

The Catholic **TIMES**

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Local news and events

Turban Project receives grant from The Catholic Foundation

The Catholic Foundation has awarded The Turban Project ministry a \$2,000 grant that will be used for postage and the purchase of rotary cutting blades, contact cards, a laptop computer and mouse, packaging tape, large cutting mats and other supplies.

The project provides free headwear and reusable medical face masks, blessed by a priest, to men, women and children who have lost their hair because of medical issues. Shipping is free.

In the seven years since its founding by Kathy Braidich of Newark, the project has supplied more than 40,000 items. It is affiliated with more than 50 hospitals and treatment centers in the United States and Puerto Rico. It also has 14 independently run satellite projects in Ohio and other states, and eight more in other nations.

The project began at the Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center in Newark, but outgrew its space and has moved to the Look Up Center at 50 O'Bannon Ave. in the same city. Project volunteers make the items on at least five days a month, and sometimes more if the need for items is great.

The project runs solely on donations and always is in need of costume jewelry "bling," fabric, decorative buttons, or gift cards to JoAnn Fabrics, Hobby Lobby or Walmart. Monetary donations may be sent to The Turban Project, 7871 Ridge Road, Frazesburg OH 43822 or may be made through the project's website. www.turbanproject.com. It also has a Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/turbanproject>.

Surviving Divorce program launches in January

A new 12-week Surviving Divorce

program will begin at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15 at Powell St. Joan of Arc Church, 10700 Liberty Road.

Few topics in the Church today are more challenging than divorce. Not only is the reality of divorce incredibly painful for those involved, but few people seem to realize what the Catholic Church teaches on this topic. As a result, many stop attending Mass or leave the faith altogether.

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

Participants will be able to discover how to work through the emotions of separation and divorce; experience personal healing and hope; gain wisdom and comfort from others who share their experiences; address questions of forgiveness and new family dynamics; and obtain an understanding of the annulment process.

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

Each session begins with a 30-minute video on a specific topic, followed by small-group discussion. Participants will receive a personal survival guide workbook that contains all the points shared and discussed during the program.

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

ell sessions, contact Jeanne Falter at (614) 778-0736 or jeannefalt@aol.com, or Joe Scarpitti at (614) 571-6394 or scarpitj@gmail.com.

Deanery sponsors bereavement ministry

The next session of the Seasons of Hope bereavement ministry sponsored by the North High Deanery will begin Sunday, Jan. 19 at Columbus Our Lady of Peace Church, 20 E. Dominion Blvd.

The deanery offers the six-week ministry four times a year for anyone affected by the loss of a loved one. The program is a Catholic, Christ-centered support group that includes Scripture, prayer, reflection, and sharing. Its winter session will meet on consecutive Sundays from Jan. 19 to March 1.

Registration each week will be from 1:30 to 1:55 p.m., followed by a group sharing session from 2 to 4 p.m. Questions may be directed to Rose Daiga at (614) 565-0795 or rose.daiga@gmail.com.

Art program looks at refugee crisis

The Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Drive, Columbus, will host a program titled "Lunch & Learn: Examining the Refugee Crisis with Art" from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 8.

Artist Rosy Avoscan, Laurie Van Balen of the Columbus Crossing Borders project, through which local artists tell the stories of refugee families, and Sister Barbara Kane, OP will discuss how art finds its power through compassion, empathy and a sense of our shared humanity.

They also will talk about their efforts to help refugees and ways to get

involved with their work.

Avoscan's art exhibit "Am I Us or Them?" is on display at the center through Friday, Jan. 10.

The lunch and program are free, but participants are asked to register at <https://martindeporrescenter.net/programs> or (614) 416-1910.

Dominican sisters receive foundation grants

The Catholic Foundation has awarded two grants totaling \$6,400 to programs supported by the Dominican Sisters of Peace.

A \$5,000 grant to the Dominican Learning Center (DLC) in Columbus will support its efforts to create parish-based English as a Second Language (ESL) and literacy classes in 10 Columbus parishes.

ESL tutoring and classes are needed by a growing number of immigrants in those parishes, most of whom are the heads of working-poor families.

The foundation also awarded the sisters a \$1,400 grant to support vocation and discernment programs at their recently opened house of welcome on the east side of Columbus.

The ESL program began in 2014. Parish-based ESL programs teach English-speaking parishioners to serve as tutors for their Hispanic neighbors, creating more vibrant, involved parish communities and helping immigrants effectively adapt to and succeed in their new home.

The DLC provides ESL tutoring and classes in partnership with Columbus Christ the King, St. Mary Magdalene, St. Agnes, St. Aloysius, St. Stephen the Martyr, St. Peter, St. James the Less, St. Thomas the Apostle, St. Elizabeth and St. Mathias churches at seven parish sites.



Front Page photo:

MILITARY PILGRIMAGE

Members of the Vatican's Swiss Guards lead a procession during the annual international military pilgrimage to Lourdes, France in May 2019.

(Photo courtesy Patrick Kent)

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Buckeye Awakening: Inspiring students for 10 years

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

In the summer of 2009, five Ohio State University students and two staff members of the Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center traveled to Texas A&M University to take part in Aggie Awakening, a weekend retreat for college students. They heard it had caused a significant impact in participants' lives and wanted to experience the event for themselves.

They came back inspired, saying the weekend was filled with a sense of excitement and love for Christ that they wanted to duplicate in Columbus. A couple of months after returning from Texas, they led a program that they named Buckeye Awakening, attended by 49 participants at Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center in Newark.

Since then, the program has flourished, becoming a staple of the Newman Center, which is located next to Ohio State's main campus. In the past 10 years, there have been 21 Buckeye Awakenings – one every spring and fall since the first weekend. Nearly 1,500 students have attended the retreats, which were at the Newark center until the fall of 2017, then moved to the Damascus Catholic Mission Campus in Knox County in the spring of 2018.

The move to a larger facility enabled more students to take part in the retreat. Each weekend has about 170 participants, with most of the retreats having a waiting list because available spots are filled quickly.

The retreat is centered on witness testimonies and group activities conducted by students. It begins when students leave for the retreat center, which is about one hour's drive from Columbus, at 4:30 on a Friday afternoon and concludes with their return around 4:30 p.m. two days later. During the weekend, small "family" groups, led by two students who have attended previous retreats, discuss the presentations at the retreat and participate in team-building activities. The weekend includes Masses, music, time for prayer and Eucharistic Adoration, and opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

"I went to an Awakening for the first time during my freshman year



Participants at Buckeye Awakening 19 in October 2018, sponsored by the Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center, praise God through song at the Damascus Catholic Mission Campus in Knox County. Photos courtesy St. Thomas More Newman Center



Enjoying their experience at Buckeye Awakening 18 in March 2018 are (from left) Erin Gaerke, Rachel Schmidtmeyer, Karoline Kress and Kaitlyn Toth.

because I was involved in a Bible study, and the group leader was very persistent about having us go," said Karoline Kress, an OSU senior from Macedonia, Ohio, who has taken part in five of the retreats. "I didn't expect much, but I came away from the weekend realizing how much Jesus wants to be my friend and how making him my top priority has a positive impact in everything I do.

"I've been back four times as a staff member, and I think something new comes out each time," she said. "All of us on the staff grow, and we can

see the impact it's having on first-time participants. Personally interceding for them, being called to serve the Lord in new ways, opening my own heart to love my peers better – I can see the difference the weekend makes in other people's lives and in my own. It's come to mean a lot to recognize that I've been able to bring people closer to Jesus."

Jeff Viviani, a senior from Cleveland and participant in three of the retreats, said the weekend has been a great stress reliever. "I was asked a few times to take part in the retreat,

and I didn't want to go," he said. "But I was going through a lot of mental anxiety and eventually thought, 'Why not try this? It might help.' I had no idea how much of a difference my first weekend would make.

"It was a jaw-dropping experience. I had gone on retreats during high school, but they were nothing like this. It was profoundly different in the way it brought me a sense of being loved. I remember on the bus ride back to campus how joyful I felt," he said.

"Since then, it's triggered what was called 'the butterfly effect' during the weekend. There's a theory that when a butterfly flaps its tiny wings, it can start winds that eventually become a tornado. In the same way, small actions like a time of prayer can unleash big winds of change in people's lives. I know that's happened to me."

Kress and Viviani are among many students for whom the retreat has served as a gateway to involvement in other Newman Center ministries and to activities elsewhere on campus.

"I'm a Bible study leader and a lector and am involved in BCAT (Buckeye Catholic, a weekly fellowship program for students)," Kress said. "But my main involvement is with CHAARG (Changing Health, Attitudes and Actions to Recreate Girls), a health and fitness group for women students which meets once a week on campus.

"I lead workouts, but as its name says, the group also encourages women to have a positive attitude toward their bodies and provides a safe space to discuss issues in their lives and to promote self-care. It's not a faith group, but the positive impact of the Awakenings relates very much to CHAARG's message."

Kress, a human development and family sciences major who wants to work with women and families after graduation, said CHAARG began at Ohio State seven or eight years ago, has 400 to 500 participants on campus, and has expanded to more than 70 colleges.

"Buckeye Awakening reoriented my identity in Christ and helped me heal spiritually," Viviani said. "No therapy could have done what the retreat experience and the prayer life which start-

Faith in action in the new year

Emmanuel, God is with us! This is a joyous time of year in the Church calendar. As we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the incarnation, we proclaim the Good News to the world. It is a message of immense hope.

This is also a time when we take a moment to reflect on the past year and make resolutions for the new year. How about making a resolution to deepen your faith and to put that faith into action by making a difference in the world? January presents many opportunities for us to pray, learn, serve and advocate, which can help in our ongoing conversion and in the transformation of society. Our resolutions can start on New Year's Day.

The World Day of Peace was Jan. 1. In addition to the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, the Church commemorates the World Day of Peace each year with a message from the Holy Father. As Mary is known as Our Lady of Peace and the Queen of Peace, it's a great time to make a resolution to work for peace. To read Pope Francis' 2020 message, *Peace As a Journey of Hope: Dialogue, Reconciliation and Ecological Conversion*, visit the Vatican website at www.vatican.va.

January is Poverty Awareness Month. Nearly 40 million Americans live in poverty. This is unacceptable. We are called by our Catholic faith to move beyond statistics and see the face of Christ in the poor. It's time to encounter, learn, and act to address

I've been intrigued by the concept of (what is known as) "the curse of knowledge" for several years.

Simply put, the curse of knowledge is a cognitive phenomenon that disallows the human brain to ignore or disremember that which is universally true. That's my definition for it, anyway. Bigger brains than mine assign it as a bias or an impediment to innovation. I think it's just natural law.

There are poignant examples of the curse of knowledge. In the absence of some mental or psychological impairment, for example, the human mind can't forget that hot is hot. One cannot forget what the color red looks like. Similarly, do you think anyone can forget the melody to the *Happy Birthday* song (or, for those of you who have been to Disney theme parks, *It's a Small World After All*)? There are experiences and knowledge that we are simply incapable of forgetting.

This persistent memory is divinely ordained. This curse of knowledge is there to protect us (very few of us have gone back and put our hand on the hot burner of a stove, just to make sure), it's there to keep us joyful (remember your first kiss?) and it's there to keep us in God's grace.

And it's there to reveal to us universal truths, too. Motherhood is one of those truths.

There is still rancorous debate (in some circles) about the legalities and morality of abortion. It is the most hotly debated topic in the history of the United States. Normally, the debate focuses on the rights of the mother versus the rights of the child or the rights of the father of the child. It rarely focuses on motherhood.

FAITH IN ACTION

Jerry Freewalt

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



poverty. There are many ways you can respond to poverty through your parish outreach ministries, our diocesan-sponsored charities and advocacy efforts at the local, state and national levels. For resources about what you can do to address poverty in the United States, visit the USCCB's Poverty USA website at www.povertyusa.org.

National Migration Week is Sunday to Saturday, Jan. 5 to 11. This week is an opportunity for the Church to reflect on the circumstances confronting migrants, including immigrants, refugees, children, and victims and survivors of human trafficking. This year's theme, Promoting a Church and a World for All, draws attention to the fact that each of our families have a migration story, some recent and others in the distant past. Regardless of where we are and where we came from, we remain part of the human family and are called to live in solidarity with one another. For a parish tool kit, visit USCCB's website at <https://justiceforimmigrants.org/take-action/national-migration-week>.

www.9daysforlife.com.

Nine Days for Life will take place from Tuesday, Jan. 21 to Wednesday, Jan. 29. Nine Days for Life is a multifaceted novena for the respect and protection of human life. Each day, a different intention is accompanied by a short reflection, suggested actions and related information. Sign up to receive the novena by email, text, message, or an app at www.9daysforlife.com.

The diocesan Respect Life Mass is at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, January 22 at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St. Bishop Robert J. Brennan will be the principal celebrant. On this day of the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision, our diocese will join all dioceses of the United States in observing a Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. A special Jan. 22 action guide is available at www.respect-life.org/january.

Greater Columbus Right to Life will sponsor the Roe Remembrance event on Wednesday, Jan. 22 from noon to 1 p.m. in the atrium of the Ohio Statehouse, following the Respect Life Mass. Allow extra time for Statehouse security measures. For additional information, visit www.gctrl.org/roe.html.

Make a resolution this year to put your faith into action. Have a blessed New Year filled with peace, joy and hope.

The curse of knowledge

TIM WELSH

Tim Welsh is executive director of the Bethesda Healing Ministry for post-abortive women and men.



You see, as the pro-life community, with all its legislative, educational and political activity, has successfully won the debate over personhood, the notion that sperm meeting egg creates a new person – the notion of motherhood – has been largely unaddressed.

Because when sperm meets egg, a mother is born, too. She knows that, stirring in that wondrous chamber only a woman owns, a new life is being formed. Fully dependent on her, yet mysteriously autonomous, the child epitomizes that for which the creation of womanhood was formed. The mother is uniquely and purely capable of sustaining another person inside her. Physically. Emotionally. Psychologically.

And she can't forget it. It's the curse of knowledge.

That's why amid all the rancor and division surrounding the abortion debate, we must not forget the mother who has been devastated by the devious invasion of the very sanctity of her womb. Because, while a real child's life is ended through abortion, there is also a mother who is being cheated out of the gift endowed upon her by a loving God.

And she will never forget it. Just like a hot stove or the color red, she is engraved with that knowledge.

Her memory of the abortion experience may be so hidden, so suppressed that it might take years or decades for it to re-emerge.

Many mothers, once they have come to the full understanding of the loss that has occurred, need help in navigating the path to healing and forgiveness, and they need the aid of professional counseling, a community of care, and a road map to a life fulfilled by the embrace of God and His restorative care.

As the memory resurfaces, she probably will experience regret, shame, anger and/or sadness at her loss. These feelings can lead to depression, fatigue, loneliness, isolation and overall malaise. She is hostage to a culture that foments egocentricity and eschews humble righteousness. She has nowhere to turn and her grief over her loss becomes disenfranchised, an out-of-body experience that disallows true healing and true forgiveness.

As Catholics, we have an obligation to these mothers. We are obligated to recognize them for the children of God that they are. We are obligated to gaze upon them with wonderment at the genius of their femininity and their motherhood. We are obligated to hold their hand, walk with them and understand their spirit, as well as their pain.

We are obligated to love them, simply ... remarkably ... recklessly.

Love is the gift that is above all other gifts. It's the giving of that gift that fulfills our destiny.

And it's a gift that mothers never will forget.

Armenian Church; penitential rite at Mass

How can a priest in the state of mortal sin offer the holy sacrifice of the Mass and receive Communion? (Northampton, Pennsylvania)

Generally speaking, a priest would not be permitted to celebrate Mass while in a state of mortal sin. A priest is governed by the same rule as every other Catholic – namely, that the state of grace is required for the worthy reception of holy Communion.

I should note here that the validity of the Mass is not affected by the state of the celebrant's soul. The church has always taught that the sacraments act *ex opere operato*; that is, by the very fact of the action's being performed.

If a celebrant were in the state of mortal sin, the consecration would still be valid, and those who took Communion would still be receiving the true body and blood of Christ. Section 1128 of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* notes that "from the moment that a sacrament is celebrated in accordance with the intention of the church, the power of Christ and his Spirit acts in it and through it, independently of the personal holiness of the minister."

So, generally, a priest in the state of serious sin should not celebrate Mass, and to do so would be a sacrilege. The exception to the rule would be if the priest were forced by the circumstances to offer

QUESTION & ANSWER

Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service

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



Mass despite the state of his soul, and the *Code of Canon Law* addresses this specifically:

"A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to celebrate Mass or receive the body of the Lord without previous sacramental confession unless there is a grave reason and there is no opportunity to confess; in this case the person is to remember the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition which includes the resolution of confessing as soon as possible" (Canon 916).

A priest in mortal sin scheduled to offer Mass for a waiting community, with no opportunity to confess and no other priest available, could go ahead and celebrate the Eucharist – but then he should go to confession at the first opportunity.

When is violating one's body through self-flagellation permitted to get "more points" for going to heaven? In a book I'm reading about Padre Pio, there is a mention of friars whipping themselves to the point of bleeding. Is this what God expects of us, or are there fanatic people who go to the extreme to be like Christ? (Beaverton, Oregon)

No, I don't think that self-flagellation is what "God expects of us." Corporal mortification has been part of the Christian life for centuries, but in contemporary society it is more often exemplified by such practices as dietary discipline. The portrayal in *The Da Vinci Code* of monks undergoing bloody self-beatings is clearly an exaggeration.

The website of the Catholic group Opus Dei says that some of its members do self-flagellate for one or two minutes a week, but use a woven cotton string that causes some discomfort but does not draw blood. The purpose of the practice is to imitate Christ by sharing in his suffering. (St. Dominic prayed with arms outstretched for lengthy periods, as Jesus did on the cross.)

In a 2010 article, reacting to a report that Pope St. John Paul II kept a disciplinary belt in his closet, Father (now Bishop) Robert E. Barron explained that the instrument was likely a rope with a few small knots in it and that the actual physical pain was probably minimal.

True freedom comes through freely chosen obedience

On Dec. 17, the day the first "O" antiphon signaled the intensification of preparations for Christmas, the Church read the genealogy of Jesus from Matthew's gospel: Writing for a predominantly Jewish-Christian audience, the evangelist stresses that the blessings promised to and through Abraham, and the dynastic promises made to King David, are about to be fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth. Almost three weeks later, the Church will read the second Jesus genealogy, in Luke 3:23-38. There, on the cusp of the Epiphany and the public manifestations of Jesus as Lord, the historical lens opens farther: Luke also traces Jesus's ancestry through David and the patriarchs of Israel, but then extends the line back through "... the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God."

Why did Luke do that? In order to emphasize to his largely Gentile audience that Jesus is more than the fulfillment of Israel's desire. He is surely that. But as Joseph Ratzinger wrote in *Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives*, he is also the one who assumes in himself "the whole history of man, and ... gives it a decisive re-orientation toward a new manner of human existence." That evolutionary leap will only be revealed at the Resurrection, in the Risen Lord's appearances to his disciples – which reminds us that Christmas is a great Christian feast because of Easter, the pre-eminent Christian feast.

And if Christmas only makes Christian sense because of Easter, Christmas is only possible because of Mary and her embrace of the mystery of obedient freedom.

On Dec. 20, the Church read in the *Liturgy of the Hours* excerpts from a homily by St. Bernard of

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

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



Clairvaux, in which that Cistercian Doctor of the Church reflected on the singular curiosity of God making his plan of salvation dependent on the free choice of a young Jewish woman. Again, Joseph Ratzinger sheds light on this remarkable facet of the Christmas season: "After the error of our first parents, the whole world was shrouded in darkness, under the dominion of death. Now God seeks to enter the world anew. He knocks at Mary's door. He needs human freedom. The only way he can redeem man, who was created free, is by means of a free 'yes' to his will. In creating freedom, (God) made himself in a certain sense dependent upon man. His power is tied to the unenforceable 'yes' of a human being."

And that leads the Pope Emeritus into a Christmastide reflection on the relationship between freedom and obedience. A culture that often confuses freedom with willfulness, with doing things "my way," will immediately ask "What has 'freedom' to do with 'obedience'?" To which the Church answers, "The road to true freedom – and, ultimately, to the redemption of humanity – runs through Mary's response to the angelic announcement: 'Be

it done unto me according to *your* word'" (Luke 1:38).

Benedict XVI then explains the salvific paradox in Luke's rendering of the Annunciation/Incarnation. It is, he writes, "an utterly humble story, yet one whose very humility gives it ... grandeur. It is Mary's obedience that opens the door to God. God's word, his Spirit, creates the child in her. He does so through the door of her obedience. In this way Jesus is the new Adam, the new beginning ... from the Virgin, who places herself entirely at the disposal of God's will. So a new creation comes about, which is nevertheless tied to the free 'yes' of a human creature, Mary."

The Christmas story is a lengthy meditation on a counterintuitive but essential truth: True freedom, genuine liberation, comes through freely chosen obedience to God's purposes. That was true, as we have just seen, for Mary. It was also true for Joseph, who freely agrees to take a pregnant teenager for his wife. It was true of the shepherds, who find their long-awaited savior, in previously unimagined circumstances no less, through obedience to an angelic announcement. It was true of the Magi, who freely travel to parts unknown, in obedience to what they perceive as a divine summons conveyed by a star. And it was true of Jesus himself, who, at the end of the extended Christmas drama, returns as a youngster with his parents to Nazareth, where he was obedient to them – and through that obedience, "increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man" (Luke 2:52).

Freely chosen obedience to God's purposes makes the world anew, from Christmas to the Paschal Mystery of Christ's death and resurrection.



Aaron and Beth Leventhal enjoying Alaska's incredible scenic beauty

Photos by Beth Ervin Leventhal

By Aaron Leventhal

Alaska is unique, comprised of a land mass twice the size of Texas, 45,000 miles of coastland and a glacial area 100 times greater than that of the rest of North America. With almost 50 percent of its population in metropolitan Anchorage, the 49th state is, for the most part, a wilderness wonderland.

For more than a decade, my wife Beth urged me to explore Alaska with her, but I am averse to cold weather, and prefer warm, tropical destinations. Nevertheless, I consented to a 10-day tour of Alaska this past September and was rewarded with an exceptional experience.

Everywhere we traveled we were mesmerized by Alaska's natural beauty—majestic, snow-capped mountains; glacial lakes; dense, wooded forests; and lush, green valleys. Alaskans everywhere were welcoming, and proud of their land, its history and culture and rugged outdoor lifestyle.

We created our own itinerary, traveling by small ferry boats, trains

and express buses rather than large cruise ships, the standard vehicle for tourist travel (more than a million passengers annually). We prefer serendipitous encounters with locals and the flexibility to alter our schedule that the cruise lines cannot pro-



Railride through the Skagway Mountain Gorge.

Catholic Travel

EXPLORING ALASKA: THE LAST FRONTIER

vide.

The best time to explore Alaska is from May through September, when the climate usually is mild, dry and sunny. However, be prepared for sticker shock, since this is the high season for its hospitality industry. Costs for lodging and sightseeing tours are reduced from April to mid-May and in September after Labor Day weekend.

Listed below are some of our most memorable experiences. There is much more to explore in this fasci-

nating state, which has been branded America's "Last Frontier."

Juneau

The charming state capital (pop. 30,000) in southeast Alaska is located on the Inside Passage and surrounded by a ring of majestic mountains. Attractions include Mount Roberts Tramway, Macauley Salmon Hatchery and Mendenhall Glacier. Adventure Bound Alaska offers an unforgettable cruise through Tracy Arm Fjord past waterfalls,



The Sawyer Glacier Cruise through the Tracy Arm Fjord

glaciers and wildlife to the massive Sawyer Glacier. The Silverbow Inn is a charming, downtown boutique hotel with a friendly staff and delicious breakfasts. Nearby restaurants include the Hangar on the Wharf, Saffron Indian Comfort Food and Salt for creative Alaskan cuisine.

Skagway

We boarded a ferry in Juneau for a relaxing seven-hour trip to the historic, small town of Skagway, famed for the frenzied days of the Klondike Gold Rush of 1897-98. In just two short years more than 20,000 prospectors with dreams of riches passed through the town to the nearby gold fields. They built the landmark, narrow-gauge White Pass & Yukon

See TRAVEL, Page 7

TRAVEL, continued from Page 6

Route Railroad through treacherous mountain slopes in Arctic blizzards and temperatures as low as 50 degrees below zero. We enjoyed a railroad excursion through treacherous mountain passes in vintage cars, the self-guided Downtown Walking Tour and a visit to the Red Onion Saloon, with its hilarious brothel tour, bedpan collection and sexily costumed wait staff. The historic Skagway Inn on Broadway, the town's main street, includes a full breakfast at its popular Olivia's Bistro, which features wild game and Alaskan seafood.



Justin Harkins leads guided tour in Denali National Park.

Talkeetna

A leisurely, four-hour ride from Anchorage on the state-run Denali Star Railroad took us to the quirky village of Talkeetna (pop. 900). Settled by trappers and prospectors, Talkeetna flourished in the 1920s

with the coming of the railroad. After decades of booms and busts, the town today is a quintessential tourist favorite, said to have inspired the TV show "Northern Exposure." Main Street is lined with locally owned and managed galleries and shops in rustic log buildings, including the popular Blue Moose, known for native Alaskan crafts. On a clear day, Denali Mountain (formerly named Mt. McKinley) can be seen in the distance.



Talkeetna is filled with native Alaskan crafts in funky shops and galleries throughout the village.

A high point was the four-hour "River, Rail and Trail" guided offered by Mahay's Jet Boat Adventures. We enjoyed delicious dining at the Wildflower Cafe, is acclaimed for its creative, Alaskan menu;



Talkeetna Roadhouse, with family-style seating and amazing breakfast specials; and locals' favorite Latitude 62 Restaurant & Lounge. The Talkeetna Inn, conveniently located steps from shopping and dining, is known for clean, comfortable and affordable accommodations.

Denali National Park

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than the state of Vermont). Our tour guide and driver Justin Harkins had an uncanny ability to spot wildlife on the tundra, sighting moose, Dall sheep, snowshoe hare, golden eagles and grizzly bears. The Visitor Center offers free sled dog demonstrations and ranger-guided walks. The Grande Denali Lodge has splendid mountain views and courtesy shuttle services. The Eastern European fan at Moose-AKA's is outstanding.

Columbus travel writer Aaron Leventhal has organized a 10-day, small group tour to Alaska in September 2020. Check it out at LeventhalTravel.com.

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Catholic Times - Expires March 31, 2020

A spiritual journey through Italy and Sicily doesn't have to include Rome or the Vatican

By Father Jeff Rimelspach
Pastor, Columbus St. Margaret
of Cortona Church

Pilgrimages bolster our faith. When we come down from the mountain to ordinary life, as Peter, James and John did after the transfiguration of Jesus, we go back to our regular way of life, hopefully rejuvenated in the faith. That is the hope of any pilgrimage. We go back to our daily lives “by a different route,” as did the Magi in Matthew’s Gospel, having visited the newborn king, Jesus Christ.

In mid-September of 2019, a group of 24 people, including many parishioners of Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona Church, where I serve as pastor, set off on a pilgrimage to southern Italy and the island of Sicily. Everyone on the pilgrimage had been to Rome before, so we purposefully did not visit there, traveling to many lesser-known religious sites in Italy instead. We left the United States on Monday, Sept. 16 and arrived at Rome’s airport the next day.

We immediately boarded our tour bus and set off for the eastern side of the Italian peninsula. We stopped first at the Basilica of the Holy Face of Jesus in Manoppello, which houses a cloth that is said to have covered Jesus’ face when he was buried. Mass was celebrated there. Then we traveled to Lanciano, the site of the first known Eucharistic miracle, which occurred in the eighth century. During a Mass there, the bread and wine were changed into not only the body and blood of Christ, but also into his physical flesh and physical blood, which are still visible. The miracle has been empirically and scientifically studied many times and always has been scientifically verified.

We rose early on Wednesday, Sept. 18 and ventured to San Giovanni Rotondo, where St. Padre Pio spent his final days and is buried. Because this site has become popular with many pilgrims, a new church seating about 8,000 people has been built there. Padre Pio was known to bear the stigmata – the five wounds of Christ – in his hands and feet for many years. We visited his room, where he prayed and heard confessions.

Our next stop was the Shrine of St.



The tomb of St. Agatha in Catania, Sicily

Photos courtesy Father Jeff Rimelspach



The cathedral in Palermo, Sicily dedicated to St. Rosalia, the city's patron

Michael the Archangel at Monte Sant’ Angelo, where St. Michael appeared to a shepherd several times. The day concluded in Termoli, where we viewed the bones of St. Timothy, St. Paul’s companion and fellow preacher, to whom he wrote two letters which are part of the New Testament.

The following day, we took a long drive across Italy to Pompeii to see the remains of the city, which was destroyed by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD. Pompeii was a huge city and its well-preserved remains have been mostly excavated from the volcanic lava.

One of the most beautiful places we visited was the island of Capri, which there is pronounced with the accent on the first – not the second – syllable. We took a boat ride around the entire rocky

island, with crystal blue water reflecting in the bright Italian sunshine. It was truly a sight to behold! Then we went up the hill to the city of Capri and farther up the hill to Anacapri, located at the top of the mountainous island. We celebrated Mass in the beautiful Cathedral of St. Stephen on the island.

This ended our tour of Italy. We flew from Naples to Catania, Sicily, where we visited the Cathedral of St. Agatha, the early Roman martyr, who came from that city. Having served at Columbus St. Agatha Church for several years, it was very meaningful for me to celebrate Mass in the crypt church where she is buried.

Our group also included some St. Agatha parishioners. This being Saturday, we saw seven or eight wedding couples,

some coming out of the church and others in various squares having their pictures taken, while others were in horse-drawn carriages. They celebrate weddings with much fanfare there.

On Sunday, we drove up part of Mount Etna, Europe’s most active volcano. Although we did not make it to the top, we saw continuous smoke coming out of the top of the cone. Fortunately, it was white, puffy smoke and not that of an eruption. Coming down the mountain, we went to the seaside town of Taormina and were rewarded with a grand panoramic view of the coastline of Sicily, with Mount Etna in the background.

We took a circular route around Sicily. First, we went to Agrigento, on the southern coast, which is the site of the Valley of the Temples. These were Greek temples with beautiful Doric columns, built in the fifth century BC.

The next day – Monday, Sept. 23 – was the longest day of our pilgrimage. It took more than 12 hours between our departure from Agrigento and arrival at our hotel in Palermo, via the town of Marsala on the west coast. Seven married couples who were part of the trip renewed their wedding vows at the church in Marsala.

Then we saw the ancient walled city of Erice, which is believed to have been founded by Phoenicians in around 1,000 BC. It is about 2,600 feet above the nearby sea and it took quite a bus ride to get to the top – but it was so beautiful! The view was superb in all directions on the bright, sunny day. Even our guide was taking pictures of the crystal blue skies and the superb view of the entire island of Sicily.

On our final day, we toured Palermo and saw many lovely Norman churches. The most interesting church was the Palatine Chapel. It is one church, but half of it is a Byzantine church with golden mosaics and icons in a Romanesque style, while the other half is a Roman Catholic church with statues and Gothic architecture – all under one roof. Finally, we climbed a steep hill to see the Shrine of St. Rosalia, the patron saint of Palermo, and learned about her.

Having visited the shrines of many saints, including several not mentioned in this account, all of us were enriched in our faith and happy to have seen these many holy sites.



American military personnel and Swiss Guards from the Vatican lead a candlelight procession during the annual International Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes, France in 2019.



American participants in the Warriors to Lourdes pilgrimage. More than 12,000 military representatives from more than 40 nations took part. Photos courtesy Patrick Kent

Pilgrimage to Lourdes gives veterans a sense of healing

By Patrick Kent

Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul Church

Lourdes, in southwest France, is a place of peace and healing. Its history as a holy site began when Our Lady appeared to Bernadette Soubirous, the teenage daughter of an extremely poor miller, in 1858 and instructed her to dig in the ground of the grotto where the vision took place.

A spring welled up there, and Our Lady said people were to wash in the water and drink it. The Catholic Church has affirmed that more than 60 miraculous physical healings have been attributed to the water of Lourdes. Hundreds more pilgrims to Lourdes have said they were healed physically, mentally or spiritually.

This year, from May 14 to 21, Tony Spiegel and I traveled to Lourdes as part of the Warriors to Lourdes pilgrimage. We are Vietnam veterans and members of Knights of Columbus Council 847 at Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul Church. We went on the pilgrimage in hopes of being healed from the effects of combat, and we received the healing we desired.

The Warriors to Lourdes pilgrimage is part of the International Military Pilgrimage that takes place each May in Lourdes. This year, the event involved more than 12,000 military personnel from more than 40 nations. The pilgrimage started informally after World War I, then resumed after World War II. It was formalized in 1958, when 13 nations signed an agreement to support it and to encourage warriors from other

nations to attend.

The Warriors to Lourdes program is the name given to the American participation in the international pilgrimage, which is sponsored in part by the Knights of Columbus. The Knights support combat veterans financially and through programs during the pilgrimage.

The program arranged air transportation, hotel, meals and visits to pilgrimage sites. It is the desire of the Knights that no combat veteran who wishes to travel to Lourdes for healing be prevented by financial constraints. The program is open to all combat veterans, not just those who belong to the Knights or to the Catholic Church. This year, non-Catholics in the American contingent included one Jewish veteran and her rabbi.

Several hundred American veterans attended the pilgrimage, accompanied by military nurses, doctors and chaplains, including the new auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese for the Military, USA, Bishop Joseph Coffey. All were welcome to attend all the pilgrimage events, including going to Masses, the baths, the rosary procession, a beautiful healing service including anointing, and the Stations of the Cross.

As the military chaplains who accompanied them affirmed, all combat veterans return different from when they left home. These differences can be physical injuries, and/or mental or moral issues related to combat situations. As Civil War Gen. William T. Sherman of Lancaster, Ohio, said, in many different ways, "War is hell!"

The veterans were provided the

opportunity to go to the baths of Lourdes. Physical impairments were no problem. Every participant was enabled to take part. For our contingent, several veterans were in wheelchairs and at least one was on a stretcher. All were assisted to the baths. The Warriors to Lourdes made reservations for the veterans, which was a blessing in itself because there are long lines waiting to enter the healing waters. The waters are not mineral waters or magical waters, but spiritual healing waters.

Although the water is cold, Tony and I felt a warm embrace while in the water and wanted to just stay there. Our four helpers made sure we exited safely. The waters gave us deep feelings of relief and calmness that were wonderful, yet very difficult to describe.

The pilgrimage also included praying the Stations of the Cross. A group of several veterans prayed Stations that are larger-than-life bronze statues set up along a grueling hill path. Military chaplains had composed reflections and prayers that the veterans and their family members found very meaningful. Because Tony was using a wheelchair, we chose another set of Stations that were carved in marble and were on flat ground in a valley.

More than a dozen Catholic chaplains accompanied the Americans on the pilgrimage. At the first group meeting, they said anyone who wanted to go to confession could ask a chaplain to administer the Sacrament of Reconciliation at any time. The chaplains also were available at

all times for quiet conversations. At Lourdes, we often saw a priest talking with someone.

The Warriors to Lourdes arrived on Wednesday, May 15 and enjoyed two days in relative quiet with each other before the rest of the international pilgrims arrived. The American contingent celebrated Mass on Thursday, May 16 at the main basilica, where all were invited to attend. John, a non-Catholic who sat next to me, commented about the calming feeling during and after Mass.

The large international assembly of veterans opened with an evening Mass on Friday, May 17 at the Basilica of St. Pius X, which was built underground so it would not change the beauty of the grounds themselves. It seats 20,000 people and was filled for that Mass. Three separate forms of identification were required for entry into the Mass. Without proper identification, no one was allowed inside.

Each nation represented had an honor guard carrying its national flag. The first flag in the procession was the papal flag, carried by the Vatican's Swiss Guards. This immediately reminded us that this was a spiritual and a military event and that the Holy Father was sending his prayers. Some nations had bands that played hymns during Mass. After Mass, a bagpipe band played *Amazing Grace*, which was sung softly by many in attendance.

On Saturday, May 18, there was a special healing service for all veterans

Rattling through Quebec with a group of Ohio pilgrims

By Father Ted Machnik

Pastor, Circleville St. Joseph Church

Many pilgrims have traveled to Europe or the Holy Land. I have been to Poland to see where my ancestors came from, and more recently to Italy, and have seen what I wished to see overseas.

I wanted to view sites associated with some of the North American saints and learn more about them, and that led me to a pilgrimage to New York state and the Canadian province of Quebec in August 2019.

Planning with Pinnacle Pilgrimages began about a year in advance. We picked up 26 pilgrims and the tour leader on Sunday, Aug. 11 in Circleville, Reynoldsburg, Sunbury, Ashland and Cleveland, then were off to our first stop, the Basilica of Our Lady of Victory Lackawanna, New York, built in the mid-1920s through the efforts of Venerable Father Nelson Baker, Buffalo's "padre of the poor," who is buried there.

Inquiring minds wanted to know why there was an "umbrella" in the main body of the church. This is a standard feature that signifies a church is a basilica. It is part of a pope's insignia and represents the umbrella that once was used on a daily basis to provide shade for the pope. Whenever the pope visits a basilica, the "umbrella" is opened.

We stopped for the night at Riversedge Resort in Alexandria Bay, New York, and I celebrated Mass the next morning at St. Cyril Church, about a block away. The pastor was taking the week off, so the parishioners very much appreciated having me available for Mass and having the pilgrims added to the congregation.

Next came a 2½-hour boat tour of

LOURDES, continued from Page 9

and their families. The Chapel of St. Joseph was reserved for this service. Again, the feelings were deeply peaceful as prayers were said and participants were anointed with holy oils. It was another extremely calming moment.

A Mass in the grotto that morning had a similar effect on everyone. It was an English Mass that included veterans from the United States, England, Ireland, Canada and Norway. Part of the joy of the pilgrimage ex-



St. Francis Xavier Mission in Quebec, where St. Kateri Tekakwitha is buried

Photos courtesy Father Ted Machnik

some of the Thousand Islands of the St. Lawrence River. It turned out a lot better than the "three-hour tour" of *Gilligan's Island* fame. We lunched at a shelter house, then some of us explored Boldt Castle, which was built at the start of the 20th century by George Boldt, proprietor of New York City's famed Waldorf Astoria Hotel.

It took four years to build, and Boldt was set to move his wife and family there on Valentine's Day in 1904. But in January, his wife died. He stopped work on the castle. The bottom floors were finished, but not the top three, which were to have 100-plus guest rooms.

The castle stood unfinished for decades and vandals had their way with the building and furnishings. The Thousand Islands Bridge Authority has taken it over and has done a beautiful job as it works toward finishing

perience was the total acceptance of military personnel from other nations.

At our final meeting, we talked about our experiences in Lourdes. The chaplain who gave a final reflection reminded us that we were on a mountain of peace and healing during this pilgrimage. When we got off the mountain, we all would have a mission. The details of each mission would be revealed to us in time, and we had a choice to accept it or reject it.



Statues at Oratory of St. Joseph, Montreal, founded by St. Andre Bessette

Boldt's plans. Vandals are still getting in, so, like all of us, the castle is a work in progress.

We crossed into Canada on Tuesday, Aug. 13. I think our bus had been left over from before World War I. We got a lot of souls out of purgatory by sitting on its hard seats and enduring the rattling of its windows.

At the border, the Customs guards collected our passports, took them to their station and returned them – all but one, as we discovered after leaving the Customs station. Greg Kuns, our tour leader, went running to the station, while a Customs officer drove up to our bus with the missing passport. Greg came running back, and we were on our way again.

We stopped for lunch at a buffet and had anything you could want – Italian, Chinese, a couple of American things and maybe some Canadian. But ev-

He also said many miracles still take place at Lourdes, including some that occur after people return home. The miracle might occur immediately, or in a few days, or over a long time, but all of us would receive a miracle of some sort.

He said that miracle would not necessarily be what we expected or asked for, since all prayers are answered, but not necessarily in the way we expect.

The Lourdes pilgrimage was



Statue of St. Marguerite d'Youville, founder of the Sisters of Charity of Montreal, in Varennes, Quebec

everyone was speaking French (Canadian style) – a lot less formal than the French I learned in high school in Lorain, Ohio.

Greg had said he was concerned about the pressure and stress he felt I was under because of all the minor problems we'd been having. Maybe that's why my room at the Chateau Laurier in the old part of Quebec City had a fireplace, whirlpool, refrigerator, a huge bed, a free jar of honey from the "bees on the roof" and a nice welcome note. I used the bed, but not the other extras. I gave the honey away. "What you receive as a gift, give as a gift."

We walked through Old Town Quebec and saw the iconic Chateau Frontenac hotel, which towers above the

See QUEBEC, Page 11

life-changing for both of us. We can say miracles still happen and our Blessed Mother still looks after each one of us.

More information about this year's 62nd International Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes may be found at www.warriorstolourdes.com.

If you are a combat veteran interested in attending, you need to apply quickly, since applications are being accepted only until Wednesday, Jan. 15.

QUEBEC, continued from Page 10

St. Lawrence. My group had a hard time deciding where to eat and ended up at our hotel's sidewalk cafe – a fine choice.

On the fourth day of the trip, Wednesday, Aug. 14, we went to the Shrine of St. Anne de Beaupre. As we rattled along on the bus, we saw train tracks paralleling the road, and the train itself. Anyone who knows of my love for trains can imagine how I felt at that point.

Mass at the shrine was in the chapel downstairs. Afterward, I talked to a group I thought was from Haiti, judging from their accents. They said they were from New Jersey. Never would have guessed that. I blessed gifts they had bought.

In the afternoon, we visited the Cathedral and Basilica of Notre Dame in Quebec City and viewed the tomb of St. Francis de Laval, the first bishop of Quebec, who died in 1708. The bus got in trouble for “idling.” There is a law against it, I guess. Construction guys and others were yelling at us. Good thing it was in French.

We headed to Montreal on Day 5, Thursday, Aug. 15, the Feast of the Assumption. Our first stop was at



The interior of Notre Dame Basilica in Montreal, built mainly in the 1820s and at one time the largest church in North America. It is noted for its dramatic colors.

the Basilica of St. Anne in Varennes, Quebec, the burial site of St. Marguerite d'Youville, founder of the Sisters of Charity of Montreal, who are known as the “Grey Nuns” and famed in Canada for their work with the sick and dying.

A picnic lunch on the St. Lawrence

Seaway was followed by a stop at the St. Francis Xavier Mission and the burial site of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, “the Lily of the Mohawks.” We had Mass for the holy day in the little mission church while the priest and sacristan were out for lunch. After Mass, I got some pictures and we were on the move again.

The bus driver forgot about the little extra step to get out of the bus, and we ran over it. It didn't survive the weight of the bus. Stuff happens.

Our last stop for the day was at the Oratory of St. Joseph, founded by St. Andre Bessette, better known as “Brother Andre, the miracle man of Montreal,” who is buried there. What a contrast to the little mission church we just visited. Six levels with escalators and elevators, candles everywhere and, of course, a gift shop. I bought a medal for Sarah Lynn

Gafford, our former parish secretary, who is now Sister Petra, a Byzantine sister at Christ the Bridegroom Monastery near Cleveland.

We stayed at the Holiday Inn Centre-Ville in Montreal. On Friday, Aug. 16, the final full day of the tour, we walked to Notre Dame Basilica and the tomb of St. Marguerite Bourgeoys. We got into the basilica. It was beautiful. Then the tour started. We were sitting in the pews listening to our guide and – the fire alarms went off.

Strobe lights flashing. Someone speaking over the loudspeakers in French. Then in English. An emergency. Evacuate the building. We left and had to cross the street. Fire trucks arrived quickly. After some time, we got the “all clear” to return.

We were having Mass there, so I went to the sacristy. The sacristan said workers were on the roof doing repairs and a fire started. It was small and didn't take long to put out. But it was enough for the alarms to go off. He asked if I wanted the English *Roman Missal* and I said “Yes.”

When I started the Mass, I realized it was the old edition! Even the readings in the Lectionary were the old version. I told our group afterward that the Mass was valid, but may have been illicit. Canon lawyers, please disregard this. Or accept my resignation. Stuff happens.

We returned to Ohio on Saturday, Aug. 17. We ate breakfast boxes prepared by the hotel, had no problems with Customs, had lunch in Rockford, Ohio, and the day passed without incident. But I never want to take another bus ride. Maybe in the future, I'll see the Western missions. I'll take the train.

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BERNACKI, Walter S., 78, Dec. 15
St. Paul Church, Westerville

BODINE, Mary E. (Latinis), 87, formerly of Powell, Dec. 16
St. Leo Church, Bonita Springs, Fla.

CANTWELL, Edward P. "Pat," 90, Dec. 20
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

CONTINI, James, 82, Dec. 15
St. Joseph Church, Dover

CUSICK, Robert E. "Corky," 89, Dec. 23
St. Mary Church, Marion

DATTOLO, Joseph M. Jr., 95, Dec. 24
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

ERB, Marjorie B. (Barker), 88, Dec. 23
St. Agatha Church, Columbus

GILMARTIN, Barbara J. (Stanton), 85, Dec. 16
St. Anthony Church, Columbus

HANNAHS, Sally L.W. (Wolfendale), 87, Dec. 17
St. Edward Church, Granville

HARDESTY, Stephen B., 75, Dec. 16
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

KAMLER, Anthony, 85, Dec. 16
St. Joseph Church, Circleville

MAHONEY, John J., 76, Dec. 12
St. Patrick Church, Columbus

MOCKLER, Robert, 87, Dec. 23
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

PAVEL, Marioara (Andrei), 69, Dec. 18
St. Matthew Church, Gahanna

PETERMAN, Brett H., 49, Dec. 13
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Zanesville

REISINGER, Ronald L., 81, Dec. 21
St. Patrick Church, Columbus

REMPE, David A., 84, Dec. 15
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

RYAN, Susan (Price), 81, Dec. 21
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

SCHOOLEY, Mary E. (Dibari), 94, Dec. 8
St. Rose Church, New Lexington

SMITH, Lawrence T., 84, Dec. 17
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

STOUT, Arlene M., 81, Dec. 20
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

WALD, Joan (Moore), 91, Dec. 17
St. John XXIII Church, Canal Winchester

WOLLENBERG, Robert D., 97, Dec. 23
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

John R. "Jack" Beckman

Funeral Mass for John R. "Jack" Beckman, 84, who died Friday, Dec. 20, was celebrated Monday, Dec. 23 at Columbus Christ the King Church.

He was born on Feb. 13, 1935 in Springfield to Raymond and Anna Mae Beckman and was employed for about 45 years as a service representative by Columbia Gas of Ohio and its predecessor, the Ohio Fuel Gas Co.

Besides being a member of several Catholic lay organizations, he provided support for his wife, Ruth, in her role as director from 1981 to 2015 of the Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs (JOIN), a diocesan agency dedicated to helping the poor with basic needs. He was a fourth-degree member of the Knights of Columbus and also belonged to the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre and the downtown Columbus Serra Club.

At his parish, he was an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist, an usher and an altar server. In January 2007, he was one of several men of the parish who received a citizen commendation from Columbus police for capturing a man who had come to a Sunday morning Mass and threatened the congregation with a gun.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, William; sister, Marion Pollock; and a grandson. Survivors include his wife of 62 years, Ruth (Wyen); sons, John and James; daughters, Jeannette (James) Kuschill, Marjorie (Brad) Luckhart, Mary (Richard) O'Mara, Marilyn (Scott) Wilson, Jacinta (Darrin) Batsky and Bernadette (Patrick) McGurk; sister, Virginia Ulliman; 23 grandchildren; and 24 great-grandchildren.

Father William B. Schmitt, SSC

Father William B. Schmitt, SSC, died Oct. 10, 2019 at the St. Columban Home in Silver Creek, New York. A funeral Mass for him was celebrated Oct. 19 at Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Hamburg, New York. Burial was at the St. Columban Home.

In 2005 and 2006, he was in residence at Columbus St. Mary Magdalene Church and assisted at Columbus St. Stephen the Martyr Church, where he was known as "Padre Bernado." His knowledge of Spanish and service as a missionary in Chile for 16 years was of significant assistance to that parish's large Latino community.

He grew up in the Buffalo, New York area and was ordained as a member of the Columban Fathers on Dec. 21, 1968. He was a missionary in Korea from 1969 to 1984 and in Chile from 1986 to 2002, then returned to the United States.

He also served at parishes in New Mexico, Illinois, Nebraska and California.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Bernard and Natalie Schmitt; and two sisters, Mary and Cathy. Survivors include a brother, Jerry (Liz), and sisters, Wendy (Ron) Kasperek and Theresa (Don) Hershiser.

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Sister Marie Altier, OSF

Funeral Mass for Sister Marie Altier, OSF, who died Tuesday, Dec. 17, was celebrated Wednesday, Dec. 19 in the chapel of the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity in Stella Niagara, New York. Burial was in the sisters' cemetery.

She was born on Dec. 1, 1924 in Corning to Nicholas and Mary (Marino) Altier. She received a bachelor of science degree in 1963 from Rosary Hill (now Daemen) College in Amherst, New York.

She entered the Stella Niagara Franciscan congregation on Sept. 1, 1945 and professed her first vows on Aug. 18, 1947, taking the name Sister Rosita, and her final vows on the same day in 1950.

In the Diocese of Columbus, she was a princi-

pal and teacher at Lancaster St. Bernadette School (1967-1971). She also taught in West Virginia and New Jersey and primarily served in the Diocese of Buffalo, New York, where she was a teacher, a staff assistant at the Stella Niagara Health Center, and the congregation's postmaster.

From 1990 to 2005, she was the director of Stella Niagara's guest refugee program. She also organized and ran a program that provided clothing and accessories for Stella Niagara's women's respite program. She became a resident of the health center in 2017.

She was preceded in death by her parents and nine siblings. Survivors include a brother, Nicholas, and many nieces and nephews.

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Food, refreshments, Instant Bingo tickets available

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JANUARY

3, FRIDAY

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

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

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

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

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

4, SATURDAY

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

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

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

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

First Saturday Mass at Holy Family
9 a.m., Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St.,

Columbus. First Saturday Mass for world peace
and in reparation for blasphemies against the
Virgin Mary. 614-221-4323, extension 329

5, SUNDAY

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Anniversary
After 11 a.m. Mass, St. Ladislav Church, 277 Reeb
Ave., Columbus. Celebration of 20th anniversary
at the parish of the Catechesis of the Good
Shepherd, a hands-on, Montessori-style religious
education for students from infancy to age 12.
Includes blessing of classrooms, open house and
international potluck. 614-907-8873

Prayer for the Nation at St. Matthew
3 p.m., St. Matthew Church, 807 Havens Corners
Road, Gahanna. Monthly Holy Hour of prayer for
the nation, including the Divine Mercy Chaplet and
the rosary. 614-471-0212

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

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

6, MONDAY

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

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

Rosary at St. Pius X
6:30 p.m., St. Pius X Church, 1051 S. Waggoner
Road, Reynoldsburg. Recital of Rosary for the sick
of the parish and all who are ill. 614-866-2859
Marian Prayer Group at Holy Spirit
7 p.m., Day chapel, Holy Spirit Church, 4383 E.
Broad St., Columbus. 29th anniversary of Marian
Movement of Priests Cenacle prayer group for
Catholic family life. 614-235-7435

7, TUESDAY

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

8, WEDNESDAY

De Porres Center Program on Refugee Crisis
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Martin de Porres Center,
2330 Airport Drive, Columbus. "Examining the
Refugee Crisis With Art" program featuring artist
Rosy Avoscan, Laurie Van Balen of Columbus
Crossing Borders and Sister Barbara Kane, OP.
Includes lunch. 614-416-1910

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

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

9, THURSDAY

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

Movement of Priests.

Theology on Tap With Bishop Brennan
7 to 9 p.m., St. Therese's Retreat Center, 5277
E. Broad St., Columbus. Bishop Robert Brennan
speaks to Theology on Tap discussion and social
group for young Catholics. \$5 fee to help with cost
of food and drinks.

Catholic Medical Association Program
8 to 9:30 p.m., Wellnitz Hall, St. Brendan Church,
4475 Dublin Road, Hilliard. Catholic Medical
Association wine and cheese program featuring
video presentation on "Gratitude: A Pathway to
Physician Resilience and Happiness" with Dr.
Francie Broghammer. One hour of continuing
medical education credit available to participating
health care professionals. 614-769-5150

11, SATURDAY

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

Filipino Mass at Christ the King
7:30 p.m., Christ the King Church, 2777 E.
Livingston Ave., Columbus (note change in date
and site). Mass in the Tagalog language for
members of the Filipino Catholic community.

12, SUNDAY

Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic Meeting
1:30 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave.,
Columbus. Meeting of St. Catherine of Siena
chapter, Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic.

St. Brigid of Kildare School Open House
3 to 5 p.m., St. Brigid of Kildare School, 7175
Avery Road, Dublin. Open house for prospective
students and their parents. 614-718-5825

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

Catholic Conversations Series
6 to 8 p.m., Otie's Tavern and Grill, 5344 Center
St., Hilliard. Msgr. Frank Lane speaks on "What
Am I Supposed to Do With My Disappointment
With the Church?" as part of monthly Catholic
Conversations series for anyone 21 and
older, sponsored by Columbus St. Margaret of
Cortona Church. Contact Julie Naprorano at
julienaprorano1@gmail.com.

Speaker Series at Our Lady of Peace
6 p.m., Our Lady of Peace Church, 20 E.
Dominion Blvd., Columbus, Talk by Dr. Perry
Cahall, academic dean at the Pontifical College
Josephinum, on the sanctity of human life.
Begins with Eucharistic Adoration, followed by
talk, question-answer session and reception.
Second talk in series titled "The Agora: A Catholic
Marketplace of Ideas." 614-263-8824

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

13, MONDAY

St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store Grand Opening
9 a.m., St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store, 5969
E. Main St., Columbus. Bishop Robert Brennan
blesses diocesan St. Vincent de Paul Society thrift
store featuring new and used clothing, furniture
and other household items as part of its grand
opening. Refreshments begin at 8. 614-377-1065
Rosary at St. Pius X
6:30 p.m., St. Pius X Church, 1051 S. Waggoner
Road, Reynoldsburg. Recital of Rosary for the sick
of the parish and all who are ill. 614-866-2859
Bethesda Post-Abortion Healing Ministry

6:30 p.m., support group meeting, 2744 Dover
Road, Columbus (Christ the King convent, first
building west of church). 614-718-0227, 614-309-
2651, 614-309-0157

Our Lady of Peace Men's Bible Study
7 p.m., Our Lady of Peace Church, 20 E. Dominion
Blvd., Columbus. Bible study of Sunday's readings.

14, TUESDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

15, WEDNESDAY

Abortion Recovery Network Group
9:30 a.m., Westerville Area Resource Ministry, 150
Heatherdown Drive, Westerville. Abortion recovery
network group meeting for anyone interested in
recovering from abortion or who has been through
a recovery program, and wants to stay connected.
614-721-2100

Center for Dominican Studies Series
Noon to 12:30 p.m., St. Catharine of Siena Room,
Erskine Hall, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus.
Lecture by Sister Joye Gros, OP, on "Community:
Honoring Inclusion." Fourth talk in Center for
Dominican Studies monthly series on "Truth."
Lunch provided; call for seating. 614-251-4722

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

'Surviving Divorce' Program at Powell
7 p.m., St. Joan of Arc Church, 10700 Liberty
Road, Powell. First session of 12-week "Surviving
Divorce" program sponsored by Non Solum
Columbus ministry for separated and divorced
Catholics. Includes video presentation and small-
group discussion. \$10 workbook charge. Advance
registration requested. 614-778-0736

16, THURSDAY

Program for Faith Formation Leaders
9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Our Lady of Victory Church, 1559
Roxbury Road, Columbus. Program for parish
faith formation leaders on the role of prayer and
its power to deepen lives in Christ and strengthen
commitment to ministry, with Becky Eldredge,
author of *Busy Lives & Restless Souls*. Sponsored
by diocesan Association of Faith Formation
Leaders in cooperation with diocesan offices
of Youth & Young Adult Ministry and Religious
Education & Catechesis. Free; lunch provided.
614-221-4633

Solemnity of the Epiphany (Cycle A)

Maintain strong Catholic faith, share the joy of the Gospel

Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-2,
7-8,10-13
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12

Father Timothy Hayes

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



Every nation on Earth is destined to adore Jesus. How close are we to that now?

Technology means the message can go out to all the earth, and it is doing so. But what is the response? Certainly not yet the humble adoration of all.

Why not? Is it the message?

Some aspects of it are truly beyond us, but persons of humility recognize that the truth that comes from God always will be bigger than our minds can grasp. No, it is not the message.

Why is there resistance to the adoration prophesied? Two reasons: sin and the lack of clear witness in the lives of the messengers.

The whole world would be at the feet of Jesus Christ, if only we would live as His true servants.

Sin certainly could hold some people back. But if we truly put our faith into practice, we would be living lives so compelling that Christ's salvation would shine through.

Today, the Solemnity of the Epiphany, is the day when we are meant to give Christ our best – our gold, frankincense and myrrh.

We give Him what we value, putting Him first. We adore Him and acknowledge that He is God, Our Lord and Redeemer.

We accept the sacrifice and the death to self that this requires of us, and we do our best to ensure that others have their due by serving the poor, the hungry, the homeless, and all who are in need.

We put our material reality, all our possessions, at the service of the kingdom. In this way, we join the Magi in their witness.

If you take a pilgrimage to Bethlehem, you will see the Church of the Nativity, built on the site where Jesus was born.

At a time when many other churches were destroyed during the Persian occupation of Jerusalem and its surroundings, this church was unexpectedly left standing. An image of the Magi told those who had come from the East that the Savior was for them.

To this day, there is a door into the Basilica of the Nativity that requires all who choose to go in to bow in order to enter. With the Magi, we must bow before our Savior, and our lives must show that He truly belongs to all the nations.

Epiphany speaks of the manifestation of God through our human nature. Church tradition points to three moments in Jesus' life on earth where His glory shines through:

- The coming of the Magi – with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.
- The Baptism of the Lord by John in the Jordan – with the descending of the Spirit as a dove.

- The wedding feast of Cana – where water becomes the best wine and the disciples of Jesus see His glory and begin to believe in Him.

Can we see these same moments present in our lives and in our life today?

- The elders of our Catholic community are our Magi, the wise ones who know the score and who have journeyed far worshipping God, giving us our character and identity, and suffering for us.

- The Baptism of the Lord calls to mind the sacramental life we experience every day in our community.

- The wedding feast at Cana reminds us that the best is yet to come, and that our ordinary experiences open us to eternity.

In light of the Epiphany and the new year, I invite you to make two personal resolutions:

- "I will be confident in my Catholic faith, even in the face of the world's doubt and ridicule."

- "I will share my joy in the Gospel with others."

Decide who needs to hear the Good News from you personally and reach out in a practical way.

The Lord has revealed His glory among us. May that glory and the joy of our faith continue to shine so that one day, truly every nation on earth will adore Him.

THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

MONDAY
1 John 3:22-4:6
Psalm 2:7-8,10-12a
Matthew 4:12-17,23-25

WEDNESDAY
1 John 4:11-18
Psalm 72:1-2,10,12-13
Mark 6:45-52

FRIDAY
1 John 5:5-13
Psalm 147:12-15,19-20
Luke 5:12-16

TUESDAY
1 John 4:7-10
Psalm 72:1-4,7-8
Mark 6:34-44

THURSDAY
1 John 4:19-5:4
Psalm 72:1-2,14,15bc,17
Luke 4:14-22a

SATURDAY
1 John 5:14-21
Psalm 149:1-6a,9b
John 3:22-30

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

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

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

Mass from Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, Birmingham, Ala., at 8 a.m. on EWTN (Spectrum Channel 385, Insight Channel 382, or WOW Channel 378).

(Encores at noon, 7 p.m., and midnight).
Mass from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee at 6:30 a.m. on ION TV (AT&T U-verse Channel 195, Dish Network Channel 250, or DirecTV Channel 305).

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tribunal Auditor position available

Under the direction of the judge, the Auditor collects proof for marriage annulment cases and assists the judge in processing the various cases according to canon law. The Auditor is expected to use sound canonical and personal judgment in carrying out the duties of his/her office and other routine duties and responsibilities of the Tribunal.

Essential Job Responsibilities:

1. Management of formal and documentary annulment cases from filing to definitive sentence.
2. Excellent oral and written communication skills
3. Various clerical duties including mail distribution, filing, answering telephones and sitting for depositions as a notary.
4. Excellent data entry, computer skills, and knowledge of Microsoft software applications.
5. Ability to disseminate canonical and case information clearly and patiently and to work with diverse populations.
6. Familiarity with Catholic teaching on Marriage
7. Scheduling and preparation for oral depositions.
8. Spanish language skill and/or a working knowledge of Latin helpful.

Job offer is contingent on the successful passing of the mandatory background screening and completion of the VIRTUS "Protecting God's Children" program. Compensation is commensurate with experience and ability. We offer paid time off and a full complement of benefits, including health, dental, vision, life, short & long-term disability, and matching 403(b). Benefits are according to Diocesan policy.

Qualified candidates should send cover letter, resume, and three references to Dominic Prunte, HR Director at dprunte@columbuscatholic.org.

AWAKENING, *continued from Page 3*

ed on that weekend have done for me. It's helped me manage my life and get through struggles, and has brought me lots of good friendships with people who understand what I'm going through."

In addition to his involvement with the retreats, Viviani, who is studying electrical and computer engineering, is active with St. Paul's Outreach, a group of young adult Catholics who live near OSU and serve as full-time lay evangelists at Ohio State and other area universities. He said he especially enjoys playing with that ministry's hockey team, the SPO Polar Bears.

"We know Buckeye Awakening has affected the 1,500 or so students who have attended the retreat," said Cheryl Robinson of the Newman Center staff. "What we'll never know is the ripple effect it's had on the lives of those who have been touched by someone who has been a participant. At the discernment talk given toward the end of the retreat, we say Buckeye Awakening offers a new beginning. We don't usually see the end result of that, but it's exciting to think about."

"For many students, the retreat has opened doors to a greater discernment of their direction after graduation, no matter what they end up choosing to do," said Laura Scanlon, Newman Center pastoral associate. "It opens them up to a greater sense of God's



Small groups at the Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center's Buckeye Awakening weekend retreats build relationships by eating meals together. Shown is a group at Buckeye Awakening 19 in October 2018. The retreats take place at the Damascus Catholic Mission Campus in Knox County. Photo courtesy St. Thomas More Newman Center

desire for us to serve the world and each other. In some cases, but I'm not sure how many, I know this has led to vocations to the religious life."

Father Thomas Herge, parochial vicar at Worthington St. Michael Church, who was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Columbus in May 2018, was a participant in the third Buckeye Awak-

ening in November 2010 and a staff member for the following two retreats in spring and fall 2011.

"That was kind of a critical time," he said. "I was going in all sorts of directions as far as what I wanted to do with my life. The retreat didn't give clarity as far as my specific vocation, but it crystallized a sense that made it obvious I was being called

to the kind of active community life and strong prayer life necessary to become a Christian. This eventually led me to the specific realization that I was being called to God's service in the priesthood."

The first Awakening retreat took place in 1974 at McNeese State University in Louisiana. The program has spread to more than 40 colleges or dioceses nationwide, with Texas A&M's, which began in 1983, being the longest-running and most successful.

Most of the Awakenings began as the result of visits by students from another college. Ohio State has played a role in establishing at least one of them – Boiler Awakening at Purdue University. Purdue students started their version of the retreat after attending the second Buckeye Awakening and also going to Texas A&M.

Buckeye Awakening celebrated its 10th anniversary this fall at a Mass and reception attended by about 500 people in October 2019. The next Buckeye Awakening will be the 22nd and will take place from Friday to Sunday, Feb. 28 to March 1. The cost for students is \$70, and registration will open in mid-January. For more information, or to make a donation to ensure the weekend's impact continues to grow, go to <https://www.buckeyecatholic.com/10yearsofba.html>.

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Hartley student services team



Now in its third year, Columbus Bishop Hartley High School's student services program meets weekly to ensure that all students receiving special services are obtaining the support and assistance they need. The team also looks at whether other students may need support and creates a plan to help support each student's needs. The team is divided into student health, educational service, and spiritual formation departments. This year, it has begun producing a series of videos about pertinent topics to help parents and other adults. Team members are (from left): first row, Molly Maloof, test preparation; Liz Collette, counselor; Regina Hinterschied, nurse; Cara Rezabek, intervention specialist; and Tera Chun, campus minister; second row, Michael Winters, principal; Randy Kortokrax, dean of students; Walter Distelzweig, safety director; David Liskowiak, psychologist; Doug Franz and Lauren Gruenwald, counselors; Tony Thivener, Title I program; Dr. Sharon Murphy, psychologist; Andrea Leeuw, intervention specialist; and Christopher Kowalski, assistant principal.

Photo courtesy Bishop Hartley High School

St. Charles 'adopts' St. Dominic children



Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School Student Council officers (from left) Evan Porter, Dominic Doukakis, Andrew Sarff and John Melliere stand with some of the gifts they distributed to families from Columbus St. Dominic Church. For several years, St. Charles home rooms have "adopted" children of families from St. Dominic, raising funds and buying gifts from their wish lists. This year, more than \$6,000 was collected on behalf of 22 families.

Photo courtesy St. Charles Preparatory School

DeSales 'elves' use printers to make toys



St. Michael students learn coding



Worthington St. Michael School students participated in The Hour of Code during Computer Science Education Week in December. Tricia Dirker of S3 Technology spent time in various classrooms discussing and practicing coding and robotics. The school is teaching these foundational 21st-century skills to its students, beginning with events like The Hour of Code and concluding with the middle school computer science elective.

Photo courtesy St. Michael School

A visit from St. Nicholas



"St. Nicholas" visited Lancaster St. Bernadette School on his feast day, Friday, Dec. 6. Members of teacher Sharon Elder's kindergarten class wore special St. Nicholas socks to honor their visitor.

Photo courtesy St. Bernadette School

Students in Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School's technology classes used 3D printers and a laser cutter to make items for Toys for Tots and Nativity scenes for the Run the Race organization on Columbus' west side. They also custom-designed packaging for presents delivered to Sadie, a 3-year-old currently fighting cancer, and her older brother, Cameron. The packages include a castle to house University of Notre Dame figurines, as well as interactive Matchbox car cases. Pictured are (from left) Natalie Allton, Natalie Hoffman, Leah Vanasdale and Megan Kelleher.

Photo/St. Francis DeSales High School