

The Catholic TIMES

The Diocese of Columbus' News Source

April 5, 2020 • SIXTH SUNDAY OF LENT • Volume 69:25

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HOLY WEEK SERVICES, DIOCESAN RETREAT TO BE BROADCAST FROM CATHEDRAL



By Tim Puet and Doug Bean
The Catholic Times

With the world in the throes of the coronavirus pandemic, Bishop Robert Brennan has called for the diocese to come together via various forms of media for a Holy Week retreat from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral led by Father Michael Kelly of the Pontifical College Josephinum.

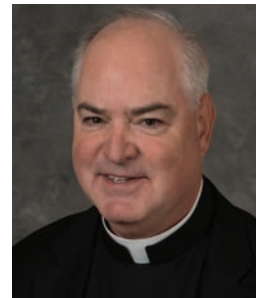
The retreat will begin on Palm Sunday, April 5, with a 10:30 a.m. Mass celebrated by the bishop, with Father Kelly, director of spiritual formation at the Josephinum, as homilist.

It will continue each of the next three days with a program including reflections by Father Kelly, music, Scripture readings and prayers. Topics for Father Kelly's talks will be: Monday, April 6, the cross and suffering; Tuesday, April 7, St. Peter; and Wednesday, April 8, the Blessed Mother.

The Palm Sunday Mass will be broadcast live on St. Gabriel Catholic Radio, AM 820 in Columbus and at www.stgabrielradio.com, and the mission on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday will air at 4 and 7 p.m. on the station. The events also will be archived on the station's website.

Traditional Holy Week services will originate from the Cathedral during the Triduum with live broadcasts by St. Gabriel Radio, starting with the Chrism Mass at 9 a.m. on Holy Thursday, April 9, and continuing with the Good Friday liturgy at noon April 10 and the Easter Vigil at 8 p.m. Saturday, April 11.

Holy Week will conclude on April 12 with an Easter Sunday Mass celebrated at the cathedral by Bishop Brennan that will be telecast live at 10:30 a.m. by NBC4 in Columbus and broadcast on St. Gabriel Ra-



Father Michael Kelly

See **RETREAT**, Page 12



Editor's reflections by Doug Bean

Declaring trust in Jesus soothes the soul amid pandemic

"Jesus, I trust in you."

Remembering the words inscribed on the Divine Mercy image given to St. Faustina Kowalska will help the world make it through the crisis we're

experiencing with the COVID-19 outbreak.

The Marians of the Immaculate Conception, known as the Marian Fathers, have recommended that every Catholic household place a Divine Mercy image on the front door with the words "Jesus, I trust in you" for protection.

Displaying the picture, which you can print at www.TheDivineMercy.org/DivineMercyImage if you don't already have one, won't ensure that the virus is kept away from your home. But as Father Chris Alar, MIC, explains, it does provide spiritual consolation and guarantees "that, by your trust in Jesus, you will obtain His promises of love and mercy, which will surround you and remain in you forever."

Father Alar compares this act of faith with God commanding the Israelites in Exodus 12 to "seal their doorposts" with the blood of the lamb so that the angel of death may pass over those houses that have been marked."

With so many Ohioans confined to their residences in obedience to the governor's "stay-at-

home" order, there should be more time throughout the day for prayer, specifically the Divine Mercy Chaplet and the rosary. If you have children at home who are involved in distance learning, consider pausing at 3 p.m., the Hour of Mercy, when Jesus died on the cross, to pray the chaplet. If you are unfamiliar with it, the chaplet is prayed on the beads of a rosary and takes 10 minutes or less.

Another suggestion during this time of restricted movement would be to pray for all those who are sick and suffering, and in particular for the souls in purgatory. Specifically, try making a novena for those in purgatory. "Thirty-Day Devotions for the Holy Souls," written by Susan Tassone and published by Our Sunday Visitor, is a booklet that provides prayers and reflections during each day of the novena.

As we read stories of poor souls throughout the world dying alone because of the coronavirus, it seems a particularly good time to pray for them and anyone who will die. Also pray for healing for those who are sick and suffering and for researchers to develop a vaccine.

This week, the focus in the Christian world shifts to Holy Week, starting with Palm Sunday. Most of us have never experienced what we're facing today with Mass and the sacraments unavailable to us in person. In our diocese, a number of priests and parishes have

stepped up to offer online Masses, prayer services and reflections. You can read about some of their continuing efforts in this week's *Catholic Times*.

Bishop Robert Brennan has announced a Holy Week mission that will begin on Palm Sunday. Father Michael Kelly, director of spiritual formation at the Pontifical College Josephinum, will offer reflections on Sunday through Wednesday as part of a livestream originating from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral.

On Thursday, Bishop Brennan will celebrate the Christ Mass in the morning and Mass of the Lord's Supper in the evening. He'll continue the Holy Week observance with the Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday liturgies. Check the diocesan website at columbuscatholic.org for times and details.

Some good suggestions to celebrate Holy Week in your homes are offered in this week's edition of the Times by the diocesan Marriage and Family Life Office. There's also a reflection on the Stations of the Cross written by Michele Williams, an inmate at the Ohio Reformatory for Women in Marysville.

While some of us might feel like prisoners in our own homes and isolated from our churches during the pandemic, our appreciation for the sacraments grows as our hearts long to be with Jesus.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, protect and save us.

Local news and events

Zonta honors Columbus diocesan high school students

Genevieve Pfister of Columbus Bishop Hartley High School, Natalie Allton of Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School and Megan Eberts of Columbus Bishop Watterson High School are among 12 high-school seniors honored by the Zonta Club of Columbus as central Ohio's Most Outstanding Young Women.

Each high school in central Ohio was invited to nominate one young woman in its Class of 2000 for the honor. Nominees attended a leadership forum in February.

The top 12 were recognized at a reception last month and were selected based on their academic achievements and awards, community service, extracurricular activities, letters of recommendation and three essays.

Zonta is a 101-year-old women's service organization that has more than 29,000 members in 63 nations.

Catholic Youth Summer Camp needs volunteer nurses

Catholic Youth Summer Camp is in need of licensed nurses or health care professionals to join its volunteer nursing team for one week or more between June 7 and Aug. 7.

Applicants will provide nursing care to middle-school and high-school students in a fast-paced, Christ-centered high adventure environment at the Damascus Catholic Mission Campus, near Centerburg in Knox County. For more information, send an email to lrbuzenski@gmail.com.

COVID-affected marriage licenses will be reissued

Franklin County Probate Judge Robert Montgomery has announced that marriage licenses issued in the county and not able to be solemnized within 60 days, as required by state law, because of the COVID-19 emergency will be reissued at no charge.

As a public health measure, new procedures have been issued for those wishing to obtain a marriage license. The licenses will be issued only to those applicants who call the probate court in advance at (614) 525-3108 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays and schedule an appointment.

Montgomery encourages applicants to postpone obtaining a marriage li-

cence until the threat of COVID-19 passes; however, the probate court still will issue a license as long as all legal requirements are satisfied and applicants call in advance for an appointment.

This new process is necessary to allow the court to respect the social distancing strongly suggested by health officials to help slow the spread of the coronavirus.

Applicants are required to pay in cash with exact change, or with a credit card (Visa, MasterCard or Discover). Applicants should report to Meeting Hall A in the Franklin County Courthouse, 373 S. High St., Columbus. They will be health screened, in accordance with a court order.



Front Page photo:

HOLY WEEK
Bishop Robert Brennan has called for the faithful of the diocese to gather together through multimedia channels for a Holy Week mission that begins on Palm Sunday and culminates with a televised Mass on Easter Sunday. (CT file photo by Ken Snow)

Catholic TIMES

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Catholic Times (USPS 967-000) (ISSN 745-6050) is the official newspaper of the Catholic Diocese of Columbus, Ohio. It is published weekly 45 times per year with exception of every other week in June, July and August and the week following Christmas.
Subscription rate: \$25 per year, or call and make arrangements with your parish. Postage Paid at Columbus OH 43218.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Catholic Times, 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215. Please allow two to four weeks for change of address.

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Priests cope with celebrating Mass before empty pews

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

The reality of having empty churches for Holy Week services this year is devastating to Catholics in general, but especially to priests.

“It’s a shock to your system – not being able to see the people you have been ministering to and not being able to share the greatest events of the liturgical year with them,” said Father Joseph Yokum, pastor of the Scioto Catholic consortium, which includes two churches in Portsmouth and one each in New Boston and Wheelersburg.

“It’s surreal – something you never conceived of,” said Father Robert Kitsmiller, rector of Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral. “The first week churches were closed seemed like three weeks.”

Public life in Ohio has virtually come to a halt under a “stay-at-home” order issued by the state Health Department on March 22 as part of an effort to control the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The order extends through Monday, April 6.

The state’s Catholic churches have been closed since Monday, March 16, when the Catholic bishops of Ohio suspended all public Masses and other activities at churches through at least Easter Sunday, April 12. This came four days after they had suspended the obligation for the state’s Catholics to attend Mass on the last three Sundays of March.

The closings meant that the liturgies of the Church’s three most important days – the Sacred Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil or Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday – would take place inside empty church buildings, with parishioners able to watch or hear them only if their parish streamed the services online or they were broadcast on radio.

Many parishes have begun streaming Masses and prayer services in the past two weeks as a way of staying in touch with parishioners. “That means the church is not really closed. Many of our Scioto Catholic parishioners have told me they find this very comforting,” Father Yokum said.

“While it is very sad to see the doors of our parishes shut, people have found our daily online Holy Hours and Masses to be very beautiful; in fact, more people are watching on social media than attend daily Mass.” He said his livestreamed Mass on Sunday, March 22 was viewed continuously on Facebook by about



Father Joseph Yokum elevates the host while celebrating Mass with Father Chris Tuttle at Portsmouth St. Mary Church.
Photo courtesy Scioto Catholic Consortium

250 people and had about 1,500 people watching at least briefly.

“It’s not easy to have Mass without a lector and servers, but we use what God has given to us, making do with what we have,” he said. “I’m a guardian of a relic of St. Maximilian Kolbe, patron of communications, and he is interceding for our parishioners through me and the livestream – something he would have made great use of if he lived today, as he used radio in Poland in the 1930s.”

Masses from Portsmouth St. Mary Church may be seen live at the parish website, www.sciotocatholic.org/livestream, and on Facebook at “Scioto Catholic” at noon Monday through Saturday and 10:30 a.m. Sunday. A Holy Hour from the same church, including the rosary, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, sacred instrumental music with Scioto Catholic music director Jordan Werring, and Benediction, is shown daily at 7 p.m. on both platforms. The Masses and Holy Hour on the website are live-only but are available on Facebook at any time.

St. Gabriel Catholic Radio in Columbus is broadcasting Masses from the cathedral at 10:30 a.m. Sunday and 12:05 p.m. Monday through Friday, with Bishop Robert Brennan as celebrant and Father Kitsmiller usually as concelebrant. The Masses include a cantor and an organist.

“It’s very strange to celebrate Mass in an empty cathedral. Having no people around takes some of the luster off the experience of being a priest,” Father Kitsmiller said. “I’m very grateful to St. Gabriel Radio for the privilege and joy of celebrating with the bishop each day. We look forward to the day everyone can come back and we can celebrate all the things we normally do at the cathedral. In the meantime, we will do our best to pray for people

and connect with them in some way.”

Liturgical events at the cathedral are canceled until further notice, but it is continuing its backdoor ministry for the disadvantaged, making prepackaged food available from 9:30 to 10 a.m. every day of the year (holidays included) and 4 to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays, excluding holidays.

Father Cyrus Haddad, one of four priests in residence at the cathedral in addition to Father Kitsmiller, is chaplain for the Columbus Latin Mass Community and celebrates a livestreamed Mass in the Extraordinary Form (famously known as the Latin Mass) at 9 a.m. daily from the cathedral’s Terce chapel.

Father Tom Gardner is staying in touch with the people he serves by celebrating Masses through videostreaming. But for two weeks, he had to do it from his parents’ house in Bexley, 90 miles from Dennison Immaculate Conception Church, where he lives. He is parochial vicar for the parish cluster that consists of Immaculate Conception, New Philadelphia Sacred Heart and Zoar Holy Trinity churches, with Father Jeff Coning as pastor.

Father Gardner was on vacation in San Diego when the impact of the virus hit. He came back to Ohio on Saturday, March 14. Because California is one of the states most affected by the virus, he went into a self-quarantine period through Saturday, March 28 at the home of his parents, Jeff and Mary Gardner.

To stay in touch with Dennison parishioners during his enforced absence, Father Gardner set up an altar in his parents’ living room, where he celebrated Mass live on Facebook and YouTube at 5:30 p.m. weekdays, 9 a.m. Saturdays and noon Sundays. That schedule is continuing now that he is back in Dennison. He also prays the Chaplet of

Divine Mercy at 3 p.m. weekdays and presents the Stations of the Cross at 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays.

To illustrate the Stations while he was away from Dennison, Father Gardner used a series of slides displayed on his parents’ television.

“It was a blessing to have my parents as a bit of a congregation,” he said before leaving for Dennison. “Mom was the cantor, and Dad was the lector. I’m probably in the same boat as many other priests right now in that I’m not sure how to feel about having to stay away from people instead of serve them. I’m trying to get used to the weirdness of saying Mass in an empty church. It might allow me to be more intense in my concentration and more focused in what I’m doing.”

“Response to the streaming Masses has been overwhelmingly positive,” he said. “I’ve had at least 10 comments after every Mass. One positive thing I think people are getting out of this situation is that they see how God is working in the midst of trials. That’s true at any time, but especially in these unprecedented days. God still is in our midst.”

Father Gardner’s streams may be seen at www.facebook.com/icdennison or www.youtube.com/delanoche2386.

The announcement on the afternoon of March 16 that Ohio Catholic churches would be closed abruptly halted plans at Columbus St. Patrick Church for its biggest event of the year, the annual Vigil Mass for the Feast of St. Patrick, followed by a torchlight procession and reception, which had been scheduled for the same evening.

“The parish hall should have been filled with people that night,” said the church’s pastor, Father Stephen Alcott, OP. “Instead, as I was locking up the parish center, the scene was very stark.”

The parish is now streaming Masses from the chapel of St. Patrick Priory, where several Dominican friars live, at 11:45 a.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. Saturday and Sunday, as well as Vespers from the chapel at 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 6:15 p.m. Saturday. They may be seen live-only at www.stpatrickcolumbus.org and live and on-demand on Facebook at “St. Patrick Church.”

“People are very grateful for this connection. There have been a lot of positives,” Father Alcott said. “This parish is sort of a confession hub for downtown Columbus because we of-

Why did Jesus weep?; Funeral Mass if no burial?

QI have always been attracted to the verse in John's Gospel (11:35) that says that, learning of the death of Lazarus, "Jesus wept." It shows, I think, how much Christ loved Lazarus and all of humanity. But reflecting further on that passage, I'm wondering just why Jesus wept.

Do you think it was because Jesus was actually grieving over the death of his friend? Or do you think that he wept tears of joy, knowing that Lazarus was not suffering from his illness anymore, that Lazarus was perhaps getting a taste of heaven and that Christ was going to use the occasion to show forth the power of God? (Waipahu, Hawaii)

AThat short and simple verse from the Gospel reflects a complex truth, a truth that prompts your excellent question and makes the answer difficult. Jesus had two natures: He was truly human and truly divine, and both natures were at work in the matter of Lazarus.

Pope Leo the Great, reflecting on this same passage, is thought to have said, "In his humanity Jesus wept for Lazarus; in his divinity he raised him from the dead." Jesus felt deeply the pain of Lazarus' death. When Martha and Mary sent word to Jesus of the impending crisis, their message had been, "Master, the one you love is ill."

Clearly, Jesus knew in advance what he was going to do, for he told them, "This illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God." But his awareness of that eventual outcome did not relieve Christ's human sorrow, and this is the mystery of

QUESTION & ANSWER

Father Kenneth Doyle

Catholic News Service

Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at askfatherdoyle@gmail.com and 30 Columbia Circle Drive, Albany NY 12203.



his dual nature. And so, the answer to both of our letter writer's questions is "Yes."

Jesus was truly grieving over Lazarus' passing and the pain it was causing Martha and Mary, but just as surely he knew that the situation would serve ultimately to glorify God.

The mystery of that duality will only lift fully when we, one day, rest in God's house; but meanwhile it may help to think that, right now, we ourselves struggle to balance those twin feelings. When someone we love dies, our faith promises the joy of reunion; yet, even so, we feel deeply the sting of loss. We believe in eternal life, but that doesn't stop our tears.

QI have a friend whose father-in-law died recently. The man wanted to be cremated. The family called the church, and the pastor asked where the burial plot was located. When they said that they didn't have one, they were informed that there would not be a funeral Mass.

So my question is this: Do you have to show proof of a burial spot to have a funeral Mass celebrated? (Bettendorf, Iowa)

ASince 1963, the Catholic Church has permitted the practice of cremation -- although the church's preference is still for burying the body, since this expresses more clearly the Christian belief in the resurrection of the body.

When cremation does take place, the church has specific guidelines as to the final disposition of the cremains. The appendix to the Order of Christian Funerals states, "The cremated remains should be buried in a grave or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium. The practice of scattering cremated remains on the sea, from the air, or on the ground, or keeping cremated remains in the home of a relative or friend of the deceased are not the reverent disposition that the church requires" (No. 417).

That teaching was reaffirmed by the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in an instruction issued in 2016. This instruction explains that "the reservation of the ashes of the departed in a sacred place ensures that they are not excluded from the prayers and remembrance of their family or the Christian community."

Still though, I am not aware of any universal mandate for proof of a burial place prior to scheduling a funeral Mass. My own inclination would be to explain to the family of the deceased the rationale behind the church's rule on cremains but not to prohibit a funeral Mass.

Transforming coronavirus quarantine into a retreat

This bruising Lent, in which "fasting" has assumed unprecedented new forms, seems likely to be followed by an Eastertide of further spiritual disruption. What is God's purpose in all this? I would be reluctant to speculate. But at the very least, the dislocations we experience -- whether aggravating inconvenience, grave illness, economic and financial loss, or Eucharistic deprivation -- call us to a more profound realization of our dependence on the divine life given us in Baptism: the grace that enables us to live in solidarity with others and to make sense of the seemingly senseless.

If we cooperate with that grace rather than "kick against the goads" (Acts 26.14), it can enable us to transform quarantine, lockdown, and the interruption of normal life into an extended retreat, a time to deepen our appreciation of the riches of Catholic faith. Dioceses, Catholic centers, and parishes are offering many online opportunities for prayer, thereby maintaining the public worship of the Church. Here are other resources that can help redeem the rest of Lent and the upcoming Easter season.

* Shortly before the Wuhan virus sent America and much of the world reeling, I began watching Anthony Esolen's Catholic Courses video-lectures on the Inferno, the first part of Dante's Divine Comedy. I've long admired Tony Esolen's Dante translation and his lucid explanation of the medieval Christian worldview from which Dante wrote; and there was something fitting about watching Esolen accompany Dante and Virgil through hell during a hellish Lent. Professor Esolen's

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

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explication of Dante's Purgatory and Paradise (also available from Catholic Courses) are just as appropriate these days, however. For the entire Comedy is a journey of conversion that leads to the vision of God; and that is precisely the itinerary the Church invites us to travel during Lent, as the Forty days prepare us to meet the Risen Lord at Easter and experience the power of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

* Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI was arguably the greatest papal homilist since Pope St. Gregory the Great in the sixth century. The March and April sermons in Seeking God's Face: Meditations for the Church Year (Cluny Media), help put the trials of this Lent and Eastertide into proper Christian focus.

* I've often recommended the work of Anglican biblical scholar N.T. Wright. Two chapters ("The Crucified Messiah" and "Jesus and God") in The Challenge of Jesus: Rediscovering Who Jesus Was and Is (InterVarsity Press) make apt Lenten reading in plague time.

The fifth chapter of that small book, "The Challenge of Easter," neatly summarizes Dr. Wright's far longer and more complex argument in The Resurrection of the Son of God (Fortress Press) and makes a powerful case for the historical reality of the Easter events. Like Wright, Pope Emeritus Benedict's reflections on the empty tomb and the impact of meeting the Risen One in Jesus of Nazareth: Holy Week: Holy Week (Ignatius Press) underscore the bottom of the bottom line of Christianity: no Resurrection, no Church.

* Bishop Robert Barron's Catholicism series is the greatest audio-visual presentation of the faith ever created. If you've never watched it, why not now? If you have, this may be the time to continue with Bishop Barron's Catholicism: The New Evangelization (an exploration of how to put Catholic faith into action) and Catholicism: The Pivotal Players (portraits of seminal figures in Catholic history who did just that -- St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Catherine of Siena, St. John Henry Newman, G.K. Chesterton, and Michelangelo).

* Pope St. John Paul II's centenary is the Monday following the Fifth Sunday of Easter: an anniversary worth celebrating, whatever the circumstances. The first 75 years of this life of extraordinary consequence for the Church and the world are relived in the documentary film, Witness to Hope -- The Life of John Paul

Essay about mother's 'love in small things' honored

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

Kim Fields “loved in small things” while dealing with cancer, her daughter Lizzy says. An essay contest gave Lizzy the opportunity to share her mother’s story with others and earned her a national prize.

An essay Lizzy wrote as an eighth-grade class assignment (read below) at Columbus Immaculate Conception School was awarded second place in a contest sponsored by the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers. A Maryknoll representative presented her with a \$300 prize check and a certificate recognizing the achievement at a Mass before the school was closed by the coronavirus outbreak.

During the Mass, Lizzy read from the essay, which focused on St. Therese of Lisieux and on Kim Fields’ 10-year fight against breast cancer, which ended with her death in 2018.

Lizzy, 14, is one of two daughters of Kim and John Fields and will attend Columbus Bishop Watterson High School this fall. Her sister, Kate, 19, is a Watterson graduate and is in her second year as a lay missionary with the Damascus Catholic Mission Campus in Morrow County.

“St. Therese of Lisieux called how she shared the good news of God’s love ‘the little way,’” Lizzy wrote in the essay. “She spread his love by doing little things throughout her day to serve oth-

ers, love them, and spread joy.”

Lizzy, who chose Therese as her confirmation name in honor of the saint, said she learned from her mother’s daily life how to act in a similar way. Through her mother and Jesus Christ, “I’ve come to know the goodness of God and how his love should be shared with other people,” she wrote.

“My mom’s loving demeanor and child-like faith have truly shown me how to love people,” Lizzy’s wrote. “Even through her suffering and pain, she still showed everyone around her the love of Christ. She showed selfless love, service, and she expressed God’s joy by doing little things for those around her. From her incredible example, I’ve learned that I need to serve and love others with joy. ... Her strength came from all of her joy.”

Lizzy wrote that she tried to emulate her mother in school through actions such as picking up someone’s dropped books or helping lost kindergarten or first-grade students. “Even the smallest things can help someone,” she wrote. She said other ways she tries to share God’s love include asking people if they need prayer, giving them a hug or a compliment or smiling and laughing with them.

“Mom loved everyone, and the key was that she loved in small things,” Lizzy told *The Catholic Times*. “Things like doing the dishes and the laundry, or making breakfast, packing lunch and cooking dinner for Kate and



From left: Kate, Lizzy, John and Kim Fields. Photo courtesy Fields family

me became special because we knew she did them with love. That love also extended to the school and church activities she was involved with.”

“Kim just had a very warm, welcoming, loving way,” said John Fields, who was married to her for 22 years before her death. “Everyone was a friend. She went out of her way to seek out the person in a group who looked like he or she needed a friend. She was quiet about her faith, but it was a deep faith and trust in God. She lived every day to the fullest. We squeezed a lot of life out of the 10 years she had cancer.”

He said she was a classroom aide and a cafeteria volunteer at school, made meals for the parish homeless ministry, was part of a Walking With Purpose women’s Bible study group and was an RCIA sponsor.

“The church was packed for her funeral,” he said. “I never realized until

then how far her love had gone out.”

“I feel that whenever I walk around the house, she’s still here,” Lizzy said. “I just can’t see her.”

Lizzy wrote the essay as a class assignment for language arts teacher Kelly Choplin, who submitted it to Maryknoll.

“Her personal touch with her mother and overcoming that – she really saw that from a perspective of love,” Maryknoll representative Jorge Rivera said in presenting Lizzy’s award. He also said Maryknoll’s superior general, Father Raymond Finch, found the essay “thoughtful and moving.”

Father Matt Hoover, Immaculate Conception Church pastor, said it’s an essay that truly goes to the heart of Catholic faith.

“In a world that seems to be full of anxiety and fear, we need to be unafraid to share God’s goodness and joy,” he said.

Lizzy’s activities include the school play, Student Council and the track team, and she is a student ambassador who conducts tours of the building.

“Lizzy is an absolutely delightful young lady,” said school principal Colleen Kent. “If there is a person that emotes joy in all she does, it is Lizzy. Her constant smile breaks down barriers and builds up the esteem of others. She is one of those gems that you have the blessing of knowing as a teacher, one of those students that you wished you had a hundred more of in your classrooms.”

“Learn to swim against the tide, learn how to share Jesus and the faith he has given you” (*Christus vivit*)

By Elizabeth Fields

The way that I share the good news of God’s love is mostly by being an example of what God’s love is really like. I do this by serving others, loving others, and spreading joy. Doing these things can be difficult, especially in the world we live in today. So, I decided to follow “the little way.” St. Therese of Lisieux called how she shared the good news of God’s love “the little way.” She spread his love by doing little things throughout her day to serve others, love them, and spread joy. The way that I’ve learned to do this is from two things: my mom and my encounter with Jesus Christ. From these two things, I’ve come to know the goodness of God and how his love should be shared with other people.

I’ve had two experiences in my life that have allowed me to actually not be afraid to share the good news of God’s love. The first one was my mom. She had cancer for ten years before she passed away. My mom’s loving demeanor and child-like faith have truly shown me how to love people. Even through her suffering and pain, she still showed everyone around her the love of Christ. She showed selfless love, service, and she expressed God’s joy by doing little things for those around her. From her incred-

ible example, I’ve learned that I need to serve and love others with joy. Saint Mother Teresa said, “Joy is strength.” This is what my mom lived by everyday. Her strength came from all of her joy. The other experience that allowed me to share the good news of God’s love was my encounter with Jesus Christ. The first time I truly realized his love for me and what he did because of it, I learned that I needed to follow him to spread God’s love. I always think about this bible verse when this encounter comes to mind: “We love because he first loved us” (1 John 4:19). I think the only way to share the good news of God’s love is knowing that God loves you. By knowing how infinite God’s love is for me, it has allowed me to share this abundant love with everyone else.

From these experiences, I’ve learned the ways I use to share the good news of God’s love. I do it by helping and serving others, by loving them, and by spreading God’s joy. I always try to help others when anyone needs it. When someone drops their books in the hall, I go over and help them pick them up. When a kindergartner or first grader is lost in the halls, I can go over and help them get to class. Even the smallest things can help someone. The next way that I try to share the good news of God’s love is by loving people. Just by going to people and asking them if they need me to pray for them, or by giving them a hug or

a compliment is spreading the good news of God’s love. These things can show people how loved they are in the eyes of God. The last way that I share the good news of God’s love is by spreading joy. I do this by smiling at people and laughing with them. This is my favorite way to spread God’s love because joy can help people to see that they are loved and seen, and it shows people that God is SO good. God’s love is so evident in the joy that he gives us.

By doing these things, I share the good news of God’s love. Even though the things I do may not be super major, they still make a difference. Spreading God’s love is so important because it helps people to see the true meaning of why they love each other. I always try and share the good news of God’s love with everyone around me. I share God’s love with my classmates, family, and friends. All of humanity deserves to know the love of God and know that they are loved. It’s always going to be hard to do this. The world is always going to tell us that we shouldn’t share his love. We need to learn to swim against the tide, be different, and be unafraid of the people who will try to tell us otherwise. We need to be bold in our faith and bold in sharing the name of Jesus. That is what I try to do everyday. God’s love isn’t meant just for me. It is meant for all of humanity.

Bishop's homily looks back on his first year in Columbus

The following is Bishop Robert Brennan's homily at the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, March 29 at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral. During the coronavirus crisis, the bishop's Masses from the cathedral are being broadcast at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, 12:05 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. Saturday on St. Gabriel Catholic Radio, AM 820 in Columbus. The bishop is praying constantly for the health and safety of the people of the Diocese of Columbus in this difficult time.

"My very dear friends in Jesus and Our Blessed Lady,

"What a difference a year makes! On this day last year, the cathedral was full – overly full – and filled (I hope) with joy as I was installed as your bishop and we began our life together. The joy and gratitude I felt that day at being missioned here in Columbus has magnified many times over as I have come to know you and love you so very much.

"Today, by contrast, the cathedral is nearly empty. There is a darkness that covers the earth, as Pope Francis said from an empty and rainy St. Peter's Square on Friday. But I know you are here listening in, and we all know that the Lord is very near. Again using the image given by the Holy Father, Jesus is in our boat on these stormy seas.

"In the last year, sharing life, we experienced great joy and excitement, tremendous hopes and dreams and some really incredible, inspiring moments of prayer and grace. But we've also shared sorrows and pain.

"Last summer, I was in a neighboring church for the funeral of one of our students who died tragically. Bishop Timothy Clark, pastor at First Church of God on Refugee Road here in Columbus, spoke eloquently and powerfully about the very Gospel just proclaimed to us about the raising of Lazarus.

"He painted the image of Martha meeting Jesus along the road. He imagined her with one hand at the hip and the other pointing a finger: 'If you had been here, my brother never would have died!' I don't know, but her words do portray anger, hurt, disappointment, grief. 'If you had been here!' – spoken as only a friend can say. After all, they had sent word.

"It's like the disciples on the boat in the Gospel proclaimed at the pope's prayer on Friday: 'Do you not care?' These words cut to the core. Of course he cares, of course he wants to be there, but not as a magician waving a wand to put on a show, but rather to draw us deeper and deeper into the mystery of God, of his love for us and his salvific plan.

"Notice what Martha says next (and this was Bishop Clark's main point): 'But even now, I know

WEIGEL, *continued from Page 4*

II. Liberating a Continent, produced by the Knights of Columbus, is a stirring video evocation of John Paul's role in the collapse of European communism – and a reminder, in this difficult moment, of the history-bending power of courage and solidarity.

* The Dominican House of Studies in Washington and its Thomistic Institute are intellectually energizing centers of the New Evangelization. The good friars are not downing tools because of a pandemic; rather,

that whatever you ask of God, God will give you.' But EVEN NOW. But EVEN NOW. Yes, Martha is upset. Things did not turn out as she wanted or planned. In her eyes, even Jesus did not live up to her expectations. 'But EVEN NOW,' she says, 'I believe.'

"Yes, we can be honest, life doesn't always turn out as we wish. Sometimes the disappointments will be crushing. Things happen or don't happen, and try as we may, we can't turn back the hands of time. 'If only, Lord, if only.'

"But EVEN NOW the Gospel calls us to go out to meet Christ, who comes to meet us. Speak honestly in friendship.

"Your brother will rise.' The Lord begins a conversation with Martha that brings her deep into the very depths of her heart, where she proclaims: 'Yes, Lord, I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world.'

"Jesus calls Lazarus out of the tomb. He restores him to life. He tells the crowd, 'Unbind him and let him go.'

"Friends, this is an account of the true raising of a dead man, calling him out of the grave. Yes, Lazarus would die again and Jesus will again call him forth, but this time to the fullness of life in the resurrection. But yes, Jesus really restored a dead and buried man to life.

"At the same time, think of how Jesus calls us from the sepulchers of our own making. In the pains and disappointments – even crushing disappointments – we have the choice to withdraw to the figurative grave or to meet Jesus in the street, along the way. But EVEN NOW, Jesus can take us on that journey deep into our hearts, where we make that decision to entrust our lives to Jesus and to follow his path, to embrace his cross. EVEN NOW

"On Friday, Pope Francis called the whole world to gather together, using all kinds of media, old and new, to be united in prayer before Our Lord. Seeing him out on the empty St. Peter's Square under the gray and rainy sky was a stark expression of our current experience. I encourage you to read his deeply moving, inspiring and hopeful message.

"He reminds us that reflection in these days might help us to reorder some of our priorities:

"This storm exposes our vulnerability and uncovers those false and superfluous certainties around which we have constructed our daily schedules, our projects, our habits and priorities. It shows us how we have allowed to become dull and feeble the very things that nourish, sustain and strengthen our lives and our communities. The tempest lays bare all our prepackaged ideas and forgetfulness of what nour-

ishes our people's souls – all those attempts that anesthetize us with ways of thinking and acting that supposedly save us, but instead prove incapable of putting us in touch with our roots and keeping alive the memory of those who have gone before us.'

"And he prays:

"Lord, your word this evening strikes us and regards us, all of us. In this world that you love more than we do, we have gone ahead at breakneck speed, feeling powerful and able to do anything. Greedy for profit, we let ourselves get caught up in things and lured away by haste. We did not stop at your reproach to us. We were not shaken awake by wars or injustice across the world, nor did we listen to the cry of the poor or of our ailing planet. We carried on regardless, thinking we would stay healthy in a world that was sick. Now that we are in a stormy sea, we implore you: "Wake up, Lord!"

"In all the events of our lives, we have the choice to draw deeper into the tombs of our own making or to listen for the voice of the Lord calling us out, calling us to life: 'Unbind. Go free.' EVEN NOW.

"This rings particularly true in our current moment as the world shifts under our feet. He calls us even closer to himself and inspires us into loving care and service in his name.

"Pope Francis spoke of the modern heroes who are writing the decisive events of our time:

"Doctors, nurses, supermarket employees, cleaners, caregivers, providers of transport, law and order forces, volunteers, priests, religious men and women, and so very many others (I think of so many working to feed and care for the poor and vulnerable and of our teachers balancing their family needs while continuing to educate our children) who have understood that no one reaches salvation by themselves. In the face of so much suffering, where the authentic development of our people is assessed, we are experiencing the priestly prayer of Jesus: That they may all be one.'

"The pope speaks of people every day exercising patience and offering hope, taking care to sow not panic, but shared responsibility. Yes, so many are choosing not to live in the tombs – in anger, bitterness, blame and darkness – but emerging unbound and serving in Christ.

"Living life together this year, I have noted over and over how much I see the Church alive and going forth here in central Ohio. Being put to the test these days, you are rising to the challenge with the joy and the hope of Christ, our crucified and risen Lord. May God bless us, keep us faithful and help us always to depend on him and bring his hope to all."

PRIESTS, *continued from Page 3*

for the Sacrament of Reconciliation daily, so some people are naturally frustrated that they can't go to confession, but most are accepting and doing their best to understand the situation.

"All of the priests at the priory want to tell our parishioners that we really miss them and look forward to the day when we can celebrate Mass and hear confessions in the church again. We hope our absence deepens the hunger for all the things we can't do directly. It will be great to have these channels of grace return when we are able to celebrate them together."

And may the divine assistance remain with us, always.

Celebrating Holy Week in your domestic church

By Marriage and Family Life Office

“Why is this night different than all other nights?”

This question is asked by every Jewish family during its Passover meal, which God instructed the Jewish people to celebrate as a memorial of the Jews’ salvation from slavery in Egypt. This story is told and in some way played out throughout the ritual meal. Passover is not merely about the past, but truly a “making present” of this defining event for Jewish families and the Jewish people.

We can ask this same question in the midst of our Holy Week celebration, which is “different” from all other weeks because of the salvation Jesus accomplished for us. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* tells us, “Christ enables us to live in him all that he himself lived, and he lives it in us. ... For it is the plan of the Son of God to make us and the whole Church partake in his mysteries and to extend them to and continue them in us and in his whole Church (CCC 521.)”

Therefore, the events of Holy Week are not mere recollections of the past or repetitions of traditions, like Thanksgiving dinner; they are, rather, like Passover, *made present*. We are able to enter into Jesus’ passion, death and resurrection in a unique way more than 2,000 years later.

Of course, we participate in these sacred mysteries most deeply through the liturgy. However, in this strange time of quarantine, we still are called to participate in the paschal mystery of Jesus Christ. How can we enter into these celebrations to make these nights different from all others? And how can we do this from home?

Palm Sunday is the beginning of Holy Week, with a Mass full of “smells and bells” engaging our bodies and souls. We begin outside the church, grasping palm fronds blessed with holy water, and walk into the church singing “Hosanna!” The Gospel then tells the story of Our Lord’s Passion and enlists us as players in the tale, as “the crowd” who turned so quickly from praising Him to calling for His death.

This year’s Palm Sunday calls for some creativity, as livestreaming lacks the sensory elements present in the liturgy. You still can have a procession in your house, singing or playing the traditional song *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*. If palms are not available, you can cut branches from outside, which is what the Israelites did to line the



James Dill washes his children’s feet on Holy Thursday.

Photo courtesy Dill family



Numbered “Resurrection” eggs with object symbols inside can be used to teach children the Easter story.

Photo courtesy Jennifer Fullin

streets for Jesus.

At Palm Sunday Mass, we read the full story of Jesus’ Passion, but Jennifer Fullin’s family also enjoys a simpler retelling using “resurrection eggs. These are plastic eggs with object symbols inside to help kids learn the Easter story (find directions at

www.catholicicing.com/catholic-resurrection-eggs).

Assembling the eggs is a game and a lesson. After numbering the eggs one to 12, older children decide which 12 objects will illustrate the Passion story, while younger children go on a hunt to gather them. Jennifer shares,

“My family has used easily accessible items, such as a cracker representing the unleavened bread of the Last Supper, three dimes for the 30 pieces of silver (raided from a piggy bank!), a thorn from a bush, a carpenter’s nail from the garage workbench, a crucifix from a broken rosary, spices from our kitchen for ‘embalming’ and a stone from the driveway to roll in front of the tomb. A recent addition is tiny scrolls of paper with the Scripture verse that references the object inside each egg.” Once assembled, the eggs can be used to tell the story of Jesus’ death and resurrection.

To set the tone for the rest of Holy Week, you can build a shrine on a small table. Spread out red or purple cloth and create a cross or crown of thorns from branches outside. Each day of Holy Week, you can add more details, such as coins for Spy Wednesday (so named for Judas’ betrayal of Jesus) or unleavened bread or a pitcher and towel for Holy Thursday. This shrine may be placed in the room where you are livestreaming Holy Week liturgies, to create a sacred tone.

The liturgy of Holy Thursday invites us into the Sacred Triduum and includes some of the most moving moments of Jesus’ life. Just before His death, Jesus left us the most precious gifts of the Eucharist and the priesthood. We contemplate these gifts and His request “Love one another as I have loved you,” so touchingly displayed in the foot washing.

We also experience the procession of the Eucharist out of the church, with the cessation of the Sacrifice of the Mass until the Easter Vigil, because Jesus has entered His Passion. From this moment until the Easter Vigil, the Church counts the time as one day, the day of salvation. We feel a sense of suspension in time, not marked by the celebration of Mass, and the deep sadness of sin and death, now charged with God’s love.

This celebration can bring a sadness to our hearts this year because the reception of Jesus in the Eucharist is not available to us. However, we still can offer Him our hunger in a spiritual communion. Rather than waste this holy desire, we can let it expand our hearts for Him.

There are many ways of entering into Holy Thursday with your family. One way to celebrate this is to serve a Christian Seder meal (in the tradition of the Passover) for your family’s

Stations of the Cross reflections through the eyes of an inmate

By Michele Williams

The Stations of the Cross are particularly meaningful for meditation and prayer time during Lent. I find so much poignancy in every stop along Jesus' way that my soul breathes slower, sadder even. I approach them with awe, reverence and humility that He endured such pain and death for us all.

Over the years, I began to view the Stations in a different way, one more distinct to my life and situation. I know it is the journey of Jesus, but I reframed the journey relative to an event or time span in my prison journey. In doing so, every station has more of a personal impact. Remembering that He was innocent and I am not only intensifies the power of my devotional time.

That said, here are the Stations of the Cross as seen through the lens of my incarceration:

The First Station: Jesus is condemned to death.



We adore Thee, O Christ, and bless Thee. Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

No matter what the sentence when the judge

declares it, life as you know it is gone. Whether it is two years, five to 25 years or 15 to life, it feels like death. Your ears ring, your vision gets blurry, and your gut churns fire throughout your body. The voices of accusation and words of shame swirl in your mind. The brave face you wore cracks and reality hits you like a wrecking ball. You are going to prison.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be to the Father ...

The Second Station: Jesus carries his cross.



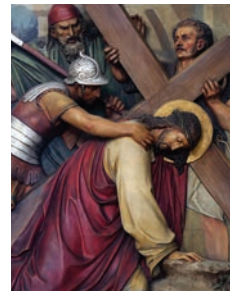
We adore Thee, O Christ, and bless Thee. Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

I am quite a strong-willed individual, but the weights of responsibility, unforgiveness and remorse make for a mighty heavy cross. Some days, it just crushes me and the burden is too much to bear.

Other days, Jesus himself reminds me He is here and gives me strength. My actions built this cross and there is no going back, only forward, one step at a time. It is mine to carry however long it takes to get to the end.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be to the Father ...

The Third Station: Jesus falls the first time.



We adore Thee, O Christ, and bless Thee. Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

My first fall was when I lost my job in prison as business

office clerk. I'd worked there a year and a half -- my first job out of Admissions -- and what a blessing it had been! It was a gift straight from God to reassure me of His presence here. I processed all of the accounts payable, and the staff made me feel like a real person instead of an inmate in their office. Then a change in administration brought the end of inmate clerks in sensitive areas. I was reassigned to clerk in the food warehouse, which was in the basement of the kitchen, compete with rats.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be to the Father ...

The Fourth Station: Jesus meets his mother.



We adore Thee, O Christ, and bless Thee. Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

The first time my parents

visited me was June 1994. I had been in Admissions for four weeks and was overwhelmed with what prison life was going to be like. At the table in visiting hall, Dad sat on my left and held my hand, Mom sat on my right and held my other hand. A diet Pepsi sat in front of me, slowly sweating and warming in the summer heat. I couldn't drink it because I wouldn't let go of either parent to pick up the can. I was flat-out terrified.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be to the Father ...

The Fifth Station: Simon helps carry the cross.

We adore Thee, O Christ, and bless Thee. Because by Thy holy cross Thou



hast redeemed the world.

Incarceration is relentless and emotionally exhausting even for the most determined. My family helps carry this cross by

unconditionally loving, honestly sharing, and more often than they realize, being stronger than me. They have carried the stigma of "my daughter/sister/niece/aunt is in prison" for years with courage and grace. They got pulled into this mess when no one saw it coming, but have never given up. They still let me rest my head on their shoulder and draw from their strength when I am weak.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be to the Father ...

The Sixth Station: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.



We adore Thee, O Christ, and bless Thee. Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

The Veronicas in my life have visited, accepted phone calls,

exchanged letters and emails. They have supported me from far and near. They have wiped my tears and reassured me they're with me for the long haul and I am not alone. It is not easy to maintain relationships from here because of the very restrictive nature of prison. But they accept the restrictions and rules in order to continually show their support and love. God bless all my Veronicas.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be to the Father ...

The Seventh Station: Jesus falls the second time.



We adore Thee, O Christ, and bless Thee. Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

My parole board hearings have landed me face-first in the

dirt. Parole is an extremely dicey and controversial topic, one best left alone. Suffice it to say, I am grateful to Gov. Mike DeWine and ODRC director Annette Chambers-Smith

for the positive changes they have been implementing. Now there is real hope.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be to the Father ...

The Eighth Station: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem.



We adore Thee, O Christ, and bless Thee. Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

These are fellow survivors of domestic

violence I've met and connected with over the years. We went from victim to survivor to inmate. We share the tragedy, shame and guilt together. We also share the heartbreak of lives, futures and families torn apart. We understand one another better than people in America ever will because of the experiences we endured before ending up in prison.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be to the Father ...

The Ninth Station: Jesus falls the third time.



We adore Thee, O Christ, and bless Thee. Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Being transferred back to the Ohio

Reformatory for

Women from the Franklin Medical Center in 2017 from was my third fall. I felt like I had failed and was deeply depressed at being back at ground zero. Everything was the same, yet radically different, and the changes left me bewildered and unsettled for months. How was I supposed to start over? By God's mercy, I managed to get a good job and slowly got reacclimated.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be to the Father ...

The 10th Station: Jesus is stripped of his garments.



We adore Thee, O Christ, and bless Thee. Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the

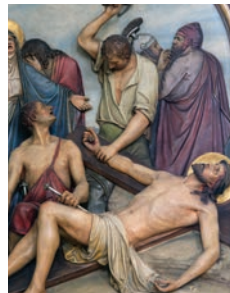
STATIONS, *continued from Page 8*

world.

Every woman goes through the same degrading intake process in Admissions. Your dignity and self-worth sink to a new low as your clothes and belongings are taken away. You are issued a uniform and a number. Your identity is forever changed, and you belong to the state. God seems far, far away.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be to the Father ...

The 11th Station: Jesus is nailed to the cross.



We adore Thee, O Christ, and bless Thee. Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

I picture all the hopes and dreams I had for a different life.

These are in Jesus' hands as they are nailed to the cross. Each one pierced through and ruined, never to come to pass. I am held captive to a life I never planned, so now what? Surrendering to God's plan often

seems impossible, but I have to trust it. There is no other way for me.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be to the Father ...

The 12th Station: Jesus dies on the cross.



We adore Thee, O Christ, and bless Thee. Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

This is the ultimate act of forgiveness and love, without

which I wouldn't want to live. Jesus loved even me enough to die on the cross. He loves every man and woman in prison and forgives us even when society won't. Forgiving and loving ourselves is another matter and the internal battle rages on.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be to the Father ...

The 13th Station: Jesus is taken down from the cross.

We adore Thee, O Christ, and bless Thee. Because by Thy holy cross Thou

HOLY WEEK, *continued from Page 7*

dinner, as this was the context of Jesus' institution of the Eucharist. We can learn much about the Last Supper and the Mass through the symbolism of Passover. (Learn more here: <http://archive.wf-f.org/Seder.html>.)

It's worth noting that one of the purposes of the Passover meal was to teach the next generation about what God did for them. "When your children ask in time to come . . . then you shall tell them" (Exodus 14:14; Deuteronomy 6:20-21). In the context of this meal, parents have a golden opportunity of explaining how the gift of the Mass has impacted their lives, and what Jesus has done for them by dying and rising.

Danielle Dill shares that this is one of her family's favorite traditions, followed by a beautiful ritual. "After the Seder meal, the head of the household washes the feet of everyone in our family," she said. "It's been great to involve young children in the representation of Jesus washing the feet of the disciples. We describe to them how Jesus gave us this example to humbly serve others.

"In years past, we couldn't always take everyone to the Holy Thursday Mass at our church, with it being past bedtimes, so we engage everyone at home." Her 7-year-old daughter Victoria shared her perspective, "I like that the oldest person in our family

washes our feet because Daddy does a really good job!" she said. Charlotte, age 5, chimed in, "Daddy is like Jesus! And the water is nice and warm!"

Good Friday follows with a comparatively subdued liturgy. It actually begins in silence, with the priest prostrate in front of the altar. We then once again participate in the story of Christ's Passion, pray for the needs of the Church and the world in the solemn intercessions, partake in the Adoration of the Cross by kissing the instrument of death by which we were saved, and finally receive Holy Communion.

We at home can livestream this service and take part in kissing the cross, praying the Stations of the Cross and observing a period of silence as a family. My parents used to ask all of us to observe silence between noon and 3 p.m. in honor of the time Jesus spent on the cross. We also would observe the fasting for the day by eating only homemade pretzels until dinner. Their shape is reminiscent of praying hands, a reminder of why we are fasting. (A recipe may be found here: <https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/24272/buttery-soft-pretzels/>.)

When I was in formation at a convent, we would commemorate the Triduum by wearing black "mantles" over our white habits, lending a gravity to the atmosphere. I still prefer to wear black on Good Friday and Holy



hast redeemed the world.

From the courtroom to the county jail to prison itself the process took a week, but I remember none of it. I was still traumatized

and devastated by all of the tragic, terrible events that had taken place. I was so numb I felt like the walking dead. My heart may as well have stopped beating because I didn't feel it anymore. I was all alone, abandoned by God, my mind reeling, and my faith in shreds.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be to the Father ...

The 14th Station: Jesus is laid in the tomb.

We adore Thee, O Christ, and bless Thee. Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

My entire incarceration is like being in the tomb. Jesus knew he was getting out in three days. I don't know when I am. He promised



new life, so I'm putting all of my trust in that promise, no matter how long it takes. This time is all about waiting and transforming myself into a better version,

one worthy of being in the world again. But it is also a time of working on my relationship with Jesus, and getting to know, love and serve Him better every day.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be to the Father ...

Easter Sunday: Jesus rises from the dead. This will be the day I am

released from prison. Everything, including my life, will be new, and I will be ready to experience it all! First stop: church to give thanks for the miracle and gift of freedom for me and my whole family.

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

Saturday and to cover the images and crosses in my home with fabric, as it is small practices like these that help us keep in mind the Savior's sacrifice.

Another tradition that my family enjoyed was the thrill of expectation on Holy Saturday. We were engrossed all day in preparing our homes and bodies for the Easter joy. The physical activity of cleaning and cooking opened our hearts to the coming Feast. We also made delicious Empty Tomb cookies to enjoy on Easter. There is even a Scripture verse corresponding to each ingredient. You can find the recipe here: <https://faithfulprovisions.com/empty-tomb-cookies-2/>.

All of these moments lead up to the Easter Vigil, begun in complete darkness, with candles slowly lit after the Easter candle makes its way into the church. The multiple readings from the Old Testament remind us of God's plan to save us, and the joyful singing of the *Gloria* and the long-awaited "Alleluia" proclaim that this promise has been fulfilled. We renew our baptismal promises and are blessed with holy water in remembrance of our baptism, the day we received the new life of the Resurrection.

Bring the joy of this Mass into your home by still wearing Easter outfits and lighting candles as if you are in church. There still can be singing and joy, in union with the whole Church.

After Mass, let the family celebration begin.

Stephanie Rapp's family still will wake up to Easter baskets, but the items will be purchased online. "Catholic goodies such as a devotional, saint doll, holy card will be hiding in the house for the kids to discover," she said. "Easter morning begins with the children waking up and immediately searching for their gifts (which are freely given as Jesus' love is freely given), filled with anticipation and excitement."

"Our baptismal vows will be renewed during the Easter liturgy, and this also can be celebrated in a special way in the home. Each child can be given a candle of his or her own (the baptismal candle is perfect if you still have it) and it can be lit during dinner, reminding them of Jesus, the light of the world, and for the call to let His light shine through them."

We already know this Holy Week will be memorable because it is different and possibly contains new challenges. However, I hope it also is a memorable celebration for your family because of the new traditions begun and the grace of this holy season. And let the words of Pope St. John Paul II shine the light of Christ's resurrection in your homes: "Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and 'Hallelujah' is our song."

Passion (Palm) Sunday, Year A

Contemplate the meaning of Jesus' passion in your life

Matthew 21:1–11
Isaiah 50:4–7
Ps. 22:8–9, 17–18,
19–20, 23–24
Philippians 2:6–11
Matthew 26:14–27:66

Father Timothy Hayes

Father Timothy M. Hayes is pastor of Columbus St. Timothy Church.



Passion (Palm) Sunday brings us to the “High Holy Days” of our Catholic faith. The Paschal Mystery – the Suffering, Death and Resurrection of Jesus – is expressed through the liturgies of this week in a powerful way, beginning with today. A palm procession draws our attention to Jerusalem, where Jesus is acclaimed and welcomed as “*the Son of David*.” The gospel of the day gives us our first hearing of the passion narrative, this year, according to Matthew. The Good Friday Liturgy will take us into the passion through the gospel of John.

What difference does the death of Jesus make?

To Pilate, it was just a bit of trouble in governing an unruly people. Jesus was an obscure itinerant preacher with no standing. One more crucifixion on a Friday afternoon ... to the temple officials, it was the end of an intriguing challenge, a non-priestly country preacher who had disrupted the normal flow of temple business. To Jesus' disciples, who fled at the moment it began, it was the end of a dream.

When it happened, however, the story was not over. One member of “the powers that be” showed some respect, offering his own empty tomb. The leaders who had opposed Jesus were afraid of something Jesus had said that stuck with them – *that He would rise from the dead*. How ironic that they remembered and took steps against it, when Jesus' own friends seem to have forgotten!

What difference does Jesus' passion make in your life? Are you genuinely aware and grateful for what He has done for us? Do you live in the hope of resurrection, the very promise for which He died? What is the meaning for you? Have you allowed it to sink in just what He has done?

May we be part of the cry of praise and thanks St. Paul calls for, acknowledging the wondrous truth that: “*God greatly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ*

is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

In living our life, embracing all that it entails, Jesus made Himself one with humanity, and so it is Jesus Who meets Jesus along the way of the cross. When we see others, according to the Gospel way of thinking, we see Jesus. The Jesus in us encounters the *Jesus in others*.

That must change how we look at the world around us:

- Our friends and those who love us are Jesus in disguise.
- Strangers and those we meet along the roads of our lives are Jesus.
- Immigrants and the poor and those who carry heavy burdens are Jesus.
- Our enemies and those who wish us ill are Jesus.

We meet Jesus in the act that reveals the depths of His Love for us – in His suffering, death and resurrection. Jesus' passion is not just another story of human misery. Rather, it is the story that gives meaning to all the other stories of pain and suffering. It is the story that gives us hope.

When we encounter suffering in this world, we tend to ask “why me?” or “why does God allow this?” This is a natural response. When we see how Jesus experiences suffering, we are brought, not to an answer for these questions, but rather to a new depth of understanding of the fact that God loves us enough to give us Jesus the Suffering One as our Savior. How much does He love us? On the cross, stretching out His arms to embrace His passion and the world, He says, “This much.”

All the experiences we have in this world prepare us for something beyond anything that this world can offer. We are invited to know about it and to share the news with others.

Read slowly and prayerfully for yourself the Gospel of the Passion of the Lord. Due to the “stay at home” order, we all have time for such a reading. What response does it call out of you? What does the passion of Jesus mean to you?

THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

MONDAY
 Isaiah 42:1-7
 Psalm 27:1-3, 13-14
 John 12:1-11

TUESDAY
 Isaiah 49:1-6
 Psalm 71:1-4a, 5ab, 6ab, 15, 17
 John 13:21-33, 36-38

WEDNESDAY
 Isaiah 50:4-9a
 Psalm 69:8-10,
 21-22, 31, 33-34
 Matthew 26:14-25

HOLY THURSDAY
 Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14

Psalm 116:12-13,
 15-16bc, 17-18
 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
 John 13:1-15

GOOD FRIDAY
 Isaiah 52:13–53:12
 Psalm 31:2, 6,
 12-13, 15-17, 25
 Hebrews 4:14-16:5:7-9
 John 18:1–19:42

HOLY SATURDAY
 (1) Genesis 1:1–2:2
 Psalm 104:1-2,
 5-6, 10, 12-14, 24, 35
 or Psalm 33:4-7,
 12-13, 20, 22

(2) Genesis 22:1-18
 Psalm 16:5 8-11
 (3) Exodus 14:15–15:1
 Exodus 15:1-6, 17-18 (Ps)
 (4) Isaiah 54:5-14
 Psalm 30:2, 4-6, 11-13
 (5) Isaiah 55:1-11
 Isaiah 12:2-3, 4-6 (Ps)
 (6) Baruch 3:9-15, 32–4:4
 Psalm 19:8-11
 (7) Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28
 Isaiah 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 (Ps) or
 Psalm 51:12-15, 18-19
 (8) Romans 6:3-11
 Psalm 118:1-2,
 16ab, 17, 22-23
 (9) Matthew 28:1-10

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION
MASS SCHEDULE: WEEK OF APRIL 5, 2020

SUNDAY MASS

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

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.

Videos of Masses are available at any time on the internet at these parish websites: Mattingly Settlement St. Mary (www.stannstmary.org); Columbus St. Patrick (www.stpatrickcolumbus.org); Delaware St. Mary (www.delawarestmary.org); and Sunbury St. John Neumann (www.saintjohnsunbury.org).

We pray Week II, Seasonal Proper, Liturgy of the Hours.

St. Stephen's receives grants

St. Stephen's Community House in the Linden neighborhood of Columbus has received grants of \$10,000 from The Catholic Foundation and \$2,500 from the Buckeye Health Plan. The money will help St. Stephen's meet the needs caused by a substantial increase in visitors to its food and nutrition center as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

Marilyn Mehaffie, the center's president and chief executive officer, said the center distributed bags of prepackaged food to 406 families in the first three days of this week. That compares with a usual average of about 60 families per day.

She said the foundation's grant was part of money the foundation set aside for pantries as part of an emergency response fund it has set up in response to the unprecedented changes in daily life caused by the pandemic.

“The Buckeye Health Plan was more unexpected,” she said. “They actually reached out to us when they learned we had opened the food pantry to residents from all of Franklin County. Use of the pantry previously was limited to residents of eight ZIP

codes in the county. They saw we had done this and asked ‘How can we help?’”

“In a crisis, miracles can happen,” Mehaffie said. “Everyone probably has a different thought that comes to mind when they think about what a miracle is, but what does it mean to us? It means that while children are out of school, adults are out of work, resources are harder to come by, and nearly everything is shut down, we can perform at a capacity that we never have before.

“With so much to worry about, is it anything less than a miracle that St. Stephen's can remove the burden of food insecurity for more than 500 people in just one day? During this crisis, we have been able to serve more than double the typical number served in a single day, and to us, that is a miracle. We will get through this crisis one miracle at a time.”

The food center is open from noon to 3 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday and 3 to 6 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday. Families can pull up in their cars and receive boxed food once a week.

PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

CLAYPOOL, Isaac W., 77, March 26
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

DEAN, Jane A. (Caton), 66, March 23
St. Mary Church, Marion

FLYNN, Mary S., 89, March 24
St. Paul Church, Westerville

GIERHART, Sharon K. (Fail), 80, March 26
St. Joseph Church, Sugar Grove

GRIESENBRICK, Theodore J. Jr., 84,
formerly of Columbus, March 19
Holy Angels Church, Mount Airy, N.C.

HINES-CARIFA, Debra S., 64, March 20
St. John the Baptist Church, Columbus

KRAJNAK, Eugene L., 84, March 14
St. Michael Church, Worthington

KURELIC, Rose M., 98, March 24
Christ the King Church, Columbus

MASON, Rita M. (Van Scoy), 97, March 21
St. Mark Church, Lancaster

MERRILL, Margaret "Peggy" (Fahy), 78,
March 21
St. Patrick Church, Columbus

MOHNEY, Deborah J. (Welch), 66, March 22
St. John Church, Logan

MORRIS, Sandy K. (Smith), 75, March 20
St. Bernadette Church, Lancaster

RAMIREZ, Miriam R. (White), 93, March 19
St. Matthias Church, Columbus

SELEGUE, Lawrence "Joe," March 25
Christ the King Church, Columbus

SULLIVAN, Carolyn R. (Mitchell), 85,
March 21
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church,
Columbus

SWEPSTON, Gregory B., 81, March 18
St. Mary Church, Marion

WHITEMAN, Mary A. (Schreck), 98,
March 4
St. Agatha Church, Columbus

Dorothy Rannebarger

Dorothy Rannebarger, 95, of Sunbury, a former teacher at Columbus Bishop Hartley and St. Francis DeSales high schools, died Thursday, March 19.

She was born on Aug. 31, 1924 in Van Wert to Charles and Dorothy Daughters.

She was a 1943 graduate of Columbus North High School and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in home economics and Master's degrees in French and Spanish from Ohio State University.

She and her late husband, Harold, were members of Sunbury St. John Neumann Church for most of their nearly 70 years of married life.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; sons, Charles and Thomas; and brother, Charles. Survivors include sons, Tim and Steve (Debbie); daughters, Catherine (John) Hufnagle, Theresa Nakama and Peggy (Andy) Wallace; 15 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Father Robert Bauer, SDB

Funeral Mass for Father Robert Bauer, SDB, 78, who died Monday, March 23, was celebrated Tuesday, March 24, at the provincial house of the Salesian order of priests in New Rochelle, New York. Burial was at the Salesian cemetery in Goshen, New York.

Father Bauer taught classes on the Old Testament at the Pontifical College Josephinum from 1976-2001. He also served for several years as director of the college's Master of Arts program and, for approximately six years, as book review editor of the *Josephinum Journal of Theology*.

He was born in Chicago on June 25, 1941 to the late Viktor and Mildred (Paulsen) Bauer.

He was a 1964 graduate of Don Bosco College in Newton, Massachusetts and earned Master's degrees in

religious education in 1970 from the Josephinum and in English in 1971 from Ohio State University.

He made his first profession of vows as a Salesian brother on Sept. 8, 1960 and his perpetual profession on June 25, 1966, and was ordained a priest on Sept. 11, 1971, in Hackensack, New Jersey. Following ordination, he spent two years teaching in East Boston, Massachusetts, then studied for three years at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome before coming to the Josephinum.

After leaving Ohio, he taught at a seminary in Florida until 2004, lived in Salesian communities in Florida and California for one year apiece, and retired to the provincial house in 2006.

Survivors include a brother, David, and a stepbrother, Richard Presby.

Phyllis A. DeVictor

A private family funeral service will be conducted for Phyllis A. DeVictor, 78, who died Thursday, March 26, with burial at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was born on Sept. 11, 1941 in Mount Vernon and was raised in Columbus.

She served for several years as bookkeeper at Columbus St. Leo

Church and also worked at the

Lazarus department store, Federal Glass Co. and the Franklin County Child Support Enforcement Agency.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Nellie Amsbaugh, and a son, Bart "Joe." Survivors include daughters, Roxanne (Nelson) Mills and Rhonda; brother, Paul "Gene"; two grandsons; and one granddaughter.

Bishop Griffin Center seeks volunteers

The Bishop Griffin Resource Center on Columbus' east side is looking for young adult volunteers to make sure it can continue serving residents of east and southeast Columbus if its food pantry volunteers are impacted by the coronavirus.

"We're trying to form a B-team in case our volunteers get sick," said Father David Schalk, pastor of Columbus Christ the King Church. The center is at 2875 E. Livingston Ave.

"The people who are most engaged in the center's activities also are part of the age group in the highest risk of being affected by the virus," Father Schalk said.

Father Schalk said that the pantry at

nearby Columbus St. Philip Church was forced to close after one of its volunteers contracted the virus and that the same thing had happened at another east side pantry.

He said that since the beginning of March, the Bishop Griffin Center pantry has served about 600 families. That's about a 25 percent increase from its usual total.

The pantry is open from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesdays and 2 to 4:30 p.m. Fridays. The virus has forced the closing of its clothing store and cancellation of its other activities.

Anyone wishing to volunteer is asked to send an email to info@bish-opgriffinresourcecenter.com.

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

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RETREAT, continued from Page 1

dio.

Father Kelly, a priest of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for 37 years, has been at the Josephinum since 2016. In Philadelphia, he was a parish pastor, a nursing home and hospital chaplain and a seminary dean and worked on behalf of Irish immigrants. Bishop Brennan said he is familiar with Father Kelly and considers him an outstanding preacher.

The bishop said he wanted the people of the diocese to be able to take part in a mission to help them maintain their spiritual focus at a time when churches have been closed to the public through at least Easter Sunday because of the coronavirus.

“One of my concerns is that given what we’ve been experiencing these days, to me it seems like Lent is slipping through our fingers – even my own spirituality,” he said.

“We get caught up praying for people who are suffering these days with the virus and asking for God’s prayers and protection. In my preaching, everything is centered around this experience, and this experience is certainly different than any other Lent. It’s a very real experience of being in the desert.

“The Lord does speak to our hearts during Lent, and we really do need to focus on the deeper Paschal mysteries. And so I thought it was important that we do something to invite everyone, including myself, to look more deeply as we enter into Holy Week,” he said.

“A lot of our other practices have been lost to this virus. Many parishes would have had parish missions, and those had to be rescheduled. They would have had other prayer experiences. People would have been gathering for fish fries and Stations and different prayer experiences, and we don’t have those things that we usually have.

“I thought it important that we provide something that maybe would get us to think in a different way, turn our attention away from what we’re going through in the present and focus on Jesus on the cross and his infinite love for us,” Bishop Brennan said.

“We’re inviting people during Holy Week to enter into Jerusalem with Jesus and to walk this pilgrimage with him to the cross, grave and resurrection, and to let him speak to our hearts in a deeper way.”

The diocese will observe liturgical guidelines for the celebration of the Masses of the Sacred Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil during the coronavirus pandemic.

The guidelines are in accord with a document from the Holy See issued March 19 by the Congregation for

Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments. They permit a limited celebration of the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord’s Supper in a church or a day chapel, but do not allow Good Friday or Easter Vigil liturgies to take place at those sites. Those liturgies and the Holy Thursday Chrism Mass are limited to the cathedral.

At the Chrism Mass, which always takes place at the cathedral, the bishop blesses the holy oils to be used in the diocese for the coming year, and all the pastors of the diocese usually attend to receive the oils for their parishes. This year, because of the virus, the oils will be blessed and then taken to regional sites, where the pastors will obtain them. Priests attending the Mass normally renew their priestly vows at this time. Plans are being discussed for a diocesan celebration when this will take place after churches are reopened.

The guidelines permit a parish celebration of the Holy Thursday Mass, observing social distancing guidelines, but limit the number in attendance to no more than 10 people, who may include a deacon, lector, server, musician and/or cantor. The washing of feet is omitted, as is the procession with the Blessed Sacrament, which will remain in the church in the tabernacle rather than being reposed, as it is in the traditional Holy Thursday service.

The Good Friday liturgy guidelines suggest that because the service will not be taking place at parishes, Catholics unite themselves to the liturgy through its broadcast on St. Gabriel Radio and take part in personal devotional exercises such as the Stations of the Cross and the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

At the cathedral’s Easter Vigil service, the initiation of the elect and candidates to the Sacraments will not take place. At this time, no date has been selected for those events. The preparation and lighting of the fire and the procession that follows it will be omitted. The Paschal candle will be lit, but the Easter proclamation (Exsultet) will be omitted.

To assist the faithful to enter into Holy Week more fully, the diocesan Office for Divine Worship is working on a book of prayers, activities, etc. in conjunction with the offices of Social Concerns and Marriage and Family Life. This book will be available online prior to Holy Week and may be accessed by going to <https://columbuscatholic.org/liturgical-and-prayer-resources>.

For Holy Week information and other updates, visit the diocesan website at <https://columbuscatholic.org>.

Three from St. Andrew are Eagle Scouts



Columbus St. Andrew Church members (from left) Michael Terveer, Nathan Watkins and Colin Lauber have advanced to the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest honor for a member of Scouts BSA. All are members of Troop 295, sponsored by Columbus St. Timothy Church, and their scoutmaster is Brian O’Brien. All also are seniors at Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School. Terveer’s Eagle project involved assembling more than 500 personal hygiene kits for residents of the downtown Columbus YMCA. Watkins’ project was collecting new socks and underwear for the St. Vincent de Paul Clothing Center in Columbus. Lauber redesigned and planted a garden dedicated to children from the Run the Race Center on Columbus’ west side who lost their lives because of inner-city violence. All three Eagles completed their projects with the help of friends, family and fellow Scouts.

Photo courtesy Kelley Watkins

CATHOLIC EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND

The Catholic Foundation is launching an emergency fund to raise needed money for families and individuals in our parishes and food for our food pantries.

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