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SISTERS FROM CHILLICOTHE MARCH FOR LIFE, PLAN TO OPEN COLUMBUS CONVENT

Women's conference speakers announced



Father Donald Calloway, MIC



Father Ubald Rugirangoga



Heidi Hess Saxton



Sister Miriam James Heidland, SOLT



Emily Jaminet



Michele Faehnle



Anna Mitchell

Six dynamic speakers will be featured in four talks at the 2020 diocesan Catholic Women's Conference on Saturday, Feb. 15 in Kasich Hall at the state fairgrounds. This will be the 13th year for the event, one of the largest of its kind in the nation, with more than 3,000 women expected to attend.

The lineup of speakers includes Father Donald Calloway, MIC; Father Ubald Rugirangoga and Heidi Hess Saxton; Sister Miriam James Heidland, SOLT; and Emily Jaminet and Michele Faehnle.

Father Calloway is vicar provincial and vocation director for the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy Province of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception and the author of several best-selling Catholic books. He exhibits an unmistakable zeal for the priesthood and devotion to Our Lady, and his conversion story will astound you. His new book, *Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father*, will be available at the conference.

Father Rugirangoa has been a priest in southeast Rwanda for 35 years. During the 1994 Rwandan genocide, he lost his mother and more than 80 other family members, and more than 45,000 parishioners. He focuses his ministry on healing, forgiveness and evangelization, and will share the story of how Jesus brought healing to his life in the

midst of tragedy.

Saxton, who will share the platform with him, received a Master's degree in theology from Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit in 2011 and has written seven books, including *Lent with St. Teresa of Calcutta* and *Advent with St. Teresa of Calcutta*.

Sister Miriam James, a member of the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity and a previous speaker at the conference, is the author of *Loved As I Am*. When her life as a successful college athlete proved unfulfilling, she began searching for something deeper and ended up falling in love with Jesus. She will be inviting her listeners to pursue their own relationship with Jesus.

Faehnle and Jaminet are locally based authors and broadcasters who have written best-selling, award-winning books including *Divine Mercy for Moms*, *The Friendship Project*, *Our Friend Faustina* and *Pray Fully*. They have worked in women's ministry for most of their lives and are on the conference's board of directors.

The master of ceremonies again will be Anna Mitchell, co-host and producer of the *Son Rise Morning Show*, produced at Sacred Heart Radio in Cincinnati and heard every weekday morning on St. Gabriel Catholic Radio in Columbus and nationally on EWTN.

Music will be provided by Sara Hart, a Lancaster native and Ohio

State University graduate who now lives in Nashville and is a leading figure in contemporary Catholic music. Her songs of faith including *Go in Peace*, *You Alone* and *Sweet Redeemer* that have touched the lives of thousands.

Registration will begin at 7 a.m., with music by Hart beginning at 7:15 and Mass celebrated by Bishop Robert Brennan at 8, followed by the talks, with a lunch break during which the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available from more than 30 priests. Father Brett Garland, parochial vicar for Columbus St. Mary Magdalene, St. Agnes and St. Aloysius churches, will give a

talk preparing those in attendance to receive the sacrament.

In addition, many Catholic vendors and organizations will have display tables with representatives on hand for discussion during breaks. The day will close with a Holy Hour at 3:20 p.m. featuring Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the sung Divine Mercy Chaplet, and music.

Advance tickets are \$45 for adults and \$35 for those 23 and younger. Prices will be \$5 higher at the door. There is no charge for religious sisters. To register and for additional information, go to www.columbus-catholicwomen.com.

S U B S C R I B E

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Front Page photo:
SISTERS MARCH IN CHILICOTHE
Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, pictured at the Ross County March for Life last week in Chillicothe, are planning to open a convent in Columbus this summer.
(CT photo by Doug Bean)

Catholic TIMES

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Ohio's pro-life victories win bishop's praise

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

Bishop Robert Brennan says the state Legislature's pro-life efforts make him proud to be an Ohioan after a lifetime in New York state.

"Boy, am I glad I live in Ohio!" he exclaimed at the beginning of brief remarks during the annual Roe Remembrance pro-life rally at the Ohio Statehouse on Wednesday, Jan. 22, the 47th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion in the United States.

He noted that on the same date in 2019, a New York statute known as the Reproductive Health Act, widely considered to be the most permissive abortion measure in the United States, was signed into law by that state's governor, Andrew Cuomo. That night, the governor ordered One World Trade Center in New York City, the Alfred E. Smith State Office Building in Albany and two bridges to be lit in pink in celebration of the law.

Bishop Brennan at the time was auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, New York. Three days earlier, he had received a phone call from Archbishop Christophe Pierre, papal nuncio to the United States, telling him that Pope Francis had appointed him to succeed Bishop Frederick Campbell as bishop of Columbus. The appointment was made public nine days after the New York law went into effect, on Jan. 31.

"The skyline in New York City was marred that night because of the passage of the most radical abortion bill in the nation," Bishop Brennan said. "When this is something we celebrate legally, something has gone amiss."

He then praised Ohio lawmakers for their pro-life efforts in recent years. State Senate President Larry Obhof, R-Medina, another speaker at the rally, estimated that the state Legislature has passed 25 measures promoting the dignity of human life and placing restrictions on abortion in the past 10 years.

"Thanks to the Legislature, to the governor, and to all those involved in the pro-life movement, you have a beautiful culture of life here in Ohio," the bishop said. "I can tell you how easily that can slip away."

Earlier that day, Bishop Brennan was the homilist for the diocese's annual Respect Life Mass at Columbus



Students from Columbus Bishop Hartley High School were part of a congregation that filled Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on Wednesday, Jan. 22 for the diocese's annual Respect Life Mass marking the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court Roe v. Wade ruling.



Bishop Robert Brennan speaks at the annual Roe Remembrance in the Ohio Statehouse atrium, sponsored by Greater Columbus Right to Life, expressing his gratitude to the Ohio Legislature for its pro-life efforts.
CT photos by Ken Snow

St. Joseph Cathedral. The Gospel passage for the day was St. Mark's description of Jesus' healing of a man with a withered hand.

"That man came to the synagogue

just to pray, never expecting to be healed," the bishop said. "That particular incident was a big deal for him, but it also symbolizes something today. We as a culture are sick, withered,

in need of healing. That's what brings us here today. On this tragic anniversary of Roe v. Wade, people are going to stand up and witness for life.

"As that man did, we are coming to church to pray. We are imploring, even begging, for God to heal our society and destroy what's withered. Jesus told that man to stretch out his hand, and we stretch out ours as a witness, a powerful tool and an instrument of healing."

Bishop Brennan recalled a homily by Cardinal Gregorio Rosa Chavez of El Salvador, a frequent visitor to the bishop's former New York diocese, which has a large Salvadoran population. "He said he was going to speak to schoolchildren one day when he was a bishop and had a hard time thinking of a homily subject, but then he saw a large aquarium," Bishop Brennan said. "He asked the children what would happen if someone poisoned the water, and they told him the fish would die.

"Bishop Chavez went on to speak of injustices done to the poor, of the realities of racism, of caring for the needy and of the right to education, then said, 'But without the right to life, all those others mean nothing. Our water is poisoned, and we need to change the water.'

"One of the ills which poison our water is the crazy thought that government bestows the right to life. God does," Bishop Brennan said. "When we decide who has that right, we're stepping into some dangerous waters. We are here to ask Jesus to help us change the water, to make it life-giving, joyful and hopeful."

Speakers at the Statehouse rally included the bishop; Obhof; Aaron Baer, president of Citizens for Community Values; and Beth Vanderkooi, executive director of Greater Columbus Right to Life (GCRTL), sponsoring organization for the event.

"The more I have become involved in the pro-life movement, the more I have become convinced that we need not just good laws, but good people," Vanderkooi said. "Most people get started in the movement because they want to save babies, but then they go through a transformation and they want to save mothers, protect genera-

Local news and events

Polish Mass will be bimonthly at Columbus Sacred Heart Church

St. Charles students at King breakfast

The Polish Mass at Columbus Sacred Heart Church, 893 Hamlet St., which is celebrated on the third Sunday of each month at 1 p.m. will now be on the first and third Sundays of the month at the same time.

The celebrant is Father Wojciech Stachura, SAC, a member of the Pallottine order of priests, who has been in residence at Sacred Heart since Nov. 1.

'Surviving Divorce' sessions at St. John Neumann

A new 12-week "Surviving Divorce" program will begin at 6:45 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 30 at Sunbury St. John Neumann Church, 9633 East State Route 37.

"Surviving Divorce: Hope and Healing for the Catholic Family" is a proven program of hope and healing. It offers answers and guidance to the many issues surrounding divorce, annulments, remarriage, parenting, and more. Through emotional healing and the power of forgiveness, it brings the divorced and into a more vibrant relationship with Christ and the Church.

Although the program lasts for 12 weeks, no new participants will be admitted after the first three weeks because of the program's sensitive nature and to build relationships and confidentiality.

Each session begins with a 30-minute video on a specific topic, followed by small-group discussion. Partici-



Five Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School students attended the annual Martin Luther King Day breakfast at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. Bishop Robert Brennan delivered a prayer at the event. Pictured with the bishop are (from left): Travis Nixon, St. Charles community outreach director, and students Cameron O'Neal, Arthur Hurst, Dominic Doukakis and Sedric Granger Jr. "There's so much power in enjoying a meal together. No matter what race you are, you're sitting together hand and hand having casual conversation. That's what Martin Luther King wanted," Granger said.

Photo courtesy St. Charles Preparatory School

pants will receive a personal survival guide workbook that contains all the points shared and discussed during the program.

Participants are asked to RSVP online so planners of the program will have enough books and ministries. For more information, contact Heath-

er and Matt Ulrey at heather.ulrey@outlook.com.

Father Rimelspach to speak at Catholic Conversations series

Father Jeff Rimelspach, pastor of Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona Church, will speak on "Inner Conver-

sion from the Old Testament Prophets" at this month's program in the parish's Catholic Conversations series. The program will begin at 6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 23 at Otie's Tavern and Pub, 5344 Center St., Hilliard.

Father Rimelspach will look at how the problems addressed by the Old Testament prophets, whose words often are overlooked today, are not all that different from the problems of our times, calling for an inner conversion just as they did in the times of Isaiah, Jeremiah and others who foretold the coming of Jesus.

There is no fee to attend; participants pay for their own food and beverages. Registration is requested but not required. To register, go to Eventbrite and search for "Catholic Conversations" or email Julie Naporano at julienaporano1@gmail.com or Nancy Whetstone at nancywhetstone@gmail.com.

ODU to host Visit Day on Feb. 15

High school students and their families are invited to attend Ohio Dominican University's Visit Day on Saturday, Feb. 15. The free event will take place from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the Bishop Griffin Student Center on ODU's campus at 1215 Sunbury Road, Columbus.

During Visit Day, students can tour the campus and meet with an admis-

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St. Charles Preparatory School

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ST. CHARLES SPAGHETTI DINNER

Tell all your friends!!! The annual St. Charles Spaghetti Dinner, with the expert assistance of Berwick Manor and the Susi Family, will take place this year on Sunday, Feb. 9 in the school's Robert C. Walter Student Commons. Dinner will be served from 1:00-6:30 p.m. Guests will enjoy a bountiful meal of spaghetti with meatball, salad, rolls, ice cream and a beverage. The dinner is a great bargain! Holding firm with 2014 event pricing ... \$10 for adults; \$8 for senior citizens; \$5 for children 4-12; free for those 3 and under; and \$40 for a special family rate (dine-in and immediate family up to six members only, please). Carryout orders will also be available. We look forward to seeing you there!

January is Poverty Awareness Month – it's not too late!

One of the great challenges for Christians is as old as our faith. How do we connect worship on Sunday to work on Monday? Pope Francis calls us to not remain indifferent about the cries of our brothers and sisters, but above all, “help to defend their dignity as human persons, so that they can find the spiritual energy to become once again protagonists in their own lives.” Pope Francis, Address at Patriarchal Church of St. George, Istanbul, 11/30/14

It's important to look back at the beginning of a new year (after our end-of-the-year rush to help others and document the last minute tax donations) as January is “poverty awareness month.” Pope Francis challenges us to live in solidarity with the poor! There are too many women and men here and around the world who suffer from severe malnutrition, growing unemployment, and from increasing social exclusion.

As Catholics, we are not called to abandon the world but to help shape it. This does not mean leaving worldly tasks and responsibilities but transforming them. “Social justice and the common good are built up or torn down day by day in the countless

Immediately after news broke on January 12 that Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI and Cardinal Robert Sarah had written a book on the crisis of the priesthood in the 21st-century Church, online hysteria erupted — which rather underscored the prudence of a New Year's resolution I had recommended to concerned Catholics in a January 1 column: “Resolve to limit your exposure to the Catholic blogosphere.”

The extraordinary venom spewed at the pope emeritus and the cardinal by more than a few commentators did not advance the Church's discussion of the reform of the priesthood one jot or tittle. It actually retarded that urgent discussion, diverting attention from some urgent issues (including the deep roots of the abuse crisis and the meaning of clerical celibacy) by treating a serious book as if it were a partisan political tract.

Yet the cacophony over the Benedict/Sarah book, *From the Depths of Our Hearts*, did serve two useful purposes: it spoke volumes about the character of the venomous, and it clarified some of the dynamics roiling the Church as the pontificate of Pope Francis approaches its seventh anniversary on March 13.

The attack on Pope Emeritus Benedict was exceptionally nasty — and deeply ill-informed. One prominent partisan of the current pontificate opined that Benedict is “conscious barely half an hour at a time;” another wizard from the left field bleachers had it that Benedict was “incapacitated.” Neither man has the faintest idea of what he's talking about. I spent a full 45 minutes with Pope Emeritus Benedict this past October 19, discussing

FAITH IN ACTION

Erin Cordle

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



decisions and choices we make.” U.S. Bishops, *Everyday Christianity*, 1998

The key to solving these worldly tasks, like poverty, is to understand them. We need to learn the facts about living in poverty, understand the root causes, and how people are helping themselves and others out of poverty. “God's answer to the poor is always a saving act that heals wounds of body and soul, restores justice and helps to live life anew in dignity.” (Pope Francis, *Second World Day of the Poor*, 11/18/18, no. 3)

Our American bishops have organized two ways for the Church to respond to poverty. For 50 years, the U.S. Catholic Bishops' Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD – www.povertyusa.org/)

has been working to break the cycle of poverty. CCHD aims to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ, “to bring good news to the poor, release to captives, sight to the blind, and let the oppressed go free” (Luke 4:18), by fighting poverty and defending human dignity. Also, through the Catholic Relief Services Lenten Rice Bowl program (www.crsricebowl.org/), we journey with members of our human family around the world, and commit our Lenten prayers, fasting, and almsgiving to deepening our faith and upholding the dignity of those in need. “Remember the time of hunger in the time of plenty, poverty and want in the day of wealth.” Sirach 18:25

It's time. As millions here and around the world struggle to find food, clean water and security, we believe a better, more just world is possible. And we can turn that belief into reality if we stand together and lift up our voices. Together we are building a movement to end global poverty. As people of faith, we are called to create a more just and peaceful world for all. Now is the time. Will you answer the call?

The bullies and that book

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

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



a broad range of issues. He was quite frail physically, but in the early evening of what I assume had been a normal day, he was completely lucid, quite well-informed, eager for new information, full of good humor, and able to recall themes and personalities from conversations we had had decades earlier. The pope emeritus seemed clear as a bell, intellectually, at age 92; can the same be said for those who, relying on “reports,” dismiss him as a senile old man, out of touch with events and perhaps even reality?

The attack on Cardinal Sarah was equally vicious and just as ill-informed. I have had the honor of knowing the Guinean cardinal for several years and, like anyone who has spent significant time with him, I have found him a man of profound holiness: a truly converted disciple of Jesus Christ whose ministry flows from his radical fidelity to the Lord. Despite the caricatures perpetrated by those who evidently fear his present and future influence in the Church, Cardinal Sarah has also struck me as a man of Christian joy, still amazed at the grace of God that has been at work in his life, and therefore able to laugh (in that robust way that

only Africans can) at the human foibles of the moment. Cardinal Sarah was not laughing, however, at the claim that he had lied about the origin and nature of *From the Depths of Our Hearts* — and his righteous, if controlled, anger confirmed what those who actually know him understand: this is an honest man.

These calumnies against Benedict and Sarah were amplified by another absurd charge: that by discharging their minds and consciences on what is necessary for an authentic reform of the priesthood, the pope emeritus and the cardinal were somehow interfering with Pope Francis' “discernment” after the Amazonian synod of this past October. So it has now come down (and I do mean *down*) to this: the partisans of openness and dialogue are now telling two of Catholicism's most distinguished sons that their views are unwelcome; that the theological and pastoral defense of clerical celibacy is an act of disloyalty to Pope Francis; and that they should just shut up.

These are not the tactics of advocates convinced that they have won the substantive argument and are likely to continue winning. These are the tactics of those who, fearful that time is running out, imagine that their only recourse is to resort to bullying.

There is nothing of churchmanship in this, nor is there anything of Christian charity. The reform of the priesthood is essential for the evangelizing mission of the Church. Those who dismissed a serious proposal for such reform, in large part by vilifying its authors, branded themselves as less interested in reforming the priesthood of the New Covenant than in ecclesiastical power-games.

Catholic Church and Alpha movement; Church and women deacons

QA number of Catholic parishes here in my archdiocese have hosted programs on the Alpha movement in Christianity. I have found conflicting guidance as to the legitimacy/orthodoxy of this movement. Can you advise me as to whether it is approved for Catholic membership? (Tigard, Oregon)

A Alpha is a program of Christian evangelization first developed some 30 years ago at an Anglican charismatic parish in London. It consists of about a dozen interactive sessions in which participants discuss basic questions of faith -- for example, "Who is Jesus?" and "Why and how do I pray?" -- the goal being to bring them into a closer personal relationship with Christ.

Alpha is compatible with Catholic teaching, although it does not deal specifically with issues like the theology of the sacraments. (There is available a version called "Alpha for Catholics," which supplements the basic program with teachings specific to Catholicism.) Since its inception, Alpha has been used in thousands of Catholic parishes in more than 70 countries.

Detroit Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron notes that "many parishes in Detroit have found Alpha a great tool for helping men and women hear the initial proclamation of the Gospel."

Father Raniero Cantalamessa, the preacher to the papal household, is a "great friend of Alpha," and

QUESTION & ANSWER

Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service

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



Cardinal Christoph Schonborn of Vienna has said, "Alpha is for meeting Jesus. ... For me, the Christian life has something to do with simplicity, friendship, closeness and joy. That's what I feel about Alpha, and I think that's a sign that it works and that it's given from the Lord."

QA book on lives of the saints that I am reading lists a St. Olympias in the fourth and fifth centuries and says that she was a deaconess of the church, "an office which existed at that time." When did the church stop ordaining women as deacons and why? (Dunnsville, Virginia)

A Clearly, there were women in the early church who were called "deaconesses." What is not clear is what, exactly, their role was and whether their ordination was a sacramental one.

St. Paul in his Letter to the Romans (16:1) refers to a certain Phoebe, whom he calls (in some translations) "a deaconess of the church at Cenchreae."

And the saint you mention -- Olympias -- was, according to the New Advent Catholic Encyclopedia, "consecrated(a) deaconess" by the bishop of Constantinople in the fourth century. She had been widowed at an early age and chose to remain unmarried, dedicating her considerable fortune to helping the poor.

In the early centuries, deaconesses seem to have played a major role in the baptism of women. (Christians then were baptized naked, many of them as adult converts; since the clergy were male, modesty demanded that deaconesses take women converts into the water.) Catholic scholars have divided opinions as to whether these ancient deaconesses were actually ordained to a degree of holy orders or were simply blessed for service, like lectors or acolytes today.

In 2016, Pope Francis, with the encouragement of the International Union of Superiors General, created a study commission to examine the matter of women serving as deacons. Since then, members of that commission have arrived at varying points of view.

Pope Francis spoke about this with journalists in May 2019 on the papal plane returning to Rome from North Macedonia. As to whether women in the early centuries of Christianity had been ordained sacramentally, the pope said the church has yet to give a "definitive response."

Faithful Simeon and Anna show us the importance of elders

By Sister Constance Veit, LSP

During February, my thoughts turn to two of my favorite biblical figures -- Simeon and Anna.

Simeon is described in St. Luke's Gospel simply as "a man in Jerusalem" and Anna as an 84-year-old "prophetess." These two elders greet Mary and Joseph as they bring their newborn infant to the Temple in Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. We celebrate this moment in Jesus' life, referred to as the Presentation in the Temple, on Feb. 2.

Simeon and Anna are not just two pious old people making a fuss over a baby. Each one had been waiting for the coming of the Lord for many years. Their whole lives were defined by their patient, prayerful waiting. When the moment came, they recognized Jesus as the Messiah and testified on his behalf before all the people.

Pope Francis wrote, "When Mary and Joseph reached the temple to fulfill the law, Simeon and Anna jumped to their feet. They were moved by the

Holy Spirit. This elderly couple recognized the child and discovered a new inner strength that allowed them to bear witness."

Simeon and Anna have an important message for our time. They represent the crucial role of older people who "have the courage to dream," as Pope Francis said. "Only if our grandparents have the courage to dream and our young people imagine great things will our society go on." Francis believes that older people who dream are able to move forward creatively as they envision a future.

"Without the witness of their elders' lives, the plans of young people will have neither roots nor wisdom," he said. "Today more than ever, the future generates anxiety, insecurity, mistrust and fear. Only the testimony of elders will help young people look above the horizon to see the stars. Just learning that it is worth fighting for something will help young people face the future with hope."

We Little Sisters are privileged to share our lives with many successors of Simeon and Anna -- older people who

have persevered in their faith through the years as they sought a better life for themselves and their loved ones.

Among them is a woman I know who poured her life savings into the rehabilitation of a child stuck in the cycle of drug addiction, and who later sacrificed her own comfort to support three generations of her family members who were displaced after a hurricane ravaged their island home.

Another resident, a tiny woman in her mid-80s, divides her time between helping in our chapel and working in the parish founded by her priest-brother -- the only Vietnamese parish in our diocese -- helping with sundry tasks and taking Holy Communion to the sick.

I recently attended Mass at this Vietnamese parish as part of our annual fundraising appeal and enjoyed seeing our resident in action. While she and many women of the parish wore their traditional Vietnamese tunics and flowing pants in bright hues and varied designs, most of the young people came to church in the jeans, yoga pants and baggy sweatshirts typical of American youth.

The liturgy was completely in Vietnamese. I saw what a fine line these young people walk -- with one foot planted firmly in the land of their parents and grandparents and the other in America.

I was touched to see that even the young people venerated our resident. As she scurried around the church attending to many details, she would give the young people a quick word of direction in Vietnamese or a charming smile of encouragement.

Our residents embody Pope Francis' dream of elders as "a choir of a great spiritual sanctuary, where prayers of supplication and songs of praise support the larger community that works and struggles in the field of life."

Although I am not yet a senior, it won't be long before I am, and I am grateful for the example of our residents who, like Simeon and Anna, are teaching me how to assume the mantle of a wise elder in the believing community.

Sister Constance Veit is director of communications for the Little Sisters of the Poor.

My big Lenten opportunity to do something small

“What should I give up for Lent?” my nine-year-old recently asked me, quite out of the blue.

I was making dinner. He was eating an after-school snack. His older sister was paying attention (though pretending not to be).

“Well, it depends,” I answered. “You don’t want it to be something impossible. And it can’t be something that won’t be at least a little bit hard.”

I could feel my eyes roll in response to my answer. *Really? This is the best I have for him?*

And yet I couldn’t help but reflect that maybe the Spirit was at work in what felt like a simplistic reply.

How often do I approach Lent as a chance to become better? And how often, in that lofty approach, do I fail before I even begin?

Oh, don’t get me wrong: I’m not advocating slacking off. I am, however, advocating an honest approach.

Lately, it has been on my heart that my season of life is very particular. It’s demanding of me physically and mentally. I have to be available to a lot of different people, able to make decisions on the fly, fold laundry in my sleep, and communicate seamlessly using all of the technology (including my voice). There’s little room for error, even with all the mistakes I inevitably make, and a lot of grace that happens hourly.

And yet I’ve also thought that maybe it’s easier now than it was 10 years ago. The crazy now is far different. The time I spend, the effort I make, the requests I have: All of these (and much more) have adjusted to the needs of my growing family, my

FINDING FAITH IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Sarah Reinhard

Sarah Reinhard is a Catholic wife, mother and writer who lives central Ohio. She is online at SnoringScholar.com



changing work, and my extended obligations.

Instead of a crew of sniveling and whining children, I have a gang of bigger people. Instead of yelling, I’m texting in all caps. (Judge away.)

And I see where this is headed, because I have friends who are a season or two ahead of me. The noise I have blaring constantly in my head is soon to be a duller roar, and then a buzz, and then ... a symphony here or there, with long pauses between.

So, in my son’s simple question, there really is a simple answer. What can I give up? Something simple. Something small.

But let’s not forget, as our conversation continued, that fasting is only part of Lent: There’s also prayer and almsgiving to consider.

“When you give something up, the money you’d spend should go to help someone else. And you can also pray when you’re craving it,” I told him, thinking of the candy he had been naming off (making me drool a bit).

So often, I stop before I get far enough to really make a difference. In contemplating Lent, I give something up and really go gung-ho, but I fail to use that fasting as the open door to deepening my prayer and loosening my hold on my wallet.

The fact that #DrunkAmazoning* is a thing should be all I need to dive in on curbing my many appetites. Those appetites aren’t just for chocolate or coffee but include such other good things as books and conversations.

These 40 days ahead of us have turned into an opportunity for me, each year. And, if I’m honest, that opportunity is for a small step, not a huge improvement or change for the better.

I’d like to be transformed, converted. I’d like to be amazing and on fire and the best I can be.

But that only happens one bit at a time. Though I am a convert to Catholicism, the joke’s on everyone who thinks that’s neat, because my conversion has been ongoing for the entire time I’ve been in the Church. I’ll arrive when I become a saint, and the trip there is going to be messy and long and probably more painful than I’d like. (In this case, ignorance is bliss, so I’d like to not talk about the pain part.)

When the next conversation comes up about Lent, I don’t know exactly what I’ll tell whichever kid it is who asks. I’m going to try to lean into the Spirit on this. He has it under control, one small answer at a time.

(*Drunk Amazoning is when you shop on Amazon while you’re drunk, and then the package comes and you don’t remember ordering it.)

Catholic NBA legend Kobe Bryant dies in California helicopter crash

Catholic News Agency

LOS ANGELES -- Basketball superstar Kobe Bryant died Sunday, Jan. 26 in a helicopter crash in Southern California along with his 13-year-old daughter, Gianna, and seven others.

Bryant, 41, the father of four, was Catholic and widely considered one of the greatest basketball players of all time. He retired in 2016 after a 20-year career with the Los Angeles Lakers in which the shooting guard won five NBA championships, a league MVP award, two scoring championships and myriad other distinctions.

Beyond basketball, Bryant was a husband and a father who in 2015 credited his Catholic faith with helping him move past a challenging period in his own life and the life of his family.

Bryant was raised in a Catholic family and spent much of his childhood living in Italy. He married in 2001 in a Southern California parish.

In 2003, he was arrested after he was accused of raping a woman in a Colorado hotel room. He admitted a sexual encounter but denied that he had committed sexual assault. When the allegation became public, Bryant lost sponsors and faced criminal charges, which eventually were dropped.

He issued an apology to his accuser, with whom he also reached a settlement in a civil lawsuit.

“Although I truly believe this encounter between us was consensual, I recognize now that she did not and does not view this incident the same way I did. After months of reviewing discovery, listening to

her attorney, and even her testimony in person, I now understand how she feels that she did not consent to this encounter,” Bryant said in 2004.

In 2015, the basketball player told GQ that a priest helped him make some personal realizations.

Describing his fear of being sent to prison for a crime he believed he had not committed, Bryant told GQ, “The one thing that really helped me during that process — I’m Catholic, I grew up Catholic, my kids are Catholic—was talking to a priest.

“It was actually kind of funny: He looks at me and says, ‘Did you do it?’ And I say, ‘Of course not.’ Then he asks, ‘Do you have a good lawyer?’ And I’m like, ‘Uh, yeah, he’s phenomenal.’ So then he just said, ‘Let it go. Move on. God’s not going to give you anything you can’t handle, and it’s in his hands now. This is something you can’t control. So let it go.’ And that was the turning point.”

A 2004 decision to place deeper trust in God did not mean the basketball star’s life was thereafter without difficulties, or defined by virtue.

In 2011, Vanessa Bryant filed for divorce, citing irreconcilable differences. But Bryant said he decided not to give up on his marriage, and two years later his wife withdrew her divorce petition.

“I’m not going to say our marriage is perfect, by any stretch of the imagination,” Bryant told GQ.

“We still fight, just like every married couple. But, you know, my reputation as an athlete is that I’m extremely determined ... How could I do that in my professional life if I wasn’t like that in my personal life, when it affects my kids? It wouldn’t

make any sense.”

Bryant and his wife have been reported to be regular parishioners at an Orange County, California parish, and after his death, some on social media said he had been seen at Mass before the helicopter ride that ended his life.

Some also reported seeing him at weekday Mass. Singer Cristina Ballesterro posted on Instagram a story of her encounter with Bryant at Holy Family Cathedral in Orange, California, at a weekday Mass.

“As we went up to Communion, (Bryant) waited for me to go,” she posted. “If you grew up in the Catholic Church, you understand this is a respectful thing men do in church as a sign of respect to women. He said I have a beautiful voice.

“His most inspiring trait was his decision to turn to his faith in God and receive God’s mercy and to be a better man after a regretful decision.”





Bishop Robert Brennan joins Father William Hahn, pastor of Chillicothe St. Peter Church (to his immediate right), members of the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and others on a bus to the March for Life in Washington on Jan. 24. *Photo courtesy St. Peter Church*



Bishop Brennan with students from Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School at the March for Life. Sister Bozena Tyborowska of the Little Servant Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, director of the St. John Paul II Early Childhood Education Center in Columbus, is next to him in bottom row. *Photo courtesy St. Francis DeSales High School*



Marchers from Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona, St. Patrick, St. John the Baptist and St. Stephen, Powell St. Joan of Arc, Worthington St. Michael, South Charleston St. Charles Borromeo, Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help and Lancaster St. Mary churches. *Photo by Larry Pishitelli*

Abortion does not need to be a complicated issue

By Ella Reither

The most beautiful part of the Catholic Church to me is that we recognize the worth and respect all life deserves. We attend the March for Life because of the human dignity we see in all people.

From Jan. 23 to Jan. 25, I attended the March for Life in Washington with 54 other students from St. Francis DeSales High School, teachers, parents, members of the Little Servant Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, Deacon Mickey Hawkins, Father Stash Dailey and Bishop Robert Brennan.

Through these individuals and the half-million other Catholics who convened in Washington for a united cause, I was struck by the beauty of the message being sent by those in attendance.

Before going to the march, I attended Life Is Very Good, a gathering of 8,000 young people sponsored by the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia, which included a concert, keynote speakers, Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, and confession.

I had certain preconceptions about what the tone of the experience would be, assuming that the speeches and presentations would focus on the end of abortion itself. However, the words “end abortion” were mostly avoided, not because of fear of conflict, but rather because the speakers wanted to highlight the message that protecting all life is synonymous with protecting human dignity. The words and language used focused on the goodness of all

life.

Seeing the worth in all life is a concept that is not limited to Catholic belief. Last week in my psychology class, we examined the moral and ethical standards American psychologists are held to. In an assignment, we were asked to choose which of those standards we found the most important. Without hesitation, I chose “According dignity- Psychologists view others as worthy of respect. This enhances the probability that decisions will be ethical.”

Treating life with the respect it deserves means any other moral code will be followed, too. It seemed fitting to me that this assignment was made just before the March for Life, because it was a firm reminder of why we were marching.

Supporting and upholding human dignity is a call all of us have as Catholics. Regardless of race, age or any other description that may leave humans divided, all life deserves respect. Abortion does not need to be such a complicated issue once human dignity is brought to the discussion.

Respecting the life of the mother and the child is what we are called to do as humans. Having attended the March for Life for the third time, I left it feeling proud to be Catholic. Being Catholic has taught me the worth of all life and has reminded me that supporting life is a basic moral concept that we are all called to practice.

Ella Reither is a junior at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School.

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In Chillicothe, women speak out in support of life

By Doug Bean
Catholic Times Editor

CHILLICOTHE – Grass-roots efforts across the country, in large cities and small towns, define the pro-life movement. That was clearly evident on Wednesday, Jan 22, – the 47th anniversary of the tragic Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion in the United States, – at the Ross County March for Life.

There weren't the hundreds of thousands of people who flooded the National Mall two days later in Washington, D.C., on Friday, Jan. 24 for the annual national March for Life. Not even close. About 100 people turned out on a chilly, but sunny, day in Chillicothe, the state's first capital city, to march several blocks down historic Paint Street from the city park entrance to the county courthouse for the third consecutive year.

While the annual Respect Life Mass at St. Joseph Cathedral and the Roe Remembrance at the Ohio Statehouse were taking place 50 miles north in Columbus, the faithful band of marchers and speakers in this Ross County seat offered a powerful testimony through their presence and presentations on the sanctity of the human person.

Young children stood on the steps of the courthouse holding a large Ross County Right to Life banner throughout a program that lasted about 45 minutes while parents and grandparents, a woman with a baby, members of the clergy, religious sisters and others listened attentively to the speakers while holding signs with life-affirming messages.

Judy Harness, president of Ross County Right to Life and family life coordinator at Chillicothe St. Peter Church, estimated the turnout to be slightly larger than the previous year's.

The assembled crowd heard powerful testimonies from women advocates affected by abortion, about outreach efforts to aid those in need, and important information on abortion pill reversal.

Tonya Bower, a local nurse practitioner, gave an emotional account of an abortion she nearly had before changing her mind. Lisa Cutler turned the painful experience of having an abortion into doing something positive for women as the head of the Elizabeth's Hope Pregnancy Resource Center in Ross County.

Leesa Malone, a mental health counselor, became pregnant as a teenager but chose to have the baby and now assists women with post-trauma



The third annual Ross County March for Life took place on Wednesday, Jan. 22 in downtown Chillicothe on the 47th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion across the United States. Top photo: Approximately 100 marchers walked several blocks down Paint Street to the Ross County Courthouse. Bottom photo: Children display pro-life signs at the Courthouse.
CT photos by Doug Bean

and post-abortion syndrome as well as other issues.

Angela Pridemore spoke about Mercy Home, a house that's on the verge of opening its doors where expectant mothers who are struggling with poverty and homelessness can come to live.

Dr. Lyndsay Kerko, a physician who practices medicine in Westerville and works with the national pro-life group Heartbeat International, shared critical details on the new abortion pill reversal, an oral drug that, when used soon after a woman has taken a chemical abortion drug, can save the unborn child.

Saying no to abortion

At age 16, Bower found herself several months' pregnant. She and her parents thought her dreams of one day

becoming a nurse would be dashed unless she had an abortion.

She said she didn't want to terminate the life of her baby in the womb, but she felt like she should honor the wishes of her parents' wishes. Another family member even offered to buy her a car if she went through with the abortion.

She recounted the day that she rode in the car with her parents and a teddy bear to travel to Columbus to the abortion center.

When they arrived and she walked through the doors, she immediately was overcome with an eerie feeling.

"I remember thinking to myself, 'I don't want to do this,'" she said.

After she finished paperwork, and her vital signs were recorded, she returned to a waiting area with other girls and women before being called into a room to have an ultrasound. That

proved to be an emotional moment.

"I saw the pictures of that little baby, and I knew I didn't want to do it," she said while holding back tears. "They took me back, and I thought, 'Ooh, this is it. This is where I end this life.'

"And the woman said, 'Well, we can't do this today.'" She said, "A) the way you answered the questions on the questionnaire we know you don't want to do this, and, b) your parents told us to get you the heck out of here." So praise God."

Bower's son is now 26 years old and "doing great" serving the country in the U.S. Army.

"Everyone thought this was going to ruin my life. It didn't ruin my life," she said. "I went on to college to be a nurse and to be a nurse practitioner. If I would have made that choice that day to take his life, he would have never had a choice to live."

Going through with an abortion

Unfortunately, Cutler said, she made the decision to have an abortion.

"I know that God can take messes and change them into messages," she said. "And I'm grateful that He has allowed me to take mine and allows me to work at an organization like Elizabeth's Hope."

Elizabeth's Hope is a pregnancy center that not only assists women who are in a crisis pregnancy situation but also supports them once a decision regarding a pregnancy has been made, whether it's information, comfort in the event of a miscarriage, or help with healing for those dealing with an abortion.

"To be pro-life is much more than seeing an end to abortion," Cutler said. "It's supporting and helping women in all aspects of their life. ... It's seeing value in every life from birth to natural death, from adverse medical conditions at birth or to the end of life care for our elderly. It's women supporting women in happy moments and sad. It's caring for the whole being."

"It's finding healing from trauma and celebrating their victories when they've overcome battles with addiction or abuse. It's love and compassion in action. It's pro-abundant life."

In 2019, Elizabeth's Hope provided educational resources, mentorship and material aid during 3,680 client visits. A mobile staff was able to offer 109 pregnancy tests, and 60 ultrasounds for abortion-vulnerable wom-

Diocese to honor vocations, add two orders of priests

By Tim Puet

Catholic Times Reporter

Bishop Robert Brennan will lead a diocesan celebration of the World Day for Consecrated Life on Sunday, Feb. 2 at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral.

Father Stash Dailey, diocesan vicar for religious, said all priests, lay brothers and religious sisters of the diocese have been invited to the event, which will begin with a Holy Hour for vocations at 4 p.m. that will include the Litany of the Sacred Heart and the praying of the Rosary in multiple languages, along with Vespers and Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

The bishop will celebrate the cathedral's evening Mass for the day, which will begin at 5 p.m. instead of the usual time of 5:15 p.m. The celebration of religious life coincides with the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, also known as Candlemas Day, when candles traditionally are blessed for use at church and in homes. Candles will be blessed before Mass, and those attending may bring candles for the blessing.



Father Wojciech Stachura, SAC, of the Pallottine Order has been in Columbus since November. Photo courtesy Father Stachura

"This feast has been celebrated in individual parishes, but Bishop Brennan thought it would be fitting to have this celebration on the diocesan level to provide an opportunity to pray for an increase in vocations and for the sanctification of those in religious life," Father Dailey said.

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, 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 is on a Sunday, it allows both events to be marked together.

Father Dailey said that priests from the Pallottine Order and the Heralds of Good News, two religious orders not previously represented in central Ohio, either have come or are coming to the Diocese of Columbus to help meet the spiritual needs of its 280,000 Catholics as it continues dealing with a situation in which the Catholic population is growing, but there are fewer priests to serve them.

He also said the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, who have served parishes in Chillicothe and Waverly since 2014, are planning to open a second convent this summer in Columbus, at a location to be determined. He said they will be engaging in a ministry of nursing and pastoral care.

"The church is made stronger in her holiness when the consecrated life is lived out within and among her; therefore, members of the consecrated life, whether they be priests and brothers or sisters and nuns or consecrated virgins, give witness to the reality of heaven here on earth," Father Dailey said. "Their witness is always eschatological, meaning they live now on earth how we will all live in heaven, totally focused on the Most Holy Trinity."

Father Wojciech Stachura, SAC, who is from Poland and a member of the Society of the Catholic Apostolate, familiarly known as the Pallottine Order, has been in Columbus since early November and is in residence at Columbus Sacred Heart Church. Father Dailey said a second member of the Pallottines will join him this summer. Father Stachura said he will be given a parish assignment in July, when the diocese traditionally announces most of its assignment changes for the year.

Two priests from the Heralds of Good News, a missionary order based in India, also will be arriving in Columbus this year. Their arrival date and assignments have not been determined, Father Dailey said.

Father Stachura has been a priest for 25 years and came to the United States in 2011. Before moving to Columbus, he had been serving at St. Martha Church in Sarasota, Florida, which is staffed by the Pallottine Fathers.

"I wasn't originally supposed to come to Columbus," he said. "Last June, some of the order's young priests were assigned to America and one of them, Father Michal – I forget

his last name – was supposed to come to Ohio. But he ended up getting assigned to Poland."

Father Stachura said he learned about Father Dailey from Sister Bozena Tyborowska of the Little Servant Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, another Polish native, who is director of the St. John Paul II Early Education Center in Columbus. "Once Father Stash and I got in contact, there were many email conversations between my provincial superior and Bishop Brennan, with the final result being that Bishop Brennan issued an invitation and I came here in November," he said.

Father Stachura said he has been celebrating Masses at Sacred Heart and Columbus Holy Family Church, where Father Dailey is pastor, and at the Little Servant Sisters' convent since his arrival. This past weekend, he was the celebrant for Mass at Mattingly Settlement St. Mary Church.

Because of his presence in Columbus, the Polish-language Sunday Mass, which had been celebrated once a month at Holy Family, now is taking place every week at Sacred Heart. "The Polish community had been desiring more Masses for years, so they were thrilled to see me come here," he said.

"I'm delighted to be here because I see many opportunities to be of service, and the people couldn't be more open to me. I'm looking forward to whatever my assignment ends up being because of all the good things I can do here for the Lord Jesus."

The Society of the Catholic Apostolate is known as the Pallottine Order because of its founder, St. Vincent Pallotti. Pope Gregory XVI gave his approval to the order in 1835. It is based in Rome and has approximately 2,300 members, who live in more than 300 communities in more than 40 nations. In the United States, it has ministries in Illinois, New Jersey, Maryland, Texas, Wisconsin and the District of Columbia.

St. Vincent Pallotti was a strong believer that laypersons, priests and religious share the same call to serve as Christ's apostles to the world. He often is referred to as "the Defender of the Lay Apostolate." The Pallottine priests and two orders of sisters established in his spirituality are joined by laypersons worldwide in what is known as the Union of the Catholic Apostolate.

Father Anish Thomas and Father Jins Kuppakara Devasia are the two members of the Heralds of Good

News who are coming to Columbus. Both are from the Indian state of Kerala, which with more than 3.75 million Catholics has the strongest Catholic presence in that nation, dating to St. Thomas the Apostle's arrival in India as a missionary.

Father Thomas is 32, has been a priest for nearly six years and currently works in formation of priests at one of his order's seminaries. Father Devasia, 35, a priest for nearly 10 years, has served in India and Papua New Guinea.

"I joined Father Paul Pynadath, HGN, a priest of our order stationed in the Diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky, in the Columbus diocese for a mission appeal last July," said Father Saji Sebastian, superior of the St. Paul Province of the Heralds. "We got in touch with Father Dailey and began a relationship which has led to a pastoral collaboration with the diocese and the coming arrival of two of our priests."

The Heralds were founded in 1984 in India as a missionary society of apostolic life by Father Jose Kaimlett and became a pontifical institute in 1999. They have about 480 priests and 400 seminarians, working mostly in India but also in Australia, Canada, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, and the United States, where they have a presence in 31 dioceses across the nation. The closest of those to central Ohio are the dioceses of Lexington and Owensboro in Kentucky and the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, West Virginia.

"The specific aim of the society is the promotion of vocations to the priesthood, the training of seminarians and the supply of zealous and hard-working missionaries to the dioceses in India and abroad which experience a shortage of priests due to the lack of local vocations," the order's website says.

The Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary were founded in 1844, also in India. They have four sisters based at Chillicothe St. Peter Church and serve that parish, Waverly St. Mary Church, Chillicothe Bishop Flaget School and Catholics throughout Ross and Pike counties.

In the United States, they have six convents, located in Chillicothe, the Indianapolis area and New Rochelle, New York, with 21 sisters, and they have 530 members worldwide. Their charisms are outreach to the marginalized, spiritual leadership and teaching the faith.

PRO-LIFE, continued from Page 3



Dominican novices from the St. Gertrude Priory in Cincinnati sing the Latin hymn Salve Regina (Hail, Holy Queen) at the Statehouse. The novice master, Father Michael Dosch, OP (far right), is a former pastor of Columbus St. Patrick Church.

tions and help families. The work requires constant internal change. It's a constant renewal of our faith, digging deeper and trusting more."

She noted that although at times it may seem like "47 demoralizing years" since *Roe v. Wade*, there are many hopeful signs for the pro-life movement in Ohio. She said abortions in central Ohio have declined by nearly half since GCRTL began its twice-yearly 40 Days for Life prayer vigils in front of abortion clinics in 2008. For 2018, the number of abortions performed declined from the total for the previous year by 1,138 in central Ohio and more than 400 statewide.

She told a story of how she went to an evening Mass at the cathedral the previous week and how that led her to a homeless couple facing a situation in which the woman was 19½ weeks' pregnant.

"The expectant mother said that whenever she asked about prenatal care, she was told she had to have an abortion," Vanderkooi said. "I told her about the Malta Center of Care run by the Knights of Malta, which will provide care for her for free, and the Women's Care Center located nearby. There are options, and people want to help.

"What happened with this woman shows how much happens when we are where God wants us to be at that moment. It may be when we're most tired and we feel we have nothing else to give, but we have the gift of human contact, of hope and love."

Vanderkooi said Jan. 22 marked another significant anniversary, besides that of *Roe v. Wade* and the New York abortion law. On Jan. 22, 1872,

woman's suffrage pioneer cast a ballot and was promptly arrested.//who are we talking about here? And is this the correct date?-pb// It took another 48 years before the 19th Amendment, giving women the right to vote, was approved in 1920.

"Today, we have fought 47 years since *Roe v. Wade*," Vanderkooi said. "The example of women's suffrage shows you don't give up the fight."

Baer used the Old Testament example of the prophet Nehemiah to describe the state of the pro-life movement. Nehemiah was influential in the court of the Persian King Artaxerxes in the mid-fifth century B.C. and persuaded the king to allow the walls of Jerusalem to be rebuilt. "This was one of the first images of God's people doing political activism," he said.

"Israel's glory was being restored,



A gathering of people ranging from students to senior citizens listens to Columbus Bishop Robert Brennan speak at the annual Roe Remembrance at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium on Wednesday, Jan. 22.

CT photos by Ken Snow

and all sorts of good things were happening to God's people, yet they started to disobey him again," Baer said. "Nehemiah became frustrated, and the last verse of his book in the Bible says something to the effect of 'God, remember me. I tried.'

"It's the same with us. In our effort to overturn *Roe*, we can do all the good work we want, but if we don't turn people's hearts to God, everything we do is in vain. What are we doing to spread the gospel and bring people to the Lord? If we don't do that, everything else will fall apart."

Obhof, in reviewing the Legislature's pro-life accomplishments of recent years, said, "I don't think you can find a state legislature in the last 10 years which has done more for the cause of life than the Ohio Legislature." He noted in particular the state's adoption

of the Heartbeat Bill, which prohibits abortion once a fetal heartbeat is detected, and the Senate's approval of the Born-Alive Infant Protection Act, which would penalize a doctor who fails to care for an infant who survives a failed abortion. The Senate also has passed a resolution urging Congress to approve a similar measure.

"I'm proud so many of us in the Legislature on both sides always side with unborn children," he said. "And it's been refreshing for the last three years to get an opportunity to work with a president who feels the same way."

Other legislators at the rally were Sens. Matt Huffman, R-Lima, the Senate majority leader, and Steve Huffman, R-Tipp City, and Reps. Nino Vitale, R-Urbana, and Tracy Richardson, R-Marysville.

The invocation was given by Neal Dearyan, pastor of Chili Crossroads Bible Church at Fresno in Coshocton County. Bishop Brennan's closing prayer was followed by the Marian hymn *Salve Regina* (Hail, Holy Queen), sung by Dominican novices from St. Gertrude Priory in Cincinnati, directed by Father Michael Mary Dosch, OP, novice master for the St. Joseph province and former pastor of Columbus St. Patrick Church.

Sixth- through eighth-graders from Worthington St. Michael School led the Pledge of Allegiance. Other large groups were on hand from Columbus Bishop Watterson, Bishop Hartley and St. Francis DeSales high schools and Columbus Trinity and Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help elementary schools.



A view from the Statehouse Atrium of Beth Vanderkooi, executive director of Greater Columbus Right to Life, speaking at the Roe Remembrance.

Photo by Larry Pishitelli

LOCAL NEWS, continued from Page 4

sion counselor to discuss available majors, financial aid options and the application process.

To register for Visit Day, visit ohiodominican.edu/Visit. Once there, click the "RSVP to an Event" button and scroll down to "Saturday Campus Visit."

Students not able to attend Visit Day are invited to schedule an individual visit to campus at ohiodominican.edu/Visit or by calling ODU's undergraduate admissions office at (614) 251-4500.

Young Catholic Professionals schedules two events

The Young Catholic Professionals (YCP) organization will examine the Mass during its February meeting and host a gala in March.

Father Kevin Kavanagh, pastor of Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes Church, will speak on "A Theological Walkthrough of the Mass" on Wednesday, Feb. 19 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at Worthington St. Michael Church, 5750 N. High St.

The gala, with a "Casino Royale" theme, will be at Columbus Immaculate Conception Church, 414 E. North Broadway, on Saturday, March 14. The evening will include dinner from Carfagna's, open bar, music, dancing, gambling with play money, and raffle prizes including a two-night stay in Las Vegas. Tickets are \$55 through Friday, Feb. 14 before prices increase.

YCP brings together adults in their 20s and 30s from throughout central Ohio for speaker events, panel discussions and networking to foster Catholic identity, encourage community and inspire a call to action. For more information on events or to donate to or volunteer with YCP, go to www.ycpcolumbus.org or send an email to info@ycpcolumbus.org.

Deacon Greg Kandra to speak at Lancaster St. Mary mission

Deacon Greg Kandra, a former award-winning journalist for CBS News who now uses his writing talent to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel, will be the featured speaker for a mission at Lancaster St. Mary Church, 132 S. High St., at 7 p.m. Monday to Wednesday, March 16 to 18.

His theme will be "Living the Good News in a Time of Bad News and Fake News." The empha-

sis for his talks will be the family on Monday, the workplace and community on Tuesday, and the wider world on Wednesday.

Several priests will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Tuesday, and the mission will conclude with Mass on Wednesday.

Deacon Kandra also will preach at weekend Masses on Saturday and Sunday, March 14 and 15. He has been a deacon of the diocese of Brooklyn, New York, since 2007 and serves as outreach manager and senior writer for the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, a pontifical mission society serving northeast Africa, the Middle East, Eastern Europe and India.

Before taking that position, he spent nearly three decades in broadcast journalism, mainly as a writer and producer for CBS. He won two Emmys and two Peabody Awards as a secular journalist and has been honored many times by the Catholic Press Association. His blog, "The Deacon's Bench," has garnered 20 million readers from around the world since its inception in 2007.

Funding available for aiding at-risk youth

Faith-based organizations in Franklin County have been invited to apply for funding from Project Faith, a partnership between such organizations and Franklin County Juvenile Court focusing on education, employment preparation and life skills for at-risk young people.

The court is committed to the juvenile detention alternatives initiative established by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. One of the initiative's eight core strategies is cross-system collaboration, which led to establishment of Project Faith as a means of providing additional support to vulnerable young people through community-based activities. Last year, the six organizations that took part in the project served 143 young people.

Applications to participate this summer are due by Friday, March 6. They may be found online under the news section of the court's website, which also includes details for an informational meeting scheduled March 13. Contact Candace Waytes at Candace_Waytes@fccourts.org.

John Carroll alumni to hear talk on politics

John Carroll University professor Colin Swearingen will speak on "Presidential Politics and Predictions" to the Columbus chapter of the university's alumni association at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20 at Columbus Bishop Watterson High School, 99 E. Cooke Road.

The free talk will be geared to those of high-school age and above. For more information, go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jcu-columbus-presidential-primaries-and-predictions-tickets-89843364923>.

Silent retreat for women set for March 6-8

The Catholic Laywomen's Retreat League will sponsor a Lenten silent retreat for women from Friday to Sunday, March 6 to 8 at St. Therese's Retreat Center in Columbus.

The retreat will be led by Father Stephen Dominic Hayes, OP, of Columbus St. Patrick Priory. Its theme will be "Living a Marian Life in a Martha World." Father Hayes asks that participants bring a Bible.

The cost, including meals and lodging, is \$150, with a \$50 nonrefundable deposit required by Monday, Feb. 24. Financial assistance is available to those who need it. The retreat league also accepts donations to aid its work of supporting the center. If enclosing a donation, please designate this, with the amount, in the memo line of your check.

Send checks for the deposit or the full amount, payable to the Diocese of Columbus, to St. Therese's Retreat Center, Attention: CLRL, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus OH 43213. If you have any questions, contact Terry Norris at (614) 595-1972 or nooris.m@sbcglobal.net.

Scholarship honors sister who served in Columbus

Sister Geraldine Warthling, OSF, a Stella Niagara Franciscan sister who served in several positions in the Diocese of Columbus from the 1960s to the 1980s and died in 2013, is being honored with the establishment of a scholarship in her name to the Academy of the Sacred Heart in Buffalo, New York.

Sister Geraldine was director of the diocese's Teens Encounter Christ program from 1972 to 1981 and taught at Columbus Father Wehrle High School from 1971 to 1974 and the Pontifical College Josephinum from 1981 to 1987. She was known as Sister Mary Cordis, OSF, when she taught at Columbus Rosary High School from 1963 to 1966.

The scholarship will be given annually to a Sacred Heart Academy STEM student and was created by her family, former students and others to memorialize her work as a teacher, colleague, sister and friend.

Donations may be made online at www.sacredheartacademy.org or sent to the academy at 3860 Main St., Buffalo, NY 14226, Attention: Sister Geraldine Fund. For more information, contact Mike Cua at (614) 632-5056, Carol Ventresca at (614) 203-1868 or Tracy Reed at the academy at (716) 834-2101, extension 318.

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2020
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Conference explores reaching out to millennial generation

More than 150 representatives of parishes throughout the diocese were urged at a conference on evangelizing the millennial generation to look at ways they can make parishes more of a home for young adults and to go beyond the parish walls in engaging with the millennial culture.

The diocese sponsored the conference on Friday, Jan. 17 at Gahanna St. Matthew Church. Speakers included Sarah Kaczmarek, associate director of Chicago-based Alpha Catholic Context, and Pete Burak, director of the i.d.9:16 ministry young adults, headquartered in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

The millennial generation represents people born between 1980 and 1996. Studies by the Pew Research Center say millennials are much less likely to be formally involved with traditional religious activities than any previous generation, noting that 80 percent of millennials who were raised Catholic stop practicing the faith by age 23, with 15 percent of millennial Catholics attending Mass on a weekly basis.

Kaczmarek said this means anyone wishing to evangelize millennials needs to contact them where they gather and address their life experiences, with the example of Pope St. John Paul II in mind. "John Paul's words resonated because they engaged our hearts," she said. "You felt spoken to, like his words were meant for you."

Describing millennials as a "lost generation," she said, "Millennials aren't just looking for community. They're looking for fathers and mothers in faith. Everyone can be involved with ministry to millennials because everyone can be a friend."

Kaczmarek said one problem many parishes need to address with ministry in general, not just for millennials,



Fourth-year seminarians from the Pontifical College Josephinum's College of Liberal Arts and fourth-year deacons from its School of Theology attended the diocesan conference on evangelizing to millennials on Friday, Jan. 17, at Gahanna St. Matthew Church. Pictured are (from left): first row, conference presenter Pete Burak; seminarians Peter Stetson, Carter Pierce and David England; Bishop Robert Brennan; and seminarians Joseph Rolwing, Nick Olley and Connor Wright; second row, seminarian Nick Hemker; Father Michael Lumpe, vice rector, Josephinum College of Liberal Arts; and seminarians Brandon O'Nan and Andrew Geerling. Seminarians Michael Gorman and Zach Schoen also attended the event.
Photo courtesy Pontifical College Josephinum

is continuity. "We need to make sure that everyone who is in a ministry role at the parish should be training someone just behind them to be able to step in," she said. "The ministry should not fall apart when one person leaves. The Holy Spirit is the primary agent in evangelization. Everyone else should be replaceable."

She said marriage preparation courses are likely to provide the most important opportunity to offer many millennials a connection to their parish. "Are we meeting them in such a way that they are excited to be back, or do we give them a form to fill out?" she asked.

She also said the giving patterns of millennials indicate they might be the

most generous generation the nation has ever seen. "They just give differently than previous generations, who mostly gave consistently to a couple of causes," she said. "Millennials will donate to a specific cause as it comes up because they believe in it or are moved by the story. Is your parish's mission and vision well packaged? Is it beautiful? Is it possible to give online, and is it easy to find out how to do so?"

Burak said many of the ideas he, Kaczmarek and other speakers put forward apply not just to millennials but to everyone in a parish.

He told the audience not to be concerned about whether anyone responds to an invitation to become involved in parish life. "Celebrate the

invitation, not the result," he said. "Sometimes you have to embrace failure. It's that people have heard the invitation that matters. Instead of trying to think of reasons why something may not work, ask in prayer, 'What if it works?' and proceed from the idea of it working."

He said the desire of many millennials to serve others provides an ideal opportunity to introduce the precepts of Catholic social teaching to them. "Just make sure to witness to the 'why' of what you're doing," he said. "Service activities are a shoulder-to-shoulder way of creating bonds among parishioners of all ages."

He said fasting for a specific purpose was another way of bringing a parish together. "Some demons can be cast out only through prayer and fasting," he said.

Burak also asked those in attendance to consider the question, "Would your parish exist if the physical church structure burned down?" and to have a "strategic dreamer" run a parish meeting with the theme, "What could our parish do if we were not limited by physical boundaries?"

Catherine Suprenant of the diocesan Marriage and Family Life Office attended the conference and said, "It was energizing to be in a space with so many people involved in various ministries and ready to set the diocese on fire. As a millennial myself, it was moving to see such a turnout by those seeking to reach my generation."

"The conference provided a great venue to ask deep questions such as, 'What are we communicating to those who approach our parishes?' Small-group sessions provided a valuable opportunity to discuss questions like this and to learn from other parishes about effective ministry to millennials."

LOCAL NEWS, continued from Page 12

Bosco Bash, youth conference set for March at Bishop Hartley

"Blessed and Beloved" will be the theme for the diocesan Youth and Young Adult Ministry's Bosco Bash for sixth- to eighth-graders and Bosco Bash for high-school students, which will take place on consecutive days at Columbus Bishop Hartley High School, 1285 Zettler Road.

The Bosco Bash, named for St. John Bosco, the patron saint of young people, will be from 2 to 7:45 p.m.

Saturday, March 7. It will include high-energy activities geared toward middle-school students, as well as praise and worship, Eucharistic Adoration, skits, exhibits, service, prayer, small-group activities, dinner, and a Sunday Vigil Mass celebrated by Father David Schalk, pastor of Columbus Christ the King Church.

The youth conference, from 10:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sunday, March 8, will have a similar program for ninth- to 12th-graders, with Bishop Robert

Brennan celebrating Mass and lunch instead of dinner.

The keynote speaker for both events will be Noelle Garcia, a Catholic recording artist, speaker, wife, and mother of five children. For more than 10 years, she has traveled the nation sharing the faith through witness, Scripture, catechesis and music at events such as Steubenville youth conferences and the National Catholic Youth Conference.

Her main topics include her witness of struggling with depression and

self-harm and having faith during suffering.

Both events are open to all young people, with Catholics invited to bring their non-Catholic friends. Participants are asked to register with their parish youth ministry coordinator or school campus minister. The cost is \$30 per participant and includes a meal and T-shirt. Adult chaperones may attend for \$40. For more information or to register, go to www.columbuscatholic.org/DCYC.

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord Cycle A

Follow the light of faith, and be a beacon of truth

Father Timothy Hayes

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



Malachi 3:1-4
Psalm 24:7, 8, 9, 10
Hebrews 2:14-18
Luke 2:22-40

Faith put into practice allows us to encounter God, the Lord, *whom we seek*.

We can exercise our faith in fulfillment of the law. We can express our faith in response to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. We can fulfill our faith by practice of the virtues, the good habits we have acquired through daily living.

God is light. We are made capable of seeing everything *in the light* through faith. In time, we live by faith; in eternity, we will live by sight, for we shall then see God as He IS. For now, we must seek the light. In order for us to be able to see as God sees – the gift of wisdom – we must believe and be open to the light of faith.

Many ask: Why are there so many who do not believe as the Catholic Church believes? There are many answers to this, so there must be discernment in each particular case.

- First, they may not have heard the truth. The Gospel is available everywhere, but it may be drowned out by many competing voices.
- Second, having heard the truth, they may not have seen it practiced by those who say they believe, by the likes of us – saying we believe one thing but doing another. Surely this is the major challenge in our times. The clear witness of the faith has been obscured by the actions of those among us who are supposed to be examples of faith.
- Finally, in many cases, others have been positively taught against the truth as the Church presents it. This is often so in regard to the sacraments and the moral teachings of the Church.

Catholic practices are called into question by some who share other aspects of our faith in Christ: We baptize infants. We believe the Eucharist IS Jesus himself. We acknowledge seven

sacraments. The teachings of our Church on the Sacrament of Matrimony are much questioned by our current culture. So it goes for other teachings and practices of the Church.

We are called to seek the light of truth and

to put it into practice through living faith. The Feast of the Presentation offers examples of faith and how to live in the light.

Mary and Joseph go to the temple to present the Child Jesus. They put their faith – their Jewish faith – into practice, fulfilling the prescriptions of the Mosaic Law. Their act of obedience draws them more deeply into the mystery and fulfills God's plan for his people. They dwell with God's own Son, who is "*light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for (God's) people Israel.*"

Simeon comes to the Temple, prompted by the Holy Spirit. He is docile to the intuitions of faith and ready to respond. Because he responds, he sees, and he is able to speak prophetically about Jesus and his Mother. People of faith have insights that assist us to choose the right path. Faith is a light to our path, "*a lamp unto our feet,*" through shared wisdom.

Anna comes to the Temple, because she is always there, exercising her faith through a daily presence that is not required, but connects her. She is like the powerhouse of prayer we have in those who attend daily Mass. What she sees, she shares freely to give hope to all those waiting for the consolation that has been promised.

The Feast of the Presentation calls us to live in the light of God. We are among those *who await the consolation of Israel*, the redemption promised. We are charged to live our faith, to respond to the Spirit's promptings, and to be always at prayer.

Our faith assures us that the Church gives us trustworthy teachings. Our life of prayer gives us intuitions of God's grace in the moment. Lifelong habits of prayer prepare us to meet Christ and give us an instinct for the truth that goes beyond the limitations of human thoughts and mistaken teachings.

We belong to God. We give our lives and our choices over to him. We make a choice to stand for the truth together, to be a light to the nations and to reveal God's glory.

THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

MONDAY
2 Samuel 15:13-14,
30:16:5-13
Psalm 3:2-7
Mark 5:1-20

TUESDAY
2 Samuel 18:9-10,
14b,24-25a,30-19:3
Psalm 86:1-6
Mark 5:21-43

WEDNESDAY
2 Samuel 24:2,9-17
Psalm 32:1-2,5-7
Mark 6:1-6

THURSDAY
1 Kings 2:1-4,10-12
1 Chronicles 29:10-12 (Ps)
Mark 6:7-13

FRIDAY
Sirach 47:2-11

Psalm 18:31,47,50-51
Mark 6:14-29

SATURDAY
1 Kings 3:4-13
Psalm 119:9-14
Mark 6:30-34

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE: WEEK OF FEB. 2, 2020

SUNDAY MASS

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

10:30 a.m. Mass from Portsmouth St. Mary Church on St. Gabriel Radio (FM 88.3), Portsmouth.

Mass with the Passionist Fathers at 7:30 a.m. on WWHO-TV (the CW), Channel 53, Columbus and 10:30 a.m. on WHIZ-TV, Channel 18, Zanesville. Mass from St. Francis de Sales Seminary, Milwaukee, at 10 a.m. on WWHO-TV. Check local cable system for cable channel listing.

Mass from Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, Birmingham, Ala., at 8 a.m. on EWTN

(Spectrum Channel 385, Insight Channel 382, or WOW Channel 378). (Encores at noon, 7 p.m., and midnight).

Mass from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee at 6:30 a.m. on ION TV (AT&T U-verse Channel 195, Dish Network Channel 250, or DirecTV Channel 305).

Mass from Massillon St. Mary Church at 10:30 a.m. on WILB radio (AM 1060, FM 94.5 and 89.5), Canton, heard in Tuscarawas, Holmes, and Coshocton counties.

DAILY MASS

8 a.m., Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Birmingham, Ala. (Encores at noon, 7 p.m. and midnight). See EWTN above; and on I-LifeTV (Channel 113, Ada, Logan, Millersburg, Murray City,

Washington C.H.; Channel 125, Marion, Newark, Newcomerstown and New Philadelphia; Channel 207, Zanesville).

8 p.m., St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com.

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

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



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**AM 820
CATHOLIC RADIO**

Cleveland's Bishop Perez to lead Philadelphia archdiocese

Catholic News Agency and local reports

PHILADELPHIA -- Bishop Nelson Perez of Cleveland was appointed Archbishop of Philadelphia on Thursday, Jan. 23, returning to the local Church of his priestly ordination.

Bishop Perez previously served as an auxiliary bishop in the Diocese of Rockville Centre, New York, with Bishop Robert Brennan, who last year joined Perez in Ohio after being appointed bishop in the Diocese of Columbus.

"On behalf of all the faithful in the Diocese of Columbus, I offer congratulations and prayers to my good friend and fellow Bishop Nelson Pérez as he departs the Diocese of Cleveland to accept appointment as the Archbishop of Philadelphia," Bishop Brennan said in a statement.

"On a personal level, since coming to Ohio I have treasured the opportunity to again work alongside Bishop Pérez as we did as auxiliary bishops in the Diocese of Rockville Centre. Throughout our long friendship, I have known him as a holy man with a great passion and energy for our faith.

"It is without question that the Archdiocese of Philadelphia will benefit greatly by the return of Bishop Pérez, who has served in the Archdiocese in the past, as he assumes these new responsibilities of leadership."

Bishop Perez succeeds Archbishop Charles Chaput, 75, who had led the Philadelphia archdiocese since 2011.

Ordained a priest of the Capuchin Franciscans in 1970, Archbishop Chaput served in Rapid City, South Dakota, and Denver before his transfer to Philadelphia.

"Bishop Perez is a man who already knows and loves the Church in Philadelphia, and is already known and loved by our priests and people. I cannot think of a better successor to lead this Archdiocese," Chaput wrote online after the announcement.

Bishop Perez, 58, was born in Miami to Cuban parents and grew up in New Jersey. He is the first Hispanic bishop to lead the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

"I am deeply grateful to the Holy Father for this appointment and his confidence in me," Perez said Jan. 23.

"It is with great joy tinged with a sense of sadness that I accept the appointment -- joy that I will be returning to serve the archdiocese in which I was ordained to the priesthood, where I served as the pastor of two parishes and where I held several leadership positions within the archdiocese, and sadness that I will be leaving an area and the incredible people in Northeast Ohio I have come to love deeply."

After serving in pastoral and Hispanic ministry in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Perez was named in 2012 an auxiliary bishop for Rockville Centre and consecrated a bishop that July. In 2017, he was appointed Bishop of Cleveland.

Perez will be installed as the Archbishop of Philadelphia on Feb. 18.



More than 30 seminarians from the Pontifical College Josephinum attended the March for Life in Washington. Father Michael Lumpe, vice rector of the Josephinum's College of Liberal Arts, is in baseball cap next to banner. Photo/Pontifical College Josephinum

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Applications will be accepted until **Monday, February 3, 2020**. To apply, send resume with references to:
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 Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church
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 Marysville, Ohio 43040 or Email: olol.marysville@rroho.com

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PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

ALLEN, Elizabeth S., 84, Jan. 20
St. Mary Church, Groveport

ANDERSON, Kathleen A. (Poliseno), 72, Jan. 22
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

CASA, Josephne (Sinicola), 90, Jan. 19
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

COLLINS, Richard J., 69, Jan. 17
St. Matthew Church, Gahanna

DONALDSON, Rose A. (Keller), 91, Jan. 18
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

FOUST, William J., 86, Jan. 21
St. Elizabeth Church, Columbus

GUINAN, Alice M., 92, Jan. 23
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

GUY, Elizabeth T. (Horvath), 95, Jan. 21
St. Mary Magdalene Church, Columbus

KANE, Edward W., 65, Jan. 21
St. Philip Church, Columbus

LOEWENDICK, Dorothy (Berry), 91, Jan. 25
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Zanesville

PORT, Margaret (Walker), 82, Jan. 19
Holy Family Church, Columbus

PRINDLE, Dr. Robert H., 86, Jan. 24
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

REINER, Karl S., 79, formerly of Columbus, Jan. 17
Precious Blood Church, Culpeper, Va.

RIEDER, Tom, 77, Jan. 23
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

RUBADUE, Rose (Linnabary), 82, Jan. 18
Holy Redeemer Church, Portsmouth

SEDLACK, William T., 88, Jan. 25
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

SIEVERS, Barbara A. (Froelich), 68, Jan. 22
St. Joseph Church, Plain City

SLIFKO, Loretta (McElroy), 94, Jan. 17
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Zanesville

SMITH, Mack F., 42, Jan. 22
St. Agatha Church, Columbus

TUMEO, Vincent C., 96, Jan. 23
Sacred Heart Church, Columbus

YANG, Julia A. (Stalkamp), 75, Jan. 23
St. Patrick Church, Columbus

Rose-Marie "Rody" Dilenschneider

Funeral Mass for Rose-Marie "Rody" Dilenschneider, 86, who died Friday, Jan. 17, will be celebrated at noon Saturday, Feb. 1 at the Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center.

She was born on May 23, 1933 in Lima to the late Ted and Anna Oppenheim and graduated in 1954 from St. Mary's College at Notre Dame, Indiana with a degree in history and secondary education.

She taught in the Baltimore, Maryland, school system for four years, then moved with her husband in 1959 to Upper Arlington, where she was active in Great Books programs and literacy efforts for much of her life and taught English as a Second Language in the city schools system from 1982 to 1998. She also taught Sunday religious education classes at Columbus St. Agatha Church and the New-

man Center for 30 years.

She was the first laywoman on the board of education of the Diocese of Columbus, serving from 1964 to 1968. With the Columbus Literacy Council, she trained more than 3,000 tutors, and was selected to be on the council's board of trustees from 1985 to 1991. She received many honors for her literacy activities, including the Humanitas Award from St. Mary's College in 2009.

Survivors include her husband, John; sons, John (Monica), Charles (Jamie), Joe (Ayano), Ted, Frank (Michelle), David (Mary) and Bob (Kathy), daughters, Anne, Mary (Tim) and Rose (Mike); brother, Father Frank Oppenheim, SJ; sister, Sister Ramona Oppenheim, MM; 24 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

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

ROSS COUNTY, continued from Page 9

en that resulted in 51 pregnancies being carried to term, five ending in miscarriage and four outcomes still to be determined.

Elizabeth's Hope's goals in 2020 are to increase community awareness and, possibly, add the abortion reversal pill.

Refusing provider's 'help'

When Malone learned that she was pregnant during her junior year of high school, she visited the local Planned Parenthood, then on Paint Street in Chillicothe, for help.

"I'll always remember the lady put her arm on my shoulder and said, 'You do not have to have this child. We want you to have an option,'" Malone recalled. "I looked at her, and the room became really dark, and I felt really scared. I looked at her straight in the face and said, 'That is not the help I came here for,' and I walked out the door."

Not long after giving birth to that child, she found herself pregnant again and was "encouraged by several people to have an abortion," she said.

She refused and "and walked across the stage my senior year (at her graduation) pregnant with my second child."

She went on to college and earned multiple degrees. Malone eventually started her own counseling practice.

She helps women and men who feel pressured into an abortion decision and through the guilt associated with having an abortion.

"Women keep pain to themselves," Malone said.

She cited statistics outlining the devastating effects on self-esteem and its correlation to suicide, drug and alcohol abuse, and post-traumatic stress disorder.

"In my clinical practice, many of these women have had abortions and are very secret about it," Malone said. "They don't feel comfortable about talking about it."

Caring for moms-to-be

Some pregnant women simply have no place to go, and Mercy Home hopes to fill a void in Chillicothe.

A house purchased in 2019 is close to opening its doors after renovation work is completed. Women who need a place to live will be able to come there at any time during a pregnancy and stay up to one year.

"As soon as we have the monthly support to maintain operations, we'll be able to open our doors to women who find themselves in a disadvantageous situation due to an unexpected pregnancy," Pridemore said.

The focus will be on helping women

create a stable, sustainable life through education assistance, housing, employment and community support.

"Abortion is a reflection that we as a community, as a society, have failed women, and that women have settled for less," Pridemore said. "It is time to make a change in how we fight this battle. We fight this battle by empowering women. We fight this battle by providing real alternatives."

"We start with places like Mercy Home because women deserve it."

Reversing the decision

Dr. Rerko recounted two different situations she encountered with abortion pill reversal. One ended with a mom losing her baby, but the other mother enjoyed a healthy outcome.

Results indicate that the successful reversals are more likely. Sixty-four percent to 68 percent of women who have taken the reversal pill 24 to 72 hours after ingesting the abortion drug were able to give birth.

Dr. Rerko also cited statistics indicating the growing need for abortion pill reversal. In 2018, of the 20,000 abortions performed in Ohio, 5,000 were chemically induced abortions. That number is on the rise because Ohio has fewer surgical abortion cen-

ters, and chemical abortions are now permitted up to 10 weeks into a pregnancy.

Abortion pill reversal utilizes the hormone progesterone to counteract RU-486, which is administered through two drugs. The first robs the uterine lining of progesterone, which leads to the baby's death, and a second pill taken later causes the body of the child to be expelled.

Dr. Rerko is among 850 medical providers in a network of volunteers coordinated through Columbus-based Heartbeat International who staff a toll-free hotline and consult with women seeking to reverse a chemical abortion.

In Ohio, Dr. Rerko noted, legislation is on the table that would require women receiving the RU-486 abortion pill to be given information about abortion pill reversal.

"We are in a battle," she said. "We are battling to save lives."

"Even if we can save one, it will be all worth it."

Daniel DeGarmo, the emcee for the event, concluded by saying, "Please don't quit standing up and speaking out for life."

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FEBRUARY

1, SATURDAY

Fatima Devotions at Columbus St. Patrick 7 a.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Mass, followed by devotions to Our Lady of Fatima, preceded by confessions at 6:30. 614-240-5910

First Saturday Devotion at St. Joan of Arc 8:30 a.m., St. Joan of Arc Church, 10700 Liberty Road, Powell. Mass, followed by rosary in reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, concluding with Fatima prayers.

Mary's Little Children Prayer Group Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 5225 Refugee Road, Columbus. 8:30 a.m., confessions, 9 a.m., Mass, followed by Fatima prayers and Rosary (Shepherds of Christ format); 10 a.m., meeting. 614-861-4888

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.

First Saturday Mass at Holy Family 9 a.m., Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., Columbus. First Saturday Mass for world peace and in reparation for blasphemies against the Virgin Mary. 614-221-4323, extension 329

World Marriage Day Gala at Lancaster St. Mary 7 to 10 p.m., Gymnasium, St. Mary School, 309 E. Chestnut St., Lancaster. World Marriage Day gala sponsored by parish marriage and family life committee, with light hors d'oeuvres, light spirits, and music for dancing with DJ Johnny Garber, preceded by Mass at 5:30 with couples blessing. Cost \$50 per couple. 614-679-6761

2, SUNDAY

St. Christopher Adult Religious Education 10 to 11:20 a.m., Library, Trinity Catholic School, 1440 Grandview Ave., Columbus. Part 2 of five-week series on Pope Francis' encyclical *Lumen Fidei*, with Ohio Dominican University theology instructor Mary Koors.

Polish Mass at Sacred Heart 1 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 893 Hamlet St., Columbus. Mass in Polish, to be celebrated on the first and third Sundays of each month. 614-299-4191

Seasons of Hope Bereavement Ministry 2 to 4 p.m., Our Lady of Peace Church, 20 E. Dominion Blvd., Columbus. First 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 for the Nation at St. Matthew 3 p.m., St. Matthew Church, 807 Havens Corners Road, Gahanna. Monthly Holy Hour of prayer for the nation, including the Divine Mercy Chaplet and the rosary. 614-471-0212

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

Mass for Religious of the Diocese at Cathedral 5 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Bishop Robert Brennan celebrates Mass dedicated to all priests, deacons, lay brothers and religious sisters of the diocese on the World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life. Mass will begin with the blessing of candles and be preceded at 4 by a Holy Hour for vocations to the consecrated life. 614-224-1295

Compline at Cathedral 9 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Chanting of Compline, the Catholic Church's official night prayer. 614-241-2526

3, MONDAY

Eucharistic Adoration at Our Lady of Victory 7 to 8 a.m., Our Lady of Victory Church, 1559 Roxbury Road, Columbus. First Monday Eucharistic Adoration, beginning with Morning Prayer, concluding with Mass.

Family Catechetical Series at St. Michael 6:15 to 7:30 p.m., St. Michael Church, 5750 N. High St., Worthington. Fifth program of monthly family catechetical series on "God's Plan of Loving Salvation," with four age-appropriate sessions for everyone from kindergarten students through parents. Includes family Adoration and prayer time. Child care provided. 614-885-7814

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

Marian Prayer Group at Holy Spirit 7 p.m., Day chapel, Holy Spirit Church, 4383 E. Broad St., Columbus. Marian Movement of Priests Cenacle prayer group for Catholic family life. 614-235-7435

4, TUESDAY

North Columbus Serra Club Meeting Noon, Jessing Center, Pontifical College Josephinum, 7625 N. High St., Columbus. Serra Club of North Columbus meeting, with talk by Father Paul Brandimarti, parochial vicar, Westerville St. Paul Church. Preceded by Rosary for Priests at 11:30 a.m. Reservations required.

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.

5, WEDNESDAY

St. Patrick Mass, Refreshments for Students 7 and 11:45 a.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Mass, followed by coffee and doughnuts at 7:30 and 12:15 for students at Columbus State Community College and the Columbus College of Art and Design. 614-224-9522

Faith Center Dedication at Newark St. Francis 6:15 p.m., Faith and Formation Center, St. Francis de Sales Center, 40 Granville St.,

Newark. Dedication of new parish center and school renovation, followed by Mass at 6:30 and Eucharistic Adoration and praise at 7, preceded at 5:30 by reception and refreshments. 740-345-9874

Labyrinth Walk at Shepherd's Corner 6:30 to 8 p.m., Shepherd's Corner Ecology Center, 987 N. Waggoner Road, Blacklick. Labyrinth walk with theme "The Inner Peace of Winter." Suggested donation \$5. 614-866-4302

Marian Devotion at St. Francis of Assisi 7 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Church, 386 Buttles Ave., Columbus. Marian devotion with Scriptural rosary, followed by Mass and monthly novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, with Father Ramon Ower. 614-299-5781

6, 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.

Back in His Arms Again Dinner 6 p.m., Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus. Annual dinner and silent auction benefiting Back in His Arms Again ministry, which assists people grieving the loss of a child and is celebrating its 15th anniversary. Speakers: Shawn and Kambra Malone, the ministry's co-founders. Free-will offering will be taken. Register at www.backinhisarmsagain.com.

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.

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

Frasatti Society Goes to Escape Room 7:15 p.m., Trapped Columbus, 4310 N. High St., Columbus. Columbus St. Patrick Church Frasatti 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

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. Catholic Conversations Series

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.

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

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.

Bishop tells Scouts their awards have a deeper meaning

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

Bishop Robert Brennan told Catholic Scouts honored at the annual Scout Day with the Bishop prayer service that the religious emblems they earned are not meant just to be pinned on a uniform or displayed on a wall.

“Don’t look on those awards as prizes or trophies,” he said. “They represent your desire to be the light of Jesus in the world today. They represent something that should drive you deeper to strive for more and to continue being that light as you grow into adulthood.”

More than 100 members of Scouts BSA, Girl Scouts, and members of Camp Fire and American Heritage Girls units sponsored by parishes throughout the diocese were recognized at the event on Sunday, Jan. 26 at the New Albany Church of the Resurrection.

Scriptures selections for the service included that day’s reading from the Gospel of St. Matthew, in which the evangelist presents Jesus as the fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy that “a people in darkness have seen a great light.”

“In the works of service and the promises you make and keep as Scouts and the way you build things as a team, you have learned something valuable to be achieved when

you pull together. You help people see the light of Jesus Christ and provide an example that they can do the same thing,” the bishop said.

The event was sponsored by the diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting, which presented its Red Sash of Merit to three young people who earlier earned other Catholic Scouting emblems and have demonstrated leadership, accepted responsibility and are active in their troop, community and parish.

The honorees were Ben Waldo of Scout Troop 50, sponsored by Marion St. Mary Church; Nick Lusky of Scout Troop 85, sponsored by Westerville St. Paul Church; and Rayna Rodenkirchen, a Girl Scout from Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church.

The committee’s Bronze Pelican award was presented to three individuals who have performed exceptional service through Scouting to the spiritual development of youth.

They are Deacon Jim Morris of Hilliard St. Brendan Church; Father Bob Penhallurick, the parish’s pastor; and Tim Smith of Scout Troop 50, a Protestant minister recognized for his encouragement of an ecumenical spirit among Scouts of many religious denominations.

The committee presented the St. Anne medal, the highest national recognition for adults who serve Catholic

young people through Girl Scouts and Camp Fire, to Marilyn Magin of St. Pius X Church.

Troop 50 was selected as the Bishop’s Troop for combining active participation in religious activities with service to the community and to Scouting.

Also honored were Cub Scout Pack 859 of St. Brendan Church as the Bishop’s Pack for the sixth consecutive year, and Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona Church as the Bishop’s Parish for its Girl Scout programs.

The bishop and Deacon Chris Reis, diocesan Scout chaplain, paid tribute to Kevin Miller of Columbus Our Lady of Peace Church, who is retiring after more than a decade as diocesan Scouting committee chairman. The new chairman is Jodi Hatherly of Columbus St. Peter Church.

The bishop also presented Scout Day patches to participants in various Catholic Scouting activities. These included the Light of Christ and Parvuli Dei programs for Cub Scouts; the Ad Altare Dei program for boys and girls; the God Is Love, Family of God, I Live My Faith and The Spirit Alive programs for Girl Scouts and Camp Fire members and American Heritage Girls; and the Pope Pius XII program for young men and women. All of these emblem programs are

sanctioned by the national Scouting organizations.

Elaine Smith and Katie Smith of St. Margaret of Cortona Church, Isaak Giddems of Delaware St. Mary Church, and Waldo and Lusky were recognized as the newest recipients of the Four Corners of My Faith emblem, given to members of Scouts BSA and Girl Scouts who have earned all four of their respective national emblems since 1992, when the current emblems program began.

The committee also sponsors the annual Catholic Scout Camporee, which takes place each May at Somerset St. Joseph Church.

In addition, the committee conducts the locally based St. Tarcisius and International Awareness programs, which examine various aspects of the faith, and it offers uniform patches for completion of activities related to the rosary, Marian feasts, Catholic practices and traditions, women in Scripture, and men and women who are saints or have been declared “blessed” or “venerable” by the Church and have connections with the Americas. About 120 patches were awarded this year in the diocese.

More information on Catholic Scouting programs is available at the committee’s website, www.columbuscatholic.org/catholic-scouting.



Award winners honored at the diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting’s Scout Day with the Bishop program, pictured with Deacon Chris Reis, diocesan Scout chaplain, and Bishop Robert Brennan, included (left photo, from left): Ben Waldo of Marion St. Mary Church, Rayna Rodenkirchen of Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church, and Nick Lusky of Westerville St. Paul Church, recipients of the Red Sash of Merit for service and leadership and (right photo) Marilyn Magin, recipient of the St. Anne medal for Girl Scout leaders. *CT photos by Ken Snow*

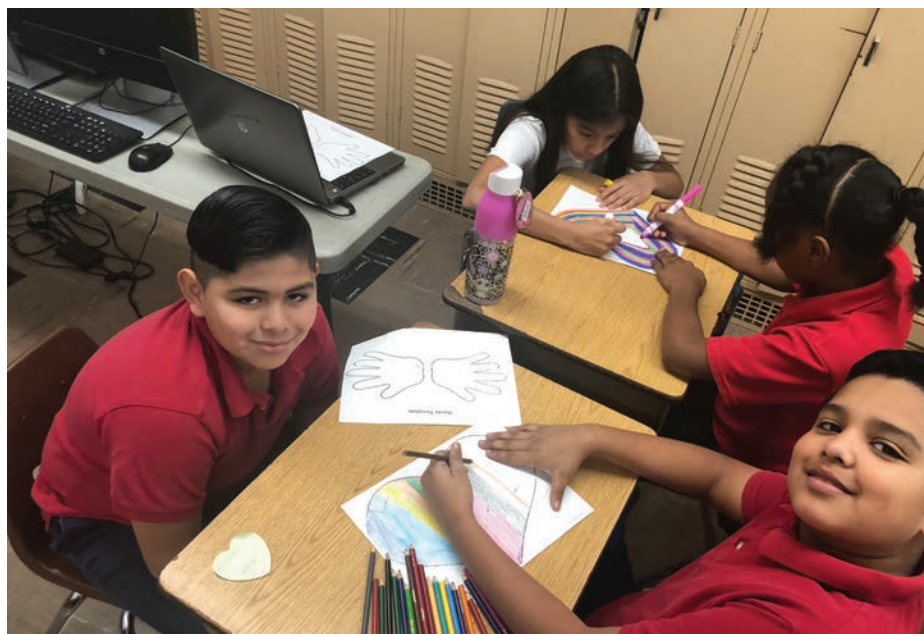
Lancaster science fair qualifiers



Twenty-one Lancaster St. Mary School students received superior ratings for their science projects and qualified for the district science fair. They are (from left): first row, Clare Sickafoose, Abigail Crabtree, Charlie Gillum, Mallory Stanton, Sydney Ellis, Maggie Murphy and Noah Reed; second row, Drew Mattei, Emily Simsm, Patrick McCrady, Jacob Maier, Mitchell Ortiz, Annie McGill and Lauren Kersell; third row, Grace Reiling, Carley Crow, Voni Bethel, Ava Gundelfinger, Ava Albert and Hyde O'Rielley. Madie Jackson is not pictured.

Photo courtesy St. Mary School

All Saints Academy Kindness Club



Students from Columbus All Saints Academy's Kindness Club organized the first of several Kindness Days that will be celebrated during the second semester of the school year. They made schoolwide announcements and planned activities for classes to work on together. The activities were designed to show and promote kindness in the community.

Photo courtesy All Saints Academy

Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul writers

A group of Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul School students had their work published in the Ohio edition of *Mission Catastrophe*, a volume containing stories from a competition challenging the writers to tell a 100-word story about survival. The program is sponsored by Young Writers, a British organization created in 1991 to promote and encourage creative writing. Student writers pictured are (from left): first row, Juliet Arvizu-Soria, Emily Bell, Gabriele Fuller, Aubry Schlairet, Charlotte Petrie and Genevieve Cline; second row, Olivia Stein, Andrea Holland, Brooklyn Grohe, Sage Szucs and Kelly Wendt. Their teacher is Janet DeRoo.

Photo courtesy St. Vincent de Paul School

Students provide clean water for mission



Students of Lancaster St. Bernadette School collected \$1,372.11 for the Bridges of St. Mark mission project of Lancaster St. Mark Church. Their goal was \$140. The money will provide water filtration systems for the three Vietnamese churches the project supports. Pictured at the donation ceremony are (from left) mission adviser Paul Sullivan, students Skyla Garber, Dessie Strohl, Christopher White, Ethan Schmelzer, Giovanni Bruno and Courtney Sisco, mission founder Randy Tipple and school principal Pam Eltringham.

Photo courtesy St. Bernadette School

Columbus St. Anthony student buddies



Columbus St. Anthony School eighth-graders taught their kindergarten buddies about the different items used at Mass. Vestments, a miniature 3D printed Mass kit, and a book for the lesson were purchased through a grant provided by The Catholic Foundation. Pictured are kindergarten student Camila Arias-Hernandez and eighth-grader Audrey Riddle.

Photo courtesy St. Anthony School





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