A Perfect Gift (Read the full version at usccb.org/perfect-gift.)

Soon after the birth of my son Charlie,* who has Down syndrome, a visitor asked whether he was “mild, moderate, or severe” – referring to his level of cognitive impairment. I was shocked. In my arms I held my beautiful baby boy, who defied easy categorization. It’s like looking at stained glass from the outside: the colors look dark, and you can’t see the figures. But inside, with the sun shining through, the effect can be brilliant. From inside our family, love illuminates our life with Charlie. What may seem dreary to others, perhaps even unbearable, is actually filled with beauty and color. Our love has nothing to do with his abilities. We love him simply because of who he is, and understanding this teaches us a fundamental truth: every life is a good and perfect gift.

*Name changed for privacy. This is a summary of a USCCB Respect Life Program article by the same name and is reprinted with permission. © 2018, USCCB, Washington, D.C. All rights reserved.
30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2018
5:00 PM – Special Intention of Ron & Violet Heinning on their 55th Wedding Anniversary

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2018
8:15 AM – People of the Parish
11:15 AM + Diane Frey

MONDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2018
NO MASS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2018
9:00 AM + Deceased Members of the Baummer & Miller Families

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2018
9:00 AM + Theron Menges

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2018 - ALL SAINTS DAY
9:00 AM – People of the Parish
7:00 PM + Lorrie Raubenstine

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2018
9:00 AM + All Souls

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2018
5:00 PM + Polly Renaut

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2018
8:15 AM – People of the Parish
11:15 AM + Elmer Wantz

NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS
Deuteronomy 6:2-6
Hebrews 7:23-28
Mark 12:28-34


IN THE CHARITY OF YOUR PRAYERS, please pray for the repose of the soul of Maria Maxwell of our parish who died last week, Chester Barrick, father of Jen Gentile and Scott Uslin, nephew of Kathe DeCarlo who died this week.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS – “What do you want Me to do for you?” Could your answer be the grace of a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life? Talk to Fr. Marcoe or Fr. Brian Wayne, Director of Vocations, at 717-657-4804 or check out www.diocesanpriest.com.

DON’T FORGET – TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR NEXT WEEKEND!
**FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK**

**30th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

1. On October 28th from 12:15 to 3pm in the church, there will be a special time of *Eucharistic Adoration* in celebration of *Respect Life month*. Come join us for prayers in reparation for sins committed against life, and pray for an abundance of God’s grace to transform our society into a *Culture of Life*!

2. This coming Thursday, November 1st, is the celebration of *All Saints Day*, a holy day of obligation. Masses will be held at 9am and 7pm here at IHM, and at 7pm the evening before at Immaculate Conception, New Oxford. In this annual solemnity, we join together as the Church on earth in honoring the great cloud of witnesses, known as the Communion of Saints, who reign with Jesus in heaven.

3. The day following *All Saints Day* is known as *All Souls Day*, a day when we honor all of our beloved dead, and remember them in prayer, especially in the holy sacrifice of the Mass, beseeching God to join them to His saints and angels in heaven. Mass will be held that day (Friday) at 9am.

4. On Sunday, November 4th during the 11:15am Mass, a short *service of remembrance* will take place to pray for those parishioners who died and were buried from IHM in the past year. We pray for the comfort of surviving loved ones, and ask that eternal rest be granted to these souls, and all the souls of the faithful departed.

God bless you and your week – Fr. Marcoe

**GROCERY CARD SALES** – Here at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church we sell grocery cards for both Weis Markets and Giant Stores. The denominations include $20, $50 and $100. IHM receives a 5% profit from the sale of all the grocery cards. This 5% profit is used to help support the cost of our Religious Education Program. Before going for groceries, please consider purchasing Weis or Giant cards after each Mass at the front entrance. Cards can also be purchased in the parish office during the week. Thank you for your support of this wonderful program!

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** – will meet Tuesday, Nov. 6th at 1 PM in Room 1 of the Religious Ed Center.

**ABBOTTSTOWN/EAST BERLIN FOOD BANK** – The food pantry in East Berlin held on Oct. 3rd served 67 families which included 187 individuals. The number of families served at the Abbotsstown location on Oct. 4th was 34 for a total of 82 individuals. The link to the Time to Sign Up page for the food pantry on **Wednesday, Nov. 7th** at the East Berlin location is [www.volunteersignup.org/DJH83](http://www.volunteersignup.org/DJH83) and **Thursday, Nov. 8th** at the Abbotsstown location is [www.volunteersignup.org/WKFYE](http://www.volunteersignup.org/WKFYE). Please remember to drop off health/beauty aid items, such as soaps, toothbrushes, diapers, as well LAUNDRY DETERGENT, etc. and place them in the food pantry barrels.

**VOTE ON TUESDAY, NOV. 6TH** – Form your conscience before you vote. Election Day resources are available at [www.hbgdiocese.org/vote](http://www.hbgdiocese.org/vote). These include candidate responses to survey questions as well as the U.S. Bishop’s document, “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship”. Other resources include: [www.dos.state.pa.us](http://www.dos.state.pa.us). See who is on the ballot by searching the Candidate Database [www.votespa.com](http://www.votespa.com). Find out where your polling place is, and learn about your voting rights. As Catholics, we are part of a community with profound teachings that help us consider challenges in public life, contribute to greater justice and peace for all people, and evaluate policy positions in light of the Gospel in order to help build a better world. We have a moral obligation to participate in the political process. Mark your calendar for Election Day on Nov. 6, 2018. Then exercise your faithful citizenship and VOTE!

**VETERANS DAY DINNER** – The annual Veterans Day Dinner will be held on Saturday, Nov. 3rd at 6:15 PM in the social hall. The cost is $10 for adults and $5 for kids ages 5-16. Veterans eat free as our guests. Tickets will be sold after Masses in October. ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE PENNSYLVANIA WOUNDED WARRIORS.

**KNOCKS OF COLUMBUS SPAGHETTI DINNER** to benefit the K of C Catholic Charities for Hurricane Relief will be held Saturday, Nov. 10th at 6:15 PM in our parish social hall. Tickets will be sold after Masses on Oct. 27th and 28th as well as Nov. 3rd and 4th. For more info, contact Ken Glass at 717-814-0265.

**IMPORTANT CHANGE FOR HANOVER HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS** – The Hanover Hospital – UPMC Pinnacle Health has issued the following changes to their policy effective December 2018.

1. Clergy will not be able to view denominational lists at the front desk.
2. Clergy will not be able to obtain patient information at the front desk unless they have the patient’s name.
3. If the patient indicates a congregational affiliation in the admissions interview, the Chaplain will call the congregation. If the patient indicates to the Chaplain on his or her rounds that he or she belongs to a particular congregation and gives permission the Chaplain will call the congregation.
4. In an emergency situation if the patient or family indicates a congregational affiliation to the Chaplain or other staff and gives permission to call the congregation, every effort will be made to notify the congregation.

**Because of these changes, it is very important that a family member contacts the parish when someone is admitted.**
PARISH CARING COMMITTEE – Assists parishioners on an as needed basis, in times of need or stress and provides visitation, care giver relief, meals, errands, light household chores and local transportation. To request assistance or to become a Caring Committee Volunteer, contact Jen Gentile at 717-225-5059.

MASS INTENTIONS – Mass intentions are a wonderful way to celebrate a special occasion, remember those who have died or are sick and in need of our prayers. Please consider this as a “gift” for someone. Call Anita in the Parish Office to arrange your Mass intentions.

FLOWERS – Looking for a way to memorialize a loved one or celebrate a special occasion? A beautiful way would be to order flowers on the altar. Most weekends are available from now through the end of the year. Please call Anita in the parish office to make arrangements.

FUSION - Fusion is Immaculate Heart of Mary’s youth ministry; open to all teenagers in grades 8 to 12.

Did You Know? Halloween has Catholic origins. Known as All Hallows Eve, it was started by Irish Catholics to remember the unfortunate souls in Hell. They would bang pots and pans to let the dead know they were not forgotten. Meanwhile, in medieval France, due to the bubonic plague, they began to dress up in the garb of various states of life and death.

Saturdays:
- October 27th, 6 – 8:00 PM: Youth Night
- October 27th, 8:15 – 9:15 PM: Festival of Praise Holy Hour
- November 10th, 6 – 8:30 PM: Youth Night
- November 17th, 9 AM – 8:30 PM: Fan the Fire Youth Rally
- November 24th, 6 – 8:30 PM: Youth Night with Adoration
- November 30th: Parish Talent Show
- December 8th, 6 – 8:30 PM: Youth Night
- December 15th, 6 – 8:30 PM: Youth Night with Adoration

For more information, please call or email Paul Oakes: (717) 259-0611 ext.8 or poakes@hbgdiocese.org

GROCERY CERTIFICATES – Please know how very grateful we are to all of you who support our Grocery Certificate Program and ultimately our Religious Education Program. During the week of Oct. 21, 2018 we sold $820 for a profit of $41.00.

CATECHETICAL CONFERENCE – NOV. 10, 2018
The annual Diocesan Catechetical Conference is Saturday, Nov. 10, 2018 at the Diocesan Center, 4800 Union Deposit Rd., Harrisburg. Doors open 8 AM. The theme is All in for Jesus: Toward an Evangelizing Catechesis. The Keynote Speaker is Dr. Bob Rice. Bob Rice is Professor of Catechetics at Franciscan University of Steubenville, as well as the Director of the MA program in catechesis and evangelization. Rice is also well known in national Catholic circles as a speaker and musician. Bishop Ronald Gainer will act as Principal Mass Celebrant and Homilist. There will be 28 workshops presented over four sessions by a blue-ribbon panel of speakers. Conference fee is $30, which includes breakfast and lunch. Registration deadline is Nov. 5, 2018. While geared especially for catechists, this conference is for anyone interested in learning more about his or her Catholic Faith. Only the first 450 registrants are guaranteed admittance. For information or to register, please go to www.hbgdiocese.org/cat_conference. Don’t miss the grace … register now!

Do you feel lost, alone or bored in your marriage?
Are you frustrated, hurt or angry with your spouse? Are you constantly fighting? Do you simply shut down? Have you thought about separation or divorce? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille provides marriage help! The next Retrouvaille weekend is scheduled for Jan. 11-13, 2019. For more information and to register, please visit retrouvaille.org or call 717-356-2185.

ANNUNCIATION CHURCH CEMETERY – The Cemetery Committee will have fall clean up on Saturday, Nov. 17th. All items must be removed by that date. Anything remaining will be discarded. If there is inclement weather, clean-up will happen during evening hours the following week.

VNA NATIONAL HOSPICE MONTH – November is National Hospice Month and Sunday, Nov. 4th is the 30th Annual VNA Hospice Pizza Sunday. Domino’s will donate 25% of that day’s sales from both Hanover locations to the VNA Hospice Program.

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THANKS TO
COOKIES FOR WORLD HUNGER – Again this year, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish will join other parishes in the Diocese to participate in the Cookie Sale to Combat World Hunger. Orders will be taken Nov. 17th through Dec. 2nd and cookies will be delivered to the parish by Saturday, Dec. 8th for distribution. More details will follow.

OCTOBER IS THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY – The Rosary is the most beautiful and the most rich in graces of all prayers, it is the prayer that touches most the Heart of the Mother of God … and if you wish peace to reign in your homes, recite the family Rosary. (Saint Pius X)

The Rosary is the ‘weapon’ for these times. (Saint Pio of Pietrelcina - Padre Pio) “My impression is that the Rosary is of the greatest value not only according to the words of Our Lady of Fatima, but according to the effects of the Rosary one sees throughout history. My impression is that Our Lady wanted to give ordinary people, who might not know how to pray, this simple method of getting closer to God.” (Sister Lucia, one of the visionaries of Fatima)

LOCAL CHRISTMAS Bazaars
Annunciation Parish Christmas Bazaar will be held on Saturday, Nov. 3rd from 8 AM – 2 PM in the school hall, 316 North St., McSherrystown. Breakfast & lunch are available for purchase. Fall items & Christmas items available for purchase. Decorated trees & wreaths, baked goods, outdoor items, filled box and filled basket raffle and childcare is available.

St. Vincent’s, Hanover will hold their annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 3rd from 8 AM – 1 PM.

St. Francis Xavier Gift Fair and Holiday Bazaar Nov. 10th from 8AM – 2:30 PM at the Xavier Center, 465 Table Rock Rd., Gettysburg. Vendors, fair trade items, timeless treasures, collectibles, children’s activities, baked goods, raffles and door prizes. Café serving breakfast and lunch items.

St. Joseph, Hanover Christmas Bazaar

St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School will host their 2018 Christmas Bazaar and Craft Show On Saturday, Nov. 17th from 9 AM – 3 PM. The bazaar will be held in the Sacred Heart Gym at the Conewago campus, 55 Basilica Dr., Hanover. We will have a variety of commercial vendors and one of a kind products made by local artisans. Our famous “Classroom Basket Raffle” and “Silent Auction” will return this year with items that are sure to please everyone! Small games of chance will be available. Come eat breakfast or lunch with us. Santa will be there from 9 am – 1 pm, so be sure to bring your little ones! Hope to see you there!

Immaculate Heart of Mary Christmas Bazaar
Will be held Saturday, Nov. 17th from 8 AM – 2 PM. Enjoy a day of fun, food and yummy treats. Start/Finish your Christmas shopping. Find that “special gift” for that “special someone”! Breakfast and lunch can be purchased as you shop.

Immaculate Conception BVM, New Oxford
Will hold their annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, Dec. 1st from 8AM – 2 PM.

SEPTEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT –
Monthly Budget $ 45,000.00
Income for Sept. 2nd $ 9,513.00
Sept. 9th 9,832.58
Sept. 16th 10,042.50
Sept. 23rd 8,579.00
Sept. 30th 7,701.00
TOTAL MONTHLY INCOME $ 45,668.08
SECOND COLLECTIONS:
Capital Improvements 1,557.20
Peter’s Pence Collection 1,401.00

SPAGHETTI DINNER – The Knights of Columbus will be holding a spaghetti dinner on Nov. 10th after the 5 PM Mass. All proceeds will go to the victims of Hurricane Florence. Tickets are $3 for children ages 5-10 and $7 for ages 10 and above. There will be a jar at the dinner for additional donations if anyone would like to donate. See the posters on the bulletin boards for ticket information. We will be selling tickets after Masses on the weekends of Oct. 27/28 and Nov. 3/4.

MASS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES – The Diocese of Harrisburg’s annual Mass Celebrating the Gifts of People with Disabilities will be held on Sunday, Nov. 18, 2018 at 11:30 AM at St. Catherine Laboure Church in Harrisburg. Bishop Ronald Gainer will be the Celebrant and Homilist. This year also marks the 40th
Anniversary of the signing of the 1978 Pastoral Statement on Persons with Disabilities. A light reception will follow the Mass, which will include reflections on the 1978 Pastoral Statement. To assist with planning, it is requested that those attending from outside St. Catherine Laboure Parish or in need of any special accommodations, kindly RSVP to LKiley@hbgdiocese.org or 717-657-4804 ext. 322 prior to Nov. 9, 2018. All are welcome to attend.

Check out our new website at www.ihmparadise.org.

AERO ENERGY HOUSE OF WORSHIP PROGRAM – This program was established to provide Aero Energy customers an opportunity to give to our church. To participate, Aero Energy customers sign up by phone or online and Aero Energy donates 4 cents for every gallon of fuel they use to us. Please call if you are not already part of this wonderful program. It’s an easy way to benefit Immaculate Heart of Mary. Call 888-827-17136.

FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK

SUGGESTION CARDS are available on the back ledges and at the entrances of the church. If you have any suggestions on how to make our parish better, please fill one out and return it in the collection basket.

HIPPA LAWS – Please note that HIPPA (health care privacy laws) prevent hospitals from automatically notifying the parish office when you are in the hospital. Therefore, we ask you to please give consent (permission) for the parish office to be notified. If you would like Fr. Marcoe to know of your hospitalization, please inform the parish office before going into the hospital OR once hospitalized, ask the nurse or hospital chaplain/pastoral care staff person to notify the parish.

SUMMER WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE:
Saturday 5 PM,
Sunday 8:15 AM and 10:15 AM

LOST AND FOUND – Please check our Lost and Found bin in the sacristy for any items you may have left in Church. Any unclaimed items will be discarded.

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students at Delone Catholic High School for achieving honor roll status:
FIRST HONORS: Julia O’Brien, Audrey Sell and Harrison Smith
SECOND HONORS: Christian Powell
COMMENDABLE EFFORT: Abigail Sell

WEEKDAY MASS PARKING – Anyone attending the weekday Masses are asked to park in the lot beside and behind the Church whenever there is snow and ice. This parking area will be made ready first for anyone on the property.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY – CAN YOU DONATE NEW YARN? During the last year, the Prayer Shawl Ministry has made over 50 items for our own parishioners, Rachel’s Vineyard retreatants, Cross Keys Village Skilled Nursing patients, Spiritrust Lutheran hospice and Hanover Hospital Maternity. We rely on your donations to help with our yarn expense. We can always use red, white and blue yarn for military veterans in hospice care. Please drop off your donations in the covered gray boxes at the entrances to the church. If you know of anyone who would benefit from a prayer shawl, please call the parish office at 717-259-0611. Thank you!

AUGUST FINANCIAL REPORT –
Monthly Budget $ 36,000.00
Income for Aug. 5th 11,000.00
Aug. 12th 9,775.22
Aug. 19th 9,743.90
Aug. 26th 9,524.50
TOTAL MONTHLY INCOME $ 40,043.62

SECOND COLLECTIONS:
Capital Improvements 1,722.80
Aug. 15th 1,398.00

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL - The Parish Pastoral Council would like to announce that we had two members of our parish community volunteer to serve on the council. Please join us in thanking and welcoming Rosemary Connelly and Lynn Murphy to the council. Given that there were only two vacancies, there will be no need to hold elections as in some years past. The Pastoral Council is here to serve our parish family. Please feel free to talk with any of the members when you have concerns, ideas or questions.
BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION – Please keep collecting and sending in those BoxTops for Education for St. Teresa School. If you’d like to help out trimming those BoxTops, please contact kwenger@hotmail.com. All help is appreciated!

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT – It has been noted that some people, who are dropped off or picked up for Mass, are doing so at the steps right along West Canal Road. Especially at night, and given the adjacent hill, it is deemed this is unsafe given the speed and flow of traffic. For accessible and safe access to the Church at all times, please use the side social hall doors. Thank you.

EVENT NOTICE – I have been a parishioner at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church for more than 40 years and employed in the newspaper business for more than 20 years. We have many wonderful events happening here at our parish and we’d like to get the word out to the public. Please feel free to send me any events that would be of interest to our local community – from Lenten dinners to youth events to Bible studies and everything in between! You can send information to: 6fletch@embarqmail.com. Don’t forget to tell me the following: WHAT is the event? WHO is invited? WHEN is the event? WHERE is the event? WHY should people attend? HOW can they get more information? If you have any questions, feel free to call or text me at 717-357-8051. Thank you! Holly Fletcher

CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELING SERVICE – Outpatient Behavioral Health Care is dedicated to providing access to high quality outpatient counseling for children, adolescents and adults in a small, friendly, confidential office. Services include individual and family therapy, marital counseling and parent-child counseling. Services are provided regardless of religious affiliation. Accepting Medical Assistance insurance (Medicaid) and County Mental Health funding (York and Dauphin Counties, for low income uninsured people who are determined to be eligible). Other clients can pay fee on a sliding scale. No one is turned away due to an inability to pay. Not accepting private/commercial insurances. Local offices are York Counseling, 253 E. Market St., York (717-845-2696) and Paradise Counseling, 6156 W. Canal Rd, Abbotts-town (717-259-9537 – press 0 for secretary). Visit www.cchbg.org for more information.

HEARING IMPAIRED – Anyone who is hearing impaired may find it helpful to sit in Pew #9 on the Sacristy side. You will notice “hearing impaired” stickers on the side of the pew to indicate the best place to sit if you are hearing impaired.

HANDICAP PARKING – Please note that handicap parking spaces are available for parking near the social hall entrance to the Church. If you are attending the 11:15 AM Mass, in order to avoid the traffic associated with religious education letting out, the following two options are recommended: EITHER come in the EXIT lane BEFORE 11 AM, OR come in the usual entrance way AFTER approximately 11:07 AM.

CHILDREN’S CHAPEL – For everyone’s information, especially for those who may be new to our parish, there is a so-called Children’s Chapel or Cry Room here in the Church. It’s located in the front left corner of the church, where a restroom is also located. As a parish family, we want children and families to be welcome here at Mass, and so it’s important to have an appropriate place in the church for babies and young children when they get fussy and need extra attention. We really want to encourage parents to use this space to tend to their children as needed. Please, feel free to just get up when need be from the body of the church, and utilize this space. Then you can better tend to your children without feeling like you’re being watched. And this will also allow the other parishioners to be able to more fully focus on worshiping.

PRAYER SHAWLS – Are you in need of a prayer shawl? Do you know someone who is? Please call Jan Melhorn at 308-2532. The next prayer shawl meeting will be held Tuesday, Feb. 14th at 1 PM in Room #3 of the RE Building. All knitters and crocheters are welcome. If you want to learn to knit or crochet, we can teach you. Skeins of new yarn are always welcome and there are bins at the church entrances for these donations.

CREMATION
Since 1963, Catholics have been allowed to choose cremation over burial as a means of laying a loved one to rest. Cremation is a popular choice since it is less expensive and more manageable than a full burial. Cremation, like death, is final. But that doesn’t mean you won’t have second thoughts. Susan Skiles Luke, a marketing consultant in Columbia, Missouri, had her mother cremated and buried in a family plot. Now, she wishes it was her mother’s body and not just the cremated remains that was in the grave. “When I go there, which isn’t often, I want to feel like her body is under ground, right alongside my grandparents and beloved great aunt, all dressed up in their Sunday best…”

Although creation is permitted, some Catholics have not been dealing properly with their loved ones remains. Common practices include scattering ashes, parting ashes out to friends and relatives, and keeping the ashes in a common area, such as a living room. While scattering ashes may seem romantic to some (but is also contrary to Catholic teaching), there’s something to be said about keeping your loved one in once place, and then marking that place with a name. “We mark the graves of our loved ones with a headstone to memorialize them, so we don’t forget them”. When
visiting that person’s grave, just seeing his or her name can give comfort.
To instruct the faithful in this regard, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has issued updated guidelines. According to these, burial is still preferred, but cremation is an option. When a loved one has been cremated, their ashes must be kept intact, the same as one would treat a body. The ashes may not be separated or scattered. Instead, they should remain in a proper vessel that is interred in a proper place, such as a cemetery or church. Finally, the document stresses that Catholics who choose cremation for reasons contrary to the faith, (e.g., to have their ashes scattered) must be denied a Christian funeral.
In the end, whether cremation or burial is chosen, we await from the grave the second coming of Jesus Christ and the blessed Resurrection of the Dead.

Tips for talking to children about difficult subjects/news reports

The topic of sex abuse, particularly child sex abuse, is a daunting one for parents. Every parent must consider many factors including the best age-appropriate way to discuss the topic. Below are some points to consider adapted from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, and First Things First.

1. Make sure you are composed before you talk with your child.
2. If you believe your child is aware of news concerning abuse in the diocese, start the conversation. Not talking about a difficult event can make the event even more threatening in your child’s mind.
3. Listen carefully to what your child is asking or talking about.
4. Clarify just what any concerns are before you answer. Sometimes we make assumptions and give far more information than what the child needs.
5. Keep your answers simple and brief. Don’t answer questions that have not been asked. Do not overload your child with information that is beyond his/her level of understanding.
6. Assure your child that you and other adults that are in charge are doing everything possible to make sure they will be safe. This will give them a sense that adults are actively taking steps to protect those who are currently suffering.
7. Don’t make guarantees that such a thing can never happen again. Words like “never” and “always” should be used very carefully because small children trust that this is a promise from you.
8. Explain that we do not know why people treat other people badly.
9. Try to limit your child’s exposure to media coverage. A child believes what he or she sees on television, or in the newspapers is always true.
10. Let your children know about successful community efforts. You may want to share positive media images, such as reports of individuals helping those in need.

Additional information is available at www.YouthProtectionHBG.com