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Inside this issue



Praying for Haiti: Members of Columbus' Haitian Catholic community prayed at a Mass on Sunday, Aug. 22 at St. Matthias Church for the island nation recently devastated by an earthquake. Diocesan parishes will have a special collection to assist the relief efforts, Page 2



Praying for priests: A Real Presence Real Future commission member suggests that offering to assist priests at their parishes and praying for vocations to the priesthood are ways to support the diocese's Real Presence Real Future initiative, Page 3



Praying like St. Monica: Mothers whose children have strayed from the practice of the faith gather at Powell St. Joan of Arc Church for support and to pray for the intercession of St. Monica, whose prayers brought her son, St. Augustine, back to the Church, Page 7



“Your Catholic school experience is a partnership between many of us who believe in you and want you to reach your best potential, to be who God created you to be, to see what God sees and loves in you, and to know that you are never alone.”

– Bishop Robert J. Brennan, opening message to nearly 16,500 diocesan Catholic school students

BACK TO SCHOOL 2021-22: STUDENTS RETURN TO CLASSROOM

Pages 9-14

Haitians pray at Mass for quake, hurricane victims

Bishop Robert Brennan celebrated Mass with the Haitian community in Columbus on Sunday, Aug. 22, at St. Matthias Church in the wake of a devastating earthquake that struck the island nation a week earlier.

Haiti was rocked by a 7.2-magnitude quake on Aug. 14 that killed thousands and also left thousands injured or missing. Rescue efforts, aided by Catholic Relief Services, continue amid the rubble while being hampered last week by Tropical Storm Grace.

Homes and churches were damaged or destroyed, and some hospitals were reported to be unstable as a result of the third natural disaster to rock the country since a 2010 earthquake killed more than 200,000 people. Hurricane Matthew struck the island in 2016.

Parishes throughout the Diocese of Columbus will have special collections within the next month to aid the relief efforts in Haiti. In addition, donations can be made directly to Catholic Relief Services to aid in the recovery.

“We’re praying today in solidarity – that we’re all one heart, one voice praying to God for the people of Haiti who are suffering — especially for those who have died and those who mourn,” Bishop Brennan said in his homily at the St. Matthias Mass. “We pray also for those who have been injured and all those who are involved in the rescue and relief work.

“I’m glad that the Columbus com-

munity is responding so generously to the call from Catholic Relief Services to help in their assistance in Haiti. So, many thanks to all those who are supporting the work of relief in Haiti.”

About 40 people in a congregation of approximately 50 who attended the Aug. 22 Mass were of Haitian descent. Among the congregants were members of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, a religious order of sisters who arrived in the diocese this summer to assist at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School.

Haitians gather at St. Matthias on the first, second and third Sundays of each month as a community for Masses that incorporate a mixture of English, Creole and French into the liturgy.

“All of today’s collection, as well as that from next weekend’s Masses, will go to the Haitian relief collection that the diocese is conducting in support of Catholic Relief Services’ immediate aid to families affected by last weekend’s earthquake,” said Fa-



Columbus’ Haitian community prays during a Sunday Mass on Aug. 22 at St. Matthias Church for their native country devastated by an earthquake.
CT photos by Ken Snow



Bishop Robert Brennan expresses his solidarity with the Haitian community during his homily at the Mass.

ther Tony Davis, the parish’s pastor. “We welcome some visitors and some members of the parish who are with us today, but all of us — myself included — are guests.

“We’re guests of the Haitian community, and this is your Mass, your time of prayer, and we thank you for allowing all of us to join you today. We’re glad that you have this Haitian Catholic community, and we’re honored to be here in your presence today.”

Evens Jean-Raymond was one of the founders of the Haitian Catholic community, which is celebrating its 15th year at St. Matthias in 2021. Jean-Raymond assists at the Masses as a cantor and also is involved in organizing social activities for the Haitians.

An outdoor fundraising festival is planned for Labor Day on Monday, Sept. 6 from noon to 8 p.m. at St. Matthias that will feature children’s games and Haitian food and music.

“All proceeds will go to an emergency disaster fund being collected by the Diocese of Columbus, which will forward them directly to Catholic Relief Services for their on-site efforts to assist the victims of the earthquake



Evens Jean-Raymond serves as a cantor and an organizer for the Haitian community Mass at St. Matthias.

that struck southern Haiti,” Jean-Raymond said.

St. Matthias also serves as a home for Nigerian and Brazilian Catholics in the diocese.

Diocesan parishes to take up special collection for Haiti

At the request of Los Angeles Archbishop José H. Gomez, who serves as president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Diocese of Columbus will take up a special collection during the month ahead for relief to benefit Haiti in the aftermath of an earthquake that hit the island two weeks ago. Pastors will provide specific

details to their parishioners. Also, links to Catholic Relief Services will provide information on additional developments and ways to help the people of Haiti: <https://www.crs.org>, <https://support.crs.org/donate/haiti-earthquake?ms=agics2021heq00gen00&ga=2.187785389.424180301.1629145027-347388816.1596639226>

Front Page photos:

BACK TO SCHOOL 2021-22

Students at diocesan schools have returned to the classroom. Pictured in the top photo are (from left) Graham Brummel, Jack Brummel, Aiden Teeters, Luke Brummel and Anna Teeters. In the bottom photo are (from left) Ruby Klein and Anna Teeters. All are students at Gahanna St. Matthew School.



Photos courtesy Lauren Stefanov

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Priests need our prayers, offers of assistance

By Liz Christy

They accompany us during life's most joyful and difficult moments, provide access to the sacraments, boldly proclaim the truth of the Gospel, share with us the beauty of the Church and more. They serve in our parishes, schools, hospitals and prisons. We call them pastors, shepherds, spiritual fathers and friends.

They walk with us on our journeys, but are we walking with them?

This year, I was honored to be a co-chair on the Parish Missionary Discipleship Subcommittee for the Real Presence Real Future initiative in our diocese. It allowed me to glimpse inside the lives of our priests and parishes.

I've had enlightening conversations with priests in our diocese and beyond. I've enjoyed hearing their stories and learning about their joys and struggles. These men have answered the call to their priestly vocation with an honest desire to serve the Lord and bring people to Christ.

Several years ago, I read the book *Praying for Priests* by Kathleen Beckman. At the time, I was dealing with grief and suffering over my recurrent pregnancy loss. Through the sacraments of Holy Eucharist and penance, I felt God working in through many priests to help me heal. I experienced deep compassion and love, and I prayed for them in return. Reading this book opened my eyes to the spiritual battles our priests face. I realized that we all have a critical role in supporting them through prayer.

The fruit of this prayer has continued in my life. In my work as director of Evangelization and Discipleship at Pickerington St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, I walk with and support priests. This year, we celebrated with our pastor as he retired after 45

years of priesthood, welcomed a new pastor and newly ordained associate, watched a young man from our parish enter the seminary and said goodbye to a dear friend as he traveled to his home country to be ordained. It is a true joy to walk with these men and pray for them and their vocations.

At the beginning of summer, we received results from the Disciple Maker Index for our parishes and diocese. One thing that stood out was the low percentage of people who said they regularly invite someone to consider the priesthood or religious life. This result, combined with the priest shortage, led me to believe that we must encourage vocations and cover our priests with prayer and support.

Here are ways to do that:

- **Pray:** I set an alarm on my phone for 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. daily to pray for priests and vocations. Find seven parishioners and have each one commit to praying one day a week for your pastor and new vocations. Spend an hour a week in adoration praying for priests and vocations.

- **Discussion:** Talk with the young men in your life about the priesthood, ask them to pray and listen to see if God is calling them to be a priest.

- **Help:** Ask your pastor how you can serve in your parish. We often ask them to do things for us, but when we offer our assistance to them, we give them time to focus on things they need to protect, such as their personal prayer life.

As we continue with the Real Presence Real Future initiative in our diocese, let's commit to praying for our priests and for new vocations. Our future depends on it!

Liz Christy is a member of Pickerington St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish and the Real Presence Real Future commission.

Real Presence Real Future

Reflections

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, August 29, 2021

Real Presence, Real Future reflection: Active listening
Mary Thompson, Gahanna St. Matthew parishioner & RPRF Commission Member

In today's readings, Moses exhorts the Israelites to "hear the statutes and decrees of the Lord," and St. James challenges us to be doers of the word as well as hearers. To hear well means to listen well. How well do we listen to God? How well do we listen to our family, friends, and others? Do we listen before forming a response? Active listening can help us be more attentive to God's will in our lives and be empowered to follow the Lord's command to love him with our hearts, minds, souls, and strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

For more about how we are growing together in the life of faith and discipleship in the Diocese of Columbus, visit www.RealPresenceRealFuture.org.

XXII Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario, 29 de agosto, 2021

Reflexiones Presencia Real, Futuro Real: Escucha activa
Mary Thompson, feligrés de la Parroquia San Mateo y miembro de la comisión PRFR

En las lecturas de hoy, Moisés exhorta a los israelitas a escuchar los mandatos y preceptos del Señor, y el apóstol Santiago nos desafía en poner en práctica la palabra, así como la escuchamos. Escuchar bien significa oír bien. ¿Qué tan bien escuchamos a Dios? ¿Qué tan bien escuchamos a nuestra familia, amigos y demás? ¿Escuchamos antes de dar una respuesta? La escucha activa puede ayudarnos a estar más atentos a la voluntad de Dios en nuestras vidas y a fortalecernos a seguir los preceptos del Señor de amarlo con todo nuestro corazón, mente, alma y fuerzas, y amar a nuestro prójimo como a nosotros mismos.

Para leer más acerca de cómo podemos crecer juntos en la vida de fe y discipulado en la Diócesis de Columbus, visita: www.RealPresenceRealFuture.org

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, September 5, 2021

Real Presence, Real Future reflection: Openness to new ideas

Deacon Tim Birie, Knox County Consortium of Catholic Churches

In today's Gospel, Jesus says to the deaf man with the speech impediment, "Ephphatha," which means "be opened." The man could now hear and spoke plainly. What a change for him. He now had access to a whole new world. He could hear Jesus' teaching and could share them with others. Many people in our world need to hear the words of Jesus. We are all being called to proclaim the Gospel, which could be a change for many of us. Real Presence Real Future is asking us to open to new ideas and accept some changes. In the words of Jesus "Ephphatha" be opened.

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XXIII Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario, 5 de setiembre, 2021
Reflexiones Presencia Real, Futuro Real: Abriéndonos a nuevas ideas

Diácono Tim Birie, Consorcio de iglesias católicas del condado Knox

En el evangelio de hoy, Jesús le dice al hombre sordo y tartamudo, "¡Ephfá!", que quiere decir, "¡Ábrete!". El hombre ahora podía oír y hablar perfectamente. Que tal cambio en él. Ahora tenía acceso a un mundo totalmente nuevo. Podía escuchar las enseñanzas de Jesús y compartirlas con otros. Muchas personas en nuestro mundo necesitan escuchar las palabras de Jesús. Todos estamos llamados a proclamar el evangelio, lo cual podría significar una transformación para muchos de nosotros. Presencia Real, Futuro Real nos está pidiendo que nos abramos a nuevas ideas y aceptemos los cambios. En las palabras de Jesús, Ephetá, estar abiertos.

Para leer más acerca de cómo podemos crecer juntos en la vida de fe y discipulado en la Diócesis de Columbus, visita: www.RealPresenceRealFuture.org



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Eucharistic Gathering takes place Aug. 27-28

The diocese's Eucharistic Gathering is scheduled for Friday, Aug. 27 at St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus and Saturday, Aug. 28 at St. Charles Preparatory School, 2010 E. Broad St., Columbus.

Saturday's event includes two spiritual talks by Archbishop Nelson Perez of Philadelphia, the former bishop of Cleveland, and a Mass starting at 8:30 a.m.

There will also be opportunities for prayer and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Registration for Saturday morning's Eucharistic Gathering can be found at www.rprfgathering.com.

The Eucharistic Gathering begins Friday evening at the Cathedral with an invitation-only program because of space limitations, but a livestream will be available at rprfgathering.com.

Bishop Robert Brennan will lead a prayer service that includes a keynote address, Vespers, adoration, Eucharistic procession and Benediction.

Training to become Olympic-caliber Catholic Christians

Like so many people throughout the world, I looked forward to the Tokyo Olympic Games. The world's best athletes spent so much of their lives preparing for these games. I also spent a good amount of my life watching them. Wow! Now I am focused on the accomplishments of the Paralympians.

While watching the Paralympic Games, I did research and discovered that both games have mottos. The traditional Olympic motto is the Latin phrase "Citius, Altius, Fortius" or "Faster, Higher, Stronger." For the Paralympics, the traditional motto is "Spirit in Motion." In Japan this year, the motto has been adapted to "United by Emotion."

The Olympic spirit is best expressed in the Olympic Creed: "The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part, just as the most important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle. The essential thing is not to have conquered but to have fought well." Likewise, the Paralympic Games creed is "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."

The Olympics, like our faith, are a celebration of the human spirit. They are about striving in the face of uncertainty for unity. They are a test of resilience, opportunities to grow and transform by doing hard

FAITH IN ACTION

Erin Cordle

Erin Cordle is associate director of the diocesan Office for Social Concerns.



things. Can you just imagine the hard things early Christians faced in the Colosseum arena in Rome? They were clearly Olympic-caliber Christians.

I realize that I will never be an Olympic-caliber platform diver; however, it doesn't mean I can't apply the spirit of these Olympic Games in my life. So I started thinking about what it would take for me to be an Olympic-caliber Catholic Christian – a true missionary disciple.

I found a list of the three primary Olympic values: excellence, friendship and respect. All three are foundational to our faith. They also are reflected in our diocesan Real Presence Real Future initiative. Our diocese is looking to the future "in light of the unique needs of people today, the needs of the culture around us, and the desire to form and activate Catholics to fulfill their baptismal call to become missionary disciples of our Lord and His Church to

those in their everyday lives." (<https://realpresence-realfuture.org/>)

Mary Lou Retton, America's sweetheart gymnast, once said, "Each of us has a fire in our hearts for something. It's our goal in life to find it and keep it lit." For us, that fire is the Holy Spirit calling us to find and share our God-given gifts and talents to reflect and help build God's kingdom here on earth.

Amazingly, every time we share those gifts and talents with others through our actions, words, gestures, etc., we also encounter Jesus Christ. They also provide us with opportunities to actually recognize Jesus Christ in our encounters – His real presence. Those encounters are Olympic-caliber Catholic Christian moments.

We may not have a podium on which to stand, but we do have a table to gather around and celebrate – and not just on Sunday. Encountering Jesus Christ in the Eucharist and allowing ourselves to be sent on missions by Him is the best training to fully embrace the Real Presence Real Future of our diocese.

Whether we are Olympians or Paralympians, let us be brave in the attempt to bring us closer to the gold – the kingdom of God.

Responding to the 'Mass' exodus

The Catholic Church, along with every major Protestant denomination, has witnessed a precipitous decline in Church attendance. This slide, set off during the 1960s, has accelerated with the rapid rise of the "nones," Americans claiming no religious affiliation. We could wonder, has the bottom fallen out with this huge exodus? Or put more theologically, has Christ abandoned his Church? Moments of crisis test us, calling us to exercise great hope and trust in the Lord's providence. Even though Jesus told us that he will never abandon us, he also calls us to do our part. We are not simply helpless in the current freefall. We can assess why things have gone off track and then adjust, focusing our attention on what can help us reverse course.

In taking stock of the crisis, Stephen Bullivant traces the steps of our decline for us, drawing together the many contributing factors in his book *Mass Exodus: Catholic Disaffiliation in Britain and America since Vatican II* (Oxford, 2019). Bullivant describes the major forces – both internal and external – that have combined to form a perfect exit storm. Huge cultural changes certainly set the backdrop. One surprising example stems from the breaking up of ethnic Catholic enclaves in cities in favor of the more isolated and anonymous suburbs. Alongside of unprecedented upheaval in society, confusion also reigned for decades in the Church following the Second Vatican Council, which stemmed from a revolution in worship, conflicts over morality, a collapse of catechesis and a flight from the priesthood and religious life – all leading to general turmoil. More recently, revelations about the cover-up of the sex abuse crisis and a growing distance between doctrine and society have alienated even more Catholics.

It has been a rough 60 years, with so many self-inflicted wounds. Since the early 1960s, when 75% of

THE CATHOLIC CULTURALIST

R. Jared Staudt

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Catholics attended Mass regularly, there has been a steady, annual decline in attendance to less than 25%. Catholics went from having clear identifiers of belief and practice within a strong community that anchored a whole way of life to a very changed landscape with few demands, incentives or cultural practices to support faith. The drift of Catholics to other churches or to no religion at all, Bullivant explains, should be seen in terms of an identity crisis, with every element of Catholic belief and practice seen as up for grabs.

People need God — we simply cannot be truly happy without him — and so must reach and serve our own people more effectively. Bullivant sheds light on this effort too, pointing to what worked before so many left. Catholic parishes of the past offered a "close-knit community-life," augmented by a "richly elaborate devotional" practice. In fact, respondents to many recent surveys sought greater community and simply could not find it at their parish. Keeping Catholics active in the faith involves more than just Mass attendance. In particular, people remain much more engaged when there is social integration into the parish and meaningful ties to other parishioners. Parishes of the past also provided opportunities to see the faith lived in meaningful ways, through something Bullivant describes as Credibility Enhancing Displays (CREDS) — actions and practices that manifest belief, often involving sacrifice (102). CREDS, such as noctur-

nal adoration, the Friday penance and processions, make faith come alive by drawing it into daily life.

What can we do differently to stop the "Mass" exodus? For one, we should focus on evangelization first — sharing the good news of salvation in relationship with Christ. Without a living faith in God, why would anyone care to listen to information/rules from the Church or come for worship? To grow in the faith, mentorship has been found much more effective than instruction (particularly when done by parents). If the classroom has been the model for catechesis in the past, we now need to think much more in terms of apprenticeship. We need a more dynamic approach — banding together with a motivated mentor and peers, sharing life together, living the faith actively and serving others. It is time to move out of the classroom in favor of small group settings (preferably in the home), which are more ideal to personally engage content. Mass has become a lost treasure, and to help people rediscover it, we must build a stronger community to surround it.

Looking back reveals that Catholics have assimilated into our culture, influenced more by its ethos and priorities. To re-engage the lost faithful, we need to communicate a compelling, imaginative vision of what it means to be a Christian in the modern world and why life will be better if we accept this vision and live within it. For the faith to stick, it must be woven into the very fabric our lives and supported by community. Only if we help Catholics to accept and internalize faith and live it every day of the week can we prevent them from becoming another statistic within the legion of "nones." Catholics may have left in a mass exodus, but the return will happen by engaging our lost brethren one at a time.

Olympians provide inspiration for our own lives

Earlier this month, we were able to enjoy the Summer Olympic Games. After a one-year delay, I thought it was a blessing that the Games were held even without spectators.

I enjoy watching the human spirit persevere through athletics and teamwork and I love learning about the lives of the athletes — their joys and struggles — and I was especially inspired when athletes shared their love of God and exhibited love of neighbor.

I was moved to see athletes making the Sign of the Cross before a race, adorn a cross necklace or bracelet and give thanks to God after a good performance.

I viewed the many amazing physical performances, both team and individual, as gifts from God. I was in awe of what Olympic athletes were able to do with their diverse physical gifts. Their natural abilities and their desire to hone to their skills to perfection felt like a beautiful testament to the wisdom and majesty of our Creator in whose image we are wonderfully made.

A South African female swimmer, who won the 200-meter breaststroke, wore a swim cap with a design featuring the Latin phrase “Soli Deo Gloria” (Glory to God Alone) and the “Jesus Fish” (ichthus) underneath her required swim cap.

Before the race, she posted on Twitter, “Father God, may your will be done, may your peace fill us up, may we praise you no matter what the outcome, may we be empowered by your strength to give it our all, and may we forever be in awe of your goodness.”

HOLY AND HEALTHY

Lori Crock

Lori Crock is a parishioner at Plain City St. Joseph Church. Lori leads SoulCore Rosary prayer and exercise at parishes, teaches physical strength classes and writes about faith and fitness at holyllandhealthycatholic.com.



There were heroic moments such as when two runners tripped over each other and then helped each other back up to their feet, and arms around each other, jogged together to the finish line in last and next-to-last place — and they were all smiles.

I was inspired to see athletes from different countries, who were competing against each other in an event, cheer for one another and hug each other, even though they were competing for the same prize.

U.S. gymnast Grace McCallum competed in the team gymnastics events. According to the Central Minnesota Catholic magazine, she doesn't travel anywhere without her rosary and a cross from her grandmother.

It must have been an incredible sacrifice for the athletes to be away from their families and friends to compete at the highest level of their lives. That support is paramount, and even though families were watching via livestream, those hugs, cheers and in-person words of encouragement make such a difference.

I admire the dedication of these athletes to train and persevere through pain, difficulty and hardship and to stay focused on a goal.

I supported gymnast Simone Biles' decision to

withdraw from her scheduled events as sparked new conversations about athletes being human beings first (or in my view, children of God) — and that mental health is as important as physical health.

I later learned that Biles is Catholic and that she has spoken of her dad's reminder not to waste God's gift of her talent and to use it to the best of her ability. In her 2016 autobiography, “Cour-age to Soar,” Biles mentions that her confirmation name is Sebastian, the patron saint of athletes. The martyred saint is considered an example of physical strength, resiliency and bravery.

Sadly, Biles announced on Instagram that she is “pro-choice” because she was raised in the foster care system and she considers it broken.

Lila Rose, a Catholic and the director of the pro-life organization Live Action, tweeted in re-sponse to Biles post, “Incredibly sad and awful. To have overcome a broken system as triumphantly as she has — yet wish death for other kids (because) they may face foster care is beyond fathoming.”

It is a reminder that athletes use their fame to share their personal views, and while they may excel in their sport, they are not perfect, and just like us they are broken and in need of God's love and healing. Let us use these opportunities to start conversations that shine a light on the beauty and truth of the Catholic Church's pro-life stance.

May we be inspired to apply Olympic-level dedication and perseverance to our own spiritual lives, powered by God's grace, to reach the most important goal of our lives — that of becoming a saint.

A Church in mission or a Church in meetings?

On the Solemnity of Christ the King in 2013, Pope Francis completed the work of the 2012 Synod of Bishops with the apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel), issuing a ringing call for the entire Church to “embark on a new chapter of evangelization.” Catholicism, the Pope urged, must move from maintenance to mission: “from a pastoral ministry of mere conservation to a decidedly missionary pastoral ministry.” And that ministry ought to empower all the people of the Church for mission, for the 21st-century Church must understand itself as a “community of missionary disciples” who are “permanently in a state of mission,” because the Church lives not for herself, but “for the evangelization of today's world.”

A little short of eight years later, Cardinal Mario Grech, general secretary of the Synod of Bishops, unveiled a complex — some might say, convoluted — plan for an extensive series of consultations at the diocesan, national, continental and international levels in preparation for the Synod on “synodality” to be held in Rome in October 2023. This two-year process has been described by one enthusiast as “the most important global Catholic project since Vatican II.” My own hunch — based on the U.S. Catholic “Call to Action” process in 1974-76 and the current German “Synodal Path” — is that the only people who will be fully engaged in Cardinal Grech's multitudinous consultative “phases” before the 2023 Synod are people who love to go to meetings in order to share with like-minded spirits their complaints about The Way Things Are in Catholicism. The rest of the Church, or at least its living

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

George Weigel is the Distinguished Senior Fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.



parts, will be otherwise occupied, getting about the task to which Pope Francis once summoned all of us: “the evangelization of today's world.”

From a Church in mission to a Church in meetings is not a step forward.

That the Church must be in mission, including a mission to poorly catechized Catholics who are drifting away from the faith in droves, ought not be in serious dispute. The pandemic has doubtless accelerated the decline of Catholic practice. But that exodus from the pews was underway before the world ever heard of Wuhan virology labs and COVID-19. The exodus reflects in part the corrosive effects of a culture that, in its kinder moments, may tolerate Catholic faith and practice as a lifestyle choice, but which is adamantly opposed to the notion that Catholicism is the bearer of enduring Gospel truths that lead to personal happiness and social solidarity. The exodus is also a byproduct of decades of inept catechesis and flaccid preaching, such that in much of the western world today, the most highly educated Catholics in history likely know less about Catholicism — and therefore believe less — than their grandparents.

Some recent survey data from Italy illustrates the depth of the challenge. In 1995, 41% of those sur-

veyed in Italy professed belief in life after death; 28.6% believe in life after death today. In that same timeframe, the numbers of those who flatly deny that there is life after death almost doubled, from 10.4% to 19.5%. The remainder, presumably, are agnostic on the subject. Think what it means, though, that of these numbers, only three out of 10 Italians firmly believe in life after death.

Anglican biblical scholar N.T. Wright, who has brilliantly defended the historicity of the Resurrection, has also written that there is no evidence whatsoever of any form of early Christianity that did not vigorously affirm that Jesus of Nazareth had been raised to a new and super-abundant form of life — a life available to all those who professed belief in him and lived as his friends and disciples. What was true two millennia ago is true today: If there is no belief in Easter, or in the resurrection to eternal life of those who have died in Christ, there is no Christianity. Period. And if, by that measure, Italy is a post-Christian society and culture, things are likely even more grim in other sectors of what was once western Christendom.

It is not clear how two years of self-referential Catholic chatter in pre-synodal Church discussion groups, conducted under the rubric of “discernment” about a “synodal Church,” is going to chart a path beyond this abandonment of rock-bottom Christian beliefs, which is at the root of today's rapidly declining Catholic practice. This is not the time for a Church in meetings. The times demand a Church in mission, proclaiming Jesus Christ as the answer to the question that is every human life.

At Catholic schools, faith should be the most important lesson

As Catholic and public schools reconvene throughout the diocese for a new year, this phrase should be on the hearts and in the minds of every parent, teacher and administrator: Educating for eternity.

A faith-based education should be about souls more than anything else. What good is knowledge if it's not used to glorify and honor Our Lord from now until eternal life?

Why did God create us? To know, love and serve Him, and to be happy with Him one day in heaven. Simple Catechism 101. Drill it into every young mind, and never forget it.

Every day, we all move one step closer to eternity. We do not know the day or hour, but educators should keep that top of mind.

How are the Church, parents, schools, family members, relatives and friends leading children and young adults into a relationship with Christ that will last a lifetime? That question needs to be reflected on often.

Most likely everyone reading this column could share from personal experience a painful story about a child who left the faith after going through Catholic schools. We can't deny the fact that the Church is losing young people to the secular culture at an alarming rate.

At Powell St. Joan of Arc Church, mothers whose children have strayed from the faith have formed a First Monday Monicas group to pray and support one another. St. Monica famously prayed for years until her son, St. Augustine, came back to the

EDITOR'S REFLECTIONS

Doug Bean



Church. (Read the story on Page 7 of this week's *Catholic Times*.) Nothing anguishes a faith-filled parent more than seeing a lovingly nurtured child who was entrusted to the school system give up going to Mass and receiving the sacraments.

In one respect, that's a concern the diocese's Real Presence Real Future initiative is hoping to address. The goal is to create missionary disciples of Christ among young people, who will evangelize their faith and bring wayward sons and daughters into the Church.

Prayer and leaderships groups at Columbus Bishop Ready High School under the guidance of their chaplain, Father Seth Keller, appear to be headed in the right direction. (Read the story on Page 12 of this week's *Catholic Times*.) It's encouraging to hear about students embracing their faith and making astute observations such as "sharing the faith is about teaching, not preaching."

Father Michael Fulton, parochial vicar at Columbus Christ the King Church, expressed similar enthusiasm at a recent Serra Club of North Columbus gathering about working with students at Bishop Hartley High School this year. He is increasing the number of Masses and confession times available, sharing his knowledge of theology and Spanish, and planning to be on the sidelines for various sports events and activities.

One of the more encouraging signs in diocesan Catholic schools is the adoption of the classical curriculum approach at Newark St. Francis de Sales School.

For anyone unfamiliar with classical Catholic education, it is basically a method to form the whole child with the faith imbued in every school subject. A child learns to think critically, ask questions, work independently and, most important, understand from a Catholic perspective what is being imparted in his or her lessons.

Homeschooling Catholics have used this model for decades. They have made the connection between faith and reason, not only through Catholic teaching that permeates their curriculum, but also in living the faith every day with their families – going to Mass, confession and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament; praying the rosary and Divine Mercy chaplet; and performing charitable works.

At St. Francis de Sales, the classical curriculum is part of Father David Sizemore's overall plan to create a culture of missionary discipleship in his parish. The school will implement classical learning in two subjects this year and expand to other subjects over the next two years. (Read the story on Page 10 of this week's *Catholic Times* for more details.)

"We'll continue to teach the standards," St. Francis de Sales School principal Sally Mummey said, "but each classroom is going to concentrate on an

See FAITH, Page 12

St. Peter Claver ministered to slaves in Colombia

By MaryBeth Eberhard

Some people see a need and act upon it selflessly. We are inspired by their boldness and their courage. They fight unceasingly for their cause because they know it is just in the eyes of the Lord. We are blessed to walk with St. Peter Claver on our journey this month and learn by his example of how to live and love abundantly using the gifts that God provides.

St. Peter Claver grew up in Spain and left his home in 1610 to be a missionary in the colonies of Cartagena, which is now Colombia. He went through all the studies necessary to be ordained; however, while he was there, his heart became greatly troubled by the atrocities of the slave trade.

Nearly 10,000 slaves were being brought into the port of Cartagena each year under inhumane conditions. Upon his ordination, St. Peter Claver described himself as a slave to the slaves, and he served them tirelessly. He was quoted as saying, "We must speak to them with our hands before we speak to them with our lips."

When a ship would arrive at port, St. Peter would bring food, water, lemons, medicine, biscuits and anything else needed to care for the slaves, all of which he begged for to provide for them.

Climbing aboard the ship once it docked, he would rush to the filthy hold where a third of those imprisoned had died on the journey due to the atrocious conditions. His time was limited before the slaves were dragged out and put in cages for others to consider for purchase. St. Peter Claver would minister with hands and heart, modeling Christ's love by giving all he had in every moment.

WALKING WITH THE SAINTS

St. Peter Claver was not afraid of the recriminations from slaveholders. He avoided their hospitality when giving missions and spoke boldly for improved conditions for the people he served.

He travelled to the homes where the slaves were sold to teach and offer the sacraments. In these dark times, he preached the Gospel and reminded the slaves of their dignity as children of God. Led by his compassion and love, St. Peter baptized an estimated 300,000 slaves.

St. Peter Claver's story encourages us to have eyes to see the need around us and be bold in alleviating it. As I ponder how to do this as a working mom of many, I am drawn back to my roots of parenting. I have always believed in modeling as the most effective parenting strategy. Our children see what we do more than what we say.

Venerable Father Patrick Peyton taught us that "the family who prays together, stays together." I think that the family who serves together also passes along that gift of seeing others in their vulnerability with charity. It forms us and our children into better humans.

There are so many opportunities within our community to make a difference. My family has spent time making meals for Family Promise in Delaware. My children have played games and hung out at the Run the Race Club. Mommies Matter invites you to adopt a new mother and walk alongside her on her journey.

Within our parishes, we can choose to be more

active in our response to blanket, coat and sock requests for the homeless. In the past, I have invited those who take those items to the homeless over for dinner. These people are missionaries, and their stories need to be spoken upon our hearts and especially upon the hearts of our children who live a very blessed life in comparison to so many.

In the imitation of St. Peter Claver, may we seek to serve those who are in need and support those who serve tirelessly. For they will know who a Christian is by the love we project to them – the love we actively live out.

The plague hit Colombia, and St. Peter fell ill in 1650. Suffering quietly for four years, he died. Recognizing his influence on the people, city officials who had initially decried Claver's affection and service to the slaves ordered a public burial with much recognition. He became known as the apostle of Cartagena.

Today a basilica stands in his name at the port of Cartagena. Relics of his bones can be found encased in glass under the altar. St. Peter Claver had a bold spirit. He had eyes and a heart to see the need and speak to it. Join me in praying that the Lord reveal to each of our families the need He wants us to fill for His people, and for our hearts to see Him in those we serve.

In the Diocese of Columbus, a local chapter of the Knights and Ladies of St. Peter Claver, which is the largest African-American lay Catholic organization in the United States, engages in charitable works of mercy.

St. Peter Claver, pray for us.

St. Peter Claver is the patron saint of missions. His feast day is Sept. 9.

First Monday Monicas pray for children 'gone astray'

By Anne Mallampalli

“Exemplary Mother of the great Augustine, you perseveringly pursued your wayward son not with wild threats but with prayerful cries to heaven. Intercede for all mothers in our day so that they may learn to draw their children to God. Teach them to remain close to their children, even the prodigal sons and daughters who have sadly gone astray.”

That is the intercessory prayer to St. Monica that opens the meeting of mothers and grandmothers on the first Monday of every month at Powell St. Joan of Arc Church. We call ourselves the “First Monday Monicas.”

Our little band has grown steadily, and we now have “chapters” in Pennsylvania, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Colorado and Montana formed through word of mouth and email. We even have sisters in Zambia, south-central Africa and New South Wales, Australia.

We knit from the same skein of yarn, having children who no longer practice their Catholic faith. It’s a special mother-heartache that we share. But we are not wringing our hands. We lock our arms, square our shoulders, fold our hands and drop to our knees, drawing incredible support as members of the mystical body of Christ and communion of saints.

My first week in a new city, in November 2018, I was invited to my first Catholic gathering where Emily



Jaminet was the guest speaker. Her talk was on spiritual friendship. One pearl that I took away from that meeting was to “put it on the calendar” the next time a friend says, “We should really get together!” That great piece of wisdom quickly bore fruit.

The next day I met a new friend after daily morning Mass. We discovered that we both had four young-adult children. We should get together! Let’s have coffee! Calendar that!

We met on the first Monday of December 2018, right after Mass. We ended our coffee and chat by praying together and asking St. Monica’s intercession for our children to return to the faith we were so careful to instill in them.

As the Holy Spirit would have it, and thanks to “Emily’s pearl,” we endorsed the next first Monday, in January 2019, and invited a few others to

join us. First Monday Monicas was born. Even during COVID, we have met every first Monday to pray to St. Monica for our children.

Our format is simple. On first Mondays of every month, we meet at church for the 8:30 daily morning Mass. We pray the rosary afterward with the daily Mass crowd. With the scheduling support from our parish team, we meet in the cry room or a classroom – or, during pandemic restrictions, outside or spaced. We introduce ourselves, share or not share, as we are so moved, our stories and concerns. For the sake of His sorrowful passion we pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

Fears, tears, cheers – all are accepted and welcomed. The reports of even minor victories are especially celebrated. Always there is support, respect and encouragement.

Our group’s inspiration, St. Monica, was an early African Christian saint and the mother of St. Augustine of Hippo. She is honored for her perseverance in prayer dedicated to the reformation of her son. Popular legends recall that St. Monica wept every night for Augustine, whose conversion took nearly 20 years. It was the bishop of Milan, St. Ambrose, who spoke these prophetic words that gave Monica the courage to endure: “It cannot be that the son of those tears should perish.”

Monica accompanied her wayward son with tears that only a mother can shed, with an anguish only a mother’s heart can know. Of his mother, St. Augustine says, “I cannot sufficiently express the love she had for me, nor how she travailed for me in the spirit with a far keener anguish than when she bore me in the flesh.”

We pray to all three persons of the Blessed Trinity and to our Blessed Mother for our children, but St. Monica is one intercessor who really gets it. She is a special friend who understands the pain of a child estranged from the faith and from the family.

This image of St. Monica, the mother who never gave up, is my favorite. When I study the tracks of her tears I find consolation.

St. Monica, pray for us!

For more information on forming a First Monday Monicas group at your parish, contact annemallampalli@comcast.net.

Anne Mallampalli is a member of Powell St. Joan of Arc Church.

Refurbished Adoration chapel named for Father Reis

On Saturday, Aug. 14, Reis Resurrection Chapel was dedicated at Columbus St. Peter Church. The chapel had been refurbished and renamed in honor of former pastor Father Justin Reis.

Presiding over the dedication were Father Chris Tuttle, pastor of St. Peter; parish Deacon Phil Paulucci; and Deacon Chris Reis of Columbus St. Catharine Church and brother of Father Reis, who died March 2.

After the dedication, parishioners were invited to tour the chapel and enjoy refreshments. Several other members of the Reis family were present to honor Father Reis.

The changes in the chapel, which will be used for Eucharistic Adoration, include a detailed mural with Scripture passages that incorporate the risen Christ. The mural was a gift from a parishioner.

A recently discovered relic of St.

Peter graces the altar. Restored Stations of the Cross are interspersed with stained glass reclaimed from the 1973 church building. Mother Mary and St. Joseph – another gift from a parishioner – have been restored and adorn the chapel. Fresh paint, new carpeting and signage complete the renovation. An exterior keypad has been installed for after-hours access.

Hours of Eucharistic Adoration at the chapel are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesdays.

The chapel is open 9 a.m. Friday to 9 a.m. Saturday every First Friday of the month. The parish hopes eventually to move to Perpetual Adoration every weekday.

Columbus St. Peter Church is located at 6899 Smoky Row Rd.

To sign up for an hour of adoration, visit stpetercolumbus.com, and click on the Eucharistic Adoration tab on the homepage.



Deacon Phil Paulucci (left) of Columbus St. Peter Church and Deacon Chris Reis (right) of St. Catharine of Siena Church assist Father Chris Tuttle, pastor at St. Peter, in the blessing and dedication of the Reis Resurrection Chapel, named in honor of the late Father Justin Reis, on Aug. 14. Deacon Reis is Father Reis’ brother. *Photo courtesy St. Peter Church*

Father Trainor is example of Dominicans' itinerant life

By Tim Puet
For *The Catholic Times*

St. Dominic de Guzman, who founded the Order of Preachers (the Dominican Order) in the 13th century, was an itinerant preacher, going from city to city to give witness to the Gospel, and he intended that the members of his order do the same.

Father Michael Trainor, OP, provides a 21st-century example of that life. His 10 years as chaplain for the Dominican Sisters of Peace in his hometown of Columbus is the longest period he has spent on one assignment in 52 years as a Dominican friar, including 46 years as a priest.

In that time, he has been in Columbus and New York City for three separate periods, Zanesville and Washington, D.C. twice, and once apiece in New Haven, Connecticut; Providence, Rhode Island; and Elmira, New York. At various times, he has served as a parish priest and as a chaplain at hospitals and a monastery.

"I've run the gamut of assignments, very much in the American tradition of the Dominicans," said Father Trainor, 74. "When St. Dominic founded the order, he was a traveling preacher, but he also placed a strong emphasis on education, founding houses of study where members of his order would have roots and could return to while carrying out their mission of preaching and teaching.

"Bishop John Carroll of Baltimore, the first bishop in the United States, invited Dominicans from England to come to Kentucky in 1805. He already had established a college – Georgetown University in Washington – and he was more interested in having Dominicans serve in Kentucky and surrounding states as missionaries and eventually setting up parishes.

"As a result, most of what the Do-

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

Answering God's Call profiles the life of a priest, deacon or professed religious sister in or from the Diocese of Columbus.

minicans have done in this country has involved parish work and related ministries, and that's been what I have done."

One of those missionaries from Kentucky, Father Edward Fenwick, said the first Mass in Ohio at Somerset in 1808 and eventually became the original bishop of the Diocese of Cincinnati. He and other Dominicans founded many of the first parishes in Ohio, eventually staffing Columbus St. Patrick Church, which Father Trainor attended while growing up near the city's downtown.

He is the son of the late James and Winona Trainor and has a younger sister, Marie. Two older sisters, Patricia and Sandra, and a brother, Patrick, who died in infancy, are deceased.

Father Trainor attended St. Patrick School from first to seventh grades. After the school closed at the end of the 1960-61 school year, he went to Columbus St. Gabriel School for eighth grade and followed that with four years at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School, from which he graduated in 1965.

"I had begun to think of the priesthood at some point in high school, and by the time I had graduated from DeSales, I felt my call was very clear, specifically to becoming a priest as part of the Dominican religious community," he said.

"The idea of being a Dominican probably resulted from the impression the Dominican friars at St. Patrick's made on me in grade school. I had discussions with the friars in high school about joining their order. I be-

gan college in the fall of 1965 at (the College of) St. Mary of the Springs (now Ohio Dominican University)," where he was among the first full-time male students at the formerly all-women's college.

He began formation for the Dominican priesthood by spending one year at Providence (Rhode Island) College and entered the novitiate for the Dominican Friars' Province of St. Joseph at the former St. Joseph's Priory in Somerset. The novitiate was moved in the middle of 1968 to St. Stephen's Priory in Dover, Massachusetts, with Father Trainor making his first profession of Dominican vows on Jan. 6, 1969.

The following two years were spent at St. Stephen's College in Dover, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy. That was followed by three years at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, where he earned a bachelor of sacred theology degree.

The next two years involved post-graduate work. He made his final profession in 1972 and was ordained to the priesthood on May 28, 1975 by Bishop Walter Sullivan of Richmond, Virginia at St. Dominic's Church in Washington.

He returned to the house of studies to complete his education following ordination, and his first assignment as a priest was for a brief period in 1976 at Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas Church to assist the pastor there, Father Peter Gerhard, OP, who was dealing with health issues.

"That was a good experience because I was totally immersed in parish life while I was there," Father Trainor said. "At the same time, I knew it was only a temporary assignment, so I just tried to learn as much as I could."

Later in 1976, he was assigned to St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Connecticut, where the Knights of Columbus were founded in 1882 by Blessed Father Michael McGivney and where Father McGivney is buried. Father Trainor stayed there for two years, followed by six years at St. Vincent Ferrer Church and one year at St. Catherine of Siena Church, both in New York City. In addition to parish ministry at the two churches, he was involved in hospital ministry at New York-Presbyterian and Memorial Sloan Kettering hospitals.



Father Michael Trainor

"This was a wonderful opportunity to work with people deeply in need of the sacraments. The key was just being present during a difficult time at both the personal and priestly levels," Father Trainor said. "It was also important to stay in close contact with doctors, nurses and hospital administrators, to support them so they could support patients."

Father Trainor was assigned to St. Catherine of Siena Church on three separate occasions. He also returned to Zanesville from 1985 to 1988 and was at St. Patrick, his home parish, twice for periods of one year each. Other assignments, both for seven years, took him to St. Pius V Church in Providence, Rhode Island and to the Monastery of Mary the Queen in Elmira, New York, where he was chaplain for a congregation of cloistered Dominican sisters and served as a weekend assistant at nearby parishes.

He came to Columbus in 2011 from St. Catherine of Siena Church after hearing that Sister Margaret Ormond, OP, then-prioress of the Dominican Sisters of Peace, was looking for a chaplain for the congregation's Columbus motherhouse.

"I had so many connections with the Dominican sisters who taught me at St. Gabriel, DeSales and St. Mary of the Springs and who I worked with in New Haven and New York that I was interested in the position," Father Trainor said.

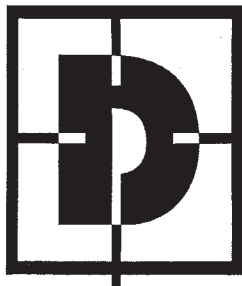
"I didn't think I'd spend 10 years here – probably three to five, in the Dominican itinerant tradition. But that same tradition also means you never know how long an assignment might last, and here I am today.

"I've been very blessed here, both through my close association with the sisters and with being able to assist at weekend Masses at the Church of the Resurrection in New Albany. Father Jerry Rodenfels, the former pastor there, went to DeSales at the same time I did, and we studied theology in Washington together.

"The current pastor, Father Denis Kigozi, has been good to me in allowing me to continue my association with the parish. I am impressed with the quality of the worship experience there.

"As a priest, my desire has been to serve God's people in imitation of how Jesus served the people of His time," Father Trainor said. "It's a privilege every day to be able to walk among people teaching and preaching, and sometimes reproving and challenging, all with the goal of building up the body of Christ."

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Prayers for a new school year

The new school year has begun at the 52 schools in the Diocese of Columbus. More than 16,000 children have returned to our classrooms after what hopefully has been a restful summer. There is no question that the previous year was the most difficult that most of us involved in education have ever faced. The challenges of the pandemic were staggering, but all of the schools in the Diocese worked hard, pulled together and remained open to serve our students for the entirety of the year.

Sadly, the pandemic is still upon us. After a respite over the summer, the virus will once again be a part of our school year. In response, the schools of the Diocese will persist and take all steps necessary to ensure an outstanding Catholic education in the

HAVE FAITH IN EDUCATION

Adam Dufault

Adam J. Dufault is the diocesan Episcopal Moderator for Education and Superintendent of Catholic Schools.



safest possible environment.

When I served as a Catholic elementary school principal, the first day of school was one of my favorite days of the year. It was not because the building was returning to life after a summer of cleaning and planning, but because of the joy that I saw in the children.

Despite the challenges we will continue to face,

that same joy will be present in every school. Great things will happen this year. Milestones will be reached, challenges overcome, and our students will grow in their faith and in their knowledge.

Our schools differ from all others in that they are crucial ministries of the Church, carrying forward Jesus' Great Commission to "go out and make disciples of all nations" (Mt. 28:19). At their foundation, our schools are places of evangelization tasked to form disciples for a world that so dearly needs them. This essential work will continue in all of the classrooms of the Diocese this year.

Please continue to keep our educators, students, and their families in your prayer as we begin the new school year.

Enrollment trends up in diocesan schools

By Tim Puet

For The Catholic Times

The diocese's 41 elementary schools, 37 preschools and 11 secondary schools are welcoming students for the 2021-22 academic year after successfully navigating the COVID-related challenges of 2020-21.

All schools have opened except for Columbus All Saints Academy, where the start of classes has been delayed until Wednesday, Sept. 8 so work on heating and electrical systems can be completed and air conditioning can be installed.

Enrollment in all areas from pre-kindergarten through grade 12 in diocesan schools is trending upward, said Lori Dulin, associate director for enrollment and marketing for the diocesan Office of Catholic Schools.

"Most of the reports I've heard say the increase is the result of parents of our students talking to other parents and praising the quality of Catholic education and how welcome students and families feel in our school communities," Dulin said.

"They want to share this with friends and family. The example set by Catholic schools has been and continues to be the driving force behind rising enrollment in recent years.

"The start of a school year always is filled with such hope and joy because every bit of it is associated with our students and the mission of Catholic education. The pandemic remains something we have to deal with, and we will continue to adapt to it as necessary, but it hasn't affected the schools' mission of providing a high-quality, faith-based, in-person education."

Among schools reporting significant enrollment increases are Dela-



Hilliard St. Brendan School is one of several Catholic schools in the diocese reporting enrollment increases this year. Students are pictured in a classroom before the coronavirus pandemic.
Photo courtesy St. Brendan School

ware St. Mary, Hilliard St. Brendan, All Saints Academy and Reynoldsburg St. Pius X.

At Delaware St. Mary School, the theme for the year is "Renew!" and the school has a new principal, Nikki Ford, who had been a teacher there for 11 years. She said that as of Friday, Aug. 13, 400 students had enrolled for 2021-22, with more anticipated. Last year's enrollment was 369.

"It's an across-the-board increase, affecting all grades, with a wait list for preschool," she said. "Most parents enrolling new students tell me they're coming here because of what others have told them, whether by word of mouth or social media. There's a sense of excitement around the church because of some of the things our new pastor, Father Brett Garland, is doing. Our location at the edge of downtown Delaware also helps.

"People have expressed admiration that we adhere to our belief that each student is a child of God and that we educate every child in a way

that allows for the differences in their individual needs. It also helps that we have continuity in our staff, with many teachers who have been here for 30 years or more. They feel as I do, that teaching in a Catholic school is more of a calling than a job."

Ford is a graduate of St. Mary School. She succeeds Gina Stull, whom she described as "my mentor, who molded me into being able to become an administrator." Stull is the new principal at St. Mary School in Columbus' German Village neighborhood.

St. Brendan School is reporting an enrollment of 495 students in kindergarten through eighth grade, up from 448 last year. Principal Will Gruber, who is entering his seventh year in that position, said enrollment increases were reported in seven of the school's nine grades.

"The message I've gotten from most of our new families is along the lines of 'One of your families recommended you to us, so we decided

it was time to check it out,'" Gruber said, adding that continuing development in the Hilliard area also accounts for some of the growth, as does completion of a major construction project for the church and school.

The project added a student learning center, an intervention center, new offices and enhanced security to the school, and an Adoration chapel, a child care center, an event space and more office space to the church.

When it has its delayed opening in September, All Saints Academy, located next to Columbus Christ the King Church, will have its largest enrollment since assuming its current identity in 2004. Principal Laura Miller reported an anticipated enrollment of 402 in kindergarten through eighth grade and 25 in the preschool, up from 343 and 15, respectively, last year.

She attributed the increase to factors including continued growth in the Latino population of Columbus' east side and word-of-mouth efforts by the school's parents.

"I'm still getting calls from parents who say they've heard about our school and want their students to come here, so the total may be more than 402 once school starts," she said. "We'll have two classrooms for each grade, with every space available in the school being used for either tutoring or classes.

"Some people are choosing All Saints because Ohio's EdChoice scholarship program gives students the opportunity to come here, but most say it's because of what other parents have told them. We've worked hard on improving our state test scores and offering a quality education with good teachers supporting students' educa-

Newark St. Francis de Sales elementary adopts classical curriculum

By Doug Bean
Catholic Times Editor

Newark St. Francis de Sales School began a new academic year on Wednesday, Aug. 18 with a new approach to educating students that incorporates an old method.

The school, located at 38 Granville St., has adopted a classical curriculum format that will be phased in during the next three years.

Classical education is defined as developing the whole child with a Catholic worldview that emphasizes the relationship between God and truth, beauty and goodness in His creation. Students are challenged to think critically and creatively while studying traditional subjects imbued with the faith.

The implementation of the classical curriculum at St. Francis de Sales starts this year with the subjects of history and literature. Math and science will follow in 2022-23, and other subjects in 2023-24, including the possibility of adding Latin.

“We wanted a robust Catholic identity in our schools,” principal Sally Mummey said. “We also want these children not only to know and love Christ while they’re here pre-K through eight, but to hold that in their heart for higher education, when they are married, when they have children, when they’re taking care of their parents, and to become saints when they go to heaven. So we are dedicated to that.”

Classical education has experienced a resurgence in popularity during the past few decades. Independent Catholic schools, homeschoolers and some traditional schools have taken this approach to forming young Catholic disciples who carry their knowledge and love they develop for their faith into adulthood.

That’s the primary reason why Father David Sizemore, the pastor at St. Francis de Sales Church, supports the transition to classical education at the school.

When Father Sizemore came to St. Francis de Sales four years ago from Sunbury St. John Neumann Church, he brought with him a plan to strengthen the parish and school through enkindling the fire of faith at every age level.

“It started in the parish with realizing that the old model of running a parish in modern times is just not working,” he said. “And so we spent the last four years implementing a missionary discipleship culture. Our mission is part of the Great Commission: To go out and make disciples of all nations, and to teach them what I taught you.”

Father Sizemore sees classical ed-



Newark St. Francis de Sales School began the new academic year on Wednesday, Aug. 18 with approximately 270 students.
CT photos by Ken Snow

ucation as part of that vision to form disciples of Christ from infancy to adulthood. About a year ago, Father Sizemore, Mummey, assistant principal Ed Watson and the diocesan schools office began discussing with teachers, parents and staff the possibility of transitioning to a classical curriculum.

“One of the most important missions of a parish is to run a school, and so we knew that we needed to bring our school on board to the mission of making missionary disciples,” Father Sizemore said. “We knew that an important part of that would be the curriculum.”

“A classical education curriculum has been around for hundreds of years. It’s the way our Church used to run Catholic schools, but now it’s reset for modern times.”

“The kids learn science and math, technology and music, all that, but every subject that they study is infused with the Catholic faith rather than just religion class. It’s really about setting them up for success and faithfulness in high school, college and beyond. And so we’re taking what is ever ancient and making it ever new.”

Because the transmitters of the faith play a key role in this new venture, Father Sizemore emphasized the need for spiritual growth among teachers, administrators and parents.

“We are inviting our teachers to Mass every Sunday, to Eucharistic Adoration, to be in the discipleship group together, and to be in spiritual direction,” he said. “We’re inviting them into a deeper relationship with Christ and to be on fire with the faith. We have a saying, ‘that the faith is not just taught, it’s caught.’ We want our kids to catch the faith of our teachers.”

Students will be provided additional opportunities to participate in the sacraments this academic year. An all-

school Mass will be celebrated every Thursday. On alternating Fridays, upper and lower grades will go to Mass. In addition, the school and parish are partnering with Damascus Catholic Mission Campus to help foster faith formation in the school and the youth ministry program.

Likewise, parents are encouraged to attend Mass, participate in discipleship and faith formation groups, contribute to the offertory and volunteer in the school. The objective is for them to grow their faith along with their children.

“The millennials are the ones who are sending kids to school right now, and the majority of them aren’t coming back to the faith after they get married and have kids,” Father Sizemore said. “Whereas in previous generations, they would stray for a while in college and post-college, but then when they married and had kids they started coming back to practicing. That’s not happening anymore.”

“Teachers recognize this, and as a parish and school we recognize this. So teachers are supportive of helping kids grow in faith. The hope is that the millennials will start coming back to the practice of their faith and then help their kids grow in faith and maintain that faith as adults.”

For experienced teachers accustomed to methods they’ve used for years, a pivot to a new curriculum raised questions and required adjustments. How to integrate Christ into a field trip to the zoo is one example of a shift in instructional mindset with a classical approach.

Guest speakers, professional development and a staff retreat have helped with the transition.

Lisa Elwell, who retired as a teacher last year, and three other teachers from the school attended a classical



Newark St. Francis de Sales School principal Sally Mummey

education conference this summer in Nashville, Tennessee. Elwell will work with current teachers eight to 10 hours a week this academic year to help with lesson planning and to answer curriculum questions.

“The teachers know the theory behind it but want to know the technical part, too,” Mummey said. “Before the last school year ended, we were purchasing many books that are great pieces of literature – classics that show reflect time and history and Christ’s influence. Those books went home with our teachers over the summer so that they could start planning.”

“We’ve looked at how to question students about truth and beauty, how to extend their thinking, how to help them own their faith and to be bold and brave and debate. And then, of course, there’s a critical thinking piece in that, too.”

To prepare parents for the transition, meetings and communication began during the past school year to answer questions and to enlist their support. Mummey is happy to report that the classical approach seems to be resonating in the community.

Enrollment is increasing at the school, which has 35 new students this year to boost the total number to 270.

“They’re coming for a variety of reasons,” Mummey said. “We see signs that here at St. Francis that we’re getting more people here at St. Francis because Christ is part of us, and that’s intriguing for a lot of families right now.”

“Some are very interested in classical education, some don’t know that we’re doing it, but when I bring it up in an interview with our families or new families that are considering

Lancaster St. Bernadette School 'authentically Catholic'

By Doug Bean
Catholic Times Editor

Lancaster St. Bernadette is not the biggest or smallest Catholic school in the diocese, but there's an abundance of passion for the faith there, starting with the parish pastor and trickling down through the staff to the students and parents.

The emphasis on Catholic at this Catholic school is what principal Joan Miller believes attracts families to St. Bernadette, which is located at 1325 Wheeling Road in Lancaster.

"We have a very supportive pastor, and people like to see that," she said. "We have very supportive parents. And we have an experienced Catholic staff."

The school's enrollment has trended upward the past few years. For the first day of classes on Aug. 18, 107 students were registered in kindergarten through fifth grade, and 26 in preschool. That's an increase of more than 20 percent in K-5 from the 2018-19 academic year.

"We have a Catholic family that came recently looking for a Catholic school – or, another way to put that, an authentically Catholic school," Miller said. "I think people sense that here."

Father Tyron Tomson, the pastor at St. Bernadette and Bremen St. Mary Church, interacts with students on a regular basis.

"He is in and out a lot," Miller said. "He's just involved with all of the kids. He knows their names shortly after school starts. He's there when they come in the morning and 99 percent of the time at their dismissal. He meets all of the parents. He's very welcoming, and the rest of the staff is, too."

Teachers share their faith experiences with the children and encourage their spiritual growth.

"For us, it's not just Catholic education, it's Catholic formation," Father Tomson said. "With the fantastic leadership of our principal, Joan Miller, and the daily sacrifices made by our teachers, staff and families, we are very blessed to offer our students an opportunity to encounter Jesus in prayer and in the sacraments, training them spiritually along with a solid academic program in a caring and nurturing environment."

All students participate in Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction each week in addition to a school Mass. First Fridays include devotions to the Sacred Heart and confession.

"Families gather in the church once



Diocesan Superintendent of Schools Adam Dufault (left) talks with Father Tyron Tomson, pastor at Lancaster St. Bernadette.

a week in the evening to pray the Holy Rosary for our school," Father Tomson said. "We celebrate Marian feast days. The whole experience is an immersion into authentically Catholic life and culture. Who would not want to be part of St. Bernadette?"

About 55 percent of the students are Catholics who come from several parishes in the area. That means 45 percent are not Catholic.

The non-Catholic parents, Miller said, "want a faith-based education, and they want someplace that values their child – that's not just another number to them. We do our best to take care of the kids' needs in a faith-based atmosphere. And they're finding that here, thank heavens."

Not only has the faith of Catholics been strengthened through the school, but non-Catholics have undergone a conversion.

"We've had a couple of kids baptized," Miller said. "And Father Tomson has worked with families to draw them in."

In addition to being available to students and parents, Father Tomson avails himself to the staff to aid their spiritual growth.

"He works with the staff to take care of our own learning and growing in the faith – that we're in a good spot before we share things with kids," Miller said. "That makes all the difference."

Miller is beginning her second year as principal and her 39th year working in diocesan schools after succeeding longtime St. Bernadette principal Pam Eltringham, who passed away in 2020 after 45 years of involvement with the school. A memorial tuition assistance fund has been established to honor Eltringham.



St. Bernadette students gather outside the school with Father Tyron Tomson (right). Photos courtesy St. Bernadette School

"When we lost our former principal, Father asked me if I would do it (serve as interim principal) on an interim basis, and I'm still doing it," said Miller, whose previous teaching and administrative positions include New Lexington St. Rose, Somerset Holy Trinity and Logan St. John schools.

St. Bernadette offers classes starting at age 3 in its pre-K program and a full curriculum for kindergarten through grade five. A number of students move on to Lancaster St. Mary of the Assumption School for grades

six through eight before entering Lancaster Fisher Catholic High School.

Class sizes for kindergarten through fifth grade range from 12 to 25. The pre-K program for ages 3 to 5 has 26 students this year.

All students are given opportunities to engage in spiritual and service activities.

"During Advent, we'll do our weekly Advent celebrations, and then we'll do the Los Posadas celebration (commemorating Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem for Christ's birth) on that last day before the kids go home for Christmas break," Miller said. "We do Stations of the Cross, the usual Catholic devotionals."

"We do sandwich days where each class takes a turn making sandwiches to give to a local foundation that feeds the homeless. We do regular service projects with the kids. And we're thinking about doing some new ones."

Feast days honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary are important at St. Bernadette also involve a special treat.

"Father has a special baker make big, blue (iced) cookies every time for all the kids," Miller said.

For more information on St. Bernadette School, visit www.stbernadette-school.com or contact the school at (740) 654-3137.

Our Lady of Bethlehem observes 65th anniversary



Our Lady of Bethlehem School and Childcare (OLB) has been a welcoming, nurturing nest for young children and their families in Columbus for 65 years. After a fun and engaging summer program that included nearly 80 students from infancy through sixth grade, OLB has big plans for this jubilee school year that include becoming a St. Kateri habitat site, building a natural digging and outdoor space, taking part in intergenerational service projects, and celebrating Mass and grade-level prayer services in the beautiful Chapel. The Sisters of the Poor Child Jesus founded the school and childcare on grounds nestled among nature, inextricably linking OLB's mission to the relationship between God's natural creation and that of each person in His likeness and image. In that tradition and charisma, OLB continues to provide a strong, loving start to young children through intentional faith formation and a proven, holistic curriculum that puts them on a path for a lifetime of success.

Photo courtesy Our Lady of Bethlehem

Bishop Ready students hope to continue prayer, leadership, diversity groups

By Tim Puet
For *The Catholic Times*

Despite the unusual circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic, Columbus Bishop Ready High School students formed new prayer, leadership and diversity groups during the 2020-21 school year and plan for those organizations to be more active this fall.

“Last year, until restrictions were eased near the end of the school year, we operated under a hybrid model splitting the school into attendance groups, with each group in school twice a week and in class via Zoom on two days, and everyone attending class via Zoom on the fifth day,” said Ready dean of students Rocco Fumi.

“Being back in school at least part of the time gave students a sense of contact. That encouraged ideas which led to student discussions with me about the diversity group and with Father Seth (Keller, the school’s chaplain) about the prayer and leadership groups.”

Diocesan Superintendent of Schools Adam Dufault said the two programs “are a great example of the faith-based and student-centered education that our Catholic schools provide. These



Adilenny Garcia



Amelia Freeman



Nissi Yorke

initiatives are helping our students grow in their knowledge and love of Jesus and of one another.”

Father Keller began the prayer group early in the school year as an after-school activity, with students in each attendance group praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy once a week for the school, the community and their families and talking about their spiritual concerns. He also celebrated a weekly Mass at the beginning of the school day for both attendance groups.

Members of the leadership group were drawn mainly from the prayer group. They met once a week for about an hour at lunchtime to view a short video by Father Keller on a spe-

cific topic related to Catholic teaching, school concerns or the homily at his weekly Mass, followed by discussion of the topic.

“You could see the students open up more as the year went on,” Father Keller said. “They began following Jesus more closely and became familiar with the idea of being missionary disciples. There was a core group of about 15 students taking part each week, and they began encouraging each other with the thought that ‘it’s cool to live the Catholic faith.’

“As chaplain, this was a great way to know the pulse of the school and what students were concerned about. It also encouraged students to be unafraid to spread their faith to others.

“This year, with schedules returning to normal, we won’t have an hour in the middle of the day to talk about things, but we will continue to have the prayer group meeting weekly and the leadership group every two weeks.”

“One message that stuck with me this summer from prayer and leadership group meetings is that sharing the faith is about teaching, not preaching,” said Amelia Freeman, who will be a senior at Bishop Ready this year. “How we care for other people can say more than any words we may use.

“The group gave me a good, solid community I could turn to. I knew some of the people who came to the first meetings, but I’ve made a lot of new friendships through the group. I didn’t realize how many people in

the school have a strong faith, but I also didn’t realize how many don’t know Jesus personally. For me, prayer group is a vessel for helping me love people as Jesus loves them.

“Father Seth has big plans for both groups this year now that school will be open full time. I’d like more students to attend because it will give them an opportunity to experience the faith in a new way,” Freeman said.

The diversity group began with a conversation between Ready students Nissi Yorke, who will be a senior at the school this year, and Adilenny Garcia, a junior.

“We just started talking one day about how we wanted to create a space for minority students to get to know each other a little more,” Yorke said. “During the pandemic, we realized how much it would help to create a support space, maybe a club, at school.” The students then took their idea to Fumi, who is entering his fourth year at Ready after 16 years at one of its feeder schools, Columbus St. Mary Magdalene.

“Nissi and Adilenny put together a fabulous PowerPoint presentation they showed to me and other teachers, and we all got on board with the idea,” Fumi said. “Adilenny is Latino, and Nissi is African American, and their work was a great example of students from diverse backgrounds working together.” Fumi said the school on Columbus’ west side had about 420 students last year, with approximately 20 percent Latino and 15 percent African American.

The group wanted to sponsor a World Cultures Week program last year but didn’t have the time to put it together. The group did organize a school assembly featuring ethnic dances and a fashion show and an international potluck dinner and fundraiser. Now that classes have started, the group, which will be an after-school activity, is planning an organizational meeting and hopes it can put on a Cultures Week program this year.



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FAITH, continued from Page 6

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Our Lady Seat of Wisdom, pray for all students and teachers this year.

New administrators eager to start academic year

By Doug Bean
Catholic Times Editor

Sixteen Catholic elementary and high schools throughout the diocese began the 2021-22 academic year with new administrators in place.

New principals or assistant principals at elementary/middle schools include Kayla Elrich and Kaylene Corcoran at Lancaster St. Mary of the Assumption; Bess Huffman at Logan St. John; Cecelia Pitt at Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul; Angie Eisenacher at Columbus Trinity; Jennifer Duffy at Columbus St. Andrew; Jared Tedrick at Marion St. Mary; Nikki Ford at Delaware St. Mary; Gina Stull at Columbus St. Mary, Mother of God; Jamie Lowe at Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help; and Susan Streitenberger at Westerville St. Paul.

Among the new administrators at diocesan high schools are Sally Lozada at Lancaster Fisher Catholic; Matt Brickner at Columbus Bishop Ready; Chris Kowalski, Andrew Jahahn and Patricia Hanna at Columbus Bishop Hartley; Ryan Michelle Pettit and Shelby Fischer at Cristo Rey Columbus; Katie Shelton at Columbus St. Francis DeSales; and Abigail Teeters at Columbus Bishop Watterson.

ENROLLMENT, continued from Page 9

tional, social and emotional needs.”

Miller, entering her 12th year at All Saints, said the school has added a counselor, will now have two English as a Second Language teachers, has added aides and tutors and has increased the number of Spanish-speaking teachers. She said 49 percent of the school's students are African American and 46 percent are Latino, with the number of Catholic and non-Catholic students about equal.

“The guts of the school were torn out over the summer” so its heating, cooling and electrical systems and boiler could be replaced. All had been in place since the school was opened in the 1950s. New ceiling tiles also were added in hallways.

Miller said faculty members and students are looking forward to having air conditioning for the first time. “It was over 100 degrees in the building at times last year,” she said. “On one day, we blew out an electrical transformer on Livingston Avenue outside the school.”

St. Pius X principal Darren Smith said enrollment has increased to 500 from 478 in kindergarten through eighth grade, but the most significant development at his school involves the reopening from a COVID-19

“I am happy to welcome our newest administrators to the great mission of Catholic education in the Diocese of Columbus,” said Adam Dufault, diocesan episcopal moderator for education and superintendent of schools.

“Our school leadership team has grown stronger thanks to the presence of our new, faith-filled educators. They are ready to meet the challenges of providing an academically excellent, unapologetically Catholic education that leads our students to know, love and serve Jesus Christ.”

Corcoran, a first-year assistant principal at Lancaster St. Mary, said she did not grow up Catholic and attended public school, but she sent her children to Lancaster St. Mary and Fisher Catholic High School and “was drawn to the way they were surrounded by reminders of their faith and guided to live their lives as unapologetically Catholic.”

“I am excited to be part of a great team at St. Mary that is working together to help our students realize their potential, to become their best selves and to help them become saints,” Corcoran said. “I am looking forward to a renewed sense of energy in our building.”

Huffman, the principal at Logan St. John, attended Lancaster St. Mary and

Fisher Catholic and said, “My years spent in Catholic schools provided me with an education that was more than just a requirement. It was an occasion to celebrate learning, explore and develop talents, create lifelong bonds, but most importantly, to love and serve God every day.

“Catholic education is unlike any other learning experience. The educational process is an opportunity to cultivate the entire person by engaging the human need for physical, mental, social and spiritual nourishment. As soon as I began working on my degree to be an educator, I knew I wanted to work specifically within Catholic schools.”

Her goals this year are “to create more enthusiasm for learning among our student body by generating more excitement for teaching among our staff and by demonstrating to the students the rewards of being academically involved. I am also really excited about the opportunity to further develop and promote an active community of faith within the school.”

Pitt, a graduate of Walsh University in North Canton, begins her new role at Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul School after teaching at Lancaster St. Mary and in public schools.

“The more I learn about the rich tra-

ditions of the Catholic faith, the more I appreciate the depth and beauty of it,” she said. “I have been praying for the opportunity to lead a school where the Catholic faith is truly the center of everything. I hope to enhance the existing Catholic identity of St. Vincent de Paul School.”

Eisenacher, who begins her first year at Trinity Elementary, did not grow up Catholic but attended Ohio Dominican University and entered the Church through the RCIA program. She explained that her two daughters attended Lancaster St. Mary, and “the Holy Spirit worked through them to lead me to eventually leave the public-school system to start my teaching and administrative journey in Catholic schools.”

“I am thrilled to become part of the tight-knit Trinity school family and immerse myself in the Grandview community,” she said. “My main objective in the first few months is to get to know the students, families and faculty at Trinity.”

Duffy, a first-year assistant principal at Columbus St. Andrew, was a student at the parish school from kin-

See ADMINISTRATORS, Page 14



A kindergarten classroom is prepared for students at St. Mary School in Columbus' German Village neighborhood.
Photo courtesy St. Mary School

shutdown of its preschool, which is offering programs designed to make the overall school experience more cohesive from preschool through eighth grade, with a strong foundation of faith and academics.

There will be a variety of pre-kindergarten classes for 4- and 5-year-olds. A five-day program is being of-

ferred from 8 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. daily, as well as Monday-Wednesday-Friday and Tuesday-Thursday all-day options.

In addition, two half-day groups will meet from 8:15 to 11:15 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, with a third group from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

All six pre-kindergarten classes will have 10 students each. There also will be a class for 3-year-olds on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 to 11:30 a.m. with a maximum of 15 students.

Preschool director Sharon Miller said these times allow for better coordination with the bus schedule at St. Pius X Elementary School, located next to the preschool. All-day students can arrive as early as 7:30 a.m. The preschool also is opening a week earlier and ending two weeks later than in the past, aligning it more closely with the elementary school calendar. Preschool opening and closing dates are this coming Monday, Aug. 30 and Thursday, June 2 of next year.

This October will be the 30th anniversary of the opening of the preschool in the former St. Pius X convent. Miller has been part of the school's staff for all but the first two of those years and has been director for the past 13 years.

“We provide a warm, loving environment and a foundation of faith for our children,” she said. “I’ve been extremely touched and amazed by the way parents have enthusiastically responded to the reopening and growth of our preschool programs.”

ST. FRANCIS, *continued from Page 10*

us, they shake their head and they're like, 'That's what we're looking for.' Our new families are supportive, as are our families that have been here for a long time. They just see that it is good."

Some of the newcomers include non-Catholics or those from other faith traditions. Approximately 10 percent to 15 percent of the students are not Catholic. Nearly all of the eighth-grade graduates move on to Newark Catholic for high school.

"Parents do want their children to remain Catholic and be faith filled," Mummey said, "and they know what's happening. Catholic schools have always done well, but we're educating in a different time period and a different world. And so we do have to step up to the challenge and keep an open mind for what these children

need now. It might be different than what we've done in the past.

"Students need to understand what it's like to have a relationship, a friendship, with Jesus."

Not only is the school attracting more students, but also nine families have joined the parish since January.

"Now that we're implementing the program, we're actually having families come to us and say, 'We want more for our children than what's being offered by the world now, and we see what you're offering to grow in our faith,'" Father Sizemore said. "You're offering more for the parents and for the teachers to grow, and they're saying, 'We want to be a part of this culture.'"

"We could keep doing the same old, same old. We have good teachers, we have good staff, we have a lot of

good people sitting in our pews. But we weren't made to be good. We were made to be great, and we're creating a culture where people can become more happy, healthy and holy."

"I am excited that St. Francis de Sales Catholic School has begun implementing the Catholic classical education model," diocesan Superintendent of Schools Adam Dufault said. "Father David Sizemore, Mrs. Sally Mummey and Mr. Ed Watson form a visionary team that will be able to accomplish this goal, without a doubt. The Office of Catholic Schools will be ready to assist in every step along the way."

For learn more about the school and its classical curriculum, visit www.stfrancisnewark.org or call (740) 345-4049.



St. Francis de Sales second-grader Crew Shepherd prays during Mass on Friday, Aug. 20.
CT photo by Ken Snow

ADMINISTRATORS, *continued from Page 13*

ergarten through eighth grade before going on to Bishop Watterson and the University of Dayton, where she received a master's degree in educational leadership.

"My years of Catholic education led me to this ministry in Catholic education," she said. "I am excited to begin a new school year and continue working with the wonderful students and families of St. Andrew School."

Ford, a native of the Cleveland area, has served as a teacher at Delaware St. Mary and said her children attended the school before she moved into an administrative role.

"I started out as a long-term substitute teacher, fresh out of grad school, for St. Mary's in Delaware in the second-grade classroom. At that time, my children were in first grade and kindergarten," she said. "I then was hired on as a full-time teacher for first grade. We then decided to have our children attend St. Mary's, and with my family being a part of this school, I knew this was my calling from God, not just a job."

"I plan to encourage and inspire all stakeholders of our school community to come back from this challenging past year and help our community feel connected and have a sense of unity, where students and families feel welcome and teachers and staff feel appreciated. We can strive to work together and to work towards our mission of nurturing spiritual growth, academic excellence, responsibility to self and service to others."

Tedrick, who grew up in West Lafayette, Ohio, begins his first year as principal at Marion St. Mary after teaching at Bishop Watterson.

He said his wife, Megan, is a guiding force in his faith life and an in-

spiration for him to join the Church several years ago.

"I am very blessed to have felt a calling toward Catholic education as a teacher at Bishop Watterson and now a principal at St. Mary School," he said. "I have seen the opportunities that Catholic schools provide young people to grow into well-rounded, successful adults and disciples of Christ's Church, and I am committed to expanding access to those opportunities for the children of Marion and the surrounding communities."

"While I am experiencing (like many educators are) the relief of a more normal school year approaching, I am also looking forward to the return of events and programs that allow our community to bond and grow. This year, I hope to see and get to know our families at events both inside and outside the school, and I am excited to be a part of the strong tradition of Catholic education in Marion."

Lozada begins the school year as the interim principal at Fisher Catholic, where she came eight years ago as a guidance counselor after 20 years in higher education administration.

"I have had the most amazing conversations about family involvement and contributions of time and talent from so many people who are dedicated to making the Fisher Catholic community stronger and infused with positivity and faithfulness," she said.

"This element alone has given me the energy and courage to tackle each challenge and new day. We are working to implement a comprehensive, well-defined service program for all grades, organized mandatory retreats for all grades and additional support and development for our faculty."

"I know that all of us at FC feel

blessed to have a role in the lives of our students. The personal joy that I have experienced as a parent as my children have discovered their own sense of self, skill sets, career paths, successes with people, places and perspectives is a constant reminder of why I serve the FC students and parents/families."

Jahahn, vice principal of operations at Bishop Hartley, credits his Catholic education at Gahanna St. Matthew, Bishop Hartley and Ohio Dominican University with giving him a "foundation of faith, community and purpose."

"I was led to the ministry in Catholic education by my parents, who have been a model of our faith through action, my experiences at St. Matthew, Bishop Hartley and Ohio Dominican, which imparted a need to be a steward for our schools, community and the world," he said.

"My greatest excitement is to see our students find a sense of normalcy and be with faculty and students every day. I am excited to share Mass, house days, pep rallies, sporting events, classroom time, lunch and all the small moments that make up our time together."

Hanna, the vice principal of academics at Bishop Hartley, is a member of Pickerington St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish who joined the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil in April. She said she has been inspired by St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the 19th century nun who is considered the founder of Catholic schools in the United States.

With a doctorate in educational leadership and policy and 18 years of experience in the field of education, Hanna said she "felt ready to move in the direction of educational lead-

ership. As I considered my passion for the Gospel of Jesus Christ and my love of the Catholic Church, I felt compelled to begin exploring leadership opportunities in Catholic schools.

"God seems to have plucked me up from the public education system and plopped me right down where He wanted me at Bishop Hartley. I felt from my very first interview with the Hartley team that deep inside I was a Hawk. I am most excited about immersing myself in Hartley – getting to know the students, staff and families of our community as I serve them."

Teeters, the vice principal of academics at Bishop Watterson, is a product of Catholic schools, having attended Columbus St. Catharine, Holy Spirit and Bishop Hartley and the University of Dayton. She has spent the past seven years teaching fine arts at Watterson. Her father, Wally, was a longtime teacher and coach at Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School.

"It is because of the influence of my family and colleagues that I am stepping into this role," she said. "I have called on many of them throughout my career in education as a teacher and will continue to rely on their depth of experience. There is something special about this role and the responsibilities that come with it. I hope I can successfully continue to share with the faculty, staff and students how valued they are."

"I feel a tremendous amount of pride for Bishop Watterson, for the opportunities our school provides to our teachers, students and families. I truly believe that there is something for everyone who attends BWHS, and that every student is capable of succeeding thanks to our supportive faculty and staff."

Solemnity of the Assumption procession honors Our Lady



Approximately 300 people joined a procession through Columbus' east side on Sunday, Aug. 15, for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The procession, with Father David Schalk, pastor of Christ the King Church, carrying the Blessed Sacrament behind a statue of the Blessed Virgin, began in the early evening at Christ the King, which is celebrating the 75th anniversary of its founding this year. The 3-mile journey to St. Thomas the Apostle Church included a stop at St. Catharine Church, where an altar was placed in front of the church and Father Matthew Morris, pastor at St. Catharine, and Father Schalk offered reflections and prayers in English and Spanish. Along the way, participants prayed the rosary and sang hymns led by musicians. At St. Thomas, the evening concluded with the recitation of a Marian consecration prayed together before the Blessed Sacrament on an altar in the parking lot. Refreshments were served afterward.

Photos courtesy Andy Mackey

Seminarians venture into the wilderness



A group of diocesan seminarians took part in an expedition to Wyoming led by Wilderness Outreach from Aug. 9 to Aug. 16. The group worked on clearing and rebuilding parts of a river trail in southern Wyoming, using cross-cut saws to remove fallen lodge pole pines from the trail and a variety of rock tools to clear and widen the trail, particularly on mountain edges. They built an altar out of rock on a mountaintop close to where they camped and Father Bill Hahn, the diocese's vocations director, celebrated Mass there every day. In addition, they prayed the Liturgy of the Hours together along with other prayers and devotions. Each evening was spent around a campfire discussing the book *From Christendom to the Apostolic Age* and how to guide their own seminarian culture toward the marks and needs of the times. On the last day of the expedition, the seminarians climbed the 12,000-foot Medicine Bow Peak and enjoyed praying daytime prayer and eating lunch together on the summit. Seminarians on the trip included Peter Claver Kiviiri, Michael Haemmerle, John Paul Haemmerle, Kevin Girardi, Joey Rolwing, David England, Shane Gerrity, Dominic Ratliff and Ben Van Buren.

Photo courtesy diocesan vocations office

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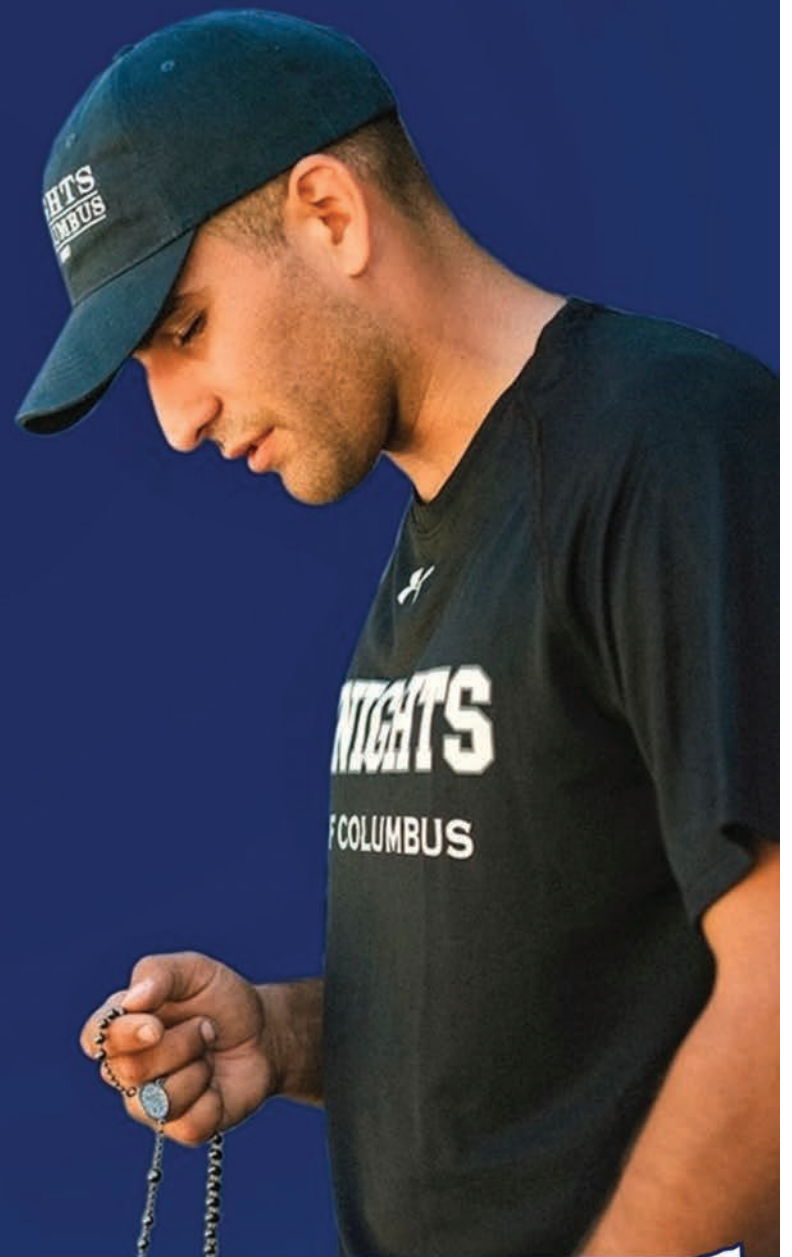
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Deacons recognized for service



Bishop Robert Brennan led the annual diocesan deacon convocation on Saturday, Aug. 7 at Columbus St. John the Baptist Church. Deacons celebrating a significant anniversary this year were recognized and they also renewed the promises made at their ordination. A morning session included a discussion with Bishop Brennan and Father Michael Hartge, diocesan Moderator of the Curia, on the Real Presence Real Future initiative. In the afternoon, the deacons heard presentations from Father Adam Streitenberger, diocesan coordinator of evangelization, and Superintendent of Schools Adam Dufault on strategic planning for evangelization and Catholic education. Deacons honored for their service included (first row from left) Deacon Paul Deshaies (20 years); Deacon Doug Mould (20 years); Deacon Frank “Andy” Duda (30 years); Deacon Lyn Houze (20 years); Deacon Dick Baumann (45 years); Deacon Roger Pry (45 years); Deacon Dwight Larcomb (35 years); (second row from left) Deacon Frank Sullivan (20 years); Deacon Jim Gorski (20 years); Deacon Byron Phillips (20 years); Deacon Mickey Hawkins (20 years); Deacon Klaus Fricke (20 years); Deacon Phil Paulucci (30 years) and Deacon Larry Koebel (40 years). In the back row are (from left) Deacon Paul Zemanek, diocesan consultant for diaconate formation; Bishop Brennan and Deacon Frank Iannarino, director of the diocesan Office of the Diaconate. Others honorees not in attendance were Deacon Frank Paniccia (45 years); Deacon Pete Labita (40 years); Deacons Richard Krick, Ralph Parsons and Phil Rzewnicki (35 years); Deacons Albert Cain and Eugene Dawson (30 years); and Deacon Dick Busic (20 years).

Photo courtesy diocesan Office of the Diaconate

Scholarship recipients honored at St. John the Baptist

The 2021 Father Casto Marrapese Scholarships and Quaranto Family award winners were recognized on Sunday, June 27 at Columbus St. John the Baptist Church. Bishop Robert Brennan celebrated Mass. The awards go to graduating high school seniors of Italian descent who are headed to college. Pictured are (from bottom left) Lucy Bishop, Olivia Frisone, Grace Sabo, Hope Uptegraph, Skylar Everett, Giovanna Kistner, Father Charles Cotton, Bishop Brennan, Superintendent of Catholic Schools Adam Dufault, Deacon Frank Iannarino, Erika McCague, Garrett Nerone, Sofia Sivilotti, Marco Landolfi and Sophia Iosue. Not pictured are Vigi Bertolo, Carmella Cua, Melina McSweeney and Taylor Stanton.



Photo courtesy St. John the Baptist Church



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22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Keep faith in God; help others

Deuteronomy 4:1–2, 6–8
Psalm 15:2–3, 3–4, 4–5
James 1:17–18, 21b–22, 27
Mark 7:1–8, 14–15, 21–23

After the “picnic” with Jesus on the Sea of Galilee from the Gospel of John, we return to the Gospel of Mark and plunge into the controversies that arise when Jesus’ teaching challenges the status quo set by the religious and political authorities of His day.

We are now living in a time when what used to be held in common agreement is no longer in vogue. Quite the contrary. What comes to us from the past is rejected often without consideration. The spirit of the age rejects the norms that used to govern the life of the people of God. Rules, laws, customs and culture that once established relationships and identified us as a people, as members of the same family, are no longer given credence.

There was a time when every Catholic could answer questions asked directly about the faith. If asked the right questions, virtually any catechized Catholic could answer clearly what our Church taught. Who made you? Why did God make you? Who is God? What is a sacrament?

Those who gave right answers received a holy card. They were very proud of themselves and won the esteem of others. We now live in a world that has, in many ways, moved beyond understanding faith.

We have to justify ourselves as people of faith when others are indifferent or hostile, offering something deeper than superficial “right answers.” We must be able to speak clearly the reason for our hope. Why does the Church teach what she teaches? Can you explain the meaning of our practices and identify clearly just how we differ from others in our understanding of things? Why do we do what we

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Father Timothy Hayes

Father Timothy M. Hayes is pastor of Chillicothe St. Mary and St. Peter; and Waverly, St. Mary, Queen of the Missions.



do? What holds it all together?

Simply put, we must be in our own acts of faith. We must commit to live the Gospel personally and communally. We must seek to understand the meaning of what we do. And we must, for the sake of our own salvation and that of the world, persevere in faith.

Jesus calls us to recognize that evil enters the world through human beings. Evil has no place in the world God created unless we give it a place in our hearts and our lives. Evil starts not in the actions outside that we do or fail to do, but in the attitudes that begin in the deep recesses of our heart. We sin not because the devil or the world made us, but because we choose to sin. Sin becomes a habit, and we cease to see it as sin. We lose ourselves.

There is another way to be: “*One who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.*” God has given us a capacity to live in His will. We often convince ourselves that we are not able to do so, or that we don’t have to do so. But the truth is that when we live in God’s will, all is right with us, and the world is better for it.

James reminds us that a word has been planted in us: “*Humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you and is able to save your souls. Be doers of the word and not hearers only.*”

God is with us. He invites us to open our hearts to what He can accomplish with us. We are given a choice to renew and deepen our commitment or to allow ourselves to be swept along by the currents of the world. The danger for us is to be too worldly or too separated from the world.

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Open your ears, heart to His word; open your lips to proclaim it

Isaiah 35:4–7a
Psalm 146:7, 8–9, 9–10
James 2:1–5
Mark 7:31–37

God’s action in our lives makes changes. Faith in God makes a difference, or it is not real.

Isaiah proclaims: “*Streams will burst forth in the desert, and rivers in the steppe. The burning sands will become pools, and the thirsty ground, springs of water.*” Anyone who has the privi-

lege of traveling in the Holy Land can see something of the fulfillment of the promise of the prophet: In the desert, sites of lush greenery and vegetation have been made possible by irrigation and the rerouting of water sources.

Those involved in medicine see the transformation made possible by modern technologies that allow us to see, to hear and to overcome physical limitations. Seeing these realities, we can hear and believe in the message of hope: “*Be strong, fear not! Here is your God,*

THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

8/30-9/4

MONDAY

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
 Psalm 96:1,3-5,11-13
 Luke 4:16-30

TUESDAY

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6,9-11
 Psalm 27:1,4,13-14
 Luke 4:31-37

WEDNESDAY

Colossians 1:1-8
 Psalm 52:10-11
 Luke 4:38-44

THURSDAY

Colossians 1:9-14
 Psalm 98:2-6
 Luke 5:1-11

FRIDAY

Colossians 1:15-20
 Psalm 100:1b-5
 Luke 5:33-39

SATURDAY

Colossians 1:21-23
 Psalm 54:3-4,6,8
 Luke 6:1-5

9/6-9/11

MONDAY

Colossians 1:24—2:3
 Psalm 62:6-7,9
 Luke 6:6-11

TUESDAY

Colossians 2:6-15
 Psalm 145:1b-2,8-11
 Luke 6:12-19

WEDNESDAY

Micah 5:1-4a or
 Romans 8:28-30
 Psalm 13:6abc
 Matthew 1:16,18-23

THURSDAY

Colossians 3:12-17
 Psalm 150:1b-6
 Luke 6:27-38

FRIDAY

1 Timothy 1:1-2,12-14
 Psalm 16:1b-2a,5,7-8,11
 Luke 6:39-42

SATURDAY

1 Timothy 1:15-17
 Psalm 113:1b-7
 Luke 6:43-49

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION

MASS SCHEDULE: WEEKS OF AUG. 29 AND SEPT. 5, 2021

SUNDAY MASS

10:30 a.m. Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com and diocesan website, www.columbuscatholic.org.

10:30 a.m. Mass from Portsmouth St. Mary Church on St. Gabriel Radio (FM 88.3), Portsmouth.

Mass with the Passionist Fathers at 7:30 a.m. on WWHO-TV (the CW), Channel 53, Columbus and 10:30 a.m. on WHIZ-TV, Channel 18, Zanesville. Mass from St. Francis de Sales Seminary, Milwaukee, at 10 a.m. on WWHO-TV. Check local cable system for cable channel listing.

Mass from Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, Birmingham, Ala., at 8 a.m. on EWTN (Spectrum Channel 385, Insight Channel 382, or WOW Channel 378). (Encores at noon, 7

p.m., and midnight).

Mass from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee at 6:30 a.m. on ION TV (AT&T U-verse Channel 195, Dish Network Channel 250, or DirecTV Channel 305).

Mass from Massillon St. Mary Church at 10:30 a.m. on WILB radio (AM 1060, FM 94.5 and 89.5), Canton, heard in Tuscarawas, Holmes, and Coshocton counties.

DAILY MASS

8 a.m., Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Birmingham, Ala. (Encores at noon, 7 p.m. and midnight). See EWTN above; and on I-Lifetv (Channel 113), Ada, Logan, Millersburg, Murray City, Washington C.H.; Channel 125, Marion, Newark, Newcomerstown and New Philadelphia; Channel 207, Zanesville); 8 p.m., St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com.

stgabrielradio.com.

12:05 p.m. weekdays, 8 a.m. Saturdays, Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com and diocesan website, www.columbuscatholic.org. (Saturdays on radio only).

Videos of Masses are available at any time on the internet at these and many other parish websites: Mattingly Settlement St. Mary (www.stannismary.org); Columbus St. Patrick (www.stpatrickcolumbus.org); Delaware St. Mary (www.delawarestmary.org); Sunbury St. John Neumann (www.saintjohnsunbury.org); and Columbus Immaculate Conception (www.iccols.org). Check your parish website for additional information.

We pray Weeks II and III, Seasonal Proper, Liturgy of the Hours.

James offers us a corrective: “*Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their affliction and to keep oneself unstained by the world.*” Notice the balance: We must care for those left out and, at the same

time, keep faith with God and not the world.

All that is ours is given to us by God. What God asks of us is faith, trust in Him for Who He is. This is credited to us as justice. The question for us is whether we will put our trust in God.

mute: “*Ephphatha!*” – that is, “*Be opened!*” In our day, we have grown accustomed to medical marvels and miracles. The Spirit is calling us now to open our eyes and to proclaim with our lips the wonder and power of the truth of faith.

We are called to put into practice what we hear and to allow the world to see in us the continuing fulfillment of

Sisters reach milestone anniversaries

Religious sisters who served in the Diocese of Columbus celebrated jubilee anniversaries in 2020 and 2021.

The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur recognized their jubilarians for the past two years while delaying celebrations because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Three 2020 jubilarians – two with 75 years in the order and one with 70 years – have since passed away.

The eight 2020 Sisters of Notre de Namur jubilarians combined to serve more than 100 years in the Diocese of Columbus in schools, parishes and various communities. The 2021 jubilarian spent more than 36 years in the diocese.

Also reaching a milestone this year is a 70-year member of the Ursuline Sisters.

Sister Mary Margaret Fischer, SNDdeN (formerly Catherine Joan), 75 years in 2020, began 29 years of full-time teaching at parish schools in Cincinnati, Columbus, Dayton and Detroit, including St. Agnes, St. Aloysius, St. Augustine and St. Joseph in the Diocese of Columbus. Sister Mary Margaret died on December 17, 2020.

Sister Gwen Koza, SNDdeN (formerly Rose Julie), 75 years in 2020, began her teaching career by serving 28 years in numerous parish and high schools in Ohio and Illinois, including Columbus Bishop Hartley High School. She died on December 29, 2020.

Sister Diane Reed, SNDdeN (formerly Mary Peter), 70 years in 2020, spent her first 20 years of ministry teaching every grade

from second through eighth in various parish schools in Illinois and Ohio, including Columbus St. Aloysius and Columbus St. Christopher and Westerville St. Paul. For the next 30 years, she served as religious education coordinator for preschool through high school students, including at Columbus St. Catherine Church. She died on Sept. 29, 2020.

Sister Elizabeth Ann Schaad, SNDdeN, (formerly Joseph Elizabeth), 70 years in 2020, served more than 63 years as a teacher at elementary and high schools in Cincinnati, Columbus and Dayton, including 18 years at Columbus St. Patrick Parish School and Bishop Hartley High School. She is currently a volunteer in the Ohio Province Finance Office at the Mount Notre Dame convent in Cincinnati.

Sister Carolina Hess, SNDdeN (formerly Margaret Ann), 70 years in 2021, worked as a teacher and librarian for more than 32 years at schools in Cincinnati, Columbus, Dayton and Hamilton, including the former Columbus St. Joseph Academy, Notre Dame Elementary School, St. Joseph Montessori, DeSales High School and Columbus State Community College. She also served as a staff writer for *The Catholic Times*. She is currently living at the Mount Notre Dame Health Center in Cincinnati.

Sister Colette Didier, SNDdeN (formerly

See **SISTERS**, Page 22

OPEN, continued from Page 18

God's promise. "Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that He promised to those who love Him?"

There is a temptation: Just as the Israelites of old, we can measure ourselves for our material prosperity, judging ourselves and others on the basis of our money and possessions. We can be blind to the responsibility we share to care for one another. God's view of us is different: He sees riches in our hearts when we open our hands to the poor, when we see the truth He proclaims and commit ourselves to live by it, and when we allow Him to lead us according to His plan for humanity in Jesus Christ. Freedom and justice for all are the fruits of a lived faith.

How will Jesus solve today's troubles? He will do what He always does – open the eyes, hearts and lips of those who ask Him to do so.

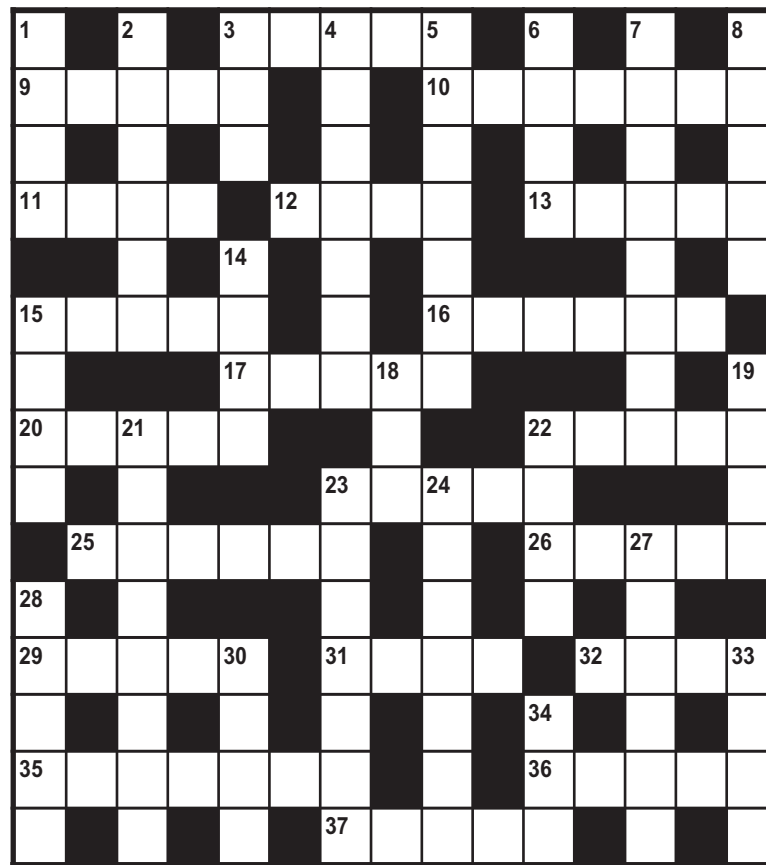
The need for Jesus as a savior is evident to those who have eyes to see. Those who cannot see, who trust only in their own capacities or in what this world offers, cannot understand. Look around: Evil shows its face throughout the world. Look within: Our hearts are caught up in sin and selfishness. Who is the center for us?

In baptism, the minister of the sacrament takes a cue from today's Gospel: "Ephphatha": "Be opened." As he touches the ears and the lips of the one who has been baptized, he says: "May the Lord soon touch your ears to receive His word and your lips to proclaim His faith, to the praise and glory of God the Father."

The Church today does as Jesus did. It is truly Jesus Who continues to do what He has always done. Let the Lord touch your ears that His word, His invitation to you, may be heard. May your heart allow His word to transform your life. Let the Lord touch your lips so that you – by your life – may proclaim His faith so that the world may see in you and in us that the Gospel is true.

May we together in Christ and through the power of His Spirit give glory to God the Father.

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ACROSS

- 3 Biblical measure
- 9 Condition of the tomb on Easter morning
- 10 At Mass, the entrance prayers or song
- 11 Catholic author of *The Liars Club*
- 12 Liturgy
- 13 Title for Jesus
- 15 Church runway
- 16 River in Genesis
- 17 Sign of _____
- 20 _____ Carmel
- 22 Most important teaching
- 23 Reuben or Gad, for example
- 25 Longest of the prophetic books of the Old Testament
- 26 Husband of Sarai
- 29 Catholic comedienne married to Burns
- 31 _____ will
- 32 "... from now on will all _____ call me blessed"
- 35 A Judgment
- 36 Second pope
- 37 Seventh century pope

DOWN

- 1 They will inherit the earth
- 2 Church toppers
- 3 "His _____ is on the Sparrow"
- 4 Word of praise
- 5 Adjective for Esau
- 6 Magi leader
- 7 Describes Thomas
- 8 St. Edith's surname
- 14 Birth month of Mary (abbr.)
- 15 Donation to the poor
- 18 Abbr. for two OT books
- 19 "There is a _____ in Gilead"
- 21 Member of an order of St. Angela Merici
- 22 David asked Saul if he pursued a "_____ dog" (1 Sam 24:14)
- 23 Genesis event
- 24 Hell
- 27 "Salve _____"
- 28 Catholic author of *Brideshead Revisited*
- 30 St. Philip's surname
- 33 Josephite letters
- 34 An Old Testament high priest

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PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

ALLEN, Dwight E., 79, Aug. 15
St. Matthew Church, Columbus

BARGAR, Janet Marlene, 81, Aug. 1
Immaculate Conception Church, Dennison

BARRETT, Keely J. (Miller), 61, Aug. 16
Corpus Christi Church, Columbus

CASEY, Joseph "Jay," 72, Aug. 13
Our Lady of Peace Church, Columbus

DOONE, Donna M. (Boutillier), 77, Aug. 11
St. Thomas More Newman Center, Columbus

FINAN, Joseph B., 89, Aug. 16
St. Catharine Church, Columbus

GEIST, Laura (Hatem), 67, Aug. 14
St. Mary, Mother of God Church, Columbus

JACONETTE, Elva (Delsignore), 97, Aug. 4
St. Matthias Church, Columbus

KERTZINGER, Patricia A. (Berghoff), 93, Aug. 12
Holy Spirit Church, Columbus

KILLILEA, William, 93, Aug. 15
St. Anthony Church, Columbus

LaBRAKE, Richard J., 72, Aug. 18
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

LALLY, Karen M., 70, Aug. 9
Our Lady of Peace Church, Columbus

LAMANTIA, Anthony J., 92, Aug. 7
St. Michael Church, Worthington

LAUDERBACK, Thomas E., 84, Aug. 5
St. Matthias Church, Columbus

LONGSTRETH, Harold J., 91, Aug. 15
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

MAJTENYI, Joan E. (Zimmerman), 84, Aug. 7
St. Joseph Cathedral, Columbus

McGEORGE, Laura L. (Gladwell), 74, July 27
Holy Family Church, Columbus

MEADOWS, John A., 49, Aug. 8
St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Pickerington

MURPHY, Jon L., 78, Aug. 2
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

NEFF, Corlyn (McGonigle), 81, Aug. 5
St. Aloysius Church, Columbus

NEGRON, Vilma V., 66, Aug. 14
St. Patrick Church, Columbus

NERONE, Nancy J. (Nixon), 82, Aug. 3
St. Peter Church, Columbus

PAGE, Gail, 70, Aug. 15
Our Lady of Victory Church, Columbus

PHILLIPS, Stanley R., 77, Aug. 16
St. Margaret of Cortona Church, Columbus

PUGLIESE, Gerri A. (Richards), 79, Aug. 10
St. James the Less Church, Columbus

ROWSEY, Kyle E., 39, of Grove City, Aug. 2
Sacred Heart Church, Fairfield

SCHAUMLEFFEL, Marian Marie, 97, Aug. 14
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Zanesville

SHALOO, John F., 79, July 29
St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Pickerington

SHERRARD, Rosemarie "Susie," 81, Aug. 14
St. Leonard Church, Heath

SMITH, Rose M., 92, Aug. 6
St. Rose of Lima Church, New Lexington

STEWART, Mary Lou, 94, June 27
St. Paul Church, Westerville

VARACALLI, Frank A., 82, Aug. 17
St. Philip Church, Columbus

VANDYKE, Robert, 88, July 28
St. Colman and Cloyne Church, Washington Court House

WOHLFROM, Anne (Downey), 83, Aug. 2
St. Agatha Church, Columbus

ZIMMERER, Ruth, 81, Aug. 5
St. Paul Church, Westerville

Sister Raymunda Brooks, OP

A private memorial service for Sister Raymunda Brooks, OP, 93, who died Thursday, Aug. 12 at the Mohun Health Care Center, took place at the Motherhouse of the Dominican Sisters of Peace. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was born Mary Frances Brooks on May 14, 1928 in Zanesville to Clark and Emma (Aber) Brooks.

She was a graduate of Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas elementary and

high schools and received a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education in 1956 from St. Mary of the Springs College (now Ohio Dominican University), a Master of Arts degree in 1964 from Duquesne University and a certificate in creation spirituality from Holy Name College in Oakland, California.

She entered the congregation of the Dominican sisters of St. Mary of the Springs (now the Dominican Sisters

of Peace) in 1947 and professed her vows on July 9, 1949.

In the Diocese of Columbus, she was a teacher at Columbus St. James the Less School (1962-1963) and Columbus Bishop Watterson (1965-1966, 1970-1972) and Newark Catholic (1976-1979) high schools and was principal at Lancaster Fisher Catholic High School (1972-1976). She also was assistant director of the Dominican Learning Center in Columbus

(1994-1996), RCIA director of Newark Blessed Sacrament Church (1997-2010) and ecclesiastical notary for the diocesan Tribunal (1994-2020). She also taught at schools in the Diocese of Steubenville, Pennsylvania and New York.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and brothers Joseph, William and Thomas.

Mary Alice Johnston

Funeral Mass for Mary Alice Johnston, 91, who died Friday, Aug. 13, was celebrated Friday, Aug. 20 at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was born on June 22, 1932 to Hugh and Catherine (Case) Mercer, was a graduate of Columbus Holy Name School and Columbus Rosary High School, and worked for the Travelers insurance company.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her

husband of 65 years, Deacon Thomas Johnston, who died Monday, June 14; brother, Richard; and sisters, Eileen (Charles) Sullivan, Kitty Lou (Joseph) King and Ann Marie Elkins. Survivors include a son, Tim (Julie); daughters, Kathleen (Rick) Markin and Maureen (Murry) Mercier; brothers, James (Charlene), Michael (Connie) and Phillip (Susan); five grandsons, five granddaughters and 15 great-grandchildren.

Anne E. Leahy

A private memorial service will be held for Anne E. Leahy, 94, who died Sunday, Aug. 8.

She was born on Oct. 27, 1926 in Columbus to John and Helen (Sauer) Morbitzer, was a 1944 graduate of Columbus St. Mary High School and attended the New York School of Millinery Design.

She served for many years as cafeteria manager of Hilliard St. Brendan School and owned a catering business. Earlier, she was a hat designer for the Lazarus department store and a seamstress for the Elder Beerman

stores. She was a member of the St. Mary's Alumni Club and the Brighten Opera Club and participated in many Ohio Theater productions.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband, John. Survivors include sons, Roy (Elizabeth), John (Teri) and James (Julie); daughters, Christine (Mark) Overmyer, Theresa (Larry) Kennedy, Eleanora (Chuck) Shively and Margaret (Robert) Whipple.

CATHOLIC CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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Local news and events

Annual Blue Mass scheduled for Sept. 10 at St. Timothy

The annual Blue Mass honoring retired police, firefighters and emergency medical services personnel will be celebrated by Bishop Robert Brennan at 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 10 at Columbus St. Timothy Church, 1088 Thomas Lane.

The Blue Mass, hosted by St. Timothy Knights of Columbus Council 14345, will also commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania that took the lives of 2,973 people.

All active and retired police, fire and emergency medical services personnel in the greater Columbus area and their families are invited.

The Blue Mass dates to 1934 in Washington, D.C. Father Thomas Dade from the Archdiocese of Baltimore initiated the Catholic Police and Firemen's Society while stationed at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Washington, D.C. About 1,100 police and firemen dressed in blue uniforms marched into St. Patrick's Catholic Church for the celebration of the First Blue Mass on Sept. 29, 1934.

The Blue Mass has been a common tradition in the northeast United States, but it has more recently been extended throughout the country, particularly in the wake of 9-11 attack. The Blue Mass honors and recognizes the sacrifice of police, firefighters, paramedics, emergency medical crews, all members of the public safe-

ty community and those who have given their lives in service to their communities.

The name of the Blue Mass evolved from the predominantly blue-colored uniforms of police officers, firefighters and emergency personnel. Similar Blue Masses have been organized by Knights of Columbus Councils nationwide.

Irish memorial set for Aug. 28

The Irish Community Bereavement Committee and the six Irish-related social organizations in Columbus will sponsor an Irish memorial on Saturday, Aug. 28 at The Shamrock Club of Columbus, 60 W. Castle Road, Gates will open at 3 p.m. The memorial is an attempt to provide comfort to club members, friends and families who could not grieve properly for those they have lost in the last 17 months.

The event will begin with Mass at 4 p.m. with Msgr. John Cody as celebrant, Msgr. Patrick Gaughan as co-celebrant and Deacon Roger Minner as participating deacon. The Shamrock Club pipes and drums leading the procession.

After Mass, there will be a candlelight vigil featuring a reading of names of the deceased, ringing of a bell after each name is read, and a traditional Irish toast, "The Parting Glass." Food will be provided by the committee. Families attending are invited to bring

a dish to share.

Entertainment will be provided by Irish bands The Hooligans and Achill Crossing. For more information, email themightymary@gmail.com or call (614) 316-8278.

Birthright plans luncheon

Birthright of Columbus will celebrate its 47th year of nurturing women and babies at its annual luncheon at noon Saturday, Sept. 21 at Mozart's Cafe, 4784 N. High St.

The event will feature a style show by Dress Barn and silent auction items that include a Christmas handmade quilt and a television, and a handmade afghan for raffle.

Tickets for this event are \$35. The reservation deadline is Friday, Sept. 15. For information or tickets, call or text Peggy Mackessy at (614) 404-8106 or Mary Jo Mayhan at (614) 235-7465 or text (614) 668-6421.

In 1968, Louise Summerhill of Toronto founded Birthright International, the first pro-life pregnancy help center in the world. As legalized abortion in Canada and the United States loomed, she recognized the need to help women in crisis pregnancies with positive support and life affirming alternatives. She also believed strongly in the dignity of motherhood. Today, more than 450 Birthright Centers exist in North America.

Each Birthright Center is chartered

separately under Birthright International, but all Birthright Centers follow the same mission statement that says, "It is the right of every woman to give birth and the right of every child to be born." Each Birthright Center is responsible for its own non-profit funding, management and training of volunteers according to the Birthright Charter.

Birthright of Columbus was founded in 1972 by a group of women who believed in Summerhill's philosophy. Dorothy Hoelker and Kathy Foley began meeting with Birthright groups in Toronto and Cincinnati in 1971 and opened the first Columbus center in April 1972.

Birthright of Columbus now has two centers where trained volunteers answer questions and concerns from callers or visitors who are worried about their pregnancies and babies. Birthright provides compassionate care for individual needs, exercises charity, and maintains a confidential, non-judgmental attitude at all times.

Columbus Birthright centers are located at 2453 W. Mound St. and 4768 North High St. Birthright also operates the In Review Thrift Shop at the High Street address.

If you are interested in learning more about Birthright or volunteering for Birthright or at the In Review Shop, call the Mound St. office at (614) 221-0844 or the north office at (614) 263-2514.

Knights raise money to support vocations

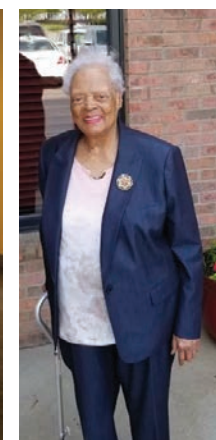


Chris Sarka, state warden for the Ohio State Council of the Knights of Columbus and the ranking K of C officer in the Diocese of Columbus, presents a \$32,453.61 check to Father William Hahn to support vocations. Father Hahn is the vocations director for the diocese.

Photo courtesy Knights of Columbus

Columbus St. Dominic Church honors retirees

Columbus St. Dominic Church recently honored two of its longest serving members who retired from their ministries. Patricia White (holding plaque) devoted 25 years to serving as the church's sacristan for the 8 a.m. Sunday Mass. When the Covid-19 pandemic forced a change to a single Mass at 11:30, she continued as sacristan until her retirement in June and then began training the new sacristans. Illa Daniels also retired after serving more than 40 years as director of St. Dominic's traditional choir. She is a trained opera singer who has performed all over the country in concerts and opera productions, and on radio and TV, and has sung in New York's famed Carnegie Hall. While a student at Xavier University of Louisiana, she also sang for the school's founder, St. Katherine Drexel. In Columbus, Daniels offered her soaring musical talent for weddings, funerals, concerts and Masses. Parishioners presented both retirees with commemorative plaques, cards, gifts and many prayers and well wishes.



Photos courtesy St. Dominic Church

After hurricane, displaced woman aided by CSS

Two children, six suitcases, \$300. This is all Marisol had when she arrived in Columbus five years ago to start her new life. In the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, she'd lost her home and her job in Puerto Rico. She arrived in Ohio with her savings depleted but faced an even greater challenge: She spoke little English.

While Marisol fortunately had a friend in her new city, beyond that one contact she felt alone and lost. The language barrier kept her isolated socially and made it hard to gain employment. The predicament felt overwhelming. Securing food and shelter depended on finding a job, but that felt reliant on overcoming the language barrier. She needed a place to learn English.

Marisol turned to the Our Lady of Guadalupe Center (OLGC), a Catholic Social Services community center on Columbus' west side, near the largest concentration of immigrant Hispanics in central Ohio. The center works to reduce poverty in the region's rapidly growing Hispanic population.

At OLGC, the bilingual staff understands what people face in building a better life in a new country. The staff responds to the challenges of immigration and poverty, including discrimination, language barriers and lack of basic needs and social support.

The power of language

Marisol's story was like many at OLGC. She had bravery. But she didn't have a sofa or a frying pan, or winter coats or sneakers for her children. She did have diligence, but she didn't have a car to get her to any job she might secure. And she had determination, but she knew it wouldn't get her far if she couldn't speak English to express herself, advocate for her worth or respond to potential em-

ployers.

Within a few weeks of arriving in the United States, Marisol was introduced to the OLGC as a resource for finding food and housing, getting help with employment and learning a new language in its English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. As she recalled, "At one point, we didn't have any food. All we had left was the rice and eggs (from the OLGC pantry). With that, my two children and I had the best dinner."

The food was critical, but the ESL classes were pivotal, offering Marisol a social connection with her teachers and fellow students. She worked closely with three teachers to gain language skills while making friends and gaining a sense of community.

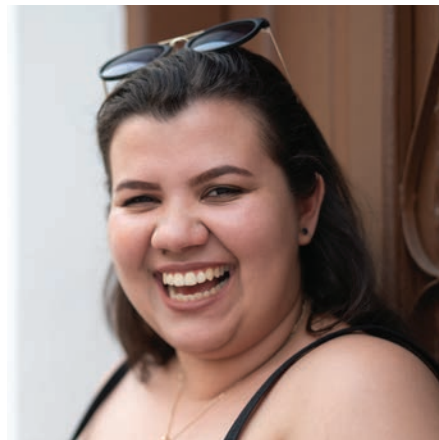
She said the ESL classes began to replace the negative feelings she had with positivity and hope. For the first time since arriving in Ohio, she felt welcome and comfortable.

While she was making progress with her English, there were setbacks. An interview for an insurance industry job left her in tears because she couldn't understand what the interviewer was saying and she couldn't explain herself. Although frustrated, she grew more determined to learn English quickly.

Within five months of arriving in the states, Marisol found a job. In fact, two jobs: one with a local hair salon and another at a warehouse. She could afford her first apartment. She'd also learned that the food pantry and ESL classes were not the only services offered at OLGC that could help her get her footing.

More than basic needs

Ramona Reyes, OLGC director, said, "The food pantry is what often brings people in, but it's often just an



Marisol

entry point. Once people are here, we can offer them an array of services and comprehensive case management that provide wrap-around support for individualized situations and varied needs."

In May 2018, Marisol began meeting with an OLGC social worker who helped her find a more suitable apartment for her family and coordinated emergency assistance funding that helped cover basic needs. Marisol said, "The center donated to/gave me aid – a sofa, linens, kitchen utensils, rent for one month – in summary, everything."

But it wasn't everything; it was a beginning. It was a stepping stone that welcomed further advancement on her path. In becoming familiar with the center's staff and its services, Marisol would later receive further assistance from the onsite lawyer as she began to build a sustainable life for herself and her family.

The barriers that immigrant clients and U.S. citizens such as Marisol routinely experience – things such as language, employment and legal issues – were being addressed through

patience and tenacity. Eventually, with things falling into place, Marisol saved money, and she began operating a hair salon.

The CSS staff knows that poverty is complicated.

"Eggs can't be cooked if someone doesn't have a pan to cook them in," Reyes said. "Someone can't get a job if they can't get to the interview. There are so many varied and inter-related elements to achieving sustainability, which is why some clients may be with us for three days and others might work with us for three years."

"Needs change, and they run the gamut, from forks to legal assistance. At OLGC, we stay with clients as long as they need us, providing support at every step of the way."

For Marisol, the help from the OLGC provided the solid foundation she needed. It enabled her movement from crisis to stability and then to greater plans. Today, she is studying to be a life coach, with her certification test planned for August. She is also still utilizing her relationships with the OLGC as it works to connect her with the Small Business Administration to find a new location for her burgeoning beauty salon business.

But, in addition to Marisol's ambition and growing independence, she felt a need to give back. She said she asked herself, "Why not help in the exact place where they helped me?" Marisol now regularly volunteers in the food pantry, giving others the support and positivity she once lacked.

Asked what her ultimate dream is, Marisol said, "I have already fulfilled my dreams: I'm here (at the pantry) Wednesday after Wednesday, helping a place that gave me so much when I didn't know or have anything. I believe that my remaining dreams are to travel and continue helping people."

SISTERS, continued from Page 19

Mary Cecilia, 60 years in 2020, directed the Diocesan Child Guidance Center in Columbus. She is currently serving as community moderator at the Villa Julie Convent in Stevenson, Maryland.

Sister Marietta Fritz, SNDdeN, 60 years in 2020, spent five years as a teacher at Bishop Hartley. She went on to serve as foods manager at the order's convent in Columbus before moving to Saginaw, Michigan. She is currently volunteering at Venice on Vine, a job-training program, and the Hamilton County Jail in Cincinnati.

Sister Colette Quinn, SNDdeN, 60 years in 2020, served for seven years as an elementary school teacher at schools in Illinois and Ohio, including Columbus St. Agnes Church. She is currently a medical driver at the Mount Notre Dame Health Center in Cincinnati.

Sister Jo Ann Recker, SNDdeN (formerly Mary Judith), 60 years in 2020, spent the first 12 of more than 50 years in education as a high school teacher, including seven years at the former Columbus St. Joseph Academy. She went on to teach at the university level, including 10 years at Ohio State University with an assistantship in French, then as program coordinator of the romance language department. He is a professor emerita at Xavier University in Cincinnati.

Ursuline Sister Theresa Sarich, OSU (formerly Sister Mercedes), 70 years in 2021, is a Columbus native who began teaching at St. Francis School in Toronto, Ohio, and continued serving as a teacher, principal and religious education coordinator in Illinois, Missouri, Minnesota and Texas. She now lives in Alton, Illinois.

Diocesan football coaches wary of playoff expansion

By Doug Bean and Tim Puet
The Catholic Times

A new playoff format for the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) football playoffs has stirred considerable debate during the past few months, and some coaches in the diocese have expressed mixed feelings about the expansion.

This past spring, the OHSAA decided to increase the number of playoff qualifiers in each of the state's seven divisions to 64, from 32. Each division from I through VII is divided into four regions that now will consist of 16 qualifiers apiece, up from eight in 2019.

Last year, every team in the state could opt into the playoffs after the regular season was shortened to six games because of the COVID-19 pandemic. For the 2021 season, a full 10-game schedule was restored, but the start date was moved up a week to the third weekend of August to accommodate an extra week of postseason competition beginning in late October. The state championship games are set for Dec. 2-5 in Canton.

After the OHSAA announced its decision in April to go with 16 playoff qualifiers in each region, the Ohio High School Football Coaches Association issued a statement condemning the move, saying it believed the change was financially motivated.

The state's coaches had proposed a 12-team format for each region that included an opening-week bye for the top four qualifiers, which the OHSAA approved in spring 2020 but then changed this past spring.

Concerns from coaches of diocesan teams covered a wide range of issues from mismatched opponents to injuries.

"I'm not a fan of it, especially for schools like us in Division VII, when you've got a 16 seed playing a one seed, you're going to get people hurt, and you'll get schools like us with 20 or 25 players going up against teams with 50 or more," Lancaster Fisher Catholic coach Luke Thimmes said. "It's going to be tough."

Tuscarawas Central Catholic coach Casey Cummings echoed those sentiments, saying, "The

OHSAA membership is going to do what it wants. I wish there were just 12 teams per region. It's tough on private schools. It seems like every rule change goes against us. Of course, if we had more players or a really strong team coming back every year, I might change my mind. We were outvoted and will go with how the vote went."

Other coaches wonder whether an increase in the number of playoff teams will dilute the accomplishment of qualifying based on merit.

"I'm not sure what I think of it. We'll see how it goes," Zanesville Bishop Rosecrans coach Chris Zemba said. "I don't want to take away from the validity of the system. If you expand it to the point where practically everybody goes, why call it the playoffs?"

Portsmouth Notre Dame coach Bob Ashley worries about early round mismatches, but he's keeping an open mind.

"I'm not a big fan of the idea of pairing No. 1 and No. 16 seeds," he said, "but it's great for more teams to have the opportunity to be rewarded for good seasons. Sixteen teams might be too much. I think 12 will be better, but we'll be happy to play beyond the regular season in whatever format."

In most high school sports except football, all teams participate in postseason competition. With that in mind, an argument can be made that expansion gives more students and communities an opportunity to experience the excitement of the playoffs.

"I think the expanded playoffs are a good thing," Columbus Bishop Watterson coach Brian Kennedy said. "Adding eight schools provides that many more players, coaches and schools the opportunity to experience the playoffs. These kids work so hard, and I am all for rewarding them with an increased chance to make the playoffs."

No team is more familiar with the playoffs than Newark Catholic, having reached the postseason 37 times and winning eight state championships. The Green Wave are one of five diocesan schools that compete in Division VII, which includes schools with the smallest enrollment of boys.

"I grew up in Indiana, where everybody makes the playoffs. I see benefits and frustrations from both sides," Newark Catholic coach Ryan Aiello said. "We can only control what we can control. I do think the system might help with scheduling. Schools may be more willing to schedule teams they might not have wanted to play before because losing to those teams might affect a school's playoff chances."

Columbus Bishop Hartley coach Brad Burchfield's teams have advanced to the playoffs in all but one of his 13 seasons at the school. He says the expanded postseason reflects the evolution of the quality of teams and players in Ohio.

"I'm not overly passionate about it," he said, "but wherever they tell us to play, we will play. And it's always an honor to play more football and have an opportunity to play for the highest honors."

First-year Columbus Bishop Ready coach Michael Schaefer welcomes the chance to compete for more spots in the postseason.

"I think it's an opportunity for kids to play more games and more communities to experience getting into the playoffs and playing a playoff game," he said. "I always try to keep the perspective that athletics are an extension of our schools, and, for some kids, sports keeps them engaged in school."

"Does it change things for the schools that win state championships? I don't know. But does it change things for the school that made the playoffs for the first time? Absolutely. And that changes kids' experiences forever and maybe a program's trajectory forever."



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St. Aloysius hosts free lunch

The St. Aloysius Community Outreach (SACO) ministry has begun distributing free lunches and face masks on Saturdays along Sullivant Avenue on Columbus' west side.

Sandy Bonneville, its co-director along with Margie Toner Thompson, said SACO plans to be at the same location every Saturday between 1 and 2 p.m., weather permitting, serving as many as 150 lunches to families in the city's Hilltop community. It also has distributed about 1,300 homemade face masks for adults and children.

The committee's outreach includes the annual Thanksgiving Day dinner at Columbus St. Aloysius Church, as

well as its community cookout and monthly community dinners. Bonneville said the lunch distribution allows the church to come to the people rather than the other way around. "The church exists not just for its members inside the walls of the church. The church is also for those who have yet to come to God's kingdom," she said.

SACO also will pray the rosary for peace, justice and the uplifting of Hilltop families and the community on the third Sunday of each month at 1 p.m. in the parking lot of St. Aloysius Church along West Broad Street. Social distancing will be observed.

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**Parish Consultation Sessions
Coming this Fall!**

This is a significant moment in our Real Presence, Real Future initiative. Two Parish Consultation Sessions will be held in a virtual format via Zoom for each parish in the Diocese.

Facilitators will guide parishioners through important statistical and sacramental information relevant to the Diocese as a whole, parishes in your area, and your particular parish. Your participation in these sessions is critical to help shape the future of the Diocese of Columbus.

www.RealPresenceRealFuture.org

**Registration
is required**

All parishioners are highly encouraged to attend one of their parish's sessions and registration is required. Information on registration will be available at realpresencerealfuture.org in late-August. For more information contact hello@columbuscatholic.org.

