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CALLED TO BROOKLYN



Bishop expresses love for Columbus after accepting new assignment

By Doug Bean
Catholic Times Editor

A native New Yorker was sent to Ohio 2 ½ years ago not knowing exactly what to expect in an area of the country vastly different from where he had spent his entire life.

It didn't take him long to feel at home in the Diocese of Columbus, where one day you're visiting parishes in an urban setting and the next day you could be out in farm country or the hills of southern Ohio.

So when a call came in from the Vatican's representative to the United States two weeks ago informing Bishop Robert Brennan that he was being called to a new assignment, he was stunned.

"I don't think it's an overstatement to say my first reaction was that I was devastated," he said last week after the announcement that he had been named the eighth bishop of the Diocese of Brooklyn, New York. "I had become so attached here. And I was looking around at everything I'd be giving up."

Bishop Brennan was in the Chantery preparing for a usual busy day on

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Bishop Brennan named to lead Diocese of Brooklyn

By Doug Bean
Catholic Times Editor

Bishop Robert Brennan is returning to his roots after 2 ½ years in Columbus.

At 6 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 29, the Holy See in Rome named Bishop Brennan, 59, as the eighth bishop of the Diocese of Brooklyn, New York. He replaces Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio, 77, who reached the mandatory retirement age of 75 two years ago but continued to serve until his successor was selected.

Bishop Brennan, a native New Yorker who was born in the Bronx, was introduced several hours later in Brooklyn at a news conference at the Co-Cathedral of St. Joseph in Brooklyn, and will be formally installed as the diocese's bishop on Nov. 30. He will continue to serve as the apostolic administrator of the Columbus diocese until that time. If a replacement is not named by then, a diocesan College of Consultors will elect an administrator to lead until a new bishop is installed.

After arriving in Columbus just 2 ½ years after being appointed bishop of Columbus on Jan. 31, 2019, Bishop Brennan is headed back to metropolitan New York, where he grew up and served as a priest and auxiliary bishop for the Diocese of Rockville Centre on Long Island.

"I have been very happy here in Ohio and am heartbroken that I will be leaving," Bishop Brennan said. "I came to know amazing people here, and there is tremendous sadness leaving you behind. But as I prepare to return to New York, I am ready and eager to embrace the people of Brooklyn and Queens as their pastor.

"Knowing we are loved by Jesus, we will strive to show others his face, bearing the Joy of the Gospel and the Splendor of Truth. In the end, that's what it is all about – in Columbus, Brooklyn and around the world."

The Diocese of Brooklyn encompasses the boroughs of Brooklyn and

Queens. It is the fifth largest diocese in the United States with 1.5 million Catholics and home to a diverse immigrant population that offers Masses in 33 different languages and 26 ethnic ministries through 186 parishes with 210 churches. The Brooklyn diocese's Catholic school population ranks as the seventh largest in the United States with more than 19,000 students.

The Diocese of Columbus is spread across 23 counties and covers a larger, diverse geographic area with 104 urban, suburban and rural parishes, but the Catholic population of 220,000 is much smaller.

"To the people of the Diocese of Columbus, I recognize this announcement comes as an enormous surprise, but we entrust ourselves to the Lord, and we will move forward confident that the Holy Spirit will lead a wonderful new leader here to Columbus to be your bishop," Bishop Brennan said. "All of you are in my prayers in a very special way today, and you will remain in my prayers and my heart every day of my life.

"Please pray for me as well. Continue placing your trust in our loving Lord and carry on this marvelous journey of faith that we have been on together these last 2 ½ years as fellow missionary disciples of our Lord and savior."

Bishop Brennan knows the Brooklyn area well. He was raised in Lindenhurst, New York, where his parents still reside, and he earned a bachelor of science degree in mathematics and computer science from St. John's University, located in the Diocese of Brooklyn. He studied for the priesthood at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, which serves the Dioceses of Brooklyn and Rockville Centre.

The future bishop was ordained to the priesthood in the Diocese of Rockville Centre on May 27, 1989. He was named vicar general and moderator of the curia there in 2002. On July 25, 2012, he was ordained as an auxiliary



Bishop Robert Brennan
Photo courtesy Andy Mackey

bishop for the diocese.

Bishop Brennan was installed as the 12th bishop of Columbus on March 29, 2019 at St. Joseph Cathedral. During his brief time in Columbus, he has been actively involved in the work of the Catholic community in the 23 counties of the diocese, including serving on the boards of the Catholic Foundation, Mother Angelina McCrory Manor and Cristo Rey Columbus Catholic High School. He also has been a board member and the vice chancellor of the Pontifical College Josephinum in north Columbus.

At the national level, Bishop Brennan has served with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops as a member of the Committee for Catholic Education, the Administrative Committee, and the Priorities and Plans Committee.

Bishop Brennan's greatest strength lies in parish pastoral activity. As bishop of Columbus, he has traveled regularly in order to meet and engage people from every part of the diocese, learning about their lives -- both their everyday activities and their faith commitment. He has also enjoyed learning about the many parishes and schools here, the many facets of the ethnic and geographic cultures of the

diocese, and the vibrancy of the many missionary movements in Columbus, particularly the participation of young people.

"I think we need an attitude of tremendous confidence but profound humility," Bishop Brennan said in an interview before the announcement. "Tremendous confidence because the power comes from God, the power is in Christ Jesus, who is keeping his promise of I am with you always.

"We have to have perfect confidence that Jesus Christ is walking with us along that path with Him beside us with humility to understand that the Holy Spirit doesn't speak only through me. The Holy Spirit is working through me through my contributions, but it's a contribution the Holy Spirit pulls together from believers all around. So confidence, humility and hope – those I think are the attitudes that will carry us forward."

The hallmark of Bishop Brennan's time in Columbus has been the initiation of the diocesan-wide Real Presence Real Future evangelization and planning initiative. Real Presence Real Future is a two-year diocesan-wide consultative process that invites participation from clergy, lay ecclesial ministers, parish volunteers and all the faithful. Through listening to the needs and ideas of the people, this process that Bishop Brennan started will help determine the best path forward to increase the presence of the Church throughout the Diocese of Columbus in the 21st century.

"We're having to take up your cross and follow what Jesus tells you to do and that's what I have to see in this," Bishop Brennan said. "This is the Lord asking me to do something, sending me forward. It's not about me, it's not about us, but it's that we are entrusted with a certain amount of care – all of us – for the Lord's vineyard. Each one of us is a missionary disciple. And that means following where the Lord sends you. That means embracing the cross and doing whatever he has for you."



Front Page photo:
**BISHOP TO LEAD
BROOKLYN DIOCESE**
Bishop Robert Brennan was introduced at a news conference on Wednesday, Sept. 29 after the announcement that he had been named the new Bishop of Brooklyn, New York. Photo courtesy The Tablet

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BISHOP, *continued from Page 1*

Monday, Sept. 20, when he picked up the phone, and Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the apostolic nuncio to the United States, was on the other end of the line. He asked the bishop if he was alone. Bishop Brennan knew right away what that likely meant.

After receiving the news, he expressed to Archbishop Pierre his concerns about the timing of the move with the Columbus diocese in the middle of the Real Presence Real Future planning initiative. But a bishop is like a priest or religious who takes a vow of obedience and must go where he is assigned.

Bishop Brennan is replacing Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio, who has served as the Diocese of Brooklyn's shepherd since 2003. He will be installed as bishop of the fifth largest U.S. diocese on Nov. 30, about an hour from where he served as a priest and then an auxiliary bishop in the Diocese of Rockville Centre until leaving for Columbus.

"Sometimes we're called to leave the place we love, and then to love the place we're going," he said. "As a bishop, I have to ask the same thing of priests, and sometimes it's a short assignment when a need arises."

"The nuncio came to me on behalf of the pope to say we need you to give this up because there's a need there. It's not because the church has been without good leadership in Brooklyn. They are poised to move into the future, but the need that's different is that it's bigger. It has a different kind of diversity than Ohio. It's a complicated place to live."

The night before Archbishop Pierre called, Bishop Brennan had celebrated Mass for a congregation composed mostly of students at the Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center adjacent to the Ohio State University campus.

"I was really impacted by the number of young people there," he said. "And I'm thinking about how wonderful it is to be there."

Two nights later, knowing he had been reassigned but unable to tell anyone yet, he returned to Ohio State to speak to a group of about 100 young Catholics.

"The idea of getting that many college students to come out on a weeknight, I would have been glad to have seen a few dozen," he said. "But it wasn't just that. It was their spirit."

As the week progressed, Bishop Brennan informed a few close staff members what was happening. Two days before the Vatican made the official declaration, the bishop began preparing video and written announcements for clergy, religious, diocesan staff and the public.

As he sat down on Monday, Sept. 27, to record a segment with Bill Messerly, executive director of St. Gabriel Radio, he became emotional, pausing at several points to hold back tears.

"The last two years were the happiest years of my being a priest," Bishop Brennan said. "I mean that. A lot of

Bishop Brennan at a glance

Age: 59

Born: June 7, 1962, Bronx, New York

Parents: Robert and Patricia Brennan (married 60 years)

Family: Oldest of five children (two brothers, two sisters)

Grade School: Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Lindenhurst, New York

High School: St. John the Baptist Diocesan HS, West Islip, New York

College: St. John's University, Queens, New York (B.S., mathematics, computer science)

Seminary: Immaculate Conception, Huntington, New York

Ordination: May 27, 1989, by Bishop John McCann at St. Agnes Cathedral, Diocese of Rockville Centre, New York

First pastoral assignment: Church of St. Patrick, Smithtown, New York

Other assignments: Named Secretary to the Bishop in 1994 and continuing under Bishops James McHugh and William Murphy while serving at St. Agnes Cathedral; appointed Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia in 2002; named pastor at Church of St. Mary of the Isle, Long Beach, New York, in 2010.

Episcopal ordination: July 25, 2012 as auxiliary bishop in the Diocese of Rockville Centre

Diocese of Columbus: Appointed the 12th bishop of Columbus on Jan. 31, 2019, and installed on March 29, 2019

Diocese of Brooklyn: Named the eighth bishop of Brooklyn, New York, on Sept. 29, 2021

it was due to being able to work with our priests. I guess it was particularly sad because I was preparing this, and they didn't know yet.

"And then there was relief that it's out there after the announcement, and everyone knows. People have been very, very good. They're wishing me well, and I think there's a sense of commitment here to building the future."

Bishop Brennan literally hasn't stopped moving the diocese forward since he was installed as bishop on March 29, 2019. In a span of five days immediately after the installation, he traveled to Zanesville for a confirmation, returned to Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, went to Columbus St. Stephen the Martyr Church to celebrate Mass in Spanish, offered Mass for a mostly African-American congregation

at Columbus St. Dominic Church, presided over another confirmation at Columbus St. Patrick Church and then visited Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

"Every single one of those places was an uplifting experience," he said. "The message was clear pretty quickly that this was a nice place to be. I found this to be a welcoming place. It's an easy place to feel at home."

In 2 ½ years here, Bishop Brennan has visited every parish in the diocese's 23 counties. And on a typical day, his calendar includes multiple scheduled meetings or events. And oftentimes he'll just show up somewhere, such as a high school sporting event.

His faithful zeal and energy haven't gone unnoticed throughout the diocese. "I just find it enjoyable to be with

people," he said. "So instead of draining my energy, it actually builds up my energy. You can't help but get inspired by enthusiasm, and that's across the ages and it's also families."

For the next seven weeks, Bishop Brennan will serve as the administrator in Columbus while preparing to assume his new duties in Brooklyn.

"We're at the consultation stage with Real Presence Real Future, and it's a good spot to be in," he said. "And I'll be meeting with the priests, which we were going to do anyway."

"We're getting a lot of the structures in place that can support the larger work in the diocese. The new bishop will have a gift in front of him."

Asked what he has tried to accomplish in Columbus, the bishop said, "Hopefully, it's to inspire the people. The work of evangelization is everyone's. Hopefully, they are convinced of the reality of Jesus Christ and the reality that He walks with us in this life. And to be convinced that He is the answer to every human need, and to allow Him to form our lives."

One of the pluses of returning to Brooklyn is familiarity with the diocese and the chance to be closer to his parents, who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary this year and are "happy that they'll see me with more regularity," Bishop Brennan said.

"You develop a sense of excitement about the new adventure," he said of taking over a new diocese. "And one of the things I said in my opening remarks (at the Brooklyn news conference) is, these are places that are tremendously different, but there are some basic things that are unchanging. God's people are good, God's people are holy people, they are generous."

"It didn't take much time to start to fall in love with the people I met in Brooklyn. As this becomes more real, it becomes a little more exciting."

There's no way to know when Bishop Brennan's successor will be appointed.

"I'm asked to do an extensive report about what the needs of the diocese are as I see it right now," Bishop Brennan said. "Some letters seeking input from priests and religious and lay people will be sent out. The second phase is to talk to the local bishops and get their input – the view from the outside – some of the people who can be recommended."

"And that list will be collated and goes over to Rome. Then the Congregation for Bishops takes over, and they bring a recommendation to the pope."

When Bishop Brennan leaves the diocese in November, a part of his heart will remain in the Buckeye State.

"I didn't know that I would get pulled into the Buckeye culture," he said. "That's another thing that surprised me. I loved that. I enjoyed that so much."



Bishop Robert Brennan speaks to the media as Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio looks on during a news conference on Sept. 29 in the Diocese of Brooklyn. Photo courtesy The Tablet

Bishop's departure will not change Real Presence Real Future goals

By Doug Bean
Catholic Times Editor



Real Presence Real Future

The diocese's Real Presence Real Future campaign initiated last year by Bishop Robert Brennan will move forward in earnest despite the announcement on Wednesday, Sept. 29 that he will be leaving Columbus at the end of November to lead the Diocese of Brooklyn, New York.

"We started this process called Real Presence Real Future and we need to continue on that road. That's essential," Bishop Brennan said before the announcement of his appointment was made official Wednesday morning by the Holy See.

When Bishop Brennan received news two weeks ago of the appointment from Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the Vatican's representative in the United States, he expressed concern to the papal nuncio about the continuation of the Real Presence Real Future work that he started here in Columbus.

"(Archbishop Pierre) was very clear and said that (work) should continue – that you should go down that road," Bishop Brennan said. "And as I think about it, where we are now is in that process of consultation. It's not a part of the process that depends on the bishop, but what you're doing is you, as a diocese, are making your voices heard.

"Please continue to participate. If you haven't already participated in some of these parish sessions, please continue to be part of this process because we'll be able to give the next bishop a wonderful gift. He will be able to come in and hear what the people of this diocese are saying are the needs, and some of our ideas for the ways the church in the 21st century can function and meet the needs of this new century."

Bishop Brennan will remain in Columbus through the end of November as the diocese's apostolic administrator before leaving for Brooklyn. But as the Diocese of Columbus awaits the appointment of a new bishop, the crucial Real Presence Real Future fall consultation sessions for every parish that started in September will proceed through November.

Father Michael Hartge, the Moderator of the Curia who is overseeing the Real Presence Real Future process, can't stress enough how important it is for every Catholic in the diocese to become engaged and informed in this

critical planning process.

"We're already a few weeks in and we're really getting some good responses," Father Hartge said. "But we want to get even more from everybody around the diocese."

Parishioners are encouraged to check with their parishes or go to www.realpresencerealfuture.org and search for times and dates for the sessions, which are scheduled from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on weeknights and 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday.

If you missed your parish's sessions, email support@catholicleaders.org and you will be sent recordings of the Zoom meetings that took place and a link to offer feedback.

"We're getting to the point where we're very publicly following up on our previous sessions and we're doing what we said we would do, which, to Bishop Brennan's desire, is to really consult with as many people in the diocese as possible, to hear their opinions.

"The sessions that I've facilitated myself have gone extremely well so far. People have been very patient and understanding. In some cases, people were surprised with what they heard, maybe not fully knowing or understanding all the facets of Real Presence Real Future, but by the end of the session they had a more complete and clear picture about what we're doing here."

While much of the emphasis of Real Presence Real Future to this point was placed on evangelization, the next step in the process is presenting models on how parishes might look in the future to better utilize resources and the shrinking number of active priests. Parish clusters, resource sharing and closures are all on the table.

"Some things as I'm facilitating these sessions that have come up in people's comments is that they're unaware that there's talk of parish mergers," Father Hartge said. "We're just in the planning stage and talking about the draft models for parishes. We're hearing from the parishioners to see if we're getting potential group-

ings of parishes right."

Four proposed draft models for grouping parishes to foster collaboration include:

- One parish/one pastor – May occur through extinctive union or merge of multiple parishes into a new parish
- Collaborative – Each parish maintains distinct canonical identity but has one pastor, one staff and joint programming
- Multi-parish pastoring – Each parish maintains distinct canonical identity, separate staff, separate programming but shares clergy.
- Deacon administrator – A parish or parishes administered under Canon 517.2 with sacramental care provided by neighboring priests and overseen by a priest moderator.

"Some common theme that we were hitting pretty hard early on in the process was that no decisions have been made," Father Hartge said. "And that's absolutely true. I want people to know that decisions about your parish have not yet been made. But I do want to give people a very realistic understanding that decisions will eventually have to be made. And as to Bishop Brennan's point, we don't want to do this without you. And as we say in the consultations, no change is not an option.

"We all have to change in some way or another, whether that's a big suburban parish that's that we don't see as being grouped together with anyone else because of geography and of size but they still have to get the idea in their minds about changing maybe the way they do outreach, just being evangelization mission oriented, that type of thing. And then for other parishes, it might be more structural."

Assessments have determined about an 18 percent decline in parish membership across the diocese.

"All of this is being done understanding the amount of people we have in the pews right now and just trying to live in current reality," Father Hartge said. "We might be tempted to look back and see my parish where it was 20 years ago, which could be a

far different picture than where it is now. Current reality is a critical, critical part in this because we can be very protective of our parish."

Some of the criteria for determining the future of parishes will include Mass attendance, number of registered families, programs and geography.

"Another thing that I've been hearing in some of these consultation sessions is that people have been saying we don't know the parishes well enough around us to be able to comment on them," Father Hartge said. "It's probably a good time to take a little road trip and maybe visit a different parish on the weekend and have a little fun with this. Hear a different priest and pick up a parish bulletin and see what kind of ministries are going on in this parish.

"Just get familiar with our parishes. We're not islands. We are very parish focused, and we should be very proud of our parishes, but we're very interdependent on each other. And we are the Diocese of Columbus, no matter if we live two hours from Columbus or right in the center of the city. We're one diocese."

At the conclusion of the fall consultation sessions, feedback will be assessed after parishioners weigh in and draft models for parishes will be further developed during the winter.

"Think in such a way as we're renewing the church in Columbus, and kind of everything's on the table as far as possibilities and what we might do," Father Hartge said. "The priests are getting together to talk in person about how this impacts them – how it can be managed."

How the new models could eventually affect priests has come up among the participants in the fall sessions.

"We already see the clergy stretched thin and people are seeing models grouping two or three parishes together with one priest, maybe two priests," Father Hartge said. "They're concerned that this isn't helping them much."

Priests also will be called upon to share their input privately.

"How do we grow the faith, but at the same time how do we do that productively the best way possible?" Father Hartge said. "We're shifting people around. We're not getting people to identify with the parish that's sustainable. That's going to be able to grow have the resources to be able to really evangelize and flourish and be vibrant. What we want is vibrancy."

Bishop Brennan considered 'perfect guy' to lead Brooklyn diocese

By Doug Bean
Catholic Times Editor

For the first time in 18 years, the Diocese of Brooklyn welcomed a new bishop on Wednesday, Sept. 29.

Bishop Robert Brennan was introduced at a news conference in the Co-Cathedral of St. Joseph after being named the eighth bishop of the Brooklyn diocese, replacing retiring Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio, who served in that role since 2003 and two years past the mandatory retirement age of 75.

"I think as I said in the press release, Bishop Brennan is kind of the perfect guy for this diocese," Bishop DiMarzio, 77, said. "He grew up here in New York, was born in New York City, lived in Long Island, our sister diocese.

"He knows New York. He is someone familiar with the issues here. He's a quick study, he knows a lot of the priests already in the diocese, so it's a good assignment, I believe, for him. He's young. He's energetic."

Bishop Brennan, 59, is leaving the Diocese of Columbus just 2 ½ years after being appointed bishop to return to the New York area, where he grew up and served as a priest and auxiliary bishop in the nearby Diocese of Rockville Centre. He expressed sadness to be leaving Ohio so soon but enthusiasm to be coming back to an area he knows well.

"I am eager to get to know each of the many and varied communities that form this amazing and unique diocese," he said in prepared remarks.

"In all honesty, I was very happy in Ohio and am heartbroken that I will be leaving," he said later. "I came to know amazing people. There is tremendous sadness leaving them behind.

"Please bear with me and see in that sadness my desire to coming to know and to love you in the same way. I pledge to serve you with every bit that I have."

The news of the new assignment, which came Monday, Sept. 20 from Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the Vatican representative to the United States, came as a shock to Bishop Brennan.

"I picked up the phone and just thought it was a regular call," Bishop Brennan recounted. "And then he said, 'Are you alone? And then I sat down, actually, and I was overwhelmed by it. It's not something I expected. I wasn't thrilled at first. We've started a bunch of things (in Columbus) and you just



Diocese of Brooklyn Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio (left) sits with his replacement, Bishop Robert Brennan, at a Sept. 29 news conference announcing Bishop Brennan's appointment.

Photo courtesy The Tablet

start to build the momentum ... we started a planning process, people were excited about working together. And so my first reaction was I am not ready to leave this. And, to tell you the truth, I became very attached.

"Now I ask you to bear with that because I hope you'll see, that as much as I love them, I already love you. And I want to be able to have that same kind of attachment here. But it was a little bit overwhelming. (Brooklyn) wasn't even on my radar. I would have never dreamed this and yet I feel at home here."

Bishop Brennan's brief time in Columbus has been marked by his interaction with priests, church communities, schools and various apostolates in a diverse region that encompasses urban, suburban and rural parishes. He went from two counties in Rockville Centre to 23 in Columbus and now back to two in Brooklyn.

"For sure, there are many differences that I experienced going from Nassau and Suffolk (on Long Island) to central Ohio and now back to Brooklyn/Queens," he said. "Nevertheless, one thing is constant. God's people. God's people are generous. We love Jesus. We find strength knowing he walks with us. We are far from perfect, but we do our best to rely on His mercy."

In Ohio, Bishop Brennan's pronounced New York accent distinguished him from the natives. "I say this with great love for the people of central Ohio, but one thing about coming back here is I'm back in a

place where people speak properly," he joked. "They gave me a hard time over there, I'm telling you, but with love."

Born in 1962, the same year as Major League Baseball's New York Mets, the bishop mentioned that he's a lifelong fan of the team and of his college alma mater, St. John's University in Queens.

"We've learned the virtue of long suffering," he said of the Mets' struggles through the years. "But we also learn the virtue of loyalty that you stay with him."

Brooklyn is also home to a diverse community of multiple immigrant and ethnic communities similar to Rockville Centre and to a lesser degree in Ohio.

"A lot of my experience in Rockville Centre was with the immigrant community there and there's a growing immigrant community in Columbus," said Bishop Brennan, whose family immigrated from Ireland. "In my Spanish remarks, I spoke about how much I feel at home in that community, how there is such great love -- love for the church and authentic and enthusiastic faith, and I really look forward to living that and celebrating that."

In Columbus, Bishop Brennan launched the Real Presence Real Future initiative last year to bring the diocese into what he refers to as an updated 21st century version of the church. One of his plans in Brooklyn is to reach out to a younger generation of Catholics by utilizing media that

attract their attention.

"We're kind of operating in that Christian model where you make certain assumptions about the culture around you," he said. "And yet the world in the 21st century has changed enormously, and the needs of the world, the needs of the church, are greatly renewed. And so we have to meet the needs of today with the tools of today, not with the tools of yesterday. ... We have to find new ways of proclaiming the eternal truths of the gospel."

In addition to calling Bishop Brennan a good fit for the Brooklyn diocese, Bishop DiMarzio was asked to address at the news conference alleged sexual misconduct while he was serving as a priest more than 40 years ago. The Congregation of the Doctrine of Faith cleared the bishop in August after an independent investigation was conducted by former federal prosecutor John O'Donnell and a firm founded by former FBI director Louis Freeh. Two of Bishop DiMarzio's accusers are proceeding with private suits.

"My retirement has nothing to do with the investigation," Bishop DiMarzio said. "I think that investigation was second to none and found that there was no evidence of any kind of abuse. Obviously, there are civil cases still pending that are in New Jersey, because it supposedly happened in those early years when I was a priest. So we have to still deal with that and that'll keep me busy in my retirement, I'm sure."

Bishop Brennan expressed his confidence in the findings that led to Bishop DiMarzio's exoneration from the Vatican and also addressed the issue of sexual abuse in the Church.

"The church has been working hard over these 20 years to address problems of the past that affect the whole breadth of society, and the reality of child abuse and sex abuse is absolutely horrendous," he said. "It's lamentable, it's a cause of great shame, it's intolerable. And it's something that we are working hard to, first of all, preventing it from ever happening again.

"All dioceses across the United States a very robust programs of background investigations, of working with local law enforcement, of education, and an awareness of safe environment programs. ... I want us to be able to continue the good work in reaching out to those who have suffered and I applaud Bishop DiMarzio

Reassignment reaction: 'He will be very much missed'

By Tim Puet
For The Catholic Times

Clergy and lay leaders of the Diocese of Columbus reacted with both delight and disappointment to the Sept. 29 announcement that Bishop Robert Brennan will be leaving central Ohio to become bishop of the Diocese of Brooklyn, New York, on Nov. 30.

"I was rather bereft when I learned he would be going to Brooklyn but proud that Brooklyn was getting him," said Msgr. Stephan Moloney, pastor of Columbus St. Andrew Church and vicar general of the diocese, on the day the appointment was announced.

"I had felt ever since he became bishop 2 ½ years ago that he was just what the diocese needed. When I said Mass this morning and got to the part where we pray for Robert, our bishop, I thought, 'He's our bishop. Why does he have to go somewhere else?'"

"We worked closely together in our respective roles. He was always very kind and attentive to me and would often be asking about aspects of the diocese and individual parishes because of my long service to, and knowledge of, the diocese. I recognized he had great leadership qualities and knew better than I what the right course was for the diocese."

"I have a bittersweet feeling about the decision," said Deacon Thomas Berg Jr., diocesan chancellor. "I'm proud and happy for the people of the Diocese of Brooklyn because he will be a blessing to them, but there's also a sense of heartbreak because he's been such a strong and helpful leader for the past 2 ½ years. He will be very much missed."

Deacon Frank Iannarino, director of the diocesan Office of the Diaconate, received the news while returning from vacation. "It took us all by surprise," he said. "He was a great bishop with a great love for deacons and supported all our ministries and was the first bishop to appoint a deacon administrator for a diocesan parish." Deacon Iannarino serves in that role for Columbus St. John the Baptist Church.

"I know he had been looking forward to working with the next diaconate class. I'm sad he's leaving, but he made quite an impact and helped all of us walk through the COVID-19 pandemic."

"The Brooklyn diocese will be truly blessed," said Sister Patricia Twohill, OP, prioress of the Dominican Sisters of Peace. "Bishop Brennan is a true pastor and a natural collaborator. He is pastorally sensitive with a com-



Bishop Robert Brennan (left) receives a standing ovation at the Columbus Catholic Men's Luncheon Club gathering at Columbus St. Patrick Church on Friday, Oct. 1, two days after he was announced as the new bishop of Brooklyn, New York. Bishop Brennan celebrated the 11:45 a.m. Mass that preceded the meeting.

Photo courtesy Andy Mackey

passionate heart for the poor. We are grateful for all the many ways he has fostered unity in our local Church and for the inspiration he has provided through his actions and in support of our ministries."

"The bishop's presence in our school communities has been one of the greatest blessings bestowed upon us," said diocesan school Superintendent Adam Dufault. "You would be hard-pressed to find another bishop who has made so many visits to schools, celebrated school Masses and attended athletic events and other extracurricular activities."

"When you see the bishop's interactions with our students, you can see that their well-being, success and formation are his utmost priority. Each time he is in a school, he reminds students of how much he loves them and, more importantly, how God loves them."

Dufault noted that the bishop recently attended a Senior Night volleyball game at Columbus Bishop Ready High School against Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School and recognized the senior girls on both teams. He also was at the Sept. 24 football game at Columbus Bishop Hartley High School between Hartley and DeSales and visited the student section of each school, "laughing and engaging and just enjoying his time with them."

Bishop Brennan visited every parish in the diocese's 23 counties during his tenure, and sometimes those visits were surprises. "He's been here a few times, most recently a couple of weeks ago," said Deacon Don Robers of Logan St. John Church. "On that

occasion, he just showed up.

"Father (Stephen) Krile (the church's pastor) and I knew he was coming, but no one else did. He didn't want the parishioners to know because he wanted it to be a true pastoral visit, with nothing special to mark the occasion. Of course, the people were delighted to see him. I hate to see him go, because he's done an excellent job, but God's in charge, and I guess He's decided that the bishop is needed in Brooklyn, and the bishop is a New Yorker."

"When I heard the news of his appointment, I felt like crying on one hand and rejoicing on the other," said Father Robert Jager, pastor of Columbus St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church. "Bishop Brennan visited our congregation in January, and we were delighted to have him. This is a wonderful opportunity for him to go back home."

"The news certainly came as a surprise," said Jerry Freewalt, executive director of the Catholic Conference of Ohio and former director of the diocesan Office of Social Concerns. "The conference extends its heartfelt congratulations to Bishop Brennan and its deep appreciation for his service. It was a joy to work for him in the last 2 ½ years. He showed great leadership and promoted the joy of the Gospel to everyone he encountered."

"The life of a bishop is like that of a priest and like that of the Apostles," said Father Leo Connolly, pastor of Pickerington St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish and longtime chaplain of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office.

"You never know where the Holy Spirit is going to lead you and where

you'll be called to next. Bishop Brennan will face many challenges and surprises in Brooklyn, as he did when he came here, but the Spirit will guide him, as He will guide whoever succeeds Bishop Brennan here.

"Bishop Brennan will share the same enthusiasm and ministry of presence in Brooklyn that he did here, and he's returning to where his family and lifelong friends are while leaving many friends in Columbus."

"Bishop Brennan will indeed be sorely missed, as he has done so much for our diocese in his short time here," said Father Edward Shikina, pastor of Kenton Immaculate Conception and Ada Our Lady of Lourdes churches. "He has shown a love and concern even for those of us on the fringes."

"When we had our 40 Days of Adoration, he made it a point to stop in each of my two churches for Mass or to pray during our days of Adoration, even though we're on the farthest northwest corner of the diocese. By his presence, he was telling us that we were important, not forgotten. I will miss his joy, his zeal and his warm presence. His example has indeed made me a better priest and pastor."

"I am sincerely happy for him, and I imagine his parents, family and friends are undoubtedly celebrating his return to New York. At the same time, I feel a real sense of loss and sadness that he will be leaving the Diocese of Columbus," said Father David J. Young, pastor of Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church.

"His gifts for leadership, listening and insight have benefited our diocese in so many different ways. His compassionate guidance and encouragement will be felt for many years to come, I think, by our diocese and especially by our priests. I wish him all the best and will especially miss his genuine, fraternal style, his kindness and his sense of humor."

Msgr. Joseph Hendricks, pastor of Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church, said, "The appointment of Bishop Brennan to the Diocese of Brooklyn will be a wonderful gift to the diocese, the clergy and faithful. The gifts that Bishop Brennan shared with us, his positive attitude, his willingness to listen and his care for the poor set the Diocese of Columbus on a path for both spiritual growth and evangelization."

"While I personally will miss his leadership, I trust the Holy Spirit and the church to send a leader who will not only continue his legacy, but enhance it. To Bishop Brennan, Ad mul-

Bishop Brennan's opening statement at Brooklyn news conference

My parents celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary this summer. Until their wedding date in 1961, my father had lived his entire life in Ridgewood, most of that time on Himrod Street. They began their life together in the Bronx from where my mother came and then eventually moved out east to Suffolk County. My father served on the New York City Police Department for 24 years, most of the time working out of Flushing Meadow Park, and my brother serves now in Queens.

My own connection with Brooklyn/Queens was at St. John's University. For four years, I commuted on the LIRR to Jamaica and learned the bus system on what was then the Q43 and Q17A. As a student in Saint John's University in the heart of Queens, I first experienced the remarkable di-

versity of the Diocese of Brooklyn. The parishes of Brooklyn and Queens have long embraced the richness of that diversity and the bishops and diocesan leadership have sought to provide for, and learn from, immigrants from around the world. I intend to continue that journey in faith and I am eager to get to know each of the many and varied communities that form this amazing and unique diocese.

The Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Huntington was a shared work of sorts between the Dioceses of Rockville Centre and Brooklyn. I studied with, and was taught by a good number of priests from Brooklyn and through them came to know several others. I look forward to reacquainting myself with these amazing priests whom I admired a great deal. Many of

the congregations of religious sisters and brothers with whom I had the honor of working in Rockville Centre have their roots right here in Brooklyn. You know my respect and love – I am happy to be together again.

Two and a half years ago, Pope Francis sent me to Columbus, Ohio. I would often say that I went from 1.5 million Catholics in two largely suburban counties to 300,000 thousand Catholics in 23 counties consisting of urban, suburban and rural life.

Well, things come full circle, don't they? Here I stand, back to 1.5 million Catholics in two counties – this time largely urban – back in the land of my father's home. Here, to serve you as your pastor.

For sure, there are many differences that I experience going from Nassau/

Suffolk to Central Ohio and now back to Brooklyn/Queens. Nevertheless, one thing is constant: God's people are good. God's people are holy. God's people are generous. We love Jesus and aim to walk with him. We find strength knowing he walks with us. We are far from perfect but we give it our best and rely on His mercy.

Loved by Jesus, we strive to show others his face, bearing the Joy of the Gospel and the Splendor of Truth. In the end, isn't that what we are all about?

As an aside, I suppose it doesn't hurt that though born in the Bronx, I was born in 1962 as were the New York Mets and to an avid Brooklyn Dodger fan. Of course, I grew up with the Mets and remain a fan through thick and thin! And it will be fun to get back to see St. John's Red Storm!

'PERFECT GUY,' continued from Page 5

for his own commitment to working with those who have suffered this abuse. I think that the issue of abuse again, while we feel a particular shame because the Church has a certain responsibility, it is a societal problem. We're committed -- really committed -- not so let this happen again."

Young people in particular have become disenfranchised and disconnected with the Church for various reasons. To regain their trust, Bishop Brennan said he "would say very simply that I understand, that I'm sorry, and that I hope that as you look at what's been done and what we seek to continue to do what we can to rebuild that trust, to attract people, to get them excited about the Catholic Church."

"We need to show that the message of the gospel is relevant for people here and now, not just in the past," he continued. "The tools are new, but the message is eternal. The message is the same as the gospel of Jesus Christ, and it's a gospel that can transform lives. So we have to meet people where they are. We have to get ourselves into the world in which people live.

"That's going to be a big commitment of mine to try to walk in those

REACTION, continued from Page 6

tos annos! (Latin for, "May you live for many more years!")

"I am still absorbing this news," said Father Jonathan Wilson, pastor of Westerville St. Paul Church. "It was his generous 'Yes' to the Lord that brought him to Columbus 2 1/2 years ago, and it is his continued 'Yes' that will take him to Brooklyn. I have been consistently inspired by his pastoral care, his zeal, his dedication, his virtue and his visionary leadership.

worlds and share, as I say often, the joy of the Gospel and the splendor of truth."

Addressing the ongoing challenge of the coronavirus pandemic, Bishop Brennan said continuing the return to worship is part of an ongoing evangelization that includes the U.S. bishops' call for a Eucharistic revival. An effort to bring people together is also being launched in the Brooklyn diocese.

"Let's take this as an opportunity really to recover the great sense of what it means to live life in the Church, what it means to be able to appreciate the Eucharist and to gather together for prayer," Bishop Brennan said. "COVID was an unfortunate thing, but it gives us an opportunity to be able to appreciate what we have to move forward, to do so with charity but also to spark rekindle that fire of faith, hope and love."

The message that Brooklyn's new bishop wants to communicate to the diocese "is a very simple one and it's that God is real, that God matters, that God loves us an awful lot. His love can transform us. And so I want to invite you to experience that fullness of God's love in the Church by partici-

"He modeled for all of us what it looks like to be disciple of Jesus Christ who announces the joy of the Gospel and the splendor of the truth. Bishop Brennan would be the first to say that our mission was never about him, but it was always about the Lord."

"I have been inspired by his leadership and genuine care for all of us in our diocese," said Father James Black, pastor of Powell St. Joan of Arc Church. "While he will be gone,

pating in the life faith by participating in life in the sacraments.

"We need inside the church to be absolutely, positively convinced of the message of Jesus Christ, and that he and he alone is really the answer to every human need. It's not about me, I'm not going to bring lots of people back, but what I think I can do is I think I can motivate and work with all of us so that together the whole church here can become fire of evangelization, disciples of Jesus Christ who know him and love him deeply and want to share that with others and show how his gospel, and His life, death and resurrection changes everything."

In the Diocese of Columbus, Bishop Brennan was actively involved in supporting Catholic schools, and he plans to be similarly engaged in Brooklyn's parochial schools, which have the seventh largest enrollment in the United States.

"They're excellent schools, but they're also places where people encounter Jesus Christ in His Church," he said. "That's going to be a high priority for me, and to be honest with you. I think our Catholic schools have something to offer to the young peo-

ple and the families who go there."

his inspiration will remain to me as a priest and to our diocese for his courageous efforts in planning for our future through the Real Presence Real Future initiative. He has started us down a good path, and the same Holy Spirit that accompanies us down that path will guide him as he tends a new flock."

"Brooklyn's lucky," said Erin Cordle, associate director of the diocesan Office for Social Concerns. "He's

Bishop Brennan is a product of Catholic schools himself, attending grade school and high school on Long Island and college at St. John's. He said he has always felt a calling to the priesthood.

"When I finished high school, I knew I wanted to be a priest, but I really also wanted to experience university life, and St John's just seemed so attractive to me," he said. "In high school, because of some of the teachers I had, I grew to love math. And so when I went to St John's, I majored in math."

Math didn't necessarily prepare him for the priesthood, but "there's a way of logic, of working your way through a proof, for example, that's based on truth. It doesn't change.

"One of the things that I'll often say is that our Catholic schools are about educating the whole person, and faith is at the center of it. When I visit with the kids, I'll say, 'Do you learn math here?'" Yes. "Do you learn science, do you learn global studies?" The more you delve into the truth of these human subjects the more you encounter the reality of God."

made quite an impact on our diocese in the short time he's been here, moving it forward and promoting unity among its people in the different types of areas it covers.

"His focus on social justice and taking care of the other has been very important, and he's been supportive of all our office's initiatives, most recently Walking with Moms in Need. His people-oriented, approachable style will go well in Brooklyn."

What they're saying about Bishop Brennan's new assignment

In the diocese

Bill Messerly, executive director, St. Gabriel Catholic Radio:

"I remember the surreal feelings that I had when Doug Bean, the editor of The Catholic Times, and I were sitting next to each other waiting to speak to Bishop Brennan shortly after the announcement. As he walked into the room you could see that he was very emotional. I can attest to the fact that his love for the people in the Columbus diocese is very genuine. He recorded a video message first and I was touched that he had to restart it because he needed to gather himself. I began to silently ask Mary to help him and all of us. We have been blessed by his faithful leadership and for his constant encouragement to stay unified in our love of God and others."

John Swisher, executive director, Sacred Heart Enthronement Network:

"We were very disappointed that the Holy Father has decided to move Bishop Brennan, but we are thrilled that he is being given this opportunity to lead and shepherd more Catholics. We were very blessed in the way he had a profound impact on the Sacred Heart Enthronement Network. He has blessed it and supported it and helped propel us to better-known throughout the diocese and with our national and online efforts. By celebrating Mass at all of our Sacred Heart Congresses since he came here, it gave them an official seal and of approval which has helped us become recognized in the diocese and beyond."

Chuck Mifsud, former regional hospitaller of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Rhodes and Malta, commonly known as the Knights of Malta:

"First of all, I'm very happy for Bishop Brennan and know he will do well in his new diocese, and he will be closer to home. I got to know and love him and will miss him terribly. He was a perfect fit for Columbus. In the way he engaged in everything and was everywhere, he truly was a great bishop. We approached him and he became involved with us and attended a lot of our events. He said Mass for us on our patronal feast day, the Feast of St. John the Baptist, and came to our annual dinner every year except when it was canceled by COVID, and for a small group like us, that meant a great deal. He was extremely sup-

portive of the Center of Care we established in the St. John Center next to Columbus Holy Rosary-St. John Church. He toured it on several occasions and always urged us to continue our work."

Chris Sarka, state warden of the Knights of Columbus:

"The news was such a shock to all of us that it's hard to think of something to say. Like many others, we are obviously saddened to be losing such a great, influential leader, but we've been very blessed and fortunate to have him. He touched and impacted so many of us. As Brother Knights, we will always support him and keep him in our prayers and will always respond to him if he is in need."

Patrick Shroyer, chairman of the pastoral board, Columbus Catholic Renewal:

"Among the things he spoke about at this afternoon's Catholic Men's Luncheon Club meeting was the role of the Holy Spirit in today's Church. I spoke to him afterwards and thanked him for doing that, and told him how appreciative we were that he twice was the celebrant of the Pentecost Mass we and the Damascus Catholic Mission Campus sponsor. He would have been there a third time if it weren't for COVID. It meant so much to us that the bishop embraced the renewal movement of the Holy Spirit and how much it is needed. I know many non-Catholics who also recognized what he meant to the Columbus area. I would have liked to see him be bishop of Columbus for 10 more years, but the Holy Spirit had other plans for him. He wasn't a bishop who was just interested in programs, but one who responded to the Church's need with true hope and true zeal."

Tom Murphy, president of the Downtown Columbus Serra Club:

"We're sad to see him go, but happy that he will be coming back to New York, and hope the next bishop will carry on and complete the things Bishop Brennan has started, such as Real Presence Real Future. He was totally supportive of both Columbus Serra Clubs. He loved our annual altar server awards program and passed out the awards every year. He was so gracious, with the God-given ability to reach out to the eighth-graders and high schoolers who received the awards and to their parents as well."

Around the country

Bishop Edward Malesic of Cleveland:

"I have known Bishop Brennan for many years. I congratulate him on this appointment and know that he will bring his energy, wisdom, and faith to the people of the Diocese of Brooklyn. We pray that the Holy Father provide a new shepherd for the Diocese of Columbus who will be able to carry on the good work of Bishop Brennan and his predecessors."

Bishop Jeffrey Monforton of Steubenville:

"God bless my good brother Bishop Robert Brennan on Pope Francis' announcement he will be the next Bishop of Brooklyn. May the Good Shepherd continue to strengthen him with his manifold grace in his service to the people of God."

Cardinal Timothy Dolan, archbishop of New York:

"It is a joy to 'welcome home' Bishop Robert Brennan, as he returns to the Province of New York to serve as the eighth Bishop of the Diocese of Brooklyn. During my over 12 years as Archbishop of New York, I have come to know him as a fine priest and bishop, a warm individual, and a good friend. As Bishop of Columbus, and before that as an auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Center, he has shown himself to be not only a

capable administrator, but also a true pastor, with a deep love of God's people."

Bishop John O. Barres of Rockville Centre, New York:

"The clergy, religious, and laity of the Diocese of Rockville Centre celebrate and rejoice with the Diocese of Brooklyn in our Holy Father's appointment of Bishop-Designate Robert Brennan as the Eighth Bishop of Brooklyn. Born in the Bronx, raised and ordained on Long Island and college educated in Queens, Bishop Brennan's holiness, missionary zeal, humility, intelligence and pastoral experience will serve and inspire the Diocese of Brooklyn, New York City, New York State and the Universal Church. It is a great joy to welcome Bishop Brennan home to New York and to have the opportunity to serve with him again in the New York Province."

Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of Brooklyn:

"Today, I welcome Bishop-designate Robert Brennan, as the eighth Bishop of Brooklyn. I have known Bishop Brennan for many years, and have great confidence in his ability to lead the Brooklyn Diocese, and build upon the pastoral achievements we have made."

Bishop joins Byzantine Catholics



Bishop Robert Brennan came to Columbus St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Church on Oct. 4 for the liturgy and 60th anniversary celebration. Photo/St. John Chrysostom Church



Real Presence Real Future

Reflections

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Oct. 10, 2021

Real Presence, Real Future reflections:

He Loves Us!

Stephanie Rapp, St. Paul Church, Westerville & RPRF Commission Member:

The young man in today's Gospel appears to approach Jesus with good intentions, yet also brings his brokenness, wounds, and pride. Jesus knew him and his heart, and he looked at Him with love while calling him deeper. Jesus does the same for us today, perfectly loving us wherever we are, yet inviting us into a deeper relationship with Him and asking us to cast aside anything that's in our way. This is impossible for us, but not for Him. Everything is possible with our Lord, whose Real Presence is always with us, looking at us lovingly and leading us into the Real Future to which He invites us.

For more about the life of faith and discipleship in the Diocese of Columbus, visit www.RealPresenceRealFuture.org.

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Oct. 17, 2021

Real Presence, Real Future reflections:

Serving by Letting Go

Deacon Jeff Carpenter, St. Bernadette Church, Lancaster

The apostles today are thinking about heaven but misapplying earthly logic. Like the Apostles, we too can crave places of honor and earthly things. But with God, we need to let go of these, especially as we plan for the future of our diocese. God, infinite source of love and dignity, is fully present to those who turn to him so to be His servants in this life. Serving God offers far more dignity than efforts to be earthly kings. We experience this dignity with the Real Presence in the Eucharist, through which, even with the tiniest fragments, we receive the full body, blood soul and divinity of Christ.

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XXVIII Domingo del tiempo ordinario, 10 de octubre, 2021

Reflexiones Presencia Real, Futuro Real: ¡Él nos ama!

Stephanie Rapp, Parroquia San Pablo y miembro de la comisión PRFR

El hombre del evangelio de hoy parece acercarse a Jesús con buenas intenciones, pero también lleva consigo su quebrantamiento, heridas y orgullo. Jesús lo conoce y sabe lo que hay en su corazón, Él lo mira con amor mientras le hace el llamado. Jesús hace hoy lo mismo con nosotros, amándonos perfectamente en donde estemos, invitándonos a tener una profunda relación con Él y pidiéndonos que dejemos a un lado todo lo que nos obstruye el camino. Esto es imposible para nosotros, pero no para Él. Todo es posible con nuestro Señor, cuya Presencia Real está siempre con nosotros, mirándonos amorosamente y guiándonos hacia el Futuro Real al cual Él nos invita.

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

XXIX Domingo del tiempo ordinario, 17 de octubre, 2021

Reflexiones Presencia Real, Futuro Real: Sirviendo dejándolo pasar

Diacono Jeff Carpenter, Parroquia Santa Bernardita, Lancaster

En el evangelio de hoy, los apóstoles están pensando en el cielo, pero con la lógica terrenal. Como los apóstoles, nosotros también tenemos deseos de sitios de honor y otras cosas de este mundo. Pero con Dios, necesitamos despojarnos de todo eso, especialmente mientras planeamos el futuro de nuestra diócesis. Dios, infinita fuente de amor y dignidad, está presente para aquellos que se vuelven hacia Él para ser sus siervos en esta vida. Servir a Dios ofrece mucha más solemnidad que cualquier otro esfuerzo de rey humano. Experimentamos la solemnidad con la Presencia Real en la Eucaristía, a través del cual, incluso con los fragmentos más pequeños, recibimos la totalidad del cuerpo, sangre, alma y divinidad de Cristo.

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.



Real Presence Real Future



Increasing the presence of Christ throughout the Diocese and upholding the Faith for future generations.

Learn more at:

www.RealPresenceRealFuture.org




Real Presence Real Future

Parish Consultation Sessions Sign Up Today!

Join fellow parishioners for your Real Presence, Real Future Parish Consultation Session in the coming weeks. Two Parish Consultation Sessions will be held in a virtual format via Zoom for each parish in the Diocese.

Facilitators will guide you 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

Register today to attend and encourage fellow parishioners to do the same! To find the dates for your parish's sessions and to register to attend, go to: www.realpresencerealfuture.org.

For assistance, contact hello@columbuscatholic.org.



Local news and events

Sacred Heart Congress set for Nov. 6 at St. Paul Church

The 10th annual diocesan Sacred Heart Congress will take place from 9:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, Nov. 6 at Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church, 313 N. State St. It also will be available online.

Bishop Robert Brennan is scheduled to celebrate Mass, the master of ceremonies will be St. Gabriel Radio executive director Bill Messerly, and there will be presentations by Father Joseph Laramie, SJ; Father Peter John Cameron, OP; and Emily Jaminet.

Father Laramie is national director of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, formerly known as the Apostleship of Prayer. This 175-year-old Jesuit ministry promotes devotion to the Sacred Heart, Ignatian spirituality and the pope's monthly prayer intentions. He also is the author of *Abide in the Heart of Christ*, a 10-day personal retreat based on St. Ignatius Loyola's *Spiritual Exercises*.

Father Cameron is the prior of Columbus St. Patrick Priory, the founding editor in chief of the *Magnificat* monthly worship aid, and an instructor at the Pontifical College Josephinum. He also served two terms as director of preaching for the St. Joseph Province of the Dominican order and is the founder and artistic director of Blackfriars Repertory Theater in New York City.

Jaminet lives in Columbus and is executive director of the Sacred Heart Enthronement Network. She is the co-founder of www.inspirethefaith.com, co-host of the Inspire the Faith podcast and the author of books about the Sacred Heart, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and St. Faustina Kowalska.

For more details, go to www.welcomehisheart.com/sacred-heart-congress.

Our Lady of Peace to host festival, chili cookoff

Columbus Our Lady of Peace Church, 20 E. Dominion Blvd., will be the site of a fall festival and chili cookoff for the city's Clintonville neighborhood on Saturday, Oct. 23 from 5 to 7 p.m.

A gift card will be awarded to the cookoff winner. Rules are at www.olg-parish.org. There also will be a contest for carved pumpkins, with the winner receiving a gift card, plus pumpkin painting, cornhole, hayrides and other activities. Hot dogs and apple cider will be served.

The parish said the event is not a

fundraiser or a "recruiting" activity, but an attempt to help Clintonville residents regain the sense of belonging and connection they felt before the COVID-19 pandemic, while being mindful of health and safety concerns. More parish events for the community are planned for the coming year.

St. Christopher mission features Divine Mercy expert

Tim McAndrew, a nationally known expert on Divine Mercy, will be the featured speaker for a parish mission at Columbus St. Christopher Church, 1420 Grandview Ave., that will take place from 6 to 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 25 through Wednesday, Oct. 27.

McAndrew will present "My Conversion through the Two Women I Love: St. Faustina and Our Lady. The Graces that Come through the Image" on Monday evening and "Why We Need to Prepare Ourselves for Our Mother's Flame of Love to Triumph through Divine Mercy: To Blind Satan and Bring about Conversion" on Tuesday night.

Bishop Robert Brennan will celebrate Mass at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 27, on the final night of the mission.

A Eucharistic miracles exhibit will be on display during the mission.

St. Christopher also offers Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Monday through Friday throughout the year during the Divine Mercy hour starting at 3 p.m. Mass follows at 4 p.m.

For more information, contact the parish at 614-754-8888.

Catholic Renewal plans Mass, praise event

Columbus Catholic Renewal will sponsor a citywide Mass and praise program featuring testimony from recovering cancer patient Angel Fox from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 25 at Columbus Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 5225 Refugee Road.

Fox's talk, titled "I'm No Angel but I'm a Miracle," will be a message of hope and power and about how she was healed from cancer in 2019.

No food will be served, but participants may bring a snack. Limited child care will be available on request. To reserve child care, call Cheryl at (614) 861-1242.

Columbus Catholic Renewal is an approved diocesan charismatic renewal organization under the author-

School enthroned to Sacred Heart



Delaware St. Mary School completed the process of enthronement to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on Wednesday, Sept. 8, the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Father Brett Garland, pastor of St. Mary School, is shown presenting a student with a certificate commemorating the event. The enthronement was completed in connection with materials and images provided by the Sacred Heart Enthronement Network, a national apostolate based in the Diocese of Columbus, that promotes devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The enthronement to the Sacred Heart was completed at a school Mass where Father Garland blessed images of the Sacred Heart and students took the images back to each classroom, where they will be displayed for ongoing devotion and prayer.

Photo courtesy Sacred Heart Enthronement Network

ity of Bishop Robert Brennan.

St. Christopher Church, 1420 Grandview Ave., offers Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during the Divine Mercy hour starting at 3 p.m. Monday through Friday followed by Mass at 4 p.m.

St. Pius X opens addition, adds Adoration times

Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church, 1051 S. Waggoner Road, has opened an addition to its narthex which includes a Eucharistic Adoration chapel dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The parish is offering Eucharistic Exposition and Adoration every Wednesday from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 9 p.m. in the chapel and continuing its Holy Hour from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesdays on the main altar of the

church. Confessions usually are available during the Holy Hour.

Franciscan to sponsor vocations awareness day

Franciscan University of Steubenville will sponsor a religious vocations awareness day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 8 in Finnegan Fieldhouse.

About 30 religious communities and dioceses will be represented at the annual event, including the Diocese of Steubenville, the Franciscan friars and sisters, Dominicans, Carmelites and many more.

The event will be sponsored by the university's priestly discernment program. For more information, contact Lucia Bortz at lbortz@franciscan.edu.

Danville St. Luke to celebrate bicentennial after one-year delay

By Tim Puet

For *The Catholic Times*

Danville St. Luke Church, one of the oldest churches in the Diocese of Columbus, was ready to mark its 200th anniversary last year with a bicentennial Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Robert Brennan on Saturday, Aug. 15, the Feast of the Assumption.

But like so many other events in 2020, the Mass was postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Bishop Brennan will be in Danville on Sunday, Oct. 17 – the day before the Feast of St. Luke – to celebrate a 201st anniversary Mass at 4 p.m., followed by a barbecue chicken dinner in the parish community center.

“This worked out well because of the way the Mass will coincide with the feast day and because more people will be able to see it,” said Father Mark Hammond, pastor of both St. Luke and Knox County’s other Catholic parish, Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul.

“Because of the distancing requirements in place last year, we were going to limit the congregation for the anniversary Mass in the church itself to 72 people, with the Mass being livestreamed to the parish community center next door for the rest of those who came.

“Those requirements are no longer in place, so the church should be able to hold the number of worshippers expected, and we now can have a meal afterward. Because of the effects of the delta variant of COVID, we’ll still be wearing masks, as we would have done last year.”

The parish was in the midst of a five-month renovation project for the anniversary when the pandemic brought most public life to a halt in Ohio in mid-March 2020, with all of the state’s churches remaining closed until the end of May. The renovation, which started on Jan. 2, proceeded during the closure, with Masses taking place in the community center. The church was reopened when restrictions were eased.

The church’s interior, statues and a depiction of the Last Supper were repainted; a new pulpit, new wood floors and new Stations of the Cross were put in place; a new heating, ventilating and air conditioning system was installed; the carpet was taken up; the pews were upholstered; kneelers were added; and a new granite top was placed on the altar.

Parish bookkeeper Sandy Mickley said activities in the parish, which has about 300 families, are slowly resuming. “We started in-person Parish School of Religion classes this past March, after a period of homeschooling with contact made weekly, and Bishop Brennan was



Danville St. Luke Church *File photo*

here for confirmation in June.

“The parish’s Knights of Columbus council will begin the anniversary activities with a fish fry on Friday, Oct. 15 from 5 to 7 p.m. in the parish center and sponsored a drive-thru chicken dinner in August.” COVID caused the parish’s annual turkey dinner in November to be drive-thru only and its annual festival to be canceled in 2020 and this year.

“Walking With Purpose Bible study groups for women have resumed on Mondays and Tuesdays, and a new adult education program titled The Search is taking place on Thursday evenings. Parish Council meetings are still on Zoom. We’re adding four hours to our Eucharistic Adoration on Tuesdays,” Mickley said.

Adoration currently takes place from 11:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays (to be extended to 11:30 p.m.) and 5:30 to 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays. The parish also has First Saturday devotions at 9:15 a.m. from July to December. The devotions take place at the Mount Vernon parish at the same time during the first six months of the year.

Masses at the Danville church, located at 307 S. Market St. (U.S. Route 62) are at 5 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. Sunday, 11 a.m. Tuesday and Wednesday and 8 a.m. Thursday. The two Knox County parishes are served by Father Hammond as pastor, Father Daniel Olivera as parochial vicar and Deacon Tim Birie. Retired

Father Homer Blubaugh, who lives nearby, frequently celebrates Mass in Danville.

“People began slowly coming back to church last year after the shutdown,” Mickley said. “Most of those who regularly attend Sunday Masses appear to have returned before the delta variant started becoming widespread in September. Now the congregations are getting smaller again, and it’s hard to say what will happen next.”

St. Luke Church says it is the second-oldest Catholic parish in the state, predated only by Somerset St. Joseph, founded two years earlier. Lancaster St. Mary and Junction City St. Patrick churches also list 1820 as the year of their beginning. All four trace their roots to Dominican Father (later Bishop) Edward Fenwick, OP, Ohio’s first Catholic priest, and his nephew Father Nicholas Young, OP.

The parish roster includes about 70 people with the last names of Mickley, Durbin, Colopy, Sapp, Blubaugh or Hawk. Most of those families have been part of the parish for most of its history. George Sapp Jr. and his wife, Catherine, were the first Catholics to settle in what is now Danville. They came in 1805 and were followed soon afterward from Maryland by the Sapps. Danville was named after George Sapp Jr.’s brother Daniel.

The first St. Luke Church, a log structure, was built on land donated by George Sapp Sr. The current church building, dedicated in 1877, is the fourth to serve the parish.

A bicentennial history lists 34 people – eight priests, three brothers and 23 sisters – from St. Luke who have answered God’s call to a religious vocation. Five of the priests were Fathers Carl, Clarence, Samuel, Clement and Walter Durbin, each of whom was from a separate branch of the Durbin family. Six of the sisters from the parish also were Durbins. Two current diocesan priests – Father Blubaugh and Father James Colopy, parochial vicar at Lancaster St. Mary Church – are part of the Durbin family tree.

Father Hammond is the 20th pastor in

the parish’s 201 years. Its longest-tenured pastors were Father John Brent (1851-1874), its third pastor, who was a Danville native; Father Clement Teipe (1912-1950); and Father Richard Snoke (1987-2012).

Father Snoke was a co-founder of the Association of Danville Area Ministers (ADAM), which consists of the pastors of St. Luke and many of the area’s Protestant churches. Every Thursday in Lent, except Holy Thursday, St. Luke hosts a noontime interdenominational prayer service sponsored by ADAM, followed by lunch in the parish community center, with the pastors taking turns offering Lenten reflections.

The community center, built in 1969, includes religious education classrooms, the parish offices and a dining hall that seats 500 people and is the site of many events sponsored by community groups not affiliated with the parish. These include Red Cross blood drives, vaccination clinics, wedding receptions, banquets and some Danville High School activities. The school and the church are across the street from each other.

Father Snoke and his ministerial colleagues also started the Sanctuary Community Action center and the Interchurch Social Services organization, which are located in separate buildings across from the church. The organizations are separate but often work together.

Sanctuary, which is not affiliated with any religious organization, provides a central location for social services programs including home-delivered meals, immunization clinics, the Women, Infants and Children program, legal aid, tax preparation and senior citizens assistance. Interchurch Social Services is an emergency needs provider, has a food pantry and offers aid for rent and utility bills, clothing and medical transport and prescription assistance.

For more information about St. Luke Church, go to www.stluketanvilleoh.org or call (740) 599-6362.

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Ideas offered for praying rosary during October

By Tim Puet
For *The Catholic Times*

For the past century, October has been particularly dedicated by the Catholic Church to the Virgin Mary because she made her last of six appearances to three shepherd children on Oct. 13, 1917 in Fatima, Portugal.

In each of those appearances, Our Lady of Fatima asked people to pray the rosary daily. One of the children, Lucia dos Santos, described the rosary as “the most pleasing prayer we can offer to God and one which is most advantageous to our own souls. If such were not the case, Our Lady would not have asked for it so insistently.”

Pope St. Pius X said, “The rosary is the most beautiful and the most rich in graces of all prayers; it is the prayer that touches most the heart of the mother of God. ... If you wish peace to reign in your homes, recite the family rosary.”

The diocesan Office of Marriage and Family Life (MFL) is inviting parishes and families to pray the rosary in October and throughout the year and is inviting parishes to place special emphasis on the rosary on Family Rosary Sunday, Oct. 11.

To encourage the devotion, the office has put together ways in which the rosary may be prayed individually, in families or in groups, in person or online.

“One of the best things about the rosary is that it’s a form of prayer for everyone and can take place anywhere at any time,” said the office’s director, Stephanie Rapp. “We want to encourage praying the rosary within families as a way of building up the home as a domestic Church and within parishes as one large family.”

The MFL office is presenting three options for parish celebrations of Family Rosary Sunday. The first involves inviting families to pray the rosary at home on the days leading to Oct. 17 and having them bring a flower or a candle to offer to Our Lady after Mass.

“There are many ways to have a family rosary experience,” Rapp said. “It doesn’t have to be limited to a family sitting at home and reciting a whole rosary at once. It can be split into a decade each night or prayed on a walk or in the car. We invite everyone to take the next step in bringing this beautiful prayer into your life and your family.”

A second option is a virtual family rosary in which every household in a



In place of the Family Rosary Sunday held last year at St. Joseph Cathedral, the Office of Marriage and Family Life is encouraging parishes throughout the diocese to promote praying the rosary individually, as a family or in groups on a Zoom conference call on Sunday, Oct. 11.

parish is invited to pray the rosary together in a Zoom conference call at a specific time.

One possible way to do this would have a parish’s pastor or parochial vicar or another parish representative recite the opening prayers of the rosary, with a particular family or individual leading each of its five decades.

“Because of COVID-19, many parishes have grown comfortable using Zoom to bring various ministries and the experience of community into individual homes. We have presented parishes with an option to use this platform to empower families to pray in the home, unified with their parishes,” said Catherine Suprenant, marriage preparation coordinator for the MFL office. “Families can participate from the comfort of home, whether just for a decade or for the whole rosary.”

“We’ve learned during the last year-and-a-half that Zoom is an effective way of promoting parish unity and of seeing the parish as a family of families,” Rapp said. “Besides having different families or individuals leading each decade, parents and children within a family could take turns praying each Hail Mary, depending on the size of the family, as another way of showing the rosary is for everyone from young children to senior citizens.”

The office’s third Family Rosary Sunday option is a tailgate party in a church parking lot or other parish gathering place in which parishioners are invited to enjoy friendship and

food together, followed by recitation of the rosary, led by persons representing different ages and stages of family life.

“There are all sorts of things that may be done with this option, depending on what a parish has available,” said Jennifer Fullin, Natural Family Planning coordinator for the MFL office.

“Cars can be decorated in honor of Our Lady. A musician could be invited to lead the congregation in songs of praise to Mary. There could be space for family activities such as drawing pictures of Mary or making rosaries. Another possible option is making a large set of rosary beads out of log segments or paving stones made in sequence for children to follow.

“If weather or pandemic precautions prevent these activities from taking place, families can stay by their cars offering prayers and songs and can be given bags of food and drink to continue the celebration at home.”

Besides its suggestions for parish rosary celebrations, the office has put together several ideas for families to incorporate the rosary into their daily lives through a variety of prayer methods. These include:

- **Relay Rosary** – Rather than trying to fit in the whole rosary at once, focus on one decade each night, with a different family member leading each decade.

- **Rosary Walk** – Take the family outside with their rosaries for physical and spiritual exercise. You can even create a decade of “beads” out



Bishop Robert Brennan prays the rosary during last year’s Family Rosary Sunday at St. Joseph Cathedral.

CT photos by Ken Snow

of garden stones in your back yard or out of sidewalk chalk in the driveway.

- **Rosary Bouquet** – Put a vase in front of an image of Mary and have fresh or artificial flowers available. With each Hail Mary, a family member sets a flower in the vase. This visual reminds the family to make the rosary a gift of love.

- **Walk-By Rosary** – Put a cord with 10 beads where it will be at the center of the household’s activity. Individuals can silently pray a Hail Mary when walking by and pull a bead to the other end of the cord. The family works together to complete the decade by the end of each day.

- **Picture Rosary** – Use photos of the mysteries of the rosary (for example, from a book on the rosary, printed online, or projected on a screen) to enter into the life of Jesus and Mary with your imagination. Ask the family questions about how they imagined the scene afterward and how they reacted to the mystery.

“Since prayer is a relationship, it develops with time and attention,” Rapp said. “Regardless of what your household looks like, these are some creative ways to bring Mary’s favorite prayer into the life of your family as part of the individual call to holiness for each of its members. When you approach Mary, she cannot help but draw you closer to her and to her son, Our Lord Jesus Christ.”

For more information on Family Rosary Sunday, contact the Marriage and Family Life Office at (614) 241-2560 or familylife@columbuscatholic.org.

Rosary's Luminous Mysteries inspire discipleship

By Sister John Paul Maher, OP

When the Luminous Mysteries of the rosary were first announced in 2002, people were surprised, to say the least. Eventually, people wondered, why hadn't this been done sooner?

In retrospect, it seems fitting that in God's providence, the pope, tasked with setting the Church on a path for the third millennium, would also discern the need for mysteries of the rosary that inspire discipleship.

Pope John Paul II introduced the Luminous Mysteries in his apostolic letter, the Rosary of the Virgin Mary (*Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, 2002). They were intended to bring a fresh perspective to a traditional prayer (RVM, 19). In particular, they portray the time in which Christ called and walked with his disciples on earth.

John Paul wrote about the "spiritual journey" today's disciple experiences in praying the rosary, in which the "demanding ideal of being conformed" to Christ takes place by "the constant contemplation – in Mary's company – of the face of Christ" (RVM, 15).

Pope Francis also sees a connection between the power of Mary's accompaniment and being a disciple. He says that, without Mary "we could never truly understand the spirit of the new evangelization" (*The Joy of the Gospel*, *Evangelii Gaudium*, 284, 2013). There is deep connection between Mary and the evangelization carried out by Christ's disciples.

The rosary provides us with a "training in holiness" by contemplating the mysteries of Christ (RVM, 5). Meditating on the events of Scripture

helps a disciple "learn" Christ. As John Paul wrote: "Christ is the supreme Teacher, the revealer and the one revealed. It is not just a question of learning what he taught but of "learning him." In this regard, could we have any better teacher than Mary? From the divine standpoint, the Spirit is the interior teacher who leads us to the full truth of Christ (compare John 14:26, 15:26, 16:13). But among creatures no one knows Christ better than Mary; no one can introduce us to a profound knowledge of his mystery better than his Mother" (RVM, 14).

During the rosary, disciples can know that Mary is interceding for them, praying they will grow in their knowledge and love of Christ.

In the First Luminous Mystery, the Baptism in the Jordan, we are reminded that at the heart of discipleship is an immersion into a life-giving relationship with the Holy Trinity. In Jesus' commissioning to go and "make disciples of all nations, baptizing them," we see a connection to the universal call to holiness emphasized in the Second Vatican Council and central to the new evangelization of disciples.

In the Second Luminous Mystery, the Wedding of Cana, we remember Mary's intercession and her accompaniment as she gently encourages us to act, to take the steps to make Christ known. We also learn that hope belongs to the disciple in a special way, knowing the Lord can save the best wine for last.

In the Third Luminous Mystery, the Proclamation of the Kingdom of God, we keep in mind that people cannot believe if they have not heard about Christ from true witnesses. We are called to be disciples who live the Gospel by our works of mercy while

continually accepting our own call to conversion.

We proclaim the kingdom of God by our own commitment to receive the sacraments and to welcome Jesus' saving power in our lives, again and again.

In the Fourth Luminous Mystery, the Transfiguration, we are aware that the glory of God is always with us, even if we hide our faces from this brilliance. Christ's disciples learn that His consolation and comfort may be occasional gifts, but they are not to be sought in themselves. Rather, disciples must press on, like Christ, putting the Father's will and the good of souls above all else. We must be focused on the heavenly Jerusalem.

In the Fifth Luminous Mystery, the Institution of the Eucharist, disciples find the desire of their hearts. Christ delivers on His promise to remain with the disciples always (Matthew 28:20) by giving Himself in the Holy Eucharist and by instituting the holy priesthood. This mystery is the source and summit of all discipleship.

In sum, the Luminous Mysteries offer the disciple of Christ an opportunity to travel through Christ's public ministry with Him, observing in the Scriptural accounts how Christ brought His Father's love to the world.

As we pray the rosary, let us join with Pope Francis by asking Mary to "help us proclaim the message of salvation to all and to enable new disciples to become evangelizers in turn" (EG, 287).

Sister John Paul Maher, OP, is the principal at Worthington St. Michael School and a member of the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist.

Prison's Rosary Group offers respite within the walls

By Michele Williams

There is power in numbers. We all know when two or three are gathered in His name, God is with them (Matthew 18:20). In much the same way, I believe when 20 or 30 women inmates are gathered to pray the rosary, Mother Mary joins us. Sometimes her presence is almost palpable.

I have been a member of the Ohio Reformatory for Women's Rosary Group since its inception about 15 years ago. In the early days, just a few of us met on Saturday mornings to pray in a spare room in the Recovery and Religious Services (R and R) building.

Through the years, our group has grown considerably, and now we meet on Sunday afternoons in the smaller of two chapels in the R and R building where we also have Mass on Thursday mornings. Ours is a fluid group, and many of our participants have come and gone, some joining for a season, some staying until their release from prison.

We welcome everyone: new people who have never prayed the rosary, fallen away Catholics who are looking to start over and cradle Catholics longing for a sense of community.

One of six prison ministry volunteers from Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church joins us every week. These individuals are as devoted to Mary as they are to us. Some have been coming to the prison since the Rosary Group began meeting. They rotate so that one person comes every week to provide fellowship, pray and bring Holy Communion.

I am so grateful for their sacrifice of time – they could easily be spending Sunday afternoons with their families instead. Inmate-led groups are pro-

hibited, so the presence of our beloved volunteers is what makes our group possible. It has been 18 months since we've met because outside volunteers were not allowed because of COVID restrictions within the prison system.

The chapel is multipurpose, so I, along with two other women, arrive early to set up. We arrange chairs in a large circle so everyone can see one another and feel included. We have a plastic Pieta that we place on the altar along with cardboard pictures of the Sacred Hearts of Mary and Jesus.

For many years, I sat behind the piano, on the fringe of the circle, and played background music as everyone prayed aloud. I've always enjoyed playing for our group, but due to several changes this year, I am contributing differently. So, although piano music is absent, contemporary music from the Protestant service next door filters through the walls.

When participants and our volunteer arrive, we have fellowship time. Because it has been so long, we are interested in their stories from the outside – how their families handled the pandemic, what their kids are up to, what life in America feels like now.

Everyone eventually settles, and we officially begin our prayer time by going around the circle and sharing our rosary dedications and prayer intentions. I am always amazed by the depth of feeling and intensity behind the dedications. It touches me to hear the needs of other women and to unite with them in prayer for whatever is on their heart.

Our voices sometimes crack with emotion, tears are shed, hurts and vulnerabilities are exposed, thankfulness and gratitude are expressed, hopes for our future are revealed.

A small sampling from last week: family and

friends, birthday of a child living with his grandparents because both parents are incarcerated, healing from cancer, recovery from addiction, Gov. Mike DeWine and the Ohio Parole Board, bunkies and cellmates, peace in the chaos of the big dorms, help with a GED (General Educational Development) test, Hurricane Ida victims, alcoholics and addicts inside and outside the prison fences, peace in the world, comfort for those suffering from COVID, first responders and hospital workers, thankfulness for a family reunion.

You name it, we've dedicated a rosary to it!

When we begin our recitation of prayers, I announce the mysteries of the rosary and read the accompanying meditation. Someone else leads the Our Father, another person leads the Hail Mary prayers, yet another leads the Glory Be prayers. We strive to involve as many people as possible, so each week we ask someone different to lead one segment. Occasionally, our Hispanic sisters have prayed a decade in Spanish.

After we finish the rosary, we have a short spiritual discussion and then a communion service with the Eucharist brought from that morning's Mass at St. Brigid. To me, there is something extra special about receiving the body and blood of Jesus after spending such a powerful time with His Mother. The combination gives me added strength to face whatever happens during the week, and it fills the gap until Mass is celebrated.

Our Rosary Group is one of the true safe havens from the chaos of prison life, and I am grateful.

Hail Mary, full of grace ...

Michele Williams is an inmate at the Ohio Reformatory for Women in Marysville.

Safe Haven Baby Boxes preserving littlest lives

By Doug Bean
Catholic Times Editor

No one wants to see a baby born alive and then left to die in a dumpster or a trash can.

Monica Kelsey had heard enough stories at work about newborns discarded and left for dead that she felt compelled to do something about this human tragedy.

Six years ago, the emergency medical technician (EMT) and firefighter launched an endeavor now known as Safe Haven Baby Boxes to give women a place to anonymously drop their unwanted newborn babies. Since then, the pro-life effort is spreading like wildfire throughout the country in states that have enacted laws allowing parents to anonymously surrender their infant within 72 hours of birth fear without of criminal prosecution.

The first baby box was installed at an Indiana fire station in 2016. Since then, 87 fire stations or hospitals have jumped on board in Ohio, Florida and Arkansas. And requests from communities keep coming in. Five more states – Maine, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma and Kentucky – have passed safe haven legislation. Kelsey's hope is that the initiative will be nationwide by 2025.

"I never had to pull a baby from a dumpster, thank the Lord," said Kelsey, a 48-year-old Christian who retired from her job in 2019 to devote her time to Safe Haven, "but locations that have had abandoned baby after abandoned baby – where they're pulling dead babies from trash cans and dumpsters – you want to find a solution.

"Now we're getting a ton of calls from fire departments saying this would be a really good resource in our community. We're also getting a lot of people from the community asking how do we raise funds and give this to the fire station.

"We really don't reach out to anyone, but if there's a city that has had a lot of abandonment and they're not reaching out, we will throw them a life raft. The more success we have in the states that we're in, the more abandonment rates drop, the more people are seeing the successes and getting on board."

In January, the BST&G Fire District station, located in Sunbury and also serving Berkshire Township, Trenton Township and Galena, became the first location in the Diocese of Columbus, the 56th spot in the United States and the fourth in Ohio to be equipped with one of the boxes. Ohio enacted its safe haven law in 2001.



Assistant BST&G fire chief Rob Stambaugh (left), Monica Kelsey (center) and Teresa Berke were on hand for the dedication of a Safe Haven baby box in Sunbury. Photo/Safe Haven

Assistant BST&G fire chief Rob Stambaugh had heard about the program from a friend affiliated with a fire department in northwestern Ohio and a relative of Kelsey, who was conceived through rape, abandoned as a newborn in Montpelier, Ohio, and adopted in Paulding County. She now lives in Woodburn, Indiana, about 2 miles from the Ohio border.

Stambaugh received approval and began raising money to cover the \$15,000 installation cost at the station. No taxpayer money was used. Local contractors provided materials and labor, and the fire district received a grant from the Discount Tire Driven to Care Foundation to help cover expenses.

At the January dedication, several area pastors offered a blessing, and their churches continue to help with fundraising and creating awareness.

"It's been a blessing for us to have it, and an even better blessing if we never use it," Stambaugh said. "But the resource is there, and even if it ever saved just one life, it's 100% worth it to keep a baby out of a dumpster."

The boxes are designed to work in similar fashion to a drop box at a bank or post office, but they are equipped with safeguards to protect the identity of the person leaving the infant and an alarm to alert firefighters or hospital workers that a newborn was placed inside. Extensive testing is conducted before the box goes live.

At the Sunbury station and most locations, the box is built into an exterior wall. Once a newborn is placed into a bassinet in the temperature-controlled box, a silent signal is sent to 911 after the outside door closes to protect the identity of the mother.

"There's an orange bag in our boxes that falls out when the door opens, and the mother can leave it or take it with her," Kelsey said.

"There are three important pieces of information: what to look for after giving birth, such as hemorrhaging and postpartum depression after making a difficult choice; a binder with the safe haven registry that the mother can mail back in with any information she would like to provide about that child, whether it be medical, if a child has siblings or even her name. That goes to the adoptive parents, and the child will have that information when he or she turns 18.

"And the last thing we want this mother to know is that this law is there for her – that she utilized it legally. It outlines what happens – the child will be placed with a set of adoptive parents, and the baby will be safe and healthy."

Usually within two minutes, an EMT or medical staff person accesses the baby through an inside door, and the child is immediately evaluated and then taken to a nearby hospital.

"A lot of our babies have the placenta or umbilical cord still attached, and they're not cleaned up," Kelsey said. "These babies definitely are not born in hospitals. The mother probably had no medical knowledge, but she did everything possible to keep her child safe, and that really speaks volumes for these women."

Some have questioned whether abandoning a baby with no family or medical information could lead to issues later in life.

"I would rather have my life than know who my parents are," Kelsey said. "If I'm placed in a dumpster and die, who cares who my parents are. I have no life. So the first thing we have to do is, save the child's life. And with DNA advancement today, these kids in 20 years are going to be able to take a test and find out exactly where they come from."

In addition to the boxes, Safe Haven offers a 24-hour crisis hotline (1-866-99BABY1) that has answered thousands of calls from pregnant moms looking for help in the United States, Canada and Mexico. The organization has made more than 500 referrals to crisis pregnancy centers and facilitated seven adoptions. And more than 90 babies have been surrendered to Safe Haven.

In some instances, women are parenting other children and need help to avoid being evicted from their homes or to cover living expenses.

"The majority of our calls are women in their third trimester of pregnancy," Kelsey said. "They've already chosen life for their child. They're just at that point where they don't know what option is best for them, and our job on the hotline is to give them every option available for parenting, adoption or if they want to surrender in one of our boxes or to a firefighter.

"We really stress that the baby box is a last resort option, and an adoption plan is much better. A parenting plan is much better, but if you can't do either one of those, we'll send them to the box because that is the final option we have left for them. It allows them to remain anonymous.

"A lot of these communities with baby boxes are small where everybody knows everybody else, and a young girl isn't going to feel comfortable going to a fire station. But the hotline is what we call the workhorse of our organization, and if it wasn't for the hotline, we wouldn't be able to direct women away from the box. It's kind of crazy that I travel the country and put boxes in, but then I don't recommend them."

The word is getting out about the Safe Haven Baby Boxes option. A TikTok video last year generated 26 million views, creating a worldwide awareness of the project, and its TikTok channel receives hundreds of thousands of views. Many individuals are hearing for the first time that safe haven laws exist.

"So we're educating so many more people just on the platforms of social media," Kelsey said. "Everyone has an opinion. But, you know, at the end of the day, I'm keeping babies out of dumpsters, and if I have to take a little bit of criticism to educate 26 million people, I'll be glad to do it. You have to go where you have to go to reach people, particularly young people. I've got them thinking now about safe hav-

In crisis pregnancy, listening is key, says help center co-founder

By Tim Puet
For *The Catholic Times*

A co-founder of the Pregnancy Decision Health Centers (PDHC) in Columbus and Lancaster says the best way to aid a woman considering abortion is to let her tell her story and to respond in a loving way.

“I knew very little about how to help pregnant women when my husband, Mike, and I founded PDHC in 1981,” Peggy Hartshorn said. “We had to learn how to answer questions as those questions came up. Mostly, we had to listen because we knew so little.”

“The biggest lesson we learned was that listening was the best thing we could do, rather than jumping in with possible solutions. By knowing little, we learned the best way to reach out to people. We found that God gives you the grace to lovingly offer the help they need and to do it in a non-judgmental way.”

What originally was known as the Pregnancy Distress Center opened at 999 S. High St. in Columbus on Jan. 22, 1981, the eighth anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion throughout the United States. The organization’s name was changed to Pregnancy Decision Health Centers in 1995 when PDHC began making ultrasound images available to pregnant mothers.

Today, there are three PDHC locations in Columbus – at 22 E. 17th Ave. in the Ohio State University campus area, 5900 Cleveland Ave. on the city’s north side and 4111 W. Broad St. on the west side – plus one in Lancaster at 1590 E. Main St. All offer free consulting, pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, parenting classes, diapers and infant clothing and supplies, plus the opportunity to earn larger items such as car seats and cribs.

A fourth Columbus location, at 665 E. Dublin-Granville Road, is a family

BABY BOXES, *continued from Page 14*

en laws and surrenders. It’s working.”

In the past three years, Indiana has led the way with 12 babies placed in the boxes in the state – saving 12 lives.

“I loved being a medic and a firefighter, and I never thought about quitting my job. I just wanted to put a few boxes in Indiana and save the two to three dead babies we were finding every year,” Kelsey said. “Christ had a different plan for me.”

“We’ve literally turned the tide, and, in the end, we don’t have an abandoned baby problem in Indiana anymore.”

For more information, visit shbb.org.

empowerment center, providing follow-up support services to clients and their families. In addition, PDHC operates a hotline at (614) 444-4411, which is open 24 hours, seven days a week.

The original center had 309 visits and 2,800 calls to the hotline in its first year. In 2020, the four PDHC sites set a record with more than 6,900 visits and more than 40,000 online calls, texts and chats.

PDHC’s 40 years of rescuing lives and having a positive impact on families are being marked with two banquets – one that took place in Lancaster on Sept. 16 and the second in Columbus on Thursday, Sept. 23 at Villa Milano, 1630 Schrock Road. The featured speaker, Kirk Walden, works with hundreds of pregnancy centers across the United States as an advancement specialist for Heartbeat International, which also is based in Columbus and provides support for PDHC and its counterparts elsewhere.

Peggy Hartshorn is chairman of the board for Heartbeat and has been with that organization for about 30 years. She remains involved with PDHC as a consultant. She has a doctorate in English and, besides being active in pro-life causes, was a professor of English for many years at Franklin University. Mike Hartshorn, a retired lawyer, is a PDHC board member.

Peggy Hartshorn said about 20 people who served as board members or volunteers during PDHC’s first five years were invited to the banquets as special guests. “They were the pioneering generation,” she said. “They learned the lessons which made its ongoing development possible. In those foundational years, we laid down several key elements which have been part of PDHC ever since.”

“First was having a hotline which would be staffed 24/7, so there always would be someone responding at the other end. For a short time at the beginning, Mike and I had the line in

our bedroom because it was the only way to meet the deadline for getting the number in the telephone directory in 1981. The calls came quickly and have never stopped.

“It also was important to offer a complete program of pregnancy help services, not just crisis intervention,” Hartshorn said. “These included parenting classes, making ‘host homes’ available and help in finding housing and extensive community referrals, especially for early prenatal care and a healthy pregnancy. PDHC later added medical services such as life-saving ultrasound.”

“We also offered abstinence education programs in schools, beginning in 1984, when we were the first pregnancy center in the United States to receive a federal grant for abstinence education. This continues today through PDHC’s Common Sense Culture program in the schools, which shows young people the impact of making healthy choices.”

“PDHC also was the nation’s first pregnancy center to develop an abortion recovery program. We know many people undergo a downward spiral after an abortion and need to hear the message that there is forgiveness and healing available and that God loves them.”

Hartshorn said that although the number of surgical abortions has decreased in recent years, the number of chemically induced abortions has risen, representing about 70 percent of the abortions in Franklin County. Most of these abortions result from women taking the “abortion pill” known as RU-486, which is actually a combination of two pills.

Late in 2019, PDHC became an affiliate of Heartbeat’s Abortion Pill Rescue Network, which offers the chance to reverse the effects of RU-486 within 72 hours of taking the first pill. Hartshorn said 25 women have started the reversal process through PDHC, including four on the weekend of Sept. 11-12. Four babies have been born, and nine others, whose birth is anticipated in the coming fall and spring, have been saved as a result of women contacting PDHC in time for the reversal to occur.

PDHC began in 1981 with the Hartshorns and a few volunteers. By 1987, the number of volunteers had grown to about 150, and more paid staff members were added. Today, the organization has 27 paid staff members and more than 200 volunteers. Hundreds of others have served the organization in volunteer roles during the past four decades.

Volunteers have come from many Christian backgrounds. The original

volunteers were primarily Catholics, with some from “mainline” denominations such as the Presbyterian and Lutheran churches. They were joined by many evangelical Protestants to make PDHC an ecumenical outreach.

Hartshorn said her involvement in the pro-life movement began on the morning of Jan. 22, 1973, when she heard a radio news report of the *Roe v. Wade* ruling. “It was like when St. Paul got knocked from his horse by a vision of Jesus,” she said. “I wondered, ‘How could this be happening?’ I called Mike, who had just graduated from the Ohio State University law school, and asked him to check the school’s law library because we thought the report must be wrong.”

“But it wasn’t, and we immediately decided we had to do something, taking one step at a time. We knew of the existence of the Greater Columbus Right to Life Society, so we got in touch with its chairman, Ed O’Boyle; his wife, Dr. Meade O’Boyle; and the society’s founder, Dr. Tom Hughes.”

“I soon became educational chair of the society. In those days, we took part in a lot of debates with people supporting abortion. We showed slides of infants in the womb and talked about a baby’s development over the course of pregnancy until birth,” Hartshorn said.

“Around 1975, Mike and I began providing temporary housing for pregnant mothers. We continued doing that until 1989, hosting 12 women in that period. Our two children, Tim and Katy, whom we adopted as infants, became thoroughly pro-life, having grown up with these heroic mothers, half of whom made adoption plans for their babies.”

“One thing we learned from that experience is that even when women talk about needing to have an abortion, they don’t really want an abortion. When they know they’ll have help and support, they’ll fight to protect their baby. We say that ‘the best alternative to abortion is another person,’ and that’s the kind of thing that can change a culture.”

During a Marriage Encounter weekend in 1978, the Hartshorns discovered that each had independently concluded that Columbus needed an emergency pregnancy center. The following year, they began working on plans for the center with others from many denominations who were involved in Marriage Encounter and Right to Life activities.

During that planning period, the cou-



Monica Kelsey, founder of Safe Haven Baby Boxes. Photo courtesy Safe Haven

To end abortion, embrace holiness, stand for truth

By Beth Vanderkooi

This year, Respect Life Month in October feels different – or it should.

On Wednesday, Dec. 1, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear arguments in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. It's a high-profile case because Mississippi directly asks the court to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, the two cases that established a right to abortion before a baby can survive outside the womb.

Scrutiny has been heightened by the court's recent refusal to block Texas' Heartbeat Law prohibiting abortion after a fetal heartbeat can be detected.

For nearly 50 years, the pro-life faithful have prayed, fasted and acted to end abortion. Our results have been mixed. We celebrate the infinite value of each life redeemed from abortion, but we know our efforts have often fallen short of ultimate victory.

At Greater Columbus Right to Life, our sidewalk ministry has helped about 600 women choose life for their babies. For every one who turns away, dozens more continue into the clinic. At times it feels like using a thumb to stop a fire hose.

A lot is going on in the world and



Father Stephen Alcott, OP, pastor at Columbus St. Patrick Church, leads a rosary outside Planned Parenthood on East Main Street in Columbus. *File photo*

in our own families, and many have stepped back or refrained from active engagement in pro-life work. Now, however, it is time to pick up our rosaries, make Holy Hours, fast and pray.

Do not sit on the sidelines and watch history unfold. It is possible that the Supreme Court will reverse *Roe* and empower states to end abortion, but it

is absolutely certain that abortion advocates are fighting back with every weapon and trick they possess, and they are fighting dirty.

Thousands reacted in horror after a handful of abortion advocates stormed into Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral with blasphemy and violence to disrupt the Respect Life Mass in January. Their depraved acts continued with unlawful behavior at our *Roe* Remembrance at the Statehouse.

We were exceedingly disappointed that neither the Statehouse security nor the Ohio State Highway Patrol was willing to remove the protesters from our event or press charges for breaking regulations, but charges are pending in the cathedral case.

Abortion advocacy groups and pro-choice religious leaders applauded and supported this behavior, and some have even been fundraising for their legal defense. One such fundraiser sells T-shirts displaying with images of the "Cathedral Four" with halos and the words, "Our Patron Saints of Divine Confrontation." Mockery of the Catholic faith continues with the tagline "Abortion be with you ... And also with you."

This was not an isolated incident. In late September, about 100 abortion advocates protested outside the Statehouse for International Safe Abortion Day. The group eventually marched inside, shouting "OH-IO, abortion bans have to go," and approached the Ohio Senate, which was meeting.

With the doors shut against the sound of shouting and pounding (one person even beat on the doors with his shoe), the Senate quickly adjourned. Most senators and staff members left through a side door.

When the group finally entered the

Senate chamber, several protesters breached the security railing, entered the Senate floor and posed with signs at the president's dais. They were removed by security and the Highway Patrol. This behavior was cheered by abortion advocacy organizations and even some members of the General Assembly.

Extreme positions are not limited to mobs of attention-seeking abortion fanatics. The U.S. House recently passed legislation to expand abortion in America to extremes unseen anywhere in the world except China and North Korea. The Biden administration has announced its priority to stop the Texas Heartbeat law.

Legislation introduced in Congress would add four justices to the U.S. Supreme Court to ensure a pro-abortion majority. Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein led a group of cities to file briefs opposing the *Dobbs* case. The zeal and fervor with which people are fighting for the right to kill innocent humans is merciless.

To fight back, we must embrace holiness and stand for truth. We must also learn to be merciless, not with other people but with our own sins. During Respect Life Month, get out of your comfort zone and get involved; we need you. Politics has never solved the problems of the world, but saints have.

To join us in our mission to end abortion, consider joining us during Respect Life Month by praying with us. You can learn more at gcrtl.org/pray. You can also join our efforts to pray, fast and act for *Roe* to be overturned at gcrtl.org/dobbs-day.

Beth Vanderkooi is the executive director of Greater Columbus Right to Life.

Abortions up across Ohio, down locally

The Ohio Department of Health released the 2020 Abortion Statistics Report last week. The statistics present anonymous demographic data on abortions, those who have them and those who perform them. While the numbers don't tell the whole story, they give a snapshot of what is happening in Ohio.

Statewide abortions in Ohio increased last year by about 2.5% (503), to 20,605. This means that about 57 babies died by abortion each day in Ohio in 2020. Statewide, about 52% of all abortions were performed via surgical methods and about 48% via nonsurgical methods, generally the abortion pill. Use of the abortion pill increased statewide from 38% the prior year.

For the first time, women identifying as African American obtained the most abortions statewide. Black women accounted for 43% of all abortions, white women 42% and Asian women 3%. Just under 12% of women did not identify as one of the above or did not respond. In 2020, about 12.5% of Ohio's total population identified as African American, highlighting the disproportionate number of Black women having abortions.

Last year, central Ohio had a 12% decline in abortions, with 3,501 total abortions in 2020. That is an overall reduction of about 35% in abortions in the past decade and more than 48% in

See **ABORTIONS**, Page 21

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MOMMIESMATTER.ORG/FALL-FUNDRAISER

Mommies Matter provides support before and after pregnancy

By Tim Puet
For *The Catholic Times*

When a woman faces a crisis pregnancy, she often is surrounded by others putting pressure on her to end the pregnancy that she thinks abortion is her only option.

With the loving community provided by the Mommies Matter support group, she receives the help she needs and the true freedom to choose life for her baby.

“Single mothers have made the correct choice,” said Mommies Matter founder and executive director Monica Flynn. “They’ve chosen to bring life into the world, rather than listening to abortion advocates who have twisted the phrase ‘pro-choice’ to urge pregnant women to end the life growing inside them.”

“Mommies Matter was founded to help single mothers support their decision to choose life, providing a community to support and accompany them in their journey through and beyond pregnancy.”

“Life is better when we do it together” is a phrase frequently used by Flynn and other Mommies Matter staff members and volunteers. “Our promise to single mothers is a nonjudgmental space to engage in authentic relationships with other single moms, supportive allies and others who are growing and learning together,” she said.

Flynn summarizes the Columbus-based group’s programs in the acronym GIFT – group support and individual guidance, individualized assistance and long-term planning; financial assistance and community partnerships; and therapy and counseling.

At the heart of Mommies Matter programs are relationships among a single mother and one or more women known as “allies” who are committed to helping the mother through pregnancy and the first 18 months after birth. The allies are asked to be available whenever the mother or mothers they work with need assistance, serving as extended family.

“Single mothers so often feel there’s no one to turn to,” Flynn said. “When they come to us for help, we ask them about their feelings and where they go for help. Among the more than 80 mothers we’ve worked with since Mommies Matter was founded three years ago, 73 percent said they felt lost and confused, and 82 percent said they depended mostly on themselves when they needed help. No one said they depended on their parents, families or a counselor.



Mommies Matter helps support women who choose life for their children.

Photo courtesy Mommies Matter

“You can see from this just how much single mothers are in need of someone they can trust.”

A woman who acts as an ally can be paired with one or more mothers, and a mother can have one or more allies. Mommies Matter currently has 22 allies working with 32 women, who have a total of 68 children. Flynn said the number of single mothers supported by the group has doubled in the past year. Since its founding in summer 2018, 41 Mommies Matter allies have worked with 84 mothers.

Ten women who have been helped by Mommies Matter are featured in videos on its website, <https://mommiesmatter.org>. Among them is Bintu, already a mother of a 4-year-old son, who was 38 weeks’ pregnant when her video was made. “If I was not in touch with Mommies Matter, I don’t know where my life would be. I say that to myself all the time,” she said, wiping away tears.

“Sometimes people will text me, saying, ‘I’m praying for you, Bintu,’ and I want to cry. It’s the most generous thing. Things would have been very different without Mommies Matter. I don’t know how I’d be able to continue with the pregnancy. I pray that someday, I can be in a position to be able to help other women going through the same thing.”

Another video features Andromeda, a mother of three children then ages 1, 2 and 8, who had been involved with Mommies Matter for three years at the time of the video and was about to give birth to her fourth child.

“Mommies Matter has positively influenced my life and given me support, really from the beginning” of her

involvement with the group, she said, noting that her pairing with an ally showed her “someone was interested with me and what my future was, which was something I didn’t think about. If Mommies Matter had not come into my life, I would be totally in a different place,” she said, explaining that the group helped her find a job and handle child custody issues.

Mothers are referred to Mommies Matter by many sources. “In the beginning, the referrals came mostly from pregnancy resource centers such as the Pregnancy Decision Health Centers (PDHC) and the Women’s Care Center,” said Flynn, who said her work as a PDHC volunteer for 15 years led to found Mommies Matter as an extension of PDHC’s activities.

“Now the referrals also come from people doing Google searches and from doctors and hospitals. We’ve even had three referrals from Planned Parenthood. A Planned Parenthood member once told me that she commended Mommies Matter because of the way it focused on mothers after pregnancy, providing the post-birth support which had mostly been miss-

ing in the Columbus area,” she said.

Mommies Matter also is part of the Diocese of Columbus Walking with Moms in Need program, in which diocesan parishes help mothers find resources in the community that meet their needs.

“COVID-19 has actually helped us become more involved with mothers because it made us get involved with Zoom presentations, showing us these could be as effective and often more convenient than live meetings,” Flynn said.

The group currently meets on Tuesday nights. The second and fourth Tuesdays of the month are for general meetings called enrichment gatherings, which take place via Zoom on the second Tuesday and at Life Church at Easton, 5000 Sunbury Road, Columbus, on the fourth Tuesday. At these meetings, mothers and allies discuss common concerns and hear a speaker.

Two books referred to at the meetings and that many of the mothers use to help them through pregnancy and

See **MOMMIES**, Page 20

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Who is that masked woman?

Wearing mask shows concern for others

Our family is fiercely protective of one another. As our family grows, it's amazing to see new clan members adopt this same "I would fight to my death for you" attitude.

Good example: my niece's husband. He always has been a protector; however, he has become a ninja warrior as they are expecting their first child. (Note: My niece hasn't convinced him that the vibrations from mowing the lawn and the odors from the compost are bad for the baby. He does understand, however, that doing the dishes after cooking a meal and changing sheets on a king-sized bed are.)

My brother is the bulldog protector of our family. He also is a world-renowned immunologist with 40+ years' experience. He said that eventually we all will be vaccinated, either by choice from highly effective vaccines or as a result of contracting COVID or one of the variants with a significant possibility of lasting negative effects and/or death.

He describes this pandemic as a Darwinian event that is being determined by intellectual choice not natural selection. He believes we are playing with fire and knows that the longer we wait to stop this

FAITH IN ACTION

Erin Cordle

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



pandemic the more difficult that will be, as the mutations will become more deadly.

The delta and emerging variants of COVID-19 have dramatically changed the trajectory of the pandemic. Infections, hospitalizations and deaths among children (and unvaccinated adults) are on the rise. Hospitals are again nearing capacity.

As health-care professionals face impossible demands, our parish priests and school administrators have been desperately assessing the most prudent course of action for our parishes and schools. I realize that teachers, staff members, students and parents pine for normalcy. However, they also understand the urgency to protect us.

Our faith calls us to give priority to the poor, the vulnerable and the marginalized. Even our U.S. Constitution mandates that we "promote the general welfare ... to ourselves and our posterity" in the

first sentence. Because we have freedom and free will, we also have responsibilities (a major theme of Catholic Social Teaching). If we truly care about the other, we must do everything in our power to protect them and ourselves. I wear a mask.

Masks might seem inconvenient; yet, for me, wearing one is a small cross to bear as I feel it's meant to protect those around me more than just myself. In the words of Mother Teresa, "We can do no great things, only small things with great love."

We at the diocesan offices – whether we are vaccinated or not – are again required to wear masks in the building as we are open to the public. I wear a mask to protect my coworkers, their families and our visitors from any germs I might carry and unknowingly spread. I realize faith invites me to embrace small realities that can lead to lasting change. I wear a mask.

Today I'm not knowingly being asked to literally fight to the death; however, I am being asked to make small gestures so I don't put anyone in harm's way. Although neither glamorous nor convenient, it is an invitation to evangelize by actions that show Christ's love through me. I wear a mask.

An empty chair for Bishop Brennan – and his successor

There is an old Jewish custom of leaving a place setting for Elijah. During many rights of passage and Jewish holy days, an empty cup or place setting is left for Elijah who was welcomed to vouch for the worthiness of the community gathered.

Our home has this tradition as well. I am not sure how it came to be, but it's woven into our family charism of hospitality. As we set the table, we often have a plate for Elijah. Many nights, the doorbell rings, and unexpected company arrives. "Join us!" we say. "Take a seat. You are truly welcome."

From seminarians missing home, priests who need to relax with a bit of family life, a neighbor home alone or even someone dropping off a school assignment for one of the kids, they are enfolded within the loving, albeit sometimes boisterous, arms of our family table. This table has been the gathering space for many family announcements and discussions, and the recent news from our diocese has us gathering together a bit more tightly.

The sudden news of our bishop, Robert Brennan, leaving has struck my family hard. They have

ALL THAT WE HAVE

MaryBeth Eberhard

MaryBeth Eberhard writes about marriage, life experiences of a large family and special needs. She attends Sunbury St. John Neumann Church.



felt encouraged in their faith by his example. They sense his joy. From the moment they met him, two days after his installation as bishop, our son Gabriel made his confirmation, and the seeds of sharing a meal with this energetic, faithful shepherd who was truly on fire for the Gospel were planted.

Setting the table with an expectant heart and leaving an empty place setting for someone allow us to pray for that person the Lord knows is on our heart. Sometimes it is the son or daughter who is away, and our hearts long for them to be gathered with us. Sometimes it is set as a reminder for those who are hungry and go without.

Sometimes a prayer is said for our clergy who don't have family to gather with at their table, that they feel loved and supported. Many times, the plate has been offered in our hearts for Bishop Brennan.

One of the benchmarks of the Eberhard family is that all who walk through our door are welcomed as Christ and treated as family. Whether it is peanut butter and jelly for dinner or salmon with roasted veggies, we have learned to gather as a people of thanksgiving, and I do believe those who gather with us feel that gratitude.

The recognition of the humanity and dignity of

the person for whom that plate was set is not lost on us, and whether he be a bishop or a 5-year-old neighbor child who wanted to eat with the big family down the street, God's timing is better than ours.

My children range from 9 years old to 19. Their understanding of obedience reflects that developmental curve. My younger ones feel the loss of our bishop leaving as something being taken away from them. My middle children have an initial reaction of trying to understand the why, and my older children recognize the cross of obedience and begin to pray.

They, and we, all sink to our roots in trying to understand. We have been having conversations of how God walks us through change and hard times, and good comes out of that. We have talked about how God sees our gifts and talents deeper than we do and challenges us to use them in ways even we cannot comprehend. Sometimes that means moving us to places where others really need us, when we might not want to go.

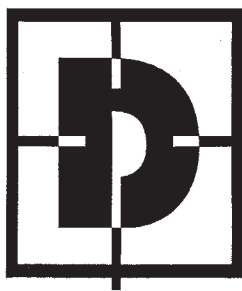
We reference our history as early children of God. We talk about the Israelites in the desert, Jonah having to go to Nineveh. We talk about saints who are called to do hard things in the name of Christ, and how they grow stronger for it.

St. Pope John Paul II is such an example for us because he felt called to his vocation so acutely, sacrificed so much and then was asked to live it out in a very public way through times of great trial. His humility, obedience and radiant joy provide a model for how to walk forward in faith and trust.

Our table will remain set. A chair will remain for Bishop Brennan, in our hearts and at our table. He will want us to make room in our hearts and at our table for whomever the Lord calls next to shepherd our priests, our families and our diocese.

Please join us in praying for Bishop Brennan in gratitude for his abundant love for our diocese and for his transition back to New York in his new diocese of Brooklyn. May he feel the love and support of our prayers, now and always.

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Decisions of consequence

I recently watched a compelling video prepared by a group called Heartbeat International. They provide women, who regret having taken an abortion pill, the chance to reverse their decision through a treatment involving progesterone. The protocol, though not yet officially peer-reviewed, appears to work well if the woman doesn't wait too long, and the video includes pictures and rescue dates of many beautiful babies who have been saved this way.

What also caught my attention were the stories of several nurses working at Heartbeat International.

"I wanted to help out in a meaningful way," one of them, named Amanda, said. "I was very excited to hear about abortion-pill reversal for the first time ... I thought: God just brought that in front of me, and I think that's what I'm meant to do."

She went on to share a follow-up from two mothers whom she had recently assisted.

"They sent me pictures on WhatsApp after they had their babies. ... I'm so thankful for their courage and their bravery. They talked about how much they love their babies and I'm just so happy for them. I'm just so grateful God gave me that opportunity to speak with both of them.

"I've never had this kind of fulfillment in any previous nursing job that I've had — that feeling of Yes! — I'm making a difference in someone's life ... a difference in eternity."

Every child saved this way is someone who now enjoys the opportunity to grow up, go to school, get married, have kids, grandkids and great-grandkids. It clearly makes an incalculable difference for that child, as well as for untold others. An "eternal difference."

Each of us would like for our lives and our work to "make a difference," and especially to make a

MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

Father Tad Pacholczyk

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, PhD, earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did postdoctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Massachusetts, and serves as director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org.



lasting, impactful and eternal difference.

It should come as no small consolation to understand that whenever we make deliberate moral choices for the good or turn away from what is wrong, we are already starting to make those "eternal differences." Through such decisions of consequence, we align our own will with God's, and contribute, in his wisdom, to rectifying the many patterns of sin around and within us. Such decisions enable us to collaborate with his all-encompassing redemptive plan.

In the field of bioethics, these "decisions of consequence" arise with great regularity. When one of our ethicists at The National Catholic Bioethics Center, for example, helps a husband and wife to understand the moral problems surrounding in vitro fertilization, not only can this help them avoid the tragedy of trapping their young offspring in "frozen orphanages," but it can also help them reflect on deeper questions like, "What does our infertility really mean?" and "How does God want us to be fruitful?" This can lead them to consider new paths of grace, like reaching out to kids in the community who are parentless, through mentoring programs such as Big Brothers/Big Sisters, or through pursuing the generous path

of foster parenting and adoption. Such generosity is another "decision of consequence" where we stand to make an eternal difference.

Our "decisions of consequence" need not be great or lofty gestures; they can be quite simple. I recall a true story first relayed by John W. Schlatter in 1993 that has circulated widely since.

Bill was walking home after his junior high school classes, his arms full of books and other items from his locker. At a certain point, everything spilled out of his arms, and another boy named Mark witnessed it and came over to help him pick it up off the ground, making some friendly small talk. The two of them decided to spend part of the afternoon together, playing games and goofing off. In succeeding weeks and months, they became friends.

Years later, Bill was reminiscing with Mark, and he brought up the day they first met.

"Did you ever wonder why I was carrying so many things home that day?" he asked. "I cleaned out my locker because I didn't want to leave a mess for anyone else. I had stored away some of my mother's sleeping pills and I was going home to commit suicide. But after we spent some time together talking and laughing, I realized that if I had killed myself, I would have missed that time and so many others that might follow. So, Mark, when you picked up those books that day, you did a lot more: you saved my life."

In a sense, each day for us involves a walk along the threshold of eternity, through small and not-so-small gestures, even though we may not always see the full implications of each of our decisions. Each day we have a chance to make beautiful, potentially life-saving and indeed eternal "decisions of consequence."

A Catholic gentleman behind the plate

As Major League Baseball begins its postseason, let us pause and remember the late, great Bill Freehan of the Detroit Tigers, who died Aug. 19: a Catholic gentleman and a great ballplayer. If I say that Bill Freehan was the Motown equivalent of Brooks Robinson, please understand that as the highest tribute a native Baltimorean could pay to a ballplayer and a man.

After growing up in Detroit, Freehan played baseball and football at the University of Michigan before signing with his hometown Tigers for a \$100,000 bonus (which his father didn't let him have until he'd finished his degree). After a year in the minors, Bill Freehan arrived in the majors to stay in 1962, and for the next 15 years was the premier catcher in the American League, elected to 11 All-Star teams and winning five consecutive Gold Glove awards. His career as a hitter was no less impressive: 1,591 hits, including 241 doubles, 200 home runs and 758 runs batted in.

Freehan led the Tigers through an epic 1968 season in which he guided pitchers Denny McLain (who notched 31 wins that year) and 17-game winner Mickey Lolich; Bill finished second behind McLain in the American League Most Valuable Player voting. Then came the World Series, which pivoted on Game 5, when the St. Louis Cardinals were ahead three games to one and looking to close things out. In the fifth inning, the Series earned its nickname as the "fall classic." With the Cards leading 3-2 and one man out, future Hall of Famer Lou Brock doubled. Then Julian Javier singled and the speedy Brock flew around third, trying to score. Tigers left fielder Wil-

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

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



lie Horton made a terrific throw; Freehan blocked the plate with his foot, tagged Brock out, and held onto the ball even though Brock barreled into him while careening into home standing up. The game and the Series were never the same; the Tigers rallied to win with a three-run seventh inning and then took the next two contests, beating the fearsome Bob Gibson in Game 7. That bang-bang play at the plate was arguably the greatest moment of Bill Freehan's sterling career.

I met him once or twice in the narthex of St. Jane Frances de Chantal Church in Bethesda, Maryland, where his daughter Cathy Jo and I are parishioners. We spoke of baseball in the 60s and 70s, and while the dementia that eventually killed him had begun its wicked work, Bill was the essence of graciousness, telling me how much he'd enjoyed playing against my adolescent heroes, the aforementioned Brooks Robinson and the immortal Frank Robinson. Why were those games so great, I asked? Because the terrific Orioles of their dynasty years played hard but clean, he responded. In describing my guys, the modest Bill Freehan was unintentionally painting a self-portrait.

He was married to Pat for 63 years and raised three daughters who loved him dearly — as did Detroit fans and the Tigers organization, which paid him a 15-minute pregame tribute the night of his death. That abiding affection and esteem had more to do with his achievements on the diamond, however. It had to do with Bill Freehan as a man, and an exemplar of the kind of professional athlete to whom parents once directed their children as a role model.

Players of that caliber are in shorter supply today as professional sports, like politics, too often resembles performance art. The men I grew up admiring wouldn't have been caught dead spiking a football in the end zone, or doing "the wave" with the fans in the stands while supposedly guarding third base, or self-presenting, hairstyle and tattoo-wise, like a character out of Ripley's Believe It or Not. In their minds, and I dare say in Bill Freehan's, demonstrated athletic excellence was complemented by a manly reticence about that excellence.

My heroes didn't think of themselves as jocks, and certainly not as dumb jocks, but as men with dignity — a dignity that ought to be displayed on the field. One only wonders what today's gazillionaire athletes, vastly talented as so many of them are, think of themselves as being or representing. One hopes that the most garish and outrageous of them find something in Bill Freehan's example to emulate. They'll be a lot happier in life for it.

They might also try adopting Bill Freehan's deep Catholic faith. It sustained him through life and I'm confident that it brought him, on Aug. 19, to the Hall of Fame that really counts.

Time of waiting can be season of renewal

We can find ourselves in a season of pause. It can be a time of welcomed rest or an unwanted, yet necessary, hold inflicted upon us.

While a welcomed pause can mean renewal and restoration, an unwanted pause can be an agonizing state of waiting causing anxiety and stress. And, waiting can be experienced many ways.

Maybe we are waiting for the perfect time to make a change in life, go back to school, get married, have a child or return to church. Maybe it is waiting for a final decision on a job you applied for, a project you have proposed, test results from your doctor or new leadership to be named.

You might feel as if you are in the midst of a storm waiting for the clouds to lift and the sun to shine again. It can be a time of fear and distress, but as people of faith we know we are not alone.

Although the road before us might not be clear of pitfalls and debris, we do know there is One who walks with us. We remind ourselves and those around us that God is our refuge and our strength,

STEWARDSHIP, LIVING OUR FAITH

Andrea Pannell

Andrea Pannell is the director of the Development Office for the Diocese of Columbus.



an ever-present help in distress, and so we grow still, regain focus and cling to the Lord (Psalm 46).

A song that has given me great comfort is "Still" by gospel singer Brian Courtney Wilson. The lyrics speak to our human weakness and the strength we come to know in Christ Jesus.

The first line of the song says, "Admittedly, I can be anxious at times as I consider the challenges I have to face." He goes on to remind himself, and us, of how thankful he is to know who is on his side and walking with him.

He cannot imagine going back to walking in fear knowing Jesus is with him and for him. We cannot

afford to forget this grace, either. As Christian stewards, we grow in our gratitude of times of pause, both unwanted and wanted, knowing each has its unique gifts and that we, too, have a companion.

We pause from the going, going, going and doing, doing, doing and seek rest in the merciful love of God that surrounds us, calms us and assures us.

While there are no promises that our life journey will be easy, we are promised to be loved and cared for. Every pause in our life can be an invitation to rest in the Lord.

I still remember a priest visiting my parish a few years back who reminded us that giving thanks for past blessings is great and requesting favor for things to come is good, but our greatest power is how we are with God in the present.

Are you going through a time of waiting, a wanted or unwanted pause in your life? How will you embrace this time and be with our Lord? How can you let the love of Jesus surround you, calm you and assure you during the pauses in your life?

MOMMIES, continued from Page 17

beyond, both by Melissa Heiland, are *A Mother's Journey*, for the weeks before birth, and *A Mother's Comfort*, for the first year of a child's life. Each book is divided into week-by-week sections containing Scriptural meditations and including space for the mother's journal entries.

The first Tuesday of the month is for a Zoom series titled *Explore God*, in which participating mothers are led by a facilitator and discuss topics such as why God allows suffering. "Mommies Matter is nondenominational but does have a strong spiritual component for those who choose to take part," Flynn said.

The third Tuesday is for a virtual therapy meeting with a licensed therapist and is for mothers only. Flynn said between four and 10 mothers can take part.

In addition, Mommies Matter has monthly social gatherings at various parks and other activity centers. These have included an Easter egg hunt, a catered Mother's Day dinner, a "Diapers and Doughnuts" day, and

a reunion potluck that brought current and past Mommies Matter participants together.

Upcoming are a Halloween-themed "Diapers and Dogs" event that will include pets, a Thanksgiving potluck and Christmas activities.

"We hadn't done any of these type of events before the pandemic," Flynn said. "COVID made us become more creative and realize we needed some strictly social activities in addition to our meetings to gain more of a sense of community."

As the number of participants in Mommies Matter has grown, so has the number of staff members the group has hired.

Flynn and executive assistant Gina McCauley have been with the organization from the beginning. Other staff members are Andrea Harmeyer, family advocate; Lyndsie Harris, financial advocate; Meredith Murphy, life coach; Anna Salmonowicz, media and design coordinator; Daphne Suh, community liaison; Brandy Conley, accountant; and Kaila Cweikalo and Keli Beecroft,

special events co-chairs.

The organization also has 180 volunteers performing a variety of roles and works with several community partners including women's care organizations, childhood development centers, churches and local businesses that provide help filling a variety of needs.

"The biggest needs single women have are transportation, housing, child care and educational and financial assistance," Flynn said. "Between our staff members and the companies and organizations we work with, we can provide help for all of that."

"For instance, our advocates help mothers deal with situations such as obtaining a driver's license, the need for bus transportation and financial obstacles. They help define short- and long-term goals and help define a strategy to reach those goals."

"We work with an attorney and a therapist to help with legal and emotional problems. We also have businesses who assist us, such as an auto dealership which supplies used cars to

us at cost. There's nothing we won't do, including paying bills for mothers who pour themselves into working hard for their families.

"We want especially to provide financial resources to mothers who demonstrate the determination that shows they are trying to better themselves, while at the same time not turning other applicants away."

"If there are any mechanics out there who feel called to help single mothers in need, we'd love to have you," Flynn said. "This can be on a volunteer basis, or the mothers can pay a percentage of the cost, based on their ability to pay. And if there are any landlords who would like to work with us to provide safe, stable housing for single mothers, it would fulfill a great need."

Mommies Matter is hosting a virtual fundraising event from 7 to 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 12, featuring raffles, silent and live auctions and comedy with event host David McCreary. For more information, go to <https://mommiesmatter.org/fall-fundraiser> or call Flynn at (614) 353-6765.

PDHC, continued from Page 15

ple attended an Alternatives to Abortion conference in which one speaker ended a 45-minute presentation on starting an emergency pregnancy service with the words "Just do it." Hartshorn said that provided additional inspiration. "We had one tiny manual from that presentation to help us. For the rest, we relied on the Lord."

Many commentators say that nearly 50 years after *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court might either reverse the

decision or allow state laws virtually banning abortions to take effect, as it did in a recent decision involving a Texas law prohibiting abortions as early as six weeks into a pregnancy.

"Even if *Roe* is overturned, and it's up to each state to set its own policy, there will be pro-abortion states and pro-life states," Hartshorn said. "Before *Roe v. Wade*, there used to be flights every Saturday from Columbus to New York for women who wanted

to have an abortion there.

"Even if Ohio becomes a pro-life state, there will be women who will be pressured into abortion, especially through use of the abortion pill or through telemedicine, where they don't have to see a doctor."

"More people will be urging that abortions take place quickly, so it will be more important than ever to have help available immediately for women needing to reach out and talk to

another person who will bring God's love to them, and potentially for some, even abortion pill reversal or abortion recovery," she said.

"PDHC will be here to fulfill that mission. Since its beginning, it's been a way God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things."

For more information on PDHC, go to www.pdhc.org or www.supportlifepdhc.org or call (614) 444-4411.

St. Mary Church in German Village to host concert series

By Doug Bean
Catholic Times Editor

There are many ways to evangelize and deliver the good news of the Gospel to anyone who might not be actively involved in Church life. One of those ways is through music.

That's what Father Vince Nguyen, pastor at St. Mary Church in the German Village area of Columbus, was thinking when he considered how to reach out to the parish and beyond to attract people to the beautifully restored historic church at 684 S. Third St.

"We went through an extensive renovation here, and we have a beautiful space for worship, and we were trying to figure out evangelization for our parish and said this is a great space for not only worship but also music," Father Nguyen said.

"We wanted to offer our parishioners high quality music, and it also would serve as a powerful tool for evangelization, providing non-Catholics with a window to the Catholic faith. And why not bring people to church with music?"

"The German Village area has a rich tradition of different types of music."

To help make that vision happen, Father Nguyen brought in Mark Voris, a well-known musician and a long-time music director at several diocesan parishes, to take over St. Mary's music program. Voris was instrumental in putting together a series of 11 Sunday afternoon concerts starting Oct. 17 that includes a variety of local and national performers.

"He has years of experience knowing the beauty of music, but really sacred music, and he has really tried to provide musical pieces and artists that can really show how beautiful music can help with prayer and reflection, especially in our parish," Father Nguyen said. "And in our diocese right now, the Real Presence Real Future campaign and evangelization have a prominent role.

"That's a big word on the campus of any parish, and so we're trying to help people encounter God in many different ways. That's one aspect of



St. Mary Church in the German Village area of Columbus is launching a concert series featuring a variety of artists starting Oct. 17. Photos courtesy St. Mary Church

the church's mission."

Music at St. Mary's 2021-22 artist concert series will debut at 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 17 with the Capriccio Jubilee Singers and a 14-piece jazz orchestra directed by Larry Griffin, a longtime Ohio Wesleyan University professor and renowned performer. Featured selections will include a "Mass in Blue" by Will Todd and other choral works.

"What they're doing is taking the Latin Mass, which is just phenomenal, and it's been rewritten to a jazz Mass really," Voris explained.

The opening concert will require tickets, which are available in advance through www.southcolscatholic.org at the events tab or at the door. The Capriccio group asks that attendees be limited to those who have received COVID-19 vaccines.

All but one of the Sunday concerts through next April will begin at 4 p.m. A "love" offering will be requested at some events, and others will require tickets. Masks, which are required for all events, will be provided.

"Four o'clock on Sundays is ideal because it doesn't interfere with events at other venues that are happening at 3 or earlier and also later in the evening," Voris said.

The Utopia Brass Quintet, directed

by Griffin, will be the second concert in the series on Oct. 24. The group will perform again on Jan. 16.

The Camarata Chamber Ensemble is directed by Luis Biava, conductor of the New Albany Symphony Orchestra and principal cellist for the Columbus Symphony. The group will play two concerts, the first on Nov. 21 and the second on Feb. 27.

The final performance before Christmas will be German Village: "Village Lights" at 3 p.m. Dec. 5.

The timing for such a series of concerts couldn't be better, Voris said, because musicians have struggled to maintain work during the COVID-19 crisis. They're also drawn to the venue and its world-class organ.

Those factors, as well as Voris' connections, created a synergy to bring the project to fruition.

Voris thought he had retired as a parish music director but was intrigued enough by Father Nguyen's vision to come on board.

"So I prayed about it, and I'm like, OK, you know, this is a lot more responsibility than I thought I was going to get into coming on board out of retirement, but my passion is to evangelize and to bring quality music to the community as an outreach," said Voris, who also directs St. Mary's traditional



Mark Voris is the music director at St. Mary Church in German Village.

choir at the 9 a.m. Sunday Mass.

Voris reached out to friends involved with ProMusica, the Columbus and New Albany symphonies and university professors to develop a list of potential concerts.

"They came to look at the venue and said the acoustics are phenomenal," Voris said. "Churches are empty on Sunday afternoon, and so we said, 'Why not try it?' I don't go little; I go big when I do something."

The second half of the concert series after the new year includes Verdi's *Requiem*, the ProMusica Chamber Orchestra, organ and cello music and Catholic artist/composer John Angotti, who concludes the series on April 24.

"We're very excited to be able to bring in a world-renowned artist who has performed for two popes and expose non-Catholics to great music that Catholic composers do," Voris said of Angotti.

Most important, Voris said, is making beautiful music available for the glory of God.

"My theme is, within our music God is glorified, always glorifying Jesus Christ in the name of the Church," Voris said, "and He will provide everything else."

ABORTIONS, continued from Page 16

the past two decades. Locally, about 20% of abortions were surgical, and about 80% were non-surgical (mostly via the abortion pill). Use of the abortion pill increased locally from almost 70% in 2019.

When looking at the local numbers, a few things are clear. First, the closing of Founder's Clinic in July 2020 made

a difference. Each time an abortion clinic or an abortion referring clinic closes locally, reporting data indicate a significant drop in abortions. Six abortion locations have been closed or stopped in the past decade, saving tens of thousands of lives locally.

Second, the focused work of a unified and organized pro-life sidewalk

ministry has made an impact on reducing abortions.

Third, the abortion pill is changing how abortions happen. That requires a change in how women considering the abortion pill are reached to boost abortion pill reversal referrals and education.

Last, life-affirming organizations

that accompany women and families facing pregnancy and life challenges need support.

Note: The statistics report was issued near print deadline. For more in-depth analysis, information on local numbers, or to review the full report, visit <https://www.gctrl.org/blog> and look for the 2020 Statistics Report.

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St. Pius X Preschool marks 30 years of 'fun adventure'

By Tim Puet
For *The Catholic Times*

A child's first year at school can bring a mixture of excitement at the chance of meeting other children and anxiety caused by being away from home for a significant period of time.

For 30 years, staff members of the Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church Preschool have tried to ease the home-to-school transition by making students feel that in the classroom, among their "school family," they're part of a loving environment encouraging discovery and growth.

The opening of the preschool, located at 1067 S. Waggoner Road, on Monday, Aug. 30 for the 2021-22 academic year was especially notable because it marked both the start of the facility's 30th anniversary year and the first time classes had taken place in the preschool building in nearly a year-and-a-half. Activities were halted in mid-March 2020 by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the building remained closed for the 2020-21 school year.

"I dreaded making the phone calls telling people the school was closing," said preschool director Sharon Miller. "It was devastating, but the families were very supportive, saying they were willing to wait and would have their children return whenever the school reopened."

St. Pius X Elementary School, located next to the preschool, conducted classes online and in person during the 2020-21 school year and used preschool staff members as teacher aides and tutors during that period. The elementary school also conducted some Zoom classes in the preschool building.

"Everyone was so excited when we reopened," Miller said. "We don't mind wearing masks and following flow charts to determine our movements during the day because we realize that's what it takes to keep students healthy and the building open and safe."

"During the quarantine last year, we saw how necessary the preschool was, not just educationally but in a social sense," said Judie Bryant, the preschool's first director, who now is youth minister at St. Pius X Church. "Teachers of this year's kindergarten class at St. Pius said the students coming in have little knowledge of how to act with each other because they missed their pre-kindergarten year."

The preschool conducts a variety of classes for 4- and 5-year-olds. A five-day program is being offered 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 meet from 8:15 to 11:15 a.m. 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 have 10 students each. There also is a class for 3-year-olds on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 to 11:30 a.m. with a maximum of 15 students.

When it reopened in August, what had been known as the St. Pius X Children's Center changed its name to St. Pius X Preschool because the preschool and the elementary school have become more closely connected.

Their schedules are coordinated, allowing all-day students to arrive as early as 7:30 a.m., and their cal-



Pictured are children and staff members at Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church Preschool. Photo courtesy St. Pius X

endars are more closely aligned, with the preschool opening a week earlier and ending two weeks later than in the past. The preschool also is using the same music teacher, librarian and other specialists as the elementary school.

"As with all Catholic schools, spirituality is an important part of our curriculum and is the reason many families, both Catholic and non-Catholic, choose to have their children come here," Miller said. Preschool children do not go to Mass but learn age-appropriate prayers to say during the school day.

"They don't learn the Our Father and Hail Mary but do learn the Sign of the Cross and say prayers such as 'Thank you, God, for the food before us,' for example," Miller said. "We talk about spirituality in our daily lessons. We talk about God, our families and being grateful for all living things."

Miller has been the preschool's director for 13 years and has been part of its staff for 28 years, starting as a teacher's aide in 1993 when she had a son in the school. Pre-kindergarten teachers Leslie Hensler and Penny Martinez have been with the preschool for 29 and 25 years, respectively. Bryant hired all three, along with Mary Benedict in 1991, while she was preschool director.

The late Msgr. Michael Donovan, pastor of St. Pius X Church at the time, began planning to convert the parish's former convent into "a friendly educational facility for our youngest citizens" after the Sisters of St. Joseph left the parish in 1989, said Benedict, who was co-director of the preschool with Stacey Raymond from 2001-08 and with Miller from 2008-18.

"Msgr. Donovan had great foresight," Bryant said. "The sisters left all kinds of things behind, like lamps and bowls and pews, most of which we could reuse." One of those pews is now on Miller's sun porch. "There also were sinks and closets in each sister's room, so when we knocked walls of the rooms down to create classroom spaces, there were plenty of places for washing up and storing things. All the sinks are especially helpful now because of all the handwashing needed as a result of COVID."

What was then the children's center opened in October 1991 with 47 students. St. Pius X Pre-

school has been licensed by the Ohio Department of Education from the beginning.

"Misfortune hit when we were open a few months," Benedict said. "A sprinkler head in the attic malfunctioned, causing a flood to close the building for two months. The parents were beyond helpful and understanding at this time."

The building was open year-round from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. until 2005, hosting spring break, summer and Christmas activities for grade school children in addition to preschool and pre-kindergarten classes. "All of this activity was too hard on the building, and it needed a break," Benedict said, so in 2005, classes there were limited to the youngest children during the school year.

"As the years went by, the standards for early childhood educators and the curriculum became more advanced, and our faculty more than kept up with the times," she said. "Every teacher has completed continuing education requirements, and in 30 years of inspections, the preschool never has received a citation from the Ohio Department of Education or local health and fire departments."

Bryant was in attendance in early 1991 at the Mass when Msgr. Donovan said he was looking for a preschool director. She and her husband, Cary, a longtime Defense Department employee now retired, had just moved to central Ohio from the Washington area, where Bryant had helped open the Children's World day care center at the Pentagon.

"When I heard Msgr. Donovan make that announcement, I felt he was calling me," she said. "Cary said he felt that, too, and joked that even though we had moved here for his job, sometimes he felt with me that he was just along for the ride."

She said one of the biggest changes in the preschool in 30 years has been the way enrollment and most other administrative work are handled and stored on computers. The school still has ledger books from its earliest days to remind her of the previous ink-and-paper method of doing routine business.

"Many more safety measures now are in place," Miller said. "Safety always has been our top priority. Our doors always are locked, and now there's a camera at each door, and a police officer comes by daily to check on the preschool and the grade school. All our staff members have taken the Protecting God's Children program on maintaining a safe environment for students and are up-to-date on the latest protocols related to COVID, communicable diseases and first aid."

"Preschool is where a child's Catholic foundation begins," Bryant said. "If parents have their children in school here, they often became St. Pius X parish members if they are Catholic. We've also had instances of non-Catholic families becoming Catholic because their children went to school here."

"We're usually the first educators our students see, other than their parents," Benedict said. "We want students to feel that once they pass through our familiar red front door, they're entering into a space of friendly, warm, kind and fun adventure."

A Mass honoring the preschool's 30th anniversary will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 10 in St. Pius X Church. For more information on the preschool, go to www.spxelementary.com/preschool or call (614) 577-0826.



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28th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Do we see as God sees?

Wisdom 7:7–11
Psalm 90:12–13, 14–15, 16–17
Hebrews 4:12–13
Mark 10:17–30

Wisdom is the capacity to see as God sees. Often, we are not able to see beyond ourselves, or we see with eyes blinded by our own wounds or the burdens carried by those we love. To see as God sees, we need God to intervene in our lives, to shock us into having a broader vision.

This will not happen without pain. Just as lightning can strike and leave flames and scars behind, even on the ground itself, so God's intervention in our lives will leave an open wound.

Jesus strikes at the heart of what His contemporaries saw as a sign of blessing: possession of riches. Jesus' vision of things is different: Wealth is not a sign of blessing. It is a sign of earthly, worldly involvement. True blessing comes from a living relationship with God, which is hard to put at the center when we are occupied with worldly matters.

We might have concluded that we are personally not in it for the money. However, even unwittingly, we put many other things in the same place as wealth: pleasure, sports and games, hobbies and occupations. These can get in the way.

But we might also put some realities that are more interior in the place of such material concerns: having things done our way, our worries and concerns, any preoccupations that keep our attention focused on this world to the exclusion of the kingdom of God.

What does God say about that? God's word, which pierces through our façades, invites us to hear the truth and to put it into practice. Are we open to the voice of the Lord? Can we hear His call to move beyond where we are and to sacrifice all for Him?

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Isaiah 53:10–11
Psalm 33:4–5, 18–19, 20, 22
Hebrews 4:14–16
Mark 10:35–45

The Church in the world is suffering. We all experience suffering. Our faith tells us that God has a purpose for this suffering. He invites us to drink it to the dregs and to allow it to open in us a new way of seeing.

Some suffering is self-created. But

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.



He promises great things: “a hundred times more now in this present age: houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and eternal life in the age to come.”

God makes promises and fulfills them. He also offers each of us a greater share in reality than we are able to see.

A popular video of a scientific experiment shows how patient young children could be to receive something they want.

Here was the deal: one marshmallow now, or hold off on taking that one marshmallow for just 15 minutes, and you get two. The video is hilarious for the excruciating ways in which those children tried to distract themselves for the more. Some succeeded, others failed. Studies tracking those children later in life showed that those willing to delay did better in life than those who went for the immediate gratification.

“We have given up everything and followed you,” says Peter to Jesus. This world sees things differently than Christ does.

We seem to want “a marshmallow Jesus” now. We want a Jesus Who agrees with what we want and what the greater part of our contemporaries see as fine. But the real Jesus, the One Who came to show us the way to God, is worth our attention.

The challenge offered is personal. Each one of us must respond. Jesus has something in store for us if we are willing to give up our own pursuits and follow Him. The word of God will pierce

much suffering is not of our making. It is part of the limited world as it opens to eternity. At times, we might blame God. Isaiah's proclamation almost sounds like God is pleased with suffering. But that is not the meaning. God has only good will toward us.

The meaning is more like this: In His permissive will, because God values our human freedom and our choice to love Him freely, God sent His Son, allowing Him to suffer in

THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

10/11-10/16	FRIDAY	WEDNESDAY
MONDAY	Romans 4:1-8	Romans 6:12-18
Romans 1:1-7	Psalm 32:1b-2,5,11	Psalm 124:1b-8
Psalm 98:1bcde,2-4	Luke 12:1-7	Luke 12:39-48
Luke 11:29-32	SATURDAY	THURSDAY
TUESDAY	Romans 4:13,16-18	Romans 6:19-23
Romans 1:16-25	Psalm 105:6-9,42-43	Psalm 1:1-4,6
Psalm 19:2-5	Luke 12:8-12	Luke 12:49-53
Luke 11:37-41	10/18-10/23	FRIDAY
WEDNESDAY	MONDAY	Romans 7:18-25a
Romans 2:1-11	2 Timothy 4:10-17b	Psalm 119:66,68,76-77,93-94
Psalm 62:2-3,6-7,9	Psalm 145:10-13,17-18	Luke 12:54-59
Luke 11:42-46	Luke 10:1-9	SATURDAY
THURSDAY	TUESDAY	Romans 8:1-11
Romans 3:21-30	Romans 5:12,15b,17-19,20b-21	Psalm 24:1b-4b,5-6
Psalm 130:1b-6b	Psalm 40:7-10,17	Luke 13:1-9
Luke 11:47-54	Luke 12:35-38	

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION

MASS SCHEDULE: WEEKS OF OCT. 10 AND OCT. 17, 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 IV and I, Seasonal Proper, Liturgy of the Hours.

through if we allow Him to. Wisdom will teach us where we need to begin. A road, a way of living will open before us.

Jesus invites. At times, He cajoles and encourages with enthusiasm. But He always leaves us free. Can we open our hearts to welcome God to receive

all the gifts and the fullness of life He promises?

Jesus tells us the whole truth. We learn that following Him includes suffering. But He reveals to us that it is worth it in the end. Do we believe? Are we willing to follow?

the face of our rejection – so that we would see in Jesus just how much He loves us.

The good news is this: When we suffer, we can join our suffering to that of Jesus and do good for the world. We can offer our lives for others for the love of God. Our call is to bring the truth of the Gospel to everyone and to bring the world to share in the very life of Jesus.

This is our missionary call to teach

the nations. This is our reason for being in the world. It is the reason for which we gather and celebrate Mass. It is also the hidden purpose for our suffering. We are invited by the Scriptures to look deeply into the reality of our suffering and to allow it to open our eyes to what God is inviting us to become.

See SUFFERING, Page 27

SUFFERING, continued from Page 26

We have all heard invitations. Each of us must look inside our hearts to adequately respond. It is there that the Lord will speak to us and send us on our mission.

There is a place for everyone in God's plan. If you have not heard the invitation, hear it now. If you have heard but have not responded, reconsider and try to respond now. If you have heard and want to respond but cannot, listen deeply to the Lord and discover a different way to answer His invitation.

Perhaps it is a call to something that the rest of us are missing, for which you can become a messenger. Point out to someone else what you would like to do but cannot, and invite that someone to do it for you.

My mother had the desire to attend Mass every day. But she couldn't because she was raising eight children, a number of whom were still toddlers. At St. Gabriel Church, our home parish, the daily Mass was offered at a time we could attend before school. Mom asked me and my school-age siblings to go in her place, so we did.

Often, we were the only ones there besides the celebrant, Father Bill Patterson. It was a small parish. But something happened. That experience kept me open to the Lord's call to me to be a priest. I am a priest today partly because my mom could not do what she wanted to do but asked me to do on her behalf.

Our longings and desires that cannot be met in time and space can be met by God. If we have our eyes set on a goal beyond us, we will go further than if we aim too low.

James and John wanted places at an earthly kingdom. The other disciples were indignant because they wanted that, too. In the end, they all got an invitation from the Lord to reach beyond that to the kingdom He would win for us by His suffering, death and resurrection.

We are living in times that call for a witness of faith that will not flinch. "So let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help." Can you drink the chalice that is offered?

ODU, Xavier form partnership for nursing degree

Ohio Dominican University (ODU) has created a pathway with Xavier University (XU) to pursue a career in nursing through a partnership that allows ODU students for apply a select number of guaranteed spots in XU's Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) Program after completion of a bachelor's degree.

Current ODU students have access to 45 seats in XU's locations -- 15 each in Columbus, Cincinnati and Cleveland. After earning a bachelor's degree at ODU, accepted students will begin the 16-month program at XU to complete their BSN.

A significant workforce shortage is being experienced in hospitals and healthcare facilities throughout Ohio and across the United States. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Registered Nursing (RN) is listed among the top occupations in terms of job growth through 2029.

For more information on this program, visit ohiodominican.edu/Nursing.

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PRAYER TO THE VIRGIN

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of heaven, blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in necessity. Oh, star of the sea, help me and show me herein, you are my Heaven and Earth. I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to secure me in this necessity. There are none who can withstand your powers. Oh, show me herein you are my Mother. Oh, Mary conceived without sin, pray for us, who have recourse to thee. (Repeat three times) Oh, Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hand. (Repeat three times) Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads that I can obtain my goals. You gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me, and in all instances in my life, you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. GW

CATHOLIC WORD SEARCH

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HOLY CROSS CHURCH, COLUMBUS**

Holy Cross Catholic Church, located at 204 South Fifth Street in downtown Columbus, is seeking a part-time organist and music director.

Principal responsibilities of this position are:

1. Accompany all congregational, cantor, and choir singing and select and play a Prelude, Postlude, and other incidental music at our 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM Masses on Sunday, as well as at scheduled Masses for the Easter Triduum, Christmas, and other solemnities.
2. Select appropriate hymns for each Mass and submit hymn numbers and other musical information for the upcoming Sunday to the administrative assistant in time for inclusion in the parish bulletin.
3. Serve as cantor/song leader for the 9:00 AM Mass where no cantor or song leader is present.
4. Accompany all appropriate music offered funerals, weddings, and other private liturgies celebrated in the parish

If you would like to be considered for this position, contact Fr. Michael Gentry, Pastor of Holy Cross at 614-224-3416 or by e-mail at mgentry@columbuscatholic.org.

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PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

ALLEN, Michael, 60, Sept. 23
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Zanesville

BUCHANAN, Vickie L. (Johnson), 64,
Sept. 25
St. Paul Church, Westerville

BAILS, Harold A., 82, Sept. 23
St. John Church, Logan

BURKE, Ada I. (May), 99, Sept. 18
St. Joseph Church, Circleville

COOPER, David, 89, Sept. 10
St. Agatha Church, Columbus

CROWLEY, Wilma M., 89, Aug. 1
Church of the Atonement, Crooksville

DeMIGLIO, Paul J., 90, Sept. 13
St. Catharine Church, Columbus

DILENSCHNEIDER, John J., 89, Sept. 22
St. Thomas More Newman Center,
Columbus

DODD, Bryson M., 16, Sept. 12
St. Timothy Church, Columbus

DOLL, Joseph F. Jr., 81, formerly of
Columbus, Sept. 21
St. Leo Church, Versailles, Ky.

ENDRES, Thomas J., 67, Sept. 14
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel,
Columbus

GERLACH, Darrel E., 73, Sept. 22
St. Leo the Great Oratory, Columbus

HARRIS, Sharon K. (Snee), 75, Sept. 24
Our Lady of Victory Church,
Columbus

HOLBROOK, Mary J. (O'Reilly), 75,
Sept. 22
St. Cecilia Church, Columbus

KIENER, Mary E. (Quinn), 95, Sept. 18
St. Agatha Church, Columbus

KHOURIE, Ralph N., 95, Sept. 27
St. Joseph Cathedral, Columbus

MARTIN, MaryAnn (Conner), 85, Sept. 24
St. Joseph Church, Circleville

MATHER, Robert, 68, Sept. 25
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Zanesville

MAZZANTI, Patricia A., 91, June 28
St. Timothy Church, Columbus

MELO, Maria (del Carmen) "Tita," 71,
Sept. 26
St. Mary Church, Groveport

MESEWICZ, Henry A., 83, Sept. 19
St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

MUSSELMAN, Catherine "Kate," 102,
Sept. 18
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Zanesville

NIXON, James, 75, Sept. 18
St. Joseph Church, Dover

PETROSKY, Emma P. (MacLaren), 96,
Sept. 22
St. Catharine Church, Columbus

RIDENOUR, Frances A. (Rozum), 92,
Sept. 27
Our Lady of Peace Church, Columbus

SCHWADE, Ervin J., 98, Sept. 16
St. Matthew Church, Gahanna

SICHEL, Robert, 88, Sept. 21
St. Philip Church, Columbus

SNYDER, Jeanette H. (Seiler), 100, Aug. 29
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

STOTTS, Carol Marlene, 83, Sept. 17
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

TIBBS, Mary F. (Wilson), 86, Sept. 27
Holy Family Church, Columbus

WETTA, Charles "Bob," 90, Sept. 18
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

Sister Mary Jo Fox, OP

Funeral Mass for Sister Mary Jo Fox, OP, 91, who died Sunday, Sept. 19, was celebrated Saturday, Sept. 25 at the Motherhouse of the Dominican Sisters of Peace. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was born on Nov. 5, 1929, in Lancaster to Lawrence and Nora (O'Neill) Fox.

She was a graduate of Lancaster St. Mary High School and received a Bachelor of Science degree in 1958 from the College of St. Mary of the Springs (now Ohio Dominican University), a Master of Arts degree in 1964 from Providence (Rhode Island) College and a doctorate in theology in 1978 from Fordham University in New York City.

She entered the congregation of the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs (now the Dominican Sisters of Peace) in 1947 and pronounced her vows on July 9, 1949, taking the name Sister Nicholas.

In the Diocese of Columbus, she

Sister Joan Popovits, OP

A private funeral Mass for Sister Joan Popovits, OP, who died Sunday, Sept. 26, was celebrated at the Motherhouse of the Dominican Sisters of Peace. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was born in Chicago on May, 11, 1944 to Joseph and Goldie (Persin) Popovits.

She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in business administration in 1970 from the College of St. Mary of the Springs (now Ohio Dominican University), a Master of Arts degree in pastoral ministry in 1983 from St. Joseph College in West Hartford, Connecticut and a certificate in spir-

itual direction in 1995 from the Manresa Jesuit Retreat Center. She entered the Congregation of St. Mary of the Springs (now the Dominican Sisters of Peace) in 1962 and made her profession of vows on Aug. 15, 1965, taking the name Sister Barbara. She had been pastoral minister of Columbus Holy Spirit and St. Philip churches since 2004 and had been pastoral minister at parishes in Connecticut and Michigan after service at St. George's Hospital in Cincinnati. She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Joseph. Survivors include several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and brothers Joseph, Lawrence, John, Hugh and Carmen. Survivors include brothers Patrick and Paul and several nieces and nephews.

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Teresa M. Murphy

Funeral Mass for Teresa M. Murphy, 101, who died Tuesday, Sept. 21, was celebrated Saturday, Sept. 25, at Columbus St. Timothy Church by her grandson, Father Jonathan Smith, parochial vicar of St. Andrew Church in Clifton, Virginia. He is a priest of the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia.

A story about Father Smith, then a seminarian visiting the Vatican, sending his grandmother a rosary Pope Francis gave him in honor of her 100th birthday appeared in the March 15, 2020 issue of The Catholic Times.

She was born on Jan. 8, 1920 to Leon-

ardo and Maria DeBellis and graduated from Columbus Central High School in 1938. She was a retired employee of the Ohio Department of Transportation and was a founding member of St. Timothy Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, James; son, Daniel; brothers, Anthony, Michael, Martin and Joseph; and sister, Rose VanPelt. Survivors include sons, Mike (Hilda) and Marty (Marianne); and daughters, Mary (Michael) Smith and Patricia; 18 grandchildren; 30 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-granddaughter.

Sister Carmen Paris, OSF

Funeral Mass for Sister Carmen Paris, OSF, 98, who died Monday, Sept. 27, was celebrated at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity in Stella Niagara, New York. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was born Teresa Paris on Oct. 6, 1922 in Steubenville to Joseph and Tommosina (Gallo) Paris.

She entered the Stella Niagara congregation on Aug. 31, 1942 and made her first profession of vows on Aug. 19, 1944 and her final profession on Aug. 18, 1948.

In the Diocese of Columbus, she served in a variety of roles at the former St. Vincent Orphanage in Columbus (1944-1963), as a religious educator at Shawnee St. Mary Church (1974-1975), as a housekeeper at New Lexington Mount Aloysius Academy

(1975-1981), St. Ann's Hospital in Westerville (1981-1983) and the Columbus Nursing Home (1983-1989) and doing laundry and sewing at the Bristol House Nursing Home in Columbus (1989-1997). She also served in the dioceses of Buffalo, New York and Steubenville.

She retired at the St. Leo convent in Columbus in 1997 and became a resident of the Stella Niagara Health Care Center in 2019.

She was preceded in death by her parents; stepmother, Antonietta (Gallo) Paris; brothers, Michael, Herman, Benny, Anthony, Tommy, John and Thomas; and sisters, Sister S. Edwin Paris, OSF, Virginia Parisi, Vera Wellman, Lena Kevari, Rose Dicks, Gilda and Mary. Survivors include a brother, Joseph, and many nieces and nephews.



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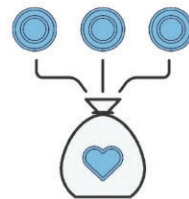


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Diocesan staff recognized for service



Bishop Robert Brennan recognized diocesan employees celebrating service anniversaries after the 12:05 p.m. weekday Mass on Tuesday, Sept. 21 at St. Joseph Cathedral. Pictured with the bishop are (front row from left) Sandy Murphy, Catholic Cemeteries, 10 years; and Patricia Huffman, JOIN, 10 years; (middle row from left) Rich Finn, Catholic Cemeteries, 40 years; Jennifer Fullin, Marriage and Family Life Office, 15 years; Christine Hanf, JOIN, 10 years; MaryBeth Krecsmar, Tribunal, 20 years; and Sue Roberts, Development Office, 15 years; (back row from left) Mark Noble, Catholic Cemeteries, 40 years; Ed Jones, Catholic Cemeteries, 35 years; Father Michael Hartge, Moderator of the Curia; Bishop Brennan; Deacon John Crerand, Tribunal, 15 years; Matt Schlater, diocesan COO; and Jan Milner, Finance Office, 20 years.
Photo courtesy diocesan personnel office

CALLING THE 72...

“Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourself to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”

- 1 Corinthians 15: 58

Catholic Men’s Ministry Leadership is looking for “the 72” (That number coming from the gospel of Luke, Ch.10, when Jesus commissions a group of 72 disciples to help the 12 go out and evangelize.)

If you are interested in helping our Ministry, please contact us by visiting our website.

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St. Paul the Apostle Church • Westerville

Catholic Men’s Conference

Called to be Saints • 25th Annual Event
February 26th, 2022



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FOLLOW:     

Josephinum 4-Miler benefits seminarians



Bishop Robert Brennan (left) stands with Bill and Margie Mess of Columbus at Josephinum 4-Miler Run/Walk on Saturday, Oct. 3 at the Pontifical College Josephinum in north Columbus. The annual event, organized by the Friends of the Josephinum, raises funds to help seminarians with expenses. The race was moved to the grounds of the Josephinum this year after being canceled in 2020 because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Photo courtesy M3Sports

A gift in your will is a legacy to tomorrow's priests.

Become a member of **The Jessing Society** of the **Pontifical College Josephinum** by including the seminary in your will. For years to come, your gift will support the education of seminarians in the *House of Joseph*.

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Mail orders for Holy Cross Cemetery to:
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