

The Catholic TIMES

The Diocese of Columbus' News Source

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Local news and events

Catholic Youth Summer Camp opens at Damascus Mission Campus

The state order issued last month that allowed residential camps to reopen means that Catholic Youth Summer Camp has been able to conduct most of its programs.

The camp at the Damascus Catholic Mission Campus in Knox County reopened Sunday, June 14. The first week of camp in early June had to be canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic, but its weekly six-day residential programs for young people have resumed and will continue through Friday, Aug. 14. The program also has adopted an online option for those preferring to stay at home.

Damascus executive directors Aaron Richards and Dan DeMatte said a thorough communicable disease protocol, including mandatory wearing of masks except in certain circumstances, limits on group sizes, and reduced total site capacity has been adopted to ensure the camp is a safe space regardless of circumstances. More than 4,000 young people registered for this summer's programs before the pandemic.

"There is simply no substitute for the incarnational reality of personal relationship. This is what camp does best. And in light of the present atmosphere of social isolation, it's what our kids need most. This is why we're willing to work hard to ensure a secure environment where your children can grow in confidence, encounter God's love, and enjoy the adventure," Richards and DeMatte said.

The "Damascus LIVE" programming which the center's staff presented online for families while Ohio's "stay-at-home" order was in effect ended in mid-May.

Diocesan selects FIH sister as new missions director

Sister Zephрина Mary Gracykutty, FIH, has been appointed director of the diocesan Missions Office, effective Thursday, July 16. She replaces Leandro "Lany" Tapay, who retired on June 22 after 13 years.

Sister Zephрина Mary, a member of the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, had been pastoral assistant at Chillicothe St. Peter Church.

A native of India, she studied at Fatima Mata National College in the Indian province of Kerala and Marian University in Indianapolis. Her experience includes teaching, prison ministry, spiritual direction and charitable works in the Church.

Quo Vadis vocations retreat scheduled for July 26-29

The diocesan Vocations Office, with the assistance of seminarians from the Pontifical College Josephinum, will host a Quo Vadis vocations retreat for young men entering grades nine through 12 from Sunday to Wednesday, July 26 to 29 at the Josephinum. The registration deadline is Thursday, July 16.

The retreat provides an opportunity for young men to reflect on their universal call to holiness and the possibility of discerning a specific call to the diocesan priesthood. It will feature talks by local priests and seminarians on the priesthood, virtue, and fatherhood. In addition, the program also will include Mass, the Liturgy of the Hours, Eucharistic Adoration and time for personal reflection.

The Ohio Department of Health recently announced that residential (overnight) summer camps are able to reopen. The camp sponsors are commit-

JOIN Mass celebrated at cathedral



The annual Mass for the Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs (JOIN) was celebrated by Bishop Robert Brennan at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral. JOIN staff members, volunteers and advisory board members are shown with the bishop after Mass. The agency's director, Lisa Keita, thanked everyone working with the agency for their faithful service. JOIN provides material needs for low-income families in Franklin County and works with community organizations that serve the less fortunate. Photo courtesy Jerry Freewalt

ted to the safety of retreat participants and will follow whatever protocols are in place for Ohio and the Diocese of Columbus at the time of the event. Current guidelines include temperature checks and frequent hand washing.

Those interested in learning more or registering are asked to visit <https://faceforwardcolumbus.com/quo-vadis/> or email columbusquovadis@gmail.com or Father Paul Noble, diocesan vocations director, at pnoble@columbuscatholic.org.

Watterson to add seven to athletics hall of fame

Columbus Bishop Watterson High School will be inducting seventh members into its athletic Hall of Fame at events planned for Friday to Sunday, Aug. 28 to 30. This is the seventh class of honorees chosen for the hall, which consists of people who distinguished themselves on the field of play or through their dedication to the school's athletic program. There have been 54 previous honorees.

This year's class includes: Chuck Egelhoff (baseball 1958-1961, basketball 1959-1960, football 1960, boys and girls basketball timekeep-

er, 1980-present), Jeff Hill (football 1970-1972), Jason Janoski (baseball 1980-1982, basketball 1982, football 1980-1981), Vince Lombardo (boys basketball coach 1993-present), Devon May (football 2000-2002), Adrienne Ristas McAninch (softball 1990-1993, volleyball 1991-1992, basketball 1992) and John Pucin (tennis 1982-1984, golf 1982-1983).

Catholic Foundation awards grant to Immaculate Conception

Columbus Immaculate Conception School has received an \$18,000 grant from The Catholic Foundation's responsive grant cycle. This enabled the school to install cameras and other technology to livestream the Mass to homebound parishioners, especially those affected by COVID-19. The parish also anticipates using the cameras for special events such as weddings and first Communion and as an additional security measure.

To learn more about how you can set up funds to help diocesan parishes, contact The Catholic Foundation's

The Catholic Times is on its summer schedule!

In July and August, The Catholic Times will be publishing every other week. Look for the newspaper just prior to July 19 and Aug. 2, 16 & 30.



Front Page photo:

ALTERNATIVE VBS
Members of the Rush family (from left), Roman 8; Poppy, 4; and Dominic, 5, deliver groceries to Gahanna Residents in Need (GRIN) as part of a service project for Gahanna St. Matthew Church's Vacation Bible School.

Photo courtesy Julie Ratliff

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Bishop Robert J. Brennan: President & Publisher
Doug Bean: Editor (dbean@columbuscatholic.org)
Tim Puet: Reporter (tpuet@columbuscatholic.org)
K. Colston-Woodruff: Graphic Designer
Mailing Address: 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215
Editorial/Advertising: (614) 224-5195 FAX (614) 241-2518
Subscriptions: (614) 224-6530 FAX (614) 241-2573
(subscriptions@columbuscatholic.org)

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Longtime accountant takes over as new Cristo Rey president

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

Cristo Rey Columbus High School has selected Joseph Patrick as its new president effective Wednesday, July 1, succeeding Jim Foley, who is retiring after nine years in the position.

Patrick, 61, a Pittsburgh native, has been an accountant for 40 years, the past 20 of them in Columbus with the firm Schneider Downs. He previously spent 10 years with Schneider Downs in his hometown after 10 years there with the firm Coopers & Lybrand.

"I knew Jim Foley when he was a lawyer" before he came to Cristo Rey, Patrick said. "He reached out to me when Cristo Rey needed an audit done in 2013, so I've been familiar with the school from a financial standpoint ever since. I admired him, and as I got to know more about the school's work-study program, I realized what a great thing he and Cristo Rey were doing.

"I learned last fall that Jim was going to be retiring. Since my firm requires retirement at 65, I decided I'd apply to succeed him because Cristo Rey's mission is so important. I threw my hat in the ring, and here we are. I never thought for a moment I'd be offered the job."

Patrick has been involved in several central Ohio Catholic and community organizations. He is on the alumni board of The Catholic Foundation and has been a board member of the Women's Care Center and an adviser to St. Stephen's Community House. Other organizations with which he has been affiliated include Recreation Unlimited, HandsOn Central Ohio and MediGold.

"I'm hoping my knowledge of the community will be an asset to Cristo Rey," he said. "The school's staff is passionate about its mission and very



New Columbus Cristo Rey High School president Joseph Patrick Photo courtesy Cristo Rey

supportive. I hope to use the network I've developed in the community to build resources and overcome any challenges the school may have. I can open doors when needed."

"This is an exciting time for Cristo Rey Columbus High School," Foley said. "Joe has great knowledge of the local Catholic community, the local business community and our school. That experience will allow him to continue the growth and success of Cristo Rey Columbus."

Cristo Rey is a four-year, Catholic, college-preparatory school with a work-study program that empowers students from economically disadvantaged families who need a high-quality, affordable education to prepare them to graduate from college and achieve a lifetime of success.

More than 130 business sponsors give Cristo Rey students the opportunity to work for them for five days each month in various entry-level positions. This allows the students to develop the skills of project and time management, leadership and personal accountability, and to learn what a

college education can do for them.

"We want to prepare our students to be as successful as they can be," Patrick said. "Jim and the Cristo Rey board have done a magnificent job creating a sound academic and financial foundation for the school. Now I want to build on that.

"One of my goals is to increase our students' performance in standardized tests. Another is to secure our financial future by building the school's endowment. The work-study program is so important, both to the school's financial stability and to the students' professional education. We have more than 130 corporate partners and would like more.

"Our students are highly motivated," he said. "By agreeing to come to a college prep school, they understand the importance of the work-study program to their ability to perform well in college. They've had mentors who have shown them how to become leaders. That's our mission – to prepare future community leaders.

"This is going to be a very important year for our school and all schools as we continue to deal with the coro-

navirus pandemic. Our business partners will play a more important role than ever, so if anyone wants to be a partner, please reach out to me."

Patrick said 446 students were enrolled in the school for fall classes and that there was room for a few more.

"Jim said I'm going to love it here," Patrick said. "He had a successful career in the legal position, and his time at Cristo Rey has been very rewarding for him. He feels the years here will be the most rewarding of my career."

Foley, 68, had been an attorney for 29 years with Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease when he was hired as Cristo Rey's first employee in 2011. He became the school's president on Jan. 1, 2012.

The school opened in August 2013 in the former Diocesan Child Guidance Center at 840 W. State St. One year later, it moved to its permanent location in the former Ohio School for the Deaf at 400 E. Town St. It has graduated four classes totaling 287 students, all of whom have been accepted to at least one college or university. They have combined to earn more than \$25 million in scholarship money, including \$9.57 million this year.

"It's going to be very interesting to see what happens at the school in the next five years or so," Patrick said. "By then, we'll have four or five graduating classes from college, and we'll know where they have landed and what careers they will have. Perhaps some will provide mentorship for future Cristo Rey students.

"It's my hope that the school will provide a high quality of education for families that want it, that faculty members will feel enriched and fulfilled in the work they do, and that we remain on a firm financial footing. If we provide these basics, we will have attained success."

God's call 'haunted' newly ordained Dominican priest until he answered it

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

Father Irenaeus Dunlevy, OP, says he was haunted by the call of God for several years until coming to the realization that he was meant to be a priest.

Father Dunlevy, of Canal Winchester, was ordained as a priest of the Order of Preachers (the Dominicans) on Saturday, May 23 at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington by Archbishop Wilton Gregory of Washington. He is the youngest of four children of Patrick and the late

Madaline Dunlevy and has two brothers and a sister.

Father Dunlevy said he felt his first stirrings toward the priesthood at age 18 at Catholic Youth Summer Camp.

"I had noticed my desire for learning about the Church and my devotion to the Blessed Sacrament increasing," he said. "While serving as a camp counselor in 2004, I had what can only be described as a moment of grace during confession. I voiced to the priest that God was possibly calling me to be a priest myself. I was not sure what to do because I was supposed to start college in two weeks. So I resolved



Father Irenaeus Dunlevy, OP

haunted by God to a certain extent," he said.

Following graduation from Virginia

to pursue the vocation of architecture" and received Bachelor's and Master's degrees in architecture from Virginia Tech University.

"For seven years, the call never fully dissipated. I was

Tech, Father Dunlevy was employed by Kerns Group Architects, a firm in the Washington suburb of Falls Church, Virginia, that specializes in designing churches.

"When I was 25, I became more involved with St. Mary's Church in Alexandria, Virginia, and found a regular confessor in Father Michael Kelly, who was parochial vicar there at the time. His friendship was instrumental to my acceptance that God was calling me," he said. "He preached a homily

Christopher Columbus statues come down, but peaceful solutions needed

Christopher Columbus, the devoted Catholic explorer credited with discovering the Americas more than 500 years ago, is perceived by some in the general public and many in the mainstream media as a man who abused, enslaved and was responsible for the genocide of indigenous people after his ships arrived in the Western Hemisphere.

Columbus has turned into such a despised figure today that demonstrators and officials in cities throughout the United States have hauled down statues honoring him. Count Columbus, Ohio, among those. The city of Columbus began its disassociation with the conquistador in 2018 when it eliminated Columbus Day as a municipal holiday.

Last month, Mayor Andrew Ginther ordered the statue of Columbus in front of City Hall to be taken down and placed in storage after it was defaced by demonstrators protesting racial inequality and unfair treatment after the death of African-American George Floyd while in police custody on May 25 in Minneapolis.

A Columbus statue at Columbus State Community College also is gone and some have called for a monument outside the Ohio Statehouse to be removed.

There are even rumblings about the city changing its name. Columbus is the largest city in the world named after the Italian native.

The Columbus controversy includes many layers that need to be peeled back to properly understand the man. First, let's be clear: Racism is a sin, and there's absolutely no defense for it. As the popular narrative has evolved into depicting Columbus as an evil man, it's understandable that protesters would be repulsed by statues of him.

Unfortunately, the rush to judgment and justice doesn't necessarily include thorough research on the subject. It's easy to get sucked in by media representations and historical sketches that don't take into account the primary objective of Columbus to bring the faith to new lands.

In response to a question to the Columbus mayor last week from *The Catholic Times* about whether he understood the missionary objectives of the city's namesake, his spokesperson, Robin Davis, said, "Mayor Ginther did not take the decision to remove the statue of Christopher Columbus from City Hall lightly, but it has become clear, not just in the last few weeks, but in the last few years, that the statue represented patriarchy, oppression and divisiveness to some."

The statue was a gift from the city of Genoa, Italy, in 1955.

"In recent days, it became apparent that we would need to move quickly to announce its removal," Davis said. "It was defaced once in the past week, and in other cities, similar statues had been toppled. The Arts Commission will help determine the final dis-

EDITOR'S REFLECTIONS

Doug Bean



position of the Columbus statue, working with appropriate stakeholders and leaving open the opportunity to display it elsewhere, in proper context."

The mayor didn't directly respond to an inquiry about a possible name change for the city.

"The Arts Commission has also been asked to evaluate the diversity and inclusiveness of all public art, including other monuments, statues and art installations, and the artists, identifying gaps," Davis said. "And the Commission has been tasked with reimagining other symbols associated with the City, including the seal and flag, and to make recommendations for change.

As for the monument at the Ohio Statehouse, Gov. Mike DeWine said last week at a news conference, "Don't think I'm probably going to be in favor of taking Columbus' statue down," and added, "At what point do we stop pulling statues down?"

He went on to say that "if these discussions bring us to a fuller understanding of our history and of the people who have been part of our history, that's a good thing."

Meanwhile, statues not only of Columbus but other historical figures have been defaced and taken down during the past few weeks.

Columbus State president David Harrison called the school's removal of the Columbus statue on campus a "symbolic gesture" as part of an effort to combat "systemic racism."

Honoring Columbus "is not consistent with the values and mission of Columbus State," he said.

In St. Paul, Minnesota, Native Americans took down a Columbus monument last month at the state capitol. Jason Adkins, executive director of the Minnesota Catholic Conference, responded with a strong statement.

"We cannot allow persons or activists of politically favored groups to destroy property, public or private, simply because an object or building causes offense," he told Catholic News Agency.

"The celebration by many in the community of the statue's lawless removal also shows the prevalence of fake history. Columbus is not a canonized saint, but he is not a villain, either. As described by Pope Leo XIII, his motives were exemplary, and it was an extraordinary achievement to connect the peoples of two hemispheres. To say Columbus was a perpetrator of genocide makes a mockery of the term."

Similarly, statues of St. Junipero Serra were vandalized and pulled down by vandals in California, where he established many missions in the 1700s.

The California Catholic Conference offered a statement on the desecration of the Serra statues

that followed comments on June 20 from San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone.

"A renewed national movement to heal memories and correct the injustices of racism and police brutality in our country has been hijacked by some into a movement of violence, looting and vandalism," he said.

He called the takedown of the Serra statue in San Francisco "mob rule, a troubling phenomenon that seems to be repeating itself throughout the country."

"Our dear city bears the name of one of history's most iconic figures of peace and goodwill: St. Francis of Assisi," Cordileone said. "For the past 800 years, the various Franciscan orders of brothers, sisters and priests that trace their inspiration back to him have been exemplary of not only serving, but identifying with, the poor and downtrodden and giving them their rightful dignity as children of God. St. Junipero Serra is no exception."

The archbishop further explained that "St. Serra made heroic sacrifices to protect the indigenous people of California from their Spanish conquerors, especially the soldiers," Cordileone wrote. "Even with his infirmed leg which caused him such pain, he walked all the way to Mexico City to obtain special faculties of governance from the Viceroy of Spain in order to discipline the military who were abusing the Indians. And then he walked back to California."

While Archbishop Cordileone acknowledged "historical wrongs have occurred, even by people of good will, and healing of memories and reparation is much needed," he said, "just as historical wrongs cannot be righted by keeping them hidden, neither can they be righted by rewriting the history. Anger against injustice can be a healthy response when it is that righteous indignation which moves a society forward. But as Christ himself teaches, and St. Francis modeled, love and not rage is the only answer."

On Saturday, June 27, Archbishop Cordileone led a rosary and offered an act of reparation at the former site of a Serra statue in San Francisco.

As for Columbus, Servant of God Father John Hardon, SJ, published a well-researched account of the explorer's life that's available at http://www.therealpresence.org/archives/Christopher_Columbus/Christopher_Columbus_002.htm

Father Hardon noted that Columbus authored a Book of Prophecies that reflected his deep faith in Christ and that he was a Third Order Franciscan who was devoted to St. Francis, the Blessed Virgin Mary and to the Real Presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

As with most stories, there are many more details to include that can be printed. Take time to thoroughly do your research, and always be open to learning. Through prayer, education and action, all of us can come together in racial harmony to bring peace to God's world.

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development director, Scott Hartman, at shartman@catholic-foundation.org or (614) 443-8893.

Fatima Columbus program at Mattingly Settlement

The Fatima Columbus organization

will be at Mattingly Settlement St. Mary Church, 6280 St. Mary Road, after the 6 p.m. Mass on Thursday, July 16 for a presentation on the 1917 apparitions at Fatima and devotions to Our Lady of Fatima. Light refreshments will be available.

Online parish music course planned for July 19-22

Dr. Jason Keefer, director and professor of sacred music at the Pontifical College Josephinum and founder and director of The Sacred Music Institute of America, will be the leader of an on-

line course on sacred music from Sunday to Wednesday, July 19 to 22.

Titled "Beauty, Simplicity, Practicality: Developing Quality Music in Every Parish," the course will feature a hybrid

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Faith in the midst of a storm

Venerable Pierre Toussaint. Venerable Mother Henriette DeLille. Servant of God Mother Mary Lange. Venerable Fr. Augustus Tolton. Servant of God Julia Greeley. Servant of God Sr. Thea Bowman. What do these African-American holy men and women have in common? They worked tirelessly to be a prophetic voice for African American Catholics in a church where adversity was and continues to be present. These good stewards relied on their faith in the midst of the storm. The storm of racism, prejudice, and bias. And that is what we are called to do.

When we get to a point where it seems our faith is shaken, even then we must have faith as small as a mustard seed. And that is enough. Our hope is in the Lord as we endure the challenges that come with the storm. As we place our hope in the Lord, as we wait on the Lord, we are to be a living witness of the Gospel. We are missionary disciples and so we labor in God's vineyard. We do not sit idly by and wait for the Lord to send down the Spirit and renew the face of the earth. We are called to do our part: "You have been told, O mortal, what is good, and what the LORD requires of you: Only to do justice and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:8)."

These past few months have been overwhelming and have been a challenge on our spiritual, mental, and physical health. It seems as though we have entered an expanse with no hope of seeing a light, a glimmer of hope, a beacon to guide us out of the darkness. Are we wandering aimlessly through the wilderness, wondering how did we get to this place? Why are we here? How long must we defend our rights to human dignity? When will our white brothers and sisters be just as passionate about the injustices inflicted on African Americans as they are with protecting the unborn? When will I be able to walk into a parish and feel welcomed by the icons and statues that represent the universality of the Church?

If we are to be authentic witnesses of the Gospel and imitators of Christ, then we have a responsibility to love one another as Christ loves us. We cannot allow the injustices against people of color continue in our community, in our church. Nor can we allow racism to continue on into the next generation. None of us will want our children, and our children's children, to wonder why, when it was our time to stand for justice, we did nothing. Why, if we were too tired to continue the fight, to walk the path of justice, should they? Would it not be easier to give in and accept that things will never change? Wouldn't it be easier to just go along to get along?

Jesus never said it would be easy. As disciples of Christ we are called to be missionaries, to pray always and to preach the gospel. It is not our responsibility to change the hearts of men and women. But it

UNITY IN COMMUNITY

Pamela Harris



Pamela Harris is the director of the diocesan Office for Ethnic Ministries.

is up to all of us to do what we can to leave this world in a better place than how we came into it.

Our white brothers and sisters must be willing to listen with open hearts to the challenges African Americans continue to endure. You must be willing to have these uncomfortable conversations if you truly want to affect change. Racism is not going to be eradicated unless we examine our own conscience. We must be honest about our own prejudices and biases. You must be willing to have an encounter with African Americans, to listen as we share our personal stories about the stress, the heartbreak, and the loneliness that racism has on our lives and those of our families.

Why should we continue to share our story? Why should we bring up the past? Because we need you to hear from your brothers and sisters in Christ the pain and sorrow that years of both individual and systemic racism have caused in our community. The tragedy that continues to plague our communities. You, my white brothers and sisters, must be willing to accompany us on the journey of pain and suffering so that you may understand how we got here and how we can move forward together. We must have these uncomfortable conversations, and the Catholic Church provides us with a safe space to share in our parishes and schools.

The Office of Ethnic Ministries is currently scheduling virtual conversations on racism with parishes throughout the Diocese. We also offer workshops on building cultural competence, a program created by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops designed to help ministry leaders achieve a basic level of proficiency in the area of intercultural competence. At this time, many of us would agree that we do not need another program. The urgency in our society is to end racism, and that will not be accomplished until the system changes. However, we do need to educate ourselves so that we may better respond to one another and be effective ministers and pastoral leaders.

None of us were here when black people were forced into slavery, or when native Americans were forced from their homes. But today many white Americans continue to benefit from systemic racism. They benefit from laws that were created to prevent African Americans from voting, employment, education and housing. As the bishops tell us in "Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love" pastoral letter against racism, we must acknowledge this sin. I would go further and say we must name it, call it what it is, so that we can

move forward. As we work together for equality, we must be willing to speak up against racism. We must hold our leaders accountable when it comes to legislation and policy and "inspire just laws." We must be willing to take concrete action to remove the barriers to employment, education, health care, and housing. We've seen the racial and health disparity that the Coronavirus (COVID-19) exposed to our nation. We must be willing to acknowledge that racism is a life issue. It is indeed a pro-life issue.

Open Wide Our Hearts challenges our religious education programs and schools to develop curricula relating to racism and reconciliation. The bishops ask us to develop and support programs that help repair the damages caused by racial discrimination. The faithful of the Diocese of Columbus are invited to continue the path of healing and reconciliation and strengthening our relationships with one another. Let us work together to dismantle racism and eliminate the injustices that impinge on human dignity.

"As people of faith in God, we must be totally committed to eradicating racism and encouraging all our neighbors to peace toward people of every race, creed, and color." - Bishop Robert J. Brennan

"If we are to remove the sin and crime of racism from our midst, we must start with the self. All social sin begins in the choices of individuals to be unjust and is sustained by our blindness to those initial choices." - Bishop James A. Griffin

I invite you to be present, be open, be willing to allow yourself to be vulnerable, and participate in conversations on racism.



St. Matthias
CHURCH & SCHOOL

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in all people and pray
for racial reconciliation.**

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approach including lectures, live question-and-answer sessions, social hangouts and guided learning opportunities.

Unlike other conferences that were forced to go online because of the COVID-19 pandemic, this conference was envisioned specifically to meet the

needs of online learners from its inception.

Rates are \$195 for the entire conference; \$145 for students; or \$125 for a single day, which includes access to the opening and closing days. For more information or to register, go to <https://www.sacred-musicinstitute.org/conference>.

Religious freedom: for the good of all

In recent contributions to the Faith in Action column, we've addressed the COVID-19 pandemic, the economic crisis, and the work needed to end racism. Our work continues on these important issues. As we mark our nation's Independence Day, this is also a time to address religious freedom.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops urged Catholics to pray and uphold religious liberty at home and abroad during Religious Freedom Week from June 22, the Feast of Sts. Thomas More and John Fisher, through June 29, the Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul.

In case you missed it, this year's theme for Religious Freedom Week is "For the Good of All." Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski of Miami, acting chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee for Religious Liberty said in a statement, "The right to religious freedom has its foundation in the very dignity of the human person. Religious freedom is the human right that guarantees all other rights – peace and creative living together will only be possible if freedom of religion is fully respected."

During each day of Religious Freedom Week, the U.S. bishops designated a particular issue urging Catholics to pray, reflect, and take action. Here's a brief overview.

Freedom to Serve in Health Care. The Catholic Church practically invented the hospital as we know it today. Those in the health care ministry heal

FAITH IN ACTION

Jerry Freewalt



Jerry Freewalt is director of the diocesan Office for Social Concerns.

and accompany people of all walks of life. However, a growing number of government regulations are attempting to force Catholic health care institutions to participate in procedures which are contrary to church teaching.

Respect for Houses of Worship. Attacks by gunmen in churches, synagogues, and mosques are on the rise in our country and around the world. More houses of worship continue to be desecrated. We need to insure that all people can worship without fear in our most sacred spaces.

Religious Minorities in China. Since 2013, the "sinicization" of religion in China has intensified with millions of people detained in mass internment camps for their ethnic and religious beliefs. Reports of persecution of underground churches, the desecration of religious items, and the forbidding of children to attend Mass and receive religious education is a constant struggle.

Adoption and Foster Care. Around the country faith-based organizations that provide adoption and foster care continue to be at risk of closure because of their religious beliefs or moral convictions. This

is due in part by government regulations and the work of powerful corporations.

Boarder Wall Dispute in the Diocese of Brownsville. A proposed barrier along the southern U.S. border would run through land owned by the diocese. The local bishop does not want the civil authorities to take the land and impede on the ability to minister to those fleeing violence and poverty.

Catholic Schools. Catholic leaders have consistently advocated for all children to have access to a quality education. To teach is one of the Spiritual Works of Mercy. Ensuring Catholic schools to continue its ability to operate in accordance with Catholic convictions strengthens our society.

Central African Republic. As one of the poorest countries in the world, recent attacks on unarmed Muslim and Christian civilians is tearing apart the social fabric. An evangelical pastor, a Catholic archbishop, and an imam are working together to heal and rebuild their country.

Civilize It. As Catholics, we are called to build up our community, treating everyone as neighbor. The U.S. bishops encourage Catholics to engage in good, honest, civil dialogue, not personal attacks during debates. The Civilize It Campaign can promote human dignity beyond the debate.

Learn how religious freedom is under stress in our country and around the world, and what you can do about it. Visit the U.S. Bishops' Religious Freedom Week website for resources.

Races and races

I really missed the Indianapolis 500 mile race this past Memorial Day weekend. It is a big slice of Americana, and an institution in our culture for more than 100 years. While it has been moved to late August due to the coronavirus, it will just not be the same when it is not celebrated and enjoyed on Sunday of Memorial Day weekend. There is something about that weekend and what it stands for, much the same as our Independence Day weekend. There is something about the recognition of our military and country, the memorial of our veterans who gave their lives so that we can freely express our feelings and protest, and even prayer. The competition is the best in the world each year. These races have endured peacefully for more than 100 years. The competition is fierce, but at the end of the day, all are one as participants in these races. Other races have been happening, with and without spectators. Hockey, basketball, baseball and football are one thing without fans. It is hard to imagine. But races seem to be fine if they focus on each individual driver, and not the crowds. We saw everyone come together in NASCAR recently when a hangman's noose was found in Bubba Wallace's garage at the racetrack. While it was a relief to

EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

Rick Jeric

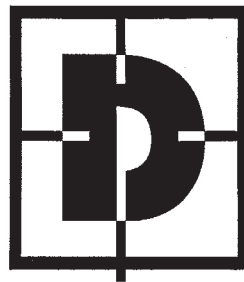
know that it was a rope used to raise and lower a garage door, the unity and solidarity that resulted from it was wonderful. The racers put aside race and showed the world that all races can be racers in any and all races.

God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit speak to us in our hearts, souls, and minds each day. He/They are present to us in a number of ways, including sacred scripture. Sometimes it helps us to refer to our roots and find God in the Bible. Going back to the beginning, races were not an issue. We do not know, nor do we care what the color of Adam and Eve's skin was. Thank God the serpent was not a part of the human race. But his evil temptations remain to this day. As we try to deal with races in our communities and our world, let us go back to God's Word and recall what He says. In the 12th chapter of 1 Corinthians, we hear, "We were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body, and we were all given the one Spirit to drink." In John's first letter, we hear, "Anyone who hates

a brother or sister is in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them." In 1 Samuel, "The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart". Simply put in Galatians, "You are all one in Christ Jesus." And more simple yet, "God does not show favoritism" from Romans. In Revelation, we hear, "And there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were

wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands." Finally, in the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus challenges each of us: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." You and I can offer all the suggestions, reactions, guidance, and words of wisdom we can. As emotional and full of conviction we can become, can we step back and look at God's Word? It is timeless and ageless. It is mercy, love, forgiveness, and salvation. The competition of life's races results in an eternal life inclusive of all races.

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Mary as Queen of the Apostles

She was so excited, she was nearly jumping out of her car seat.

“Are we there yet? Is THIS the beach?”

My four-year-old daughter was beside herself in anticipation of our trip to the modest beach near our home in Ohio. It’s not the kind of beach you’ll take a vacation to be near, but it has sand and water, and as far as she was concerned, it didn’t need anything else, except maybe a shovel and a bucket.

Our arrival was delayed by the realization that none of the dollar stores in the little touristy town had beach buckets.

We knew, when we left home, that we didn’t have any beach toys. We thought, with naive confidence, that surely there would be a selection at one of the stores near the beach.

We were wrong.

The best I could find, in addition to an inflatable beach ball, was a dump truck with a shovel. I was feeling like an idiot, calling myself all sorts of names in my head, when I got into the car after my trip into the second store.

“Honey, I’m sorry. They don’t have any more buckets or shovels.”

She didn’t start crying. She didn’t even flinch.

“That’s OK, Mommy.”

With those three words, I was forgiven. I was given permission to stop thinking about it. Without missing a beat, my four-year-old had accepted the situation and made the best from it.

The lesson, for me, was so clear and simple. It’s not about the bucket. It’s about the trip to the beach, the experience of family, the joy of sun and water and sand.

I think the Apostles probably felt that way much of the time around Jesus. There they were, worrying about seating arrangements and the company they were keeping, even as the larger lesson was there, invisible to them during their fretting.

By the time of Pentecost, I’m sure the Apostles were feeling transformed. There they were, in the

FINDING FAITH IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Sarah Reinhard

Sarah Reinhard is a Catholic wife, mother, and writer in central Ohio. Get her Catholic take at snorningscholar.com.



Upper Room, where the Last Supper had taken place a short while before, with a few women, the Virgin Mary among them.

She’s there when the Holy Spirit comes. This is nothing new to her; she was exposed to the Holy Spirit in the most intimate way at the Annunciation. And yet, even though she doesn’t need the Holy Spirit, having already received Him, she’s there, in the Upper Room, praying and waiting with the Apostles.

It is for this reason that she’s called the Queen of Apostles, and it’s a title that has particular meaning for me. Here I see Mary, not as a mother, but as a friend and a mentor. She’s royalty, and yet she has time -- she makes time -- to help each of us. Maybe I need help with my rowdy toddler, with the extra attitude in my preteen, with my procrastination on a project. She’ll find me in the laundry room, on the phone, at the beach. When she finds me, she’ll do what she has been doing with the people around her for centuries: offering Jesus, plain and simple.

In her “Yes” at the Annunciation, she took on the role of a servant, even as she also agreed to be royalty. I wonder if that was something she thought about later. I wonder if she ever thought about what it implied. She probably didn’t need to; with her Jewish upbringing, she would have known what it meant to bear the Messiah.

By being our queen, she’s our leader. By being our mother, she’s our supporter, a servant who uses her influence to help us and guide us.

The early Church started calling Mary the Queen of Apostles because of her place of honor at Pentecost. The Church, through the ages, continued to

venerate her, with a variety of devotions and apostolates inspired by her role as Queen of Apostles. The Apostles were given, by Jesus Himself, the dignity of teaching, the office of the priesthood, the responsibility of shepherding His Church. Mary, though, has greater dignity, by virtue of her “Yes” at the Annunciation and by way of the life she embraced, by grace of God Himself. The Apostles would have known this, and they would have deferred to Mary as Jesus taught them to do through His example.

A woman’s work is never done, and it’s no different for a queen. I wonder if, that day in the Upper Room, Mary found herself getting drinks and snacks. Would the men have thought of the implications of hours in a small room together? I imagine her smiling to herself, taking care of the things that needed doing, making sure that the Apostles stayed on track.

The Apostles preached with words, performing miracles. Mary, on the other hand, lived a miracle and proclaimed it with her ongoing “Yes.” If she found herself at the beach without a bucket, I think she would have just laughed and thought up something better. Maybe she would have pointed out the silliness to her Son, who would have certainly have forgiven the oversight just as quickly as my four-year-old did.

Mary never stopped saying “Yes” to God, and I pray that, with her help, I won’t stop either. In her role as the Queen of Apostles, I’m reminded of my mission -- of the mission He left for all of us -- to be His witness to the end of the earth (Acts 1:8).

Sometimes, I’m not such a good example of Christianity. Sometimes, I forget that Jesus embraced sinners and ate with the lowly. Sometimes, I ignore that His mother was a young Jewish girl who chose to let Him make her extraordinary.

The lesson Mary, as Queen of Apostles, holds for me is one of acceptance and laughter: acceptance of my current state and laughter at the idiosyncrasies within it. She’s the one pointing out to me, later in the day, that we had a shovel from a few years ago, tucked into the sand box at home, the entire time.

Gervasi to retire as Ohio Dominican University president next year

Dr. Robert Gervasi, president of Ohio Dominican University (ODU), has announced that he will retire in June 2021 at the completion of his contract with the university.

Gervasi, who recently turned 70, will have led the university for four years by the time he steps down as its president.

“I have reached a point in my life and my career when it is time to look ahead to a new chapter,” Gervasi said Thursday, June 25. “It has been and will continue to be my honor to serve as Ohio Dominican’s president, and I have profound respect and affection for the entire ODU community. I will continue to dedicate myself to the advancement of the university’s mission throughout the remainder of my service, and I will always wish the best for the wonderful people who make

up the ODU community.”

Gervasi came to Ohio Dominican in 2017 from Quincy (Illinois) University, where he also was president. During his tenure at ODU, the university successfully completed its 10-year reaccreditation by the Higher Learning Commission. In December 2018, it launched its first public bond refinancing to help stabilize the institution’s finances.

Under his leadership, the university has reversed a period of enrollment declines that preceded his tenure, and his focus on building external relationships and visibility for ODU has generated new partnerships with corporate and civic partners across central Ohio and with other educational institutions.

Gervasi and his wife, Jen, have a close relationship with ODU’s stu-

dents, often hosting student gatherings in their home adjacent to campus. He oversaw completion and rededication of the university’s \$1 million refurbishment of its historic Sister Mary Andrew Matesich, OP, Theater. His leadership has guided ODU’s coordinated response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“President Gervasi brings a positive energy to ODU’s campus family and he is determined in his efforts to elevate the university’s position in central Ohio,” said Tom Winters, incoming chair of the university’s board of trustees. “We are grateful to Bob for his service and commitment to ODU. I have every confidence that he will build on his record of success to make the year ahead an outstanding one for our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and all who hold Ohio Dominican

dear in their hearts.”

Winters said university trustees will work on a succession plan in the months ahead.

“Dr. Gervasi has an obvious passion for Ohio Dominican’s mission and has been a fierce advocate for our students throughout his time as president,” said Sister Gemma Doll, OP, an ODU trustee and a member of the leadership team of the Dominican Sisters of Peace, the university’s founding congregation. “His tireless efforts to build external relationships and promote ODU as central Ohio’s only Catholic university have been extremely productive, and the Dominican Sisters of Peace are grateful for the positive impact he has made and will continue to make on this very special place.”

Holy Spirit Church creatively deals with seating restrictions

Churches in the diocese have adapted in a variety of ways to restrictions related to the physical distancing guidelines required by the coronavirus pandemic.

Columbus Holy Spirit Church has found a creative solution to the situation. It has placed 14 wooden dividers topped by plexiglass in every third pew to show where seating is allowed.

The dividers were created by parishioner Mike Trucco, a member of the Central Ohio Woodturners, who use the parish hall for their meeting space. The dividers sit atop the pews and were designed so that they could slide into decorative knots in the middle of the pews. Trucco stained the wood to closely match the color of the pews, so the dividers look as they were meant to be part of the pews rather than a recent unexpected addition.

"This has worked out well," said parish secretary Pat Morris. "Several people have told me the dividers give them an added feeling of security and seem like they've been part of the church all along."

Holy Spirit and Columbus St. Philip are clustered parishes, with Father William Arnold as pastor. There had been one Saturday evening and one Sunday Mass at each parish before the pandemic, but when public celebration of weekend Masses resumed at the beginning of June, their schedule was changed, with St. Philip now having Mass at 4 p.m. Saturday and Holy Spirit at 11 a.m. Sunday. The

Sunday Mass is also livestreamed on Holy Spirit's Facebook page.

Anyone planning to attend a weekend Mass at either parish is required to make a telephone reservation during the preceding week and sit in an assigned pew. Reservations are made in family groups, even if they're for one person. Masks, hand sanitizer and wipes are provided and Sunday Masses last no longer than 45 minutes. People are asked to refrain from socializing while inside the church, "but it's fine to do so in the parking lot," Father Arnold said.

"This helps us ensure that we can maintain social distancing while assisting public health officials with contact tracing should a flareup of the virus occur on the east side of Columbus," he said. "If we were to reach the point where all of the available spaces were filled, we would start signing up callers to attend Mass the following week. We want to be sure every parishioner has a chance to attend Mass this summer."

Parish religious education director Mark Butler said about 80 people have been attending the Holy Spirit Sunday Mass since public Masses resumed on June 6 and 7. "Deciding on advance phone reservations was a tough call," he said. "Some parishes are doing reservations online. Others are counting how many people are there until capacity is reached."

"We didn't want to have a situation where a family might decide on Sunday morning to come to Mass and

be turned away because there wasn't room for them," Butler said. "If everyone knows they have a spot and can get in and out safely, it adds to their comfort level. People have been very understanding about this, especially in these difficult times."

"We have made every adjustment possible to give our parishioners a sacramental encounter with Our Lord in as safe a manner as possible," Father Arnold said.

"We have temporarily replaced our hymnals with PowerPoint slides on a screen. On Palm Sunday, we provided an opportunity for parishioners to receive blessed palms through their car windows. Palms were distributed by volunteers wearing masks and gloves and maintaining social distancing. I never thought I'd use artificial flowers in church, but I bought some for Easter and they stayed up until the Feast of Corpus Christi in June.

"People are cautious about going to Mass at these times. There's not a great rush and I understand that," he said, "I've told parishioners that if they feel uncomfortable coming to Mass on Sunday, then attend a weekday Mass instead, and I know a few have done that."

Father Arnold said the parish's St. Vincent de Paul Society pantry has remained open during the pandemic. Parishioners dropped off food for the pantry on Sunday, May 24 at a "virtual parish picnic." The event was set up in a style similar to a regular picnic, with parish members asked to bring



Wooden dividers topped by plexiglass are placed in every third pew to show where seating is allowed at Columbus Holy Spirit Church. Photo courtesy Holy Spirit Church

certain items depending on the first letter of their last name.

The parish is continuing to host a monthly outdoor produce distribution sponsored by the Mid-Ohio Food Collective. For the time being, it's a drive-through so people don't have to leave their cars.

The parish also offered a four-part adult faith formation series on Catholic social teaching, moral decision making, Church history and spirituality via the Zoom videoconferencing system in March and plans an online Bible study during the summer.

St. Aloysius hosts free community lunch

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

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

The committee's outreach includes the annual Thanksgiving Day dinner at Columbus St. Aloysius Church, as well as its community cookout and monthly community dinners. Bonneville said the lunch distribution allows the church to come to the people rather than the other way around. "The church exists not just for its members inside the walls of the church. The



St. Aloysius Community Outreach members (from left) Wayne Thompson, Margie Toner Thompson, Sandy Bonneville and Rusty Bonneville distribute lunch along Sullivant Avenue on Columbus' west side.

Photo courtesy St. Aloysius Community Outreach

church is also for those who have yet to come to God's kingdom," she said.

SACO also will pray the rosary for peace, justice and the uplifting of Hilltop families and the community on the third Sunday of each month at 1 p.m. beginning July 19 in the parking lot of St. Aloysius Church along West Broad Street. Social distancing will be observed.

Downtown Serra Club installs new president



Tom Murphy (left) was installed as president of the Downtown Columbus Serra Club on Sunday, June 21 at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral. He is pictured with Bishop Robert Brennan and Mike Kreber, who was selected as the club's outstanding member of the year. Murphy succeeds Virginia Hardy as president. Eleven people became members of the club, which promotes vocations to the religious life, at the installation.

Photo courtesy Downtown Columbus Serra Club

Father Ralko: 'Being there is all that matters'

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

Father Martin Ralko says presence is the key to priesthood.

"That presence is the presence of Christ to the people," he said. "It flows from Christ's presence in the Eucharist. It is the presence of Christ in the Church. It's more than me being present. It's me representing Christ.

"Just being with people and letting them know God is there is as important as anything a priest may actually do or say," he said.

"That was the great lesson I learned as chaplain at Children's Hospital" from 1993 to 1995, said Father Ralko, pastor of Zanesville St. Nicholas Church. "You listen to people in a crisis situation and know and realize what's important is that someone hears their pain. There may be little you can do about their physical or medical situation, but you realize that being there is all that matters.

"As Catholics say, your greatest cross can be your greatest blessing. I found that to be true in my time as a chaplain. That also can be said about how my attitude has evolved toward preaching," he said. "When I accepted my first assignment as an associate pastor, it was here at St. Nicholas, and the thought of preaching a homily scared me to death. I knew when it was Sunday morning because of the gastrointestinal distress I was feeling.

"I didn't trust myself, so I used to write everything down, but that didn't work. I started to become more extemporaneous, just using notes, and I found that in preaching every day, you become more relaxed. What was my greatest roadblock became a great blessing. That always amazed me."

Father Ralko, 65, grew up in Dearborn, Michigan, and is the second-born of seven children of the late Robert and Audrey Ralko. "I think I always wanted to be a priest," he said. "The first pastor I knew, Father Joseph Howard, was a 'regular guy' who would walk around our schoolyard and toss a football and would talk and laugh with people at the back of our church. He created a happy atmosphere.

"The pastor who followed him, Father Frank Lukasiewicz – 'Father Luke' – gave me a lot of responsibilities in seventh and eighth grade. I was his sacristan, and he'd have me answer the parish phone in the evening in those days before cell phones. I loved doing that," Father Ralko said.

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

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

Also influential in his life was Father Eugene Yoris, who was pastor when Father Ralko was an assistant pastor at Columbus St. Mary Magdalene Church. "He was a strong man and a wise leader," he said.

Father Ralko said his greatest influence was his father. "I learned from dad what it means to be a man," he said. "The qualities that make a good priest make a good husband and father – faith, hope and love. I've also learned love doesn't always feel good. You may dislike someone, but you always love them. That's how my parents felt about me sometimes."

In elementary school, Father Ralko became familiar with the PIME order of missionary priests through visits to their Maryglade seminary near Detroit. He attended high school at PIME's former Sts. Peter and Paul Seminary in Newark, which later became a retreat center. Two of his classmates – Fathers Paul Noble and Mark Hammond – also are priests of the Diocese of Columbus.

He went to college at Maryglade and the University of Detroit Mercy, which awarded him a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1977. During three summers, he was an assembly-line worker for General Motors and Chrysler, earning enough to pay his college tuition. "I hated it, but Dad said, 'You need that money, and you can put up with anything for 12 weeks.' School looked pretty good after that," Father Ralko said.

He went to graduate school at the Catholic Theological Union (CTU) in Chicago and returned to the Newark seminary as assistant dean of students. "At that point, I was having not a vocation crisis, but a location crisis," he said. "I felt called to parish life. If I stayed with PIME, I probably would be sent to a foreign mission, and most of the PIME fathers are Italian. So I would be a foreigner twice."

During a summer break from CTU, he went back home and drove a lawn mower at a cemetery. "That gave me lots of time to think, and I realized I had to leave PIME," he said. He went on a retreat to the Gethsemani monastery in Kentucky with a priest friend, and they stayed at Columbus St. Agatha Church on the way to and from the retreat.

"I missed central Ohio," he said,

"so I called the vocations director of the Diocese of Columbus about the priesthood in this diocese. I got a job in city Auditor Hugh Dorrian's office in January 1981, stayed at the diocese's former SPES House for young men discerning whether to be priests and eventually returned to graduate school at Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West near Cincinnati." He was ordained to the Columbus diocesan priesthood by Bishop James Griffin on June 23, 1984.

Father Ralko served as an associate pastor at St. Nicholas, St. Mary Magdalene and Newark St. Francis de Sales churches and a teacher at Zanesville Bishop Rosecrans, Columbus Bishop Ready and Newark Catholic high schools and was administrator at Hilliard St. Brendan Church in 1992 and 1993 before becoming chaplain at Children's Hospital.

He was appointed pastor of Dennison Immaculate Conception Church in 1995. "I didn't want to leave the hospital because the work there was all pastoral. I didn't want to get into administration," he said. "But if you're called and sent, God provides what you need.

"On my second day at Dennison, I had realized the church needed a lot of renovation and wondered what I was going to do," he said. "Then I looked across the street at the home of Lucy Palandrani, a devoted parishioner, and I saw her grandkids on bicycles, stopping in front of the church and

making the sign of the cross. At that point, I knew this was where God wanted me to be. I spent 14 years there, loved those people dearly and realized they cared for me a lot, and it broke my heart to leave."



Father Martin Ralko

His career came full circle when he returned to St. Nicholas in 2009, 25 years after beginning his priesthood there, to become pastor. "I didn't think it was a good thing because I thought people would expect the same thing from me as a pastor as they saw when I was an associate and teacher," he said. "I had changed, and being pastor brings a lot more responsibility. This is also a much larger parish than Dennison.

"But at the same time, I had a head start because I had been here before and knew many of the same people. I found that being here was a continuation of the parish work I had been doing at Dennison. There was just more of it. And people got used to me in a different role. It works.

"No matter where I've served, just being available has meant everything," Father Ralko said. "As a young priest, I wondered if I'd have enough things to do, but I found that things find you. I didn't need to look for people to serve. They found me. Your ministry is all about the people."

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Parishes offer alternatives to Vacation Bible School

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

Because the coronavirus pandemic has prevented large gatherings from taking place, many parishes in the diocese have canceled their summer Vacation Bible School activities, but some have developed homegrown alternatives.

The New Albany Church of the Resurrection put together a program titled “Backyard VBS in a Box.” Gahanna St. Matthew Church is presenting “Summer Adventure: Missionary Agents for Christ”; Westerville St. Paul Church is offering a “Staycation Bible School”; and the theme for Powell St. Joan of Arc Church is “Rocky Railway.” All four are being offered at no charge to participants.

The Resurrection program is based on the theme “God’s Team” and consists of five parts, each with a theme of its own. Those themes are Jesus calming the storm on the Sea of Galilee, the parable of the lost sheep, Jesus calling his first disciples, the raising of Lazarus and the resurrection.

Participants were given a box containing bags related to each day’s theme. Each bag included service project suggestions, a craft, a science activity, a suggested Bible story and songs, and some games. Also in the box were videos put together by VBS leaders that included the day’s craft and the Bible story. Participants had the option of watching the videos or doing things on their own.

The bags also contained specific items related to the daily theme. For the first day, those items were a glow-in-the-dark bracelet, a craft bag, a wooden doll and a paper boat for the Bible story, and an activity folder with a play mat. That day’s science activity involved white vinegar, baking soda, cooking oil and three clear cups or glasses.

Participants were reminded to look for God in action each day in their families and neighborhoods. Suggested service projects included using sticky notes to write or draw an image of God in action and posting it where passers-by could see it; leaving a note or picture displaying gratitude to a friend or neighbor; or making a blessing box and placing examples of God in action throughout the week in the box.

Parish children’s ministry coordinator Peggy Kehres said the program was a successful one, with 125 families picking up boxes for 240 children on Sunday, June 14. The parish’s reg-

ular Vacation Bible School activities would have begun the following day and taken place through the week, but families can take part in “VBS in a Box” whenever they choose.

“The team that would have handled this year’s regular VBS got together in early April after we realized the pandemic would change things and talked about whether we would cancel the program or try something different,” Kehres said. “With the number of families involved, we didn’t want to attempt a virtual, onscreen, live VBS, and we didn’t want them just to watch videos.

“We started by going to Oriental Trading, a company which supplies all sorts of event-themed items for schools, churches and individuals. They had a kit with the ‘God’s Team’ theme and including a director’s manual and children’s activity books, all of which were reproducible. We also bought supplies from Amazon, Party Central and Target and added a bunch of things designed to make the program more specifically Catholic.

“We offered the boxes for free to any parish family that wanted them. We normally charge for VBS and had registered about 100 families for it when the pandemic hit. Most of them had paid in advance, and we offered refunds, but most said to keep the money. That money and additional donations offset the full cost of the program, which was about \$2,000. Co-director Julie Crane and the other VBS leaders took the program to the next level,” Kehres said.

Katie Ryzenga of the family life office at St. Matthew Church said its parish religious education staff took the parish’s mission of “Worship, Serve, Evangelize” and created its own program, which has the potential of involving everyone in the parish.

Although it’s mainly for families, adults have been invited to sign up for it as “elite agents.” “You don’t have to be a child to be involved in this year’s VBS,” Ryzenga said. “We wanted prayer support and encouragement from everyone in the parish and gave the adults their own booklet and mission.” Father Theodore Sill, the parish’s pastor, and Father Peter Asantebwana, associate pastor, are among the adults taking part. About 100 families have signed up.

The program has a secret agent theme, and participants are given a new mission on each of the four Sundays in June. The missions have themes of teamwork, service, worship and evangelization. Components of



A “social distancing” dance party with Westerville St. Paul Church Vacation Bible School participants (from left) Jenny Murnane, Grace Murnane, Issac Reash, Jacob Reash, Joey Reash and Ellie Reash.
Photo courtesy Leia Bame

each program include a video, a craft, a game, a song/dance video and a “Wacky Wednesday” challenge.

The craft, game and a “special mission document” for each week are in the program’s supply kit. Links for the two videos are sent weekly through email or text messaging. The four Wednesdays are designated as crazy hairdo day, backward day, talent day and team colors day.

All participants, whether children or adults, are part of one of four teams designated by color – red, green, blue or orange – with each team is given points whenever members complete designated activities. “The winning team will earn a prize. We just don’t know what it will be yet,” Ryzenga said. “It’s just a fun way to encourage participation in all the activities and to see what other families are doing.”

She said the cost for putting it together was around \$2,000, similar to that for Resurrection’s program.

At St. Paul Church, “we had planned a five-day morning VBS at the parish school, but we weren’t able to safely meet in person, so we explored a few other options and came up with a hybrid,” said Leia Bame, Vacation Bible School coordinator.

“The program we had planned to work with had some plans for adaptation to home use, but we’ll hold on to it for next year,” she said. “We went to Cat.Chat, a service designed for 3- to 11-year-olds that’s part of Lighthouse Catholic Media, and found a program called ‘Marvelous Mystery: The Mass Comes Alive’ that we liked better for at-home use.

“It’s really comprehensive, with music videos, Bible videos and the ability to adapt it for a variety of ages

from preschool to middle school. High-school students and parents can act as teachers, so the whole family can get in on it.

“As the title indicates, it’s based on explaining the different parts of the Mass each day. It also features a virtue of the day and tells highlights of the life of St. Patrick throughout the week,” Bame said.

“We added some of our own video content to the program. It includes Bible Adventures, one of our regular VBS segments, which this year focused on the book of Exodus and the theme of staying home but being together as God’s people. Another segment, called Imagination Station, features science and craft activities and this year included a video on washing hands.”

As a service project, participants filled two craft bags for participants in the summer enrichment program sponsored by the Westerville Area Resource Ministry, which provides lunches and weekend meals to about 1,200 students each week. The bags had weekly themes, with the St. Paul students providing material to create an octopus water bottle for an ocean-themed week and a hummingbird feeder, pom-pom pets and origami bookmarks for a week with an animal theme.

The program took place from Monday to Friday, June 8 to 12. Families who signed up for it can access it through the end of August. About 120 families with 250 children took part. Bame said that’s similar to last year’s totals.

“We aimed for a three-day program and ended up with five,” Bame said. “We were creating things as we went along.”

St. Joan of Arc also took an existing



Cousins (from left) Knox Heinmiller, Callie Heinmiller, Hunter Polk, Stella Heinmiller, Graham Polk and Theo Heinmiller with a poster at the New Albany Church of the Resurrection's Vacation Bible School. Photo courtesy Peggy Kehres

VBS, continued from Page 10

program and added to it. The program is "Rocky Railway," provided by Our Sunday Visitor Press, with the theme "Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through." It will take place from Monday to Friday, July 13 to 17, and about 100 families have signed up for it.

"The program gave us a good foundation and had some adaptations related to the pandemic so it could be used in individual homes," said Kathleen Henry, the parish's Young Disciples coordinator.

"It provided some items, and we recorded Bible stories and provided Exploration Station craft items for each

day. The crafts can be adapted for individuals or small groups.

"The program is as interactive as we could make it, with each family getting a 'goodie bag.' There's one set of craft items for children age 3 to first grade – the 'little engineers' – and another set for those in second to fifth grades – the 'conductors.' Otherwise, everything is the same.

"The important thing is that we are able to give families the opportunity to engage in faith-based activities during the summer in spite of the restrictions required by the pandemic."



Powell St. Joan of Arc Church Vacation Bible School staff members Adam Nestor and Kathleen Henry. Photo courtesy Kathleen Henry

PRAYER TO THE VIRGIN

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

Scanlon appointed PDHC president

Kathy Scanlon has been appointed president of Pregnancy Decision Health Centers (PDHC). She had been interim president since Julie Moore stepped down from that position in February to spend more time with her family.

Scanlon has been a key member of PDHC's leadership team since 2016. Announcing her appointment, board chairman Ron Thomas said, "Kathy is a highly qualified, Christian leader and is strategic and creative in her approach to problem solving. Just as important, Kathy has a relentless drive to save the unborn and to move the central Ohio Christian faith community to action in support of our mission."

"With so much changing, there are still some things that don't change, like PDHC's 39-year commitment to serve our community," Scanlon said. "Women still need support to choose life for their unborn children and God still provides for them through PDHC."

PDHC, founded in 1981, is a non-profit organization that empowers individuals to make healthy life choices. Last year, it served more than 12,000 people with a 24-hour hotline, three Columbus centers and one Lan-

caster center. Women and families have received free pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, life-affirming consultations, diapers and clothing while visiting PDHC nearly 138,000 times since its opening. More than 90 percent of women who see and hear their babies' heartbeats on ultrasounds at PDHC choose life.

PDHC is sponsoring a socially distanced Walk for Life Week from Friday, July 18 to Saturday, July 26. Participants may register online and walk or run any distance in their neighborhoods or local parks as an individual, family or small group and ask friends and family to pledge their support.

PDHC also is a key partner for central Ohio parishes in association with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' nationwide effort titled "Walking with Moms in Need: A Year of Service," marking the 25th anniversary year of Pope St. John Paul II's encyclical Evangelium Vitae. The effort runs through March 25, 2021.

For more information about PDHC, call (614) 888-8774 or visit www.pdhc.org. Its 24-hour hotline is (614) 444-4411.



WALK for Life WEEK

July 18-26, 2020

Register at
SupportLifePDHC.org/walk



PDHC Pregnancy Decision Health Centers

Empowering women and families to choose life for their unborn children.
SupportLifePDHC.org

Retiring missions director, 83, counts blessings for 'life of miracles'

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

At a time when most people are ready to retire, Leandro "Lany" Tapay became director of the Missions Office of the Diocese of Columbus in 2007. Now he's reluctantly leaving that position at age 83 to take care of his ailing wife, Dolores.

"I don't want to retire, but it's necessary," said Tapay, whose retirement date is Monday, June 22. He will be succeeded by Sister Zephрина Mary Gracykutty, FIH, a member of the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, who has been the pastoral assistant at Chillothe St. Peter Church.

"What I like about working for the diocese is its culture of kindness and helpfulness, compared to the dog-eat-dog type of situations you find in business.

"Deacon Tom Berg Jr. (the diocesan chancellor) has been very helpful guiding me, especially when I started the job and knew little about the Catholic Church's worldwide missionary work. And I always liked Bishop (Emeritus Frederick) Campbell's way of handling difficult situations. He always said, 'Enlighten me about the situation,' not, 'Why did you do that?'"

"I'll also miss my co-workers, especially Gina Sergio, who has been with the office since before I came here, and I truly appreciate the pastors of the diocese for their support, prayers and blessings.

"I've learned so much through contact with hundreds of missionaries around the world. Hundreds of them, including bishops, archbishops and superiors of religious orders, have come to the area over the years through the MCP (the diocese's Missionary Cooperation Plan) to speak to parishes about their work and ask for support. I'll also miss the mission directors from other dioceses and their helpfulness, especially during my early days on the job," he said.

Tapay became missions director after 35 years as a guidance counselor at London High School in Madison County. "I was about to retire from that job and had plans to go fishing in the Carolinas," he said. "Then I saw a Catholic Times ad saying the diocese was looking for a missions director.

"I had maybe a 10 percent interest in the job but thought it might be a way of paying back the Church for the opportunity I had to come to America from the Philippines to study for the priesthood at the Pontifical College Josephinum in 1967.



Retiring Missions Office director Leandro "Lany" Tapay

"I was told to send the diocese a resume in February 2007, while I was still working in London. I sent it and had forgotten about it when one day in June, my school superintendent called and said I had an appointment at 4 p.m. that day in the diocesan Chancery. He told me, 'You'd better behave. I inflated your resume, and it would be egg on my face if it doesn't work,'" Tapay said.

"The first thing Deacon Berg asked me was if I knew about the Society for the Propagation of the Faith (SPOF)," which is managed locally by Tapay's office and gathers offerings from Catholics worldwide to support missions everywhere. "I told him 'Yes.' Then he asked if I was familiar with the Pontifical Mission Societies," a Vatican agency that oversees SPOF and three other mission organizations. "I told him, 'No, but I can Google it.' He laughed and must have liked that response, for I was hired.

"The diocese had been without a missions director for several months, so the first thing that awaited me was a big pile of letters on my desk from missionaries around the world. I didn't know what to do but also on the desk was a list of missions office directors from nearby dioceses. I called them, and they told me, 'You'll get through this' and helped me navigate."

Tapay said his hiring by the diocese was one of several miracles he credits to the intercession of the Blessed Mother. Others include his opportunity to come to the United States and his hiring by the London schools.

"I'm the first child in my family, with two brothers (one of whom is now a Salesian priest) and a sister," he said. "When I left home to study

for the priesthood with the Salesian Fathers, my mother gave me a ring which had been passed down to the firstborn through several generations. When it was time for my first profession of vows as a Salesian, I was told I couldn't keep the ring because I would be making a vow of poverty. I had the choice of sending it back home or giving it to the Salesian order.

"I didn't think the ring would make it back if I sent it home because the postal system was corrupt, so I asked the Virgin Mary what I should do. Mary said to give it to her.

"We had a Marian statue at the school I was attending, and the statue had a cavity in it. I took the ring, wrapped it in paper, put the paper in the cavity and sealed the cavity with cement. I don't know what happened to the ring, but the Blessed Mother has helped me ever since," Tapay said.

Tapay was educated by the Salesians for 10 years in the Philippines, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in education from the University of San Jose at Cebu City in the island nation and Associate and Bachelor's degrees in philosophy from Salesian institutions.

"The Communists expelled the Salesians from China in the 1950s, and I was among the first Filipinos to be recruited by the order," he said. "I ended up with a community of Salesians from seven nations serving an orphanage in Cebu City known then as Salesian Boys Town" and now as Don Bosco Technical College.

"Initially, I was the only person there who could speak the same language as the children, so I was given the title of assistant principal, even though I really was more of a disciplinarian. When Boys Town was incorporated, a Filipino was needed for the board of trustees, so I also became a trustee and worked at Boys Town during the day while going to school at night," Tapay said.

After he received his philosophy degrees, the Salesians had planned to send Tapay to study theology in Bethlehem in 1967. But the Six-Day War in Israel occurred in that year, so plans changed and he was given the option to study in Barcelona or Rome. He chose Rome and was studying Italian in preparation for going there when he encountered a group of American Salesians being trained in the Philippines.

At that time, the Salesians in America sent theology students to the Josephinum, a practice that continued until the mid-1980s.

"The Americans were playing basketball one day, and I asked them

where they went to school," Tapay said. "They told me about the Josephinum and said it was in Columbus, Ohio. I went to the library and researched Columbus, and what struck me most was that Ohio State University was there.

"At that point, I wasn't sure if I wanted to be a priest, but I wanted a degree from the United States so I could teach with U.S. credentials. I asked my superior if I could go to the U.S. and he said, 'Yes,' so I came to this country in 1967. First I was supposed to go to Bethlehem, then Rome, but I wound up here. I think of that as another miracle."

While studying theology at the Josephinum, he attended summer classes at Ohio State, receiving a Master's Degree in guidance and counseling in 1970.

Tapay was within one year of ordination as a priest when he discerned that God was not calling him to that role. "Leaving the seminary was the hardest decision I ever had to make, but it was the right one," he said. "I have no regrets. God had another mission for me."

After he left the Josephinum, friends from the seminary helped him find work at Catholic high schools in North Dakota and Toledo, where he met his wife at a Cursillo. The couple, married for 48 years, have two sons, two daughters and 13 grandchildren. But both of Tapay's first teaching jobs were one-year positions, and he wanted to be a school guidance counselor.

"I went back to central Ohio and couldn't find work in counseling," he said. "I tried seven or eight school districts with no luck. During that time, I was doing factory work at Worthington Steel.

"I concluded I couldn't get a job here, but I saw an ad for the London schools and decided I would try one last time. After interviewing with the school superintendent there, he told me, 'This is a conservative community and will be slow to accept you because of your strong Filipino accent,'" Tapay said. "'There are 16 candidates for the job, and you are not one of them.'

"I got up to leave, but then I decided to challenge him. I said, 'Suppose you hire me for a year. If it doesn't work, you can fire me.' The superintendent said he admired that attitude and hired me on the spot."

Once he was hired, his next challenge came from the head of the London High School guidance department. "She told me she was not anticipating a short Filipino to be her partner," he said. Tapay is 5 feet 2.

DOMINICAN, *continued from Page 3*

on Feb. 22, 2012, Ash Wednesday, that gave me the confidence to pursue my vocation to the priesthood and trust in faith. I received a confidence during that Mass that came from God.”

Father Kelly preached at Father Dunlevy’s first Mass and recommended that he take the religious name of Irenaeus Maria. Dominicans often take a name other than their baptismal name after they become members of the order. St. Irenaeus was a bishop who was martyred in France early in the third century. “My baptismal name is Shane,” Father Dunlevy said. “I didn’t choose the name Irenaeus. The name sort of chose me.”

Father Dunlevy graduated from Canal Winchester High School in 2004. His family attended Groveport St. Mary Church. While in high school, he also was part of the Dead Theologians Society (DTS), a group of students who met monthly in the undercroft of Newark St. Francis de Sales Church to learn about Catholic traditions and the lives of the saints in a candlelit atmosphere, with incense burning and Gregorian chant playing

in the background.

“DTS transported me to a place that seemed ancient, something of the catacombs of the early Church or the mystique of monastic choirs of medieval times,” he said. “The setting introduced me to the beauty of the Church’s liturgy and history and the beauty of the moral life. ... DTS presented me with the life of Jesus lived out in the history of His Church. This marked my faith, deepened it and initiated my desire to seek to understand it.”

He said that along with Father Kelly, one of the major influencers in his life was Father Dean Mathewson, who was pastor of the Newark church at the time. “It was there that I had what I can only describe as a movement of grace in which I was firmly convinced of the truth that Jesus is in the Eucharist,” he said.

While Father Dunlevy was in college, his family began attending Columbus St. Patrick Church, which is staffed by the Dominicans and where he celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving on Friday, June 19. That’s where he first came in regular contact with the

order, but his decision to become a Dominican didn’t come until he was in the discernment process for the priesthood.

“I became a Dominican because God’s providence arranged it,” he said. “I was attending a rosary confraternity meeting in Virginia at which some Dominican brothers came to preach. A talk by Brother (now Father) Cassian Derbes, OP (who formerly was stationed at St. Patrick’s) just blew me away. It was the right talk at the right time.

“He preached about divine providence and the virtue of prudence. The talk just captivated me. Hearing that preaching and seeing that Dominican brothers were normal men – men I could understand and relate to – made me want to get to know more about their religious life.

“I talked with Brother (now Father) Jacob Bertrand Janczyk, OP, who introduced the brothers. As I began praying, eating and talking with the Dominicans at the conference about St. Dominic, their love for the Church and the form of life they loved, it made me think this was something

God wanted me to do,” he said.

“I met with the vocation directors of the dioceses of Arlington, Virginia, and Columbus about the priesthood, but I think I knew where my calling was. On Aug. 4, 2012, at a Dominican Rite Mass at St. Patrick’s, I realized I needed to enter the Dominican novitiate.”

He entered the novitiate on Aug. 8, 2013, completing a year and professing simple vows at St. Gertrude Priory in Cincinnati on Aug. 15, 2014. He then was assigned to the Dominican House of Studies in Washington for theological studies and clerical formation. He made his solemn profession of vows to the order on Feb. 10, 2018 at the House of Studies. He is assigned to St. Dominic Priory in Washington and will continue his studies for a licentiate in sacred theology.

“I look forward to celebrating Masses, hearing confessions, preaching and the salvation of souls,” he said. “The Dominican life has beauty, truth and joy all focused in God. I have found that to be a Dominican means to be a Christian.”

St. Vincent de Paul Society office secretary retires at age 87

The friendly woman who greeted telephone callers and visitors to the diocesan St. Vincent de Paul Society’s office has retired after 30 years with the organization.

“I’m 87 years old, and I decided it’s time to get on with the rest of my life,” Pat Summers said. “I’ve enjoyed what I’ve done, and, in 30 years, I’ve outlasted seven diocesan St. Vincent de Paul directors” – Tom Meyers, Bill Wise, Bill Hammond, John Rericha, Patty Doyle, Bill Sparks and she included the current director, Warren Brown.

Summers was employed for 33 years by diocesan agencies that help those in need. She came to the St. Vincent de Paul Society after three years with the Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs (JOIN). “I was friends with (longtime JOIN director) Ruth Beckman, and she needed someone to work with her, so I took the job and just moved over to St. Vincent de Paul

when the opportunity came,” she said.

Brown described Summers as “the point person” for the society because she handled so many of its day-to-day duties as she worked three days a week in the diocesan office building.

“I wrote thank-you letters, paid bills, processed donations, worked with St. Lawrence Haven (a St. Vincent de Paul program that serves packaged meals four days a week in the former Columbus Holy Cross School),” she said. “I also helped with organizing our annual Top Hat Awards banquet, day of recollection, Friends of the Poor walk and training programs.

“Over the years, the society has become not just a group which provides food and clothing for the poor, but an agency for systemic change, trying to deal with the root causes of poverty through activities like its microloan program, the Getting Ahead in a Just Gettin’ By workshop and other com-

munity action activities.”

The microloan program offers low-interest loans through banks or credit unions to people who otherwise would not have access to affordable loans. The workshop helps people become aware of and access community resources.

“It’s also great to have a St. Vincent de Paul thrift store again after many years without one,” Summers said. The store is in the former T.J. Maxx location at 5969 E. Main St. in Columbus.

Summers and St. Lawrence Haven director Heather Swiger are the diocesan St. Vincent de Paul Society’s only paid employees. No replacement for Summers has been chosen.

She and her husband, Robert, who died in 2005, were married for 53 years and were the parents of three boys and three girls. Summers also has 10 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

She came to Columbus from Chillicothe, where she was a secretary at the Veterans Affairs hospital, so the couple’s deaf son could be educated in Columbus schools. Before working for the diocese, she was employed for five years at the former Scott Krauss newspaper and magazine distribution agency.

“Pat kept the society running,” Brown said. “We’d get calls for assistance, and she’d refer them to the call-

er’s parish St. Vincent de Paul conference. She’d often call in at night, listen to voicemails and call each person back to make referrals. She was excellent at processing notes and thank-yous and doing it immediately. She also went to all the society’s events, recorded all our diocesan council meetings and worked closely with the diocesan finance office, and she’s acting president of our Columbus St. Christopher Church conference.

“Pat’s usually unassuming, but boy, she had her opinions!” he said. “And she’s always been very approachable. She’d often go downstairs in the diocesan building to talk to people who looked like they needed help but were hesitant to come up to our offices.”

Summers said, “My greatest satisfaction in all my years with the society was just being able to work with all the Vincentians in 60 parishes and to help people who called in. I cherish all my friends at 197 (E. Gay St., the address of the diocesan building).

“One thing that stands out, even though it happened years ago, is a time when a man who called in said to me, ‘You’re the first person who ever treated me with any respect.’ That pleased me so much because I tried to treat everyone with respect, and put myself in their situation.”

JOB OPPORTUNITY: BOOKKEEPER

Saint Matthias Parish (Columbus) is searching for a qualified individual to serve as the Bookkeeper to perform a full range of financial duties requiring the application of accounting principles, including maintaining accurate financial records, reporting and budgets using QuickBooks. Other responsibilities include AP/AR and payroll. A strong knowledge of the accrual system of accounting is required. 25-30 hours/week. Please email cover letter, resume, and references to Father Tony Davis, Pastor, at tdavis@columbuscatholic.org.

14th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

Jesus, help us to be humble

Zechariah 9:9-10
Ps. 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13-14
Romans 8:9, 11-13
Matthew 11:25-30

What is the secret to life? If you know the secret to life, then you have to accept something that is bound to put your ego to the test. The secret to life is to be humble. To be humble, you must die to yourself, to allow your ego to be deflated.

This secret is an open secret. It is available to anyone who has eyes to see it and ears to hear it. Philosophers and all who were wise through the ages could discover it. Socrates was a wise man. But his one simple bit of wisdom was that he knew that he did not know. He asked all kinds of people who claimed to be skilled and wise what they were about and eventually, they had to admit that they really did not know ... Socrates was wiser than them all because he admitted he was ignorant from the start.

Jesus was wise in a different way. He knew. But He set aside His knowing and entered into the world we live in taking on Himself our very experience. Emptying Himself, He was open to God in our human nature, and He opened up for us a way of knowing that is beyond our wildest dreams.

One of Jesus' most common experiences, as the Gospels tell the story, was being frustrated by those who surrounded Him. So often, we hear Jesus crying out in exasperation to the Father, to His disciples, to the Pharisees and Sadducees, and to others who claimed to be holy but saw things from a narrow vision.

But in today's Gospel, Jesus is playing a different tune. He rejoices in the

FATHER TIMOTHY HAYES



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

way God has chosen to work. Instead of being frustrated, Jesus sees in His humanity the flow of grace: Only Abba knows the Son, and knowing Abba, Jesus alone can offer knowledge of God to the world.

Each of us can see this truth in our personal experience. Much of our frustration in life comes from a particular kind of limit: We find it difficult to communicate who we are and we are not able to find anyone who understands. If we can see things from God's perspective, a new way of living opens up to us.

What if your struggle was meant to give you insight into your own person so that you could more freely share who you truly are with others? What if God has something in mind for you to give that world that you can give, but only if you let Him give it first to you? God's Gift of Himself is only for those who are humble enough to receive Him.

The Lord speaks to our hearts. He has a direction in mind that is greater than the one we can plan for ourselves. Jesus offers a simple invitation: "Come to Me."

Are you humble enough to come to Jesus with the burdens you carry?

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

the Word of God invited you to do it?

- Have you ever changed your mind about something where you once disagreed with the Church and come to the conclusion that God and His Church are speaking the Truth?

- Have you experienced a "call" to go deeper in your relationship with God?

- The Gospel calls us to hear the Word of God and keep it. And to share it. Invitations are going out all over the place, from the Church

THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

7/6-7/11
MONDAY
 Hosea 2:16,17-b18,21-22
 Psalm 145:2-9
 Matthew 9:18-26

TUESDAY
 Hosea 8:4-7,11-13
 Psalm 115:3-7b,8-10
 Matthew 9:32-38

7/13-7/18
MONDAY
 Isaiah 1:10-17
 Psalm 50:8-9,16b-17,21,23
 Matthew 10:34-11:1

TUESDAY
 Isaiah 7:1-9
 Psalm 48:2-8
 Matthew 11:20-24

WEDNESDAY
 Hosea 10:1-3,7-8,12
 Psalm 105:2-7
 Matthew 10:1-7

THURSDAY
 Hosea 11:1-4,8c-9
 Psalm 80:2ac,3b,15-16
 Matthew 10:7-15

WEDNESDAY
 Isaiah 10:5-7,13b-16
 Psalm 94:5-10,14-15
 Matthew 11:25-27

THURSDAY
 Isaiah 26:7-9,12,16-19
 Psalm 102:13-14b,15-21
 Matthew 11:28-30

FRIDAY
 Hosea 14:2-10
 Psalm 51:3-4,8-9,12-14,17
 Matthew 10:16-23

SATURDAY
 Isaiah 6:1-8
 Psalm 93:1-2,5
 Matthew 10:24-33

FRIDAY
 Isaiah 38:1-6,21-22,7-8
 Isaiah 38:10-12,16 (Ps)
 Matthew 12:1-8

SATURDAY
 Micah 2:1-5
 Psalm 10:1-4,7-8,14
 Matthew 12:14-21

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION
MASS SCHEDULE: WEEKS OF JULY 5 & 12, 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 Weeks II and II, Seasonal Proper, Liturgy of the Hours.

15th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

Cultivate the faith; grow in virtue

Isaiah 55:10-11
Ps. 65:10, 11, 12-13, 14
Romans 8:18-23
Matthew 13:1-23

"The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest." Are you good ground? How can you tell?

Here is a short examination that can help to answer this question:

- Have you done something, not because you wanted to, but because

Universal and from our local Church. Are you responding? Will you be good soil?

The sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us – that is, if we respond to the grace that is offered. Faith is not a private matter any more than the rain is a private matter or any more than seeds planted in fields are private matters.

Faith is addressed to something very "private;" that is true. What is in our heart of hearts, the soil within our spirits is known only to God and to ourselves. In that sense, it is the most private thing possible. However, once planted, faith is meant to become very public in our lives. What we

believe is intended to make a difference in us.

The Word of God is effective. It does exactly what it says. We are not always able to grasp its meaning in our minds, but our lives prove it, at times even beyond our own intentional participation and response. Those who hear and do not understand prove the truth of the Word that says it will be so. Those who look and do not see make it evident that the Word can only be truly perceived in all its depth by those who freely choose to give it a place in their lives.

God's Word is spoken to you.

Books for the summer of our discontent

These past few months, I expect many folks have found themselves resorting to the page and the lamp more often; may that literary trend continue long after our public health circumstances change! Since plague time began, I've found the following books reassuring, challenging, illuminating, and in some cases just plain fun: which is to say, apt reading in, and for, this troubled moment.

There's nothing like a quarantine and sheltering at home to rekindle that resolution to read the Bible regularly. Now comes *The Word on Fire Bible: The Gospels* (Word on Fire Catholic Ministries). The fourfold story of Jesus is lavishly illustrated and the text is complemented by commentaries ancient and modern, which clarify the puzzling and make the familiar come alive anew.

If there were one mentor I'd recommend to a young person seeking wisdom, it would likely be Leon Kass. The newest collection of his essays, *Leading a Worthy Life: Finding Meaning in Modern Times* (Encounter Books), is chock-full of the insights that follow when a master teacher combines biblical literacy, deep learning in the humanities, and a trained scientist's grasp of science that is unmarred by an uncritical reverence for scientific achievement. If several hundred Leon Kasses had been teaching in elite American colleges and universities the past 50 years, those institutions wouldn't have become the playpens of cancel culture they are today – and there would be much less nonsense spouted in public.

That nonsense is also the sorry result of a profound ignorance of American history. One remedy for that – and one way to get today into perspec-

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel



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

– is H.W. Brands' story of the four decades between the War of 1812 and the aftermath of the *Compromise of 1850: Heirs of the Founders: The Epic Rivalry of Henry Clay, John Calhoun, and Daniel Webster; the Second Generation of American Giants* (Doubleday). I finished the book with a new respect for Clay (arguably the greatest American never to become president); a renewed respect for Webster; and the feeling that Calhoun, for all his brilliance, did the Republic no enduring service except by illustrating what happens when abstract ideology runs amuck.

Like the old grey mare, the Pulitzer Prize ain't what she used to be. But the Pulitzer committee got it right when it gave David W. Blight its 2019 History award for *Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom* (Simon and Schuster). Douglass, my fellow native Marylander, was one of the greatest Americans of his time or any time. His firm belief in the promise of the United States as a land founded on the conviction that all are created equal, sorely tried at times, remains an inspiring antidote to the false story of America that's underwriting a lot of cheap-grace political posturing in the face of injustices today.

David Pryce-Jones is frequently described as one of the last of that splendid breed, the "man of letters." And while I hope his tribe increases

and flourishes, I'm also grateful that he's shared decades of literary memories in *Signatures: Literary Encounters of a Lifetime* (Encounter Books). David's mini-sketches of 90 authors whose signed volumes he owns sparkle with wit and insight from cover to cover. Perhaps my favorite thrust from the Pryce-Jones rapier puts touché to the leftie British historian A.J.P. Taylor, "a typical intellectual of the 1930s (who) made sure to enjoy the privileges he was criticizing."

At a moment when the United States seems to have lost the capacity to produce leaders of intelligence, courage, and the capacity to work with others for the common good, it's important to remember that we were once such a nation, and within living memory. Two good reminders are Eric Larrabee's *Commander in Chief: Franklin Delano Roosevelt, His Lieutenants, and Their War* (Naval Institute Press) and Walter Borneman's *The Admirals: Nimitz, Halsey, Leahy, and King – The Five-Star Admirals Who Won the War at Sea* (Back Bay Books). Admiral Raymond Spruance, who won "the war at sea" far more than media-darling Bull Halsey, gets unhappily short shrift from these authors; still, both volumes offer well-drawn, concise portraits of a host of leaders with the human qualities we could use in 2020.

Finally, two books by two great theologians with important things to say about hope, the most urgently needed of theological virtues today: *Pope Benedict XVI, The Yes of Jesus Christ* (Crossroad) and Hans Urs von Balthasar, *Dare We Hope "That All Men Be Saved"?* (Ignatius Press). The latter is typically misunderstood and the former typically ignored. Both repay a close, careful reading.

Review board finds allegations of abuse of a minor by Columbus priest credible

As part of the Diocese's continued investigation of allegations of sexual abuse of a minor, the Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan, Bishop of Columbus, has accepted a June 17 recommendation by the Diocesan Board of Review for the Protection of Children that an allegation brought against diocesan priest Father Kevin F. Lutz, 69, is credible and that his name should be added to the published Diocesan list of clergy credibly accused of sexual abuse of a minor.

Father Lutz continues on administrative leave pending further canonical and administrative processes.

A determination of credibility is never to be considered proof of guilt. This action and announcement are made in accordance with the Catholic Church's Charter and Norms for the Protection of Children and Young People and the Diocese's published Policies for Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Minors and Response to Allegations Thereof.

The meeting of the Review Board was convened to assess the results of an investigation and make a recommendation to the Bishop as to whether the allegations against Father Lutz appeared to be credible.

Father Lutz announced his retirement from priestly ministry at St. Mary Parish, Columbus, on September 8, 2019. The next day, September 9, the Diocesan Chancery office received a report alleging that Father Lutz sexually abused a minor during his tenure at St. Christopher Parish, Columbus, from 1983 to 1986. The same day, Diocesan officials reported the allegation to Columbus Police and notified Father Lutz of the allegation. On September 11, the details of the allegation were reviewed with Father Lutz, he was formally placed on leave, and he was advised about the steps the Church would follow as a result of the allegation. The Diocese then commissioned an independent third party investigation of

the allegation, interviewing both the alleged victim and Father Lutz, who denied the allegation.

Priests on administrative leave are prohibited from the public exercise of their priestly ministry. They cannot publicly celebrate sacraments, wear clerical attire, be housed at any parish or on diocesan property, or identify themselves as a member of the clergy.

Father Lutz has been a priest of the Diocese of Columbus since 1978. His assignments have included: Diaconate, St. Matthew Parish, Gahanna (1978); Associate Pastor, St. Agatha Parish, Columbus (1978-1982); Teacher, Bishop Hartley High School, Columbus (1978); Teacher, Bishop Watterson High School, Columbus (1978-82); Associate Pastor, St. Mary Parish, Marion (1982-1983); Associate Pastor, St. Christopher Parish, Columbus (1983-1986); Associate Pastor, St. Mary Parish, Lancaster (1986-1988); Administrator pro-tem, Sacred Heart Parish,

New Philadelphia (1988); Associate Pastor, St. Pius X Parish, Reynoldsburg (1988-1989); Associate Pastor, Christ the King Parish, Columbus (1989-1991); Pastor, St. Joseph Parish, Plain City and Sacred Heart Mission, Milford (1991-1997); Pastor, Holy Family Parish, Columbus (1997-2013); Pastor, St. Mary, Corpus Christi, and St. Ladislav parishes, Columbus (2013-17); and Pastor, St. Mary Parish, Columbus (2017-2019).

The Diocese of Columbus encourages anyone who may have experienced sexual abuse by clergy or others associated with the Church to notify law enforcement immediately and also the Diocesan Victim's Assistance Coordinator at 614-224-2251, 866-448-0217, or helpisavailable@columbuscatholic.org. Forms for reporting abuse are also available in Catholic parish and school offices and can be accessed from the diocesan website (www.columbuscatholic.org).

PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

BARNETT, Judith M., 70, June 8
Holy Spirit Church, Columbus

BERNANS, John, 77, June 16
St. Joan of Arc Church, Powell

BOBLENZ, James M., 84, June 11
St. Mary Church, Marion

CANNEY, Ruth M. (Goodnoh), 96, June 16
Ss. Simon and Jude Church, West Jefferson

CUNEO, Gerald A., 92, June 14
St. Patrick Church, Columbus

DANKER, Jeannie M. (Svagerko), 60, March 29
St. Joan of Arc Church, Powell

FOLEY, Dorothy (Doon), 87, June 21
St. Joan of Arc Church, Powell

FUCHS, Thomas P., 66, June 10
St. Matthew Church, Gahanna

GROOM, George H. "Archie," 76, June 23
St. Matthias Church, Columbus

JURCYK, Pauline J. (Cerin), 98, June 18
St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Pickerington

KAERCHER, Juia I. "Judy," (Crowley), 76, June 18
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

KESSLER, Michael H., 89, June 7
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

LAMP, Larry B., 71, June 14
Christ the King Church, Columbus

MAUTER, Patrick, 82, June 14
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

MIESSE, Steven D., 75, June 10
St. Paul Church, Westerville

MONACO, Esther (Pace), 93, June 18
St. Joseph Church, Dover

MURPHY, Marilyn (Shiplett), 73, June 9
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

MYERS, Debra L. (Vander Horst), 67, June 10
St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

ROBERTS, Dorothy (Buscemi), 80, June 20
St. Joseph Cathedral, Columbus

RUSSELL, Keith J., 69, June 18
St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

SIMMONS, William E., 73, June 13
St. Mary Church, Marion

SNYDER, Francine (Hayslip), 71, May 13
St. James the Less Church, Columbus

STOKES, Carol A. (Miller), 74, June 8
St. Mary Church, Delaware

STROUD, John R., 82, June 22
St. Colman of Cloyne Church, Washington Court House

WARTHER, Patrice, 63, June 16
St. Joseph Church, Dover

WOKE, Mary M. (Malak), 93, June 11
St. Peter Church, Columbus

WOLTZ, Henry "Bud," 89, June 11
St. Bernadette Church, Lancaster

Sister Mary Berendt, OSF

Funeral Mass for Sister Mary Berendt, OSF, 81, who died Friday, June 12, will be celebrated at a future date at the Our Lady of the Angels Retirement Home in Joliet, Illinois. Burial was at Resurrection Cemetery in Romeoville, Illinois.

She was born in Columbus to the late Anthony and Marguerite (Marioth) Berendt, grew up as a member of St. Mary Church in the city's German Village neighborhood and graduated from the parish's high school.

She entered the community of the Sisters St. Francis of Mary Immaculate in Joliet in 1957, receiving the name Sister M. Assumpta, OSF. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 12, 1959 and her final profession on Aug. 13, 1965.

She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the College of St. Francis (now the University of St. Francis) in Joliet and a Master of Science degree from Northern Illinois University.

In the Diocese of Columbus, she was a teacher at Columbus Corpus Christi (1974-1992) Columbus Corpus Christi-St. Ladislav (1992-1993) and Columbus St. Philip schools (1993-2004) and a tutor at Columbus Holy Spirit and Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help schools (2007-2015).

She returned to Joliet in 2015 to live at the Our Lady of Angels home.

She had two brothers and three sisters, one of whom was Father James Berendt, a priest of the Diocese of Columbus. She is survived by nieces and nephews.

Father Robert Bauer, SDB

Funeral Mass for Father Robert Bauer, SDB, 78, who died March 23, was celebrated 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 to 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 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.

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 in 2006.

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

SCRIPTURE, Continued from Page 14

God's Word is spoken *in* you. You and your very life are a message to the world. Your life is intended by God Himself to bear fruit in abundance.

Do you hear the truth spoken through Word and Sacrament? Do you spend time reflecting on your faith and its purpose? How do others see your life? Is it clear and evident that God is the center of your life and that you know what Jesus and His Holy Spirit have to offer you and the world?

We are all made up of the many different patches of soil. No one of us is completely responsive to the Lord. We are all sinners. And yet, it is also true that parts of us do respond with complete assent to the Word. A Word of God is spoken in our lives. If we can discover that Word and strive to respond more fully, then the world

will see and hear more clearly.

To live in accord with God's Word is not easy. There is a cost, both in our relationship to the world around us and within our own spirits. The different kinds of soil must be dealt with.

Sin is purged by Confession and by a striving for virtue. The fact of the cares that surround us must be dealt with by concentrating on faith and by putting our trust in God. Even the good soil cannot be taken for granted — for we must not seek to take credit for our successes. Pride comes before the fall.

But in all this, we can take comfort in God's promise: "*My Word shall not return to me void, but shall do My will, achieving the end for which I sent it.*" Let it be done in us, according to His Word.



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Our Father eagerly awaits our call

Every morning when my children come down the stairs, I reach out to embrace them.

I look into their eyes and force my eyes to meet theirs. I call Christ into this exchange, and I feel the softening. I speak truth and love into their hearts every morning.

I look for ways to do this throughout the day as well. I go and sit upon a bed and listen. I swing on a hammock and listen about the colors of the rainbow. I sit upon a swing with a son who has a story to tell. Presence is paramount in building relationships in my home.

I look forward to my mornings. Rolling over and seeing my husband beside me, I am in awe of the blessing he is to us all. Sensing my presence, he will sleepily open an eye, reach out and roll me into his embrace. We murmur morning prayers of thanksgiving and start our day.

This routine of connecting has become necessary and beloved. It has extended itself to our evenings as

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.

well, and, even while away, the children call or text to connect. Some mornings or bedtimes can seem like the never ending sign of peace in my home as hugs are given, all seeking an encounter with the other.

I often think of the gaze of the Father upon us: Our Father in heaven who seeks to connect with us. The image of the joy expressed by the father of the prodigal son from the book of Luke Chapter 15 comes to mind. I can see this father's eyes light up upon seeing his son. I can feel his smile spread wide as he runs to greet his lost son. I can feel the gratitude within his soul, and I believe this is the love the

Lord has for us.

With just the tilt of our head and heart we can reconnect to the Father countless times a day, and there He is, ready to run to us, his face filled with joy that we have turned to Him.

In the book *Abba's Heart, Finding Our Way Back to the Father's Delight*, by Neal and Matthew Lozano, we are reminded of the privilege of calling God, our Father: "When Jesus teaches us to address God, as Father, (in the Lord's Prayer) He is inviting us into a relationship with the Father based on trust, confidence and the openness to ask." Reflecting back on the prodigal son, it is exactly these virtues that the father has instilled in his relationship with the prodigal son that allow his son to come back.

Our Lord has paid into these virtues in His relationship with us by his precious body and blood. Luke 11:9 tells us, "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened

to you." We must have faith that the Lord is actively waiting for us to call out and seek Him.

Jesus' ministry on earth was a manual on how to build authentic relationships that call us back to the Father's heart through a ministry of presence. It is easy to let distractions steal us from this necessity, but scripture reminds us: "Put away the foreign gods which are among you, and incline your heart to the Lord God of Israel (Joshua 24:23).

The Lord is present for us throughout our days. All we must do is incline our hearts to Him, and he calms every storm, wipes every tear, celebrates every victory.

As we actively invite Jesus into these moments, we see it all through His lenses. This rose colored view shows us we are not alone, and, regardless of the situation, our Father's eyes light up and he runs to meet us. The embrace of the Father is unlike any other.

Letting the light in

GRACE IN THE MOMENT

Mary Van Balen



Full disclosure: I've tried to write this column for weeks. Thoughts and notes spill across my journal pages; drafts of documents sit on my laptop. Prayer and vigil candles are spent. Life feels heavy. Sometimes overwhelming. The state of our world and our country is revealing the dark, shadowy side beneath our comfortable façade. And cracks in that façade are everywhere.

Leonard Cohen's lyric from *Anthem* comes to mind: "There is a crack, a crack in everything, that's how the light gets in." True enough. But cracks can also make things fall apart – as some must do – before they are put back together or something new is made. In the process, it's often the cracks we see, not the light.

You may find that true today. The world struggles to find responses to climate change and the will to implement them. The the pandemic brings not only sickness and death, but economic crisis, causing millions to struggle to survive. It challenges the world's "normal" which, really, hasn't been working all that well.

Our country, fractured by political turmoil, division, and fumbled responses to COVID-19, must also recognize the racism that is staring in our collective face. The video of George Floyd's murder by policemen was a tipping point, coming closely on the heels of other senseless murders of African Americans. Protests erupted across the U.S. and the world and continue today. They must. They make us look. They reveal cracks that have crazed our nation even before it was born.

"What can I do?" I ask myself. I don't have answers; I have questions. It's time for white people to look deeply at their own stories and those of their ancestors and recognize how they have benefited from systemic racism for generations. We can educate ourselves. Reading

and discussing the book *Waking Up White: And Finding Myself in the Story of Race* by Debby Irving, is jarring as our group listens to the long history of racism and slavery in our country from the beginning, hearing how early it was codified into our laws.

Truth illuminates the cracks. It's the light that gets in. And once it does, we have a choice. The line before Cohen's famous one quoted above is this: "Ring the bells that still can ring. Forget your perfect offering." Our efforts will not be perfect, but they must be made.

We all must do the hard work of hearing the truth and making changes in our lives and in the laws and practices of this country. On a walk in my neighborhood I noticed two messages painted on the sidewalk: "Black Lives Matter" and "You can do hard things."

These unprecedented times demand we recognize the truth of both. There is much in our world and in our nation that requires doing hard things for the good of all.

This year, July 4 presents an opportunity to reflect on our country, to consider its history through an inclusive lens, and to work for its future. When I pondered the Mass readings for this holiday, the one from Philippians spoke to my heart:

Finally brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things ...

It is hopeful. It reminded me to look for what is good in the world, in one another, in our dreams and values. To focus on justice and truth. To hold tight to them. To look for the light coming in through the cracks.

But that wasn't all. The reading continued:

Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me.

What have we seen in Jesus? Love. He was all love. Love of God. Love of neighbor. He stood with the poor and marginalized. He challenged those who abused power and were greedy, concerned only with their own comfort and well-being. He told the Good Samaritan story: everyone is our neighbor; we must take care of one another. He never saw anyone as "other." Everyone belonged. In the end, he was murdered by a world that couldn't accept such radical, inclusive love.

This reading calls us to hope and also to act, like Jesus, keeping our hearts set on what is good and just. On Love. To use our hands and feet and minds and talents to bring more of it into this world. And, as the reading ends, *Then the God of peace will be with you.*

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At day spa, beauty dispensed with blessings

By Doug Bean
Catholic Times Editor

About two years ago, Peigi Fisher-Hanson decided that she wanted to turn her Dublin-area spa and salon into more of a faith-based business.

So she prayed and had The Spa at River Ridge, which she owns with husband Eric, enthroned to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

“The graces that flowed from that point forward were amazing,” the Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church parishioner said. “It was just a complete shift. It was like an empowerment.”

For those who say successful business owners must separate pronouncements of their faith from their work life to avoid offending potential clients, she has shown it’s indeed possible to combine entrepreneurship and evangelization in the public square.

That’s evident when passing through the front doors at 5555 Wall St., a two-story office building in Dublin that she and her husband, who’s also an engineer for Honda, converted five years ago. After the enthronement, the couple turned the lobby into a faith-based boutique that features books, rosaries, medals, apparel and other items.

“My goal is to have items that people can get for first communions, baptisms, special events,” she said. “And it’s been well received.”

While the gift shop serves as an obvious sign of faith, it’s the gateway to an oasis of personal care services offered with an abundance of love for the Lord.

The thriving spa bustles with women and men six days a week who come in for a comprehensive array of services covering hair, skin, nails and massage provided by a staff of 65 employees.

Fisher-Hanson, the youngest in a family of eight children from Fremont, Ohio, arrived in Columbus 33 years ago after graduating from high school to enter cosmetology school. After learning her craft and gaining experience in a salon during the early years of her career, she opened her first spa in downtown Dublin 26 years ago. Along the way, she obtained a real estate license and moved her spa business to two other Dublin locations before settling into the current space five years ago.

The miraculous transformation of the expansive 18,000-square-foot office building into a spa was a tes-

CATHOLIC BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

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

tament to the Hansons’ resolve after lengthy negotiations with the city of Dublin left them with just six weeks to vacate their previous spot. They had purchased land for a new spa, but they obviously didn’t have enough time to build.

“We were like, what are we doing?” she said. “We’ve got 65 employees and can’t just close up shop.”

Contractors got the job done with lightning efficiency, and the spa has continued to thrive.

Fisher-Hanson arrives at the building around 3 a.m. most days. The energetic early riser prays over each room before opening so “that whoever comes in will be blessed, everything will be wonderful and we’ll touch people in a different way.”

A majority of the staff members, who are Catholic and Christian, love being able to talk about the faith. Among the spa’s patrons are families connected with Columbus Bishop Watterson High School, which two of the Hansons’ children attend, and St. Brigid School, where one of their daughters will be entering eighth grade this fall.

Fisher-Hanson, the spa’s creative director, begins receiving hair clients as early as 4 a.m. It’s not uncommon, she said, to see women praying the rosary while sitting under a hair dryer.



The Spa at River Ridge owner and creative director Peigi Fisher-Hanson works with a client. Photos courtesy The Spa at River Ridge

“I can enter into a conversation to find out where they are in their faith life and the ones wanting to talk about it,” she explained. “So many of them say it’s so nice to talk about these things instead of coming into a business being guarded about what you’re saying. You can just share your faith.”

Christian music adds to the peaceful atmosphere.

“Even Jewish people who have been with me for 33 years enjoy the music,” she said. “I’ve never had any of them say anything negative about it.”

“I’ve only had two complaints, and one was from a woman who said she doesn’t like coming because it reminds her that she doesn’t go to church as much as she should.”



Pictured are some of the items available in the faith-based boutique at the entrance of the spa.

The luxurious spa provides space for prayer on the second floor that Fisher-Hanson calls the Upper Room, which is used for rosary groups, other gatherings and limited fundraisers, including an upcoming event for Urban Encounter Ministries in Columbus. The facility accommodates private events such as bridal parties, day spa experiences for groups and couples, and corporate outings.

Fisher-Hanson also supports her parish and the Damascus Catholic Mission Campus in Morrow County. The spa provides complimentary services at the spa to the youth missionaries who serve at Damascus throughout the year and at its Catholic Youth Summer Camp. She’s also part of the leadership team for Catholic women’s retreats that take place there.

“I love having (the youth missionaries) here at the spa because they’re just so full of life and they’re kind of evangelizing my staff in a big way,” she said. “They’re just so on fire. They exude the faith so much. You can’t help but be energized by that.”

“My staff is always like, ‘Those are the nicest people I’ve ever been around, and they’re so sincerely nice.’”

Like many businesses, The Spa at River Ridge was forced to shut down for nine weeks because of the coronavirus outbreak. After the business reopened in May, Fisher-Hanson and her staff were able to take care of a backlog of clients faster than other salons because services are provided in



The Spa at River Ridge owners Eric Hanson (back row, right) and Peigi Fisher-Hanson (bottom row, right) are pictured with their children (from left) Ellie, Clayton and Angie.

SPA, continued from Page 18

individual rooms and spacious open areas that conform to social distancing requirements.

“We’re going above and beyond with temperature checks and doing things like double masks because we want to protect our (staff) family as much as possible,” Fisher-Hanson said.

Steve Hilbert, the spa’s general manager, contacted *The Catholic Times* several weeks ago to inquire about expressing the staff’s appreciation for the Hansons’ benevolence during the shutdown.

“To say that the past few months have been filled with fear and uncertainty would be an understatement,” Hilbert wrote. “Everyone has been affected in some way by the COVID-19 pandemic and the various changes that have accompanied it. It’s during times like this where we get to see the true heart and soul of people in our community.

“One such family that I would like to personally recognize is Peigi and Eric Hanson. When the COVID-19 closure came about, many of the employees were faced with the reality of not only losing their paycheck but also losing their health insurance. The employees only needed to worry for a day or so before Peigi and Eric announced that all employees would



Catholic gifts at The Spa at River Ridge include books, mirrors, socks, hats and accessories.

continue to receive their full pay and benefits throughout the forced pandemic closure.

“As the general manager of the business, I had to ask the obvious question of Peigi and Eric and that was, ‘Can we afford to do this?’ Their reply, without hesitation, was, ‘We’ll find a way; it’s the right thing to do.’

“It seems like such a simple answer, ‘We’ll find a way; it’s the right thing

to do,’ but when you fully put your trust in our Lord and know in your heart that he will in fact guide you in the right direction, then your fears can be put to rest.

“I spoke to Peigi and Eric several times a day during our closure and never did I hear fear in their voices. Instead, I heard hope for a better future and a calmness that we would

emerge from this chaos as a much stronger team. What a shining example of the Lord’s servants this couple is. They are generous beyond words, and our world shines more brightly because of them.”

For more information and to review a list of services and amenities, visit www.thespaatriveridge.com.

RETIRING, continued from Page 19

“She said I could only talk to ninth-grade students, but that turned out to be to my benefit.

“I got to know those ninth-graders well because I had no other work except counseling. About a month after school started, the superintendent called me into his office. I feared the worst, but he told me that parents were telling him, ‘There’s a counselor who my kids say talks to them and listens. None of their counselors has done that before.’

“He said I would have ninth- and 10th-graders the next year and become head of the guidance department in the third year. I stayed in London and outlasted three superintendents and

four principals. I don’t think that was good luck. It was the Blessed Mother at work.”

Tapay grew up in the small town of Balilihan in the Philippines. “I started dirt poor and didn’t have shoes till sixth grade,” he said. “I was a working student in a Catholic high school and worked as a janitor in college until the Salesians recruited me.”

As a boy, he lived through the Japanese occupation of the Philippines in World War II and had to evacuate his home on several occasions. One of Tapay’s frequent *Catholic Times* columns, published in the newspaper’s April 26 issue, told of a particularly memorable incident in which his fam-

ily was caught in crossfire between Japanese and Allied forces.

Now he and the rest of the world are dealing with the coronavirus pandemic, an event with perhaps the biggest worldwide impact since the war ended 75 years ago.

“We are at war again, but it’s war of a different kind,” he said. “In World War II, at least you could see the enemy. Now you can’t see it, and it’s much more scary. In World War II, you could run and hide and know where the enemy was. Right now, it’s all around us.

“Perhaps it’s God’s way of making us stop and think and look at our prior-

ities. I’m just grateful I could work at home these last few months,” he said.

“One thing I’m sorry I’m not able to do this year is meet the missionaries who would have been taking part in the Missionary Cooperation Plan. Because of the virus, they won’t be making any in-person visits this year. Instead, their appeals will come through letters read by a parish’s pastor, video presentations and parish bulletins and websites.

“I can sum up the story of my life very simply,” Tapay said. “Everything that seemed to be happening bad to me turned out good. As I said, it’s been a life of miracles, and I attribute it to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.”

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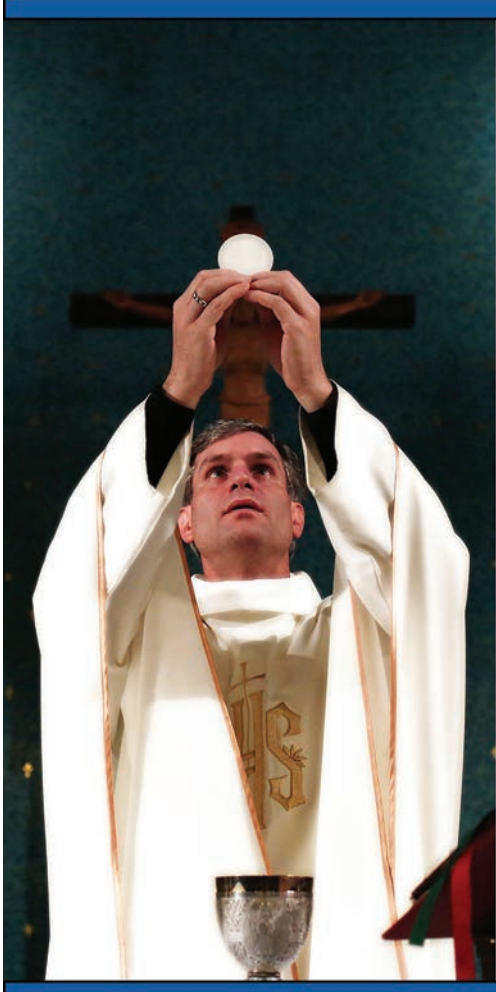

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Congratulations to Fr. Matthew N. Hoover on the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. Thank you for answering God's call.


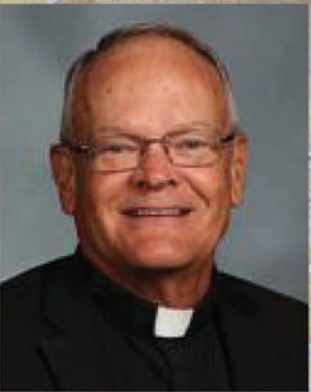
From the staff and parishioners at Immaculate Conception Church in Clintonville.

Please pray for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated religious life.


Congratulations
Father Dwayne McNew
 on the 25th anniversary of your ordination to the priesthood

From the parishioners of
 Ss. Simon & Jude Catholic Church
 West Jefferson





St. Agatha Wishes
FR. DANIEL OCHS
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