Masses suspended:
All public Masses are suspended through at least Easter, Bishop Robert Brennan and the Ohio Conference of Catholic Bishops announced Monday, Page 3

Schools closed:
Catholic schools in the diocese are closed, but the learning will continue while the students, teachers and staff are away from the physical classroom during the coronavirus pandemic, diocesan schools Superintendent Adam Dufault says, Page 4

Streaming Masses:
Diocesan parishes have added streamed Masses through their websites and social media to allow the faithful to have access during the suspension of the public celebration of the liturgy, Page 4

CHURCH WORKS TO ACCOMMODATE THOSE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
Pages 8-12
We’re all feeling anxiety over the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic that turned our world upside down last week, but a silver lining can be found in the massive upheaval that we’re experiencing.

The restrictions placed on public gatherings in an attempt to abate the spread of the virus have caused most of us to slow our busy lives. And that’s a good thing.

Many Americans will be forced to restrict their normal activity for the next few weeks to self-quarantine or limit the chance of exposure. While that might seem difficult for those who are not ill, we should look at it as a gift from God.

You might be thinking, “What am I going to do with extra time on my hands?”

Married couples and families will have more time to spend together at home instead of hurrying to one activity or another. It’s a good thing to share meals and conversation about the predicament we find ourselves in.

Most important, we can deepen our prayer lives with our families and loved ones instead of spending excessive time watching television or playing video games. If you’re not already saying a nightly family rosary, it’s a good time to start.

As Father Robert Brennan said in an Easter prayer message, “Life is given to us for the glory of God and not for our own satisfaction. We should use this time to the glory of God.”

Pray fervently for the recovery of those who are ill with the virus, for a swift decline in the number of cases, for protection of those who aren’t afflicted, for health-care workers, for the wisdom and guidance of Bishop Robert Brennan and all the shepherds of the Church and for state and federal civil leaders.

Pray for the students, particularly seniors, whose college and high school sports seasons abruptly ended or whose concerts, recitals, plays or academic competitions were canceled. Pray that those seniors will graduate and receive proper recognition for their years of hard work.

Pray for the diocesan students in elementary and high schools whose classrooms are closed but will be learning from home. Read the update in this week’s Catholic Times issue on Page 4 by Adam Dufault, diocesan vicar of education and superintendent of schools, on how teachers and students will continue the learning process during this time.

Pray for the college students who had to return home prematurely to complete the semester online. You might have heard by now that there is a St. Corona, whose relics, along with St. Victor’s, have been preserved since the ninth century at the basilica in Anzu, Italy. “Corona” means “crown,” and she is one of the patrons of pandemics – like we’re experiencing.

Details remain sketchy on St. Corona’s life, but it’s generally recognized that she died in about 170 AD as a Christian martyr after she knelt to pray for Victor while he was being tortured. The feast day on the Church calendar is May 14.

Several other holy women also merit our prayers during this crisis. Blessed Margaret of Castello, a Dominican laywoman who was crippled and blind and who was abandoned by her birth parents, is a patroness of the disabled, the unborn and those with infirmities. A relic and shrine devoted to Blessed Margaret can be found at Columbus St. Patrick Church (read more about her in the stories on Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in this edition). Her feast day is April 13.

Blessed Margaret’s body lies incorrupt, as does the body of St. Bernadette. Our Lady of Lourdes appeared to Bernadette in France in the 1850s and said she was the Immaculate Conception. The shrine to Our Lady of Lourdes is a popular pilgrimage spot to seek healing from spiritual and physical infirmities. We certainly can’t travel to the shrine in France at this time, but we can ask for the intercession of St. Bernadette and the Blessed Mother. St. Bernadette’s feast is April 16.

To add a little lightheartedness to this serious situation, take a look at the hand-washing chart on this page from the Diocese of Dallas. The chart offers another reminder to pray without ceasing throughout the day while practicing good hygiene.

Continue to check the diocesan website for updates from Bishop Brennan and your parish website for postponements and schedule changes. The Catholic Times will continue to publish, but expect a reduction in pages because of the cancellations of many of the events and activities we normally report on. Diocesan office hours will be limited, and delays in responses to calls and emails might occur. Questions and story suggestions are always welcome.

Most of all, we pray for anyone who is impacted: the dying, senior citizens, workers who have lost their jobs and have no source of income; the poor and homeless; and priests and religious who minister to everyone in need. Let’s look at it as an opportunity to practice charity during Lent by reaching out to those whose needs are greater than ours.

Remember that Our Lord never gives us anything we can’t handle.

Trust. Pray. Be prudent, but be not afraid.
Bishop says this is a time of ‘extreme charity’

Bishop Robert Brennan’s homily for a special Mass of Mary, Health of the Sick, on Friday, March 13 at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral:

“Yet it was our infirmities that the servant bore, our sufferings that he endured (Isaiah 53:4).”

“My dear friends in Jesus and Our Blessed Lady, I thank you for being here today and as well as to all who join us via St. Gabriel Radio today. Thanks for your indulgence as we offer this Holy Mass of Mary, Health of the Sick, imploring the intercession of the Blessed Mother and trusting ourselves to our loving care as she brought Jesus to Elizabeth in her time of need.

“And so we pray for those who are ill. We pray for Governor DeWine, for all that he is enduring these days, for all our civic leaders, the President, and Mayor Ginther of Columbus, mayors and civic officials all around the central Ohio region. We unite our prayers that God will strengthen them and give them wisdom as they lead us in this important time.

“The governor yesterday spoke about keeping social distance so that we might contain the virus. A friend of mine helped me see it in another way. He talked about this being a time of extreme charity.

“This is a time when as brothers and sisters, we seek not to overreact, not to panic, but really, as an act of extreme charity, to gather ourselves together spiritually, through prayer and kindness, so that the healthier might be able to change their behavior in such a way as to protect those who are weaker, more vulnerable. When we make sacrifices, we also band together in love, in charity to one another.

“I’ve been reflecting these days on Pope Francis’ letter he distributed a few weeks ago at Lourdes for the World Day of the Sick. Pope Francis talks about when Jesus came to walk among us: ‘He looks upon a wounded humanity with eyes that gaze into the heart of each person. That gaze is not one of indifference; rather, it embraces people in their entirety, each person in his or her health condition, discarding no one, but rather inviting everyone to share in his life and to experience his tender love.’

‘Why does Jesus have these feelings? Because he himself became frail, endured human suffering and received comfort from his Father. Indeed, only those who personally experience suffering are then able to comfort others.’

‘Isn’t that what Isaiah the prophet tells us in that first reading today? It was our suffering, our infirmities that bore, our sufferings that he endured – the sufferings of each person suffering physical infirmity or ailment, but also the sufferings that we are experiencing right now as a society – the worry and concern.

“The very important message of the Gospel for us today is that God does not watch us from a distance, but that God has chosen to enter into our lives, into reality, not in a make-believe kind of way, not as some kind of distant presence standing on the sidelines, but really, truly walking with us and shouldering our every burden.

“That’s a message that becomes so important for us in these days. It becomes important for us as a church to proclaim it boldly and confidently.

“In that letter for the World Day of the Sick, the pope talks about his image of the church being the inn for the Good Samaritan: ‘that is, a home where you can encounter God’s grace, which finds expression in closeness, acceptance and relief. In this home, you can meet people who, healed in their fraility by God’s mercy, will help you bear your cross and enable your suffering to give you a new perspective. You will be able to look beyond your illness to a greater horizon of new light and fresh strength for your lives.’

‘Friends, as we band together with one another, we do so knowing that we are not alone. Perhaps one of the greatest things that we can do is to show Christ for one another—certainly in our words, certainly in our prayers, and of course in our acts of charity and of love for one another.’

All publicly celebrated Masses suspended through Easter in Ohio

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

The spread of the coronavirus has altered life in major ways throughout central Ohio, bringing about the closing of schools for at least three weeks, the closing of all bars and restaurants, a ban on most large gatherings and the cancellation of professional, college and high school sports events.

It also has resulted in a significant impact for all institutions of the Diocese of Columbus. Bishop Robert Brennan joined the bishops of four of Ohio’s other five Catholic dioceses and the apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Cleveland on Monday, March 16 in temporarily suspending all publicly celebrated Masses in the state through Easter Sunday.

Four days earlier, the bishops had dispensed all Catholics who live in Ohio or are currently in the state from the obligation of attending Saturday vigil or Sunday Masses through the end of March.

“The decision is not taken lightly and, as your bishops, causes us great sadness,” the bishops said in a statement released through the Catholic Conference of Ohio. ““However, after consultation with the governor and health officials, we are convinced that this is the most prudent and necessary action.

“Science has proven that participation in public gatherings significantly increases the risk of contagion. This poses a serious danger to those especially most vulnerable.”

“As Catholics, in every Sunday Mass we celebrate the passion, death and resurrection of Our Lord. The Holy Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith. In this moment, we are experiencing in a unique way the passion of Our Lord as this pandemic prevents us from gathering for the Sunday Eucharist. In this very difficult time, we encourage the faithful to turn to the Church’s treasury of prayer.

“Sunday remains a holy day, and we encourage the faithful to pray using the rich resources of our faith, including praying as a family or individually the rosary, Divine Mercy chaplet, the Liturgy of the Hours, Stations of the Cross, etc. We also urge you to participate in prayer by way of radio broadcast or televised or live-streamed Mass and make a spiritual communion.

“I can’t begin to tell you how saddened I am by this,” Bishop Brennan said in a letter on March 16 to priests and parish administrators. “It goes against every ounce of my being. The facts in the end were simply overwhelming. I am very sorry.”

The bishop said funerals and weddings could continue to take please, but added that such events should be restricted to family members. Churches may be open for private prayer. Check with your parish for times and availability.

The bishop celebrated a special Mass of Mary, Health of the Sick on March 13 in the cathedral and said at that time in his homily that the next few weeks should be a period “to gather ourselves together spiritually, through prayer and kindness, so that the healthier might be able to change their behavior in such a way as to protect those who are weaker, more vulnerable. When we make sacrifices, we also band together in love, in charity to one another.”

Most parish, school and diocesan events have been canceled, and the diocesan office building will be open four days a week on a limited schedule. Diocesan employees have been directed to work from home as much as possible.

All 11 high schools and 42 elementary schools in the diocese are closed as a result of the governor’s March 12 order halting kindergarten through 12th-grade classes in all Ohio schools until Monday, April 6. Preschools located in elementary school buildings also are closed. Diocesan school Superintendent Adam Dufault said stand-alone preschools were deciding on an individual basis whether to close. He said parents with questions about closings should call individual schools.

The diocesan Office of Religious Education and Catechesis last week sent Parish School of Religion directors a letter recommending cancellation of all PSR activities through Sunday, April 5. That date is likely to change as a result of the bishops’ latest decision.

Ohio Dominican University will of-
Parishes stream Masses in response to coronavirus

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

Several parishes in the Diocese of Columbus offer video streaming of daily and Sunday Masses on their parish websites.

The Ohio Catholic Conference of Bishops announced Monday, March 16, that they were suspending all publicly celebrated Masses through at least Easter Sunday because of the coronavirus outbreak.

“The Holy Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith,” the bishops said. “In this moment, we are experiencing in a unique way the passion of our Lord as this pandemic prevents us from gathering for the Sunday Eucharist. In this very difficult time, we encourage the faithful to turn to the Church’s treasury of prayer.

“Sunday remains a holy day, and we encourage the faithful to pray using the rich resources of our faith, including praying as a family or individually the rosary, Divine Mercy chaplet, the Liturgy of the Hours, Stations of the Cross, etc. We also urge you to participate in prayer by way of radio broadcast or televised or live-streamed Mass and make a spiritual communion.”

Mattingly Settlement St. Mary, Columbus St. Patrick, Delaware St. Mary and Sunbury St. John Neumann churches recently were joined by Pickerington St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Westerville St. Paul the Apostle and Columbus St. Catharine of Siena churches and New Albany Church of the Resurrection in offering online videos of Masses.

Check parish websites to determine times and days that the following parishes and others will offer streamed Masses during the public suspension. Here is how to find the Masses:

Mattingly Settlement St. Mary – www.stannstmary.org or on YouTube at “St Mary’s Mattingly Settlement.”

Columbus St. Patrick – www.stpatrickcolumbus.org. Site also has streams of parish’s daily Mass.

Delaware St. Mary – www.delawarestmary.org. Stream is live only.


Westerville St. Paul – Facebook at “St. Paul the Apostle Church.”

Columbus St. Catharine – Facebook at “St. Catharine of Siena Church.

Church of the Resurrection – www.cotrna.org or Facebook at “Church of the Resurrection.”

Masses also may be viewed on Sundays on WWHO-TV in Columbus and WHIZ-TV in Zanesville and daily on the EWTN television network.

St. Gabriel Radio in Columbus will broadcast daily Masses from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on Monday through Friday at 12:05 p.m.

Sunday Masses from the cathedral and Portsmouth St. Mary Church are broadcast weekly in their respective regions on St. Gabriel Radio at 820 AM in Columbus and 88.3 FM in Portsmouth. The station also broadcasts Masses from Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Alabama at 8 p.m. Monday through Friday. WILB, a Catholic AM and FM station in Canton that is heard in northern areas of the diocese, broadcasts a live Sunday Mass from Massillon St. Mary Church.

The Magnificat daily prayer and Mass resource has announced that it will provide temporary free access to its online version in English (www.magnificat.com/free) and Spanish (www.magnificat.com/gratis).

More information on Mass telecast and broadcasts is available each week in the diocesan radio and television Mass schedule published in The Catholic Times.

Schools in the diocese closed

By Adam J. Dufault
Diocesan Superintendent of Schools

In compliance with Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine’s order, all of the schools of the Diocese of Columbus closed before the end of the day on Monday, March 16.

While unprecedented, the governor’s action is a strong statement of concern for public health for all of the people of Ohio in the face of the coronavirus/COVID-19 outbreak. The 53 Catholic schools within the Diocese of Columbus share that concern and have cancelled classes, extracurricular activities, athletic practices and games, fundraising events, and all other community activities.

What has not stopped is the commitment of our Catholic schools to provide an outstanding education to the children in our care. No school in the diocese will be treating this time period as an extended spring break. Every school in the diocese will be working to continue the educational progress of all students to the best of our abilities within the parameters of the closure order. This will look different at each school, based on local decisions made by pastors and principals for the best interests of the community. At some schools, teachers have been preparing “blizzard bags,” or take home activities for students. Other schools have coordinated schedules for online learning, with classes meeting virtually through platforms such as Google Classroom, Zoom, and Digital Academy.

All of our principals and teachers have committed to making sure that student learning continues and that all assignments sent home are of value and serve to advance the curriculum. I applaud the efforts of every educator in our diocese. Since the order was announced on the afternoon of Thursday, March 12, principals and teachers have worked tirelessly to adjust their classes and prepare for this drastic, unforeseen change in their school year. Throughout all of this, the education and well-being of our students have been at the forefront of all planning and decision making. We are certainly blessed to have such courageous professionals in the classrooms of the diocese.

Additionally, many of our Catholic schools serve children who are dependent on the school for breakfast and lunch. Every effort is being made to provide for these students and to ensure that no additional hardship affects their families.

The Office of Catholic Schools (OCS) is working hard to keep school leaders aware of ongoing developments with the coronavirus pandemic and to provide as much support as is needed. Guidance reports are being generated up to three times a day and shared with principals. OCS has hosted a twice-daily online conference call through the Zoom platform for all administrators to provide additional information, answer questions, and share ideas. Those calls will continue throughout the closure time period. OCS staff is also working closely with the Ohio Department of Education and other state and local education authorities to ensure coordination during these three weeks. I am grateful for all of the extraordinary efforts of the OCS staff.

The schools of Franklin County and several of the schools in other counties have spring break scheduled for the week of March 23. This vacation will continue as scheduled, but schools have asked families to be cautious with their travel plans. Schools have requested that families who are planning to travel outside the United States or to areas within the country that have been hotspots for the coronavirus notify the school offices of their plans. These families are reminded that they will need to comply with any orders to quarantine or any other restrictions that might be put in place by the CDC or other government agencies. Knowing these travel plans will help schools to prepare for the eventual resumption of classes, keeping the health and safety of the entire school community as a top priority.

These are certainly unusual days. Through all of the stress of the coronavirus pandemic response, our principals and teachers have been strong, once again showing their amazing commitment and dedication to our students. Please keep them in your prayers, asking God to sustain them and bless their work. I would also like to ask for prayers for those who are already impacted by this virus; those who may become infected, especially those at most risk; and for the dedication and skill of all of our health professionals working to keep us safe.
If you can’t receive Communion, make a spiritual Communion

By Patti Armstrong
National Catholic Register

As the coronavirus spreads, the list of canceled events has come to include even Masses. South Korea closed churches and in Italy, the Italian bishops’ conference announced that all public Masses and liturgical celebrations are suspended until April 3.

As people adjust their habits to include more vigorous handwashing, for Catholics, aspects of their church worship are also being altered such as some holy water fonts have been emptied, handshaking and Communion from the chalice suspended, and one diocese has banned hymnals.

But altering the ways of worship is nothing compared to canceling the worship itself. No Mass means no Eucharist. Jesus gave us his Body and Blood on the cross and instituted the memorial of this great sacrifice at the Last Supper. “Do this in memory of me,” he told us. And so we do at every Mass.

It is only during the Mass at the consecration that the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. Thus, canceling Masses is monumental. As explained in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the Eucharist is “the source and summit of the Christian life.” The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it. For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself, our Pasch,” (CCC 1324).

Through this sacrament, “we unite ourselves to Christ, who makes us sharers in his Body and Blood form a single body,” (CCC 1331).

Holy Communion also cleanses us from venial sins. (If a Catholic is conscious of having committed a “grave sin” he or she must go to Confession before receiving Communion or he commits the additional sin of sacrilege.) “For as often as we eat this bread and drink the cup, we proclaim the death of the Lord. If we proclaim the Lord’s death, we proclaim the forgiveness of sins. If, as often as his blood is poured out, it is poured for the forgiveness of sins, I should always receive it, so that it may always forgive my sins. Because I always sin, I should always have a remedy,” (CCC 1393).

Act of spiritual Communion

The Church encourages frequent, even daily, Holy Communion, but if at any time we cannot go to Mass in or out of this season of the coronavirus, we can still unite ourselves to the Eucharist through making a spiritual Communion.

By making an Act of Spiritual Communion, we express our faith in Christ’s Real Presence in the Eucharist and ask him to unite himself with us. Here is the Act of Spiritual Communion written by St. Alphonsus de Liguori:

My Jesus,
I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Is funeral Mass mandated?; Autistic youth and first Communion

Q Is a Catholic required to have a Catholic burial ceremony – in a church with a Mass? I am thinking of having just a graveside service instead – with a priest, of course, but just a private ceremony. (I mean no disrespect to the church, but I think this might be easier for the family.) (Indianapolis)

A Technically, a funeral Mass is not mandated by the church when a Catholic dies. But it is certainly strongly encouraged. In fact, the Order of Christian Funerals says, “The Mass, the memorial of Christ’s death and resurrection, is the principal celebration of the Christian funeral” (No. 5).

It pleases me that you do want a priest involved in your burial service – but the Mass is the most powerful prayer that the church has, so why deprive yourself of that benefit? The celebration of the Eucharist commends the deceased to the mercy and compassion of the Lord, and it reminds those in attendance that death has been overcome by the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.

So it is also educational and can thus serve to bring comfort and peace to those in attendance. It bothers me that sometimes, these days, certain funeral homes seem to discourage the family of the bereaved from celebrating a funeral Mass, citing the extra cost of transporting the body to a church. I would surely want the strongest help that the church can offer at the time of my passing – and that is the Eucharist.

It needn’t, though, be a public event. You can have as many or as few people at the Mass as you like. That depends on whether you decide to publish the details of the ceremony in advance. At the very least, if you decide to mark your burial without a Eucharist, you would want to arrange a Mass at a later date.

Q I read with sadness in today’s news that a priest in New Jersey denied the sacrament of first Eucharist to an autistic boy because the priest believed that the boy was “unable to determine right from wrong due to his disability.” Could you please clarify the church’s position on this?

A I’m sure that by this time, you have seen the follow-up to the situation you mention. Soon after the story broke, the pastor issued an apology on the parish’s website, saying there had been “an unfortunate breakdown in communication that led to a misunderstanding.”

“A delay in receiving the sacrament was discussed,” he said, “until readiness could be assessed; there was never to be denial of Communion to this child.”

The pastor said the boy is “welcome in our program and will be able to receive first Holy Communion this year.”

The sacramental guidelines for persons with disabilities, issued by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2017, explain that the criterion for reception of Communion is simply that the person be able to distinguish the body of Christ from ordinary food – “even if this recognition is evidenced through manner, gesture or reverential silence rather than verbally.”
Stay Awake! These are wise words for many areas of our lives.

When participating in sports and recreation, we are called to Stay Awake! to what is happening with the activity around us and to be ready to jump in as a good teammate when the action moves our way.

In daily life, we are called to Stay Awake! by keenly observing what is going on around us, no matter what environment we are in, to keep us safe and ready to help others in emergency situations.

In our spiritual lives, we are called to Stay Awake! by spending time with God in prayer, seeking to grow in our faith lives and fostering an awareness of his constant presence in us. Staying Awake! is how God is working in and around us, especially noticing and giving thanks for the many incidences and miracles that God blesses us with, can give a supernatural quality to our everyday lives.

There are many calls to Stay Awake! in scripture. From Matthew 24:42: “Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord will come.” From Ephesians 5:14: “For anything that is in the light shines on light.” From 1 Thessalonians 4:6: “So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.”

God calls us to Stay Awake! to give him our full attention and to be completely sober (avoiding spiritual drowsiness) on our spiritual journey with him. We give thanks for the watchfulness of the shepherds, the three kings, and Simeon and Anna when the Inebricated Word came into the world as a tiny baby. We too pray to Stay Awake! and be ready when Jesus comes again. May we be like the wise virgins who had their oil lamps filled and lit and ready for the coming of the bridegroom in the night.

Perhaps the most poignant call to Stay Awake! in Scripture is from Matthew 26:40, when Jesus admonishes his disciples to stay awake with him in the Garden of Gethsemane: “Could you not watch with me one hour?” Here it’s not so much about them physically falling asleep, as it is their lack of spiritual wakefulness for Jesus as he prepares to take up his cross for the sins of the world.

At times, we can be like the disciples—falling asleep with the many burdens of life. We can end up looking for help with these burdens in all the wrong places by turning to sin instead of turning to Jesus. Our spiritual wakefulness can drift into spiritual drowsiness.

Let us ask God to give us more strength to Stay Awake!, to seek him more deeply in prayer and to rely on the sacraments to help us surrender to his ways. May we Stay Awake! to become more fully alive in Christ.

Lord, grant that I stay awake, remain watchful and stand firm in the faith out of my love for you. Amen.

“Churchmanship” is not a term in vogue today, and given the alleged inclusivity deficit of such words it’s unlikely to make a comeback. Which is a shame. Because “churchmanship” connotes an etiquette, a once-taken-for-granted code of manners, that embodies an important truth of Catholic faith. When the etiquette crumbles, the truth can get lost amidst the debris.

What is “churchmanship?” It’s somewhat protean in its expressions and not easily defined, but I think I know it when I see it: “Churchmanship” = the friendship between the ultra-conservative Msgr. Joseph Clifford Fenton and Msgr. George Higgins, the Platonic form of the mid-20th century liberal Catholic priest.

“Churchmanship” = the quality displayed by Father Yves Congar, OP, Father Henri de Lubac, SJ, and Father John Courtney Murray, SJ, when they obediently accepted restrictions on their publishing in the 1950s before becoming influential theological advisers at the Second Vatican Council.

“Churchmanship” = Cardinal Karol Wojtyla deferring in public to the primate of Poland, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, thereby frustrating the Bishop of Rome is just that – private – and confidentiality is assumed to allow maximum candor in conversation. A churchman understands that, and would not countenance PR games that, regardless of intention, have the effect of deploying the pope as a high-value piece on the chessboard of ecclesiastical controversy. Similarly, a thoroughgoing churchman will always be reticent about publicly using pictures of himself and his papal host, for he would know that such displays inevitably suggest that he and the pope are at one in their views – a suggestion that limits the pope’s freedom, which a churchman will want to safeguard.

The etiquette of churchmanship may seem old-fashioned in an age in which traditional norms of decorum and confidentiality have disappeared throughout society, and conscience-light public officials criticize their superiors “off the record in order to speak frankly about confidential conversations” (a cringe-inducing formula regularly appearing in our newspapers). However old-fashioned, though, “churchmanship” connotes a crucial truth: the Church is Christ’s, not ours. Which means that the Church (and the pope) should never be instrumentalized.
Local news and events

President appointed for Mount Carmel Health

Lorraine Lutton has been appointed as president and chief executive officer of the Mount Carmel Health System, effective Monday, April 6. Mike Englehart, who has been Mount Carmel’s interim CEO, will return to his role as senior vice president for medical groups and ambulatory strategy for Mount Carmel’s parent organization, Trinity Health of Livonia, Michigan.

Since 2016, Lutton has been president and CEO of Roper St. Francis Healthcare (RSFH) in Charleston, South Carolina, where she led transformations in clinical quality, culture, governance and financial strength. She also increased market share and advanced RSFH’s regional leadership, opening a new hospital and building a health and ambulatory care infrastructure to serve more people.

She previously was president of St. Joseph’s Hospital in Tampa, Florida, and served in other senior leadership roles with Florida’s BayCare Health System, including chief operating officer of St. Joseph’s Hospital and St. Joseph’s Women’s Hospital. She started her career in quality management at the University of California San Diego Medical Center.

She is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE) and received a bachelor of science degree in public health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a master of business administration degree from the Anderson Graduate School of Management at UCLA.

“Lorraine is a strategic, forward-thinking leader with broad experience in health care, and we are thrilled she is joining the Mount Carmel team,” said Jordan Hansell, Mount Carmel Health board chair. “We are confident she will lead our ministry forward and will ensure we continue to serve our community with the compassion and excellence that have been our hallmarks for 134 years.”

“The people we serve in Ohio will benefit from Lorraine’s mission-driven leadership and innovation, and we are excited to welcome her to our national health ministry,” said Ben Carter, chief operating officer for Mount Carmel’s parent organization, Trinity Health of Livonia, Michigan. “We also are grateful to Mike Englehart for his leadership as interim CEO of Mount Carmel, and we appreciate his ongoing commitment to ensuring a smooth transition with Lorraine.”

Mount Carmel has provided high-quality, comprehensive health-care services in central Ohio for more than 130 years. Its team of more than 10,900 colleagues, 2,100 physicians and 900 volunteers provides compassionate, people-centered primary and specialty care at Mount Carmel East, Mount Carmel Grove City, Mount Carmel New Albany and Mount Carmel St. Ann’s hospitals, as well as in surgery centers, emergency and ambulatory care centers, hospice and home care.

Mount Carmel Health also includes Mount Carmel Medical Group and Mount Carmel Health Partners, along with their networks of physicians; MediGold, a Medicare Advantage health insurance plan; and the Mount Carmel College of Nursing, one of Ohio’s largest baccalaureate nursing degree programs.

Trinity Health is one of the nation’s largest Catholic health care delivery systems, serving more than 30 million people across 22 states. It includes 92 hospitals and 109 continuing care locations and employs about 129,000 people, including about 7,500 physicians and clinicians.

St. Cecilia planning multiple-class reunion

A reunion is being planned for all members of the Columbus St. Cecilia School classes of 1965 to 1985 from 6:30 to 11 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 15 at the school. For more information, visit the Facebook page “St. Cecilia Reunion – Graduating Classes of 1965-1985” or send an email to stcecreunion@gmail.com.

Bishop speaks to North Columbus Serra

Bishop Robert Brennan joined the North Columbus Serra Club for its March luncheon and told club members that the Diocese of Columbus has 27 men in formation for the priesthood and 13 women who recently have joined religious communities. He is pictured in the lunch line with Serrans Virginia Hardy (center left) and Frank Hartge and Father Jeff Rimelspach, pastor of Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona Church (right). Hartge, president of the club, presented Bishop Brennan with a $1,000 check for the diocesan vocations office at the event.

Essay wins national prize

An essay written by Columbus Immaculate Conception School eighth-grade student Lizzy Fields was awarded second place in a national contest sponsored by the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers. She is pictured with school principal Colleen Kent; Father Matt Hoover, Immaculate Conception Church pastor; and Maryknoll representative Jorge Rivera. Fields received a $300 prize for the essay, which centered on St. Therese of Lisieux and on Fields’ mother, who died after a 10-year battle with cancer.
Disabilities among faithful spur changes in Church

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

For the past three decades, March has been promoted as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, a time dedicated to raising awareness of the needs of persons with disabilities and of the many ways individuals with disabilities contribute to society.

The Catholic Church in the United States has been advocating for more than 40 years for greater inclusion in parish life of the more than 14 million American Catholics who live with disabilities. In 1978, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops released a pastoral statement that stated, “It is essential that all forms of the liturgy be completely accessible to persons with disabilities, since these forms are the essence of the spiritual tie that binds the Christian community together.

“One of the bishops issued that statement because they recognized the universal call for all baptized individuals to participate in the sacraments,” said Andrew Burson, liturgy consultant with the diocesan Office for Divine Worship. “People with disabilities saw that, in some cases, they were not being brought into the fold, and this is what the bishops adopted.

“Since then, the bishops have continually reaffirmed the fundamental principle of the dignity of every person and the right of all the baptized, regardless of ability, to be full, active participants in the life of the Church.

“In 1995, they issued a document titled Guidelines for Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities. The document includes sections on each of the seven sacraments, presenting a set of general principles related to sacramental access to the disabled. These combine canon law, sacramental theology and common sense in an effort to promote consistency in pastoral practice. The guidelines were slightly revised in 2017,” Burson said. Also in 1995, the bishops released a related document titled Welcome and Justice for Persons with Disabilities: A Framework of Access and Inclusion.

An example of the type of situations the bishops’ guidelines address is the issue of providing the Eucharist for someone who requires nourishment through a feeding tube.

“Since the full presence of Christ and his sanctifying grace are found in even the smallest piece of the consecrated host or in a mere drop of the consecrated wine, the norm of receiving through the mouth remains the same for those who otherwise use a feeding tube for sustenance, and Holy Communion is not to be administered through a feeding tube,” the document says. “For those communicants it will commonly be possible to place one or a few drops of the Precious Blood on the tongue.”

The document’s section on the Eucharist also deals with options for people with celiac disease or other conditions making them gluten-intolerant.

In 2016, the Interdepartmental Inclusion Committee for the Diocese of Columbus was formed by representatives of the diocesan offices dealing with religious education, social concerns, youth ministry, divine worship, marriage and family life and schools. The group meets four times a year to review the needs of people with disabilities and form strategies for raising awareness of, and providing services related to, special-needs on.

“Many dioceses around the nation either have a specific office for the disabled or handle disability awareness issues through their social services office,” said Jennifer Berryhill, associate director of the diocesan Office of Religious Education and Catechesis. “Our diocese has a different structure, with offices collaborating on such issues. This cooperation is not new. Through the past 20 years, the offices have come together at different times to serve school leaders and families of those with disabilities.”

Members of the inclusion committee regularly attend events sponsored by the National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD), which was founded in 1982 to encourage activities related to the bishops’ 1978 pastoral statement. Seven participants from the diocese attended an NCPD event in Washington to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the statement; to honor Jan Benton, who retired after serving as NCPD’s director for 15 years; and to recognize the work of the Knights of Columbus, whose Measure Up Drive and other activities generously fund many programs supporting people with disabilities in Ohio and throughout the nation.

“Because of the way our departments work together, our diocesan structure serves as a model to other diocesan leaders we meet at such events,” Berryhill said.

The inclusion committee has developed a section on the diocesan website that provides bulletin inserts on Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in March, National Autism Awareness Month in April and Mental Health Awareness Month in May, plus information on ministry to people with disabilities and links to related sites. All this may be found at www.columbuscatholic.org/persons-with-disabilities.

“Last year, the committee hosted a one-day conference on the sacramental guidelines for people with disabilities, including a panel of local experts,” Berryhill said. “A video of the conference is available on the website.

“This year, the committee is seeking to gain a better handle on how parishes are working with those with disabilities by talking to pastors and parishioners and encouraging parishes to fill out a survey known as the LAMB inclusive participation assessment test.”

The three-page survey, developed by the NCPD, encourages pastors and parish leaders to consider the various ways the parish invites all members.

See DISABILITIES, Page 9
“In each case, the program has been able to mainstream the children in the classroom, supplementing with hands-on materials either purchased or personally made. This past year, it was able to use SPICE (Special People in Catholic Education) money to hire an intervention specialist who works with each child individually during weekly PSR classes,” she said.

“The Church always has called for an openness to those with disabilities, but the emphasis on the subject resulting from the bishops’ two 1995 documents has made a great difference in people’s understanding that we need to be a more welcoming and inclusive community.

“I have seen over and over again how beautiful and beneficial inclusion is, especially for children who do not have disabilities. They become protective of those with disabilities and are more compassionate, building their character and helping them have more empathy and be able to show Christ’s love in a very real and practical way.”

Berryhill said that in the past eight years, there has been what she describes as “a huge explosion of catechetical resources developed for those with autism, low to nonexistent verbal skills and other intellectual disabilities, making catechetical formation even easier.” Special sacramental preparation kits, lesson plans designed for a variety of intellectual abilities and new video resources for the deaf are among the new teaching tools available.

“Hands-on programs such as the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) help those who may have trouble speaking or fully understanding complex articles of the faith to learn about and express deeper mysteries in concrete ways,” she said.

CGS programs are offered at 22 locations in the diocese. Pattie Jones has been involved with the program since the late 1990s and is CGS coordinator at Columbus St. Ladislas and a catechist at St. Andrew and Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help churches.

“Through the use of objects children can easily manipulate and an emphasis on liturgy and liturgical ritual, children in CGS are able to connect with the central truths of the faith at their own pace and respond in a manner compatible with their abilities. My two sons have Down syndrome, and I never could have prepared them for the sacraments without CGS,” she said.

“I think the greatest challenge in general for parishes concerning disabilities is the need for many parish leaders to understand the obstacles persons with disabilities have in connection with physical access and the need to listen to people’s individual
Parishes promote inclusion for persons with disabilities

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

Many parishes throughout the Diocese of Columbus have responded to the U.S. bishops’ call to provide access for full sacramental participation to Catholics with disabilities.

St. John Neumann parishioner Allyn Brehl said the parish’s ministry for people with disabilities was formed about 18 months ago and has focused on special-needs children and their families. “Our working team of parents and professionals is referred to as the Kindred Kids team – kids who are allied, connected and affiliated, sharing similar and special needs,” he said.

“The ministry began as a result of an expansion of our educational facilities caused by the growth of our Parish School of Religion (PSR). We don’t have an elementary school,” he said. “We surveyed parishioners about their priorities for the expansion, and several families of children with disabilities said they felt the children’s needs weren’t getting much attention.

“Feedback from them led to a recognition that we needed to let the parish know of the families’ concerns and of the importance of being more sensitive to those with disabilities. We decided on a three-pronged effort. The first part involved making people more aware of the situation. We did this through educational moments and bulletin advisories designed to let parishioners know of needs that existed and ask how the parish could meet those needs.

“The next step was creation of a ‘calming room’ for use during weekend Mass times. The room is not intended as a ‘cry room’ for parents with crying infants but has been set up specifically for children with special needs who often have sensory issues,” Brehl said. Most cry rooms are accessible to parish sanctuaries, but the calming room is downstairs, below the parish offices.

“Locks have been changed to allow access to the downstairs during weekend Mass times,” he said. “The room has a cushioned floor, filtered lights, cushioned countertops and some calming tools and supports. The Mass is available via videostreaming.

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year, most recently in 2019, and feature more than 200 singers and musicians from four groups, performing individually and together before an audience of about 1,500 people in the church.

Hodges said that over the years, 11 people have taken part in the ministry at various times. Like Hodges, parishioner Debbie Potts has been involved with it from the start. She currently provides interpreting for one Mass a month. Hodges and Jessica Metzger, who joined the ministry in 2018, take turns as interpreters for most weeks, with help provided when needed by Chelsea Waid, Mary Ellen Cox and Barb Bickham, all of whom have interpreted at Masses for about 15 years.

“Depending on the readings and music, it takes two to three hours to prepare for interpreting a Mass, in addition to attending weekly choir practice, confirming the music lineup, getting music I may not have, becoming informed of which selections for certain parts of the Mass are being used, finding out about any special events during the Mass and so forth,” Hodges said.

Hodges had a deaf sister and taught for 35 years at the Alexander Graham Bell School for the Deaf, operated by the Columbus public school system. She also had signed for Masses at other parishes before becoming a Resurrection member.

“I had been taking part in Eucharistic Adoration at 6 a.m. Tuesday in our parish’s Adoration chapel. One day in 2004, God spoke to me there and said I should start a deaf ministry here,” she said.

“I was apprehensive and felt I was too busy, but prayed that if God would send me the interpreters needed, I would go ahead with the ministry.

“I signed several songs at a spring concert. Afterward, a stranger came to me and said that if I started a signing ministry, she would help. Two other friends who could sign said the same week that they also would help. God answered my prayer by sending me three angels.

“This makes me think of the movie Field of Dreams and the voice saying ‘If you build it, he will come.’ God came knocking at my door, I opened my heart to his call and we have built a field of various services for our deaf community at the Church of the Resurrection.

“Our deaf members have been beautiful role models, and their example has left a big impact on the hearts of parishioners of all ages.”

Blessed Margaret’s Children was founded at Columbus St. Patrick in 2008 by parishioners Joan and Dave Magnacca for children attending the parish’s Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) program, which provides religious education from 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. on Sundays. The parish does not have an elementary school.

The program provides one-on-one education to children with special needs from 10:15 to 11 a.m., with the children joining the rest of the students in their respective classes for hands-on activities from 11 to 11:30. The Magnacca’s said they started the program when their daughter Maria, who has Down syndrome, was in first grade at a public school.

“We wanted her to have a Catholic education,” Joan Magnacca said. “We patterned the program after the way Maria was being taught in school, which mixed individual instruction with group activity.”

The program is for students in grades one to eight who have an Ohio Individualized Education Program, a plan written individually for each student who has what the state and federal governments define as a special need. The plan is required so students can receive special-needs services from their school district or a third-party provider.

The program has served anywhere from one to seven students per year since it began. “It’s given me great satisfaction to see Maria and other students in the program receiving the sacraments after their parents thought it wasn’t possible,” Magnacca said.

“It’s success has been the result of having many very kind people as volunteers – not just parents, but many others who just wanted to help.”

Blessed Margaret’s Children is named for Blessed Margaret of Castello, who is honored at St. Patrick with a statue and a shrine in the back of the church. There has been a special devotion to her at the church since the mid-1930s. The statue is carved from one solid piece of wood. The shrine includes a cross made from the timbers of a 1935 fire at the church and a reliquary housing a relic of Blessed Margaret’s heart.

Blessed Margaret was born blind and lame in 1287, and her family abandoned her at age 16 in a church in Castello, Italy. The poor of the town took her in, and her faith and courage inspired others.

She eventually became a member of the Third Order of St. Dominic, where she lived a life of prayer, penance and charity and never expressed discouragement over her situation. She died at age 33 and was beatified in 1609 and is a patron of the disabled and the pro-life movement.

The SPICE program at St. Catharine started in 1999, but its founders, Bob and Mary Ginn Ryan, say it actually began in 1993 when their 11th child, Megan, was born with Down syndrome. SPICE was organized soon after Megan was enrolled in kindergarten at St. Catharine School.

Bob Ryan said that he and his wife were concerned about placing Megan in school, but their apprehension was put to rest when Margaret Crabtree, then the school’s principal, responded, “We have been waiting for her. Megan will give more to St. Catharine than we will ever be able to give her.”

SPICE encourages all students with special needs to live out their Catholic faith by affirming the dignity of being created in the image and likeness of God and redeemed by the saving power of Christ.

It supports the education of special-needs children in schools and parish programs by providing additional funding for classroom aides, specialized therapists, teacher and staff continuing education, classroom support materials and software. SPICE also has sponsored a Mass of inclusion at St. Catharine since 2017.

Bob Ryan said the program has raised more than $1.5 million at St. Catharine alone, recently donating $150,000 to the parish to pay for part of the cost of an elevator.

Several other parishes in the diocese now have SPICE groups, and the program has spread to parishes in at least three other states.

“SPICE has served as a model for the past 20 years,” he said. “In that time, the greatest change that has occurred in regards to students with special needs is the cultural awareness that these students can be served and are an integral part of the community.

Twenty years ago, for instance, some people wondered why wheelchair ramps were necessary. Now they’re an accepted part of everyday life.

“I see people continuing to move forward with the recognition that special needs exists and can and should be served. That’s the Catholic way of doing things,” Ryan said.
DISABILITIES, continued from Page 9

The pantry at the Bishop Griffin Resource Center on the city’s east side is expanding its hours. It will be open from noon to 3 p.m. Saturdays, in addition to its previous hours of 9 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesdays and 2 to 4:30 p.m. Fridays. No donations are being accepted at this time, and families are limited to one three-bag box per visit.

The food and nutrition center at St. Stephen’s Community House will only be distributing pre-boxed food to take home, but has expanded its eligibility requirements through the end of March and now is open to all Franklin County residents, rather than only those from eight ZIP codes. Families will be able to take food home once a week.

Hourly rate is commensurate with education and experience. Benefits are accrued by Diocesan policy.

If you are interested in the position, please send your resume and references to Scott Marsh, Maintenance Manager, at smarsh@cdeducation.org.

St. Lawrence Haven, operated by the diocesan St. Vincent de Paul Society and located next to Columbus Holy Cross Church, has changed its hours. It now is open from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. instead of 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday to provide prepackaged lunches.

Operations have been restricted at the Holy Family Soup Kitchen in the Franklinton neighborhood. There will be no sit-down dinners. It will have a limited pantry signup at 8:30 a.m. on weekdays, distribution of “woods bags” and mail at 9:30 and limited pantry service at 10:30.

“We are not in retreat mode by any standard,” Bishop Brennan said in a letter to the faithful accompanying the Ohio bishops’ March 13 announcement related to Sunday Masses. “In fact, your priests and I desire to serve you all the more fervently. Similarly, as Catholics we want to serve the poor and vulnerable even more. We need to imagine new ways to achieve this in order to protect the health and well-being of the very people we desire to serve. Clearly, the situation changes daily and we will try to remain in contact. The diocesan website will contain a special page with resources for information and prayer. These will include possible resources for families to use on Sundays.

Above all, we must be instruments of hope in the Lord. In his message for the World Day of the Sick, Pope Francis reminds us of the tender gaze of Jesus who himself became frail, endured human suffering and received comfort from his Father. Let’s be strong in our prayer for one another, especially for the sick, their caregivers, those in the medical professions and those entrusted with the charge of care for public health. Be sure of my prayers and deep concern for you.”

CORONAVIRUS, continued from Page 3

fer classes only online through the end of the spring semester in May and told students on March 16 to vacate residence halls. All campus events scheduled for the semester were canceled or postponed, including commencement on Saturday, May 9. Alternative options to recognize this year’s graduations to include people with special needs in formation and community life has been a consistent experience in those locations.

Matt’s eating disorder makes it difficult for him to consume an entire host during the Liturgy of the Eucharist. At his home parish, a small piece of a host is broken off for him, but his mother said he has been refused a host at some parishes when the family has traveled.

“The ones who have disabilities have an equal right to the sacraments by virtue of their baptism, and it is vital that those in leadership be educated on those teachings so as not to exclude any of God’s children,” she said. “At times when he was denied the Eucharist, Matt would grow distant at Mass, for he knew in a very real way that he was missing the connection with God it provides.”

Haughton said she always will remember a remark by a priest who met Matt and said, “Here comes a prophet, for he opens men’s eyes to the glory of God.”

“The Church and we as people want to use this time to get to know those with disabilities, for they help us see the greatness of God’s creation and the uniqueness of each person,” she said.

“If I could do one thing, I would encourage everyone to take any opportunity to reach out and engage persons with disabilities. The simplest eye contact or touch of the hand can go a long way toward breaking down barriers and opening the doors to acceptance for all.”

REYNOLDSBURG SAINT PIUS X PARISH
Custodian/Maintenance Technician Position Available

Qualifications for the position: The Custodian/Maintenance Technician is responsible for performing general cleaning and upkeep of assigned areas within the school facilities to include minor maintenance tasks. This includes hard floor cleaning, carpet vacuuming, cleaning and sanitizing all surfaces, waste removal, and some exterior maintenance, such as snow removal, and other related tasks as needed. Applicants must be able to work independently, paying close attention to detail, and perform all physical aspects of the job duties. Previous custodian or maintenance experience preferred but not required.

This is a full-time position (40 hours per week) with a work schedule of Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at certain times, flexibility and overtime may be required.

Must have on file or be able to pass a BCI/FBI Background Check prior to start date and completion of the VIRTUS “Protecting God’s Children” training session. Hourly rate is commensurate with education and experience. Benefits are accrued by Diocesan policy.

If you are interested in the position, please send your resume and references to Scott Marsh, Maintenance Manager, at smarsh@cdeducation.org.
Franciscan University of Steubenville offers discernment mentorship program

Franciscan University of Steubenville is launching a new initiative to help mentor young men and women discerning consecrated religious life. The initiative, known as Vocations Outreach, will be led by students and will offer online formation assistance, through workshops and assigned tasks, to men and women who are considering life as a member of a religious community. It is designed to help them grow in their spiritual lives and come to a greater understanding of religious life.

“Discernment can be a difficult and confusing journey, especially if you don’t have anyone to guide you through the process,” said Cassidy Roderick, founder and team director of Vocations Outreach. “The Church so badly needs religious vocations and, to foster them, we have to be able to provide discerning young adults with the tangible resources they need.”

Workshops will include talks by presenters from four different religious orders on topics such as theology of religious life, monastic practices, obstacles to discernment, listening to the Holy Spirit, overcoming spiritual discouragement, personal vocation and the Lectio Divina. Discerners will be accompanied by a professed religious throughout the formation program and will receive individual feedback on written tasks and through long-distance, one-on-one communication. Each participant also will be paired with another discerner to provide spiritual support for one another and foster a sense of community.

Roderick emphasized the importance of discerners having direct contact with religious.

“Religious life isn’t like marriage or even the diocesan priesthood. Many people don’t grow up seeing that vocation actively lived out,” Roderick said.

“In order for people to discern religious life, they need to know what it is, and the best way to help them understand that is through relationships with those already in religious life.”

Content from the Franciscan University Catechetical Institute will be used. Online formation workshops will be hosted on the FranciscanAtHome.com online learning management system.

Applications are being accepted for the free six-month program. Applicants must be at least 15 years old and actively discerning consecrated religious life.

To learn more or apply, visit vocationsoutreach.org.

Norma J. McGovern

Funeral Mass for Norma J. McGovern, 84, who died Wednesday, March 11, was celebrated Wednesday, March 18 at Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church.

She was a graduate of Grandview Heights High School and attended Ohio State University, and was a kindergarten teacher in Columbus diocesan schools for several years. She was a member of Delta Gamma sorority, the Childhood League, and the Pleasure Guild of Nationwide Children’s Hospital.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Forrest and Jessie (Rieket) Edler. Survivors include her husband, Kevin; sons, Kevin (Michelle) and Andrew; daughter, Molly (Bill) Dobbs; sister, Dawn (Melvin) Nakamura; four grandsons; two granddaughters; and two great-grandsons.
Fourth Sunday of Lent (Year A)

What does God see in us?

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7,10-13a
Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4,5,6
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

Father Timothy Hayes

Open your eyes. What do you see? Our temptation is to look and not to see. Our first experience of the world is shaped by what we learn from others. All we see at first are lights and colors and figures. We don’t realize how things are connected. We have all thought we saw someone we knew and realized at the last moment that we were wrong. We also have failed to see what is right in front of us.

With God and with His Church, we move in the opposite direction: Believing is seeing. When we believe what God reveals, we become radically capable of taking in more of God. If we begin with faith, we see differently. Illness becomes a place where we can encounter the Lord of healing and hope. Death becomes the promise of new life, both in eternity and in this world of change. Eucharist becomes the invitation to bring others to the banquet and to share with them what we have come to know and believe: that Jesus Christ is our light, the truth that frees us and leads us to glory.

I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living.

This response is often used at prayer vigils for funerals. It speaks to the mystery of faith and the capacity that our faith gives us to grasp what is really going on.

We believe first. Putting God first means putting our trust in Him. From our faith, our act of the will to believe because of our trust in God, there flows a capacity to see the world differently. Our God is able to open new vistas, new horizons for us.

Once someone advised me, “Look at everything twice.” When you look once, you can miss something. When you look twice, you see new things and you can capture aspects of the experience that make it always available in your heart.

The world around us is often blind. It is so easy to get caught up in the blindness because of our fears, our sadness, unfulfilled expectations, and our desire for the status quo. But all the world around us is destined to open to something brand new.

Can you see it? Then, see!
Father Thomas Hergy, parochial vicar at Worthington St. Michael Church, and art teacher Mary Stuller work with eighth-grade students at Worthington St. Michael School to create icons of their Confirmation saints.

**DeSales memory project**

The Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School Visual Arts Club created more than 20 portraits of children in refugee camps in Nigeria for an organization known as The Memory Project, which delivers portraits to children around the world. Pictured with one of the portraits is DeSales senior Jade Forte.

**St. Agatha School adds recording studio**

Eighth-grade students at Columbus St. Agatha School are shown using the school’s new recording studio, named for Father Dan Ochs, pastor of St. Agatha Church. St. Agatha is the only elementary school in the diocese to have such a studio, which will be used to spread the good news of the Gospel in creative ways.

Columbus Trinity Elementary School launched “Wilson’s Warriors” in support of math and science teacher Joseph Wilson, who recently was diagnosed with cancer. The school, which is raising funds for cancer research, had designated each Wednesday for the rest of the school year as a “Wilson Wednesday,” with students wearing green shirts in Wilson’s honor. More than 400 shirts were sold to students, faculty members, family and friends.
Three state wrestling qualifiers from Columbus Bishop Hartley were named to the All-Central Catholic team last week.

Twin brothers Michael Petrella, a senior at 126 pounds, and Joey Petrella, a senior at 182, and Dylan Newsome, a freshman at 160, went undefeated in CCL matches this season.

Columbus St. Francis DeSales 285-pound senior Cole Potts also finished unbeaten in league matches and qualified for the state meet, as did Columbus Bishop Ready junior Aiden Aiello.

Other wrestlers receiving All-CCL honors were Tyler Gummer of Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School at 106; Owen Eagan of DeSales and Evan O’Connell of Ready at 120; Mark Sullivan of Columbus Bishop Watterson and Cameron Jones of Ready at 126; Josh Morse of DeSales and Joe McCarthy of St. Charles at 132; Leo Pavell of Watterson and Cody Ihm of Hartley at 138; Paul Martello of Ready, Austin Fraley of St. Charles and Brian Hernandez of Hartley at 145; Jared Miller of Hartley and Troy Hungerford of St. Charles at 152; Caleb Kish of St. Charles and Kervin Azor of Watterson at 160; Danny Siegel of Watterson, Declan Cooper of St. Charles and Jerad Koboi of Ready at 170; Brady White of Watterson and Will Humphrys of St. Charles at 182; Tony Thivener of Hartley, George Cottrill of St. Charles and Nick Youell of Watterson at 195; Kenyon Davis of Hartley, Jacob Robinson of Ready and Patrick Randall of Watterson at 220; and Charles McAdow of Watterson and Isaac Asiedu of Hartley at 285.

Miller, Thivener and Davis went 4-0 in CCL matches.

The winter sports season ended abruptly when the Ohio High School Athletic Association canceled state championships in all sports for safety reasons because of the coronavirus outbreak.

Michael Petrella had qualified at 120 and would have been trying to become a three-time state place-winner in Division II. He finished seventh at 113 in 2019 as a junior and seventh at 106 as a sophomore in 2018. He ended the season with a 40-2 record. Michael and Joey Petrella, who compiled a 41-4 record, were both district champions.

Potts posted a 38-3 record this season after taking fourth in the state in Division II at 285 last year. He has signed to play football next fall at James Madison University.

Aiello went 35-9 and Newsome was 30-7.

Also qualifying for the state meet from a diocesan school was Caden Canning of Newark Catholic at 113 in Division III. The sophomore completed the season with a 29-10 overall record.

Five DeSales bowlers named to All-CCL boys first team

Columbus St. Francis DeSales dominated the All-Central Catholic League bowling selections by claiming five of the six spots on the boys first team announced last week.

The CCL girls first team included two bowlers each from league co-champion Columbus Bishop Ready and DeSales.

Isaiah Thomas, Bryan Ritzler, Caden Lester, James Jackson and Andrew Swift were part of a DeSales boys team that won the CCL championship and qualified for the state tournament. Also making the first team was Victor Jackson of Columbus Bishop Hartley.

The girls first team included Mary Zerrien and Maryann Rucker of Ready, Skyla Blumenschield and Audrey Nave of DeSales, Isabelle Patton of CCL co-champion Columbus Bishop Watterson and Libby Erwin of Hartley.

The boys second team consisted of Nick Bastaja and Vinnie Foresta of Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, William McAfee-Witherspoon of DeSales, Marlin Yarborough and Ayden Jordan of Hartley and Zach Jahn of Ready.

Comprising the girls second team were Rachel Reuter, Christina Rose, Madison Shaw and Joy Packard of Watterson, Maria Kelley of Hartley and Allison Bair of Ready.