

# The Catholic **TIMES**

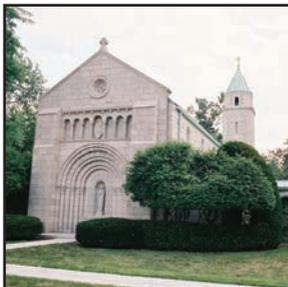
The Diocese of Columbus' News Source

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LIVING GOD'S PLAN FOR FAMILY LIFE**

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## Catholic Men's Conference will focus on building virtue

"Building Virtue" will be the theme of the 2020 diocesan Catholic Men's Conference on Saturday, Feb. 22 in Kasich Hall at the state fairgrounds. The venue offers space and amenities suitable for the 3,500 men expected to attend the 23rd annual event.

Bishop Robert Brennan of Columbus will celebrate the closing Mass and will be one of three featured speakers, along with Catholic author and speaker Jason Evert and University of Cincinnati football coach Luke Fickell.

Bishop Brennan will be at the conference for the first time. At the time of the conference last year, he was wrapping up his duties as auxiliary bishop of the diocese of Rockville Centre, New York, in anticipation of his installation as the 12th bishop of Columbus on March 30, succeeding Bishop Emeritus Frederick Campbell. His appointment to the position by Pope Francis had been announced on Jan. 31.

In less than a year since his installation, Bishop Brennan has visited nearly every parish in the 23-county diocese. Besides celebrating Masses and administering the Sacrament of Confirmation, he has attended dozens of parish and school activities in an effort to establish contact with as many of the diocese's approximately 280,000 Catholics as he can.

Evert has spoken about the virtue of chastity to more than one million stu-



**Bishop Robert Brennan**



**Jason Evert**



**Luke Fickell**

dents on six continents in two decades as a public speaker.

He is the author of more than two dozen books, including *How to Find Your Soulmate Without Losing Your Soul* and the curriculum *YOU: Life, Love, and the Theology of the Body*. He has a master's degree in theology and an undergraduate degree in theology and counseling, with a minor in philosophy, from Franciscan University of Steubenville. He lives with his wife, Crystalina, and their children in Arizona.

Fickell graduated from Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School, where he was a three-time undefeated state wrestling champion, in 1992 and from Ohio State University in 1997. He played for the Buckeyes from 1993 to 1996, starting a school-record 50 consecutive games at nose guard.

He has been head coach at Cincinnati since 2017 and was an assistant coach at Ohio State from 2002 to 2016, including a year as interim head coach in 2011, and at Akron in 2000

and 2001. He and his wife, Amy, have six children.

The conference day will begin at 6 a.m. with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Registration and breakfast will start at 7 with talks beginning at 8.

Music for the closing Mass will be

provided by the Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral men's choir, directed by Dr. Richard Fitzgerald. The day will end around 3 p.m. More than 30 priests will be on hand to administer the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the lunch break, and many Catholic vendors and organizations will have representatives at display tables.

Tickets are \$45 for adults and \$25 for students, with no charge for priests, deacons and seminarians.

Scholarships and financial assistance are available for those with limited financial means. To register or for more information, call (614) 505-6605 or go to [www.catholicmensministry.com](http://www.catholicmensministry.com).

## S U B S C R I B E

The *Catholic Times* is the only newspaper that brings you a weekly look at Catholic life in the Diocese of Columbus.

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Front Page photo:

**WORLD  
MARRIAGE WEEK**  
The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has designated Feb. 7-14 as World Marriage Week. This week's issue features stories of couples living the sacrament. (Shutterstock photo)

## Catholic TIMES

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# Two diocesan retreat centers to close

By Tim Puet  
Catholic Times Reporter

The Diocese of Columbus has announced plans to close the St. Therese Retreat Center in Columbus, effective Tuesday, June 30, and the Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center in Heath, effective Friday, July 31.

“It is with great regret we have decided to move forward with the closing of these centers,” said diocesan finance director William Davis. “After an extensive review of the centers’ financial viability, discussion with diocesan staff and prayerful consideration, we have concluded that to be good stewards of diocesan resources,

it was necessary to take this action.”

Davis said the contributing factors to the decision included ongoing operating deficits at both centers, future necessary facility repairs that would be required at both sites, and the use of parish centers and other venues around the diocese for many events that previously took place at the retreat centers.

The announcement of closing dates for the centers will allow groups that may have scheduled events at the sites after those dates to make alternate arrangements. The final disposition of the properties has not been determined. Options for future use are being studied.

The decision to close the centers was made after diocesan officials re-

viewed results of a survey sent in July 2019 to the diocese’s pastors, school principals and assistant principals, and parish religious education directors and youth ministers. The survey results returned were compiled and reviewed in October, with a final decision made in late January.

“We remain deeply thankful for the many lives that have been touched and inspired by participating in the work of our centers,” said Dominic Prunte, diocesan episcopal moderator for administration and personnel. “Those who attended events and retreats, the many supporters who have assisted and served in these ministries – we have been truly blessed for the opportunity to support all in their spiritual journeys through the years

through engagement at our centers.”

St. Therese’s Retreat Center is located at 5277 E. Broad St. on Columbus’ far east side. It is part of a 75-acre tract of land acquired by the Diocese of Columbus from the estate of Martha Deshler in 1926. Bishop James Hartley dedicated the center in 1931 to St. Therese of Lisieux, who was canonized in 1925. At that time, its location on the eastern edge of Franklin County was considered to be far out in the country.

The Sts. Peter and Paul center was built by the PIME missionary order of priests on 500 wooded acres in rural Licking County as a seminary, which opened in 1957. PIME closed it in 1990 and it was acquired by the diocese, which reopened it as a retreat center in 2003.

## Diocese honors priests, sisters from religious orders at Mass on World Day for Consecrated Life

Representatives of several religious orders attended a Mass celebrated by Robert Brennan at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral in honor of the World Day for Consecrated Life.

About 50 priests or sisters from the Dominican Sisters of the Immaculate Conception Province; Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist; the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary; the Dominican Sisters of Peace; the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm; the Bridgettine Sisters; the Children of Mary; the Apostles of Jesus, and 10 other orders were at the Mass on Sunday, Feb. 2.

Father Milton Kiocha, AJ, of the Apostles of Jesus, parochial vicar at Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church, is a native of Tanzania who comes from a Catholic family. He said after the Mass that he “felt drawn to religious life by none other than the Lord from the time I was in grade school, and was brought to the United States by the same Lord.”

He was ordained a priest in 2001 and came to the United States in 2007 to serve as chaplain at the Canton monastery of the Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration, an order of cloistered nuns. He was a hospital chaplain in Akron from the fall of 2010 until coming to Reynoldsburg in November 2018.

Sister Wenancja Disterheft, OP, serves at the Holy Family Soup Kitchen in Columbus and is one of three Dominican Sisters of the Immaculate Conception Province in the diocese. The order’s motherhouse is in Justice, Illinois, and it is based in Cracow, Poland, Sister Wenancja’s hometown.

“I feel my vocation is a simple, yet very profound thing,” she said. “What drew me to become a sister was devotion to the compassion I recognized in St. Dominic and my familiarity with the Dominicans while growing up in Cracow.” She made her final vows as a sister in 2013.

Pope St. John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for men and women in consecrated life in 1997 and attached it to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, which traditionally has been celebrated on Feb. 2. In most years, the celebration of the newer feast is transferred to the following Sunday, but this year, since Feb. 2 was on a Sunday, it allowed both events to be marked together.

The Feast of the Presentation also is known as Candlemas Day, when candles traditionally are blessed for use at church and in homes. Bishop Brennan blessed candles before the Mass.

Light was the subject of his homi-



**Top photo: The opening procession for the Mass celebrated by Bishop Robert Brennan at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral in honor of the World Day for Consecrated Life on Sunday, Feb. 2. Bottom photo: Sisters from the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (in white) and the Order of the Most Holy Savior of St. Bridget of Sweden (the Bridgettines) were among members of 14 orders of sisters and four orders of priests in attendance.**  
CT photos by Ken Snow

## Pope: Patients are focus on World Day of the Sick

Pope Francis has told health-care professionals that when treating sick people that it's important to emphasize the individual and not the illness.

In his message in advance of the 28th World Day of the Sick, which the Catholic Church will observe on Tuesday, Feb. 11, the pope said, "The noun 'person' takes priority over the adjective 'sick.'" He urged health-care workers to "always strive to promote the dignity and life of each person and reject any compromise in the direction of euthanasia, assisted suicide or suppression of life, even in the case of terminal illness," Vatican Radio reported last month.

Pope St. John Paul II instituted the World Day of the Sick in 1993, the same year it was announced that he had been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. It is celebrated every year on Feb. 11, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. That date was chosen because many pilgrims and visitors to the Marian shrine at Lourdes, France,

have said they were healed there through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin.

It is not a liturgical celebration but "a special time of prayer and sharing, of offering one's suffering," St. John Paul said in his message instituting the observance.

In 2013, Pope Benedict XVI announced his resignation on the World Day of the Sick, citing declining health as his reason for resigning.

The theme of this year's observance is "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). The facilities of the Mount Carmel Health System throughout the Diocese of Columbus will honor the day "in solidarity with the pope and Bishop Robert Brennan as co-laborers in the vineyard of health care and the ministry of healing," said Jim Letourneau, senior vice president of mission integration for the system.

Pope Francis said in his message announcing this year's observance

that Christ's words of solidarity, comfort and hope were meant for "the poor, the sick, sinners, those who are marginalized by the burden of the law and the oppressive social system."

"The mercy and comforting presence of Jesus embraces people in their entirety, each person in his or her health condition, discarding no one, but rather inviting everyone to share in his life and to experience his tender love," he said.

The pope said only those who personally experience suffering are able to comfort others. He said Jesus was able to do this because he became frail, endured human suffering and received comfort from his Father.

When dealing with the sick, "what is needed is a personalized approach ... not just of curing but also of caring, in view of an integral human healing," Pope Francis said. In addition to therapy and support, the sick expect care and attention — "in a word, love. ... At the side of every sick person, there is

also a family which itself suffers and is in need of support and comfort," he added.

Those who are sick attract the eyes and heart of Jesus, Pope Francis said, noting that "Christ did not give us prescriptions, but through his passion, death and resurrection, he frees us from the grip of evil." In this regard, "the Church desires to become more and more the Inn of the Good Samaritan who is Christ; that is, a home where you can encounter his grace, which finds expression in closeness, acceptance and relief."

The Holy Father acknowledged the key role that physicians, nurses, medical and administrative professionals, assistants and volunteers play in caring for the sick. As men and women with their own frailties and illnesses, they show how true it is that "once Christ's comfort and rest is received, we are called in turn to become rest and comfort for our brothers and sisters," he said.

## We find God and His love everywhere

Music is everywhere. We can find, hear and experience music just about anywhere and at any time. Even if we close our eyes in a quiet place, we can hear the hum of the light fixtures, the beat of the HVAC air system, traffic or other sounds outside, or our own heartbeat and breathing rhythm. Whether or not you want to consider that actual music, after I watched and listened to brief portions of the 2020 Grammy Awards, I think I would consider my light fixtures humming as better music than some of the noises I heard on that program. Music is such a huge part of our lives. It is so easy and convenient to listen to anything ever recorded. Our vehicles have satellite radio. Our sound systems have shrunk while the sound quality has increased so well. Our phones can download and hold thousands of songs that remain at our fingertips. God has blessed us with brilliant and talented people who have brought all of these contemporary advantages to light. Like everything else in our lives, none of it belongs to us. We are entrusted with these gifts from God and challenged to be good stewards of them, eventually returning them with good measure. Especially with Lent approaching, we need to be aware of our priorities. These good gifts that entertain us and make our lives better can never be more important than loving, worshiping, and praying to God. For all the technology we use, all the internet time we spend, the television and music we see and hear, we can certainly give God at least one hour for Mass and Eucharist on Sunday. We can also pray briefly in

### EVERYDAY CATHOLIC Rick Jeric



the morning and evening, along with grace before each meal. Lent will challenge us to do even more. My oldest son is a piano and music professor. He challenges his students to find music everywhere in their lives. He currently has one student who is Muslim and told him that he is very conservative in his Islamic faith, and cannot listen to most music. He is taking the class as an elective to learn more. My son challenged him to find music in the call of the Imam to daily prayer. He also asked him to find music in the chanting and cadence of the prayers. I hope this student has a positive experience. For all of us, prayer is key.

We can find God and His love everywhere. It is with us all the time, whether we are thinking about it or not. That God of love created us and He sustains us. He wants us to be with Him for eternity. Even when we are distracted by all that life throws at us, God is there. We cannot escape His love. When we are able to find solitude in a quiet place, we hear God's voice as we listen and experience

His love in the silence. The music and rhythm of life all around us is all a part of God and His love. It is in the hum of our family and loved ones all around us. It is in the beat of the experiences of our lives each day. It is in the sounds outside, from nature to our fellow humans. It is in our heartbeat that longs for love, both with our human families and our heavenly family to come. We find God's love as we awaken and greet the new day. His love is in our spouse, our children, and anyone we see each morning. I think God's love is even found in the simple pleasures of coffee and a good breakfast. His love is in our bosses, our co-workers, our competition, our teachers, and all our colleagues. No matter how they treat us, and no matter what we think of them, God's love is a part of them. The same goes for the crabby bus driver, the stressed safety officers, the impatient taxi and Uber drivers, and any obnoxious driver in general, including myself. No matter the anger or aggression, God's love is there. We all sin, and where would we be without God's love, compassion, and forgiveness? It is that same love and forgiveness we must show if we want it ourselves. God's love is found throughout the day, and is experienced everywhere. It is freely given and received. As we end each day, hopefully relaxing and sharing more of God's love with spouse, family, and friends, we thank God for His love in prayer, and hope to be blessed by the same tomorrow. Yes, we find God and His love everywhere. Especially in one another.

# Canonization and anti-Semitism; chewing gum and Holy Communion

**Q**I know that for some years, the Vatican has been studying the cause for sainthood of the French priest Leon Dehon. Will Pope Francis canonize him in spite of that priest's anti-Semitic writings? (Tigard, Oregon)

**A**A. Father Dehon, who died in 1925, was the founder of the priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. In 1997, he was declared venerable by the Vatican. His beatification had been scheduled for April 24, 2005, but that ceremony was postponed because Pope John Paul II had died three weeks earlier.

When Pope Benedict XVI was elected, he suspended the beatification process and set up a commission to conduct further studies of Father Dehon's writings. Concern had been expressed — particularly by the archbishop of Paris, Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger — about the priest's anti-Semitic rhetoric. (In his 1898 *Social Catechism*, Father Dehon wrote that Jewish people "willingly favor all the enemies of the church.")

Soon after Pope Benedict ordered the hold, Father Dehon's own religious order's publication *Il Regno* acknowledged in an editorial that Father Dehon's writings had at times reflected the "widespread prejudices of the Catholic Church of the 19th century" regarding Jewish people.

In 2015, in off-the-cuff remarks while meeting in

## QUESTION & ANSWER

Father Kenneth Doyle  
*Catholic News Service*

Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at [askfatherdoyle@gmail.com](mailto:askfatherdoyle@gmail.com) and 30 Columbia Circle Drive, Albany NY 12203.



Rome with priests of Father Dehon's congregation, Pope Francis made reference to "the almost-blessed Dehon." Since that time, I have seen no further information on Father Dehon's cause for sainthood — which makes me think the matter is still on hold.

Speaking to an Italian journal in 2015, Father Jose Carlos Brinon, a Spanish priest who had been charged with promulgating Father Dehon's cause, said, "Of course I would like to see Leon Dehon beatified, but not at the cost of our friendship with the Jewish people."

**Q**At a recent Mass I attended, I noticed a teenager seated near me who was chewing gum during the Mass. I was not overly alarmed because I have seen other people (of all ages) chew gum at Mass. But I was appalled when I watched

that young man parade forward to receive Holy Communion while still chewing his gum. Should the priest have refused to give him Communion? (West Linn, Oregon)

**A**Canon law (Canon 919.1) tells Catholics that they are to abstain from all food and drink (with the exception of water or medicine) for at least one hour before receiving Communion. The reason, of course, is to remind us how special the Eucharist is, nourishing us for life eternal. Nowhere does canon law define precisely what constitutes food and what does not.

Some, I suppose, might argue that since sugar-free gum has no nutritional value, it does not qualify. But I would tend to differ; in my mind, gum of any kind profanes the mouth as a receptor for Communion and should be avoided.

As to your question, though, I would not as a priest refuse to give the young man Communion. Why take the risk of embarrassing him and having him feel uncomfortable at that church or, perhaps, at any Eucharist?

Why not instead seek him out after Mass and chat with him as to the appropriateness of chewing gum before receiving Communion? And if the problem is as common as you indicate, perhaps an occasional reminder in the church bulletin might help.

## Auschwitz and 'intrinsic evil'

Seventy-five years ago, on Jan. 27, 1945, the infantrymen of the Red Army's 322nd Rifle Division were bludgeoning their way into the Third Reich when they discovered the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camps. The German inventors of industrialized mass slaughter had cleared out earlier, forcing 60,000 prisoners deemed capable of slave labor in the Fatherland on a march westward, during which many died. Battle-hardened Russian veterans of the brutal war on the Eastern Front were nonetheless shocked by what they found at Auschwitz-Birkenau: 6,000 living skeletons, many suffering from diseases that would kill them before medical care and food restored their strength.

On his pilgrimage there in June 1979, Pope St. John Paul II called Auschwitz-Birkenau the "Golgotha of the modern world." And it is striking that a world largely inured to murder on a vast scale still recognizes in Auschwitz an icon of radical evil: a barbaric grotesquerie no sane person would attempt to justify. In that sense, the lethal reality of what happened at Auschwitz-Birkenau stands in contradiction to the claim by some Catholic moral theologians — once thought marginalized but now back in business — that there are no "intrinsically evil acts." If you cannot concede that what was done to more than one million innocents in the torture cells, on the gallows, at the "Wall of Death," and in the gas chambers and crematoria of Auschwitz-Birkenau was "intrinsically evil" — gravely wrong, period — then you are a moral cretin, no matter what your highest earned degree may be.

I've been to the Auschwitz-Birkenau complex perhaps 10 times: in recent years, to pray at the cell in Auschwitz I where St. Maximilian Kolbe was starved

## THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

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



for two weeks before being killed by an injection of carbolic acid, or to hike around the perimeter of Auschwitz II-Birkenau, praying the sorrowful mysteries of the Rosary while walking past the likely site of St. Edith Stein's gassing and cremation. And for me, as for many others, the questions inevitably occur: How? Why?

Poland is not on the periphery of Europe. Poland is at the center of Europe, and that part of Poland that was annexed to the Third Reich in 1939 is in the southernmost part of what, after postwar border adjustments, is now central Poland. So at Auschwitz and Birkenau — the German names for the absorbed Polish towns of Oswiecim and Brzezinka — you are not anywhere near the savage peripheries of the film *Apocalypse*. You are, rather, in the middle of the continent that, in the mid-20th century, considered itself the center of world civilization. And that is where the industrialized mass murder of innocents was undertaken.

Libraries of books have been written in an attempt to grasp how Germany, a nation renowned for its accomplishments in the arts and sciences, could have handed itself over to a genocidal maniac who looked like a Charlie Chaplin character and rabble-roused

in screechy German colored by a strong Austrian accent. That question becomes even more urgent when, in the exhibits at Auschwitz I, the visitor ponders black-and-white photos of the "selection" process at the railroad tracks leading into Auschwitz II-Birkenau — and notices that the SS officers making instant decisions about the life and death of those being unloaded from the cattle cars in which they'd been transported across Europe are quite at ease; some are even smiling. Then you learn that the men who invented this horror included eight officials with the coveted German doctoral degree. And you ask again, "How? Why?"

One piece of that jigsaw puzzle of evil falls into place when it's remembered that, in the 1920s, German intellectuals developed the notion of *Lebensunwertes Leben*: "Life unworthy of life." Influenced by the pseudo-science of eugenics and the concern for "race purity" then epidemic throughout the West (not excluding the United States), this wicked idea was first applied to the physically and intellectually handicapped, especially children. From there, it was a short step to its application to Jews, Roma, homosexuals, Slavs and other *Untermenschen*: lower life forms. And the concept of "Life unworthy of life," it must be remembered, was not developed by clods, but by highly-educated people — people who likely thought there was no such thing as an "intrinsically evil act."

On this anniversary, we fool ourselves if we think humanity has learned its lesson and that an Auschwitz could never happen again. As the Italian Holocaust survivor Primo Levi put it: It did happen, so it can happen again. The form may be different, but the rationale will almost certainly be the same.

## Local news and events

## Chillicothe Bishop Flaget School receives Purple Star award

Chillicothe Bishop Flaget School has been recognized by the Ohio Department of Education as a Purple Star school for 2020-2023.

The Purple Star award for military-friendly schools recognizes schools that show a major commitment to students and families connected to the nation's military. Schools earning the award receive a Purple Star recognition to display in their building.

Schools receive the award if they complete certain required activities, as well as optional activities to help create a supportive environment for military families. The schools are chosen by an advisory board of members from the Ohio departments of education, higher education, and veterans services, and the state adjutant general's office.

To qualify, Bishop Flaget has established a liaison between military families and the school, maintains a dedicated page on its website for military families, hosts military recognition events and service activities, and demonstrates a military-friendly culture.

In addition, the school advisory board adopted a resolution publiciz-

ing the school's support for military children and families.

**Black History Month programs offered at St. Dominic**

Two events related to February's observance of Black History Month will be presented during the month at Columbus St. Dominic Church, 453 N. 20th St.

The diocesan Catholic Ethnic Ministries office will sponsor a program featuring Cary Dabney, director of the Diocese of Cleveland's office of ministry to African American Catholics, from 11 to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8 in the parish hall.

Dabney will discuss African American spirituality, its unique development in the United States and its influence in the Catholic Church. Registration is \$5. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

Bishop Robert Brennan will celebrate the parish's Mass at 11:30 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 16. The Mass will be followed in the parish hall with a program featuring young people presenting stories and facts about the history of Black Catholic education. Refreshments will be served.

**SPICE St. Patrick party to be held at St. Catharine**

The SPICE (Special People in Catholic Education) program of Columbus St. Catharine Church will host its annual St. Patrick party at 6 p.m. Saturday March 14 in St. Catharine School, 500 S. Gould Road. The night will include an Irish dinner, a short presentation on SPICE, Irish step dancers, the Hooligans Irish band, a cash bar and a silent auction.

SPICE is a ministry that was started in 1999 at St. Catharine to raise awareness of special needs, to help raise funds to serve people in the parish with special needs and to serve as a model to other parishes.

It has expanded to 12 other parishes in the diocese and to parishes as far away as St. Louis and Houston. Since its inception, SPICE at St. Catharine has raised more than \$1.5 million for serving the special needs of parishioners.

For more information or reservations, contact Marin Santosola at (614) 517-5941 or marinq80@gmail.com.

**Lancaster St. Mary to present illumination workshop**

Liturgical artist Jed Gibbons will teach a workshop on illumination

from Monday, July 27 to Saturday, Aug. 1 at Lancaster St. Mary Church, 132 S. High St.

Gibbons, whose work is part of the church's St. Mary and St. Joseph side altars, will guide 10 to 12 participants in the ancient methods of grinding pigments and lighting up a manuscript page with gold leaf and shell gold, just as monks and nuns did in the middle ages as they illustrated Bibles.

Gibbons' two altar illuminations are part of the recently completed renovation celebrating the parish's 200th anniversary. Their theme depicts the faith being handed down from the Virgin Mary's parents, Sts. Anne and Joachim, to their daughter and then to the Holy Family. The illumination for the St. Joseph altar was selected as Bishop Robert Brennan's diocesan Christmas card for 2019.

Gibbons is one of the few artists who have chosen to pursue the intricate and time-consuming technique of illumination.

Twenty years ago, he left a lucrative career as creative director at an advertising agency to devote himself to sacred art. His creativity is fueled by his Catholic faith and a disciplined prayer life.

## College News Roundup

## Ohio Dominican University to offer half-price summer courses

Ohio Dominican University will offer more than 30 undergraduate courses at a little more than half the usual cost this summer, giving college students in central Ohio a convenient, affordable option to keep their education on track.

Courses for traditional undergraduate students will be available for \$395 per credit hour (including technology fee), which is significantly less than the current price of \$760 per credit hour.

The courses will cover a wide range of popular fields of study, including art, science, business, education, English, history and theology. They will be available in flexible formats, including online, on-campus or a combination of both. The sessions will range from two to eight weeks with start dates in May, June and July.

To learn more, visit [ohiodominican.edu/summer](http://ohiodominican.edu/summer) or contact ODU's admis-

sions office at (614) 251-4500 or [admissions@ohiodominican.edu](mailto:admissions@ohiodominican.edu).

**Walsh enters partnership with Japanese company**

Walsh University in North Canton will transform its science division through a new partnership with the Shimadzu Corp., a Japan-based, multinational leader in manufacturing scientific equipment. Shimadzu is donating about \$1.1 million worth of analytical equipment manufactured at its facility in Canby, Oregon, to the university, which will serve as the company's Ohio base.

Through SPARQ (the Shimadzu Program for Academics, Research and Quality of Life), Walsh faculty, staff and students will have unlimited access to consult with the company's scientists and industry experts on projects and will take part in global

learning opportunities, domestic and international internships, and innovative and entrepreneurial experiences involving the Shimadzu equipment.

Shimadzu said it selected Walsh because of the university's proven track record of outstanding science student preparation, potential for tremendous growth, and commitment to mission.

**Franciscan University to host Chesterton symposium**

The life and philosophy of G.K. Chesterton, one of the greatest Catholic writers of the 20th century, will be the focus of an event at Franciscan University of Steubenville on Friday and Saturday, March 20 and 21, titled "Who Is Chesterton?: A Symposium on the Chestertonian Way of Life."

The program will examine Chesterton's writings and beliefs on literature, politics, theology, social issues and

more, all of which provide Catholics a strong example in troubled times.

Chesterton lived from 1874 to 1936 and wrote more than 100 books and 5,000 essays. Today, he perhaps is best-known as the author of the *Father Brown* series of stories combining mystery with a Catholic point of view, which have been adapted for television by the BBC and are shown on PBS in the United States.

The symposium will include the premiere of the first two episodes of *The Golden Key*, a new EWTN miniseries on Chesterton, who will be played by professor John Walker of Franciscan's theater department.

Registration is \$50 and covers talks, breakout sessions and refreshments. Meals are not included. To register, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/who-is-chesterton-a-symposium-on-the-chestertonian-way-of-life-tickets-71672954737?aff=ebdssbeac>.

## Black Catholic heroes honored during February

By Pamela Harris

Black History Month elevates the accomplishments of the African American Community in the United States. It begins with the National Day of Prayer for the African American and African Family, which was created by Father Jim Goode, OFM, on the first Sunday of February. During the month, we recognize and celebrate the many contributions made by people of African-American heritage to this country. This is a time to rediscover and experience the lives of men and women who used their gifts to contribute to the well-being of society.

I mention the National Day of Prayer for the African American and African Family because as Pope Francis quotes from *Lumen Gentium*, the family is the domestic church. The family is the nucleus of society and where the faith is shared and nurtured. Parents, by word and example, are the first heralds of the faith with regard to children. They play a vital role in educating their children in the spirit of wisdom. "Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and reject not your mother's teaching" (Prov. 1:8). We see the importance of the family in all aspects of society – vocations, science, health, art and music, to name a few. The Healy brothers – James Augustine, Patrick Francis and Alexander Sherwood – were the first three black priests in the United States. They were born slaves to Michael Morris Healy, an Irishman. Their mother, a light-skinned slave named Mary Eliza, was his mistress. Patrick Healy began teaching at Georgetown in 1866, and in 1874 became president. Because the Healy brothers were considered mixed race, Father Augustus Tolton is known and recognized as the first black American priest.



**Father Milton Kiocha, AJ, a native of Tanzania, is parochial vicar of Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church. CT photos by Ken Snow**

Tolton's mother, Martha, was Catholic and raised her children in the faith. She escaped slavery with her three children to settle in Quincy, Illinois, where she enrolled them in Catholic school. Tolton was ordained a priest in 1886 and inspired black and white Catholics with his preaching and zeal for the faith. Father Tolton had the courage to persevere in his vocation despite obstacles and opposition. His evangelization among African-American Catholics led to a gathering of clergy and laity to discuss the challenges of black Catholics that would continue to this day.

Daniel Rudd was an African-American lay leader who, in 1886, in Springfield, Ohio, began a black newspaper called the *Ohio State Tribune*. The name of his weekly newspaper was later changed to *American Catholic Tribune*, and he challenged the Church in the United States to "break the color line," citing Pope Leo XIII's encyclical *Rerum Novarum*, which addressed the conditions of the working class and promoted



**Father Patrick Watikha, AJ (Apostles of Jesus), is from Uganda and is parochial vicar at Columbus St. Cecilia Church.**

social justice. Rudd advocated for the rights of black Catholics and through his paper suggested a gathering of black Catholics to address the needs of their community. It was because of his tireless efforts the first Black Catholic Congress took place in 1889, and the American bishops, clergy and laity were invited.

At the close of the congress, a set of resolutions were submitted that addressed housing, education and health care. Rudd and other lay leaders would hold five gatherings over 10 years. Rudd, along with other lay leaders, understood that the work of evangelization was not solely the responsibility of the clergy and religious.

The National Black Catholic Congress (NBCC) Office holds a conference every five years. Before each congress, dioceses hold days of reflection for the faithful to prayerfully contribute to the five-year pastoral plan of action that is distributed following the event. The current president of the NBCC is Bishop Roy Campbell, auxiliary bishop of the

Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. He, along with the other black bishops, are actively engaged in the evangelization and formation of black Catholics. As of today, there are 13 U.S. black bishops, eight active and five retired.

In their pastoral letter on evangelization, *What We Have Seen and Heard*, the black bishops stated, "The heart of the human community is the family." They go on to acknowledge that the family goes beyond kinship and marital relationship. This rich sense of family extends to our parishes, where we look upon one another as brothers and sisters. In this spirit, we all have the responsibility to encourage young men and women to follow Christ in the priesthood and consecrated life.

The bishops continue, "Let diocesan vocation directors collaborate with leaders in the black Catholic community in strategic planning for the recruitment of black young men for the diocesan priesthood. The same planning ... should be part of the vocational planning of the many religious congregations and seminaries." This planning is of special importance to the permanent order of deacons.

African-American heritage is rich in culture and tradition. It is an essential part of evangelization because it reminds us of the men and women who proclaim the Good News with joy in their hearts. Let us take time this month to learn more about these innovators and pioneers, these people of God who committed their lives to spread the kingdom of God, in hope for a just society for all humanity. Like those who have gone before us, and those who are with us, we, too, are called to be a living witness of the Gospel, through our words and deeds. *Pamela Harris is director of the diocesan Ethnic Ministries Office.*

## Diocesan honor choir to perform on March 2 at Gahanna St. Matthew Church

The 13th annual concert of the Diocesan Catholic Schools Honor Choir will take place at 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 2 in Gahanna St. Matthew Church.

The theme will be "Tu Estas Aqui: You Are Here" and the choir will be led by Ohio Dominican University choir director Sheila Cafmeyer, who has been its artistic director since the

choir's inception in 2008.

More than 220 singers from 14 elementary schools and Ohio Dominican will take part. In addition to the honor choir performance, individual selections will be performed by ensembles including the youth choirs of Worthington St. Michael and Columbus Our Lady of Peace schools and the treble chorus of Ohio Dominican

University.

This year's title work, *Tu Estas Aqui*, is a Christian anthem written by Jesus Adrian Romero and arranged as a bilingual song by Ohio Dominican students for this performance.

This event was developed by diocesan music teachers to give their singers an opportunity to perform

challenging music in a large ensemble setting. Singers prepare under the guidance of their music teachers in one afternoon rehearsal before the and evening performance.

A free-will offering will be collected for the Holy Family Soup Kitchen.

For more information, contact [dccshc@cdeducation.org](mailto:dccshc@cdeducation.org).

## Bronze Pelican award recipients



The diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting honored three recipients of its Bronze Pelican award during its annual Scout Day with the Bishop program at the New Albany Church of the Resurrection on Sunday, Jan. 26. Pictured with Deacon Chris Reis, diocesan Scout chaplain, and Bishop Robert Brennan, they are (from left): Tim Smith of Cornerstone Alliance Church, Marion, for his work with Scout Troop 50, sponsored by Marion St. Mary Church, and Deacon Jim Morris and Father Bob Penhallurick of Hilliard St. Brendan Church. The award honors adults for their service to Scouting through their contributions to the spiritual development of Catholic young people. *CT photo by Ken Snow*

## Catholic Schools Week at St. Anthony



Bishop Robert Brennan read the book *The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore* to fourth-grade students of Columbus St. Anthony School as part of Catholic Schools Week. Also visiting the school to read during the week were diocesan school Superintendent Adam Dufault, Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School principal Dan Garrick and vice principal Jim Jones, and Father Thomas Petry, St. Anthony Church pastor.

*Photo courtesy St. Anthony School*

## St. Cecilia Knights collect diapers



Members of Knights of Columbus Council 5899 at Columbus St. Cecilia Church collected nearly 2,000 diapers and 3,000 baby wipers for the Bottoms Up diaper drive, which helps central Ohio babies in need. Pictured are Knights Sean Rea (left) and Jerry Rea.

*Photo courtesy St. Cecilia Church*

## 'Eyes have it' at St. Agatha



Columbus St. Agatha School fourth-grade students have been studying all about eyes, the parts of the eye and eye care. They wrapped up the lesson by dissecting cow eyes.

*Photo/St. Agatha School*



Above: Three members of the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm, who have been serving the sick and the elderly at Mother Angeline McCrory Manor, the Villas at St. Therese and the diocesan institutions which preceded it since 1948.



Sister Wenancja Disterheft, OP (left photo) of the Dominican Sisters of the Immaculate Conception Province and other sisters who were among 50 representatives of 18 religious orders attending the diocesan Mass in honor of the World Day for Consecrated Life at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on Sunday, Feb. 2. Bishop Robert Brennan's homily spoke of the many ways in which priests and sisters bring light to the people they serve. **CT photos by Ken Snow**

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**MASS, continued from Page 3**

ly. Speaking to the religious in attendance, he said, "You bring light to young adults and teens who are trying to find meaning in their lives in a world that is increasingly confusing and oppressing. You bring light to the children in our schools, and to their families. You bring light by the ministry of hospitality, service and care by receiving those who need a place to stay or who are ill.

"You bring light to senior citizens living among us, especially those who are most in need. You bring light in the darkness to those in prison, to the poor, the sick, to the immigrant, to those who are struggling, to preschoolers. It's through these apostolic works that you are bringing the light of Jesus Christ to shatter the darkness."

## Salvation history is also marriage story

By Stephanie Rapp

“And they lived happily ever after.” This is the familiar ending to romantic stories that typically involve a man and woman who overcome obstacles, fall in love and get married. The wedding ceremony is the finale, and we rarely hear what comes after. Yet, unlike fairy tales, we know that real marriage stories don’t end with the wedding ceremony, but rather, they begin with it.

The marriage story begins wonderfully: A man and woman meet at the altar and freely choose to make vows before God, His Church and their close family and friends. They promise to love each other totally and faithfully all the days of their lives. They also vow to be open to new life through their union, life that can forever change the world.

There’s no doubt that this is both beautiful and powerful. The witnessing of a joyful couple committing

their lives to each other strikes a chord in each of us as we wish them the best and desire for them their own “happily ever after.” And there is a reason for this. It is because what we are witnessing – the giving and receiving of love – is what we are all made for. Therefore, when we watch a couple’s story unfold and they are striving to live out married love, we are reminded of our own call to love and be a gift for others. At the same time, we are also catching a very small, yet very real, glimpse of a much bigger story – the story of salvation.

The story of salvation is the “marriage” story. It begins with God first creating man and woman to be together as a sign of his love, a living image of the Trinity. It continues throughout the Old Testament with God continually referring to His own relationship with Israel in such spousal terms.

This story then takes a startling turn when God becomes flesh and comes to his people personally. He gives Himself completely to all humanity,

holding nothing back, even His own life. Then, after his death and Resurrection, our Lord, the Bridegroom, asks His Bride, the Church, to be fruitful in making disciples, and He sends His Spirit to bring forth this new life nine days later. And the story isn’t over; we are still waiting for the forever wedding feast in heaven!

What an incredible gift it is that every one of us is welcomed into this great “marriage story” – the marriage of all humanity with God! Let us celebrate this on World Marriage Day, rejoicing in our Lord’s great love story and the “happily ever after” we were truly made for!

*Stephanie Rapp is the director of the diocesan Office for Marriage and Family Life.*



**A couple's wedding day and the Sacrament of Matrimony are the start of their marriage story. Photo courtesy Diocesan Marriage and Family Life Office**

## Seeking the best marriage through grace

By Ryan and Rachel Patton

“But what about Mary and Joseph?” This is usually the first response we receive when we tell people that our goal is to have the second-greatest marriage of all time, second only to the marriage of Christ and the Church. Though we are very much aware of our inability to outdo in holiness the Queen of Heaven and the foster father of Jesus, that doesn’t stop us from striving to live up to such a high standard of faithfulness to each other and to God.

Success is not accidental. You don’t accidentally make the varsity team or land the big promotion. Likewise, you don’t accidentally get married (let’s hope), or, by sheer chance, have a joyful, life-giving marriage. In fact, many natural and supernatural forces are opposed to thriving marriages. A marriage that is not led from within will be led from without. Marriages that unknowingly succumb to the influences of the world and the devil are not just falling short of the glory God intended, but also quite possibly headed for destruction.



**Rachel and Ryan Patton are active in youth ministry at Columbus St. Timothy Church. Photo courtesy Diocesan Marriage and Family Life Office**

At a time when the very nature of marriage is being questioned, and many couples opt to not get married in the Church (or even get married at all) we need every couple’s witness to the vibrancy of marriage. This vibrant witness can be obtained only through the sacramental grace God gives to sustain our beautiful vocation. After

all, if God handpicked this vocation to be your most sure-fire way to heaven, He will be there with the grace to live it. It is up to each couple, individually and together, to pursue heaven through consistent prayer and daily acts of charity.

Thankfully, we are not alone in this pursuit. We can lean on other married

couples, participate in the sacramental life of the Church and utilize resources from our parish or the Diocesan Office of Marriage and Family Life to support our marriages at every stage. Personally, we make time for our married friends and other young families at our parish. We also invest time into our relationship as a couple. We affirm each other. We address issues promptly and forgive freely. We are active in parish life. We talk to each other, a lot. When times get difficult, or exhaustion sets in, we know that we can lean on the trust we have in each other and the firm foundation we have in Jesus Christ.

We might not have the second-greatest marriage of all time, but when we and all married couples live like that’s our goal, we bring the world closer to its perfect union with Jesus.

*Ryan and Rachel Patton are Catholics who, in pursuit of the Lord, were led to each other. They made their marriage vows before God, family and friends in August 2018. Their life includes fun times with their daughter, Clara, and youth ministry at Columbus St. Timothy Church.*

## Reflecting on your marriage builds intimacy, teaches others

By Catherine Suprenant

I often find myself in a coffee shop opposite a beautiful married couple, listening in rapt attention to the story of their marriage. I am there to help them weave the strands of their experience into a beautiful tapestry. These couples will share their image of married life with the engaged couples attending Pre-Cana, the diocesan marriage preparation conference, so they will decide together what they have learned during their marriage.

For me, it is a gift to see the grace of the sacrament of matrimony at work, as the husband and wife embrace their call to unity and mission even as they recognize the Lord at work in their love.

Whether you plan to share your marriage story with a room of couples, the memories are important, as the narrative forms a lens through which those around you see marriage. Most important, our hearts internalize this plot line.

In general, the stories we repeat to ourselves have power over us. What we think about our past informs how we see ourselves and our expectations of others. Our stories inspire us to choose happiness and gratitude, or blame and resentment, in response to life circumstances. They also reflect what we want our story to look like.

To take an honest look at your unique story is an incredible experience but difficult because of the self-honesty

required. Most likely, reflecting on your story with your spouse requires even more vulnerability and humility. This time, two people have a version of the story, and so it is easier to hang back from receiving the perspectives of your spouse. However, such sharing builds deep intimacy.

This is the beauty of walking together down memory lane. You can appreciate each chapter of your story as a gift, and through that perspective, to reverence the gift of your spouse.

Most of all, vulnerability about your journey as a couple reveals God's work through your marriage. This brings you both deeper into the mystery of God's love. I can't think of a better way to celebrate World Mar-

riage Day on Feb. 9 than to connect over the questions below, which I ask couples who will speak at Pre-Cana:

- What have you learned from your journey?
- How have you made it through all the various seasons?
- How has God worked through your marriage?
- What joys and sorrows have taught you how to love?

Not only will such reflection bless you, but it also will help you share the story of your marriage with those in your lives.

Happy World Marriage Day!

*Catherine Suprenant is the diocesan marriage prep coordinator.*

## Natural family planning brings God into marriage

Six years ago, as a young couple engaged to be married, Owen and Teri Heisey were introduced to natural family planning (NFP). They took NFP classes and began to practice it after they were married. Now the couple enthusiastically shares the blessings NFP has brought to their relationship through virtue-building and keeping God at the center of their marriage:

**Owen:** Ten years ago, I was not even a Catholic. If you had told me then that a decade later I would be nearly six years into a marriage that included natural family planning, I would have laughed at you. As a guy growing up without sisters in an introverted family, I thought family planning and women's health were just that: the domain of women and, maybe, doctors. Oh, how wrong I was!

Teri and I had known each other for a decade when I finally proposed. By that time, I was well on my way to becoming Catholic. As part of our marriage preparation, we took classes on natural family planning. Through the classes, I felt like I received a secret code to understanding my future wife. If there is a theme that secular media inculcates about sex, it is that sex is about me – my preferences, what I want and what feels good to me. Yes, sex makes babies, but they are a by-product, something to be aware of and concerned about but certainly not necessary. NFP classes helped me to see that there could be a different way of treating sex in marriage that I had not fully imagined.

As we practiced NFP in marriage, I gained a more complete appreciation for the gift of fertility. I learned



**Columbus St. Catharine Church parishioners Owen and Teri Heisey and their daughters, Amelia, age 4, (left) and Zelie, 3. Photo courtesy Diocesan Marriage and Family Life Office**

to respect fertility instead of treating it like a disease to be medicated. I recognized that interfering with fertility with man-made implements or drugs distorts who God created us to be.

Secular culture lies to us by saying that fertility is too shameful or too private a topic to talk about. NFP instead gave us the tools we needed to be honest and frank about the ways that God had made us as man and woman. Through the charting and observation involved with NFP, I began to see new opportunities to love Teri and celebrate our life together. Being married is about completeness. Spouses must nourish every aspect of their life together: food, sleep, work, creativity, careers, education and, most of all, virtue.

I frequently think of St. Joseph, the most-chaste spouse of Our Lady.

Practicing chastity in marriage has strengthened me as a husband and father. While I used to think that nothing could prepare me for being a parent, I now see that practicing NFP readied me for parenthood. It fostered integrity, honesty and chastity – virtues crucial when bringing a new human life into this world.

“The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.” – Galatians 5:22-23

**Teri:** Weaving natural family planning into the fabric of our marriage has borne abundant spiritual fruit. From the beginning of our journey with NFP, I've found its core message is that Owen and I are in this together, with God at the center. This gave me unexpected peace and joy at seeing a

positive pregnancy test just weeks into being married and during the height of a fast-paced graduate school program.

Later seeing a negative test through tear-filled eyes after ovarian surgery, Owen and I grew in love, patience and faithfulness together, relying upon God at the center. Avoiding conception and allowing my body to heal strengthened our self-control and challenged us to love each other through acts of kindness and generosity. We are now expecting again and anticipate an exciting future together, with God at the center.

NFP allowed the Holy Spirit to enter my heart and slowly change my fear of the unknown into welcoming God's mysterious plan for, and presence in, my life. Placing God at the center of our family inspired us to enthrone our home to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The Holy Family has played such a huge role in our marriage, and we have both seen abundant blessings from consecrating ourselves to Jesus through Mary and Joseph.

NFP requires frequent communication about the present and the future, which naturally leads to communicating about future goals beyond children. In prayerful conversations beginning with NFP, Owen and I have also discussed and taken action on career changes, home renovations, going back to school, and achieving financial goals.

NFP requires prayer, perseverance, taking action, communication and teamwork. We are better spouses, parents and people for our commitment to placing God at the center of our lives through natural family planning.

## Divorced Catholics can find support in Non Solum

By Keith F. Luscher

I remember the first wedding I ever attended. It was back in the '70s. I might have been in the first grade. The wedding was for an older cousin. "Beth" was in her early 20s, and I recall her new husband was a few years older.

It was a happy occasion for everyone. I still remember the fuzzy snapshot of my uncle—Beth's father—walking her down the aisle on that special day. The framed photo was a fixture in my parents' living room for decades.

And yet, juxtaposed against that happy family memory is the reality of how that marriage ultimately disintegrated. Several years later, after two children, Beth's husband told her that he no longer wished to be married.

What stands out in my memory, more than the divorce, was the reality that most of our family didn't learn of the breakup until a few years after it had happened. It was kept secret. Of course, when the couple failed to attend occasional family gatherings and make themselves visible, I'm sure the older members of the family suspected something wasn't right.

I am pleased to say that Beth, her former spouse, their two children and several grandkids all still maintain an exceptionally strong family relationship. Yet, I continue to find it heart-breaking that, during the time of the divorce, she did not feel that she could tell us.

One could attribute this to the attitudes of the times, both in the culture as well as the Church—after all, it was in the '70s and '80s. But what it really comes down to is: Beth could not trust. I'm not referring to a lack of trust in God's mercy; she could not trust in ours ... the love and mercy of her extended family.

Fortunately, my experience during my divorce more than 10 years ago was much different. My first marriage was to a non-Catholic, who expressed no interest in the faith. As a result, I fell away from the Church. And yet, after nearly 20 years away, when I found myself separated and alone, I was welcomed home like the prodigal son. I also discovered Divine Mercy, which I embraced tightly, like a drowning man with a life preserver.

While the experience of divorce affects every person differently because of varying circumstances, one factor

remains common: the need to connect with others, to be listened to and to be loved unconditionally. To receive this compassion from a brother or sister in Christ is a reminder that God's love is always present, even in times of suffering.

Catholics going through divorce are often in danger of becoming "lost sheep" because of the challenges they face. They want and need love, support, mercy and truth. But if they do not experience these from their Catholic brothers and sisters, they will go elsewhere, most likely to a community that does not embrace and share God's truth.

Non Solum, Latin for "not alone," is a local Catholic apostolate//is that the correct term-pb// that aims to help separated and divorced Catholics find this supportive community. Through its website and the MeetUp.com group, Non Solum promotes a 12-week program called "Surviving Divorce: Hope and Healing for the Catholic Family," offered by several parishes in the diocese.

Between programs, I often receive calls or emails asking when the next support session is to begin. I've found that often the callers aren't interested

in the support group per se; they really want someone to listen.

My hope is that more parishes will join us in offering "Surviving Divorce." I also know that it will be important to have a network of caring individuals who are willing and able to be listeners to a fellow Catholic going through divorce. Which begs the questions:

- Do you know a fellow Catholic who is quietly suffering through divorce?
- Have you experienced divorce yourself and desire to help others who are walking a similar path?

If you would like to learn how you can help others, visit our website, [DivorcedCatholicColumbus.org](http://DivorcedCatholicColumbus.org), or contact us directly. Our information is below. Non Solum welcomes your call.

*Keith F. Luscher has returned to the Church after a 20-year absence and a divorce. He is happily remarried, living in Newark. He divides his time between Columbus St. Catharine Church and Newark St. Francis De Sales Church. He is a co-founder of Non Solum Columbus and can be reached at [keith@nonsolum.org](mailto:keith@nonsolum.org) or at (614) 205-0830.*

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## Watterson coach enjoys milestone season with daughter

By Doug Bean  
Catholic Times Editor

Tom and Paige Woodford understand the special bond that Kobe Bryant must have shared with his daughter Gianna.

Tom Woodford is a longtime girls basketball coach at Columbus Bishop Watterson High School who earlier this season reached a career milestone with his 400th win. Paige Woodford, a senior, is his daughter and a standout guard for the Eagles.

Bryant, the retired NBA superstar, and 13-year-old Gianna, one of his four daughters, died tragically on Sunday, Jan. 26 in California along with seven others when a helicopter in which they were flying crashed in dense fog on the way to a youth basketball tournament.

Gianna loved the sport that turned her father, a practicing Catholic, into an international icon. Like many teens, she had big hoops dreams.

As the world mourned the sudden and devastating loss, fathers began to share on social media the joys of raising daughters by using the hashtag #girldad, which quickly went viral.

Tom Woodford, the father of two daughters, didn't turn to Twitter to express his thoughts, but he and Paige are savoring their father-daughter relationship in the final days of her high school basketball career. The two went out to dinner last week after practice just to chat.

"We have actually talked about that because of how much the game has meant to us and how much it meant to both of them," Tom said. "It is sad."

The two share a reverence and respect for each other.

"She's the only player I've ever had – and we've had some great leaders come through – I've never had a player show up for practice every day so full of energy, ready to practice no matter what," Tom said. "She walks in the door, and she's high-fiving people, singing, always bringing energy. And that's just a real treat. She's handled the pressure well. She has not taken anything for granted."

He's "the main thing I'm going to miss about Watterson basketball because I've been coached by him all my life," Paige said of her father. "It is fun."

It's not a stretch to say Watterson basketball and Paige's life have been intertwined since birth. Paige, the younger of Tom's two daughters, was born in the middle of his first season

as Eagles coach.

"We induced (labor) on a Tuesday because we had a game on Monday and a game on Wednesday," Tom said.

Tom made it to the Wednesday game because one of his player's parents stayed at the hospital with the baby and his wife. That's indicative of the family atmosphere that's a hallmark of the school and his teams.

"All the parents and assistant coaches and all the players have just been



**Bishop Watterson coach Tom Woodford (center) posted his 400th career win in December. Photo courtesy Bishop Watterson**

amazing people," he said. "I've gotten back more than I've ever given out."

The parent-child hoops connection was formed when Paige was old enough to start playing competitive basketball in grade school. Her dad proposed a test run. He would serve as an assistant coach on her AAU team to gauge how the family dynamic would work on and off the court before she entered high school.

It worked.

"I'm very close with my two girls, and I was not going to let this game get in the way of our relationship," he said. "We have a family rule: Once we get home, we don't talk about basketball. I'm Dad."

"There are days in my basement where I'm biting through my lip and I'm watching film and I just want to go up to her room and add something, but that's going to get in the way of what's important, and that's how much I love her."

Paige interjected, "Unless I bring it up. Just so we have the coach and the father side."

They find it hard to believe their time together in practice and games has flown by so quickly.

Tom still remembers the day 19 years ago – before Paige was born – when he came to Watterson and interviewed with then-principal Marian Hutson for the job.

She wasn't concerned about his record or his offensive and defensive philosophies. She wanted to know what kind of person he was before making a hiring decision.

"She took a peek at my portfolio, threw it off to the side and said, 'Whatever's in there really doesn't matter to me. It must be decent or you wouldn't be here right now,'" Tom recalled.

"I remember she leaned across the desk and put her finger out, which was basically about 4 inches from my nose, and said, 'I need to know that you're going to treat my kids in a Christian way. You're going to treat my kids the way you want your own kids to be treated. When it comes to basketball and X's and O's, that's between you and your coaches, but I need to know that my kids are going to be taken care of.' And that has always stuck with me."

He has more than proved he could handle the expectations in those 19 years. And early in the 2019-20 season, he claimed his 400th victory when Watterson defeated Hilliard Davidson 50-35 on Dec. 9.

The win was extra special for several reasons.

It came against a team from Hilliard City Schools, where he has worked as a college counselor for the past 19 years during the day before high-tailing it over to Watterson after school to coach.

And, of course, it was especially memorable having Paige on the team.

"Four hundred wins was amazing, but it really shows the hard work he's put into it," Paige said. "He makes sure we're prepared for each game, but he also works hard to make sure each girl feels happy and is preparing for life outside of basketball."

"It was really cool to be playing for him during that time, especially with this being my senior year, which is something he deserves because he's a wonderful coach."

After the 400th victory, text messages, emails, phone calls and well wishes poured in from former players, mentors and fellow coaches. The widespread respect for Tom is evident in his counseling office at Davidson, where his

peers hung a sign congratulating him on the accomplishment even though it came against their school.

More important than the wins are the relationships he has built at Watterson and maintains with coaches and former players. He has invited former players to speak to his teams through the years, and he frequently attends weddings and receives news about births and other life events. Many players attended one of Watterson's feeder schools and have parents or a sibling who graduated from Watterson, adding to the strong community feel at the school.

"That's the greatest thing this has given me, to build those lifelong friendships," Tom said. "My players have always known that I care about them."

"He wants girls to have fun while winning, but, at the same time, he knows there's so much more to life than basketball," Paige said. "A lot of the girls aren't going to be playing in college, and so he wants them to have the best experience they can while being a successful one. He tries to build us into strong and confident women for basketball and just for life in general. I think that's really special because I don't know a lot of coaches that prioritize that."

He has put faith in his players, and they have reciprocated. Prayer is woven into the fabric of athletic teams at Watterson and all diocesan Catholic schools.

"The girls say a prayer right before they walk out (for games). They say a Hail Mary, and they know that's the foundation of our school," he said. "They have our core values in their locker and a little card that has the prayer of the school. I think that's important they have that."

"What makes this place special is that you're able to bring your faith into everything you do. And that's the expectation."

Tom began his career as an assistant at West Jefferson High School. He left there for London High School, where he served as the ninth grade girls coach and then the head varsity coach before leaving for Watterson. He's quick to credit mentors and former bosses such as Steve DeDent; John Betz, who hired him at West Jeff; Terry Nance, who gave him the job at London; and Watterson assistant coaches Bob Dunning, Pam Hartford, Mary Kate Campbell, Thad Paskel and Michelle Nikolai.

He never envisioned the level of

*Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year A)*

# Be salt of the earth and light to the world

Father Timothy Hayes



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

*says the LORD: Share your bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed and the homeless; clothe the naked when you see them, and do not turn your back on your own. Then your*

*light shall break forth like the dawn, and your wound shall quickly be healed ..."*

We often find ourselves in situations that cause us pain. In this, we experience the common lot of humanity. We discover, if we allow the vision of the Gospel to add flavor to our judgment about the world, that our lives, just as they are, provide the kindling needed to set the fire that God has sent us to light.

The world looks at us and sees hope, if we are living in the light of Christ.

Even our temporary moments of despair can serve, when we get up and continue the journey. Healing comes, not from removal of the obstacles, but from our going through them. When we are stretched beyond our limits and still put our trust in the power of God instead of ourselves, there is a new strength that is to be found.

The call today is for us to become ever more grounded. We must accept the limits that world imposes on us. But we must not stop seeking salt and light in ourselves and in one another. St. Paul tells the Corinthians that he came to them in weakness, having resolved to know only "*Jesus Christ and Him crucified.*" The witness of one who embraces the full Mystery of Christ – the joy and light and the sorrow and darkness – is the only witness that will be able to proclaim the Gospel with clarity. It is the only witness that can be truly authentic.

Acknowledgment of our failures is one step. Opening our hearts to the grace of God offered to us in Jesus Christ is the next step. We are called to be salt and light for the world. May the light of Christ and the salt of the Gospel be evident in us. And may the world find healing.

**Isaiah 58:7-10**  
**Psalm 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9**  
**1 Corinthians 2:1-5**  
**Matthew 5:13-16**

Salt is found all around us. The roads and sidewalks would be icy without it. Food is bland when there is no spice. Salt has its own special savor. Is there really any such thing as a "salt substitute"?

The salt given to us has a clear purpose: "*Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.*"

We are called to be salt and light in the world. We accomplish this by responding to the grace of God here and now, with the awareness that eternity is right around the corner. Jesus rose from the dead and became, in His own person, the salt and the light of the human race. The human being is fully alive only in Jesus Christ. God is glorified when we are fully alive in Jesus Christ. "*The glory of God is the human being fully alive.*" (St. Irenaeus of Lyons)

Salt preserves – the Resurrection of Jesus preserves us into eternity. Salt adds flavor and spice to life. Salt gives us solid ground to walk on, keeps us from slipping.

Light allows us to see – the Resurrection of Jesus reveals to us the full meaning of our lives. Light gives us the capacity to discern and recognize truth. Light offers us warmth. In the light, we are able to find our way.

We are called to be salt and light – one in mind and heart, open to the world and ready to meet God when He comes. We are called to share what we have received with the world.

The prophet Isaiah makes clear how to live as salt and light: "*Thus*

## THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

**MONDAY**  
 1 Kings 8:1-7,9-13  
 Psalm 132:6-10  
 Mark 6:53-56

**WEDNESDAY**  
 1 Kings 10:1-10  
 Psalm 106:3-4,35-37,40  
 Mark 7:24-30

**FRIDAY**  
 1 Kings 11:29-32;12:19  
 Psalm 81:10-15  
 Mark 7:24-30

**TUESDAY**  
 1 Kings 8:22-23,27-30  
 Psalm 84:3-5,10-11  
 Mark 7:1-13

**THURSDAY**  
 1 Kings 11:4-13  
 Psalm 37:5-6,30-31,39-40  
 Mark 7:14-23

**SATURDAY**  
 1 Kings 12:26-32;13:33-34  
 Psalm 106:6-7,19-22  
 Mark 8:1-10

## DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE: WEEK OF FEB. 9, 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.stannstmary.org)); Columbus St. Patrick ([www.stpatrickcolumbus.org](http://www.stpatrickcolumbus.org)); Delaware St. Mary ([www.delawarestmary.org](http://www.delawarestmary.org)); and Sunbury St. John Neumann ([www.saintjohnsunbury.org](http://www.saintjohnsunbury.org)).

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



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 .....

# Knights of Columbus unveils initiation ceremony that will be public

By Andy Telli  
Catholic News Service

NASHVILLE, Tenn. -- After 142 years, the Knights of Columbus is pulling down a veil of secrecy that has surrounded its initiation ceremonies in an effort to better showcase the order's core principles and its drive to help Catholic men become disciples.

Since its founding in 1882, the initiation ceremonies for the first three degrees of Knights membership -- focused on the principles of charity, unity and fraternity -- have been separate and open to members only. The fourth degree, dedicated to the principal of patriotism, was added later and this initiation also is secret and for members only.

But starting this year, the Knights have adopted a new ceremony. Called the Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity, it combines the initiation for the first three degrees into a single ceremony that will be open to family, friends and fellow parishioners.

"There is nothing we do that is secret or needs to be secret," Supreme Knight Carl Anderson told the Tennessee Register, newspaper of the Diocese of Nashville. "We decided this is a way to let other parishioners know, family members know, what the Knights of Columbus is all about. We think that's a good thing."

The Knights of Columbus is a fraternal organization of Catholic men that was founded by Father Michael McGivney, a young priest serving at St. Mary Church in New Haven, Connecticut. Father McGivney is a candidate for sainthood and has the title "Venerable."

Today, the order has more than 2 million members worldwide who are involved in charitable and service works.

Although membership as a whole



**Members of the Knights of Columbus receive rosaries on Jan. 1 as part of the organization's new ceremony that is designed to condense the Knights of Columbus' three degrees into one. The ceremony now will be conducted in public instead of as a secret, members-only occasion.**

*CNS photo/courtesy Joe Cullen*

is growing, not all areas are showing increases, Anderson said.

"I think the Catholic Church is growing more quickly in some areas than in other areas. Those trends affect us as well," he said. "When you see dioceses with parishes closing, that has to affect all the Catholic organizations in those dioceses."

At the Knights' Supreme Convention last summer, a resolution from the Illinois delegation calling for combining the first-, second- and third-degree ceremonies into one and removing the condition of secrecy was approved. Anderson directed a review of the ceremonies "with an eye toward staying true to our roots while at the same time presenting our principles of charity, unity and fraternity in a more clear and convincing way."

Anderson unveiled the new ceremony in November at the midyear meeting for the order's state deputies, who are the highest official in each juris-

diction. He said the ceremony "stays true to our traditions while addressing the needs of our times."

The fourth-degree ceremony will remain unchanged and will continue to be open to members only.

"Secrecy has to be understood in the context of the 19th century," Anderson said. "There was incredible bigotry against Catholics," with the anti-Catholic Know-Nothings in control politically in New England at the time, and the Ku Klux Klan later became a powerful political force across the country, he said. "There was some appeal to secrecy."

Also at the time, the idea of progressing through the degrees as a journey toward Knighthood was popular.

But today, those features have proved to be an impediment to men joining, particularly young men, Anderson said.

The new single ceremony takes about 30 minutes, Anderson said.

By opening the ceremony to the public, "families and friends can see what we're all about and hopefully decide I or my brother or my husband should join," Anderson said.

The new degree ceremony pulls from the three previous ceremonies to pass along the organization's history and the importance of the principles rooted in the organization.

"We need to impress on the members the importance of charity, unity, fraternity, how they are linked, and how in Father McGivney's vision of Christian discipleship ... charity, unity and fraternity become a path of discipleship for the Catholic man," Anderson said.

A ceremony that focuses on the three principles enhances the Knights involvement in the church's work of evangelization, Anderson explained.

"I think its central," he said. The order's principles "are really at the core of Cath-

olic life, and (the new ceremony) makes it clear we have a responsibility and the responsibility extends into the whole person, the spiritual dimension, the fraternal dimension, and the financial dimension."

The script for the new degree calls for the ceremony to be conducted in a church or similarly appropriate location, with a priest or deacon participating. The expectation is that the new ceremony can be held after a Mass when the congregation can be invited to stay and watch.

"It's an exciting development for the Knights of Columbus," said Michael McCusker, the state deputy of Tennessee. "How many times do we go home from degrees with our hearts on fire and we had a desperate need to share it with our families, but we couldn't? To me that's akin to putting your light under a bushel."

"What I also like is it removes the struggle of getting a man to go through all three separate degrees," said McCusker, a member of Council 9317 at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Cordova, in suburban Memphis, Tennessee. "I like that they go, they and their families see what they're involved in, and the minute they leave, they're full members of the Knights of Columbus."

The script for the new ceremony was made available to all councils Jan. 15. It was left to each state deputy to decide how and when the new ceremony will be rolled out in their jurisdiction. The Connecticut State Council used the new ceremony for the first time Jan. 1.

Fifty-two candidates participated in the new ceremony. About 200 people attended, including Anderson.

"They had a very large turnout and it was very well received," Anderson said. "That's been our experience across the country."



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## ST. JOSEPH, PLAIN CITY SECRETARY POSITION AVAILABLE

Saint Joseph Catholic Church, Plain City, is looking for a qualified individual to serve as the Parish Secretary. This is a part-time position requiring approximately 20 hours per week. The Secretary position provides support to the day-to-day operations of the activities of the Parish. Requirements of the position include, but are not limited to the following:

- An understanding of the Catholic perspective; excellent communication skills; must be flexible to adapt to changing needs; the ability to work with others in a collaborative team environment; and the ability to read and comprehend simple instructions, write short correspondence, and memos.
- A minimum of two years prior experience in an office setting is required; keyboard and computer experience required.
- Job offer is contingent on the successful passing of the mandatory background screening and completion of the VIRTUS "Protecting God's Children" course.

Salary is commensurate with education and experience. Send cover letter, resume, and references by February 12 to Fr. Joseph Trapp, Pastor, at FrJTrapp@saintjosephplaincity.com.

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# PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

**BARNHART, Paula G. (Weiland), 61, Jan. 29**  
St. Mary Church, Lancaster

**BAUM, John C., 64, Jan. 24**  
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Zanesville

**BLACK, Robert L., 77, Jan. 28**  
St. Patrick Church, Columbus

**BRESNAHAN, James C. Jr., 89, Jan. 24**  
St. Peter Church, Columbus

**BRONDRETT, James C., 72, Jan. 31**  
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

**BURKE, Thomas A., 74, Jan. 27**  
St. Patrick Church, Columbus

**COX, Linda J. (Haskell), 70, Jan. 18**  
St. Colman of Cloyne Church, Washington Court House

**DANKER, John P., 58, Jan. 30**  
St. Joan of Arc Church, Powell

**DOLDER, William P., 82, Jan. 27**  
St. Joseph Cathedral, Columbus

**HALLER, Gwendolyn A., 32, Jan. 27**  
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

**HOSKINSON, Diane M. (Ruth), 45, Jan. 27**  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

**KELLY, Dorothy A. (Schirtzinger), 75, Jan. 31**  
St. Leo Church, Columbus

**LEWANDOSKI, Frank M., 87, Jan. 28**  
Holy Spirit Church, Columbus

**MOSS-MILLER, Evalynn A. (Galardi), 77, Jan. 27**  
St. Brendan Church, Hilliard

**NICHOLS, Kathryn J., 45, Jan. 14**  
St. Colman of Cloyne Church, Washington Court House

**NOLL, Richard, 69, Jan. 27**  
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Zanesville

**O'LEARY, Thomas J., 79, Jan. 25**  
St. Matthias Church, Columbus

**ROBERTS STONE, Karen M. (Johnson), 73, Jan. 30**  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

**SHRIEVES, Lenere, formerly of Columbus, Jan. 24**  
St. Mary Church, Berea

**SMITH, Gaylord E., 81, Jan. 30**  
Our Lady of Victory Church, Columbus

**STROUSE, Barbara K. (Weiser), 78, Jan. 24**  
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

**WEAVER, James E., 86, Jan. 31**  
St. Aloysius Church, Columbus

## Father Edward M. Gaffney, OP

Funeral Mass for Father Edward M. Gaffney, OP, 98, who died Tuesday, Jan. 27 at Ohio State University Hospital East in Columbus, will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 8 at Somerset St. Joseph Church, preceded by one hour of visitation. Father Kenneth Letoile, OP, prior provincial of the Province of St. Joseph of the Dominican Friars, will be the celebrant. Father Michael Trainor, OP, will be the preacher. Burial will be at the church's cemetery.

Father Gaffney had been a resident of the Mohun Health Care Center in Columbus since 2015 and was the oldest friar in the St. Joseph Province.

He was born on April 8, 1921 in Newark, New Jersey to Edward and Rose (Crawford) Gaffney. After two years of liberal arts study at Providence (Rhode Island) College, he entered the Dominican novitiate at St. Rose Priory in Springfield, Kentucky in 1942, making his first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1943. He studied philosophy at St. Joseph Priory in Somerset from 1943 to 1945 and theology at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington from

1945 to 1950, making his solemn profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1946.

He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Edward Daly, OP, at St. Dominic Church in Washington on June 9, 1949. His priestly service, spanning more than seven decades, included a variety of pastoral and preaching ministries, including service in the Army chaplain's corps from 1967 to 1981 in Germany, Vietnam, Thailand, Korea and the nation's capital. His military honors include the Bronze Star and three Meritorious Service medals.

He was prior of St. Dominic's Priory in Washington from 1984 to 1990 and 1998 to 2001 and was a professor of homiletics and director of spiritual formation at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland from 1990 to 1998. His service also included assignments in Pennsylvania, New York and South Carolina and eight years preaching parish missions and retreats. He returned to Washington for health reasons in 2013.

He is survived by a nephew and a niece.

## Mary R. VonVille

Funeral Mass for Mary R. VonVille, 96, who died Wednesday, Jan. 29, was celebrated Saturday, Feb. 1 at Columbus Immaculate Conception Church. Burial was at Resurrection Cemetery, Lewis Center.

She was born in Glenmont on April 8, 1923 to Thomas and Loretta Stanton.

She was a member of the women's club and an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist at Immaculate Conception Church.

She was preceded in death by her

husband, Louis; brothers, Father Joseph Stanton and John; and a grandson. Survivors include sons, Lawrence (Biebe), Louis "Gerry" (Catherine) and Gregory (Christie); daughters, Mary Martha (Ronald) McGrath, Janice (Charles) Lewis, Anna (Marty) Shuherk, Christina, and Monica (Douglas) Mitchell; brothers, Father Francis Stanton and Roland; sister, Sally Boylan Zemaitis; nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

## Barbara A. "Babs" Pulsfort

Funeral Mass for Barbara A. "Babs" Pulsfort, 74, who died Sunday, Jan. 26, was celebrated Tuesday, Feb. 4 at Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church. Burial was at St. Stephen Cemetery in Fort Thomas, Kentucky.

She was born on Sept. 2, 1945 to the

late James and Anna (Muders) Clark and was a retired staff member of St. Brigid of Kildare Church.

Survivors include sons, Jeffrey (Aimee) and Michael (Lisa); daughter, Kimberly (Darrell) Berry; four grandsons and two granddaughters.

To have an obituary printed in the Catholic Times, send it to [tpuet@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:tpuet@columbuscatholic.org)

### WATTERSON, continued from Page 13

success he has achieved.

"Never, ever," he said. "When you first get started, you're just trying to get by with what's in front of you. I was so young. I was just trying to figure out what we were going to do, what changes we were going to make, how to make our program better, and how I was going to make me better."

Among Watterson's accomplishments under Woodford's guidance are a district title in 2004 and district runner-up finishes in 2003, 2009, 2017 and 2019.

"I didn't think too much of (the 400th win), but as I've heard from other coaches, they've made it very clear to me that you're in an area that doesn't happen a lot," he said. "Being in one place for 19 years doesn't happen a lot. As one of them said to me, 'You probably need to enjoy it more.'"

But that's not easy to do during basketball season. In his mind, there are still more games to win this season.

"We just need to get healthy," the coach said.

Despite having to overcome injuries to several key players, the Eagles

were undefeated before losing close games to Westerville South on Jan. 25 and Jonathan Alder on Jan. 27. They bounced back with a win over Columbus Bishop Ready on Jan. 30 and were 17-2 entering another game against Ready on Feb. 4 and against Columbus St. Francis DeSales on Feb. 6.

The regular season concludes Tuesday, Feb. 11 against Columbus Bishop Hartley, and then tournament play begins in earnest. The Eagles will be a contender to win their first district championship in 16 years.

One of the team's top players, junior Kilyn McGuff, has a family basketball connection similar to the Woodfords'. Her father, Kevin, is the head coach of the Ohio State University women's team.

For the Woodfords and the rest of the Eagles, a postseason run would be a sweet way to cap a historic year. After Paige graduates this spring, she'll head off to Mercyhurst University in Erie, Pennsylvania, to play college basketball.

But until then, "we'll take it as far as we can," Paige said. "Winning districts would be awesome."

# HAPPENINGS

## CLASSIFIED

### WHITEHALL VFW 8794 BINGO

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Regular Small Town Bingo will be played every

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### 53RD ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER

St. Anthony Parish

Sunday, February 23, 2020

12:00 — 5:00 pm

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## FEBRUARY

### 7, FRIDAY

**St. Cecilia Adoration of Blessed Sacrament**  
St. Cecilia Church, 434 Norton Road, Columbus.  
Begins after 8:15 a.m. Mass; continues to 5 p.m.  
Saturday.

**Eucharistic Adoration at Columbus St. Peter**  
9 a.m. to 8 p.m., St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky  
Row Road, Columbus. First Friday Eucharistic  
Adoration in day chapel.

**First Friday Masses at Holy Family**  
9 a.m., 12:15 and 7 p.m., Holy Family Church,  
584 W. Broad St., Columbus. First Friday  
Masses in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.  
614-221-4323

**Monthly Adoration of Blessed Sacrament**  
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 5225  
Refugee Road, Columbus. Begins after 9 a.m.  
Mass; continues through 6 p.m. Holy Hour.

**Catholic Men's Luncheon Club**  
12:15 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant  
Ave., Columbus. Bishop Robert Brennan presents  
Catholic Men's Luncheon Club's Catholic Man of  
the Year award to Dr. Raymond Sheridan of Grove  
City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. \$10  
donation requested.

**Eucharistic Vigil at Holy Cross**  
Holy Cross Church, 205 S. 5th St., Columbus. 7:30  
p.m. Mass, followed by Exposition of the Blessed  
Sacrament with various prayers, ending with  
Benediction around 11.

### 8, SATURDAY

**Life and Mercy Mass in Plain City**  
9 a.m. Mass, St. Joseph Church, 140 West Ave.,  
Plain City. Saturday Life and Mercy Mass, followed  
by rosary and confession.

**African American Spirituality Program**  
11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Parish hall, St. Dominic Church,  
453 N. 20th St., Columbus. Program on African  
American spirituality with Cary Dabney, director  
of African American ministry for the Diocese of  
Cleveland, sponsored by Columbus diocesan  
Catholic Ethnic Ministries. Registration \$5;  
includes lunch, refreshments. 614-221-7990

**World Marriage Day Dinner-Dance**  
6:30 to 10:30 p.m., American Legion Post 171, 393  
E. College Ave., Westerville. Annual Central Ohio

Worldwide Marriage Encounter World Marriage  
Day dinner-dance. Bring your own alcoholic  
beverage. 614-761-9048

**Frassati Society Goes to Escape Room**  
7:15 p.m., Trapped Columbus, 4310 N. High St.,  
Columbus. Columbus St. Patrick Church Frassati  
Society for young adults goes to escape room,  
followed by dinner at a location to be determined.  
Cost \$12; limit of 10 participants. 614-224-9522

**Filipino Mass at Christ the King**  
7:30 p.m., Christ the King Church, 2777 E.  
Livingston Ave., Columbus. Mass in the Tagalog  
language for members of the Filipino Catholic  
community.

### 9, SUNDAY

**Order of Malta Mass for Anointing of the Sick**  
9:30 a.m., Holy Rosary-St. John Church, 648  
S. Ohio Ave., Columbus. Mass for the Anointing  
of the Sick, celebrated by Father Thomas Blau,  
OP, of Columbus St. Patrick Priory, sponsored by  
Columbus region of the Order of Malta. Priests  
will be on hand to administer the Sacrament of  
Anointing of the Sick to all who wish to receive it.  
Followed by reception with Mark Nehrbas, director  
of Christian outreach at Franciscan University of  
Steubenville, speaking on the healing he believes  
he received at Lourdes from stomach cancer.  
614-738-2464

**St. Christopher Adult Religious Education**  
10 to 11:20 a.m., Library, Trinity Catholic School,  
1440 Grandview Ave., Columbus. Part 3 of five-  
week series on Pope Francis' encyclical *Lumen  
Fidei*, with Ohio Dominican University theology  
instructor Mary Koors.

**Friends, Family Day at Ss. Augustine & Gabriel**  
10 a.m., Ss. Augustine & Gabriel Church, 1550 E.  
Hudson St., Columbus. Friends and Family Day  
Mass, followed by potluck lunch for parishioners,  
neighbors and former members of St. Augustine  
and St. Gabriel churches and graduates of their  
schools. 614-268-3123

**Catholic Record Society Meeting**  
1 p.m., St. Therese's Retreat Center, 5277 E.  
Broad St., Columbus. Winter quarterly meeting of  
Catholic Record Society, with society chairman J.  
Michael Finn speaking on the Catholic response to  
the April 21, 1930 Ohio Penitentiary fire that killed  
322 prisoners. Lunch available for \$10 at noon.  
Reservations required. 614-268-4166

**Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic Meeting**  
1:30 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave.,  
Columbus. Meeting of St. Catherine of Siena  
chapter, Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic.  
**Seasons of Hope Bereavement Ministry**  
2 to 4 p.m., Our Lady of Peace Church, 20 E.  
Dominion Blvd., Columbus. Second meeting of  
six-week support group sponsored by Seasons  
of Hope bereavement ministry for those who  
have lost a loved one, sponsored by North High  
Deanery. Contact rose.daiga@gmail.com.

**Prayer Group Meeting at Christ the King**  
5 to 7 p.m., Christ the King Church, 2777 E.  
Livingston Ave., Columbus (enter at daily Mass  
entrance). Weekly parish prayer group meets.  
for praise, worship, ministry and teaching.  
614-886-8266

**Catechesis at the Cathedral**  
6:45 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad  
St., Columbus. Father Adam Streitenberger's  
series of talks on the Catechism of the Catholic  
Church continues. Topic: "What Is Confirmation?"  
614-224-1295

### 10, MONDAY

**Divine Mercy Chaplet, Rosary at St. Pius X**  
6 p.m., St. Pius X Church, 1051 S. Waggoner  
Road, Reynoldsburg. Recital of Chaplet of Divine  
Mercy, followed by Rosary for the sick of the parish  
and all who are ill. 614-866-2859

**Bethesda Post-Abortion Healing Ministry**  
6:30 p.m., support group meeting, 2744 Dover

Road, Columbus (Christ the King convent, first  
building west of church). 614-718-0227, 614-309-  
2651, 614-309-0157  
**Our Lady of Peace Men's Bible Study**  
7 p.m., Our Lady of Peace Church, 20 E. Dominion  
Blvd., Columbus. Bible study of Sunday's readings.

### 11, TUESDAY

**Mass for World Day of the Sick**  
Chapel, Mount Carmel East Hospital, 6001 E.  
Broad St., Columbus. Bishop Robert Brennan  
celebrates Mass for World Day of the Sick.

**Eucharistic Adoration at Bethesda**  
11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Bethesda Healing Ministry,  
2744 Dover Road, Columbus. Monthly Eucharistic  
Adoration in chapel.

**Holy Hour at Ss. Simon and Jude**  
5 p.m., Ss. Simon and Jude Church, 9350  
high Free Pike, West Jefferson. Holy Hour with  
confessions, followed by Mass at 6. 614-879-8562  
**Calix Society Meeting**

6 p.m., Panera restaurant, 4519 N. High St.,  
Columbus. Monthly meeting of the Calix Society,  
an association of Catholic alcoholics. Preceded  
by 5:30 p.m. Mass at Our Lady of Peace Church,  
across street from meeting site.

**Holy Hour at Columbus St. Francis of Assisi**  
St. Francis of Assisi Church, 386 Buttles Ave.,  
Columbus. Monthly Holy Hour after 6 p.m. Mass.  
614-299-5781

**Rosary for Life at St. Joan of Arc**  
Following 6 p.m. Mass, St. Joan of Arc Church,  
10700 Liberty Road, Powell. Recital of Rosary for  
Life, sponsored by church's respect life committee.

**EnCourage Ministry Monthly Meeting**  
6:30 p.m., EnCourage, an approved diocesan  
ministry for families and friends of persons who  
experience same-sex attraction. Confidentiality is  
maintained. Call for site. 614-296-7404

**Abortion Recovery Network Group**  
7 p.m., Pregnancy Decision Health Center, 665  
E. Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus. Abortion  
recovery network group meeting for anyone  
interested in recovering from abortion or who has  
been through a recovery program, and wants to  
stay connected. 614-721-2100

### 12, WEDNESDAY

**Center for Dominican Studies Series**  
Noon to 12:30 p.m., St. Catharine of Siena Room,  
Erskine Hall, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus.  
Lecture by Sister Teresa Tuite, OP, on "Ministry  
— A New Way of Seeing." Fifth talk in Center for  
Dominican Studies monthly series on "Truth."  
Lunch provided; call for seating. 614-251-4722

**Turning Leaves and Tea Leaves**  
2 to 3:30 p.m., Martin de Porres Center, 2330  
Airport Drive, Columbus. Turning Leaves and Tea  
Leaves book club. 614-416-1910

**Divine Mercy Chaplet at St. Pius X**  
6 p.m., St. Pius X Church, 1051 S. Waggoner  
Road, Reynoldsburg. Recital of Chaplet of Divine  
Mercy. 614-866-2859

**Storytelling Program at Shepherd's Corner**  
6:30 to 8 p.m., Shepherd's Corner Ecology Center,  
987 N. Waggoner Road, Blacklick. Program with  
theme "A Storytelling Experience." Suggested  
donation \$5. 614-866-4302

### 13, THURSDAY

**Cenacle at Holy Name**  
6 p.m., Holy Name Church, 154 E. Patterson Ave.,  
Columbus. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament,  
with prayers in the Cenacle format of the Marian  
Movement of Priests.

**Theology on Tap Meeting**  
7 p.m., El Vaquero restaurant, 3230 Olentangy  
River Road, Columbus. Theology on Tap  
discussion and social group for young Catholics,  
with diocesan development office director Andrea  
Pannell speaking on "Stewardship of Self: A  
Grateful Awareness of Loving Presence." Wine

available, snacks, other drinks provided.  
**Catholic Medical Association Program**  
8 to 9:30 p.m., Wellnitz Hall, St. Brendan Church,  
4475 Dublin Road, Hilliard. Catholic Medical  
Association wine and cheese program featuring  
video presentation on "Selfless Self-Preservation:  
The Paradoxical Duty of Resilience" with Father  
Robert McTeigue, SJ. 0.75 hour of continuing  
medical education credit available to participating  
health care professionals. 614-769-5150

### 13-16, THURSDAY-SUNDAY

**Bishop Hartley Presents *The Outsiders***  
7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday,  
Columbus Performing Arts Center, 549 Franklin  
Ave., Columbus. Bishop Hartley High School  
drama department presents *The Outsiders*, based  
on the coming-of-age novel by S.E. Hinton. Tickets  
\$8. Reserve at BishopHartleyTheatre@gmail.com.

### 14, FRIDAY

**Catholic Singles On Fire for Christ**  
6 p.m., Chapel, Church of the Resurrection, 6300  
E. Dublin-Granville Road, New Albany. Monthly  
meeting of Catholic Singles On Fire for Christ, for  
anyone older than 35 who is single in the eyes of  
the Catholic Church and seeks to grow in faith,  
bring hope to others and share the love of Christ.  
Begins with prayer and Adoration, followed by  
dinner at a restaurant. 614-855-1400

### 14-16, FRIDAY-SUNDAY

**Bishop Ready Presents *Almost, Maine***  
7 p.m. Friday, 2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Bishop  
Ready High School, 707 Salisbury Road,  
Columbus. School theater department presents  
John Cariani's romantic comedy *Almost, Maine*.  
Tickets \$10 adults, \$8 students. 614-276-5263

### 15, SATURDAY

**Columbus Catholic Women's Conference**  
8 a.m., Kasich Building, State Fairgrounds, 717  
E. 17th Ave., Columbus. 13th annual Columbus  
Catholic Women's Conference, with talks by  
Father Donald Calloway, MIC, Father Ubald  
Rugirangoga, Heidi Hess Saxton, Sister Miriam  
James Heidland, SOLT, Emily Jaminet and  
Michele Faehnle, Mass with Bishop Robert  
Brennan, Adoration and Benediction. Advance  
tickets \$45 adults, \$35 for those 23 and  
younger (Prices \$5 higher at the door). No  
charge for religious sisters. Register at www.  
columbuscatholicwomen.com.  
**Life and Mercy Mass in Plain City**  
9 a.m. Mass, St. Joseph Church, 140 West Ave.,  
Plain City. Saturday Life and Mercy Mass, followed  
by rosary and confession.  
**Ohio Dominican Visit Day**  
10 to 11:30 a.m., Bishop Griffin Center, Ohio  
Dominican University, 1216 Sunbury Road,  
Columbus. ODU Visit Day for prospective  
students, featuring campus tours and discussion  
with admission counselors. 614-251-4500

### 16, SUNDAY

**St. Christopher Adult Religious Education**  
10 to 11:20 a.m., Library, Trinity Catholic School,  
1440 Grandview Ave., Columbus. Part 4 of five-  
week series on Pope Francis' encyclical *Lumen  
Fidei*, with Ohio Dominican University theology  
instructor Mary Koors.

**Black History Month Program at St. Dominic**  
11:30 a.m., St. Dominic Church, 453 N. 20th St.,  
Columbus. Mass celebrated by Bishop Robert  
Brennan, followed by program in parish hall with  
young people presenting a program on the history  
of Black Catholic education. 614-252-4913

**Blessing of St. Gerard Majella at Holy Family**  
After 11 a.m. Mass, Holy Family Church, 584 W.  
Broad St., Columbus. Blessing of St. Gerard  
Majella, patron of expectant mothers, for all  
women who are pregnant or wish to become  
pregnant. 614-221-1890

# An experience of Christ's love through poetry

By Sarah Reinhard

***Authenticity: A Countercultural Perspective***  
**Anita M. Hessenauer**  
**Resource Publications, 2019**  
**\$8.00**

Poetry is not so much read as experienced, or that's what I found as I picked up Anita Hessenauer's collection *Authenticity: A Countercultural Perspective*. "This collection of poems follow the trajectory of the interior journey to the source of our being," she begins, introducing us to her work and setting the standard high enough that you may, like me, find it a bit overwhelming.

I mean, poetry is the stuff smart people read, right? It's what English majors and professors and really holy people devour while the rest of us are struggling to find time to get some Bible time and maybe a few pages of a spiritual classic.

Except, no. Not at all.

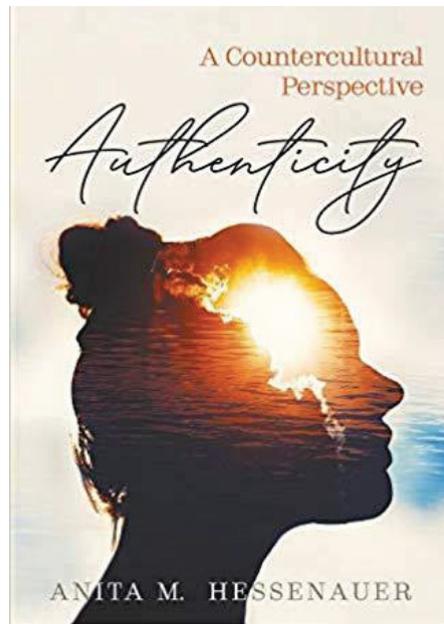
Think of a poem as a song written down. Think of it as a chance to sit and think and, in the case of Hessenauer's collection, to dive a bit more deeply into the waters of the interior life.

Where many writers would need 200 pages to unpack the journey to the interior life and the way it challenges us to stretch past the egocentricity of modern life, Hessenauer uses 46 – and she uses far fewer words per page than many of those other spiritual works.

But don't be fooled into thinking this is easy reading. Oh, you can pick it up and put it back down, full read, in a cool 30 minutes. But the images will stay with you. They'll work their way into your understanding and leave you with an imprint.

And this, I think, is what poetry does. This is why people read poetry, and it's a shame so many of us (or maybe it's just me) don't better appreciate it. "The reversal of values is the thread that binds together the three sections of this collection," Hessenauer writes. And also, I would posit, an unapologetically Catholic approach to life, rooted in Christ.

Incidentally, Hessenauer is a member of Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church. She's a freelance writer, too, which means that she's used to long-form writing and unpacking ideas for others.



**Anita Hessenauer is a freelance writer and a member of Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church.**

As a writer myself, I can't help but marvel. Blaise Pascal once famously wrote, "I would have written a shorter letter, but I didn't have time." Writers nod and smile at this because it's true: Writing short-form work takes far more discipline, much more concentration and, yes, more time than writing long-form. Packing a punch is no small feat, and that gives me even more respect for Hessenauer's accomplishment in *Authenticity*.

Worth a read, and worth a re-read. Experience what she has gathered, inspired by her own heritage and her lived faith. It's a form of prayer and a way of seeing faith – with an invitation to changing how you live – in a whole fresh way.

# 75

## SPIRIT OF HOPE Gala

JOIN US!  
CELEBRATE OUR 75-YEAR LEGACY  
OF TRANSFORMING LIVES.

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2020

6:00 PM-10:00 PM

ST. CHARLES PREPARATORY  
WALTER COMMONS

For 75 years, Catholic Social Services has been empowering people in need, regardless of background, with the tools they need to reach their full potential.

We invite you to celebrate past accomplishments and help strengthen the future of our community.

At the Gala, be transported into the 1940s through our historical timeline and a Live Swing Band.

Enjoy cocktails, a plated dinner, one-of-a-kind auction opportunities, and an impactful program.

**We hope you will join us.**

**Together we will continue to help people live free from the indignity of poverty.**

Register online at [colscss.org](http://colscss.org)  
or call Julie Naporano  
at 614-857-1236.

## Ready to present *Almost, Maine*



Columbus Bishop Ready High school students Madeline French and Alex Oswald in the school's production of *Almost, Maine (Adapted Edition)*.

Photo courtesy Bishop Ready High School

Columbus Bishop Ready High School will present John Cariani's romantic comedy *Almost, Maine (Adapted Edition)* at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14 and 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 15 and 16.

Not in the format of a "traditional" play, *Almost, Maine*, is divided into small vignettes, each focusing on a story and how love plays out for different people. Appropriately for St.

Valentine's weekend, it takes place on a cold, magical midwinter night during which its characters experience the life-altering power of the human heart.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for students. This adapted version of the original play is appropriate for students in grades six and older. For more information, call the school at (614) 276-5263.



## Attend ODU Preview Day

Saturday, March 21 | 9 a.m. – Noon

- Tour ODU's campus and residence halls.
- Meet with students, professors and alumni.
- Learn about ODU's Honors Program.
- Explore early admission opportunities into medical and graduate school.



Register today! | [ohiodominican.edu/PreviewDay](http://ohiodominican.edu/PreviewDay)

Central Ohio's Catholic University • Founded by the Dominican Sisters of Peace.

1216 Sunbury Rd. | Columbus, OH 43219 | 614.251.4500

# we're hiring!

The Catholic Foundation is looking for a **full time** Executive Assistant.

Qualified candidates should submit a resume and cover letter to [kshuey@catholic-foundation.org](mailto:kshuey@catholic-foundation.org).



THE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION

[www.catholic-foundation.org](http://www.catholic-foundation.org) | 614-443-8893.



Want to attract more visitors to your parish fundraisers or restaurants during Lent?

Advertise in The Catholic Times' annual Fish Fry section in the March 1 edition.

Contact Editor/Business Manager Doug Bean at 614-224-5195, or [dbean@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:dbean@columbuscatholic.org) for rate information and to place an ad.



# AMAZING Grace



## COLUMBUS CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

February 15, 2020 • 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM • Ohio Expo Center

### You're Invited!



#### FR. DONALD CALLOWAY, MIC

He is the vicar provincial and vocation director for the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy Province of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception, as well as the author of a number of best selling Catholic books.



#### SR. MIRIAM JAMES HEIDLAND, S.O.L.T.

She is a sister with the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity (S.O.L.T.) and author of *Loved as I Am*. When her life as a successful college athlete proved unfulfilling, she searched for something deeper and ended up falling in love with Jesus.



#### FR. UBALD RUGIRANGOGA

*with author Heidi Hess Saxton*

He has been a Catholic priest in the Cyangugu diocese of southeastern Rwanda for 35 years. During the 1994 genocide, he lost more than 80 members of his family—including his mother—and more than 45,000 parishioners. Fr. Ubald focuses his ministry on healing and evangelization.



#### MICHELE FAEHNLE & EMILY JAMINET

They are award-winning, co-authors of *Divine Mercy for Moms*, *The Friendship Project*, *Our Friend Faustina*, and *Pray Fully*.



*Emcee:*

ANNA MITCHELL



*Mass Celebrant:*

THE MOST REVEREND  
ROBERT J. BRENNAN



*Music By:*

SARAH HART

Regular Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ X \$45.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Student Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ X \$35.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parish Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mail checks to: 2280 W. Henderson Rd. Suite 205, Columbus, OH 43220.

Register online at: [www.ColumbusCatholicWomen.com](http://www.ColumbusCatholicWomen.com)

REGULAR TICKETS: \$45 or \$50 at the door

Student Tickets: \$35 for students (up to 23 years old)

Religious Sister are free of charge.

If you need a scholarship, we offer partial and full.

Please visit online before registering: CCWC Scholarship Application.

#### **Meal Options (Select one per person)**

- Panera Greek Salad (Vegetarian and Gluten Conscious)
- Panera Greek Salad with Chicken (Gluten Conscious)
- Panera Heritage Ham & Swiss sandwich boxed lunch
- Panera Sierra Turkey Sandwich boxed lunch
- Panera Mediterranean Veggie Sandwich boxed lunch
- Panera Seasonal Greens Salad