims to initiate a new emphasis on catechizing Catholics about the meaning and importance of the Eucharist, in response to what many bishops see as a worrisome decline in belief in the sacrament as the real presence of the body and blood of Jesus Christ.

In an interview with CNA prior to the vote, Archbishop Samuel Aquila of Denver explained that the document seeks “to present a clear understanding of the Church’s teachings to bring heightened awareness among the faithful of how the Eucharist can transform our lives and bring us closer to our creator and the life he wants for us.”

In addition to approving the document, titled “The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church,” the bishops approved a strategic plan for a three-year Eucharist revival campaign. The vote was 201 to 17 in favor of the revival campaign, with five abstentions. The initiative is to include the development of new teaching materials, training for diocesan and parish leaders, the launch of a dedicated revival website, and the deployment of a special team of 50 priests who will travel the country to preach about the Eucharist.

The campaign will culminate with a National Eucharistic Congress in July 2024 in Indianapolis, Bishop-designate Andrew H. Cozzens of Crookston, Minn., announced Wednesday. Cozzens, who is heading the revival effort as chairman of the USCCB’s Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis, said the congress would be the first of its kind in the United States in nearly 50 years. Previously, Cozzens said, such national Eucharistic events were held once a decade.

“I see this as really kind of a wonderful convergence of events, leading us through this Eucharistic revival to this Eucharistic Congress. I stand to speak strongly in favor of it,” Bishop James D. Conley of Lincoln, Neb. said.

“I am very hopeful that it will produce the great fruits that all my brother bishops are praying for and hoping for during these days, including helping people in the course of the revival to rediscover the beauty of the Mass and return to Mass,” he said.

“I think we’re on the cusp and on the verge of something truly impactful and wonderful for the Church in the United States,” Bishop Conley said. “I think this might be just what we need.”

The few bishops who spoke during a brief discussion prior to the vote on the document on the Eucharist proposed only minor changes to the wording of certain passages, none of which were approved. The bishops held a closed-door executive session on Monday to allow for more substantive discussion.
about the document.

The two sections of the 30-page Eucharist document are “The Gift,” which centers on the Eucharist as a gift from Christ through his incarnation, death, and resurrection, and “Our Response,” which focuses on gratitude for the gift of the Eucharist, the role the laity play in regards to reception of the Eucharist, and the importance of the Eucharist in conversion.

“The Lord accompanies us in many ways, but none as profound as when we encounter him in the Eucharist,” the document states.

“When we receive Holy Communion, Christ is giving himself to us. He comes to us all in humility, as he came to us in the Incarnation, so that we may receive him and be one with him,” says the text.

While the document does not provide any criteria for denying the sacrament to someone not in communion with Church teaching, the text does explain the differences between venial and mortal sins, and says that a Catholic in a state of mortal sin should not receive the Eucharist until they have gone to Confession and received absolution.

“While all our failures to do what is right damage our communion with God and each other, they fall into different categories, reflecting different degrees of severity,” the document states.

“There are some sins, however, that do rupture the communion we share with God and the Church,” the document states.

“As the Church has consistently taught, a person who receives Holy Communion while in a state of mortal sin not only does not receive the grace of the sacrament, he or she commits the sin of sacrilege by failing to show the reverence due to the Body and Blood of Christ,” the document explains.

The document states “the reception of Holy Communion entails one’s communion with the Church in this visible dimension,” and restates the text of the 2006 document from the bishops concerning Catholics in public life.

“If a Catholic in his or her personal or professional life were knowingly and obstinately to reject the defined doctrines of the Church, or knowingly and obstinately to repudiate her definitive teaching on moral issues, however, he or she would seriously diminish his or her communion with the Church,” the new document states, repeating the bishops’ 2006 guidance.

“Reception of Holy Communion in such a situation,” the guidance states, “would not accord with the nature of the Eucharistic celebration, so that he or she should refrain.”
Santiago Alberione’s feast day is November 26. He was born on April 4, 1884, the fourth of six children in a devout working class family in San Lorenzo di Fossano, Cuneo, Italy. From a young age, he felt God calling him, and on his first day of school when the teacher asked him what he wanted to be when he grew up, he responded, “I want to be a priest.”

This desire of his came true when he entered the seminary in Alba. During the night of December 31, 1900 to January 1, 1901, while still in the seminary, he prayed for four hours in front of the Blessed Sacrament. He saw a light shine forth from the Host, and from that moment he had an unusually powerful certainty that God was calling him to do something for the people of the new century.

He was ordained on June 29, 1907 and was assigned to a parish in Narzole. He served as spiritual director for youth and altar servers in the Alba seminary beginning October 1, 1908, and in September of 1913 he became director of the weekly publication Gazzetta d’Alba.

He founded the Society of Saint Paul on August 20, 1914, the Daughters of Saint Paul on June 15, 1915, the Sisters Disciples of the Divine Master on February 10, 1924, and the Sisters of Jesus Good Shepherd in Rome in August 1936.

These congregations, under his leadership and still today, publish books and other materials for spreading of the word of God, thus fulfilling his intense conviction at the turn of the century of helping to educate the people.

During the course of his priestly and parochial ministry, he grew in the certainty that his call was to reach out to as many people as possible using new technology and media. To this end, he founded the Pauline family. The family grew, as there was an increase in both men’s and women’s vocations, and the apostolate began to take shape rapidly. He founded various women’s orders whose charisms were the publication and dissemination of books, and ministry to pastors, among other things.

Alberione’s work can best be summed up in the words of Pope Paul VI, who never held back his admiration for the Pauline ministry: “Father Alberione has given the Church new instruments with which to express herself, new means with which to invigorate herself and to amplify her apostolate, new capacity, and a new consciousness of the validity and the possibility of her mission in the modern world with modern means.

He died on November 26, 1971 in Rome, and was beatified by Pope John Paul II on April 27, 2003.
The Prayer of Thanksgiving

By Sister Geralyn Schmidt
The Catholic Witness

In the series of articles about prayer that I am currently working through, we have looked at what Father Eamon Tobin described in *13 Powerful Ways to Pray* as the four keys of effective prayer. From here, I would like muse over what Father describes as the ways to pray.

The first one, as described by Father Tobin, is the Prayer of Thanksgiving. Back in October, I conducted a teacher retreat for the York Deanery on the topic of gratitude. Did you ever realize that there is a distinct difference between thanksgiving and gratitude, even though we use the words interchangeably? Gratitude is a virtue that calls us to rejoice in what is. It is expressed in joy. This is such an important virtue that the Roman lawyer and statesman, Cicero, declared, “Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues but the parent of all other virtues.”

Gratitude is different from thankfulness. According to Webster, (www.merriam-webster.com) thankfulness is a habitual automatic response that often happens in a short moment and is often rooted within feelings. It is often the first step in being truly thankful. Gratitude, on the other hand, denotes a lifestyle that involves the heart. It not only involves feelings but also a decision of action, a willingness to sacrifice for another.

So, in my mind, living a lifestyle of gratitude includes one of thankfulness as well. But, what does that look like? Father Tobin declares, “In the prayer of thanksgiving, we give gratitude to God for his loving activity in creation, in the lives of others, and in our own lives. … Developing a grateful heart toward God is beneficial to our mental and spiritual well-being.”

For me, it goes a bit deeper than that because it welcomes a sense of awe into life. That awe gives us a space to welcome the sacred into our hearts. It can give us true freedom since it brings about humility and reverence for others.

This attitude is a stepping stone toward being grateful to God. Reflect on what the amazing gifts of the Incarnation, the Eucharist, His death and resurrection, the Holy Spirit mean to every person that ever came into existence. Without some sense of gratitude to God, a form of spiritual amnesia can creep over our souls. The result? The attitude, “I got it together. I can do it all by myself.” Doesn’t this echo in a small way the sin of our first parents when they hankered to be like God?

But how does one actually pray their thanksgiving? Father Tobin gives us four examples:

1. The Mass is the great prayer of thanksgiving for Catholic Christians. The word *Eucharist* means “thanksgiving.” We can attend a weekday Mass and use it as our prayer of thanksgiving for some particular blessing in our lives.

2. We can use the five decades of the Rosary to give thanks to God for five specific blessings in our lives. It can't be emphasized enough how important it is to actually name what we see are the blessings in our lives.

3. We can give thanks by share our blessings with others.

4. We can compose and pray our own personal litany of thanksgiving. Let us constantly bow our heads in thanks for a God that loves us infinitely!


Eamon, pg. 75.
**OBITUARIES**

The names of the following deceased persons have been submitted by their parishes. Please remember in your prayers the happy repose of these recently departed souls and the consolation of their loved ones.

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Masses & Prayer Services

An ecumenical, interreligious candlelight remembrance service for anyone who has experienced the death of a friend, family member or loved one to suicide will take place Sunday, Dec. 12 at 6 p.m. at Sacred Heart Basilica in Conewago. For more information, please contact Sue Poist at 717-624-2055 or smpoist@hotmail.com. All are welcome, no matter when the suicide occurred. This service is a time for us all to come together to know you are not alone.

Caelorum at St. Joan of Arc Church in Hershey, Dec. 1 at 7 p.m. Join your brothers and sisters in Christ as we come together to adore, praise and worship our Lord and Savior. Feel the power of his presence and never-failing love as he attends to your needs and strengthens and blesses you with his abundant mercy. For more information, call 717-215-4175.

The St. Katharine Drexel Parish Council of Catholic Women will sponsor an Advent Evening of Reflection at St. Katharine Drexel Church in Mechanicsburg. His theme will be “Waiting” — the essence of Advent and a huge part of our walk or faith.

Women of Grace upcoming studies and events: First Saturday at Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Harrisburg, Dec. 4, with breakfast at Skyline Diner following Rosary, Mass and Adoration. Women of Grace foundational study (in-person) winter/spring 2022 at Holy Name of Jesus Parish. Johnnette Benkovic Williams will return to Holy Name in Harrisburg for a one-day conference on Saturday, April 2, 2022. Additional Young Women of Grace retreat for girls 12-17 years of age! For info, contact Chris Arnold at carnold@womenofgrace.com or 717-379-6041.

Retreats & Pilgrimages

“Advent Retreat Day Enjoy,” a guided retreat, in person or virtually, will be presented by Sister Jean Marie Holup, SS.C.M., on Dec. 4 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. This guided retreat will focus on the “special spiritual gifts” we will unwrap and rewrap as we wait in joyful and hope-filled anticipation of Christ’s coming. For more details and to register by Nov. 29, visit http://www.sscm.org or call 570-275-3581.

Christmas Bazaars

St. Peter Parish in Columbia will host its annual Christmas bazaar following all Masses the weekend of December 4 and 5 in the Parish Center. A ham dinner will be available for eat-in or take-out on Sunday, December 5 following the 10:30 a.m. Mass.

St. Rita Parish in Blue Ridge Summit will host a Kringle Fest on Dec. 4 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Christmas wreaths, Christmas centerpieces and more will be on sale.

Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Elysburg will have its Christmas bazaar on Dec. 11 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. The bazaar will feature 40 crafters and vendors, raffles, delicious food, holly bread sale, Christmas cookie trays and a basket raffle.

The Women’s’ Auxiliary of St. Philip the Apostle Parish in Millersville will host its annual craft show on Dec. 4 from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. More than 50 vendors will be selling their handmade wares. Books will be sold by the Friends of the Lancaster Public Library, and baked goods, food and drinks will be available for purchase. Free parking and admission.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Spring Grove’s 38th annual Christmas bazaar, Dec. 4 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Event will feature two floors of vendors, breakfast with Santa, food served all day, bake sale, more than 30 raffle items, a silent auction.
kids’ activity room, and much more. Please visit our website for more information: https://www.sacredheartsg.com/2021-christmas-bazaar.

Events & Fundraisers

All-you-can-eat pancake breakfast at Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg, Nov. 27 from 7-11 a.m. Proceeds benefit the McDevitt Swimming and Diving Team. $10 for ages 12 and up, $5 for ages 6-11, ages 5 and under are free. Presale tickets and other information are available at swimming@bishopmcdevitt.org.

York Catholic Middle & High School will be open to the public on Wednesday, Dec. 1, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. for families who want to take a tour while classes are in session. One of the YC Student Ambassadors will escort families and let them observe a typical school day. All visitors will have a chance to meet with the Admissions Director to have questions answered. If you have any questions prior to “Welcome Wednesday,” please contact Heather Hoffman, Director of Admissions & Enrollment, at 717-846-8871, ext. 220 or hhoffman@yorkcatholic.org.

2022 CDA National Education Contest: Lancaster Court Queen of Peace #1023 of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas invites all youth in grades 4-12 from all schools -public, private, parochial, home, and cyber - to enter our 2022 National Education Contest. 2022 themes are, “With God All Things Are Possible” Mt. 19:26 and “Where is God in my life when I am struggling?” Enter one or more contests in art, essay, poetry, computer art, music and photography in your division. Go to http://www.catholicdaughters.org/ then under “members,” select “forms” and go to “contests” for contest rules and details, or visit https://www.catholicdaughters.org/documents/2021/9/2022%20Education%20Contest_English-1.pdf. Entries must be postmarked by or delivered to Margaret T. Giordano, Education Contest Chairman, 1530 Hollywood Drive, Lancaster, PA 17601 by Feb. 1, 2022. All first-place local winners will be entered in the state education contest, and first-place state winners will be entered at the national level. An awards ceremony for local winners will be planned for late May or early June 2022. Feel free to leave a voice message at 717-390-9035 if you have any questions.

Knights of Columbus Council 628 and The Christopher Club in Mount Carmel will sponsor the annual “Blessing of the Manger” on Dec. 11 at 7:15 p.m. The program will take place in the beautifully decorated social room. Local priests and members of the Mount Carmel Ministerium will participate. This is a community event which is open everyone. Refreshments and holiday snacks and cookies will be available.

Members of the Knights of Columbus Council 628 and The Christopher Club in Mount Carmel will participate in a Christmas Caroling program with the Mount Carmel Area Ministerium, Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. in the Mount Carmel Town Park. Hot chocolate and hot dogs will be available. Look for the arrival of St. Nick and Santa Claus.

Knights of Columbus Council 10502 from Holy Spirit Parish in Palmyra is sponsoring their annual coat drive the weekend of Nov. 27 and 28. Please drop off new and used coats in good condition, of any size, in the bins in the narthex of the church located at 300 West Pine Street, Palmyra. The items will be distributed to Lebanon County Christian Ministries and the Bethesda Mission in Harrisburg on Dec. 1. Coats only; please do not donate clothing.

St. Joseph Church in York will host Epiphany concerts at 7 p.m. on Friday, January 7 and Saturday, January 8, 2022. Churches from the greater York area are being invited to showcase their varied musical groups, choirs, ensembles and soloists to celebrate a joyful Christmas season and a spirit of community friendship. Refreshments will be served.

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throughout the evening. All are welcome to join us in celebrating. If interested in participating, please contact Stephen Falencki, St. Joseph Church York Music Ministry, at Falencki@sjy.org or 717-755-7503, ext. 248.

Knights of Columbus Council #3625 of Prince of Peace Parish in Steelton is hosting an all-you-can-eat breakfast on Dec. 5 from 9 a.m.-noon in the parish center gymnasium. Cost is $9 for adults, $6 for children 6-12 and free for children 5 and under. Includes eggs, pancakes, sausage, bacon, blueberry muffins, juice, coffee or tea.

St. James Men’s Club in Lititz will host a special bingo, Nov. 28 in the St. James Parish Social Hall. Doors open at 12:30 p.m., and games start at 2 p.m. There is a $1,000 guaranteed jackpot. For more information, call 717-333-5620.

Trinity High School in Camp Hill is holding a “Merry Little Christmas Raffle.” Try your luck at winning more than 30 gift cards or cash prizes. A drawing will be held each day from Dec. 1-Jan. 1. Winning tickets will be thrown back in the pot, so each ticket has the chance to win many times. For the calendar or order form, see the event on Trinity’s Facebook page, or e-mail communications@thsrocks.us.

The Notre Dame Chorale will commence their 2022 Winter Tour with a performance at Saint Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg, on Monday, Jan. 3. The Chorale performance will begin at 7 p.m. This is their first performance as part of the Winter Tour, which is leading up to the Chorale’s international tour in May 2022. The Chorale is being hosted by the Notre Dame Club of Harrisburg. Event is free, but donations will be accepted.

Good Shepherd Parish in Camp Hill is sponsoring a deluxe motor coach bus to the 2022 March for Life on Friday, January 21. Round trip from Good Shepherd will be from 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m. with a requested donation of $25/person. Contact 717-761-1167, ext. 3613, or dsalldin@thegoodshep.org for information/reservations.

Our Mother of Perpetual Help School in Ephrata will host a Virtual Information Session for families interested in learning more about OMPH School’s full-day Preschool and full-day Kindergarten programs. The session will be on Nov. 30 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. Those attending the virtual session will hear from school leadership and OMPH Preschool and Kindergarten teachers about the importance of Preschool education in preparation for Kindergarten, STEM activities during a typical day in Kindergarten, and more. Information on the admissions process, along with a virtual tour, will also be shared. Registration is required to receive the Zoom link. For more information or to register, please email OMPH School’s Enrollment Office at enrollment@omph.org or visit the school’s web site at www.omphschool.com.

Job Openings

The Diocese of Harrisburg is seeking to fill an administrative assistant position in the Secretariat of Catholic Life and Evangelization. Must be a mission-oriented team player with an eye for detail. This position provides administrative support for department ministries, events and programs, screens phone calls and greets visitors, manages the department calendar and event logistics, maintains office supplies, acts as the assistant camp director for the Diocesan camp for persons with disabilities, and manages youth protection clearances for program volunteers. The successful candidate must be a Catholic in good standing with advanced verbal, interpersonal and written communication skills, the ability to develop project timelines and meet deadlines, be respectful and courteous, have initiative and a spirit of innovation, and be able to work independently and collaboratively. Candidates must have a high school diploma or GED and previous work experience as an administrative assistant.

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assistant or similar role. Must have proficiency with MS Office programs, web browsers and familiarity with office equipment. The ability to speak Spanish is a plus. This position offers a competitive salary & benefits package. To view the full job description, please visit www.hbgdiocese.org/careers. To apply, please send a résumé and cover letter to employment@hbgdiocese.org by Friday, Nov. 26.

The track and field team at Trinity High School in Camp Hill is seeking a throws coach. For details, visit thsrocks.us/employment.

Custodian Job Opening at Mother Cabrini Parish in Shamokin. Effective immediately, the parish invites interested applicants to contact the parish office to pick up a job description for the position of parish custodian at Mother Cabrini. The position is for 25 hours/week. Appropriate references and clearances will be necessary. Please contact Jen Seidel at the parish office, 570-648-4512, ext. 211, with any questions.

Morning Star Pregnancy Services (MSPS) is seeking a Graphic Design and Communications Manager. MSPS provides no-cost services to women and men facing unplanned pregnancies in our community. The Graphic Design and Communications Manager is responsible for providing a broad range of communications, marketing and graphic design services and support to our client services and advancement team. This position will advertise MSPS to potential clients, as well as encourage, maintain and increase philanthropic and community support to meet the short-term and long-term needs of MSPS. These activities shall be consistent with MSPS mission, vision, Christian core operational values and beliefs. Visit our website for the full job description: http://www.supportmorningstar.com/get-involved/job-openings/. Please send résumé and cover letter to sdiecidue@supportmorningstar.com. Please call 717-734-4630 for inquiries.

St. Leo the Great School in Rohrerstown is seeking a Social Studies middle school teacher to begin Dec. 1. Candidates must have a history of academic excellence, positive attitude, teamwork skills, and devotion to our Catholic identity. Teachers will be responsible for developing rigorous lesson plans, design and develop digital-age learning experiences and assessments daily, grade book management and assessments. A balanced program of direct instruction and sustained seatwork should offset extended periods of exploration and innovative hands-on lessons. Familiarity with Chromebooks, Google Education and its suite of applications is desirable. Our teachers collaborate in team meetings to ensure best practices and student growth. Candidate will need to submit current background clearances and an active Pennsylvania certification for Social Studies Grades 4-8 or similar certification like Citizen education. Qualified candidates should complete and submit to the Diocese of Harrisburg a teacher application, available at: https://www.hbgdiocese.org/catholic-schools/employment-applications/. Interested candidates should also contact Mrs. Christine McLean, Principal, at 717-394-1742, ext. 3, or principal@stleoschool.org.

St. Patrick School in Carlisle is looking for a motivated leader to oversee its before-school and after-school childcare program, CARES. Position is full-time, year-round with benefits. An early childhood degree and experience working with children is preferred. Responsibilities include: child care of all ages, although the director’s main focus is on students ages 3-4; oversight of childcare for all school-age participants, up to age 14; collection and maintenance of state compliance paperwork; oversight of classroom materials; management of part-time CARES workers (about 13 people), including training and scheduling; communication with parents, teachers, staff about student attendance, behavior, etc.; completion of daily usage paperwork; planning activities for students; and coordination of billing. Interested applicants should send a résumé and cover letter to Principal Antoinette Oliverio at aoliverio@spscarlisle.org or Saint Patrick School, 87 Marsh Drive, Carlisle, PA 17015 by Nov. 30.