

The Catholic TIMES

The Diocese of Columbus' News Source

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Bishop Robert J. Brennan

Let's give thanks for law enforcement officers, first responders who serve our communities

The acts of violence directed at law enforcement, including the tragic death of Police Officer Anthony Dia in Toledo on the Fourth of July, the shooting of Franklin County sheriff's deputies on July 21, and many other instances throughout our nation are stark reminders to everyone of the risks our police officers and first responders make every day for the public's safety and well-being.

In the midst of so much hostility and violence these days, it is all the more essential for us to consider with gratitude their courageous and generous service. We cannot understate nor ignore the horrific murder of George Floyd by a police officer in Minneapolis on Memorial Day, nor the baffling inaction of other officers who stood by. Neither can we understate or ignore the challenges that all first responders face in our communities while working each day to keep us safe – every single person.

In my recent travels, I can honestly say I have not encountered a single officer who does not condemn in the strongest terms this violent killing and the great injury this act has done to our communities throughout the nation. By far, the vast majority of these men and women, our neighbors and relatives, care about their communities, want to serve with honor and respect and are willing each day to make the ultimate sacrifice to protect and defend the citizens entrusted to their care.

Every human being and every human institution is always in need of self-examination, reflection and reform. This is fundamental to the human condition and the very hallmark of our system of governance. Humbly, I must say that we have seen the need for reform in our Church and we will always need to be vigilant. So, too, do we see this need in our police depart-



ments, as in every level of government, media and business.

It is undoubtedly true that racism sadly exists within our society in ways both subtle and stark. The killing of George Floyd openly exposed these deep wounds to all of us. We must be mindful that these wounds date back generations. Horrible incidents, such as George Floyd's death, the shootings at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina, or other innumerable thoughtless, brutal and horrific events of the past continue to rub these wounds raw. The truth is, as Bishop James Griffin said in his 1998 letter on racism, only through honesty with ourselves and only with that honesty can we see all of the places where we can grow in terms of our attitudes and awareness.

Any reform, however, should never place first responders or the communities they serve under greater risk for harm. As brothers and sisters in the faith, we are taught that the path to authentic reform begins with a profound respect for the dignity of every human person, as we are all created in

the image and likeness of God. Jesus puts it more directly, "You must love your neighbor as yourself." Racism, pre-judgment, prejudice, violence and destruction run counter to this command, and Christ's teachings must be at the very cornerstone of our efforts for effective and lasting reforms.

The reality of violence is far too prevalent in our community. Some recent local statistics reported by *The Columbus Dispatch* sadly demonstrate this reality. The city of Columbus saw 104 homicides in 2019, an average of two a week. Of these, 80 percent were the result of gunshots. More than half (58 of the 104) of those killed were African American men. More than 70 percent were between the ages of 18 and 35. Our combined energies to address, reduce and end all hatred and violence are not only imperative, but should be a high priority for all people.

Equally important on this path is a genuine and sincere commitment to listen to one another. We must continually strive to understand the wounds and burdens carried by our brothers and sisters. It is through this listening and empathy – with gratitude, respect, and encouragement – that we can begin to embrace Christ's healing power and not give in to the impulse to tear apart all that is good and right in our society.

In these turbulent times, I want to express my deepest appreciation to all law enforcement officers and first responders in the 23 counties that comprise the Diocese of Columbus. It is my hope that together, we can find the pathway to seek the common good and allow it to inspire in us a sincere commitment to devote our time and energy to end violence and hatred in all of its ugly forms and, in doing so, to build up the lives of one another and of our communities.

Official announcement of clergy assignments

The Diocese of Columbus has released additional clergy assignments for 2020-21.

These appointments were effective July 14 unless otherwise noted.

Father Nicholas Droll, from Administrator, Our Lady of Sorrows Church, West Portsmouth; Holy Trinity Church, Pond Creek; and Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Otway, to canon law studies outside the diocese.

Father Brett Garland, from Parochial Vicar, St. Mary Magdalene Church, Columbus; St. Agnes Church, Columbus; and St. Aloysius Church, Columbus, to Parochial Vicar, St. Mary Church, Delaware and pastoral care of the Spanish-speaking community in the Delaware area.

Confirming the announcement of the Provincial of the Dominican Fathers and Brothers, **Father Elias Henritzky, OP**, from service outside the diocese to Chaplain, Mohun HealthCare Center, Columbus, effective immediately.

Confirming the appointment of the Superior Delegate of the Society of the Catholic Apostolate (Pallottines), **Father Andrzej Kozminski, SAC**, from service outside the diocese to Parochial Vicar, St. Christopher Church, Columbus, effective Sept. 1.

Father Daniel Millisor, in residence, St. Agatha Church, Columbus.

Father Eduardo Velazquez, MSP, to Administrator, St. Agnes Church, Columbus, continuing as administrator, St. Stephen the Martyr Church, Columbus.

Father Joseph T. Yokum, to Pastor, Our Lady of Sorrows Church, West Portsmouth; Holy Trinity Church, Pond Creek; and Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Otway, continuing as Pastor, St. Mary Church, Portsmouth; Holy Redeemer Church, Portsmouth; St. Peter in Chains Church, Wheelersburg; and St. Monica Church, New Boston.



Front Page photo:

SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS

Seminarian Jake Asuncion helps out at the St. Vincent de Paul thrift store in Columbus. He and his fellow diocesan seminarians have assisted various social service agencies this summer.

CT photo by Ken Snow

Catholic TIMES

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Danville St. Luke Church celebrates bicentennial

By Tim Puet

Catholic Times Reporter

This is a big year for Danville St. Luke Church. The parish is celebrating its 200th anniversary, and the church building is 125 years old. Parishioners are disappointed that the coronavirus pandemic is preventing them from honoring those events as much as they would like, but the double milestone is being marked by an anniversary Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Robert Brennan on Saturday, Aug. 15.

Distancing restrictions will limit attendance in the church for the Mass to 72 people, and it will be livestreamed to the community center next to the parish for the anticipated overflow crowd. It also will be available live on the parish's "St. Lukes Church" Facebook page, where it will remain available for viewing after the Mass.

"The church would have been filled, and there undoubtedly would have been a dinner afterward at the community center, but we're grateful to have the bishop coming and to be able to celebrate the anniversary in some form this year," said parish secretary Sandy Mickley. "We're hoping to continue anniversary activities next year and have the dinner then. We're also hoping to resume our annual festival, which we had to cancel in July." The one-day festival includes a chicken dinner and other traditional activities such as games, raffles, bingo and a basket auction.

A five-month renovation project has made the church building shine as brightly as it did when it opened in 1895. The work began on Thursday, Jan. 2 and was completed during the last week of May. Masses were celebrated in the community center during that period. The effects of the pandemic began to be felt in mid-March, but the renovation proceeded on schedule.

R.A. Long Painting of Granville was in charge of the project. The church's interior, statues and a depiction of the Last Supper were repainted; a new pulpit, new wood floors and new Stations of the Cross were installed; a new heating, ventilating and air conditioning system was installed; the carpet was taken up; improvements were made to the pews and a new granite top was put in place on the altar.

The work was overseen by a renovation committee led by parishio-



Danville St. Luke Church has served the community and surrounding area since 1820.
CT photos by Tim Puet

ners Charlie Bratton, Steve Bratton and Keith Mickley and cost about \$300,000. The parish's history of strong financial support meant that money on hand paid for the remodeling, and no separate fund drive was necessary.

Sandy Mickley said a portrait of St. Luke by parishioner Judy Hedge and a panoramic photograph of the parish's 100th anniversary in 1920 are to be installed in the church or the community center after restrictions resulting from the pandemic are eased.

The center, dedicated in 1969, includes space for religious education classes and the parish offices. Parishioner Bob Blubaugh said it gives the parish an important link to the larger Danville community because its dining hall seats 500 people, making it the largest meeting space in the community and a frequent site for public events sponsored by civic groups not connected with the parish.

The Danville Public Library used the building in the early stages of the pandemic for a public meeting on the situation. In October 2019, it was the site of a regional meeting sponsored by the Diocese of Columbus on creating a culture of safety in schools and church buildings. Since Danville High School is across the street from the church, the center is used for testing programs for students. The building also has hosted Red Cross bloodmobile visits, flu shot clinics, wedding receptions and banquets.

Each February, it is the site of an an-



The interior of St. Luke Church underwent extensive renovation this year for the church's 200th anniversary.

nual raccoon dinner that the Danville Lions Club has sponsored since 1945. Blubaugh said about 200 raccoons are hunted and trapped locally for the dinner, with most of them provided by parishioner Leonard Mickley and his nephew, Brian Payne. Blubaugh said this year's raccoon dinner was the parish's and the community's last major event before the pandemic altered the familiar rhythms of life for people throughout the world.

St. Luke and all other Catholic churches in Ohio were closed for the public celebration of Masses from mid-March to late May. Parishioner Margie Samples said 35 to 40 people have been attending the parish's Saturday evening Mass, and 50 to 60 have been at the Sunday morning Mass since the church was reopened.

The parish also participates in the community's interfaith group, the Association of Danville Area Ministers (ADAM), which was co-founded by the church's longtime pastor, the late Father Richard Snoke. Every Thursday during Lent, except Holy Thursday, St. Luke Church hosts a noontime prayer service sponsored by ADAM, followed by lunch in the community center, with pastors from the parish and from Danville churches of other denominations taking turns offering reflections from the Gospel.

Also benefiting from the parish's community involvement are the Sanctuary Community Action Service Center and the Interchurch Social Services organization, which are

located in adjacent buildings across U.S. Route 62 from the church. Both groups were started in the mid-1990s, mainly through the efforts of Father Snoke and his colleagues in the ministerial association. Though separate, the organizations work together in many ways.

Sanctuary provides a central location for social service programs in eastern Knox County, such as home-delivered meals (which are continuing during the pandemic), immunization clinics, the Women, Infants and Children program, legal aid, tax preparation, the high-school equivalency diploma program, and senior citizens and veterans assistance. It is not affiliated with any religious organization.

Interchurch Social Services is an emergency needs provider offering services similar to those of the Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs in Columbus. It has a food pantry and provides aid for rent and utility bills, clothing and medical transport and prescription assistance.

St. Luke Church has about 320 families, many of whom have been part of the parish for multiple generations. "We have a lot of tradition and are very proud of our parish," Blubaugh said. "We're 'old school' in a lot of ways yet have always been ready to adapt to liturgical changes, most recently to livestreaming."

"This is a small town and a small parish, so everyone here knows each other and it creates a warm atmosphere," parishioner Janet Fesler said. "When people come here from other churches, they often tell me how warmly they're welcomed and how pleased they are that people will speak to them after Mass."

The parish roster has 25 listings under "Mickley," 11 under "Durbin," nine under both "Colopy" and "Sapp" and seven under both "Blubaugh" and "Hawk."

The Sapp family has been part of the parish from the beginning. George Sapp Jr. and his wife, Catherine, the first Catholics in what is now Danville, came to Knox County in 1805. The Durbin family followed the Sapps from Maryland not long afterward. Danville was named after George Sapp Jr.'s brother Daniel. The first St. Luke Church, a log structure, was built on land donated by George Sapp Sr.

St. Luke says it is the second-oldest Catholic parish in the state, predated

'Catholic Times' plans new features, schedule change

During the next few months, *The Catholic Times* will be making some changes.

Before we go further, however, rest assured that the diocesan newspaper is not going away. But modifications have become necessary so we can remain viable and reach more people of all ages.

The most noticeable alteration will be to our schedule. Beginning in September, *The Catholic Times* will continue its current summer schedule year-round and publish a print edition every other week, 26 issues total, during the calendar year.

While some readers might be disappointed with this news, we consider it a blessing that we're still able to publish, particularly during such challenging times that have profoundly impacted the world.

To add perspective to the schedule change, it's important to note that only three of the six Ohio dioceses still publish a newspaper, and the other two that do (Youngstown and Steubenville) operate on a similar bimonthly schedule.

Nationwide, newspaper circulation has steadily declined during the past two decades because of changing reader habits and the advent of electronic means of delivering content. We've seen the effects at *The Catholic Times* in advertising, circulation and the reduction of staff. But we've worked diligently to maintain a high standard of journalism that readers expect.

That's not to say, though, that newspapers and print periodicals are dead. We know how much our loyal readers love the newspaper and, despite the cost associated with printing, we're pressing on.

EDITOR'S REFLECTIONS

Doug Bean



There's something tangible about holding a newspaper, book or magazine in your hand – and, in fact, studies have shown that reading comprehension is better with print than electronic devices.

Also encouraging is a "2017 State of Diocesan Media" report by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate and *Faith Catholic* magazine. Twenty-four percent of the respondents in multiple U.S. dioceses said they received diocesan print media. Seven percent watched Catholic television, and 5 percent indicated that they listened to Catholic radio.

Faith Catholic did another study this year of parishioners in 20 U.S. dioceses. Asked where they receive information about the Catholic faith and the Catholic Church, 41 percent said it came from a Catholic print publication, 17 percent from Catholic television or radio, 14 percent from a Catholic website, 12 percent from Catholic emails and 12 percent from Catholic posts on social media.

But isn't two weeks a long time between editions? What happens when the diocese needs to communicate important news or information sooner? We have a solution for that. In addition to posting stories more frequently to *The Catholic Times* website at columbuscatholic.org, a free electronic version of the paper with updates will be offered through email. Details on how to sign up will be released

within the next month.

And to reach those who do not subscribe to the newspaper, especially younger Catholics, we're planning a bigger presence on social media. We want to share our outstanding content with a wider audience to inform and to evangelize.

As we strive to improve the newspaper and make it more accessible, we've added features and plan several more additions in the next few weeks. In this week's paper, you'll find three new items.

A reader's reflections column offers a chance for local writers to submit articles for publication, and a monthly Catholic business spotlight is designed to show how everyday people are incorporating faith into their vocation. A Catholic crossword puzzle makes its debut in this week's issue. The crosswords will alternate with a Catholic word search. We hope you'll enjoy "testing your faith."

The weekly question-and-answer column from Catholic News Service soon will be replaced by a local version. We're inviting readers to submit short questions about the Catholic faith to questionscolumn@columbuscatholic.org or by mail to Questions Column, *The Catholic Times*, 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215.

Thank you for your support. We're excited about the future and our role in helping people grow in faith and knowledge of Christ and His Church through the intercession of His Most Blessed Mother and all the saints.

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out. May God bless you and keep you safe.

Sound of silence and music provides hope, inspiration in prison

By Michele Williams

How does God speak to you? Is it through the quiet stillness of a sunrise or flower in bloom? Or is it through nature's symphony of birds singing, thunder crashing or a creek gurgling? How about through people, pets, Mass, music or books? God speaks to me most clearly in two ways that are on different ends of the spectrum: silence and music.

Silence is a precious gift and I consider myself blessed every time I receive it. When God shares His time and speaks to me in quiet moments, my spirit is renewed and I have peace. Here's the kicker, though: Silence is almost impossible in prison. There are people, people everywhere! In the yard, rec room, laundry room, bathroom, waiting for the phone, waiting for chow, waiting to talk to staff, waiting for the day to end. Ninety-five percent of the time, one person (or two or three or 10 people) will be in your face, your earshot, or your state-assigned area. That's just the way it is. Solitude and privacy are as elusive as silence.

Large dorms of 250 women inmates have a constant undercurrent of noise and activity. Other housing units have cells for two, four or eight women and are a little less insane. My unit also houses enough cats and dogs to fill Noah's ark, and when they get riled up, it's Bark-O-Rama! We love the little darlings anyway.

Sometimes the "Mission: Impossible" of the day is to find quality time alone with God in blissful quiet. It's a good day when I can put a checkmark in

the "Mission Accomplished" column! I work really hard to block out the 1,001 soundbites surrounding me, but occasionally I try too hard and my own internal noise interferes. Ironic, isn't it?

I am so afraid to miss what God might be saying that I'm convinced He repeats the really important stuff. Typically, this happens as I am praying and looking out the window at the night sky just before I fall asleep. It may be the second time He has said something, but it's the first time I can hear Him and I am so grateful for His message in the calm, quiet stillness.

I am reading a book called *The Power of Silence* by Cardinal Robert Sarah. In it, he says, "Silence is difficult, but it makes man able to allow himself to be led by God." That's exactly what I'm aiming for! It is difficult indeed, but I love a good challenge. I really want to hear and be led by Him. To know, love and serve God with all my heart, mind and strength is my ultimate goal in this life. Plus, I know the reward for allowing Him to lead me will be better than I can imagine in the next life.

Relatively opposite to my love of silence is my love of music. Many years ago, a dear friend who listened almost exclusively to contemporary Christian music introduced me to it. She said it was what kept her from giving up hope, and after I heard a few songs, I had to agree. They were upbeat, inspirational and just what I needed.

It is so easy to lose hope in prison because pain, loneliness, disappointment and guilt can be over-

whelming. I have struggled many times over the years and admit I've lost hope more than once. I've been sucked into the ugly, scary darkness of despair and desolation. The worst and longest time was early in my 15-years-to-life sentence: I had no hope, couldn't find God anywhere, and felt like my life wasn't worth squat. Depression swallowed me like the whale swallowed Jonah, but I was in its belly for five long years. Prayer, an exceptional counselor and music saved my life. In the decades that have followed, and by the grace of God, I have won the battle of hope more often and share it with others every chance I get.

In 2007, I cofounded a musical trio called MMC: Mighty Musicians for Christ – or, conveniently enough – Meghan, Michele and Cheryl. Meghan played piano, Cheryl played flute and I sang. They were Protestant, so we performed at their services as well as at Catholic Mass. We covered current songs by popular Christian bands and both congregations usually ended up singing along.

I was grateful for the chance to share my love of Jesus by singing in our little trio. However, I never had sung in front of a congregation before and stage fright almost got the better of me. During Mass, I always sang from behind the piano at the back of the chapel. Singing to people's faces is much more intimidating than singing to the back of their heads!

Barn swallows and Mary leading me to Jesus

They swoop down, around, in and out. They seem to come from nowhere, though I know, rationally, that they live in our barn. They are, after all, barn swallows.

I have never grown tired of seeing swallows performing their acrobatics. I first saw them in my younger years, growing up at a Christian summer camp. I would mow for hours at the camp as part of my summer work, and at the right time of day, at the exact moment the heat seemed to let up ever so slightly and the evening seemed to start, the tree swallows would appear, plunging through the air in impossible dives, rushing and zooming to get the bugs that were disturbed by my mowing.

I'm not sure they noticed me all those years ago, zipping from one end of the field to the other on a red Yazoo mower, brown from a summer in the sun. They noticed the bugs, though. And I noticed them.

The barn swallows appear at the same brink of evening, with the same flourish and pizzazz I noticed in their cousins. It's as though they appear from thin air, though there are days that I remember this feeling and I look for them in the dark coolness of the barn or on the electrical wires stretching across our lawn from the barn. Sometimes I see them. Sometimes I don't. I think they're there either way.

It's that way with much in my spiritual life too. Whether I feel God's presence, He is always beside me. I'm often surprised, astonished and perplexed to feel the touch of His hand in what I consider the most mundane details of my life. Why does He care

FINDING FAITH IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Sarah Reinhard

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



whether I get my writing time or not? How exactly does my highly demanding child suddenly become self-entertaining, just when I need him to? Who do I think inspired that friend or family member to reach out to me just as I was about to lose the last shred of my sanity?

I feel God's touch a lot through His mother, Mary. Though I roll my eyes at myself, it just seems like too many coincidences appearing at just the right moment, too many small things lining up to form a cohesive whole, too many details that just work out in ways that I couldn't have planned if I had tried.

It's a lot like how the barn swallows appear, suddenly and without any announcement. They chirp their way through the bugs in my lawn, especially when we're mowing, but they don't sound a trumpet to let us know they're coming. They perform their breathtaking aerial stunts without pausing for admiration, continuing along to the neighboring fields. They finish their work through dusk and go back to where they were, presumably the barn.

Mary has a habit of doing that in her various appearances, too. Looking back, I'm sure people

wonder to themselves if this or that had anything to do with Mary's upcoming appearance. At the time, though, it probably just seemed like a detail that wasn't such a big deal.

Though I am a woman of words, filling pages with thoughts and notes, processing the world around me through a keyboard and communicating with language, I appreciate the silence I've discovered over the years in the early mornings and dusky evenings, when the birds and I are keeping company. In it, Mary reaches across the centuries to me, to the pain that has been shoved off to the side, to the burden I carry inside.

In the silence, Mary does something as amazing as the barn swallows' gymnastics: she guides me to my Father's arms. I don't need to hear about how great it will be once I'm there. I don't need assurances that He will make everything better. I know He will take care of me, but I'm not always so great at believing it.

In the silence of Mary, I feel myself nudged, slightly and yet significantly, closer to where I'm supposed to be. It's there, in her open arms, in the shadow of her Son on the altar, that I realize I am capable of more because of Him. It's then, in the moment of her embrace, that I perceive that the more could include things I can't fathom yet.

Just like the swallows in my yard, Mary never fails to impress me with her abilities. She's there, in company I can never hope to equal, and yet she crouches down to be at eye level with me, inviting me to join her. How can I say no?

ST. LUKE, Continued from Page 3

only by Somerset St. Joseph, founded in 1818. Lancaster St. Mary and Junction City St. Patrick parishes also list 1820 as the year of their founding. All three trace their beginnings to Dominican Father (later Bishop) Edward Fenwick, OP, Ohio's first resident Catholic priest. Father Fenwick and his nephew, Father Nicholas Young, OP, made frequent stops in Danville and nearby Mount Vernon in their missionary travels through Ohio and other states.

The second of four St. Luke Church buildings, a frame structure, was built in 1838. One year later, the church had its first resident pastor, Father Jean Baptiste Lamy, who was in Danville from 1839 to 1847 and also served parishes in Mount Vernon, Newark and elsewhere in Ohio. He eventually became archbishop of Santa Fe, New Mexico and the subject of Willa Cather's classic novel *Death Comes for the Archbishop*.

A brick church dedicated in 1877 burned down and was replaced by the current church, also of brick, built in the High Victorian Gothic style, with an ornate altar and stained-glass windows of Sts. Joseph, Peter, Paul, Patrick, Dominic, Aloysius, Elizabeth, Rose of Lima and Mary of the Immaculate Conception.

ulate Conception.

The parish has nurtured several religious vocations. A bicentennial history that is being edited lists eight priests, three brothers and 23 sisters from St. Luke.

Five of the priests were members of five branches of the Durbin family – Fathers Carl, Clarence, Samuel, Clement and Walter Durbin. Six of the sisters from the parish also were Durbins. The first priest from the parish was Father John Brent, the third of 20 pastors who have served the parish during the past 200 years. He was pastor of his home parish for 23 years (1851-74), a tenure exceeded at St. Luke only by Father Snoke (1987-2012) and Father Clement Teipe (1912-1950).

Priests from St. Luke who are serving in the diocese today, both relatives of the Durbins, are Father James Colopy, pastoral associate at Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, and Father Homer Blubaugh, who is retired, lives near his home church and celebrates Mass there frequently when not assisting at other parishes.

In 2014, St. Luke became part of a consortium of parishes with Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul and the Church of the Nativity in Utica, with

all three served by a pastor, a parochial vicar and a deacon. The Utica church was closed in 2016 because of structural issues. Father Mark Hammond has been pastor of the consortium since its beginning. Father Daniel Olvera, parochial vicar, and Deacon Tim Birie are other members of the pastoral staff. Fathers Hammond and Olvera take turns celebrating weekend Masses at St. Luke, with Father Blubaugh also a frequent celebrant on weekdays and weekends.

"Parishioners at St. Luke have been incredibly supportive of the church with their prayers, time and money, especially during the bicentennial renovation," Father Olvera said. "Because of their past support, it wasn't necessary to conduct a separate capital campaign to pay for the improvements, and volunteers performed many hours of valuable work."

"We reached out to parish members with frequent surveys, and they responded. Because the church always has been so well-preserved, the renovation was not difficult, especially for a 125-year-old building. As a result of parish members' desire to retain the beauty of the church, we hope to be able to preserve it for another 100 years."

Parish organizations include Knights of Columbus Council 910 and the Parish Council of Catholic Women. The Knights operate their own hall, where they have conducted weekly Lenten fish fries and monthly pancake breakfasts and hope to continue to do so once restrictions caused by the pandemic end. The women's group was founded in 1906. Every woman in the parish is considered part of it.

The parish also sponsors a Giving Tree program during the Christmas season in cooperation with the Danville Fire Department. It provides toys and food for every needy child in the community, usually aiding more than 100 children.

For a number of years, the parish also has sponsored a bus trip to the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., that goes beyond the one-night excursions some other diocesan parishes offer. This year's trip covered three days and two nights and gave participants a chance to tour historic sites in the nation's capital.

Masses at the church are at 5 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. Sunday, 11 a.m. Tuesday and Wednesday and 8 a.m. Thursday. Its website is www.st-lukedanvilleoh.org and its phone number is (740) 599-6362.

The next pope and Vatican II

During a short papal flight from Boston to New York on Oct. 2, 1979, Father Jan Schotte (later a cardinal but then a low-ranking curial official) discovered that Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, the Vatican's secretary of state, had done some serious editing of the speech Pope John Paul II would give at the United Nations later that day. Schotte, who had helped develop the text, found to his dismay that Cardinal Casaroli had cut just about everything the Soviet Union and its communist bloc satellites might find offensive – such as a robust papal defense of religious freedom and other human rights. Schotte took the revised, bowdlerized text to John Paul II's private cabin on Shepherd One and explained why he thought Casaroli, the architect of the Vatican's attempt at a *rapprochement* with communist regimes in the late 1960s and 1970s, was wrong to dumb down the speech.

John Paul looked over the marked-up text, thought a bit, and then took Schotte's advice. Speaking at what the world imagined to be its greatest rostrum, he would make a strong, principled defense of human rights. And if tyrannical regimes were upset by that, too bad.

They were indeed upset, and their unease was palpable to all of us in the General Assembly Hall that day. But embattled Catholics behind the iron curtain were reminded that they had a champion in Rome who was not going to play world politics by the world's rules. The pope was going to play by evangelical rules.

Cardinal Schotte's recollections of that incident, which he recounted to me in 1997, have taken on a new salience, for Vatican diplomacy seems to be reverting to a Casaroli-style accommodation of

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

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



thuggish regimes. Earlier this month, for example, a Sunday Angelus address in which Pope Francis would express, in the mildest possible way, concerns about the new national security law in Hong Kong and its chilling effect on human rights was distributed to reporters an hour before the noontime Angelus. Then, shortly before the Pope appeared, reporters were told that the remarks on China and Hong Kong would not be made after all.

It is not difficult to imagine what happened: a disciple of the late Cardinal Casaroli likely persuaded the pope to avoid saying anything that could be regarded as criticism of the Chinese communist regime.

In *The Next Pope: The Office of Peter and a Church in Mission* (recently published by Ignatius Press), I suggest that the institutional default positions in Vatican diplomacy do not reflect two lessons taught by the late 20th century: the only authority the Holy See has in world politics today is moral authority; that moral authority is depleted when the Church fails to speak the truth to power, especially totalitarian and authoritarian power.

The truth can be spoken prudently and in charity; but it must be spoken. If the truth is not spoken, the Vatican tacitly confesses its weakness and is always playing defense on a field defined by the enemies of

Christ and the Church.

Recent papal diplomacy has constantly stressed the importance of “dialogue.” And yes, “Jaw, jaw is better than war, war,” as Winston Churchill famously said. But Vatican efforts at dialogue that do not begin from the understanding that authoritarian and totalitarian regimes regard “dialogue” as a tactic for maintaining their power are not going to get very far.

The current Chinese regime, for example, is not interested in “dialogue” about or within Hong Kong; it is interested in crushing the liberties it swore it would honor after the city reverted to Chinese sovereignty in 1997. To pretend otherwise makes the situation worse. The same cautionary rubric applies to Cuba, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Russia and other systemic violators of human rights.

In *The Next Pope*, I underscore that truth-telling in Vatican diplomacy is also essential for evangelical reasons. In countries that systematically abuse their people, the Church's mission to proclaim the Gospel is impaired when those people do not perceive the Catholic Church as their defender. Thus the next pope, I propose, should mandate a wholesale re-evaluation of Vatican diplomacy in the post-World War II period, bringing qualified lay experts into the discussion. That study must include a thorough, unblinkered evaluation of the Casaroli legacy, which remains a force in the papal diplomatic service and the curial bureaucracy – despite incontrovertible, documented evidence that Cardinal Casaroli's approach to communist powers failed, and in fact made matters worse.

The Holy See's moral authority and the Church's evangelical mission are at stake.

Motherhood takes time that's never wasted

I have been doing much pondering lately. *Ponder* is one of my favorite words, as the Blessed Mother Mary pondered a lot within her sacred heart as her child, Our Lord, was growing into an adult.

I'm so grateful to be writing and having this outlet to share my experiences as a wife, mother and teacher. This outlet fills my cup in so many ways. However, in this world of always looking for the next best thing to achieve, it is easy to go astray from the person God created us to be.

For me, this is found in the holy and sacred job of being a wife and mother first. Each of us is created with a unique purpose, our own path. Christ walks alongside us, helping to mold us as we go. No wife and mother has the same path, yet we are all called to hold nothing back from Jesus in our vocations.

St. Therese of Lisieux is a friend of mine. Her quiet mantra of doing “small things with great love” is the underpinning of my vocation as wife and mother, for small things done with intense love are seeds planted in the garden of faith formation. A small sacrifice from me models an intense love for my children.

Tonight, I moved one of my children from my bed to his. He hadn't been feeling well and his brother was using the bedroom, so I gave him a blanket and tucked him into my bed. When it was time for me to sleep, I moved him to the couch at the foot of my bed. As he sleepily walked to the couch and I

ALL THAT WE HAVE

MaryBeth Eberhard

MaryBeth Eberhard writes about marriage, life experiences of a large family and special needs. She attends Sunbury St. John Neumann Church.



tucked him in, he mumbled, “Is there any way you can bless me tonight?” and then he fell back asleep.

I frequently ask my children how I can bless them throughout the day. It might be some colored pencils from the dollar store, a personal bottle of Gatorade, some quality time on a walk to discuss the latest teenage drama, or a late-night game of cards. These small acts, which cost me very little, plant seeds of trust, love and service, and I have witnessed them blooming within my family in the form of a teenage son who calls on his way home and asks how he can pray for me, dishes done while I am at the store, or a daughter who spends her last earned money on a T-shirt she saw me tenderly touch at a shop.

Putting the needs of others before our own wants pays off by building virtue. When my son sought to connect with me, even though he was asleep, I knelt down by him and whispered a short prayer in his ear, a prayer filled with affirmation, gratitude and hope. Then I sat down to write.

Being a mother and wife and having commitments outside the home requires a sacred balance

of consistently remaining in conversation with the Lord. We can spontaneously call on Him for extra graces to fill the gaps when we fall short, which for me happens frequently. I say “No” to certain activities or opportunities so I can say “Yes” to others that fit our family dynamic, and in doing so our family grows closer.

Many opportunities will come our way in our lifetime, but none should overshadow our primary vocation. I recently attended a meeting where my work was praised and my opinions were affirmed. I left feeling so confident! The daily work of building a family centered on Christ does not often present itself with spoken affirmation.

My teenagers, when told they must pray the rosary before going out with friends, are not praising my virtue as a mother in that moment. They have, however come to see it over time as a way to love me better, and I trust this has its own special grace.

When I seem overwhelmed or they are seeking to bless me, they often say, “Momma, do you want to pray the rosary? Can we pray a decade together?” Time invested in the formation of our marriage and family is never wasted. Let us train our eyes and hearts to see and feel the affirmation in a child reaching out in conversation to us. How blessed are we to be there in that moment?

Sister 'privileged' to serve close to home

By Tim Puet

Catholic Times Reporter

Most religious sisters spend their working lives in a multitude of places, usually far from home.

Sister Margaret Hoffman, OSF, is an exception. She has spent nearly 60 years as a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate, familiarly known as the Joliet Franciscans. For the past 45 of those years, she has lived either in or near the house in Bexley where she grew up.

"It's a privilege very few sisters have," Sister Margaret said. "... I transferred to Columbus in 1975, remained a teacher and lived close to the family home until 2003, when I was able to move into the house."

The house is jointly owned by her five brothers and three sisters, six of whom are or were teachers. Most live in Columbus; one brother is in New Jersey and one in Massachusetts, and those two and their wives stay with Sister Margaret when they visit the rest of the family. Sister Margaret's paternal grandparents lived in a house across the alley from the homestead. "This was all farmland when they came to Bexley in 1904," four years before the village was incorporated, she said.

Sister Margaret, 77, taught English from 1975 to 1990 at Columbus Bishop Watterson High School and since 1990 has taught the same subject at Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, a mile and a half from where she lives. She also taught English from 1965 to 1967 at St. Francis Academy in Joliet, Illinois, and from 1967 to 1975 at St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Louisville, Ohio, near Canton.

"I enjoy teaching English because of the significance of writing and literature to everyone," she said. "The skill of composition is something all people need, regardless of their age or occupation. And literature is transformational. It's very import-

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

Sister Margaret Hoffman, OSF

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

ant, especially at this time when so much is changing, to put in front of students literature that can have an impact on the way they think and comes from a multitude of cultures. That's always been my aim." The literature for her courses is determined by teachers in St. Charles' English department and the school administration, so teachers have a strong input in the curriculum.

"Being able to work with young people is what keeps me involved in education. Young people have not changed in my 55 years as a teacher, but their worlds have changed," she said. "They give me hope. People often ask if I'm ready to retire, but I enjoy teaching as much as I ever did and hope to continue, as long as I can be an effective teacher."

Sister Margaret attended Columbus St. Thomas as the Apostle School and is a parishioner of St. Thomas Church today. She is a 1960 graduate of the former St. Mary of the Springs Academy in Columbus and went directly from high school into religious life. She entered the Joliet Franciscan order in 1960 and received her habit in 1961, being given the name of Sister Thomas More. ("Mom couldn't believe a layperson and father of four was canonized a saint," she said.) She made her first vows in 1963 and her final vows in 1968.

She graduated from the University of St. Francis in Joliet with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English in 1965 and received a Master of Arts degree in English in 1973 from Ohio State University.

"My mother had two sisters – my aunts – who were Joliet Franciscans," Sister Margaret said. "Having them come home regularly for home visits

was very influential because I saw how happy they were. My grade and high school teachers all were Dominican sisters, and I saw their good work, but when I realized I was being called to the religious life, I wanted to go where my aunts were.

"When I graduated from high school, I knew I wanted to be a sister but wasn't thinking about entering the convent immediately. I had signed on at Mount Carmel Hospital for training in the nursing school there. But my assistant pastor at St. Thomas said, 'If you know what you're called to do, why don't you do it?' and I took his advice," she said.

"I did my student teaching with first-graders, but when it came time for my first full-time position, the academy in Joliet, an all-girls school with 1,000 students, needed an English teacher. That's what I was assigned to do and I've been doing it ever since," Sister Margaret said.

"Our order, and most others at that time, had a built-in system for teaching teachers. In the first two years, I lived with 50 other sisters and learned by watching and listening to them. This developed camaraderie and what now would be described as a sense of mentorship.

"In those days, you had to teach in at least two places in the five years before taking final vows, so at least two superiors could evaluate your fitness for final profession. My class of sisters was the first group from our order to receive college degrees before going out to teach. This was a great advantage when teaching my first classes of students, who weren't much younger than I was.

"People sometimes say to me, 'We need more sisters in the schools.' My response is that those of us who are sisters are so proud to have trained, supported and passed the torch to what now are three generations of men and women who are teaching in our Catholic schools and doing so beautifully.

"We do the work that God has given us to do," she said, "and as things have changed, we have changed with them."

Two Franciscan sisters celebrate jubilees

Two Columbus natives who are members of the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate, familiarly known as the Joliet Franciscans, are celebrating significant anniversaries this year.

Sister Felicity (Joy) Gaffney, OSF, will mark the 80th anniversary of her reception into the order's novitiate on Wednesday, Aug. 12. The 75th anniversary as a Joliet Franciscan sister

MOTHERHOOD,

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Let us sit quietly in our home and feel the Lord say "It is good." As St. Teresa of Calcutta said, "If you want to bring happiness to the whole world, go home and love your family." Let us consecrate our homes and hearts to the Sacred Heart of our Savior so that our everyday actions are acts of charity and love that build up the kingdom of God within our homes.

for Sister Rita Schmitz, OSF, will occur in September.

Sister Felicity, 99, is one of 10 children of the late James and Irene Gaffney and is the only one of them still living. She was born Thelma Gaffney and received the name of Sister M. Felicitas at her reception into the novitiate. She also has been known as Felicity and Joy.

She was a member of Columbus St. Mary Magdalene Church, attended the parish school, graduated from Columbus St. Mary of the Springs Academy and received a Bachelor's degree from the College (now University) of St. Francis in Joliet, with a major in French. She has a Master of Arts degree in education from DePaul University. She attended the Franciscan Institute at the College of St. Francis and took courses in Spanish at the University of Colorado.

She taught in high schools from California to Florida for 50 years.

"Living a Franciscan way of life meant that God has been very generous and gracious in showering me with his love and the fullness of his almighty goodness," she said. "I am now so aware of his many blessings: love, gifts, forgiveness, pardon and all the good that only he can control. I am especially amazed during these later years of the importance and need of Sts. Francis and Clare of Assisi's teaching and examples of community and poverty."

Sister Felicity lives at the Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home in Joliet.

Sister Rita, 94, is the only girl born to the late Sarah and Arthur Schmitz. Her four brothers are deceased.

She was a member of Columbus St. John the Evangelist Church, attended the parish school and Columbus Holy Rosary School, and graduated from Columbus St. Joseph Academy. She received a Bachelor's degree from the College of St. Francis with a major in

Sociology. She has a Master of Education degree from DePaul University in Chicago.

She was an educator at Columbus Corpus Christi School and schools in Illinois and Shelby, Ohio, teaching every grade from two through eight in a 22-year career, including eight years as a principal.

From 1969 to 1985, she worked in the social service field for Franklin County Children Services in Grove City and the Franklin County Welfare Department in Columbus. She then was a part-time recreational assistant and resident assistant for senior citizens at the Heritage Day Care Center in Westerville and assisted seniors in Columbus.

Living out her vows and having a dedicated prayer life have been the basis for her Franciscan spirit. She came to the community with a desire to be of service for all and defines her ministry as one of service to others.

49 years in Catholic education: 'What I was called to do'

By Tim Puet

Catholic Times Reporter

The end of Janet Weisner's 49-year career as an educator in the Columbus diocesan school system would have been a time for celebration in any other year, but the coronavirus pandemic made her departure more subdued.

On what would have been the last day of in-person schooling, Weisner and other staff members at Columbus St. Catharine School, where she had been principal since 1999, gathered in the school parking lot to wave goodbye for the summer to students, who had been attending classes online since mid-March because of the pandemic. Those students are among an estimated 6,000 young people she has helped educate.

"It wasn't the way I expected things to end," she said. "I knew the families had confidence in me that we could work things out together, and I was glad to see it through."

When school starts this fall, Mark Watts, who had been principal at Columbus St. Mary Magdalene School, will succeed Weisner at St. Catharine. It will be the first time since 1955 that Weisner has not been involved in Catholic education as a student, teacher or administrator.

"Catholic education always has been part of my life," said Weisner, 71. "I went to Catholic schools in Cincinnati from first grade on before my family moved to Columbus when I was a senior in high school. I went to Bishop Watterson (High School) for one year and graduated in 1967, went to Ohio Dominican for four years, began teaching at Columbus St. James the Less School 49 years ago and have been part of the diocesan school system in one way or another ever since."

"I wanted to be involved with Catholic education because of the way it combines faith with education. Both are an important part of life. I always say that's the best thing about my job."

Weisner received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Ohio Dominican College (now University) in 1971 and later earned a Master of Arts degree from Ohio State University. Father Donald Schulz hired her for her first job at St. James the Less not long after her graduation from Ohio Dominican.

Msgr. David Sorohan, superintendent of diocesan schools from 1971 to 1978, said, "Janet is an incredible educator, one of the very best educators we've had."

Seven people have served as diocesan

school superintendent during Weisner's teaching career, including Father Paul Noble, Dan Brent, Michael Coury, Lucia McQuaide, Joseph Brettnacher and Adam Dufault, the current superintendent.

McQuaide said Weisner always was on the cutting edge of education and kept adapting to meet current needs.

"She was willing to take risks if it would help the kids," McQuaide said. "She was a true pioneer and crusader for welcoming students of every learning style." Kitty Quinn, assistant diocesan superintendent for elementary schools, said, "Janet fought tooth and nail for kids to have a chance. Her whole world at home and at work was kids and schools and family. She will be missed."

After five years at St. James the Less, Weisner became principal at Columbus St. Andrew School in 1976 at age 25, making her one of the youngest persons to be principal at a diocesan school. She spent six years there.

"That was a great experience," she said. "There were more than 500 students in the school. This was a time of transition, with schools having more lay faculty members and fewer sisters. Our faculty was split about evenly between laypersons and members of the Sisters of St. Joseph from Baden, Pennsylvania.

"It was wonderful working with the sisters because they were open, inviting and very supportive of my position as principal. The convent and school were connected, and that made communication with the sisters very easy."

When schools closed throughout the state in 1978 because of that year's historic blizzard and an energy crisis that left school buildings without heat, Weisner innovated by having classes meet in banks, movie theaters and church pews. Long before the pandemic, Weisner also was involved in remote learning. Local television stations replaced some of their regular daytime schedule with school-related programs during that time, and Weisner was part of that effort.

When Weisner left St. Andrew in 1983, she was succeeded by her husband, Bill, who stayed in that position for 10 years. The couple met at a principals' meeting when Janet was principal at St. Andrew and Bill was principal at Columbus St. Timothy School. They have been married for 40 years and have two daughters and a son, ranging in age from 30 to 37. Bill Weisner retired as assistant principal at Watterson in 2018, also after a long career in diocesan schools.



Janet Weisner (foreground) and other teachers wave goodbye to students in the parking lot of Columbus St. Catharine School as their parents' cars drive by. The farewell occurred on what would have been the last day of classes in June. The coronavirus pandemic closed all diocesan school buildings in mid-March.

Photo courtesy Kendell Thompson

Janet Weisner was special projects director for the diocesan Schools Office from 1983 to 1997. "That position involved doing things like school evaluations, developing the school calendar, tuition assistance and communicating weekly with the schools," she said. "It was a great job, and one of the things I remember best was that I was the person who determined whether schools would be closed. On those days, it made me popular among students – and no doubt, some teachers, too."

She served as admissions director at Columbus Bishop Hartley High School from 1997 to 1999, then came to St. Catharine School.

"St. Catharine is a wonderful community parish," she said. "It's at the heart of the community, so a lot of students and parents walk to school or church. People are committed to it and very proud of it. I've always had very supportive pastors and have been very blessed to have a very dedicated, caring staff which has worked tirelessly to provide the very best education for students. I've been honored to be involved in the daily lives of so many students, to pray with them and to help send them into the world."

Some of Weisner's former students sent her a book of memories, including the tale of a scared elementary school youngster who wouldn't get out of the family car one morning. Weisner talked him into the classroom and kept him

safe there all day. "You never know what moments make the difference in the life of a child," she said, recalling that incident. "You just do the right thing. This is the legacy that is important to me. I wouldn't change anything. It was what I was called to do."

She said her nearly half-century as a teacher has been marked by three trends. "First is the constant technological change and the ease in accessibility to it. We also have a better understanding that education is more than just sitting in a classroom, and that students need to be involved with more collaborative learning," Weisner said.

"And our recognition of children who learn differently has improved tremendously. We're doing so much more for children who have learning difficulties and need additional support, and have found that schools are capable of supporting different styles of learning."

Weisner has been involved since its beginning with SPICE (Special People in Catholic Education), a program that began about 20 years ago at St. Catharine School and has been a pioneer in improving learning opportunities for students of every ability. Several other diocesan schools now sponsor SPICE groups, and the program has spread to at least three other states.

"Students are much more tech-savvy today than they were 50 years ago because the technology has changed so much," she said. "But otherwise, they haven't changed that much. Kids are kids. They intrinsically bring with them an eagerness to learn and a compassion for others."

"The three months when students had to finish their learning for this school year at home were pretty crazy," Weisner said. "It turned all of our worlds upside down and changed our teaching styles and methods of education."

"But we got through it, and the time until school resumes in whatever form gives us a chance to adapt to more changes. No matter what Catholic schools look like in the coming year, they will continue to provide a solid Catholic education for everyone."

Weisner said she looks forward to spending more time with her four grandchildren and otherwise doesn't have specific retirement plans. "I imagine I'll get involved part time with some kind of education or service project and will have time to do things I've never gotten around to," she said. "The biggest adjustment will just be not having to get up and go to a school in the fall and winter."

Priests provide comforting presence to COVID patients

By Tim Puet

Catholic Times Reporter

Priests of the Diocese of Columbus who have administered the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick to coronavirus patients say the experience has been a difficult but satisfying reminder of the significance of their vocation to bring God's presence into people's lives.

"When I first started seeing people who had the virus, I was a little concerned because I didn't know a lot about it and because of all the safety procedures involved, but now I've gotten used to it," said Father Jesse Chi Chick, CFIC, associate administrator of Columbus St. Elizabeth Church, who estimated that he has anointed 15 coronavirus patients at Mount Carmel St. Ann's, Mount Carmel East and Mount Carmel Grove City hospitals.

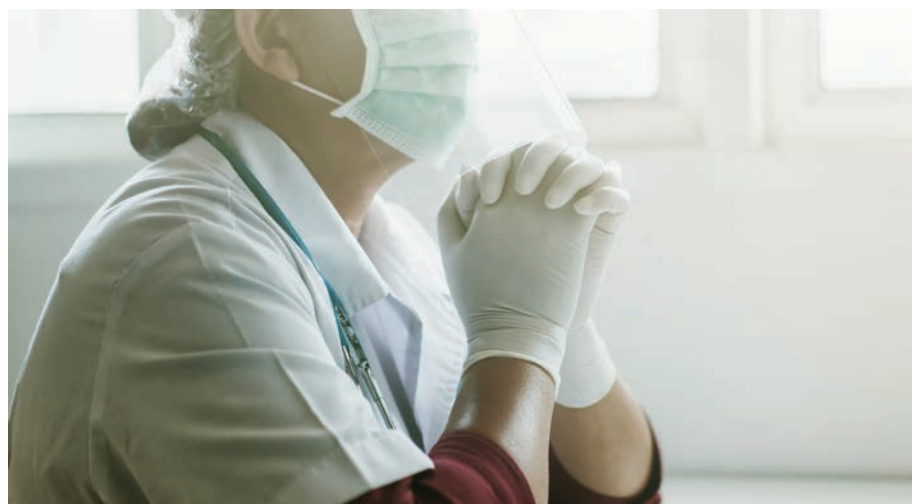
"I'm very grateful for the consolation I've been able to provide to the patients and their families, especially because of the restrictions which often mean family members can't be present at a time they might most want to be at someone's side and when the patient is most in need of having them there.

"Visits to these patients bring a mixture of reactions. These are moments when there is suffering and pain among the patients and their families, but each time I've been with someone with COVID, I've felt they were happy to have me there, and it's left me happy to be a priest. My presence at a person's bedside and my not being scared is very reassuring. It makes patients more ready to experience God's power to heal their souls."

Father Chick said it takes about 10 minutes to don and to doff (put on and take off) the personal protective equipment (PPE) such as an N95 facemask and a hospital gown worn to minimize exposure when dealing with hazardous situations such as possible exposure to the coronavirus.

"Doing this always makes me think of vesting for Mass," he said. "In both instances, you're bringing God to others through your actions. Purifying my hands with hand sanitizer reminds me of the washing of hands that's part of every Mass. Whenever I'm donning and doffing protective gear, I say prayers for the protection of the patient, the people with him or her and myself, and for the Holy Spirit to descend on everyone in the room."

Father Sean Dooley, pastor of Co-



A hospital worker prays for a patient.

Shutterstock photo

lumbus Our Lady of Peace Church, said he has seen six or seven COVID-19 patients, mostly at Riverside Methodist Hospital in Columbus.

"The feeling you get in these cases is indescribable," he said. "For one thing, there's usually so much silence in the room. It's hard that people's families usually aren't there. I remember one instance when a patient was in imminent danger of dying, and I gave her the last rites. Her family was there through FaceTime and had to say goodbye over an iPad. That was really difficult.

"Another time, I gave the Eucharist to an individual and he started to cry, eventually telling me it had been years since he received Communion. Then there was a Friday when I got three COVID calls, one after the other. I'd woke up that day figuring it was a day to catch up on desk work and emails, but never got to any of that. What a day! I was worn out but knew I was doing the work I was meant to do.

"My first time with a virus patient was really nerve-wracking. It's always that way, at least a little bit, but like the people in the medical profession, you want to remain super-calm," Father Dooley said. "I never thought in a million years I'd be dealing with something like this. I thought this kind of virus was the kind of thing you only read about in the history books.

"You never know for sure about the impact you have in these situations, but it's been rewarding for me to be a part of them. You do the best you can to bring consolation and then let the sacraments speak for themselves."

Father Ryan Schmit, administrator of Columbus Holy Cross Church, said he has visited coronavirus patients about once every other week. "I've never been as nervous as I was on

my first few visits, but you get courage and confidence the more you do it because you know the doctors and nurses are doing all they can. They're displaying faith of their own as they continue to work with people in spite of the difficulties the virus brings. It's a combination of faith joined to reason," he said.

"Dealing with coronavirus patients is definitely a humbling experience," said Father Edward Nowak, CSP, director of the Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center, adjacent to the Ohio State University campus. He and two of the center's three other Paulist priests are on call from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. daily to see coronavirus patients at OSU's Wexner Medical Center. The center's other priest, Father Vincent McKiernan, CSP, is 89 years old and is at high risk of infection by the virus because of his age.

"Every case you deal with is different, and how you're able to deal with patients depends on their level of isolation and what the hospital's current policy might be, since it changes frequently," Father Nowak said. "Since we're generally unable to have direct physical contact with COVID patients, we anoint them by applying holy oil through use of a Q-tip."

Father T.J. Lehigh, pastor for the Perry County Consortium of Churches, had seen only one COVID patient by mid-July while he served as parochial vicar at Columbus St. Andrew Church, which is near several hospitals. "This patient also had other health issues, and COVID was the tipping point," he said. "It was sad because he was there all by himself with no family, but the hospital staff was very good to work with and very reassuring.

"On the one hand, you're worried

about this virus you can't see, and on the other hand, you know you're there for what God has called you to do," he said. "This man was unconscious, but that didn't matter. You're taught in seminary to say prayers aloud so that person can hear them because in some way, he knows you're praying for him. It seems a little awkward, but you know you're getting the person ready so he can die peacefully and be united with the Lord."

Father Stephen Smith, parochial vicar of Powell St. Joan of Arc Church, said he also has dealt with only one COVID patient. "It was a 97-year-old woman at Dublin Methodist Hospital, and the call came on Good Friday," he said. "Unlike many COVID patients, she had six or seven family members with her. They were grateful to see a priest, and although the woman wasn't very lucid, I'm sure she was happy to be surrounded by loved ones. But I'm surprised I haven't had more COVID calls. Although St. Joan of Arc is a large parish, it's had only one COVID death that I know of, and that person was 102 years old."

About 50 priests of the Diocese of Columbus and members of religious orders serving the diocese were trained in late March via YouTube and the Zoom conference call system to provide end-of-life sacramental care during the pandemic. Conducting the training were Dr. Marian Schuda of the OhioHealth system, secretary of the local guild of the Catholic Medical Association; Father Dean Mathewson, coordinator of diocesan hospital ministries; and Father Michael Lumpe, diocesan vicar for priests.

Father Mathewson said that although he understands the need to limit contact because of the virus, he thinks hospitals should give family members and priests more opportunity to see COVID patients.

"It's very hard not to be able to give appropriate care for people who are suffering, and it's hard for both families and patients not to be able to talk to each other in person at this critical time," he said. "Because they have no support system on hand, some people are dying sooner than they otherwise would. I think COVID patients need and deserve more consideration than they are getting in some instances."

Father Lumpe said people often speak of the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick and what the Catholic Church describes as the last rites

Seminarians inspired by work at social service agencies

By Tim Puet

Catholic Times Reporter

Seminarians from the Diocese of Columbus say the unexpected opportunity to work with social service agencies this summer has led to spiritual growth and a greater sense of the needs of the people they hope to one day serve as priests.

The seminarians usually are assigned to help at parishes throughout the diocese during their summer break from classes. But that was impossible this year because the pandemic has kept parish facilities closed and limited the use of parish offices. Instead, 10 seminarians performed pastoral works for 10 weeks from mid-May until the end of July at the Holy Family Soup Kitchen, the Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs (JOIN), St. Lawrence Haven and the diocesan St. Vincent de Paul Society's thrift store in Columbus, the Good Samaritan Food Pantry in Chillicothe, the Pike County Food Pantry in Waverly and the St. Francis Evangelization Center in Portsmouth.

The only diocesan seminarians assigned to a parish this summer were Deacons Eugene Joseph, Stephen Ondrey and Jacob Stinnett, who will enter their final year of studies for the priesthood this fall. They are serving at Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona, Columbus Immaculate Conception and Reynoldsburg St. Pius X churches, respectively.

Seminarians Kevin Girardi of Columbus Our Lady of Victory Church and Daniel Colby of Columbus Immaculate Conception Church were assigned to the Holy Family Soup Kitchen. The building was closed for dining because of the pandemic, but the seminarians handed out "woods bags" of sandwiches, snacks and drinks and containers of hot meals to people served by the kitchen in Columbus' Franklinton neighborhood.

"Daniel and I cooked simple things like hamburgers outside the center and worked with the Bridgetine Sisters, the Little Servant Sisters of the Immaculate Conception and the Dominican Sisters of the Immaculate Conception Province to keep people fed," said Girardi, who earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy this year at the Pontifical College Josephinum and will begin four years of theology studies there in the fall.

"I was told the pandemic resulted in fewer people coming to the pantry than usual, but that gave us more time to talk to the people who did come. We know they need food, but, at the heart of things, they desire Christ. By the time our 10 weeks ended, I think we knew about 90 percent of the people by name and knew their stories. They talked about the needs of body and soul and, in some way, we fulfilled some of those needs.

"Working with the homeless people who come to the pantry was a humbling experience because it was a reminder that every one of us is a beggar in the eyes of God," Girardi said.

Seminarian Jake Asuncion of Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul Church split time between St. Lawrence Haven and the thrift store, both of which are operated by the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and JOIN.

"At St. Lawrence Haven (which serves prepackaged lunches every Monday through Thursday),



Seminarians Aaron Yohe (left) and Michael Haemmerle put together food packages at the Good Samaritan Food Pantry in Chillicothe. Photo courtesy Aaron Yohe

there's always a long line, and you don't have much time to do much more than say, 'Hello and God bless you,'" Asuncion said. "But after a while, you learn people's names and they encourage you. You realize they appreciate seeing me, a 24-year-old, serving them because they don't see many people my age taking the time to be kind to them. I ask the Holy Spirit to guide me in what I'm saying so they can see Christ in me and I can see Christ in them.

"Experiences like the ones I've had this summer and at other times take me out of my comfort zone and make me look forward to my future ministry," said Asuncion, who also will be beginning his theology studies at the Josephinum in the fall.

"One moment I'll always remember came on a Divine Mercy Sunday when I was still attending the University of Akron. I was driving around, saw a homeless person and rolled down my car window to say 'Hello' to her. I can still recall her reaction. She was just so grateful that she was heard, that someone paid attention to her. I keep that moment close to my heart. It showed me that I may not have much money, but I have an ear and always can listen to someone."

Asuncion and seminarian John Paul Haemmerle of Columbus St. Patrick Church both spent time

at the thrift store. "They went on our truck to pick up furniture from people, and their interaction with customers was outstanding," said store coordinator Bob Zabloudil. "They also were in our back room preparing items to put on the store's sale floor and were just eager to learn."

Asuncion's first five weeks of the summer break were spent at JOIN, where he was followed for the second five weeks by seminarian Peter Claver Kiviiri of Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral. "Both were willing to do anything we asked," said Lisa Keita of JOIN, which provides a variety of services to meet people's basic needs but has a limited selection of food items.

"They ended up taking a lot of phone calls and doing a lot of data entry and filing because we've been much less busy than usual," she said. "The things JOIN provides most often are bus passes and fees for birth certificates, but buses have been free since the start of the pandemic, and vital statistics offices around the country were closed until recently. We never closed, but it's been relatively quiet here."

Asuncion, Kiviiri and seminarian Tyler Carter of Columbus St. Patrick Church all packed and distributed food at St. Lawrence Haven. "All of them have been a blessing, for sure," said its director, Heather Swiger. "I don't know what we'll do without them because we've had fewer volunteers this summer, and during the school year, we're only able to get seminarians for one day a week. All the guys were wonderful with the people here, and we really enjoyed them."

"I hope to be working with people on the streets, God willing, so being at St. Lawrence gave me a lot of insight," said Carter, who will be a second-year theology student at the Josephinum. "Now if I meet someone in the street who needs help, I can direct him or her to the right place and talk about all the resources the diocese has available.

"I also worked during the summer at the St. Vincent de Paul clothing center next to the JOIN office and at the cathedral's back door ministry, which provides sandwiches for people every morning and every weekday afternoon," Carter said. "I'd see some of the same people at two or all three places and got to know them better. Some of them said to me, 'You seem to be everywhere!' It was neat to see all the ways the Catholic Church in Columbus follows Jesus' example of caring for people in need."

While working at the various agencies, Girardi, Asuncion, Colby and Haemmerle lived at Columbus Holy Family Church, along with seminarians Shane Gerrity of St. Patrick Church and David England of Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, who had jobs in the private sector. Kiviiri, Carter and Sam Severance of Columbus Holy Name Church, who also had a private-sector job, lived at the cathedral.

"A priest's primary role is prayer, and the prayer lives of all of us living at Holy Family grew deeper in response to Christ's call," Girardi said. "We prayed Lauds and Vespers together every day. That communal prayer and being around my brother seminarians provided my biggest support. Building community life and fraternal life and practicing charity toward one another helped us practice char-

COVID-19 pandemic affects senior population throughout diocese

Catholic Social Services (CSS) serves two populations of people, the working poor and vulnerable seniors. We help working-poor families stabilize and become self-sufficient through case management, mental health care and emergency assistance. We help low-income seniors age with grace and independence through supportive services and community impact opportunities.

Through the Supportive Services program, CSS removes barriers for low-income seniors who need assistance to maintain their independence and remain safely in their homes. Licensed social workers provide individualized care and case management to older adults and their families by helping seniors navigate their benefits, locate transportation services, schedule medical appointments, manage finances, find appropriate housing and more. CSS can provide these services in their home because many seniors are homebound, especially in rural counties, where they have even more barriers to accessing care.

We are living in an unprecedented, difficult time. COVID-19 has impacted all of us as we struggle to adjust to this new normal and live our lives as best as we can. The most vulnerable of our communities have been hurt the most. That includes the 3,000 seniors served annually by CSS who faced the challenges of aging, such as food insecurity, affordable housing, connecting to resources, living on a fixed income, transportation issues and social isolation before the pandemic started.

Because of Ohio's stay-at-home order for this at-risk population, many seniors feel trapped within their homes. Others who already were stuck because of physical or cognitive limitations are experiencing an even deeper feeling of loneliness. In the craziness of everything, we cannot allow these seniors to feel as though they are forgotten. In both instances, not only their emotional health, but also their physical health is at risk.

The National Institute on Aging recently reported, "Human beings are social creatures. Our connection to others enables us to survive and thrive. Yet as we age, many of us are alone more often than when we were younger, leaving us vulnerable

to social isolation and loneliness and related health problems such as cognitive decline, depression and heart disease."

One of those seniors is Lois, who suffers from Lou Gehrig's disease, lives on the second floor of a substandard building and has trouble doing simple things. Each week, she does her laundry by putting all of it in a pillowcase, throwing it down the stairs and then scooting down each flight of stairs, repeating the act until she makes it to the laundry room in the basement. When she's done, she crawls up the stairs, dragging her laundry in the pillowcase until she's back at her door.

Lois recently was connected to Tim, one of our licensed social workers. She told him, "I just want to remain independent for as long as I can, but (I want to) live in a home that you would want to live in."

While Tim started to work on finding Lois affordable housing and other needed support, the pandemic hit and many property managers and landlords stopped taking applications. Despite everything, she keeps hope alive as Tim continues to meet virtually with Lois regularly and safely delivers her food boxes and other necessities.

Another senior, Miss Jones, is homebound with physical limitations and is afraid to leave because of the pandemic. When people swarmed to stores and bought toiletries and cleaning items for their homes, they left nothing for Miss Jones, who is on heart medication that acts as a diuretic and creates a greater need for toiletries. Knowing this, Tim called her to let her know he was bringing food and toilet paper. Through her tears, she told Tim, "I never thought that I would cry over toilet paper."

Additionally, we serve some homeless seniors that our social workers would meet in public places regularly to help them find the resources they need. They never gave up before the pandemic hit, and we know that they will not give up now.

These vulnerable seniors represent a small part of the 35,000 clients in 23 counties that we serve at Catholic Social Services. They are the reason that we do what we do, and it is together that we all provide hope.

SEMINARIANS, Continued from Page 10

ity to others."

Aaron Yohe of Columbus St. Mary, Mother of God Church and John Paul Haemmerle's brother, Michael, were stationed at the pantries in Chillicothe and Waverly throughout the summer, spending four days a week in Chillicothe and one day in Waverly.

"One of the things that most affected me at the Good Samaritan pantry was seeing the work done not just by the pantry's regular volunteers, but by people living in nearby prisons who were doing community service work as part of their preparation to re-enter society," Yohe said. "We've had a lot of conversations, and it's been inspiring to see the prisoners and realize they know they've made mistakes and want to change their way of life.

"Talking with them has made me realize more than ever the importance of treating people as equals and of being like Christ, who didn't regard status when he talked to anyone," said Yohe, 37, who will be entering his second year of theology studies this fall at Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary in Massachusetts, which specializes in priestly formation for men age 30 and older.

"I'm going to miss both of those guys," said Mike Thompson of the Good Samaritan pantry. "They were fantastic workers who would take the bull by the horns and go for it, whether working in our warehouse unloading stock, greeting people or bring-

ing food to the elderly. I wish I had a bunch of them."

Jason Fox of Powell St. Joan of Arc Church and David Johnstone of Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes Church spent the summer at the St. Francis pantry in Portsmouth, which was the only pantry still operating in the city during the early stages of the pandemic. Fox, 47, is a classmate of Yohe's at the Pope St. John XXIII seminary.

"I've definitely seen a need you don't see every day," Fox said. "I grew up in suburban Toledo and might drive through a low-income area once in a while, but being part of an area where the economy has been devastated over the years by plant closings has been an eye-opening experience. It's made me think about people in terms of equality rather than of class. Class isn't important when you're in a situation like you have here, where nearly everyone is hurting."

"Jason and David have been an unimaginable help for the St. Francis Center," said its director, Barbara McKenzie. "Besides them, it's been just me and an assistant here. They have learned a great deal by seeing the need here and the people who have the need."

McKenzie said the center consistently is distributing more than 1,000 boxes and 1,000 bags of food, plus hygiene items, per month. Before the pandemic began, distribution was about 400 boxes monthly.



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St. Catharine parish works to build fellowship

By Elizabeth Pardi

Fellowship is a priority at Columbus St. Catharine Church, and that hasn't changed amid social distancing, said the parish's pastor, Father Dan Dury.

"We want to focus on building community and building relationships," Father Dury said.

"That's the way Our Lord worked. He first built those relationships and showed the apostles that he really, truly cared about them."

One primary way the parish works to establish such relationships is through the Alpha program.

Based on hospitality and conversation, Alpha can be a tool for evangelization.

At an Alpha meeting, Catholics and people from other Christian denominations discuss their perspectives on faith in person or, more commonly because of the pandemic, via video chat.

About 650 of St. Catharine's 1,900 parishioners older than 20 have completed the Alpha program.

Because the program is open to non-parishioners, about 350 people from other churches and beliefs also have participated.

"The key to the Alpha course is that it's not a silver bullet," said Brendan O'Rourke, St. Catharine's communication director. "It's not a one-and-done program."

While Alpha provides a way for people to grow in their faith, its chief

goal is to form connections among participants in the hope that they will in turn start their own faith-based groups, according to O'Rourke.

He said many parishioners who have gone through Alpha have formed or joined book groups.

Lisa Reis, whose husband, Chris, is St. Catharine's deacon, said a parish women's book club offers morning, afternoon or evening meetings, allowing members to attend the meeting that suits their schedule. Each meeting consists of about 50 to 60 participants.

Another group that often emerges from Alpha is the "connect group." "Those meet in homes," O'Rourke said. "They'll do (book studies) or a course on Formed.org," a Catholic website providing extensive digital media.

"One of the things we really encourage them to do is eat together," Father Dury said.

"It's not an accident that the Mass is a meal, and when you eat together, you tend to really get to know one another better and build those relationships."

Because of the pandemic, in-person dialogue over meals became video-conference discussions.

"We had three online Alpha groups going," O'Rourke said when asked about fellowship during the lockdown. "Father was sending out a lot of communication via email, keeping people updated and trying to give them spiritual and practical guidance."



Columbus St. Catharine parishioner Mary Vautour welcomes the people back to the first public Sunday Mass at the church on May 31 after a 2 1/2-month suspension of worship because of the coronavirus outbreak. Photo courtesy St. Catharine Church

During quarantine, the parish also tried to stay in touch with its home-bound members.

"We made a lot of phone calls and most people appreciated that," Father Dury said. "We wanted to connect (with) our parishioners."

Lisa Reis said this desire for connection seems to permeate the church, often attracting non-parishioners. "The people who are coming are so open to (connection). They're looking for it. It's in their hearts," she said.

In the spring, the parish's CARE (Christ's Arms Reaching Everyone) on Call ministry looked for volunteers for a socially distanced food drive. An overwhelming number of parishioners and non-parishioners volunteered.

"We literally had to split shifts into half hour segments to let everybody volunteer," Lisa Reis said.

"I heard so many people say, 'I'm ready to roll up my sleeves and work. Give me something to do.'"

During the food drive, donors drove up and popped their vehicles' trunks and volunteers unloaded the food. "We told people, 'Try to smile through your mask!'" she said.

O'Rourke said the parish takes seriously its mission to spread the gospel.

"In any organization, it's always a struggle to keep the main thing the main thing. We have to be disciplined about that," he said. "We're a church and our mission is to save souls."

When Deacon Reis recently presided over a funeral service for a family belonging to a different parish, he asked why they requested someone from St. Catharine. "They told me that every time they came to our church, they felt so welcomed," he said.

For the parish, fellowship comes easily because, as O'Rourke said, "Our whole campus is surrounded by houses, so we're in a central neighborhood. Many people just walk here."

After all, as O'Rourke said, "If there wasn't good community, that means we're doing something wrong."

St. Elizabeth Church adapts to pandemic with streaming, screens

Challenging situations spark creativity. Parishioners at Columbus St. Elizabeth Church have adapted to the changes resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic by welcoming state-of-the-art technological advances in their worship space.

The changes are the most recent development in an effort to expand involvement in church activities and increase membership through evangelization that the Parish Council began two years ago. The program had included welcoming activities and ministry, prayer, and offering-commitment weekends before churches were closed by the pandemic.

Father Antony Varghese, CFIC, parish administrator, had proposed as a long-term goal that screens be placed in the sanctuary to visually display hymns and communal Mass responses as a way of enhancing participation in the liturgy.

Once the pandemic hit, St. Eliza-



Flat-screen monitors placed in the sanctuary at Columbus St. Elizabeth Church to enhance participation in the Mass were part of a technological update at the parish in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Photo courtesy St. Elizabeth Church
beth was able to take advantage of several parishioners' technical skills. Livestreaming of Sunday Masses on Facebook was eagerly accepted, especially since parishioners could watch at their usual Mass times.

The Parish Council established a pandemic committee to prepare a plan for reopening and the gradual return of parishioners.

Many parishioners are in groups considered at high risk for the virus, so improvement in the livestreaming production procedure was one of the committee's main goals. In addition, there was a need to provide parishioners returning to the church with a safe, welcoming, prayerful worship environment.

To supplement the parishioners' technical efforts, the parish contracted with Bartha Audio Visual of Columbus to develop an integrated state-of-the-art media solution.

The simple laptop for livestreaming was replaced by an integrated camera system. Two 82-inch flat screens were hung from the ceiling beams on either side of the sanctuary, enabling every person seated in the worship space to see and read the hymns and responses

from the screens. To complement the new display system, the church sound system was upgraded and retuned.

The presentation platform displays hymns, responses, prayers and graphics to enhance homilies during the weekend Masses. The same display appears at the bottom of the screen for those watching from home. Everything is pre-programmed before Mass and is controlled by an iPad.

In some instances, the platform allows for different content to be seen at home. For example, while the priest is distributing the Eucharist, those at home are reading and hearing the Act of Spiritual Communion.

Parishioners have commented favorably on the enhanced liturgical environment for those viewing at home and for people in the church. Father Varghese has noted that there is an increase in prayer responses, which was what he had hoped for when he suggested installation of the screens.

Local news and events

Catholic Foundation grants more than \$13.3 million

The Catholic Foundation distributed more than 2,300 grants and \$13.3 million for the fiscal year ending June 30.

Through the responsive grant cycle alone, the foundation provided funding to help programs affecting more than 250,000 people in the Diocese of Columbus. Additionally, the foundation created the Catholic Emergency Response Fund (CERF) in March in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This fund provides immediate and flexible assistance to parishes within the Diocese of Columbus that are receiving financial requests from parishioners because of the spread of the coronavirus and provides financial assistance to food pantries sponsored by the diocese. All donations go toward helping Catholic families and individuals impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.

Dan Kurth, the foundation's vice president of grants and community impact, said, "Due to the pandemic, our granting process has been very different this year. When the lockdown started taking full effect, we knew that we had to create a response to help get money into the hands of those families and individuals who needed it most. The Catholic Foundation created the Catholic Emergency Response Fund, seeded it with \$250,000 of our own money and then began distributing the money out to food pantries and parishes within our diocese with the highest need."

Including the initial \$250,000 seed gift, \$700,000 has been given to the fund and more than \$533,000 has been granted to 13 food pantries and 40 parishes. As one of the nation's oldest and largest Catholic foundations, The Catholic Foundation has distributed nearly \$150 million in the diocese since 1985.

JPII Early Childhood Center receives Foundation grant

The Catholic Foundation has awarded the Little Servant Sisters of the Immaculate Conception a \$1,000 responsive grant for the St. John Paul II Early Childhood Education Center in Columbus. The sisters opened the Step Up to Quality-certified center in 2019 at 957 E. Broad St.

The center does not unlawfully dis-

criminate against race, disability, sex, national origin, marital status, religion, or any other characteristic protected by institutional policy or state, local or federal law.

The sisters are accepting enrollment in preschool and pre-kindergarten programs for children ages three to five. Their program offers a Christ-centered, secure environment, a quality early education, including the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, and a flexible schedule.

For more information or to enroll, visit the center's website, <http://stjohnpaul2preschool.com>, or call (856) 874-6096.

Mother Angelica Museum opens in Canton

A museum dedicated to the life of Mother Angelica, the founder of the EWTN television and radio networks, has opened in the St. Raphael Center, located at 4635 Fulton Drive S.W. in Stark County's Jackson Township, near her hometown of Canton.

Mother Angelica was born Rita Rizzo in 1924 and was the only child of a poor, divorced mother. A divine healing at the hands of Rhoda Wise, a stigmatic who has been declared a Servant of God by the Catholic Church, changed the trajectory of Rizzo's life. She entered religious life at 21, becoming a nun with the Franciscan Poore Clares, who opened a monastery in Canton in 1944. She left Canton in 1961 to begin a new order of sisters in Alabama in response to the racial unrest of the time.

The museum traces Mother Angelica's life and ministry until her founding of EWTN in an Alabama garage

in 1981. EWTN is the world's largest Catholic media outlet and the first network started and run by a woman.

Barbara Gaskell of the St. Raphael Center said that after a charismatic experience with the Holy Spirit, Mother Angelica began speaking publicly. Her sense of humor made her a popular guest, leading to her taping her first TV show, *Our Hermitage*, in 1978. She began building her own broadcast studio the following year.

Mother Angelica died in 2016 at age 92.

Annual Mass canceled at Our Lady of Fatima shrine

The annual Mass celebrating the Feast of the Assumption at the Our Lady of Fatima Shrine overlooking Indian Lake has been canceled for this year. It would have been celebrated on Sunday, Aug. 16.

"Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were not comfortable hosting a large gathering this year, even in an outdoor setting. Social distancing would be difficult to maintain and seating would be very limited," said Bill Quatman, president of The American Society of Ephesus, which owns the shrine property. Quatman said the Mass has been celebrated each year since 1964 by priests from Russells Point St. Mary of the Woods Church and always draws a large crowd.

The shrine is one of the tallest statues of the Virgin Mary in the United States. Dedicated in August 1964, the 43-foot monument includes a fiberglass statue of Our Lady of Fatima on a concrete pedestal.

Claver Cares program continues



Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and months of isolation, the St. Cyprian Court 298 of the Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary has continued its monthly Claver Cares meal service. Each month, service teams have delivered 40 individually boxed meals and special treats, contact-free, to women served by the court's Woman to Woman program. Each team has been creative in providing specialty items such as toiletries, candy, hygiene necessities and other items. The April team delivered the meals with colorfully wrapped toilet issue rolls decorated with facial masks sewn by a mother and daughter who both are members of the court, as well as bagged toiletries and candy. The deliveries will continue as a ministry of Christian charity.

Photo courtesy Court 298

Walking with Purpose forms new BLAZE Belong group

Walking with Purpose has announced the formation of BLAZE Belong, a program to help middle-school girls counter the lies they face about their worth and beauty with truths found in Scripture.

See LOCAL NEWS, Page 15



RUNOHIO

Jeff McGowan Memorial Virtual Run/Walk 5K

Columbus—August 9th

Race is in Memory of Jeff McGowan and Mark Dempsey
(Owner of Dempsey's Food and Spirits) who passed on January 10, 2020.

Ohio's source for running | www.runohio.com

Matt McGowan - runohio@ee.net

Congratulations to Sr. Barbara Kolesar, O.P. on your 60th Anniversary of Religious Profession with the Dominican Sisters of Peace!

Our Lady of Peace Parish & School



Clintonville

18th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

The Lord feeds us, answers all our needs

Isaiah 55:1-3
Ps. 145:8-9, 15-16, 17-18
Romans 8:35, 37-39
Matthew 14:13-21

We are all stretched beyond our limits these days. Summer is meant to be a time to slow down, to recreate in preparation for busier times ahead. But the situation with the coronavirus has changed the meaning of slowing down. We want to find a place where we can interact with others in safety and without fear of something invisible to our eyes but full of danger for the most vulnerable among us.

Jesus is in that situation with His disciples in the Gospel today. He has heard of the death of John the Baptist, and it is time for Him to regroup and to intensify His own ministry because He knows that the countdown toward His own Passion has begun. He tries to find a place to rest and the crowd follows Him.

Out of that encounter – a weary Jesus and a crowd that would not stop seeking Him out – came a miracle that spoke to the first generation of Christians so powerfully that it is the most reported miracle in the Bible. We are still feeding from the meal Jesus supplied. The call of discipleship is addressed to us: “Give them some food yourselves.”

Actions speak louder than words. Today’s Scriptures present us with many actions that are particularly human: being hungry and thirsty, considering whether to share our own resources with others in need or to invite them to fend for themselves.

Jesus shows the limits of His own human nature, hearing of John’s death and withdrawing – or trying to do so. The crowd responds almost as a “mob”: hearing a rumor and following. In response to the situation of the crowd, Jesus is moved with pity and He cures the

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Father Timothy Hayes

Father Timothy M. Hayes is pastor of Chillicothe St. Mary and St. Peter; and Waverly, St. Mary, Queen of the Missions.



sick. He invites the disciples to reach inside themselves and to open to the divine attitude. Then, taking what they offer, looking up to heaven, blessing, and breaking, He gives to the disciples and draws them into the divine action by giving to the crowd. The crowd eats and is satisfied and there are leftovers.

In Jesus and in His disciples, God enters into these actions. He invites us to come and to listen, to eat and drink without cost. His hand feeds us and He answers all our needs. He renews the everlasting covenant.

This happens to us today in the ambiguities of our lives. The Lord, with a heart that is compassionate, moved with pity and offering healing grace, comes to us in our gathering for the Eucharist for those who can and in our longing for His presence in those who pray for a “spiritual communion.” It happens concretely in our reaching out to others.

In the world today, we are invited to follow the example of the disciples, to continue to learn the meaning of Jesus’ feeding the multitude. “The hand of the Lord feeds us: He answers all our needs.”

What is the food that we have to share? Are we willing to share the little we have to feed the multitude? Who is hungry for what the Lord has given to us? Who is persistent in following us? What is being asked of us today?

The Lord looks at the same world as we do – and where we see burdens and problems, He sees sheep without a shepherd. And He sends us as disciples to address their needs.

salvation if only they would come to know Jesus Christ.

This attitude reveals two things about St. Paul: Jesus Christ came to mean more to him than anything else. And he truly loved those who made themselves his enemies. This is a witness that is most needed today.

As a college student, I was visiting with a religious community in England in 1979. I was there for several days. There was one priest who prayed every day for Idi Amin, the cruel dictator of Uganda, guilty of many abuses of hu-

THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS		
8/3-8/8	Matthew 17:1-9	Matthew 18:1-5,10,12-14
MONDAY	Jeremiah 28:1-17 Psalm 119:29,43, 79-80,95,102 Matthew 24:22-36	FRIDAY Nahum 2:1,3;3:1-3,6-7 Deuteronomy 32:35c-36b,39abcd,41 (Ps) Matthew 16:24-28
TUESDAY	Jeremiah 30:1-2, 12-15,18-22 Psalm 102:16-23,29 Matthew 14:22-36 or 15:1-2,10-14	WEDNESDAY Ezekiel 9:1-7;10:18-22 Psalm 113:1-6 Matthew 18:15-20
WEDNESDAY	Jeremiah 31:1-7 Jeremiah 31:10-12b,13 (Ps) Matthew 15:21-28	THURSDAY Ezekiel 12:1-12 Psalm 78:56-59,61-62 Matthew 18:21--19:1
THURSDAY	Daniel 7:9-10,13-14 Psalm 97:1-2,5-6,9 2 Peter 1:16-19	FRIDAY Ezekiel 16:1-15,60,63 or 16:59-63 Isaiah 12:2-3,4bcd,5-6 (Ps) Matthew 19:3-12
	8/10-8/14	SATURDAY Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a,10ab Psalm 45:10-12,16 1 Corinthians 15:20-27 Luke 1:39-56
	MONDAY 2 Corinthians 9:6-10 Psalm 112:1-2,5-9 John 12:24-26	
	TUESDAY Ezekiel 2:8--3:4 Psalm 119:14,24, 72, 103,111,131	

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE: WEEKS OF AUGUST 2 & 9, 2020

SUNDAY MASS

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

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); Westerville St. Paul (www.stpaulcatholicchurch.org) and Sunbury St. John Neumann (www.saintjohnsunbury.org).

We pray Weeks IV and I, Seasonal Proper, Liturgy of the Hours.

19th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

Solutions to the world's problems must come through Jesus Christ

1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a
Ps. 85:9, 10, 11-12, 13-14
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:22-33

Who do you love so much that you are willing to die for them? This is the kind of love that God shares with us, for one another. St. Paul is at pains to preach Christ in a way that his own people can understand. When it seems to him that there is no response, his anguish is so great that he cries out that he would be willing to lose his own

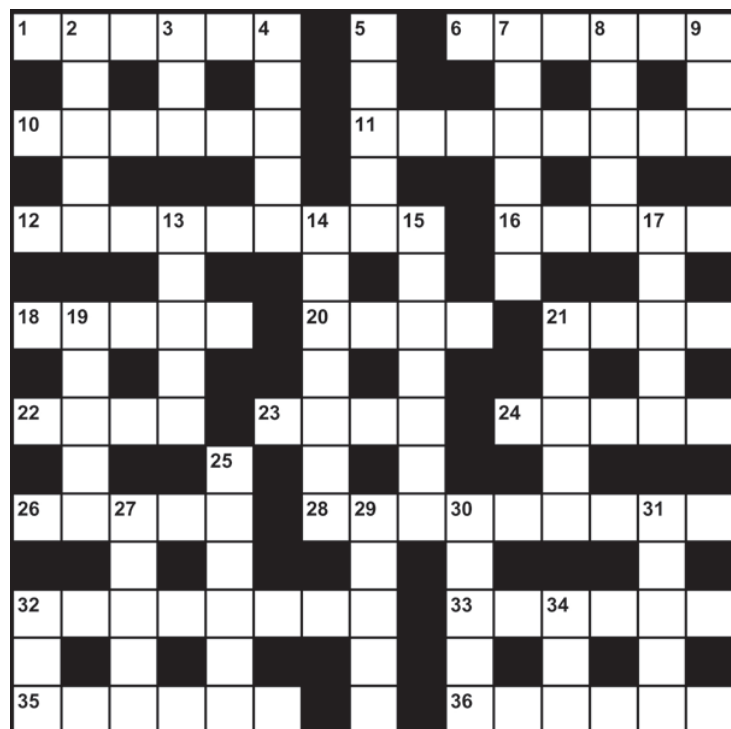
man rights, who was eventually exiled in Libya and Saudi Arabia. The priest said that we had to pray for him because the Lord asked us to pray for our enemies, and that if we did not pray for people like him, no one would.

We are living at a time of great turmoil in the world. The coronavirus pandemic has everyone caught in fear and uncertainty about the future. Every day brings news of atrocities and it becomes very difficult to know who most needs our support. Human rights are ignored and our brothers and sisters are abused

in many situations. We too are guilty as a nation of real crimes against human life in its most vulnerable stages and often in our way of judging others through the eyes of prejudice and discrimination. We are tempted to see others as enemies based on their ethnic origin or the culture and religion they were born into, or even the mere fact that they think differently than we do. How are we going to discover the way that God is working

See **SCRIPTURE**, Page 15

CATHOLIC CROSSWORD



www.wordgamesforcatholics.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Prayer time after midnight
 - 6 "Am I my brother's ____?" (Gen 4:9)
 - 10 It is assumed that this daughter of Herodias asked for John's head on a platter
 - 11 Title for clergy
 - 12 February saint
 - 16 Starting point of the Exodus
 - 18 "____ Lingua"
 - 20 Refer to a biblical passage
 - 21 Bible section
 - 22 Exodus insect
 - 23 Semicircular or polygonal recess in a church
 - 24 Crucifix
 - 26 Genesis event
 - 28 Visible appearance of God
 - 32 Paul asked to stay in his guestroom
 - 33 Communion of ____
 - 35 Advent foliage
 - 36 Number of sacraments, in the Diocese of Mainz
- DOWN**
- 2 Blow on the cheek formerly delivered by the bishop at Confirmation
 - 3 "Altered" words
 - 4 What the apostles did while Jesus prayed in the Garden
 - 5 Place where Abraham started his journey to Canaan
 - 7 Number of apostles after Judas died
 - 8 Gift of the Holy Spirit
 - 9 Cardinal color
 - 13 Number of Pope Alexanders there has been
 - 14 Words added at the beginning of a Scripture reading in the Lectionary
 - 15 ____ unction
 - 17 Reverent attitude
 - 19 Declare a marriage invalid
 - 21 "... she gave ____ to her firstborn..." (Lk 2:7)
 - 25 Season before Christmas
 - 27 Biblical food
 - 29 Pilate washed his in front of the crowd
 - 30 The patriarchs were probably glad to see these
 - 31 Start of a church?
 - 32 Church seat
 - 34 "____ missa est"

HOPE, Continued from Page 4

Ultimately, I overcame my anxiety and relaxed enough to almost forget we were still in prison. Ignoring the fact that officers were posted at the doors and everybody was wearing the same outfit, we could have been anywhere.

I love to work out, run and walk to music, and my playlist is chock-full of great Christian artists spreading God's messages through song. I was running one morning when I heard these lyrics:

*This isn't what I choose,
but it's where I'm finding You.
I'm broken and undone.*

*Your mercy's just begun.
You overcome my doubt.
Your hands are reaching out.
You hold me through the storm
and I will fear no more.*

This song, *Fear No More* by Building 429, sums up my prison life. They put into words what I have felt for years – that God really is right here and His mercy and grace will sustain me through prison and into America one day.

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

LOCAL NEWS, continued from Page 13

Led by a parent, teacher or other adult, the program for seventh and eighth-grade girls includes activities and take-home gifts that reinforce a truth from the Bible in each of its 20 lessons.

BLAZE Belong is a companion course to BLAZE Masterpiece, which was introduced by Walking with Purpose in August 2018. Since then, BLAZE Masterpiece and Belong have been adopted at hundreds of parishes and schools nationwide. Dozens of home-based study groups are being organized as well.

Requests from BLAZE Masterpiece leaders for additional instructional materials led to the development of BLAZE Belong. "When groups finished Masterpiece, they didn't want the journey to end, so we developed Belong, allowing girls to continue to learn from Scripture and grow closer to God in a unique, loving and engaging way," said Julie Ricciardi, chief executive officer of Walking with Purpose.

To run a BLAZE Belong program, a leader will need a leader's guide, as well as a kit for each participant. Kits may be purchased at walkingwithpurpose.com/blaze. The BLAZE ministry name was inspired by St. Catherine of Siena, who said, "Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire."

A 2020 survey of more than 150 girls who participated in BLAZE groups throughout the nation shows that 86 percent feel closer to God and 91 percent feel better equipped to challenge the lies of modern culture after participating in BLAZE.

For more than a decade, Walking with Purpose has been publishing Catholic Bible studies for women. Last year, more than 40,000 women participated in a WWP Bible study, either through a parish-based program or independently.

Hilltop Catholic consortium announces staff, schedule changes

The Hilltop Catholic Consortium of Columbus St. Aloysius, St. Mary Magdalene and St. Agnes churches said goodbye to Father Brett Garland with a lawn party.

Father Garland is now parochial vicar at Delaware St. Mary Church. Father Patrick Toner is pastor of St. Aloysius and St. Mary Magdalene, and Father Eduardo Velazquez,

SCRIPTURE, Continued from Page 14

to free us from this situation?

Elijah's experience shows us that it won't be in strong wind or earthquake or fire. It will be in the still, small voice, the tiny breeze, the sheer sound of silence that can only be heard when we keep our hearts centered on God.

We won't find the solution to the problems of this world in the world. The only solution is out of this world, and we are meant to be the means by which it comes into the world.

MSP is administrator of St. Agnes and pastor of Columbus St. Stephen Church.

Masses at St. Aloysius are at 4 p.m. Saturday, noon Sunday and 9 a.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, with a Holy Hour at 2 p.m. Monday.

Masses at St. Mary Magdalene are at 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday, 7 p.m. Monday and 8:15 a.m. Wednesday and Friday, with a Holy Hour including the Novena to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 8:15 a.m. Monday.

Gilchrist scholarship event format changed due to pandemic

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the format for the third annual Gilchrist Brothers Scholarship golf outing, benefiting Walsh University, has been changed.

This year, it will be a virtual event at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 19, when friends of Michael and Brian Gilchrist hope to announce the first scholarship recipient or recipients. Several anonymous donors have pledged support to the fund and have offered to match donations, to a maximum of \$3,250.

Scholarship sponsors are asking everyone who planned to participate or sponsor this year's outing to donate the equivalent of their ticket or sponsorship as a direct contribution, which will be doubled because of the anonymous pledges. All money donated goes directly to the scholarship. Sponsors' names and logos will be displayed during the virtual event.

Michael and Brian Gilchrist were Walsh basketball players and graduates and died in 2010 and 2013, respectively. They were baptized at Columbus St. Dominic Church and attended Columbus St. Mary of the Springs Montessori preschool, Columbus St. Catharine School and Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School. Friends and teammates established the scholarship and are attempting to raise \$30,000 to fully endow it, allowing students to be helped immediately.

Next year's outing will take place on June 12, 2021 at Bent Tree Country Club in Sunbury.

To donate and for more details on the event, go to www.walsh.edu/gilchrist.

See what happens when Peter makes the choice to ask for the help of Jesus. He is assisted by Jesus twice: first, when he walks on the water, then again when he is brought safely into the boat after the strong wind frightens him.

Jesus alone is the Savior of the world. We love Him and trust in Him. May our faith be strong so that we do not falter in the storms around us.

PRAY FOR OUR DEAD



BECKLEY, David, 68, July 4
Immaculate Conception Church, Dennison

BELT, Robert C., 81, July 11
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

BIAFORE, Edith M. "Teena," 90, July 10
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

BOWLES, Tamera M. (Smith), 59, June 22
St. Rose Church, New Lexington

CLARK, Henry M. "Harry," 97, July 9
St. Patrick Church, Junction City

DOERSAM, Betty A., 89, July 14
St. Rose Church, New Lexington

DORN, James F., 60, July 11
St. Mary, Mother of God Church, Columbus

ELLIS, Karry, 65, July 21
St. Cecilia Church, Columbus

FONDRIEST, John R. "Dick," 84, July 17
Immaculate Conception Church, Dennison

GALLO, Concetta "Tina," July 14
St. Brendan Church, Hilliard

GLEICH, John L., 85, July 11
St. John XXIII Church, Canal Winchester

HATEM, George, 86, July 1
St. Rose Church, New Lexington

HOOK, Kaden B., 24, July 8
St. Rose Church, New Lexington

JUNGKUNZ, Vincent G., 78, July 21
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

KIMBALL, Margaret "Peg" (Kintz), 90, July 20
Our Lady of Peace Church, Columbus

KNOBLAUCH, Sylvia J. (Widermuth), 86, July 19
Holy Spirit Church, Columbus

LALLI, William, 69, July 12
St. Christopher Church, Columbus

LOMBARDO, Vaughn M., 56, July 18
St. Agatha Church, Columbus

MELARAGNO, Cecila P. "Cil" (Corviano), 86, July 13
St. Matthew Church, Gahanna

MILANO, Dina (Ciotola), 82, July 19
St. Paul Church, Westerville

MILY, Nancy J. (Coleman), 78, July 4
St. Christopher Church, Columbus

MOORE, Kevin T., 52, July 13
St. Mary, Mother of God Church, Columbus

O'DWYER, Kathleen, 88, July 17
St. Paul Church, Westerville

PAPSON, Carol J. (Richter), 74, July 14
St. Bernadette Church, Lancaster

POE, Christine M. (Gloekner), 70, June 26
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, Columbus

POMPEY, Michael J. Jr., 93, June 17
St. Bernard Church, Corning

REHBECK, Holly A., 54, July 13
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

SEBAUGH, Shirley (Paxson), 88, July 16
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Zanesville

SHRINER, Mary E. (Baurina), 94, April 8
St. James the Less Church, Columbus

SUSI, Lucian A., 99, July 9
St. John the Baptist Church, Columbus

VANNICELLI, Tony, 91, July 13
Our Lady of Victory Church, Columbus

Linda Kay Franks

Funeral Mass for Linda Kay Franks, 68, of Collegeville, Pennsylvania, formerly of Newark, who died Thursday, July 16, was celebrated Friday, July 24 at Newark St. Francis de Sales Church. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Newark.

She was the wife of Deacon Mike Franks, who served at St. Francis de Sales Church from 1997 to 2001, before the couple moved to the Philadelphia area because of a job change. Deacon Franks currently serves at St. Philip Neri Church in Pennsburg, Pennsylvania.

She was born on Aug. 31, 1951, in Glenford to the late Henry and Jettie Frizzell, was a graduate of Thornville Sheridan High School and attended the Ohio State University Newark campus. She served as religious education coordinator for St. Teresa of Calcutta Church in Schwenksville, Pennsylvania.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Joseph Frizzell; and sister, Lola Goff. Survivors include her husband; son, Michael; daughters, Mindy (Chris) Bane and Sarah; sisters, Brenda Doty and Valerie Berrissoul; two grandsons; and a granddaughter.

COVID, Continued from Page 9

as being the same thing, but there are differences.

"The last rites provide sacramental preparation for people considered to be in imminent danger of death, while Anointing of the Sick is meant to bring about physical and spiritual healing for anyone in need of such a blessing," he said.

"Anointing of the Sick is one part of the last rites, which also include the Sacrament of Penance (confession and absolution of sins), the Apostolic Pardon (remission of temporal punishment due to sin given to a dying person who is in the state of grace) and Viaticum (Holy Com-

munion given as food for the journey to eternal life)."

Father Lumpe said he has given the last rites to about 25 people since the start of the pandemic. "One patient said something to me I will always remember: 'Father, I feel like a fool. I thought this coronavirus thing was all politics and media hype. I never wore a mask, washed my hands or did any of that other stuff we were supposed to do,'" Father Lumpe said.

"Weeks ago at one location, after administering the last rites, I asked one of the nurses how she was holding

up through all that was going on. She broke down and cried. And there we stood, fully-gowned in our PPEs, hugging each other for several minutes. She needed a hug, a good cry and to know that we care about her personally and what she and her fellow medical professionals had been going through.

"I'm sharing this information to remind everyone that we are all in this together and that we have to work together for everyone's health and safety," Father Lumpe said. "Please do what you have

been asked to do in an effort to help protect ourselves and help protect the most vulnerable among us. Wearing a mask

in public is a very good first start, frequently washing our hands is another and practicing social distancing is a must."

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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Outdoor prayer renews body, mind during pandemic

By Cecile Smith

Recently, I received a newsletter from my insurance company promoting the health benefits of spending time outside during the pandemic. Last week, my doctor's office sent an immune system "cheat sheet" recommending mind alignment and spending time outside. Then came an email from an exercise guru who suggested – you guessed it – getting outside. They claim that most adults are nature deficient, so this is undoubtedly good advice.

The benefits of fresh air and sunshine, according to these three sources, are endless and include physical, mental and emotional betterment.

The advantages range from brightening your day and overall well-being to lowering your blood pressure and risk of Type 2 diabetes – depending on your level of activity, which can range from sitting comfortably with focused breathing, to hiking, biking or swimming. With prodigious results including stronger muscles and an improved immune system, reduced cardiovascular disease, greater feelings of revitalization, increased energy, weight loss, detoxification and decreased tension, confusion, anger and depression,

READERS' REFLECTIONS

it would seem that nature is truly the "fountain of health," if not youth.

Enhanced physical health, improved mental outlook and an emotional balance – what else is there? Answer: the fourth element of humanity – spirituality. Our soul is what makes us who we are and connects us to God. Without spiritual health, the rest doesn't matter for long.

Wouldn't it be nice if we could combine these four elements in one place, activity and focus? Good news: We can. Where? How? In the wonder of creation. We can cultivate a deep and powerful spirituality, pray effortlessly, replenish our spirits, experience perfect peace and nurture personal friendships with Jesus and Mary outdoors.

With nature blossoming and society distancing, this is a perfect time of year to rest in silence, listen to God and meet Him in nature. Instead of focusing on our breath, listen for His. In place of "forest bathing to find health and happiness," why not enjoy the fresh air with Jesus and Mary? Perhaps we could trade hugging a tree (although they are worthy of hugging) for awakening our hearts to God's

blessings around us.

As health professionals are recommending, we can become more in tune with nature for the complete health package – physical, mental, emotional and, most important, spiritual well-being. We can experience the fullness of joy and know the Father's presence in the mystery of His creation. We can experience an intimacy with God and reap abundant graces in a city park, on a hiking trail or in our backyards. At the same time, we can boost our mood, strengthen our body and refresh our mind. And we might even hear His voice calling us.

I share the following reflection in hopes of inspiring your journey into nature.

"My dove ... show me your face, Let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet and your face is beautiful" – Song of Songs 2:14.

A Single Dove

Today, I awoke to the call of a single dove. I looked out the window to find it perched on a roof peak, alone.

Where is its mate?

They seem to be always together.

He calls –

Gently entreating,

Every few seconds,

Never relenting.

After a time, I hear the same persistent call, distantly.

He has moved to a farther location in hopes of arousing the one he "loves."

His call is constant –

But not obtrusive.

Soft, but sure.

I can ignore it if I choose.

This is how God calls me – gently, constantly.

And no matter how far away I stray,

He follows me, never giving up ...

for He loves me.

I hear this in the Call of the Dove.

"A Single Dove" is an excerpt from the book *Meeting Jesus and Mary in the Garden*, ©Cecile Smith, all rights reserved.

For a free download of this reflection, email Cecile at Seeds_of_Grace@Yahoo.com.

Cecile Smith, a parishioner at Columbus Holy Cross Church, writes from her garden and is always in pursuit of an earthly closeness with Jesus and Mary. She is a wife, mother, daughter, grandmother, author and singer.

Church family embraced, nurtured this lost sheep

By Diana Marie Winkler

Through the years, my Church family has found a special place in my heart.

I returned to the Catholic Church about 20 years ago. There was a season of my life when I was living as the world designated and my life showed the effects of being off the path God had laid out for me. I was a mess mentally, physically and spiritually.

My youngest sister invited me to attend Sunday Mass with her and my mother. For some reason, I did not say, "I'll let you know" or "I'll think about it." I just agreed.

On the Sunday I walked into (Columbus) Immaculate Conception Church, the Gospel was the Parable of the Lost Sheep. (Later I learned of "God-incidences.")

As I listened to the Lord's words through the priest, I felt tears rolling down my cheeks. He had hit a nerve. I do not remember all that was said, but I knew He was telling me I was loved in spite of my train-wreck life, and that He never stopped loving me.

During the drive home, I had much to ponder. I decided to return the following week in case the Lord had another message for me. My church

attendance turned into weeks, months and years. The faces that were just a blur at the beginning were now familiar ones that I looked forward to seeing every week.

Through the Word of God, I learned how to live God's way and not the world's way. I was learning His truths, but also some difficult truths about myself. Gradually, I was seeing remarkable changes in my life.

My church family was there for me through the good, the bad and the sad parts of life. I learned the Lord will put us among those who can help us on our journey. I also learned He gives us what we need when we need it. And He will put us in the right place at the right time.

When I stepped into Immaculate Conception that day, I had no idea there was

an extended family waiting to welcome me home. To God be the glory!

Diana Marie Winkler, a member of Columbus Immaculate Conception Church, is a writer, author and speaker who has self-published two books, including *The Lord is My Strength ... 7 Steps of How I Stayed Positive. During Cancer Treatments.*

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Businessman's goal: building lives via building trades

By Tim Puet

Catholic Times Reporter

A businessman from Columbus' south side is planning to give back to his community by starting a pre-apprenticeship program to teach skilled trades to at-risk youth.

Tom Roesch, whose company, Iron Fortress Security, provides security systems for homes and businesses, is working with the YouthBuild Columbus Community School of Columbus to develop a curriculum in which 10 young people will split time between the classroom and Roesch's business and learn basic welding and metal fabrication.

YouthBuild is a charter school where at-risk students work toward a high school diploma while learning job skills in areas such as construction or health care.

"I'm going to start the school year with five students here in the shop learning welding for a week, then going to school for a week, returning here for a week and so forth. Five more will reverse that pattern, starting at school for a week, then coming here and continuing to alternate between school and shop," Roesch said. "I'm hoping to add more to the curriculum because I mastered all sorts of trade skills while working in the residential real estate business, but we'll start with welding.

"I've lived and worked most of my life in the south side, and I see all these beautiful inner-city children who start out with such promise, but everything is stacked against them," Roesch said. "The kids here need something to keep them focused and to give them some hope for the future, and the community needs a greater sense of safety and security.

"I want those kids to learn to be calm, especially when making mistakes; to have fun; to give them mentorship and good counsel so they can take pride in what they're doing and in their appearance. Once the program gets started, maybe we can have some physical education classes, and I can teach them the lessons I've learned from being an entrepreneur."

Roesch has given his pre-apprenticeship program the name Angels From Parsons Avenue because his shop is located at 2000 Parsons Ave.

"I remember looking across the street one time and telling someone, 'Wouldn't it be something if a flock of angels swooped down and said to the business owners, 'We are here to help you. We appreciate you being here.' We need to keep those core businesses here,'" he said.

That conversation resulted in the name Angels From Parsons Avenue for the program, which is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The program is the subject for Franklin University's summer quarter class on marketing of such organizations.

Roesch wants the program to fulfill his vision by providing customized security and property solutions at little or no charge to South Side homeowners and businesses who can't afford such improvements. Participants in the pre-apprenticeship program would put those solutions together.

Roesch in the past year has donated his services to Bikes for All People at 934 Parsons Ave. and the Columbus Historical Society at 717 W. Town St. and to several elderly neighbors.

CATHOLIC BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

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

He doesn't believe in what he calls "the jailhouse look" of door and window security bars, and his work shows it. Bikes for All People's security system looks more like an art installation, displaying a family of cyclists, plus sunrises and clouds, all crafted from metal. The historical society's window and door screens feature a sunray design, as do security bars made by Iron Fortress Security for Shade's Restaurant on the south side.

Roesch's work also is featured at the Hotel St. Clair Apartments on the city's east side, where performers such as Ella Fitzgerald, Duke Ellington and Sammy Davis Jr. stayed when appearing in Columbus at a time when some hotels would not admit Black guests. The outside of the building features Roesch's handcrafted Venetian Gothic-style iron fencing and gates.

Roesch, 65, grew up on Columbus' southeast side as a member of Christ the King Church and has three older brothers and two younger sisters. He and his wife of 26 years, Mary (Cassidy) Roesch, are members of Columbus Corpus Christi Church. They graduated from Columbus Bishop Hartley High School, as did their daughters, Tess and Sophie.

After high school, "I tried college but was destined for the business world," Tom Roesch said. "I was always good with my hands, so I got into construction and eventually became a construction supervisor for Winslow Homes. I got my 'college' there. My job had me do everything they didn't subcontract out. This included things like installing drain tile around the footers of buildings by hand and digging sump pumps. That got me interested in buying distressed housing in the inner city, improving it and selling it – what people now know as 'flipping' houses."

He was a house flipper before it was fashionable for about 30 years. During that time, he gained much more of the construction knowledge he hopes

to pass on to young people. "Some fantastic housing inspectors took me under their wing when I screwed up," he said. "I honed my electric, plumbing, roofing and welding skills. I'd often bring a mattress and a hot plate to a house I was rehabbing and live there until the job was done."

Roesch switched careers after the recession of 2008. "I learned some very expensive lessons," he said. "I loved developing real estate but never used a real estate agent. I was self-taught, learning how to creatively acquire, develop, sell, trade and put options on property with no money down. Most projects I purchased in the inner city were distressed in some fashion. Vandalism, robbery and burglary were a common occurrence, so I realized the need for home security and reinvented myself."

When he founded Iron Fortress Security in 2012, his main product was steel cages for air conditioners. The cages now make up about 20 percent of his business, as he has combined his problem-solving talent with his skills in design and engineering to do more specialty work. He also said all his business purchases are made with neighborhood merchants, even if it means spending more than if he would buy supplies from larger stores such as Home Depot and Lowe's.

Roesch said his donated work for Bikes for All People, an outreach of the United Methodist Church for All People, which is adjacent to the bike shop, would have cost about \$18,000. It was not supposed to be a donation, but he said the church would not pay that amount, and he wanted to provide more than the "jailhouse look."

"I needed the work," he said. "And I learned that if I donated my services, I could get a tax credit. So I went ahead with the project, designing it on nights and weekends, and everyone's been very pleased with the result.

"That and my work with the historical society and elderly homeowners got me thinking about all the people who could use the services I provide but can't afford it, and that led to Angels From Parsons Avenue."

All the financing for the new organization has come from Roesch so far. He needs sponsors if he is to attain his goals.

"My regular business took a big hit from the coronavirus," he said. "I'm hoping there are businesses and individuals who want to see this neighborhood's businesses prosper and would like to be able to say that they helped by being part of Angels From Parsons Avenue. It's good business, but it also will provide donors with a tax deduction and the satisfaction of knowing they've made an impact and can see the results in real time.

"All my life, I've felt a sense of God's presence protecting me, especially since my father died in 1999," he said. "He's been guiding me, and I talk to Him daily. That's why I was determined to have my kids go to Catholic schools. The strength of that presence makes me know that someone has my back and makes me aware of how much I have to be thankful for.

"I want to reach out and express this through my ministry to the kids who will be coming here, in the hope it will make them aware that there are consequences to what they do and rewards if they do it the right way."



Tom Roesch's Angels from Parsons Avenue is a pre-apprenticeship program for at-risk youth. CT photo by Tim Puet

Ready grad's scholar-athlete award the second for family

By Doug Bean
Catholic Times Editor

Winning *The Columbus Dispatch*-Encova Insurance Scholar-Athlete Program's top female award has turned into a family affair for the Bairs.

Lindsey Bair, a 2020 graduate of Columbus Bishop Ready High School, was announced as the recipient of the award during a virtual presentation on Saturday, July 11. Lindsey repeated a feat that older sister Courtney first accomplished five years ago.

Lindsey received \$8,500 out of a total of \$75,000 in scholarships presented to 23 winners selected from among 201 scholar-athletes nominated from 106 central Ohio high schools.

A banquet normally takes place each year to recognize the honorees, but because of the global coronavirus pandemic, the names were announced by 2012 and 2016 Olympic gold medal-winning gymnast Gabby Douglas during a special broadcast on WBNS-TV in Columbus.

Before the show, the finalists were sent an email informing them that they were receiving a scholarship, but Bair didn't know it was the grand prize until Douglas revealed the winner as Bair and her family watched at home from their living room.

"I love Gabby Douglas, and when she announced my name, I was like 'She knows who I am,'" Bair said.

Jack Foley, a classmate at Ready, earned a \$2,000 scholarship as one of two second runners-up among the male student-athlete honorees. Abby Giesler of Columbus Bishop Watterson High School was one of 10 recipients of a \$1,000 scholarship.

Not only did Bair follow in her sister's footsteps, but she continued a strong legacy of representation from diocesan high schools. Aaron Wood of Lancaster Fisher Catholic and Mitchell Bergmann of Columbus Bishop Hartley were back-to-back winners of the top male student-athlete award in 2016 and 2017, respectively.

Bair accumulated 12 varsity letters at Ready in soccer, track, basketball and cross country, earning All-Central District honors in track and soccer. In the classroom, she was an advanced placement scholar with honors and graduated with a 3.96 grade-point average.

"When I was nominated, I was kind of surprised," Bair said. "I had been playing sports and keeping up on my academics for four years so I could better myself for college, but it was never for an award. It's really rewarding that all that hard work did go towards something."

A team of *Dispatch* judges evaluated academic and athletic performance, school leadership, community service and other criteria. Chris Byrum,



Bishop Ready's Lindsey Bair was named central Ohio's top female scholar-athlete. Photo courtesy Bishop Ready HS

Bair's soccer coach, was not surprised about the honor.

"She's an amazing athlete and, I know from talking with her, an amazing scholar," Byrum said.

Bair led the Silver Knights in scoring last season. She played soccer for all four years in high school and totaled 19 goals as a freshman, junior and senior. Statistics were unavailable for her sophomore year.

"She's one that pushed the players to be better and to do better," Byrum said. "On the field, she was one of those players when it comes to crunch time who's going to say 'I'm going to take over the game, and we're going to win because I'm not going to let them lose.'"

Byrum recalled a postseason tournament game during Bair's junior year that typified her moxie.

"It was an up-and-down season and we were learning how to play and work together," he said. "What we found out quickly going into the tournament game is that when we score first, we don't lose. So we told the girls that if we want to win this game we have to score first. And it was just 23 seconds into the game when Lindsey scored, and we ended up winning the game 2-1 (over Amanda-Clearcreek

High School)."

If there's one characteristic that describes Bair, Byrum says it's her drive to not just be good in everything she does but to achieve greatness, whether through engaging in hundreds of hours of volunteer work at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, running outside of practices to improve her fitness, studying for the ACT to raise her score, or working 70 hours a week this summer to save money for college.

"You saw that (determination) both off the field and on the field in everything she did," Byrum said.

Bair considers her most memorable moments as an athlete the first goal she scored in a high school soccer game as a freshman against Columbus School for Girls and a 3,200-meter relay race at the state track meet, also during her freshman year, when she ran the third leg of the event and moved her team from 16th to ninth.

Like all other student-athletes across the country, she lost her senior track season when the Ohio High School Athletic Association called off spring sports as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.

"I was pretty upset the first day when we found out," she said. "But I continued to train just like we were going to have track season to stay in shape and give me something to do. I understood that it wasn't just cancelled for me. It was cancelled for everybody. And so that helped put it in perspective."

Bair, who graduated from Ready in May, will head in August to the University of South Carolina, where she will major in civil engineering.

"I've always been interested in science. That was my favorite subject," Bair said. "I chose civil engineering because I've always been really involved in environmental science projects and interested in environmental issues, and I thought civil engineering was a good combo."

Her older sisters, Jordan and Courtney, attended another Southeastern Conference school, both graduating from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. Jordan is a manufacturing engineer for Emerson in Boulder, Colorado, after earning a degree in chemical and biomolecular engineering. Courtney begins medical school this fall at Duke University.

A younger sister, Allison, will be a junior this fall at Ready. Their parents, Robert and Dorothy, are Central Catholic League alumni, having graduated from Ready and Columbus St. Francis DeSales in 1982.

The Bairs are members of Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, but Lindsey said she and her friends often attend Mass at Columbus St. Mary, Mother of God Church in German Village, where Ready's chaplain, Father Vince Nguyen, serves as pastor.

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Church in Latin America: How you can make a difference

By Sister Zephрина Mary GracyKutty
Diocesan Missions Office Director

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) invites you to help our brothers and sisters in the Catholic Church of Latin America and the Caribbean. The Church in Latin America collection supports pastoral work and other spiritual programs in Latin America. This yearly collection helps to strengthen connections between the Church in the United States and the Church in the Latin America. We are called to be the heralds of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The root of this call is to do charity – to serve the least. This upcoming collection in our diocese is August 1-2.

Pope Francis encourages us to hear the whisper of God's calling through his mission message: "We must stretch out our hands, as Jesus does with us." Jesus is lavishly giving graces and blessings to us from His fullness. When we witness for God's love through our Catholic identity, we become missionaries. We strongly believe there is a divine eye that sees what we do for the least among us. Our generous contributions will be seen in God's treasury.

The Gospel teaches us: "Give and it will be given to you." (Luke 6:38) Our support and gifts will bring the Gospel to the Universal Church. Therefore, no limits for charity and it becomes an apostolate for the salvation of souls.

The Latin American countries, es-

Share in Faith



Help the Church in
Latin America

pecially Guatemala, Bolivia, Haiti, El Salvador and Belize, are in need of generous help. In Guatemala, nearly two-thirds of children live in extreme poverty. Almost 50 percent of children are suffering from malnutrition.

Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach (CCO), said, "Hunger and poverty clearly remain as a challenge for the poor, just as they were in Christ's time on Earth. The utmost need of a child is food. There is no way to stop the cry of a hungry child without providing food. To satisfy his/her hunger, we have to give food. And also it is very necessary to feed the hungry with spiritual food, which is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As Christians, our baptismal call obliges us to encounter Jesus through our generous support. The support of the Church missions in developing countries has

a marvelous effect in serving the poor as well as reaching out with spiritual food."

According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, "Charity is the theological virtue by which we love God above all things and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God." (CCC 1822) In other words, the love of neighbor is inseparable from the love of God. It can be compared with both sides of a coin. As we know, God is the author of life and He is residing in our soul. He asks us to listen the cry of others. When we extend our hands and heart to the needy, we wipe the tears of many who endure hardships in life. The missionary spirit makes a difference in their lives by accomplishing evangelization, discipleship, building a church, housing and many other activities for the needy.

In 2019, the Diocese of Columbus contributed \$68,154.68 to the collection. I would like to thank you for your generosity on behalf of Bishop Robert Brennan and the USCCB committee in charge of the collection for the Church in Latin America. This collection is a tremendous opportunity for all the faithful to participate actively in the evangelizing mission and ministries of the Church. Your gifts and prayers will be a great blessing for the poorest of the poor who benefit from this outreach of funds. Trust in God's promises and know that no gift will go unrewarded! Remember, "God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Message from bishop

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Soon our diocese will take up the national collection for the Church in Latin America. This collection helps to share the faith in regions like the mountainous Andahuaylas province of Peru, where most of the people of the Talavera district speak Quechua. To better minister to these people, the parish of Santiago Apostol led a project to prepare Quechua-language audiovisual materials about evangelization and Sacred Scripture. The parish also created digital materials and furnished a room to serve as a library to hold these and other resources.

Support from the collection for the Church in Latin America helped cover the necessary costs of the project — allowing the first series of materials to be created in June 2018. By supporting this collection, you help share the faith more fully with underserved indigenous peoples in remote areas of Latin America.

We are encouraged to realize the bond of solidarity that exists in this hemisphere with our brothers and sisters who are rich in spirit, but lacking in the material resources to participate fully in the life of the Church. Our diocese takes up this collection the weekend of August 1-2. Your support truly makes a difference. Together, let us ask the Lord to continue to bless us in all that we do.

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

St. John the Baptist honorees



A reception at Columbus St. John the Baptist Church honored young people who were the recipients of awards sponsored by the parish. The Father Casto Marrapese scholarship was awarded to Jaden Erwin, Alexa Kreuzer, Gabriella Cugini, Julia Pallone, Vincenzo Frisora, Chiara Baker and Elena McSweeney. Father Marrapese was the parish's pastor from 1974 to 1991 and founded the Columbus Italian Festival in 1980. Anne Marazita received the Piave Club award and Marco Giambrone was honored with the Quaranto family award. Pictured are (from left): first row, Jaden Erwin, Anne Marazita, Alexa Kreuzer, Gabriella Cugini and Julia Pallone; second row, Marco Giambrone, Deacon Frank Iannarino and Vincenzo Frisora.

Photo courtesy St. John the Baptist Church

Lemonade stand benefits food collective



Ella Patterson, who will be entering first grade at Columbus Trinity Elementary School this fall, set up a lemonade stand that raised \$828 for the Mid-Ohio Food Collective. She is shown with her mother, Sarah.

Photo courtesy Trinity Elementary School