CATHOLIC KIDS ENJOY SUMMER FUN AT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
Editor’s reflections by Doug Bean

‘Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed’

At the memorial Mass for St. Thomas the Apostle celebrated each year on July 3, the “doubting Thomas” gospel that comes from St. John 20:24-29 resonates with so many Catholics.

No matter how much a person professes faith in God, we often turn to Him in difficult moments asking, “Lord, I believe, help my unbelief.”

It’s not necessarily a lack of belief in the saving and healing power of the Lord, but rather the weakness that comes with being a mere human being.

There’s a richness to this gospel passage that provides so much hope. Particularly striking is when “Jesus said to him, ‘Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.’”

Jesus allowed Thomas to put his finger in the nail marks and his hand into His side, and said to him, “Lord, I believe.” Many older Catholics learned to silently repeat those same words three times when the priest elevates the body and then the blood during the consecration at Mass. It’s a sign of reverence that seems to have been lost and is in need of a revival. Maybe unbelievers and the faith of those who say they are “bored” at Mass would be transformed with the revelation that Christ becomes truly present before their very eyes.

So like the other disciples who told Thomas, “We have seen the Lord,” anyone who goes to Mass or enters a Catholic Church where the Blessed Sacrament is present can say the same thing. Even during the summer months, the Lord is waiting for everyone.

Not everyone has the luxury of going on vacation this time of year, but if you’re blessed to be able to do so, remember that there is almost always a Catholic Church nearby. Go online and check out Mass and adoration times for churches in the vicinity and plan accordingly.

Rest and relaxation is a good thing, but not at the expense of forgetting about the obligation to set aside time for God.

The children and young adults profiled in the Vacation Bible School story on Pages 10-12 in this week’s Catholic Times took time out during the summer to grow closer to the Lord. These kids, parents and volunteers chose to experience God in a particular way for a week through prayer, songs, games, skits, activities, ministries, confession and Mass.

For the “older” generation, vacations and stay-cations also provide an opportunity to catch up on spiritual reading. There are a multitude of excellent books to explore. George Weigel offers some suggestions in his column on Page 15.

Whatever you do and wherever you go this summer, remember the words that Jesus told his disciples in John’s Gospel when he appeared to them: “Peace be with you.”

Father Lawrence James Reichert passed away on June 30, 2018

Funeral Mass for Father Lawrence James Reichert, 73, who died Saturday, June 30 while in palliative care at Mount Carmel-St. Ann’s Hospital, was held Friday, July 6 at Johnstown Church of the Ascension. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery.

He was born on November 30, 1944 to Charles and Margaret (Dempsey) Reichert in Columbus and was baptized on December 31, 1944 at St. John the Evangelist Church, where he attended elementary school. He also attended the now-closed Holy Family High School and graduated from Bishop Ready High School in 1962.

Father Reichert began his seminary formation and college studies for the priesthood at the former St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Columbus, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree, and his theological studies took place at Mount St. Mary of the West Seminary in Cincinnati, where he graduated with a Master of Divinity degree. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Columbus by Bishop Clarence E. Elwell on May 29, 1971.

He was associate pastor at Columbus St. Agatha Church, Columbus St. Catherine Church and Zanesville St. Nicholas Church, then served as pastor at Columbus Holy Name Church, Groveport St. Mary Church and Johnstown Church of the Ascension. He also was a teacher at Columbus Bishop Watterson High School, Columbus Bishop Hartley High School and Zanesville Bishop Rosecrans High School. He retired in 2017.
Father James Albert Ogurchock
passed away on July 7, 2018

Funeral Mass for Father James Albert Ogurchock, 85, who died Saturday, July 7 at the Villas at St. Therese in Columbus, was celebrated on Thursday, July 12 at Gahanna St. Matthew the Apostle Church. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery.

He was born on October 2, 1932 in Akron to James and Anna (Ziegler) Ogurchock and was baptized on October 16, 1932 at Akron Immaculate Conception Church. He graduated from Akron St. Mary High School and then began his formation for the priesthood at the former St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Columbus, originally for the Glenmary Home Missioners but later for service in the Diocese of Columbus. He continued his theological studies at Mount St. Mary of the West Seminary in Cincinnati, graduating with a Master of Divinity degree. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 31, 1958 by Bishop Clarence G. Issenmann at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral.

He served as associate pastor at Zanesville St. Nicholas Church, Columbus St. Leo Church, Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Columbus Holy Spirit Church and Columbus St. Mary Magdalene Church. He also was a teacher at Columbus Bishop Hartley High School and Columbus Bishop Ready High School, principal at Zanesville Bishop Rosecrans High School, Assistant Superintendent of Catholic schools for the diocese, the Diocesan Vicar for Religious, and hospital chaplain at Mount Carmel East from 1981 until his retirement in 2008. After his retirement, he assisted at Gahanna St. Matthew the Apostle Church and Columbus St. Catharine Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Father John J. Ogurchock, M.M., a missionary for 51 years who died in 2013; and sisters, Sister Mary Catherine, CSJ, and Sister Mary Joanna, CSJ.

The Martin de Porres Center’s sixth annual The Visible Invisible Tea fundraiser will feature a presentation from the Star House and its art program Visible Invisible from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, August 5.

Star House is a drop-in center for youth experiencing homelessness in Columbus. Art from the program will be on display in the special exhibit “Identity” and there will be performances by young artists.

Special guests will also discuss the problem of youth homelessness in Columbus.

Donations such as earbuds, canvases, paintbrushes, notebooks, or gift cards will be accepted for the Visible Invisible program.

A $35 pre-paid registration fee is required by July 27. More details are available online at https://martindeporrescenter.net/programs/ or by contacting 614-416-1910 or martin-deporres@oppeace.org.

The Martin de Porres Center, located at 2330 Airport Dr. in Columbus, is an outreach ministry of the Dominican Sisters of Peace.

Catholic R.N.s – become a Parish Nurse.

Link spirituality with your nursing profession and learn how to use those skills in your church.

- August 20 – October 19, 2018
- Weekly online course work with 3 in-person classes
- In-person classes: Fridays, September 7, October 5, and October 19 at Mount Carmel College of Nursing.
- 38 contact hours
- $295; reduced rate of $250 for Mount Carmel colleagues, alumni, and congregational partners.
- Enroll by August 10, 2018
- For more information contact Kate Whitman, Mount Carmel Church Partnerships, kwhitman@mchs.com or 614-546-4062

Mount Carmel College of Nursing is an approved provider of continuing nursing education by the Ohio Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. (OBN-001-91) (OH-268, 11/1/2018). Course expires 10/2018.
Tuscarawas Central Catholic students go to Buckeye Boys, Girls State

Nine rising seniors from the Tuscarawas Central Catholic High School attended the 2018 Buckeye Boys and Girls State in June.

Anthony Fredericks, Ciro Ciraci, Max DeMattio, Reece Blanchard, Austin Fantin, Braden Culler, Alex Selenski and John Clore participated in Boys State at Miami University in Oxford along with 1,200 others from high schools around the state. They were sponsored by American Legion Post 139 of New Philadelphia and the East Sparta Post 244.

Regan Triplett participated in the Girls State at the University of Mount Union in Alliance. She was sponsored by the American Legion Post 139 of New Philadelphia.

The nine students represented 24 in the Tuscarawas Central Catholic senior class of 2019 and a student body of 150 in grades seven through 12. Each of the nine is involved in multiple school and church activities.

Participants in the Buckeye Boys and Girls State programs learn about city, county and state government and how they relate to one another as part of the democratic process. The program’s stated mission is to expose young men to rights and privileges, duties and responsibilities, and love for God and country necessary to become self-governing citizens.

Tuscarawas Central Catholic rising seniors who participated in American Legion Buckeye Boys State were (left to right) Anthony Fredericks, Ciro Ciraci, Max DeMattio, Reece Blanchard, Austin Fantin, Braden Culler, Alex Selenski and John Clore.

Regan Triplett
The Alpha Consortium will present a regional conference, Alpha: Learn-Grow-Share-Lead, on Saturday, August 11, at Sunbury St. John Neumann Church that features three speakers and 20 breakout sessions.

Peter Herbeck, vice president and director of missions for Renewal Ministries, will be one of the speakers. He will be joined by Father Larry Richards, a pastor at St. Joseph Church in Erie, Pennsylvania and the founder and president of The Reason for Our Hope Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to spreading the gospel by telling people about Jesus Christ.

Also speaking will be Joshua Daniels, the national director of Alpha in a Catholic context. He leads evangelization efforts in parishes across the country. His focus will be the message of St. Francis to reach out and build relationships in caring for others.

Alpha is a program adopted by a number of parishes in the Diocese of Columbus and in more than 60 countries. It involves a series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith.

Participants are called guests and assigned to tables with trained hosts and helpers. Each table consists of approximately 8-12 individuals. Sessions begin with an informal gathering to share a meal or food, which is followed by video and a group discussion.

The course consists of 10 sessions. Topics include: Who is Jesus? Why did Jesus die? How and Why do I pray? Why and How do I read the Bible? There is an additional retreat or day at a location where there are videos and discussions about the Holy Spirit and an opportunity for praying with others.

Alpha began in the diocese in 2015 at St. John Neumann, Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church and Powell St. Joan of Arc Church and expanded to Columbus St. Catharine Church, Delaware St. Mary Church and New Albany Church of the Resurrection.

The Alpha Consortium formed in 2016 and currently has 13 Alpha leaders from nine parishes who provide trainings, materials, coaching, support and prayers for people from numerous parishes in the diocese.

More than 4,500 people have been involved during the past four years. Other diocesan parishes that have offered Alpha or are planning to do so include Columbus Immaculate Conception, Newark Blessed Sacrament, Columbus Our Lady of Peace, Columbus Our Lady of Victory, Columbus St. Cecilia, West Jefferson Sts. Simon and Jude, Columbus St. Timothy, Newark St. Francis de Sales, Marion St. Mary, Columbus St. Francis of Assisi, Plain City St. Joseph, Portsmouth Holy Redeemer, Columbus Santa Cruz, Portsmouth St. Mary of the Annunciation, Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes, Reynoldsburg St. Pius X, Hilliard St. Brendan, Columbus St. Thomas More, London St. Patrick, Dover St. Joseph, Lancaster St. Mary of the Assumption, Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul, Danville St. Luke, Pickerington St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Lancaster St. Mark, Columbus Bishop Hartley High School, Westerville St. Paul the Apostle and Columbus Christ the King.

To learn more about the Alpha Consortium and the regional conference or to register, visit www.alphacolumbus.org. Registration is online only. No registrations will be accepted at the door.

Diocesan Recreation Association prepares for new school year

Play Like A Champion Today training sessions for new coaches in the Diocesan Recreation Association program will be held starting in July for the upcoming school year.

The first session is scheduled for 11 a.m. Saturday, July 21 at Columbus St. Andrew Church, 1899 McCoy Road. Additional class times will be noon Saturday, July 28 and Saturday, August 18 at Columbus St. Mary Magdalene Church, 473 S. Roys Ave. Each session lasts approximately three hours. Registration is available at the DRA website.

The DRA began implementing the Play Like A Champion Today Educational Series in 2014 for all fourth grade parents. This year, at least one parent of all athletes must take the training before their child participates in a DRA program.

The coaching-as-ministry programs are designed as faith based, particularly those run by Catholic dioceses, parishes and schools. Play Like A Champion moves beyond the X’s and O’s of coaching to address the core elements of effective coaching: motivation, team building and leadership.

More than 2,000 coaches have participated in a Play Like A Champion Today training session. Thirty-five parish volunteers are trained to help implement the program.

The DRA is a program formed by the values of the Catholic Church. The important lessons of commitment, sacrifice and making good choices are part of the experience.

The DRA strives to make sports fun for all players; create a welcoming and inclusive team environment; promote an athlete’s physical, social and moral development; and help children build lasting and strong relationships.

Sports are rooted in the most important gathering of the Catholic community — the Mass — and to ensure that young people are blessed in their experiences of athletics. The goal is to set a precedent in today’s youth sports culture that it’s necessary to set aside time for God and family.

The DRA has been able to greatly reduce the number of Sunday DRA games to allow for family time, uninterrupted by scheduled sports. But there are other sports offered in parishes and local communities that do not fall under the umbrella of the DRA.

DRA member parishes will hold a “Kick-Off” Mass before the start of the season to recognize the summer and fall athletes and coaches. Young athletes, coaches and families are encouraged to attend together.

The DRA provided soccer, cross country, football, volleyball, basketball, track, baseball and softball to more than 7,200 students during 2017-2018. Cross country was added in the fall and over 170 students participated.

For more information on programs and DRA forms, visit www.columbuscatholic.org/recreation or call 614-241-2580.
**Prayers for Trump-Kim / Contact with gay couple**

**Question & Answer**

Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service

**Q** How do we change those Catholic Church leaders who have political bias and anger toward our president?

Mr. Trump needed our prayers and support for his dialogue with North Korean President Kim Jong Un. But neither at the Sunday Mass I attended nor in our diocesan paper was there any mention of praying for the success of this important effort to denuclearize Korea and to bring peace to the region.

I thought we believed that “blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” (Central Ohio)

**A** It surprises me that at the Mass you attended on Sunday, June 10, no mention would have been made in the prayer of the faithful about the critical summit scheduled two days later in Singapore.

In the Masses at our own parish that weekend, one of the petitions was, “For the upcoming meeting between President Trump and Kim Jong Un, that it may help to bring peace and stability to the Korean Peninsula.” I think that most Catholic parishes probably did something similar.

Pope Francis, in his Angelus address that same Sunday to the pilgrims gathered in St. Peter’s Square, asked the crowd to pray the Hail Mary in order that the talks in Singapore might “contribute to the development of a positive path that assures a future of peace for the Korean Peninsula and the whole world.”

Earlier, on April 29, the pontiff told pilgrims that Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in had made a “courageous commitment” to ongoing dialogue in order to achieve “a Korean Peninsula free of nuclear weapons,” and Pope Francis urged Catholics to pray the rosary for peace during the month of May.

I feel certain that most diocesan newspapers covered one or both of those papal pleas.

**Q** We are a Catholic family and have sent all of our children to Catholic schools. Our daughter, who is now in high school, has a friend in her class who lives with two women, one of whom is her adoptive mother. The women are in a homosexual partnership.

Recently that family was going to the beach on an overnight trip, and my daughter was invited to go with them. My husband and I refused (and said that she was busy that weekend). We do let our daughter go on play dates with this friend and hang out with her, but we draw the line on sleepovers with this family.

We were truthful with our daughter and told her that we don’t want her to start seeing that family’s way of life as natural and proper. While we are tolerant of other people’s sexual orientation, we do not approve of gay marriage. Was it wrong for us to refuse to let her go with them? (Roanoke, Virginia)

**A** No, what you did was not wrong. On the contrary, I think you handled the situation pretty well. I would agree that it’s OK for your daughter to “hang out” with that friend; in fact, it’s probably healthy and helpful for the girl to see that a heterosexual union like your own is the norm.

But I, too, would draw the line at an overnight. You were right to explain honestly to your daughter the reason for your disapproval; now a purist, I suppose, would say that you should have been just as frank in speaking with the gay couple, but I know how awkward that might have been.

Had you wanted to do so, you might have found helpful the Catechism of the Catholic Church (Nos. 2357-59), which offers a Scriptural basis for disapproving of homosexual activity.

**Q** I would like to donate my remains to medical science. Does the Catholic Church approve or disapprove of this action? (Chesapeake, Virginia)

**A** The Catholic Church not only allows this but encourages it. Your donation could enable doctors, nurses and medical researchers to understand the human body better and save lives in the future.

The U.S. Catholic bishops in their policy document Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services state that Catholic health care facilities should provide the means for those who wish to donate organs and bodily tissue both for transplant and for research (No. 63). Likewise, St. John Paul II in his 1995 encyclical “The Gospel of Life” called organ donation an act of “everyday heroism” that nurtures a genuine culture of life (No. 86).

A couple of cautions are in place, though. First, a Catholic funeral Mass may and should still be held, even without the presence of the body (i.e., a memorial Mass), to entrust the deceased person to the Lord and to allow the family to mourn and pray together.

Next, following the medical research, any bodily remains should be entombed or buried in consecrated ground. And finally, it is wise for someone intending to donate his or her body to communicate that desire to family members well in advance to avoid surprise or family friction at the time of death.

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

**PDHC Walk for Life**

Pregnancy Decision Health Centers (PDHC) will host a Walk for Life in Lancaster on Saturday, July 14 and in Columbus on Saturday, July 21 to raise funds to help pregnant women with pregnancy tests, ultrasounds and parenting classes.

Check-in for both events starts at 9 a.m., with the walk to follow at 10 a.m. The Walk for Life in Lancaster begins at the downtown bandstand and in Columbus at Scioto Audubon Metro Park, 400 W. Whittier St.

Registration is free, and participants can use PDHC’s online tools to raise funds. For every $300 raised, walkers provide comprehensive care for one woman.

“We are excited to bring the community together to walk for life and to support women and families,” PDHC president Julie Moore said. “No one should be alone during a pregnancy. We want women to know that their community and PDHC is here to help. Together we will save and change lives.”

Thousands of women come to PDHC each year for free and confidential services. Of the women that used PDHC’s services last year, 71 percent reported incomes of less than $15,000 per year. PDHC supports women and families by providing individualized consultations that include healthy pregnancy and reproductive education as well as additional help from other community resources.

PDHC extends help beyond pregnancy to support parents after their babies are born and to reduce infant mortality. New and expecting moms and dads attend parenting classes on child development, safe sleep practices and managing stress and finances.

PDHC is a non-profit 501c3 that empowers women and families to make healthy life choices, including parenting or adoption during an unexpected pregnancy. For more information and to register, visit SupportPDHC.org/walk-for-life.
Ohio Dominican hosts
Summer Scholars Program in July

Ohio Dominican University is offering its first Summer Scholars Program for high school students graduating in 2019, 2020 or 2021 from July 23 to 27.

The five-day program consists of four daily classes, which includes classroom discussions, out-of-classroom labs, and numerous hands-on activities.

ODU faculty will teach the following courses during the camp: Everyday Logic, Exploring Slow Fashion and Fiber Arts, Introduction to Game Programming, Ohio’s Environment – Hands on, Poetry Writing Workshop, Psychological Detectives, and College Ready.

“This camp gives high school students an outstanding opportunity to experience the rigorous academic atmosphere on a university campus,” said Manuel Martinez, Ph.D., dean of undergraduate studies and associate professor of languages at ODU. “The wide range of courses available during the week gives students the flexibility to choose topics that interest and fascinate them.”

The cost is $150 per student for the camp, which will take place on ODU’s campus at 1216 Sunbury Road in Columbus. Attendees will not receive college credit.

Registration is limited to the first 48 respondents. To register, please visit ohiodominican.edu/SummerScholars.

For more information on the Summer Scholars Program, visit ohiodominican.edu/SummerScholars, email admissions@ohiodominican.edu, or call 614-251-4500.

ODU receives national recognition as a College of Distinction winner

Ohio Dominican University was nationally recognized among the Colleges of Distinction for the second consecutive year.

Colleges of Distinction is a national guidebook that honors colleges and universities for their excellence in undergraduate-focused higher education. Institutions are identified based on student experiences that take into account student satisfaction, alumni success, first-year student experience, retention efforts and a student-centered approach to teaching.

“Colleges of Distinction is far more than a ranking list of colleges and universities,” said Tyson Schritter, chief operating officer for Colleges of Distinction. “We seek out the schools that are wholly focused on the student experience and constantly working to produce graduates who are prepared for a rapidly changing global society. Ohio Dominican University stands out in the way it strives to help its students to learn, grow and succeed.”

ODU’s online profile for Colleges of Distinction can be found at collegeofdistinction.com. An annual guidebook will be released in the fall.

Compliments of

DEE PRINTING, INC.
4999 Transamerica Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43228
777-8700
the Murnane Family

Specializing in Catholic Church Sunday bulletins and Serving Columbus Diocese and others since 1974
When I’m on the back of a horse, the world changes for me. Not only do I realize, with a sort of dazed wonder, that I’m doing one of the things I used to love more than anything else, but I also see the world through different eyes. When I’m riding a horse, my body is different -- for one thing, I’m not used to it anymore, and my legs scream in agony for at least three days after a ride. I have to pay attention to the world around me and I have to pay attention to the horse beneath me. The horses I ride are old hands at novice riders, and there’s nothing to fear. Yet even though I know that, I don’t ever forget that I’m on the back of a horse. It makes me think of how I go through my life, so often. I cruise along, doing what I think is best, maybe asking for help here and there, thanking God every so often, involving Him when it suits me. Do I realize the immensity of what it means to be going through life as a Christian? Do I live my faith? Do I look down and see the Hands that are guiding me?

Reading about Saint Monica’s devotion for her wayward son, Augustine, reminds me of this need to pay attention. Monica was a devout Christian, but her son wasn’t. In fact, he was about as obstinate as it was possible to get. He didn’t want a thing to do with Christianity, and he could tell you why. And yet Monica kept praying. Her prayer was so noteworthy that Mary appeared to her as Our Lady of Consolation. She was wearing mourning clothes with a belt around her waist, which she took off and gave to Monica, instructing her to wear it and spread this new devotional practice. Mary said she would protect anyone who wore the belt in her honor. Monica gave the belt, also called a cincture, to her son Augustine, and years later, he not only became Christian but became a renowned bishop, saint, and doctor.

When I hear Mary referred to as Our Lady of Consolation, I don’t immediately think of Monica’s tears and desperate pleas for help with her son’s salvation. Sometimes I think of the little pains and tribulations in my life, like not getting to the horse farm as much as I’d like. There’s therapy in that time spent among the horses, in the open air, unplugged from the technology that tries to run my life. I notice how much joy my family takes in the peacocks and the swings, and I treasure how we laugh and photograph and dawdle. Time stops at the horse farm, even as it flies by all around us.

When I’ve communed with God among the horses, I often realize how much I need Mass, how much I need that time with God. Though I may be distracted or interrupted or preoccupied, with kids crawling on my lap and sifting through my purse, people behind me or in front of me catching my attention; though I may be imperfect as I kneel there, I can see myself at the hitching post, waiting as the horses do, for my Herdsman to lead me to the still waters. Mary is right beside Him, wearing cowboy boots and probably a cowboy hat. She has a black leather belt, and she winks at me when I notice it.

“You probably thought I only wore robes,” she whispers.

There’s a lot of surprise in my daily life. I never expected, for example, to enjoy my babies so much. I didn’t think I’d find solace in horses, having given up my equine dreams for more practical matters years ago, and I certainly didn’t think I’d find Mary in a cowboy hat!

Our Lady of Consolation reminds me that there’s comfort, even in the parts of life you don’t “win,” in the pain and suffering, in the knowledge of the prize I seek. As I share those moments with my family at the horse farm and rediscover that old horse-crazy part of myself, I find that there’s help for me in the midst of my life, right there in the manure and the grass-stained knees. From five feet in the air, framed by alert ears and a wisp of mane, I see how far I have to go... and how easily He can get me there.

Sarah Reinhard is a Catholic wife, mother, and convert who writes from central Ohio with a sidekick of coffee and a yard full of critters. Get her Catholic take every weekday in your inbox by signing up at Snoring-Scholar.com.
When my oldest child was three, friends with a son about the same age asked how I liked Sesame Street. I admitted that neither I nor my daughter had seen it. We rarely turned on the television, but after hearing other young parents extolling the show’s merits, I watched. The constant fast pace and short snippets put me off. (A former elementary teacher as well as a mother, I knew kids had longer attention spans than that.) Later, I came to appreciate what the show had to offer, and Sesame Street and other public television shows became common fare. But at first, if we were going to watch children’s television at all, I preferred Mr. Rogers. It was the pace. The real time. Taking time to let a story unfold without interruption. And the calm kindness and grace of Mr. Rogers himself.

After delaying seminary training to work in the new field of television, he eventually was ordained a Presbyterian minister to be an evangelist to children through the media. But Fred Rogers was no televangelist.

While St. Francis of Assisi probably never uttered the admonition attributed to him, instructing his followers to preach at all times and to use words if necessary, those words come to mind when I think of Mr. Rogers. His faith was integral in his life and it informed every show. But on the one-year anniversary of 9/11, he came out of retirement briefly to record a public service announcement addressing parents of young children about such tragedy and violence. Like separating immigrant children from their parents unthinkable. Judging others to be less than because of skin color, ethnicity, social standing, or education cannot stand when we recognize the dignity of all.

In an interview for Christianity Today, Rogers said “The underlying message of the Neighborhood is that if somebody cares about you, it’s possible that you’ll care about others. ‘You are special, and so is your neighbor”—that part is essential: that you’re not the only special person in the world. The person you happen to be with at the moment is loved, too.”

Today we desperately need to heed the gospel message of “love your neighbor” and the Good Samaritan parable’s understanding of just who our “neighbors” are. Mr. Rogers spent a lifetime being that neighbor to millions of young children and their parents. Be a helper. Be tikkun olma. And if you have the opportunity, treat yourself to the movie, “Won’t You Be My Neighbor?”
During the past two decades, VBS has become more prevalent in Catholic parishes, partly because of expanded religious education staffs and demand from parents for summer faith activities for the children.

In the Diocese of Columbus, a variety of curriculums and resources are used, and in most cases the parishes rely heavily on parents and youth volunteers to make VBS run smoothly.

VBS begins in mid-June and ends in mid-July before the school year gears up in August. While the focus is on students in elementary grades, ages of the participants range from preschool to high school.

The most widely utilized program in the diocese this summer is Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus from Totally Catholic VBS, which is produced by Our Sunday Visitor. Among the parishes using this format are Columbus St. Peter, Hilliard St. Brendan, New Albany Church of the Resurrection, Columbus St. Christopher, Pickerington Seton, Lancaster St. Mary, Sunbury St. John Neumann and Westerville St. Paul.

Other curriculums include SonSpark Labs at Reynoldsburg St. Pius X, Maker Fun Factory at Columbus Our Lady of Peace, Birthday Blast: A Celebration of Life at Columbus Our Lady of Victory; Treasures of Faith: Challenging Kids to Explore What We Believe at Worthington St. Michael; Marvelous Mystery: The Mass Comes Alive! at Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare; Splash Canyon Bible School at Delaware St. Mary; and A Wilderness Adventure at Columbus Immaculate Conception.

Several parishes develop their own format and a few combine resources with other churches for a non-denominational VBS. One of those is Granville St. Edward the Confessor, which participated in a Granville ecumenical VBS in June.

Powell St. Joan of Arc, Grove City Our Lady of Peace and Chillicothe St. Peter have embraced Tutus Tuus, which is described as a parish mission come into a parish for a week and stay in host family homes. The missionary teams share the Gospel and promote the Catholic faith through evangelization, catechesis, Christian witness and Eucharistic worship.

The teams are made up of seminarians and lay Catholics on fire for their faith. They go through training in theology and classroom management to prepare to minister to youth and are dispatched to approximately 40 dioceses throughout the country. The goal is to inspire young people to have a true longing for holiness, a deep desire for daily conversion, an openness to their vocation, and to give themselves to Christ through Mary.

Father Brian O’Connor, who was the parochial vicar at St. Joan of Arc, was instrumental in bringing Tutus Tuus to the parish last year. He was once a Tutus Tuus missionary himself while in the seminary.

The program is totally Catholic and centered around the Mass. At St. Joan of Arc, VBS for grades one through six runs a little longer each day than at most parishes. It extends through lunch into the afternoon for about 100 kids.

“It’s a little different than your normal Bible school in the method,” Father O’Connor said. “One of the things I love about Tutus Tuus is there’s Mass every day. There’s an opportunity for them to go to confession during the week. Every morning they learn a mystery of the rosary.”

Tutus Tuus is based on five pillars: Eucharist, Marian devotion, catechetical instruction, vocational discernment and fun. There is a six-year curriculum rotation revolving around the pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: Sacraments, Ten Commandments, Virtues and Beatitudes, Prayer, Mystery of Salvation, and the Creed, which is this summer’s focus.

In addition, a four-year teaching cycle on the mysteries of the rosary is incorporated into the catechesis. This year, the children learned the luminous mysteries. They were given a piece of colored yarn each day for their wrist that represented one of the mysteries.

“The other day I was asking first and second graders about the mysteries of the rosary. Where was Jesus baptized? ‘In the Jordan River.’ Who...
baptized Jesus? ‘John the Baptist,’” Father O’Connor recounted.

“Parents tell us that they ask their kids what they learned and they can rattle off all these things. One of the biggest things we got feedback on last year was how much better the kids behaved at Mass on Sundays and how much they had a desire to go to Mass.

“We underestimate what kids can learn. Also, it’s just a ton of fun. They’re doing silly songs and playing games. The kids don’t want to leave.”

There was also a traditional VBS in the morning at St. Joan of Arc for 35 preschoolers and an evening Totus Tuus session attended by 30 middle and high school students that focused on talks, witness and instruction. During each of the first four nights, one of the four marks of the Church (one, holy, catholic, apostolic) was discussed. The week concluded with a night of fun.

“You’re thinking a weekly Church activity in the evenings for junior high and high school kids is going to decrease throughout the week. It doesn’t. The numbers increase,” Father O’Connor said. “Kids whose parents maybe forced them to go one night, well, they had a lot of fun. One of the challenges from the team on Monday night was to bring a friend, and they did. It’s really amazing.”

One benefit to having young adults involved in instruction is the inspiration they provide to the youth.

“The kids look up to them. To not only see the older kids but middle schoolers and high schoolers that are on fire for their faith, there’s a chain reaction,” said Shana Leonard, youth faith formation director at St. Joan of Arc. “I had some parents comment that they’re teaching me some stuff that I didn’t realize.”

Sabrina Bently, a parent volunteer with three children in the program, appreciated the Mass being a focal point of the week and that Church teaching was clearly communicated.

“It’s not watered down,” she said. “It’s truly Catholic and that’s what I like about it.”

A residual effect from Totus Tuus is planting seeds for future religious vocations.

“I think the biggest thing is the witness of the faith,” Father O’Connor said. “It normalizes that, hey, when I’m in college, I can love Jesus Christ. That when I’m figuring out what I want to do with my life Jesus and the Church can be a big part of that, and it can be fun and it can be exciting, and it’s normal to do that.”

At Westerville St. Paul, about 300 students were part of VBS during the last week of June, an increase over the past two summers when enrollment was capped at 200 because of construction projects.

Jesus Rescues was the theme of St. Paul’s Shipwrecked program. The morning began with a session to get the children pumped up before they went through five stations that included Bible adventures, imagination, service and games.

The St. Paul gym was transformed into an island scene with elaborate sets and décor built by volunteers. VBS
planning began in January to coordinate the numerous activities. Parents and parishioners were among the 30 or more volunteers during the week.

The Bible station featured dramatized stories with a new theme each day. Middle schoolers, high schoolers and adults dressed in costumes to portray the Bible figures in a room that was completely transformed into the scene of the biblical event.

“It’s incredible, it’s super fun, it’s my favorite thing,” said Leia Bame, children’s ministries coordinator at St. Paul who is in her fourth year as director of VBS. “They can connect to those Bible stories in such an intimate way. To actually go and be immersed in those stories and hear those stories firsthand with those characters from the Bible, that’s so powerful.”

The imagination station used science, engineering and technology to show God’s presence in everything.

A service station was added this year to help the children connect with various parish ministries ranging from assisting homebound parishioners to making blankets for children in foster care to outreach to the homeless in the community.

And of course it wouldn’t be VBS without snacks, games and songs.

As was the case with most parishes, St. Paul opened its VBS to anyone, and a handful of friends and kids from other parishes joined the fun.

“My goal is ultimately that every child comes and feels the light of Christ inside them,” Bame said, “that they feel like they can be the hands and feet of Christ, and also that Christ is joyful. He wants us to sing, he wants us to have fun. He wants us to be children.”

Reynoldsburg St. Pius X’s SonSpark Labs VBS, which was held in the evening for the third straight year to accommodate working parents, takes a scientific laboratory approach to reinforce teachings of the faith to about 75 enthusiastic pre-K through fifth grade participants.

SonSpark Labs emphasizes God’s Big Plan “2 make us, 2 be with us, 4 us 2 know him, 2 save us, and 2 love us 4 ever” through songs, skits, crafts, experiments and Bible stories.

One evening, for example, focused on Genesis and the scientific laws that governed how God created the world. The last day involved a chain reaction experiment in the church that showed the importance of spreading God’s love. Another component during the week was the cause and effect of sin that separates people from God.

“Every day we studied a different scientific principle,” said Judy Bryant, youth minister for the parish and VBS coordinator. “One day, it was who made the world and how God made me.”

Fifty junior high and high schoolers from the parish youth group assisted during the week.

“Ultimately, it’s just planting that seed,” Bryant said. “I think it’s working. Kids that have been through the program are now volunteering. We want it to be fun. We want them to understand that God is good, that we’re His beautiful creations. We want them to know that they are wrapped in God’s love.”

Plain City St. Joseph Church used the pro-life-themed Birthday Blast format from Cat. Chat for its evening VBS in June for children ages 4-12.

Not only did they enjoy fun and games throughout the week while learning what it means to be a child of God, but one of their projects was to decorate pro-life signs as part of a basic introduction to St. John Paul II’s Theology of the Body.

Boys in Grades 1-6 huddled with Totus Tuus missionary leaders after Mass and before lunch at Powell St. Joan of Arc Church’s Vacation Bible School. Photo courtesy of St. Joan of Arc youth ministry.
Bishop emphasizes importance of marriage in Jubilee of Anniversaries homily

Bishop Frederick Campbell offered a powerful reflection on the sacrament of Matrimony at the diocesan Jubilee of Anniversaries Mass on Sunday, June 24 at Columbus St. Andrew Church.

Bishop Campbell drew three parallels to marriage and St. John the Baptist, whose solemnity was celebrated that day on the Catholic calendar.

“I don’t know if it ever occurred to you that the feast of John the Baptist was chosen to be celebrated on this day because it is halfway between the two celebrations of Christmas -- Christmas celebrated during the darkest time of the year, St. John the Baptist during the high point of light. There’s a lesson here that John the Baptist taught when he pointed out that to his disciples when he said, ‘I must decrease and He must increase.’ As the year increases from Christmas to the birth of John the Baptist, it decreases in length of day.

“The second issue about John the Baptist is perhaps one that people don’t think about or maybe have not remembered. John the Baptist was martyred by King Herod because of his powerful preaching, especially his preaching of the coming of the Messiah, which was taken to be a threat to King Herod. But that was not why he was martyred. He was martyred for the defense of the truth of marriage, when he preached openly about the invalid marriage of King Herod to his sister-in-law, Herodias.

“There’s a third reason. That is, John the Baptist sensed a mission to be a prophet. And it is in John the Baptist that we see that mystery of prophecy. A prophet in the Biblical sense is one who is called by God to preach a truth to those who may have forgotten it. And to preach it not only with their words but with the very character of their lives. And their lives became a symbol of their prophetic mission.

And it is in John the Baptist that we see that mystery of prophecy. “And a prophet is not really some one who is telling the future. A prophet in the Biblical sense is one who is called by God to preach a truth to those who may have forgotten it. And to preach it not only with their words but with the very character of their lives. And their lives became a symbol of their prophetic mission.

God’s golden gifts

By Margaret O’Sullivan

Sometimes you receive gifts that are so unexpected, so thoughtful, and so meaningful, that you cannot adequately express your thanks and appreciation for them. This has been so true for me and my husband in June. We have joy and memories that we will treasure the rest of our lives.

My husband, Mike, and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary on June 6. The days preceding, the day of, and the week or so following were golden. The celebration began with a dinner for us with the siblings and their spouses. We were presented with an Apostolic Blessing parchment from His Holiness Francis, and a gift certificate to have it framed as we like. We also received other lovely gifts. The following Sunday, we requested that the Sunday Mass we typically attend be said in our names. Following Mass, we received a blessing from our Pastor.

To tell about the actual anniversary day, I need to give some background. In 1967-68, Mike was serving as a Lieutenant with the 5th Special Forces in Vietnam. In the course of our letters to each other, we decided we would be married in Hawaii on his R&R (rest & recuperation). This was the era of no Internet, no cell phones. Today, looking back, I am not exactly sure how I arranged for the ceremony to take place. Somehow via snail mail with the U.S. postal service, I found out Hawaii’s regulations on obtaining a marriage license and arranged for a priest to marry us at Fort Shafter, Oahu, Hawaii. Well, let me be accurate here, Providence arranged it. Following a few days in Hawaii, Mike went back to war and I returned home to my parents. He returned home safely nearly five months later - truly a golden gift.

We decided long ago that, God willing, we would return to Hawaii for our 50th wedding anniversary. Months ago, I searched the Internet and stumbled upon a religious services phone number for the Armed Forces in Hawaii. I called repeatedly but managed to hit times when the office was closed, often forgetting about the six-hour time difference. Finally, late one evening, I called and got a very eager and helpful sergeant who was so interested in our story and so happy for us.
15th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B

Freedom to serve

By Jem Sullivan
Catholic News Service

Amos 7:12-15  Psalm 85:9-14  Ephesians 1:3-14  Mark 6:7-13

Faith works wonders. To walk by faith, and not by sight, is one of the greatest challenges and joys of the spiritual life. This is the invitation to all in this Sunday’s Scripture readings.

The saints show us how to grow in faith in the daily circumstances of life. Holy men and women, known and hidden, have over the centuries witnessed to the power of walking by faith. Take the life of St. Aloysius Gonzaga, whose feast day the church celebrates this coming week.

Born into an aristocratic Italian family, the young Aloysius was set to inherit his family’s wealth and pursue a life of fame and public honor. He was sent to Florence and later to Mantua for his education and began reading the “Lives of the Saints” while recovering from an illness. It was then that he heard the Lord’s call to give his life in self-giving love as a missionary.

He was drawn to the Jesuit order, but his family did all they could to prevent him from answering the call to the priesthood. His family forbade his entry to the priesthood with the threat that he would have to renounce his inheritance and social status. He continued on, walking by faith, as he gave up all rights of inheritance to enter the novitiate of the Society of Jesus in Rome.

Soon after, he dedicated himself to teaching the faith to youth and to caring for those suffering from the plague and other contagious diseases. The witness of his holiness and purity of life spread among the people, like branches of a tree. He died with the name of Jesus on his lips, radiating the peace and love of God.

In the Gospels, Jesus compares the kingdom of God to a mustard seed. This smallest of seeds when sown in the ground, grows into the largest of plants, putting forth branches that spread out as shelter and shade. This imagery continues the teaching of the prophet Ezekiel in the first reading when God promises to plant a cedar on the mountain heights.

This cedar plant will, by God’s nourishing, become a majestic cedar in which birds of every kind dwell and find shade in its branches. The Lord God promises that he will bring low the high tree, and lift high the lowly tree, wither up the green tree and make the withered tree bloom. God’s mighty hand will do this.

As we ponder the word of God today, we are invited to walk by faith, and not by sight. This journey of faith begins in the grace of God, who plants the seed and gives growth to the gift of faith in our lives. Our daily challenge is to let go of self-reliance and to grow in friendship with Jesus as we say in faith, “speak to me, Lord.”

Reflection Question:
What do I need to be detached from so that I can be a missionary disciple of Jesus?

Sullivan is secretary for Catholic education of the Archdiocese of Washington.
Columbus St. Dominic Church recovering after explosion

Columbus St. Dominic Church reopened for Mass on Sunday, July 1 after a gas explosion at a nearby duplex damaged parish buildings.

Seven stained glass windows, door hinges at the historic 102-year-old church at 453 N. 20th St. and the adjacent rectory were impacted by the Friday, June 22 blast, which was felt throughout the neighborhood and critically injured two people inside the duplex.

No one at the parish was injured.

Authorities believe scrappers taking metal might have led to the accident.

Sunday Masses on June 24 were celebrated at Columbus St. John-Holy Rosary during cleanup and assessment before St. Dominic reopened.

Damage is estimated at approximately $250,000. It is hoped that most of the cost of the repairs will be covered by insurance.

Father Joshua Wagner, pastor at St. Dominic and at St. John-Holy Rosary Church, said the parish is already receiving bids to restore the stained glass.

Windows on the north side of the church were shattered and others were warped.

The original church windows, which were built in Italy, depict the life of St. Dominic.

Repairs could take six months to a year, but Masses and parish activities will continue.

The summer reading list

The Catholic Difference
George Weigel

What Will Dr. Newman Do? John Henry Newman and Papal Infallibility, 1865-1875, by John R. Page (Liturgical Press): Drawing on a decade of Newman’s wide-ranging correspondence, Page paints a portrait of the Catholic intellectual as churchman: someone determined to remain faithful to the truth, who knew how to be constructively critical; someone who didn’t break into hives when his ecclesiastical opponents made serious mistakes; someone convinced of the capacity of history and the Holy Spirit to see the Church through stormy times. In brief, another tale for this ecclesiastical season.

American Pastimes: The Very Best of Red Smith, edited by Daniel Okrent (Library of America): The prologue, a mini-memoir, is worth the price of the entire book, but while admiring Red Smith’s prose about everyone from Seabiscuit to Willie Mays, don’t miss Dan Okrent’s fine introduction and its crisp analysis of what makes great writing, about sports or anything else.

And if you’ll permit, let me mention my own latest offerings: Lessons in Hope: My Unexpected Life with St. John Paul II (Basic Books) and The Fragility of Order: Catholic Reflections on Turbulent Times (Ignatius Press). The former is, I hope, entertaining, the latter, I trust, instructive.
Judith Ann Fenlon

Funeral Mass for Judith Ann Fenlon, 60, who died Friday, June 29, was held Tuesday, July 3 at Columbus St. Andrew Church. Burial was at Resurrection Cemetery.

She was born on January 1, 1958 to Richard and Roberta (McLain) Fenlon in Findlay, Ohio. She graduated from the University of Louisville with a degree in education and was a teacher at Ascension School in Louisville, Kentucky, before moving to Columbus and teaching at St. Andrew School for 35 years.

She was preceded in death by her mother. Survivors include her father, Richard; brothers, Rick, John and James; and many cousins.

Worthington St. Michael KofC scholarship winner

Hope Hinger (left) received the Chris Damo Scholarship awarded annually by Worthington St. Michael Knights of Columbus Council #11445 to an eighth grade student at St. Michael School who is the child of an active Knight and will attend a Catholic high school. The $4,000 scholarship is awarded based on the characteristics displayed by Damo: community service, Catholic spirituality, patriotism and Knights’ fraternity. Hinger, pictured with her father, Bill, will attend Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School.
Kateri Prayer Circle at St. Mark
1 p.m., Aranda Center, St. Mark Church, 324 Gay St., Lancaster. Kateri Prayer Circle meeting to honor St. Kateri Tekakwitha and promote Native Catholic spirituality.

St. Padre Pio Secular Franciscans
1:30 to 5 p.m., St. John the Baptist Church, 720 Hamlet St., Columbus. Fellowship and ongoing to mission followed by adoration and prayer, Liturgy of the Eucharist and initial formation with visitors. 614-282-4676

St. Catherine of Bologna Secular Franciscans
2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Church, 386 Battles Ave., Columbus Prayer followed by general meeting, ongoing formation and fellowship. 614-899-7792

Polish Mass at Holy Family
2 p.m., Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., Columbus. Monthly Mass in Polish. 614-221-4323

Taize Evening Prayer at Corpus Christi
4 to 5 p.m., Corpus Christi Center, Peace, 1111 E. Stewart Ave., Columbus. Evening Prayer in the style and song of the Taize monastic community, with song, silence, and reflection. 614-512-3731

Prayer Group Meeting at Christ the King
5 to 7 p.m., Christ the King Church, 277 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus (enter at daily Mass entrance). Weekly parish prayer group meets for praise, worship, ministry, and teaching. 614-237-0401

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

Seasons of Eucharist Elevation Ministry
1:30 p.m., St. Thomas More Newman Center, 64 W. Lane Ave., Columbus. First Friday Masses at Columbus St. Peter. 614-718-0277, 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 Scripture readings.

Prayer Group Meeting at Christ the King
5 to 7 p.m., Christ the King Church, 277 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus (enter at daily Mass entrance). Weekly parish prayer group meets for praise, worship, ministry, and teaching. 614-886-8266

25, FRIDAY
Eucharistic Holy Hour at Sacred Heart
7 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 953 Hamlet St., Columbus. Eucharistic Holy Hour with the intention of deepened holiness and an increase in the virtue of fortitude for the Holy Father, bishops, and priests, concluding with Benediction social period, and refreshments. 614-372-5249

Frasasi Society Christ in the City
7 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant St., Columbus. Eucharistic adoration, confession, Taize chant, Dominican Compline and fellowship.

26, SATURDAY
Growth in the Holy Spirit series
6:30 p.m., St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon Woods Blvd., Columbus. Seminar designed to awaken God's love and transforming power an foster a profound life-giving relationship with the Holy Spirit. 614-314-9132, 614-571-5702.

27, SUNDAY
Prayer Group Meeting at Christ the King
5 to 7 p.m., Christ the King Church, 277 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus (enter at daily Mass entrance). Weekly parish prayer group meets for praise, worship, ministry, and teaching. 614-237-0401

Eucharistic Holy Hour at Sacred Heart
7 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 953 Hamlet St., Columbus. Eucharistic Holy Hour with the intention of deepened holiness and an increase in the virtue of fortitude for the Holy Father, bishops, and priests, concluding with Benediction social period, and refreshments. 614-372-5249

31, FRIDAY
St. Cecilia Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
St. Cecilia Church, 434 Norton Road, Columbus. Begins after 8:15 a.m. Mass, continues to 5 p.m. Saturday.

Monthly Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 5225 Refugee Road, Columbus. 8 a.m. Mass, continues through 6 p.m. Holy Hour.

First Friday Masses at Holy Family
9 a.m. - 7 p.m., Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., Columbus. First Friday Masses in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. 614-221-4323

Eucharistic Vigil at Holy Cross
Holy Cross Church, 205 S. 5th St., Columbus. 7:30 p.m. Mass, followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with various prayers, ending with Benediction around 11

Entertainment, Games & Activities for all ages
12, THURSDAY
Women to Women Listening Circle
6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Corpus Christi Center of Peace in the Cincinnati area. Women’s praying in the Taize format of the Marian Movement of Priests.

Eucharistic Holy Hour at Sacred Heart
7 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 953 Hamlet St., Columbus. Evening Prayer in the style and song of the Taize monastic community, with song, silence, and reflection. 614-512-3731

13, FRIDAY
Downtown Serra Club meeting
noon, St. Catherine Church, 500 S. Gould Road, Columbus. Luncheon meeting.

14, SATURDAY
PDHC Walk for Life
9 a.m.-Noon, Downtown Bandstand, 104 N. Broad St., Lancaster. The Pregnancy Decision Center’s walk will be followed by family activities and live music. 614-888-8774 ext. 6117

15, SUNDAY
Blessing of St. Gerard Majella at Holy Family
After 11 a.m. Mass, Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., Columbus, Blessing of St. Gerard Majella, patron of expectant mothers, for all women who are pregnant or wish to become pregnant. 614-221-1809

Angelic Warfare Confraternity at St. Patrick
Following noon Mass, St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Monthly meeting of the Angelic Warfare Confraternity, with talk on chastity-related issues followed by Holy Hour. 614-224-9522

HAPPENINGS
July 15, 2018 Catholic Times 17

ST. LUKE PARISH FESTIVAL
Corner of Market & Rambo St, Danville
Saturday, July 14, 5-9 p.m

Pit-Grilled Chicken Dinners served 5-7pm
Food Stand, Fancy Goods, Bingo, Cash Raffles, Live Auction.

GIANT GARAGE SALE
Saint Matthias School
Karl & Ferris Roads
Friday and Saturday
July 20 & 21
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

ENTERTAINMENT, GAMES & ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES
ST. LIAW
Food Stand, Fancy Goods, Bingo, Cash Raffles, Live Auction.

ENTERTAINMENT, GAMES & ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES
ST. LIAW
Food Stand, Fancy Goods, Bingo, Cash Raffles, Live Auction.

ENTERTAINMENT, GAMES & ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES
ST. LIAW
Food Stand, Fancy Goods, Bingo, Cash Raffles, Live Auction.

ENTERTAINMENT, GAMES & ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES
ST. LIAW
Food Stand, Fancy Goods, Bingo, Cash Raffles, Live Auction.

ENTERTAINMENT, GAMES & ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES
ST. LIAW
Food Stand, Fancy Goods, Bingo, Cash Raffles, Live Auction.
Freewalt appointed director of Office for Social Concerns

By Doug Bean
Catholic Times Editor

Jerry Freewalt hopes to continue to reach out to the parishes and organizations impacted by the Office for Social Concerns in the Diocese of Columbus as its director.

Freewalt was elevated from his previous role as associate director in late June. He has been with the diocese since 1995.

Mark Huddy had served as director as well as Episcopal Moderator for the Office for Social Concerns and Catholic Charities. He will now focus his attention on his duties as Episcopal Moderator.

As associate director, Freewalt concentrated on parish social concerns ministry and rural life in addition to many other activities. He continues to serve on a wide range of boards and committees at the local, state and national level. Among them are the National Catholic Partnership on Disability, Ohio Catholic Rural Life Conference, Joint Organization for Inner City Needs (JOIN) and the Immigrant Worker Project.

“What I want to do is go around the diocese and do some additional listening,” Freewalt said. “Listen to the pastors and listen to some of the needs they’re continually addressing. Learn what is new and help to equip them in their ministries. We listen a lot in this office, but we’re going to be more intentional.

“I think in this office we’re bridge builders. And that only comes from listening and finding out what people are really doing out there.”

In addition to working with parishes and groups, Freewalt is actively involved in advocacy on many levels. That includes defending dignity of human life at Columbus City Hall, the Ohio Statehouse and Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., and he has directed large-scale urban plunge service opportunities addressing poverty and care for creation.

“Our job is to bring light to Catholic social teaching in the areas of prayer, education, pastoral outreach or service, and advocacy,” Freewalt said. “The Church looks at the signs of the times and applies scripture, the gospel, in its over two millennia of teaching to really try to help us on our pilgrimage journey as we work through difficult problems in our society.

“When we call it social teaching, we really mean relationships. How are we to live in relationship with each other on this pilgrimage journey? What do we have to do to love God and love our neighbor?”

Those pressing issues of concern are respect for human life in all stages, lifting up people living in poverty, recognizing the dignity of work, promoting global solidarity, protecting family life through religious liberty, keeping families together and helping them as part of the domestic church, and care for God’s creation.

Freewalt has coordinated numerous projects. Some of those are the annual Good Friday Walking Stations of the Cross in downtown Columbus, Diocesan Senior Citizens Day celebration, Respect Life Mass and conference, diocesan creation care team, jail and prison ministry, ARCH reentry program, Drug Addiction Response Committee of the Diocesan Hope Task Force, and the Information and Response Network.

“Our office is really trying to create citizens that behave faithfully,” he said. “We are equipping Catholics to be good citizens in our country and in our communities to build the kingdom of God. We have to be animated by our faith and tackle the hard problems with a solution in mind that doesn’t tear apart or cause hurt. That’s hard.”

Freewalt has a bachelor’s degree in political science from Xavier University and a master’s degree in public policy and management from The Ohio State University. He and his wife, Karen, have three children and are parishioners at Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona Church.

By Tim Puet, Catholic Times Reporter

It’s great to be back at the Catholic Times after an unexpected three-month “sabbatical” caused by injuries resulting from a fall.

The accident occurred in church – of all places. I tripped and fell while lifting a sign with a concrete base after the noon Mass at my home parish, Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church, on Sunday, April 8, with the concrete landing on my left knee.

The result was a torn meniscus, a torn anterior cruciate ligament, and a fractured kneecap.

This started an odyssey that began in Mount Carmel Hospital East Hospital for a week, followed by three weeks of rehabilitation at Mother Angelina McCrory Manor. Fortunately, no surgery was needed. The rehabilitation, with regular visits from a therapist, continued at home for the past two months, and I returned to work on Monday, July 9.

I have many people to thank for their assistance during my recovery – most especially, my wife, Sandy. Words like “love” and “gratitude” are somehow inadequate to express my appreciation for the way she patiently cared for me and endured my impatience during the recovery process. Our two children, Megan and Brent, also were of great assistance with household tasks I’ve usually performed.

I hadn’t been a hospital patient since having my tonsils taken out in first or second grade, so I learned much about the intricacies and size of the health care system. I may be exaggerating a little, but it feels as though about 100 people took care of me at one stage or another.

Most of my time at Mount Carmel was spent trying to process what had happened and to get used to constant interruptions that are part of hospital life. So many people were coming and going in and out of my room that I can’t remember every name, but everyone was courteous and helpful.

I’ve written many good things about McCrory Manor over the years, and my treatment there by the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm, led by Sister Ann Brown, and the staff members could not have been better.

The Manor is divided into seven self-contained neighborhoods of 21 units each, and during my short time there, I learned a little of how the residents of those neighborhoods become like family. Best wishes to fellow rehab patients Michael and Stephen and neighborhood residents Father Ronnie Boccali, Michael, Stephen, Richard F., Marilyn, Mary, Jerry, John, Betty, Margaret, Pam, Charles, and Richard M.

I’m also most grateful to the nurses and aides at Mount Carmel and McCrory Manor for their kindness and devoted service. My early rehabilitation was a humbling experience because I had to be assisted in even simple tasks such as dressing, bathing, and other bodily functions. This gave me an appreciation of the importance of these workers, most of whom are immigrants and “invisible people” to many. Their assistance reminded me constantly of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples at the Last Supper in John’s Gospel, especially in instances when my own feet were being washed.

I don’t remember all of their names, but thank you to Ebenezer, Fatima, Tebeth, Justina, Tegegne, Taylor, Rupa, Ndalie, Jada, Tesfu, Christina, Jemima, and the others whose names I didn’t obtain. Also thanks to staff member Esther Williams for all of her help with paperwork.

Special thanks to Father Stephen Akange, chaplain at Mount Carmel East, for his comforting words when they were most needed; to McCrory Manor resident Father Joseph Ehwald for his example of cheerfulness and wisdom in the midst of his own health problems; to Father Raymond Maher, chaplain at McCrory Manor, for his frequent visits; and to those who brought me the Eucharist regularly.

Thanks as well to Amber Prietas, at-home physical therapist from Summit Home Care who was cheerful, extremely helpful, and a delight to deal with, and to her supervisor, Cindy Ross.

And finally, thanks to my colleague, Times editor Doug Bean, for the work he performed in my absence and for keeping me informed of events at the Times, including the newspaper’s move from the first to the fifth floor of the Catholic Center. I owe him a debt I never can fully repay.
“When I was first ordained I used to get very young couples, 18, 19, 20 years old, who were deeply in love with each other. In fact, in talking to the couple, in one instance raised the issue that neither of them had jobs. And they looked at me and said, but Father, we’re in love with each other. And I said, yes, but have you planned where you’re going to live? No, but God will show us the way. And you could see stars floating between them as they looked at each other.

“As time went on, the couples became older. And I remember a couple in their early 30s, never been married before, very successful careers. And as we talked about preparation, I realized their challenge was living as a couple. And I swore I was presiding over a business merger, as they began discussing their individual investments, their properties and whatnot. But in all of that, it was my mother and father simply looking toward each other, looking for the future.

“My dear friends, as I celebrate with Mass with you, I ask you to remember John the Baptist, accepting your prophetic mission as married individuals. I’d like to thank you for the years of your fidelity, for your steadfast faithfulness to your vows and for your marvelous expression that the knowledge of Jesus Christ is always with you. What a powerful work and what a wonderful word you speak to our culture. I thank you.”

She contacted Father Joseph Fleury, a Marist priest, a full Colonel, and Garrison Chaplain at Schofield Barracks, Oahu, Hawaii. On July 1, he will add Hospital Chaplain to his duties. His enthusiasm about our request was apparent immediately. He arranged an absolutely wonderful and special day for us, one we did not expect to be as grand as it was, and one we will never forget.

I didn’t really give Fr. Joe much information about our actual wedding day, only when and where it had taken place. He advised me that our chapel had subsequently been torn down. That information didn’t upset me, I just thought God wanted me to be happy for how long we have been together and not to be concerned about a building.

For our celebration, Fr. Joe said Mass at Soldiers Chapel. First, he had us sit on the altar and presented us with beautiful Hawaiian leis. There were no flowers on our wedding day. Next, he said a private Mass for us and had us renew our wedding vows. There was no Mass for us on our wedding day. Then, Fr. Joe rang the chapel bell by hand 50 times in our honor. The bell was not rung even once on our wedding day. Later, he took us to lunch and presented us with a cake. We had no wedding cake on our wedding day.

For our celebration, Fr. Joe said Mass at Soldiers Chapel. First, he had us sit on the altar and presented us with beautiful Hawaiian leis. There were no flowers on our wedding day. Next, he said a private Mass for us and had us renew our wedding vows. There was no Mass for us on our wedding day. Then, Fr. Joe rang the chapel bell by hand 50 times in our honor. The bell was not rung even once on our wedding day. Later, he took us to lunch and presented us with a cake. We had no wedding cake on our wedding day.

Fr. Joe talked and laughed with us, and we so enjoyed one another’s company, as though we had been friends for decades. We are certain we will be friends with him for life. He completely downplayed the fact that June 6 is also his birthday: he made the day all about Mike and me.

Our wedding day 50 years ago was a sacramental and blessed day. We do not have a single regret about it. The difference is, with the passage of time, we fully realize how deep our love is and how appreciative we are of all we have been given. Our 50th anniversary was beautiful - overwhelming really - thanks to the thoughtful planning of Fr. Fleury. God bless this holy, kind, happy man!

We enjoyed Fr. Joe’s company so much that when he offered to show us around some historic places on Oahu the next day, we both immediately agreed. Father had Special Forces training, and he and Mike found a lot of common ground for discussion. It is the most I have ever heard my husband talk about his time in the Army. I believe it was healing.

With the shortage of priests, the demands on Fr. Joe have to be staggering. Yet, he spent a great deal of time with us, and spiritually lifted us up for a shining, golden anniversary. We will always pray for him. And, we will continue to pray for vocations not only to the priesthood but to the military Chaplaincy.

We went from our wedding anniversary to a very enjoyable eight-day tour of the Hawaiian Islands. Arriving home, we had a stack of lovely anniversary cards in the mail.

Love from others. Love for others. Love for each other. The golden thread of faith.

Margaret O’Sullivan is a parishioner at Columbus St. Patrick Church.
Conference celebrates 50th anniversary of Humanae Vitae

Pope Paul VI’s prophetic encyclical on human life was written 50 years ago, but the speakers at “A Sign of Contradiction: Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Humanae Vitae” conference at Chillicothe St. Peter Church emphasized the message remains timeless and vital in today’s contraceptive world.

The conference, held Saturday, July 7, was sponsored in part by The Catholic Foundation and organized by Judy Harness, who serves as St. Peter’s Family Life Coordinator and FertilityCare Practitioner as well as the president for Ross County Right to Life. It featured presentations by Father Adam Streitenberger, OSF, of Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, Dr. Ashley Fernandes, MD, Ph.D, and Dr. Alicia Thompson, DO, MPH.

Fr. Streitenberger began by reviewing the Catholic Church’s teaching on contraception.

“We also remember this is the 25th anniversary of another very important document, ‘Veritatis Splendor,’ by St. John Paul II, “which really is the full defense of ‘Humanae Vitae,’”” he said.

He clarified the distinction between birth control and contraception, including the morally legitimate means of birth regulation known as natural family planning. He also explained the history leading up to the release of the encyclical, the resistance to it, and the follow-up and expansion of the document by John Paul II now known as the Theology of the Body.

Fernandez, who serves as associate director of the Center for Bioethics at Ohio State University and is an associate professor of pediatrics at Columbus Nationwide Children’s Hospital, told the audience that “it’s not scholars or theologians that change the world but people just like you.”

In his presentation “The Catholic Church and Contraception: Reality or Roman Roulette,” he acknowledged the challenges faced by those who defend Humanae Vitae, saying “what you believe in is not ‘fake news.’ The reality of what the Church teaches is true and makes sense. It’s not blind obedience to the Church because the Pope says so. The truth that you know to be true actually comports with medical science, philosophy, with morality. The more you study it, how the world works, the more you realize the wisdom of the Church. My job, in part, is to try to bolster you in your belief that the reality of the Church teaching is true and makes sense and you can do this yourself -- you can lead a revolution of one.”

Later, Dr. Fernandes laid out the history and current status of abstinence education in America. He said physicians want kids to be sexually abstenent but don’t advocate for it with their patients.

“Sexual abstinence programs are not always effective, but even if they are not, it’s the right thing to do,” he said.

It’s important to note the theological and philosophical arguments for abstinence, he said, and added that the teaching of Theology of the Body is superior over modern interventions. He encouraged teens to “don’t be afraid! The Catholic Church believes in faith and science; we believe in the dignity of the human person. Let us pray for one another -- that’s probably the most important point.”

Thompson told the audience to “buckle up” before her talk on the “Co-Modification of Human Life.” Thompson, an OB/GYN practicing at Mount Carmel St. Ann’s, received Humanae Vitae from a reproductive endocrinologist who left his practice for moral reasons and said “it was very instrumental in me taking the plunge in making my decision to stop prescribing contraceptives and tying tubes.”

She described the lengths that medical science has gone to use and manipulate DNA. Use of artificial reproductive technologies no longer means in-vitro fertilization only. The removal of cells from the egg of the woman for replication is actually a means of cloning, she said, but it’s not called cloning because that would be less attractive. DNA engineering leads to forms of eugenics in the name of eliminating disease. Also, in using egg retrieval, children are born with three parents in some cases.

Thompson articulated the direction in which reproductive technologies are headed. In some cases, companies entice college students to sell eggs and sperm for large sums of money. One study found that a single sperm donor (a college student) had biologically fathered 150 children.

She asked the audience to pray for these issues and pleaded with them not to participate in artificial reproduction technologies, saying “we should be reverent in what we create. We should be a voice which reaffirms the dignity of the human person from conception until natural death.”

A video archive of the conference can be found at stpeterchillicothe.com.