Going forward:
The dispensation from Ohio's bishops to attend Sunday and Holy Day Masses ends the weekend of June 5-6 and Bishop Robert Brennan says he is thankful while reminding the faithful that they must continue to remain charitable and patient, Page 2

Son of diocese ordained:
Father Joseph Michael Fino, C.F.R., who grew up in Westerville and attended New Albany Church of the Resurrection, was ordained to the priesthood as a member of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal on Saturday, May 29 in New York, Page 12

Eucharistic Gathering:
A two-day Eucharistic Gathering as part of the diocese's Real Presence Real Future campaign is scheduled for Aug. 27 and 28 at St. Joseph Cathedral and St. Charles Preparatory School in Columbus, Page 16

TWO DIOCESAN PRIESTS ORDAINED
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As restrictions ease, we are thankful but remain patient

After these difficult months of the pandemic, I’m very excited to welcome you back to Mass on the weekend of June 5-6, which is the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, a special day in the life of the Church when we give thanks for the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

I welcome very much the governor’s comments a couple of weeks ago easing some of the COVID-19 protocols and restrictions starting June 2, giving a three-week period during which those who wished to be vaccinated would have the opportunity. Pastors are very happy that we are able to start to open up the pews, and it’s nice to see so many people back in church over the past few weeks. That number is growing.

At St. Joseph Cathedral, I’m seeing the return of visitors as well as parishioners, which is all really very good and very encouraging. It is a reminder that those who go to Mass really do take it seriously.

As we hope you know, the bishops of Ohio decided that the general obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation (including the Saturday/Vigil Mass) will be reinstated this weekend.

The Church has always taught that those who are sick, those for whom it would be dangerous to their health (or to someone in their care) and those with significant concerns or anxieties for their health or that of their families have legitimate reasons for missing Mass and therefore are exempt (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2181).

If you have questions or concerns, reach out to your pastor or to a priest and talk it out. Another consideration is that the threshold for being sick is a little lower. We have to be concerned for other people’s health and even for other people’s confidence and comfort. We have to recognize somebody might not be comfortable sitting in front of somebody who’s coughing. That’s where the charity comes in, and Christian charity has to guide us. St. Paul speaks about being all things to all people, and we don’t want to put unnecessary burdens on others.

At this point, I want to communicate my gratitude to people for all of the flexibility and patience that they’ve shown and for their kindness and generosity while keeping one another safe. In that spirit, one of the things you’ll hear me saying now is that Christian charity has to be our overarching guide going forward. That’s been true for these past months, and people have shown it.

And as we come back, things are not going to be easy all the time, and we have to remember that people are approaching this from a lot of different angles and a lot of different experiences. Some people have had to deal with COVID-19 in a very painful way. Let us never lose sight of those who have died and those who mourn. Others continue to suffer with the illness and its effects. Still others have very legitimate fears. So this is going to take a lot of patience and a lot of Christian charity.

We are going to try to provide whatever guidance we can to your parishes from the diocesan level, but we also have to recognize that one church is very different from another in terms of capacity and the number of people we need to fit in the church for Mass. So some churches, if they have the room, might leave sections with distancing. Others might not have that luxury. We can’t do everything that everybody wants us to do, but we’ve tried to be attentive to the needs of a broad base of people.

We’ve already started to reduce the spacing so that we could accommodate more people based on the guidelines that are given to us. Honestly, I was just hoping for the day that we could increase the seating capacity, even if it meant wearing the masks for a little while longer. But, happily, the current guidance from the CDC changed on the masks more quickly, lifting yet another burden. I’m just very glad. Enlarging our capacity was my first priority. We want to be welcoming, and so that was my biggest concern that we could fit everybody making everybody feel totally welcome in church.

While we might not need to wear masks, I think I will encourage parishes to have them.
Two priests ordained for diocese

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

Using the theme “configured to Christ,” Bishop Robert Brennan urged the two newest priests of the Diocese of Columbus to emulate Jesus by giving all they have for others, especially those who mourn and suffer, and to always retain the sense of wonder accompanying their ordination.

Bishop Brennan ordained Fathers Stephen Ondrey and Jacob Stinnett to the priesthood on Saturday, May 29 at Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church. Father Ondrey, 43, recently completed his training for the priesthood at Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, Massachusetts, which specializes in priestly formation for older men. Father Stinnett, 25, received a theology degree in May from the Pontifical College Josephinum.

This was the first ordination ceremony for the diocese with a large congregation on hand since four priests were ordained on May 25, 2019, at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral.

Last June 13, Bishop Brennan ordained Fathers Michael Fulton, Seth Keller and Frank Brown at the cathedral before an audience limited to about 70 people because of the coronavirus pandemic. That ceremony was delayed for three weeks from the original date of May 23. Following the reading of the Gospel at Saturday’s Mass, the rite of ordination began as the candidates for the priesthood, who until then were seated with their families, were called from the congregation and presented to the bishop by Father William Hahn, diocesan vocations director, who declared them ready for the priesthood.

Each man answered “present” as his name was called, then walked to the altar and was seated on a stool in front of the bishop, who delivered his homily from his chair, rather than the pulpit.

“By your own free will, you are responding to the invitation of the Lord, indeed, to be configured to Christ,” Bishop Brennan said. “As St. Paul says, it is Christ we proclaim – for this I labor and struggle, in accord with the exercise of His power working within me (from Colossians 1:24-29, the second reading for the Mass).” Indeed, it is Christ we proclaim – Christ crucified and risen, Christ the teacher, high priest and shepherd and head, living among us and leading us to eternal life.

“So how are we configured to Jesus? First, by looking upon Him and

Father Ondrey hopes to ‘re-energize’ faithful

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

The decision of Ohio’s bishops to call Catholics back to Mass attendance on Sundays and holy days of obligation, which takes effect this coming weekend, June 5-6, is a happy coincidence for Father Stephen Ondrey, for it comes one week after his ordination as a priest on Saturday, May 29.

“I’d be enthusiastic about my first assignment anyway,” he said. “But the return of the general obligation for Mass attendance on those days makes me even more eager because it means more people will be in the pews.

“The best thing about being a priest will be to celebrate Mass and to speak the words of Eucharistic consecration, but I’m looking forward almost as much to be a part of daily life at whatever parish I’m assigned to serve.

“Becoming a priest as the COVID pandemic appears to be subsiding offers a unique chance to re-energize people who have been away from Mass or who have lost their faith during the 14 months since the pandemic began affecting Ohio,” Father Ondrey said.

“I feel that part of my mission, besides performing regular parish duties, involves bringing God back into the lives of people in the secular world who have been devastated by COVID and perhaps forgotten about God.”

Father Ondrey, 43, has been studying for the priesthood for the past four years at Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, Massachusetts, which specializes in forming men age 30 and older for the priesthood. He returned to central Ohio for summer breaks, serving at Columbus St. Timothy and Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas churches.

See ONDREY, Page 11

Priest, seminarian set inspiring example

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

Father Jacob Stinnett says the example set during a difficult time at his school by a diocesan priest and a seminarian who is now a priest started him thinking that God might be calling him to the priesthood someday.

“When I was in eighth grade at (Columbus) Immaculate Conception School, a classmate passed away after a battle with leukemia,” Father Stinnett said. “Looking back, I recall that the experience was difficult for most students to process. Msgr. (Stephan) Moloney, who was pastor there at the time, and Ty Tomson, who was assigned to the parish as a seminarian and is now a priest, gave us the time and the prayer resources we needed to deal with the situation.

“Both of them were very present to us and suffered with us. It was my first witness of the power and the greatness of priestly ministry, and it prompted me to ask, ‘Is this something I might want to do for the rest of my life?’” In my heart, I said, ‘Yes. I think so.’ That’s when I started taking my faith more seriously.

“I went to Mass more often to have more encounters with the Lord, and I started being an altar server so I could be closer to the sacred mysteries of the Mass,” he said. “Going to high school at (Columbus) St. Charles (Preparatory School) provided a great opportunity to grow in my knowledge of the faith, and a lot of experiences I had there confirmed my vocation.

“In high school and at the (Pontifical College) Josephinum, it’s been a great joy to be constantly learning more about the liturgy and the theology of the Mass and to gain more un-
Does advocacy matter? Yes, your voice does make a difference

In the ordinary course of our lives, we implicitly assume that advocacy makes a difference. When growing up, it is a natural practice for children to seek out the more sympathetic parent and ask them to be their advocate with the more difficult one for permissions or privileges. In the network of business relationships, it is not uncommon to seek an advocate in efforts to make a sale or to obtain a promotion or a new position. The same is true in the spiritual realm. In the relationships that we have with the Blessed Trinity, Jesus is our mediator with the Father. And, as we have pondered more deeply in the last week, the Holy Spirit is our Advocate, even praying for us in a language beyond our understanding. Mary, too is our advocate, as the Salve Regina so beautifully describes. We have an understanding of the saints, which in God’s economy allows them to advocate for us, often in a specific area for which they are recognized as a patron. What about advocacy in the political realm?

Due to a growing cynicism about politics, we sometimes hear it said that our emails and phone calls fall on blind eyes and deaf ears. That is not the case. In one instance during my tenure with the diocese, one of our staff received a call saying, “Please call off your people, we are being flooded with calls, we have gotten the message.” Our staff member asked about how many calls they had received and the answer was “nearly 20 over the last week.” The reality is this: Legislators keep count of “pro” or “con” positions from constituents on legislation whether transmitted by email or phone. In the view of a legislator, numbers mean votes, and votes translate into keeping or losing one’s seat.

Right now, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has urgently asked our help to maintain the longstanding federal prohibition on taxpaying funding for abortion known as the Hyde Amendment. The Hyde Amendment has been part of federal annual appropriations legislation for 45 years. It has received bipartisan support in Congress over that period and up to now has been enacted no matter which party controlled Congress and signed into law by both Republican and Democratic presidents. However, the current House Appropriations Committee Chair has announced that the Hyde Amendment will not be included in the next round of appropriations.

The Charlotte Lozier Institute estimates that over 2.4 million children’s lives have been saved by the Hyde Amendment. A majority of Americans oppose use of their taxpayer dollars for abortion, and the Hyde Amendment protects the religious freedom of those who, on religious grounds, do not want to become complicit in facilitating abortion. Further, rescinding the Hyde Amendment would impose a pro-abortion funding policy on states that have decided against it. The USCCB has set the first week of June as the time to act.

Please go to www.notaxpayerabortion.com and first sign the petition online. Then you will receive an email from USCCB Respect Life that will allow you to send a message to your U.S. Senators and Representatives in Congress. Please take this second step as well. You will be doing what all good advocates do. You will be speaking up for those (the unborn) that need your advocacy, you will also be speaking up for the true good of each individual person and the good of all people (the common good) in our nation, and you will be fulfilling the responsibilities that you have as a Christian and as a citizen.

The oldest cathedral and the newest challenge

It’s now the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, but for native Baltimoreans of a certain vintage (like me) it is, was, and always will be “the Old Cathedral.” It was the first of its kind in the United States. The genius of its architect, Benjamin Latrobe, was long muted by ill-conceived mid-20th century alterations; a restoration completed in 2007 recovered the extraordinary play of light within the building, by which Latrobe and Archbishop John Carroll sought to express the Catholic commitment to religious freedom in the new American Republic. As it marked the bicentennial of its dedication on May 31, the Baltimore Basilica is far more than a splendid example of Federal-period architecture, however. It’s also home to a lively (and largely young) parish and an innovative urban ministry, “Source of All Hope,” that conducts a mission to the homeless in a deeply troubled city.

By an order of magnitude, the Baltimore Basilica is America’s most historic Catholic building, for it was there that the bishops of the United States met 10 times in the 19th century to design the pastoral, liturgical and catechetical life of the Church in the United States. Those seven provincial and three plenary councils of Baltimore were the Catholic Church’s most extensive and consequential exercises in what the Second Vatican Council would call “collegiality” between the 16th-century Council of Trent and the First Vatican Council in 1869-70. And their effects are still felt among us today.

It was at the Old Cathedral that the U.S. bishops established the legal structure for American Catholicism, preventing the lay trustee movement from remaking the Church in the U.S. on a congregationalist model. It was in the Baltimore Basilica that the bishops named Our Lady the patroness of the United States under the title of the Immaculate Conception; it was there that they mandated the parochial school system, once a powerful engine for assimilating immigrants and now the Church’s most successful anti-poverty program; it was there that the bishops agreed to create the Catholic University of America; it was there that they authorized the Baltimore Catechism, which shaped religious education in the country for generations; and it was there that they defended the American arrangement on Church and state, thereby opening a door to the Second Vatican Council’s Declaration on Religious Freedom.

So a lot of history was made in the masterpiece created by Archbishop Carroll’s vision and Benjamin Latrobe’s design. I drank in that history early, when, as a wide-eyed and crewcut six-year-old, I entered the first grade of the Old Cathedral’s school and made my First Holy Communion there a year later. Decades after that, I learned that the bishops hadn’t come to their decisions easily in those 19th-century provincial and plenary councils. There was contention, as there has been in the Church since Acts 15. But since the bishops put an end to “trusteeism” and established themselves as the bottom line of eclesiastical authority in America, there has never been any disagreement that the bishops are in charge.

Until today.

In stark contrast to Vatican II’s teaching on the authority of bishops in chapter three of its Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, Catholicism in the United States is being defined today by President Joe Biden, Speaker Nancy Pelosi and White House press secretary Jen Psaki (who frequently assures the country that the president is a devout and serious Catholic, as Mrs. Pelosi often says of herself).

That is the issue beneath the many other issues the U.S. bishops will discuss when, as successors of the bishops who held those 10 councils of Baltimore, they meet “virtually” in June: Who defines integral Catholicism in the United States? The bishops, proclaiming the settled teaching of the Church on the inalienable right to life from conception until natural death and the implications of those Gospel truths for living in full communion with the Church? Or politicians who reject those truths, and then make that deviance unmistakably clear by facilitating the grave moral evil of abortion and supporting an “Equality Act” that criminalizes the Bible’s teaching on the human person?

Who’s in charge here?

In Lumen Gentium 27, Vatican II taught that bishops are to exercise “the authority and sacred power” invested in them for the “spiritual development of their flock in truth and holiness.” That, I take it, means defining truth and holiness in an integrally Catholic way. Mr. Biden, Mrs. Pelosi and Catholic public officials of both parties are defining Catholicism according to the woke spirit of the age. John Carroll’s episcopal heirs should call them out on that.
When weeds smother flowers, turn to Our Lady of Good Remedy

By MaryBeth Eberhard

I was a young mom, working full time with small children keeping me busy at all hours.

And my brother-in-law gave us the most generous gift in the midst of the chaos: He brought a crew and tore out our old weescaping and planted lovely bushes, roses, and easy-to-care-for plants. He transformed the area surrounding our farmhouse into a place of beauty.

In the two years following that, though, I managed to let this beautiful gift fall into disrepair. Oh, I could have blamed my husband, though a series of injuries and work stints really placed the responsibility for this sort of thing on me. I could have blamed my children, who really couldn’t be trusted in our front yard while my back was turned, because of the traffic on our state route. I could have blamed circumstances, my schedule of duties and any number of things.

But, really, the blame fell on me. There’s no way around it.

That was a hard reality to face.

Often, though, the weeds serve as a reminder of my spiritual life. They have such a talent for getting in, staying in and coming back to stay. Their persistence should inspire me.

Do I have that kind of staying power with anything in my life, let alone things like prayer and devotion? Do I allow God’s love to pollinate those around me the way the thistles spread their fuzzy seeds with no thought of my rhododendron or dahlia or joy sedum? Do I allow my faith into my everyday living so that it infiltrates the world around me, inspiring butterflies and birds to stop and feed?

So often, when I’m starting to feel hopeless about something — like my gardening failures — I need only turn to early Church history for a change in perspective. In the late 12th century, there was a slavery problem with Christians: They were being captured and sold and no one knew what to do about it.

St. John of Matha, though, had an idea that involved Mary. First, he founded a religious order, the Trinitarians, to go to the slave markets and buy the captured Christians. Then the Christians were set free.

It was a grand plan, but it required massive amounts of money that the new order didn’t have. It was then that Mary was invoked under the title Our Lady of Good Remedy.

I can imagine the heartfelt pleas that went out to her, and I can imagine how her heart must have gone out to those praying. Was there doubt among any of St. John’s followers? It must have seemed like a crazy plan: Slaves weren’t cheap, and word must have spread that the Christians were rallying in this way.

And what of the slaves themselves? To be captured is one thing, but to be sold into slavery, to stand there while strangers bid on you, to be powerless to act on your own ... and then to see the hope of the Trinitarians in the crowd.

Many thousands of slaves were freed thanks to the efforts of the Trinitarians. How did they get the money? I imagine it was a miracle, not so different from those occurrences in my own life, when some generosity seems to fall directly from heaven.

Often, the image of Our Lady of Good Remedy is portrayed with Mary handing a bag of money to St. John of Matha.

The story of Our Lady of Good Remedy is one of beauty, one that forces me to look at the weeds around my house with a different attitude, one that inspires me to forgive myself and offer my shortcomings as a lesson.

Mary, Our Lady of Good Remedy, guide me as I search for help in my daily life. Help me to turn to you when I most need help. Amen.

St. Anthony of Padua wants you to find yourself

By Sarah Reinhard

The story of Our Lady of Good Remedy is one that we can all benefit from, as we seek to live our lives with faith and devotion.

St. Anthony of Padua wants you to find yourself in your daily life. He wants you to look to him for the ways he dealt with the everyday challenges of his life.

Anthony’s humility, reverence, simplicity and knowledge spoke to the learned and the simple alike. Anthony’s lifestyle was one that emulated total dependence on God’s provision. In him, they knew they would hear truth, but seeing it lived out transformed more hearts than his sermons.

I’m always curious as to how saints lived their faith. The answer is found in St. Anthony’s words: “Do you want to have God always in your mind? Do not go seeking another ‘you.’”

How often do we tie ourselves up in knots trying to fit in, creating masks and building walls to fashion an image of perfection when what is truly asked of us is authenticity?

Think of the relationships that are most treasured to your heart, those whom you welcome into the messy joy of your reality. This is the wisdom of St. Anthony. He preached a gospel of authenticity, a gospel that challenged, humbled and stretched those who heard his words.

We, too, can model his example through a genuine attempt at gospel live-
Jubilee of Anniversaries celebrates joy of lasting marriage

June is traditionally a busy month for weddings and for anniversaries of marriage. During the month, the Marriage and Family Life Office staff encounter engaged couples preparing for their wedding day as well as couples celebrating many years of marriage. Each offers a different lens through which to view the sacrament of matrimony.

Catherine Suprenant, diocesan coordinator of marriage formation, said of working with engaged couples, “Dreams, hopes, fears and prayers for the future come with the territory.”

Long-married couples, however, offer a different perspective: “It’s a blessing to be able to witness couples celebrating the love they have lived since ‘I do’ and looking back on the beauty of their marriage. I wish I could bottle some of that joy and share it with the couples preparing for marriage!”


Couples celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary and any five-year anniversary thereafter — as well as all couples celebrating 60 years or more — are invited to attend the Jubilee Mass held Sunday, June 27, at 2:30 p.m. at Powell St. Joan of Arc Church, 10700 Liberty Road. The Mass will also be livestreamed for couples and family members who prefer to attend virtually.

All couples observing landmark anniversaries in 2021 are encouraged to register for the Jubilee of Anniversaries whether they plan to attend the Mass or not. Registered couples will receive a congratulatory letter and personalized certificate recognizing their anniversary. Couples who RSVP by June 16 also will be featured in the worship aid (available at the Mass and online) and included in The Catholic Times.

“Dreams, hopes, fears and prayers for the future come with the territory.”

Vaccine mandates and Catholic colleges

In a recent statement from the National Catholic Bioethics Center on COVID-19 vaccines, we noted that the Catholic Church “neither requires nor forbids” the use of vaccines, but instead urges people to “form their consciences and to carefully discern the moral and prudential issues involved.”

A 2020 Vatican statement offers a similar conclusion: “Vaccination is not, as a rule, a moral obligation” and, “therefore, it must be voluntary.”

That’s why, when Catholic colleges and universities mandate COVID-19 vaccines as a condition for enrollment, as several have recently done, important ethical conflicts and prudential concerns arise.

Vaccine mandates run counter to the wisdom of encouraging individuals to make careful and case-specific determinations regarding their personal health needs. Such mandates bolster the idea that the judgment of a higher authority, say a university president or a politician, should be substituted for their own free and informed consent.

In general, when I become sick, I ought to function as the decision-maker regarding my medical treatments, even as I work closely with my health care providers to receive the information I need to make the best decision. Similarly, if I am healthy, but face the risk of exposure to a new disease, I must weigh the benefits and burdens of prophylactic measures like vaccines.

Early in a pandemic, there can be a lot of questions and uncertainty because of shifting sets of medical data or a growing sense of alarm and panic. We may be tempted to think we can or should sideline ethical or prudential concerns.

Yet it is at precisely such a time that our ethics and prudential judgments become paramount, and as we seek to temper urgency with due diligence and confront our fears with reason and discernment. It is in such a crisis moment that calm, careful and case-by-case discernment becomes crucial.

Mandating vaccines for everyone involves a flawed assumption that there are only benefits, and no significant burdens, associated with getting vaccinated. The history of vaccine development reminds us how vaccines, which constitute a breakthrough technology and life-saving remedy in the battle to improve public health, are nevertheless not a risk-free endeavor.

Some individuals have allergies to vaccine ingredients. Others have immune systems that cannot tolerate vaccines. Some vaccine recipients encounter unanticipated reactions and side effects, whether it’s headaches, muscle aches, several days of exhaustion or nausea, anaphylaxis, or the rare blood clots seen among those who received the Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccine.

When deciding about vaccinations, other considerations besides safety and side effects also come into play.

There are ethical concerns about the way certain COVID-19 vaccines are connected to cell lines derived from abortions.

Certain populations, statistically speaking, will face low risk from diseases such as COVID-19, including otherwise healthy college-age students and children, many thousands of whom have tested positive, but most of whom have experienced only mild symptoms or may have been entirely asymptomatic. Those who have been previously exposed to COVID-19 may decide to delay or decline vaccination, since they already have acquired some immunity.

For those who are more vulnerable to the coronavirus and its potentially damaging effects, such as people who are elderly, obese, diabetic or facing other comorbidities, it makes sense for them to consider the potentially safer path of vaccination, rather than risking a harmful (or deadly) encounter with the virus itself. The same would hold for young people who are obese or diabetic or have regular contact with vulnerable groups like the elderly.

Finally, mandates sometimes can have an effect opposite to what is intended. People can stubbornly dig in their heels when certain behaviors are compelled.

Jonah Berger, a marketing professor at the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School of Finance, has noted that there is some evidence that telling people what to do can backfire, as with “Just Say No”-style anti-drug campaigns that may increase drug use among certain subgroups of young people.

“People want to feel like they’re in control of their choices,” Berger says.

He notes, however, that once people have described what they care about and believe others have addressed those concerns, it’s much harder for them to push back merely for the sake of resisting: “They’re (now) a participant in the process rather than being forced to do something,” he said.

Especially at Catholic universities and colleges, where we are seeking to form the next generation of society’s leaders and thinkers, instead of imposing the requirement to get vaccinated, leaders would do better to share and explain to students the benefits and risks of vaccinations — scientific and ethical — to help them decide.

By offering evidence-based information and moral principles, rather than mandates, college students will be helped to clarify their own processes of intellectual and personal discernment and acquire the habit of making more prudent and informed choices.
We can be like St. Joseph, ‘Guardian of the Redeemer’

By Sister John Paul Maher, OP

We are living in the Year of St. Joseph, proclaimed by Pope Francis in his apostolic letter With a Father’s Heart or, in Latin, Patris Corde. Recently, the Holy Father added seven titles to the Litany of St. Joseph to draw our attention to the importance of the husband of Mary and earthly father of Jesus.

With all this emphasis, it seems to be a good idea to reflect on St. Joseph. When Holy Mother Church proposes for our veneration a new saint or encourages a return to devotion for a saint, there is a good reason to turn to him or her for timely inspiration.

One of the new titles attributed to St. Joseph is “Guardian of the Redeemer.” In 1989, Pope John Paul II paid special tribute to St. Joseph in an apostolic exhortation titled Guardian of the Redeemer or, in Latin, Redemptoris Custos, in which he called Joseph a “guardian of the mystery of God.”

The exhortation is a beautiful meditation, based on Scripture and writings of the Church fathers, which gives insight into God’s choice to include Joseph in His plan for salvation. It is ideal spiritual reading as the Church invites us to look to Joseph this year. It can be found online in the Vatican’s papal writings.

It is wonderful to think about Joseph being chosen as a “guardian of the mystery of God” and guardian of Jesus. Scripture describes Joseph as guiding Jesus safely to various locations as God revealed His plan, step by step. This took place as they moved to Bethlehem, to Egypt and to Nazareth.

Joseph also carefully watched over who had access to Jesus, such as the shepherds and the Magi, but not Herod. Joseph was present as people arrived to worship Jesus as the Son of God, guarding and preserving reverence for Our Lord.

We can learn from St. Joseph how to guard Jesus in our own lives. As baptized children of God, we are graced with the presence of God within us. We are sealed with the spirit of God, through Jesus Christ by the Father, with the Holy Trinity dwelling in our souls. We, too, can become guardians of the Redeemer and safeguard the mystery of God by living our baptismal call to holiness.

We can imitate St. Joseph by choosing locations to visit that are welcoming to God and His ways rather than those that have no room for Him, in a spiritual sense. For example, places might remind us of past behaviors we want to avoid or do not help us to make good choices. When possible, we can avoid those places and choose alternate routes to preserve the peace of God in our hearts. This puts into practice the virtue of prudence and foresight, as St. Joseph did, when he adapted his journey home from Egypt to avoid Archelaus (Matthew 2:19-23).

The rite way to reach out to others

This column is the sixth in a series of eight articles on the “Liturgy of the Domestic Church” that will take you through aspects of making your home a domestic church and living Catholic family life. For questions or to learn more, contact the Diocesan Marriage & Family Life Office at 614-241-2560 or familylife@columbuscatholic.org.

By Dr. Greg Popcak

In these columns, I’ve been describing the Liturgy of Domestic Church Life, a model of family spirituality that helps Catholic families “bring Jesus home” and makes the faith the source of the warmth in our homes.

Liturgy is an act of worship God uses to heal the damage sin does to our relationships with him and others. The Liturgy of the Eucharist facilitates our union with God and makes communion with others possible. The Liturgy of Domestic Church Life enables us to take this eucharistic grace home and heal the damage sin tries to do to our households.

As you’ve read previously, the Liturgy of Domestic Church life has three “rites,” each of which represents a different way God wants to heal our families and strengthen our relationships with him and each other.

The Rite of Christian Relationships helps families leave behind the selfish — and sometimes sinful — ways we treat each other and learn how to care for each other with the love of Christ. By living out Christ’s sacrificial love, this rite helps us practice the priestly mission of our baptism.

The Rite of Family Rituals encourages families to take a little time to work, play, talk and pray together every day. When a Christian family has strong family rituals, they practice the prophetic mission of baptism by modeling Christian attitudes toward work, leisure, relationships and faith.

Finally, the Rite of Reaching Out lets God use your family to bless others. This rite helps families practice the royal mission of baptism. Jesus, the King of Kings, humbled himself and served us. To reign with Christ is to serve with Christ (cf. Lumen Gentium, No. 36). We share in Jesus’ royal dignity by using our gifts to make other’s lives easier and more pleasant.

When it comes to serving others, we automatically think of all the things we can do in our parish or community, but even without leaving your house, there is still a lot your family can do to be a blessing to others.

The first way to practice the Rite of Reaching Out is to practice generously and cheerfully serving one another at home. Did you ever notice how much easier it can be to be kind to strangers than to the members of our own households? The Rite of Reaching Out helps families remember that authentic Christian service must begin with serving your closest neighbor — your family. Ask yourself: Do you respond promptly, generously, and consistently to each other’s needs?

• Do you serve each other cheerfully (instead of grudgingly)?
• Do you see the chores and tasks you do around the house as ways to say, “I love you!” to your family, and “Thank you for this blessing!” to God? Or do you think of them as “just stuff that has to get done so you can get to the other more fun/more important stuff.”

The more we practice loving, generous, cheerful service at home, the more the service we give to people outside our homes will be genuine (instead of self-aggrandizing) and properly ordered (instead of competing with our domestic-church life).

The second way to practice the Rite of Reaching Out is by thinking about others while being a family at home. This practice helps us remember that everything we’ve been given by God — our food, your clothing, your furniture, your toys — doesn’t belong to us. They belong to God. The Church teaches that Christians are stewards — not absolute owners — of the things God has given us. We are to care for the things we have so that when we are done using them we can pass them along in good condition to others who may need them. Thinking about others while being a family at home means regularly asking if you can prepare a little extra food for a sick or disabled neighbor, or if — together as a family — you can go through the gently used toys, clothes and other things you no longer need and pass them along to your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Other simple, practical ways your family can practice the Rite of Reaching Out include inviting people to your home for fun and godly fellowship, encouraging each other to be intentionally thoughtful and kind to the people you encounter throughout your day and, of course, serving together as a family in your parish and community. All of these things are simple ways family life, itself, becomes a ministry.

God wants to bless others through you and through your family. By practicing the Rite of Reaching Out, your family life can become the powerful ministry of the Church that it’s meant to be.

Dr. Greg Popcak is the executive director of the Peyton Institute for Domestic Church Life Learn more at PeytonFamilyInstitute.org
St. Ignatius’ ‘Spiritual Exercises’ led Father Magree to priesthood

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus (the Jesuit order) lived 500 years ago, but he continues to impact the Church through the Jesuits, one of whom is Pope Francis, and through his Spiritual Exercises, which have led countless people to an encounter with Jesus.

One of those whose life took a different path after making a retreat according to the Exercises is Father Michael Magree, SJ, a Columbus native who has been teaching theology at Boston College since 2019.

“I had started thinking about the priesthood in middle school and high school but didn’t take any concrete steps in that direction until I attended Franciscan University at Steubenville and met Father Richard Tomasek, a Jesuit, at a Vocations Day program,” Father Magree said. Father Tomasek was the director of spiritual formation at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, a position he held from 1996 to 2004. He died in 2011.

“I didn’t know there were any Jesuits in Columbus, so seeing Father Tomasek was a surprise,” Father Magree said. “He introduced me to the Spiritual Exercises, and this changed my whole relationship with Christ.

“The Exercises invite you to imagine yourself as being with Christ at the time He lived, to be a witness to the miracles He performed and to His death and resurrection, and to follow the Apostles’ example by giving up worldly honors and living a life of service in response to His invitation, ‘Come, follow Me.’”

Father Magree, 42, is the oldest of three sons and three daughters of Barbara and the late Paul Magree, who formed a musical duo known as Barbara-Paul that played throughout the Midwest singing pop hits for about five years.

After Father Magree’s birth, his father became a music teacher, first at Johnstown-Monroe Junior and High Schools and later at Jones Middle School in Upper Arlington, with his mother at home throughout the day to care for the growing family.

The Magrees lived in what now is known as Columbus’ Short North area and were members of Columbus St. Francis of Assisi Church but spent time at Columbus St. Andrew Church because Paul was music director for a Sunday folk Mass there. In the 1990s, the family began going to weekend Masses at Columbus St. Patrick Church.

Father Magree attended Fifth Avenue Elementary School and Monroe Middle School in Columbus and went to high school at Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, graduating in 1996.

“Since my family took the faith seriously, I had the opportunity to know several good priests who were the first to get me to consider the priesthood,” he said. “These included the late Msgr. Donald Schulz and Msgr. Frank Lane, both former pastors at St. Andrew, the late Msgr. Thomas Gallen, who taught at St. Charles for nearly 50 years, and a series of outstanding Dominican priests at St. Patrick’s.”

He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy and classics at Franciscan in 2000 and a Master of Arts degree in classics from Ohio State University in 2001, and then entered the Society of Jesus in 2002. After two years at the Jesuit novitiate in Syracuse, New York, he continued his studies at Fordham University in New York City, earning a Master of Arts degree in philosophical resources in 2007.

Jesuit formation for the priesthood usually involves a time known as the regency that follows philosophy studies and precedes concentration on theology. Father Magree’s regency was at St. Joseph’s Preparatory School in Philadelphia, where he taught theology and classics and directed the choir from 2007 to 2010. He then attended Boston College for three years, receiving a Master of Divinity degree in 2013. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 9 of that year at Fordham by Auxiliary Bishop Thomas Donato of the Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey.

He returned to St. Joseph’s Prep for a year as chaplain and a religion teacher and earned his licentiate in sacred theology at Boston College in 2014. That was followed by doctoral studies at the University of Notre Dame, from which he received his doctor of philosophy degree in 2019.

During his five years at Notre Dame, he served as a weekend assistant for Masses at several parishes in the South Bend, Indiana area and became familiar with the Melkite Church, one of the Eastern Rite churches in union with the Holy Father. He has faculties (permission) to celebrate both the Mass in the Roman Rite and the Divine Liturgy in the Byzantine Rite, which is used by the Melkite Church and other Eastern Catholic churches.

This is Father Magree’s second year as a faculty member at Boston College, where he is teaching two courses for this semester. A class titled Perspectives in Western Culture serves as an introduction to theology and philosophy and has 25 students who meet for six hours per week in three sessions – two in 90 minutes and one of three hours. A second class, on the theology of pilgrimage, has nine students and meets for two hours every other week, concluding with a 10-day hiking and backpacking trip in the West, which will end at the Mother Cabrini Shrine in suburban Denver.

Most of Father Magree’s academic specialties involve the study of early Christianity, and his doctoral thesis examined how early Christians interpreted Philippians 2:7 – “(Jesus) emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness and found human in appearance.”

“This always has been a difficult passage to understand because St. Paul seems to be asserting something very strange here,” he said. “Even after 2,000 years, Scripture scholars are very much in disagreement over what it means.”

Father Magree said being a priest gives him the opportunity to be constantly moved by people’s responses when he celebrates Mass. “I continue to be amazed by how much love and desire people have for the sacraments,” he said. “I always felt a great love for Mass and the sacraments, but it’s remarkable to see how other people also are moved by them and how much joy they give.”

Boston College has a daily 10 p.m. Mass for students, with Father Magree serving as its celebrant once a week and hearing confessions for a half-hour before Mass. “Being able to administer the Sacrament of Reconciliation has been a tremendous, unexpectedly moving blessing,” he said. “It’s a time when people make themselves so vulnerable and offers me a wonderful chance to witness God’s grace at work.”

He said his current role as a teacher gives him great satisfaction but recognizes he could be called to other forms of service at any time. “Part of a Jesuit’s vocation involves always being willing to be sent to where the need of the Church is greatest, and I’m ready for that,” he said. “But the Jesuits have given me this mission I love, and I fully intend to continue it for 10 years, 20 years or even for the rest of my life.”
ORDAINED, continued from Page 3

listening for His voice in love.”

The bishop noted that for the Gospel of the Mass, Fathers Stinnett and Ondrey had chosen John’s account of Jesus’ first appearance to the Apostles in the Upper Room. “You bring us back, by your choice of the Gospel, to the locked room on that Easter Sunday night,” he said.

“The Apostles regarded Jesus with amazement. He stands before them in glory. He speaks ‘Shalom’ – a word of peace, a word of friendship, a word of mercy, trust and love. He appears before them with His wounds, the marks of His entering into the human state all the way, even to death, dying on a cross.

“God entered the world not in some disinterested way or like a tourist passing through, but He stepped into the real world, the messy world – yes, the divided and tense world to live our lives and bear our burdens.

“This year, we are reading largely from the Gospel of Mark, and I am struck by how Jesus does not hold back from being fully involved, getting into the nitty-gritty of human life, walking patiently, listening attentively, speaking in truth and charity to bring healing and liberation,” the bishop said. “Be configured to Christ by looking upon Him with amazement and love.

“We are further configured by the way we ourselves then step deeply into human experience and pouring out our lives as He did – with every nuance of our being, yes, rejoicing in suffering for the sake of His flock.”

The bishop cited the choice by Fathers Stinnett and Ondrey of the prophet Isaiah’s words, “The spirit of the Lord is upon me. He has sent me... to bring healing and liberation,” the bishop said. “And, of course, we are most configured to Christ as we stand before His altar and pronounce the words, ‘This is My body, given up for you. This is My blood, poured out for you.’ What a profound gift that is, but what a tremendous responsibility, or to use St. Paul’s word, ‘stewardship.’ Never lose the amazement, the love and the joy you experience before Christ today,” Bishop Brennan said.

Following the homily, Fathers Ondrey and Stinnett, who still were deacons at that point, declared they would faithfully serve the people through administration of the sacraments and performance of other priestly duties. The men then each knelt before the bishop and promised obedience to him and his successors. They had made similar promises before Bishop Brennan when he ordained them as deacons one year ago.

After their declaration, the congregation chanted the Litany of the Saints, during which the soon-to-be priests prostrated themselves on the floor before the altar in a gesture of supplication symbolizing their unworthiness.

Following completion of the litany, each man knelt before the bishop, who laid his hands on their heads in the traditional sign of ordination, with the more than 60 priests of the diocese in attendance repeating that gesture individually.

This was followed by the bishop’s prayer of ordination and the investiture of the new priests with stoles and chasubles symbolizing their transition from the diaconate to the priesthood.

Each newly ordained priest chose two priests to do the vesting. Father Ondrey’s vesting priests were Father Antonio Carvalho, administrator of his home parish, Columbus Holy Name Church, and Msgr. William Fay of Pope St. John XXIII Seminary. Vesting Father Stinnett were the pastor of his home parish, Father Matthew Hoover of Columbus Immaculate Conception Church, and Father Tyron Tomson, pastor of Lancaster St. Bernadette and Bremen St. Mary churches.

After Bishop Brennan anointed the new priests’ hands with sacred chrism, a chalice and a paten were presented to the bishop by Father Ondrey’s sister, Dorothy Leone of San Diego, and Father Stinnett’s mother, Nancy Stinnett of Columbus. Victoria Ondrey, Father Ondrey’s mother, was unable to attend because of illness.

Bishop Brennan then handed the chalice and paten to the newly ordained priests to signify their sharing in Christ’s sanctifying mystery of transforming bread and wine into his body and blood. This was followed by a fraternal kiss of peace from the bishop and all other priests on hand, concluding the ordination portion of the Mass.

The newly ordained then joined their fellow priests at the altar to continue celebrating the Liturgy of the Eucharist and to pronounce the words of consecration for the first time. At communion, each of the new priests presented the Eucharist to his family members.

Just before the conclusion of the Mass, Bishop Brennan expressed his thanks to all those involved in the ordination and gave a special greeting thanking Deacon Eugene Joseph for his perseverance and patience. Deacon Joseph was also to have been ordained to the diocesan priesthood on Saturday, but because of COVID-related travel issues, he was with his parents at their home in the United Kingdom watching the livestream video of the ceremony. He will be ordained at a later date.

Following the conclusion of the Mass and the closing procession, the new priests returned to the altar to pose for pictures and give individual blessings to family and friends.

Music for the ordination ceremony was provided by members of the cathedral choir, directed by Dr. Richard Fitzgerald; cathedral organist Amanda Mole; and the Cathedral Brass.

The day after their ordination, the new priests celebrated Masses of Thanksgiving and delivered their first homilies as priests at their home parishes. Father Ondrey’s first assignment as a priest will be as parochial vicar of Pickerington St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, and Father Stinnett will be vicar at Chillicothe St. Mary and St. Peter churches and Waverly St. Mary Church.

Georgetown University’s Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, a national nonprofit social science research center that studies the Catholic Church, said the diocese’s two new priests are among 472 men who have been or will be ordained this year in the United States from dioceses or religious orders. The comparable total for 2020 was 448.
Stephen Ondrey (left) and Jacob Stinnett rise during the election and presentation of the candidates for
the priesthood on Saturday, May 29 at Westerville St. Paul Church. CT photos by Ken Snow

Father Jacob Stinnett (center) stands at the altar for the first time as a
priest during the consecration while surrounded by bishops, priests and
servers at the ordination Mass.

Father Jacob Stinnett lays his hands on Bishop
Robert Brennan for a first blessing as a newly
ordained priest.

Bishop Robert Brennan (center) hands a chalice
and paten to Father Stephen Ondrey, signifying
that he is now ordained.

STINNETT, continued from Page 3

derstanding of the beauty and
ceremony of all the traditions
that go into it.”

For the past several months,
Father Stinnett has been shar-
ning his theological insights in
a column written for the bul-
etin at Reynoldsburg St. Pius
X Church, the parish he has
been serving during his final
year of study at the Josephinum
in preparation for the
priesthood. He is living at St.
Pius until beginning his first
assignment as a priest in July.

“One of the biggest things
I’ve learned during the past
year has been the importance
of praying for the people of
the parish I serve and bringing
their intentions before God,”
he said. “It makes me feel
much more God-centered.

“Another significant thing
has been taking part in some
of the joys of family life in
the parish. I’ve performed
several baptisms and assisted
at weddings, confirmations,
First Communions and fune-
ral. I’ve seen how these are
wonderful opportunities for
whole families to encounter
Jesus and for me to be a chan-
nel for the Lord.”

Father Stinnett, 25, is the
son of Mark and Nancy Stin-
nett of Columbus and has one
younger sister, Anna. After
graduating from St. Charles
in 2014, he has spent the past
seven years at the Josephinium,
receiving a Bachelor of Arts
degree in philosophy from the
institution in 2017 and a Mas-
ter of Divinity degree in May.

“During summer breaks,
he served at Catholic Youth
Summer Camp and Newark St.
Francis de Sales, Hilliard
St. Brendan the Navigator,
Chillicothe St. Peter, Washin-
gton Court House St. Col-
man of Cloyne and Waverly
St. Mary churches.

“One of the most memora-
ble of those assignments was
the summer I spent at Chilli-
cophe, which at the time was
part of a group of parishes
which also included the ones
in Washington Court House
and Waverly,” Father Stinnett
said.

“Father (William) Hahn
(pastor there at the time, now
diocesan vocations director)
had me involved in several
ministries. The people there
were very welcoming, were
eager to have a young man to
help them and opened their
hearts to me. The Franciscan
sisters who have a convent
there are a beautiful witness
to the power of God. I’ve
tried to go back to Chillicothe
a couple times a semester
since I was stationed there.”

Father Stinnett said that be-
sides the opportunity to cel-
brate Mass, what he looks
forward to most as a priest is
“being a mediator between the
people and God, and through
my own simple actions, bring-
ing the blessings and graces of
God to them, I’m amazed at the
powerful things that can hap-
pen because of the acts a priest
is able to perform.

“I’m also enthusiastic
about the chance to do fami-
ly ministry. Families always
have been important to the
Church, and that’s now more
true than ever. One thing I’m
a little anxious about is hear-
ing confessions. It has to be
one of the most powerful and
humbling things a priest can
witness – the great weight
that’s taken from people by
being able to bare their souls
to Christ through you.”

He said that besides Msgr.
 Moloney and Fathers Tomson
and Hahn, two other priests
who have been influential in
his preparation for ordination
have been Father Jan Sulli-
van, pastor of Zanesville St.
Thomas Aquinas Church, and
Father David J. Young, pastor
at Reynoldsburg St. Pius.

“Father Sullivan was pastor
at Newark St. Francis when
I was there and has been a
great help and support and
friend,” he said. “I’ve learned
so much this year with Father
Young’s help. His pastoral
presence has given me great
understanding of what to do
when I become a pastor in the
future.

“After so many years of
working toward ordination,
I’ve reached that goal,” Father
Stinnett said. “I’m excited at
the chance to begin serving a
parish and fulfilling whatever
role God has for me.”

Congratulations
Fr. Jacob Stinnett

The IC community is so very
proud of you. Ordained May
29, 2021.
ONDREY, continued from Page 3

Three other men from the Diocese of Columbus – Jason Fox, Peterclaver Kiviiri and Aaron Yohe – will be entering their third year at the seminary in the fall.

Father Ondrey was ordained as a deacon in April 2020 at the seminary. The ordination was to have taken place one month later in Columbus, but it occurred ahead of schedule because the pandemic had forced the state’s bishops to order all Ohio Catholic churches be closed to public worship from mid-March to the end of May last year.

Candidates for the priesthood who have been ordained to the diaconate spend their final year of theological studies serving a particular parish. Father Ondrey was assigned to St. Agatha Church in Milton, Massachusetts for that period.

“I had the privilege to assist at baptisms, first communions and confirmations, helped engaged couples prepare for marriage, taught confirmation classes and officiated at wake services,” he said. “Most of the funeral services in the Archdiocese of Boston were cut short and limited to family members because of the pandemic, so that complicated things.

“COVID presented a real challenge on how to minister to people when there wasn’t much opportunity for one-on-one time, and in Massachusetts, the state standards related to crowd limits and so forth were stricter than they were in Ohio.

“But we got by as well as we could. My parish had great attendance on Ash Wednesday. Those who wanted to avoid the crowds still were able to receive ashes in their cars after the regular service.

“The seminary took appropriate precautions to avoid a COVID outbreak within the community, which included the seminarians eating alone in their rooms instead of being together in the refectory,” he said. “That detracted from some of the usual community formation that goes on outside of the classroom.”

Father Ondrey and his twin brother, James, are the youngest of four sons and two daughters of James and Veronica Ondrey. James Ondrey spent 20 years in the U.S. Navy and, like most children of military families, Father Ondrey lived in several places while growing up.

He was born in Pittsburgh to a Catholic family that settled in Columbus after his father, who had spent time in the city earlier as a naval public relations officer, retired from the Navy. Following his military career, his father was employed for many years by the Franklin County Child Support Enforcement Agency.

Father Ondrey attended Hamilton Township High School and is a 1995 graduate of Hilliard High School. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from Otterbein University in 1999, worked as a genetics researcher at Ohio State University for three years and then decided to become a dentist.

He graduated from Ohio State's College of Dentistry in 2007, did a one-year residency at Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton and followed that with work at several dental offices in Ohio.

During a dental assignment in Dayton, he met a Catholic woman named Jeannie Brown who changed his life.

“Jeannie had a great joy about the faith, particularly about a place I had never heard of called Medjugorje, which she has visited about 10 times,” he said. “She invited me to a pilgrimage there in 2011, and at Medjugorje I found a peace and joy I had been missing for years. I returned to the Church there, had my first confession in 23 years and began going to daily Mass.”

Medjugorje, in Bosnia-Herzegovina, attracts about 3 million visitors a year and has been designated a pontifical shrine with Vatican oversight. Visionaries claim to have seen thousands of Marian apparitions there since June 1981, when six teenagers said they saw the Blessed Mother appear to them while they were herding sheep. The Catholic Church to date has not made a definitive statement about the apparitions.

Father Ondrey said he began fully practicing the faith after his visit to Medjugorje, but he never thought of becoming a priest until he began attending Columbus Holy Name Church and coming into contact with Father Antonio Carvalho, the parish administrator.

Father Carvalho encouraged him to consider the priesthood, and through research, he learned about Pope St. John XXIII Seminary. Father Paul Noble, former diocesan vocations director, connected him with Father Dan Olvera, who was attending the seminary at the time and now is parochial vicar of Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul Church.

“One I met him and others like him,” Father Ondrey said, “I realized I was not alone and that those of us who answer God’s call later in life provide a unique service to the Church.”

Asked what he thought his biggest challenge as a priest might be, Father Ondrey said, “Probably dealing with the experience of death and mourning, for I’ve been fortunate not to have seen too much of that in my family. Another challenge will be engaging in dialogue with others and helping them discover God’s message of love, mercy and truth.”

Father Stephen Ondrey (center) participates in the consecration at Mass for the first time after being ordained to the priesthood. Behind him on the altar at Westerville St. Paul Church are Bishop Robert Brennan (left) and Bishop emeritus James Griffin.

CT photo by Ken Snow

CONGRATULATIONS

REV. STEPHEN ONDREY

ON YOUR ORDINATION TO PRIESTHOOD

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By Doug Bean  
Catholic Times Editor

To suggest to Joseph Michael Fino during his school years in Westerville that he might one day consider the priesthood would have seemed like fiction to a future English literature major.

Religious life was not what he envisioned for his future, but God plants seeds in mysterious ways. On May 29, 2021, Joseph Michael Fino became Father Joseph Michael Fino, C.F.R., when he was ordained to the priesthood at St. Patrick Cathedral in New York by Cardinal Timothy Dolan, the archbishop of New York.

Father Fino is a member of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, which is based in the New York area. He received the sacrament of holy orders along with four others the religious order and six men from the Archdiocese of New York.

The 36-year-old friar will celebrate a first Mass of thanksgiving at 2 p.m. Sunday, June 6 at New Albany Church of the Resurrection, his home parish.

Father Fino attended Mark Twain Elementary, Walnut Springs Middle School and Westerville North High School. He was baptized at Columbus St. Timothy Church and received the sacraments of first communion, first penance and confirmation at Church of the Resurrection. He is the son of Steve and Toni Fino, and he has two married older sisters, Jamie McClel and Our Lady of Victory church.

“Faith wasn’t super important in our home,” he said. “I remember I was in eighth grade and had some questions about God. I remember asking my parents: ‘If God is supposed to be an all-loving God, why does he send people to hell for all eternity? That doesn’t sound like a loving thing to do.’

“One of my older sisters at that time was involved in Young Life (a non-denominational Christian organization) in high school. And so she said, ‘Why don’t you come? You can ask the leaders your questions, and I’m sure they can help you understand this stuff.’ So that’s really where I met the Lord.”

Father Fino regularly attended Young Life activities throughout high school and encountered Christ through the college students ministering to the group. “I decided in my junior year of high school that I want to follow Christ like these leaders in Young Life,” he said. “I started praying and reading my Bible.”

After graduating from Westerville North, Father Fino went off to college at Miami University in Oxford, where he majored in English literature and received a bachelor’s degree in 2007.

“My thinking was that I want to impact young people and be a teacher, and the subject that I thought you could talk about deeper things was English,” he said.

During his first two years at Miami, Father Fino and several Young Life leaders traveled regularly to Lebanon, Ohio, about 30 miles east, to minister to high school students. But after his freshman year, he began to explore more deeply the teachings of the Catholic Church after discussions with Adam Pasternack, a friend from back home and a former crew teammate in high school.

“At one point, he told me what the Catholic Church believes about the Eucharist, that the bread and the wine at Mass become the body and blood of Jesus Christ, and I thought that sounds like a little bit weird,” Father Fino said. “I definitely made my first communion, but that was a total news flash. I didn’t understand or realize that was something that Catholics believed.

“I knew (Pasternack) believed it, and he was a normal person, credible person. And I also thought it sounded really important. I guess it’s true that my personal relationship with Jesus Christ can’t be any more personal than coming into me. And I also knew that if it’s not true, then my friend here is worshiping a piece of bread, and that’s not good.”

Determining whether Jesus is really present in the Eucharist became a project during his sophomore year of college. “So I read John 6 a lot. I talked to Catholic friends, and I talked to Protestant friends,” he recalled. “And, at one point, someone introduced me to the Fathers of the Church.

“I was reading what the Fathers were saying and the origin of different churches, and, as far as I could tell, the Catholic Church was the only one that really claimed to be founded by Jesus Christ. The other churches, you know, have their own founders.”

More research and more praying led Father Fino back to Mass after attending various Protestant churches. “And I would pray, ‘Jesus, I need you to tell me something, like, I need to know, and I need to be sure,’” he said.

Though he had not gone back to confession since making his first one in grade school, Father Fino was receiving communion at Oxford St. Mary Church, “and then one day, probably about a year after this whole thing began, I was coming to see that the Catholic Church was probably right, as probably who she claims to be,” he said.

“One day, when I received communion and the priest put the host in my hand and I put it on my tongue, I went back to my pew and I knew with a real clarity and a real certainty that this was Christ — that He takes the form of bread to become one with me. That was a very moving moment. And I decided this is where I have to be.”

He went back to confession and became involved in Catholic campus ministry during his junior and senior years. Also during that time, he started reading the writings of Pope St. John Paul II on marriage and family life, Theology of the Body, and love and responsibility.

Being a father and husband had always been attractive to him, but “then I found myself doing this discernment thing that young Catholic men are always doing,” he said. Fatherhood and priesthood both still appealed to him as he approached graduation while he was looking into programs to teach in an inner-city high school.

He moved back to Columbus and worked as a youth minister at St. Cecilia and Our Lady of Victory church.
Media staffers enjoy spreading God’s message online

The following story is the 10th in a series on missionary discipleship in the Diocese of Columbus. Video interviews with the missionary disciples are available on the diocese’s YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts.

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

Two thousand years ago, the Apostles and St. Paul took the message of Christ beyond the Holy Land by traveling from city to city and using the limited means of communication available – mainly the spoken word and documents written on parchment. The Good News spread slowly, taking until the early second century before it had reached most of Europe, Asia and Africa.

Today, communication is instantaneous and worldwide, and the means of delivering a message are many, with the internet bringing people together in ways that weren’t imagined even a few years ago. The Catholic Church continues to use every method possible to spread the Gospel, with social media playing an increasingly important role.

In the Diocese of Columbus, social and digital media assistant Alec Mieras and web designer Andy Mackey are using the diocesan website, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram to tell the story of Catholic life in central and southern Ohio to residents of the diocese’s 23 counties. Their efforts augment the work of informing and evangelizing the diocese that has been done since 1874 by The Catholic Times and its predecessors, and more recently by St. Gabriel Radio.

“The internet tends to be so secular in nature that I feel Andy and I are following in St. Paul’s footsteps by bringing the Church’s message to a world that needs to hear it,” Mieras said. “Whenever we’re preparing something to be sent online, we’re bringing Jesus into it and thinking of the possibility that it might be putting someone into contact with the Catholic Church for the first time.”

The motto “God in All Things” in large block capital letters hangs prominently on Mackey’s office wall. “I have it there as a reminder of what’s most important about what I do,” he said. “Everything I create on behalf of the Church might have an impact on someone’s life in ways I can’t imagine.

“One of my goals as a web designer and working on videos for the diocese is evangelization through beauty,” he said. “This was a theme of our recent video series which was part of the diocese’s 40 Days of Adoration program.

“The diocese has so many architecturally outstanding churches. We visited several of them and showed their altars, stained-glass windows and statues as a way of evoking strong emotions and showing the beauty that is part of Catholic life.

“Sometimes we asked people about the first time someone showed them the rosary, and that often resulted in emotional responses as some people recalled the Catholic roots of their childhood and others expressed gratitude for discovering Catholicism later in life.”

The 40 Days of Adoration series, along with videos on missionary discipleship that are being presented in connection with a Catholic Times series on the subject, can be found on the diocese’s Facebook and YouTube accounts by entering “Diocese of Columbus 40 Days of Adoration” or “Diocese of Columbus Go Forth” in the subject line.

Mackey, 38, and Mieras, 26, both joined the Catholic Church as adults. “Because we’re converts, we see the Church in ways that may be mundane for some people, but are exciting for us,” Mieras said.

“I’d only been to four or five parishes before the ’40 Days’ series, but in visiting churches throughout the diocese, I’ve become so appreciative of the richness and beauty of the Catholic faith. It was a privilege to observe people at prayer before monstrances and to come to a deeper realization that Jesus truly is present in the Blessed Sacrament.”

“We found people throughout the diocese who are on fire with the Lord and were grateful to share that feeling with everyone watching the videos,” Mackey said. “We think of the videos as love letters to the parishes of the diocese, showing what makes each parish special.”

Mieras has been a diocesan em-
Corpus Christi renews love for Jesus, hope in our hearts

By Father Stash Dailey

"Were our hearts not burning within us when He was speaking to us?"

In the Gospel of Luke, after the drama of the Passion had passed and the reality of the resurrection of the Lord was unfolding, we learn about the disciples on the road to Emmaus encountering the risen Lord (Luke 24:13-32).

As they explained their hopes and understanding of recent events to their fellow traveler, they experienced consolation and received clarity as this traveler-in-disguise explained God to them.

As they spent time at table where the Lord Jesus revealed His identity as "he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them," hope is planted in their hearts. The hope they received is experienced by those who read this Gospel passage and seek to spend time with Jesus and listen to Him as they did.

In our annual celebration of the great solemnity of the Lord that is Corpus Christi, the Church is drawn back into the mystery of God's love and brought to the fullness of gratitude and humility. Considering the events surrounding the Lord and His disciples, we learn how to enter into the glory and power of the Lord who continually reveals Himself before us in the Holy Eucharist.

For the Church to be more fully alive and have a burning love for the Lord, like the disciples in Emmaus, we must draw close to the Lord Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. The Church must draw close to the Lord as He comes to us; it is not our prerogative to author the means by which He comes to us, but it is our privilege and responsibility to understand and appreciate His way of accompanying us on the journey of life.

Throughout the world, wherever the Church proclaims the Gospel and offers the sacred mysteries of our holy faith, one will hear references to Corpus Christi, Corpus Domini or the body and blood of Christ. The reference of Corpus Christi is an invitation to live reality, to live the truth of Jesus who dwells among us in the Holy Eucharist.

See CORPUS CHRISTI, Page 15
When we hear the words Corpus Christi it is also a reference to a liturgical feast in the life of the Church. Traditionally, this feast is reserved to a Thursday, but almost universally it has been transferred to Sunday. Parish churches and chapels, cathedrals and oratories throughout the world will offer Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and some may have processions where the priest carries the Lord Jesus in a monstrance.

Regardless of the locale and practices employed, the devotion and love given to the Lord Jesus flow out of the sacred mysteries of the faith in the Holy Mass and direct us back into those same sacred mysteries.

In the Diocese of Columbus, a tremendous growth in loving the Lord Jesus through Eucharistic Adoration has been seen. Not that long ago, one could count the number of Adoration chapels on one hand; not so anymore. As the faithful have increased their expressed desire to sustain a burning love for the Lord Jesus, and priests have rediscovered the vital effects of bringing the Lord to the altar for Adoration, the benefits and impact on the Church are undeniable, yet more love is needed.

The world needs peace, our society needs true justice and real mercy, the Church needs more priests and consecrated religious, the family home as the domestic church needs stronger, healthier and holier marriages, children need a mother and a father, people need authentic rest and we all need hope.

That hope can come only from the Lord Jesus. The Lord will bring this renewed hope to the hearts of those who confide in Him and express their devotion and love by explaining their concerns and then listening to His love.

Our celebration of Corpus Christi is a beautiful moment in the liturgical year of the Church to renew our love for Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. The reality of Corpus Christi is a powerful truth that can liberate us from the slavery of a broken humanity. We are each like the disciples on the road to Emmaus as we yearn for the presence of God.

The opportunity exists to be like those disciples and be open to the Lord Jesus revealing the fullness of reality before us and then revealing Himself in the breaking of the bread.
Eucharistic Gathering to offer prayer, talks, music at two events

By Tim Pou
catholic Times Reporter

Bishop Robert Brennan is inviting people from throughout the Diocese of Columbus to come together for a two-day Eucharistic Gathering on Friday night, Aug. 27 at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral and Saturday morning, Aug. 28 at Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School.

The event is part of the diocese’s Real Presence, Real Future initiative aimed at strengthening ties among the diocese’s 278,000 Catholics in 23 counties and upholding the faith for future generations.

Friday’s program, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., will include Eucharistic Adoration, Vespers, a talk by Bishop Brennan, a Eucharistic procession and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Doors will open at 6 p.m.

Because of limited seating capacity at the cathedral, admission to the event will be by invitation only, with representatives of each of the diocese’s 102 parishes and three missions invited, along with the priests, deacons and religious of the diocese.

The Saturday program in St. Charles’ Walter Student Commons is open to all, with doors opening at 7:30 a.m. and Mass beginning an hour later. Principal celebrants for the Mass will be Bishop Brennan and Archbishop Nelson Perez of Philadelphia, with the priests of the diocese as concelebrants.

Following the Mass, Archbishop Perez will present two talks, with music in between. The program will close with Benediction and a sending forth of those in attendance to spread the Good News of the Gospel. The event is scheduled to end at noon.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available on Saturday, and the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed at all times during the programs, which both will be livestreamed on the diocesan website, www.columbuscatholic.org, and broadcast live on St. Gabriel Radio at 820 AM in Columbus and 88.3 FM in southern Ohio.

“The Eucharistic Gathering is the next step in the Real Presence, Real Future initiative,” Bishop Brennan said. “The initiative began on Ash Wednesday 2020 with the start of 40 days of Eucharistic Adoration around the diocese, which brought individuals together before the Lord at a different parish each day. That period also included a Monday (March 29) when all parishes were open for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, followed by joyous parish celebrations throughout Easter and the next 50 days, ending with Pentecost Sunday.

“Now the Church is in Ordinary Time, and this upcoming event will allow us to come together as a diocese to celebrate our connection with the Lord in the Eucharist and our connection to each other. We’re going to pray, to gather and to ask the Lord to keep us focused on Him.”

“I’m looking forward to the gathering for several reasons,” said Father Adam Streitenberger, diocesan director of evangelization. “First, it’s a way of formalizing the diocese’s welcome back to people after the COVID pandemic caused churches to close from mid-March to the end of May of 2020, with the bishops of Ohio dispensing the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days for more than a year.

“The obligation is being reinstated beginning this weekend, June 5-6, for all Catholics except those with health issues or who have significant fear or anxiety of contracting the coronavirus in a large group.

“The gathering also brings another opportunity to pray for the success of the ongoing Real Presence, Real Future initiative and to reflect in a deeper way on its significance and meaning,” Father Streitenberger said.

“And it will provide the people attending the events and those watching and hearing them at home with a chance to hear Bishop Brennan talking about the vision behind the initiative and Archbishop Perez taking a look at the Church now and in the future.”

“We have an opportunity for encounter with the Lord each Sunday in our individual parishes,” said Stephanie Rapp, director of the diocesan Office of Marriage and Family Life, who is co-chair of the event. “The gathering will give the faithful of the diocese a chance to encounter Him together and to experience the richness and the diversity of our diocese through prayer and music.”

“We’ve been in isolation for so long because of COVID,” said co-chair Pamela Harris, director of Catholic Ethnic Ministries for the diocese. “We’re communal by virtue of our baptism, and these two days will give us a visual reminder of what community looks like.

“It’s designed not just so we can receive Christ with us, but so we can let our light shine and share love and commitment to one another and for one another.”

The theme for both days of the program is Matthew 28:19-20, which frequently is described as Jesus’ Great Commission to the Apostles: “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe

See GATHERING, Page 19

See DISCIPLESHIP, Page 19

**DISCIPLESHIP, continued from Page 13**

ployee for one year, and Mackey was hired nine months ago. Mieras grew up as the son of a youth pastor in a Dutch Reformed church in the Grand Rapids, Michigan area and said he knew nothing of the Catholic faith until after graduating from the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs in 2017 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in marketing.

He had attended Otterbein University in Westerville for a year before moving to Colorado. While at Otterbein, he met a young Catholic woman named Zoe with whom he remained friends after moving.

Following his graduation, the friendship became a romantic one, and he went to his first Mass in 2018 at Christmas with Zoe and her family in the suburban Cleveland church they attended.

“I was very confused at first by all the standing and sitting and kneeling and stained-glass windows and statues,” he said. “I didn’t go to another Mass until Easter 2019 with Zoe’s family, but then I was a little more open and more willing to learn what the Church teaches.

“What really helped were YouTube videos by Scott Hahn,” a former Protestant theologian who became a Catholic, teaches at Franciscan University of Steubenville and has a son who recently became a priest of the Diocese of Steubenville.

“I became convinced that the Catholic Church is the one true Church, so I dropped the bomb on Zoe that I wanted to become Catholic,” Mieras said. She supported his decision, and he asked to marry her a few months later. The couple have been married for nine months and are members of Worthington St. Michael Church.

After moving from Colorado, Mieras worked in marketing for about a year for the Gilson Co. of Lewis Center, which makes construction testing equipment, but was laid off because of the coronavirus pandemic. Through friends at St. Michael’s, he learned that the diocese was looking for someone familiar with social media. He was hired for his current position one week before joining the Catholic Church on May 30, 2020, the Vigil of Pentecost.

Mackey grew up in a non-religious family in suburban Detroit. His first experience with Catholic teachings came while attending a Catholic middle school. “I loved Catholicism and told my parents I wanted to be a Catholic, but they thought I was just going through a phase,” he said.

His interest in graphics and marketing began when he was in high school, and he built his first website for his high school’s marching band. He came to Columbus to attend Ohio State University, from which he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science and history. He now is taking postgraduate courses in management from Harvard University and in theology from the Pontifical College Josephinum.

After graduating from OSU, he was a marketing consultant for law firms and political candidates throughout Ohio. “I was really interested in helping people, and most of my clients shared that interest,” he said. “I was a content person and found great joy in working with others to try and make the world better, especially at the local level.”

He married his wife, Alice, in 2015, and soon after their marriage, they bought a house. Then in 2015 came a devastating diagnosis that he had Parkinson’s disease.

“I ended up in a wheelchair and had to have assistance when walking,” he said. “I thought my life was over. I was spending more time more with myself and thinking hard about what makes me happy, and during that time I began looking into the Catholic Church and appreciating the words of Jesus and the Gospels about what’s important in life.

“I became an admirer of the works of Pope Benedict XVI. Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen, the first great Catholic evangelist of radio and television, also became a major influence,” he said. Archbishop Sheen’s picture hangs on Mackey’s office wall today.

He told Alice, who also was not Catholic, that he wanted to join the Church, and she drove him to RCIA classes at Delaware St. Mary Church. She eventually joined him at the
May a perfect month to complete Adoration pilgrimages

By Anne Mallampalli

During Lent, the Diocese of Columbus launched its Real Presence, Real Future campaign to celebrate Jesus Christ’s real presence in the Eucharist. Forty-eight of 102 parishes hosted all-day adoration from Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday. In a determined effort to make this diocese my home, I resolved to visit each church on the Columbus-catholic.org/40days itinerary.

One of the perks I enjoy as a stay-at-home empty-nester is that life allows for road trips with a spiritual twist. But life also happens, and nothing stops the presses quite like an octogenarian mom (mine) taking a helicopter ride to University Hospital in Iowa City. Double pneumonia, triple grapes.

Privileged was I to spend the last two weeks of Lent in Iowa, mothering my own mother. I caught up on a few missed church visits during Eastertide, prior to submitting my article for the April 25 Catholic Times (“Finding a true home during 40 days of Adoration”).

Seven churches remained, and I wanted to complete the task I started. May, the month of Easter joy, honoring mothers and remembering. This year, May also gave us that tender time between the feasts of Ascension and Pentecost when we can feel a bit orphaned. Perfect opportunity to complete those Adoration visits by way of the May pilgrimage. A pilgrimage to Our Lady is the perfect way to express our childlike love.

On Wednesday, May 12, my friend Maureen accompanied me. Good pilgrims, we prayed a rosary on the way, a rosary while at the church and a rosary on the drive back home. Johnstown Church of the Ascension revealed a precious treasure.

There, in an ornate holder mounted just beneath the statue of the Blessed Mother, burns a solitary blue votive candle. I had never seen this before, and the message that spoke to my heart is this: “I am here, who is your Mother.” Just as the tabernacle lamp tells us that Jesus is present, this flame provides the gentle reassurance that Mary is here, too. And she always points us to her son.

The following week took me to London St. Patrick Church. Elizabeth graciously gave me the full tour, which includes a museum one floor above the sacristy and a hall of history. Very cool. I was drawn to Gentile da Fabriano’s Adoration of the Magi, which hangs inconspicuously behind the altar just outside the sacristy. How like our Blessed Mother to be quietly positioned to remind the priest who and what he honors in the Mass.

Prettiest drive in the diocese? That would be the 7-mile stretch heading west on Coonpath Road and then southbound onto Pleasantville Road to Lancaster St. Bernadette Church. The school, where they “only do little kids (grades K-5) but we do them very well” was in session. Little kids – and the Infant of Prague. This is another one of those little gifts that Mary keeps sending me. And my devotion is growing. Ponder his raised right hand. Precious.

Wednesday, May 19 was my first trip to Tuscarawas County. Dover St. Joseph Church has a statue of the child Jesus with the most winsome face and chubby fingers, much appreciated after spending several minutes in quiet prayer in front of the Pieta. Non-traditional Stations of the Cross pack a punch. And, in this year of St. Joseph, like Mary, he always points us to Jesus.

A lifelong Iowan, Anne Mallampalli moved with her husband and four children from Iowa City to Pittsburgh in 2009, and then she and her husband relocated to Dublin in 2018. Anne is a member of Powell St. Joan of Arc Church and coordinator for the parish’s Eucharistic Adoration – stjoanofarc.wedorehim.com.

Waverly St. Mary statue of Our Lady

St. Bernadette statue at Lancaster St. Bernadette Church

Infant of Prague at Lancaster St. Bernadette Church

The Sacred Heart Church neighborhood in New Philadelphia can rightfully boast the most gorgeous and prolific rhododendrons and azaleas I’ve ever seen. (Honorable mention to the poppies and lilacs.)

Sights and smells triggered pleasant May crowning memories. I thought of all the schoolchildren over the years who proudly brought those bright blooms to honor the Queen of the May. The Sacred Heart School building is no more, but the history inside the church is palpable. Real presence, future, real past.

The Blessed Mother surely arranged for the last day of my pilgrimages to Waverly and Portsmouth, both Marian churches. At Waverly St. Mary, Queen of the Missions Church, Linda and I were treated to a full tour of both church buildings, including the original church built in 1878. Our Lady provided by putting Kendall on the scene, a most willing tour guide and landscaper, baptized in that very parish.

The noon bells rang for the Regina Coeli as we arrived at the beautiful Portsmouth St. Mary of the Annunciation Church. The sign on the front was a curiosity: “Boneyfiddle.” Was this a play on words – bona fides? But a quick Google search provided the answer. Thanks to my fourth-grade teacher from St. Cecilia’s who admonished us to look it up, now you can do the same.

My new friend and I made a quick visit before Mass started and then enjoyed lunch together, sharing our impressions along with a ham, cheese and blackberry jam (!) sandwich.

In my previous article on Adoration, I shared my secret of overcoming homesickness. Here’s my tip for when you have that I-just-miss-my-mom feeling: Make a visit to your nearest Catholic Church. Or go far! Jesus is there in the tabernacle. His Mother is always there to point you in His direction, and she comes under so many titles, in various scenes. Like a good mother, she lavish-es good gifts on all her children.

I promise that you will make a connection, and you’ll feel chopper. And, if like me, you’re one of the really fortunate ones who still has a mom on this side of the veil, call her – right now – and tell her that you love her!

I was a curious: “Boneyfiddle.” Was this a play on words – bona fides? But a quick Google search provided the answer. Thanks to my fourth-grade teacher from St. Cecilia’s who admonished us to look it up, now you can do the same.

“When you told me 20 years ago I’d be working a few blocks from the Ohio Statehouse today, I’d have thought, ‘Well, of course. I’ll be working for a politician or a state agency.’ Instead, my employer is the Diocese of Columbus, and I’m excited about what I’m doing now and the things the diocese wants to do on social media in the future.”

DISCIPLESHIP, continued from Page 16
Corpus Christi Sunday Year B

Time to renew our Eucharistic faith

Exodus 24:3-8
Psalm 116:12-13, 15-16, 17-18
Hebrews 9:11-15
Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

Eucharist is our life, the center of our life with Jesus. Jesus is not just an idea. He is a person, the Son of God, Who speaks to us in the midst of life. How do we respond? Our celebration of the Eucharist teaches us. We gather. We learn who we are. We become a family at the table of the Eucharist. We share what we have and are with the world.

In Jesus, God has established a covenant, a living relationship with us. There are key terms associated with our Catholic faith in the Eucharist: unity, sacrifice, Holy Communion, transubstantiation, Real Presence. The Eucharist is Jesus in His glorified reality, body, blood, soul and divinity. We worship Him. We receive Him with reverence. We conform our lives to what we receive.

If we do not live the Eucharist, we are not living up to our own nature. During the time of “fasting” from the Eucharist that many experienced due to COVID-19, we all became more aware of the sustaining power of this gift and of our hearts’ longing for it when we could not receive.

How do we come to faith in the Eucharist, in the Real Presence of Jesus Christ? Someone who has this faith tells us, shows us what it means and we believe it through the testimony we have received. We accept the substance of the faith, put it to use for ourselves in our own lives and then pass it on.

How do people who do not believe in the Eucharist come to their “unfaith”? The opposite happens:

- No one ever tells them, or someone denies the truth before they have heard it.
- They hear about it from believers but do not see believers living it as true.
- They believe, perhaps when they are young, and then they hear dissenting voices and choose to give up the faith they once had because of its cost.

Corpus Christi, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, is a time to renew and strengthen our Eucharistic faith. Let us renew and simplify our understanding:

- Eucharist is Jesus, glorified, risen and ascended to the glory He had before the world began, seated at the right hand of the Father, pouring out His spirit on us through His Bride the Church, in the sacramental life we share.
- Eucharist is the Lord Jesus, through the Incarnation and through the paschal mystery, offering Himself to us as food, sustaining us for the life of eternity.
- Eucharist is the very center of our life in Christ as Church.

How do we witness to this practically?

- We come to Mass every Sunday and Holy Day and on other occasions whenever we can. In the dioceses of Ohio, this obligation is being restored as a step along the way of recovery from “COVID time.”
- We prepare ourselves to receive the Lord in the Eucharist by confessing, if needed, by fasting for an hour and by disposing our hearts to be open to the action of His grace through the Eucharist.
- We adore the Lord in His Eucharistic presence: genuflecting toward the tabernacle, making visits and coming to Adoration whenever we can. In the dioceses of Ohio, this obligation is being restored whenever we can. In the dioceses of Ohio, this obligation is being restored.

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION

Mass Schedule: Weeks of June 6 and 13, 2021

THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

Ezekiel 17:22-24
Psalm 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16
2 Corinthians 5:6-10
Mark 4:26-34

Be evangelizers, stewards of nature, and let God work in you

11th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year B

Several related matters that the Church is calling us to engage in. Through Pope Francis and our own Bishop Robert Brennan, we are called to be evangelizers who keep the poor in our attention. We are also taught that we need to be mindful of all of creation, recognizing the earth as our common home. We must keep all creation’s role in praise of God in mind as we relate to the world around us. To do that, we need to be mindful of our own praise of God.

The Church exists to respond to the Gospel, putting it into practice and sharing it with the whole world. In our time, we are ever more aware of the responsibility that is ours to care for creation, acknowledging God as the creator and giving Him praise. God is our father. God is the creator. We should respond in love and praise for Who He reveals Himself to be in Jesus Christ. “Give thanks to the Lord, for His love is everlasting.”

The Lord Jesus, the Word of God, shares the wisdom of God’s creative activity with His friends. “To His own disciples He explained everything in private.” How and when do we give the Lord a chance to explain things to us in private?

Do we take time in the course of our day for the Lord? How much of our time do we give directly to God? When we take time for prayer, is it given generously, without measuring, or is it given grudgingly? Do we realize that our use of our time will be measured
**FAITH, continued from Page 18**

Fasting is a fundamental aspect of Christian life, reminding us that we are not the only source of our nourishment. God is the one who provides for our needs. In fasting, we humbly acknowledge our dependence on the Lord and seek to free ourselves from the binds of materialism and self-sufficiency.

When we come to the moment of encounter with eternity to which we are all destined? “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.”

God is always worth our time.

• We can give God our day as it begins, asking Him to walk with us through the day.

• When we find that we have free moments in our day, we can give God these moments before we waste them. We may take a walk in nature or sit for a few moments watching the people around us, lifting them up to God in prayer.

• On Sundays, we ought to arrange our day around Mass so that we can attend instead of choosing our Mass time according to the structure of the day we have already planned.

• When we come to Mass, we can come early and read the Scriptures to prepare our hearts for the liturgy.

**STEWARDS, continued from Page 18**

The theme of Bishop Brennan’s keynote address on Friday, with Archbishop Perez speaking Saturday, will be “Real Presence.” Spanish interpretation and sign language interpretation will be available.

Archbishop Perez and Bishop Brennan were ordained together as auxiliary bishops of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, New York, where both served from 2012 to 2017. Archbishop Perez was bishop of Cleveland from 2017 to 2020, when he was appointed to his current position. Bishop Brennan was installed as the 12th bishop of Columbus on March 29, 2019.

Music for Friday’s Vespers and procession at St. Joseph Cathedral will be provided by the cathedral choir. On Saturday, the Filipino choir of Columbus, St. Elizabeth Church will present selections before the Mass. The Columbus St. Dominic Church choir, directed by Vernon Hairston, will sing at Mass, with the Ghanaian choir of Columbus St. Anthony Church featured following the Mass. There also will be a time of praise and worship between the talks by Archbishop Perez.

Event organizers ask those planning to attend Saturday’s program to register in advance, but walk-ins will be admitted. A registration form will be available soon at www.realpresence-realfuture.org.

**GATHERING, continued from Page 16**

all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”

“I Will Be With You Always” will be the theme of Bishop Brennan’s keynote address on Friday, with Archbishop Perez speaking Saturday on the subjects “Real Presence” and “Real Future.” Spanish interpretation and sign language interpretation will be available on Saturday.

Archbishop Perez and Bishop Brennan were ordained together as auxiliary bishops of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, New York, where both served from 2012 to 2017. Archbishop Perez was bishop of Cleveland from 2017 to 2020, when he was appointed to his current position. Bishop Brennan was installed as the 12th bishop of Columbus on March 29, 2019.

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William J. Antoniak

Funeral Mass for William J., Antoniak, 70, who died Tuesday, May 18, was celebrated Saturday, May 22 at Columbus St. Mary, Mother of God Church. Burial was at Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens, Columbus.

He was born on May 18, 1951 to the late James and Louise Mac Antoniak. He served in the military and was a member of the U.S. Army band in Berlin.

He played the accordion and the organ and at various times was music director and organist of St. Mary Church, Columbus.

Jacqueline M. Gundling

Funeral Mass for Jacqueline M. Gundling, 86, who died Thursday, May 14, was celebrated Thursday, May 20 at Westerville St. Paul Church. Burial was at Resurrection Cemetery, Lewis Center.

She was born on Nov. 6, 1934 in Cleveland to John and Helen (Claffie) Sweeney and was a graduate of the Beaumont School for Girls in Cleveland Heights and St. Mary of the Springs College (now Ohio Dominican University).

She served as an ombudsman for Catholic Social Services and was involved in many volunteer organizations and social service committees. She also worked for many years with H&R Block as a tax preparer and enrolled agent.

She was a longtime member of Columbus St. Peter Catholic Church, where she was a Parish Council member, was an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist and taught in the Parish School of Religion.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband. She is survived by sons, James (Lynda), John (Toni), and the Polka Heroes band.

Survivors include his wife, Laura; son, William (Ina); daughter, Abby; brothers, Ted, Laura; son, William (Ina); daughter, Abby; brothers, Ted, Jennifer (Steven) Elliott and (Bob) Lembke; and four grandchildren.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY WITH ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI, COLUMBUS

25 Hours Per Week – 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

St. Francis of Assisi Parish is seeking an administrative professional to manage the church office and serve in support of the Pastor and parishioners and as a staff resource, ensuring that parish needs in administration, personnel, finance, and facilities are fulfilled. This position directs and manages these efforts with technical expertise. This position will remain open until filled.

Required skills include: Proficiency with MS Office (Word, Excel, Publisher); Familiarity with payroll and accounting practices and systems is helpful; Excellent organizational skills and efficiency of effort; Excellent oral and written communication and human relations skills are essential; Ability to handle and prioritize multiple, diverse tasks.

Previous business management experience is essential. A Bachelor’s Degree is preferred but not essential.

Please send cover letter and resume to: Fr. Fritzner Valcin, St. Francis of Assisi Church, 386 Bottles Ave, Columbus, OH 43214

AGRIESTI, Bonnie (West), 78, May 14 St. John the Baptist Church, Columbus

BAPTISTE, Louis, 91, May 17 St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

BITTONI, Mario, 93, May 23 St. Michael Church, Worthington

BOPE, James W., 85, May 15 Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

BUYKO, Phyllis A. (Young), 79, May 18 St. James the Less Church, Columbus

CAMPBELL, Anne (McHale) 90, May 12 Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus

FALOR, Elwin R., 85, May 17 St. Christopher Church, Columbus

FOOSE, Alphonse M., 96, May 23 St. Matthew Church, Gahanna

GADDIS, Gary W., 84, May 17 St. Bernard Church, Corning

GILLEN, Joe, 72, April 13 St. Bernadette Church, Lancaster

GOHRING, Regina K. (Grim), 87, May 19 Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

HAHN, Mary L. (Bell), 85, May 24 St. Mary Church, Lancaster

HALL, Patricia A. (O’Neill), 85, May 23 Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

HEATH, Elizabeth C. “Betty” (Dunn), 95, May 20 St. Philip Church, Columbus

KURTH, Coral L., 92, May 13 St. Andrew Church, Columbus

LEWIS, Stephen H., 84, formerly of Mount Sterling, May 17 Sacred Heart Church, Southport, N.C.

MacKINNON, Agnes R. (McGee), 93, May 13 Christ the King Church, Columbus

MARTIN, John W., 87, May 8 St. Leo the Great Oratory, Columbus

MASCHERINO, Michele “Mike,” 93, May 23 Resurrection Cemetery Chapel, Lewis Center

McINTOSH, Joseph P., 92, May 19 St. Patrick Church, London

McKENDRY, Roderick, 76, May 17 Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

McMONAGLE, Joyce, 77, May 20 St. Paul Church, Westerville

McVICKER, Joseph P., 55, May 17 St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Pickerington

MEIER, James M., 61, May 13 St. Ladislas Church, Columbus

MICELI, Lawrence, 71, May 25 St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

MILLER, Marjorie A. (Lordonitch), 85, May 8 St. Mary Church, Lancaster

MOCK, James M., 69, May 24 St. John Church, Logan

PAGURA, Rita E. (Strapp), 90, Jan. 12 St. Andrew Church, Columbus

PANNELLA, Jeanne E. (Bodish), 78, May 17 Resurrection Cemetery Chapel, Lewis Center

PAXTON, Macille E. (Swartz), 90, May 24 St. Patrick Church, Junction City

PIOLATA, Tommy P., 69, May 19 St. Andrew Church, Columbus

QUINN, William, 74, May 22 St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Pickerington

REOCH, Lawrence D., 84, May 14 Resurrection Cemetery Chapel, Lewis Center

ROSSI, Gail (Zimmerman), 84, May 15 St. Joseph Church, Dover

SEIPEL, Daniel E., 66, May 21 Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

THOMAS, Trudy F. (Underwood), 74, May 12 St. Mary Church, Lancaster

TRIEFENBACH, Martha (Kamerick), 82, May 19 St. Elizabeth Church, Columbus

CROSSWORD SOLUTION
St. Timothy festival to feature new-car raffle

By Doug Bean
Catholic Times Editor

Columbus St. Timothy Church and School will benefit in a big way at this summer’s Festival on the Green from one of its former member’s frugality.

A new 2021 Honda Accord LX, donated in memory of St. Timothy School graduate Steve Schira, will be raffled as a fundraiser to benefit the parish school in conjunction with the July 9-10 festival, which is returning this year after it was cancelled in 2020 because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Schira, who passed away in 2019 at age 65, was an engineer for the Kroger Company and part-owner of a home inspection business in central Ohio who remained cautious with his money throughout life despite his success.

His youngest brother, Jeff, said recently that Steve developed a habit of buying a 4- or 5-year-old Honda Accord, put about 100,000 miles on the vehicle and then purchase a similar car a few years later even though he could afford a new model.

“We joked about it because he was always two or three generations behind in technology, always driving a car that was 6 or 7 years old so it never had airbags and never had anti-lock brakes and all kinds of stuff,” Jeff said. “He was very well off financially, and so my other brother and me would say to him, ‘Why don’t you just blow the budget once and buy a new one?’

“Of course, he never wanted to listen to me because I was the younger brother. So I just thought if he dies and leaves me the money, I’m going to buy a new Honda after he ignored what I’d been saying for 30 years because I’m his stupid kid brother.”

Jeff, 63, was in the first class of students after St. Timothy School was established in 1963-64 to go all the way through to eighth-grade graduation before he moved on to Columbus Bishop Watterson High School. His parents were among the founding members of the parish, and Jeff recalled volunteering at the festival with his father, John, starting in 1972, before moving to Atlanta in 1989 to work for a law firm after graduating from the Ohio State University Moritz College of Law and then relocating to the Dallas area, where he now lives.

And so when Steve, who never married, left a sizable estate to his two younger brothers after his death, they decided to use some of the money to honor him and buy the new Accord he had always shunned.

“I said, you know, finally, I’m going to buy that Accord because I’ve been saying that to him for 15 or 20 years,” Jeff said. “But I don’t really need a car, and so I called up Jim Cetovich, who was one of the guys responsible for St. Tim’s festival, and I said, ‘Do you want to do something big for your raffle? How about this car?’ And they accepted.”

Keeping with the spirit of Steve’s frugality, the new Accord will be a base model.

“The lower trim level was all he was ever going to buy,” Jeff said. “I wanted to give away what he would have bought if he ever did buy a new one.”

Jeff said he never considered doing anything else with the donation but offering it to St. Tim’s, particularly in light of the revenue that was lost in 2020 when the festival was cancelled.

“I know they had a tough year last year because I know that was a major fundraiser,” Jeff said. “I hope they sell a lot of tickets.”

Some might question whether the money used to...
Students at Columbus Immaculate Conception School greet diocesan seminarians led by Kevin Girardi as they arrive on Thursday, May 27 for one of their stops at six schools during the annual bike tour.

CT photos by Ken Snow

Seminarians resume annual bike tour, visit schools

After being on hiatus for a year because of the COVID-19 pandemic, seminarians from the Diocese of Columbus who are attending the Pontifical College Josephinum resumed their annual bicycle tour of diocesan schools.

Seminarians Kevin Girardi, Michael Haemmerle, Jake Asuncion, Joseph Rolwing and Daniel Colby made a total of six stops on their bikes on Wednesday and Thursday, May 26 and 27, with Sam Severance, who also is studying for the priesthood at the Josephinum, driving the trail car. They were easily recognizable in their blue T-shirts with the symbol of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and Pope St. John Paul’s papal motto Totus Tuus — Latin for “Totally Yours,” a reference to his devotion to the Virgin Mary.

This year, all the seminarians’ stops were in Columbus. They started at Bishop Hartley High School, then went to St. Charles Preparatory School and Bishop Ready High School on the first day, then spent the night at St. Therese’s Retreat Center before concluding the tour with visits to St. Francis DeSales High School, Immaculate Conception School and Cristo Rey High School.

“I was amazed that students recognized that our call to holiness was something they could relate to,” Asuncion said. “They asked us questions like ‘How can I be called to a life of holiness?’ The fact that they want to try to find their own vocation and establish that relationship with the Lord — that was so cool.”

Rowling described his listeners as “incredibly receptive, asking a lot of questions and seem(ing) to be very excited about the love of the Lord. … Because I went to public grade and high school, I didn’t get to experience anyone in the priesthood or religious life talking to us in this way, so I’m really glad I’m a part of this. It’s a huge blessing,” he said.

Girardi said the purpose of the tour was “to encourage young men and women to consider vocations both to religious life and to marriage so they might have a better understanding that a vocation is a calling from God to which we each respond. … (We want) to encourage them to say ‘Yes’ to Jesus so that it’s clear that God has made them, that He loves them, that He’s made them for a specific task, and for them to be receptive in their hearts to say ‘Yes’ to whatever it is.”

Severance said the tour was important because it gave young people and adults a chance “to put faces to seminarians in order to connect with people and show who we are, and to let them ask questions about vocations to the priesthood, consecrated life and married life.”

The final stop on the bike tour of diocesan schools came at Columbus Cristo Rey High School, where the seminarians spoke with students.

FESTIVAL, continued from Page 21

In the marriage case styled JOHN CLAYTON HARVEY III and DONNA LORETTA BEZNER, the Tribunal of the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio is currently unaware of the present address of DONNA LORETTA BEZNER. The Tribunal herewith informs her of the case and invites her to contact REVEREND MONSIGNOR JOHN JOHNSON, JCD, Presiding and sole Judge, no later than – 21 JUNE 2021, or call phone (614) 241-2500 Extension 1. Anyone who knows of the whereabouts of DONNA LORETTA BEZNER is herewith asked to make this Citation known to her or to inform the Tribunal of her current address.

Given this 6 JUNE 2021;
REVEREND MONSIGNOR JOHN JOHNSON, JCD
Presiding Judge
KAREN KITCHELL
Notary

buy the car could have been donated as cash, but a raffle “adds some excitement, and there’s something about it that makes an event out of it,” Jeff said.

“Just giving money is nice, but having a raffle like this hopefully will bring more money than the purchase price of the car. There’s a community spirit involved in getting together and organizing it and selling tickets, and I think that’s important, too.”

That’s also the additional benefit of potentially attracting more people to the festival. For the past 15 years, the festival raffle offered a $1,000 grand prize.

“This is a huge donation that will bring much-needed funds to the parish and the school,” St. Timothy School principal George Mosholder said. “We always try to teach our kids to not forget where you came from and if possible give back. And that’s what’s happening here.”

Raffle tickets for the automobile are available for purchase at $20 each or six for $100 in the parish office, 1088 Thomas Lane, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday or online at the festival website, https://sttimfestival.org/.
St. Martha Giving Circle grants total $50,000

The St. Martha Giving Circle of The Catholic Foundation (The Martha’s) awarded 10 organizations a record amount of $50,000 in grants for their work in the community.

Mommies Matter received $10,000; Back in His Arms Again and Open Door Columbus, which works with women and families dealing with addiction, $7,000 each; the Women’s Care Center of Columbus, the Christ Child Society of Columbus and Joseph’s Coat of Central Ohio, $5,000 each; the Pregnancy Decision Health Centers, Columbus Cristo Rey High School and the Columbus Early Learning Centers, $3,000 each; and the Bottoms Up diaper drive, $2,000.

Interested in joining The Martha’s or just want to learn more? Call (614) 443-8893, send an email to kshuey@catholic-foundation.org or visit www.catholic-foundation.org/themarthas for more information.

St. Matthew hosting day of worship on June 12

Gahanna St. Matthew Church, 807 Havens Corners Road, will be the site for a special day of worship on Saturday, June 12, the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The day will begin with Mass at 8:30 a.m., followed by Eucharistic Adoration from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and a Sunday Vigil Mass at 5 p.m. The program will conclude at 6 p.m. with “Exult!”, a service including adoration, with praise and worship music, ending with a Eucharistic procession around the parish grounds.

For more information or to sign up for an hour of adoration, go to www.stmattthew.net/summer-events.

Back in His Arms Again to host fundraiser

Back in His Arms Again, which helps families who have experienced the loss of a child, will sponsor a fundraiser on Sunday, June 27 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Whetstone shelter house in the Park of Roses, 3901 N. High St., Columbus.

It will be a family event with activities and snacks, plus a silent auction with bidding from 1 to 2:15 p.m. Admission is free and all proceeds will go to the organization’s work of assisting grieving families. If you are unable to attend, donations may be made online at www.backinhisarmsagain.com or mailed to Box 1553, Westerville, OH 43086.

The organization conducts memorial Masses four times a year in the chapel at Resurrection Cemetery, 9571 N. High St., Lewis Center. The remaining Masses scheduled this year are at 1 p.m. July 24 and Oct. 23, both Saturdays.

Hilliard Confirmation classes plan reunion in September

Anyone who was confirmed at Hilliard St. Brendan the Navigator Church between 1966 and 1976 is invited to a weekend reunion on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 18 and 19.

A golf outing will take place on Saturday at the Wilson Road Golf Course, 1900 N. Wilson Road, Columbus. The cost is $22 for nine holes of play and a shared cart. The first tee time is 8:30 a.m. The following day is a rain date.

A dance party with music from that era is scheduled from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. Sunday at the Valley Dale Ballroom, 1590 Sunbury Road, Columbus. The cost is $20. There also may be softball at the church, 4475 Dublin Road, if enough people are interested.

For more information and to volunteer, contact Molly Newberry at (614) 203-6621 or mollynewberry@ameritech.net.
A night of Praise & Worship

Worship Leader
Mark Voris & Band

Pavilion Praise Party
Sunday, June 27, 2021
6:00 pm

Please bring your own lawn chair.

Saints Simon & Jude Parish
9350 High Free Pike • West Jefferson, Ohio  43162

Sponsored by the Youth Ministry of SJP