

The Catholic TIMES

The Diocese of Columbus' Information Source

June 20, 2021 • 12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • Volume 70:19

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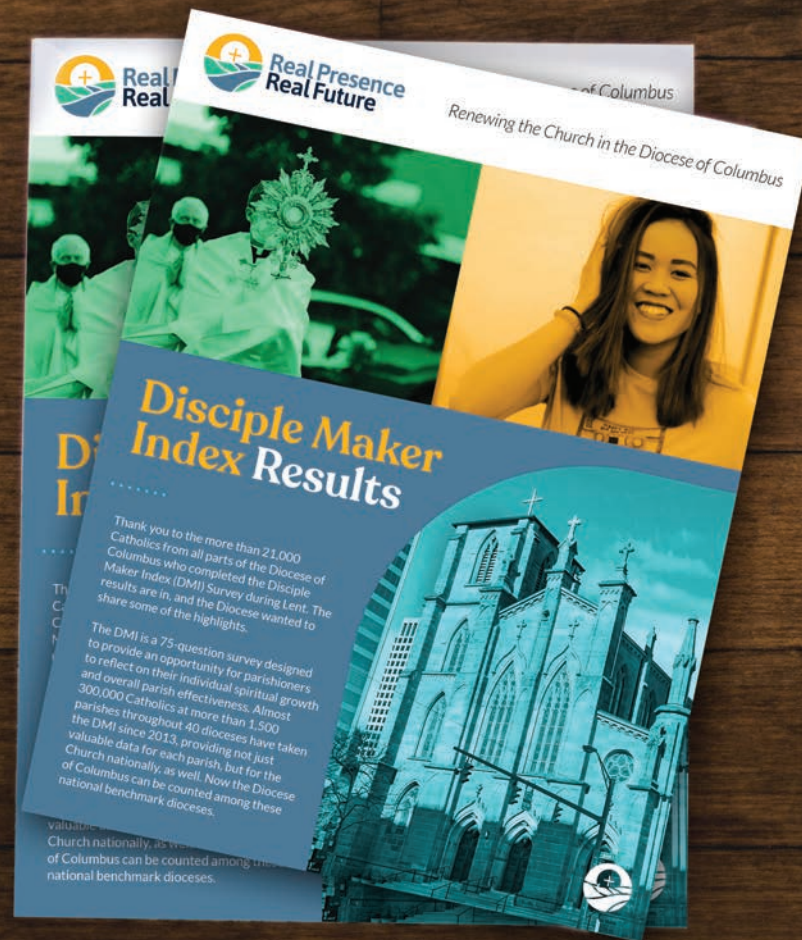
Clergy assignments:
The Diocese of Columbus released its official list of changes in clergy assignments for 2021-22. A majority of the changes become effective July 13, Page 2



Long-lasting marriages:
Two couples from the diocese who have been married for 72 and 65 years are profiled ahead of the annual Jubilee of Anniversaries that will take place Sunday, June 27 at Powell St. Joan of Arc Church, Pages 10-11



Parish anniversary:
Chillicothe St. Peter Church's 175th anniversary was last year, but the parish will celebrate a pandemic-delayed commemorative Mass with Bishop Robert Brennan on June 29, the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, Page 26



DISCIPLE MAKER INDEX PROVIDES INFORMATION FOR GROWTH

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Official announcement – clergy assignments

The Diocese of Columbus has released its list of changes in clergy assignments for 2021-22.

These appointments become effective July 13, 2021, unless otherwise noted.

Father Brian Beal, from Parochial Vicar, St. Peter and St. Mary Churches, Chillicothe; and St. Mary Church, Waverly, to Pastor, St. Mary Church, Portsmouth; Holy Redeemer Church, Portsmouth; St. Peter in Chains Church, Wheelersburg; Holy Trinity Church, Pond Creek.

Announcing the nomination from the Prior Provincial, Very Rev. Kenneth Letoile, OP, **Father Stephen Carmody, OP**, from Pastor, Holy Trinity Church and St. Joseph Church, Somerset, to service outside the diocese, effective August 7, 2021.

Father Leo Connolly, from Pastor, St. Cecilia Church, Columbus, to Pastor, Seton Parish, Pickerington.

Confirming the nomination from the Prior Provincial, Very Rev. Kenneth Letoile, OP, **Father Frassati Alexander Davis, OP** from service outside the diocese, to Parochial Vicar, St. Patrick Church, Columbus, effective June 26, 2021.

Father Daniel Dury, from Pastor, St. Catharine Church, Columbus, to Pastor, St. John Neumann Church, Sunbury.

Father Thomas Gardner, from Parochial Vicar, Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia; Immaculate Conception Church, Dennison; and Holy Trinity Church, Zoar, to Pastor, Sacred Heart Church, Coshocton and Priest Moderator, St. Francis de Sales Church, Newcomerstown.

Father Brett Garland, from Parochial Vicar, St. Mary Church, Delaware, to Pastor, St. Mary Church, Delaware, effective April 23, 2021.

Confirming the nomination from the Prior Provincial, Very Rev. Jef-

frey S. Kirch, C.P.P.S., **Father James Gaynor, C.P.P.S.** from service outside the diocese, to Senior Parochial Vicar, St. James the Less Church, Columbus, effective July 1, 2021.

Father Michael Gentry, from Pastor, St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Columbus, to Pastor, Holy Cross Church, Columbus.

Father Mark Ghiloni, from Pastor, Church of the Ascension, Johnstown, to retirement.

Father Thomas Herge, from Parochial Vicar, St. Michael Church, Worthington, to Pastor, Ss. Peter & Paul Church, Wellston; Holy Trinity Church, Jackson; and St. Sylvester Church, Zaleski.

Father James Klima, from Pastor, Seton Parish, Pickerington, to retirement.

Confirming the nomination from the Prior Provincial, Very Rev. Kenneth Letoile, **Father Andre-Joseph LaCasse, OP**, from service outside the diocese, to Pastor, Holy Trinity Church and St. Joseph Church, Somerset, effective August 8, 2021.

Father Timothy Lynch, from Parochial Vicar, St. Joseph Cathedral, to Parochial Vicar, St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin.

Father Matthew Morris, from Parochial Vicar, St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin, to Pastor, St. Catharine Church, Columbus.

Father Paul A. Noble, from medical leave of absence, to Chaplain, Bishop Watterson High School, Columbus.

Father Stephan Ondrey, newly ordained, to Parochial Vicar, Seton Parish, Pickerington.

Confirming the nomination from the Prior Provincial, Very Rev. Jef-

frey S. Kirch, C.P.P.S., **Father Andrew O'Reilly, C.P.P.S.** from Senior Parochial Vicar, St. James the Less Church, Columbus, to service outside the diocese, effective June 1, 2021.

Father David Schalk, to Pastor, St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Columbus, continuing as Pastor, Christ the King Church, Columbus.

Father Ryan Schmit, from Administrator, Holy Cross Church and Administrator pro tem, St. John Neumann Church, Sunbury, to Pastor, St. Ann Church, Dresden and St. Mary Church, Mattingly Settlement.

Father Stephen Smith, from Parochial Vicar, St. Joan of Arc Church, Powell, to Pastor, Church of the Ascension, Johnstown.

Announcing the nomination from the Prior Provincial, Very Rev. Kenneth Letoile, OP, **Father Raymond Snyder, OP**, from Parochial Vicar, St. Patrick Church, Columbus, to service outside the diocese.

Father Jacob Stinnett, newly ordained, to Parochial Vicar, St. Peter and St. Mary Churches, Chillicothe; and St. Mary Church, Waverly.

Father Nicola Ventura, from Pastor, Ss. Peter & Paul Church, Wellston; Holy Trinity Church, Jackson; and St. Sylvester Church, Zaleski, to Pastor, St. Cecilia Church, Columbus.

Father Victor Wesolowski, from Pastor, Sacred Heart Church, Coshocton and Priest Moderator, St. Francis de Sales, Newcomerstown, to medical leave.

Father Joseph T. Yokum, from Pastor, St. Mary Church, Portsmouth; Holy Redeemer Church, Portsmouth; St. Peter in Chains Church, Wheelersburg; Holy Trinity Church, Pond Creek, to Pastor, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City.



Diocese of Arlington Bishop Paul S. Loverde blesses the hands of Father Jonathan Smith during an ordination Mass on June 5 in Arlington, Virginia. Photo courtesy Ashleigh Kassoock, Arlington Catholic Herald

Watterson graduate ordained a priest in Virginia diocese

By Doug Bean
Catholic Times Editor

The seeds of a priestly vocation planted in Columbus took root several hundred miles to the east when Father Jonathan Smith was ordained to the priesthood on Saturday, June 5, for the Diocese of Arlington at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More in Arlington, Virginia.

Father Smith, 30, was raised in northwest Columbus, attended St. Timothy School, graduated in 2009 from Bishop Watterson High School, left home for college at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia and then served as a Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) missionary for two years before entering seminary in 2015.

His parents, family and friends traveled to Virginia to see Father Smith ordained to the priesthood along with three other men for the Diocese of Arlington. One special family member was unable to travel. She was back home listening to a livestream and

See **ORDAINED**, Page 12



Front Page photo:

DISCIPLE MAKER INDEX HIGHLIGHTED
A four-page section in this week's **Catholic Times** breaks down some of the results from the diocese's **Disciple Maker Index** survey that included responses from more than **21,000 participants**. Photo courtesy **Catholic Leadership Institute**

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Diocesan subcommittees present detailed plans for evangelization efforts

By Father Adam Streitenberger

In winter 2019, Bishop Robert Brennan established the Committee for the New Evangelization for the diocese. The committee partnered with the Catholic Leadership Institute, a national organization that provides support, training and guidance to dioceses, in summer 2020 to begin work on six priorities for evangelization in the Diocese of Columbus.

Those six priorities, established by Bishop Brennan, include:

- Renewal of parishes as a place of formation for missionary disciples.
- Ongoing formation of schools' staff and faculty members as missionary disciples.
- Evangelization of all higher education centers in the diocese.
- Use of social and digital media for evangelization.
- Support and utilization of lay missionaries and apostolates.
- Development of a soft-entry evangelization center for outreach to seculars and "nones" (those with no religious affiliation).

A subcommittee created for each priority developed a plan to address its priority. They worked from September 2020 to March 2021 gathering data and insight, investigating options and models, and developing budgets and timelines.

Plans were presented in final form to Bishop Brennan on May 17. They called for three to five years of investment and implementation to transform the Diocese of Columbus into a national leader in evangelization.

Evangelization planning is at the heart and spear point of the Real Presence, Real Future (RPRF) initiative. As the RPRF process assesses current diocesan and parish resources and future needs, the evangelization plans provide the framework and strategy for increasing the Church's presence.

Parish evangelization begins and ends with the formation of all the baptized as missionary disciples. The Parish Missionary Disciple Formation subcommittee consisted of Jaci Ashbury, Liz Christy, Sister Karla Archundia, Tina Burtch, Father Sean Dooley, Deacon Victor Nduguba, Drew Snyder, Father Jonathan Wilson and Cora Munoz.

Their plan has three phases. The first phase, inspired by a desire to support priests, proposes providing spiritual support and renewal for the dio-

cese's priests. Supported and renewed pastors and priests are a prerequisite for the renewal of our parishes in the missionary disciple culture.

The second phase looks to equip pastors and parish staff members with the necessary support and formation to help build a culture of missionary discipleship in the parish. Several models were identified from which pastors can choose.

The third phase includes assisting pastors and parishes to develop their own plan on how to form missionary disciples. The subcommittee also recommended the creation of a diocesan Office for Evangelization and an annual evangelization conference.

Closely connected to the parish subcommittee is the Catholic Schools' Staff and Faculty subcommittee. Adam Dufault, Father Dan Dury, Laura Corcoran, Dan DeMatte, Dan Garrick, Sister John Paul Maher, OP, and Therese Recinella worked on the subcommittee's plan. Inspired by a desire to provide spiritual support and formation for the staff and faculty members of our Catholic schools, they identified three goals.

The first is to facilitate an annual "encounter" experience retreat for all Catholic schools' staff and faculty members. The second is to provide ongoing prayer formation and daily and weekly opportunities for prayer for teachers and staff members. The final goal is to provide staff members with small group support that builds the morale and enhances the spiritual life of those who sacrifice so much for our Catholic schools.

Twenty-five higher educational centers are located in the diocese. The college years are crucial for retention of the faith and discernment of vocations. As such, these campuses are the primary place of evangelization for the future of the local church.

The University and Higher Education Evangelization subcommittee separated the campuses into categories based on size and nature. Each educational center has a unique background and requires a unique approach.

Among the recommendations of the subcommittee is to expand from two to seven teams of missionaries from St. Paul's Outreach (SPO) and the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) working in the di-

Real Presence Real Future Reflections

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time, June 20, 2021

Real Presence, Real Future reflections: Jesus' Real Presence
Deacon Jeff Carpenter, St. Bernadette Church, Lancaster

As the great storm raged, the disciples woke Jesus saying, "Do you not care that we are perishing?" When the storm was approaching, why did the disciples wait so long to appeal to the Lord? Maybe the lack of faith Jesus accuses them of is thinking he would not want to be bothered with their problem. Jesus gives us his real presence in the Eucharist not just for serious emergencies but because he wants to be present in our lives at every moment. He wants to strengthen our faith, to share our joys, and to counsel and console us in every struggle.

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

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time, June 27, 2021

Real Presence, Real Future reflections: Arise and Eat!

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

In today's Gospel, Jesus takes a young girl's hand, instructs her to "arise," and then tells her parents to give her something to eat. He saves her from death and ensures that she is fed, and He does the same for us today. Jesus saves us from sin and death, invites us into a relationship with Him, and nourishes us with His Real Presence in the Eucharist! Alleluia! May we respond in faith to this invitation, take hold of His outstretched hand, and journey with our Lord into the future with faith, hope, love, and courage.

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

12avo. Domingo del tiempo ordinario, 20 de junio, 2021

Reflexiones Presencia Real, Futuro Real: Presencia Real de Jesús
Diácono Jeff Carpenter, Santa Bernardita, Lancaster

Mientras la gran tormenta arremetía, los discípulos despertaron a Jesús diciéndole, "¿no te importa que nos hundamos?" Cuando veían que la tormenta se aproximaba, ¿por qué los discípulos esperaron tanto para acudir al Señor? Tal vez la falta de fe, de la cual Jesús los acusa, los hace pensar que Él no quiere ser molestado con sus problemas. Jesús nos da su Presencia Real en la Eucaristía no sólo para grandes emergencias, sino porque Él quiere estar presente en nuestras vidas en todo momento. Él quiere fortalecer nuestra fe, compartir nuestras alegrías, aconsejarnos y consolarnos en cada dificultad.

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

13avo. Domingo del tiempo ordinario, 27 de junio, 2021

Reflexiones Presencia Real, Futuro Real: ¡Levántate y come!

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

En el evangelio de hoy, Jesús toma de la mano a la niña y le dice "levántate", luego pide a los padres que le den algo de comer. Él la salvó de la muerte y se asegura de que este alimentada, hoy, Él hace lo mismo con nosotros. Jesús nos salva del pecado y la muerte, nos invita a tener una relación con Él y nos nutre con su Presencia Real en la Eucaristía, ¡Aleluya!

¡Ojalá que respondamos con fe a esta invitación, tomemos la mano que nos está extendiendo, y hagamos este viaje con el Señor por un futuro de fe, esperanza, amor y valentía.

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



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

Learn more at:

▶ www.RealPresenceRealFuture.org



Religious Freedom Week 2021: Solidarity in Freedom

“Solidarity means much more than engaging in sporadic acts of generosity. It means thinking and acting in terms of community.” – Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti, 116

The feast of Sts. Thomas More and John Fisher on June 22 begins this year’s Religious Freedom Week to promote religious freedom here and abroad.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ website (www.usccb.org/committees/religious-liberty/religious-freedom-week) provides daily prayers, reflections and actions to help us live out our faith in public and to serve the good of all. The daily focus includes praying:

- For children awaiting adoption.
- For Catholic institutions that serve those suffering the effects of the COVID pandemic here and abroad.
- That the dignity of all people will be respected in our country.
- That Christian witness in the face of attacks on our churches will convert hearts to faith in Jesus Christ.
- For our Catholic sisters and brothers who are suffering in Nicaragua.
- That governments will respect the consciences of all people who care for the sick and vulnerable.
- For Christians in Iraq and that people of all faiths in the land of Abraham may live in peace.

FAITH IN ACTION

Erin Cordle

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



• That Christians will have the courage to speak the truth with kindness and clarity, even in the face of adversity.

By our baptism, we are united with Christians throughout the world. We are both Catholic and catholic (universal). The Church in the United States suffers in some ways and experiences great abundance in others. Christ calls us to share our abundance, including our material abundance, with those who are suffering both within and outside of our country.

Through the incarnation, Christ establishes solidarity with us. He rescues us from our fallen state by taking on human form so that He might make us rich as sons and daughters of God. As followers of Christ, we are called to allow the sacraments to transform our souls, bringing us closer to true discipleship. We are called to imitate the incarnate Son of God by being in solidarity with others.

One way to evangelize and be in solidarity is to make each person Christ touches magnetic enough

with love to draw others in. We are called to be missionary disciples through our diocesan initiative, Real Presence, Real Future (<https://realpresence-realfuture.org/>). We are strengthening our call to evangelize to a world that needs Christ more than ever. We are called!

“Can anything good come from Nazareth?” (John 1:46) Jesus was ridiculed by those who did not have faith. Our absolute foundational belief in the dignity of all life, from conception to natural death and in every circumstance of life, provides opportunities for non-believers to deride the very foundation of our faith. Even believing that God can bring life from death faces ridicule.

I have been reflecting on our ancestors, those early followers of Jesus. While we are not being challenged to remain faithful as we face down hungry lions, our adversaries are just as deadly. Do I have the same depth of faith to face today’s lions, including abortion, the death penalty, racism, hunger, homelessness and the lack of affordable housing and gun violence? I pray that I do. I also pray that Jesus breaks my heart for what breaks His.

During the Religious Freedom Week this and every year, I pray that we are Christ’s missionary disciples who stand up to assure the Real Presence, Real Future of our Church.

Seeing your future self in aging parents, grandparents

The other day I sat in my den, chatting with my older teenagers. I will admit to getting on a bit of a soapbox, and I saw them look at each other, sharing an inside moment about me.

Their eyes rolled, they slightly smiled at each other and nodded as if to say, “It’s just mom. We love her. Let’s give her grace.” As I ponder that moment, I am in awe of their maturity, because I, at age 40-something, am just learning that skill.

I remember being in my 20s. I had my life planned out. I knew who I was going to be, and what I needed to get there. I was judgmental of other mothers, couples and certainly any person older than me who tried to guide me, for I knew what I wanted my life to be like.

It’s a funny thing, thinking about what you want your life to be like. Because as we mature, we realize that the formation of the things that mold and shape us are out of our control. Sure, we can plan

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.



our finances, career, family, etc. But God’s plan for us can (and has) wiped out our designs in one huge tidal wave, time and again. I think He knows I need the tidal wave to listen.

Looking back at those years, I am ashamed of how many relationships were broken and hearts hurt by my stubbornness. I ponder this often and use it to guide me as I parent children growing into adulthood.

My 30s were filled with inner comparison and loneliness. Authenticity was strived for but not achieved as I struggled to find my way, lost without a lifeboat in range. It was Christ who brought me back. Always calling, ever patient, He knew how

to speak to my heart, and, when the time was right, he broke down my defenses, spoke truth to my heart and re-created me into the woman I am now.

Sometimes I wonder about this re-creation He has made in me, this woman who moves where the Spirit leads, shares what the Spirit reveals, speaks when the prompting is there. How free she is, and what a contrast to the chains of pride and comparison!

I recently shared a

FaceTime call with my dad. Our conversation was typical, as I try to check in with him every day. He repeats himself often now. His questions and concerns could irritate me, but the Lord gifted me with a realization the other day. He helped me see myself in my father. Not the “Oh, we have the same eyes” type of seeing myself, but a prayer for the grace to see myself as he is, 30 years from my age.

It was a gut check because I had felt within myself at that moment an impatience, an annoyance and a desire to leave the conversation. Oh, sweet Jesus, I prayed, please don’t ever have this desire be upon the hearts of my children when I am where my father is now.

Similarly, my mother-in-law, whose heart to serve is bigger than Santa’s bag at Christmas, is always asking how she can help and offering guidance and wisdom – requested and not! As we sat together the other day at my children’s soccer games, I looked for me in her. I saw a mother who was seeking to hear, desiring to help, to be involved and included.

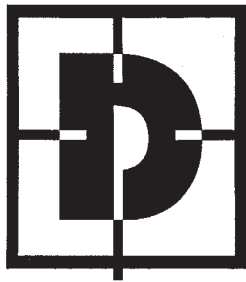
I thought of how I would want my children to respond to me when I am in my 70s and beyond. I listened. I welcomed her in, and I chose to do it her way because I knew she would feel loved.

I am on the slope toward 50 this year, and I couldn’t be more excited. Bring the wisdom, Jesus! Bring the joy! Bring the freedom to see You in all I encounter, young and old.

Pope Francis, in his efforts to draw families closer together and heal intergenerational wounds, reminds us that “life is a gift, and when it is long it is a privilege, for oneself and for others.”

Jesus, thank you for the gift of parents and grandparents. Thank you for the grace of seeing ourselves in them. May we always seek to imitate you in our service to them, and may our children grow with the grace and desire to do likewise for us. ▽

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Real guidance on the Eucharist is needed in the Church

Christ's Real Presence in the Blessed Sacrament has received considerable attention lately, and that's a good sign.

The Real Presence, Real Future campaign began in earnest during Lent with 40 Days of Adoration at parishes throughout the 23 counties that make up this expansive diocese.

Two weekends ago, the Church celebrated the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, and many parishes offered Eucharistic processions and Adoration.

At the virtual June assembly of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Church leaders were scheduled to discuss the crucial topic of Eucharistic coherence, which means that those who receive Jesus must be in full communion with the Church and its teachings.

In August, a Eucharistic gathering at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral and Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School will continue the emphasis on the meaning and importance of Jesus' true presence in the sacred host at Holy Communion and also His presence in every tabernacle and monstrance throughout the world.

So, as you can see, at least within the Catholic community, attempts are being made to elevate awareness that Christ is constantly in our midst here on earth and is not just a mythical figure.

As part of the diocese's recent Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey, participants were asked about their belief in the Eucharist. Some highlights of the results can be found in the four-page insert inside this edition.

EDITOR'S REFLECTIONS

Doug Bean



The DMI showed that 74 percent of 21,462 respondents strongly agreed with the statement "I believe the Eucharist is the Body and Blood of Christ." Another 13 percent agreed that Jesus is actually present in the Blessed Sacrament.

The diocese fares well compared with national surveys that consistently indicate approximately a third of professed Catholics believe in the true presence. It should be noted that many of the skeptics do not regularly attend Sunday Mass.

But if the Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith, shouldn't that number be 100 percent? And so that begs the question: Why isn't it?

Is it a breakdown in catechesis? Are the truths of our faith not being communicated effectively? Have Catholics been swayed by other denominations that consider communion to be symbolic? Is there a general apathy or genuine doubt about Jesus' proclamation in the gospels that the bread and wine are to become His true flesh and real blood?

We could point fingers and say schools and religious education programs have failed to emphasize the Real Presence. We could blame parents for not doing more to share the faith with their children. We could say that the faithful don't understand transubstantiation, which is the transformation of the bread and wine on the altar at the consecration during Mass when the priest acts in *persona Christi*, or in the person of Christ.

The real culprit could be cultural influences and examples.

Young minds, in particular, are muddled with confusion and questions. Non-Catholics and nominal Catholic friends might mock them for believing the body, blood, soul and divinity are contained in a tiny host. To walk by faith and not by sight in believing this truth is not easy to do in a world that demands tangible, scientific proof.

Let's also consider the confusion created for impressionable people when public figures' actions run contrary to the Catechism of the Catholic Church and yet they participate in the sacred act of receiving Communion. The U.S. bishops were to address that issue during their June 16-18 meetings.

There's a false narrative out there that denying Holy Communion to a politician or anyone who does not support policies protecting the unborn, natural marriage and religious freedom is used as a cudgel. The real reason is the duty of the Church to safeguard an individual's soul from an unworthy Communion and also protect the sanctity of Christ. The same would be true of a person known to be living in a state of mortal sin. It is not about punishment or teaching someone a lesson but more of a fraternal correction.

Archbishops Salvatore Cordileone of San Francisco and Samuel Aquila of Denver have provided insightful guidance recently on this topic.

Eucharistic coherence and clarity will be crucial to the Real Presence, Real Future initiative in this diocese and the worldwide Church. We seek clear direction that can be achieved through prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

Thirty years since life-changing visit to Poland

It was a two-week whirlwind that changed my life forever, that first visit of mine to Poland in June 1991. Looking back on it, I'm reminded of something H.L. Mencken wrote of a similarly transformative experience: "It was brain-fagging and back-breaking, but it was grand beyond compare – an adventure of the first chop, a razzle-dazzle superb and elegant, a circus in forty rings." My first weeks in Poland were all of that, and more. For what I learned in dozens of conversations during that fortnight became the crux of *The Final Revolution: The Resistance Church and the Collapse of Communism*; the publication of that book (the first to argue that John Paul II and the Church had played pivotal roles in the collapse of European communism) led to my first serious conversation with the Polish pope; our relationship ripened over the next few years to the point where, in 1995, I rather boldly suggested to John Paul that I write his biography; and the rest, as they say, is history.

Over the past three decades, I've spent about three years, all told, in Poland, much of it in Cracow, a city I've come to regard as virtually another home. On this anniversary, however, my mind turns to some extraordinary people I first met in June 1991. Many are no longer with us but I cherish the memory of them, for their contributions to my education in matters Polish was incalculable.

I think of the former Solidarity activists, many of them political prisoners under martial law, who were then members of the Polish government, influential journalists, or academics finally able to teach as they saw fit in a free society.

I remember Cardinal Franciszek Macharski, a man

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

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



of great natural dignity, shrewdly chosen by John Paul II as his successor in the See of Cracow. Macharski, for his part, had the good sense not to try to be Karol Wojtyła 2.0 but to be himself – which was more than enough, for he showed himself full of grit and courage when Poland suffered under martial law in the 1980s. It was Macharski who told me of the tradition that the archbishop of Cracow is the *Defensor Civitatis*, the last line of defense of the people and their rights. Like his predecessor, Franciszek Macharski lived that episcopal role magnificently, as had the wartime archbishop both he and Karol Wojtyła revered, Cardinal Adam Stefan Sapieha.

I think of Jerzy Turowicz, a charming, elfin septuagenarian who for decades ran the only reliable newspaper in Poland, *Tygodnik Powszechny* (Universal Weekly), with the protection of the Archdiocese of Cracow. Its editorial staff included brilliant men and women who could not get the academic and professional positions for which they were qualified because they were serious Catholics. And in its pages, a future pope cut his literary teeth as a poet and essayist.

I remember Father Jozef Tischner, a bluff, hearty son of the Polish highlands, a tremendous joke-teller,

and a world-class philosopher. His brilliant sermon on September 6, 1981 at the first Solidarity Congress – a meditation on work and the Eucharist – should be in the Liturgy of the Hours as the second selection of the Office of Readings for the Memorial of St. Joseph the Worker.

I remember visiting Auschwitz-Birkenau for the first time and praying outside the starvation cell where St. Maximilian Kolbe had given his life for a fellow-prisoner – and finding it, like the 12th station of the cross in the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem, one of the easiest places in the world to pray.

I remember a lengthy Sunday afternoon talk with Father Kazimierz Jancarz, who looked like an NFL linebacker, mocked himself as "just a proletarian," and then explained to me how his parish church in the industrial town of Nowa Huta had been a center of underground resistance activities during and after martial law – a place where people came to speak freely about a future they could only imagine, but for which they wanted to be educated and prepared.

None of this would have been possible without the assistance of my colleague and friend Rodger Potocki, who was the best of companions, a knowledgeable guide, and the man who made me read aloud all the road signs we passed, so that I could at least pronounce Polish (more-or-less) correctly.

Three decades of work and conversation in Poland have shaped me in ways I would not have thought possible 30 years ago. For that, I am deeply grateful to a nation that might yet become a model for 21st-century democracy, if it took the social doctrine of its greatest son seriously.

As COVID rules ease at prison, visitors and Mass return

By Michele Williams

Alleluia and praise the Lord, my parents finally came to prison for a visit! Three weeks later, we had our first in-person Mass. Both were blessings.

In May, the Ohio Reformatory for Women in Marysville allowed visitors for the first time since March 2020. When Mom and Dad walked through the visiting hall doors, I was overcome with joy. It took all my willpower not to run to them and throw myself in their arms.

Why didn't I? Because hugs were not allowed, nor was any physical contact. So, while my heart was bursting with happiness at seeing them, it was also breaking because I still couldn't hug them. I wrapped my arms around myself to keep from reaching out and let the tears fall.

The restrictions for visiting were numerous because the prison was taking no chances with COVID. All visitors were tested. Masks were required. No children younger than 12 allowed. No games or card playing. Only two visitors per inmate, and only four inmates total, meaning 12 people were allowed in a space that usually holds 75 or more. Talk about social distancing!

We were told that our visit would be terminated if there was any physical contact, and I would end up in quarantine/solitary for two weeks. Yikes!

A 3-foot-by-3-foot square of Plexi-

glas stood between us on the table. We put our hands up to the glass often, and we looked one another in the eyes for the first time in way too long.

Know what? They looked exactly the same as the last time I saw them 15 months prior: smiling and happy just to be with me.

Snacks were provided because the vending machines were not operational yet, but I found it difficult to swallow anything due to the lump of emotion lodged in my throat. I'd waited so long to be with my parents, endured the toughest year in my prison life, and now here they were. It was the answer to our prayers, and I was so grateful.

Our visit was a wonderful two hours long, and time flew by. We had grown accustomed to my allotted 15-minute phone calls, so being able to talk longer took some getting used to. We could s-l-o-w down, not be in such a rush to cover Topics A, B and C. We could be intentional and present, and relax in one another's company. Dad told every joke he'd been saving since last year, and it was good to laugh again.

The glass had a 2-inch gap at the bottom where the pedestal met the tabletop. We showed great restraint in that we didn't cheat and try to touch. The officers were on the opposite side of the room, and they wouldn't have seen, but our integrity was at stake.

All too soon, our time was up, and with one final hands-to-the-glass moment, Mom and Dad walked away.

It was gut-wrenching to let them go without a hug. But as they had every month for 27 years before COVID, they will be back. We will hug next time – it's already been approved.

It's a good thing my family has high standards because I ran straight into the Major and a deputy warden on my way back to the housing unit. I thanked them for the opportunity to see my parents and told them that, as difficult as it was, we were compliant with every rule. They said they knew because they'd been watching the 12 security cameras inside visiting hall.

Our first in-person Mass felt like a reunion for the 19 of us who attended. Like many people in America, we hadn't seen each other for more than a year, so we had a lot of catching up to do while setting up for the service.

There were major logistical hurdles to jump due to the reformatory's COVID restrictions. Instead of our cozy little chapel, we were moved to the bigger one where the chairs were spaced 6 feet apart. The hosts and wine were placed on the side of the altar.

Sadly, I had to disband and disperse the choir into the congregation, which left me at the piano alone. It was strange because I am used to being in the back of the room, not the front, and especially not next to the altar. Good thing God cured my stage fright!

Father Joseph Trapp welcomed us, and we sang the opening hymn, Sing with all the Saints in Glory, to begin

Mass for the first time since March 2020. It felt like coming home, coming back to a place familiar and comforting, with just enough changes to make it interesting.

For me, the most special moment was receiving the Eucharist. Having been sustained by spiritual communion, courtesy of televised Mass, I was finally satisfied. It made me treasure the Real Presence of Christ even more.

The word Eucharist means thanksgiving, and that was exactly my overarching emotion. I couldn't really even pray; I just kept repeating, "Thank you, Jesus" over and over. I don't remember when I've felt so close to the Lord.

As the musician, though, I had to play music! I was too emotional to sing and didn't want anyone else to feel obligated, so I opted for a piano-only version of You Are Mine, my personal favorite. I think Jesus appreciated the sentiment.

This first Mass was also my dear friend Apryl's last Mass at the reformatory. She was released from prison the next morning. Father Trapp gave her a blessing and a holy wave sendoff amid the cheers and applause. There wasn't a dry eye in the room. It is a prison tradition called being "blessed out" and fills me with hope. I can't wait until it is my turn!

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

Wherever we are, we'll always have a home with Jesus in church

In the past couple of months, my husband and I have had fun traveling out of state again. It's refreshing and invigorating to discover new places, enjoy sporting events, restaurants and to be with groups of family and friends again.

Recently, when we were out of town, I was struck by how much we enjoy going to Mass at other churches while we are traveling. We love to meet the priests, experience the varied architecture of the local churches, pray before the beautiful saint statues and worship with the local community. Visiting a new Catholic Church often takes us to interesting new corners of the area we are visiting and leads to more new experiences.

I love it so much that I always leave Mass thinking that I could live anywhere in the world where there is a Catholic Church — because where Mass is offered, Jesus is present and there is community, both liturgically and socially. Living in a new place where there is a Catholic Church means immediate friends, people with similar values, and the support of a faith community. However, for me, first and

HOLY AND HEALTHY

Lori Crock



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

foremost, having access to Jesus in the Eucharist makes any place feel like Home.

I agree with St. Padre Pio who said, "It would be easier for the world to survive without the sun than without the Holy Mass."

Due to COVID, many people were not able to attend Mass, but now is the time for us to invite people back, to welcome people Home to Jesus Christ who offers us his most generous mercy and love.

That personal invitation, from one person to another, to encounter Jesus Christ in the Holy Mass is vital to rebuilding our sense of community in parish life. We also need this encounter with Jesus to nourish and strengthen us to continue on the indi-

vidual mission Jesus has for each of us. As St. Paul reminds us, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

In his Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis invites us Home by risking an encounter with Jesus — no matter where we are on our faith journey.

"I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since 'no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord.' The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk; whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realize that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms."

So let us gather our courage to return to Mass and actively invite and welcome our brothers and sisters back Home and into the loving embrace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Prison ministries, halted by COVID, resuming in the diocese

By Doug Bean
Catholic Times Editor

The two-month suspension of public Masses in Ohio a year ago because of the COVID-19 crisis pales in comparison with the restricted access to the sacraments that inmates housed in the state's prisons have endured during the past 15 months.

"Some people have not had communion in over a year, and they haven't had the opportunity for confession for more than a year," said Deacon Jeff Hurdley, who serves at Lancaster St. Mark Church and the Southeastern Correctional Institution near Lancaster.

"We're just hungry for the opportunity to come back. There are inmates in these facilities who are Catholic and haven't had an opportunity to talk with folks about the faith from a Catholic perspective."

Priests have begun to return, or soon will be permitted to return, to many of the state correctional institutions located in the Diocese of Columbus.

The 12 state facilities within the diocese account for half of Ohio's state prisons.

Those include Southeastern Correctional Institution, Chillicothe Correctional Institution, the Orient Correctional Reception Center, Franklin Medical Center in Columbus, London Correctional Institution, Madison Correctional Institution near London, Marion Correctional Institution, North Central Correctional Institution in Marion, Ohio Reformatory for Women in Marysville, Pickaway Correctional Institution near Orient, Ross Correctional Institution in Chillicothe and Southern Ohio Correctional Facility near Lucasville.

Diocesan priests and deacons are assigned to minister to the men and women at each location and at a number of city and county jails. Volunteers from parishes throughout the diocese also provide assistance, but, in most cases, they have not been allowed to visit since the pandemic hit in March 2020.

Deacons and priests report that current access varies among prisons.

With the state easing restrictions this month for the general public, wardens are starting to follow suit. Because priests are considered contractors and not members of the prison staff, they are deemed visitors, and many institutions have allowed inmates to have visitors on a limited basis only within the past few months.

At Southeastern Correctional, Deacon Hurdley and chaplains from other faiths returned approximately two months ago.

"We have had to have a schedule of religious services that we publish on a monthly basis," he explained. "Up until just a week ago, the population was broken up into cohorts, which are groups from various dormitories. And we provide services for each of those cohorts at different times. Scheduling is a real issue, and we were only having contact with them once a month."

Deacons can conduct communion services and Bible studies and oversee religious instruction using series such as Bishop Robert Barron's *Catholicism*, but Deacon Hurdley said a void existed because frequent interaction is essential to answer questions and foster discussions about the faith.

"We're able to do that now," he said. "You cannot overestimate how important it is for the population, especially the Catholic population, to be able to gather weekly to hear the Word and to receive Holy Communion."

"It's encountering the Lord personally, it's renewing that relationship with Him weekly, it's accepting His mercy weekly, and it draws us in as a community to, especially the Catholic population, to be able to see everybody in the facility who is Catholic being able to gather and to sing and to worship and to receive the Eucharist. It's powerful."

When priests return to Southeastern, likely within the next month, Deacon Hurdley said inmates will be eager to receive the sacrament of reconciliation.

"And I've been contacted by four or five people who want baptism," he said. "We're talking to them individually, and we'll be looking at baptism, confirmation as well as receipt of Holy Communion. I'm very excited about that."

"One of the things about being an inmate is, the distractions of life are peeled away. Their life is very solitary and simple, and that allows them to really draw near the Lord. There may be a misconception among folks who are not in prison that there's no faith,

that there are no brothers and sisters in Christ in these facilities, and that is not the case. There is deep faith and a desire for reconciliation with the Lord and to draw near to Him."

At Franklin Medical Center, chaplains were allowed back into the facility last fall.

At the Chillicothe Correctional Institution (CCI), Masses resumed in individual dormitories in February for small groups while following all COVID precautions and continued that way until May, when up to 45 inmates from all dorms were allowed to attend Mass at one location, said Father Milton Kiocha, AJ, parochial vicar at Chillicothe St. Peter Church who serves as CCI chaplain.

At the Ohio Reformatory for Women in Marysville, Masses celebrated by Father Joseph Trapp, pastor at Plain City St. Joseph Church, were restarted within the past month for small groups according to housing units.

Like all other prisons, Madison Correctional Institution (MaCI) in London was closed in March 2020 to outsiders, including contract chaplains.

"What we did was make sure that Catholic periodicals were made available, dropping them off," said Deacon Dan Hann of London St. Patrick Church, one of three deacons and two priests who serve the more than 2,000 incarcerated men at MaCI.

"In many instances, priest chaplains produced DVDs of Sunday Mass that were delivered to the prison to be shown on the institutional channels."

In late August, chaplains began to return to the facility, but challenges remained. Areas previously used for religious services were not available in some instances as they became COVID isolation areas.

"Once we were back in, a specific living unit was allowed to attend at one time," Deacon Hann said. "Because of that rotation and schedule, we might take a whole month to see all of our people. Numbers in attendance were low. There seemed to be a real fear of COVID."

In the meantime, inmates relied on DVDs and televised Masses.

"In many ways, we're starting from ground zero," Deacon Hann said. "The men of the music ministry have been released or moved to another institution. The schedule sometimes only allows for minimal time to provide a service. Heaven help us if lunch is late or the yard was closed for a while."

"But it is getting better all the time."

Order of Malta donates Bibles for prison ministry



The Order of Malta is partnering with the Diocese of Columbus to distribute Bibles and prayer books in both English and Spanish to jails and prisons. The mission of the order's prison ministry program is to encounter and accompany inmates in prison, jail, or detention and returning citizens in reentry. The order seeks to compassionately demonstrate the hope that comes from our Catholic faith and from God's love for them. Charles Mifsud (left) and Leonard Barbe (right) of the Order of Malta's Columbus region present Bibles to Jerry Freewalt, director of the diocesan Office for Social Concerns.

Photo courtesy diocesan Office for Social Concerns

Freewalt looks forward to leading Catholic Conference of Ohio

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

Jerry Freewalt, who will become executive director of the Catholic Conference of Ohio on Aug. 1, says the position is a natural extension of his role as director of the Office for Social Concerns for the Diocese of Columbus.

“When the conference said earlier this year that it would be looking for a successor to Carolyn (Jurkowitz, its current executive director), I thought of my different gifts and talents and said, ‘I think I know the person they’re describing,’” he said.

“I’ve worked in cooperation with the conference for 25 years and know how important it is to the Church and to the common good. Serving in this new role will be an opportunity for personal growth and a chance to continue my own vocation of service to the Church in a way that will affect more people.”

Jurkowitz is retiring on Aug. 1 after 34 years with the state conference and another 10 years with the Columbus diocese. Freewalt has been a member of the diocese’s social concerns staff since graduating from Xavier University in Cincinnati in 1995 and has headed the social concerns office since 2018.

“My office at the Catholic conference is only two blocks from where I’m working now in the Columbus diocesan office building,” he said. “As conference director, I’ll be conferring frequently with many of my co-workers in the Diocese of Columbus and people I’ve gotten to know in other dioceses, so I won’t need much of a breaking-in period in August,” Freewalt said in early June, on a day when he said staff members from two other Ohio dioceses had called him to discuss his new role.

“My biggest challenge in succeeding Carolyn will be dealing with

the changing winds of politics,” Freewalt said. “Who knows in what direction things may go?”

“As conference director, I’ll always be striving to educate those who make local, state and national policy concerning the values and principles the Church cares about and doing it in ways that are effective. This will probably involve expanded use of social media in addition to other ways of communication.”

Freewalt grew up near Ohio City, a village of about 700 people in Van Wert County on the Ohio-Indiana border. His mother was religious education director of Van Wert St. Mary Church. He graduated from Van Wert High School and received a bachelor’s degree in political science from Xavier and a master’s degree in public policy and management from Ohio State University. He and his wife, Karen, have three children and are members of Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona Church.

He said the opportunity to articulate the Church’s care and concern in the public arena was always a goal of his.

“I felt my calling involved making a difference in areas of public policy and social concerns within the auspices of the Church. There is such a rich tradition of Catholic social teaching and its practice having an impact on daily life. I wanted to spread that message and my passion for working in the areas of charity and justice to everyone I encounter.

“What I’ve enjoyed most in my



Jerry Freewalt

years with the diocese has been the chance to work with people in the diocesan offices and the various parishes and ministries in all 23 counties of this diocese and to build relationships with them over time, working on community projects to advance common goals. I knew I was making a difference and was helping other people make a difference,” Freewalt said.

“The Catholic Conference of Ohio’s mission is to represent the Church in public policy matters, but it’s also to remind public officials that whenever there’s a public policy change, there are people who will be affected by the change – people like the poor, the vulnerable, Catholic school students, persons with disabilities. The conference’s job is to be a voice for them and tell their stories.”

Freewalt has helped institute or continue a number of programs in the diocese in the past 26 years. One is the Walking Stations of the Cross, which took place in downtown Columbus on Good Friday every year from 1996 until it was halted by the coronavirus pandemic in 2020 and this year.

The event began and concluded at St. Joseph Cathedral, with walkers making 14 stops at sites representing an area of social concern and a Station of the Cross. “It was a great joy to see hundreds of people of all ages living out their faith in a special way and connecting the Passion of Jesus with the events of today,” he said.

Another program that Freewalt said brought him great satisfaction was the Urban Plunge service-learning retreats conducted in cooperation with several Catholic high schools and the University of Notre Dame. These events, lasting from one to three days, are a combination of prayer, education and volunteer service to Catholic agencies and community outreach organizations.

“More than 20,000 students have

taken part in Urban Plunge programs since 2005,” Freewalt said. “I’m inspired by how the Urban Plunges have instilled a passion for service and charity in many of the participants.”

Freewalt said he also has gotten great satisfaction from his office’s involvement in annual diocesan Respect Life Masses, Respect Life conferences and senior citizens days; coordination of the diocesan Creation Care Team to implement the principles of Pope Francis’ encyclical *Laudato Si’*; and formation of a Hope Task Force working to prevent suicide and drug abuse. A recent highlight, bringing Freewalt back to his rural roots, has been Bishop Robert Brennan’s visits to diocesan farms for the past two years on the Feast of St. Isidore the Farmer.

“It’s been an honor and a privilege to work over the years with outstanding people such as Mark Huddy, Erin Cordle and Angelita Canlas,” Freewalt said. Huddy, Freewalt’s predecessor as social concerns director, is episcopal moderator for diocesan Catholic charities, while Cordle is associate director and Canlas is administrative professional in the social concerns office. A successor to Freewalt has not yet been selected.

“I’ve also enjoyed my time collaborating with the diocesan offices of Catholic Schools; Marriage and Family Life; Religious Education and Catechesis; and the Diaconate; and ministries like the diocesan Prison Ministry; not to mention people like Ruth Beckman, the former director of JOIN (Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs); Ruth’s successor, Lisa Keita; and those in so many other agencies and ministries,” he said.

“I’ve been blessed to have the opportunity to work alongside them and know we will continue to advance the mission we all share as I begin my duties with the Catholic conference.”

Retiring leaders of Catholic Conference reflect on policy efforts

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

When the Catholic Conference of Ohio (CCO) hired them in 1987, Carolyn Jurkowitz and Jim Tobin never thought they would spend more than three decades representing the views of the state’s bishops on public policy. But each has been in that role for 34 years, and both will retire soon.

Jurkowitz is stepping down Aug. 1 as the conference’s executive director. She will be succeeded by Jerry Free-

walt, who has been employed by the Columbus diocese’s Office for Social Concerns since graduating from Xavier University in Cincinnati in 1995 and has been the office’s director since 2018.

Tobin will depart one month earlier as the CCO’s associate director for social concerns. A successor has not yet been appointed. Both were hired by the conference after spending more than a decade with the Diocese of Columbus.

“I never expected having a job like this, let alone doing it for 34 years,” Tobin said. “I took a course on poli-

tics at Xavier, and after learning how government really works in practice, rather than the theories of how it’s supposed to work, I decided I wanted no part of anything political. But I guess God’s plan for me was politics.”

“You can say the same thing for me,” Jurkowitz said. “I have a bachelor’s degree, three master’s degrees and a doctorate, none of them in politics. My plans were to be an educator, and I spent several years as a teacher, principal and diocesan school administrator, but for the last 34 years I’ve been educating legislators and the public about

the position of the Catholic bishops of Ohio on public policy matters.”

Tobin recalled that one of the first major issues in which the CCO was involved when he and Jurkowitz joined the organization was the aftermath of a boycott of the Campbell Soup Co. by the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC), a union of agricultural workers that was based in the Toledo area.

The boycott lasted for several years. A helpful moment occurred when the

June event to benefit Pregnancy Decision Health Centers

Pregnancy Decision Health Centers (PDHC) is celebrating 40 years of rescuing lives locally with its first Central Ohio Walk for Life and Family Fun Day.

The event will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, June 26, at Faith Community Church, 5762 Wilcox Road in Dublin. Funds raised by participants in the 2.4-mile walk/run will benefit PDHC, providing life-saving programs and services to those most vulnerable.

PDHC was the first of its kind to open in Columbus in 1981, on the eighth anniversary of the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court *Roe v. Wade* decision. In its first year, PDHC recorded 309 center visits and answered 2,800 hotline calls. Forty years later, PDHC



A Walk for Life will be part of Pregnancy Decision Health Centers' Family Fun Day on Saturday, June 26. Photo courtesy PDHC

has five locations and a 24/7 hotline, saving thousands of lives since its founding.

In 2020, PDHC had record highs of more than 6,900 center visits and over

40,000 calls, texts and chats to its hotline. Even more lives are being saved by PDHC's newest service, abortion pill reversal. This gives a woman who regrets taking the abortion pill a second chance to save her baby. She has about 72 hours to reverse her abortion decision, and PDHC stands ready to help in this critical time.

According to the latest statistics (2019) from the Ohio Department of Health, 70 percent of abortions in Franklin County involved use of the abortion pill. PDHC has helped several women with its reversal service, and babies are being born healthy and continue to thrive.

Nathan is one of those babies born into the PDHC family after his mom found hope through the abortion pill

reversal service. She named him Nathan, meaning "gift of God," and told PDHC staff members, "Your prayers changed my life."

The walk and family fun day will have an '80s theme, reflecting the center's founding year. Activities that will immediately follow the walk/run will include an '80s costume contest, water gun battle arena, Mustang Club car display, face painting, live music and raffle prizes. Food trucks from Pitabilities and Graeter's will be on location.

By registering for and joining in the walk/run, participants will help protect the sanctity of human life through PDHC services.

For more information and to register, visit SupportLIFEpdhc.org.

CONFERENCE, continued from Page 8

CCO issued a statement supporting the boycott. "Many Catholic churches and advocacy groups were waiting to see whether the Ohio bishops would endorse the boycott. Once they did, it paved the way for others to join the cause. The conference worked with Campbell's other Ohio vegetable growers and FLOC after an agreement was reached," Tobin said.

The conference was developing an education program on capital punishment when Jurkowitz and Tobin joined the organization. They said the death penalty, abortion, immigration and education are subjects the CCO has been constantly dealing with throughout the past 34 years.

Ohio reinstated the death penalty in 1981 but did not resume executions until 1999. Since then, 56 people have been executed by the state, with the most recent execution taking place in 2018. There are 138 people on the state's death row, and Gov. Mike DeWine has placed a de facto moratorium on executions because of the unavailability of the drugs needed to carry out lethal injections.

"In the late 1980s and early 1990s, Carolyn and I were part of a team that put together an educational package on the death penalty for our parishes, schools and religious education programs," Tobin said. "This laid the framework for legislative efforts to abolish capital punishment."

"The conference was a founding member of Ohioans to Stop Executions, but Jim was really the one behind the conference's work against capital punishment," Jurkowitz said.

"The effort to abolish the death penalty is one of the things I feel good

about when it comes to my time here, even though we're not there yet," Tobin said. "Pope Francis has made the Church's stance against capital punishment very clear, and Ohio's bishops have played a huge role in stating their consistent opposition to the death penalty."

"On the issue of immigration, the conference has issued statements of welcome and solidarity while advocating for just policies," Tobin said. "We've had some success, but until the federal government issues a comprehensive immigration reform package, we're limited in what we can do legislatively in Ohio."

"On pro-life matters, Ohio's safeguards to protect the unborn are as good as those of any state in the country, and in some cases, we're in the lead," Jurkowitz said. "The latest example of these efforts is the Human Life Protection Act," now pending in the Ohio Senate.

"This is a 'trigger law' which would ban all abortions in Ohio, except those necessary to save the mother's life, after the U.S. Supreme Court overturns its 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion in the United States."

A pro-life ethic is based on the premise that all human life is sacred and should be protected by law from conception until natural death, so the conference also has been active in



Carolyn Jurkowitz



Jim Tobin

opposing practices such as assisted suicide and euthanasia. In 1992, it issued a document presenting "a Catholic perspective for all people to consider" on end-of-life issues and

Ohio's law on advance directives such as living wills or a durable power of attorney on health care issues.

"It took a lot of time and effort to come up with a balanced approach on the subject, and we continue to promote helpful changes," Tobin said. "Unlike other states, Ohio's been able to keep talk of assisted suicide pretty much at bay. The conference has been very active in efforts to protect the unborn and to allow people to die naturally and with dignity."

As for education, "Ohio for many years has been in the forefront of enabling parents to exercise a choice in where they send their children to school," Jurkowitz said. "Our state is among the tops in the nation in the number of tax-supported programs that help parents who want to send their children to nonpublic schools and the amount (of public funding) available to them."

In addition to the death penalty, immigration, pro-life issues and education, the conference has been involved in notable efforts working with all levels of government on issues related to poverty, hunger, housing, criminal justice, prison ministry, gun violence, elder care, care for creation, human

trafficking, payday lending and religious liberty, Tobin said.

"It's been a good ride, and Jerry, who has spent 26 years with the Columbus diocesan Social Concerns Office, is familiar with much that we have done and will be able to continue the work with minimal transition."

The retirement of Jurkowitz from the conference will enable her to spend more time as a chaplain with the Mount Carmel Health system, a position she has held for 25 years.

"I'm grateful to have been a chaplain for so long, for my background in ethics and pastoral care has proven to be a great help in my work with the conference," she said. She lives in the Licking County community of Homer and has a son who lives in Mount Vernon, and three grandchildren. Her husband, Paul, a former teacher at Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School and in the permanent deacon program of the Diocese of Columbus, died in 2017.

Tobin has four children and seven grandchildren and lives in Columbus with his wife, Yvonne, and his 98-year-old mother, Jean, who recently moved to their house. He said he has no immediate retirement plans but hopes to spend more time with his grandchildren. "Jerry has our numbers on speed dial, and I'm sure we'll be in touch with him and stay involved with the conference," he said.

"I don't know how successful Carolyn and I have been at the conference, but that's not of great concern," Tobin said. Jurkowitz agreed and, quoting St. Teresa of Kolkata, they noted, "We are called upon not to be successful, but to be faithful."

Couple's faith strengthened them through deaths of three children

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

Bernard and Jane Paumier say their faith has been central to their lives throughout 72 years of marriage, particularly sustaining them as they mourned the deaths of three of their six children.

"Our lives have been based on following Catholic teaching, and we think it's made a great difference," said Bernard, familiarly known as Bernie. "No one wants to bury their child, and we've had to do it three times.

"We've been supported through those losses by the priests and people in Roswell (New Mexico), where our son Michael struggled for life until he died at 6 months old in 1952, and at (Buckeye Lake Our Lady of) Mount Carmel Church after our daughter Suzanne Woodside's death in 2017 and the loss of our son Joe in March."

Both of the adult children were 67 when they died – Suzanne at her home in Ford City, Pennsylvania and Joe at the Ohio State University's Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital.

The couple's three other children are Daniel, in his early 70s, of Lancaster; Catherine Domanski, 66, who lives near the family farm in Fairfield County; and Thomas, 65, who lives in South Carolina.

Bernie, 93, grew up on a farm in Louisville, Ohio, in Stark County. Jane, 94, is from Canton, about 8 miles from Louisville. Although they lived in neighboring communities, they met in the late 1940s in Roswell, New Mexico, about 1,500 miles from their respective hometowns.

Bernie had joined the Air Force, then known as the Army Air Corps, after graduating from Louisville High School in 1946 and was stationed in Roswell as a radio operator on B-29 airplanes for the 509th Bombardment Group. In July 1947, Roswell gained fame as the site of the first widely reported crash of a possible unidentified flying object.

"The 509th dropped the atomic bombs that ended World War II and was still a highly classified outfit at that time because it was the group that would drop the bomb if it ever were used again, so we thought anything was possible," he said when asked about responses to the incident.

Jane had graduated from Canton McKinley High School and the nursing school at Aultman Hospital in Canton when she came to Roswell in



Bernie and Jane Paumier have been married 72 years.

Photos courtesy Paumier family

1948 to work at St. Anthony Hospital as a cadet nurse – part of a nonmilitary arm of the U.S. Public Health Service that existed from 1943 to 1948.

"Jane was good-looking and from near my hometown, and when I met her, she was wearing a fur coat and making \$10 a day, which was pretty good money then," Bernie said. "All of that impressed me."

The couple were married in a Catholic church in Roswell on April 28, 1949. Two days later, Bernie was called to serve overseas – something that happened frequently for the next several years.

"This was during the Cold War, so our group was called to serve a lot of 90-day assignments in various hot spots," Bernie said. During the six years they spent together at Roswell, five of the couple's children were born. Michael died during this period, but Bernie was overseas at the time.

"This was probably the hardest period in our marriage," Jane said. "In those days, you couldn't just fly across the country the way you can now, so I was living by myself for a while, then with a growing family. But we both understood Bernie's group had a mission, and unexpected call-ups were part of it."

In 1955, Bernie was assigned to the former Ramey Air Force Base in Puerto Rico, where the couple and their children spent the next four years, and Bernie flew on B-36s.

"It seemed the Puerto Ricans believed Americans were all Protestants, rich and had two children. Being Catholic, not rich and with five kids, we didn't fit that image," he said. "What was important was that we were willing to adapt. We learned Spanish, ate the local food and had a wonderful time there. Puerto Rico is also where our youngest child, Thomas, was born."



The Paumiers were married in 1949 in Roswell, New Mexico, where Jane was stationed as a cadet nurse and Bernie was a member of the Army Air Corps.

Bernie's final transfer occurred in 1959 when he was sent to the former Lockbourne Air Force Base (now Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base) in Columbus, where he was a boom operator on KC-135s, which specialized in aircraft-to-aircraft in-flight refueling of bombers and fighter planes. He spent eight years at Lockbourne, retiring from the military in 1967.

Two of his sons also had long Air Force careers, with Daniel spending 30 years and Joe 24 years in that branch of the service, while Thomas was part of the USAF for two years.

"I left the Air Force because I was in my late 30s and didn't want to re-enlist," Bernie said. "I used the GI Bill to attend Ohio State University while doing odd jobs. I was eating lunch there one day and learned there were openings for substitute teachers in Perry County at a rate of \$20 a day.

"The county superintendent asked me why I didn't try to become a full-time teacher, and I told him I never liked the first day of school and didn't have a college degree. He said four school superintendents in the county were looking for teachers, and lack of a degree wouldn't be a problem if I was making progress toward one. I obtained a degree in education and was hired by the Northern Local School District in 1970 to teach 42 third- and fourth-graders at Thornville Elementary School.

"I was ready to quit on the first day," he said. "But I got through because we didn't follow the usual classroom rules. I was a rebel, and maybe some of the stuff I did would get me in jail today. We got the work done we were supposed to, but I allowed the kids to have fun. We played pranks on each other, and sometimes the whole class was in on a prank on me.

"It was a joyful atmosphere, yet

they were learning. I remember one day when I went to the middle school, and a girl who used to be in one of my classes saw me walking through the halls and slipped out of the room to say hello to me. The next thing you know, word got out that 'Mr. Paumier's here,' and a dozen kids were doing the same thing and telling me how much they'd learned in my classes. That's always been a fond memory."

Bernie taught two grades for two years and then was a fourth-grade teacher at Thornville Elementary until retiring in 1990. The Paumiers' son Joe followed in his father's footsteps in having long careers in both the military and the teaching profession, following his 24 years in the Air Force by serving as a substitute teacher in New Mexico and Texas and, for the past 15 years, in Fairfield County schools.

Bernie and Jane lived in Reynoldsburg for their first three years in central Ohio and were founding members of Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church.

"Jane decided to join the Catholic Church while we were at St. Pius," Bernie said. "She received instructions in the faith from Father (Andrew) Hohman (the church's founding pastor) and others. One of the reasons I knew she was someone special was because she regularly went to Mass with me and the children and always took them to Mass while I was overseas. She was the best 'non-Catholic Catholic' I ever knew."

The family soon realized it needed more space than was available in its Reynoldsburg home and began looking for a larger house. After about two years of searching, they saw a newspaper ad saying a 38-acre farm near Baltimore in northern Fairfield County was available for \$10,000.

"We saw it in April of 1962 – a big brick house on a hill overlooking a covered bridge over Poplar Creek – and we said, 'That's it,'" Bernie said. "It had no plumbing or heat, with one inside light bulb. We roughed it for the first couple of years and are still roughing it somewhat, but we're happy here."

The house was built in the 1830s or '40s by members of the pioneer Tussing family, whose identity is well-known in Pickerington and surrounding communities because one of the area's main roads and an elementary school bear the family's name.

Bernie said the house was built next to a log cabin. Civil War soldiers were

Little things lead to strong marriage, couple say

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

Ellis and Phyllis Holcomb say many small things add up to a big difference in marriage.

“We’ve always made sure to remember little things,” said Ellis, 84. “I’m talking about things like praying before meals, praying the rosary every day, going to Mass on Sundays and many weekdays and making sure we know where a Catholic church is when we’re on vacation. You do this enough, and it adds up, and your faith is always with you.”

Ellis and Phyllis, who is 82, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary this year. They were married on June 2, 1956 in Portsmouth St. Mary Church, with Father James Cooney as the clergy witness. The Catholic Church teaches that a couple confer the sacrament of matrimony on each other, with the priest’s role being that of a witness.

They have three children: Julie VanHoose, 64, of Cincinnati; Mark Holcomb, 62, of Farmersburg, near Dayton; and Bruce Holcomb, 57, of Wheelersburg, near Portsmouth, as well as eight grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren. One grandson, Father Chad VanHoose, is a priest of the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis. He was ordained in 2017 and serves as pastor of St. Jude of the Lake Church in Mahtomedi, Minnesota.

Phyllis said their romance began when she saw Ellis delivering items from a local supermarket to nearby homes. “I thought he was a little, handsome guy. For me, it was love at first sight,” she said. “I was part of a



Ellis and Phyllis Holcomb, who were married in 1956 at Portsmouth St. Mary Church, are celebrating their 65th anniversary. Photo courtesy Holcomb family

Girl Scout troop sponsoring a Sadie Hawkins dance (in which girls would ask boys to attend, a reversal from the usual procedure of the times), and I asked him to go with me.”

“I was about 14 or 15 at the time,” Ellis said. “That was our first date. She was good-looking, and our personalities clicked, so we just kept seeing each other.”

Ellis graduated from South Portsmouth High School, and Phyllis, whose maiden name is Albrecht, from Portsmouth Notre Dame High School. Ellis went to the University of Kentucky and was in pre-medical studies for two years but worked during the summer at the former Armco Steel plant in Ashland, Kentucky, about 35 miles from Portsmouth.

“One summer, I just stayed with Armco when it came time to go back to school,” he said. “The money was decent, and we wanted to get married.” Ellis remained with Armco as a

machinist for 44 years while Phyllis stayed at home to raise the children.

The couple lived in Ashland for the first 11 years of their marriage. To be closer to their parents, they moved in 1967 to the home where they have lived in South Shore, Kentucky, for the past 54 years. South Shore is across the Ohio River from Portsmouth, and the couple attend church in Portsmouth because it’s much closer to their home than the nearest Catholic church in Kentucky, which is in Ashland.

Ellis joined the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil service two months before his marriage. “I never had belonged to a church, and when I began learning about what Catholics believed, everything fell into place,” he said. “I had been going to church with Phyllis every Sunday for two years before becoming a Catholic, so officially joining the Church wasn’t a big adjustment.”

Its location across the river from Kentucky means Portsmouth and Scioto County are on the northern edge of the Southern “Bible Belt,” in which evangelical Protestant denominations are the predominant religions. About 4 percent of the county’s 75,000 residents are Catholic.

“It’s been tough being a Catholic here through the years because I still sense a lot of hostility toward Catholics,” Ellis said. “People respect us to our faces, but I know many talk behind our backs. Years ago, I was the only Catholic in the machine shop, and some fellows would ask me, ‘Have you been saved?’ Some of the others in the shop stood up for me and said, ‘Leave Holcomb alone. He’s a

good man.’ I never had any trouble after that.

“What impressed me about the Catholic Church when I started going to church with Phyllis, and what still impresses me, is that I’ve never heard any Catholic priest or layperson say anything bad about anyone else’s religion. That’s stuck with me.”

Until the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the Holcombs took part in a number of activities at St. Mary Church, including the senior citizens group, men’s and women’s Bible study and the parish’s annual International Festival. Both are extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist and distributed the communion to the homebound, and Ellis has been a member of the St. Mary Parish Council and the Notre Dame school board.

“We never miss Sunday Mass and try to go two or three times a week as well,” Phyllis said. “Thanks to livestreaming, we can also watch our grandson Chad celebrate Mass every day at his parish in Minnesota. We’re so proud of him because we tried to be role models so our children would grow up to be good Catholics. I guess you could say Chad’s formation as a priest started even before he was born.”

Before entering seminary studies, Father VanHoose was a missionary for six years with NET Ministries, a St. Paul, Minnesota-based organization that this year celebrates its 40th anniversary of sharing the Gospel with young people and their families nationwide through retreats, missions and other programs.

See **MARRIAGE**, Page 12

COUPLE, continued from Page 10

recruited on the home’s front porch, and the existence of a hidden room under a stairway suggests the possibility that it was an Underground Railroad site. Many arrowheads and other artifacts, including a cannonball, have been found on the land and in the creek.

The Paumiers named the land Crooked Creek Farm and grow sweet corn and other vegetables for sale at a stand they operate in front of the farm, which does some advertising and has a growing mailing list of people who are informed when the corn is available. Bernie and Jane still do most of the work on the farm, with the help of a granddaughter and her husband.

The couple are members of Buck-

eye Lake Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, where Bernie taught catechism for many years, and have been attending Eucharistic Adoration at Pickerington St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish each Wednesday for the past 20 years.

Bernie also has been a longtime member of the Fairfield County Literacy Council, using the knowledge of Spanish he picked up in Puerto Rico to help immigrants obtain U.S. citizenship. He also writes letters to residents of nursing homes and to prisoners and answers children’s letters to Santa Claus, telling the children that one of the greatest gifts a person can give is a compliment, which is free and lasts a lifetime.

“In general, we get along pretty well,” Jane said. when asked if the couple had any advice for married couples. “After 72 years, you have no choice,” she added with a smile.

“I would say couples need to remember two words: sacrifice and options,” Bernie said. “Couples always have to sacrifice for each other. We had to sacrifice some things to move here, but it was the best thing for us.

“Of course, the loss of three children was a big sacrifice, but we accepted it and continued. Jane was a city girl, and I grew up on a farm,” Bernie said. “When I bought this land, everything about it was new to her, and accepting that change was a sacrifice, but she

took to it like a duck to water.

“As far as options, it’s more that there are certain things which have no options. As far as going to Mass, we gave our children no option but to attend. On the farm, we all had to work hard. You had no option. We also had to take care of each other. That’s not an optional thing. This may seem to make life more difficult, but when we’ve faced hard times, it’s made us stronger.

“In general, our marriage has been an exciting and challenging journey. We don’t know of much we’d change,” he said, concluding with a message to Catholic Times readers: “Que Dios te bendiga” – Spanish for “God bless you.”

ORDAINED, *continued from Page 2*

giving thanks that her grandson had become a priest.

That would be Father Smith's 101-year-old grandmother, Teresa Murphy, with whom he shares a special relationship. Last year, *The Catholic Times* featured the story of his visit to Rome as a seminarian and an encounter with Pope Francis, who blessed a rosary that Smith brought back to America for her 100th birthday.

His ordination fulfilled her deep desire to be alive when her grandson became a priest.

"She's still here, and it's really amazing," Father Smith said. "I remember when I first told her that I was going to enter the seminary, and she said, 'I'm going to want to make sure I'm alive to see you become a priest.' She was 95 at the time, I think, and I was thinking, 'My gosh, I'm not going to bank on that.' So it's a huge blessing that she is still with us and will be able to see me as a priest."

Father Smith was to return to Columbus the week of June 13 and was scheduled to celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, June 20, which is Father's Day, at St. Timothy Church.

Grandma Murphy sowed some of those seeds of a vocation with her grandson even though he didn't quite realize it at the time. He recalled spending nights at his grandparents' home about eight houses down the street from his parents' and lying in bed while grandma prayed the rosary.

"She's very devout, and so the witness of her faith was really impactful to me in my life," Father Smith said.

When he was in seventh grade, she took him to Italy to visit her family and the Vatican. In 2004, they attend-



Newly ordained Father Jonathan Smith (second from right) with his parents, Michael and Mary Smith, and Diocese of Arlington Bishop Paul S. Loverde.

Photo courtesy Arlington Catholic Herald

ed the Easter Vigil Mass in St. Peter's Basilica celebrated by Pope John Paul II.

"That really had a big impact on my faith life," he said. "It helped me to really see the universal church. I had only been exposed to St. Timothy's, and that's what I thought the Church was. To go to Rome and see people from all over the world there and to see the Holy Father, who I had only seen in a picture in a classroom, in person was really eye opening for me and impactful on my faith life."

"I realized this is something beyond my little community in Columbus and much bigger than that, and that it must be important."

Father Smith also appreciates the sacrifices his parents, Michael and Mary, made to provide a Catholic education for him and his three siblings. He and his mother are both Bishop Watterson graduates.

"It was really important for my parents for me to go to Catholic schools, and I think definitely my time at St.

Tim's and Watterson really provided a good, solid foundation," he said. "My theology classes were excellent, and there were great teachers and great witnesses at Watterson – good leaders and mentors."

"And the witness of my parents and grandparents really played a big role in making faith an integral part of my life even if I wasn't always constantly aware of it."

When he went off to college at George Mason, he admitted that religion didn't play an integral role in his life and a religious vocation hadn't really entered his mind. He envisioned himself after graduation getting a good job and becoming a husband and father.

But spending time in Eucharistic Adoration made a profound impact on the trajectory of his faith life.

"Realizing (Christ) is not just this being out there but desires to have a relationship with me, I felt his new joy in my heart that I'd never experienced before," he said in a pre-ordination in-

terview with the *Catholic Herald*, the Diocese of Arlington newspaper.

In 2013, he finished his undergraduate studies at George Mason and decided to join FOCUS, which is an apostolate consisting mostly of recent college graduates who serve as lay missionaries to students on campuses throughout the country. Smith was assigned to Belmont Abbey College in Belmont, North Carolina.

The call to religious life became stronger after spending more time before the Lord in Eucharistic Adoration. In 2015, he entered St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania, to continue his discernment and confirm whether he was called to the priesthood.

"I was very open to either coming back to Columbus or staying in Arlington," he said. "My spiritual director wasn't going to pull me in either direction. It was a tough discernment because my family is in Columbus and my faith was fostered so greatly in Arlington."

After visiting the Pontifical College Josephinum, which Diocese of Columbus seminarians attend, and the seminaries where the Diocese of Arlington sends its men in formation, he said, "The Lord placed on my heart that he was calling me to stay in Arlington. It wasn't an easy decision."

Six years later, Father Smith is ready to begin his service to the Catholic Church as a priest. His first assignment beginning next month will be at St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Clifton, Virginia.

At the ordination Mass, Diocese of Arlington Bishop Michael F. Burbidge said, "More than ever, our church and world need priests to take Jesus Christ to them."

MARRIAGE, *continued from Page 11*

Breanna Younger, a great-granddaughter of the Holcombs, was on a NET team this past summer. She was valedictorian of the Class of 2019 at Holy Cross District High School in Covington, Kentucky, and is attending the University of Kentucky.

The Holcombs said their advice to young married couples and those planning to be wed is to "take your time getting to know each other and make sure the other person is the right one. It helps if you're both of the same religion."

"Ellis has been my guardian angel," Phyllis said. "He's seen me through 14 major surgeries. God sent him to me. Now I'm able to say I'm still kicking, although I'm not kicking as high as I

used to."

"The most practical advice I can give is to learn to live on a budget and stick with it," Ellis said.

"We've never had a lot of money, but that's never been important because we've been able to live well with what we had. The most important thing is to stay committed to each other."

"My mom said to work out your problems before you go to bed and always kiss each other good night, and she was right. You've got to really want to be married and to stay married," he said. "We've watched out for one another and kept our commitment, and we've been blessed."

"We thank God every day for what being together has brought us."

Westerville native ordained in New York

Father Joseph Michael Fino, C.F.R., a Westerville native and former member of New Albany Church of the Resurrection, was ordained Saturday, May 29 at St. Patrick Cathedral in New York City as a member of the Franciscan Friars of Renewal religious order by Cardinal Timothy Dolan, who is shown laying hands on Father Fino.

Photo courtesy Chris Sheridan, Archdiocese of New York

PLANS, *continued from Page 3*

ocese. These missionary teams would serve at Ohio State University, Ohio Northern University and clusters of other campuses.

Support for staffing would also be given to local parishes responsible for the pastoral care of, and outreach to, local campuses. The plan calls for investing in student leadership programs to support those young adult Catholics at our universities to become leaders and missionary disciples among their peers.

The University subcommittee members included Maria Tarbell, Andrew Kebe, Bruno Ferrari, Father William Hahn, Mary Jeffries, Dan Kurth and Patrick Welsh.

The Social and Digital Media Evangelization subcommittee first proposed rebranding the Diocese of Columbus to better reflect its newly refined mission, as well as present a fresh and attractive face of the Church of Columbus online.

Along with that, the subcommittee recommends enhancing the current diocesan plan of creating social media content that engages, evangelizes, attracts and forms missionary disciples and will grow the follower base and connect people to Christ and the Catholic Church.

The plan is able to be accomplished because of the recent partnership of the Diocese of Columbus with Glass Canvas and its Tilma platform.

During the next few months, the diocesan website will be overhauled, and parishes can have their websites improved through Tilma. During the next year, the diocese will be creating two online platforms for disciple formation and evangelization content, called Behold and Proclaim.

Finally, to rebrand and produce content, the diocese will form a creative team with the expertise to develop, execute and manage the content strategy plan for increasing its presence on social and digital platforms.

Dave Orsborn, Paul Baum, Alex Mieras, Andrew Mackey, Brendan O'Rourke, Aaron Christy, Father Michael Hartge and Bill Messerly served on this subcommittee.

The Lay Missionaries subcommittee consisted of Megan Baum, Catherine Suprenant, Maggie Mauer, Aaron Richards, Brad Pierron and John Packer Stevenson. The diocese is blessed with many lay apostolates and lay missionaries, including Damascus, SPO, FOCUS, Adore and the Missionary Servants of the Word.

The subcommittee's plan looks first

to equip the diocese with lay missionaries by creating an internal structure to support their missionary work. This includes supporting pastors and principals who desire lay missionaries to work in their parishes and schools. It also entails developing a formal process for the recognition of new or emerging lay apostolates and for inviting new national lay apostolates into the diocese.

Second, the subcommittee proposes providing support for missionaries and their work with leadership training and finances. In the final part of its plan, the subcommittee calls for promoting missionary work through diocesan campaigns and hosting a conference to educate and invite a response to the missionary call.

The final subcommittee is the Soft Entry Evangelization Center subcommittee. This subcommittee plan addresses a demographic crisis nationally and locally. During the past decades, the population of those who have no religious affiliation has increased significantly.

Moreover, most of these "nones" are not likely to attend an event or program at a parish and have a general skepticism toward institutional religion. Therefore, it is necessary to

provide a "soft entry" point that is not overly religious to provide an opportunity for them to encounter Jesus Christ and His Church.

The subcommittee first proposes that the diocese support a ministry that embraces this vision for outreach. The apostolate or ministry would act as the leader of diocesanwide efforts for "soft entry" evangelization. Eventually an actual physical location or center would be developed. This center would include space for "soft entry" programming and meeting. The location would not be overly religious and would be connected to a coffee shop and/or microbrewery.

Kate Giddens, Loren Brown, Father David Sizemore, Kevin Oles, Joseph Zaino, Mitchell Wilson, Adora Namigadde, David Messina and Matt Schlater served on this subcommittee.

Bishop Brennan closed the work of the evangelization planning subcommittees with a Mass at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral for the members. He thanked them "for their hard work and impressive plans." This summer, steps will be taken for financial planning and prioritization of the proposals.

Father Adam Streitenberger is the diocesan coordinator for evangelization.

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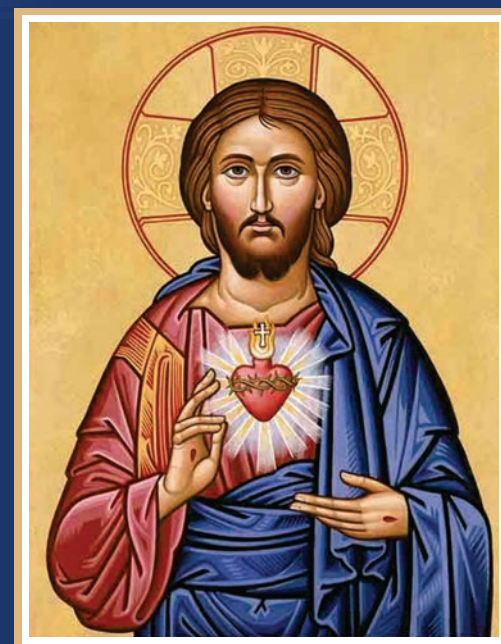
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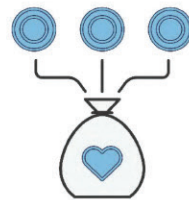


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**Real Presence
Real Future**

Renewing the Church in the Diocese of Columbus

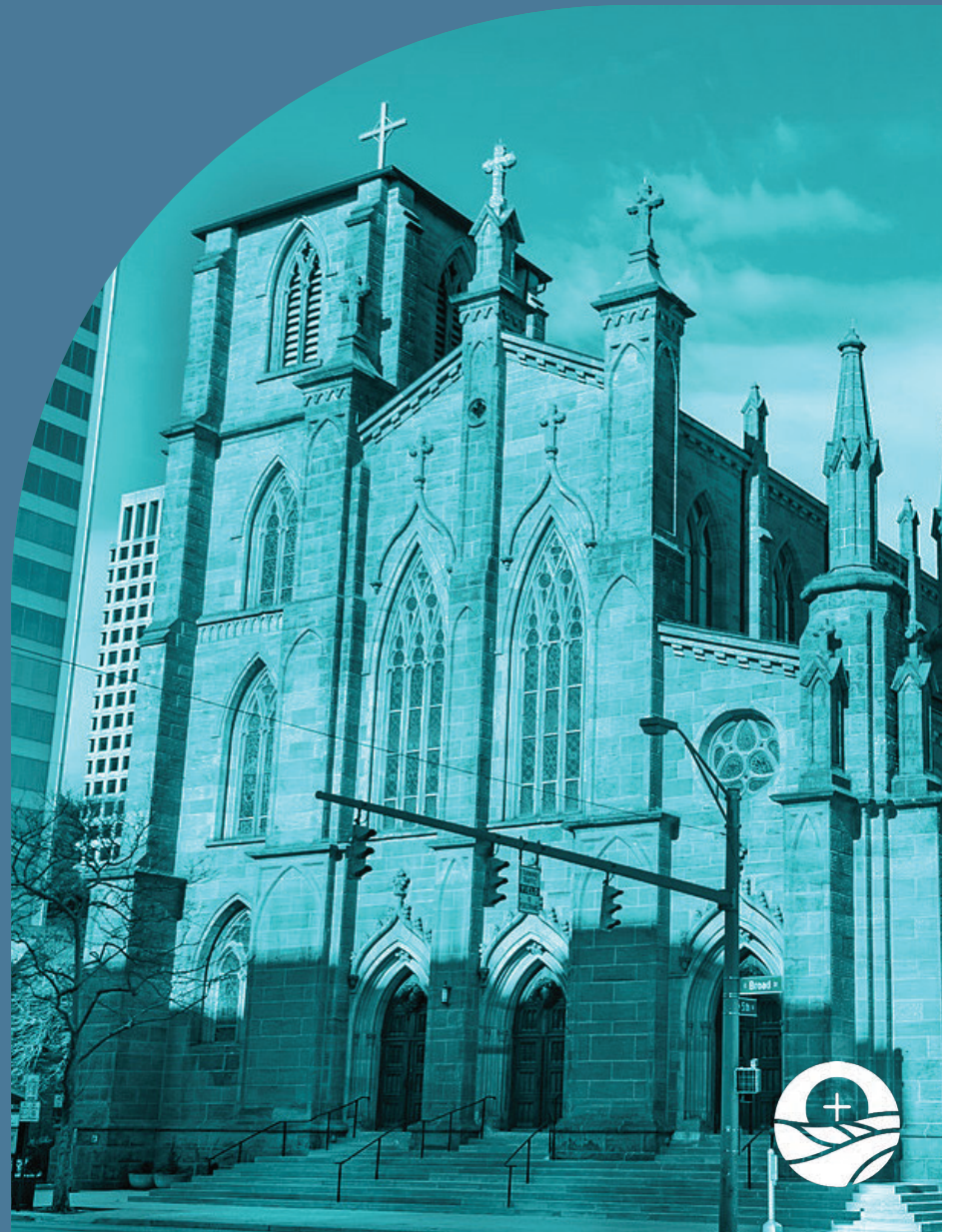


Disciple Maker Index Results

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Thank you to the more than 21,000 Catholics from all parts of the Diocese of Columbus who completed the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) Survey during Lent. The results are in, and the Diocese wanted to share some of the highlights.

The DMI is a 75-question survey designed to provide an opportunity for parishioners to reflect on their individual spiritual growth and overall parish effectiveness. Almost 300,000 Catholics at more than 1,500 parishes throughout 40 dioceses have taken the DMI since 2013, providing not just valuable data for each parish, but for the Church nationally, as well. Now the Diocese of Columbus can be counted among these national benchmark dioceses.





Total Surveys:
21,462

Survey Participants
Non-Participants



Over a five-year period, the Diocese of Columbus has averaged 72,000 Catholics attending Mass on a weekend. **Almost 30% of the individuals** completed the Disciple Maker Index this Lent. This is above the national average for other dioceses who have taken the DMI nationwide.

Reviewing the Results

Phase I (May - June)

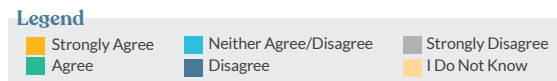
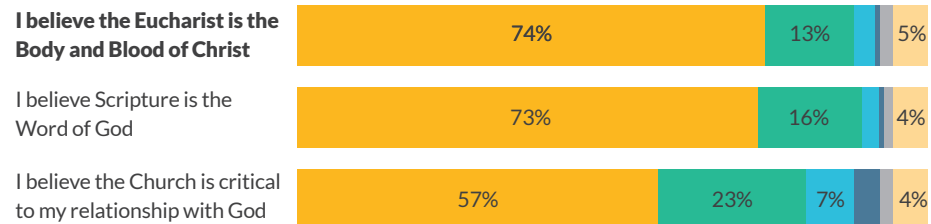
The DMI parish-specific results were sent to each parish to be reviewed by the pastor and his RPRF parish representatives, all of whom attended an information webinar in May to learn how to read and interpret the DMI data for their parish. They met to review the outcomes together and to draw meaningful conclusions from the data. The information generated from the DMI survey is quite extensive and required time, patience, and focus to understand it in its proper context. Thank you to pastors and RPRF representatives for your generosity in serving your parish in this way. Diocesan-wide results that reflect the collective responses from the more than 21,000 respondents are included here.

Phase II (late June - July)

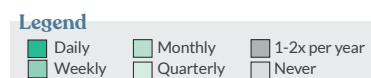
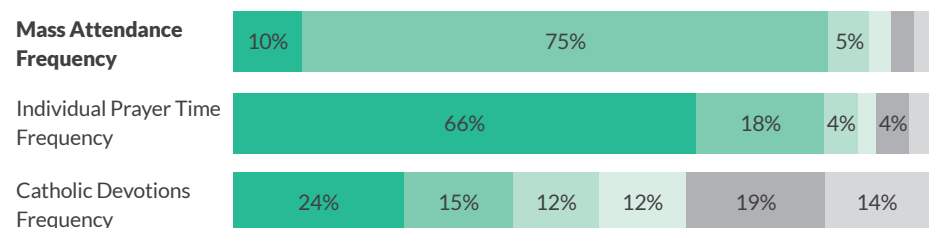
Parishes will share their parish-specific results of the DMI with parishioners, along with information about the context of the survey and some initial conclusions reached by the pastor and his RPRF representatives.

Strengths

▶ Among the belief questions, survey respondents indicated the strongest belief in the following areas:



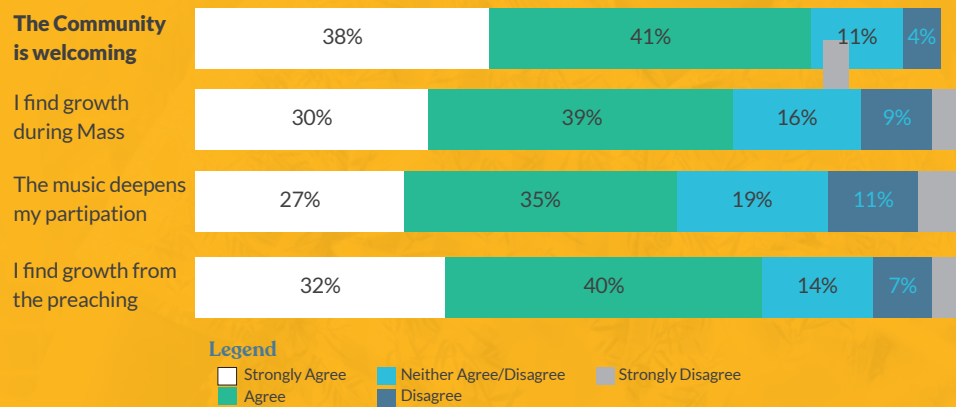
▶ With respect to faith practices, survey respondents indicated they most frequently engaged in the following activities:



The Sunday Experience

While the pandemic has forced us to do things a little differently over the past year, parishioner perceptions on the Sunday experience in their parish remain relatively in alignment with parishioner perceptions from around the country pre-pandemic. Welcome and hospitality as well as music that helps deepen participation will be especially important as restrictions are removed and worship resumes some normalcy.

► How I personally view the Sunday Mass



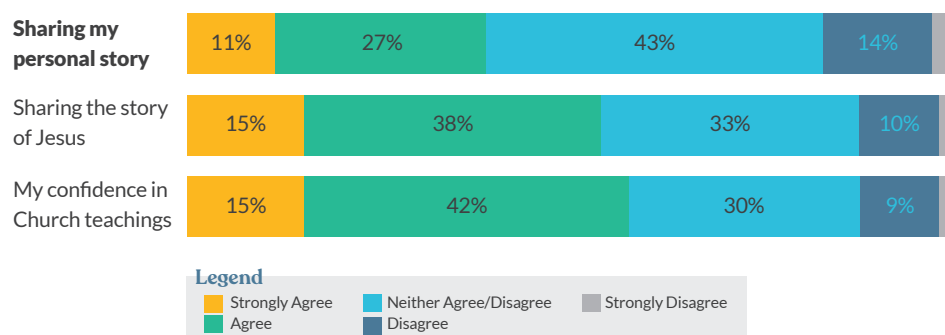
Fostering Spiritual Growth

One of the main goals of *Real Presence, Real Future* is to help Catholics grow in their prayer life and their relationship with the Lord. Several different evangelization subcommittees have been working for the past year to develop strategies and resources to assist clergy and lay leaders with helping their people grow. As the Disciple Maker Index results from across the diocese show, the Church in Columbus is starting on a strong foundation.

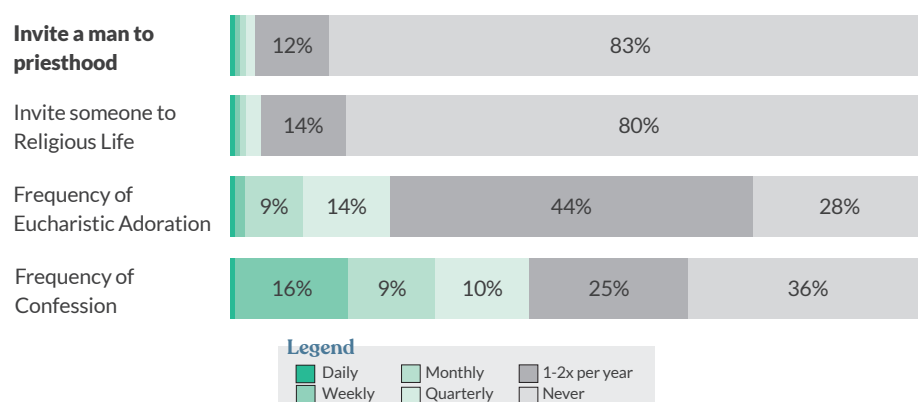


Opportunities

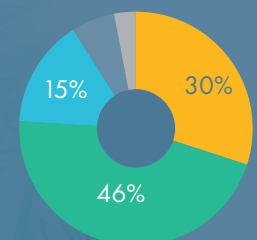
► With respect to the areas in which survey respondents felt they needed the most support from their parishes, the most significant were:



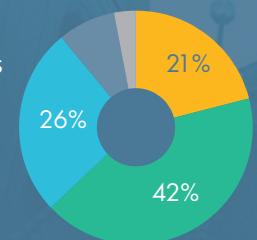
► With respect to the faith practices that survey respondents indicated they were doing the least, the most significant were:



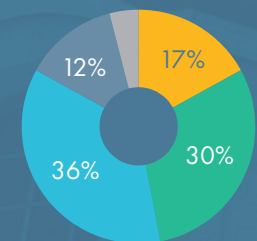
The Parish helps me grow spiritually



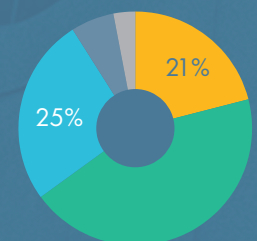
The Parish helps me grow my prayer life



The Parish helps me grow through small groups



The Parish helps me grow through formation as a disciple



What's Next?



Opportunities for Growth

As disciples, we have both the responsibility to come and to go. Not unlike the rest of the country, some of the biggest areas of growth for the Diocese of Columbus are based in our confidence in sharing the good news and inviting others whom we love into a deeper relationship with the Lord.

Especially as the *Real Presence, Real Future* initiative examines how best to serve our diverse diocese with fewer priests, our need to invite young men to consider the priesthood grows every year. Recently, many more women and men religious have accepted the invitation to serve our diocese. Through their presence, it is hoped that many more young women and men will be invited to consider religious life. As important as our priests, deacons, and religious are, the work of evangelization is not on their shoulders alone.

Similar to the rest of the country, the faithful in Columbus are looking to grow in confidence in sharing the richness of what the Church has to offer as well as our own personal stories of faith. The strategies and resources being researched and implemented as part of *Real Presence, Real Future* will seek to support parishes to equip their people for this important work.

5 Questions You Might Have

1. How will this, or can this, information be used by the parish or the diocese?

With any journey, you have to know your destination as well as where you are starting from in order to get there. While our journey as disciples and a Church is lifelong, the *Real Presence, Real Future* initiative wants to assist the entire Diocese of Columbus to take the next giant step toward our Lord. The Disciple Maker Index provides one snapshot of a large portion of our worshipping population. You are essential to the work of evangelization, in order to reach those who have not been practicing their faith. At a diocesan level, this information will help guide some of the research and resourcing that Bishop Brennan hopes to offer parishes and parish leaders in the future. At the parish level, it is the hope that by growing in understanding of where we are starting from, each community can help provide input and direction as to where we need to go. It is also a hope that several years from now, we can retake this index for another snapshot and see the progress we make together.

2. Who didn't we hear from?

The Disciple Maker Index intentionally focuses on those "in the pews." It gives a parish a sense of where their worshipping parishioners are in order to be able to discern strategies to build up this core group of Catholics and send them out on mission.

Of the 17,909 individuals who indicated their age, almost 10% indicated that they were age 35 or younger. While this is two points higher than Catholic Leadership Institute's national database of over 300,000, reaching out to our young adults will be an essential area of growth for all parishes in the next decade.

Of the 17,856 individuals who indicated their ethnicity, 11% were non-Caucasian with half of those individuals (5%) indicating a Latino/Hispanic. According to projected Census information, about 3% of the total population in the counties that comprise the Diocese of Columbus are Latino. However, we know this is a growing segment of the Catholic population in Central Ohio.

3. What effect does COVID-19 have on these perceptions?

Catholic Leadership Institute has been administering the Disciple Maker Index since 2014. Interestingly, parishioner perceptions in the aggregate were not dramatically different pre-pandemic and during the pandemic. Further qualitative research shows that parishioners have been extremely grateful for the efforts their parishes have made during these difficult times in many cases boosting positive feedback if anything. Of course, time and the fruit of our current and future outreach efforts will tell us what the long-term effects might be from the pandemic.

4. What if my parish's results are better or worse than these diocesan averages?

This feedback is one lens through which we can grow in understanding of where we are as a Catholic community. There are many lenses through which to look. As was previously mentioned, the Disciple Maker Index gave us a snapshot of our starting place in 2021. While the diocesan results are a helpful benchmark, the most important thing is where we go next in service to God's people.

5. Where do we go from here?

The conversation continues. Key parish leaders from every parish have been reviewing this information and have been asked to share parish-specific thoughts over the summer. This Fall, there will be extensive consultation with all parishioners around strategies and models for the future based on this feedback as well as sacramental, financial, and socio-economic trends throughout the diocese. Be sure to stay connected by signing up for more information at www.RealPresenceRealFuture.org and through your local parish.



Bishop Watterson math teacher honored

By Jenna Mar

Bishop Watterson High School is celebrating mathematics educator Dominic Marchi who recently won a local Teacher of the Year award at the high school level.

Marchi, who is the school's math department chair, has taught a variety of math classes at Watterson for 14 years.

He was nominated for the award by Abby Teeters, associate administrator at Bishop Watterson.

"Dominic was an easy pick on my part because of his professionalism, dedication, faithfulness, rigor and expectations," Teeters said. "He is someone you can rely on, and he's always going the extra mile to provide for the Watterson community."

Marchi graduated from Bowling Green State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in education and earned his Master of Arts in education from Ohio State University. But he originally was a biology major.

Marchi said he eventually realized "biology was not what I wanted to do. I started praying to God, asking,



Bishop Watterson math teacher Dominic Marchi. Photo courtesy Bishop Watterson High School

"What is your plan for me?"

After switching from biology to math, he continued his education with a "feeling of peace."

Marchi said he then found his calling in teaching.

"The one time I felt comfortable talking in front of people was when I was up at the board explaining math

problems," he said. "It all just fell into place."

After teaching for one year at Zanesville High School and one year as a substitute for suburban districts in central Ohio, Marchi found his way to Bishop Watterson, where he is able to share his Catholic faith with his students.

"I've used the opportunity to grow in my faith because one of the benefits of being a teacher at a Catholic school is that you get to pray with your students," Marchi said. "Your faith becomes part of your daily routine at work."

In addition to teaching, Marchi is an adviser for the St. Joseph of Arimathea Society, which includes students who assist at burials, and chaperones student retreats.

"It is clearly displayed through Dominic's demeanor that he is a faith-filled educator," Teeters said. "He doesn't hesitate to speak openly about his love for his faith to students and staff alike."

Marchi, 39, who grew up in Gahanna, lives with his wife, Angela, and children, Clara, 5, and Peter, 2, in Columbus. He hopes that his students

see him not only as a math teacher but also as someone living out his Catholic faith.

Marchi's award was one of three sponsored by Columbus Parent and ThisWeek Community News publications. The awards, based on 152 nominations, were given to outstanding central Ohio educators at the elementary, middle school and high school levels.

"Mr. Marchi's award is a great honor for him, for Bishop Watterson High School, and for the Diocese of Columbus," said Adam Dufault, diocesan episcopal moderator for education and superintendent of schools. "His exemplary teaching and tremendous dedication to his students are perfect examples of living out the mission of Catholic education."

Kim Gaddis, a construction technology teacher at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School, and Eunyoung Chae, a teacher at Columbus St. Joseph Montessori School, were among the high school and elementary finalists.

Jenna Mar is a student at Kent State University and a Columbus Bishop Watterson High School graduate.

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Scout troop is 80 years old



Boy Scout Troop 16, sponsored by Columbus Immaculate Conception Church, is celebrating its 80th anniversary. Its charter was signed in 1941 by Father John J. Fagan, the parish's pastor at the time. Father Matt Hoover, the pastor today, oversees the troop, with Nick Tippett serving as its 16th scoutmaster. The troop started with 21 scouts and approximately 600 young people have passed through its ranks, with 67 achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Photo courtesy Immaculate Conception Church

School contributes to diaper drive



Students at Lancaster St. Bernadette School collected 6,775 diapers as part of Bottoms Up's World's Largest Diaper Drive Day on Saturday, May 1. Pictured is the kindergarten class. *Photo courtesy St. Bernadette School*

Delaware server honored



Bishop Robert Brennan presented Clayton Williams of Delaware St. Mary Church with one of the Altar Server of the Year awards provided by the Serra Club of Downtown Columbus. The club sponsors the awards program each year through a grant from The Catholic Foundation. Bishop Brennan is an enthusiastic supporter of the program, which recognizes two altar servers from each parish. The club is accepting nominations for the awards from each parish pastor. *Photo courtesy St. Mary Church*

Bishop visits Run the Race farm



Bishop Robert Brennan visited students who are members of the Run the Race Club at the multiple-family home school that has become part of the club's farm in Galloway. He blessed the children, their crucifixes and the farm and told stories about growing up in New York City and about his brother, who is a New York police officer, and other family members involved in law enforcement. The Run the Race Club, at 880 S. Wayne Ave., offers a safe after-school haven for children on Columbus' west side. It is sponsored by the Brian Muha Foundation, founded by Rachel Muha in 2005 after her son, a Franciscan University of Steubenville student, was killed in an armed robbery.

Photo courtesy Run the Race Club

Christ Child Society receives new members



The Christ Child Society of Columbus recently welcomed the following new members at their annual Founder's Day Luncheon: (front row from left) Laurie Knight, Katie Bristol, Suzanne Swartz, Eileen Schumaker, Lori Hamrock; (second row from left) Msgr. John Cody, Mary Mitchell, Dottie Talarico, Bishop Robert Brennan, Joan Schlagheck, Deacon Frank Iannarino and Beth Mitevski. Not pictured are Lisa Begeny, Jeanne Booth, Peggy Griffith, Joan Montgomery and Mary Nelson. *Photo courtesy Christ Child Society*

Immaculate Conception May crowning



Columbus Immaculate Conception Church conducted a May crowning ceremony on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 9. Immaculate Conception School seventh-grade student Annika Braam places a flower crown on the head of a statue of the Virgin Mary. *Photo courtesy Immaculate Conception Church*

Altar dedicated in Coshocton



Bishop Robert Brennan celebrated Mass to dedicate a new altar at Coshocton Sacred Heart Church. Pictured with him are Deacon Dave Lozowski (center) and seminarian David Johnstone, with altar server Jillian Given in the background. The altar was part of a renovation that included repainting the church and pulling up the carpet in favor of hardwood floors. *Photo by Leonard Hayhurst, The Coshocton Tribune*

First Communion banners



Fifty-two students received their first Communion on Saturday, April 24 at Columbus Immaculate Conception Church. Each student made a banner that was displayed in the church. *Photo courtesy Immaculate Conception Church*

St. Agatha Corpus Christi procession



Father Mark Summers, pastor of Columbus St. Agatha Church, leads a procession carrying the Blessed Sacrament, preceded by incense, through the church and outside on Corpus Christi Sunday. More than 250 parishioners walked together around a designated perimeter while singing Eucharistic hymns of praise following distribution of the Eucharist at the 11 a.m. Mass. When the procession ended, they returned to the church, where the Mass concluded with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. *Photo courtesy St. Agatha Church*

School honors community groups



Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul School families invited representatives from several community organizations to an event titled Thanksgiving Tuesday at the end of May. Each multiple-grade school "family" has a patron saint whom students connected to a community organization that they believe practices the works of mercy. The students created flower pots with designs for the works of mercy and presented them to members of the chosen organizations, which included the Ariel Community Foundation, Starting Point, Knox County Job and Family Services, Knox Community Hospital, Interchurch, the Giles Law Group, Recovery Services, the parish pre-Cana program and the parish St. Vincent de Paul Society. *Photo courtesy St. Vincent de Paul School*

Eucharist carried through streets of Ada



Parishioners of Ada Our Lady of Lourdes Church, led by Father Ed Shikina, take part in a Eucharistic procession on Sunday, June 6, the Feast of Corpus Christi. *Photo courtesy Our Lady of Lourdes Church*

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12th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Be wise, trust God's limits for you

Job 38:1, 8-11
Psalm 107:23-24, 25-26, 28-29, 30-31
2 Corinthians 5:14-17
Mark 4:35-41

God sets limits for us. Within those limits, we are destined for eternity.

This world often seems to claim that all limits are unjust. When we experience a sense of injustice, we cry out. The blame game then begins. We blame God, others and, at times, ourselves for the limits that bind us.

We want to color outside the lines. If we are honest, we want to be the ones to determine the lines, not only for ourselves, but for others as well.

How many families have discovered that their little ones, praised for paying no attention to lines in their coloring books, are adding their art directly to the walls and countertops? How many parents have lost a relationship with their adult children because they have not given them the freedom to discover their own paths through life? How many of us still carry wounds from failing to acknowledge limits or from limiting our sights to this world's possibilities?

A road that is paved, made ready for travel, is more likely to get you where you are going if you stay in the lines and follow the signs. Nonetheless, some of life's best adventures come from following "the road less traveled."

Human nature as God has created it is never a mistake. It is true that fine lines exist between acknowledging and accepting limits and being boxed in by arbitrary boundaries.

From a distance, the world has no boundaries among nations and peoples. The world appears to be in peaceful harmony, as the song goes. Yet, there are discoverable elements

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.



that are "set" in each of us. God has designed us with a perfect eye. We hold a mystery within our hearts that can be discovered only by forming a living relationship with the Creator.

Job, the archetypal "just one," complains to God, and he receives a response. In the end, innocent of wrongdoing though he is, he repents of his judgment of God, which failed to recognize mystery. Because of his humility, he is rewarded and made capable of blessing his friends. When we cooperate with God's grace, we discover that we can go further than we ever imagined on our own.

How do we negotiate this dilemma? Wisdom. It is wisdom that enables us to cultivate the art of living. We discover how to be creative and expressive of our own uniqueness while still "staying within the lines." The poet, the artist, the one who sees as God sees can enter into the work of creation with God. Joy and delight follow.

Jesus can sleep in the midst of the storm because He rests in the relationship He has with the Father. With a word, He calms the storm because He is with the Father and the Spirit at the moment of creation, when the word is spoken: "Here shall your proud waves be stilled!"

He remains with us, though He might seem to be sleeping, in the midst of the storms and troubles that plague us. Out of the chaos of the world, He is forming in us the new creation.

Human life is about embracing the mystery of God. Rejection of God and

THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

6/21-6/26

MONDAY
 Genesis 12:1-9
 Psalm 33:12-13, 18-20, 22
 Matthew 7:1-5

TUESDAY
 Genesis 13:2, 5-18
 Psalm 15:2-4b, 5
 Matthew 7:6, 12-14

WEDNESDAY
 Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
 Psalm 105:1-4, 6-9
 Matthew 7:15-20

THURSDAY
 Isaiah 49:1-6
 Psalm 139:1b-3, 13-15
 Luke 1:57-66, 80

FRIDAY
 Genesis 17:1, 9-10, 15-22
 Psalm 128:1-5
 Matthew 8:1-4

SATURDAY
 Genesis 18:1-15
 Luke 1:46-50, 53-55 (Ps)
 Matthew 8:5-17

6/28-7/3

MONDAY
 Genesis 18:16-33
 Psalm 103:1b-4, 8-11
 Matthew 8:18-22

TUESDAY
 Acts 12:1-11
 Psalm 34:2-9
 Matthew 16:13-19

WEDNESDAY
 Genesis 21:5, 8-20a
 Psalm 34:7-8, 10-13
 Matthew 8:28-34

THURSDAY
 Genesis 22:1b-19
 Psalm 115:1-6, 8-9
 Matthew 9:1-8

FRIDAY
 Genesis 23:1-4, 19:24:1-8, 62-67
 Psalm 106:1b-5
 Matthew 9:9-13

SATURDAY
 Ephesians 2:19-22
 Psalm 117:1b-2
 John 20:24-29

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION
 MASS SCHEDULE: WEEKS OF JUNE 20 AND 27, 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.stannstmary.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 Propers of the Liturgy of the Hours.

the effort to reject all the limitations we face are bound to fail.

God has established our nature in perfect accord with His creation, both in this world and the next. On the other hand, opening our hearts to new ways and deeper understandings of reality can free us to move beyond the

self-imposed limits that hold us back from being a blessing to those entrusted to our prayer.

May we put our trust in the Lord and experience the calming of the storms around us. May our life serve to draw others into worship of the living God, the God of all creation.

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

We can be agents of God's healing power and receive peace

Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24
Psalm 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11, 12, 13
2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15
Mark 5:21-43

Our Scriptures today reveal to us the truth of who we are and who God made us to be. "God formed man to be imperishable; the image of his own nature he made him." Death was not God's plan for us. Death entered through sin, the devil's first, but then by our own free choice to sin as well. God has respond-

ed to this situation in Jesus Christ. We are made in God's image.

In the Gospel, we see the power of God at work in Jesus on two levels: at the levels of intention and of spontaneous response to human need. Notice how Jesus attends to each unique person: the woman who touches His cloak, the little girl who is hungry after having been brought back to life, His disciples and the little girl's family.

Jesus is a healer. He reaches deep into our humanity to bring us the touch

of His own divinity, and this heals us, body, mind and spirit. In Jesus' healing encounters, surprise is always present. He reaches beyond our reach, and He brings healing where everyone sees only death. He rewards trust in Him with what we long to find – healing, wholeness and new life.

In Jesus' day, to go to the deathbed of someone not in one's family was unthinkable. Mourners who touched a dead body were unclean. To touch someone or to be touched by someone

who had a flow of blood was to become unclean.

Jesus went to the little girl who died while He was on the way; the woman with a flow of blood made Him ritually unclean before He arrived where He was going. He felt the power go out of Him and sought her out in the crowd, much to His disciples' surprise.

Jesus has a healing power in Him

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HEALING, continued from Page 22

that is for all. That same power of healing is in us. We discover this when we encounter one another in real human situations. Relationships heal because we are imperishable, with God's own generosity and love at work in us. Exercise of "gracious acts" heals by inviting us beyond our parochialism, opening our eyes to others' needs. In the life of the Church, we are touched by the healing grace of God in word and sacrament.

The Scriptures offer a vision of hope. Life beyond this life is promised to us by the word of God. Putting our trust in Him, we find healing. We are invited at the end of every Mass to "go in peace."

The sacraments we celebrate together heal because they bring us into living contact with Jesus.

Prayer opens us to the depths of heal-

ing and generosity at work in our own nature. Let us look to Jesus as our image and as the source of healing. Let us pray for healing, expressing our confidence in the love and power at work through Jesus.

Jesus, we are your people. Heal us. We are concerned for our children. We have carried burdens for many years. You suffered and died and rose for us. Lord Jesus, heal us.

You are present to us in word and sacrament. You offer us a word of life and the sacrament of mercy. You are with us and you understand our needs, our longings, our hungers. Lord Jesus, heal us.

Set us on fire, Lord. Let Your own grace and love come upon us to show us the way to true peace. Lord Jesus, heal us.

**SAINT ANDREW PARISH
Employment Opportunity**

Date: April 23, 2021
Position: Youth Ministry Coordinator
Reports To: DRE and Pastor

Status: Fulltime-Salaried
Practicing Catholic: Yes
Deadline: Until Filled

Position Overview: Direct a comprehensive youth ministry program for members of the parish in grades 6-12. This program's goals are to empower the young people of the parish to live as disciples, draw members into greater participation in the life, mission and work of the parish and greater Church, and foster the spiritual growth of the members of the youth ministry program.

Job Responsibilities:

- Utilizes relational ministry and outreach to members of the parish in grades 6-12.
- Recruit, equip and form core groups of adult leaders for both the middle school and high school programs and a student leadership team for the high school programs.
- Network with similar positions in other organizations and parishes throughout the greater Columbus area, to share experiences and identify opportunities for collaboration.
- Seek input from, and develop a relationship with parents that are conducive to open communication between the parents and youth.
- Plan, implement and oversee a balanced mix of programs, activities, and strategies that address the 8 components of comprehensive ministry outlined in "Renewing the Vision".
- Participate in Diocesan sponsored training programs and retreats.
- Plan and submit an annual budget, and be able to work within the constraints of the approved annual budget.
- Oversee parish youth retreats and outings. In collaboration with the DRE, oversees the Parish Confirmation Retreat
- Maintain consistent communication with the DRE in regards to the planning and implementation of programs and activities.

Qualifications for the position:

- Active member of a Catholic Faith Community
- Bachelor's Degree in a related field preferred
- Bachelor's Degree required
- Appropriate and adequate knowledge of Church teachings required
- Experience in building community and intentionally investing in individuals preferred
- Strong public speaking and teaching skills
- Adept at using social media
- Ability to exercise discretion with confidential matters
- Flexible to adapt to the various needs of the program
- Compliance to the St. Andrew Parish Safer Environment policy which includes but is not limited to BCI Background check and completion of the "Protecting God's Children Program"
- Ongoing working knowledge of computer software required to do the job, including Microsoft Office programs
- Good organizational skills

How to apply: Send cover letter, resume and references to Suzie Emsweller, Director of Religious Education at semswell@cdeeducation.org

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AMICONE, Michael, 64, May 31
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Zanesville

AUER, Rosemary, 101, June 2
St. Mary Church, Columbus

BAUM, Christopher L., 57, May 26
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

BERLENDIS, Geraldine L., 84, Jan. 27
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

BREEN, Alida L. (Procaro), 73, May 27
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

COLOMBO, John A., 81, Jan. 12
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

DeFILLIPPO, Rosalie, 69, May 31
St. Bernadette Church, Lancaster

DeVILBISS, Robert, 97, May 26
St. Paul Church, Westerville

FERGUSON, Elizabeth M. "Betsy" (Loder), 80, June 7
Holy Spirit Church, Columbus

FLOWERS, Mary A. (Altier), 81, June 8
St. Mark Church, Lancaster

GALBREATH, Margaret (Bell), 103, June 4
Our Lady of Victory Church, Columbus

GEORGE, Katherine M. (Marchi), 80, May 28
St. Mary Church, Delaware

GILLIGAN, Robert, 85, formerly of Columbus, June 2
Mary Queen of the Holy Rosary Church, Lexington, Ky.

GOTH, Rita M. (Moliski), 94, Feb. 25
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

GRAHAM-COLLIVER, Judith L., 63, May 25
St. Margaret of Cortona Church, Columbus

HARDY, Chesterfield Jr., 78, May 29
Christ the King Church, Columbus

IACOBONE, Giuseppe, 84, June 1
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

JORDAN-MILLER, Gwendolyn F. (Brown), 87, formerly of Columbus, May 27
Our Lady of Fatima Church, Alcoa, Tenn.

KOLLER, Thomas A., 74, May 25
St. James the Less Church, Columbus

KRISTOFIC, Francis, 93, June 6
Christ the King Church, Columbus

LEWIS, Susan (Greer), 72, June 4
St. Leo the Great Oratory, Columbus

LIGHTELL, Marc D., 74, Jan. 25
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

LYONS, Harrison C. Jr., 76, May 26
St. Leonard Church, Heath

MARCUM, James R., 56, April 30
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

McCANN, Henry G., 25, May 29
Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus

O'DONNELL, James R., 83, May 20
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

PITTS, Rita M. (Weaver), 75, May 25
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Buckeye Lake

RATH, Patricia (Mulholand), 94, June 7
Holy Spirit Church, Columbus

ROEBLE, Gregory, 64, June 2
St. Matthias Church, Columbus

ROEHRER, Elizabeth V. (Montes), 93, May 26
Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus

SCANLON, Michael C., 88, June 4
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

SCHELL, Catherine (Gilligan), 64, June 5
St. Leonard Church, Heath

SCHMELZER, Leo, 86, May 31
St. Mary Church, Bremen

STOCKER, Mary (Police), 85, March 25
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

SULLIVAN, James P., 81, June 3
Holy Family Church, Columbus

TROYAN, Joseph, 92, May 27
Christ the King Church, Columbus

VOELM HOLDEN, Rose (Monaco), 93, May 31
St. Joseph Church, Dover

WAGNER, David D., 88, May 24
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

WILDERMUTH, Carol L. (Justus), 70, June 5
St. Mary Church, Lancaster

WITTENMEIER, John R., 83, June 5
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, Columbus

ZUCAL, Robert J., 88, May 29
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

Father Michael T. Kottar

Funeral Mass for Father Michael T. Kottar, 53, who died Saturday, May 22, was celebrated Wednesday, June 2, at St. Mary Help of Christians Church in Shelby, North Carolina. Burial was at Belmont Abbey Cemetery in Belmont, North Carolina.

Father Kottar was diagnosed in April with Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, a degenerative brain disease, and was receiving hospice care at the Violet Springs Health Campus near his sister's home in Pickerington.

He was born on Dec. 6, 1967, in Youngstown to Michael and Kathleen (Kropelak) Kottar, grew up in the Youngstown suburb of Austintown and graduated from Youngstown Ursuline High School. He began his training for the priesthood at the Pontifical College Josephinum, then earned a Bachelor's degree in philosophy from St. Alphonsus Redemptorist Seminary in Suffield, Connecticut and a Master of Divinity degree from Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

He was ordained on May 28, 1994, as a priest of the Diocese of Metuchen, New Jersey, where he served parishes in the New Jersey communities of New Brunswick, Colonia, South Amboy and

Kendall Park. In 1999, he moved to the Diocese of Charlotte, North Carolina, where he served at parishes in Charlotte, North Wilkesboro and Andrews, North Carolina before being appointed pastor of the church in Shelby and Christ the King Mission in Kings Mountain, North Carolina in 2007.

He was preceded in death by his mother. Survivors include his father; sisters, Amy (Michael) Akers of Pickerington and Renee (Gregory) Selby of Nazareth, Pennsylvania; and four nieces and nephews.

Funeral Mass for Sister M. Felicity Gaffney, OSF, 100, who died on Friday, June 5, will be celebrated at a later date at the Our Lady of the Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, Illinois. Burial was at Resurrection Cemetery, Joliet, Illinois.

She was born on May 6, 1921 in Powell to James and Irene (Spring) Gaffney.

She attended Columbus St. Mary Magdalene Church while growing up, graduated from Columbus St. Mary of the Springs Academy and received a Bachelor's Degree with a major in

Sister Joan Michael McVeigh, OP

Funeral Mass was celebrated Thursday, June 17 at the Dominican Sisters of Peace Motherhouse Chapel for Sister Joan Michael McVeigh, OP, 90, who died at the Mohun Health Care Center on Friday, June 4. She requested that her body be donated to science.

She was born Margaret Ann McVeigh on June 4, 1931 in Spalding, Nebraska to Anthony and Marie (O'Sullivan) McVeigh.

She earned an associate of arts degree in English and history from St. Catharine (Kentucky) College in 1951, a Bachelor of Arts degree in English, social studies and education from Siena College in Memphis, Tennessee in 1961 and a Mas-

ter of Science degree in secondary education from Nebraska State College in 1966.

She entered the Dominican Sisters of St. Catharine, Kentucky (now the Dominican Sisters of Peace) in 1950 and professed her vows on Aug. 15, 1952.

She taught for more than 60 years in schools in Nebraska and Illinois and at the college level in Illinois. In 2013, she moved to the Dominican Sisters of Peace Motherhouse in Columbus. She had been a resident of the Mohun center since 2017.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Cyril and Arthur; and sister, Naomi Krausnick. She is survived by nieces and nephews.

Sister M. Felicity Gaffney, OSF

French from the College (now University) of St. Francis in Joliet. She has a Master of Arts degree in education from DePaul University, attended the Franciscan Institute in Theology at the College of St. Francis and took courses in Spanish at the University of Colorado in Boulder.

She was a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate for 81 years and taught in high schools for more than 50 years, including 1949-1953 and 1955-1958 at Columbus St. Mary High School. She taught in schools from California to

Florida and in schools of diverse cultures: Indian, Mexican, rural, inner-city, private academy, parish schools for girls, city-wide parish schools for boys and girls, large diocesan high schools, and a high school equivalency diploma program.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, George, James and Paul; and sisters, Margaret Lombard, Gertrude Caldwell, Bernie Olsen, Dorothy Thornton, Betty DeJohn and Mary Waldo. She is survived by a niece, a nephew and many grand-nieces and grand-nephews.

McCrorry Manor adds memory care unit

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

For nearly 75 years, the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm have cared for senior citizens in the Diocese of Columbus. The sisters came to central Ohio in 1947 to operate the former St. Raphael's and St. Rita's homes for the aged, then opened The Villas at St. Therese assisted and independent living centers in 2000 and Mother Angeline McCrorry Manor, a skilled nursing care facility, in 2005.

The sisters are about to expand their mission by opening a 21-room unit of the Manor that will be known as The Villas at McCrorry Manor, dedicated to memory care for persons with Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia.

The new unit is on the first floor of the west end of the facility, near the main entrance, and will include a private dining room, a commons area and a courtyard and walking path that will be secured so staff members can know at all times where the unit's residents are.

"Rooms in the unit will be for people who need assistance with basic functions such as eating, bathing or remembering to take their medicine," said Sister Ann Brown, OCarm, chief executive officer of the Manor and The Villas at St. Therese for the past five years. Sister Ann, a Carmelite for 57 years, is a native of Upper Arlington and said she joined the order because she grew up near the former St. Raphael's Home and admired the sisters who served its residents.

Memory care specializes in people with memory loss and helps them recall parts of their past with the assistance of music, readings and consistent daily, weekly or seasonal routines. Staff members of a memory care unit check in with residents more frequently than in a standard assisted



Mother Angeline McCrorry Manor is located in east Columbus.

CT file photo

living unit and provide extra structure and support to help them navigate their day.

"Because the sisters operate the Manor, Catholic tradition plays an important role in caring for all of our patients, and this will be especially true for The Villas at McCrorry," Sister Ann said.

"Listening to or reciting prayers, particularly those which were learned during childhood, can connect an individual to faith, memories and a sense of the familiar," she said. "Incorporating a treasured prayer book or favorite rosary beads as both visual and touch stimulants helps to cue memories.

"Bible reading also prompts people to reconnect to their faith memories. Reading is a skill someone with a progressive dementia such as Alzheimer's disease maintains for a long time. The Manor also has a chapel that is open 24 hours and has a daily Mass presented on our in-house television system."

"We've wanted for years to include a memory care unit but were unable to in the past because all of McCrorry Manor's 147 units were consistently filled," said Joanne Whiteman, executive director of the facility and of The Villas at St. Therese, which are adjacent to each other in far eastern Columbus near East Broad Street and Interstate

270.

"As devastating as the coronavirus pandemic was for nursing homes, it's also what made creation of the memory care unit possible," she said. "Because no new patients were being admitted to nursing homes as a result of the pandemic, it enabled us to set aside one of the Manor's seven 21-unit neighborhoods specifically for memory care."

Changes necessary to make that area a memory care unit are under way and applications are being taken for those interested in living there. Whiteman said several residents of the Manor's current dementia unit have asked to move to the new area once it is completed.

The period since the COVID-19 pandemic began in mid-March 2020 has been a difficult one for McCrorry Manor, as it has been for most nursing facilities.

"In the beginning, it was a constant

challenge trying to adjust to the safety procedures necessary to protect our residents," Sister Ann said. "It was so hard for the people who live here to have no visitors, then to be allowed only to see their loved ones outside their windows until visitor restrictions were eased in April of this year.

"In the early days of the pandemic, we were trying to determine whether the residents would have to dine in their rooms or if it would be safe to be in their neighborhood groups and at least have some contact with others. It also was hard at first to purchase masks and personal protective equipment because both demand and prices were high.

"People didn't want to send their parents or themselves to a nursing facility because of the pandemic, so occupancy went down. But, as Joanne said, that proved to be a blessing in disguise because it enabled us to create the space for a memory care unit. And even during the pandemic, our occupancy rate of 86 percent was higher than most nursing homes. The overall average occupancy rate for nursing homes nationwide during the pandemic is 74 percent.

"Through it all, our staff members worked long hours and persevered," Sister Ann said. "They would come in and go out, worrying that they might be carrying the virus unknowingly and bringing it here or into their

See MEMORY CARE, Page 27

To have an obituary printed in the Catholic Times, send it to: tpuet@columbuscatholic.org

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Chillicothe St. Peter plans COVID-delayed celebration

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

Because of the COVID pandemic, Chillicothe St. Peter Church had to wait for a year to celebrate its 175th anniversary. But this isn't the first time a major parish event has been delayed by circumstances beyond anyone's control.

"People who were around back then reminded me that the rededication of the church was supposed to occur on Thanksgiving weekend of 1950," said parish historian Jim Anderson. "But that was the weekend of a big snowstorm which paralyzed central and southern Ohio and is mostly remembered for the 'Blizzard Bowl' game that Ohio State and Michigan played in Columbus in spite of the weather."

The rededication was postponed and eventually occurred in the spring of 1951. The church had to be rebuilt because of a fire on June 20, 1947, which did \$250,000 damage and was described at the time as the city's most devastating fire of the 20th century. The sidewalls of the original church were retained and a new rear and front were added as part of the rebuilding. Today, the church's Art Deco-style exterior stands out as a contrast to the many 19th-century buildings in the rest of downtown Chillicothe.

Bishop Robert Brennan and all of the parish's living former pastors – Msgr. Anthony Frecker and Fathers James Black and William Hahn – will be at the church, located at the corner of Church and Water streets, on Tuesday, June 29, the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, for a 6 p.m. Mass to celebrate the 176th anniversary of the laying of the building's cornerstone on the same date in 1845. The pandemic prevented celebration of a 175th anniversary Mass on that date last year.

Former parochial vicars of the parish and visiting seminarians also will be on hand. The program includes veneration of a relic and will conclude with a parish picnic.

Since January, the parish bulletin has included excerpts from newspaper stories about St. Peter Church compiled by Anderson. One of those excerpts is from an 1845 issue of *The Catholic Telegraph* of Cincinnati, which included a lengthy story about the dedication written in the flowery style of the day.

The story said the program began with a parade through downtown, followed by speeches first in German, then in English. The English speech



A fire devastated Chillicothe St. Peter Church on June 20, 1947, causing \$250,000 in damage. The side walls were saved and incorporated into the rebuilt church. Photos courtesy St. Peter Church



Mass is celebrated inside the old St. Peter Church for the parish's 100th anniversary in 1945.

took an hour and 15 minutes. There's no indication of the length of the German speech, but Anderson assures that this year, the program won't be nearly as lengthy.

The Diocese of Columbus wasn't created until 1868, so Chillicothe was part of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati at that time and remained so until 1944, when creation of the Diocese of Steubenville resulted in a change of Ohio diocesan boundaries.

As in many Ohio communities of the time, the Catholic population of Chillicothe consisted mainly of people of German and Irish descent, with each group having a separate church. St. Peter Church, the "German"



The rebuilt St. Peter Church, which included a new rear and front as part of an Art Deco-style redesign, was rededicated in the spring of 1951 after a snowstorm delay during Thanksgiving weekend in 1950.



The interior of St. Peter Church was redone after the fire.

church, had been preceded by nearby Chillicothe St. Mary Church, which became the "Irish" church once St. Peter was built.

Those ethnic distinctions have long since disappeared. The two parishes, plus Waverly St. Mary Church, became part of a consortium last year, with Father Timothy Hayes, who had been at Columbus St. Timothy Church, becoming pastor. Parochial vicars are Father Milton Kiocha, AJ, and newly ordained Father Jacob Stinnett, with Deacon Reed Hauser also part of the clergy staff.

The consortium also is served by Sisters Amelia Mary, Leonard Mary, and Ruhitha Mary, FIM, members of

the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate of Mary, an order which has been in Chillicothe since 2014. The sisters have a convent adjacent to St. Peter Church.

"We are not cloistered sisters, but for the last year, we've often felt that way," Sister Amelia Mary said. "We're here to serve the community, and the pandemic has prevented us from going to the five nursing homes we visit nearly every day." The sisters also visit the two state prisons and the Veterans Administration hospital in Chillicothe.

"We've tried to fulfill our mission the best we could by making phone calls to people, and we've able to pack and distribute food packages outdoors at the Pike County food pantry on Wednesdays and Fridays, so we've been able to get into the community in a limited way," she said. "But we still had to wear masks and follow distance requirements at the pantry. We're so happy the state restrictions are ending and are delighted we will be able to see more people face-to-face again."

Father Hayes said the original schedule for St. Peter Church anniversary events was going to start with the June 29 Mass and continue into this year. "The Mass was rescheduled for this June 29 and no other anniversary events were planned, but I said 'Why stop there?'" he said. "We'll continue our postponed jubilee year with other activities through Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2022, the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter."

Anniversary committee chairman David Glass said the celebration also will include an Oktoberfest in September or October, celebrating the parish's German heritage; a Mass on Sunday, Dec. 5, commemorating the dedication of the church on Dec. 6, 1846, followed by a ham dinner; and a concluding ceremony on Feb. 22 of next year.

In addition to the events, Father Hayes and Anderson are preparing a video that will include pictures of events such as the fire and the 1929 laying of the cornerstone of the former parish school building, now a parish activity center. The video also will contain segments of 8-millimeter home movies loaned to the parish by parishioner Elizabeth Weisenberger, whose mother, Catherine, died earlier this year at age 102 and was a member of a family that has been part of

ST. PETER, *continued from Page 26*

the parish for generations. The movies include scenes from the parish's 100th anniversary celebration in 1945 and the 1951 church rededication.

"The family preserved those movies on a DVD and I discovered them in late May," said Anderson, who is pastoral care director of the Coming Home Network, a Zanesville-based organization which assists people of other faith traditions on their journeys home to the Catholic Church. "They're a real find and will add much to the celebration."

"I've found so much fascinating history while digging through the archives," Anderson said. "One of the most memorable characters in parish history was Father Edward Lieb, who was pastor here from 1851 to 1881 and came to America from the old Austro-Hungarian Empire, where he

was the tutor for the Austrian prince who became Emperor Maximilian of Mexico. When he came here, Father Lieb could speak seven languages, none of them English.

Anderson said an 1859 *Catholic Telegraph* story describes a visit to Chillicothe by Archbishop John Purcell of Cincinnati. "He confirmed 122 young people from the two Chillicothe parishes, then was entertained at a banquet at the Adena mansion," the home of former Ohio Gov. Thomas Worthington, which is now a state historic site.

"The archbishop and other clergy were given a boat ride on an artificial lake on the property, and as the newspaper puts it, 'The choirs of the two churches sang hymns on the moonlit waters.' Imagine that happening today," Anderson said.

MEMORY CARE, *continued from Page 25*

homes, but they didn't let their concerns affect them. They've been unsung heroes throughout the last 15 months. Hospital workers have gotten a lot of credit, and rightly so, but those in nursing homes also played a key role."

The Manor's namesake, Mother Angeline McCrory, O.Carm, founded the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm in 1929. The order has nearly 200 members ministering to the elderly in long-term care, assisted living and health facilities at 17 sites in eight states and one in Ireland. Mother Angeline said she founded the order because, while working among the aged in Brooklyn and Pittsburgh, she came to dislike the institutional feel of existing homes.

Mother Angeline died in 1984 and was declared Venerable in 2012. She lived in Columbus for a time in the 1940s, helping establish St. Raphael's Home at the former estate of Samuel P. Bush, who was president of the former Buckeye Steel Castings company and was a grandfather of President George H.W. Bush and great-grandfather of President George W. Bush.

Besides Sister Ann, four other Carmelite sisters serve the Manor and The Villas at St. Therese. They are Sister Maria Robert Mullen, director of palliative care; Sister Maureen Carroll, director of pastoral care; Sister Theresa Pham, nursing manager; and Sister Philomena Schill, resident advocate. The Manor has 210 employees.

Manor residents live in one of two four-story towers, divided into six

21-room neighborhoods in addition to the new unit. All neighborhoods have a commons area, dining room, laundry, spa with whirlpool tub, a nurse's station with refrigerators for snacks, and low barriers that make it easier for nurses to assist residents.

Besides caring for people who need long-term assistance and medical supervision, the Manor also has rooms for people undergoing rehabilitation after heart attacks, hip and knee replacement surgery and other major procedures. (Editor's note: The writer of this story spent a month at the Manor in 2018 in rehabilitation for a broken leg.)

The Manor's public space is designed in "streetscape" style to encourage people to gather. It includes a living room, library, café, gift shop, beauty and barber shop, clinics and the Buckeye Lounge, an area decorated with Ohio State University memorabilia and including a large-screen television.

The Manor has received consistently high marks from rating agencies. The Ohio Department of Aging's 2018 family satisfaction survey, conducted among families of residents, gave the Manor an overall satisfaction score of 84.6 on a 100-point scale. That compares with a statewide average of 77.8 for similar facilities. The survey usually is taken every two years, but the pandemic prevented this in 2020.

For more information about McCrory Manor or The Villas at St. Therese, call (614) 729-6608 or go to www.carmeliteseniorliving.org.

Here's another interesting note, from *The Chillicothe Advertiser* of Jan. 19, 1883 and titled "A Very Effective Sermon":

"When, during the recent mission at St. Peter's Church, one of the Mission fathers advised the young gentlemen of the congregation to marry upon reaching the age of 22 years – and discouraged a longer period of courtship than six months – his wise counsel fell like ravishing music upon captive ears. Three marriages were celebrated by Father Windthorst last week."

Chillicothe is a community steeped in history. Besides the 175th anniversary celebration at St. Peter, St. Mary Church in 2017 celebrated the 150th anniversary of its cornerstone and was founded in 1837. The city was Ohio's first capital, serving in that distinction from 1803 to 1810 and again from

1812 to 1816, when the capital was moved to Columbus, and the *Chillicothe Gazette* is Ohio's oldest newspaper, dating to 1800.

"Today the parishes are continuing to make history through their response to the pandemic and the evangelization efforts related to the diocese's Real Presence, Real Future campaign," Father Hayes said.

"All three parishes have worked together for many years and have a shared history. All see themselves as families and have a reputation as welcoming communities. Now they're undergoing a major rejuvenation and renewal through formation of the consortium, and I'm looking forward to helping them grow and develop together through their shared Catholic presence and their work of evangelization in the post-COVID era."



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Diocesan teams stand out at state

By Doug Bean
Catholic Times Editor

The 2021 high school spring sports season, which was cancelled last year because of the COVID-19 pandemic, concluded this month with diocesan schools achieving success in state competition.

Among the notable finishes were the Columbus Bishop Watterson boys and girls lacrosse teams reaching the state semifinals, the Bishop Watterson girls track team taking third place in Division I at the state championships and the Newark Catholic softball team advancing to the state semifinals in Division IV.

At the state track meet, Bishop Watterson's 4x200 and 4x400 relay teams won state titles on June 5 at Hilliard Darby High School, becoming the first Division I school since 2015 to claim first place in two of the three relays. The 4x200 team of Cailin O'Reilly, Grace Jenkins, Sydney Workman and Anna Kessler posted a time of 1 minute, 39.69 seconds, and the 4x400 team of Jenkins, Jordan Morales, O'Reilly and Erin Connors clocked 3:50.10. Both were school re-



Members of Bishop Watterson's Division I state-champion 4x200-meter relay team were (from left) Grace Jenkins, Anna Kessler, Sydney Workman and Cailin O'Reilly. Photo courtesy Bishop Watterson High School

cords.

"It was a close finish in both of them and we knew nothing is guaranteed," said O'Reilly, who capped her senior

year with three state championships – two in the relays and one last fall as a member of Watterson's title-winning field hockey team. "but we were confident in our abilities and we knew it was our last meet so we wanted to do as well as we could."

Kessler added fifth- and eighth-place finishes in the 100 and 200 meters, respectively, breaking a school record in the 100 with a time of 12.30 after setting a school record earlier this season in the 200. She also was part of the fourth-place 4x100 relay team that recorded a time of 48.30 and included Workman, Morales and Jenkins. Watterson's other placer was Erin Karas, who was sixth in the 1,600 in 5:02.83.

Watterson's third-place team finish was the highest in school history.

Columbus Bishop Hartley's Trey Sanders captured second place in the 100 in the Division II boys state track meet on June 4 at Pickerington North High School with a time of 11.14 seconds, Bishop Watterson's Max Latshaw took fifth in the Division II 3,200 in 9:40.69, and Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School's Owen Karas placed sixth in the Division I 1,600 in 4:13.96.

In the Division III girls meet on June 4 at Westerville North High School, Lancaster Fisher Catholic's Abbey Krile tied for fifth in pole vault with a height of 10 feet, 6 inches, and Newark Catholic's Harlei Antritt finished eighth in the discus with a throw of 119-9.

In the all-divisions state lacrosse semifinals, the Watterson girls and boys teams each lost to eventual champion Cincinnati Mariemont, with the girls falling 14-13 on June 1, and the boys coming up short in an 11-8 setback on June 2 at Ohio Wesleyan University's Selby Stadium. Both Watterson teams had advanced with victories over Columbus St. Francis DeSales in regional finals.

In softball, Newark Catholic reached the Division IV final four with a 13-3 victory over Peebles in a regional final before losing 12-6 to Cuyahoga Heights in a state semifinal on June 4 at Akron's Firestone Stadium.

In boys tennis, St. Charles' Reece Yakubov secured a spot in the final eight at the Division I state championships with a 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory over Springboro's Phillip Kogan but then lost to Cleveland St. Ignatius' Nate Day 6-3, 6-4 in the quarterfinals on May 28 at the Lindner Family Tennis Center in Mason.

Central Catholic League

Softball

Varsity standings

(Conference games only)

Columbus St. Francis DeSales	5-1
Columbus Bishop Watterson	4-2
Columbus Bishop Ready	2-4
Columbus Bishop Hartley	1-5

All-league

First team

Jess Melvin, Kendall Gonya, Maggie Valentine, Lauren Mitevski, St. Francis DeSales; Rachel Reuter, Alex Mosholder, Sydney McKinney, Bishop Watterson; Emma Sweetman, Megan Wohrle, Bishop Ready; Kami Kortokrax, Ava McKee, Bishop Hartley

Second team

Alena Stewart, Madison Werhman, Bre Callahan, St. Francis DeSales; Anna Emswiler, Mary Gamble, Natalie Funge, Bishop Watterson; Joely Ciborek, Caleigh Cheatham, Sarah Ranke, Bishop Ready; Reese Beatty, Becca LeMay, Bishop Hartley

Baseball

Varsity standings

(Conference games only)

Columbus Bishop Hartley	6-2
Columbus St. Francis DeSales	5-3
Columbus Bishop Watterson	4-4
Columbus St. Charles Preparatory	4-4
Columbus Bishop Ready	1-7

Junior varsity standings

(Conference games only)

Bishop Hartley	6-2
Bishop Watterson	6-2
St. Charles	5-3
St. Francis DeSales	2-6
Bishop Ready	0-8

Freshman standings

(Conference games only)

St. Charles	4-0
Bishop Watterson	2-2
St. Francis DeSales	0-4

All-league

First team

Jake Skelly, sr., Jack Tomlinson, sr., Emmett Gillies, jr., Dimitri Boumis, jr., Bishop Watterson; Aiden Cannon, sr., Connor Huzicka, sr., Matthew Stewart, sr., St. Francis DeSales; Ryan Benjamin, sr., Carter Bryant, sr., St. Charles; Max McCann, sr., Charlie Bernotas, soph., Bishop Watterson; Rylen Williams, soph., Bishop Ready

Second team

Alex Blain, jr., Bishop Hartley; Ryan Gustafson, jr., Andrew Kegliewitsch, sr., St. Francis DeSales; Michael Benjamin, sr., Ethan Seewald, sr., St. Charles; Noah Grayem, sr., Nick Kudicka, fr., Bishop Watterson; Logan Dimel, soph., Preston Macioce, jr., Cael Dent, sr., Bishop Ready



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Peter's Pence Collection aids papal charities worldwide

By Sister Zephрина Mary GracyKutty, FIH
Director, Diocesan Missions Office

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, along with other bishops' conferences throughout the world, designates one collection annually to provide Pope Francis with funds to help those suffering as a result of war, natural disasters and disease.

In the Diocese of Columbus, the Peter's Pence collection will be taken up on the weekend of June 26-27. On behalf of Bishop Robert Brennan, I thank you for your generosity in this collection.

In 2020, the diocese collected \$47,050.34 for Peter's Pence. The collection has both symbolic and practical value.

The collection allows parishioners everywhere to demonstrate unity with the pope and offer their personal support for his mission as vicar of Christ, and it is also a way to help our needy brothers and sisters.

Pope Francis, in his new encyclical letter, said, "A worldwide tragedy like the COVID-19 pandemic momentarily revived the sense that we are a global community, all in the same boat, where one person's problems are the problems of all. Once more we realized that no one is saved alone; we can only be saved together" (*Fratelli Tutti*, 32).

The Holy Father reminds us of the need for collaboration to alleviate suffering and restore wounded hearts. We are bound to each other through Christ, who is the savior of every human being and creator of the universe. God awaits the good deeds of His children, especially love and trust that do lots of good to those whom we encounter every day.

We are accountable for our souls and others before God, who commanded us to be brothers and sisters to each other in every need. We are obliged to reach out to help others as we can, either physically or spiritually. Through our generous help, we can be a hope for the hopeless.

Pope Pius XI, the "pope of missions," taught that our priority must be spreading Christ's message and evangelizing through our active works of charity and solidarity with the Church.

One of his encyclicals emphasized his magnanimous heart concerning the missions: "Since no one can be thought so poor and naked, no one so infirm or hungry, as he who is deprived of the knowledge and grace of God, so there is no one who cannot understand that both the mercy and

the rewards of God shall be given to him who, on his part, shows mercy to the neediest of his fellow beings" (*Re-rum Ecclesiae*, 14).

God delights in the souls who show mercy to their fellow men, even if we do the smallest deeds of kindness toward the needy, homeless, orphans, widows and poor.

During his apostolic visit to Bangladesh, Pope Francis called "leaders and followers of the religions present in this country to live together in mutual respect and good will" (Bangladesh, Dec. 1, 2017). Showing mutual respect and good will toward the victims of violence in Bangladesh, the Holy Father funded a project to rebuild the homes of 55 families of all faiths who were attacked there.

When you support the Peter's Pence Collection, you help Pope Francis take concrete steps to foster reconciliation and peace anywhere conflict and violence exist.

Let us be aware of the need and not miss the opportunity to comfort the needy, sorrowful, desperate and suffering. Thus, one day, we all can meet together in heaven before the throne of God. It is a sign of our communion with the Holy Father, and it is also an opportunity to help those in need as we are mandated to do by Christ.

Join with Pope Francis and be a sign of mercy. Please be generous!

Message from Bishop Brennan



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has designated one weekend a year for the Holy Father's

collection, commonly known as Peter's Pence. This collection in support of the Holy Father's charitable work takes place in parishes around the world.

This year in the Diocese of Columbus, the Peter's Pence collection is on the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, June 26 and 27. Proceeds from this collection fund the pope's emergency assistance relief programs throughout the world. The programs help suffering victims of war, oppression and natural disasters. The collection, which helps more than one billion Catholics around the world, is an expression of Christ's love for the poor. Through works of charity,

the Church provides a powerful witness of love and deeds to empower the weak, the defenseless and the voiceless.

We join with Catholics worldwide in a loving expression of solidarity. I ask you to contribute generously to the collection this year. Your contributions support the works of Pope Francis to fulfill his prayer that the Church will reach out with acts of mercy.

The Peter's Pence collection is an opportunity for the Church around the world to stand in solidarity with Pope Francis. Please join with our brothers and sisters in faith from around the globe and prayerfully consider supporting this year's collection as an act of mercy and charity.

I am grateful for your generosity. Together, let us ask the Lord to bless the Holy Father and us, as well as those in need throughout the world.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Rev. Robert J. Brennan
Bishop of Columbus

CUSTODIAN POSITION AVAILABLE Seton Parish, Pickerington

Seton Parish, Pickerington, Ohio, seeks qualified candidates for the position of part-time custodian.

The custodian is primarily responsible for cleaning of the worship areas and will at times help other members of the staff with cleaning, setup, and tear down of areas within the parish facilities.

Duties include and are not limited to: sweeping, vacuuming, mopping, scrubbing, at times using ladders, and moving objects as needed to clean areas; removing stains from surfaces using chemicals and cleaning solutions, emptying trash cans and replacing liners, emptying recycle containers, and refilling soap, paper towel, and toilet paper dispensers. Occasionally, duties may include tasks outdoors including: sweeping walks, raking leaves, removing snow and performing other incidental seasonal tasks.

Applicants must be able to work independently, pay close attention to detail, and perform all physical aspects of job duties. Previous custodial experience is preferred, but not required. Some non-standard hours may be required.

Job offer is contingent on the successful passing of the mandatory background screening and completion of the VIRTUS "Protecting God's Children" course.

Please forward resume, references, compensation requirements and contact information by June 30, 2021 to Jim Hamilton, Director of Maintenance, at jhamilton@setonparish.com or call the parish office at 614-833-0482 extension #220.



St. Matthew The Apostle Catholic Parish

807 Havens Corners Road, Gahanna, Ohio 43230

First Friday of the Month Fish Fry

May 7th with possible future dates.

4:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Drive Thru Carry Out Box Only

Featuring Homemade

3 - Pieces of Beer Battered Cod

French Fries

Coleslaw

Price - 10.00

(Cash, Check, and Credit/Debit Card. Credit/Debit Card subject to a 1.00 expense charge per transaction.)



Knights of Columbus St. Jude Council 5801

Website: www.kofc5801.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/KofC5801

All proceeds go towards scholarships for 8th graders attending a Catholic High School.

New website, traveling store sell religious items

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

CATHOLIC BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

A monthly feature highlighting Catholic business owners and entrepreneurs working to share their faith in the marketplace.

A Columbus woman who wants to make religious goods more affordable and accessible for central Ohio residents has started a business combining online commerce and a traveling shop.

Alycia Hartley began setting up the business, Gratia Plena Religious Goods, a little more than a year ago. It's been in operation about six months.

She and a friend, Libby Tatz, have visited Columbus Holy Name Church and the Parroquia Santa Cruz, which meets at Holy Name, twice and Hartley's home parish, the St. Leo the Great Oratory in Columbus, once after weekend Masses so parishioners can purchase what they offer. Other parishes are being contacted concerning similar sales events.

"I got the idea for the business last year," Hartley said. "I live on the north side of town, and it was hard for me to

get to Generations, the local Catholic religious goods and book store." Generations is located on Dublin Road near downtown. "I didn't want to make a round trip there of an hour or more to buy a simple item. I do online shopping and thought an online religious goods store would fill a need."

Hartley said she started paperwork for the store early last year. "State approval to start a business came last year on the same day President Trump declared a national state of emergency because of COVID-19. The pandemic brought everything to a halt, including my plans for a store, for a while."

It also caused the bishops of Ohio to close Catholic churches to public worship for a period that included Holy Week and the Easter season. Churches were reopened on a limited

basis beginning May 31, 2020, Pentecost Sunday, and Hartley resumed setting up her business.

The shop, which can be found at www.gratiaplenu.shop, has more than 50 items available, ranging in price from \$1.25 for a Catholic identification card to \$40 for rosaries from Italy and \$80 for some crucifixes.

"Libby and I have been keeping an eye out for sturdy, economical items," Hartley said. "Being new to the business, we're still trying to figure out what people like and avoiding big-ticket items, at least for now, since we are a traveling shop. The items we offer are the type of things every Catholic home should have."

Some come from wholesalers, others from individual artisans, and several, including rosaries, earrings, necklaces and wooden crosses bearing the words of the Our Father, are made by Hartley herself. She said one of the most popular items on the site is a St. Benedict laser engraved wooden rosary priced at \$7. Rosaries and chapel veils sold well at the recent St. Leo Oratory event.

The shop's Gratia Plena name comes from the Latin words for "full of grace," part of the Archangel Gabriel's announcement to the Virgin Mary that she would conceive and become the mother of Jesus.

"It's a name that's something different and gives people an idea of what the shop is about – helping others by providing sacramentals and other religious items designed to inspire faithful living," Hartley said.

Visitors to the website are greeted by a picture of a statue showing Mary leaning down and smiling, with one hand outstretched toward the viewer and the other pointing upward. The statue is located in

Our Lady's Chapel at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington and was crafted by sculptor Gordon Kray in 1984 to replace an original that was severely damaged.

"The statue appealed to me because, unlike most Marian statues, it shows Mary reaching out to us and seeming to say, 'Here is my Son, and He is the way to heaven.' It looks as though she



Alycia Hartley (left) and Libby Tatz display some of their Catholic gifts that are part of their Gratia Plena Religious Goods traveling store. Photo courtesy Gratia Plena Religious Goods

is pulling us forward toward striving to be better and to obtain grace from Jesus."

Hartley, 34, a preschool teacher at Westerville St. Paul School, joined the Catholic Church 16 years ago. "As a teenager, I became interested in religion and went with friends to various churches," she said. "I started telling God I wanted to know what truth was and what life is about, and he began showing me pathways which led me toward the Catholic Church.

"I started watching EWTN and didn't know what the Mass was about but knew I wanted to learn. I eventually found a priest to talk to, and he led me to RCIA classes, which resulted in my entering the Church at the Easter Vigil.

"This shop is one way of expressing my joy and gratitude at being a Catholic," she said. "As sole proprietor of Gratia Plena, I have definitely put more into it financially than I have gotten out of it, but that's to be expected at this point. The parishioners at St. Leo's have been very generous and have helped put the shop on the right track.

"I'd like to visit more parishes, because at the shop's parish appearances, I've found that many people enjoy perusing items in person to see what items they like best or what they may be interested in buying at a later time."

For more information on the Gratia Plena shop, go to www.gratiaplenu.shop or contact Hartley at (614) 502-9880 or achartley86@protonmail.com.

Save the Date



ORDER OF MALTA®
CENTER OF CARE
FOUNDATION

The Third Annual Hospitaller's Dinner Benefiting the Order of Malta Center of Care

Columbus Region's Annual Defense of the Faith Lecture

Keynote Address

Dr. Peter Kreeft

Professor of Philosophy at Boston College

Friday September 17, 2021

6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Jessing Center at

The Pontifical College Josephinum

7625 North High Street

Columbus, Ohio 43235

Please call Len Barbe at 614-738-2464 for more information

or email lwbarbe@aol.com

The Order of Malta Center of Care (is a 501c3) is located in the St. John Center, 640 S. Ohio Ave. Columbus, OH which is a part of the Community of Holy Rosary / St. John the Evangelist Parish. It services the needs of the poor and the sick in the surrounding neighborhood. The Center of Care is staffed by volunteers from the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta, members of the Catholic Medical Association and many friends.

Altar servers honored at St. Agatha



Recipients of the annual diocesan Altar Server Awards sponsored by the Downtown Serra Club and supported by The Catholic Foundation are pictured Sunday, June 13 at Columbus St. Agatha Church with Bishop Robert Brennan. A total of 103 servers were honored and more than 60 were in attendance.

CT photos by Ken Snow



Isaiah Coleman of Columbus St. Catharine Church receives his award from Bishop Robert Brennan.



Nicholas Williams of Dover St. Joseph Church chats with Bishop Robert Brennan after he was presented his medal.



Bishop Robert Brennan shows his appreciation to Isaac Schaefer of Columbus Sts. Augustine & Gabriel Church.



Bishop Robert Brennan presents Mia Dela Cruz of Westerville St. Paul Church with her award.

Local news and events

Ohio Dominican returning to in-person classes in August

Traditional undergraduate students at Ohio Dominican University (ODU) will return to a fully in-person classroom environment when the fall 2021 semester begins on Monday, Aug. 16. Students spent the past academic year attending classes either online or in a hybrid format in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the recommendation of ODU's pandemic task force, the university's leadership team approved a transition back to a face-to-face setting after considering guidance from local, state and federal public health officials, as well as updated guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

After the lifting of Ohio's health restrictions and mandates on June 2, ODU updated its campus policies to align with CDC recommendations and make the wearing of facemasks optional for people who are fully vaccinated while encouraging the use of facemasks for those who are not fully vaccinated.

The university will continue to encourage members of its community to regularly sanitize frequently used objects, wash their hands often, stay home if not feeling well, and receive the vaccine as soon as possible if they have not done so.

"From the earliest days of this pandemic, we have taken careful steps to ensure our campus policies closely align with CDC guidelines. At this point, it makes little sense to deviate from that approach as we move forward

and enter this new phase of the pandemic," ODU president Connie Gallaher said.

"As the number of cases continues to steadily decline and the number of those vaccinated increases by the day, it is time to return to the classroom so that we may continue to provide the outstanding education that our students deserve and have come to expect at Ohio Dominican."

ODU's policies will be subject to change, depending on future state and federal guidelines. The university will continue to provide online options for students in its graduate and degree-completion program. Those options had been available prior to the pandemic.

CAPA honors Watterson

Columbus Bishop Watterson High School's spring musical, Pippin, received Marquee Awards for best musical production and best ensemble from the Columbus Association for the Performing Arts (CAPA) and the American Electric Power Foundation, the presenting sponsor.

The awards program is designed to celebrate, support and advocate for high school musical theater education throughout central Ohio. Watterson was among 12 high schools taking part in the competition, in which judges selected winners in 11 categories.

Other nominees from Watterson were Parin Sensenbrenner, designer; Angelo O'Dorisio, supporting actor; and Liz O'Dorisio, director.



Employment Opportunities:

Marketing Specialist

And

Administrative Assistant

Sacred Music Institute of America, LLC, a leader in onsite and online sacred music education for church musicians, has two immediate openings for part-time positions. Keen interest and/or experience in sacred music or liturgical ministry is essential. Familiarity with Quickbooks, Facebook Business Suite, Facebook Ads, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, Wix, Gmail, Mail Chimp, Microsoft Word, Zoom, and graphic design software (such as Adobe Illustrator) required.

For Inquiries and Applications:

administrator@sacredmusicinstitute.org



Real Presence Real Future Gathering

Mass | Praise & Worship | Liturgical Music | Exposition

Friday, August 27

St. Joseph Cathedral

Livestream begins at 6pm

Saturday, August 28

In-Person or Online!

St. Charles Preparatory School

Doors Open 7:30am

Livestream begins at 8am



**Real Presence
Real Future**

Bishop Robert Brennan



Archbishop Nelson J. Perez



Register at realpresencerealfuture.org