Man of the Year:
Dr. Raymond Sheridan of Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help was honored by the Catholic Men’s Luncheon Club, Page 3

Clergy Who Cook:
Father Stephen Alcott, OP (left), and Father Stephen Dominic Hayes, OP, were among the participants in an annual fundraiser for Pontifical College Josephinum seminarians, Page 8

Carrying on a tradition:
Hartley basketball coach Randy Kortokrax has 300 career wins, a son on his team and a daughter who’s a star athlete, and a father who’s a coaching legend, Page 9

Catholic Social Services marks 75 years of helping families, seniors
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Local news and events

Father Dailey to speak to Catholic Men’s Luncheon Club

Father Stash Dailey, diocesan vicar for religious and pastor of Columbus Holy Family Church, will present a series of talks on the theme “Rebuilding a Christian Culture” at the next four meetings of the Catholic Men’s Luncheon Club.

Dates and themes for the talks are:
- March 6, “St. Joseph: Model of Penance and Discipline”;
- April 3, “Sacred Scripture: A Word Spoken, Rest Received and Lived”;
- May 1, “Our Lady as Mother and Queen, Living the Life of the Church”;

The Nos Lumine and Attollo Catholic business leadership development groups will sponsor the talks.

The club meets on the first Friday of each month except July, August and January at Columbus St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., for lunch after the church’s 11:45 a.m. Mass. No reservations are necessary. A $10 donation is requested to cover the cost of the lunch and meeting.

For information on the club, visit www.catholicmensministry.com/cmlc or contact club president David Clark at dclark@catholic-foundation.org.

Our Lady of Bethlehem enrolling students for 2020-21

Columbus Our Lady of Bethlehem School and Childcare, 4567 Olentangy River Road, is enrolling preschool and kindergarten-age students for the 2020-21 school year. The registration deadline is Friday, May 1.

Our Lady of Bethlehem serves students from six weeks old to kindergarten, an extremely vital time for a child’s social, emotional, intellectual and spiritual development. It’s the only Catholic school in central Ohio whose sole emphasis is on early childhood education.

To learn more about what has made the school an important part of the community for 63 years, visit www.ourladyofbethlehem.org and see what other parents are saying about why they started their child’s spiritual and early educational journey at OLB, or call (614) 459-8285.

Dominican Sisters of Peace to host retreat in March

The Dominican Sisters of Peace are offering an opportunity for young women to take a faith-informed look at the options in their lives and see if religious life is a choice that should be explored.

The congregation will host a “Come and See” retreat at its Motherhouse, 2320 Airport Drive, Columbus, bringing women considering religious life together for a look at life in a religious community. The retreat is free and lodging and meals will be provided. It will begin at 4 p.m. on Friday, March 13 and conclude after Mass and dinner at 1 p.m. Sunday, March 15.

Women have many options for ministry and service in the church, but the call to religious life is more than that. It is a call to something “bigger than myself,” said Sister June Fitzgerald, OP, the congregation’s vocations director. “It is a call from God to live in community with like-minded women, preaching the Gospel with their lives and building peace one person, one project at a time,” she said.

The Dominican Sisters of Peace have five women in formation. Women attending the retreat will meet them and learn more about their journey. They also will spend time with the sisters in prayer, study, and conversation and having fun with new friends.

To register, visit the congregation’s website at www.oppeace.org or contact Sister June at (570) 336-3991, or jfitzgerald@oppeace.org.

Seminarians visit funeral home

Seminarians from the Pontifical College Josephinum visited Egan-Ryan Funeral Home in downtown Columbus for “Funeral Home 101” as part of their formation experience. For many of them, it was their first visit to a funeral home. Egan-Ryan president Bob Ryan led a tour of the funeral home’s central chapel and spoke about what takes place upon the death of a loved one. Ryan talked about how funeral directors work one-on-one with families in planning the calling hours and funeral Mass and discussed the importance of helping, caring for and ministering to individuals and family members as seminarians and as future priests. He and Father Mike Lumpe, vice rector of the seminary’s liberal arts college, then answered questions about death and dying, funeral prayers, and liturgies.

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

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This year’s recipient of the diocesan Catholic Man of the Year award thinks the honor went to the wrong person.

After accepting the award from Bishop Robert Brennan, Dr. Raymond Sheridan of Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church began his remarks by saying, “This would really be fun if it had nothing to do with me. I saw a sign at the entrance to the hall listing me as the speaker. I knew I was going to talk, but I still thought, ‘What, I’m supposed to speak?’

“I felt really awkward about the whole thing,” he continued. “It’s really my wife, Debbie, who ought to be Catholic Man of the Year.”

The award was presented on Friday, Feb. 7 at the monthly meeting of the Catholic Men’s Luncheon Club at Columbus St. Patrick Church after the church’s 11:45 a.m. Mass.

Sheridan is a dentist who was honored for using his profession to benefit people in the Grove City area and overseas. He has voluntarily provided dental care to many people in need as part of his dental practice. He also visits elementary schools with low-income students to teach dental hygiene and to provide packets containing a toothbrush, toothpaste and floss.

Each year, he spends a week in the Dominican Republic performing dental work for poor people. He also is among several Our Lady of Perpetual Help parishioners involved in Asia’s Hope, a Columbus-based organization that provides family-style residential care for orphaned children at high risk of sexual and economic exploitation in Cambodia, Thailand and India.

The group has adopted a Cambodian orphanage and visits it each year, bringing gifts and building relationships with the children. Sheridan also organized an outreach mission to a village near the orphanage, providing 200 bags of rice from his own funds.

“It’s a pretty cool place,” Sheridan said of the orphanage. Referring to his parish’s pastor, Father Daniel Millisor, he said, “We’re the only Catholic parish in this country that’s involved with Asia’s Hope, and it’s thanks to Father Dan’s vision. He goes with us to Cambodia every year.”

Father Millisor was not at the luncheon, but Father James Colopy, parochial vicar, represented the parish.

“It’s pretty humbling to accept this award,” Sheridan said. “I didn’t think God wanted me to give a planned talk, so I prayed at Mass about what to say and ended up with a sense of overwhelming confusion.”

Sheridan has been active for the past 10 years with various parish men’s ministries that meet early on Saturdays. His work with those organizations led to the founding of a ministry known as Mary’s Hands, through which he and other men of the parish deliver sandwiches and other items on Saturdays and Sundays to homeless people leaving a shelter and talk to them about ways the men can be of assistance.

“I don’t think I do that much. I hand out sandwiches or maybe fix a tooth once in a while,” he said. “This (receiving the award) is pretty heavy stuff. Those who should be honored are people like Dr. Duke Heller (a dentist from Lewis Center), who has been a mentor to me. His Christian witness has been an inspiration.

“It’s also great to see some of the people from St. Paul’s Outreach here because I’ve seen how they change lives,” Sheridan continued. St. Paul’s Outreach is an organization of young Catholics committed to evangelizing their peers.
Second-chance jobs offer hope for the formerly incarcerated

A job posting by an employer communicates not only the need for labor, but also a hope for growth. The same goes for a job candidate’s resume, which documents skills, abilities and experience. It expresses both the desire to work and the hope for growth.

Finding work for returning citizens, the formerly incarcerated, can be a challenge depending on the crime committed, the time away from the work force, and the need to acquire new skills.

Many returning citizens who have reformed and diligently are searching for a second chance lose hope when the doors of opportunity are constantly closed to them.

They and their families struggle to escape the clutches of poverty and often seek assistance through our charitable ministries.

There is a growing list of members of the Church who are helping returning citizens stabilize their lives and experience the mercy of Christ. They live out their faith through ministries such as ARCH (Accompanying Returning Citizens with Hope) by providing accompaniment, family support and direct material aid, especially during the first 72 hours after release from incarceration. There are also Catholic business leaders who hire returning citizens.

The dignity of work is a major element of Catholic social teaching. Pope St. John Paul II spent much of his pontificate bringing to light Church teaching about the dignity of work. He described human work as the essential key to the whole social question.

Why is it the essential key? Work provides wages to support workers and families. But it is much more. It provides the opportunity for growth and development as the worker uses his or her gifts and talents with purpose to contribute to the common good.

It is understandable that some employers will not hire a returning citizen for certain jobs. Particular jobs may not be suitable, based on the nature of the crime a formerly incarcerated person has committed.

However, the door should not be closed to all opportunities. The hiring decision should take into account the unique situation of the individual and job responsibilities.

Some central Ohio employers are models of providing a second chance to returning citizens. They leaders do this because they need the workers and recognize that re-entry candidates often become the best workers in their work force. The government provides employers financial incentives in terms of tax credits to diversify the work force.

Many Catholic employers live out this work of mercy as an extension of their vocation. While these employers are prudent, they don’t want to be ruled by fear, but by faith.

ARCH is working to connect employers with returning citizens who desire to work. ARCH (www.svpcolumbus.org/arch) is a program of the diocesan Office for Social Concerns and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

ARCH has received generous grant support from The Catholic Foundation and the Franklin County commissioners’ justice policy and programs.

Are you looking to build your business? Do you want to make a positive impact in the community, rooted in the values of your faith?

Come learn how you can support second chance employment with the ARCH business network. Attend the ARCH business leaders breakfast on Thursday, March 26 from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at the Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Drive, Columbus.

To register for this free breakfast, RSVP by Monday, March 16, at https://tinyurl.com/archbreakfast.

Proximity to those who are suffering shows us how to love

A movie or book can be transforming. For Black History Month, I’m sharing an experience with both. In January, I attended a movie with friends: Just Mercy.

Based on the book Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption, written by Bryan Stevenson and published in 2014, the movie centers around Stevenson’s representation of death-row inmate Walter McMillian, appealing his murder conviction.

Stevenson is a Black public interest lawyer who, after graduating from Harvard Law School, went to Alabama to represent those who had been illegally convicted or poorly represented at their trials.

Just Mercy is powerful and sometimes difficult to watch. If you don’t think racism’s roots are deeply embedded in this nation when you walk in, you’ll be questioning that assumption when you walk out. But the movie isn’t only about the fear, hatred and oppression that has been visited upon Black Americans since their forced arrival as slaves or how fear and ignorance disfigure the opposition.

The movie includes Stevenson’s 1989 founding of the nonprofit Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) in Montgomery, Alabama. According to its website, EJI is “… committed to ending mass incarceration and excessive punishment in the United States, to challenging racial and economic injustice and to protecting basic human rights for the most vulnerable people in American society.”

In talks across the nation, Stevenson names hope as one of four things necessary to effect change.

He calls it a “superpower” and the enemy of injustice. “It is what makes you stand up when someone tells you to sit down,” he says.

He names another element necessary for change: proximity. In a speech at Penn State University’s branch campus in Abington, Pennsylvania, Stevenson gave this advice: “We need to get closer to people who are suffering and disfavored so we can understand their challenges and their pain. We can’t create solutions from a distance. Decide to get closer to people who are suffering, marginalized, disadvantaged, poor. Only in proximity to those who are suffering can we change the world.”

Reading this, I thought of Pope Francis’ call, early in his pontificate, for priests to be close to the people they serve: “This is what I am asking you – be shepherds with the smell of sheep.”

Jesus lived that out. He spent time with ordinary people and those on the margins. He counted fishermen and tax collectors as his early followers and included women in his close circle of friends and disciples. He ate and drank with sinners, much to the dismay of religious leaders who kept their distance.

I’ve also been reading Howard Thurman’s book Jesus and the Disinherited. A Black theologian, pastor, and spiritual mentor to Martin Luther King Jr., Thurman reminds us that Jesus was marginalized. He was poor, and he was a Jew in an occupied land. Jesus knew the suffering of those on the edge or, as Thurman might say “those with their backs to the wall.” He devotes a chapter to fear and its effects on people.

But Jesus’ response to marginalization was not fear. It was not violence. It was love. It wasn’t separation from those who were suffering. It was proximity. He showed us how to love and to serve our neighbor – who is everyone.

He spoke the truth. He healed on the Sabbath. He said the Kingdom of God is within us. He had hope and faith in the One who sent him and in the power of compassion. He stood up when he was told to sit down.

This month is a good time to reflect on our history, the state of our nation and the divisiveness that is increasingly expressed in violence against “the other.”

If you’re able, see the movie (or read the book). Read Howard Thurman. They invite us to ponder how we can, as Isaiah admonishes, remove oppression, false accusations and malicious speech from our midst, how can we share our bread with the hungry, give shelter to the homeless.

They challenge us to follow Jesus’ example of love and to believe that love will cast out fear.
When Mother Teresa visited New Bedford, Massachusetts in June 1995, she told those of us gathered at St. Lawrence Martyr Church: “Abortion is the greatest evil of today.” Never one to mince words, Mother Teresa’s courage, truthfulness and charity were palpable. Parents today need similar fortitude, honesty and love to be able to discuss the hard topics of unplanned pregnancies and abortion with their children.

Parental input and advice are critical when these situations arise. Even as children profess independence, parents exercise influence over them, whether for good or for ill. If a mother says to her daughter, for example, “You can’t have a kid now because you’ve got your studies, your career and your whole future ahead of you, so I’ll give you money for an abortion” she is not merely offering advice, but being coercive and taking away any real choice her daughter might have had.

Likewise, when a boyfriend learns that his girlfriend is pregnant and informs her he doesn’t want to be a father right now and will drive her to the abortion clinic, he abandons both his child and the mother of his child in their moment of greatest need.

To read testimonies of young women who have undergone abortions is heart-wrenching. Many times, they seem to have less responsibility for the abortion than their parents or others close to them.

One woman described being 12 years old when she had an abortion. “When Saturday came, my mom drove me back across town, walked me in, paid for the abortion with money my boyfriend gave her and left the building,” she said. “I didn’t know it then, but they wouldn’t allow her to stay. The nurse told her I would be ready about 3:00, so I was there alone. ... It’s been 35 years since my baby was aborted and I still think about it every day. It wasn’t a quick fix and it wasn’t a solution to my pregnancy. It was a panicked response to our fears.”

Fear often stands behind the decision to abort. Young women are understandably frightened when they discover they are pregnant: “I’m afraid I’m not ready and I won’t be a good mother.” “I’m fearful my boyfriend won’t stand by me and support me. He’s just a kid himself.” “What will mom and dad think of the fact I’ve been having sex?” “My friends are people of faith and I’m afraid they’ll look down on me for this if they find out.”

Whenever we let fear direct our moral thinking, we tend to make bad judgments and poor choices that can haunt us long afterward. Even good people who believe in life, family and can make panicked choices when they feel cornered by shame and guilt. Major decisions are better made when emotions have calmed and the order of reason again can fill our minds. This happens most readily when a person is surrounded by an abundance of loving support.

Wendy Bonano is the director of several pregnancy support centers in North Carolina and regularly works with students from area universities and colleges. In a recent article in Family NC magazine, she challenged parents to reflect on what their sons and daughters are up against in today’s society:

“I imagine you are thinking ‘This would never be my daughter.’ I beg you to think again. More often than not, ‘good’ Christian girls in relationships are determined to abstain from intercourse and therefore are not actively using contraception. Therefore, it takes just one poor decision by either your son or daughter to create an unplanned pregnancy, regardless of all you’ve taught them,” she wrote.

So why are good Christian girls getting abortions? Those who should be at their side in a moment of crisis may not be present. Mothers and fathers may not have fostered close relationships with their daughters. They never may have discussed the possibility of an unplanned pregnancy to let their daughters know ahead of time that, even if they act contrary to their advice and conceive a child, they still will be there for them.

After more than 10 years of helping single mothers, Bonano makes precisely this point.

“Quite often there’s a piece missing from the ‘talks’ parents have with their daughters and sons,” she writes. “Without knowing it, we are leaving no doors open for our children to come back to us should they stray. We are making good, strong cases for purity until marriage and yet neglecting to communicate the message of grace: that we are there for them no matter what, and should they make a mistake — in this case, get pregnant — it is safe for them to come to us for help and support.”

Today more than ever, Christian children need to hear those supportive, reassuring words from their Christian parents.

Christian girls and abortion

MAKING SENSE OUT OF BIOETHICS

Father Tad Pacholczyk

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, PhD, earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did postdoctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Massachusetts and serves as director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org.

I tend to sit in the same pew at Mass on Sundays at Gahanna St. Matthew Church, where little Caroline and her family are steady companions of mine. Every once in a while, I am delightfully and briefly distracted by them. This wide-eyed toddler and her parents and brother interact so beautifully. The family gently responds to her coos and questions, her antsy fidgeting and her (sometimes loud, sometimes frantic) pursuit of adventure.

I love being that Catholic who sits in the same spot nearly every week. I am comforted by my perspective on the artwork in the sanctuary and my eye line for each part of the Mass. I have grown in understanding of and appreciation for the neighbors who pray near me. This comfort has allowed me to enter more deeply into worship, and for that I am grateful. I know it is right and just to give God my best, my all, and with the familiarity and comfort of my seating, I feel more prepared to do so.

When I leave Mass and try to give my all, I am not as successful. I am commanded to go in peace, to glorify the Lord by my life and to announce the Gospel of the Lord. I take that command seriously, as I am sure you do.

Maybe, like me, you also struggle to give your all to that mission. I prepare for Mass to be comfortable and familiar. But what do I do when I am uncomfortable, unfamiliar and unprepared? Do I have the same courage, the same desire to give my all?

I often am tempted to withhold my gifts of time, talent and treasure for a litany of excuses: I’ll volunteer for something once my schedule frees up/once life isn’t so busy/once I can give a longer, better commitment.

I can’t use my skills outside of work or for people other than my family/I am not that good at anything and have nothing significant to offer anyone in need/Other people would be better at this deed than me/I don’t need to think of the people in my way today, I have a lot going on.

I’ll give money once I pay this bill/once I’m out of debt/once I get a better-paying job/once I buy all my Christmas gifts.

The Lord wants my all, but I can use that as an excuse to give NOTHING when I am feeling insecure, anxious or lazy. In each moment of my day, I can choose to give, even if it doesn’t meet my own expectations.

I don’t want to let the desire for perfection overwhelm and disable me. I am inspired by the words of St. Gregory Nazianzen, “Give something, however small, to the one in need; for it is not small to one who has nothing.”

‘Give something, however small, to the one in need; for it is not small to one who has nothing’

STEWARDSHIP, LIVING OUR FAITH

Jenna Zins

Jenna Zins is events coordinator for the diocesan Office of Development and Planning.

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What is a good Catholic Bible?; Can heaven be happy with some missing?

**Q** My wife realized that my Bible is not Catholic when I could not locate the Book of Sirach in it. What is a good Catholic Bible, with a contemporary translation from Greek? (My ultimate preference would be a Catholic Bible with the Old Testament translated from Hebrew and the New Testament from the Greek – if such a thing exists.) (Albany, Oregon)

**A** There are several translations of the sacred Scriptures that have been approved by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for devotional use and study by Catholics; any translation that bears an imprimatur may be used for those purposes.

But your best bet, I would think, is the 1986 edition of the *New American Bible*. That is the only translation approved for liturgical use at Masses in the United States, and so the wording would be familiar to you.

In his 1943 encyclical on Scripture study, *Divino Afflante Spiritu*, Pope Pius XII wrote: “Ought we to explain the original text which, having been written by the inspired author himself, has more authority and greater weight than any even the very best translation, by the inspired author himself?”

The *New American Bible* follows that precept: Composed over a period of 25 years by 50 biblical scholars, it uses the original and oldest available texts of the sacred books – Hebrew for the Old Testament, Greek for the New Testament.

**Q** I am a “cradle Catholic” of 75 years, now homebound. We are taught that if one follows the teachings of the church, is a good person and dies in the state of grace, then that person will go to heaven. But suppose some close loved ones don’t make it there? How can we be happy in heaven without them?

I asked an extraordinary minister of holy Communion and the reply was, “Let’s hope God in his mercy forgives them, too.” But this seems to negate the existence of hell. Please help this confused Catholic. (Atlanta)

**A** The question you pose has, I would suppose, challenged every reflective Christian for centuries. Various theories have been suggested. One is that hell exists only as a concept, not in reality, and that God will find a way to forgive everyone and bring them finally to heaven.

But to me that seems to conflict with Matthew 25, where Jesus pictures himself at the final judgment separating the faithful from the unfaithful, casting some into “the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.”

Another suggestion is that our memories will fail us in eternity and that those who are lost simply will vanish from our minds. I’m not enthused about that theory, either, since it seems unlikely that once our bodies are perfected in heaven, we will simply lose our minds. What I do feel certain about is that heaven will be better than we can ever imagine it.

In Revelation (21:4), we’re told that God “will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away.” I also believe, along with St. Paul in 1 Corinthians (2:9), that “eye has not seen, and ear has not heard ... what God has prepared for those who love him.”

So I guess that my answer to your question is that I simply don’t know – but that I’m not worried about it. It’s one of those (many) things that I’ll just have to let God figure out.

Flannery O’Connor and friends revisited

**George Weigel**

*The Catholic Difference*

Above all, *Good Things Out of Nazareth* – Gordon’s biblical metaphor for the Southern literary renaissance, which Alexander adopts for his title – is a powerful reminder of the intensity of O’Connor’s Catholic faith: an intensity that was unmarked by sentimentality, that was informed by an astonishingly broad reading in the Fathers of the Church and St. Thomas Aquinas, and that sustained her through many dark nights of the soul, both literary and physical. At the end, that is the deepest impression her letters leave: here is a woman of extraordinary courage whose configuration of her life to the Cross was a source of both personal strength and literary genius.

The O’Connor letters in *The Habit of Being* introduced the world to Flannery O’Connor’s exceptional skills as a Catholic apologist able to explain the faith to others. *Good Things Out of Nazareth* fills out the portrait of O’Connor, a Catholic seeking to plumb the depths of the tradition and finding professional inspiration and spiritual liberation in doing so.
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mainly on college campuses.

Sheridan said others who should share the award with him include parish Bible study leader Larry Murmane and parishioner Sandy Wagner, who wrote the letter nominating him for the award.

“The Gospel speaks of love of God and neighbor. Jesus says the two are one and the same, and you live that out in an extraordinary way,” Bishop Brennan said in introducing Sheridan.

“There are many good people doing good things, but for some people, it goes beyond that. Those people have a deep spirituality, and the fruit of that spirituality is shown through caring for others. When you do this because of your love of God, that makes a huge difference.”

Heller and Our Lady of Perpetual Help parishioner Andy Johns spoke about Sheridan prior to the bishop’s introduction.

Heller said Sheridan is an example of someone who understands the words of French philosopher Blaise Pascal that “There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every man,” which only God can fill. “Being with Ray and Debbie has brought me great joy as I’ve seen the way they serve people and realize the love they have for others,” he said. “I’m grateful for the opportunity to be part of that.”

Heller and Sheridan have worked together in the Dominican Republic and with The Refuge, a Grove City ministry that helps people 18 and older with addiction problems.

Johns said Sheridan sets an example of commitment, compassion and cooperation through his work on weekend mornings and mission trips. “I never knew someone with so much energy and such sincere love, for the people he sees on the streets each week and for the kids he’s lucky enough to see once a year,” he said.

“He’s played a big role in making our parish a beacon of hope and understanding through the way he brings grassroots help, without bureaucracy, from the bottom of his heart. He’s had a huge impact in showing me how to be a better Christian.”

Sheridan, 63, also is a member of the Knights of Columbus, helps during parish fish fries and regularly makes pilgrimages to sites such as Medjugorje in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey. He is a graduate of Ohio State University’s College of Dentistry, which the Sheridans’ son, Cory, now attends.

Other Catholic Man of the Year nominees this year were Sean Fouts of Columbus St. Philip Church, Jim Gernetzke of Gahanna St. Matthew Church, Ernest Jones of Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Charles Mifsud of Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dr. Patrick Scarpitti of Granville St. Edward Church and John Swisher of Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church.

The men’s luncheon club established the honor in 1957, first awarding it to John Igoe of Columbus St. Agatha Church, and has presented it every year since then. The 2019 recipient was Frank J. Hartge III of Gahanna St. Matthew Church.

Recipients are chosen by a committee consisting of members of the Catholic Laymen’s Retreat League, the Catholic Men’s Ministry, the Sierra Club, the Knights of Columbus and the luncheon club.

Hibernians celebrate St. Brigid’s Day

Bishop Robert Brennan, a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, joined the order’s Columbus division on Saturday, Feb. 2 for its inaugural St. Brigid’s Day celebration. The event began with Mass at Columbus St. Mary, Mother of God Church, followed by an Irish celebration known as a hooley in the order’s Tara Hall. Pictured with the bishop are Hibernians women’s division president Katie Somers, who delivered a keynote speech on St. Brigid of Kildare and how her legacy inspires the work of the order, and men’s division president Scott Partika, who presented the bishop with a Hibernians sash. Funds were raised throughout the evening to support the order’s charities in central Ohio.

ST. JOSEPH, PLAIN CITY
SECRETARY POSITION AVAILABLE

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

• An understanding of the Catholic perspective; excellent communication skills; must be flexible to adapt to changing needs; the ability to work with others in a collaborative team environment; and the ability to read and comprehend simple instructions, write short correspondence, and memos.

• A minimum of two years prior experience in an office setting is required; keyboard and computer experience required.

• Job offer is contingent on the successful passing of the mandatory background screening and completion of the VIRTUS “ Protecting God’s Children” course.

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

TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR POSITION

Full-time, 12-month position at Bishop Ready High School. Requirements:

Bachelor’s degree plus a minimum of 3 years experience in leadership position directing technology initiatives; strong, extensive knowledge of computers, iPads, and related technology as applied to K-12 education.

Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, managing computer networks, plus development, implementation, operation, monitoring, and evaluation of technology program for the school.

Send resume and cover letter by March 13 to:

Celene A. Seamen, President
Bishop Ready High School,
707 Salisbury Road, Columbus, OH 43204
or sent via email to cseamen@cdeducation.org

Photo courtesy Ancient Order of Hibernians
Clergy showcase their kitchen talents to benefit seminarians

By MaryBeth Eberhard

The culinary skills of diocesan clergy were put to the test last week at the annual Clergy Who Cook benefit. Held at the Jessing Center of the Pontifical College Josephinum, the lively event showcased some healthy (and some not so healthy, but pretty tasty) competition.

For the past 10 years, Clergy Who Cook and other events sponsored by Friends of the Josephinum have raised more than $1 million to benefit seminarians. The funds pay for academic scholarships, medical and dental travel, retreats, emergency trips back home and a Holy Land pilgrimage for seminarians in the Josephinum’s graduate program.

The night began with drinks and social time for the more than 250 guests who attended the sold-out event. Josephinum students served as waiters, bartenders, greeters and emcees.

Father Steven Beseau, rector of the Josephinum, expressed his gratitude for the continued support of the fundraiser. Bishop Robert Brennan shared how happy he was to attend, as it was one year ago that he first met the Josephinum’s seminarians. “It is an event like this that demonstrates how much the people in this diocese love their priests,” Bishop Brennan said. After he led the dinner blessing, the competition began, with 11 dishes to sample:
- Baklava, courtesy of Father Stephen Alcott, OP, and Father Stephen Dominic Hayes, OP, Columbus St. Patrick Church.
- Strawberry shortcake cookie cups, Father James Black, Powell St. Joan of Arc Church.
- Butterscotch on the rocks, Deacon Joseph Ciacciura, Westerville St. Paul Church.
- Lobster Newberg, Father Peter Gideon, Lancaster St. Mark Church.
- Barbecue pork tacos, Deacon Chase Goodman, seminarian, Diocese of Victoria, Texas, currently serving at Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona Church.
- Venison meatballs, Father Michael Hartge and Father Christopher Yakkel, Perry County Consortium.
- Potato-rivel soup, Father Thomas Herге, Worthington St. Michael Church.
- TBDWITL (chicken wings), Father Brian O’Connor, Canal Winchester St. John XXIII Church.
- Bourbon braised pork belly bites, Father Ty Tomson and Deacon Mark Scarpitti, Lancaster St. Bernadette Church.
- Irish coffee cupcakes jubilee, Father Patrick Toner, Columbus St. Mary Magdalene Church.
- Bacon tan, Deacon Todd Tucky, Delaware St. Mary Church.
- Bragging rights went to Father O’Connor for his chicken wings, winner of the judge’s choice award. The Dominicans took the dessert category with their baklava, and the people’s choice award went to Father Gideon for his lobster Newberg.

Father Michael Hartge, pastor of the Perry County Consortium, serves his venison meatballs during the annual Clergy Who Cook fundraiser to benefit seminarians at the Pontifical College Josephinum.

Photo courtesy Max Gallegos/Pontifical College Josephinum

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Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Jerusalem
Hartley’s Kortokrax continues family legacy in coaching

By Doug Bean
Catholic Times Editor

Columbus Bishop Hartley’s boys basketball team hasn’t experienced the level of success this year that it’s accustomed to having. Nevertheless, the 2019-20 season will go down as a memorable one for coach Randy Kortokrax.

Kortokrax not only is coaching his son, Kylan, for the final time as a senior, but also on Jan. 14, he reached a milestone with his 300th victory.

The Hawks outlasted the Upper Arlington Golden Bears 49-46 in overtime for win No. 300.

“I guess inside I was more happy with the win than the 300th because I knew we needed it,” Kortokrax said. “It felt good because the kids had worked hard to that point to win that game. We just had to learn to finish, hit free throw and play ‘D.’

“You don’t really think about (300 wins). You’re just trying to get better for the remainder of the season and next year. You never really have time to sit back and see what you accomplished.”

His son made key free throws in the OT to help secure the victory.

“For him to be a part of it is special” the coach said. “Being in overtime, against Upper Arlington, and getting that much-need win is what I will remember.”

Kortokrax is nearing the end of his 20th season as Hartley’s head coach. When he took the job in 2000, he wasn’t thinking about how many games he would win or how long he would coach. Like most coaches starting out in the profession, he was just trying to put together a team and build a sustainable program.

“I think it’s cool that we’ve won some games along the way,” he said. “But I’ve always felt, this is high school, not college. We’re here to help the kids when they come in as freshmen to mature and grow until they’re ready for college. Our job is to become quality players and people.

Kortokrax, who serves as Hartley’s dean of students, does know something about winning. Quite a bit, in fact. He learned from his father.

Those who follow high school basketball in Ohio most likely have heard about or maybe even have seen Dick Kortokrax’s teams play. He’s the winningest boys basketball coach in state history, compiling an 890-371 record in 56 seasons at three schools before retiring in 2016 at age 82. The legendary coach spent 41 of those years at Kalida High School, where his teams went 665-271, won a state title in 1981 and finished as the state runner-up in 1988 and 2009.

Randy played for his father at Kalida and was part of his 600th win before going on to play college basketball at the University of Findlay, graduating in 1987 as the school career leader in points with 2,575 and rebounds with 1,242.

Those experiences laid the foundation for what later would turn into a successful coaching career of his own. Hard work, fundamentals and discipline form the core of his program.

“My goal was always to impress my dad,” Randy said. “He was very hard to impress, and I always wanted him to say ‘good game’ when I played a good game. And he wouldn’t say it. That’s hard. (But) when he did say it, it meant something.”

Before Kortokrax moved into full-time coaching, he used his athletic talent to carve out a Hall-of-Fame, 25-year career in professional softball. He traveled the country playing for some of the sport’s elite slow-pitch teams but also stayed in touch with basketball, helping his father at Kalida when time permitted until moving to his wife’s hometown of Westerville.

Kortokrax was still playing softball and making a good living while also working part time with the basketball program at Hartley when the head coaching opportunity arose suddenly. He faced a conundrum: keep playing softball, or quit and take a coaching opportunity that might not present itself again for a while.

He chose coaching and doesn’t regret the decision.

A decade later, he reached the state tournament as a coach just like his father did, leading Hartley to the final four in 2011. That team finished with a 22-2 record after losing to Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary in the state semifinals.

Father and son still talk basketball from time to time.

“What I learned from dad is to fundamentally sound, teamwork and hard work,” he said. “Keep it simple, son (K.I.S.S.). That’s how I try to do it. I like fundamentals; I don’t like flash. I drew a lot off him. I picked his brain. I always told him, ‘I might not use what you told me, but I’d like your opinion.’

During Kortokrax’s tenure, Hartley has played in 10 district championship games, winning five. The most recent came last year when the Hawks beat Columbus St. Francis DeSales at one point by the buzzer.

This season has proved to be an aberration. Kortokrax knew that it would be a challenge after losing eight of his top nine scorers. This year’s rebuilding team was 8-10 overall and 0-7 in the Central Catholic League entering a CCL game against Columbus Bishop Watterson on Friday, Feb. 14. The regular season ends Tuesday, Feb. 18.

“We haven’t had a year like this in a while. We’ve been very fortunate over the years,” he said. “But we never talk about records. We want to be the best team we can be at the end of the year. How many wins that is, who knows? It might be five, it might be 10, but the challenge is to end up playing your best basketball.

“I’ve really enjoyed this team because nobody’s a star, and they all get along.”

More important than the wins and losses are the relationships that he has built with his players and coaches.

“What I’ve always enjoyed is that my players come back,” said Kortokrax, whose daughter, Kami, is a basketball player at Otterbein University. “I think, to me, what’s how you’re judged as a coach. Did you help them better themselves and better themselves for college and the rest of their lives, or did you just use them to get to 300?

“Sometimes I have to get on them and push them, and they don’t like it, but we see the whole picture, and they just see part of it. I treat them one through 12 all the same. Everybody is valuable on this team. That’s how dad was. He held 12 to the same standard as one. And that’s how I am. I really think people respect that.”
For 75 years, agency has aided diocese’s most vulnerable

By Tim Puett  
Catholic Times Reporter

On Sept. 15, 1945, 13 days after the surrender documents ending World War II were signed, Columbus Bishop Michael Ready established the diocesan Catholic Welfare Bureau.

It was a time of uncertainty, as the end of the war meant soldiers would be coming home and returning to their jobs, displacing people who had replaced them while the soldiers were in the military. In addition, the war’s end meant the arrival of large numbers of immigrants coming to the United States as refugees from lands devastated by combat.

The Catholic Welfare Bureau was a response to those needs. Its focus was on families and child care. In its first year, it began a counseling program that aided 239 families facing situations such as domestic issues, financial problems and inability to care for children. It also placed 10 children in foster homes. Two years later, it began a program placing 25 children with adoptive parents.

As social agencies evolved, some of those activities were taken over by other agencies and the welfare bureau, which changed its name to Catholic Social Services (CSS), took on additional roles. As the number of senior citizens grew, CSS added programs serving that segment of the population while continuing its emphasis on families.

As it celebrates its 75th anniversary in 2020, Catholic Social Services is unwavering in its efforts to help working-poor families stabilize and become self-sufficient through case management, mental health care and emergency assistance, and to enable low-income seniors to age with grace and independence through supportive services and community impact opportunities.

In 2018, the most recent year for which complete figures are available, it had an impact on the lives of more than 34,000 residents of the 23 counties in the Diocese of Columbus through 14 programs in five locations.

During the year, CSS provided more than 214,000 emergency assistance meals at its community centers and served more than 3,600 senior citizens. Its Foster Grandparent program connected at-risk students at Head Start programs and schools with seniors who helped them develop basic learning skills. The Our Lady of Guadalupe Center on Columbus’ west side grew from a food pantry to a full-service community center serving that area’s large Latino community, helping immigrants today in the same way the agency did 75 years ago.

“What I love most about being a part of Catholic Social Services is that it has been unrelenting in providing quality services where the community has needed them the most,” said Rachel Lustig, who has been the agency’s president and chief executive officer for 6 ½ years.

“We have always been in places where people are suffering and we could offer meaningful support, helping families build a brighter future and helping seniors live independently. As more people become senior citizens, programs for them are showing particular growth. The number of seniors CSS has assisted in the last five years has grown by nearly 50 percent.

“This year’s anniversary celebration gives us a chance to reconnect with the great work CSS has done for the last 75 years,” Lustig said. “I feel as though I’m standing on the shoulders of giants who have brought the agency to where it is today.”

One of those who played a key role in guiding CSS through its early years was Helen McDaniell, who was hired as a caseworker in 1946, became the agency’s director in 1970 and remained in that position until her retirement in 1985. She died in 2010.

Another was Msgr. Lawrence Corcoran, who was appointed in 1947 as assistant to the agency’s founding director, Msgr. William Kappes, then succeeded Msgr. Kappes in that role in 1960. Five years later, Msgr. Corcoran moved to Washington, where he was executive director of the national Catholic Charities organization from 1965 to 1982. He then returned to Columbus and remained involved in social service activities until his death in 2009.

“Helen and Msgr. Corcoran had a big impact on Catholic social services agencies not just locally, but throughout the nation,” said Don Wisler, who served as CSS president from 2002 to 2013. “They already had a great reputation when I started in social service work in 1974 in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Helen was one of the first woman chief executives of any social service agency in the United States. She and Msgr. Corcoran set a great example I hope I was able to maintain.”

“What impressed me most about Helen from the start was that she was a very good leader with a great ability to bring people together,” Msgr. Corcoran said in a 2007 Catholic Times story. “Especially in those early days, you always had a feeling of
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working together, belonging and de-
veloping something that was going to
last when you dealt with Helen.”

In the same story, McDaniel re-
called that the agency had four em-
ployees when she started. It has 83
staff members today. “I can remember
driving all over the diocese when I
started because I was the only one
on the staff who had a car,” she said.
“We were small, but kept growing and
had reason to. Plenty of things needed
done. Fortunately, I loved my job, and
I had a staff that loved to do things,
so the feeling of support was mutual.”

Adoption and child placement work
gave McDaniel the most satisfaction
in her years with CSS. “Putting chil-
dren in the right homes and seeing the
happiness of both the families who
took children and the parents who
wanted a good home for the child
gave me a feeling that I was helping
the whole social service system, not
just my part of it,” she said.

The agency began an adoption pro-
gram in 1947 and continued until the
early 2000s. Wisler said CSS found
adoptive parents for more than 1,000
children during that time, placing as
many as 40 a year in homes. “As time
grew on and social attitudes shifted, it
became less unusual for a woman to
be a single parent, to the point where
today, more than 40 percent of chil-
dren are born to single mothers,” he
said. As a result, CSS and other agen-
cies ended their adoption-related ac-
tivities to concentrate on other family
service programs.

In 1948, one year after the adoption
program began, the Catholic Welfare
Bureau began resettling displaced
persons from eastern Europe, helping
more than 400 of them with housing
and job placement. By the beginning of
1950, the agency had opened offices in
Newark and Zanesville, both of which
have been in operation ever since.

In 1955, the bureau began a home-
maker services program to help fami-
lies without a mother present at home.
The program assisted with cooking,
cleaning and caring for the home. One
year later, its displaced persons pro-
gram helped resettle refugees from
the Hungarian Revolution of 1956.
Then in 1957, the bureau opened its
Portsmouth office with help from the
Glenmary Sisters.

In the 1960s, the displaced persons
program was called on again to help
resettle a large group of refugees – this
time from Cuba. Msgr. Corcoran in
1962 traveled to Miami and wrote an
impassioned plea from there to The
Catholic Times, noting that 50,000 peo-
ple had fled to the Florida city to escape
the regime of Fidel Castro and the Cath-
olic Church was the first and the prin-
cipal source to come to their aid.

By 1964, unaccompanied children
began arriving in the United States
from Cuba in increasing numbers. The
welfare bureau responded with a
program to place those children in
foster homes, at St. Vincent’s Orphan-
age (now the St. Vincent Family Cen-
ter) and in a group home on Colum-
bus’ east side.
The bureau changed its name to
Catholic Social Services in 1967. In
that same year, the diocese purchased
the former Copco Building at 197 E.
Gay St., which was renamed the Cath-
olic Center. Two years later, the CSS
offices were moved to that site.

McDaniel’s appointment as di-
rector of CSS in 1970 coincided with its
25th anniversary and the separation
of the agency from the diocesan Cath-
olic Charities office. In 1976, CSS began
the Senior Companion program, which
helps homebound senior citizens re-
main independent by sending another
senior to visit their homes for social-
ization and non-medical assistance.
The Supportive Services program,
with licensed social workers helping
seniors continue to live independently
in their homes, began in 1977, the same
year that CSS began serving residents
of the 14 diocese-sponsored Seton
Square housing locations for low-in-
come seniors and disabled persons.

The CSS Transportation Program
for seniors and qualified military
veterans in Licking County was es-

dablished in 1982, the same year the
agency received the accreditation by
the Council on Accreditation which it
continues to maintain.

Also in 1982, the diocese purchased
and renovated a 10-unit apartment
building in Columbus’ Italian Village
neighborhood. It became the Warren
Street transitional housing complex, a
short-term facility for homeless fami-
lies. CSS collaborated on the proj-
ect with several other agencies. The
Holy Rosary Family Shelter also was
opened that year on Columbus’ east
side to provide emergency housing and
temporary shelter for homeless
women and their children.

Sara Murphy replaced McDaniel as
president of CSS in 1987. Two years
later, the agency began Project Rachel,

a program to help with physical, emo-
tional and spiritual post-abortion healing.
The agency in 1990 launched its
Paysay Program, which helps seniors
and disabled persons manage financ-
es independently. In 1992, a grant
through Franklin County Children
Services enabled CSS to provide fam-
ilies with in-home services related to
parenting skills and communication
among family members.
The agency’s first Breakfast with
the Bishop, one of its two major an-
ual fundraisers, began in 1993 with
Bishop James Griffin in attendance.
The event, at which more than 600
people gather early in the morning
to hear about the work CSS has done
in the preceding 12 months, has con-
tinued uninterrupted for 27 years,
through the tenures of Bishop Griffin
and his successors, Bishops Frederick
Campbell and Robert Brennan. The
agency’s other significant fundraiser,
a dinner-dance known first as Bux and
Pucks, then Tux and Bucks, and now
as the Spirit of Hope Gala, began in
1998. This year’s gala will take place
on Saturday, March 7.

Also in 1993, Catholic Social Ser-

vices was awarded the Angelo E.
George Endowment Fund from The
Catholic Foundation to help with the
agency’s migration and refugee resettlement
services. This grant supported employ-
ment screenings and placements, En-

lish language tutoring and accultura-
tion programs. In 1995, CSS opened the
Sherard Health Clinic on East Patterson
Avenue, offering health screenings, nu-

trition education and counseling at no
cost to families in need.

As the 20th century came to a close,
Latino immigrants began settling in
large numbers on Columbus’ west
side. That led to the opening of the
CSS Our Lady of Guadalupe Center
at a location it was to outgrow in a few
years.

In 2000, the agency began its Jo-

bReach program to help low-income
Franklin County residents find perma-
nent employment. The program offered
career readiness training and resume
assistance. CSS began an additional ef-
fort to help the Latino, Somali and other
immigrant and refugee populations find
employment in 2002, a year in which
Murphy retired as the agency’s presi-
dent and was succeeded by Wisler.

Columbus State Community Col-
lege formed a partnership with CSS
to offer classes in English as a Sec-
ond Language in 2005. In the follow-
ing year, the Our Lady of Guadalupe
Center moved to a larger location and
began operating as a choice pantry,
meaning people could shop for their
own food rather than receiving a pre-
selected box of items.

The agency was recognized in a
number of ways in 2006 and 2007,
receiving the Better Business Bureau
Integrity Award, the Mundo Hispano
Award for best nonprofit organization
and the Healthcare Heroes Award for
community outreach. In 2010, CSS
began its Money Management Pro-
gram to help seniors having difficulty
managing their finances.

CSS partnered with the CHOICES
program to help survivors of domestic abuse
and their children through its Pathways
to Hope Program, offering two years of
case management to women who are
leaving shelters for safe homes.

“Getting Pathways to Hope started
is what I’m proudest of when looking
over my 11 years with CSS,” Wisler
said. “It’s very satisfying to see how
it’s built women a stable base as they
recover from domestic violence. We
got help from federal grants and used
most of our reserve funds to accom-
plish a good purpose.”

Lustig came from Washington,
D.C., where she had spent 10 years
with Catholic Charities USA, to suc-
ceed Wisler in 2013. In the following
year, the CSS Portsmouth office was
moved to what formerly was a mon-
astery occupied by the Poor Clares
of Perpetual Adoration, a cloistered
order of nuns. The building was remod-
elled into a full community center and
renamed the St. Francis Center.

Also in 2014, CSS began offering
in-home maternal counseling to moth-
ers, helping them remove barriers to
mental health care, such as finding
child care and transportation.

The Foster Grandparent program,
which unites two generations by pair-

ing low-income, active seniors with
at-risk children for tutoring at schools
and Head Start sites, began in 2016,
while 2017 was highlighted by a sig-
nificant expansion of the Our Lady of
Guadalupe Center from a food pantry
to a community center providing case
management services and room for a
variety of classes, health screenings,
meetings and other activities. CSS
also began providing service coordi-
nators for residents of the 14 Seton
Square sites in 2017.

In 2018, a CSS team traveled to
the Humanitarian Resource Center in
McAllen, Texas, to help process im-
migrants for a week. The center’s di-
rector is Sister Norma Pimentel, MJ,
the 2019 Breakfast with the Bishop
speaker. During the year, Our Lady of
Guadalupe Center coordinator Alma
Santos was recognized with the Co-

lumbus Dispatch Everyday Heroes
Award.
Senior programs boost independence, quality of life

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

Catholic Social Services (CSS) and its family-based activities have been involved with senior citizens throughout the agency’s 75-year history. Beginning in the mid-1970s, CSS has offered programs designed to help seniors maintain their independence by providing assistance with housing and financial stability.

In the past few years, the impact of those programs has become more noticeable. CSS said that in 2018, the most recent year for which complete totals are available, its programs for seniors served more than 3,600 people. This represents a 50 percent increase over five years in the number of seniors benefiting from the agency’s services.

The success of those programs can be shown in more than participation numbers. CSS follow-up surveys show that 98 percent of the seniors the agency served in 2018 said its programs helped them achieve their goals that led them to take part in those activities.

As the population of seniors is expected to almost double by 2040, CSS services will be even more necessary, especially considering that people now reaching that age level tend to have lower incomes, be in poorer health and experience more social isolation than their counterparts from earlier generations.

CSS offers seven programs for seniors: Supportive Services, Money Management, Senior Companions, Transportation Services, Payee Services, Foster Grandparents, and Service Coordination at the Seton Square affordable housing complexes throughout the Diocese of Columbus.

Alecia Howard, director of the Supportive Services and Money Management programs, said about 75 percent of seniors served by CSS have annual incomes of 150 percent or less than the federal poverty level, which is $12,760 for one person or $17,240 for a couple.

“Supportive Services fills in a lot of gaps,” she said. “Examples are when a home becomes difficult to maintain because of mobility or cost issues, or when someone needs help with paying bills, going to the doctor, applying for Medicaid or trying to fill out paperwork for a power of attorney form. Our licensed social workers provide individual care and case management for all this.”

“One of the people we recently aided was fleeing a domestic violence situation in another state and came to Ohio because she had friends in New York,” Howard said. “She found a place where she could afford the rent and other expenses, but she didn’t plan for her health to fail. She spent a lot of time in and out of hospitals, and while she was doing that, her rent went up and her utility bill doubled, so her budget was shot. Her friends and family were unable to provide enough to keep her going.

“She tried to find a more affordable place and got put on a waiting list, but got bumped off of it because she got the paperwork for it and couldn’t understand it because she was sick. She got in touch with us and the first thing we did was get her a food box, which she receives once a month. It includes enough nonperishable items to feed her for two or three days.

“Then we helped her find housing that was both more affordable and met more of her needs. Several months later, she moved into a subsidized building which was an even better fit. Now she has a nurse checking on her regularly and neighbors who provide help when needed. She’s still struggling, but her outlook has changed tremendously,” Howard said.

The Supportive Services program serves Franklin and Licking counties. Howard said 373 people – 285 in Franklin County and 88 in Licking – received help last year from the program, which CSS has operated since 1977, when it was known as Senior Care.

“Our Money Management program helps low-income seniors with money problems get out of debt or manage their finances better,” she said. It helps people prepare monthly budgets, pay bills, deposit checks, connect with financial and legal help and prepare for long-term needs so they can remain independent.

“We work with some people who always have needed assistance with living and have a parent or a family member help with bills,” Howard said. “But what if that person dies? We help make sure someone in that situation doesn’t get taken advantage of. Depending on the situation, we help people in such cases find new housing or remain in their current home as long as possible, while giving them the ability to manage their funds on their own.

“One couple we helped had worked for their entire lives but never managed their funds well. Suddenly they were evicted and had to move from their home within a couple of days. We found them secure housing and a grant to pay their moving expenses. Some legal issues arose from the eviction, and they were given bad advice. We found people to help straighten out those problems.

“They’ve lived in their new home for a few years. The wife, who had stopped working, is doing part-time work again because she has secure housing. They’ve followed our advice on handling money and are paying down the debts they have incurred, so they’re in a much better financial position.”

CSS began the Money Management program in 2010. It also serves Franklin and Licking counties. Howard said it helped 60 people in 2019.

The Payee Services program also helps people with their finances and does not have an income restriction. It is for seniors, people re-entering society and people with disabilities who are unable to manage their own financial affairs, are referred by individuals or social service agencies, and are designated by the Social Security Administration to handle a person’s regular benefit checks.

For a monthly fee, it processes the checks, sets up a monthly budget, pays the person’s recurring bills and gives him or her an agreed-upon amount to cover discretionary items such as entertainment and clothing. Participants are encouraged to save some of that amount. Program director Dave Desender said 43 percent of the people using CSS Payee Services have saved at least $700, with most of them having at least $1,000 in savings.

“One gentleman who is part of this program signed up for it because he trusted another resident of the building he lived in with handling his money,” Desender said. “He didn’t have food in his cupboard and realized that person was taking advantage of him. Once Payee Services began monitoring his situation, that problem quickly ended.”

Payee Services is CSS’ most widespread program, covering 62 Ohio and West Virginia counties. Desender said that last year, it helped nearly 1,100 people manage more than $10 million in benefits. Since CSS began offering the program in 1990, it has assisted more than 2,000 people with $81 million in benefits.

Desender also is in charge of CSS’ Transportation Program, which began in 1982 and is available only in Licking County for seniors and qualified military veterans, taking them to non-emergency medical appointments anywhere in Ohio. It does not have an income restriction. Desender said that, in 2019, its nine vehicles transported 394 people on 8,807 trips covering 186,435 miles. About one-fourth of those trips involved people with mobility issues.

“What I’m most proud of about this service is that, when we recently surveyed users about it, 34 percent responded to the survey – a remarkable number – with 100 percent say-
Stay the Course program helps Columbus State students finish degrees

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

Community colleges provide an affordable way for many students to obtain a post-high school education. But many people who want to attend Columbus State Community College and similar institutions face barriers that keep them from fulfilling their dreams of earning a college degree.

It is well-documented that earning a college degree significantly improves a person’s earning potential. However, according to the Wilson Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunities (LEO) at the University of Notre Dame, “Economically disadvantaged students are three times less likely (than the overall student population) to complete college because they have more barriers to college success.”

Money is a factor in this, but is only part of the problem. According to LEO, “Existing research points to four broad explanations for the low rate of persistence and completion among community college students: cost of college attendance; academic under-preparation; personal non-academic obstacles; and social institutional obstacles.”

Most current programs aimed at helping community college students complete their degree programs focus on the first two factors and neglect the last two, which are equally large barriers to success. Barriers are heightened for low-income students, many of whom are first-generation college students. Even if students have family support, families might not have the firsthand experience to help them with college obstacles. Students might not know about skills such as goal setting, financial management or self-advocacy. They also might not know that they qualify for assistance programs and might need help finding affordable child care, accessing a food pantry or creating a budget.

There is a clear need for personalized, supportive services for these students that goes beyond what traditional college academic counselors offer.

As part of its mission of strengthening families, particularly the working poor, Catholic Social Services (CSS) is partnering with Columbus State in Stay the Course, an evidence-based case management program that has been shown to improve college persistence and degree attainment for low-income community college students.

By replicating this proven program, CSS will give students facing unequal barriers to college success the supportive services they need to earn degrees, which lead to jobs that can support families and break the cycle of generational poverty.

A key to the program is the assistance provided by trained social workers, known as navigators, who act as mentors for the students.

“Navigators provide case management and emergency financial assistance to keep students engaged and help them persist to graduation,” said Lashone Moncrief, CSS program manager for Stay the Course. “They help students develop a set of academic goals each semester and assist students in creating a plan for accomplishing those goals.”

They also provide access to a wide range of other services. These can include, but are not limited to, finding affordable housing, arranging for day care, or responding to transportation needs with bus passes or money for a car repair.

“One of the students I’m working with is facing homelessness issues,” said navigator Brittany Branch. “She needed emergency financial assistance to be able to stabilize her situation and keep her in class. She was awarded $500, and that was a sufficient amount. That may not seem like a lot to many people, but it can mean the difference between a hopeful future and a continued struggle.”

Keena Watson, data administrator for Stay the Course, speaks with experience about the impact of a community college education. “I was raising three children while going to school and always was dealing with issues related to work-life balance,” she said. “It took me four years to complete a two-year Columbus State degree program, but I did it. I wish something like Stay the Course had been available to me.”

Catholic Social Services and its counterparts in the dioceses of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, and Kansas City, Missouri, and the Archdiocese of Baltimore each have been awarded $1.2 million through a national competitive grant by Catholic Charities USA to replicate Stay the Course programs for three years. The grant was made in March, and the program began at Columbus State in August, when its 2019 autumn semester began.

Navigators were recruited through the Columbus State website and the job search engine Indeed. “I noticed an announcement about the Stay the Course on Indeed late one night, and it really appealed to me because of my experiences,” Watson said. The program’s other CSS staff members at Columbus State are navigators Joseph Hansen IV and Lori Clayton.

Moncrief said about 50 Columbus State students are being helped by Stay the Course. She also said that nearly every one of the students who are part of the program said they looked into it for reasons that were not money issues.

“One of the program’s goals is that we want to show people the way to experience financial freedom,” Hansen said. “Several have said they have enough money to meet everyday needs but would like to create a rainy-day fund, and we show them how to do that.

“A key question for them is, ‘What do you think should be the first step toward being able to have money available for unexpected emergencies?’ This starts getting them to think proactively instead of reactively, and we add steps from there.”

Students enrolled in Stay the Course must be eligible for federal Pell Grants and be taking no more than 30 credit hours of classes per year, and must not have received a previous college degree. They have access to a maximum of $500 per semester, or $1,500 for the duration of the program, for non-academic expenses. The students must contact their navigator every week and meet with him or her in person at least every other week to discuss their progress toward a degree.

Moncrief said at the beginning of the program in 2013 as a partnership between Catholic Charities of Fort Worth, Texas, and Tarrant County College in Fort Worth. After three years, it was evaluated by LEO.

The most notable results of the evaluation showed that Stay the Course participants were 25.2 percent more likely to persist in college than students not receiving the type of assistance the program provides, and 31.5 percent of female students were more likely to earn an associate degree.

Moncrief, who has worked in social service programs for 20 years, including the past nine at Columbus State, said, “There’s room for many more students to be involved with Stay the Course, since the grant provides for a maximum of 240 participants. The program is being promoted through marketing, email blasts and tables set up at activity fairs and on the college campus” near downtown.

“Stay the Course is an opportunity to show the resiliency and tenacity of our students as they push forward to greater goals while continuing with their everyday lives,” she said. “All of us in the program are excited for the opportunity to be a part of their success and ultimately, their graduation.”

Other CSS programs for families

Stay the Course is only part of the many programs CSS sponsors for families. The agency approaches families holistically to help them overcome the interrelated challenges of poverty, to strengthen relationships and to empower families with the tools for self-sufficiency. They address physical needs of food, clothing and shelter while helping families improve mental health and overcome barriers to long-term stability and well-being.

CSS provides high-quality mental health care to people with low incomes who are school age and older because the agency believes low income should not be a barrier to accessing mental health care. It employs licensed social workers, and its counseling program is nationally accredited by the Council on Accreditation and certified by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

The agency’s maternal counseling program allows licensed social workers to provide clinical counseling to mothers in their homes. This is essential for helping low-income mothers, many of whom experience pregnancy- or parent-related areas of stress such as postpartum depression, relationship problems, isolation or a lack of support.

These mothers often have multiple barriers to care and lack the resources they need to raise their children in safe, nurturing environments. CSS is one of the few agencies that visits them in their homes to remove barriers to care, such as finding child care and transporting children. The agency is committed to giving low-income mothers the support they need to keep themselves and their children healthy.

A CSS case manager is available to families served by the agency to help them tackle barriers to economic self-sufficiency and overall family well-being. The case manager can help families acquire affordable housing, learn how to manage their finances, find child care and jobs, access benefits and community resources, and more.

Through the Our Lady of Guadalupe Center on Columbus’ west side, CSS works to address the root causes of poverty in the Latino community concentrated in the area around the center. An expansion in 2017 allowed the center to serve more people by meeting their emergency needs and...
Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year A)

So help us God, live nothing but the truth

Father Timothy Hayes

So help us God, live nothing but the truth

Are you “a person of your word”? When you speak, do others know that what you are saying corresponds to the truth? When you are known to be a person of your word, then everyone knows that your “Yes” means “Yes” and your “No” means “No.” There is no need for exaggeration or embellishment.

For the moment, I will get very personal. I am not quite sure where I picked this up—it must have been from my parents and their training. But I find it impossible to tell a lie. I just cannot do it. Honestly, I am physically incapable of telling even “white lies”—those “little fibs” that most folks can tell without blinking an eye—without turning color. I can sometimes make a joke or point you in the wrong direction if it is necessary, but beyond that, please don’t ask me to cover for you. I can’t do it. You will be discovered.

There is a burden that comes with this. When I realize someone has been misunderstood, I experience the need to intervene. I will try to help you understand each other’s position so you can communicate. I want the truth to be acknowledged.

A Thomistic principle tells us that “whatever is received, is received according to the mode of the receiver.” (“Quidquid recipitur, secundum modum recipientis recipitur.”) Everything is understood by the way the receiver picks it up.

I will do my best to understand very clearly what you have to say and help you get through to the other party. I listen and try to understand. Then I pay attention to the ways that “get the message through to the other” and put them to use. In some small way, I hope I contribute to the effort to establish unity and peace in the world. It can be very frustrating when folks just do not, or will not, try to understand things from one another’s perspective.

Can you imagine what it must have been like for Jesus? He IS Truth Itself. In the face of our world of sin and weakness, how painful it must have been for Him to live among folks like us who just don’t get it. Yet Jesus does not show this frustration too often. Rather, He patiently teaches and waits for understanding. He gives example after example and points to the Truth that is beyond the frustrations.

Jesus teaches us the inner meaning of the Law of God. He reveals the greater righteousness that comes from love. He comes not to abolish the law, but rather to fill it with meaning and to make known to us the divine perspective.

The law is a road that points us in the right direction and promises to get us where we really want to go. We can obey God’s commandments, if we choose to. We are not the authors of our nature; we are not the Creator. To learn the design He has put into our very bodies, our minds and spirits is part of the journey to wisdom.

Wisdom is the fruit of experience or of intimacy with someone who understands. Wisdom that is given to us by folks who come before us is not an older generation imposing their ways on us; rather, it is their gift of experience, sharing with us what they learned along the way. Life is easier for those who are humble enough to admit that others can offer wisdom.

Wisdom teaches us how to live in relationship to God, to others and to the world. God offers His people wisdom through the Torah, the Law of Moses, and the Law of the Gospel. The Church continues to speak wisdom in God’s name. When we hear God and His Church with humility, we are given a wisdom that is greater than the world’s.

“Eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and it has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love Him.”

May we find blessing as we seek to follow the law of the Lord. May we live so that our lives reveal the truth of God’s word.
SENIOR, continued from Page 12

ing they were satisfied with it and 99 percent saying it made a big impact on their lives,” he said.

Catholic Social Services has been involved with the diocesan-sponsored Seton Square complexes for low-income seniors and people with mobility impairment issues since the first of the sites opened in 1977. There are now 14 Seton Squares in nine cities in 10 counties.

In 2017, the agency placed a service coordinator at each Seton Square location. Coordinators assist when seniors are confronted by new challenges such as medical or health issues, tax law changes or technological hurdles such as medical or health issues, tax law changes or technological hurdles beyond their skill level. This increases seniors’ quality of life and allows them to continue living in their homes with independence and confidence.

CSS’ oldest offering for seniors is the Senior Companion program, which began in 1976, and its newest is the Foster Grandparents program, which started in 2017. Both provide an opportunity for seniors to interact with others for their mutual benefit.

“The Senior Companion program is for residents of Franklin and Delaware counties and addresses two specific issues,” said program director Tony Parks. “One is the loneliness and isolation some seniors feel because they are homebound. The other is the community’s need to better use the talents of more active seniors who want to help others.” He said 106 Companions visited 496 people in 2019.

Senior Companions are people 55 and older with low incomes who can volunteer for at least 15 hours a week, have suitable transportation and can pass a physical examination and a background check. They receive a stipend and travel reimbursement to visit homebound seniors, with the visits taking whatever form is agreeable to those seniors and their visitors. This could mean staying home and talking, going out for a meal, shopping for groceries, seeing a movie, visiting a museum or other options.

“The program has filled a need for more than 40 years and now is entering a new stage, as we’re seeing a growing need for Companions in immigrant communities,” Howard said.

The Foster Grandparents program links seniors with at-risk young people in preschool through fifth grade. Its requirements are similar to those for a Senior Companion, and it also pays a stipend. Its director, Taneko Martin, said it has 72 participants working with 736 students at three Franklin County sites.

Foster Grandparents tutor children in need of support academically, socially and emotionally. The program’s goals are to nurture and install a sense of pride in every child being tutored, showing the children they are loved and helping them do better in school, and to give seniors an opportunity to supplement their incomes, combat isolation and have a purposeful way to contribute to the community.

“Each of CSS’ programs for seniors has the aim of making a profound difference in the lives of the people we touch,” Howard said.

“Whether it involves improving their finances, helping them get around, keeping them in their homes or enabling them to stay active in the community through involvement with others, it’s with the purpose of helping them remain independent, respecting their dignity and acknowledging their worth, regardless of faith or background.”

HISTORY, continued from Page 11

This past fall, CSS was awarded a $1.2 million Catholic Charities USA grant for the Stay the Course program, designed to help community college students overcome non-academic financial barriers and mental health barriers and stay in school. The program is being conducted in cooperation with Columbus State. And this year, the agency is celebrating its accomplishments and looking toward the future as it marks its 75th anniversary.

Lustig said those accomplishments were the result of consistent dedication by the 83 members of its staff to the people the agency serves.

Seven staff members have been with CSS for at least 20 years. They are: clinician Becky D’Alesio, 47 years; social worker Alfred Williams, 46 years; St. Francis Center program director Barbara McKenzie, 27 years; administrative assistant Donna Montavon, 25 years; Eastern Region director Dave Desender, 23 years; service coordinator Ruth Fortkamp, 21 years; and Our Lady of Guadalupe Center coordinator Alma Santos, 20 years.

“The best way of honoring our anniversary is to continue to run quality, impactful programs that can help seniors live independently and can help families realize a better tomorrow,” Lustig said. “You can see our commitment to that in Stay the Course and the continued growth of the Our Lady of Guadalupe Center.

“We also want and need to engage all people in a critical discussion of the truth of poverty in our midst because our ultimate vision at Catholic Social Services remains unchanged. That vision is a world in which all who are in need are able to meet their potential to live in dignity.

“If we want to build the kind of community we believe Jesus envisioned, it will take all of us – business, the public sector, the church, nonprofits and others – to come together with a vision of community and a way to move forward with justice and compassion.”

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Columbus Bishop Watterson High School senior Dominic Dean has signed to play lacrosse at Bellarmine University.

Photo courtesy Bishop Watterson High School

Watterson signee
**PRAY FOR OUR DEAD**

**CARR, William, 89, formerly of Columbus, Jan. 31**  
Epiphany Cathedral, Venice, Fla.

**CHANNEL, Eddie Jr., 54, Jan. 21**  
Church of the Atonement, Crooksville

**CIOTOLA, Angelo, 89, Feb. 3**  
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

**CIOTOLA, Marie, 90, Feb. 3**  
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, Columbus

**DATTILO, Anthony, 89, Feb. 1**  
St. Philip Church, Columbus

**DECKER, Tina M., 73, Feb. 7**  
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

**DIECCO, Julia L. (Anderson), 66, formerly of Columbus, Feb. 4**  
St. Bernadette Church, Monroeville, Pa.

**DOWNEY, Rosemary C. (Burns), 87, Feb. 5**  
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, Columbus

**FOLEY, Mary C., 65, formerly of Columbus, Feb. 2**  
Queen of Angels Church, Fort Wayne, Ind.

**HALL, Joann M. (Dorn), 91, Feb. 2**  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Grove City

**JESTER, Donald J., 80, Feb. 4**  
St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

**KERNs, R. Kevin, 67, Feb. 6**  
St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

**MARTINA, Juanita (Palma), 92, Feb. 6**  
Our Lady of Victory Church, Columbus

**MAUTER, Kenneth C., 86, Feb. 6**  
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

**MOORE, Sally K. (Brown), 72, Jan. 23**  
Church of the Atonement, Crooksville

**MULROY, Mary C. (Joos), 89, Feb. 6**  
St. Mary Church, Lancaster

**NASH, Robert, 92, Jan. 31**  
St. Rose Church, New Lexington

**ROMANELLI, Mariano, 80, Feb. 5**  
St. Paul Church, Westerville

**RONDINELLA, Evelyn (Bitzel), 93, Jan. 31**  
St. Joseph Church, Dover

**RUSH, Diane J. (Mott), 85, Feb. 2**  
St. Paul Church, Westerville

**SENS, Charles E., 94, Jan. 31**  
St. Mary Church, Marion

**SICKLE, Marianne J. “Gar” (Pope), 88, Feb. 6**  
St. Agatha Church, Columbus

**SMITH, Mary G., 95, Feb. 2**  
St. Elizabeth Church, Columbus

**WEST, Martha (Labaki), 90, Feb. 2**  
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Zanesville

**WILSON, Joseph M. “Mike,” 76, Feb. 4**  
St. Colman of Clonfyne Church, Washington Court House

**WORTHINGTON, John M., 70, Jan. 31**  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

**YEZZI, Ernest, 89, Feb. 4**  
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

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**Paula L. Wilt**

Funeral Mass for Paula L. Wilt, 80, who died Thursday, Feb. 6, will be celebrated Saturday, Feb. 15 at St. Patrick Brendan Church.

She was born on June 22, 1939 in Riverdale, Maryland to William and Anna (Barstow) Primrose.

She was a church organist for 65 years, starting in her teens at St. Patrick’s Church in Washington, D.C. She played at St. Brendan Church for 22 years, Sunbury St. John Neumann Church for 11 years, and other churches such as Columbus St. Anthony and Columbus St. Leo.

**COLS STATE, continued from Page 13**

offering holistic case management and wraparound services that will transform the capacity of families to become self-sufficient.

CSS’ Pathways to Hope program addresses homelessness and domestic violence in the Columbus area. It steps in to empower survivors of domestic violence with children by offering two years of case management. By supporting survivors and their children as they leave shelters, it helps them rebuild their lives in safe homes, with stable incomes and a network of healthy, supportive relationships.

The CSS St. Francis Center in Portsmouth serves Scioto County as a one-stop community center providing families hot meals, clothing and household items, food and emergency assistance, bringing hope and healing to the community.

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**Sister Melita Bearinger, OP**

Funeral Mass for Sister Melita Bearinger, OP, 90, who died Friday, Jan. 31, will be celebrated Friday, Feb. 21 in the Motherhouse of the Dominican Sisters of Peace, followed by burial at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was born Shirley Bearinger on Aug. 20, 1929 in Turtle Creek, Pennsylvania to Victor and Edna (Laird) Bearinger.

She received a bachelor of science degree in elementary education in 1957 from the former St. Mary of the Springs College (now Ohio Dominican University) and a master of arts degree in elementary education in 1962 from DePaul University.

She entered the congregation of the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs (now the Dominican Sisters of Peace) on July 9, 1949.

In the Diocese of Columbus, she was a teacher at Columbus St. James the Less (1950-57) and Somerset Holy Trinity (1957-58) schools and principal at Columbus St. Gabriel School (1971-78).

She also taught or was principal at schools in New York, Illinois, Pennsylvania and New Mexico and served with the Workshop Way, a human growth and development program at Xavier University in New Orleans, from 1987 to 2017.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Victor; and sister, Mary Louise Dietz. She is survived by several nieces and a nephew.
16-18, FRIDAY-SUNDAY
Bishop Ready Presents Almost, Maine
6-8 p.m. Friday, 2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Bishop Ready High School, 707 Salisbury Road, Columbus. School theater department presents Almost, Maine. Followed by program in parish hall with instructor Mary Koors.

19, WEDNESDAY
Eucharistic Adoration, Holy Hour at St. Pius X
7 p.m., St. Pius X Church, 1051 S. Waggoner Road, Reynoldsburg. Eucharistic Adoration, with Holy Hour and Reconciliation from noon to 1 p.m.

20, THURSDAY
Cenacle at St. Agnes
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.

26, PEBBLES
Catholic Singles On Fire for Christ
6 p.m., Chapel, Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road, New Albany. Monthly meeting of Catholic Singles On Fire for Christ, for anyone older than 35 who is single in the eyes of God, who want to bring hope to others and share the love of Christ.

27-28, FRIDAY-SATURDAY
Blessing of St. Gerard Majella at Holy Family
After 11 a.m. Mass, Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., Columbus. Blessing of St. Gerard Majella, patron of expectant mothers, for all women who are pregnant or wish to become pregnant.

Eucharistic Adoration at Resurrection Chapel
After 11 a.m. Mass, St. Joseph Church, 453 N. 20th St., Columbus. Mass celebrated by Bishop Robert Brennan, followed by program in parish hall with young people presenting a program on the history of the Black Catholic education.

Eucharistic Adoration with Holy Hour, St. Pius X
7:30 to 8:30 a.m. and from end of 8:30 Mass to 7:30 p.m.

29, SUNDAY
Catholic Men’s Conference
8 a.m., Kasich Building, State Fairgrounds, 717 E. 17th Ave., Columbus. Third meeting of talks on the Catechism of the Catholic Church continues. Topic: “What Is the Eucharist?”

Eucharistic Adoration and Holy Hour
5 p.m., St. Joseph Church, 453 N. 20th St., Columbus. Mass celebrated by Bishop Robert Brennan, followed by program in parish hall with young people presenting a program on the history of the Black Catholic education.

Eucharistic Adoration, Holy Hour at St. Pius X
7:30 to 8:30 a.m. and from end of 8:30 Mass to 7:30 p.m.

30, SUNDAY
Holy Hour at St. Simon and Jude
5 p.m., St. Simon and Jude Church, 3950 high Free Pike, West Jefferson. Holy Hour with confessions, followed by Mass at 6.

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.

Eucharistic Adoration, Holy Hour at St. Pius X
7:30 to 8:30 a.m. and from end of 8:30 Mass to 7:30 p.m.

HAPPENINGS
Coshocton Sacred Heart School students played *Wheel of Fortune* with Catholic-themed clues as part of Catholic Schools Week, complete with their own Pat Sajak and Vanna White. 

Photo courtesy Sacred Heart School

**Spinning the ‘wheel’ in Coshocton**

Joan Miller’s third-grade class joined the rest of the students at Lancaster St. Bernadette School for a dance that concluded Catholic Schools Week activities. Other events during the week included a prayer service, a school Mass, a Mass for all schools in the Fairfield-Hocking-Pickaway Deanery with Bishop Robert Brennan, a liturgical scavenger hunt and a “step up to the next grade” day. Students also wrote letters and cards to the homebound, graduates of the school who are in the military, hospital patients and school volunteers.

Photo courtesy St. Bernadette School

**St. Bernadette School dance**

Columbus Our Lady of Bethlehem School and Childcare students went to the polls as part of Celebrate Your Nation Day. Students from toddlers through kindergarten learned about voting, its importance in allowing everyone to voice his or her opinion, and respecting the majority decision. Students voted on whether they wanted to wear wacky clothes or pajamas to school, with the majority favoring a pajama day. 

Photo courtesy Our Lady of Bethlehem School and Childcare

**Our Lady of Bethlehem students vote on what to wear**

Columbus St. Anthony School teachers pretended to be twins — or in one case, triplets — for a day by dressing alike. The “triplets” are (from left) Kathy McBride, Amy Kish and Kelly Buzenski. “Twins” are (from left) Tim Schnurr, Mark Stinnett, principal Chris Iaconis, Monica Landis, Claire Hoffman, Brandon Garrick, Gina Greer and Amy Moonis.

Photo courtesy St. Anthony School

**‘Twins’ and ‘triplets’ at St. Anthony**

Father Michael Hartge and Deacon Ed Christ blessed the throats of students, faculty and staff at New Lexington St. Rose School. Pictured are kindergarten students Gia Watkins (receiving the blessing from Father Hartge), Gabby Stroup and Foster Heavener.

Photo courtesy St. Rose School

**St. Rose throat blessing**

Students at Columbus St. Agatha School enjoyed an all-art day that included magicians, balloon art and a hedgehog. Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students are shown exercising their creativity.

Photo courtesy St. Agatha School

**St. Agatha art day**

We're hiring! Visit: http://www.cristoreycolumbus.org/about/careers to submit your application.
Columbus Trinity Elementary School seventh-grade students completed a unit on mythology by dressing like residents of ancient Greece and enjoying a Greek luncheon.

Students at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School organized a World Cultures Week to celebrate the diverse cultures represented among the student body. The week ended with an assembly in which students participated in performances of traditional African dance, songs, poetry, Irish dancing and bagpipe music and put on an ethnic fashion show.

Students and staff from Worthington St. Michael School attended the March for Life (above) on Jan. 24 in Washington to put the virtue of patriotism into action by defending the lives of the unborn. At an open house on Jan. 31 during Catholic Schools Week, students (below) led tours of the school for families.

Students at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School organized a World Cultures Week to celebrate the diverse cultures represented among the student body. The week ended with an assembly in which students participated in performances of traditional African dance, songs, poetry, Irish dancing and bagpipe music and put on an ethnic fashion show.

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St. Charles presents ‘26 Pebbles’

The Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School drama department’s winter production, 26 Pebbles by Eric Ulloa, gives voice to the residents of Newtown, Connecticut, who first witnessed unimaginable heartbreak, then suffered through emotional pain and unanswered questions before learning how to move forward.

The play will be presented at 8 p.m. Thursday to Saturday, Feb. 20 to 22 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 23 in the campus theater, 2010 E. Broad St. Adult tickets are $10 and student tickets are $5. Reservations may be placed by calling the school at (614) 252-6714 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Cast members include Drew Curtin, Melanie Engram, Jake Jonesco, Alex Smith, Anna Turek, Jake Woodruff, Noah Kuhr, Donald Search, Fiona Sullivan, Jack Margiotta, Henry Brunton, Rylee West, Annie O’Connor, Michael Liss, Matt Murin and Jane Carney; second row, Drew Curtin, Melanie Engram, Jake Jonesco, Alex Smith, Anna Turek, Jake Woodruff and Noah Kuhr. Photo courtesy St. Charles Preparatory School.

On Dec. 14, 2012, an act of unbelievable madness took the lives of 20 innocent children and six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. These 26 deaths, described by one local resident as “pebbles thrown into a pond,” created ripples that captured the attention of the entire nation. The play tells the story of the town’s residents through the words they used in a series of interviews.

Catholic Cemeteries

Spring Clean-up!

Cemetery field workers will be removing winter-time and artificial decorations from graves and mausoleums at all Catholic cemeteries beginning March 2, 2020.

We request that families wishing to retain any personal keepsakes, to please remove them by March 2.

Due to the number of decorations involved, the cemetery staff can not be responsible for collecting or storing personal items. Thank you for your cooperation.

St. Joseph 614-491-2751
Resurrection 614-888-1805

Mt. Calvary 614-491-2751
Holy Cross 740-927-4442

75th Anniversary Gala

Join us!
Celebrate our 75-year legacy of transforming lives.

Saturday, March 7, 2020
6:00 PM-10:00 PM
St. Charles Preparatory
Walter Commons

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

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

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

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

We hope you will join us.

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

Register online at colsscs.org or call Julie Naporano at 614-857-1236.