

# The Catholic WITNESS

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## Golden Anniversaries Serve as a Testament for Marriage

By Rachel Bryson, M.S.  
*The Catholic Witness*

The year was 1969. Apollo 11 landed on the moon, Sesame Street debuted, gas was 35 cents a gallon and Woodstock attracted more than 350,000 rock and roll fans. The year also saw the marriage of more than 340 couples in the Diocese of Harrisburg.

More than 100 of those 347 couples were recently recognized during a special Mass celebrated by Bishop Ronald Gainer. The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass, annually hosted by the Diocesan Office of Family and Respect Life Ministries, the Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women and the Senior Adult Ministry, was celebrated at Good Shepherd Church in Camp Hill on Sunday, July 14. Surrounded by family members, friends and other loved ones, the golden anniversary couples took this opportunity to renew their commitments to each other, to God and to the Church.

"Let me say congratulations to our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary couples and what a joy it is to gather together with you, with your families and friends in this Diocesan celebration," said Bishop Gainer. "Our records show that there were 347 couples in our Diocese who this year are celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. What a great blessing and what a great witness you all give to this beautiful sacrament Christ has given to us in the Church."

"A wedding anniversary doesn't just celebrate the passing of time. Fifty years is a long time and it's a wonderful testimony to both of you, to each of you spouses and all of you together, of the commitment you made on your wedding day. For better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, whatever life held in store for you, you would remain faithful



A couple renews their wedding vows during the Diocese's annual 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass at Good Shepherd Church in Camp Hill on July 14.

to those wedding vows," continued Bishop Gainer. "So we celebrate not just 50 years, but fidelity through

those 50 years. We live in a world that it is becoming more and more likely that people don't keep their promises. Words are spoken and taken lightly. But you spoke those words from the core of your being and you have remained faithful through these years to what you said before God and one another and the Church. For that we thank you. You are more valuable than any homily or sermon I could preach today because your lives give witness to the teaching of the Church. Your lives give witness of the love Christ has for his Church,

which is embodied in the love you have for one another, and your love for your families."

### Recommitment

"Blessed are you, Lord, for in the good and the bad times of our life you have stood lovingly by our side. Help us, we pray, to remain faithful in our love for one another, so that we may be true witnesses to the covenant you have made with humankind." With these words and a blessing from Bishop

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and support for children



## Wedding Mass

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Gainer, and among their families and friends, the 140 couples attending recommitted themselves to each other, just as they did 50 years ago.

"The best thing is that we were friends before we got married. We loved the companionship and just being together. Having your 'best friend' become someone you can trust

and share everything with," said Hans and Marge Mijoc-ovic from St. Patrick Parish in Carlisle.

"Our faith in God and His mother keep us from stumbling around in the dark," said Leonard and Janet Buckley from Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Conewago. "All the major decisions in our life were made with prayer."

"We always prayed and worshipped together and always kept our third partner in the

marriage, the Lord, the center of our relationship," said Fred and Barbara Persing from Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Mount Carmel.

"Being of the same faith has given us a solid foundation and a way to handle life's ups and downs. We realize that neither of us is perfect," added George and Patricia Delaney from St. Joseph Parish in Mechanicsburg. "Our faith has given us opportunities to meet and to form close relationships with people who share similar values and lifestyles."

"Love and faith reinforce each other, with both providing something that you can count on and which will always be there when you need it the most," said Lee and Barbara Woodmansee from St. Rose of Lima Parish in York.

Serving as a testament for marriage, the couples celebrating had some advice to give those just starting their marriages.

"Making God your number one priority, respect for each other's feelings, good communication daily, learning to listen, making small sacrifices for each other, complimenting one another, but most importantly, keeping your love strong, that way you will achieve unity in your family," advised Juan and Anais Ortiz from St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Lancaster.

"Communicate, cooperate, be affectionate, be honest and responsible, be as selfless as possible," said the Delaneys. "Have both common and differing interests, as well as a good sense of humor, and a fair amount of maturity."

For more photos from the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass, visit the Diocese of Harrisburg's Facebook page. More information and resources on the Diocesan marriage and family ministry can be found on Marriage and Family page of our website, [www.hbgdiocese.org](http://www.hbgdiocese.org).



Thomas and Mary Ann Staub present the gifts to Bishop Ronald Gainer.



### BISHOP GAINER'S PUBLIC CALENDAR

**August 10** – Ordination of Brother Thomas Mary of Jesus to the Hermits of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Fairfield, St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg, 10 a.m.

**August 15** – Celebrate Mass at Diocesan Summer Camp for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Camp Kirchenwald, Lebanon, 10:30 a.m.

**August 17** – Present Cursillo Workshop, Diocesan Center, Harrisburg.

**August 18** – Attend Anniversary Mass for Bishop Brandt, Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Greensburg, Pa., 3 p.m.

## The Catholic WITNESS

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE  
DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

The mission of *The Catholic Witness* is to be of personal and practical help as we try to be loyal and true witnesses for Christ in our daily living, spiritual and temporal, in private and in public.

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Father Stephen Kelley, pastor of Holy Trinity Parish in Columbia, celebrates with his parents, Philip and Brenda.



Father Jonathan Sawicki, Diocesan Vocations Director, with his jubilarian parents, Mary and Frank.



John and Mary Ann Boyarski were among the couples celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this year.

## Correction

The Mother Maria Kaupas Center, which was recently awarded a \$2,800 grant through the Matthew 25 program, will use the majority of these fund to establish a diaper bank for families in need. This information was incorrectly reported in the July 5 issue of *The Catholic Witness*. We apologize for the misinformation.





CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

Representatives of the Pennsylvania Knights of Columbus State Council recently presented Bishop Ronald Gainer with an icon of St. Jean Vianney that accompanied the nine-month, national tour of the saint's heart which concluded in Harrisburg in June. The pilgrimage of the first-class relic was sponsored by the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus, and its final stop was at St. Catherine Labouré Church in Harrisburg on June 13. The relic's appearance in the Diocese was arranged with the assistance of the state council. Shown from left are Mark Jago, State Deputy; Father (Col.) Gregory J. D'Emma, State Chaplain; David Kern, Harrisburg Diocesan Membership Chairman; and Bishop Gainer.

## Welcoming the Refugee and Migrant: A Catholic Perspective

August 15 at 7 p.m.

Cathedral Hall, 212 State Street, Harrisburg

The humanitarian crisis at our country's southern border and treatment of refugees, migrants and asylum seekers raise many questions and call each of us as Catholics to respond.

Do you know that our Catholic faith teaches us to welcome the migrant and the refugee? Do you know the difference between a refugee, migrant and asylum seeker? Why are refugees fleeing their countries to settle in the United States? What is going on at the southern border? How is the Catholic Church responding? What is the experience of refugees that have settled in the U.S.? What can we as individual Catholics do?

Learn the answers to these and other questions at a free program hosted by the Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick's Mercy Matters Committee, the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference and Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg Immigration and Refugee Services. The event will take place on Thursday, Aug. 15, at 7 p.m. in Cathedral Hall. No registration is necessary.

## Dr. Scott Hahn to Present at Event in New Oxford in August

Well-known Catholic author and speaker Dr. Scott Hahn will return to New Oxford on Aug. 24 for a day-long event, sponsored by Breadbox Media – the national, Catholic, podcasting network operating within the Diocese of Harrisburg. Dr. Hahn will deliver three talks throughout the day: Silent Knight, Holy Knight; The First Society; and The Hour is Coming.

Pete Socks, Breadbox Media General Manager and a member of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Conewago, is looking forward to bringing Dr. Hahn back to the area.

"Last time we had Scott here was in 2014, and the event was a huge success," he said. "This year, I look to build upon that success and also introduce people to what Breadbox Media is all about. This event is Breadbox Media's first regional conference, and it is exciting to have Scott Hahn as our first speaker, and I look forward to seeing everyone there."

Dr. Hahn holds the Father Michael Scanlan Chair of Biblical Theology and the New Evangelization at Franciscan University of Steubenville, where he has taught since 1990 and is the Founder and President of the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology. In 2005, he was appointed as the Pope Benedict XVI Chair of Biblical Theology and Liturgical Proclamation at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pa. Dr. Hahn is also the bestselling author of numerous books, including *The Lamb's Supper* and *Reasons to Believe* and *Signs of Life*. He lives in Steubenville, Ohio.

The event will be at the New Oxford High School Auditorium, 130 Berlin Rd., New Oxford. Doors open at 8 a.m., and the day will conclude at approximately 3 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and include lunch. Visit Breadbox Media at [www.breadboxmedia.com/paconference/](http://www.breadboxmedia.com/paconference/) to purchase tickets via credit card, or register by contacting Pete Socks at 717-521-3137 or [pete.socks@breadboxmedia.com](mailto:pete.socks@breadboxmedia.com). Checks can be made payable to Breadbox Media and sent to 70 Race Track Rd., Hanover, PA 17331.

Breadbox Media is a national, Catholic, podcasting network featuring over 60 shows from Lisa Hendey, Catholic Answers, Scott Hahn, John Michael Talbot, Father Dwight Longenecker, Women in the New Evangelization, the Diocese of Harrisburg, and more. You can find their complete lineup at [www.breadboxmedia.com](http://www.breadboxmedia.com).



PRESENTS

# THE 177 PROJECT

AN EVENING OF ADORATION AND MUSIC



WITH SPECIAL GUEST



LEE ROESSLER

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th**

7 pm–9 pm

**Saint Catherine Labouré Church**

4000 Derry Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17111

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th**

7 pm–9 pm

**St. Joseph Catholic Church**

410 E. Simpson St.  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

**FREE ADMISSION. COME LET US ADORE HIM!**



# Colleagues in Education Remember Maretta Schmidt as Christian Model of Grace, Generosity, Encouragement

By Jen Reed  
The Catholic Witness

*"The full measure of a man is not to be found in the man himself, but in the colors and textures that come alive in others because of him."*

These words from Albert Schweitzer were one of several inspirational quotes and prayers embedded in Maretta Schmidt's e-mail signature – words that fittingly define the imprint she left on those who knew her.

Schmidt, who served as principal and Assistant Superintendent in the Diocese of Harrisburg, died on July 8 at UPMC Pinnacle Osteopathic Community Hospital in Harrisburg, following a battle with breast cancer. She was 72.

The funeral Mass was celebrated July 20 at St. Matthew Church in Dauphin, where Schmidt and her husband, Donald, were parishioners.

Colleagues are remembering Schmidt as a grace-filled mentor and friend who celebrated their joys, consoled them in grief, and modeled kindness and encouragement.

"The first word that comes to mind when I think of Maretta is 'grace' – grace in the way she always carried herself and grace in the way she handled all of the difficulties that came her way," said Ryan Bolster, Director of the Diocesan Office of Adult Education and Catechist Formation.

A private person, Schmidt was not one to dwell on her own challenges and difficulties – including the stroke her husband suffered and her bouts with cancer. But in her trials, she was a model for others.

"Maretta provided for me a tremendous witness to the sanctity of marriage with her unflinching devotion to Don," Bolster reflected. "From the many stories she told about their lives together before his stroke, it was obvious that she mourned the life they once had. And yet, her love for him was so clear in the way she cared for him and devoted herself to him.... She set an example of what married love and fidelity is to look like, especially when life does not turn out the way it is planned on the wedding day."

Father Edward Quinlan, who retired as Diocesan Secretary for Education on June 30, first met the Schmidt family in 1999, when he was appointed pastor of St. Matthew Parish.

He said he watched as Schmidt faced the challenges of her husband's health with "immense grace."

"She spent the rest of her days caring for him as well as maintaining her work responsibilities," he said.

## 'Our Time was Her Time'

Having earned master's degrees in secondary education from Shippensburg University, the Schmidts married on Aug. 28, 1970. They raised three children, and Maretta took a position teaching English at Harrisburg Area Community College.

She became principal of Good Shepherd School in Camp Hill in 1997, and strengthened the school's Catholic iden-



Maretta Schmidt

tity and reputation for academic excellence.

"The Catholic atmosphere, a sense of respect and reverence, and high expectations were achieved, due in great part to Maretta's giving spirit and leadership qualities, which she exhibited in a very quiet and unassuming manner. Nothing was ever too much for her," said Sister Mary Ann Lawrence, M.S.C., a member of the faculty at Good Shepherd during Schmidt's tenure.

"Maretta was a woman of deep faith and an inspiration to all. She deeply cared for every teacher, student and parent. She was always available – before school, during school and after school. Our time was always her time," Sister Mary Ann said.

Susan Glessner, former health and physical education teacher at Good Shepherd, said, "Her first loves were her family, but her students were right behind them."

"She was an advocate for every single child who crossed her path" and she "challenged her faculty to be better teachers as well as better human beings," Glessner said.

"I don't think she ever knew the difference she made in so many people's lives," she said.

Renie Asken, school nurse at Good Shepherd, said Schmidt "modeled kindness, respectfulness and strength in faith" and "was passionate about supporting all of the needs of the students on every step of their journey."

"She knew how to light up a mind, fire up a spirit and make each and every student feel as if he or she was a bright and rising star," Asken said.

The friendship between Schmidt and Asken formed during community service activities, school yearbook production, talent shows, Habitat for Humanity projects and singing telegrams on birthdays.

"Every encounter with Maretta enriched your life," Asken said.

## A Model of Kindness

In August of 2008, Schmidt became the Diocesan Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Schools and Government Programs.

She worked diligently on teacher evaluations, served as a mentor for

new teachers, and worked closely with schools to ensure completion of paperwork for federal programs.

"It was a gift that she shared her educational experience with us at the Diocesan level," said Livia Riley, who retired on June 30 as Diocesan Superintendent.

She worked with Schmidt in the Diocesan Secretariat for Education for 11 years, recommending that Schmidt come aboard as Assistant Superintendent.

"I always knew her as a wonderful lady, and truly a model of Christ," Riley said.

As Assistant Superintendent, Schmidt was a "prayer partner" for students at Good Shepherd. "She enjoyed visiting them and seeing the kids in the school," Riley said.

Schmidt also implemented the annual Diocesan Speech contest, which invited middle school students to display their talents in various speech categories in front of volunteer judges each March at the Diocesan Center.

"She thought it would be a great opportunity for students to express themselves in this kind of venue. With her English background, it was an undertaking she enjoyed," said Riley, who noted that Schmidt would begin planning in August for the March event.

"She had a reputation for being a great educational leader," said Father Quinlan, pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Harrisburg. "In addition to her professionalism, she had a deep spiritual side. In her communication, she never missed the opportunity to point the recipient toward the greater things, toward God."

Members of the Secretariat for Education treasure the cards, notes and tokens Schmidt frequently shared to mark holidays and birthdays.

"Maretta loved words, and words that were hopeful, gentle and kind – every word that would make someone or something feel better and truly raise them up," said Ann Everest, administrative assistant.

"Working furiously to get my tasks done before leaving on a trip, she would approach me and gently whisper, 'Have a wonderful time; take this with you,' and set a small stone or shell on my desk that said 'Breathe,' or 'Believe,' or 'Relax,'" she said.

Holidays and birthdays were always cause for Schmidt to lead the celebration in the office.

"Maretta loved every holiday, even if it was a minor holiday. She would al-

ways have little gift bags for everyone," said Margaret Barrett, Diocesan Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Schools and Curriculum Development. "She made every birthday special – she always found the perfect gifts," including magic wands, bubbles, hula hoops, crowns and feather boas.

"I will always remember Maretta not only as a beautiful woman on the outside but, more importantly, as a beautiful woman on the inside," said Lynn Falcone, an administrative assistant who retired on June 30. "Maretta made life special."

## Others before Self

Colleagues spoke of Schmidt's love for her family – especially her husband, children and seven grandchildren – and for the Church. She often prayed the Rosary at her desk before the workday began. Even in dealing with her own illness, she put others before herself, consoling co-workers who lost loved ones, or encouraging colleagues who were facing their own illnesses.

Rebecca Sieg, principal of St. Francis Xavier School in Gettysburg, said Schmidt was her mentor, and "a friend and constant source of strength and support" when Sieg's mother was diagnosed with cancer.

Sieg said Schmidt frequently connected with her to see how her role as principal was progressing, and how her mother was faring. Sieg said Schmidt "touched not only my life, but also my heart."

"Maretta was such a special person," said Susan Mareck, principal of St. John the Baptist School in New Freedom. "Whenever you would see her, she always had a smile and kind word for you. I don't know how she did it, but she always remembered your family and would ask specifically about how they were and what they were doing. She was so very encouraging and supportive when things could be frustrating at our schools, and always knew exactly what to say that would help us solve the problem and give us strength to know we could achieve success."

"Our world would be so much better if it were filled with people like Maretta," Mareck said. "She will be greatly missed."

(The full obituary is online at [www.pennlive.com/obits](http://www.pennlive.com/obits). Memorial donations can be made to Catholic Relief Services at [www.crs.org](http://www.crs.org) or the American Breast Cancer Foundation at [www.abcf.com](http://www.abcf.com).)

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And remember, previous editions of the newspaper – dating back to early 2011 – are also available online. You can find them at [www.hbgdiocese.org](http://www.hbgdiocese.org). Just follow the News/Events tab to *The Catholic Witness* page.



# Holy Trinity School Brings St. Patrick and St. Joseph Schools Together to Strengthen Education in York Deanery

By Jen Reed  
The Catholic Witness

A new Catholic school is open in the city of York, forged from two school communities on mission to strengthen Catholic education in the deanery.

Holy Trinity School, which became official on July 1, is a merger of St. Patrick School in York and St. Joseph School in Dallastown. The new school is located in the former St. Patrick's building.

The creation of Holy Trinity School is a response to community members' concerns for continuing Catholic education in the York Deanery, given evidence of declining enrollment and financial challenges.

"We were looking at how we could sustain and strengthen Catholic education," said Kathleen Smith, formerly the principal of St. Patrick's and the inaugural principal of Holy Trinity.

Parish and school leadership from both communities examined facilities, resources and populations, and selected to establish the school on St. Patrick's campus.

"It was a difficult decision, but we've come out stronger together as we bring the best of both worlds," Smith said.

Margaret Snyder, formerly the principal of St. Joseph School, will serve as vice principal of Holy Trinity.

Snyder and Smith both commended parish leadership for their commitment, foresight and guidance, including Father Keith Carroll, pastor of St. Patrick Parish, Father Jonathan Sawicki, former pastor of Immaculate Conception BVM Parish in York, and Father Mark Weiss, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Dallastown.

## New Beginnings

Preparing for the first day of school on Aug. 21, teachers and administrators are setting up classrooms, refining lesson plans and forging relationships.

A new logo and mascot, new uniforms and new signage are currently being revealed.

"I'm excited to see how we're going to blend into a new adventure," said Jennifer Dodson, a third-grade teacher who came from St. Joseph School.

"We've already combined some of the things that were here with what we've brought from Dallastown. We're integrating many things, from physical items like books and desks, to classroom curriculum."

For Dodson, moving her classroom into a new location is a sort of homecoming. She attended St. Patrick School from kindergarten through eighth grade. Her current classroom was once a computer room.



JEN REED, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

Margaret Snyder, vice principal, left, and Kathleen Smith, principal, right, display the bell from St. Patrick School, which all students at Holy Trinity will ring on the first day, Aug. 21. Snyder was principal of St. Joseph's in Dallastown, and Smith principal of St. Patrick's in York.

## Closing Mass

St. Patrick Parish in York invites members of the community for Mass to close the school, Aug. 18 at 10:45 a.m. in Brenner Hall. Come celebrate 168 years of school history and reminisce over years past and the lives that St. Patrick School shaped. A social will follow Mass, with light refreshments in the courtyard and school cafeteria. Alumni are invited to bring old uniforms, report cards and photos to help honor the tradition of the school and its students. Tours of the school will be available. RSVP to Denise Runk at 717-854-8263 or [spcsoffice@stpatrickyork.net](mailto:spcsoffice@stpatrickyork.net) by Aug. 14.

## First Day Celebration

Holy Trinity School will celebrate the first day of school on Aug. 21 at St. Patrick Parish. Join the community for the first school Mass, celebrated by Bishop Ronald Gainer at 9 a.m. in Brenner Hall. A ribbon cutting and light refreshments will follow. Visit [www.htcsyork.org](http://www.htcsyork.org) for upcoming events and activities, and to see the new uniforms. A new school slogan and mascot will be revealed on Aug. 31.



"I'm very excited for the new year," she said. "As teachers, we spend time in the summer thinking of new, fun things to bring into the classroom. To do this now in a new place with new students is exciting. I'm looking forward to adding new spins into my classroom here at Holy Trinity."

On the other side of the building, the move wasn't as far for first-grade teacher Lynda Starceski, who taught at St. Patrick School for 13 years. She relocated her classroom from across the transept of stairs that divides the building.

"Yes, those of us from St. Patrick School are staying in the same building, but it is a

new and renewed school as we come together," she said. "As teachers, we want it to be the best year for the children."

One of the first things students in her class will encounter is a colorful, ten-foot carpet with a cartoon image of Jesus with the children. The rug will serve as a reading space for students.

The piece, which came from St. Joseph School, is one symbol of the schools' integration.

"For the kids from Dallastown, it will be a familiar piece. For the kids from St. Patrick's, it will be something new to love," Starceski said.

"Everybody has been open and supportive through the process," she said. "We didn't know how this was going to end when we started, but we put a lot of faith into our leaders here – Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Snyder, Father Carroll, Father Weiss. I firmly believe that Holy Trinity School will keep the presence of Catholic education in the city of York," she said.

## New Opportunities

Snyder and Smith said students at Holy Trinity will be the beneficiaries of the best from St. Joseph's and St. Patrick's.

"Holy Trinity is offering more than either school could individually," Smith said.

These include a Spanish class, which had been offered at St. Joseph's, music and band programs, and clubs.

"Parents are looking forward to see how this new school will be even better," Smith said.

That doesn't mean the communities didn't feel loss when their schools closed.

"Leaving was hard for all of us," Snyder said of the St. Joseph community. "You could tell by the parents and the kids how much they loved St. Joe's. We made sure every activity we did at the end of the year was fun. We knew it was going to be hard, but we made the most of it. Most of our kids are continuing in a Catholic school, which is what we wanted. That's what's most important."

Snyder had been at St. Joe's for 39 years. It's where she began her teaching career.

"I love Catholic education," she said. "You can have a stronger relationship with your families and your kids, and the students are like my own kids. There wasn't anything I wouldn't do for them, and continue to do for them."

To help facilitate the change, the school communities hosted meetings for parents, gatherings for families, and "shadow days" for students.

"St. Pat's was so welcoming to our families, and the parents here in York reassured the parents from St. Joe's that this change would be okay. The parents here really served as a bridge," Snyder said. "Our parents are realizing their kids are coming to a school where they will feel loved and safe. I think they were feeling like they were a part of the community before we officially became Holy Trinity."

While St. Patrick's community isn't experiencing the loss of their building, they are facing the loss of the school, which had a 168-year history in the city.

"We still have the school's physical location, and that's not as painful of a loss because we have our familiar things here, but we're still changing," Smith said. "Mentally, we've had to shift from our 'St. Pat's Pride' motto and our own ways of doing things."

"Parents are looking forward now to see how this new school will be even better," she said. "We want to make it better from both communities' contributions. We want to be the best we can in working together, educating our kids and helping our families grow."



Jennifer Dodson, who taught at St. Joseph School in Dallastown, sets up her new third-grade classroom at Holy Trinity School, located in the former St. Patrick School building in York.



Lynda Starceski unpacks items for her first-grade classroom at Holy Trinity. The colorful rug of Jesus with the children comes from the former St. Joseph School in Dallastown.



# Catholic Charities' Foster Care Program Seeks Parents to Provide Meaningful Influences in Children's Lives

By Jen Reed  
The Catholic Witness

An ornamental stone in Susan Betcke's home is decorated with the names of each child she has fostered for the last seven years. The keepsake is also adorned with drawings of the children's favorite things, like animals and hobbies.

There are currently 27 names on the stone, a reminder of the lives Betcke has helped to change as a foster mother with Catholic Charities' Specialized Foster Care and Adoption Services.

I have always loved children and have been working with children since I was 11 or 12. I was babysitting, working in the church's nursery. I've also gone to help out at camps, worked in daycares and now currently work in schools. It's been on my heart to be a parent, and as a single woman, the best way to do that is adoption," said Betcke.

"It's been on my heart to reach kids who need homes. I see the need of older children needing families, needing homes and needing love, and needing people to accept them where they're at," she said.

Catholic Charities' Specialized Foster Care program provides temporary and safe care for children who have been removed from their birth parents by the court.

Children come to the program through referrals from county children and youth agencies, and range in age from newborn to 18.

"These are kids who have suffered some kind of abuse and/or neglect, so they might have some developmental or physical delays, and we train our families to care for the children at their developmental age rather than their chronological age," said Kelly Bolton, program director.

Catholic Charities places 20-30 foster children into loving homes each year, through both short-time and long-term care. Most of the children are part of a sibling group.

"We have a critical need for foster families to provide for the children in our area, and who are willing to help children through school placement, counseling and care for



Siblings Elena and Carlos were adopted by their foster mother in May. Elena enjoys interacting with animals, and Carlos is active in sports.



COURTESY OF SUSAN BETCKE

certain physical or developmental needs," Bolton said.

Foster parents can be single people or married couples, provided they are over 21, have steady income and a reliable vehicle, and obtain required state and federal clearances. They are not required to be Catholic. In fact, the majority of foster parents in Catholic Charities' program are not Catholic, Bolton said.

"A foster parent is a giant part of our team. Without them, we're not taking placements and we're not helping children. We need to make sure they feel supported to be able to make a difference in a child's life," she said.

## The Benefit of Catholic Charities

Betcke said she was drawn to Catholic Charities' foster care program because of the one-on-one assistance it provides.

"They were able to give the attention that I needed," she said. "Any time I had a question or a concern, I would have an immediate phone call or response in an e-mail, or somebody coming to my house. It was easy to have contact with the caseworkers there at the office."

Catholic Charities trains and certifies foster parents prior to placement, educat-

ing them on potential behavioral issues and offering practical advice for real-life situations.

Once a child is placed, licensed staff conduct routine in-home visits and are available 24/7.

"We are an on-call service. If there is any problem or concern, at any time of day or night, families can speak to us immediately," Bolton said.

Catholic Charities offers group training, which allows foster parents to come together and share ideas and experiences.

"Those are people who are going to understand what you're going through," Betcke said. "We're meeting on a monthly basis with people who really do understand where our hearts are and what this is all about."

The ages and length of stay of the foster children are as various as their backgrounds, interests and personalities.

Betcke has fostered children for as little as one day to as long as 15 months. The children placed in her care have been as young as 12 months and as old as 12 years.

She has a soft spot for sibling groups.

"Most of the time when I say yes to a placement, it's to a sibling group," she said.

Some have experienced severe trauma and others have struggle socially, "but with work and effort and time, those things change," she remarked.

She's seen the growth first-hand. The first siblings she welcome into her home were four sisters who grew up a few blocks from her home in Harrisburg. The oldest is now in high school, and she passes Betcke's house every day on her way to school.

"She always make a point to say hi," and has "talked about her memories of her time when she was at my home. It was only for ten days, but it was a meaningful ten days for her," Betcke said.

## Positive Influences in a Child's Life

"My primary role is to make sure that the kids feel safe and loved in the time that they're with me, and that I help them to become the best person that they could possibly be," said Betcke.

On May 15 of this year, she adopted siblings she had fostered for more than a year: Carlos, 7, and Elena, 10.

"They are both very bright children. Carlos loves to play with Legos, he loves to draw, and he loves to read Dogman books.... Elena loves to work with children. She has

thoroughly enjoyed equine therapy and her time with horses. They have both enjoyed sports: Judo, basketball. Carlos is playing baseball. Elena is involved in the Girls on the Run. They have become a part of not just my life, but the lives of all of my friends and family. It's been a joy to have them," Betcke said.

Not every foster child becomes eligible for adoption, however. But that doesn't make a foster parent's role any less significant.

"The program is child-focused. Every child comes into the program with the goal of returning home or returning to kinship. The goal is to put the family back together once the issues are resolved," Bolton said. "Foster families have to be willing to allow communication and visitation between the child and the birth family. Sometimes that's easy, and sometimes it isn't easy. We want them to understand that even if a child returns home and adoption is not possible, that child has gained so much from being with them."

Betcke acknowledged it's difficult to say goodbye to a child you've loved and welcomed into your home and family.

"But in the end, I know that during the time they were with me, they could experience love, they could experience safety and I was able to provide that for them. Even though it's difficult, I know it's going to help them in their future to have healthier relationships and to have had experiences in life that maybe they wouldn't have had," she said.

Knowing full-well the impact of foster care, Betcke welcomed four- and five-year old sisters into her home two weeks after adopting Carlos and Elena.

"Those two girls moved in and were part of our lives from the first day," she said.

"I have five available beds in my home for foster children: two in one bedroom, which is where Carlos sleeps, and three in the other bedroom, which is where Elena sleeps. As long as I am able and God touches my heart to continue doing it, I will welcome children into my home," she said.

Catholic Charities' Specialized Foster Care will begin a new training group for foster parents in September. Anyone interested in learning more about foster care, the program or the process should visit [www.cchbg.org](http://www.cchbg.org) or call the program office at 717-564-7115.

"When I stood before the judge to adopt my children, I had a lengthy letter that I asked permission to read. One of the things I said is, 'We are not perfect, but we are perfect for each other.' We indeed do not need to be perfect to be foster parents," Betcke remarked. "There is no amount of training that's going to make you ready for every situation, but if you're flexible, if you're patient and if you're willing to go with the flow, you can be an amazing foster parent."

"I believe as much as I have given to each of the children that have been in my home, they have also given to me. They have taught me resiliency. They have taught me that life doesn't have to be as sad as it seems. You can go on and you can still smile. You can still find joy in life," Betcke said. "All of the things that these children have gone through, yet they love life and they keep smiling and keep learning to grow and share and be a part of a new family."



Susan Betcke and her children, Elena and Carlos, pose in Disney-themed Ohana ("family") shirts during a party to celebrate the children's adoption in May. Betcke has been a foster parent for Catholic Charities for seven years, and adopted her son and daughter after fostering them for 16 months.



# St. Rita Parishioners Unite for Parish Centennial

By Jen Reed  
*The Catholic Witness*

Rooted in a faith foundation grown from a small chapel in the pastoral land of southern Franklin County a century ago, the Catholic community at St. Rita Parish in Blue Ridge Summit is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

Several decades before St. Rita Parish was formally established, Catholics in the area of the Pennsylvania-Maryland border attended Mass in St. Joan of Arc Chapel – the first Masses regularly celebrated in Blue Ridge Summit.

Today, its community of 325 families continues to shine as a beacon in the Cumberland Valley, with parish and community-based ministries and carrying on faith traditions.

In recognition of the parish's centennial, Bishop Ronald Gainer was the principal celebrant for Mass at St. Rita's on the evening of July 8.

He was joined at the altar by priests of the Missionaries of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, who have served the parish since 1993, including Father Peter DiTomaso, current pastor. Priests of the area also concelebrated.

"Parish life is essential to the nourishment of our

Catholic faith and life in Christ. Since 1993, St. Rita's has had the wonderful pastoral leadership of the Missionaries of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary – and we thank them for the dedicated service to our Diocese," Bishop Gainer remarked.

In his homily, the bishop told the congregation that the day's Readings were specifically selected for the parish anniversary.

"Liturgy used to mean some public work done for the benefit of the people – a chosen work for the people.... Liturgy today means participation in the works of God, from which we are made to be sanctified," he said. "Liturgy is divine worship, but it also has meaning in charitable service."

"In the New Testament, liturgy has three principle functions. Divine worship is clearly one, that we offer our prayers to God through liturgy. It is also where we have a proclamation of the Good News – the Gospel of Christ. And the third is charity – what we do for others in the spirit of love," Bishop Gainer said. "These three have been the true history of this parish for 100 years. Each of



Above, left: Lauren Hays holds her mother's hand during Communion.



Above, right: Altar server Joshua Orlando assists Bishop Ronald Gainer in presenting a Papal Blessing to the parish in commemoration of the centennial.



Left: Kalisa Miller receives the Precious Blood.

these are part of right worship that Christ spoke to in the Gospel."

St. Rita Parish, originally named St. Joan of Arc, was established in 1920, along with nearby Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Parish in Fairfield.

Within two years, it grew from the original chapel – first to the Blue Ridge Summit Library for Masses, and then into a former lodge hall purchased for \$1,500. The hall served as the parish church for 45 years.

The parish's second pastor, Father Matthew Patrick Sullivan, changed its name to St. Rita's and purchased the property for the current church.

Ground was broken for the new church in April 1964. The first Mass was celebrated there on Nov. 29 of that year. The parish social hall was built two decades later.

On Sept. 13, 1993, the Missionaries of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary assumed charge of St. Rita's and Immaculate Conception parishes, and continue to serve the Catholic communities.

Historically, St. Rita Parish and its surrounding area – including nearby Fort Ritchie – have been summer respites for government officials in Washington, D.C. The parish is home to many retired members of the military and former government employees, Father DiTomaso noted.

"As we celebrate this anniversary, I hope the parishioners see that the Church is a family. Like all families, we go through struggles and challenges, but we do so as a family," Father DiTomaso said. "We stay together with the help of God and rely on our faith to get us through those struggles."

Ministries at St. Rita Parish include a prayer chain for people who are ill, music ministry, visitation to the homebound, a youth group, St. Rita's Women's Society, the Knights of Columbus, the Landings program for those seeking to return to the Church, and That Man Is You, a nationwide program through which men encounter God within the context of their marriages and family life.

As part of the centennial celebration, St. Rita's hosted a women's tea in July, and is planning a joint parish picnic with Immaculate Conception Parish, Aug. 4 from 1-5:30 p.m. at Carroll Valley Park. Food and games will be provided. All are welcome to attend.



Current and former pastors of St. Rita's and area priests concelebrate the parish's anniversary Mass with Bishop Ronald Gainer on July 8.



CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

St. Rita's in Blue Ridge Summit has been a Catholic presence in southeast Franklin County for 100 years.



# Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Celebrates a Century in New Holland



CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

Former pastors of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish join the current pastor for the celebration. From left are Father John Schmalhofer, Father Patrick McGarrity, C.S.S.R., Father Walter Guzmán and current pastor, Father Steven Fauser.



Bishop Ronald Gainer and priest concelebrants celebrate the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

**By Jen Reed**  
*The Catholic Witness*

Nestled in “Pennsylvania Dutch Country,” among Amish homesteads and Baptist churches, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish has been a bastion of the Catholic Church for a century.

For 100 years, parishioners have upheld the parish’s mission of living “the Catholic Tradition of Word, Sacrament, social justice, and respect for life” while welcoming all into “a believing, worshipping, loving, and serving community.”

On July 27, Bishop Ronald Gainer celebrated the parish’s centennial Mass, commending the community for its faithfulness.

“Many of our ancestors did without to get us to this wonderful anniversary moment – 100 years,” he told the congregation. “We pray the One that brought us to this parish centennial moment continues to bless this faithful community.”

“A parish is the family of all your families, and that is true at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish,” Bishop Gainer said. “This parish has a wonderful sense of history – how you have preserved your history and the beautiful production of your anniversary program is a testament to your appreciation for your history. You are to be commended on your wonderful work.”

Catholicism in New Holland, located on the eastern edge of Lancaster County, can

be traced to the mid 1700s, when Jesuit Missionaries celebrated Masses in private homes.

The parish was originally a mission of the Redemptorists in Ephrata, whose congregation staffed Our Lady of Lourdes until 1999. In 1916, a Redemptorist priest traveled by horse and buggy to New Holland to tend to the flock, and rented the former Town Council Chamber on Main Street for \$7 per month to celebrate Mass every other Sunday.

In 1920, a priest was assigned to the New Holland community; Masses were celebrated weekly in a chapel dedicated to the Little Flower. As industry grew in the area, so did the number of Catholics, and in

1940, ground was broken for a 90-seat chapel. The first Mass was celebrated there on Christmas Day in 1940. On April 20, 1941, the chapel was dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes.

Soon, the number of parishioners outgrew the chapel. In 1970, Masses were held in the Ritz Theater while a Building Committee examined the need for a new church. The current church was completed on Sept. 2, 1972. Our Lady of Lourdes became a parish on Jan. 5, 1977.

In 1991, Father John Schmalholfer became the first Diocesan priest assigned as pastor, and he served until 2012. During his time at Our Lady’s, he oversaw the capital campaign and construction of a parish center.

Ministries at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish serve the parish and local communities and include prayer groups, youth ministry, a Knights of Columbus Council and Ladies’ Auxiliary, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, a meal ministry and support of the New Holland Food Bank.

“We are the eastern most parish in Lancaster County, in a predominantly Amish and Baptist area. It is great to see the Catholic faith alive here at Our Lady’s,” said Father Steven Fauser, who was appointed pastor in June. “In 100 years, the parish has grown and thrived. I’ve found it to be a wonderful, warm and friendly parish. The people here are very devoted to the parish and love their faith. We’re very much looking forward to the next 100 years of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish.”



Members of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in New Holland fill the church for the anniversary Mass on July 27.



Diana Cutrona is reflected in a mirror as she accompanies the choir.



Alma and Anna Podoletz lend their talents to the group of musicians and vocalists that led the congregation in song.



# Danville Parishioners Celebrate 150 Years of Beloved St. Joseph Church



Above: Deb McCaffery performs with the handbell choir during the anniversary Mass.

Left: Francis Mahoney presents the Offertory Collection to Bishop Ronald Gainer.

Right: Altar servers lead the Entrance Procession for Mass celebrating the church's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



**By Jen Reed**  
*The Catholic Witness*

Located in the center of town, St. Joseph Church in Danville has been a centerpiece in the Montour County community for 150 years.

Its historic bell tower has been a land-

mark and time keeper for decades, and its interior has witnessed the celebration of the sacraments, welcomed Diocesan bishops, and echoed the prayers of generations of Catholics.

Parishioners marked the church's milestone during a Mass celebrated by Bishop Ronald Gainer on July 28.

"My first words to you are congratulations on your 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. What a wonderful milestone to celebrate together," Bishop Gainer told the congregation. "Imagine the generosity and the sacrifice freely given by all the departed faithful for you to reach 150 years."

"We gather as a family of faith, a family of God.... We dedicate churches because this a sacred place where we lift up to God our prayers and he pours down in abundant fashion His grace," he said.

St. Joseph Parish, with roots dating to the early 1800s, was established in 1845. The flourishing iron industry drew an influx of workers to the town, and the parish's first church was built that same year. Within two decades, the congregation outgrew its worship site, and the current church was dedicated on July 25, 1869.

The bell in the church steeple dates to 1880. The four-sided clock atop the 90-foot tower served as a timepiece for Danville's inhabitants, tolling the time for Masses and the start and end of the workday. The parish undertook a fundraiser in 2003 to restore the historic piece, which is operational today.

St. Joseph Church was renovated in 2012. The efforts included new doors, organ, sound system and lighting, as well as the presidential chair in the sanctuary. The refurbishment of the marble, pews and floors and the mural of Christ's crucifixion lent to a bright and emboldened interior.

In conjunction with the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, St. Joseph Parish created a self-guided tour book for visitors' education and inspiration of the church and its statues, windows and altar furnishings.

The anniversary celebration is part of an ongoing

year, "The Day of the Lord," at St. Joseph's, said Father Timothy Marcoe, pastor.

"This year, we are focusing on making The Lord's Day holy. For the average Catholic in the pew, the experience of The Lord's Day is attending Mass. However, the day extends from Mass to a time of rest, renewal and service. That's a challenge, especially today as people see Sunday as another opportunity to get things done," Father Marcoe said.

The parish, therefore, is hosting various events on Sundays throughout the year to bring families together for renewal and service," Father Marcoe said, adding, "It is my hope that our individuals and families come together as a parish in particular to celebrate The Lord's Day."



CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

Priests join Bishop Ronald Gainer at the altar for the celebration of Mass on July 28. At far right is Father Timothy Marcoe, pastor.



St. Joseph Church, located on Center Street in Danville.



# Vacation Bible School

## Unlocking the Mass

Vacation Bible School at St. Peter Parish in Elizabethtown focused on the “Marvelous Mystery of the Mass.” More than 60 children participated in the four-day event with faith lessons, games, music, crafts, snacks and camaraderie and a host of events that allowed children to learn the “hows” and “whys” of the Mass. Father Bernard Oniwe, OP, pastor, participated in the activities, demonstrating his knowledge of the Mass, as well as his singing and dancing skills.



COURTESY OF ST. PETER PARISH



## Roaring for God

“Roar – Life is Wild, God is Good” drew children to Vacation Bible School at Holy Spirit Parish in Palmyra, June 17-21. The week of faith lessons, food, fun, crafts and games illustrated for the children how God’s goodness shines in all of life’s circumstances.

COURTESY OF HOLY SPIRIT PARISH



## Camp Healing

Vacation Bible School at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Abbottstown drew 61 children from July 15-19 for “Camp Healing.” Participants learned about people in the Bible whom Jesus healed in some way: Bartimaeus, the Blind Man, Zacchaeus, the Woman at the Well, Jairus’ daughter, and the paralytic. The parish has offered Vacation Bible School since 2006. For the past three years, the parish has created its own themes to help reinforce what the children hear at Mass and to give quality time to explaining Bible stories on their level, according to Sister Rosanne Karmazin, who led the children in the week.

COURTESY OF IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY PARISH



## God’s Globetrotters

Holy Angels Parish in Kulpmont welcomed 50 children for “God’s Globetrotters” Vacation Bible School, which introduced participants to apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary throughout the world. Children enjoyed songs, videos, stories, crafts and snacks related to each apparition: Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico, Our Lady of Lourdes in France, Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal, as well as the Assumption. Between each lesson, children participated in a simulated airplane flight as they journeyed the globe.

COURTESY OF HOLY ANGELS PARISH





# Prince of Peace Picnic



CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

Above: Parishioner Mary Klaus dishes out homemade ethnic food.



Right: Children enjoy a slide down one of the playground sets at Cibort Park.



Picnic-goers dance to the music of a live band.



Caricature artist Jesse Falcone draws cartoons of children at the picnic.

## Festivals & Picnics

(Also listed online at [www.hbgdiocese.org](http://www.hbgdiocese.org). Parishes and schools can submit an announcement of their festival or picnic via e-mail to [communications@hbgdiocese.org](mailto:communications@hbgdiocese.org).)

**Holy Spirit Parish Summer Festival**, “Alo-ha!” Aug. 9 and 10 from 5-10 p.m. on the parish grounds in Palmyra. Food, fun and fellowship the Hawaiian way, including a pig roast, ethnic food, drinks, kids’ games and music.

**St. Patrick Parish Festival**, “The Land of Make Believe,” Aug. 9 and 10 from 5-10 p.m. at the parish grounds in Trevorton. Ethnic foods, games for children and adults, Bingo in the parish hall, theme baskets, cash raffles, cake & sweets raffle, big prize rip-off stand and live music nightly.

**St. Joseph Parish Festival in Danville**, Aug. 17 starting at noon. Halupki, halushki, pierogis, potato pancakes, walking tacos, baked desserts and more. Kids’ games, face painting, bounce house, dunk tank, basket raffle, cash raffle and a lottery tree. Magic show with Brent Kessler at 2 p.m., and

live music in the evening. Visit [www.stjosephdanville.org](http://www.stjosephdanville.org) or call 570-275-2512.

**St. Catherine Labouré Parish’s Dinner on Derry Food Truck Fest**, Aug. 18 from 1-6 p.m. on the parish grounds in Harrisburg. Slow cooked BBQ, cheesesteak sandwiches, pepperoni-stuffed pretzels, plus sweet treats including Farm Show milkshakes. Bingo, raffles, face painting, indoor mini-golf and carnival. See the entire list of food trucks (including menus) at [www.sclhbg.org](http://www.sclhbg.org).

**Annual Buchanan Valley Picnic at St. Ignatius Loyola Church, Orrtanna**, Aug. 24 from noon until dusk, rain or shine. Home cooked family-style ham and chicken dinners, \$11 for adults, \$5 for children ages 6-12, and free for children 5 and under. Picnic has been a tradition for more than 175 years. Nestled in the quaint, and beautiful hills of Buchanan Valley, historically known for the capture of Mary Jemison in 1758 by the Indians, an old-fashioned picnic with games for children, drawings, Bingo, music and good food. For more information, contact the parish at 717-677-8012, [stignatiusofloyola@hbgdiocese.org](mailto:stignatiusofloyola@hbgdiocese.org) or [www.stignatiusofloyola.org](http://www.stignatiusofloyola.org).

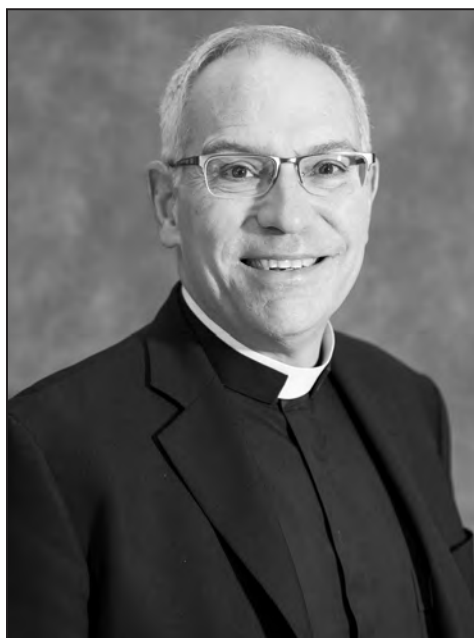
**Holy Rosary Lobster Fest**, Aug. 24 from 5-10 p.m. at Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Parish, Elysburg. Lobster dinners, ethnic foods, games, basket raffle and entertainment. All live, steamed and lobster dinners must be pre-ordered by Aug. 10. Go to [www.qmhr.net](http://www.qmhr.net) and click on the lobsters or e-mail [sheila@qmhr.net](mailto:sheila@qmhr.net) for more information or to place an order. Lobster dinners, \$25: steamed Maine lobster, fingerling potato and corn steamer bag, cole slaw or cucumber salad, butter & lemon, and two beverage tickets. Lobsters are picked up on the docks in Portland, Maine, and steamed on site at the parish.

**3rd Annual Central Pennsylvania Crab, Beer and Wine Festival**, Sept. 21 from 4-8 p.m. at Trinity High School in Camp Hill. Artisan beer and wine from local breweries and wineries, steamed Harbor House crabs, Redd’s barbecue, music from the Jewett Brothers Band. Adult-only event, must be 21 and have identification. Event held under a tent, rain or shine. A portion of proceeds benefit the Central PA Food Bank. Cost for all-you-can-eat food and two drinks is \$50 before Aug. 15, \$60 before Sept. 21, and \$70 day of event. All-you-can-drink wristbands are \$35. Visit [www.pacrabfest.org](http://www.pacrabfest.org).



# The Called

*A series of profiles on clergy and religious*



**Father Peter Hahn**

**Hometown:** Lancaster

**Education:** Lancaster Catholic High School, University of Pittsburgh, University of Pittsburgh Law School, St. John XXIII Seminary, Weston, Mass.

**Assignment:** Pastor of St. Leo the Great Parish in Rohrerstown

## Tell me a little bit about your childhood.

I grew up about five miles from here, on Ross St. in a Lancaster, a city row house. A middle class upbringing with very devout and faithful parents. My mom and dad were both Catholic. I was the youngest of five children, and I was blessed with their example of faith. We grew up about four blocks from St. Anne's Church, so we went to St. Anne School and then I attended Lancaster Catholic High School and graduated in 1974.

My childhood was almost idyllic. We never locked our doors. We used to ride our bikes all through the city, play at the playground. It was a very stable, very loving and very good childhood.

## Were you always interested in becoming a priest?

My mother was a Byzantine Catholic, she was of the Eastern Rite of the Catholic Church. Her youngest brother was a priest so, as far back as I can remember, we had Father Andy – my uncle – as kind of a witness to that life. It always struck me that it was a possibility and maybe God was calling me there. My mother's twin brother was a deacon in the Eastern Rite, so every year we'd have her side of the family reunion in Palmerton, Pa. We'd have Mass, the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom. That was, at an early age, an example of faith. Like a lot of kids, we "played Mass" when we were young. I guess growing up, it was simply an option.

As a young man, I wanted to pursue becoming a lawyer. That was a thing that excited me, in a sense, so my vocation is a little bit different. After graduating Catholic High, I went to the University of Pittsburgh and got an undergraduate degree in economics and then went to Pitt's law school. I got my Juris Doctor degree in 1981. As I began practicing law, I worked for several years in Philadelphia in a civil litigation law firm, then came back to Lancaster. At that point, I was reflecting on whether God was calling me to marriage and family, or whether he might be calling me to the priesthood.

## What ultimately drew you to the priesthood?

It was the example of good, holy priests that showed me this was a viable option, that the possibility existed that God was calling me. Father Andre Meluskey was very influential. He was pastor at St. Anne's when I was in high school and college. Father Bernardo Pistone, who was living here as a retired priest for the last five years, was very influential when I was working in downtown Lancaster as a lawyer. I'd go to the noon Mass at St. Mary's and I would see him. I would see Father Tom Gralinski, who was another great example of priesthood. A Redemptorist priest by the name of Father Don Miniscalco, from Philadelphia, came to give a mission at St. Anne's when I was about 30 years old. It all began to just manifest itself as possibly where God was calling me and what the vocation in my life would be.

## What was your seminary experience like?

I began to really discern the call to priesthood seriously when I was about 33. I had thought about it to the point where I called Msgr. Bill Richardson, who was just leaving as Diocesan Vocation Director. Then it was a couple more years and I continued to discern. I didn't formally enter the seminary until I was 38. At that time, the Diocesan thought was that older men would go to the St. John XXIII Seminary in Weston, Mass. It was a seminary designed by Cardinal Cushing in Boston for older and second-career vocations. I went there at 38 years old in 1995. There were about 75 men there, and I was one of the younger. There might have been a handful younger than I. Most were in their late 40s, early 50s, or even in their 60s.

My seminary experience was terrific. It was a solid formation. The thing that was nice in that sense, it was tailored to older men who had experience in the world and responsibilities. I don't think the particular "house rules" were as defined or rigid. They gave more freedom than maybe one of the seminaries for the younger men. But it was very supportive, very good. I met a lot of wonderful men and professors, and am very thankful for it.

## What aspect of your ministry do you enjoy most?

The priest is basically one who serves people in the name of Jesus Christ, and who is called to bring the love, the truth and the life of Christ to others. I think that almost any priest would say what they love most is engaging the people, serving the people.

Saturday, I met with couples preparing for marriage and for baptism, I had a funeral Mass, and we had our normal Confession schedule. It was one of those full days in the life of a priest in which you are trying to minister and care for God's people. That's a gift. It's a blessing beyond words to be able to engage them and to help them find – in whatever situation in life – the power of Christ's presence and his peace.

It's something that I don't think a lot of people focus on: the priest is called into the most intimate, profound, transcendent moments of the human condition. I'm meeting after this interview with a family to plan for a funeral. You deal with the grief and the sorrow, and yet you bring the hope of the Resurrection to that situation. Meeting young couples who are engaged to be married, they have the excitement and the anticipation of the youthfulness that is theirs. You try to share that and also show that this is a vocation that they are undertaking. When couples come to prepare for baptisms, or when they come for Confession or spiritual direction and they're trying to just seek a little guidance, they share with the priest things that they don't share with others. It's very humbling, and it's a great privilege and honor to be brought into those moments to try to bring the love of Christ.

## St. Leo the Great Parish is also blessed with a school. What is it like to work with young people?

When St. Leo's was established in 1964, Bishop Leech built the school first. The vision was, we're going to have a new parish, so let's have the school as the first structure erected. The school is part of our DNA, if you will, and for about the first 25 years or so, Mass was in the school building in what is now our cafeteria. The church was built later in 1991.

What that does is, the vibrant life of the parish brings so many young families into our community. Young families are the lifeblood of any parish. Every Sunday, children are crying at Mass. Oftentimes, people will say, "Father, how about those children crying at Mass?" I say, "If we don't have children crying at Mass, we have a huge problem." To me, the sound of children crying at Mass is a sign of vitality.

We're very blessed with a large enrollment. I think last year we were around 350 students in our K-8 school. We were able to build an addition four or five years ago and modernize our existing area of the school.

It's great to go in and prepare the second-graders as they're getting ready for first Holy Communion, and the eighth-graders as they're getting ready for Confirmation, to go in and just answer their questions, and just to be a presence to them. We were blessed a couple of years ago when Father Dan Richards was ordained, he was here and he taught. Father Stephen Logue just started here, and he and I are planning for next year, how we're going to serve the students and be a witness to them of faith.

## Tell me something fun about you, or a little-known fact.

One of the things that I did when I was a younger man right out of law school is, I became a long-distance runner. It was something that I really enjoyed. I don't think people know that I've run 11 marathons in my life. When they hear that, they're kind of taken aback. To me, the training of the marathon was a great discipline and a great exercise. It was something I enjoyed. The thing about the marathon was, you had to prepare to accomplish. I think that's a lesson in life, it's a lesson in preaching, it's a lesson in prayer. If the priest is not imbued in his Daily Office, his life of prayer, you're going to see that in his preaching. And if he is, you're going to see it in preaching. You can't fake it when you go to the marathon. You've either put the miles in, or you haven't. Similarly in the effort we have to do each day to serve the people of God, you have to be disciplined.



## 15<sup>th</sup> Annual 5K Run & Walk

September 28, on the grounds of the former State Hospital campus in Harrisburg

**Registration at 8 a.m.**

**Race begins at 9 a.m.**

- Cash prizes for top runners
- Awards for runners by age group
- Shirts for all pre-registrants
- Refreshments and door prizes
- Strollers and pets welcome

The Shelter Shuffle benefits the Interfaith Shelter for Homeless Families, a residential program in Harris-

burg that keeps families of all ages and genders together in times of crisis. Last year, the program, a ministry of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg, served 432 individuals.

Registration fee is \$20 before Sept. 1, \$25 after, and free for participants that raise more than \$50 in sponsorships.

**Register online at**  
**[www.cchbg.org](http://www.cchbg.org)**



# A Love to Set the World on Fire

By Sister GERALYN SCHMIDT, SCC  
*The Catholic Witness*

Just after Easter, I received a card from one of the readers of *The Catholic Witness*. The cover of the card featured a reproduction by Virginia Thomas of the Apparition of Jesus to St. Margaret Mary. In this rendition of the apparition, St. Margaret Mary and Jesus' glances are completely enwrapped in each other. In her writings, St. Margaret Mary said of her experience of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, "One day, as I knelt before the Blessed Sacrament exposed on the altar, ... Jesus Christ, my sweet Master, presented Himself to me, ... with His five wounds shining like so many suns. From all parts of His Sacred Humanity there issued flames but especially from His adorable breast, which was like a furnace. Opening it, He showed me His loving and lovable Heart as the living source of those flames. Then he revealed to me all the unspeakable marvels of His pure love..."<sup>1</sup>

As I opened the card, I was encouraged, by its sender, "Keep up the great work and don't grow weary." Flipping again to the front of the card, I thought, "To experience that type of love, just once, would gift humanity with a vision that would truly set the world on fire – a holocaust of divine love." Christopher West, an international speaker on the Theology of the Body, says it this way: "God is singing an eternal love song, from the motion of galaxies to the movement of sub atomic particles. From the flowing of glaciers to the migration of birds, all of creation is part of a divine

choreography. All of creation is dancing to this divine love song."<sup>2</sup>

Within the image of the Sacred Heart, we find Jesus' three fold love: of the Father, of the Spirit and of all mankind. Because Jesus is truly human, he can love us with a human heart. Because he is truly divine, he shows us how God loves. Through this focus, we can understand, "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. Then I said, 'Here I am — it is written about me in the scroll — I have come to do your will, my God'" (Heb 10:5-7;10).

Throughout his entire life, as noted in the Scriptures, Jesus perfectly fulfilled the will of God because of love. Think about these moments<sup>3</sup>:

- The word of God, creator of the entire universe, became human within Mary's womb
- As a child, Jesus was obedient to Joseph and Mary.
- Through the sweat of his brow and the work of his hands, Jesus was a carpenter. In his work, he was obedient to God.
- That same love impelled Christ during his public ministry. His long apostolic journeys, always on foot; all his miracles; bearing fatigue, hunger, thirst; nightly watches of prayer and preaching all reveal, as St. Gregory wrote, "the heart of God itself is revealed."
- In His public ministry: "I have compassion upon the crowd" (Mk 8:2). When he looked upon his beloved city of Jerusalem and uttered "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those

sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing" (Matthew 23:37).

• In the Garden of Gethsemane, He cried out, "Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me," (Matt. 26:39) and he called Judas, his traitor, a friend!

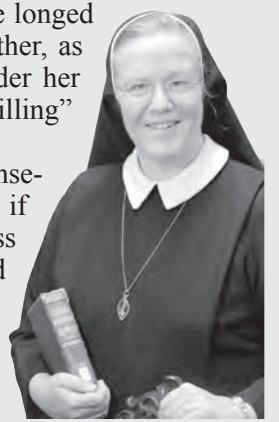
It is my prayer that all of you experience just a spark of the love with which Christ loves us and, through that experience, love all those who pass your journey. What a different world this would be!

<sup>1</sup><https://www.thedivinemercy.org/library/article.php?NID=2265>

<sup>2</sup>Christopher West: Marriage is a Dance, Marital Love and the Theology of the Body <https://youtu.be/cyGpersorsw> (Accessed on May 20, 2019)

<sup>3</sup>Encyclical of Pope Pius XII, On Devotion to the Sacred Heart, May 15, 1956, paragraphs 64-88.

(Sister 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.)



Sister GERALYN SCHMIDT, SCC

"Thoughts from a Catholic Evangelist"

HelpOurMarriage.org  
**RETRouvaille**  
A LIFELINE FOR MARRIED COUPLES

## Upcoming Retrouvaille Weekend for Couples

September 27-29, 2019 • Mechanicsburg, PA

Is your marriage going down the right road . . .  
or is it a little off track?

Life can be difficult, and so can  
the challenges you face in marriage.

Does the distance between you seem wide?  
Are you already separated?  
Looking for a better way?

Retrouvaille can help, and  
offers hope for a better relationship.

Retrouvaille is a peer ministry of volunteer couples that can help you learn the tools of healthy communication, build intimacy and heal, just as they have done in their own marriages. Retrouvaille is Christian-based, and Catholic in origin, but welcomes couples of all faiths as well as non-religious couples. Retrouvaille can help get your relationship back on track. In the Diocese of Harrisburg, Retrouvaille is under the auspices of the Office of Family and Respect Life Ministries.

For more information, or to register, call 717-356-2185  
or visit: [HelpOurMarriage.com](http://HelpOurMarriage.com)

## Sign Up to Receive *The Witness* Electronically

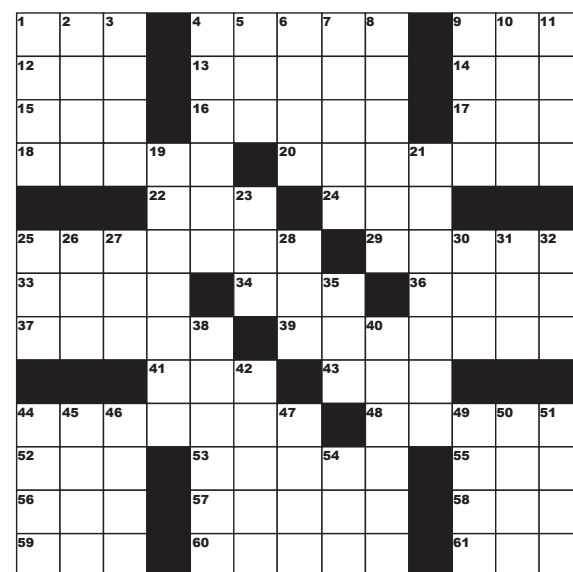
Read *The Catholic Witness* online, wherever you go! Through a free e-mail service, you can receive an e-mail with a direct link to each edition as it is published. Sign up for the e-mail service by logging on to the diocesan web site at [www.hbgdiocese.org](http://www.hbgdiocese.org). Follow the News/Events tab to *The Catholic Witness* page and click on "Sign Up for Our E-mail."

Registration with the e-mail service will not automatically cancel your mailed subscription. If you prefer to receive the online version instead of a copy in the mail, e-mail your name and mailing address to [witness@hbgdiocese.org](mailto:witness@hbgdiocese.org).

And remember, previous editions of the newspaper – dating back to early 2011 – are also available online. You can find them at [www.hbgdiocese.org](http://www.hbgdiocese.org). Just follow the News/Events tab to *The Catholic Witness* page.

## The Cross Word

Answers appear  
on page 15



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Readings: Col 3:1-5, 9-11; Lk 12:13-21 and Heb 11:1-2, 8-19; Lk 12:32-48

### ACROSS

- Future Farmers of America (abbr.)
- "What \_\_\_ is This?"
- Silent
- Decoration
- Measuring instrument
- Compass point
- Executive
- Swelling
- Compass point
- Music rate
- "Christ your life \_\_\_"
- Wing
- The Dead \_\_\_
- What you once were (2 wds.)
- Chilly wind
- Pros' opposites
- "\_\_\_, drink and be merry"
- Water's moon move
- Wrote Tom Sawyer
- He had a bountiful harvest (2 wds)
- Gone to lunch
- Calorie
- Kept from seeing
- Type of small goat
- Long time
- Wine fruit
- Affirmative
- Alphabet
- Mistake

- Line of crops
- Chinese drink
- "As countless as the \_\_\_"
- Night bird

### DOWN

- Truth
- Not a slave
- Particle
- "Shrimp \_\_\_"
- Owned
- Notion
- "Light your \_\_\_"
- Hung artfully
- Plateau
- Former Soviet union
- Cat cries
- \_\_\_ is earthly
- Put to death parts that are \_\_\_
- Monk brew
- Rosary month
- Close to the ground
- Genetic code
- Distant
- Aspire
- Makes food laws (abbr.)
- # of commandments
- Facial twitch
- Elbows
- Dances around
- \_\_\_ cotta (clay)
- "\_\_\_ the men servants"
- Lower ear part
- Pre-Columbian America empire
- Mend sock
- Rotating mechanism
- Cat's cry
- Two-masted sailboat
- Pea holder



# Diocesan Notebook

*(Submit written announcements to witness@hbgdiocese.org, nine days before the issue date. No flyers or ads, please. See the bottom of the Notebook section on page 15 for next issue's deadline.)*

## SPIRITUAL OFFERINGS

**Mass with prayers for healing**, Aug. 6 at 7 p.m. at St. Theresa Church, New Cumberland. Father Dwight D. Schlaline, pastor of Our Lady of the Visitation Parish in Shippensburg and chaplain at Shippensburg University, celebrant. For information, call Mary Ann at 717-564-7709.

**Conewago District Council of Catholic Women, 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual District Mass & Dinner**, Sept. 12 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Abbottstown. Mass at 6 p.m., celebrated by Father Michael Reid. Chicken dinner in the parish social hall. Cost \$10 per person. Guest speaker, Mary Furlong, a member of CDCCW who spent 18 months teaching at the Kachebere Seminary in Malawi, will speak on "Voice of Malawi: Global Catholicism in a Developing Nation." All women of the diocese are invited to attend. Contact Pat Slonaker at 717-624-3245 or paslonaker@comcast.net by Aug. 30.

**Charismatic Mass with Prayers for Healing**, Aug. 27 at St. Rose of Lima Church in York, celebrated by Father Daniel Richards. Praise and worship music at 6:30 p.m. by The New Spirit Contemporary Group. Mass begins at 7 p.m. Sponsored by The Spirit of Love & Mercy at St. Rose of Lima and the Come & See Prayer Group at St. Patrick Parish. Call Joyce, 717-308-7245.

**Good Shepherd Church in Camp Hill, Mass of Remembrance** for families who have experienced the loss of a child through miscarriage, abortion, stillbirth or early death, Sept. 14 at 10 a.m. Babies who have not been given a name can be listed with your last name, such as "Baby Jones." Names will be brought to the altar to be remembered by the parish family. Names of children submitted in previous years will be included this year. Submit names for remembrance to Good Shepherd Church, 3435 Trindle Road, Camp Hill, PA 17011 and mark the envelope "Mass of Remembrance," or to Geri Andregic at andregicg@gmail.com or 717-761-4789.

## PILGRIMAGES & RETREATS

**Oblates of St. Benedict retreat**, Sept. 7 at St. Joseph Church in Lancaster. "A Careful Watch: Vigilance in the Rule of St. Benedict," presented by Father Mateo Zarmora, OSB, a priest of the Diocese of Lexington, Ky. Mass in the lower church at 8:15 a.m., retreat concludes at 3:15 p.m. Bring your own lunch. Cost is \$15 per person, RSVP by Sept. 3. Find information from Sharon Ogden at 717 560-2873 or seojogden2@aol.com.

**Retreat at St. Aloysius Parish in Littlestown**, "Mary: Our Exquisite and Empowering Soul Friend on the Journey," Sept. 7 from 8:30 a.m.-noon. Presented by Sister Eileen Quinn. Refreshments included. Contact Kathleen Hunter to RSVP, kas3820@comcast.net or 410-259-2159. No cost to attend.

**Mission trip to the Missionaries of the Poor in Kingston, Jamaica**, Nov. 2-10. Members of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Abbottstown will travel on a mission trip, working with Father Ho Lung, caring for castaways in Kingston, including men, women and children. The mission trip is one of service. Contact Roy Wainwright at roywainwright3@gmail.com or 717-619-7243. Find more information at www.ihmparadise.org/29.

**St. Peter Parish in Columbia, pilgrimage to Oberammergau**. Eleven-day Alpine Europe tour with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to attend the world-famous Passion Play in 2020 in Oberammergau, Germany. The villagers of Oberammergau first performed the play in 1634 in fulfillment of their promise to God for sparing them from the Black Plague, and it is presented there every 10 years. Cost is \$4,199 (includes taxes and airline surcharge). The trip will leave from Philadelphia airport. Brochures are available. Contact Mary Loreto at Marycloreto@gmail.com or 717-286-7239. Calls will be returned in the evening or weekends.

**"A Call to Prayer," Marian pilgrimage in Centralia** at Assumption BVM Church on Aug. 25 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Led by Archbishop Borys Gudziak and bishops of the Eastern and Latin Catholic Churches, including Bishop Ronald Gainer. Recitation of the Rosary, Divine Liturgy at noon, outdoor living Rosary, Confession, candlelight procession with the icon of Our Lady of Pochoiv and prayers for healing at 5 p.m.

## EDUCATION & ENRICHMENT

**POLST (Pennsylvania Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment) and Advance Health Care Directives presentation**. Medical decisions are difficult and at times confusing. This is especially true when it comes to end-of-life decisions. The Aug. 14 Diocesan Conference of Health Care Ministers and Helping Ministries (Parish Caring Community & Parish Nurse Program) meeting welcomes Father David Danneker, PhD, Diocesan Vicar General, and Eric Failing from the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference. A question-and-answer session follows their presentations. Meeting at the Diocesan Center in Harrisburg, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. RSVP to 717-657-4804, ext. 313, or jcurran@hbgdiocese.org.

**"Matthew: The King and His Kingdom," a 24-session bible study**, at Good Shepherd Parish in Camp Hill. Tuesday morning sessions (10 a.m.-noon) beginning Sept. 10, or Thursday evening sessions (6:30-8:30 p.m.) beginning Sept. 12. Twelve sessions in the fall and 12 sessions beginning January 2020. Registration opens August 5. Call Augie Pfeifer at 717-737-8713 with questions.

**Johnnette Benkovic Book Study** "Experience Grace in Abundance: Ten Strategies for Your Spiritual Life" at Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Harrisburg beginning Sept. 14 for 10 weeks. Sessions begin at 9:30 a.m. in the former church. For information, or to register, contact Chris Arnold at carnold@womenofgrace.com or 717-379-6041.

**I Thirst Prayer Community's Bible Study/Praying the Scripture Summer Series** at St. Joan of Arc Church in Hershey, Wednesdays from 7-8:30 p.m. Read the Scriptures and research them prior to the meeting. Come with your Bible, pen and paper and questions for discussion. Aug. 21, study James 2:14-26, "Living the Christian Life." Aug. 28, pray Ephesians 1:1-23, "You are Chosen to be Amazing." Sept. 11, pray 1 Kings 19:1-18, "Listen, God Speaks." Sept. 18, study 2 Kings 2:1-25, "Learning to Use God's Holy Spirit Abundantly." Sessions are guided by Father Modestus Ngwu, OP. For information, call Lynn at 717-503-1600.

## FUNDRAISERS & EVENTS

**Shining Light Thrift Shop, a ministry of the Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick in Harrisburg**, needs furniture, small appliances, men's clothing and unisex t-shirts. Seeking volunteers to work on Fridays, volunteers to organize domestics, and volunteers to pick up furniture once a month. Drop off behind 1310 N. 3rd Street. Hours: Wednesday-Saturday from 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Call Mario or Heidi, 717-234-2436.

**Hartz Physical Therapy's Fall Blast 5K Run/Walk benefitting Off the Streets Lancaster**, Oct. 5 in Lititz. Family-friendly event for runners of all levels. All proceeds benefit Off the Streets Lancaster, which secures housing for those who are homeless locally and is supported in part by St. John Neumann Parish in Lancaster. Forms are online at [www.hartzpt.com/fall-blast-5k-runwalk/charitable-causes/](http://www.hartzpt.com/fall-blast-5k-runwalk/charitable-causes/) or find more info on Facebook at Fall-Blast-Hartz Physical Therapy. The goal is to help at least 28 families and individuals. Learn about Off the Streets at [www.offthestreetsnow.com](http://www.offthestreetsnow.com) or on Facebook at Off The Streets Now Lancaster PA.

**St. John Neumann Parish Knights of Columbus Council 12532, Pig & Corn Roast**, Aug. 18 from noon-3 p.m. in the parish's St. John XXIII Center, Lancaster. Pork sandwich, with or without homemade barbecue sauce, roasted corn, baked beans, apple sauce, a beverage and ice cream. \$10 per person; children 4 and under are free. Rain or shine; indoor seating. For tickets, call Joel Harnish at 717-396-0041; Jerry Sauers at 717-344-0927; or the parish office at 717-569-8531. Proceeds benefit council causes, including pro-life efforts and St. John Neumann Parish.

**Assumption BVM Parish in Lebanon, yard sale**, Aug. 10 from 8 a.m.-noon in the rear parking lot and parish center.

**Holy Spirit Knights of Columbus Council #10502 in Palmyra**, golf outing at Iron Valley Golf Club in Lebanon, Aug. 24. Four-person scramble format with 8 a.m. shotgun start. \$90 per person fee includes range balls, beverages, chicken and BBQ pork lunch, as well as numerous raffles and prizes. Register online at [www.spiritscramble.com](http://www.spiritscramble.com). Contact Dane Schoenbaum at 717-304-3493 or dane.schoenbaum@gmail.com with any questions.

**Good Shepherd School in Camp Hill is enrolling students for PreK3 through eighth grade**. Small class sizes, strong academics, athletics, extra-curricular activities, enrichment clubs, full-day PreK3, PreK4 and kindergarten. Financial aid, including tuition assistance, transfer grants and referral bonuses are available. Call the school office at 717-737-7261 or email [jleter-sky@gsschpa.org](mailto:jleter-sky@gsschpa.org) to schedule your private tour.

**Resurrection Catholic School in Lancaster, golf outing** at Meadia Heights on Sept. 10. Registration at 10 a.m., shotgun start at noon. Four-person scramble. \$90 per person. Twosomes and singles will be paired up. Hotdog and beer lunch, barbeque dinner, and contests on the course, including a \$10,000 prize for a hole in one. Sponsorships for tables, golf carts, holes and pin flags available. Event benefits technology for students. For information or to register, call 717-392-3083 or e-mail [dwalker@rcspa.org](mailto:dwalker@rcspa.org).

**St. Joseph Parish Fun(d) Committee, indoor summer yard sale** on Aug. 10 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. in the social hall at St. Joseph Parish in Hanover. Breakfast and lunch served. Proceeds benefit St. Joseph Parish. Vendor space available. Call 717-524-6656 for information.

**Cash Bingo, hosted by Our Lady Help of Christians PCCW** in Lykens, Aug. 11, in the parish social hall. Doors open at 11:30 a.m.; early bird begins at 12:30 p.m. Twenty games, specials, 50/50 and more. Kitchen open for food and drinks. Cost is \$20. Tickets available at the parish office, 717-453-7895, or by contacting Deb Bower, 717-215-6784, or Ann Marie Kolva, 717-571-8031.



## 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.*

**Bloomsburg**  
St. Columba:  
Helen J. Speer  
Gerald L. Zamit

**Buchanan Valley**  
St. Ignatius Loyola:  
Helen J. Kimple

**Camp Hill**  
Good Shepherd:  
Anne Boyle  
Shirley McKee  
Royce Worthington

**Catawissa**  
Our Lady of Mercy:  
Frances Brehm  
Helene Salley

**Chambersburg**  
Corpus Christi:  
Deborah A. Bubak  
Bridgetta Buhan  
JoAnn Gallagher  
Walter E. Miner  
Mary Ann Mouer  
John O'Shaughnessy  
Amelio Russello  
Samuel A. Tarquino

**Coal Township**  
Our Lady of Hope:  
Margaret Kline

**Danville**  
St. Joseph:  
Suzanne Tinsley

**Dauphin**  
St. Matthew:  
Maretta Schmidt

**Gettysburg**  
St. Francis Xavier:  
Geronima Vargas Salinas

**Hanover**  
St. Joseph:  
Mary O'Donnell  
James M. Redding, Sr.  
Amanda Sneringer  
Lewis Gilmore Von Lossberg  
Donald E. Weddle

**Harrisburg**  
Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick:  
Debra McLanahan

St. Catherine Labouré:  
Bernard Durborow  
Shari Ann Ebner  
Charles Frye  
John Gacesa, Sr.

St. Margaret Mary:  
Elaine Murphy  
Mary Anne Whiteman  
Olga Yakowenko

**Hershey**  
St. Joan of Arc:  
Jim Gaspari  
Isolina "Selina" Leoni  
Bob Miely  
Mae Piconi

**Kulpmont**  
Holy Angels:  
Rita Douty  
James R. Korenkiewicz

**Lancaster**  
Assumption BVM:  
Marilyn Clement  
Larry Horne  
Hank Roux

Sacred Heart of Jesus:  
Anthony J. Cucuzella  
Alexander A. Francer  
Barbara A. Kipphorn  
Dorothy Krall  
Gloria Clerico Merinsky

St. John Neumann:  
William Mitchell, Jr.  
Francis Varallo

St. Joseph:  
Aldo "Al" Vincent Celotto  
Michael D. Gallagher  
William Franklin Keller  
Harry Hollis Mann  
Joan N. Manuel  
Josephine Sabatine  
Paul H. Scheid, Jr.  
Evan Cody Short  
George K. Tearney, Jr.

**Lebanon**  
St. Cecilia:  
Joseph A. DeFluri, III  
Elizabeth "Betz" Podjed  
Steven H. Smith

**McSherrystown**  
Annunciation BVM:  
Cyprian Gebhart  
Thomas Martin  
Sylvia Stock  
Alfred Young

**Mechanicsburg**  
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton:  
Gwendolyn Nancarvis

St. Joseph:  
Sal Fracica  
John Khouri  
Shirley Valetske

St. Katharine Drexel:  
Sarah L. (Sally) Wilt

**Middletown**  
Seven Sorrows BVM:  
Theresa Novak

**Milton**  
St. Joseph:  
Lisa Reichelderfer

**Mount Carmel**  
Divine Redeemer:  
Michael J. Bednarchick  
Anne M. Harrison  
Mary Ann Rhoades

Our Lady of Mount Carmel:  
Theresa Skavery

**New Cumberland**  
St. Theresa:  
Margaret Acri  
Anthony Rutkowski

**New Freedom**  
St. John the Baptist:  
John Riley  
Allan Wood

**Palmyra**  
Holy Spirit:  
Raymond R. Seibert

**Rohrerstown**  
St. Leo the Great:  
Naomi Mary Roehm  
Dr. John F. Schreder

**Selinsgrove**  
St. Pius X:  
Leo A. Jay  
Henrietta Laboskie  
Nancy Parks

**Steelton**  
Prince of Peace:  
Betty Byrd

**Sunbury**  
St. Monica:  
Donna Bock  
Ruth Campfield  
Irene E. Kalcich  
Peter Sebasovich  
Joan Stepp

**Trevorton**  
St. Patrick:  
Naomi Mielke

**York**  
Immaculate Conception BVM:  
Lewis Schmidt

St. Joseph:  
Carole Lehr  
Harry Millwater  
Frank Potter  
Anna Schriver

St. Rose of Lima:  
Shirley Sigel  
Jan White

## DECEASED CLERGY

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

Deacon Morris MacAdam, 1996  
Msgr. Thomas McGough, 1997  
Msgr. Leo A. Beierschmitt, 2002  
Deacon John Rocco, 2002  
Father Francis Lahout, 2003  
Father Hugh J. McLaughlin, 2005

Msgr. Francis Hudak, 2005  
Father Charles Slough, 2009  
Father Joseph Kofchock, 2010  
Msgr. Thomas R. Brenner, 2011  
Msgr. George W. Rost, 2012  
Deacon Frank Eckman, 2012  
Msgr. Thomas Smith, 2014  
Father Kenneth Lawrence, 2017.

### Diocesan Notebook continued from page 14

**Our Lady of Lourdes Knights of Columbus Council # 13451 in New Holland, Sub Sale.** Choice of Italian, ham, turkey, roast beef or American. Pretzel sandwiches also available. Subs must be pre-ordered. Tickets on sale after Mass the week-ends of Aug. 3-4 and Aug. 10-11. Pick up the week-end of Aug. 17-18.

**Carlisle Area Family Life Center's Oktoberfest,** Sept. 20 from 6-9 p.m. at the LeTort View Community Center on the Carlisle Barracks. German food, dancing to the Egerlander German Band, silent and live auctions. Tickets are \$35, purchase by Aug. 31 at CAFLC or call 717-243-6544. Ticket includes dinner and two drinks. CAFLC is Carlisle's only crisis pregnancy and family resource center.

**St. Monica Parish in Sunbury will participate in Sunbury Riverfest,** Aug. 17. The parish will have a stand, selling beef barbecue sandwiches, chips and water. St. Monica's Knights of Columbus Council will sell Krispy Kreme donuts.

**St. Joan of Arc Council of Catholic Women in Hershey, rummage sale** on Aug. 2 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. and Aug. 3 from 8-11 a.m. in the school cafeteria. Clothing, household items, games, puzzles, jewelry, toys, knick-knacks and much more. All proceeds go to charity.

**Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Fairfield, all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner** in the parish hall,

Aug. 18 from 3-6 p.m. Spaghetti, meatballs, sausage, salad, bread stick, drinks and dessert. Cost is \$8 for adults, \$5 for children 6-12 and free for children under 6. For information, call 717-642-8815.

**Crusader girls softball fall league registration** – assembling teams for 10U, 12U and 14U. All home games at St. Leo the Great, Rohrerstown. Feeder program for Lancaster Catholic High School, accepting girls from any parish in Lancaster County. Register at <https://stleos.weshareonline.org/CrusaderSoftballRegistrationFALL2019>. The Crusader program instills in girls a foundation of faith and teamwork, offers a great workout, improves self-esteem, is good for mental health, promotes muscle development, lays the groundwork for successful interpersonal skills, and develops leadership skills. Contact Ed Krow, Crusader Softball Coordinator, at [ed@edkrow.com](mailto:ed@edkrow.com).

*Mark Your Calendars!*  
**August**

### Next Deadline: August 7

The deadline for submissions for the August 16 edition of *The Witness* is Wednesday, August 7 at 4:30 p.m. Submit written announcements via e-mail to [witness@hbgdiocese.org](mailto:witness@hbgdiocese.org). Limit 70 words. No ads, posters or PDFs, please. A link to the submission deadlines for all editions in 2019 is posted on *The Witness*' page at [www.hbgdiocese.org](http://www.hbgdiocese.org).

## JOB OPENINGS

**Lebanon Catholic School is seeking a Spanish teacher and school nurse.** Candidates must be supportive of our Catholic mission and present required clearances. Job descriptions can be found at [www.lebanoncatholicschool.org](http://www.lebanoncatholicschool.org). Positions include health, 401K and tuition benefits.

**The CrossWord**  
*The Puzzle appears on page 13*

F	F	A		C	H	I	L	D		M	U	M
A	R	T		R	A	D	A	R		E	S	E
C	E	O		E	D	E	M	A		S	S	W
T	E	M	P	O		A	P	P	E	A	R	S
				A	L	A		S	E	A		
O	L	D	S	E	L	F		D	R	A	F	T
C	O	N	S		E	A	T		T	I	D	E
T	W	A	I	N		R	I	C	H	M	A	N
				O	U	T		C	A	L		
B	L	I	N	D	E	D		P	Y	G	M	Y
E	O	N		G	R	A	P	E		Y	E	A
A	B	C		E	R	R	O	R		R	O	W
T	E	A		S	A	N	D	S		O	W	L



# Masses for Healing from Addiction



*The Diocesan Office of Health and Pastoral Care Ministry is working with parishes to host Masses for Healing from Addiction. The Masses will provide spiritual support to those who suffer from addiction and to their loved ones. Dates will be added to the list as Masses are scheduled. The updated list can be found at [www.hbgdiocese.org/healthcare-ministry/](http://www.hbgdiocese.org/healthcare-ministry/).*

**August 2019**

Mount Carmel, Our Lady of Mount Carmel | August 7 at 6:30 p.m.

**September 2019**

Catawissa, Our Lady of Mercy | September 1 at 8 a.m.  
Milton, Saint Joseph | September 13 at 9 a.m.

**October 2019**

Milton, Saint Joseph | October 1 at 9 a.m.  
Berwick, Immaculate Conception BVM | October 27 at 9:30 a.m.

**November 2019**

Fairfield, Immaculate Conception BVM | November 2 at 5 p.m.  
Milton, Saint Joseph | November 6 at 7 p.m.  
Orrtanna, Saint Ignatius Loyola | November 13 at 6 p.m.  
Columbia, Holy Trinity | November 14 at 7:30 p.m.  
Millersville, Saint Philip the Apostle | November 23 at 10 a.m.  
Blue Ridge Summit, Saint Rita | November 30 at 4:30 p.m.

**December 2019**

Milton, Saint Joseph | December 10 at 9 a.m.

**January 2020**

Milton, Saint Joseph | January 5 at 7 p.m.  
Enola, Saint Peter Son Korean Community | January 12 at 10 a.m.  
(Korean language)

**February 2020**

Milton, Saint Joseph | February 7 at 9 a.m.  
Steelton, Prince of Peace | February 9 at 10:30 a.m.

**March 2020**

Milton, Saint Joseph | March 4 at 6 p.m.  
Orrtanna, Saint Ignatius Loyola | March 18 at 6 p.m.

**April 2020**

Milton, Saint Joseph | April 21 at 9 a.m.

**May 2020**

Milton, Saint Joseph | May 4 at 9 a.m.

**June 2020**

Milton, Saint Joseph | June 24 at 7 p.m.

# Summer Drama is King

By Chris Heisey  
*The Catholic Witness*

For the past four summers, St. Theresa School in New Cumberland has offered a musical theater camp for elementary students. The several-week program is hosted at Trinity High School in Camp Hill, where the camp attendees are treated to wonderful production quality sound and lighting systems to enhance the musical production. This year's chosen production was *The Lion King*, mirroring Disney's summer blockbuster release in theaters.

The camp is run by BJ Meagher, the Director of Bands at Trinity, who, along with several assistants, help the attendees with singing, acting, choreography and set creation. The costumes and sets are fashioned out of basic items transformed into striking props.

More than 25 young people attended the camp and performed a striking and beautifully performed rendition of the famous African story to culminate the drama learning experience. To learn more about the camp, contact Meagher at [bmeagher@thsrocks.us](mailto:bmeagher@thsrocks.us).



CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

Drama camp participants act out the lives of the African animals with handmade props.



Simba, portrayed by Noah Rakotoari Manana, considers his future as the king of the animals.



As Nala and Simba, Kaitlyn Do and Noah Rakotoari Manana, proudly display the new addition to their pride.