

The Prayer Shawl Ministry was begun in 2013. Anyone who can knit or crochet or would like to learn is welcome. We craft shawls while praying for the recipient and they are given to those who are ill or homebound. Becky from Undefeated Courage spoke to us a few weeks ago about Rachel's Vineyard Retreats and we donate shawls for each retreatant.

The Bereavement Lunch Ministry serves a luncheon after a funeral in our church social hall where loved ones gather at their time of loss. We are always in need of volunteers to prepare, serve and clean up. We have a separate committee in charge of baking desserts for the lunches. We also prepare lunch for the East Berlin Food Pantry twice a year and for the Soup and Sermon lunch during Lent.

If you feel called to serve the parish in either of these committees, please contact Jan Melhorn @jkmelhorn@comcast.net or call the parish office.

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2019

5:00 PM + Msgr. Robert Gribbin

SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2019

8:15 AM – People of the Parish

10:15 AM + Pasquale R. Lery

MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2019

NO MASS

TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 2019

9:00 AM + Nora & Claude Pohlman

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 2019

9:00 AM + Maria Tweardy

THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2019

9:00 AM + John Melhorn

FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 2019

9:00 AM + Joseph Karmazin

SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 2019

5:00 PM + Sr. Maggie

SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2019

8:15 AM + Lorrie Raubenstine

10:15 AM – People of the Parish

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11

1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13

John 20:19-23

SICK OF THE PARISH – Please keep our members in your thoughtful prayers: Fred & Yvonne Staub, Kenneth & Alice Williams, Don & Roxey Myers, Helen Lawrence, Marilyn Drummer, Louise Snoots, Norma Woerner, Brenda Freed, Ken Jacoby, Syndia Helmers, Addie Mannarino, Carmen Miranda, Kai Goley, Richard Doll, Ethan Slagle, Gerald Serfoss, Becky Tako, Robert Despres, Scott Hale, Nickolas Willis, Charlotte Smith, Timothy Pieczynski, Landon Merryman, Loretta Gambrell, Richard Gawthrop, Bob Fitzpatrick, Scott & Mary Becker, Judy Goley, Steve Luckenbaugh, Candi Gilbert, Easton Tolson, Sharon Nowakowski, Stephen Nowakowski and Rose McMaster.

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. IHM receives a 5% profit from the sale of all the grocery cards purchased. **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 work week. Thank you for your support of this wonderful program! During the week of May 26, 2019 we sold \$1430 for a profit of \$71.50.

WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE

June 2nd – 8th

Monday, June 3rd – Cub Scouts, 6:30 PM

Monday, June 3rd – Legion of Mary in Rel Ed Bldg Room 4, 7 PM

Monday, June 3rd – Charismatic Prayer Group in social hall, 7 PM

Tuesday, June 4th – Bible Study in Den, 9:30 AM

Tuesday, June 4th – Prayer Shawl Meeting, REC Room 1, 7 PM

Wednesday, June 5th – Boy Scouts 6-9 PM

Wednesday, June 5th – Knights of Columbus in social hall, 7 PM

Thursday, June 6th – Faith Sharing Group in the Den after 9:00 AM Mass

MISSION FOR LITURGY AND WORSHIP

ALTAR SERVERS for Sat/Sun June 8-9

5:00 PM Mass: Hannah Wicker, Kayla Bream, Madison Small

8:15 AM Mass: Hans Livelsberger, Ian Frantz, Lauren Wicker

10:15 AM Mass: Luke Guaragno, Margaret & Clare Mailey

Coordinator is Kelli Maysilles.

LECTORS for Sat/Sun June 8-9

5 PM MASS – Barbara Reichert

8:15 AM MASS – Barb Bowker

10:15 AM MASS – Evelyn Heiliger

Coordinator is Dianne Giampietro.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION (EMHC) for Sat/Sun June 9-9

5:00 PM: Rose Dietz, Bertie Kuhn, Larry Miller, Mat & Holly Robinson

8:15 AM: Kim Aiello, Jason Duty, Ken Glass, Margie & Sam Leese

10:15 AM: Kevin Behr, Joyce Menges, Diane & John Schlaline, Pat Spiridonoff

Coordinator is Claire Wentz.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS –“You will be My witnesses to the ends of the earth.” If you think the Lord may be inviting you to carry on His mission as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life, talk to Fr. Marcoe or Fr. Brian Wayne, Director of Vocations, at 717-657-4804 frbwayne@hbgdiocese.org or check out www.diocesanpriest.com.

SUMMER WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 5 PM,

Sunday 8:15 AM and 10:15 AM

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

7th Sunday of Easter

1. **Congratulations** to our newly-ordained priests of the Diocese of Harrisburg, who were ordained on June 1st at St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg. They are: Matthew Cannon, Samuel Miller, Andrew St. Hilaire, and Joshua Weaver. May God continue to bless our diocese with many holy vocations to the priesthood, and please God, some more from here at IHM!
2. A very special welcome to our **diocesan seminarian**, Joseph Creavey, who is joining us here at IHM from May 23 to July 21. Joe is currently studying at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania. He just completed Theology I this year. His home parish is Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Mechanicsburg, and he is 31 years old. He will be involved in various ministerial roles throughout the summer in this parish apprenticeship.
3. For those of you who have not heard the news, this year I will be transferred from Immaculate Heart of Mary to St. Joseph's, Danville. **My new address will be: 68 Center St., Danville, PA 17821.** The transfer date will be June 17 this year, but due to my vacation schedule, my last day will be June 9 (Pentecost Sunday). I will be moving along with the other priests on June 17 though. It has truly been an amazing blessing serving you here at IHM! Please keep me in your prayers in this time of transition, and know that you will certainly continue in mine.

God bless you and your week – Fr. Marcoe

PENTECOST COLLECTION which supports the education of future priests in the Diocese of Harrisburg will be taken next weekend, June 8th and 9th.

40 HOURS AT IHM – Fr. Dwight Schlaline will be preaching on the Biggest PR Disasters of Christian History at our 40 Hours Devotions on June 30-July 2, 2019. At 7 PM each evening, Fr. Dwight Schlaline, native son of IHM parish, will reflect on the three greatest public relations disasters of Christian history. Come adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament while reflecting on the greatest public relations debacles of Christianity and what we can learn from them.

ABBOTTSTOWN/EAST BERLIN FOOD BANK – The food pantry in East Berlin held on May 1st served 59 families which included 161 individuals. The number of families served at the Abbottstown location on May 2nd was 26 for a total of 55 individuals. The link to the Time to Sign Up page for the food pantry on **Wednesday, June 5th** at the East Berlin location is www.volunteersignup.org/F3JBL and **Thursday, June 6th** at the Abbottstown location is www.volunteersignup.org/YBL3E. 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.

PRAYER SHAWL GROUP – will meet on June 4th in the REC in Room 1 at 7:00 PM. Please note change in time.

QUO VADIS DAYS 2019 – Attention all Catholic young men ages 15-25. Our Lord Jesus Christ has a great plan and mission for you! You are invited to attend the Diocese of Harrisburg's Annual **Quo Vadis Days** vocation discernment retreat to spend time with other young men your age as you listen to the Lord's call in your life while having fun. Activities include – Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, sports, games, great food, talks and more. **Quo Vadis Days** will be held from June 23-27, 2019 at Mount St. Mary's Seminary. There is a \$50 registration fee; all other expenses are funded by the Diocese of Harrisburg. Registration forms can be found on our website at www.hbgdiocese.org. You may also contact the Office of Vocations at 717-657-4804, ext. 282 or email vocations@hbgdiocese.org with questions or for a registration packet. Deadline for registration is June 14, 2019.

FIAT DAYS 2019 – Attention all Catholic young women ages 15-25. Our Lord Jesus Christ has a great plan and mission for you! You are invited to attend the Diocese of Harrisburg's Annual **Fiat Days** vocation discernment retreat to spend time with other young women your age as you listen to the Lord's call in your life while having fun. Activities include – Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, sports, games, great food, talks and more. **Fiat Days** will be held June 30-July 3, 2019 at Mount St. Mary's University and Seminary. There is a \$50 registration fee, all other expenses funded by the Diocese of Harrisburg. Registration forms can be found on our website at www.hbgdiocese.org. You may also contact the Office of Vocations at 717-657-4804, ext. 282 or email vocations@hbgdiocese.org with questions or for a registration packet. Deadline for registration is June 21, 2019.

ATTENTION PARISH WOMEN: Father's Day is coming soon. Why not consider a memorable gift to that man in your life? A weekend to "unwind" and refresh his life as a Catholic, while attending the 41st annual Corpus Christi Men's Retreat, August 2-4 on the beautiful campus of Mount St. Mary's University, Emmitsburg, MD. Your gift could be the deposit (\$60) or the entire cost (\$170). He'll enjoy 2 nights' lodging, 6 meals, and hear a great inspiring speaker, Father Bill Garrott, O.P., Saint Dominic Priory, Washington, DC. For more information, contact Jess Socrates at jesssocrates@phikappamu.com, office 77-637-4551, x4152, or cell 717-817-1608 (leave text message if no answer).

THRIFT SHOP – The Immaculate Conception Thrift Shop is moving to the Immaculate Conception School and help would be greatly appreciated. If interested, please call Pat Slonaker at 717-632-3245. We'll start moving on Monday June 17th at 9 AM.

THANKS TO

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FAREWELL RECEPTION

The Parish Pastoral Council is hosting a Farewell Reception for Fr. Marcoe in the Social Hall on Saturday, June 8th after the 5:00 PM Mass and on Sunday, June 9th following the 8:15 Mass and the 10:15 Mass. Please plan to join us as we have an opportunity to wish Fr. Marcoe well and assure him of our prayers as he moves on to Saint Joseph Parish in Danville.

APRIL FINANCIAL REPORT –

Monthly Budget	\$ 36,000.00
Income for April 7th	\$13,590.70
April 14th	8,698.55
April 21st	7,944.00
April 28th	11,226.07
TOTAL MONTHLY INCOME	\$ 41,459.32

ADDITIONAL COLLECTIONS:

Easter Collection	\$13,063.00
Holy Thursday Collection	1,214.20
Holy Land Collection	1,020.00
Catholic Home Mission	1,193.25
Catholic Relief Services	1,575.10

HEALING HEARTS is a support group for widows and widowers. The group will meet once a week on Thursday nights from 6pm until 7:30 pm at Kim Aiello's house at 1650 Pine Run Road, East Berlin. The meetings will consist of prayer, bible study, share time, Christian music, group social outings, like going to see a Christian movie, attending a Christian Concert, or

listening to a Christian Speaker. The support group goal is to help heal the broken heart and replace sorrow with joy, by finding peace through a personal relationship with the Lord. Contact Kim Aiello at 717-476-7504 or emailing her at jkilo1@hotmail.com.

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

Challenge of the Week: May is the Month of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Pray a Rosary every day!

May 18, 8AM - 6 PM: Day by Day Retreat at Mount St. Mary's Grotto

May 19, 6 - 9 PM: Game Night/ Unlock the Truth: The Catacombs

May 19: Deadline to register for *Dynamic YOU*

June 9 – July 8; August 11 & 18, 6 – 8:30 PM:

***Dynamic YOU* Summer Teen & Parent Program**

July 1, 6 – 9 PM: Healing Mass

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

RUTH'S HARVEST – There has been a change in the April date for Ruth's Harvest. Remaining dates for this school year are now April 10th and May 22nd at 10 AM at the Abbottstown Fire Hall.

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students at Delone Catholic High School for achieving honor roll status:

FIRST HONORS: Audrey & Abigail Sell, Christian Powell and Julia O'Brien

SECOND HONORS: Harrison Smith & Avery Kuntz

COMMENDABLE EFFORT: Christian Powell & Avery Kuntz

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.

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.

RETREAT – please join us in New Oxford, PA for a one day retreat sponsored by Breadbox Media featuring Dr. Scott Hahn who will provide 3 talks. Lunch will be included. Details can be found and tickets may be purchased at <https://breadboxmedia.com/paconference/> or by contacting Pete Socks at 818-521-3137 or pete.socks@breadboxmedia.com.

Sunday, May 5th – Religious Education from 9:30 – 11 AM

Sunday, May 5th – Adult Enrichment Class in The social hall, 9:30-11 AM

SAVE THE DATE! Vacation Bible School will be here before we know it! Mark your calendars so that your child/children don't miss this wonderful week. The theme for our 2019 Vacation Bible School is "**CAMP HEALING**" and will be held **Monday, July 15th to Friday, July 19th** from 6:00-8:30 PM. More information will follow in upcoming bulletins.

WELCOME! We welcome the following to our parish family:

Andrew & Amanda Johnson & family, Dover

Jeff & Stephanie Wirfel & family, Spring Grove

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.

PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snare of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

NEW ENTRANCE PROCEDURE FOR THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CENTER –

I want to let you know about a new **entrance procedure** that we now have in place when coming to the parish office and the Religious Education Center. You will now find that the doors will be locked. We ask that you please ring the bell on the wall outside the door and you will be buzzed into the building. This safety system which now allows the staff to see who is at the door was installed this last week.

THE DIOCESAN CONFERENCE OF HEALTH CARE MINISTERS AND HELPING MINISTRY (PARISH CARING COMMUNITY AND PARISH NURSING PROGRAM) will resume their quarterly meetings.

Some of you may be familiar with these meetings. The meetings were a great opportunity for enrichment on ministry specific topics, for resource sharing and to network with other health care ministers. If you know of any new ministry members that would like to be part of these meetings, please share this information with them. The following are the meeting dates and topic for each date.

Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2019 – Topic: Compassionate Mental Health Care. Presenter: Lori Peters, Counselor for TrueNorth Wellness Services

Tuesday, May 7, 2019 – Topic: Boundaries for Thriving in Ministry. Presenter: Marianne C. Sailus, BCC, PA Society of Chaplains

Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2019 – Topic: POLST and Advance Health Care Directives. Presenter: Very Rev. David Danneker, Vicar General and Medical Ethicist

Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2019 – Topic: Assisted Suicide. Presenter: Maria Gallagher, PA Pro-Life Federation.

All meetings will be at 10:30 AM at the Diocesan Center in Harrisburg. To confirm your participation, please send an email to jcurran@hbgdiocese.org or call Jackie Curran at 717-657-4804, ext. 313.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELING SERVICES:

Depression and anxiety can occur when we have a loss or a major change in our life. A licensed skilled therapist can help you by listening, processing, and giving you the power to make positive change. Catholic Charities Counseling Services is accepting new clients for four office locations throughout the Diocese. Catholic Charities Counseling is for anyone: children, adolescents, adults, and couples. Services are provided in a confidential office setting. Services include individual and family therapy, marital counseling, and parent-child counseling. We accept Medical Assistance, or clients can pay for services (discount fee schedule available). Just call for an appointment: Capital Region 717-233-7978; Lancaster 717-299-3659 or 717-392-2113 (Espanol); York 717-845-2696; Paradise School Office (Abbottstown) 717-259-9537. Visit www.cchbg.org for more information.

WORLD DAY OF THE SICK PRAYER

Generous Lord, with love beyond all telling, Jesus sends us to shower your love on those most in need, particularly in our ministry to the sick. In the spirit of Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta, inspire us to serve with courage, love and generosity. Give us courage to guard the dignity of those who are abandoned and discarded, especially the dying, unborn, migrant and refugee. Let those among us

whose voices are strong raise them in defense of the weak.

Give us love that unveils the face of Christ in the face of every individual we meet, particularly in those we find most difficult to care for.

Give us generosity born from the knowledge that all good things are gifts of your love and, through us, are to be shared with the world. Amen

Pope Francis

SAVE THE WEEK

2019 Vacation Bible School will be held Monday, July 15th through Friday, July 19th from 6:00-8:30 PM for children ages 4 up to and including those finishing 6th grade. Please mark your calendars now so that your children don't miss the opportunity to attend "CAMP HEALING."

Don't Get Scammed!

Scammers are now posing as priests and other clergy. In this latest scam, you might receive an email or a text message that appears to be from your Pastor or another priest that you may know. The scammer ask you to help someone in need by purchasing a gift card and to provide the codes on that card.

Here's how to protect yourself from being scammed.

- 1 – Know that scammers are out there. Be suspicious of any request for funds of any type via an email message or a text message. Verify any request with a call to the person who supposedly sent it or a call to the phone number of the text that you received.
- 2 – Know that any email from a priest should be from a diocesan or parish email account. Messages sent from free services, such as Gmail or Yahoo, are more likely to be scammers.
- 3 – Many clergy do not share their cell phone numbers publicly. If you receive a text message from someone not on your phone's contact list, be suspicious.
- 4 – Know that priests will NEVER ask for financial transactions via email or text messages.

GUIDED PRAYER APP – Alessandro DiSanto, a Holy Name of Jesus parishioner, has worked with a few friends to build an app aiming to help people grow in their faith lives through guided prayer and meditation sessions. The app is called Hallow and offers guided audio sessions through a variety of prayer types, including Christian Meditation, the Examen, Lectio Divina, and Spiritual Writing. To learn more, visit www.hallow.app or feel free to reach out to Alessandro At alessandro@hallow.app. The app is available on both the Apple App Store and Google Play Store.

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!

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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!

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

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 worshipping.

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 cremation 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 one 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. 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