

# The Catholic TIMES

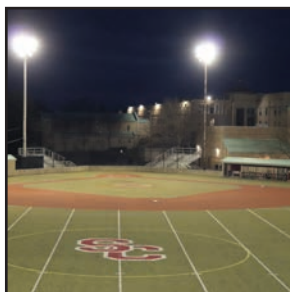
The Diocese of Columbus' News Source

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## PARISHIONERS, PANTRIES HURT BY VIRUS RECEIVE HELP FROM FOUNDATION FUND

By Tim Puet  
*Catholic Times Reporter*

The unexpected and unprecedented impact of the coronavirus pandemic is being felt by every parish in the Diocese of Columbus and by its food pantries.

The Catholic Foundation responded quickly to that need, announcing on March 19 the creation of an emergency response fund to provide immediate and flexible assistance to diocesan families through their parishes and to six pantries affiliated with the diocese.

Loren Brown, the foundation's president and chief executive officer, said the fund began with \$250,000 from its unrestricted endowments and has increased to \$650,000.

The first grant, totaling \$5,000, went to Columbus Christ the King Church. Father David Schalk, the parish's pastor, said he distributed \$500 of that amount to a family. "I heard about their hardship in a simple conversation with them," he said. "The head of the family works in construction, but his hours were reduced because of COVID-19.

"His wife is a housekeeper at a hotel, but has no rooms to clean. That means the family's income has practically disappeared. Our \$500 contribution supplemented their April rent payment. It was a blessing for us to be able to give a little bit of help and hope."

The parish's St. Vincent de Paul Society made an additional \$2,500 available to the parish, so it still has



**Volunteers at the St. Francis Center food pantry in Portsmouth, which became the city's only remaining pantry when other pantries closed because of the coronavirus. The pantry has received \$16,000 from The Catholic Foundation's newly created emergency response fund.**  
*Photo courtesy St. Francis Center*

\$7,000 to give to families in need because of the coronavirus. Father Schalk said no one else has asked for assistance, but he anticipates that will change as more families find themselves lacking funds.

A total of 17 parishes and six food pantries received emergency grants totaling \$188,250 from the foundation. Dan Kurth of the foundation said a second round of grants should be awarded soon.

The largest grant, totaling \$16,000, went to the St. Francis Center in Portsmouth, which became the only remaining pantry in the Ohio River city of 20,000 people when the virus

closed its other pantries.

"The money was a lifesaver for us," said center director Barbara McKenzie. "With all the other pantries closed, we have been handing out 600 food boxes a week. We usually distribute around 400 a month. Our principal source of funds was our thrift store, Clare's Closet, but it also was closed by the pandemic. Without the foundation's help, we may have closed, too. We had a fundraiser on April 15 which raised \$25,000 in an hour, so we have more available, but we couldn't have made

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### Re-consecration of U.S., Canada to Mary, Mother of the Church

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, led by Los Angeles Archbishop Jose Gomez, and the bishops in neighboring Canada will re-consecrate the North American nations on Friday, May 1 to Mary, Mother of the Church, asking for her protection during the coronavirus pandemic. The re-consecration will take place at 3 p.m. EDT and will be broadcast locally by St. Gabriel Radio. Bishop Robert Brennan will celebrate a 12:05 p.m. Mass at St. Joseph Cathedral that will be live-streamed at columbuscatholic.org. Visit the diocesan website for more information.

# Bishops extend suspension of Masses through May 29

By Doug Bean and Tim Puet  
*The Catholic Times*

The Catholic bishops of Ohio announced Tuesday that they are extending the temporary suspension of Masses in the state through May 29 “with the hope of publicly celebrating together the Solemnity of Pentecost on the weekend of May 30-31.”

The bishops made the announcement after Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine unveiled Monday the details of the state’s partial reopening on Friday, May 1, five weeks issuing a “stay-at-home” order.

Bishop Robert Brennan said he expects to begin a gradual return by making the Sacrament of Reconciliation available through appointments in the Diocese of Columbus and then slowly and deliberately opening at least some churches for prayer in the coming weeks while observing proper social distancing, safety measures and proper hygiene for all people.

On March 12, five of Ohio’s six Catholic dioceses and the apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Cleveland, which currently is without a bishop, dispensed all Catholics who live in Ohio or are currently in the state from the obligation of attending Saturday Vigil or Sunday Masses through the end of March. That dispensation remains in place.

The bishops followed that decision four days later by announcing that all publicly celebrated Masses and other parish activities in the state would be suspended through Easter Sunday, April 12. They followed that on April 2 by extending the suspension through and including Sunday, May 3.

The state’s original order requiring Ohioans to stay at home, except for essential reasons such as

shopping or medical appointments, went into effect on March 23. It later was extended to April 6 and then to May 1.

The following is the statement issued by the bishops of Ohio:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Yesterday, 27 April 2020, Governor Mike DeWine presented a strategy to begin a multi-phased plan, even while the executive “Stay at Home Order” remains in place until 12 May 2020. His plan begins a process for Ohioans gradually to return to work and daily activity, and provides hope and evidence that our cooperation with the governor’s orders has significantly curbed the spread of the virus. We thank you for and admire the patience, cooperation and understanding you have already shown during this COVID-19 pandemic. We realize the frustration, sadness and loss the faithful felt not to be able to gather personally to celebrate the Paschal Mysteries during the Sacred Triduum and each Sunday. During this time of sacrifice and longing, we have joined our prayers and hearts to yours, trusting that God will see us through this pandemic and reunite us at the Eucharistic Feast. Out of deep concern for the common good as well as the physical and spiritual well-being of all the people of Ohio, the Catholic Bishops of Ohio have agreed once again to cooperate with the governor, and to support and abide by the multi-phased approach to returning to work and eventual public gathering in large groups.

To that end, the Catholic Bishops of Ohio extend the temporary suspension of all publicly celebrated Masses/liturgies ending on May 29th, with the hope of publicly celebrating together the Solemnity of Pentecost on the weekend of May

30/31. Each of the bishops of Ohio, once again, dispense the Catholic faithful who reside in their respective dioceses and all other Catholics currently in their territories from the obligation of attending Sunday Mass during this time. We ask for the cooperation and adherence of all the faithful to the governor’s directives during this period.

We will be working diligently with our pastoral teams to consider reasonable, gradual and responsible initiatives for welcoming back the faithful in time to Sunday Mass, initiatives which will renew our love for the Holy Eucharist and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and which will help us to restore Catholic life and invite others to share that life after the pandemic. We encourage individual dioceses and their respective pastors and parishioners to begin to work to establish plans which respect social distancing and other requirements for the safety of our people.

This decision has not been taken lightly and, as your bishops, together with you, we recognize the sacrifice we are called to make being physically distanced from the Holy Eucharist and from one another. We remain grateful for your understanding and prayerful support. As your bishops we continue to encourage you to keep holy the Lord’s Day by participating in Sunday Mass by way of radio broadcast or televised or livestreamed options and making a spiritual communion. Keeping in mind of the gift of plenary indulgences offered to us by the Church, we encourage all the faithful to turn to the Church’s treasury of prayer, praying as a family or individually the Liturgy of the Hours, rosary, Divine Mercy chaplet, and Stations of the Cross, etc.

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Editor’s reflections by Doug Bean

## May offers special days for prayer in stressful times

We enter into May with anxiety and anticipation. As the global pandemic continues, no one knows how the next few months will play out. The so-called medical experts seemingly offer different takes on the coronavirus every day. But the first weekend of the month gives us opportunities to hope and pray for the world.

On Friday, May 1, the Church traditionally celebrates the feast of St. Joseph the Worker. And, boy, if ever there was a time to pray to the foster father of Jesus, it is now. Pray for everyone involved in the spiritual and physical care of patients, for those who continue to labor in various capacities, and for men, women and families impacted by furloughs or layoffs and those who have had to shutter small businesses. The Catholic Foundation’s emergency grant program has proved to be a blessing to many families during the crisis. Read more about the fund in this edition of *The Catholic Times* and ways to contribute.

Also on May 1, the United States Conference of



## Bishop condemns anti-Semitism

Bishop Robert Brennan issued a statement this week in response to an anti-Semitic sign that was displayed on April 18 outside the Ohio Statehouse during a protest of Gov. Mike DeWine’s stay-at-home orders during the coronavirus outbreak.

“When I was back in New York around Christmas time, there seemed to be a rise in acts of anti-Semitism,” said Bishop Brennan, who served as auxiliary bishop in Rockville Centre, New York, before being installed as the bishop in the Diocese of Columbus in March 2019. “Seeing such an act here in Ohio, in fact right across the street, is appalling and needs to be condemned.

“Anti-Semitism and racism are always wrong in civil society. For us as Christians, it runs counter to the Scriptures and to our deepest values which teach us from the very first pages that we are all created in the image and likeness of God.

“I unite with other faith leaders here in central Ohio and I am confident that I speak with the solidarity of our Catholic family in condemning every act of anti-Semitism or racism and praying for respect for the dignity of every human person.”

At an April 22 news conference, Gov. DeWine also condemned the sign, which included a rat with the Star of David and the words “The Real Plague,” calling it “disgusting.”

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# Catholic TIMES

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# Principals sad for 2020 grads as schools to stay closed

By Tim Puet  
Catholic Times Reporter

Principals at several Columbus diocesan schools said they expected Gov. Mike DeWine's announcement on April 20 that elementary and secondary schools in Ohio will remain closed for the rest of the academic year, but the decision still was difficult to accept.

DeWine on March 12 ordered the state's schools to be closed five days later because of the effects of the coronavirus. He said that no decision has been made on reopening schools in the fall and that school districts should prepare for the possibility that some students and parents might prefer to continue with online education, while others would return to reopened buildings.

Diocesan school Superintendent Adam Dufault said the diocese's schools would finish the academic year with online classes. "While all administrators and teachers would love nothing more than to return to our schools for the end of the year, extending remote learning will ensure that everyone stays safe and stays healthy as this pandemic continues," he said.

"Gov. DeWine's announcement was no surprise, but it does make the situation more real," said Columbus Bishop Hartley High School principal Mike Winters.

"A couple of things went through my head after the announcement. First, what we've gone through since the first closing was announced has been a study in guts and perseverance by our faculty and families. We have a great community, and it has proven itself in this situation.

"In addition, the leadership in the diocese has been preparing us for this situation from the start. I think I can speak for all the principals in saying we're proud of what Bishop (Robert) Brennan, Adam and all his colleagues in the schools office have done in keeping us informed and helping us work together.

"Of course, the biggest disappointment in a high school is that the seniors don't have a chance for a traditional graduation ceremony. We just have to make sure we pray for them and honor them in some way, and we're working on that.

"None of us has any idle time yet to think of next year, but that's going to be an interesting time because of the likelihood of blending classroom and online learning. One possibility is that we may end up scheduling students in

morning and afternoon blocks to limit the number of people in the school at one time. We'll just have to see."

"I anticipated the governor's announcement, but when it came, my heart just broke," said Lori Smith of Columbus St. Cecilia School. "I took the rest of the day to accept and process the situation before starting to work on how we would handle the rest of the school year.

"Since the middle of March, our teachers have done a good job sharing academics, keeping students learning and continuing to promote our faith. Although we moved online, it's important that we continue to put the Catholic faith first and foremost.

"For those students missing hallmark occasions like graduation, we're developing concrete plans to celebrate for them so they know they are special and their presence at St. Cecilia will be remembered.

"The possibility of blended styles of learning for next year threw me for a loop. My vote would be to go back to full-blown classroom education, but we'll do all we can to accommodate all types of learning and ensure that everyone's needs will be met one way or another."

Dan Garrick of Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School said he was hoping that "some kind of miracle" might happen that would enable the school year to end in the traditional way, "but I anticipated the closing because the reality is, there aren't enough tests available to determine the true effects of the virus."

"Bringing students back for a successful closure for this year will require some strategic thinking, but next year may be even more of a challenge. We will honor the traditional things that go into the end of a school year with a virtual baccalaureate ceremony and graduation sometime in July so the seniors can have that type of experience before going to college.

"As Catholics, we are people of hope. We're now in the Easter season and hoping good things will happen to curb the spread of the virus. That's all we can do is hope. We began dealing with this at the beginning of Lent. Now it's Easter, and we hold on to the hope that allows us to get through each day."

"One of the nice things about what's happened since the schools were closed is that the teachers have grown a lot technologically," said Will Gruber of Hilliard St. Brendan School. "I'm hoping that most of our learning next year will take place in person in the classroom, but I'm also looking at



**Schools shine lights for seniors**

**The field lights of Alumni Stadium at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School shone brightly on Monday, April 20 from 8:20 to 8:40:20 p.m. — 20 minutes and 20 seconds — in honor of the seniors of the school's Class of 2020. Columbus Bishop Hartley High School, Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School and several other central Ohio high schools turned on the lights for the same period on the same day at their football fields. Lights also were on at the fields behind Columbus Bishop Watterson High School, which are used by its athletic teams, though football games are played elsewhere. The other member of the Central Catholic League, Columbus Bishop Ready High School, does not have a football field. At DeSales, the event included reading of the names of class members over the public address system, a prayer and the playing of the alma mater. DeSales athletic director Tom Neubert said he learned of the program through social media. The event coincidentally came on the same day Gov. Mike DeWine announced that all Ohio schools would be closed for the rest of the year because of the coronavirus pandemic. DeSales will continue the tribute each Monday through the end of May. Other CCL athletic directors said they were unaware of similar plans at their schools.**

*Photo courtesy St. Francis DeSales High School*

things from a health perspective.

"I anticipate that next year, the school will have temperature checks, more handwashing stations, more spreading apart of students and other things designed to keep the virus at bay.

"The news about the closings was inevitable, and we are prepared to finish the year strong. Students and parents have adapted to digital learning. They're still doing meaningful learning, and I feel that is important. The most disheartening thing is not being able to be with the kids and the teachers. There's a great loss of community. The eighth-graders we are graduating expect and deserve some recognition, and we've started the conversation on how to honor them in an appropriate way.

"It's heartbreaking for the seniors," said Jen Calvo of New Philadelphia Tuscarawas Central Catholic High School. "It's important we honor them in all the ways we are allowed to and give them as much of a safe senior experience as we can.

"Our teachers have been doing amazing work, and our students are doing really, really well adjusting to these unique times and new circum-

stances. As we learn more and get more guidance from the diocese and the state, we're going to do the best we can to continue to build a strong Catholic foundation for our Catholic students and their practice of the faith. Together, we can do it, and the Lord will provide."

Josh Caton of Newark Blessed Sacrament School said, "I'm disappointed in not being able to get back together with the students, but all of us recognize that the people making the decision to keep the schools closed did it to keep everybody safe.

"Patience is the important thing right now. I think we have been patient with each other. Our families have been patient with the staff as they continue to figure out how to make the adjustment to learning from home, and we've been patient with the families, each of which is dealing with a unique learning environment.

"We're going to continue to do the best we can through the end of this year and see what next year brings. We've proven we can adjust, so we're ready for whatever situation awaits us in the fall."

# Schools in the diocese providing distance learning through end of year

Back in September, when all 1,400 teachers and administrators in the Diocese of Columbus gathered at the Ohio State Fairgrounds for a day of prayer and learning, no one in the room had any idea that our school year would be ending with distance learning.

While disappointing in some ways, Gov. Mike DeWine's extension of the closure of our buildings is the right thing to do to support public health for all of the people of Ohio in the midst of the COVID-19 outbreak. The 53 Catholic schools within the Diocese of Columbus share that same concern and have cancelled classes, extracurricular activities, athletic practices and games, fundraising events, and all other community activities for the remainder of this school year.

During the past few weeks, the teachers of our Catholic schools have done an amazing job making the transition to distance learning. This was no easy task – schools had only a few days' notice to alter their planning and class structure. But the outstanding professionals of our diocese rose to the challenge and Catholic education is continuing throughout our diocese uninterrupted.

Erica Gowitzka, the president of the Central Ohio Association of Catholic Educators and a teacher

## HAVE FAITH IN EDUCATION

Adam Dufault

*Adam J. Dufault is the diocesan Episcopal Moderator for Education and Superintendent of Catholic Schools.*



at St. Michael School, said, "The teachers' number one priority has been the students. We all want to make sure they feel safe, cared for, and that we are here to help them. The dedication the teachers have put forth since we moved to digital learning had been amazing. We are working day and night to make sure we are doing the best job possible and it shows. But we miss being in the classroom and with our students."

The staff of the Office of Catholic Schools (OCS) has been working hard to support schools during this time. These efforts have included daily Zoom meetings with school administrators, daily guid-

ance information, and a revamped website with tremendous resources for parents, teachers and administrators. We have been hosting Zoom meetings with teachers of similar grades and subjects from across the diocese in conversation to share ideas and resources. We are also working closely with the Ohio Department of Education and with the other Catholic dioceses in the state.

Additionally, a task force has been created, which is composed of medical professionals, principals, teachers, and OCS staff, to begin making plans for the eventual reopening of our schools. These are intense discussions focused on ensuring academic excellence as well as the health and safety of students, staff, and families. We all look forward to reuniting our school communities in person.

These have certainly been difficult days for all of us. I am grateful to all of the parents, students, teachers and administrators who are showing their love of Catholic education through all of this. I would ask that we continue to keep each other in our prayers, so that we may be sustained with God's blessing. Especially in this Easter season, we remember that we are called toward hope, and we know that these tough times will end.

## Teaching at home for the first time? Embrace the opportunity

It is an odd time in American history when all of our children are being educated at home. Families have mixed emotions.

For many, schedules have been shuffled, anxiety and panic are escalating and the joy of learning for the pursuit of knowledge and formation of character has gone out the window amid the desire to just get it done. As a teacher and homeschool mom, I have watched these past few weeks as social media has been flooded with complaints and comparison. With a gentle heart, I'd like to offer an alternative viewpoint and some strategies for helping navigate this challenge.

First, recognize the times we are in. Our children, no matter the age, sense the sudden change. Fear of the unknown can be a heavier burden than reality, even if the reality is grave. Sitting down as a family and talking about why school has changed and why it is important to take health precautions can alleviate some worry and provide a sense of family unity toward a common goal. Even the youngest child can rise and join the family in the new normal.

Set expectations for school. Treating this moment as an opportunity rather than an inconvenience can build character within us and our children. For instance, if you have a teenager who has been distracted in school, talking with him or her, building the child's skills and helping to set goals for learning can strengthen your relationship and allow the teen to demonstrate accountability and build trust. In our home, it is often said that trust is built over time. Schooling at home can help with that.

Appreciate this time with your younger children. So much goes on in the mind of a young child – the

## ALL THAT WE HAVE

MaryBeth Eberhard

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



desire to create and wonder, to explore and discuss. While curriculum can guide this, time spent learning together is just as important as the knowledge gained. Keeping a journal, taking pictures of your learning, reading together, sharing what has been learned at the family table can allow younger ones to feel involved.

Use care with your words. The dignity of a human, no matter the age, grows stronger with affirmation. Choose words that present homeschooling as an opportunity rather than a burden. Do not demean yourself or your children with jokes that belittle your ability or theirs. See this time at home as a gift to strengthen relationships within the family. Our lives run at such a hectic pace that the opportunity of time can cause panic: What do we do? Rest, laugh, go outside, read, play games, talk, listen, share time and space with each other and smile. It is amazing what a smile can do.

Trust yourself. It is being said that we are all in this situation together, and indeed we are, but no two situations are the same. As a homeschooling family, our schedule has been drastically changed as outside classes, sports, music lessons, activities

and work schedules have all been altered. There is much to adjust to, yet seeing the opportunities can keep us positive. This type of schooling, whether for a veteran homeschool family or one who is new to it, is not an optimal version. This is a historic time where virtue can rise and families grow stronger. Mother Teresa is quoted as saying, "If you want to change the world, go home and love your family." What an opportunity! What fresh beginnings we are gifted with!

On a side note, so many resources are available to help support education at home. From illustrators offering daily art classes to online lessons on geometry and physics, the offerings can be overwhelming. While these resources are helpful, they are not necessary. It is easy to be overwhelmed and compare how we are "doing school" to other families' efforts. It has been said that "comparison is the thief of joy," and that is so true now. One does not look at one's neighbor and say, "That is how we should be setting our table." Or, "That is how we should dress or plant our garden or raise our children." Rather, through prayerful discernment, we structure our family in a fashion that supports our values. Trusting your ability to facilitate learning in the home will decrease the stress level.

Love of learning comes by having an environment where we are being supported and challenged, and where a love of knowledge is being modeled. So, pick up a book, take up a new challenge from that bucket list and show that learning is a lifelong skill. You might be surprised by the comradery that develops with your students while you learn at home.

## BISHOPS, continued from Page 2

Together we continue to pray for all who are suffering from COVID-19, for all health care workers and first responders, for all the deceased

and their families, and for an easing of the anxiety and tension caused by this pandemic. Relying on the Motherly care of Our Lady, Health of the Sick,

we unite our sufferings to those of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and we trust in the glorious hope of His Resurrection.

## Consider going on a Mystagogia 2020/COVID-19 retreat

In the past, once we have celebrated the Sacred Triduum, our lives would return to their normal paces. Well, that ship sailed for this year as we all are trying to adjust to our new normal (hopefully temporary) paces.

Welcome to Mystagogia 2020! Traditionally, this period is an opportunity to deepen our faith – a time for “shaking up” and reaffirming our lives in the Holy Spirit. It is the time to deeply contemplate the Church’s life and sacraments. While we all can benefit from a renewal of our spirituality, this year has some real challenges. The silver lining is that those who are self-quarantined or working from home should have some extra time to self-reflect.

Let’s take some time for a Mystagogia/COVID-19 retreat!

The Mystagogia period requires us as believers to not only reflect on the Paschal Mystery, but to actively incorporate this mystery into our daily lives. Sharing of our common faith is most effective when we worship and visibly share our theological beliefs with everyone around us.

One of my favorite scriptures is at the end of John’s Gospel. Jesus asks Simon Peter three times, “Do you love me?” Each time, Peter answers, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus responds with, “Feed my

### FAITH IN ACTION

Erin Cordle

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



lambs,” “Tend my sheep,” and “Feed my sheep.” In essence, Jesus challenges Peter to put his love for Jesus into actions. Catholic social teaching builds on that by calling us to put the poor and vulnerable first – not only for their sake but for ours, too.

The Catholic Relief Services’ annual Lenten program, CRS Rice Bowl, supports feeding programs here and around the world. As I have mentioned before, the diocese retains 25 percent of those donations to supplement food pantries in our diocese. The following have received grants: St. Mary Magdalene School, Bishop Griffin Resource Center, Shepherd’s Corner, St. Francis Catholic Outreach Center, Neighborhood Services, Our Lady of Guadalupe Center, St. Thomas Aquinas Warming Shelter, Neighborhood Services, Inc., St. Philip’s Food Pantry, Coshocton Sacred Heart School, and the St. Vincent de Paul Confer-

ence. To date, I have been able to distribute more than \$40,000 (ranging from \$200 to \$6,000) with more requests arriving weekly.

Given the realities of COVID-19, this year’s CRS Rice Bowl donations are more critical than ever. As part of your Mystagogia/COVID-19 retreat, put your faith in action and consider sending your Lenten offering to your parish, the diocese (checks payable to Diocese of Columbus with CRS Rice Bowl in the memo line and sent to the Finance Office, 197 E. Gay St, Columbus, OH 43215), or directly to CRS through an online gift (<https://www.crsricebowl.org/>), by phone (1-877-435-7277), or mail (Catholic Relief Services/CRS Rice Bowl, P.O. Box 17090, Baltimore, Maryland 21297-0303). No matter how you choose to give, 25 percent of your donations will remain in our diocese to support hunger alleviation efforts.

Mystagogia is the time to share our faith in our words and deeds. It’s a time that we uniquely identify with the Church’s missionary activities. The Mass ends with, “Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.” The period after Easter provides an exceptional opportunity to deepen our understanding of the “Mysteries” that allow us to confidently proclaim our convictions of faith and share our resurrected joy. The Lord is Risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## The ‘historic’ Amazonian Synod revisited

Given that he was one of the principal planners and prominent leaders of last October’s special Synod on Amazonia, Cardinal Claudio Hummes, OFM, is understandably enthusiastic about the results of that exercise. Indeed, the enthusiasm of the emeritus archbishop of São Paulo and prefect emeritus of the Vatican’s Congregation for the Clergy seems virtually boundless: Cardinal Hummes recently claimed that “The Synod for the Amazon was historic; no previous synod was as synodal and reform oriented as this one.” High praise indeed.

But is such fulsome applause really warranted? How does the cardinal’s claim measure up against the historical record? Not very well, I fear. Which suggests the possibility that Cardinal Hummes is reimagining the recent Catholic past in order to make certain points about the Catholic present and the Catholic future.

The 1974 Synod on evangelization was a donnybrook, reflecting the turbulence in the Church a decade after the Second Vatican Council. The synod fathers couldn’t agree on a final report, so they handed the synod’s materials to Pope Paul VI with the request that he do something. Pope Paul responded with the great apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Nuntiandi* (Announcing the Gospel). It was Paul VI’s last pastoral testament to the Church and the first summons to what John Paul II would call the “New Evangelization:” the grand strategy that animates the living parts of the world Church today.

Was the Amazonian Synod more “historic” than that?

The 1990 Synod debated priestly formation and seminary reform. The propositions adopted by the synod fathers helped shape John Paul II’s 1992 apostolic exhortation, *Pastores Dabo Vobis* (I Shall Give you Shepherds). Where it was taken seriously (as in the United States), that exhortation helped apply the

### THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

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brakes to the silly season in seminaries and laid the foundation for the reformed seminaries of today.

Was the Amazonian Synod more “reform oriented” than that?

The 1994 Synod explored the renewal of consecrated religious life in light of Vatican II’s teaching on the subject. Its reflections helped John Paul II write the 1996 apostolic exhortation, *Vita Consecrata* (The Consecrated Life). Throughout the world Church today, religious communities of men and women that embraced *Vita Consecrata* are vibrant and making real contributions to the New Evangelization; those that ignored *Vita Consecrata* are moribund or dying.

Was the Amazonian Synod more “historic” than that?

And then there was the special Synod of 1985, which met on the 20th anniversary of Vatican II’s fourth and final session to explore what had gone right, and what had gone not-so right, in implementing the Council. Its final report’s description of the Church as a communion of disciples in mission provided the thread that wove the 16 documents of Vatican II into a coherent, compelling tapestry of Catholic faith. Like *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, the special Synod of 1985 was a crucial moment in the journey from Vatican II – the council Pope John XXIII called to give the Church

new missionary energy – to the New Evangelization.

Was the Amazonian Synod more “historic” and “reform oriented” than that?

As for the Amazonian Synod itself, others who were in Rome last October may remember the proceedings somewhat differently than Cardinal Hummes evidently does.

Some will remember that the roster of synod participants reflected a narrow bandwidth of Catholic opinion. Some will remember the rather stifling atmosphere within the Synod Hall, which reinforced the impression created by the synod’s managers that (to vary Orwell) some viewpoints were more equal than other viewpoints. Some will remember the extraordinary things that were said in the synod assembly and in the synod’s press conferences – including the boast by a venerable missionary bishop that he hadn’t baptized an indigenous person in 35 years. Still others will remember that Rome in October 2019 was awash in German money and full of German-financed non-governmental organization that functioned more like political lobbies (or theatrical companies) than ecclesial communities.

Time will tell whether the special Synod for Amazonia made a significant contribution to the proclamation of Jesus Christ and the Gospel in a largely unevangelized region, or whether that synod was a stalking horse for a host of other agendas, ecclesiastical, ecological, and political. One thing only seems clear now: Querida Amazonia [Beloved Amazonia], Pope Francis’s apostolic exhortation completing the synod’s work, gravely disappointed those who imagined the Amazonian Synod as the decisive pivot to the Catholic revolution they had long sought.

So one must wonder, again, just what Cardinal Hummes had in mind by describing the Amazonian Synod as “historic.”

**FUND, continued from Page 1**

it without the foundation.”

Five other pantries – at the Bishop Griffin Resource Center, the Our Lady of Guadalupe Center, St. Stephen's Community House and St. Lawrence Haven in Columbus and the St. Francis Center in McArthur – received \$10,000 apiece from the foundation.

Parish grants of \$8,000 each went to Holy Spirit, St. Cecilia, St. Thomas, St. Philip, St. Matthias, St. Peter and Ss. Augustine & Gabriel churches in Columbus and Powell St. Joan of Arc, Millersburg St. Peter, Newark St. Francis de Sales, Marion St. Mary and Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help churches. New Lexington St. Rose Church received \$7,500; Columbus St. James the Less Church, \$7,000; Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona Church, \$3,750; and Columbus Holy Name Church, \$3,000.

Patty Rinehart at the Bishop Griffin Center said its pantry usually serves about 500 families a month, but that number went up to 750 in March and was at 580 for the first half of April. She said the extra help benefits families such as a mother, a father and their second-grade son who walked more than two miles to the site for food because they could not make ends meet. “The volunteers’ eyes welled up as they saw the boy help his parents take two bags of food and essential items including soap and toilet paper, plus a third bag with fresh vegetables, fruits, meat, milk, eggs and cheese,” she said.

A member of one family from Newark St. Francis de Sales expressed gratitude with a note saying, “I have lost my father and my business. My husband lost two-thirds of his workload, and I did not qualify for a Small Business Administration loan because I am self-employed. I am so grateful to my St. Francis family right now. If we did not have our faith, we would have nothing.” Father David Sizemore, the parish's pastor, said about \$4,000 of its \$8,000 grant has been distributed.

Brown, the foundation president, said that soon after Gov. Mike DeWine declared a state of emergency in Ohio because of the virus on March 9, the foundation's key executives and board of trustees began hearing from pastors about their concerns.

“It didn't take long for us to get together, realize we had to do something and begin thinking of the best ways to help people impacted by the virus,” he said. “We had a conversation with Bishop (Robert) Brennan to say we planned to place our emphasis on individuals and families in parishes, and the bishop asked us to also focus on the pantries.



**Recipients line up for food bags at St. Lawrence Haven, operated by the St. Vincent de Paul Society, in the former Columbus Holy Cross School. Photo courtesy St. Lawrence Haven**

“The fund began with our \$250,000 as seed money, with many early contributions from individuals and families who have donor-assisted funds with the foundation. That was followed with checks and credit card donations from many first-time donors – some we knew, and some we didn't,” Brown said.

“What's amazing is how fast the money came in at the beginning. Within a couple of days, we were at a half-million dollars. We were able to leverage the seed money, and the faithful quickly responded.

“Many other diocesan foundations created similar funds, and I believe ours is the second-largest among diocesan foundations of this type. The only one that I know is larger is that of the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis, which is at around \$800,000.

“After the initial surge, the amount of giving seems to have plateaued here and elsewhere in the country. I think part of that is because people in Ohio are feeling a little more hope as they see how Gov. DeWine has handled the situation and how the curve showing the spread of the virus is flattening,” Brown said. “But the need remains great and will be for some time, since no one knows how long the restrictions resulting from the virus will last.”

Kurth noted that the fund has a substantial amount remaining and anticipates more parishes will be making use of it. “I think all the pastors I talk to are aware of it,” he said. “Pastors were cautious about asking for assistance at first because they weren't sure how long the situation would last. They wanted to hold off until they learned more about people's financial situations.

Besides creating the fund, the foundation, at the request of Bishop Brennan and diocesan finance director William Davis, said it would accept online applications for its 2020 responsive grants cycle in May rather than the usual date of September be-

cause of the pandemic.

Parishes, schools, invited religious orders and invited nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply. The process opens on Friday, May 1 and closes on Friday, May 29.

The cycle will follow the foundation's regular procedures, with special consideration for projects related to, or impacted by, the pandemic. Applicants may apply for one grant in each of the foundation's four pillars of interest: parish life; Catholic education and faith formation; social services; and vocations.

Most funding is for grants of less than \$10,000. However, projects requiring \$10,000 to \$25,000 for capital

or program needs also will be awarded, and a limited number of ministries will receive funding for projects exceeding \$25,000, to a maximum of \$50,000.

The Catholic Foundation was founded by Bishop Emeritus James Griffin in 1985 and has awarded more than \$200 million, including about \$14.5 million in 2019. It has more than \$180 million in assets and manages more than 1,000 endowment funds, whose earnings are paid annually to a beneficiary while the principal remains untouched.

These include nearly 200 donor-advised funds – “charitable checking accounts” through which the donor decides where the money will go. Nearly 80 percent of grants from these funds benefit parishes, schools and ministries throughout the diocese. Other funds managed by the foundation include charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts and scholarships.

“Parishes and schools are so blessed by the impact endowments have,” Brown said, “because they are perpetual, reliable resources, especially at a time like this, providing benefits for generations to come.”

For more information on the foundation, call (614) 443-8893 or visit [www.catholic-foundation.org](http://www.catholic-foundation.org).



THE  
CATHOLIC  
FOUNDATION

For the complete grant guidelines and eligibility, please visit [www.catholic-foundation.org/grants](http://www.catholic-foundation.org/grants)

# St. Charles robotics lab produces masks for medical workers

The robotics lab at Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School is helping fulfill a vital need resulting from the coronavirus pandemic by using 3D printers to make durable, reusable masks for frontline medical workers.

The lab has made about 60 masks to date. In late March, Andy Bruening of the PAST Foundation asked laboratories at St. Charles and several other central Ohio locations to help produce the masks. About 500 masks have been made at those locations, with about 100 going to hospitals in Honduras and the rest to the Ohio State University Medical Center.

The foundation is a Columbus-based organization that works on design challenges with high schools that have robotics teams. Bruening turned to those teams for assistance when it became apparent that the need for masks was critical.

Robotics team mentors responded to his request by collaborating, using

their own ideas and adopting features of various mask designs from across the nation. They consulted with other community organizations, such as EMS squads, to ensure the masks' safety, reliability and usability.

After approximately two weeks of testing, a satisfactory mask design was agreed upon. Once the masks are completed, they are sent to the OSU Medical Center, which inspects and cleans them, tests them for compliance with federal rules, adds bands or straps, then packs and distributes them.

St. Charles uses three printers in its



**A completed mask for frontline medical workers made at Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School. Photo/St. Charles**

robotics center and two in its physics lab to make the masks, which are produced in multiple units. It takes about seven hours to make five masks, with only one person producing masks at any given time to adhere to safety restrictions. The cost per unit is less than \$5.

Here's how the 3D printing process works: A printer takes a computer-assisted design. The design is loaded into the printer, which feeds strands of plastic into a print head, which is heated to melt the material. The print head moves around in a specific manner in three dimensions, dropping lines of plastic onto the print bed, directing layer upon layer of plastic as programmed until the components are completed. The parts are assembled and packaged individually. Bands or straps are added by the user of the masks.

Mask production will continue until there is no longer a need for the masks, supplies become unavailable, those working on the project become

unavailable, or the cost of production becomes unsustainable. Plastic filament for the masks is being supplied by each of the groups producing them.

At St. Charles, the robotics team, the school and a private donor have given funds for purchasing the filament. The PAST Foundation has secured a grant that can be used for producing the masks, but that money is being spread among the various sites taking part in mask production.

St. Charles has offered a robotics program since 2011 and opened a robotics center on its campus in 2018. Its robotics team, the Cardinalbots, has qualified for the world robotics championships twice and has won several competitions sponsored by the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) organization and the WOW Robotics Alliance. It recently added 3D printing and laser-cutting capabilities and continues to evolve.

**MAY**, continued from Page 2

Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and the Canadian bishops have decided to re-consecrate their respective countries to Mary, the Mother of God for strength in the struggle against COVID-19. Every May, the Church entrusts its prayers to

Mary for her intercession, but "this year, we seek the assistance of Our Lady all the more earnestly as we face together the effects of the global pandemic," said Los Angeles Archbishop Jose Gomez, president of the USCCB.

Bishop Robert Brennan encouraged the faithful in the Diocese of Columbus to participate in the re-consecration at 3 p.m. Friday. Details can be found on the diocesan website.

Sunday, May 3 is designated as the annual World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The USCCB notes that "the Church concentrates its attention this day on vocations to the ordained ministries (priesthood and diaconate), to the religious life in all forms (male and female, contemplative and apostolic), to societies of apostolic life, to secular institutes in their diversity of series and membership, and to the missionary life."

We are all called in a special way to pray for vocations to religious life and to encourage anyone who might be a good candidate to consider that the Lord might be calling him or her. It's a blessing that the diocese has men and women entering consecrated life, but we need more.

The Diocese of Columbus has three men who are to be ordained to the holy priesthood this year. One seminarian was ordained to the diaconate in April, and another was scheduled to follow in May, but the ceremony was pushed back as a result of the coronavirus outbreak.

This past week, the USCCB released statistics from a survey provided by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) that included responses from 77 percent of the 448 men who will be ordained to the priesthood (82 percent diocesan) throughout the United States in 2020.

Among the findings:

The average age is 34 years old, 73 percent served as altar boys before entering the seminary, 72 percent participated in Eucharistic Adoration on a regular basis, 70 percent prayed the rosary, between 38 percent and 44 percent attended a Catholic school and 38 percent participated in high school retreats.

Most significant, 89 percent said they were encouraged to consider the priesthood by a parish priest, friend or parishioner. That's why it's so important to never be afraid to plant the seed starting at a young age.

To underscore the profound impact that a religious vocation can make in the lives of those they serve, consider a recent tweet from a Dominican friar serving in Indiana:

"Yesterday, I anointed someone dying from COVID-19. His sheer joy when he recognized my voice was one of the most beautiful and powerful experiences of faith in my life. 'Father, I'm so glad you're here. Now I can go in peace.' This is the power of the sacraments and why I'm a priest."

## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT POSITION AVAILABLE

**TITLE:** Administrative Assistant **WAGES:** \$15/hour

**HOURS:** Mon, Tues, and Thurs, 9 am – 4 pm (21 hrs/week) with some flexibility

**PLACE:** SVDP Diocesan Office, 197 E. Gay Street with some telecommuting possible

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Diocesan Council of Columbus is searching for a new administrative assistant to replace the incumbent, who is retiring May 29, 2020. The new employee will manage the SVDP Diocesan Council office at 197 E Gay Street. Work responsibilities include the following:

- Respond to requests for assistance received on office phone/answering machine by referring persons to SVDP Conferences covering the zip code area of the person requesting assistance
- Respond to requests from SVDP Conferences for SVDP governance information, assistance with annual report preparation, and assistance in maintaining of conference rosters in National SVDP member database
- Work with Diocese of Columbus Finance Office to deposit donation checks and pay Diocesan Council and Special Works (St Lawrence Haven, SVDP Clothing Center, Microloan, and Getting Ahead in a Just-Getting-By World) invoices; prepare Thank You letters and send to all donors
- Assist with depositing donation checks and paying invoices of Vincentian Ohio Action Network, an independent 501c3 organization formed by the Diocesan Council
- Assist with annual SVDP Diocesan Wide events (Top Hat Celebration (April/May), Day of Reflection (August), Friends of the Poor Walk (September), and Bishops Mass and Volunteer Recognition (December), including making necessary logistical arrangements, collecting RSVPs as needed, preparing printed materials, and attending each event to collect on-site payments
- Assist with logistics of Ozanam Orientations and other SVDP trainings, including collecting RSVPs and preparing training materials
- Maintain Diocesan Council files in accordance with current structure
- Attend and record minutes of Diocesan Council meetings on the 4th Thursdays of January, March, May and September and the 3rd Thursday of November each year; send minutes of previous meeting to Diocesan Council members with reminder for the next meeting.
- Perform other duties as assigned
- **DESIRED:** Assist with SVDP fundraising efforts and website maintenance

Candidate for this position must be comfortable with technology and learning new online platforms and programs. Candidate will work independently with direction from the Diocesan Council President. Candidate payroll will be through the Diocese of Columbus with reimbursement from SVDP Diocesan Council funds.

Candidates should submit, by no later than June 3, 2020, a letter of interest and a resume to [wwright@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:wwright@columbuscatholic.org).

# Coronavirus and its impact on the Sacraments

By Perry J. Cahall, Ph.D.

In these days of the coronavirus outbreak that require social distancing and isolation, I, like most Catholics, long for the day when we can return to receiving the Sacraments. It seems almost unnatural not to be able to go to Mass or to have my Confession heard. This modern-day plague has made me acutely aware of the wisdom of God who gave us the Sacraments in order to offer Him worship and to minister to the entirety of our human nature, soul and body. The Sacraments are truly human acts in which Jesus is acting to bring us God's love, and in the Sacraments, Jesus comes to heal our souls through visible, tangible, audible realities. Therefore, it seems almost inhuman not to be able to receive the Sacraments.

As a result of this yearning to receive the Sacraments that all of us are experiencing, some Catholics are making requests of their pastors and their bishops to find creative ways of making the Sacraments available. While I admire the holy longing and the ingenuity behind some of these suggestions, I want to reflect on how this time of imposed "fasting" from the Sacraments should cause all of us to reflect on the meaning of the Sacraments and the role they play in our life of faith.

I certainly understand the longing for the Sacraments as much as anyone. However, there is a time when reason needs to control our desires, no matter how intense or holy they may be. We Catholics have always prized the harmony of faith AND reason. I have seen some comments from Catholics who think that what is needed in this time of crisis is a courageous faith that does not fear contracting a virus. I have even seen some Catholics accuse priests and bishops of cowardice or weak faith because they are not willing to celebrate the Sacraments publicly. However, the virtue of faith never prompts rash behavior and never ignores reason. God has set up the world (a world that in its fallen state includes viruses) to operate in a certain way, and we cannot naively believe that God will preserve us from illness because we have strong faith. In fact, this type of action is not an authentic expression of faith but instead is tempting God by asking him to immunize us from the laws of the nature He has created.

It is true that the faithful have a right to receive assistance through the Sacraments (Can. 213), and that they cannot be denied the Sacraments if they seek them "at appropriate times, are properly disposed, and are not prohibited by law from receiving them" (Can. 843 §1). However, none of us has an absolute right to the Sacraments (as the conditions listed in Can. 843 show). Receiving the Sacraments is a privilege to which none of us can lay claim. We need to humbly acknowledge that all of us have been infected by a consumerist culture of entitlement. And because we all suffer from this infection, we need to examine whether we have adopted an attitude of entitlement regarding the Sacraments. Do I see the Sacraments as a commodity to which I have a right? Do I think that I am entitled to the Sacraments? Do I see the Sacraments as spiritual "filling stations" and the priests as "grace dispensers" who should be there at my request? We all need to remember that none

## Blessed Sacrament reposed outdoors



**People unable to visit the Blessed Sacrament indoors because Ohio churches are closed have a chance to view it outdoors. The Blessed Sacrament is in reposition (in a tabernacle or monstrance) behind a gate at the bell tower entrance of Columbus Our Lady of Victory Church, 1559 Roxbury Road, daily from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Father William A. Metzger said the reposition began Palm Sunday, April 5, and continued through Divine Mercy Sunday, April 19, and is continuing by popular demand. Blessed palms were placed in containers outside of the gates on Palm Sunday. Father Metzger asks that anyone visiting the Blessed Sacrament respect safe-distancing guidelines if others are there.**  
*Photo courtesy Our Lady of Victory Church*

of us is entitled to God's grace, even the grace of the Sacraments. The Sacraments are privileged encounters with Jesus, not unconditional rights in the strictest sense.

We may be tempted to become overly anxious and insistent in trying to find ways to celebrate the Sacraments publicly in this time of viral outbreak. Some priests may be tempted to give in to this anxious and persistent mentality on the part of some parishioners and try to find ways "around" episcopal orders so that they can continue to provide the Sacraments, even if doing so may put themselves and others at risk.

Some may point out that in the times of past plagues, it would have been unlikely that the public celebration of the Sacraments would have ceased. However, this is because there was not yet an accurate understanding of the "germ transmission" mechanism of the spread of disease. Therefore, it is probable that continuing to attend Mass and to receive the other Sacraments in days gone by furthered the spread of plagues. Although some people may insist otherwise, with our current understanding of how viruses spread, canceling public Masses, the public celebration of other Sacraments, and maintaining social distancing are responsible and prudent ways of helping to curtail the spread of a modern-day plague. This represents the practice of faith informed by reason.

Reason should tell us that the current coronavirus outbreak necessitates that the Church take mea-

asures to help prevent the spread of a disease that can endanger lives and cause serious illness. Unfortunately, this means halting public celebrations of the Sacraments. Even if ways can be devised to receive some of the Sacraments safely (like arranging drive-through Confessions in a church parking lot while providing adequate social distancing and protection for both priest and penitent), we need to ask ourselves about our attitude regarding the Sacraments in this time of viral spread.

Each of us needs to think beyond ourselves. Social distancing and sheltering in place are not just about keeping myself from contracting the virus, but about adopting a disposition of Christian charity that seeks the good of the other. Seeking the good of the other certainly involves not subjecting others to risk. I may not be afraid of dying, but I should not be willing to endanger others who may not be ready to die, or who may experience serious medical problems as a result of my insistence on participating in public worship. We all need to be prudent and charitable during this time in order to do our part to provide for each other's physical and spiritual well-being.

Additionally, as people of faith, we need to trust that God will make his graces available, even if we are not physically able to receive the Sacraments. God has promised that the Sacraments will make grace available to us, and knowing that Christ has instituted the Sacraments as the normal means of receiving grace, we are bound to receive them when possible. However, God is not bound by the Sacraments as the only means of dispensing his love (see CCC 1257). Jesus will never deny someone grace because of their inability to receive the Sacraments. He will always find a way to provide the grace a person desires and needs. We should remember that most of us live in areas that were once mission territories where Catholics had to wait weeks or months on end before they could receive the Eucharist or have their Confessions heard. We can be certain that God did not deny our forbearers the grace they needed to live their lives, and we should have confidence that their acts of spiritual communion and acts of contrition provided the opportunity for Jesus to minister to their souls.

This time of imposed fasting from the Sacraments may be a painful time, but perhaps God will use this time to instill within our hearts a longing for Him. Somehow, it seems appropriate that we began to experience this time of imposed fasting from the Sacraments during Lent. Perhaps we are being given the opportunity to participate in a particular way in the isolation that Jesus experienced during his Passion. Perhaps this is a time when we can say with him, in a way we have never said before, "I thirst." (Jn 19:28). Let us trust that this present moment is not bereft of grace, even if we cannot receive this grace through the Sacraments. Then, after living with this trust, when we are able to quench our thirst in an encounter with Jesus in the Sacraments, we will be able to shout with joy, perhaps as we never have before, "Hosannah, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Mt 21:9).

*Dr. Perry Cahall is Professor of Historical Theology and Academic Dean of the School of Theology at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus.*



## Celebrating our faith from a distance during COVID-19 pandemic

Absence makes the heart grow fonder. Or at least Father Paul Noble hopes so.

Father Noble, vocations director for the Diocese of Columbus and pastor of Sunbury St. John Neumann Church, said he has seen more adaptation at his parish in the last month than in all his nearly 39 years as a priest.

As the COVID-19 pandemic has affected businesses, homes and worship, churches have made adjustments to the celebration of Mass to observe state mandates concerning social distancing.

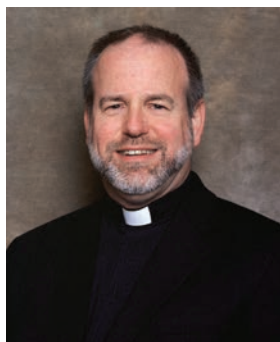
Masses throughout the diocese are being celebrated through virtual platforms such as livestreaming, YouTube and Facebook Live.

“Our congregation is adapting, so we are adapting,” he said. “We are doing OK. I hear from our parishioners

every day, and they are anxious to get back to normal, whatever that may be.”

Father Noble celebrates Mass via livestream once a week. The Easter Sunday Mass, as always, was well attended, but in a different way. “I am proud of our parish members and how they are devoting their time to keeping Christ in their lives, especially during this difficult time,” he said.

Father Noble also continues to keep



Father Paul Noble

office hours, makes appointments for confessions and is available by phone to serve parish needs.

He said seminarians from the diocese who are studying at the Pontifical College Josephinum went on spring break in early March only to be told not to return. Distance learning has become the new normal for them and they are adjusting to online classes.

Seminarians Jacob Stinnett and Stephen Ondrey were to have been ordained as deacons on Saturday, May 1 at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, but Stinnett’s ordination was postponed. Ondrey was ordained in a private ceremony on Wednesday, April 15 at Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, Massachusetts.

The ordination of three men as diocesan priests on Saturday, May 23 at the cathedral still is scheduled to take

place, but Father Noble is unsure what the ordination will look like this year.

“If we are still under stay-at-home orders, I just don’t know,” he said. “Perhaps we could consider private ordinations for Deacons Frank Brown, Michael Fulton and Seth Keller, with a cantor, organist, myself, the bishop and a limited congregation. We are just not sure. It seems the only thing that is certain right now is uncertainty.”

“Just as our current seminarians adjust to this new normal, so have the young men who are preparing to enter the PCJ in the fall. It is a challenge to showcase life at the PCJ without being able to actually tour, but we are adjusting to online tours and other digital ways to demonstrate the experience with help from Face Forward, our online/digital community,” Father Noble said.

## Grant to St. Mary Magdalene School will aid businesses, families

By Tim Puet

Catholic Times Reporter

A \$6,000 emergency grant from the Operation Rice Bowl program of Catholic Relief Services (CRS) was awarded to Columbus St. Mary Magdalene School, and the school will divide the money among five businesses frequently patronized by families of the school’s students.

Those businesses will pass the money along to the families in the form of one-time, \$25 credits or gift cards. The businesses were given \$1,200 apiece, enabling each one to assist as many as 48 families affected by the coronavirus pandemic, which has closed schools for the rest of the academic year.

Each participating business has been given a list of St. Mary Magdalene students. Families can receive the credit by confirming their connection with a student on the list. If families visit all five participants in the program, they can obtain \$125 in food or groceries at no cost.

“We have many students from low-income families and were concerned about how they would be getting food during the current situation,” said school principal Mark Watts. “Two teachers talked about obtaining gift cards from one of the large stores like Kroger or Walmart, but the problem was getting them in parents’ hands.”

“Then Kitty Quinn of the diocesan Schools Office called and asked, ‘If you had money to help some of your families obtain food right now, what would you do?’ I knew we have some families who own or work at local restaurants and groceries. I realized that if there was a way to get money to those businesses and have them set it aside for our students’ families, it would benefit both the businesses and the families.”

Quinn then contacted Erin Cordle of the diocesan Office for Social Concerns, who is the Operation Rice Bowl coordinator for the Diocese of Columbus. “Erin told me that Rice Bowl money was available for schools in areas where there are a large

number of students who participate in school lunch programs and who may be without meals now that schools are closed because of the virus,” Quinn said.

“St. Mary Magdalene School fit that description, so I called Mark. We thought about having food trucks come to the school and dividing the money among them, but Mark found businesses which have strong connections with four nearby parishes which have students at the school (St. Mary Magdalene, St. Agnes, St. Aloysius and St. Stephen the Martyr). They’re either owned or managed by parishioners, have employees from the parishes or get a good chunk of their business from parish members.”

Those businesses are Minelli’s Pizza, La Bodega Supermarket, El Pollo Perucho restaurant, La Michoacana Market and Culver’s restaurant.

Watts said the school’s Rice Bowl grant provides vital help at a time when the long-term effects of the pandemic are being felt.

When the virus first closed schools in March, St. Mary Magdalene students were provided prepackaged meals and snacks on three pickup days when they visited the school to obtain educational materials to complete the rest of the school year at home. Father Patrick Toner, pastor of St. Mary Magdalene, St. Agnes and St. Aloysius churches, purchased 100 tablet computers for any student who needed one, and they were distributed on one of those days.

Watts said 80 percent to 90 percent of the school’s 220 students are connected to the internet, but many come from families with multiple siblings and need more than one computer. Watts said about 60 percent of the school’s students are Catholic, and that the school population reflects the diversity of its neighborhood on Columbus’ west side.

Cordle said St. Mary Magdalene is one of two diocesan schools receiving Rice Bowl emergency grants as a result of the pandemic. The other, Coshocton Sacred Heart School, obtained \$2,000.

Cordle said 13 grants totaling \$38,295 have been awarded in the diocese since the start of the pan-

dem to relieve hunger and food insecurity. The money has gone to nine diocesan agencies and to Neighborhood Services Inc., which has a food pantry closely affiliated with the Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center.

Other recipients are: Shepherd’s Corner Ecology Center in Blacklick, operated by the Dominican Sisters of Peace, \$6,300 (two grants); St. Francis Center, Portsmouth, \$6,000; Our Lady of Guadalupe Center, Columbus, \$6,000; Bishop Griffin Resource Center, Columbus, \$4,000 (two grants); Neighborhood Services Inc., \$4,000 (two grants); Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas Church warming shelter, \$1,995; Columbus St. Philip Church pantry, \$1,000; diocesan St. Vincent de Paul Conference, \$1,000.



# PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

**ABDELLA William G.**, 93, April 14  
Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus

**CARR, Nancy A. (Rich)**, 73, April 5  
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

**CONNORS, Ruth (Yates)**, 95, April 19  
St. Mary, Mother of God Church, Columbus

**DOHERTY, Michael B.**, 77, April 15  
St. Thomas More Newman Center, Columbus

**GROB, Gertrude I. (Oliver)**, 83, April 13  
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

**HATFIELD, Evelyn (Richardson)**, 83,  
April 22  
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Zanesville

**KAYE, William D.**, 92, April 17  
St. Michael Church, Worthington

**KRAUSS, Anna M.**, 99, April 17  
Holy Spirit Church, Columbus

**MYERS, Leonard C.**, 75, April 14  
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

**ORLANDO, Jacqueline M.**, 64, April 8  
St. Peter Church, Columbus

**PICCININI, Mara (Profeta)**, 89, April 16  
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

**PICIUCCO, Dorothy (Maciejewski)**, 85,  
April 15  
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

**REIBOLD, Carolyn J. (Rollison)**, 86, of  
Dublin, April 17  
St. Raphael Church, Springfield

**WHITE, William W.**, 85, April 16  
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church,  
Buckeye Lake

**WINSTON, Michael E.**, 77, April 16  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church,  
Grove City

## St. Agatha Church, Upper Arlington Director of Religious Education Position

This person oversees the total religious education programs in the parish and coordinates with the school staff the sacramental programs in the school.

The Director of Religious Education oversees programs which include the Parish School of Religion, sacramental meetings for parents for Baptism, First Eucharist, and Confirmation, children's liturgies for PSR and School, Vacation Bible School, adult education programs, RCIA, Faith Sharing Groups/ Bible Study. The Director of Religious Education prepares the budget for the religious education programs.

### Qualifications:

- Preferred Bachelor's degree in theology or equivalent field of study.
- Must have completed the Diocesan Certification Program and participate in continuing education.
- Must have 3 years of catechetical/teaching experience in a religious education program of a Catholic parish.
- Must exercise initiative, discretion, confidentiality and good judgment in decision making.
- Must have organizational, interpersonal, and excellent communication skills.
- Must successfully comply with the mandatory background screening and completion of the Protecting God's Children Program.

### Send resumes with a list of references to:

DRE Search Committee

St. Agatha Church, 1860 Northam Road, Columbus, OH 43221

Or email: [stagatha@st-agatha.org](mailto:stagatha@st-agatha.org)

## Deacon Gilbert L. Plummer

Funeral Mass for Deacon Gilbert L. Plummer, 77, who died Sunday, April 26, will be celebrated Wednesday at Hilliard St. Brendan the Navigator Church and will be limited to family members. Burial will be in Butler County Memorial Park, Trenton, Ohio.

He was born on March 29, 1942 in Middletown to the late Robert and Mildred (Rook) Plummer, graduated in 1960 from Franklin (Ohio) High School, then served in the U.S. Navy. He attended Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and received a Bachelor of Science degree in applied mathematics from Ohio Dominican University in 1984.

He spent most of his working career as independent consultant and business manager with various companies, with his position being business manager at Powell St. Joan of Arc Church

He made his profession of faith and was received into the Catholic Church on April 6, 1985, at the Easter Vigil at St. Brendan Church. He entered the diocesan CHRISM lay ministry program in 1989 in preparation for studies for the permanent diaconate.

He was ordained a deacon on Feb. 1, 1997 by Bishop James A. Griffin in



Deacon Gilbert Plummer

Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral and was assigned to ministry at St. Brendan Church until his retirement in 2012. He served as chaplain to the Diocesan Committee on Catholic Scouting from 1998-2003 and spent many years as a part-time chaplain at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility in Lucasville.

Survivors include his wife of 56 years, Elizabeth, and children Kay, Lee, Chris and Ann.

## Harold E. "Butch" Edwards Jr.

A private funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Anne Church in Ruskin, Florida, for Harold E. "Butch" Edwards Jr. 81, who died Wednesday, April 15. Burial will be in Sarasota (Florida) National Cemetery.

He was born on April 4, 1939, graduated from Columbus South High School in 1957 and served in the U.S. Navy. He was a custodian for Colum-

bus St. Peter Church, owned a janitorial service and was a barber in Columbus, and worked for the National Cremation and Burial Service in Florida.

Survivors include his wife, Betty (Fracasso); son, David; daughter, Lisa (Keith) Gerlach; sisters, Sue (Wilbur) Stevenson and Marilyn Wible; and three grandchildren.

## Margaret A. Skobrak

Margaret A. Skobrak, 75, died Wednesday, April 15. Private arrangements for her funeral were made by the northwest chapel of the Egan-Ryan Funeral Home.

She was born on Dec. 25, 1944 to the late Carl and Mary (Dean) Skobrak and graduated from Columbus Eastmoor High School in 1963 and the former St. Mary of the Springs

College (now Ohio Dominican University) in 1967.

She was a member of Columbus St. Thomas Church and was a sixth-grade teacher at the former St. Thomas School. She also worked as a librarian.

Survivors include brothers, Carl and John (Libby); and sisters, Jane Silwani and Patricia.

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Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year A

# Answer the Good Shepherd's call and be a member of His flock

**Acts 2:14a, 36-41**  
**Psalm Ps. 23:1-3a,**  
**3b-4, 5, 6**  
**1 Peter 2:20b-25**  
**John 10:1-10**

Father Timothy Hayes



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

*"I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly."*

Life with Jesus is abundant.

I have been a priest now nearly 35 years and I can attest to the truth of the abundant life Jesus offers those who follow Him. There is no doubt in my mind that Jesus fulfills His promises. I cannot even begin to tell you all that has happened in my life simply because I chose to respond to the call of the Shepherd to be a shepherd to His people. Jesus has been and continues to be a gateway for me to so many possibilities I never would have dreamed of.

How is your life? Do you want more? Try Jesus. Ask Him into your heart, as our brothers and sisters of other denominations say it. That is a start. And now: Be Catholic, with Jesus in your heart. Pay attention to the meaning of the Liturgy and of the Sacraments that used to be so readily available because we have priests. Take advantage of livestreamed and recorded Masses and helps for reflection online. Open your eyes to see what they truly are – the gateway to a life that we cannot even imagine. Our time away from the possibility of receiving and celebrating the sacraments in person can be a rich time of reflection on the grace that is to be found there. The voice of the Shepherd calls us to live an abundant, sacramental life.

We are tempted to walk away from what we have received, not so much by the big sins, though they are also

present, as by the little infidelities and the lure of the world and its ways. When we cannot approach the altar, we may begin to understand the great gift we have when we are able to be there in other times.

*"Return to the shepherd and guardian of your souls."* Let the Shepherd speak to your heart. Pray. Make sincere acts of contrition and long for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Make a spiritual communion and long for the Eucharist. Tell your children about the joy you have known in responding to the Shepherd who comes through the sacraments and how much you miss being able to draw close to Him in that way. Live more intensely the sacraments that are still at work in your soul: your Baptism, your Confirmation, your marital sacrament.

Good Shepherd Sunday is also World Day of Prayer for Vocations. *"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want."* The Good Shepherd, Jesus, our Risen Lord and Savior, shows His Love for us in very personal, concrete ways. He shares His concern for His sheep with real people who respond to His invitation to allow His Love to direct the course of their lives. To our young people and those who are single among us: I invite you to ask Jesus what He wants you to do in your life. If He is calling you to a Church vocation, say yes, and go where He leads.

## THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

**MONDAY**  
Acts 11:1-18  
Psalms 42:2-3; 43:3-4  
John 10:11-18

**WEDNESDAY**  
Acts 12:24-13:5a  
Psalm 67:2-3,5-6,8  
John 12:44-50

**FRIDAY**  
Acts 13:26-33  
Psalm 2:6-11b  
John 14:1-6

**TUESDAY**  
Acts 11:19-26  
Psalm 87:1b-7  
John 10:22-30

**THURSDAY**  
Acts 13:13-25  
Psalm 89:2-3,21-22,25,27  
John 13:16-20

**SATURDAY**  
Acts 13:44-52  
Psalm 98:1-4  
John 14:7-14

## DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE: WEEK OF MAY 3, 2020

### Sunday Mass

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

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

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

Mass from Our Lady of

the Angels Monastery, Birmingham, Ala., at 8 a.m. on EWTN (Spectrum Channel 385, Insight Channel 382, or WOW Channel 378). (Encores at noon, 7 p.m., and midnight).

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

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

### Daily Mass

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

, Ada, Logan, Millersburg, Murray City, Washington C.H.; Channel 125, Marion, Newark, Newcomerstown and New Philadelphia; Channel 207, Zanesville).

8 p.m., St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at [www.stgabrielradio.com](http://www.stgabrielradio.com).

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

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

## Marthas award \$35,000 to 10 organizations

The St. Martha Giving Circle of The Catholic Foundation (The Marthas) awarded grants totaling \$35,000 to 10 organizations.

The largest grant, totaling \$10,000, goes to Mommies Matter, which benefits single mothers in crisis pregnancies.

The Marthas also awarded \$7,000 to the St. Vincent de Paul Society's St. Lawrence Haven in Columbus, which provides prepackaged meals to people every Monday through Thursday, and \$5,000 to the Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs (JOIN) in Columbus.

Grants of \$3,000 were awarded to the Christ Child Society, Cristo Rey High School and the Columbus Early Learning Center.

Recipients of \$1,000

grants were Joseph's Coat, the Damascus Catholic Mission Campus, the Dominican Learning Center and Heartbeat International.

The recipients were chosen from among 18 organizations nominated by members of the Marthas, who are Catholic women who meet quarterly each year to learn about organizations and their needs and

decide which projects to financially support.

Since 2014, the Marthas have granted almost \$198,000 to organizations and ministries.

If you are interested in joining The Marthas or want to learn more, call (614) 443-8893 or contact [kshuey@catholic-foundation.org](mailto:kshuey@catholic-foundation.org) or visit [www.catholic-foundation.org/themarthas](http://www.catholic-foundation.org/themarthas).

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### PRAYER TO THE VIRGIN

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of heaven, blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in necessity. Oh, star of the sea, help me and show me herein, you are my Heaven and Earth. I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to secure me in this necessity. There are none who can withstand your powers. Oh, show me herein you are my Mother. Oh, Mary conceived without sin, pray for us, who have recourse to thee. (Repeat three times) Oh, Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hand. (Repeat three times) Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads that I can obtain my goals. You gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me, and in all instances in my life, you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. GW

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## Local news and events

## Damascus programming reaches more than 100,000

The live programming offered by the Damascus Catholic Mission Campus three times a day as a result of the coronavirus pandemic has quickly gained a substantial audience.

More than 100,000 engagements for the three programs have been recorded on Facebook and YouTube. The audience may be much larger, because a single engagement means a program is being shown on one device, but many people may be watching that device.

The programs are Prayer Lab from 10:30 to 11 a.m., focusing on the Scriptures; Worship and Intercession from 3 to 4 p.m., featuring praise and worship music; and Night-Live from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., designed to bring families together, with young adult missionaries from Damascus taking part in games and skits, as well as serious conversations about the Catholic faith. All are available on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.

The nighttime program also features a segment titled "Glory News" about good news going on among viewers and in the world. Each livestream is open to anyone free of charge and includes content for all ages. All videos are posted on the "Damascus Catholic Mission Campus" Facebook page after each segment is complete.

The Damascus Catholic Mission Campus, located on 471 acres in Knox County, has been the permanent home of the Catholic Youth Summer Camp since 2016 and provides year-round retreat and conference options.

### School safe environment policies still in effect

Diocesan safe environment policies for schools remain in effect while schools are closed.

Faculty and staff still are prohibited from meeting with students at teachers' homes; meeting with students in public places (such as Panera, Starbucks or Chipotle), or communicating with students via cell phones, texts, Instagram, Snapchat or other social media. Communication with students must be through official school email or student information systems.

Mandatory reporting rules also remain in effect. If anyone has reason to believe a student is being sexually, physically or emotionally abused, report it to the children's services agency in the county where the student lives and to the diocese's schools office and

its safe environment office.

Email addresses for safe environment office staff members are [rquinn@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:rquinn@columbuscatholic.org) for Regina Quinn, director, or [rmcgee@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:rmcgee@columbuscatholic.org) for Bob McGee, safe environment specialist.

### Ohio Dominican transitions to online-only summer courses

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Ohio Dominican University (ODU) will offer its more than 60 undergraduate and graduate courses scheduled to take place this summer in an online-only format.

Traditional undergraduate students may choose from 34 undergraduate-level courses available at nearly half the usual price. The courses will cost \$395 per credit hour (including technology fee) instead of \$735 per credit hour, which was the rate during the spring semester.

The courses cover fields of study including art, science, business, education, English, mathematics, sociology and theology. Summer sessions range from two to eight weeks with available start dates in May, June and July.

To learn more, visit [ohiodominican.edu/Summer](http://ohiodominican.edu/Summer) or contact ODU's admissions office at (614) 251-4500 or [admissions@ohiodominican.edu](mailto:admissions@ohiodominican.edu).

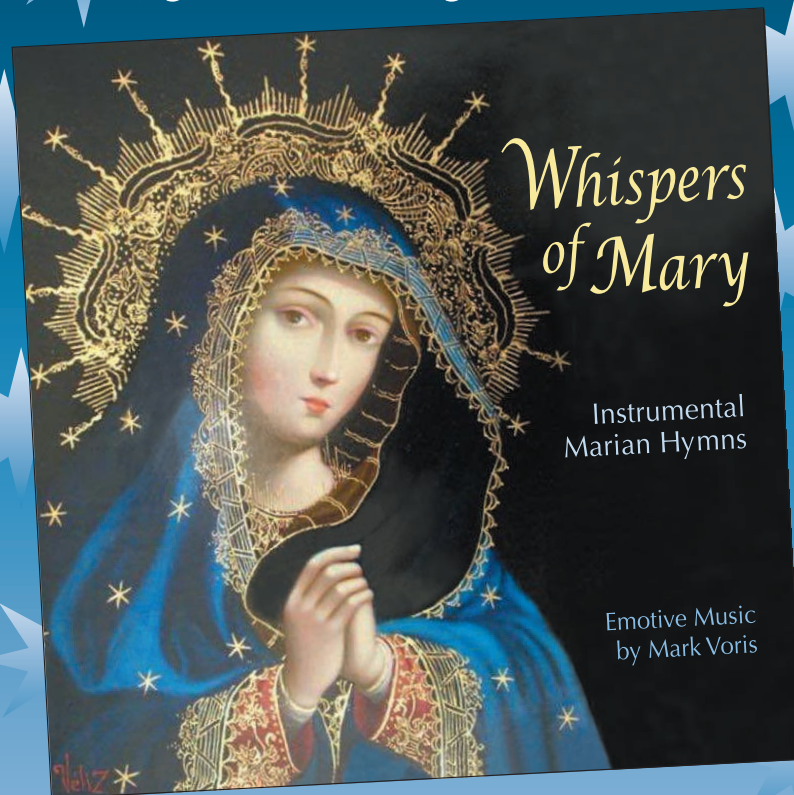
### Spanish Mass from cathedral offered on website, radio

A Sunday Mass in Spanish from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral is available on the diocesan website, [www.columbuscatholic.org](http://www.columbuscatholic.org), and on the radio every week.

Father David Schalk, diocesan vicar for Hispanic ministries, said the Mass is celebrated at 4 p.m. every Saturday and posted on the website afterward. It also may be heard on Hispanic radio station 103.1 FM, La Mega, at 10 a.m. each Sunday and may be found in the archives of [www.stgabrielradio.com](http://www.stgabrielradio.com), the website of AM 820, St. Gabriel Catholic Radio.

Father Schalk said time was purchased on La Mega for the Mass through an initiative of Bishop Robert Brennan. The Mass is celebrated by one of the diocese's Spanish-speaking priests each week. "The bishop and priests know the importance of staying connected with the Latino community and this is one more outreach enabling them to do so," Father Schalk said.

## May, Mary's Month



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Mark Voris is a local artist who has served many Columbus church communities as their Director of Music these past 29 years.

St. Joan of Arc Parish, Powell; Holy Spirit, Whitehall; St. Christopher Parish, Grandview; and Immaculate Conception Parish, Clintonville. After retiring in October 2018, Mark recently has been called back into the Music Ministry leading worship at both Trinity United Methodist in Lilly Chapel, and Saints Simon and Jude Parish in West Jefferson.

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