CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY BRINGS THE LOVE
OF MARY AND JESUS TO CHILDREN IN NEED
Christmas Memories

By David Garick, Editor

It’s almost time to hang up the stocking. I admit it … I’m a big kid when it comes to Christmas. I love this season. I love everything about it. Well, maybe except for all the traffic around the shopping malls. That, and the threat of snow. I never did buy into that White Christmas thing. I’ve been to Bethlehem. There has never been a white Christmas there … why do I need one here?

But I love the anticipation and joy of this season. I was a pretty typical child of the 1950s. I grew up in front of the television when it was still new and miraculous. I wanted all the newest toys to appear under the tree on Christmas morning, just like I saw on my favorite shows. I could have been a spokesmen for Mattel (In fact, I think I applied for a public relations job there once … some dreams never die).

But as much as I enjoyed getting presents (except the sweaters and socks), I always knew there was a lot more to the season than what was in it for me. Even though I spent a lot of time in front of the TV, I also spent a lot of time at church. The Christmas traditions there got me just as excited about what Christmas was really about as the gifts I hoped to receive. In fact, the older I got, the balance moved farther away from my gifts and more to the real joy of the season.

I always enjoyed the annual church Christmas pageant. It was pretty cool the year that I got promoted from being a shepherd. Being a shepherd had gotten pretty boring. It was almost like being scenery. But then I was chosen to be a wise man. I even got a couple of lines. I loved being in front of an audience. That role came with a fancy robe and a fake beard. I must have been impressed with that because once I was old enough, I grew the beard permanently. Then there were the gifts. My two buddies and I were given a bag of those gold foil chocolate coins, a fancy Avon bottle, and a jewelry box. That’s what we carried to the Christ Child. After the play, the bottle and box went back to Mrs. Anco’s dressing table, but we never admitted what became of those chocolate coins. I’m not saying that we were mischievous. But she did remind us that our role was “wise men,” not “wise guys.”

This activity ingrained in us that the Christmas holiday was about something a lot more exciting than Santa Claus and candy canes. With each passing year, we gained a greater appreciation of the fact that we were celebrating an incredible event in which God came to us as a little child to live among us and give us the greatest gift imaginable.

The other part of Christmas at church was that while my friends and I were participating in the Christmas play, we also were participating in our church program to gather up toys, food, clothing (I knew just where to find some sweaters and socks), and other things to give to people in the community who needed them. We learned early that the real joy of Christmas was in the giving and that the greatest gift, the thing that makes the Christmas season so special, was the closeness you felt to so many people.

Christ came into the world to bind us together. Through His incarnation, His ministry, and ultimately His death and resurrection, we are all joined together in Him through His church. This issue of Catholic Times takes a look at the Christ Child society, an organization that ministers to children in need in our communities. Christmas at its core is about the birth of a child who changed the world and all of our lives. But it is also a time when we are happy to share the gifts we have received. As the wise men brought gifts to the Christ Child, we also delight in bringing gifts to the children of God around us because Christ is present in each of them.

The Editor’s Notebook

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**Court seems divided in cake case examining religious rights, expression**

*By Carol Zimmermann/Catholic News Service*

The U.S. Supreme Court seemed equally divided in the long-anticipated oral arguments on Dec. 5 about the baker who refused to make a wedding cake for a same-sex couple because of his religious beliefs.

Even Justice Anthony Kennedy’s comments went right down the middle, from expressing concern for those who would be shut out of services to later stressing that “tolerance is a two-way street” and saying the state of Colorado, where the bakery is located, seemed to be “neither tolerant or respectful” of the baker’s views.

The case, Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission, pits antidiscrimination laws against freedom of speech and freedom of religious expression.

It drew strong feelings on both sides long before the court heard the arguments, with the filing of 100 friend-of-the-court briefs months ago and crowds lined up for days hoping to get into the court during the arguments. Crowds also gathered on the Supreme Court steps under cloudy skies and warm temperatures, chanting and holding aloft placards such as “Justice for Jack” (the baker) and “Open for All.”

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops filed a friend-of-the-court brief in support of the baker and was joined by the Colorado Catholic Conference, Catholic Bar Association, Catholic Medical Association, National Association of Catholic Nurses-USA and National Catholic Bioethics Center.

And after the hour and a half of oral arguments, chairman of three USCCB committees issued a statement saying “America has the ability to serve every person while making room for valid conscientious objection.”

It also said it hoped the court would continue to “preserve the ability of people to live out their faith in daily life, regardless of their occupation,” noting that artists “deserve to have the freedom to express ideas -- or to decline to create certain messages -- in accordance with their deeply held beliefs.”

The statement was issued by Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, chairman of the Committee for Religious Liberty; Philadelphia Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, chairman of the Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth; and Bishop James D. Conley of Lincoln, Nebraska, chairman of the Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage.

The case before the court at the end of 2017 was five years in the making, beginning in 2012 when Charlie Craig and David Mullins asked the Colorado baker, Jack Phillips, to make a cake for their wedding reception. Phillips refused, saying his religious be-

**Court allows travel ban to be implemented as legal challenges continue**

*By Catholic News Service*

The U.S. Supreme Court said on Dec. 4 that President Donald Trump’s travel ban restricting entry into the United States by nationals from some countries can be fully implemented while legal challenges to the ban work their way through the lower courts.

In a brief unsigned order, the high court stayed a preliminary injunction on implementation of the ban, granting the Trump administration’s request to allow its latest ban, released in late September, to go into effect. The order also urged the two appeals courts with cases before them to render “with appropriate dispatch” a decision on whether the ban is constitutional.

Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia Sotomayor “would deny the application,” according to the order.

The Supreme Court’s order means that the Trump administration can fully carry out the ban -- which is now in its third iteration. It currently restricts travel to the United States from eight nations, six of them predominantly Muslim. Most citizens of Iran, Libya, Syria, Yemen, Somalia, Chad and North Korea will be barred from entering, along with some Venezuelan government officials and their immediate family.

A friend-of-the-court brief filed on behalf of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in mid-September said the travel ban was “cruel and inhumane treatment” and that “denying refugee children life-saving entry to the United States based on an executive order clearly motivated by anti-religious bias is both un-Catholic and un-American.”

“We are not surprised by today’s Supreme Court decision,” a White House spokesman said on Dec. 4, calling the ban “lawful and essential to protecting our homeland.”

Trump administration officials say the restrictions are necessary because the nations on the list have either refused to share information with the U.S. government or have not taken necessary security precautions. They said, however, that these countries can be taken off the list if they meet certain conditions.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco and the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, based in Richmond, Virginia, were both scheduled to hear oral arguments in the next week on the legality of the ban.

Before the circuit courts are legal challenges to the ban from Hawaii and Maryland. The Trump administration had asked the Supreme Court to allow the ban to be implemented, rather than held up while the courts considered these lawsuits.
Peace be with you, and to our migrant brothers and sisters

“Peace be with you.” This is what we say to each other during the Sign of Peace at Mass. It’s a time when we reach out to our neighbors in the pews, often to people we don’t even know. We extend a heartfelt expression of good will, with a desire for them to have God’s peace in their hearts.

At Christmas, we are reminded of the angels who proclaimed “peace” to the world. The messengers heralded the announcement of the Prince of Peace to those whom God favors, especially the lowly shepherds tending their flock.

Each Jan. 1, the Catholic Church celebrates the World Day of Peace with a message of peace and an aim to address the challenges of peace in our time. For 2018, the theme of Pope Francis’ message is “Migrants and Refugees: Men and Women in Search of Peace.”

It is quite clear today that migrants and refugees in our world are not escaping peace, but hunger and thirst for it. There are more than 250 million migrants worldwide, 22.5 million of whom are refugees. Through recent news stories, we are learning about the Rohingya refugees, who are desperately fleeing to Bangladesh to escape ethnic cleansing in Myanmar.

That’s right. The Rohingya refugees are escaping to Bangladesh, which is not typically a desired destination point for safety and economic prosperity. Can you even imagine the hardship they are going through right now? Pope Francis is calling on us to do just that, to imagine and cast a “contemplative gaze,” to recognize the dignity of our neighbors, our family.

Migrants and refugees are on a perilous journey because they do not have peace in their homeland. They are in search of peace. The Holy Father reminds us of what is driving them away in search of a new home: war, conflict, genocide, ethnic cleansing, poverty, lack of opportunity, and environmental degradation.

In his message, Pope Francis gives us four “mileposts for action” necessary to provide the opportunity of peace for migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and trafficking victims:

1. Welcoming, which calls for “expanding legal pathways for entry” and better balancing national security and fundamental human rights concerns;
2. Protecting, or recognizing and defending “the inviolate dignity to those who flee”;
3. Promoting, which entails “supporting the integral human development of migrants and refugees”; and
4. Integrating, by allowing migrants and refugees to “participate fully in the life of society that welcomes them.” Doing so enriches both those arriving and those welcoming.

Our faith calls us to extend the Sign of Peace to our neighbors, even to those we do not know. The Church realizes not all neighbors have peace in their hearts toward us, but that should not build a barrier of indifference to all migrants and refugees, especially those in most desperate need.

To put faith into action, please pray for our migrant brothers and sisters. Read the World Day of Peace message at www.usccb.org. Join Pope Francis’ Share the Journey campaign at www.sharejourney.org to learn more about the plight of migrants and what families, parishes, and schools can do for them. Support Catholic Social Services’ Our Lady of Guadalupe Center, the Dominican Learning Center, Community Refuge and Immigration Services (CRIS), and other agencies responding to the needs of migrants. Advocate for sound policies that support migrants and refugees in the U.S. and around the world. Visit www.confrontglobalpoverty.org and www.justiceformigrants.org.

May peace be with you, and to our migrant brothers and sisters in search of peace.

Jerry Freewalt is a program director for the diocesan Office for Social Concerns.

Early January will be busy at St. John Neumann

Sunbury St. John Neumann Church, 9633 E. State Route 37, will be starting the new year with a busy schedule of events, including a visit by Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers and a women’s retreat.

Deacon Burke-Sivers, of Portland, Oregon, is known as “The Dynamic Deacon” for his enthusiastic speaking style, which was warmly received by the people who heard him at the 2017 Columbus Catholic Men’s Conference.

At St. John Neumann, he will speak at a men’s breakfast at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 6; a youth program at 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 7; a discipleship summit at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 8; and a marriage and family life program at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 9. Registration is required for the Jan. 6 and 8 events.

The women’s retreat, based on the theme of Mary’s Fiat (her acceptance of her role as the mother of Jesus), will be from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 13.

It will feature talks by Father Paul Noble, the parish’s pastor; Father William Ferguson, pastor of Logan St. John Church; Father Anthony Davis, parochial vicar of Columbus St. Andrew Church; and parishioner Kathie Bowman. The day will begin with Mass and will include Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, a worship and praise service, time for the Sacrament of Reconciliation; and breakfast, lunch, and dinner. It will close with a wine, coffee, and dessert social at 7 p.m.

For more information on these events, go to www.saintjohnsunbury.org or call (740) 965-1358.

Alcohol Training Program

The Diocese of Columbus is offering free training sessions at two locations in January to provide important information to staff and volunteers about laws and appropriate guidelines for serving alcohol at church events.

The Alcohol Server Knowledge (ASK) training program, conducted by the Ohio Investigative Unit, is designed to instruct and assist liquor permit holders on laws pertaining to the sale and/or consumption of alcohol. This training is vital for all parishes, schools, or offices that serve alcohol at festivals, fish fries, and other activities. Guidance will be provided on dealing with minors, when to shut people off, and other critical safety issues.

Training sessions are scheduled for 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 10, at Powell St. Joan of Arc Church, 10700 Liberty Road, and 1 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 20 at the Bryce Eck Center, 3880 Reed Road, Upper Arlington, which is just south of Columbus St. Andrew Church.

Upon completion of the free class, attendees will receive a certificate from the Ohio Investigative Unit.

If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to the diocesan Chancery at (614) 224-2251 by Friday, Jan. 5.
Dr. Michael D. Johnson has been elected by the John Carroll University board of directors as the institution’s 25th president, effective July 1, 2018, with an appointment that runs through 2023.

Johnson is provost of Babson College in Wellesley, Massachusetts, the top-ranked school for entrepreneurship in the United States, where he is also professor of marketing. He previously served for 10 years as dean and marketing professor at the Cornell University School of Hotel Administration. From 1982-2006, he was a marketing professor at the University of Michigan. He earned a doctorate in behavioral science and marketing and a master of business administration degree from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and a bachelor’s degree in economics and psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Johnson was appointed following an extensive national search led by John Carroll board chairman Michael Merriman. He also will join the JCU faculty as a professor in the department of management, marketing, and supply chain in the Boer School of Business.

“Dr. Johnson was a transformative academic leader while dean at Cornell, and will build upon John Carroll’s distinctive programs and strengths,” Merriman said. “Known for his transparent and collaborative leadership style, Dr. Johnson has excellent operational management, planning, and financial skills.”

“The passion that the students, faculty, staff, and alumni have for John Carroll is inspiring, and I am grateful for the opportunity to lead this community,” Johnson said. “As one of 28 Jesuit colleges and universities in the country, John Carroll University is poised for growth with many distinctive programs and an exceptional faculty and staff.”

Johnson will succeed Dr. Jeanne M. Colleran, who has been serving as interim president since June 2017, when Father Robert L. Niehoff, SJ, retired as JCU president.

John Carroll University, founded in 1886, is located in University Heights in suburban Cleveland. Its Jesuit Catholic mission inspires individuals to excel in learning, leadership, and service in the region and the world. The university, one of 28 Jesuit colleges and universities in the United States, is recognized nationally for an exceptional four-year graduation rate, teaching excellence, and a commitment to living a faith that does justice as central to its mission.

By Cindy Wooden/Catholic News Service

The Italian and English translations of the “Our Father” can give believers the wrong impression that God can and does lead people into temptation, Pope Francis said.

The Italian bishops’ television channel, TV2000, has been broadcasting a series of conversations between the pope and a Catholic prison chaplain in which they look at the Lord’s Prayer line by line.

The episode broadcast on Dec. 6 focused on the words “Lead us not into temptation.”

Father Marco Pozza told the pope that friends have asked him, “Can God really lead us into temptation?”

“This is not a good translation,” the pope said.

The standard versions of the prayer are translated from the Latin, which was translated from the New Testament in Greek.

While he said nothing about ordering a new translation of the Bible; for the Lord’s Prayer, both in Matthew 6 and Luke 11, they chose “do not abandon us in temptation,” although they did not order the change in liturgical use. The New American Bible, revised edition, is the basis for the Lectionary used at English-language Masses in the United States; the petition from the Lord’s Prayer in Matthew and Luke is translated as “do not subject us to the final test.”

Pope Francis told Father Pozza, “I’m the one who falls. But it’s not (God) who pushes me into temptation to see how I fall. No, a father does not do this. A father helps us up immediately.”

“The one who leads us into temptation is Satan,” the pope said. “That’s Satan’s job.”

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, in its discussion of the Lord’s Prayer, says, “Our sins result from our consenting to temptation; we therefore ask our Father not to lead us into temptation. It is difficult to translate the Greek verb used by a single English word: the Greek means both ‘do not allow us to enter into temptation’ and ‘do not let us yield to temptation.’”

Referring to James 1:13, the catechism says, “God cannot be tempted by evil and he himself tempts no one; on the contrary, he wants to set us free from evil. We ask him not to allow us to take the way that leads to sin.”
BURIAL OF UNBAPTIZED; ROLE OF DEACON

QUESTION & ANSWER
by: FATHER KENNETH DOYLE
Catholic News Service

Q. My son passed away recently at the age of 35. We held a memorial service for him since we could not have a funeral Mass. (He was not baptized as an infant -- which was my decision, of course, not his.)

I have been a Catholic all my life, have followed Christian principles and have raised my children with those same values. My parish priest is saying that since my son was never baptized, he cannot be buried in our church’s Catholic cemetery (where our family has already purchased plots for cremains).

I was very saddened to be told this -- because now, until my husband or I die, we will hold onto our son’s ashes; and we ourselves will now choose to be buried in a non-Catholic cemetery so that our son is not laid to rest alone.

We want him to be next to us. That deacon in our own parish is not allowed to do any of that. With most parishes now having only one priest, wouldn’t it be helpful if deacons could do more? (Indianapolis metropolitan area)

A. Deacons are authorized by the laws of the Catholic Church to baptize, witness marriages, perform wake and funeral services outside of Mass, distribute Holy Communion, proclaim the Gospel, preach homilies and expose the Blessed Sacrament for eucharistic adoration. (A deacon is not empowered -- as a priest is -- to consecrate the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ, to hear confessions or to anoint the sick.)

The work of a deacon, however, is done at the discretion and under the immediate supervision of the pastor of the parish to which that deacon is assigned. So there is some variation from parish to parish as regards the particular ministries of the deacon assigned there and the frequency with which those ministries are exercised. As you have pointed out, the current shortage of priests has made the work of deacons in the church today all the more valuable.

Q. Recently I read an article in our Catholic newspaper about the work of a deacon in a parish not far from my own. That deacon regularly baptizes people and distributes Communion at Mass. What I don’t understand is where he gets the authority to do those things.

The deacon in our own parish is not allowed to do any of that. With most parishes now having only one priest, wouldn’t it be helpful if deacons could do more? (Indianapolis metropolitan area)

A. Deacons are authorized by the laws of the Catholic Church to baptize, witness marriages, perform wake and funeral services outside of Mass, distribute Holy Communion, proclaim the Gospel, preach homilies and expose the Blessed Sacrament for eucharistic adoration. (A deacon is not empowered -- as a priest is -- to consecrate the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ, to hear confessions or to anoint the sick.)

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

Columbus St. Mary School Advent calendar

The December service project for Columbus St. Mary School’s Student Council involved spending two days after school getting the building decorated for Advent and Christmas. Students William Smiley and Mabry Hill are shown posting an Advent calendar which describes actions students can take to prepare their hearts for the coming of Jesus at Christmas.

Photo/St. Mary School

RIGHTS, continued from Page 3

It didn’t “apply that in a fair way to Mr. Phillips.” She also said that “what’s deeply concerning” is how speech could be compelled of “filmmakers, oil painters and graphic designers in all kinds of context.”

The arguments against the baker questioned whether failing to provide services to same-sex couples was discriminatory.

David Cole, a lawyer for the American Civil Liberties Union, defending the couple, said discrimination against the couple who wanted the cake consigned them to “second-class status.”

The last minutes of the oral arguments boiled down to the opposing views, but also didn’t reveal a clear path forward.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor suggested not participating in weddings or creating neutral wedding cakes but that refusing to offer goods to some goes against their religious rights.

“Whatever it is you choose to sell, you have to sell it to everyone who knocks on your door, if you open your door to everyone,” she added.

In response, Waggoner said it would be a grave offense to the First Amendment to “compel a person who believes that marriage is sacred, to give voice to a different view of marriage and require them to celebrate that marriage.”

Sotomayor suggested not participating in weddings or creating neutral wedding cakes but that refusing to offer goods to some goes against public anti-discrimination laws.

Waggoner, in her last allotted minute, said, “A wedding cake expresses an inherent message that is that the union is a marriage and is to be celebrated, and that message violates Mr. Phillips’ religious convictions.”

Follow Zimmermann on Twitter: @carolmaczim.
It didn’t take long for Anne Keenan to realize that she was entering a different world when she began discernment for the religious life with the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs, now the Dominican Sisters of Peace, in Columbus.

“Jesuit priest there that I had my first contact with the Dominicans, and when the results of the simultaneous voting were announced, ‘Dominican Sisters of Peace’ was the choice of the majority of those congregations which formed the Dominican Sisters of Peace.

Sister Anne served on the St. Mary of the Springs congregation’s leadership team from 2002-09. During much of this time were the parish’s 50th anniversary events in 1997 and the evening prayer service at which we celebrated the coming of the new millennium.”

“We didn’t want this to be seen as a merger of one congregation over the other,” she said. “All came to the table equally, with different gifts, to be united as one. We had constant struggles, but it was very exciting.

“One of the most important things was how the name ‘Dominican Sisters of Peace’ was chosen. We had two large meetings of all seven congregations, one in Columbus and one in New Orleans, going on at the same time, to select a name for the new congregation. We had several options, and when the results of the simultaneous voting were announced at both meetings, we were surprised to learn that ‘Dominican Sisters of Peace’ was the choice of the majority in both instances. This gave us a real sense that the Holy Spirit was guiding the selection.”

Sister Anne spent a year on sabbatical in Ireland and California after the congregations united, then was at Columbus Holy Cross Church from 2010-16, directing adult faith formation programs, performing outreach to nursing homes and the homebound, coordinating and training liturgical ministers, and organizing special events, before being appointed to her current position with her congregation.

“I have been very happy in my almost 60 years in religious life,” she said. “I’m not a Pollyanna. There have been times when I’ve questioned my vocation, but you struggle through those, you pray, and you come out with a greater realization that this is what God is calling you to do.”

“I would tell any woman who is discerning whether to enter a religious life that if you are being called, you will receive the grace you need. There will be hard times and good times, and you always have to be true to yourself, because people will see if you’re being artificial, but the grace will always be there.”

Sister Anne didn’t think seriously about the possibility of becoming a sister until her senior year in high school. “I was active in things like theater and cheerleading and was one of those New Yorkers who thought ‘Why go past the Hudson River?’” she said. “But my interest in at least seeing what the Dominican life was like grew stronger. I talked to two sisters, Sister Florita and Sister Mary Ambrose, about it, went through the steps of applying, and left home for Columbus.

“I’m an only child, and leaving was tough on my mother – not just because I was going away from home, but because my being a sister meant I wouldn’t be a grandmother. I probably didn’t realize then what that meant to her because I was so occupied with getting ready for a different life in a different place. My dad’s attitude was that whatever I decided was all right, as long as I was happy.”

Sister Anne pronounced her first vows in 1958 and her final vows in 1963. As was the custom then, she was given a religious name, Sister Mary Marcelle, by which she was known until the Dominicans, along with many other orders, changed their rules after the Second Vatican Council to permit sisters to be known by their baptismal names.

She began her teaching career at Lancaster St. Mary School in 1960, while she was still a college student. “There were 18 sisters in the convent there, and I was the youngest,” she said. “Sister Sebastian Gallen, a very kind, loving woman, was our superior. I remember how she would take me and the next youngest sister on trips to get to know the area.

“Large classes were common then. We had 180 first-graders, divided into three classrooms of 60 each, but we never had any real discipline problems, though I do remember one time when a student went out the back window, and we never missed him until the principal told me.”

Sister Anne taught from 1960-76 at Lancaster and at parochial schools in Steubenville and Connecticut, then at a Montessori school in Cincinnati and the Montessori school at St. Mary of the Springs. In 1968, she received a master’s degree from Xavier University of Cincinnati in Montessori education, which is a more hands-on and individualized way of teaching than traditional methods.

From 1976-81, she was a consultant for the diocesan schools office, adapting her Montessori background to methods of teaching religion to children in diocesan elementary schools. In 1981, she returned to her alma mater, Dominican Academy in New York, and spent six years teaching there.

“That was interesting, especially in my first two years, when I was teaching the daughters of guys I used to date. They’d giggle, and I’d just say ‘Yes, your dad and I knew each other,’” she said. “I loved being part of the city again. Dominican Academy has a great history, and it’s still there today, located in a recently renovated mansion where it’s been for the past 80 years. Its president is Sister Margaret Ormond, also a Dominican Academy graduate, who was the first prioress of the Dominican Sisters of Peace after the congregations united.”

While at the academy, Sister Anne earned a master’s degree in religious studies from The Catholic University of America. She spent the 1987-88 academic year doing additional studies in theology and spirituality at Regis College of the University of Toronto, then returned to Columbus, where she worked again in the schools office, was interim diocesan religious director for a year, and was part of her congregation’s ministry of welcome.

She served as pastoral associate from 1991-2002 at Columbus St. James the Less Church. “The parish was blessed during that time with wonderful Precious Blood priests, who were very pastoral, and a staff which was innovative and enthusiastic and shared similar views on education and ecclesiology,” she said.

“A couple of things which were particularly memorable during that time were the parish’s 50th anniversary events in 1997 and the evening prayer service at which we celebrated the coming of the new millennium.”

For the last two years, Sister Anne, 79, has been co-director of the Office of Founded Ministry of the Dominican Sisters of Peace, a congregation which was formed when the St. Mary of the Springs sisters united with six other Dominican congregations in 2009. A seventh was added later.

“The number of sisters has become fewer and we are not as present in the 25 institutions our various congregations founded as long ago as 1822 and as recently as 2014,” Sister Anne said. In the Columbus area, these include Ohio Dominican, the Mohun Health Care Center, and the Martin de Porres Center, all on the Springs campus on the city’s east side; the Dominican Learning Center on the south side; and the Shepherd’s Corner Ecology Center in Blacklick.

“My work with the Office of Founded Ministry involves visiting those institutions and talking with their boards and staff to ensure that our lay partners maintain our Dominican values and Catholic identity as they take over responsibility at those places,” she said. The office also includes Sister Charlene Moser, OP, as co-director and longtime diocesan religious educator Mark Butler as educational resources coordinator.

Sister Anne’s family belonged to St. Ignatius Church on Park Avenue in Manhattan’s Upper East Side, and she attended the parish’s school. “It was a Jesuit parish, and it was through a Jesuit priest there that I had my first contact with the Dominican Sisters,” she said. This came when she attended Dominican Academy, a high school for girls which the sisters have operated on the Upper East Side since 1897.

“What impressed me about them was that they were happy, joyful, and the best teachers ever,” she said. “When I went to college, I realized that I had a great advantage because they had prepared all of us at the academy to be leaders and to be articulate, and to do the kind of research and study we needed to be successful in college.”

While the academy, Sister Anne earned a master’s degree in religious studies from The Catholic University of America. She spent the 1987-88 academic year doing additional studies in theology and spirituality at Regis College of the University of Toronto, then returned to Columbus, where she worked again in the schools office, was interim diocesan religious director for a year, and was part of her congregation’s ministry of welcome.

She served as pastoral associate from 1991-2002 at Columbus St. James the Less Church. “The parish was blessed during that time with wonderful Precious Blood priests, who were very pastoral, and a staff which was innovative and enthusiastic and shared similar views on education and ecclesiology,” she said.

“A couple of things which were particularly memorable during that time were the parish’s 50th anniversary events in 1997 and the evening prayer service at which we celebrated the coming of the new millennium.”

Sister Anne served on the St. Mary of the Springs congregation’s leadership team from 2002-09. During much of this time were the parish’s 50th anniversary events in 1997 and the evening prayer service at which we celebrated the coming of the new millennium.”

“We didn’t want this to be seen as a merger of one congregation over the other,” she said. “All came to the table equally, with different gifts, to be united as one. We had constant struggles, but it was very exciting.

“One of the most important things was how the name ‘Dominican Sisters of Peace’ was chosen. We had two large meetings of all seven congregations, one in Columbus and one in New Orleans, going on at the same time, to select a name for the new congregation. We had several options, and when the results of the simultaneous voting were announced at both meetings, we were surprised to learn that ‘Dominican Sisters of Peace’ was the choice of the majority in both instances. This gave us a real sense that the Holy Spirit was guiding the selection.”

Sister Anne spent a year on sabbatical in Ireland and California after the congregations united, then was at Columbus Holy Cross Church from 2010-16, directing adult faith formation programs, performing outreach to nursing homes and the homebound, coordinating and training liturgical ministers, and organizing special events, before being appointed to her current position with her congregation.

“I have been very happy in my almost 60 years in religious life,” she said. “I’m not a Pollyanna. There have been times when I’ve questioned my vocation, but you struggle through those, you pray, and you come out with a greater realization that this is what God is calling you to do.”

“I would tell any woman who is discerning whether to enter a religious life that if you are being called, you will receive the grace you need. There will be hard times and good times, and you always have to be true to yourself, because people will see if you’re being artificial, but the grace will always be there.”

**Sr. Anne Keenan, OP**

**Answering God’s Call**

**SISTER HELPS INSTITUTIONS MAINTAIN DOMINICAN VALUES**

By Tim Puet
Ohio EPA recognizes Watterson teacher

Columbus Bishop Watterson High School science teacher Will Reiss was recognized by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for his work creating the school’s recycling program. His efforts in the past eight years have resulted in 30,000 pounds of trash being diverted from landfills each year.

“He imparts his knowledge and commitment to students who choose to recycle at school and home,” his certificate of appreciation said. “He often arrives early to sort and organize the school’s recycling efforts and stays late to lead the Environmental Club he founded in 2009. Often referred to by teachers and students as the ‘nicest man in the world,’ his dedication to recycling and leadership in environmental education is exemplary.”

Watterson’s principal, Deacon Chris Campbell (standing, far left) is pictured with club members congratulating Reiss (standing, far right) on his recognition.

Photo courtesy Bishop Watterson High School

Seasons of Giving at Bishop Watterson

Columbus Bishop Watterson High School’s Student Council conducted a Seasons of Giving collection to benefit several local organizations. Freshmen collected warm winter accessories for the Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs, sophomores brought wrapping supplies for the Bishop Griffin Center’s free store, juniors contributed diapers, wipes and money for the Kinder Women’s Care Center, and seniors brought personal hygiene items for a fundraiser for Haiti which took place at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School. The Watterson faculty and staff are supporting the toy store at St. Lawrence Haven, operated by the St. Vincent de Paul Society downtown.

Photo courtesy Bishop Watterson High School

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When you look into the lights of a tree so wonderfully and thoughtfully decorated, does it cause your mind to wander? Do the twinkling stars so brightly shining bring about a moment of reflection? What we think of as a passing thought can be a message from God. Remember that through gentle whispers, we receive the kindest and most meaningful of gestures.

It is said that many of us go through life with blinders on. We try so hard not to have a negative experience that we forget there is growth in suffering and in sacrifice. We never could become what we were meant to be without that little spark of divine intervention. It is in those vulnerable moments when we are closest to God.

Memories can be a tricky thing. They can be a reminder to us of a wisdom learned or of a need for us to change. If we get into a bad situation, is it our nature to run away from the problem, or to come to it in full knowledge that by solving it, we relieve ourselves from the burden of possible failure? It is through trial we seem to make the most awesome accomplishments.

The work of our hands and of our heart is at the precipice of the common nature of being human. We all seek out that which brings a sense of community and belonging, rather than something which takes us away from that normality. We are never truly alone.

It is only our vain supposition that keeps us isolated. Do not fear or condemn what you may not understand; rather, take this chance to undergo a remarkable and humbling experience.

Especially at Christmastime, we are so busy that we seem to lose the proverbial forest through the trees. We forget the immense strides it took to get us here. We are so enamored in the season that we tend to neglect the most important person in this process -- ourself. Take this time to learn a little more about yourself and the people around you. God sends you His love, and His invitation is the highest, above all the rest. Answer Him back by loving a little more, showing someone a little more compassion, or helping that neighbor who has fallen on bad times or circumstances. This is what God is waiting to see, not just by empty rhetoric but by your actions.

Intermingled in the wave of gifts, parties, greetings, and prayers is a simple premise. God is giving you this time as a test to see the fruits of His labor and your chance to be something extra special for someone else. He plants His seed in good ground, watches it grow and mature, and, in the end, relishes in the abundant harvest. Sweeter than honey or nectar, it is what Our Lord loves the most.

Remember, He gave the ultimate gift, His son born to us in the humblest of ways. He wasn’t afraid to become human because He is a part of every one of us. He gave us His spirit and His heart to be as enduring to our needs as He was always willing. Pope St. John Paul II once said, “Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth; and God has placed in the human heart a desire to know the truth – in a word, to know himself.”

So let your spirit soar and fly high among the clouds. Raise your voices in prayer. Make this holiday, this birthday, this Christmas, the most awesome and special adventure for everyone you meet. May the wind be forever at your backs, may the Holy Spirit bring you intense joy, and may His peace be with you always. So I say to you all without reservation, “Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night.”

Joseph Thomas, a member of Gahanna St. Matthew Church, is a freelance writer and is active in many diocesan and church activities.
Members of the Christ Child Society of Columbus do more than pull out their checkbooks when called on to help children in need. In the tradition of the founder of the society’s national organization, Mary Virginia Merrick, the group provides personal, hands-on service by making layettes for infants, volunteering at the child care facility the Women’s Care Center on the city’s east side, providing meals for toddlers at the Race Club on the west side, and taking care of sick children at Columbus Children’s Hospital.

“The faith-based, all-volunteer society which she founded has nearly 6,000 members, with chapters in 19 states and the District of Columbia. Molly Fanning of Columbus is a member of its national board. Ohio is the state with the largest number of chapters, with eight – located in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dayton, Toledo, Grove City and Lake counties – having a total membership of about 500.”

Merrick often said, “Find a need and fill it.”

“I love working with kids,” said Beth Kistler, president of the organization for the past year. “We help children and mothers at every level, from layettes at birth to programs designed to help bring success at school. While the most important is that everything we do has an enabling effect as a component to it. It is joined in the society in 2011, and my life is much richer because of it.”

“By Tim Puet

The faith-based, all-volunteer society which she founded has nearly 6,000 members, with chapters in 19 states and the District of Columbia. The society three years ago and was�...
Protests cause uncertainty in Bethlehem, but for now, pilgrims visit

By Judith Sudilovsky/Catholic News Service

BNot far from where journalists lined up for positions outside the guard tower at Rachel’s Tomb in anticipation of confrontations between Israeli soldiers and Palestinians, life in Bethlehem continued. Trendy young Bethlehem residents and visitors were lunching on vegetarian pizza, quinoa and salmon salad, and sandwiches with names like Sexy Morning at the popular Zuwadeh Cafe.

“No benefit will come (of the demonstrations), but people are getting their frustrations out like they have the right to do. It’s the least they can do,” said Mahmoud Hamideh, 25.

“People go and throw stones, but then life goes back to normal,” agreed his cousin, Saleh al-Jundi, 31, who just moved back to Bethlehem from Abu Dhabi with his wife and 14-month-old son. “But this time I am not sure after what Trump said.”

Palestinians leaders called for three days of protests following U.S. President Donald Trump’s Dec. 6 official recognition of Jerusalem as Israel’s capital, and demonstrations have broken out in the West Bank, Jordan and other parts of the Muslim world.

Palestinians reported one killed and at least 35 injured in clashes in the Gaza Strip, with some 115 Palestinians injured in all protests Dec. 8. In Bethlehem, Israeli soldiers fired tear gas and rubber bullets at rock-throwing demonstrators.

Jerusalem is home to holy sites sacred to Christians, Muslims and Jews and is contested as the capital of Israel and a future Palestinian state. The city has been a key point of contention in Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations, which have been on hold since 2014.

Palestinians say that with his declaration, Trump has removed the United States from the status of neutral mediator.

Though concerned that a continuation of the hostilities may affect the busy Christmas season, shopkeepers and others in the tourism industry in Bethlehem said Dec. 8 that, for now, pilgrims are not canceling reservations.

“But people will be afraid and will think we have a war here,” said 21-year-old Marianna Musallam, who is Greek Orthodox, as she arranged oversized rosaries meant to be hung on the wall. “But we are always in war. Nothing has changed. Trump’s speech was not for good. Jerusalem is for us Palestinians. It is not possible to share.”

Several guests were busy checking messages on their smartphones in the lobby of the Franciscan Casa Nova Guest House, just steps from the Church of the Nativity, and an older couple dropped off their keys on their way out.

“Until now everything is good,” said Issam Matar, who was staffing the reception desk. “But no one knows what will happen in the future.”

Restaurant manager Mahmoud Abu Hamad, 30, a Muslim, said the Catholic owner had told him to close Dec. 7 for a one-day strike called by Palestinian leaders. He said they were not concerned about losing customers over Christmas.

“What we have to lose is bigger than anything. (Jerusalem), the capital of Palestine, is bigger than anything,” he said. “In the end, Jerusalem will be the capital of Palestine. We don’t care what (Trump) says.”

Others, like a Catholic shop owner and a Muslim in the tourism industry, both of whom did not want their names used, said the violence would not help the Palestinian situation.

“If people are smart they would not go out to the streets,” said the Muslim. “With a new conflict, we will lose more kids just because the leaders said to go out into the streets. They should send their own sons, not our sons, who don’t even know what they are fighting for.”

Inside the Church of the Nativity, a large part of which has been cordoned off due to ongoing restoration, pilgrims stood patiently in line, waiting to enter the creche that marks the traditional spot of Jesus’ birth.

Latvian pilgrim Janis Bulisi, 43, said he and his wife had disconnected from the internet since arriving in the Holy Land and had vaguely heard something about Trump’s announcement and the ensuing demonstrations.

“We are here on our pilgrimage. We have felt no tensions. We are just excited to be in the place where Jesus was born,” he said.

“Honestly, I did consider canceling the trip, but after thinking about it I saw the violence was more (in other areas), so I took the chance on still coming, though there is a lot of hesitation, nervousness and uncertainty,” said Daniele Coda, 34, of Italy.

Stella Korsah, 56, said though her group had seen some demonstrators on their way from Jericho to Jerusalem, they had not seen violence.

“I have been waiting for this (pilgrimage) for my entire life and I had the opportunity now,” said Korsah, who is a member of St. Catherine of Genoa Catholic Church in Brooklyn, New York. “I was nervous listening to the news ... but I hope for peace ... and remember my purpose for coming here. We serve a living God, and I know peace will prevail.”

In the courtyard outside the Church of St. Catherine, a Spanish group from the lay ecclesial movement Communion and Liberation prepared, in song, for their Mass.

“We are here on our pilgrimage. We were a bit worried, but our priest reassured us,” said Cristina Gallego, 53, who directed the singing. “We pray for peace. Christ is here. Here one comes to see, touch and feel their faith.”
The overflowing congregation at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington hardly needed reminding to raise their “eyes to the heavens” during the dedication of the Trinity Dome Mosaic on Dec. 8.

Before Mass began, all eyes were already on the newly completed gold dome above the front central section of the Upper Church.

When it was blessed during Mass, incense rose above the congregation and bright lights were turned on to give a better view of the newly finished dome, which includes the words of the Nicene Creed encircling the base and a depiction of the Holy Trinity, Mary, the four evangelists, angels, and more than a dozen saints connected to the United States or the shrine.

During the blessing and before and after Mass, phones and cameras were held aloft to capture the completed work, which was more than two years in the making. But it would take more than a few pictures to capture the details in this majestic work of art described as the “crowning jewel” of the national shrine during introductory remarks by Msgr. Walter Rossi, its rector.

The dome mosaic is composed of more than 14 million pieces of Venetian glass covering more than 18,300 square feet of the dome’s surface. Its completion marks the final step in finishing the work on the Upper Church, which began in 1955.

The dome was dedicated, fittingly, on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, reflecting the basilica’s namesake. The dedication Mass was celebrated by Washington Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl and Cardinal Kevin J. Farrell, prefect of the Vatican’s Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life, who was named by Pope Francis to be his special envoy at the dedication Mass.

Other cardinals concelebrating the Mass included Cardinals Theodore E. McCarrick, retired archbishop of Washington, and Justin Rigali, retired archbishop of Philadelphia, along with Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. They were joined by more than two dozen bishops and 90 priests.

Cardinal Wuerl pointed out in his homily that the mosaic tiles in the dome are symbolic of the living body of Christ regularly filling the pews of the shrine and reflect the church’s diversity.

He urged the congregation of families, women religious, students and people of all ages and ethnic backgrounds who filled the pews and the side chapels and stood in the back at the dedication Mass to always look to this “great majestic dome mindful of our prayer to Mary” and ask for her intercession.

He said Mary is the model of “what our faith should be” because she believed that nothing was impossible with God.

The cardinal said he remembered coming to the shrine when he was a student at The Catholic University of America in the 1960s, when the walls were simply brick except for the mosaic image of the risen Christ at the front of the church.

He also noted that the completion of the dome finishes a work that began nearly 100 years ago, when the shrine’s cornerstone was placed in 1920.

As construction began on the shrine, Catholics across the country were invited to contribute whatever they could. Some donated pieces of gold jewelry and even precious stones, which were fashioned into what came to be known as the “first chalice of the National Shrine” and was used at the Dec. 8 mosaic dedication.

When Pope Francis was at the shrine in 2015 to celebrate Mass and canonize St. Junipero Serra, he also blessed a piece of the mosaic: the words for the beginning and end of the Nicene Creed — “I believe in one God” and “Amen.”

At the end of the dedication Mass, Msgr. Rossi thanked the artists and workers for their work on the mosaic, which was done in Italy and shipped in 30,000 sections weighing 24 tons. “This crowning jewel of Mary’s shrine is really your work, your gift to the Blessed Mother,” he said.

By Carol Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

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John the Baptist sets the stage for Jesus to arrive

Isaiah 61:1-2a,10-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8,19-28

Isaiah speaks in glowing terms about the end of the Babylonian exile in the first reading. The end of exile means “glad tidings” for the poor, healing for the brokenhearted, liberty for captives, and release for prisoners. All of this happens during a “year of favor” from the Lord. This “jubilee year” stems from Leviticus 25:10, which is supposed to occur every 50th year. It coincides here with the 50th year (roughly) since the exile had begun. It began in 586 BC, and Cyrus declared the exile at an end in 538 BC. Naturally, the prophet recounts all that is to be expected during this jubilee.

Luke cited the first two verses of today’s first reading at the opening of Jesus’ public ministry at the synagogue in Nazareth in Luke 4:18-19. After that, Luke’s Jesus said, “Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in Jesus.” That is the first mention of Christ in John, suggesting that John the Baptist in his preaching probably mentioned Christ and was aware of the expectation that the Messiah (or Christ) was near. The official comes to John the Baptist and asks: “Who are you so we can tell those who sent us?” John’s answer quotes Isaiah (40:3): “I am the voice of one crying in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord.” In verse 17 of his Gospel, John the Evangelist says “grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”

Sunday’s reading then jumps to verse 19, which spells out what John the Baptist’s testimony was as it introduces Jerusalem authorities, including priests and Levites, to inquire about him: “Who are you?” It is a stunning question, really. How would we answer the question? Do we start telling our life history or do we state our name, our gender, our occupation? How do we answer?

John answers negatively: “I am not the Christ.” The questioners ask: “What then? Elijah? ... The Prophet? ... Who are you so we can tell those who sent us?” John’s answer quotes Isaiah (40:3): “I am the voice of one crying in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord.” In verse 17 of his Gospel, John the Evangelist says “grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.” That is the first mention of Christ in John, suggesting that John the Baptist in his preaching probably mentioned Christ and was aware of the expectation that the Messiah (or Christ) was near. The official comes to John the Baptist because of his many followers, which is why John immediately denies that he is the Messiah.

Everything points to the one who is coming after him. When the Pharisees join in, asking him why he is baptizing if he is not the Messiah nor any of the others, John answers that there is one among them now, whom they do not recognize, whose sandal strap John is unworthy to untie. “Bethany across the Jordan,” where John was baptizing, is a place unknown. The scene is set for Jesus to arrive, which will unfold shortly during the Christmas celebration to follow. Paul reminds us in the second reading to rejoice always, to pray without ceasing, and to test everything while retaining the good.

Late-Day Christmas Mass at Cathedral

Are you looking for a late-day Christmas Mass because of work or other circumstances?

Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral will be celebrating a 5:15 p.m. Mass on Monday, Dec. 25. The Cathedral is located at 212 E, Broad St. Secured parking is accessible off East Gay Street. For more information, call the cathedral at (614) 224-1295, or visit www.saintjosephcathedral.org.

Father Lawrence Hummer, pastor of Chillicothe St. Mary Church, can be reached at hummerl@stmarychillicothe.com.

The Weekday Bible Readings

MONDAY
- Jeremiah 23:5-8
- Psalm 72:1-2,12-13,18-19
- Matthew 1:8-25

TUESDAY
- Judges 13:2-7,24-25a
- Psalm 71:3-6,16-17
- Luke 1:5-25

WEDNESDAY
- Isaiah 7:10-14
- Psalm 24:1-6
- Luke 1:26-38

THURSDAY
- Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a
- Psalm 35:2-3,11-12,20-21

FRIDAY
- 1 Samuel 1:24-28
- 1 Samuel 2:1-4,7,8abcd (Ps)
- Luke 1:46-56

SATURDAY
- Malachi 3:1-4,23-24
- Psalm 25:4-5; Sab 8:8-10,14
- Luke 1:57-66

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE

WEEK OF DECEMBER 17, 2017

SUNDAY MASS
- 10:30 a.m. Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com.
- Mass with the Passionist Fathers at 7:30 a.m. on WHIO-TV (the CW), Channel 53, Columbus, and 10:30 a.m. on WHIZ-TV, Channel 18, Zanesville. 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-Lifetime (Channel 113 in Ada, Logan, Millersburg, Murray City and Washington C.H.; Channel 125 in Marion, Newark, Newcomerstown and New Philadelphia; and Channel 207 in Zanesville); 8 p.m., St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com.

We pray Week III, Seasonal Proper of the Liturgy of the Hours
It’s been a good year for publishing – at least in the sense of a lot of good books getting published – so here are some for the readers on your Christmas gift list (in addition, of course, to Lessons in Hope: My Unexpected Life with St. John Paul II [Basic Books], by your scribe).

The Light of Christ: An Introduction to Catholicism, by Father Thomas Joseph White, OP (Catholic University of America Press): Father White is one of America’s most impressive younger Catholic thinkers (and its most impressive banjo-playing Catholic thinker). His work exemplifies the Catholic renaissance inspired by St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI, and his book makes the searching skeptic think, and then think again, about what the fullness of Catholic faith means.

Charles Borromeo: Selected Orations, Homilies, and Writings, edited by Msgr. John R. Cihak (Bloomsbury): The saintly 16th century archbishop of Milan, Charles Borromeo – who was shot at the altar for his reformist efforts, recovered, and then pleaded for his assailant’s life – is obviously a man worth getting to know. Msgr. Cihak’s fine introduction to Borromeo’s life and work helps us distinguish true from false reform in the Church at a moment when that’s a crucial issue for 21st-century Catholicism.

An Introduction to Vatican II as an Ongoing Theological Event, by Matthew Levering (Catholic University of America Press): I’ve been amazed to discover in recent years just how little young and engaged Catholic millennials know about the Second Vatican Council and what preceded it – a gap in their historical knowledge that often leads to a distorted view of today’s intra-Catholic contentions. Give Dr. Levering’s fine book to anyone you know who falls engaged Catholic millennials know about the Second Vatican Council and what preceded it – a gap in their historical knowledge that often leads to a distorted view of today’s intra-Catholic contentions. Give Dr. Levering’s fine book to anyone you know who falls into that category, or indeed to anyone who wants to know the Council and today’s arguments over its proper implementation better. It’s reader-friendly and written for non-specialists (although I can think of some theologians on the port side of the Barque of Peter who could benefit from studying it, too).

Accompanying, Discerning, Integrating: A Handbook for the Pastoral Care of the Family According to “Amoris Laetitia,” by Jose Granados, Stephan Kampowski, and Juan Jose Perez-Soba (Emmanuel Road Publishing): The buzzword title ought not put anyone off from giving this engaging and trustworthy guide through the thicket of family life issues to every priest, deacon, marriage-preparation minister, and marriage counselor on their gift list.

Scalia Speaks: Reflections on Law, Faith, and Life Well Lived, edited by Christopher J. Scalia and Edward Whelan (Crown Forum): How could anyone not love a man whose favorite lunch was pepperoni pizza and red wine? Well, a lot of people didn’t love Justice Scalia during his lifetime, but this posthumous collection of his speeches may change even the most hardened of hearts and minds. For it not only introduces the man in full, but helps explain why he was one of the most influential jurists in American history, in a class with John Marshall and Joseph Story. Antonin Scalia was a serious man who took his craft seriously, loved his family and country, and wrote with courage, passion, and wit, especially in dissent. Little wonder that he was given, by his priest-son, Paul, the finest funeral homily since Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger’s homily at the funeral Mass of John Paul II.

Leading a Worthy Life: Finding Meaning in Modern Times, by Leon R. Kass (Encounter Books): Generations of students at the University of Chicago found in Leon Kass and his late wife, Amy, the kind of teachers for which every student and every student’s parents should long. In this collection of essays, some jointly written by one of the all-time great husband-and-wife teams, readers meet wisdom and decency honed by a deep reading of everyone from Homer, Aristotle, and Moses to Shakespeare, Jane Austen, and C.S. Lewis – and by a lifelong love for the Chicago Cubs (which, after the 2016 World Series, can no longer be dismissed as a sign of grave psychic distress).

Kenneth Clark: Life, Art, and “Civilisation,” by James Stourton (Knopf): A charming biography of the great art historian, who once said that entering the Catholic Church (which he seems to have done on his deathbed) was like a painting entering the Louvre: “It would find itself in some pretty queer company, but at least it would be sure that it had a soul.”

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

Our Lady of Bethlehem plans two open houses

Columbus Our Lady of Bethlehem School and Childcare, 4567 Olentangy River Road, will host open houses from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 28 and 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, March 7.

The school serves children from six weeks old through kindergarten during the school year, as well as offering before-and-after-school child care. It also has a summer program for children in preschool through grade six.

Its mission since its founding in 1956 has been to provide exceptional faith formation and early education in a safe, nurturing community to each student and family it serves.

Our Lady of Bethlehem’s programs foster optimum growth, development, and academic success in each young child. The school’s unique blend of tradition, proven curriculum, and individualized care and education give children a strong foundation for lifelong learning.
Sister Mary Ronald Sunic, OP

Funeral Mass for Sister Mary Ronald Sunic, OP, 93, who died Tuesday, Dec. 5, was held Wednesday, Dec. 13 in the Motherhouse of the Dominican Sisters of Peace. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was born Margaret Sunic on Nov. 27, 1924, in East McKeesport, Pennsylvania, to George and Ruth (Daugherty) Sunic.

She was a graduate of Taylor Allderdice High School in Pittsburgh and received a bachelor of science degree in elementary education in 1955 from St. Mary of the Springs College (now Ohio Dominican University) and a master of education degree in library science in 1969 from Duquesne University. She entered the congregation of the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs (now the Dominican Sisters of Peace) in 1944 and professed her vows on Aug. 14, 1946.

In the Diocese of Columbus, she was a fifth-grade teacher at Columbus Holy Name (1949-50) and Columbus St. Thomas (1950-51) schools and was a nursing assistant and volunteer at the Mohun Health Care Center in Columbus (1994-2009). She entered a ministry of prayer and service at the Motherhouse from 2009-10 and of prayer and presence at the Mohun center from 2010 until her death. She also was a teacher and librarian at schools in Steubenville and in Pennsylvania, New Mexico, New York, and Connecticut, and was a nursing assistant from 1992-94 at St. Andrew Convent in Flushing, New York.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, George and John; and sisters, Elizabeth Clontz, Ruth, and Mary. Survivors include several nieces and nephews.

SERVICE, continued from Page 11

amount including five new scholarships and a one-time grant. Since the inception of the scholarship program in 2000, it has awarded $841,850 to students.

Its principal fundraising event is the annual Red Wagon Fare luncheon, named in honor of Mary Virginia Merrick’s initial gift. It takes place on a weekday afternoon in October, and for the last several years has been at the Villa Milano banquet center in Columbus. The event includes a style show and a boutique featuring local vendors. This year, about 430 people attended the event and it raised about $43,000. Those attending were asked to bring a book with them and donate it as part of the chapter’s literacy efforts, and about 300 did so.

Other activities sponsored by the chapter include a day of reflection for members and friends in March, a baby show and a boutique featuring local vendors. This year, about 430 people attended the event and it raised about $43,000. Those attending were asked to bring a book with them and donate it as part of the chapter’s literacy efforts, and about 300 did so.

For more information or if you are interested in becoming a member, go to www.christchildsociety.org. To learn more about the chapter’s national organization, go to www.nationalchristchildsociety.org.
by Father Boniface Endorf, OP, on “Trust Not in Princes: Hope and Despair in American Politics.”

15, FRIDAY
Christmas Concert at Church of the Resurrection
7:30 p.m., Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road, New Albany. Christmas concert with all of the parish’s music organizations, featuring more than 200 musicians. 614-655-1400

15-21, FRIDAY-SATURDAY
Simbang Gabi Celebration at St. Elizabeth
7:30 p.m., St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon Woods Blvd., Columbus. Simbang Gabi, a Filipino Christmas tradition, featuring celebration of Mass for nine consecutive nights. Dec. 23 closing celebration begins with Mass at 7, followed by potluck in Pastors’ Hall.

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

Morning of Reflection at Sts. Peter and Paul Center
9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center, 2734 Seminary Road S.E., Newark. Advent morning of reflection with Sister Louis Mary Passeri, OP. Theme: “The Presence.” Cost: $20 including continental breakfast. 740-928-4246

Centering Prayer Group Meeting at Corpus Christi
10:30 a.m. to noon, Corpus Christi Center of Peace, 1111 E. Stewart Ave., Columbus. Centering prayer group meeting, beginning with silent prayer, followed by Contemplative Outreach DVD and discussion. 614-512-3731

Ohio Dominican University Commencement Ceremony
11 a.m., Alumni Hall, Ohio Dominican University, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. ODU winter commencement ceremony. Speaker: Dr. Sterling W. Hedrick, president of the Columbus Arthritis Center. Preceded by Baccalaureate Mass at 9 a.m. in Christ the King Chapel.

Frasassi Society Volunteers at Holy Family Soup Kitchen
11 a.m., Holy Family Soup Kitchen, 57 S. Grubb St., Columbus. Columbus St. Patrick Frasassi Society for young adults assists Columbus Relief organization with outreach activities. Those interested must register at www.columbusrelief.org.

Blessing of Infant Jesus Figures at Zanesville St. Thomas
5 p.m., St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 144 N. 5th St., Zanesville. Blessing of infant Jesus figures during Mass.

17, SUNDAY
Blessing of Infant Jesus Figures at Zanesville St. Thomas
8 and 11 a.m., St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 144 N. 5th St., Zanesville. Blessing of infant Jesus figures during Mass.

Catholic War Veterans Mass, Brunch
9 a.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Catholic War Veterans posts 1916 and 1963 attend Mass, followed by brunch at Max & Erma’s, 55 E. Nationwide Blvd., with talk by retired Army Maj. Gen. Dennis Laich of the Columbus Arthritis Center. Preceded by Baccalaureate Mass at 9 a.m. in Christ the King Chapel. 614-224-9522

Adoration, Evening Prayer at New Philadelphia
7:30 p.m., Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road, New Albany. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. 614-655-1400

Eucharistic Adoration at Chilirothe St. Mary
4 p.m., St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 144 N. 5th St., Zanesville. Eucharistic Adoration during Mass. Following noon Mass, St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Following noon Mass, St. Joseph Church, 140 N. 5th St., Zanesville. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, with prayers in the Cenacle format of the Marian Movement of Priests. 614-655-1400

Rosary for Life at St. Joan of Arc
Following 6:15 p.m. Mass, St. Joan of Arc Church, 10700 Liberty Road, Powell. Recital of Rosary for Life, sponsored by church’s respect life committee.

21, THURSDAY
Cenacle at Holy Name
6 p.m., Holy Name Church, 154 E. Patterson Ave., Columbus. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, with prayers in the Cenacle format of the Marian Movement of Priests. Sung Vespers, Benediction at St. Margaret of Cortona 7 p.m., St. Margaret of Cortona Church, 3600 N. Hague Ave., Columbus. Parish’s regular Thursday Eucharistic Adoration concludes with sung Vespers and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. 614-279-1690

Theology on Tap Meeting
7 p.m., El Vaquero Restaurant, 3230 Olentangy River Road, Columbus. Theology on Tap discussion and social group for young Catholics, with Rachelita Martin, who has spent more than 30 years in the health care field, speaking on “Bringing Mental Illness Out of the Shadows and In the Church.” RSVP to chtapet@gmail.com or ColumbusTheologyOnTap Facebook page.

‘Happenings’ submissions
Notices for items of Catholic interest must be received at least 12 days before expected publication date. We will print them as space permits. Listings cannot be taken by phone. Mail to Catholic Times Happenings, 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215. Fax to 614-221-2518. E-mail as text to tpuet@columbuscatholic.org.
Amahl and the Night Visitors

Opera Project Columbus and Maestro Alessandro Siciliani present Gian Carlo Menotti’s Amahl and the Night Visitors at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 5 and 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 7 at the Lincoln Theater, 769 E Long St., Columbus.

The show will be fully staged, featuring the OPC Orchestra, conducted by Siciliani.

Amahl and the Night Visitors was the first opera specifically composed for television in the United States. It was commissioned by the NBC network and first performed by the NBC Opera Theater live from Rockefeller Center on Dec. 24, 1951.

The role of Amahl will be sung by 15 year-old Claire O’Shaughnessy of Upper Arlington, who sings with the Columbus International Children’s Choir (CICC), the Columbus St. Andrew Church choir, and the Wellington School choir. She also has performed with CATCO Is Kids! and the Gallery Players. With CICC, she has sung throughout Italy, in Latvia, at Carnegie Hall, and at the White House for President Obama.

Rounding out the cast will be Emily Holsclaw as the mother, Eric McKeever as King Melchior, Joshua Cook as King Kaspar, and Tommy Petrushka as King Balthasar.

OPC artistic administrator Adam Cioffari has sung with festivals and operas in Europe and across the United States and will make his directorial debut with Amahl. Katherine Wexler will provide the set design.

Amahl and the Night Visitors is the second production in OPC’s eighth season. Tickets are $25 and can be purchased through the CAPA box office, Ticketmaster, and www.operaprojectcolumbus.com. For more information on Opera Project Columbus, visit its website, www.operaprojectcolumbus.com.

By Regina Lordan/Catholic News Service

The following books are suitable for Christmas giving:


The Watcher is a rare treasure in the world of children’s books. The verse is poetic, the illustrations are a compelling blend of photographs and drawings, and the story is a gripping tale of bully and victim ... or is it? The narration unfolds and reveals that the instigator is really just a lonely child desperate for a friend. Influenced by Psalm 121, which attributes all help to God’s loving protection and care, it is written in “golden shovel” form, in which the last word of each verse is a word from the psalm. The Watcher is a story that holds onto you as it slowly reveals understanding, compassion and innocent faith in God’s love and protection. After it is read, its lyrical tale will not be soon forgotten. Ages 6-10.


Be Yourself is a place for Catholic girls and young women to indeed learn how to be themselves, just the way God intended them to be. Colorful, interactive and brimming with saint spotlights, prayers and biblical quotes, Be Yourself will encourage Catholic girls to, as author Amy Brooks writes, nourish their relationship with God to better know his will for them and to use the journal to “navigate that relationship -- on good days and bad days.” Ages 9 and up.


Advent is a time of anticipation and waiting, but it can also be a time for reflection and mindfulness of today ... if we take the time to look. Author Laura Alary welcomes children to be aware, appreciate and change during Advent within a biblical and present-day context. She tells the story of Jesus’ birth within the framework of children’s daily lives, and she en-
courages children to anticipate Christmas by preparing to say "yes" to God with simple, practical activities and works of service. Ages 5-10.


Intended for young men and women preparing to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the sacrament of confirmation, but appropriate for all teens, Anointed is a compilation of the teachings of Pope Francis brightly illustrated with graphics and photos, Bible verses, and photos, Bible verses, encouraging children to anticipate Christmas by preparing to say "yes" to God with simple, practical activities and works of service. Ages 5-10.


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Our Lady of Peace junior cantor

Columbus Our Lady of Peace School student Jack Leonard took part in his inaugural Mass as a junior cantor on Wednesday, Nov. 29 at the weekly all-school Mass. He is pictured with music teacher Stephanie Doyle Gamber and parish music director Nathan Medley.  

Photo courtesy Our Lady of Peace School

St. Nicholas visits Trinity students

St. Nicholas (portrayed by Columbus St. Christopher Church parishioner Joe Sonderman) made a visit to Columbus Trinity Elementary School, sharing a little bit about his life with all the students. He is shown with the school’s kindergarten class.  

Photo/Trinity Elementary School

Wishing you every Joy and Blessing at Christmas and throughout the New Year

THE STAFF AT THE CATHOLIC CEMETERIES OF COLUMBUS

Jon Abshire
Tim Boggs
Tyler Brown
Brian Everts
Laura Farrar
Rich Finn
Jan Gerst
Jenny Gruber
Ed Jones
Kevin Kelley
Joyce Kitsmiller
Aaron McCole
Kyle McGlone
Fred Meissner
Sandeep Murphy
Ann Noble
Mark Noble
Mike Redmond
Steve Skinner
Jeremy Sprouse
Jim VanHorn
Deanna Ventura
Chuck Weiner
Craig Wright
Gregg Wright
Billy Wright

Mount Calvary
614-491-2751

St. Joseph Cemetery
6440 S. High St./U.S. Rt. 23 S.
Lockbourne, Ohio 43137
614-491-2751

Resurrection Cemetery
9571 N. High St./U.S. Rt. 23 N.
Lewis Center, Ohio 43035
614-888-1805

Holy Cross Cemetery
11539 National Rd. S.W./U.S. Rt. 40 E.
Pataskala, Ohio 43062
740-927-4442

Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel
St. Joseph Cemetery