Happy anniversary: Portsmouth St. Mary begins a 150th anniversary celebration next month with its festival and a Mass on Sept. 15, Page 3

Bright light lost: Incoming DeSales High School freshman and St. James the Less School graduate Xavier Quinn, 14, was fatally shot on July 26, Page 13

Faith and festivals: Summer parish festivals are sort of a last hurrah before the start of the school year, and in some cases have sparked a conversion to the Catholic faith, Pages 18-20

LANCASTER ST. MARY CHURCH BEGINS YEARLONG BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Pages 10-11
Editor’s reflections by Doug Bean

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Hope in hard times

On Thursday, Aug. 15, the Church honors the Blessed Virgin Mary with a special day marking her glorious Assumption into heaven. Catholics are required to attend Mass on the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary, but this feast deserves to be observed as more than a holy day of obligation.

Even though the Assumption is considered important enough for most dioceses throughout the world to require all practicing Catholics to attend Mass on that day, the importance of the Assumption seems to get overlooked amid the multitude of Marian feasts throughout the year.

Maybe that’s because some Catholics only vaguely understand its significance, or possibly because it’s the newest of the four Marian dogmas recognized by the Church. Pope Pius XII’s elevation of the Assumption as dogma, which is considered a binding truth divinely revealed by God, came just 69 years ago. On Nov. 1, 1950, he declared, “The Immaculate Mother of God, the ever-Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory.”

“It almost seems like a second-tier feast day,” said Mark Miravalle, one of the world’s foremost Mariologists and a professor at Franciscan University of Steubenville. “But to see it that way is to misunderstand the beautiful interconnectedness of Catholic dogma. If you deny the Assumption, you’re really denying the Immaculate Conception. …

“That’s why all dogmas, especially dogmas in the Church with a solemnity, should have a first-tier respect even though all the truths about Our Lady are going to be subordinate to Jesus. But it’s a key connector between us and Jesus, and that’s why the Marian feasts are so important.”

In the Diocese of Columbus, the Assumption of Mary takes on added significance for one parish in particular. Lancaster St. Mary of the Assumption Church begins its 200th anniversary celebration in its beautifully restored sanctuary on Aug. 15.

Many artists and scholars through the centuries have depicted in paintings and words the splendor of Mary reaching paradise. And while there are no direct biblical references to this great event, there is nonetheless plenty of rich scriptural evidence for the Assumption. It also stands to reason that her sinless soul and incorrupt body, immaculately conceived by God to be the divine mother of Jesus, would join her son in heaven.

“There’s actually a very strong early Church tradition to celebrating the end of Mary’s life,” Miravalle said. “That’s why Pius XII in 1950 had confidence to define it, because it was a universally celebrated doctrine from the early centuries.”

But why did it take the Church hundreds of years to proclaim the Immaculate Conception and then the Assumption as undeniable truths?

“The Church is kind of like a very holy womb where seeds are planted, but it takes time for them to grow,” Miravalle said.

“At Vatican I back in 1870, there were 50 petitions asking for this, and the Church said ‘No, give it a little bit more time.’ But the Church recognized the logical progression between the Immaculate Conception and the Assumption. It just wanted a little bit more maturity within the faithful.”

Between 1846 and 1950, more than eight million petitions asking for the Assumption to be proclaimed were submitted by the faithful, Miravalle said. “Actually, the pope praised the people for sending in the petitions because it helped mature the doctrine,” he added.

Miravalle pointed out that the Assumption logically follows the first three Marian dogmas: Divine Motherhood (declared by the Council of Ephesus in 431), Perpetual Virginity (Lateran Council, 649) and Immaculate Conception (Pope Pius IX, Ineffabilis Deus, Dec. 8, 1854).

“The Immaculate Conception had to come first because it is in fact because of the Immaculate Conception you have this dogma, the dogma of the Assumption,” he said. “The feast is the natural effect of the Immaculate Conception.”

The Immaculate Conception is
Bishop Robert Brennan will visit Portsmouth St. Mary Church next month to highlight a celebration of the 150th anniversary of the laying of the church building’s cornerstone.

He will celebrate a Mass at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 15 that will be part of the parish’s annual international festival, held on the parish grounds for more than 40 years. Festival dates and times are: Friday, Sept. 13, 5:30 to 10 p.m.; Saturday, Sept. 14, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Sunday, Sept. 15, 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

St. Mary Church is located at 524 6th St. in Portsmouth’s historic Boneyfiddle area, just outside of downtown. The parish was founded in 1841. The church cornerstone was laid by Columbus’ first Catholic bishop, Sylvester Rosecrans, one year after the founding of the Diocese of Columbus in 1868.

The building’s clock tower, built in 1895, reaches a height of 216 feet, the tallest church tower in the city. It houses three bells known as St. Peter, St. George and St. Philomena. The tower has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1979.

The parish is part of the Scioto Catholic consortium, with Father Joseph Yokum as pastor. Other parishes in the consortium, formed in 2017, are Portsmouth Holy Redeemer, New Boston St. Monica and Wheelersburg St. Peter in Chains.

Festival chairman Rick Estep said next month’s event will be the principal observance of the church building’s anniversary. The celebration also included a Year of the Family conference in June at Portsmouth Notre Dame High School that included a Mass; the Sacrament of Reconciliation; talks by nationally recognized Catholic speakers Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers, Gus Lloyd and Danielle Bean; a concert with nationally recognized Catholic musicians The Vigil Project; a children’s camp series of programs; workshops; and a wine tasting.

Estep said the anniversary celebration’s theme is “150 Years: The Cornerstone of Faith and Family.” T-shirts, tumblers and keychains with a logo including the slogan and the church tower are on sale at the parish office.

He said the international festival started in the 1970s, when the late Father Jerome Raiser was pastor. It originally was a parish Oktoberfest, with its horizons being expanded while the late Msgr. William Maroon served as pastor from 1982 to 1993. Msgr. Maroon’s skill in cooking Lebanese foods still is remembered fondly in the parishes he served, and he encouraged addition of other ethnic food traditions to the festival. It originally was a two-day event and expanded to three days about 10 years ago.

Food booths at this year’s festival will serve American ribs and chicken; Appalachian chicken, noodles, beans and cornbread; German bratwurst, sauerkraut and potato salad; Indian, Italian, Irish, Mexican and Asian specialties; and hot dogs and macaroni and cheese for children.

“Friday night will be mostly for food and a concert featuring the local band Night Shift,” said Estep, who has been festival chairman for about 15 years, with Tim Paul as his assistant for much of that time.

“Saturday activities will include a flea market, quilt and craft shows, children’s games and inflatables, a basket raffle, music with Ground Zero, Steve Free and the Sheldon Road Band, and Mass at 5:30 p.m. Also that day will be an antique and custom car show, which we’ve had for years. Last year’s drew more than 200 cars. “Besides the bishop’s Mass on Sunday, the flea market will continue, and there will be entertainment by City Heat and other bands. The festival closes with a raffle at 6 p.m. Our first display of vintage farm tractors will take place Sunday, and another first-time event will be a petting zoo for children on Saturday and Sunday.

Gov. Mike DeWine’s office will be issuing a proclamation during the festival honoring the church building’s 150th anniversary.”

The festival is St. Mary’s largest annual fundraising event, with proceeds used for various expenses. Estep said the parish built a community center four or five years ago, and money earned through the event since then has paid for improvements in the building. He said last year’s festival proceeds totaled about $32,000.

“We have anywhere from 100 to 200 volunteers taking part each year. Their enthusiasm makes the festival possible,” he said. “They embrace this event and look forward to it every year. Planning for the festival starts in March, with meetings every month for a while, then every two weeks, then every week. Many of the volunteers have been involved for 10 or 20 years or more, so they know what makes the festival work and set out each year to make it work better.

“The one thing we can’t control is the weather. In most years, we’ve had little rain at festival time. I like to think it’s because we always ask the children in the parish school to pray for good weather in mid-September.”
Catholic Social Services event to focus on crisis at border

As the U.S.-Mexico border was being flooded with migrants seeking refuge, Rachel Lustig, president and CEO of Catholic Social Services (CSS), flew to San Diego to offer support.

This past Christmas, Lustig volunteered at a Catholic Charities temporary family shelter near the border, where she provided assistance to families seeking asylum.

“There have been many stories in the media recently which highlight the current situation at the border,” Lustig said. “I think what’s been missing from the dialogue is our connection to the humanity of the issue. This human dimension overrides any political party or ideology and is what we, at Catholic Social Services, are called to consider above all else.”

The border crisis will be the topic of discussion at the CSS annual Breakfast with the Bishop at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 6 at the Renaissance Columbus Hotel, 50 N. 3rd St. Bishop Robert J. Brennan and Sister Norma Pimentel, “the Mother Teresa of South Texas,” will speak about the migrant issue. Sister Norma’s Humanitarian Respite Center in Texas has helped more than 100,000 families since 2014.

The Catholic Charities shelter where Lustig volunteered last year takes in migrants temporarily after they are released from a border detention center and have found a place to live in the U.S. Lustig and other volunteers provided the migrants with food, supplies and a place to rest while they prepared for their life in America.

During her week at the border, Lustig met a mother who was traveling with her 3-year-old son and infant daughter. The family had been quarantined because the son was too sick to stay with 96 others in the parish hall that was serving as a temporary shelter.

“The image of this exhausted, frightened mother gathering up her children and four plastic grocery bags containing everything they owned has stuck with me,” Lustig said. “All year, I have found myself remembering the haunted, wary look in her eyes and wondering why a mother with two vulnerable children would make such a harrowing journey.”

Lustig also gained firsthand insight into this issue as it relates to CSS’ local work with Hispanic immigrants at the agency’s Our Lady of Guadalupe Center in west Columbus. The center recently helped a 21-year-old woman and her 6-year-old son who came to the United States from El Salvador seeking asylum after the woman’s father was shot and dismembered in front of her by the MS-13 gang.

“This woman fled because she didn’t feel like she had any other option,” Lustig said. “She, like the woman I met at Christmas and many others, decided that the unknown had to be better than what she was leaving.”

When the woman arrived at the Guadalupe Center, desperate for assistance and fearing for her safety, CSS provided her and her son with food and connected them to housing and legal services.

Lustig pondered what might happen to these migrant families without the help of volunteers working to ease the crisis. Among the many volunteers she met, Lustig noted one man who worked full time as a border agent. He was so moved by the people he saw that, after a hard day’s work, he volunteered at the shelter.

“As I’m bombarded by media stories, I remember these people and many others I met,” Lustig said. “They remind me how dire the situation is and they give me hope. Most of all, they remind me that these stories are about real people – a reminder I think we all may need.”

For more information about Breakfast with the Bishop, or to register, visit www.colcss.org.

Catholic Schools Drive provides tools to help students in need

It won’t be long before parents start their yearly hunter-gatherer trek for school supplies and uniforms that will fit those children who have grown two or three inches during the summer. This time of year can be bittersweet for parents and students. On one hand, the end of summer is in sight, and that means kids will be back in school and life will resume a more routine (however hectic) schedule. On the other hand, there is an urgency to jam as much activity as possible in these last three or four inches during the summer. It’s also a good time for us to consider the challenges of beginning a new school year.

Many students attending our Catholic schools have limited means to acquire the requisite school supplies (“tools”). To help meet those needs, some of our parishes, especially those with elementary schools, have annual school supplies collections. God bless those parishes for acknowledging and supporting our Catholic schools. This year, the diocesan Catholic Schools and Social Concerns offices are partnering with Generations Religious Gifts to support a diocese-wide drive allowing parishes without individual drives to act in solidarity with all our schools.

The “Tools for Catholic Schools” drive started on Aug. 4 and runs through Aug. 11. The goal is to provide at least 1,100 students with school bags and the “tools” they will need for the coming school year. Distribution of the items will be done through the Office of Catholic Schools, based on requests from principals with students in need.

I want to give a special thanks to the Knights of Columbus and the St. Vincent de Paul Society, who are distributing and will be collecting the boxes for donations.

The diocesan drive will close with a festive dropoff event in Columbus. On Sunday, Aug. 11, parishes and individuals should bring their collection boxes and/or donations to Generations Religious Gifts, 1095 Dublin Road, Columbus, from 1 to 4 p.m. All are welcome to drop off donations and join in the fun activities. Monetary donations may be sent to the diocesan finance office at 197 East Gay St., Columbus OH 43215. The checks should be made out to the Catholic Diocese of Columbus, with “Tools for Schools” in the memo line.

Pope Francis reminds us that “Education cannot be neutral. It is either positive or negative; either it enriches or it impoverishes; either it enables a person to grow or it lessens, even corrupts him. The mission of schools is to develop a sense of truth, of what is good and beautiful. And this occurs through a rich path made up of many ingredients. This is why there are so many subjects – because development is the results of different elements that act together and stimulate intelligence, knowledge, the emotions, the body, and so on.”

The best way to make sure our Catholic schools provide positive, enriching education is to make sure our students have the tools they need to succeed. Please support this drive with your prayers and your treasures.

If you have questions or need additional information, don’t hesitate to contact me at socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org or (614) 241-2540, or go to https://education.columbuscatholic.org.
Queen Mary radiates beauty in many ways

Sarah Reinhard

Sarah’s online at SnoringScholar.com. She’s a wife, mom, and author, in addition to being addicted to coffee and books.

Finding Faith in Everyday Life

Queen Mary radiates beauty in many ways. This is a great day to examine our call to Christian purity, to Christian chastity according to our vocation, because Mary’s Assumption is a bodily expression of her Immaculate Conception, of her interior fullness of grace ... a striving toward temperance and purity, especially when we have the pandemic of pornography. This is a beautiful corrective calling us to re-examine that we should be pure, and we can be pure with the grace of God. Our Lady is the purest example of that.

“The second concrete expression is that it’s the celebration of victory. Mary’s victory as expressed in her bodily Assumption is a foretaste for our resurrection of the body on the last day.”

Keep in mind that there’s an important distinction between Jesus’ Ascension and Mary’s Assumption into heaven.

“Jesus ascends by his own power,” Miravalle stressed. “Mary is assumed not by her own power but by the power of God. It’s a victory of her purity. “We’re not going to have an assumption of our bodies like Mary did, but it is a sign for the future that we will, when Christ comes again in glory, have a resurrection of our bodies.”

As scandals, senseless deaths and the scourge of abortion rage on today, the world needs Mary’s powerful intercession. Meditate especially on the fourth glorious mystery of the Rosary, the Assumption, which is followed by the fifth mystery, the Crowning of the Blessed Virgin as Queen of Heaven and Earth. The feast of the Queenship of Mary is on Thursday, Aug. 22.

“I think right now, as the Church faces significant challenges, it’s great to celebrate her, and I think that’s what the Assumption does for us,” Miravalle said. “Mary’s victory is a foretaste of our victory.”
“Buying” Gregorian Masses; age for first Holy Communion

**Q**
I have a question about the Gregorian Masses. I have been told that there can be Masses said for 30 consecutive days (at a cost of $300) with the hope that the deceased person will be received into heaven immediately, without having to pass through the cleansing rigors of purgatory. I have no doubt in the power of prayer, but why do we have to “buy” our way into heaven? (Washington, Iowa)

**A**
The practice of celebrating “Gregorian Masses” has a long tradition in the church. It takes it origin from the time of the papacy of St. Gregory the Great (590-604). St. Gregory was concerned about a fellow monk who evidently had broken his vow of poverty before he died, so St. Gregory determined that Mass should be celebrated for that monk on each of 30 consecutive days following his death.

The monk, named Justus, later appeared to a friend and said that he had been released from purgatory at the completion of those Masses. For centuries thereafter, the custom of Gregorian Masses came to be observed, particularly in Benedictine monasteries.

There is no official church teaching on this matter, and the release of a soul from purgatory cannot, of course, be guaranteed, but the practice underscores the church’s strong belief in the intercessory power of prayer.

I feel some of the same discom-}

**Q**
I also have a question about Gregorian Masses. Is there a way to make an intercessory prayer for the deceased person without having to “buy” the Masses? (Chesapeake, Virginia)

**A**
I would also point out that, in many cases, Mass stipends are the sole means of support for religious orders or for priests on missionary assignment. (Most often, priests in a parish setting would have difficulty scheduling Masses on 30 consecutive days for a single intention.)

**Q**
I have two sons, ages five (entering kindergarten) and seven (entering second grade), who attend Mass with me every week. They both have strong faith, know their prayers and comprehend all of the religious instruction they have received.

I teach Christian formation in my parish for my older son’s grade, and my younger son “audits”/sits in on that class. Instead of putting my younger son into the kindergarten religion class this coming year, I would like to enroll him in my second grade class and prepare him for first Communion, along with his brother.

I have read in our diocesan guidelines that, to receive first Communion, the child must be “of the age of reason (usually 7).” I can attest that my 5-year-old is fully capable of reasoning and that he comprehends the mysteries of Christ.

He has a thorough interest in religion (more than his brother!) and is rapt with attention in learning new stories about Jesus. He already understands that at Mass, the bread and wine are consecrated and become the body and blood of Christ.

What would my 5-year-old have to do to qualify to receive his first Communion this upcoming school year? Could he be interviewed to demonstrate that he has reached the age of reason and comprehends enough of the instruction? (Chesapeake, Virginia)

**A**
In the early centuries, the usual practice in the Latin-rite (Roman) Catholic Church was for infants and children to receive first Communion immediately after baptism (usually by administering a drop of the precious blood). By the 13th century, though, it had become customary for children to receive first Eucharist when they reached the age of discretion (which was variously interpreted as between seven and 14).

In 1910 — in a change spearheaded by Pope Pius X — the Vatican Congregation for the Sacraments established that the age of discretion should be considered around the age of seven, and that remains the current practice.

The church’s Code of Canon Law says simply that “the administration of the most holy Eucharist to children requires that they have sufficient knowledge and careful preparation so that they understand the mystery of Christ according to their capacity and are able to receive the body of Christ with faith and devotion” (Canon 913).

Interestingly, in 2010, Cardinal Antonio Canizares Llovera, head of the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, wrote an article in the Vatican newspaper L’Osservatore Romano in which he noted that children today are maturing more quickly and suggested that the church should consider lowering the age for first Communion.

In your own situation, you are certainly entitled to consult the bishop’s office in your diocese to see whether an exception can be made in your son’s case.

I would think, though, that it might be practically difficult for every 5- or 6-year-old to be offered the opportunity to be evaluated as to his or her religious maturity and that the diocese may choose to retain the 7-year-old standard.

Local news and events

Father Hayes to lead women’s evening of reflection at St. Therese’s

The Catholic Laywomen’s Retreat League will sponsor an evening of reflection for women from 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 22 at St. Thérèse’s Retreat Center, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus.

Father Stephen Dominic Hayes, OP, will lead the retreat with the theme “Matters of the Hearts: Finding the Depths of Love Through the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary.”

Father Hayes resides at St. Patrick Priory in Columbus. After practicing law for a few years, he entered the Dominican Order in 1982 and was ordained a priest in 1988. He has served as a priest and pastor for the past 29 years in Ohio and Kentucky.

He was designated as a papal missionary of mercy by Pope Francis during the 2016-17 Jubilee of Mercy. Besides pastoral service, he has experience in retreat work, parish missions and pilgrimages and as a spiritual director, and in working in media.

Father Hayes will give two talks during the evening, which also will include dinner and will close with Evening Prayer. The cost is $25. Registration deadline is Friday, Aug. 16. Send a check (non-refundable) made payable to the Diocese of Columbus. The mailing address is St. Therese’s Retreat Center, Attention: CLRL, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus OH 43213. The center also accepts donations to aid in its work. If the check includes a donation, designate this in the memo line and indicate the amount donated.

For more information, contact Terry Norris at (614) 595-1972 or Norris.m@sbcglobal.net.

Fr. Lutz to speak at Catholic Record Society meeting

Father Kevin Lutz, founder of the Jubilee Museum in Columbus, will speak about the museum’s treasures and its future at the Catholic Record Society’s quarterly meeting at 1 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 8 in St. Therese’s Retreat Center, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus.

Father Lutz, a priest of the Diocese of Columbus for 41 years, founded the museum, named for the Catholic Church’s jubilee year of 2000, in 1998 at the former Columbus Holy Family School while he was pastor of Holy Family Church. The museum now houses the nation’s largest collection of diversified Catholic artwork.

He has been pastor of Columbus St. Mary, Mother of God Church in German Village since 2013.

The talk will be preceded at noon by a lunch and followed by a short business meeting. Anyone wishing to eat lunch is asked to make a reservation by sending a $10 check, payable to the Diocese of Columbus, to Catholic Record Society, 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215 by Aug. 28.

For more information, contact soci-

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An authentic democracy

MAKING SENSE OUT OF BIOETHICS
Father Tad Pachelczyk

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

LOCAL NEWS, continued from Page 6

ty chairman Mike Finn at (614) 268-4166 or FCOolavin@aol.com.

Luncheon club to hear about St. Paul’s Outreach

John Stevenson of St. Paul’s Outreach, a Catholic organization evangelizing on college campuses throughout the Midwest, will speak at the September meeting of the Catholic Men’s Luncheon Club. His topic will be “Forming Boys Into Men on Campus.”

The club will meet Friday, Sept. 6 at Columbus St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave. Lunch will be served after the church’s 11:45 a.m. Mass, and the meeting will end by 1 p.m. No reservations are necessary. A $10 donation is requested to cover the cost of the lunch and meeting. The sponsor for the event is St. Gabriel Radio.

Bishop Robert Brennan will give his first talk to the club at its meeting on Friday, Oct. 4.

For information about the club, visit www.catholicmensministry.com/emlc or contact club president Craig Heppner at craigkofc@gmail.com.

Bishop to speak at Walk for Life

Bishop Robert Brennan will be the featured speaker at the eighth annual Tuscarawas County Walk for Life at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 7.

Participants will gather at New Philadelphia Sacred Heart Church, 139 3rd St. N.E., and walk to the county courthouse about a quarter-mile away for a speaking program.

For more information, contact Father Jeff Coning at (330) 343-6976.

Serra club to visit GV St. Mary’s

The Serra Club of North Columbus will host a visit to Columbus St. Mary, Mother of God Church, 672 S. 3rd St. in the city’s German Village neighborhood, on Tuesday, Sept. 3.

Mass will be at noon, followed by a tour of the newly restored church with its pastor, Father Kevin Lutz. Lunch will follow at 1:45 p.m. at Schmidt’s Sausage Haus. The cost is $25.

Reservations are required for members and guests by Tuesday, Aug. 20. Checks may be made out to Serra Club of North Columbus and mailed to Frank Hartge, 904 Hilton Drive, Reynoldsburg OH 43068.

Kreeft to speak in Springfield

Dr. Peter Kreeft, one of the nation’s most popular writers on Catholicism, will speak on “Why Be a Catholic?” at 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 22 in the Hollenbeck-Bayley Conference Center, 100 S. Limestone St., Springfield.

The talk will be the fifth annual lecture sponsored by the parishes of the Springfield Deanery of the Archdio-
Father Yakkel receives military chaplain training

Newly ordained Father Christopher Yakkel will begin his first assignment as a diocesan priest on Tuesday, Aug. 20 after spending several weeks at Ramstein Air Base in Germany, training for the military chaplaincy.

Father Yakkel was ordained as a priest of the Diocese of Columbus by Bishop Robert Brennan on Saturday, May 25. He will serve as parochial vicar of the Perry County Consortium of Parishes in New Lexington, Corn-ing, Crooksville and Junction City.

He described some of his experiences in Germany in a letter to Father Michael Lumpe, diocesan vicar for priests.

“My assignment to Ramstein is considered a chaplain candidate active duty training tour,” he wrote. “It’s essentially an internship where I spend time each day shadowing the different chaplains on base, learning about the day-to-day duties of a chaplain. This has involved unit visits throughout the base, where I’ve had the opportunity to interact with airmen from all career fields, learning about their mission and giving some encouragement along the way. It has also involved briefings on resiliency in times of trial and building up spiritually fit airmen. …

“One special memory I have from

See YAKKEL, Page 12

Diocesan day of reflection focuses on lives of African-American sainthood candidates

Stories about the lives and work of six candidates for sainthood in the African-American community were the focus of a day of reflection on Saturday, Aug. 3, at New Albany Church of the Resurrection.

The day of prayer and catechesis, sponsored by the diocese’s Catholic Ethnic Ministries Office, allowed participants to learn about Henriette De-lille, Pierre Toussaint, Mother Mary Lange, Julia Greeley, Sister Thea Bowman and Father Augustus Tolton.

The event was designed to motivate participants to be more actively engaged in their faith. The presentations connected the lives of the candidates with concerns of today including racism, education, social justice, immigration, health and wellness and stewardship.

All of the candidates used their gifts in those various ministries to live the Gospel. Toussaint, for example, was born a slave in Haiti and yet opened the first Catholic orphanage in New York and donated funds for the Oblate Sisters of Providence. He also is credited for laying the foundation of the model for Catholic Charities.

Bishop Joseph N. Perry, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago and promulgator for Tolton’s cause, said, “The candidates remind us that we all bear the imprint of the Divine.”

Alfred Akainyah, African consultant with the Ethnic Ministries Office, said he was excited about the program and learned much about the candidates.

“Walking with the saints has given me a new focus and a renewed strength,” Akainyah said. “My takeaway is that the individuals nominated could never have reached this level of success if they had listened to outside voices. Luke 11:28 says, ‘Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.’

“Indeed, there is no success unless you are willing to take a chance. And yet, these individuals took the chance despite all the daunting challenges at that time.”

The day concluded with Mass, with Canon A. Gerard Jordan, O. Praem., serving as the main celebrant and homilist. Father Jordan’s homily encouraged attendees to be generous stewards of their time, talent and treasure. He recalled the vocations of the six candidates and their generosity to their communities.

Father Jordan, an assistant to Bishop Perry, worked closely with the event’s local planning committee, which included Pam Harris, director of the Ethnic Ministries Office; Virginia Hardy, chair of the office’s African-American Advisory Council; and Akainyah.

Presenters included Sister Pat Dual, OP; Sister Marcia Hall, OSP; Erin Cordle, associate director of the diocese’s Office of Social Concerns; Father Reynaldo Taylor of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati; Suanne Gettings, pastoral associate at the Church of the Resurrection; and Sabree Akinyele, vice president of programs for Catholic Social Services.

Sister Marie Shields retiring after serving 28 years at St. Matthias

After spending the last 51 years in Columbus – 28 of them at St. Matthias Church – Sister Marie Shields, SND-deN, is retiring as a pastoral associate and will live with the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur at their Motherhouse in Cincinnati.

She will be honored at a reception from 3 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 11 at the church, 1582 Ferris Road.

“I’m returning to Cincinnati for health reasons and because I look forward to the opportunity to live in community with the other sisters of my order,” she said. “They have a beautiful health center where I will be surrounded by love and care.

“At the same time, I know I’m going to miss being part of a church community and serving the universal church after all these years in parish life.

“The people I have met have nourished me constantly, and the Lord has brought so much love to me through them, their faith and their generosity.”

Sister Marie came to Columbus in 1968 for a dual assignment as religious education director at St. Joseph Cathedral and a teacher at St. Christopher School from 1968 to 1972.

She remained at St. Christopher as a pastoral associate until 1983, then served in the same role at Immaculate Conception Church from 1983 to 1991 and St. Matthias from 1991 until now.

In 1972, Sister Marie began an association with Father James Smith and Father Richard Huelsman, SJ, that extended through three parishes, 27 years with Father Huelsman and 41 years with Father Smith, who came to St. Christopher in 1971 as administrator and became its pastor the following year.

Sister Marie and the two priests were at St. Christopher until 1983, Immaculate Conception for the next eight years and St. Matthias from 1991 until Father Huelsman’s retirement in 1999. He died in 2003. Father Smith remained at St. Matthias until his death in 2013.

Sister Marie lived at the former Columbus St. Joseph Academy until 1991, then moved to her current residence, an apartment near St. Matthias. Sister Marie also spent the 1959-60 school year in Columbus, where she taught third grade at St. Agnes School.

In addition, she was a teacher in Cincinnati, Hamilton and the Cincinnati suburb of Wyoming.

Sister Marie grew up in Chicago and was given the birth name Mary Louise by her parents, Joseph and Bernice (Laramie) Shields. She has two older brothers, both deceased.

She is a graduate of Notre Dame High School for Girls in Chicago, entered the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur on Sept. 8, 1955, and made her first profession of vows on March 12, 1958, and her final profession on Aug. 13, 1963.

She received a bachelor’s degree in education from Our Lady of Cincinnati College and a master’s in religious studies from Mundelein College in the Chicago area.
Members of Bremen St. Mary Church who participated in the Walk for Life sponsored by the Pregnancy Decision Health Centers on Saturday, July 13 were (from left): Charles Schoenlaub, Susan Drumm, Addyson Borah, Sarah Borah, Karah Borah and Wyatt Borah. About 125 people attended the two-mile walk through downtown Lancaster, starting and ending at the bandstand. More than 200 people attended a similar two-mile walk on the following Saturday, July 20, at Scioto Audubon Metro Park in Columbus. Both events included food, entertainment, face painting and a raffle. The walks earned a combined $30,000 to support PDHC's work of pregnancy intervention, youth development, family empowerment and abortion recovery at three sites in Columbus and one in Lancaster.

(Photo courtesy Sarah Borah)

Marysville parish life center construction begins

Ground was broken last month for a new parish life center next door to Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Construction is expected to be completed by May 2020. The center will include classrooms, meeting rooms, a hall that will accommodate 400 people, a kitchen and restrooms. Parking lot improvements and a change in traffic flow are part of the construction plan. The building was designed by architect Scott Harper, and Corna Kokosing Construction is the general contractor. The center is the first phase of a parish master plan that will allow Our Lady of Lourdes to better serve projected growth in the community and expanding parish needs. Pictured are (from left): Cari Grome, Tiffany Wood and Dave Irish, building committee members; Jill Turner, religious education director; Dan Fitzgerald, building committee; Paul Cordell, parish business manager; John Melish, parish maintenance director; Brian Clark, building committee; Deacon Dave Bezusko; Father Kevin Kavanagh, pastor; Ken Yunker, building committee; Scott Harper, architect; Bruce Boylan, facilities director for the Diocese of Columbus; and Jim Valentas and Tim Beverage of Corna Kokosing.

(Photo courtesy Our Lady of Lourdes Church)
Renovated church’s Aug. 15 reopening kicks off Lancaster St. Mary of the Assumption’s bicentennial year

The interior of Lancaster St. Mary of the Assumption Church has undergone extensive changes during eight months of renovation. But its “new look” is one that would have been familiar to parishioners who worshiped in the building when it was consecrated 155 years ago.

“We wanted the church to look much as it did when it opened in 1864,” said Father Craig Eilerman, its pastor. “It’s still a Gothic church, and nothing was done to change it structurally. But it’s much brighter because it’s been repainted in a lighter color scheme and will have new LED lights.

“We wanted to do more to honor the Blessed Mother, the church’s patroness, so the church will have what some may describe as a more feminine appearance, with a recurring floral motif on the walls and ceiling and a starry blue sky depicted above the altar. These sorts of embellishments were common in churches built 150 years ago.”

The church has been closed for eight months while being remodeled. Its reopening will take place at a 7 p.m. Mass on Thursday, Aug. 15 – the parish’s patronal feast, the Solemnity of the Assumption. The Mass also will begin a year of 200th anniversary events for the parish, which was founded in 1820. That was three years after Dominican Father Edward Fenwick, Ohio’s pioneer Catholic priest, celebrated the first Mass in Lancaster, in a building that is near the church and now serves as the office of the Fairfield County Foundation.

Plans for the parish bicentennial began with a celebration honoring that Mass. “I came here in 2011 and soon became aware that my anticipated period as pastor would include several major anniversaries,” Father Eilerman said. “First came the 150th anniversary of the current church building in 2014, then the 2017 bicentennial of Father Fenwick’s first Mass here, leading to the parish’s own bicentennial.

“To mark all of those occasions, we wanted to make sure the building was structurally sound. First we looked at the church exterior and made sure it was in good condition. In 2016, we installed a new slate roof, mostly because the original roof, also slate, was 150 years old and was due for replacement. Other minor work was done, then we looked at the interior.

“The most obvious need there was a new paint job, because the walls were very dirty,” Father Eilerman said. “Some other updates were needed, so we invited church architect William Heyer to view the building and make recommendations about beautifying it.” Heyer has been involved with renovation of several worship spaces in the Diocese of Columbus, including St. Turibius Chapel at the Pontifical College Josephinum.

“Bill’s suggestions were brought before the parish council and finance and maintenance committees to see if we wanted to move forward. In the spring of 2018, a decision was made to consider a capital campaign to raise money for church beautification and other needs. After a feasibility study was completed, plans for the campaign were announced last August.”

The campaign had a goal of $2.5 million, including $1.5 million for church beautification and $1 million for other needs. The $2.5 million total was surpassed in pledges late last month. Of the pledged amount, more than $981,000 was in hand as of July 25.

Funds from the capital campaign that are not used for the church beautification will be put aside for improvements to the two parish school buildings, possible development of 3 ½ acres at the parish cemetery and possible construction of a parish center.

The beautification project includes returning the tabernacle to its original position in the center of the church; repairing water damage to the plaster walls; refinishing the pews and the floor; renovating the sacristy; replacing terrazzo wall covering with wooden wainscoting including a pattern of Gothic arches; doubling the size of the restrooms; refurbishing two confessionals and a reconciliation room; giving the Stations of the Cross new Gothic frames; making the child care room quieter and adding a closed-circuit television monitor to it; installing a new fire detection system; and refurbishing the church’s 30-year-old, 2,093-pipe Austin organ.

The altar, the ambo and the baptismal font were left unchanged.

Beautification of the church also includes restoration of shrines to St. Joseph and the Blessed Virgin, with two medieval-style illuminations added to those shrines. The illuminations are by Jed Gibbons of Chicago, a former advertising agency creative director who has been a full-time sacred artist since 2000.

“They combine to convey one story of faith,” Father Eilerman said. “The Marian shrine will show the Blessed Mother reading a Jewish Scripture scroll with her parents. In the background will be an image of St. Mary Church. The shrine to Joseph will show him in his workshop teaching Jesus to be a carpenter, and they will be building a replica of this church. Both illuminations will include a plumb bob, which not only is a standard carpenter’s tool but also is a symbol of generational faith because it does not change and is always straight and accurate.”

New church artwork also includes installations above both sides of the main entrance from the vestibule into the sanctuary by Pennsylvania sculptor Andrew Wilson Smith, whose works are located at churches, colleges and parishes.

A view from the sanctuary of the interior of Lancaster St. Mary of the Assumption Church, which has been extensively remodeled for the church’s yearlong bicentennial. The celebration will open with a Mass at 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 15, the Solemnity of the Assumption, which is the parish’s patronal feast. The church building, the third to serve the parish, was consecrated in 1864. (CT photos by Ken Snow)
ST. MARY, continued from Page 10

Andrew Smith’s two-sided work is a fitting way both to memorialize the parish bicentennial and to set it in a historical context,” Father Eilerman said. “It complements a traditional stone monument to Mary which stands in front of the church and was dedicated in 1920 to mark the parish centennial.”

Smith said he spent about four months in his studio near Scranton, Pennsylvania, on the artwork, then came to Lancaster in July to finish the details and install it. He said he learned from Heyer two years ago about Father Eilerman’s interest in new installations for the church. “Father provided the most input for this, because he had been wanting for some time to honor the sisters in a fitting way. Father also suggested the theme for the mosaic and left the details up to me,” Smith said.

What had been two blank panels on either side of a portrayal of the Assumption on the reredos (the area above and behind the altar) will include a depiction of Mary’s Annunciation by liturgical artist James Langley of Savannah, Georgia, a former teacher at Franciscan University of Steubenville. The left panel will show the Archangel Gabriel announcing to Mary that she is to be the mother of Jesus, and the right panel will represent Mary’s saying “Yes” in response.

Corna Kokosing Construction is general contractor for the beautification, with other major work being done by Martin Painting and Coating of Grove City; Bent Tree Woodworking of Adams County; Claypool Electric of Lancaster; Jones Schlater Flooring of Reynoldsburg; and Muetzel Plumbing, Heating and Cooling, Worthington Air, and Safway Scaffolding, all of Columbus. Matt Indrutz of Muralworks in Columbus was in charge of painting the starry sky in the sanctuary and the floral motif throughout the church.

The last Mass before the beautification began was celebrated on Sunday, Jan. 6, the Feast of the Epiphany. “We removed the Blessed Sacrament from the altar and placed it in the tabernacle of the rectory, then everyone at Mass was invited to stay and box things up and move them,” Father Eilerman said. “First, we had to take down the Christmas decorations, then remove everything else movable. We walked everything over to the school next door and got some help from the parish St. Vincent de Paul Society’s truck. Fortunately, that day had wonderful weather for January.”

Since then, weekend Masses have taken place in the school gym, with weekday Masses at the Spirit Center in the basement of the older of the two school buildings on the parish property at Chestnut and High streets near downtown Lancaster.

“The gym also is used as a cafeteria and a multipurpose room, so every Sunday after Mass, we had to move chairs from the gym floor and set the area up for its regular purposes, then do the same thing in reverse at the end of the school week,” Father Eilerman said. “We also had to do this on Tuesdays for all-school Masses. We stored items on the school stage, but had to find places for those when the school play was going on. Fortunately, we had plenty of good ‘roadies’ willing to help.”

The church beautification process may not be finished by Aug. 15, “but we will have Mass on that date,” Father Eilerman said. “Undertaking something like this was a bit daunting, but it was an affirmative process because so many people were willing to step up to bat. The response was overwhelmingly positive, and it’s something that will have an impact on generations of future parishioners.”

The opening Mass will be followed through the next 12 months by several special events. The schedule is as follows:

Thursday, Oct. 24, lecture on Marian privileges and devotions by Father Thomas Buffer, pastor of Marion St. Mary Church; Wednesday, Nov. 6, Mass of All Souls, including the Requiem by Gabriel Faure, commemorating the parish organ’s 30th anniversary and rededicating it; Saturday, Dec. 14, church is final stop for annual candlelight tour of downtown Lancaster churches; Sunday, Dec. 15, Advent lessons and carols; Saturday, Feb. 1, World Marriage Day Mass and winter gala.

Monday to Wednesday, March 16 to 18, parish mission with Deacon Greg Kandra, former CBS News writer and producer; Sunday, April 5, Tenebrae service designed to re-create the sense of abandonment related to Good Friday; Friday, May 1, “Singing the Mass Down the Ages,” a concert of Mass music from many centuries.

Sunday, June 14, Feast of Corpus Christi celebration, with procession; Saturday and Sunday, June 27 and 28, church is featured in annual Lancaster heritage tour of homes; Thursday, July 23, Lancaster Festival opening night concert (a parish tradition for many years); Friday, Aug. 14, Mass to conclude the bicentennial celebration.

For more information, go to www.stmarylancaster.org or call (740) 653-0997.

leges and other institutions throughout the nation.

The vestibule side is a mosaic of colored stones depicting Christ in glory, holding a Bible displaying the Latin words for “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.” At the base of the mosaic are images of several buildings in Lancaster, including the three churches that have served the parish; St. Mary School; the former parish convent; City Hall; the Fairfield County Courthouse; and the Anchor Hocking glass plant.

Anchor Hocking, now part of the Columbus-based Oneida glassware group, was Lancaster’s dominant employer for decades and still has a plant in the city employing several hundred people. Around the mosaic are decorative plaster pieces based on Anchor Hocking glass designs. Father Eilerman said that years ago, the parish had a 5 a.m. daily Mass for Anchor Hocking glassblowers.

Above the sanctuary side of the entrance will be a plaster image with Our Lady, Seat of Wisdom at the center, surrounded on one side by a mother, father and children and on the other by Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs (now the Dominican Sisters of Peace), who taught at the parish school for more than a century. For its first two decades, Dominican priests served the parish before it was turned over to the pastoral care of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati in 1839. It became part of the Diocese of Columbus when the diocese was formed in 1868.

Workers move the reredos, which stands behind the altar, back into position at Lancaster St. Mary of the Assumption Church. The altar had been moved so the area behind it could be repainted during the church’s remodeling. Two formerly blank panels of the reredos located above the altar will now include a depiction of Mary’s Annunciation.
LOCAL NEWS, continued from Page 7

prise of Cincinnati in honor of Deacon Jack Gould of Springfield.
Deacon Gould was a passionate defender of the Catholic faith and an advocate of spreading its message through education.

Kreeft is a professor of philosophy at Boston College and The King’s College in New York City. He has written more than 100 books, including Fundamentals in the Faith, Handbook of Christian Apologetics, and Christianity for Modern Pagans.

For more information, contact St. Teresa Church at (937) 342-8861.

St. Christopher youth choir forming for school year

The Columbus St. Christopher Church youth choir invites sec-
donate- through eighth-grade students of northern and northwest Franklin County parochial and public schools to attend its opening practice of the 2019-20 school year at 10 a.m. Sun-
day, Aug. 18 in the cry room of the parish, 1420 Grandview Ave.

There are no auditions. The only

membership requirements are a love of music and meeting new people.
Practices are from 5 to 6 p.m. on Thursdays. The group sings at the 11:30 a.m. Mass on the second Sun-
day of each month, the 4 p.m. Christ-
mas Eve Mass and other occasions.

For information, contact parish mu-
sic director Pandora Porcase at (614) 306-0342 or pporcase@yahoo.com.

Run/walk starting time moved

The starting time for the Friends of the Josephinum’s four-mile run/walk on Saturday, Sept. 21 has been moved back one hour, to 8 a.m., because of conflicts at Glacier Ridge Metro Park, 9801 Hyland-Croy Road, Dublin.
Packets pickup begins at 6:30 a.m. at The Club at Corazon, 7155 Corazon Drive, Dublin.
Packets also may be picked up from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 20 at Fleet Feet Sports, 1270 E. Powell Road, Lewis Center.
The entry fee is $45 per person. Register online at m3ssports.com.

YAKKEL, continued from Page 8

my time here was when I got to take part in a repatriation ceremony on the flight line. Standing side by side with a Jewish rabbi chaplain and a Protes-
tant chaplain, the three of us rendered honors (saluted) as the remains of 28 WWII veterans were transferred to an aircraft set to bring them home to the U.S. for their final resting. It was a very powerful moment.”

He also joined a flight crew during a day mission, observing a fellow chap-
 lain and providing pastoral care to the crew.

“Being a priest has of course been the best part of all,” Father Yakkel wrote. “I have been able to provide sacramental/spiritual support for the Catholic community here, which the priests here have especially appreciat-
ed since one of their current priests is deployed.

“Because Ramstein is such a large base and because of multiple military installations nearby, this is one of the few bases they try to have more than one priest at. However, this is a challenge, given that the Air Force needs 120 active-duty priests and currently has only 57,” he wrote. He has celebrated Masses at Ramstein and at the Vogelweh Military Complex, heard confessions, baptized a baby, and visited the Landstuhl Army Medical Center.

Father Yakkel will serve in the Di-
ce of Columbus for three years, then go on active duty with the U.S. Air Force, where he is a second lieu-
tenant. Under the co-sponsorship agreement between the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, and the nation’s dioceses, he will return to Columbus upon completion of his military service.

He succeeds Father Daniel Swartz in Perry County. Father Swartz, or-
dained in 2016, also is a military chaplain and is going on active duty with the U.S. Navy.

Join Catholic Social Services, our new bishop, Robert J. Brennan, and Sister Norma Pimentel, the “Mother Teresa of South Texas,” for an important conversation about recognizing the human aspect of the border crisis.

BISHOP ROBERT J. BRENNAN
Diocese of Columbus

SR. NORMA PIMENTEL, M.J.
Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley

Register today at www.colscss.org!
DeSales mourns loss of incoming freshman after fatal shooting

Xavier T. Quinn, 14, who was to enter Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School later this month as a freshman, was shot to death on Friday, July 26.

A prayer service for him took place on Saturday, July 27 at the school, where the rosary was prayed for him on Monday, July 29. His funeral service was on Friday, Aug. 2 at the First Church of God in Columbus. Burial was at Evergreen Burial Park, Columbus.

Police said the shooting occurred shortly after 8 p.m. on July 26 at a home owned by Quinn’s father, Kenyetietta Quinn, in the city’s Lin- den neighborhood. He was transported to OhioHealth Riverside Methodist Hospital, where he died about a half-hour later. A 15-year-old was charged in connection with the shooting.

Quinn graduated from Columbus St. James the Less School this year and planned to play football at DeSales in the fall. On the day he was killed, he had completed a three-week preparatory program that most of this year’s incoming DeSales students attended, and then practiced with the football team.

He was the second of four children in his family, and his older brother, Quintell, who is entering his junior year at the school, is a member of the team. The shooting occurred hours after Xavier chose 29 as his uniform number for the season. Quintell wears number 28.

“I am absolutely heartbroken by the tragic news of Xavier Quinn’s death,” Bishop Robert Brennan said in a statement issued after news of Quinn’s death was received. “My heart goes out to his family and friends, as well as to the DeSales High School and St. James the Less Parish communities. I am keeping Xavier’s family, friends and fellow students in my prayers … I ask that all join together in prayer for Xavier’s family, as well as anyone else affected by the tragedy.”

The bishop was out of town at the time of the prayer service for Quinn, which about 1,000 people attended, but was among 750 people at the rosary service and spoke at the event, said DeSales principal Dan Garrick.

Diocesan, school and parish staff members were at the school and church to provide counseling and pastoral care in the days following the shooting and continue to be available to anyone going through the grieving process.

“This was a very tragic loss,” said DeSales head football coach Ryan Wiggins. “Xavier was a great young man, a very talented young man, with a big smile on his face and a quiet confidence about him. He was a really good player, a really good teammate, who made a big impact in just a couple months here.”

“My heart breaks for the Quinn family. It’s a great family. My heart breaks for Quintell. We’re going to rally around each other to support Quintell, support his family, support one another and focus on our faith, which is the center of everything we do here, and try to do the best that we can.”

“It’s difficult to wrap your head around a tragedy like this,” Garrick said. “In the short time I was able to know Xavier, I saw he had an ever-present smile and was incredibly well-respected by his peers, our faculty and coaches, and his parents.

“He was a hard-working student, a gifted athlete just beginning to transition into a young adult and to realize his potential.”

For each academic year, DeSales selects a theme and emphasizes two virtues. Garrick said this year’s theme is “Hope Lives Here,” and the virtues are hope and fortitude. “Ironically, those are the virtues we need at this time,” Garrick said.

“When I reflect on this tragedy, it’s important to remember that Xavier lived his life with passion and purpose. Young people today face the type of challenges that people of my generation never had to deal with at that stage of their lives. It takes a great commitment of faith and a sense of courage to face those challenges and live in a countercultural way. Xavier was trying to do that.

“In times of darkness, Christ’s love will shine through. I’ve seen that in countless gestures of love from members of the DeSales family who have reached out to the Quinns with words and prayers and with practical gestures, such as providing food.

“Christ needed another angel in his communion of saints. I believe that’s where Xavier is, and that he will be blessing us and looking out for us in years to come.”

Quinn was a member of the football, basketball and track teams at St. James the Less School, which he attended from fourth through eighth grades. School principal Samary Cecchetti said Quinn was greatly admired by his fellow students.

Many of his peers looked up to him,” she said. “He was quiet and kept to himself, not really seeking attention, but he often was surrounded by other students and definitely was a positive role model who made a huge difference, someone with a beautiful soul, whom I’ll never forget.

“Kids his age sometimes have to be disciplined for not following school rules, and a lot of times it’s more a case of guilt by association, but Xavi- er never tried to blame others. He took his punishment and took ownership of his and his friends’ actions.

“He was not a Catholic, but that didn’t keep him from being a partici- pant at school Masses and prayer services. He was very reverent and very respectful.”

Garrick said the DeSales football team and the school plan to honor Quinn in a suitable way during the coming academic year, which begins Wednesday, Aug. 21.
20th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Christ lights the fire; don’t put it out

Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10
Psalm 40:2-4, 18
Hebrews 12:1-4
Luke 12:49-53

It is evident that a fire has been set upon earth. Divisions are present in every sphere of our lives. There is a purpose to this reality: to establish the kingdom. Jesus shares the anguish, the longing of His heart. He reveals to us that suffering freely embraced is the price for our redemption. Salvation is offered to us. Jesus speaks the truth, calling us to relationship with the living God.

Human experience of family life and life with friends always has two sides. There is an ideal, something we all wish for: a life that is peaceful, quiet, pleasant, unified, easy, and characterized by love, understanding and acceptance without struggle. Then there is the reality: the life that is chaotic, noisy, bitter, divided, hard, characterized by hatred, misunderstanding and rejection, and often full of strife. In human experience, families are of two kinds: those that cluster and those that scatter like popcorn.

Faith tells us that we are surrounded by a “cloud of witnesses” who lived for truth: the prophets and saints who have gone before us, the wider family that shares in the unity won by Jesus Christ. They accepted the sufferings that accompanied their response to the word.

PRAFTER 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. 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. MAS

See CHRIST, Page 15
Extraordinary coincidence, contemporary lesson

Forty years after Pope St. John Paul II bent the course of the 20th century in a more humane direction during his first pilgrimage to his Polish homeland in June 1979, new information continues to emerge about what happened behind the scenes, shedding further light on those epic events. The latest surprise involves a hitherto unremarked (and evidently impromptu) meeting of the Polish episcopate with the Polish pope in the middle of what has become known as the “Nine Days.” Polish scholars recently discovered and published a transcript of that encounter, and kindly shared a translation with me while I was teaching in Krakow last month.

A bit of background helps set the scene for a powerful reminder that what may seem mere coincidence or randomness can, in fact, be providential — and instructive for the present.

Warsaw, Poland’s political capital from 1596 until the Third Polish Partition in 1795 erased “Poland” from the map of Europe, was absorbed into the Russian Empire after the Congress of Vienna in 1815. The Russian authorities immediately began an intense and often brutal program of Russification, which included banning use of the Polish language in public administration and the courts. One physical expression of this determination to eradicate Polishness in Warsaw was the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, built in city center on Saxon Square between 1894 and 1912.

Speaking at Warsaw’s Royal Castle, the Russian czar had told Poles to abandon all hope of recovering their independence, and the new Russian Orthodox megachurch — with a bell tower designed to be the highest point in the city — was meant to underscore this brutal diktat. At the cathedral’s dedication in 1912, the local Russian Orthodox archbishop said, “The creators of this cathedral had nothing hostile in their thoughts towards the unorthodoxy that surrounds us: coercion is not in the nature of the Eastern Orthodox Church.” This was, of course, poppycock. The Nevsky Cathedral was nothing but a hostile politico-nationalistic act; the Russian Orthodox Church had long been an instrument of Russian state power and, as Archbishop Nicholas himself admitted (however clumsily), the cathedral was intended to juxtapose Russian Orthodoxy to the “unorthodoxy” of recalcitrant Poles who clung to their heretical Catholicism.

In the aftermath of Poland regaining its independence in 1918, the Nevsky Cathedral was demolished, to restore a great public space while removing an affront to Polish sensibilities. After Hitler destroyed Warsaw in 1944, Saxon Square was recreated in the rebuilt capital, although Poland’s communist overseers renamed it “Victory Square.” And it was there, on June 2, 1979, that John Paul II celebrated Mass before hundreds of thousands of Poles and famously called on the Holy Spirit to “renew the face of the earth … of this land.” It was an electric rhetorical moment with consequences as great as Winston Churchill’s 1940 declaration “We shall never surrender!” And its providential character was identified in poignant remarks by Cardinal Stefan Wyszynski, when John Paul met with the Polish bishops on June 5, 1979.

“I was raised in Warsaw schools,” the primate recalled. “I know Warsaw from before World War I … In the exact spot where the Holy Father stood was the apse of a huge czarist church, placed there on orders of the czar, to serve as the ultimate defamation of Poland and the (Catholic) Church. … So the Holy Mass (in Victory Square) was a huge experience for me, a huge shock, because I was sitting in the very same spot where once had stood that czarist church and I was looking at the Pope celebrating the Holy Mass where the … main ceremonies of the czarist power were once celebrated; and everything (in my memory) disappeared (because) the Pope was celebrating a Mass in that exact spot.”

Like many others, I’ve been thrilled by that epic moment as captured in films and documentaries, but I had missed the extraordinary, providential coincidence: John Paul’s great homily took place precisely where a simulacrum of piety had been built to underscore the religious subjugation of a people and their alleged “unorthodoxy.” God is not without a sense of ironic humor, it seems (although this particular exercise in the divine irony may not be well-appreciated in Vatican circles where the memory of Russian Orthodoxy’s historic aggressiveness toward “unorthodox” Catholicism seems to have been erased).

Catholics may, and indeed must, forgive. But we should also remember. Because forgetfulness can lead to something worse: like a dangerous falsification of reality.

CHRIST, continued from Page 14

Jesus shares His zeal to accomplish all that the Father has entrusted to Him to accomplish. He longs to light the fire. He pours out His life for us and calls us to persevere in faith.

The challenge set before us is to be willing to stand for truth, realizing that it opens us to eternity. As followers of Him to accomplish. He longs to light all that the Father has entrusted to our experience of division calls for decision, commitment and witness, even unto death.

Life is difficult. We struggle, facing death and experiencing the pain of division. That is only part of the story. The whole story includes what we will discover through perseverance. We feel in our own hearts a longing for more and share Jesus’ zeal to accomplish God’s will.

What is the fire you are to light? Where do you see it being kindled? What motivates you to keep going?
Funeral Mass for Sister Mary Kathryn McFerrin, SC, 90, who died Monday, July 29, was celebrated Wednesday, Aug. 7 in the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati. Burial was in the sisters’ cemetery.

She was born Dec. 30, 1928, in Cincinnati to Charles and Florentine (Stein) McFerrin. She graduated from Chillicothe Catholic High School in 1947 and received a bachelor of science in education in 1952, and her final vows on the same date in 1957.

She was preceded in death by her parents and by sisters, Christine Creagan and Lorraine.

She entered the Stella Niagara Francisian order on Aug. 17, 1950, and professed her first vows on Aug. 18, 1952, and her final vows on the same date in 1957.

She is survived by a sister, Shirley Irish, and nieces and nephews.
ST. ELIZABETH CHURCH ANNUAL FESTIVAL
6077 Sharon Woods Blvd., Columbus
Friday, August 9, 6 p.m.-12 a.m.
Saturday, August 10, 5 p.m.-12 a.m.

- Car show on Friday
- Live band (both nights) KC and the Moonlighters
- Silent auction, children’s games, adult games of chance, great food.
Come and join us for a great time!

AUGUST

10, SATURDAY
Diocesan Young Adult Retreat
9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center, 2734 Seminary Road S.E., Newark. “Spirit at Work” retreat for young adults (ages 18 to 39) on prayerful decision making. Sponsored by Columbus Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry and Charis Ministries, which conducts retreat experiences in the Jesuit tradition. Cost $25 for day; option to stay Friday night at additional cost available. 614-241-2565

11, SUNDAY
Reception Honoring Sister Marie Shields 3 to 6 p.m., St. Matthias School, 1566 Ferris Road, Columbus. Reception to honor Sister Marie Shields, SNDdeN, who is retiring after 28 years as pastoral associate at St. Matthias Church and 51 years in Columbus. 614-267-3406

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

8 p.m., Mass at Columbus St. Peter 7 p.m., St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road, Columbus. Mass in Spanish. 706-761-4054

12, MONDAY
Rosary at St. Pius X
6:30 p.m., St. Pius X Church, 1051 S. Waggoner Road, Reynoldsburg. Recital of Rosary for the sick of the parish and all who are ill. 614-866-2859

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

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

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

Frassati Society Kickball at Commons
6:15 p.m., Columbus Commons, 160 S. High St., Columbus. Columbus St. Patrick Church Frassati Society kickball game. Minimum four men and four women needed. Maximum 10 total players for game. Cost $5. 614-224-9522

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

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

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

14, WEDNESDAY
Turning Leaves and Tea Leaves
2 to 3:30 p.m., Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Drive, Columbus. Turning Leaves and Tea Leaves book club with Dominican Sisters Marielain Anzenberger and Colleen Gallagher. 614-416-1910

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

Lancaster Theology on Tap
7 p.m., Bob’s Backyard BBQ, 157 W. Main St., Lancaster. Monthly meeting of Theology on Tap discussion group for anyone ages 18 to 39. Contact Cindy Goss at cynthia.goss@outlook.com.

15, THURSDAY
Frassati Society Mass and Dinner
6:30 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Columbus St. Patrick Church Frassati Society for young adults attends Mass for Solemnity of the Assumption, followed by dinner at Pat and Grace’s restaurant. 614-224-9522

16, FRIDAY
Catholic Singles On Fire for Christ
6 p.m., Chapel, Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Columbus Road, New Albany. Monthly meeting of Catholic Singles On Fire for Christ, for anyone older than 35 who is single in the eyes of the Catholic Church and seeks to grow in faith, bring hope to others and share the love of Christ. Begins with prayer and Adoration, followed by dinner at a restaurant. 614-855-1400

17, 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.

18, SUNDAY
St. Christopher Youth Choir Meeting
10 a.m., Cry room, St. Christopher Church, 1420 Avondview Ave., Columbus. First 2019-20 practice for parish youth choir, for parochial and public school students in second to eighth grades from northern and northwest Franklin County. No auditions. 614-306-0342

Blessing of St. Gerard Majella at Holy Family
After 11 a.m. Mass, Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., Columbus. Blessing of St. Gerard Majella, patron of expectant mothers, for all pregnant or who has been through a recovery program, and wants to stay connected. 614-721-2100

19, MONDAY
Rosary at St. Pius X
6:30 p.m., St. Pius X Church, 1051 S. Waggoner Road, Reynoldsburg. Recital of Rosary for the sick of the parish and all who are ill. 614-866-2859

20, TUESDAY
Frassati Society Kickball at Commons
6:15 p.m., Columbus Commons, 160 S. High St., Columbus. Columbus St. Patrick Church Frassati Society kickball game. Minimum four men and four women needed. Maximum 10 total players for game. Cost $5. 614-224-9522

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

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

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

Young Catholic Professionals Speaker Series
7 to 9 p.m., Jubilee Museum, 57 S. Grubb St., Columbus. Monica Flynn, executive director of Mommies Matter Support group for single mothers, talks at Young Catholic Professionals organization’s monthly executive speaker series. Information at www.ycpcolumbus.org.

22, THURSDAY
Women’s Evening of Reflection
6 to 9 p.m., St. Therese’s Retreat Center, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus. Evening of reflection for women, sponsored by diocesan Church Frassati Laywomen’s Retreat League, led by Father Stephen Dominic Hayes, OP. Theme: “Matters of the Hearts: Finding the Depths of Love through the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.” Cost $25, including dinner. 614-866-1611

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.
Festivals promote parish unity, spur evangelization

Summer is the season for festivals throughout the Diocese of Columbus. The festival calendar published in The Catholic Times at the beginning of May lists more than 40 such parish events between May and October, with most during the school vacation period from June through August.

Festivals raise money for parish needs, but equally important is the opportunity they provide to strengthen parish unity by allowing parishioners to get together in an informal setting to enjoy food and music, play games and take part in other activities. They also provide former parish members who have moved with a chance to return and reconnect with old friends.

Additionally, they serve as an evangelization tool, giving parishes an opportunity to reach out to the community at large. This occasionally results in a positive impression that leads a non-Catholic to inquire about Catholic beliefs and ultimately to enter the RCIA process and become a member of the Church.

Seth Walker of Worthington St. Michael Church is one such individual. He and his wife, Kelly, and their daughter, Ellie, then 1 year old, moved to central Ohio from Tennessee in 2014. The couple now has three children, ages 6, 3, and 3 months.

“My grandmother was a Southern Baptist and my mom was a Unitarian, so I was exposed to religion growing up,” Seth Walker said. “Kelly grew up as a Catholic but was not active in the faith when we moved, and I did not have a strong feeling toward a particular church.”

He said that as new parents, he and Kelly began thinking about their responsibilities to their daughter and the values they wanted her to learn. This led to a search for a church home for the family.

“We tried many different denominations for more than a year and never could find the right place,” Kelly Walker said. “For my birthday on Sept. 4, 2015, we went out to dinner, and then took Ellie to the St. Michael parish festival. We had an unbelievable time. We danced to a Beatles tribute band, and Ellie rode rides and played games. Most importantly, we talked to the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist who teach at St. Michael School and to the parish priests.”

“As the conversation continued, we felt something that was missing in our other church visits. It just felt like home. It felt right. The community and the friendly presence of the sisters and clergy was something we’d never felt anywhere else.

“Seth visited the RCIA booth and chatted with Father Matthew Morris (St. Michael’s parochial vicar at the time). He committed at that time to begin the process which leads to becoming a member of the Catholic Church. He went through RCIA for the next few months and joined the Church at the Easter Vigil in 2016.”

One of the first parishioners Seth Walker met was Brett Gissel, who is active in state and local Knights of Columbus organizations. Gissel, a past festival chairman, recruited him to be a Knight and join the festival committee. Soon after officially becoming a parishioner three years ago, Walker became the festival’s sponsorship chair, and this year he became festival chairman.

Sponsorships by local businesses play a critical role at most festivals, some more so than others. “In a few cases, the amount raised through sponsorships covers all festival expenses,” Walker said. “Here, it’s around 20 to 25 percent. Usually, we have five or 10 major sponsors and 40 or 50 smaller ones.”

He said the event is not an official Knights of Columbus activity, but the Knights play the biggest role in organizing the festival. “We don’t have outside vendors, other than for the rides,” he said. “The food’s all our own, done mostly by Knights with grills and fryers, and that helps it maintain a neighborhood atmosphere.

People’s favorites include our pizza, funnel cakes, lemon shake-ups and Tony Schera’s special Italian sauce for meatball subs.”

This year’s festival will include a Mario Kart tournament for the first time. “That’s scheduled for Sunday night,” Walker said. “We have plenty of games for the younger children and activities for the adults, but felt we needed something to engage the middle group of kids – the ones in middle school and high school – so we’re giving this a try.”

He said many of the wooden booths the festival has been using for years are being replaced. “We have 20 new booths that look like the originals. They’re also of wood, but are easier to put together because they fold up rather than having to be taken apart and put together each year,” Walker said. About 40 people were able to put the new booths together in an afternoon of work.

The St. Michael festival has been a fixture on Labor Day weekend for many years and is the only event listed on the Times festival calendar for that period. It will take place from 7 to 11 p.m. Friday, Aug. 30 and 5 to 11 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 31 and Sept. 1. Because of the Monday holiday, it’s one of the few festivals that extends into Sunday night.

“This is the 43rd year for the festival,” Walker said. “It started as a parish family picnic and evolved over the years into something for families and people over the area. I’m not sure when it was moved to Labor Day.”

One of the diocese’s oldest festivals takes place this weekend and is sponsored by St. Mary, Mother of God Church in Columbus’ German Village neighborhood. It has been known as the parish Homecoming since it began in 1925, but has a new name this year to recognize a renewed parish and a new focus.

“We’re renaming it to ‘Home Again – the St. Mary Community Festival,’” said festival chairwoman Chris Davis. “It’s an appropriate change because we are back home in our parish church and because we want to emphasize that it isn’t just a chance for former parishioners to return and renew friendships, but is an outreach activity which all of our neighbors and friends are invited to share.”

This year’s festival returns to the parish and school grounds after being at a temporary site for two years...
to allow St. Mary Church to undergo an $8 million renovation following a lightning strike in late August 2016. The church was closed in October of that year once the extent of damage was determined. The building was re-opened this past April 13.

“The festival was almost canceled after the church was closed because we couldn’t find a suitable site,” Davis said. “At the last minute, Sue Gall of the Hey Hey Bar and Grill offered her building and grounds to us, so the festival was able to continue on a limited basis.”

There wasn’t room to put up rides at the alternate site, also in German Village, but there was space for food areas, a beer trailer and some children’s games and spin-the-wheel games, including the popular cake wheel, with cakes instead of money as prizes.

“Now we’re back, and we’re eager to have everyone see our new, brighter church, our re-landscaped grounds and our redone parking lot,” Davis said. “St. Mary’s is once again the centerpiece of Third Street and the hub of a vibrant community. I don’t know how it started, but there’s a saying we’ve used for years to describe the role of the parish: ‘Not everybody belongs to St. Mary’s, but St. Mary’s belongs to everybody.’”

Fittingly for a parish with a strong German heritage, German food is one of the festival’s highlights. “Everybody loves our bratwurst from Falter’s,” the city’s last meat packing company, which has been in operation since 1890, Davis said. “A brat and one of Sue Gall’s famous sauerkraut balls (the Hey Hey’s signature food item) make a great pairing.”

This year, the festival is adding a farmers market on Saturday. Davis is hoping fresh, locally grown corn will be among the offerings.

Davis has been chairwoman since 2014 and has been involved with the festival since 2000. She said it takes about 180 to 200 people to run the event, with planning meetings starting in January and becoming more frequent as the festival gets closer.

Because the church is landlocked and was built long before the automobile became the principal method of transportation, on-site festival parking is limited, with shuttles taking festivalgoers to and from the nearby Grange Insurance lot and other locations. Gall said cooperation with the city and German Village groups allows the festival and regular neighborhood activities to go on while limiting street closures to one block.

The Home Again festival will take place from 5 to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Aug. 9 and 10.

Fishing at the duck pond is one of many games enjoyed by young children at the Worthington St. Michael Church Labor Day festival. This year, in an attempt to attract and entertain middle schoolers and high schoolers, festival organizers are sponsoring a Mario Kart tournament for the first time. (Photo courtesy St. Michael Church)
“They don’t do many shows. Most-ly they play at charity events like ours. Most of the guys in the band have day jobs as American Electric Power exec-utives or are retired from AEP, but you’d never know it when they get into classic rock music.

“Other big attraction is our silent aucti-on,” Lynch said. “A lot of busi-nesses contribute to it, putting togeth-er packages that include event tick-ets, golf, sports memorabilia, purses, and condo stays. We’ll have casino games for adults, probably blackjack and Texas Hold ‘Em, plus kids games to go with the food and rides.”

Lynch isn’t sure when the parish festival started. He said one of the event’s biggest promoters was Msgr. William Maroon, pastor of the parish from 1978 to 1982 and from 1993 to 2001. Msgr. Maroon was known for his Lebanese cooking and encouraged the growth of festivals both at St. Brendan and at Portsmouth St. Mary Church, where he served between his two pastoral terms at Hilliard.

“The committee always is looking for ways to make the festival better, but there aren’t many changes this year, other than having a few more rides for young children,” Lynch said. “We have a huge turnout of kids every year, and that’s a great encouragement because they bring their families with them. The festival is a big fundraiser, but from the committee’s perspective, it’s as important to see everyone have a good time, enjoy fellowship and good food, and just be together as a parish.”

Nearly all the festival captains are parents who have children either in the parochial school or the Parish School of Religion,” she said. “My husband and I have been involved with the festi-val for six years. At least two-thirds of the captains have been part of it for at least that long, and many for much longer. That makes for a solid core.”

Minser has been one of three co-chairs for the festival for the past three years. A new co-chair is selected each year, and that person’s responsibilities increase each year until he or she becomes overall chairman for a year. Minser’s term in that role ended with the close of this year’s festival on July 20, but she will continue next year as captain for purchasing, a position she has held since becoming involved with the event six years ago.

“We have captains for everything,” she said. “Spreading responsibility so widely avoids having a few people be overwhelmed and makes it easier for the whole parish to feel a sense of involvement.” She said there are captains for purchasing, the children’s area, the beer garden, carnival-style games, casino-style games, the outdoor grill, the indoor kitchen, the snack area, hospitality, the raffle, ticketing, finances, sponsorships, social media, advertising, and volunteers.

The festival usually has a sit-down dinner featuring a different item each night. But the school cafeteria is being remodeled this year, so the only full-course meal offered for 2019 was a Friday fish fry, with the Knights of Columbus doing the cooking outdoors, as they do every year during Lent. In other years, the festival features chicken on Thursday, pulled pork on Friday and spaghetti and meatballs on Saturday.

St. Matthew’s also is one of the few festivals with a designated Kiddieland, with separate areas for rides and for activities such as face painting, hair painting, balloon artistry and T-shirt tie-dying. Separate admissions are charged for the activities area and for the rides.

Minser said one of the festival’s most popular features is Showdown, a blackjack-style game in the beer garden featuring giant-sized cards. She said having Square credit card read-ers now available for payments means people don’t need to bring much cash to the festival. For those who do need cash, there’s an on-site ATM.

“All of us who are involved in the festival put in a ton of work, but it doesn’t feel much like work,” she said. “The parish has a requirement that parents of parochial school students do volunteer work so they can pay the parish rate for school tuition, but most people who work the festival wouldn’t do it without the requirement. It’s great to help the parish earn mon-ey, but the friendships you make and the closeness you gain with others, the sense of coming together as a parish, are just as important.”

AUGUST 16 & 17 • 5 p.m. to MIDNIGHT CORNER of REED and McCoy ROADS

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