



# DIOCESAN DIGEST

## for Central Pennsylvania



November 21, 2011  
Happy Thanksgiving

### FROM THE DESK OF.....

#### BISHOP NATHAN BAXTER

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ:

Have you read the Eucharistic Advent lessons? My, are they challenging. The readings chosen are in many ways "apocalyptic"; calling us to see what has been hidden but is now clearly and undeniable the political and spiritual realities in which we live. While the lessons were specifically written for a people in crisis during a particular time in history, the power of scripture is that the human condition, the consequences of our sins and God's intervention is an everlasting cycle---appearing generation after generation.

During the season of Advent, we will be presenting a series of podcasts that look at some of the issues in our society and culture today, in light of the Advent lessons. I would invite you to go to our website at

[www.diocesepa.org](http://www.diocesepa.org), and click on the podcast link. Each week we will present a different podcast on a current topic. Advent I and II will address the issues, both practical and spiritual, of Marcellus Shale. Advent III will address the issues surrounding the "Occupy" movement and Advent IV will address the Tea Party movement.

Attached with this Digest is an introductory letter for the series from me. An Advent study guide will also be posted with the podcasts; however, my letter, the podcasts themselves, and the questions posed in the interviews may be used for Advent bible studies or Adult Forum groups.

I would like to thank the people who have made these podcasts possible, especially our speakers: Mrs. Sylvia Neely (St. Andrew's, State College); Mtr. Dee Calhoun; and Father Cliff Johnston who also, along with Mtr. Robin Jarrell and Deacon Kerry Walter, provided me with a comprehensive and helpful overview of the "Occupy" movement. I would also like to thank our webmaster, Lesley Carter who will moderate the podcasts, and the staff whose work on the topics made this come together.

We are living in challenging economic, socially and politically difficult times, especially in the regions of our Diocese. Yet, as I travel about our diocese I give thanks for our Christian outreach and witness, even in the smallest congregations. We are touching the poor, speaking about justice, and seeking ways to have "holy conversation" on hard issues. May God strengthen and advance our mission, even as we "continue in the prayers and the breaking of the bread".

Peace & Grace,

+Nathan



### UPCOMING EVENTS...

#### November 2011-February 2012

- Nov 24-25** Diocesan office closed for Thanksgiving
- Nov 27** Bishop visits Christ Church, Danville
- Nov 30** 7pm Altoona Convocation, St. John's, Bellefonte
- Dec 1** *Deadline* to submit UTO Grant Applications to Diocese
- Dec 3** Bishop in Washington DC as Keynote Speaker at DC ECW Prayer Breakfast
- Dec 4** Bishop visits Prince of Peace, Gettysburg
- Dec 11** Bishop Visits Nativity, Newport
- Dec 18** Bishop visits St. Paul's, Harrisburg
- Dec 23 noon—Jan 2** *Diocesan Office Closed for Christmas*
- Jan 8** Bishop visits All Saints, Hershey
- Jan 15** Bishop visits St. Andrew's, Harrisburg
- Jan 22** Bishop visits St. Edwards, Lancaster
- Jan 22** 5pm LARC Vespers
- Jan 26** Commission on Ministry meeting (location tbd)
- Jan 29** Bishop visits Trinity, Chambersburg
- Feb 5** Bishop visits Mt. Calvary, Camp Hill
- Feb 6-8** Winter Clergy Conference, Harrisburg East Holiday Inn
- Feb 10-16** Bishop leading Barbados Diocesan Service and Clergy Reflections
- Feb 18** Council of Trustees Budget hearings (location to be confirmed)
- Feb 19** Bishop visits St. Paul's, Manheim
- Feb 25** Council of Trustees Budget hearings snow date
- Feb 26** Bishop visits St. John's, Bellefonte

*If you have an event of interest to the Diocese that you would like to have listed on the Diocesan website calendar, please contact the Diocese at [officemailbox@diocesepa.org](mailto:officemailbox@diocesepa.org) or 888-236-5959*

### IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE IN 2012

#### Diocesan Clergy Conference

February 6, 7 & 8, 2012

Harrisburg East Holiday Inn

#### Wardens & Vestry Leaders' Conference

Saturday March 31, 2012

location to be announced

#### Renewal of Vows

Tuesday April 3, 2012

St. Stephen's Cathedral, Harrisburg

#### 2012 Diocesan Convention

Friday June 8 & Saturday June 9

Ramada Inn & Conference Center

State College

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## REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

**William Selvage**, father of Cn. Dan Selvage, passed away on November 4th in Florida. His funeral was held on Sunday, November 20th in Sebring, FL. A Requiem Mass and Inurnment in All Saint's Columbarium, St. John's Church, Bellefonte, will be held at a later date at the convenience of the family.

**Susan Hinton** and her family: **Sara Oldberg**, Susan's mother, who has been in hospital in California with ongoing health problems; her brother, **Tom Oldberg**, who is his mother's main caregiver; and **Carol Anne Oldberg**, Susan's sister, who is undergoing treatment for lung cancer in Chicago. Susan has been doing a lot of travel to help with her sister's care.

**Darcie Ann**, daughter of Father Will Lawbaugh, who is recovering from injuries sustained in a recent car accident.

**Rayelenn Casey** as she continues her recovery following a car accident.

**The Rev. Deacon Barbara Hary**, continues doctors' care for heart-related issues.

**Thomas Kerr**, father of The Rev. Lauri Kerr, continues in care for lung cancer.

**The Rev. Tom Gregg**, father of The Rev. Rowena Gibbons continues in care for brain cancer.

**Maddie Letsche**, Acolyte at St. Luke's, Altoona, who continues treatment and physical therapy for Image Negative Transverse Myelitis.

**Bob Rose** continues his cancer battle.

## UTO Grant Applications Deadline

Please note, if your parish or institution wishes to apply for a 2012 UTO Grant **the Diocesan Office must receive a copy of your application by DECEMBER 1, 2011.**

Applications are available for completion online at [www.episcopalchurch.org/uto](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/uto). Information on whether projects or organizations are eligible to apply is at the same website, or you may contact Bonnie Chambers, at [uto@diocesecpa.org](mailto:uto@diocesecpa.org) or 717- 838-4416.

## Advent Gandlelight Eversong

The Church of the Nativity

Sunday, December 4th 5:30pm

*All are welcome!*

The Church of the Nativity, 159 S. Second Street, Newport (717-567-6514) will welcome the choir from St. Luke's, Lebanon to celebrate the season with inspiring music and liturgy.

A freewill offering will be taken to support the Perry County Friends of Domestic Violence Services of Cumberland & Perry Counties and their establishment of an emergency shelter for women who are surviving domestic violence. There is currently no safe facility in Perry County for women to find protective services and shelter. Nativity is committed to engaging in this ministry.

For more information, go to [www.diocesecpa.org](http://www.diocesecpa.org).

**TRINITY PRO-CATHEDRAL**  
844 W. FOURTH STREET, WILLIAMSPORT  
**PRESENTS**

**BR. BERNARD DELCOURT**

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 4, 2011**

+ He will preach at 8:00am and 10am

+ He will lead a Mini Advent Retreat 2:00-4:00pm

+ He will meet with the Youth Group for dinner 6-8pm

*All are welcome to all events!*

*If you are planning to attend the Mini Advent Retreat or Youth Group, please RSVP to Trinity Church at 717-322-1026 or [trinitychurchpa@comcast.net](mailto:trinitychurchpa@comcast.net)*

Br. Bernard, a native of Belgium, came to New York in 1998 and entered the Order of the Holy Cross in 2004. In 2009 he became an American citizen and in November 2009 made his life profession of the Benedictine Vow.

Br. Bernard is a spiritual director, advises men exploring monastic vocation, and leads volunteering retreats.

Br. Bernard lives at Holy Cross Monastery, which is part of the Order of the Holy Cross. They are a Benedictine Community in the Anglican Communion and Episcopal Church.

## São Paulo Youth to Visit Diocese

This Christmastide will bring many gifts to the Diocese of Central Pa. One gift we are presently preparing for is to welcome 8 teens from São Paulo and their two youth leaders.

The teens will be staying with families of various parishes in the diocese, starting with St. Andrew's State College, where they will spend Christmas. They will then travel to St. James, Mansfield and then on to St. John's Lancaster, for a great News Year Eve party. Finally, they will visit Mt. Calvary, Camp Hill before they return to Washington/Dulles to travel home. In addition to the hospitality of each congregation, Dr. David Myers and the Partners in Mission Commission along with the Youth Committee are supporting this adventure.

Please watch for more information on our website, [www.diocesecpa.org](http://www.diocesecpa.org), for times and events for your participation! ***We are inviting all the Senior High teens of the diocese to join us for the ultimate New Years Eve Party at St. John's Lancaster.***

## HARRISBURG CONVOCATION'S HEIFER PROJECT ARK

Working together and responding the needs of others, the Harrisburg Convocation is inviting every congregation in the Convocation (and beyond!) to purchase an "ark" animal during Advent. Resource materials and more information can be found on our website at [www.diocesecpa.org](http://www.diocesecpa.org).

During the Sundays of Advent (Nov 27-Dec 18) invite, include and encourage others to participate in this awesome adventure. All money needs to be in by January 1st. A flyer with more specific project details is attached with this Digest and available on the website.

What a wonderful Christmas present!