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New bishop named

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

The Vatican has announced that Pope Francis has appointed Bishop Robert J. Brennan, auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, New York, as the 12th bishop of the Diocese of Columbus. He will succeed Bishop Frederick Campbell, whose resignation has been accepted by the pope.

Bishop Brennan (pictured) will be installed as Bishop Campbell's successor on Friday, March 29, at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral. The pope has appointed Bishop Campbell, who has been bishop of Columbus for 14 years, to serve as apostolic administrator to oversee the diocese until then.

Announcement of the resignation and appointment was made on Thursday, Jan. 31, by Archbishop Christophe Pierre, papal nuncio to the United States. Bishops Campbell and Brennan spoke at a morning news conference that day in the diocesan office building and then concelebrated a noontime Mass at the cathedral before Bishop Brennan returned to New York.

Bishop Campbell's 75th birthday was on Aug. 5, 2018. The church's Code of Canon Law requires that bishops submit a letter of resignation to the pope upon reaching age 75. Bishop Campbell did so last year.

"I am deeply grateful for all the wonderful support and help that I have enjoyed as bishop of Columbus among all the faithful – the clergy, the laity

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THERE'S A NEW BISHOP IN TOWN

Whenever an episcopal transition takes place in a diocese, it's a bittersweet moment.

The excitement and anticipation is tinged with some sadness. The people in the Diocese of Columbus experienced those emotions last Thursday, Jan. 31.

That's when the announcement came from the Holy See that Auxiliary Bishop Robert Brennan of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, New York, was selected to replace Bishop Frederick Campbell, who reached the mandatory retirement age for bishops in August when he turned 75.

The Columbus diocese joyously welcomes the arrival in Ohio of Bishop Brennan, whose installation will be on Friday, March 29 at St. Joseph Cathedral.

A lifelong resident of the New York area, Bishop Brennan will be leaving a more geographically compact diocese with the eighth-largest Catholic population in the United States for one that is significantly larger in terms of square miles, spread over 23 counties.

By all accounts, he will be greatly missed by the faithful on Long Island when he departs. And he will be embraced with open arms by his new diocese.

Here in Columbus, Bishop Campbell has faithfully served the diocese since 2005. He will continue as its Apostolic Administrator until the installation of Bishop Brennan takes place.

Bishop Campbell will remain in the Columbus area when Bishop Brennan takes over, giving the diocese two retired bishops. Bishop James Griffin, who was Bishop Campbell's predecessor,

also continues to live in the area and assists with Masses on weekends at Powell St. Joan of Arc Church.

After last Thursday's news conference, Bishop Brennan returned to his diocese to prepare for the transition before he receives a final sendoff. He spent the past seven years as auxiliary bishop in Rockville Centre after he was elevated from previous duties in his diocese.

In the coming weeks, the Columbus diocese no doubt will become more familiar with Bishop Brennan. This week's *Catholic Times* story starting on Page 1 includes details about his background.

Bishop Brennan is the oldest of five children. He spoke with his mother and father after his appointment to Columbus, and he said they were excited about his new assignment.

The 56-year-old bishop is bilingual. He speaks Spanish and has worked closely with a sizable population from El Salvador that resides on Long Island. He said after the news conference that he hopes to connect with the various ethnic communities in the Columbus diocese and visit all of the parishes as soon as he can.

He also revealed during his brief visit that one of his favorite sayings is "Live the *Joy of the Gospel* (the title of an encyclical from Pope Francis) with the *Splendor of Truth* (from Pope St. John Paul II)."

At the beginning of the *Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis "says there's sort of a malaise that covers the earth over all of us, and it's true of every level of

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Man of the Year credits 'enthusiastic Catholics' with growing his own faith

The 2019 Catholic Man of the Year said the enthusiasm shown by other Catholics in responding to people's needs was responsible for leading him to an active faith life.

Frank J. Hartge III of Gahanna St. Matthew Church told the Catholic Men's Luncheon Club that the work of the Bethesda Healing Ministry in particular provided a spark that led him to a deeper involvement with that organization and several others.



Catholic Man of the Year Frank Hartge (left) and Bishop Frederick Campbell.

CT photo by Tim Puet

He said a Bethesda presentation after a Saturday vigil Mass inspired him and his wife of 36 years, Judeen, to become Bethesda volunteers and soon afterward to join the board of the ministry, whose mission is to heal people wounded by abortion.

Through their work with Bethesda, "we quickly came to discover the really remarkable fabric of Catholic life

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S U B S C R I B E

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Front Page photo: **DIocese's NEXT BISHOP** Bishop Robert J. Brennan speaks to reporters on Jan. 31. He will be installed as the 12th bishop of Columbus on March 29.

CT photo by Ken Snow

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Bishop Frederick F. Campbell, DD, PhD: President & Publisher

Doug Bean: Editor (dbean@columbuscatholic.org)

Tim Puet: Reporter (tpuet@columbuscatholic.org)

K. Colston-Woodruff: Graphic Designer (kwoodruff@columbuscatholic.org)

Mailing Address: 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215

Editorial/Advertising: (614) 224-5195 FAX (614) 241-2518

Subscriptions: (614) 224-6530 FAX (614) 241-2573

(subscriptions@columbuscatholic.org)

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– the many projects that we completed and the many ways by which we shared our faith through these years,” Bishop Campbell said at the beginning of the news conference before turning over the microphone to his successor.

Bishop Brennan, 56, whose current diocese covers Nassau and Suffolk counties on Long Island, said he learned of his appointment to be the next spiritual leader of the Columbus diocese while driving on the Long Island Expressway on Saturday, Jan. 19. “The nuncio asked me, ‘Are you alone?’ and then he asked, ‘Do you think you need to pull over?’ All I could think of was, ‘That happened a minute ago when you first called,’” he said.

The next day, the Long Island bishop went with young people from his diocese on a pilgrimage to World Youth Day in Panama. Describing that experience, he said, “It was all about connection and encounter – encounter with pilgrims from around the world, encounter with the Holy Father and, ultimately, the encounter with Jesus Christ.

“Looking through the lens of today and the news of this week, I was struck by an image. Here you have people of faith walking together, encouraging one another with the joy of the gospel. They were helping each other, leading each other to the encounter with Jesus



Bishop Robert Brennan, auxiliary bishop of Rockville Centre, New York, will be installed as bishop of Columbus on March 29, succeeding Bishop Frederick Campbell, who submitted a required letter of resignation to the pope upon reaching the age of 75.

Christ. Friends, isn't that what we're all about here in the church of Columbus?”

Continuing to read from a prepared statement, he said, “It makes me incredibly happy to walk this journey with you, to lead the church of Columbus, to serve as your pastor. Until this week, I did not really know Bishop Campbell very well, but I've already experienced his great kindness in so many ways, and I look forward to being part of what he has built here with all of you in the Diocese of Columbus.”

Bishop Brennan, who had arrived in Columbus the day before the announcement, said he also was impressed by his meeting with diocesan Bishop Emeritus James Griffin that evening. Bishop Griffin, 83, lives in retirement in Powell and celebrates Mass on weekends at Powell St. Joan of Arc Church.

“Clearly, I have an awful lot to learn,” Bishop Brennan said. “I have to admit I've looked at the (diocesan) website once or twice, and I must confess I'm more than a little bit nervous, but I look forward to walking the journey with you as your pastor – to sharing the joy of the Gospel and the splendor of truth. And if we can laugh and sing and raise our voices in praise of God along the way, then all the better.

“I am already praying fervently for the church of Columbus every single day. May I humbly ask your prayers for me?”

After reading the statement, Bishop Brennan took questions from reporters. Asked if the diocese would release a list of clergy accused of sexual abuse, he said he did not know enough about the situation to comment about it but would “have to get up to speed pretty quickly.” He said he did not deal with such cases in his diocese but that the diocese worked closely with local law enforcement officials.

Bishop Campbell then responded to the question, saying, “We are in the final process of organizing that list. We wanted to be extremely careful in it. As we put the names together, the chancellor of the diocese, who is primarily responsible for the documents and records of the church, has worked very, very hard over the past months to get everything going back to 1868, which was the foundation of the diocese, and we are now working with our legal

people to complete that list.

“We want it to be reviewed by our own lay review board. We are preparing that list, but we wanted to be really careful about it because of all of the emotions, all of the questions that will surround it.”

Bishop Brennan continued, “It's too early for me to anticipate any changes (in the diocese) because I don't even know enough to begin. The first thing



Bishop Brennan talks about “the joy of the Gospel” in speaking to reporters at a joint news conference with Bishop Campbell in the diocesan office building on Jan. 31. He had never been to Columbus before and recognizes he has much to learn. CT photos by Ken Snow

I want to learn is that I really want to get to know people. I look forward to working with the priests and the deacons and the pastoral staff here, but my first order of business will be to get to know them. We work shoulder to shoulder in the field and proclaim the Gospel of the Lord. ...

“Secondly, I think I need to know the life of the church here in Columbus and get to know the life of the community. ... Everything is new to me.”

Asked about how his background prepared him to become a bishop, he said, “I have been very fortunate in close to 30 years as a priest to have such a wide variety of pastoral experiences inside church administration and at the parish level. I think I've been just about everywhere and enjoyed it all. Being a priest is such a wonderful adventure.”

Bishop Brennan speaks Spanish, works closely with the Latino com-

munity on Long Island, which consists of about 400,000 Catholics, and often celebrates Mass in Spanish, including Mass in the Nassau County Correctional Center and other jails in the diocese.

He said that besides his work with the Latino ministry, he has been involved in youth and catechetical programs. “You name it in the parish, and I've been there, not because of any vir-

tue on my part, but because of all the opportunities and all the good people who are so welcoming and inviting me into those areas of pastoral life,” he said.

“Vocations will be a very important focus,” he continued. “I know that Bishop Campbell has been working on that. I know we have a very good tradition here. We have some very fine priests, some of whom I've already met and who are encouraging, inviting and inspiring others to become priests. To those seminarians and to those who are considering the priesthood, I give a lot of credit.

“It's never easy to make that decision, and to do so in a world that's in such tumult and in a church that's in such tumult requires tremendous heroism,” Bishop Brennan said, adding that his message to anyone considering

Bishops Campbell, Brennan announce transition

By Doug Bean
Catholic Times Editor

Bishop Frederick Campbell introduced his successor, Bishop-designate Robert Brennan of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, New York, on Thursday, Jan. 31, at the Diocese of Columbus Catholic Center. The following is a transcript of the news conference with Bishop Campbell and Bishop-designate Brennan, who will become the 12th bishop of the diocese when he is formally installed on Friday, March 29 at St. Joseph Cathedral:

Bishop Campbell: Good morning to you all. As I think many of you already know, Church law mandates that when a bishop has completed his 75th year he is to submit a letter of resignation to the Holy Father, and as the Canon says, for his consideration. I did that several months ago and, apparently, now the Holy Father has completed his consideration and accepted my resignation as bishop of Columbus.

In so looking in the future years to retirement, I am deeply grateful for all of the wonderful support and help that I have enjoyed as bishop of Columbus. Among all of the faithful, the clergy, the laity, the many projects we completed, and the many ways by which we shared our faith through these years.

At the same time the Holy Father accepted my resignation as bishop of Columbus, he appointed a successor who will be the 12th bishop of the diocese. He is Bishop Robert Brennan, up until this time the auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre in New York. I should like to introduce him to you.

There will be a two-month hiatus as we both catch our breaths. He will be formally installed as the 12th bishop on the 29th of March. In that interval, the Holy Father has appointed me apostolic administrator of the diocese of Columbus so the life and work the diocese can continue smoothly. But I should like to introduce Bishop Brennan now to have him say a few words to you.

Bishop, welcome to the Diocese of Columbus.

Bishop Brennan: Thank you, Bishop Campbell, I appreciate your kind welcome. And thanks for all of you being here today. I greatly appreciate it. I really do.

I was driving on the Long Island Ex-

pressway on Saturday, January 19, on my way to a series of events when I received a call from Archbishop Pierre, the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, with the happy news that the Holy Father had appointed me as bishop of Columbus. He asked me, "Are you alone?" And then he asked me, "Do you think you need to pull over?" All I could think of was that happened a minute ago when you first called. As I said, I was going from one event to another, and actually kind of a series of events that would lead me to getting on the plane the next morning for Panama to be with the young people – we had about 200 pilgrims from Rockville Centre (going to be) with the Holy Father (at World Youth Day).

World Youth Day was incredible. Be-



Bishop Robert J. Brennan, who will be installed as bishop of Columbus in March.

ing with the Holy Father and with some 700,000 young people from around the world, there was such exuberance, great faith. Along the streets of Panama City, one could see groups of young pilgrims. Inevitably, one or two could be leading a group with the flags held high. They would be joyfully singing. There would be all kinds of cheers and anthems. Groups would cry out to one another. It was amazing to watch and uplifting actually to be part of those groups a little bit along the way.

Looking more closely, you might see within the groups, people were trading pins and stickers, helping one another along the way, giving water when needed. At one point, I was blocked and actually ran into the Holy

Father by mistake. We were trying get across town and we were blocked, and it was because of the papal motorcade and the Pope coming by in the motorcade in the Popemobile. And there were pictures in the news the next day of pilgrims actually lifting up a guy in a wheelchair so he could see above the crowd as the Pope went by. It was really quite a sight.

Now why do I tell you all of this: connection, encounter – encounter with pilgrims from all around the world, encounter with the Holy Father and ultimately an encounter with Jesus Christ.

Looking through the lens of today and the news of this week, I was struck by an image. Here you have people of faith and hope, walking to-



Bishop Frederick F. Campbell, who is retiring as bishop of Columbus after 14 years.

gether, encouraging one another with the joy of the gospel. They were helping each other, leading each other to the encounter with Jesus Christ.

Friends, isn't that what we're all about here in the Church of Columbus? It makes me incredibly happy to walk this journey with you, to lead the Church of Columbus, to serve as your pastor.

Until this week, I really did not know Bishop Campbell very well. But I've already experienced his great kindness in so many ways and I look forward to being part of what he built here with all of you in the Diocese of Columbus.

Bishop Campbell, I am tremendously, tremendously grateful. I met (retired) Bishop (James) Griffin last night for the first time and was so impressed

to be able to meet with him yesterday.

Clearly, I have an awful lot of learn. I assure you of that. I've got an awful lot of learn. Yeah, I have to admit I've looked at the website once or twice, and I must confess, I'm more than a little bit nervous. But I look forward to walking the journey with you as your pastor, to sharing the joy of the gospel and the splendor of truth. And if we can laugh and sing and raise our voices in praise of God along the way, all the better. I'm already praying fervently for the Church of Columbus every single day. May I I humbly ask your prayers for me.

Question: Bishop Brennan, how familiar are you with Columbus? Have you in fact ever been here before?

Bishop Brennan: No, I have not. What is it? OH-? I have to tell you Bishop Perez in Cleveland and I were ordained together on July 25, 2012. So I've come to know Ohio a little bit through his eyes. I've been to Cleveland a few times. This is new ground for me. I'm looking forward to being part of the community here.

Question: You mentioned that you have a lot to learn. What do you anticipate learning and do you anticipate any changes in the diocese?

Bishop Brennan: Well, your first question kind of answers the second. It's too early for me to anticipate any changes because I don't know enough to begin. The first thing I want to do is to get to know people. I really look forward to working with the priests and the deacons and the pastoral staff here. My first order of business will be to get to know them. We work shoulder to shoulder together in the field and proclaim the gospel of the Lord and so that's my first order of business to get to know the people here, beginning with those who collaborate with me.

Secondly, I think I need to know the life of the Church here in Columbus and get to know really the life of the community. I haven't met too many people here yet. I've walked through the first floor of this building. Everything, everything is new to me.

Question: Do you have a favorite saint?

Bishop Brennan: I have a number of favorite saints. My patron saint is

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a vocation to the religious life would be: “If the Lord is stirring your heart, there’s probably something to it.”

Asked if he is concerned about the Catholic Church’s future amid the difficulties surrounding it, he said, “The church survives through the Holy Spirit and through the presence of Our Lord. ... We have to follow the lead of the Holy Spirit, even though sometimes it’s going to be very difficult, sometimes we’re going to have to take difficult steps, sometimes we’re going to have to face some hard truths. ... There’s a certain confidence that comes in knowing that the Holy Spirit will guide us to the truth and help us to live that truth together with one another.”

He said he was named after St. Robert Bellarmine, a Jesuit scholar and reformer of the 16th century, whom he described as “a man of great wisdom in troubled times who had the ability to make people look deeper into questions, rather than just have knee-jerk reactions.” The bishop said other favorite saints of his are St. Agnes, after whom the cathedral of his diocese is named, and St. Oscar Romero, the bishop and martyr from El Salvador whose recent canonization was celebrated with enthusiasm by the large Salvadoran community in the Rockville Centre diocese.

Bishop Brennan said he never had been to Columbus until now, immediately following that response with Ohio State University’s “O-H, I-O” cheer to show his readiness to adapt to the city. He also said he had become somewhat familiar with the state of Ohio through staying in touch with a former colleague, Bishop Nelson Perez of Cleveland. Bishops Brennan

and Perez were consecrated as auxiliary bishops of Rockville Centre on July 25, 2012.

“Bishop Brennan brings to his new diocese vast administrative experience and skill, a wonderful priestly heart, and a deep pastoral passion to serve the church tirelessly. The priests, deacons, religious and faithful of the Diocese of Columbus will very quickly see what a blessing they have in Bishop Brennan,” Bishop Perez said in a message responding to Bishop Brennan’s appointment.

A message from Bishop John Barres of Rockville Centre said Bishop Brennan “has a blend of holiness, missionary fire, humility, intelligence and pastoral experience that will serve the mission of the Catholic Church of the Diocese of Columbus in an extraordinary way.”

Bishop Brennan was born on June 7, 1962, in the Bronx, New York, and was ordained a priest of the Rockville Centre diocese on May 27, 1989. He was first assigned to St. Patrick Church in Smithtown, New York. In 1994, he was appointed secretary to the bishop and served three bishops of Rockville Centre from then until 2002. He was selected as a prelate of honor by Pope John Paul II, with the title of monsignor, in 1996.

He has been vicar general and moderator of the curia for the diocese since 2002. He was appointed pastor of St. Mary of the Isle Church in Long Beach, New York, in 2010, serving there until his ordination as auxiliary bishop. He resides at Our Lady of Peace Church in Lynbrook, New York.

He has served on the board of directors of Catholic Health Services of Long

Island, the Bishop’s Advisory Committee for Catholic Education and several other diocesan boards, and on committees of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. He also served as chaplain for the Catholic Lawyers Guild of Nassau County and says Mass regularly for the Dominican Sisters of Amityville, New York, who taught him in elementary and high school, and for the Franciscan sisters of Allegany, New York.

The oldest of five children, he has two brothers, two sisters and 14 nieces and nephews. He was raised in Lindenhurst, New York, where his parents still reside. He earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics and computer science from St. John’s University in New York City and studied for the priesthood at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Huntington, New York.

Bishop Campbell said after the news conference that he’s unsure of what he will do in retirement. “It’s the first time I’ve done it, so we’ll see,” he said.

He is a native of Elmira, New York, and the second of six children of the late Edward and Dorothy Campbell. He earned a bachelor’s degree in history and foreign language from St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York, in 1965 and obtained his master’s degree in 1967 and doctorate in history in 1973 from Ohio State University. Before beginning his studies for the priesthood in 1976, he was a history professor at the Pontifical College Josephinum from 1967 to 1969 and at California State University-San Bernardino from 1970 to 1976.

After studying at the St. Paul (Minnesota) Seminary, he was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of St.

Paul-Minneapolis by Archbishop John Roach on May 31, 1980. He served as an associate pastor and pastor in the archdiocese until Pope John Paul II appointed him as its auxiliary bishop in 1999. In July 2002, he became rector and vice president of the St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity of the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota.

He was appointed the 11th bishop of Columbus on Oct. 14, 2004, by John Paul II, replacing Bishop Griffin, who retired as bishop for health reasons after 21 years as the diocese’s spiritual shepherd. Bishop Campbell was installed at St. Joseph Cathedral on Jan. 13, 2005.

He served as chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on the Diaconate from 2004 to 2006, and wrote the foreword to the USCCB’s directory on the formation, ministry and life of permanent deacons.

Among his many community activities, he is on the boards of Ohio Dominican University, Mother Angeline McCrory Manor, the Catholic Foundation, the Kinder Women’s Care Center and the Pontifical College Josephinum, where he is vice chancellor.

The Diocese of Columbus, founded in 1868, consists of 23 counties in central and southern Ohio and has 105 parishes and a population of 2.64 million, of whom 252,103, a little less than 10 percent, are Catholic. The Diocese of Rockville Centre, founded in 1957, has 134 parishes in its two Long Island counties. It has a population of 2.85 million, of whom 1.53 million, or more than 50 percent, are Catholic. It is the eighth-largest diocese in the United States in terms of population.

Local news and events

Diocesan youth events will be on consecutive days

Two annual events sponsored by the diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries for middle- and high-school students will take place on consecutive days this year.

The Bosco Bash for sixth- to eighth-graders will be from 2 to 8 p.m. Saturday, March 9, followed by the diocesan youth conference for ninth- to 12th-grade students from 10 to 5:30 p.m. Sunday, March 10. Both will be at Columbus Bishop Watter-

son High School, 99 E. Cooke Road.

The theme for the events will be “Strengthened and Sent,” featuring presentations by speaker Jon Konz and music by the Station 14 praise band.

After a decade of experience in live performance and professional ministry, Konz has seen firsthand the longing all hearts have to encounter something lasting and real. “God has placed in my heart a call to help individuals and churches in the process

of evangelization; sharing the truth of the Gospel and engaging the faith of audience members through story, worship and consultation,” he said. He has partnered with parishes, dioceses and ministries throughout the Midwest for many seminars, camps and retreats.

The cost is \$30 per youth and adult participant for each event. For more information, contact Sean Robinson (srobinso@cdeducation.org) or Mike

Hall (mhall@cdeducation.org) at the youth and young adult ministries office (614-241-2565) or Holly Jo Monnier at (614) 390-8653 or hollyjo.monnier@gmail.com.

Organizers of the events said they still need volunteers to assist at both. If you are interested in providing help, go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0B4EACAF29A5F94-youth>.

Properties of Eucharist; do miscarried children go to heaven?

QI firmly believe that at Mass the Eucharist becomes Christ's body and blood. But here's what I don't understand: Why then do the properties of the bread and wine still affect people – for example, those with wheat allergies or alcoholics? (Danville, Indiana)

ANot surprisingly, this is a bit difficult to explain: It is, after all, a mystery of our faith – a miracle of Christ's doing – and there is nothing else to which it can be compared.

But it is nevertheless a core belief of the Catholic faith that the bread and wine are changed at Mass into the body and blood of Christ, something celebrated and proclaimed by hundreds of millions throughout the world since the evening of the Last Supper when Jesus said, "This is my body. ... This is my blood."

A bit of Thomistic philosophy might help: What the church believes is that the "substance" (deepest reality) of the bread and wine is changed but the "accidents" (physical attributes) are not. In other words, with the priest's words of consecration, what continues to look, taste and feel like bread and wine have actually become in-



QUESTION & ANSWER
Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service

stead the glorified presence of Christ.

So committed was Jesus to this central truth that in the sixth chapter of John's Gospel, even when some of his followers abandoned Christ because of this teaching, Jesus let them walk away and did not say, "Wait, we're only talking about symbols."

For those with wheat allergies or for alcoholics, the church does make provision for the use of low-gluten hosts and for "mustum" (grape juice in which fermentation has begun but has been suspended). Still there are those for whom even trace amounts of gluten or alcohol can be harmful. They may opt to receive under only one species, and the church teaches that Jesus is wholly present under either one.

QI know that life begins at conception. So I want to believe that when a woman has a mis-

carriage, no matter how early in the pregnancy, her unborn baby goes to heaven – but I am wondering what the church's view is on this. (As a woman who has experienced a miscarriage, I would find great comfort in knowing that I will be reunited someday with my baby in heaven.) (State College, Pennsylvania)

AI suppose that a theological purist might say that there is no definitive church position on the ultimate fate of a miscarried child.

But from many things that the church has, in fact, taught in its official documents, it seems reasonable to assume that the child is in heaven. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says, "Baptism is necessary for salvation for those to whom the Gospel has been proclaimed and who have had the possibility of asking for this sacrament" (No. 1257).

But the miscarried child has had, of course, no chance to ask for the sacrament. A few paragraphs later, the catechism says, "Indeed, the great mercy of God who desires that all men should be saved, and Jesus' tenderness toward children which caused him to say 'Let the children come to me, do not hinder them,' allow us to hope that there is a way of salvation for children who have died without baptism" (No. 1261).

When an infant is baptized, the infant makes no personal profession of faith; instead, it is left to the parents and godparents to voice their desire to have the child christened. Why wouldn't the same logic prevail in the case of a miscarriage? Had the child been carried to term, the parents would certainly have had the child baptized, so why wouldn't a merciful God who reads hearts consider that intention sufficient?

Be comforted and at peace: I think it's quite likely that you will meet your child in heaven.

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

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here in central Ohio," Hartge said.

This led to opportunities to work with the diocesan Catholic Men's Conference, St. Gabriel Radio, the March for Life, Back in His Arms Again, the men's luncheon club, Sacred Heart Columbus and other organizations.

"All these experiences, or more properly, the enthusiastic Catholics who I have encountered in these experiences, have helped me to see more clearly the work that Jesus performs through his church," he said.

Hartge, 64, said there were two catalysts for "this sudden burst of enhanced engagement in the faith." One was a job situation he described as "my first major career pothole." The other was the decision by his son Michael – now Father Michael Hartge, pastor of the Perry County Consortium of Parishes in New Lexington, Crooksville, Corning and Junction City – to enter the seminary.

These events also led him to start going to daily Mass and read more

church-related books and Catholic blogs. "With a seminarian in the family, I became more acutely aware of the looming shortage of priests and the rather daunting outlook for the workload that I imagined Mike would face in the future, as many of our priests arrive at retirement age," Hartge said.

"I figured that 10 or 15 years down the road, he would probably have to serve multiple parishes as pastor." That time came much sooner than expected. Father Hartge, who was ordained in 2015, began his priestly career as parochial vicar of a three-parish cluster and was appointed pastor of the Perry consortium this past July.

Hartge's "career pothole" ultimately led to another opportunity for him to serve the church. He has been business manager for the last five years at Columbus St. Patrick Church, the site of the luncheon club's monthly meetings, following a long career in shopping center management.

Hartge enthroned the Sacred Heart of Jesus in his home in 2013 and said nothing has given him and Judeen more satisfaction than their work with Sacred Heart Columbus conducting enthronements. The Hartges have witnessed the enthronement for 40 families, with another half-dozen coming up in the next few weeks.

"From the day we enthroned the Sacred Heart ... we have found ourselves more open to the graces, blessings and consolations that the Lord spoke about in his appearances to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in the 1600s," he said. "Our devotional life together has grown and we find that those inevitable bumps in the road of any marriage are more easily tolerated."

"With the steady proliferation of Eucharistic Adoration throughout the diocese, particularly Perpetual Adoration in a handful of parishes, there is no doubt that Jesus' Sacred Heart is reaching out, calling to us, offering strength to face these trials,

and hundreds of us are responding," Hartge said. "Perpetual Adoration ... requires the commitment to round-the-clock holy hours before the exposed Blessed Sacrament. What a great blessing it is that so many have made that commitment."

Before Bishop Frederick Campbell presented Hartge with the Man of the Year award, fellow St. Matthew parishioner Steve Davis and Father Hartge spoke on his behalf.

Davis described him as "a wonderful friend, a pillar of an example of a Catholic gentleman who shines his light on others and leads through example." Davis said Hartge inspired him to enthrone the Sacred Heart in his own home, and that starting the day with prayer and reflection in front of the Sacred Heart image has greatly improved his life in many ways.

Father Hartge said he first came to a true appreciation of his father while

THE EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

By Rick Jeric



So why marriage?

February is a good month to celebrate marriage. We tend to focus on love, since it has Valentine's Day right in the middle. It begins with our friend the groundhog, and he lets us know how much longer winter will last. It ends on the 28th, but every four years, we love it so much we add a 29th day. My mom's birthday is the 15th, and one of my all-time favorite co-workers has a birthday on the 16th. And my poor older sister only gets to celebrate her birthday every four years as a leap year baby. At least we have some things to celebrate in these cold and dreary days between Christmas and Easter. Love is in the air in February, and that is certainly a big part of marriage. Of course, it is not the only piece. It is hard work, yet so rewarding.

Despite the rewards, why get married at all? We have a lot of great examples and role models in solid marriages for many years. We also have the same for those who choose to simply live together. So why marriage? And if you do get married, what does it matter who the bride and groom are? We just want everyone to be happy and love one another. I think we all know the answers to these questions theologically and by natural law. The importance and significance of the sacrament of marriage is paramount. The priest witnesses the marriage of a husband and wife as they marry one another, while pledging their love and fidelity through their vows before God. The priest is the representative of Jesus Christ Himself. We cannot just go off on our own and have a "deeply personal" relationship with Jesus. We crave that kind of prayerful relationship, but we are also part of a community of faith and believers. We cannot go off individually and jump in a river or pool and ask God to baptize us. We cannot eat bread and drink wine while praying in earnest that it becomes a symbolic representation of Jesus at the Last Supper. We cannot just get focused and pray directly to God for the forgiveness of our serious sins. We need the priest as God's conduit. I recently asked a priest who has spent many years in seminaries what he missed most about being in a parish, and he said he missed hearing confessions. Not only is there healing and reconciliation, but also the empathy, guidance and love of the priest. The world needs love, and it all starts with the love of a husband and wife and the resulting family. The love of a married husband and wife is forever. Every fight, every criticism, every slip-up in language, every selfish act, every angry outburst, every sin, and even any separation is overcome by forgiveness first, followed by an even stronger bond. It is truly love over rationalization.

So why marriage? What are the expectations and responsibilities? We can say it is all about love and fidelity, having and holding, richer or poorer, in sickness and in health. Sacrifice – it is just so difficult to set our egos aside and become martyrs. Yes, we give our lives for our spouse. That is one huge challenge. So why marriage? The greatest, most important answer is that we do whatever it takes to get one another to Heaven. Eternal life with our God is the only thing greater than an earthly lifetime in love with our spouse. When we are married, the two become one flesh. It stands to reason that if we cannot get one another as spouses to Heaven, then we have failed the sacrament itself. Pray for all couples, married or not. Pray for the strength of the sacrament. And pray that the answer to the question "Why marriage?" becomes the most sought-after of all desires.

Making space one book at a time



GRACE IN THE MOMENT

Mary Van Balen

Sometimes the simplest of chores become prayer. It's about paying attention and being present to the moment. That's what wisdom teachers always have said, whether they were early Christian monks living in the Egyptian desert or a contemporary Buddhist monk like Thich Nhat Hanh; a Sufi poet like Rumi or a modern poet like Mary Oliver. Jesus told us the kingdom of God is within, is now. This moment. I guess I just didn't think that applied to moving bookcases around in my apartment.

But here I am (and have been for weeks), sitting with boxes and piles of books. And, as it turns out, with God. I switched my bedroom and office, giving the office more space and a guest bed. Kind, young (read strong and enthusiastic) neighbors helped with moving furniture, but I alone could put the mess back together.

I love books. Getting rid of any one of them is a major decision, even ones barely read or languishing on a bottom shelf out of sight. You never know when it will emerge as just the one you need. That's what I usually tell myself.

But I've been determined not to put all those books back. It's time for sorting, and not just the books. Choosing which to keep and which to share with others presented an opportunity to reflect on where I've been, where I am, and how open I am to what lies ahead.

As a writer and lifelong student, books provide a sort of map of my journey, starting with high school and wending its way through the twists and turns of a life. The collection is eclectic, to say the least, with a book on the rituals of the Lakota sacred pipe sharing shelf space with Madeleine L'Engle, Biblical commentaries, and *The Nature of Cape Cod*.

The process has been an *examen* of sorts.

Which books have helped me encounter the Holy One, to be more present to the moment? Which ones bring deep joy or help me engage with the world and my journey? Which ones contain knowledge and wisdom that inform my

writing? Which ones open windows on the world that give me a fresh perspective so compelling that I return again and again for the view? These are the books I want close at hand.

And which books have done their work by laying a foundation, getting me through grad school, providing diversion, or nourishing me in a place I no longer inhabit? These books can go.

Answering the questions requires thought and prayer. It calls for discernment and, eventually, willingness to let go. Not just of books, but of paths not taken. Of hurts. Of the illusion that every path needs tried, or that broad and shallow is better than narrow and deep.

So far, I've gotten rid of three large bags of books. I may be close to the end of this task. A couple of boxes remain, but they are filled with as much paper and small items as with books. This particular prayer is drawing to a close.

I've heard people talk about downsizing to a smaller house or seriously simplifying their living space. It wasn't easy, but resulted in a sense of freedom. I'm feeling that. My newly organized office provides ready space to sketch and paint and explore the prayerfulness of art. Before, the chore of clearing a space for the activity discouraged it.

Surprisingly, I find looking at shelves that aren't solidly packed with books is restful. I appreciate the visual space. And while cleaning out space on the shelves, I was also cleaning out space within.

Switching rooms has become a mini-retreat that helped me make inner space so the Divine within has room to stretch and move. Without so much clutter, perhaps I'll be better able to feel the stirrings.

All those wisdom teachers were right, and Jesus wasn't kidding: God is with us now, in the moment, whatever and wherever it is. When we are present to it, we are changed.

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Art, truth and sacred conversation

By Robert A. Gervasi, PhD
President, Ohio Dominican University

Among all the holy men and women in the history of the Dominican Order, one of the most inspired and inspiring is Blessed John of Fiesole, popularly known as Fra Angelico, whose feast day is Feb. 18. The “Angelic Friar” (circa 1400-1455) was a magnificently gifted artist whose paintings and frescos on Christian themes graced the churches of early Renaissance Italy. His work continues to evoke awe and admiration among viewers today, regardless of their knowledge of art history or even their faith commitment.

As an artist, Fra Angelico was himself inspired by the “Angelic Doctor,” St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274), the great Dominican teacher, preacher and patron saint of Catholic universities. (St. Thomas’ feast day is just a few weeks earlier, on Jan. 28.) Fra Angelico is sometimes thought of as translating into compelling visual form the vision of truth and spirituality that St. Thomas expressed in words and ideas.

One of St. Thomas’ most famous expressions from his *Summa Theologiae* became a core motto of the Dominican Order and also is the motto of Ohio Dominican University: “To contemplate truth and to share with others the fruits of this contemplation” (*contemplare et contemplata aliis tradere*). Implicit in this saying is the conviction that contemplation and action go hand in hand, especially in engagement with other people.

Fra Angelico shared St. Thomas’ conviction and, in a church near Florence around 1440, expressed it with revolutionary innovation in a work that came

to be called the Annalena altarpiece.

Prior to Fra Angelico, during the Middle Ages, saints in church frescos and altarpieces were most often depicted in separate, individual frames, sometimes arranged thematically but not interacting with one another. In a bold departure from this tradition, Fra Angelico in the Annalena altarpiece painted a group of saints conversing with one another in a single, horizontal frame, with the Blessed Mother and Christ Child in the center of the piece as the focus of the saints’ attention. Art historians call this artistic pattern a *sacra conversazione*, or “sacred conversation.”

Bearing the Dominican motto in mind, we might say the saints are contemplating the Word Made Flesh – the central reality of Christian experience – and sharing their own experience of that truth with one another: *contemplare et contemplata aliis tradere*. Indeed, the truth is made manifest by the very sharing. In the words of the great Dominican friar and theologian Edward Schillebeeckx, “The truth is not to be found in a system, but in a dialogue.”

For subsequent artists, as well as Fra Angelico himself, the “sacred conversation” became a convention in Renaissance art, with the choice of saints and central subject adapted for specific occasions or to honor specific patrons. The postures of the saints also became more fluid and interactive. The consistent thread is that the “communion of saints” – engaged and interacting – reflects and magnifies the truth they contemplate.

In a very real sense, the image of the “sacred conversation” reflects the

mission of Ohio Dominican University as a community of learners – and the Church itself as the people of God. All real learning ultimately is derived from Truth itself – “the Way, the Truth and the Life.” All subjects and all professions are opportunities to see the Word Made Flesh in our work and in our world and to respond with lives committed to justice and compassion.

The core invitation of Catholic education is to see every person and therefore every conversation as sacred. At Ohio Dominican University, not only do we prepare students very well for successful careers, we also encourage students to develop as persons of character and compassion. We are all children of God – saints in the making – thanks to the Word Made Flesh.

The integration of reason and faith go hand in hand in this ongoing sacred conversation, and that is why all undergraduates at Ohio Dominican take some philosophy and theology courses. That also is why the traditional humanities, arts and sciences remain

central to the university’s curriculum, even as we develop innovative professional programs to respond to emerging needs in the workforce and in society. At the root of all these efforts is a commitment to sacred conversation, in which all persons are treated with dignity and respect.

How wonderful it would be if all



Fra Angelico's Annalena altarpiece, painted in about 1440.

Photo courtesy WikiArt

discourse in our society reflected a similar commitment, whether in the media, in the halls of government, on social media, or simply in the supermarket line. How wonderful it would be if each of us treated every person as a child of God, endowed with an eternal destiny. That is the vision of joy and celebration that animated Fra Angelico. May it animate all of us!

MAN OF THE YEAR, continued from Page 6

cleaning the St. Matthew Church basement in high school and discovering an old picture of a Cub Scout Pinewood Derby in which he participated. His father was in the background, “and it suddenly occurred to me what kind of sacrifice Catholic men make to raise their families,” he said.

“They say children resemble their parents, and I hope I can one day resemble Dad’s spirit, his faith and sincere, deep, abiding trust in the Lord. My father is the greatest example of a Catholic man in my life,” Father Hartge said.

The Hartges have three other grown

children: Dr. Frank Hartge IV, serving with the Navy at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland; Margaret Hartge, who teaches religion at Columbus Bishop Hartley High School; and Joseph Hartge, a research assistant for an economics professor at Yale University.

The award presentation took place on Friday, Feb. 1, one day after Bishop Campbell announced that Pope Francis had accepted the letter of resignation the bishop was required by canon law to submit upon reaching age 75. Bishop Campbell will be suc-

ceeded by Auxiliary Bishop Robert Brennan of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, New York.

John Schechter, a past president of the luncheon club, closed the meeting with a surprise presentation of a desk clock to Bishop Campbell “in recognition of his extraordinary service to the diocese.” Schechter noted that in 14 years as spiritual shepherd of the diocese, the bishop has ordained 39 priests and 49 deacons, welcomed more than 3,400 people into the Catholic Church at the annual diocesan Rite of Election, and confirmed more than 50,000 young

people.

The club also presented the bishop with a lifetime membership card, with Schechter saying “You’ll never have to pay for one of our lunches” and noting that the club actually has no members.

It began in 1940 with a group of Catholic men who gathered informally for lunch after practicing the First Friday devotion of going to Mass to honor the Sacred Heart, and has continued through eight decades.

The club established the Catholic Man of the Year honor in 1957.

"I want what they have"

By Catherine Suprenant
Marriage Prep Coordinator
Diocesan Marriage & Family Life Office

When we see virtuous, sacrificial love, a desire stirs in us to do the same. This is the power of witness.

Most people associate Pre-Cana with engaged couples. And it's true – the Pre-Cana day is filled with about 50 couples and led by an engaged woman (myself). However, the beating heart of the program is the team of married couples who have felt the call to share their marriage with the engaged couples who are preparing for marriage.

In our culture, the number of broken marriages can make joyful witnesses few and far between for some young couples. Pre-Cana is an opportunity for engaged couples to get a rare peek into the lives of real couples' growth in love in the sacrament of marriage. Vulnerability, joy, humor, and sometimes tears fill these narratives.

The volunteers come from a variety of ages, backgrounds and personalities, and they have beautiful journeys to share. I hope you get a taste of the Pre-Cana day through experiencing some of their stories.

Tim and Fran Keller of Columbus St. Elizabeth Church, have been serving engaged couples for 27 of the 31 years they have been married. Early on, they met a couple in marriage ministry that made Fran say, "I found myself wanting to be like them." However, when the opportunity to volunteer in mar-

riage preparation arose, it was Tim who jumped at the opportunity. He ended up bribing Fran, who enjoyed the experience as an opportunity to "Let the light shine in our marriage as a visible sign of what couples can be." She also



Joe and Natalie Pardi of Columbus St. Andrew Church, shown with two of their children, help prepare couples for marriage. Photo courtesy diocesan Marriage and Family Life Office

said that the ministry causes them to re-evaluate and strengthen their own relationship.

One of the most inspiring themes in their testimony is how they have grown to embrace change and its challenges with gratitude. They advise couples to lean into their unity in difficult times and benefit from the choice to love each other. In these times, the tendency

is instead to withdraw inward toward a selfish independence. Tim illustrated this reality, "It's like you both are paddling a canoe together; it's when there are rocks and rapids that you both need to paddle as a team."

Natalie's favorite thing about being married to Joe is how involved he is in his marriage and family life, loving selflessly in the midst of everything going on in his job. Joe's favorite thing about being married to Natalie, "is how she leans on Christ and calls us both to pray, and how selfless she is in her own ambitions," he said.

Together, they discovered the power of God's plan for marriage, specifically the creative aspect, and they came to embrace NFP as a loving response to God's plan. Because of the power of this teaching, they are excited to share it.

"When we teach NFP, we have confidence that we are offering the best for couples – God's plan in cooperation with God's design of the human body and the complementarity of men and women, not something dependent on what this or that person says," they said.

Stories like theirs prompt couples at Pre-Cana to say, "I want what they have." However, these couples insist that they receive as much as they give. It must be the power of remembering God's love and grace throughout the course of their marriage journey!

Pre-Cana is just one way to witness to the power of the sacrament of marriage. If anyone reading this article has the desire to possibly volunteer for this particular ministry, reach out to me at csuprenant@columbuscatholic.org or 614-241-2560 extension 2.

Couple's love can bless, inspire others

By Catherine Suprenant
Marriage Prep Coordinator
Diocesan Marriage & Family Life Office

As the marriage preparation coordinator for the Diocese of Columbus, I run the Pre-Cana program, which brings me into contact with hundreds of engaged couples. They come with optimism and expectation toward marriage.

My job is to invite them to see that the beauty and sacrifices of their marriage are not just for them. In the sacrament of marriage, Christ himself takes couples on a journey toward holiness and invites them to bear fruit, extending the gift of their love into the world and the church.

This vivid, transforming power of marriage for the couple and the world is alien to our cultural understanding of marriage. As polls indicate, marriage generally is chosen as a way to achieve love and happiness.

In our secular view of marriage, a merely human emphasis on feeling in love falls short of our desires for love, as evidenced by the decreasing numbers of people marrying or staying married.

However, Christ comes with good news to all who thirst for more! God has truly saved us, not only as individuals but also as couples. And this good news of God's grace is proclaimed time and time again in the human relationships it has transformed. The fruit

is unmistakable. Just as the missions of those in the priesthood or religious life are an overflow of the graces embraced and lived by those individuals, so does a marriage shaped by God bear abundant fruit that will remain.

Let me name some of these graces flowing from this beautiful sacrament that have inspired me to choose marriage as my vocation. I'm most grateful to have the witness of my parents' collaborative, committed marriage through every obstacle life has thrown their way. Their witness to the strength of the sacrament has been the best preparation for marriage I've received.

My sister and her husband surrendered individual ambitions and pressures of the outside world to have their

lives changed by starting a family, and in the process, they have become better people. These sacrifices are felt as blessings to the following generations.

There have been marriages in my life that have provided a home for me when I needed a warm welcome. There have been marriages around me that have inspired me to sacrifice myself, like that of the old man I see at Mass each day who prays for his wife and brings the Eucharist back to her.

I've seen a couple at my parish reach out to those on the margins and make our community more hospitable. And these are only direct, visible fruit for others to witness. How many gifts of

Couples who provide examples of holiness

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

It may be easy to take marriage for granted and overlook its value because it is a state of life to which most people are called at one time or another.

But at its best, marriage provides a witness to the world of the positive impact of lasting love, not only between a husband and wife, but between the spouses and God.

As Pope Francis put it on Tuesday,



Chiara Petrillo, whose example of accepting God's will in choosing life for her children has inspired many people. She is a candidate for canonization. CNA photo

Jan. 29, in a speech before the Roman Rota, the Vatican's marriage court, "Truly, many Christian spouses are a silent homily for everyone."

Praising the unsung heroism of many Catholic couples, the pope said that as they live "in generous unity and with faithful love," they are "a precious pastoral help to the church" and offer everyone "an example of true love."

Catherine Suprenant of the diocesan Office of Marriage and Family Life said role models for this type of couple include Sts. Louis and Zelig Martin, the parents of St. Therese of Lisieux; Chiara and Enrico Petrillo, a 21st-century Italian couple whose faith despite the loss of two children and Chiara's own death has been an

inspiration to many; and Priscilla and Aquila, who were among the first Christians and provided needed support for St. Paul as he spread the message of Jesus throughout Europe and Asia.

The Martins were canonized on Oct. 18, 2015, becoming the first spouses in the church's history to be declared saints as a couple. They were married from 1858 until Zelig's death in 1877, and had seven daughters and two sons. Five of the daughters, including Therese, became religious sisters; one daughter died at age 5 ½; the other daughter and both sons lived for less than a year.

Louis and Zelig had successful businesses; he was a watchmaker and she made wedding dresses and other items from lace. Suprenant, who will be married later this year, said she found her own wedding dress with Zelig's spiritual help. "I'd been looking for months and couldn't find the type of dress I wanted," she said. "Because of Zelig's background, I began praying to her, and it didn't take long before I found something suitable and just my size."

"The Martins were very devout," Suprenant said. "In fact, they wanted to live a celibate life, but their confessor said God called them to have children, live a pious family life and raise their family for the glory of God. Their example highlights the gift of marriage to the world as a vocation."

Louis and Zelig did not have an easy life. "Besides the children who died young, Zelig had miscarriages and died of breast cancer when she was only 45 years old. Louis had Alzheimer's disease and died in 1894 after suffering greatly," including a three-year stay in a psychiatric hospital. "Yet in spite of their troubles, their faith remained strong," Suprenant said.

Louis "was thankful for his daughters' religious vocations, but had to give his family to God as a sacrifice. He accepted God's will even as it broke his heart to lose his wife and daughters," writes Cassandra Hackstock of Catholic News Agency.

"It is a great, great honor for me that the Good Lord desires to take all of my children. If I had anything better, I would not hesitate to offer it to him," he said.

The influence of St. Therese's family life is evident in her descriptions of herself as being "a daughter of heaven and earth" and her "father's little queen."

St. Therese, the youngest of the nine Martin children, lived only to age 24, dying of tuberculosis in 1897. Her

any of struggles and losses they endured, the Martins were a joyful and happy family. They accepted the pain as God's will, and this acceptance allowed God to work in their hearts to purify them and make them saintly.

"Not only will they provide help and intercession from heaven, their



Priscilla and Aquila, who were helpers of St. Paul in the early church, first in Corinth and then traveling to Ephesus, where they continued to work with Paul's companion Timothy. Pope Francis mentioned them in a speech to the Roman Rota on Jan. 29 as examples of love and marital fidelity. Image from OrthodoxMonasteryIcons.com

surviving sisters lived into their 70s and 80s. But through her autobiography, *The Story of a Soul*, and her "Little Way" of spirituality, Therese, who was canonized in 1925, has influenced millions.

Hackstock wrote, "Despite the lit-

story can bring relief and acceptance to those in the world who are hurt, grieving, and traumatized. St. Therese herself said that she would spend her heaven doing good on earth and would let fall a shower of roses from

COUPLES, *continued from Page 10*

heaven to help those who suffer and yet cling to God. Humanity is blessed by the wondrous writings and example of this saintly family.”

Like St. Therese, Chiara Petrillo lived a short life, but one of great influence. She died in 2012 at age 28 of cancer after less than five years of marriage. Suprenant said she has read a biography of Petrillo, *A Witness to Joy*, four times because of its central message: “Love is not possessive.”

Chiara and Enrico Petrillo’s love story started like a Hallmark Channel movie with a Catholic twist. They were visiting a Marian shrine when their eyes met across a crowded hotel room, and they were immediately attracted to each other. They fell in love, broke up several times, got back together, and ultimately reached a point where they knew they had to make a decision about the future. They went on a walking pilgrimage to Assisi, and when it ended, they were engaged.

Then came tragedy. Chiara became pregnant twice, first with a daughter, Maria, then with a son, David. Both times, she and Enrico learned their babies would be born with defects.

They were asked if they wanted to have the children aborted, and they stood firm in their desire to give life. In both cases, the children were born, baptized immediately, and died within about a half-hour of birth.

After losing her first baby, Chiara wrote, “The day of Maria’s birth I shall always recall as one of the most beautiful days of my life. ... The amount of time (as parents) does not matter, one month, two months, a few hours. What matters is that we have had this gift ... and it is something that can never be forgotten.”

Writing of David, she compared him to his namesake in saying he had defeated a part of her that was opposed to the will of God. She wrote, “I thank God for my having been defeated by my little David. I thank God that the Goliath that was inside of me is now finally dead, thanks to David.”

Despite the sorrow of losing two children, the couple continued to be

open to life, and in time a third child, Francesco, began forming in Chiara’s womb.

But as the child was growing inside her, something else also was growing in her body – a tumor that was found on her tongue and spread to her neck and eyes. Various treatments were proposed, but she refused any that could endanger Francesco’s life, choosing to delay such procedures until after his birth.



Louis and Zelig Martin, the parents of St. Therese of Lisieux, who in 2015 were the first spouses in Catholic Church history to be canonized as saints as a couple.

Public Domain Image

He was born healthy, but the joy resulting from his birth was muted because delaying her treatment had caused the cancer to spread.

Doctors told Enrico the tumor was malignant, and he decided to tell her by breaking the news in front of the Blessed Sacrament. Eventually, they embraced each other and renewed their marriage vows.

The night before Chiara’s death, the priest who was her spiritual director throughout her struggle celebrated Mass at her home. The reading from Matthew’s Gospel that night included the passage “No one lights a lamp to put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.”

Her priest asked her, “What was Jesus’ lampstand?” She answered, “The Cross.” He said, “Chiara, you are luminous because you are on the lampstand with Jesus.” She died the next day – June 13, 2012, about two weeks

after Francesco’s first birthday.

Enrico now lives as a single father with Francesco, who is seven going on eight. Asked if he ever felt anger toward God about the death of his wife, he said, “It’s a choice. I could be angry, yes. If you so choose, you can make your life decisions with the Lord, or you can choose to do it without God. I’ve never gotten angry, because the Lord was in our life and we knew that he is a kind father.

from Rome to escape persecution from the Roman emperor Claudius.

Like Paul, the couple were tent-makers, adding to the close ties between them and Paul, who lived with them for a year and a half. All three then traveled to Ephesus. The couple stayed in Ephesus when Paul left, again establishing a church in their home, as Paul notes in his first letter to the Corinthians.

After Paul had left, a preacher named Apollos came to Ephesus. Apollos was a powerful speaker, but had an incomplete knowledge of Christianity, in that he knew that Jesus had fulfilled John the Baptist’s prophecies, but didn’t know about the significance of Christ’s death and resurrection or of the opening of the church to the Gentiles. Priscilla and Aquila explained this to him, and in so doing, ended any confusion his preaching may have caused.

They are significant for their hospitality in hosting Paul and allowing their home to be used for gatherings of the early church, their passion for Christ and their hunger for knowledge of him, and their desire to build others in the faith. They are mentioned once more in the Scriptures, in Paul’s second letter to Timothy, who had taken over leadership of the church in Ephesus, with Priscilla and Aquila helping him.

This married couple, despite appearing several times in the New Testament, has remained fairly obscure, but Pope Francis recently shone a light on them. In his Jan. 29 speech to the Roman Rota, the pope noted how the “love and marital fidelity of the spouses Aquila and Priscilla were of great comfort for Paul and Apollo.”

“We ask the Holy Spirit to give today to the church priests who are able to appreciate and value the charisms of the spouses with a strong faith and apostolic spirit, such as Aquila and Priscilla,” the pope said.

“The synergy between them and St. Paul was a gift, and an example of how strong couples, in cooperation with the clergy, can build up a church community,” Suprenant said.

The family's joyful calling

By Stephanie Rapp
Director

Diocesan Marriage & Family Life Office

“What is our family’s mission this week?” I asked my young kids on the way to Mass one weekend. “How are we going to share God’s love with others?” My four-year-old daughter immediately and enthusiastically squealed her answer, “Joy!”

I paused. Not only was I impressed with her response, but I was up for the challenge. What a great way to share God’s love with a world that is hurting – not to mention that the “joy of the Lord is our strength.” God knows we all need His strength to live out our vocation and call to sainthood! “Okay,” I replied, “This week we are going to focus on being joyful!”

As the week continued, I found myself frequently reflecting on the joy of our family and how something so simple can change our lives and the lives of those around us. Mother Teresa once said “Joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls” – and catching souls is exactly what we are

called to do as a family!

Families, although unique and special, all point to God, who is a communion of persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This “family” of God was born out of the perfect love between Father and Son, which is so powerful that it produced the Holy Spirit! Similarly (although imperfectly), families are born out of the love between a husband and wife. Married couples, referred to by Pope Francis as the heart of the entire family, are the foundation on which love can grow and thrive. By the grace of the sacrament of marriage and their commitment to their vows, husbands and wives build families that can be a sign of God’s unending love in the world. Their fruitfulness starts in their own home and then expands and in countless ways makes God’s love present in society.

The fruit of each family will be different. God calls some families to

bring new life into their home by birth, adoption or foster care. He calls other families to care for the elderly, sick, poor or suffering. Still others he calls to social justice efforts or to prayer. Or a family’s

fruit may be “being strong for friends,” which was my daughter’s answer when she was asked how she lived out her mission of spreading joy to others. Regardless of what this looks like for your family, I pray that we all remain open and receptive to God’s love and live out the joyful calling that He has given us.



A stained-glass window depicts a married couple's union. CNS photo/Zita Ballinger Fletcher

When the beauty of marriage hurts

By Keith F. Luscher

As we go through this month of February celebrating the beauty and joy of marriage, let us also remember a certain group among us – Catholic or not—who share this appreciation. For this group, however, this appreciation may lead to sadness or even despair.

I am referring to those who are experiencing marital separation and divorce. Since divorce in our culture has become so common, including among Catholics, the anguish it causes those involved is often trivialized and sometimes ignored.

Separation and/or divorce is painful, yet the pain can be difficult for someone to comprehend without having experienced it himself or herself. I know this from my own experience. Before I went through a divorce many years ago, I remember knowing several people who had been divorced. In hindsight, I was not nearly as aware of, or sensitive to, their pain as I wish I had been.

When I became divorced, I began

to feel and exhibit almost a disdain for marriage. I recall a friend casually asking me, “So, do you think you’ll ever marry again?” My automatic response was on the level of “No way!”

I suppose that is normal and part of the healing process. Indeed, it may serve a healthy purpose to prevent one from falling back too quickly into a disastrous “rebound” relationship or marriage. After all, healing takes time ... lots of it.

However, here is the irony: Over time, I have come to realize that the disdain I used to express at the notion of ever marrying again was rooted in my deep desire to do just that.

It is not my intention to write my story onto that of others, yet the wisdom of St. Augustine tells me that my story is not unique. This wisdom is revealed in what is perhaps Augustine’s most celebrated quote, “Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee.”

Here, St. Augustine is saying that in our hearts, there is an EMPTINESS that God placed there on purpose so we will seek Him out. God has gift-

ed us with this hunger that only He can fill, and he responds by inviting us into the sacraments of the Church, one of which is marriage. When God calls two people to the sacrament of matrimony, He calls them to give themselves completely to each other, asking them to be a sign of His love in the world. The beauty of marriage is what also makes the anguish of divorce all the more real to our brothers and sisters who experience it.

I have heard the experience of divorce likened to losing a limb, a trauma that never leaves you completely. To this I can only attest. It also serves as a reminder to me and to all of us that we have a responsibility to love, shepherd and reach out to those in our parishes and communities who are experiencing it. We must allow Christ to use us in helping bring hope and healing to our hurting neighbors and ensure they continue to feel that they have a place in our church, lest they leave, which happens every day.

So if you have experienced divorce in your life and the pain continues, please know that you are not alone. Your God and your church love you

and are here for you. Even if you have not experienced suffering in this way, consider this a gentle reminder to reach out and love those who have.

And as for my apparent “disdain” for marriage ... it has been healed by the Great Physician. He showed me that my heart can only find rest in Him and that He is calling me to the vocation of married life, which I will be celebrating in the near future. And as I prepare to receive the graces that await me, I realize that the beauty of marriage doesn’t hurt any more.

Keith F. Luscher is a revert to the Catholic Church after a 25-year absence. He is soon to be remarried and is an active member of Columbus St. Catharine Church and a co-founder of Non Solum Columbus (Divorced-CatholicColumbus.org), an apostolate and pastoral community of Catholic men and women, lay leaders and clergy dedicated to providing pastoral support, love and practical guidance for fellow Catholics who are experiencing or have experienced the trauma of marital separation or divorce. He can be reached at keith.luscher@gmail.com or at (614) 205-0830.

It's time to share the church's best-kept secret

By Jennifer Fullin
Diocesan NFP Coordinator

Why can't I be more like my husband? Frank recently told me how (once again) he had talked with someone he'd met about Natural Family Planning, aka NFP. Over a business lunch, an acquaintance had shared that he and his wife were struggling to conceive a child, so Frank told him about NFP's success in assisting couples to achieve pregnancy.

Previously, Frank had suggested to a female co-worker who was complaining about taking the Pill that maybe she should try giving up the hormones for a more natural method of family planning – one that has no side effects and minimal cost. How does my husband manage to discuss such an intimate topic with people he hardly knows?!

Natural Family Planning is sometimes called the church's best-kept secret. Since NFP respects the love-giving and life-giving natures of marriage, faithful Catholic couples may use NFP for family planning in good conscience.

NFP is not just "Catholic birth control" – it is a conscious lifestyle that can enrich the bond between husband and wife. NFP requires mutual responsibility for family planning, encouraging communication and fostering respect, maturity and generosity – qualities conducive to a long and healthy marriage. Yet clergy, teachers, catechists and practicing couples seem reluctant to share the good news of NFP.

While the reasons that people may hesitate to talk about Natural Family Planning vary, most often it's because of fear. We fear that we will offend, be

judged, or be unprepared to respond to cynics. I know, because I am one of those who fears to speak out about NFP. That's problematic, since I am the diocesan coordinator for NFP. I spend my working hours promoting and teaching NFP, yet my heart is in my throat every time I speak about it for the first time to someone.

If, like me, you are convinced of the blessings of Natural Family Planning yet struggle to share it with others, here are some suggestions taken from Katie Waldrow's article "Everyday Evangelization: 6 Ways to Talk More About NFP" (*Family Foundations*, Oct. 28).

Before starting a conversation about NFP, learn more about what it is and why the church teaches it. A good place to start is our diocesan NFP webpages at www.columbuscatholic.org. Don't charge into a conversation with an overly pious or scientific view

point; instead share your own unique NFP story. Bridge the gap from NFP as an unreachable standard to something that is relatable and doable. Be open to talking about NFP in unlikely venues such as the grocery store, a dental checkup, or even – as in the case of my husband – at a bar. Listen to others' concerns and respond truthfully, sharing the struggles of NFP as well as its joys. Invite the Holy Spirit to guide your conversation!

Speaking the truth about Natural Family Planning takes grace and courage, but we are called and capable of giving our own NFP witness. Frank shouldn't have all the fun of sharing the church's best kept secret!

Recommended reading: The Sinner's Guide to Natural Family Planning, by Simcha Fisher. For more on NFP, contact Fullin at jfullin@columbuscatholic.org or (614) 241-2560.

COUPLE'S LOVE, continued from Page 9

love are invested and seen only in later generations or in those touched by the married love of the couple?

This expanding circle of love and grace is the call of those who have agreed to enter into the great mystery of Christ's love for the church.

The sacrament of marriage sends you, married couples, on a mission. But you are also equipped with an abundance of gifts. Sherry Weddell writes in her book *Forming Intention-*

al Disciples, "The grace we receive is directly related to the personal faith, spiritual expectancy, and hunger with which we approach the sacrament." If you feel as if your married love has run dry, turn with that hunger to the graces of the sacrament. You receive in proportion to your desire and openness. And, in turn, you are expected to give what you have received from the heart of Christ as a priceless gift to your family, the church and the world."



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PRAYER FOR MARRIED COUPLES

Almighty and eternal God,

You blessed the union of married couples so that they might reflect the union of Christ with his Church: look with kindness on them. Renew their marriage covenant, increase your love in them, and strengthen their bond of peace so that, with their children, they may always rejoice in the gift of your blessing.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



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Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

In the sight of the angels I will
sing your praises, Lord

Father
Timothy
Hayes

Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8
Psalm 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

When did it happen for you? Or has it happened yet? Can you identify the moment when you came to the realization that you were invited by God Himself to do a job, even though you may feel inadequate to do it?

We hear the Gospel story of the response that Jesus received from Peter and Andrew, James and John. They left *everything* to follow Jesus. If only we could all respond to the Lord's call so directly!

But something else was going on there. In a time and culture when family was everything, these men were breaking out on their own, leaving behind the family business. Before Jesus came on the scene, they were doing what they were supposed to do – fishing at the right time. And when they finished doing what they had learned from centuries of fishing – fathers teaching sons how to do it – they were cleaning their nets, doing their chores, just as they had been taught. Jesus came to them. He entered their world. And then He demanded that they make a decision about entering His.

What happened to the fishing business? Mark's Gospel happily mentions that Zebedee had some hired hands. There is no word that they left Zebedee on his own. After the Resurrection, Peter made use of a boat to go fishing, just before his dramatic rehabilitation with the threefold question about his love for Jesus. So he must have had someone to care for the boat while he was away. Other indications that fishing was still part of their world are there, too. Recall how Jesus paid the Temple tax for Himself and Peter: it was the fish with the coin. We

also see the disciples in a boat on other occasions, with Jesus sleeping there or with Jesus walking by them on the water. Their world and Jesus' world are brought together by their cooperation with His grace and by their acceptance of His guidance.

Our response is not always as it should be. We fail to cooperate fully with what God demands of us, both in this world and in our relation to the next. Isaiah gives us the solution to that problem: to acknowledge that we are unclean persons who are fully enmeshed in an unclean world and to wait for the angel, sent by God, to purify us. God takes us where we are, but He does not leave us there.

Paul reminds us that "it has been handed on to us as of first importance" what the Church of every generation has also received: "that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures; that He was buried; that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures; that He appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve," and to many others in the first generation of Christianity, including St. Paul.

Christ continues to reveal Himself to us in our day, in Word and Sacrament, and in the life we share as Church, the life we are to share with our children and with any open to hear the truth. By the grace of God, we are what we are, and His grace to us has not been ineffective. So we preach and so we believe.

In our time, we are meant to throw in our lot with the Church, to risk all we are on belonging to her and to living according to her teachings. There is a cost. Just as the first disciples left everything to follow Jesus, we are to let go of our attachments to this world's allurements and to set our sights on the promises God has made to us. With the prophet Isaiah, we respond, "*Here I am, Lord. Send me.*" With the first disciples of Jesus, we "*put out into the deep for a catch*" so that we too can lead others to faith in Jesus Christ.

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

Living 'I Do' – Weekly Marriage Tips

Laughter is a great marriage builder, releases endorphins and decreases stress. What things make your spouse laugh? Be sure to take note! Make it a mission to give your spouse a stitch in the side tonight.

Diocesan Marriage and Family Life Office

THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

MONDAY

Genesis 1:1-19
Psalm 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10, 12, 24, 35c
Mark 6:53-56

TUESDAY

Genesis 1:20-2:4a
Psalm 8:4-9
Mark 7:1-13

WEDNESDAY

Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-17
Psalm 104:1-2a, 27-30
Mark 7:14-23

THURSDAY

Genesis 2:18-25
Psalm 128:1-5
Mark 7:24-30

FRIDAY

Genesis 3:1-8
Psalm 32:1-2, 5-7
Mark 7:31-37

SATURDAY

Genesis 3:9-24
Psalm 90:2-6, 12-13
Mark 8:1-10

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE: FEB. 10, 2019

SUNDAY MASS

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

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

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

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

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

DAILY MASS

8 a.m., Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Birmingham, Ala. (Encores at noon, 7 p.m. and midnight). See EWTV above; and on I-Lifetv (Channel 113 in Ada, Logan, Millersburg, Murray City and Washington C.H.; Channel 125 in Marion, Newark, Newcomerstown and New Philadelphia; and Channel 207 in Zanesville);

8 p.m., St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com.

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

EDITOR, continued from Page 2

faith, it's true of every generation," Bishop Brennan said. "And he says the antidote to that is the joy of the gospel. The joy of the gospel wakes us up and gives us a sense of hope and direction. And so I'll often talk about that phrase.

"I find that those two pieces go very well together. The gospel of Jesus Christ teaches us something about truth, and that truth has great joy in it. And so if we're to encapsulate how I view the needs of the world, and what we as a church need to do, is to proclaim the joy of the gospel of Jesus Christ."

As for the needs in Columbus, he said, "I'm still learning, but from what I've heard, we have a really good flock here in Columbus. I've

heard some really very fine things about the parishes and the people who are engaged in church life.

"I think that's a starting point. We have some very good news that people are engaged in the life of the church here in Columbus.

"That said, forgive me if I sound like a broken record, there's nothing more powerful than joy, the joy of the gospel. There's nothing more powerful than that. Living the gospel with joy. That's more profound than any homily I could ever give. So that's where I come from."

He's a fan of the New York Mets and St. John's University, his alma mater. And he has already learned "O-H, I-O," which will endear him to Buckeyes fans.

The moral depravity of Andrew Cuomo and friends

Writing recently on women seeking the presidency and the “likability” factor in our politics, Peggy Noonan made a tart observation: “There are a lot of male candidates with likability problems. Some, such as Andrew Cuomo, a three-term governor of a large state, are so unlikable they aren’t even mentioned as contenders.”

Without contesting Miss Noonan’s point, I’d like to offer an addendum: Andrew Cuomo is too morally depraved to be the president of the United States – or the governor of New York, for that matter.

Of all the obscenities surrounding Gov. Cuomo’s Jan. 22 signing of a bill whose title (“The Reproductive Health Act”) would make George Orwell gag, the most cringe-inducing was the signing ceremony itself. You can watch it on YouTube, if you’ve the stomach for it (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=43VhkcIO5Gw>).

The ceremony is replete with the self-congratulatory political blather to which many of us have become inured. What is truly sickening is the unholy glee with which Cuomo signed this sordid bill – a demonic mirth shared by the other miscreants on the platform with him.

Just what are these people celebrating?

The New York RHA declares abortion on demand, at any moment in a pregnancy, up to birth, to be a funda-



THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

mental right. A healthy infant born in New York State today could have been legally killed yesterday, according to the RHA. And the killing would not be pretty. For third-trimester abortions involve either poisoning the unborn child or collapsing its skull by the grotesque procedure known as “dilation and extraction.” The mother then gives “birth” to a dead baby who’s been executed in a manner that would revolt anyone with an iota of feeling were similar violence perpetrated on a dog or cat.

I recently met a young man who was born at 24 weeks of gestation, when he weighed a little over a pound. My young friend was considered a child, a living member of the human community, when he spent months in the neonatal intensive care unit of his local hospital. The New York RHA permits children of the exact same gestational age to be surgically chopped up in the womb (“dilation and curettage”) – and its sponsors imagine this legal license to dismember a helpless human being while inflicting excruciating pain to be a civilizational advance, rather

than the reversion to barbarism it is.

The gory-body-parts school of pro-life activism has never appealed to me, because women caught in the dilemma of unplanned pregnancy are looking for friends who will offer them compassion and assistance, not force them to watch the obstetrical equivalent of *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*. But the unprecedented nature of the New York RHA demands that Andrew Cuomo and friends be confronted with the reality of what they wrought and what they celebrate – which is the legal butchery of innocent children.

There are more than 3,300 crisis pregnancy centers in the United States. They embody the virtue of solidarity by offering women in crisis the life-affirming care of real medicine, not the death-dealing witchcraft of the abortionist. With humane alternatives readily available, it is ludicrous to claim, as Cuomo and friends do, that access to abortion until birth is an imperative of justice. Indeed, any such claim makes a mockery of any rational concept of justice, for the

New York RHA legalizes the brutal exercise of raw power over an innocent human life.

Another facet of this awfulness demands attention: Andrew Cuomo, and all pro-“choice” politicians who self-identify as Catholics, bespeak a massive failure of catechesis and Christian formation in the Church in the United States. In the face of that failure, the people of the Church, ordained and lay, are called to a stringent examination of conscience. When bishops fail to declare, in the strongest and clearest terms, that support for immoral bills such as the New York RHA puts the legislator or executive in a gravely impaired position within the communion of the Church, their dereliction of duty compounds that catechetical failure. When lay Catholics dodge the abortion issue in conversation because it’s too uncomfortable or might make them look “conservative” or “anti-feminist,” they betray the Gospel and amplify the catechetical failures of the past and present.

Moral depravity stalks the land. Calling it such is deemed “extremist” by United States senators. We all have work to do. And we all must summon the courage to do it.

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

LOCAL NEWS, continued from Page 5

Catholic Social Services gala set for March 2

The annual Spirit of Hope gala sponsored by Catholic Social Services will take place from 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday, March 2 in the Walter Commons of Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, 2010 E. Broad St.

The event will include a hosted bar, plated dinner, entertainment by the Harmony Project choral group, and auction opportunities. Guests are asked to dress in formal attire (black tie optional). Tickets are \$250, with sponsorships available. Registration is transferable, but no refunds will be available.

The driving force behind all of Catholic Social Services’ efforts is Spirit – the spirit of hope, the spirit of giving and the Spirit of God.

This same Spirit drives Catholic So-

cial Services to provide care to more than 33,000 people each year. The agency strives to take on the toughest issues of poverty throughout the Diocese of Columbus and build partnerships to provide greater service to the community. The Spirit of Hope gala helps CSS continue this anti-poverty movement.

For more information, contact Julie Naproano at jnaproano@colscs.org.

Catholic Record Society to meet March 10

The Catholic Record Society’s quarterly meeting will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 10 at St. Therese’s Retreat Center, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus.

Julie McGhee will present “Our Place of Springs With Deep Roots and Wide Influence: The Story of St. Mary of the Springs Academy,” telling the

story of how the Dominican Sisters educated young girls, first in Somerset and later in Columbus, from their arrival in Ohio in 1832 until the closing of the academy in 1966.

McGhee, who lives in Westerville, is a 1956 graduate of the academy and a 1960 graduate of Mount St. Joseph University. She was a teacher for 31 years in Columbus Catholic and public schools and has been a professional storyteller for 18 years. She and club chairman J. Michael Finn, Anne DeVoe, Kathryn Hess and William McGhee published a book, *Transplanted Shamrocks: Recollections of Central Ohio’s Irish-Americans*, in 2012.

A hot lunch will be available for \$10 before the meeting. Reservations are required by Friday, March 1. Make checks payable to the Diocese of Co-

lumbus and send them to Catholic Record Society, 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215. There will be a short business meeting following the talk.

For more information, contact Finn at (614) 268-4166 or FCoolavin@aol.com.

Living Faith Award nominations sought

The Spirituality Network, a multifaith organization, is seeking nominations for the 28th annual Living Faith Awards.

The awards recognize laypersons whose faith is both “lived” and “alive” in ways that inspire, challenge and serve. They embody the values of peacemaking, tending to the “least of these,” caring for creation, and loving neighbor and self.

See LOCAL NEWS, Page 18



PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

BARR, Janet A. (Medwid), 64, Feb. 2
St. Joan of Arc Church, Powell

BAUMANN, Sharon A. (Beedy), 60, Jan. 28
St. Catharine Church, Columbus

BREWER, Marcus J., 59, Jan. 18
St. Peter Church, Columbus

CIPRIANO, Frank J. II, 82, Jan. 30
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

DeVERE, Mary "Jeannette," 86, Jan. 29
St. Anthony Church, Columbus

DOYLE, Catherine J. "Dolly" (Apolito), 82, Jan. 31
Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus

FRENCH, Leora M. (Meier), 95, Feb. 2
Corpus Christi Church, Columbus

GOODALL, Betty J. (Bricker), 100, Feb. 2
St. Patrick Church, Columbus

GOYAK, Mildred M. (Six), 98, Jan. 27
St. Margaret of Cortona Church, Columbus

GRIMM, James J., 93, Feb. 2
Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus

HOWLETT, Carol A., 78, Jan. 30
St. Peter Church, Columbus

INTERRANTE, Russell C., 90, Jan. 30
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

LITTLE, Mary A. (Gibson), 102, Jan. 23
Christ the King Church, Columbus

MARKOS, Stephen L., 83, Feb. 1
St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

MAXWELL, Valerie L. (Lowe), 78, Feb. 3
St. Paul Church, Westerville

PASDEN, John J., 86, Feb. 1
St. Anthony Church, Columbus

REICHLEY, Ronald J., 79, Feb. 1
St. Catharine Church, Columbus

SIMON, Joseph P. Jr., 63, Feb. 2
St. Matthew Church, Gahanna

WILLIAMS, Kevin A., 59, Jan. 25
St. Dominic Church, Columbus

Deacon William T. Gorman

Funeral Mass for Deacon William T. Gorman, 93, who died on Monday, Jan. 28, was celebrated on Friday, Feb. 1 at Wooster St. Mary Church.

He was ordained as a deacon of the Diocese of Columbus on June 29, 1985 at St. Joseph Cathedral by Bishop James Griffin. He served in the diocese at Millersburg St. Peter (1985-94) and Glenmont Ss. Peter and Paul (1985-91) churches.

He and his wife moved to Westlake in the Diocese of Cleveland in 1994 to be closer to their children and grandchildren. He served at Westlake St. Ladislas Church from 1994-2008, when he retired from active diaconal ministry. He continued to assist with Communion calls and visiting the sick through Wooster St. Mary Church, especially at an assisted living facility where he and his wife lived for many years until he entered hospice care a few weeks ago.

He was born on Nov. 3, 1925, in Gloucester City, New Jersey, to John and Viola Gorman. He graduated in 1943 from Gloucester Catholic High



School and was a medic in the Army during World War II and the occupation of Europe. He was discharged from the service in 1946 and received a bachelor of arts degree from St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia in 1950.

He was employed by Owens-Illinois, Inc. in 1950, worked for the company in New Jersey and Illinois, and retired as manager of its Berlin, Ohio plant in 1986. He was involved with several community organizations in Holmes County, including the Red Cross, Millersburg Rotary Club, Wayne-Holmes Mental Health Center, the county library board and the county education as-

sociation.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife of 58 years, Catherine (Hartman); brothers, John, Charles, Joseph and Robert; and sister, Katherine. Survivors include three sons, Tom, Bob (Kathy) and Pat (Denise); and a daughter, Mary Anne (Don) Cunningham; as well as four grandsons and six granddaughters, each of whom he baptized.

Antoinette "Toni" Sapp

Funeral Mass for Antoinette "Tony" Sapp, 74, who died on Thursday, Jan. 24, was celebrated on Wednesday, Jan. 30 at Columbus St. Mary Magdalene Church. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was born on Oct. 30, 1934 to the late Nicolo and Concetta Sulprizio.

She was employed in the St. Mary

Magdalene School cafeteria for 19 years and was a member of the parish choir.

Survivors include her husband, John; sons, John (Cathi) and David; daughters, Christine (Brian Buerkle) and Kathleen (Mark) Swies; five grandsons; one granddaughter; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Paula White

A funeral service will take place Saturday, Feb. 23 at the Schoedinger Northwest Chapel in Columbus for Paula White, 75, who died on Friday, Jan. 24.

She was a 1961 graduate of St Mary of the Springs Academy in Columbus and earned a bachelor of science degree in social studies and elementary education.

She was an educator who began her career teaching second-graders at Columbus St. Agatha School, put her career on hold to raise children, then was a special education teacher and an intervention services coordinator for the Upper Arlington School District from 1982 to 2013, continuing to

work after that as a consultant.

She was a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority and volunteered for Nationwide Children's Hospital, Twig 122, the Pleasure Guild, the COSI Women's Association and other organizations.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Paul and Enerina (Centofanti) DiPaolo; husband, Roger; a brother, Richard; and sisters, Mary Casanta, Florence Casanta, Esther Gibson and Nevina. Survivors include a son, Andy (Amelia Nicklaus); a daughter, Wendy; a brother, Paul; sisters, Louise Keefe and Teresa Montavon; and three grandsons.

To have an obituary printed in the Catholic Times, send it to tpuet@columbuscatholic.org

PRAYER TO THE VIRGIN (Never known to fail)

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

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LOCAL NEWS, continued from Page 15

In addition to the Living Faith Awards, The Spirituality Network also will present the Alvin R. Hadley Award, recognizing exemplary work in the field of social justice; the Interfaith/Multicultural Award, to an individual who strives to create bridges of understanding and acceptance across traditions; and the Hope for Tomorrow Award, to a young adult aged 18 to 30 who lives his or her faith through service, leadership and personal integrity.

Nomination forms may be found and submitted on the Spirituality Network site: <http://www.spiritualitynetwork.org/livingfaith.html>. The deadline for nominations is Saturday, Feb. 12. The awards breakfast will be at the Jewish Community Center, 1125 College Ave., Columbus, on Thursday, May 2.

Catholic Rural Life receives five-year grant

Catholic Rural Life (CRL) has received a \$1 million grant to help establish its Thriving in Rural Ministry program.

This grant is part of the Lilly Endowment Inc.'s Thriving in Ministry initiative, which supports religious organizations across the nation as they create programs that help pastors build relationships with experienced clergy mentors and guide them through leadership challenges. Through the initiative, the Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment is giving nearly \$70 million in grants.

CRL seeks to create a program that will serve pastors of rural communities by offering retreats for them to come together and learn from one another, deepen relationships, and build fraternal communities that go beyond the retreats. CRL will use the grant to create a network of pastors serving rural communities who can encourage, sharpen and help one another. The agency has served rural communities throughout the nation for more than 95 years.

Currently, many pastors serving in

rural communities are responsible for multiple parishes that are separated by long distances. This is a dynamic that is challenging for these priests. "Many pastors have told us of their feelings of isolation and need for fellowship with peers and wise mentors," said CRL executive director James Ennis.

Catholic Rural Life is one of 78 Catholic, mainline and evangelical Protestant, and Orthodox organizations from 29 states that are taking part in the Thriving in Ministry initiative. Thriving in Ministry is part of the Lilly Endowment's grant-making to strengthen pastoral leadership in Christian congregations in the United States.

Catholic War Veterans offer scholarships

The Thomas J. Cuite Scholarship Foundation of the Catholic War Veterans is offering four scholarships of \$1,000 each to any high school senior with a parent or grandparent who is a member of the Catholic War Veterans or if he or she is a child or grandchild of a deceased Catholic veteran.

The scholarship was established to perpetuate the aims and ideals of the Catholic War Veterans by rendering financial assistance and encouraging young Catholics to seek greater achievement via higher education.

If you know of a high school senior interested in applying for the scholarship, contact Mary Ann Janning at majanning@gmail.com. The deadline to apply is Wednesday, May 1.

Resurrection to present Lenten reflection

The New Albany Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road, will present a Lenten evening of Scripture and sacred music, reflecting on the seven sorrows of Mary, at 7 p.m. Friday, March 15.

The presentation is recommended for those age 10 and older. There will be no Stations of the Cross that night.



Catholic War Veterans contest winners

Pictured with David Nixon of Catholic War Veterans Post 1963 are members of American Heritage Girls Troop 0031, from Columbus St. Patrick Church, who were winners of the post's Veterans Day and Keep Christ in Christmas poster contests (both for students in grades three to five) and Keep Christ in Christmas coloring page contest (for kindergarten through second-grade students). They are (from left): Veronica Fouts, Libby Chenault, Maggie Fouts, Anne Rainer, Keelan Hamilton and Marie Rainer.

Photo courtesy Catholic War Veterans Post 1936

we're hiring!

The Catholic Foundation is looking for a full or part time Administrative Coordinator.

Qualified candidates should submit a resume and cover letter to kshuey@catholic-foundation.org.



To learn more, visit www.catholic-foundation.org or call 614-443-8893.

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Hartley presents "12 Angry Jurors"

The Columbus Bishop Hartley High School drama department will present the drama *12 Angry Jurors* at 7 p.m. Thursday to Saturday, Feb. 14 to 16 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 17 at the Columbus Performing Arts Center, 549 Franklin Ave. All tickets are \$8 and may be reserved by emailing BishopHartleyTheatre@gmail.com.

The play, written by Reginald Rose, was widely acclaimed when

it was shown on television in 1954 and again when it was made into a movie starring Henry Fonda and Lee J. Cobb in 1957.

The courtroom drama focuses on 12 jurors who are to decide the fate of a young man on trial for murder. As the deliberations proceed, tempers get short and arguments get heated, leading to the jury's conclusion of guilt or innocence.

Ohio Dominican, local Catholic high schools donate items to trafficking victims, homeless

The Ohio Dominican University community joined central Ohio Catholic high school students on Saturday, Jan. 26 to support victims of human trafficking and homelessness. ODU hosted "Not for Sale: Coming Together to End Human Trafficking" in recognition of Human Trafficking Awareness Month and in support of

ficking and homelessness.

"It was wonderful to watch our campus community come together with students from our local Catholic high schools as they worked to put their passion for social justice into action," said Andy White, director of student involvement at ODU. "The amazing results of this event clearly show the kind of profound impact we can have as a community when we step up and heed the call to serve."

The project was initiated after a group of students from Lancaster Fisher Catholic High School presented the idea during a service project competition at ODU's Catholic High School Day last spring.

During the competition, students worked together to identify a project that benefited a particular organization or individuals in need in the community.

A panel of judges from ODU named the Fisher Catholic proposal as the winner and awarded the group \$1,000 to help turn the idea into reality. That award money went toward materials and items donated during the event.

In addition to collecting and packaging items, attendees also had an opportunity to hear a presentation by April Thacker, a survivor of human trafficking.



Students package food and hygiene items for victims of human trafficking and homelessness at Ohio Dominican University on Saturday, Jan. 26.

Photo courtesy Ohio Dominican University

the university's 2018-19 academic theme of "justice."

Participants donated more than 150 new sweatshirts, packaged 50 food and hygiene kits, created 10 fleece blankets and donated 50 \$5 gift cards to McDonald's. Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School students also presented a check for nearly \$1,500 for Sister Nadine Buchanan, OP, an advocate for victims of human traf-

Bishop Ready presents Neil Simon's "Rumors"

The winter production of Columbus Bishop Ready High School's theater department is Neil Simon's comedy *Rumors*, a play described as producing a "severe attack of farce."

Rumors runs at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 15 and 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 16 and 17 at the school, 707 Salisbury Road.

The play takes place at a tastefully appointed townhouse where the participants have gathered for a 10th anniversary celebration. A group of young up-and-coming professionals includes a well-to-do lawyer (played by Dominic Tokar), his wife, also a lawyer (Julianne Pece), a wealthy accountant (John Pyles) and his wife (Grace Larger), a psychiatrist (Sandon Skuce) and his wife, who has her own cooking show (Annemarie Schofield), a man running for state Senate (Daniel Hamilton) and his wife (Brigitte Bowman), and two police officers (Victor Lockwood and Stephanie Silié).

A gunshot causing temporary



Cast members of the comedy "Rumors," to be performed at Columbus Bishop Ready High School from Feb. 15-17, include (from left): first row, Brigitte Bowman and Dominic Tokar; second row, John Pyles, Grace Larger and Julianne Pece.

Photo courtesy Bishop Ready High School

"deafness, and a need to cover up an unfortunate accident, lead to the comedy that Simon described as something different for him, unlike anything else he had ever written.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$9 for students and \$8 for those 65 and older. For more information, call (614) 276-5263.

Confirmation class includes three parishes



Bishop Frederick Campbell administered the Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday, Jan. 27 at Columbus St. Matthias Church to 47 young people from the host parish and Columbus St. Anthony and Ss. Augustine & Gabriel churches. Pictured with the bishop in the first row are priests serving the three parishes.

Photo courtesy St. Anthony School

New bishop 'incredibly happy' with assignment



Incoming Bishop Robert Brennan gives a blessing to seminarians from the Pontifical College Josephinum who attended a noonday Mass on Thursday, Jan. 31 at St. Joseph Cathedral after he was announced as the diocese's new bishop. CT photos by Ken Snow



Bishop Robert Brennan (second from right) concelebrates his first Mass in Columbus with Bishop Frederick Campbell (second from left) on the Feast of St. John Bosco. Assisting are Deacons Thomas Berg Jr. (left) and Jim Gorski.

TRANSITION, *continued from Page 4*

St. Robert Bellarmine. He was a man of great wisdom in troubled times and had the ability to get people to look deeper into questions rather than just kneejerk reactions. I come from the Diocese of Rockville Centre, where St. Agnes is an important saint of us, the patroness of our cathedral. She was a teenage saint who gave her life rather than give in to false promises or persecution. She's a teenager who teaches us. We have a lot of learn from our young people and Agnes is a good example of that.

Very recently, on Long Island, we have a large Hispanic community but largely Salvadorans, and so there was great joy on Long Island this year with the canonization of St. Oscar Romero. Lots of favorite saints, yes.

Question: Do you ever see this diocese releasing a list of clergy who have been accused of sexual abuse?

Bishop Brennan: My understanding is that's under review right now. Again, brand new here, so I don't know enough about it. But I've seen and understand that's that underway.

Question: What's your experience in the past with that issue? Is this something that you've been involved with?

Bishop Brennan: I have not personally been involved in it. In the Diocese of Rockville Centre, for example, we work very closely with the local law enforcement, with the DA's office, and it gets to be a complicated matter. If you go and release lists of names like that, you have to be very accurate and you have to be very careful. That's a complicated process. I don't know enough about it here to be

able to comment any more than that.

Question: Is that something you think is important for a diocese to review?

Bishop Brennan: It's a hard question to answer because I think the first order of business is to work closely with law enforcement and so that is something (we've done) where I come from and they've been doing here for a long time. I think that's really the first order of business. The actual release of names, it's very complicated. Like I said, I don't know enough. I think I'm going to have to get up to speed pretty quickly.

Question: As you probably know, (the Diocese of) Columbus said that they were going to release these records back in September over the next couple of months. The other dioceses have already released the lists. Do you anticipate the list being released before the transition happens in March? Is that list going to be available?

Bishop Brennan: I don't know.

Bishop Campbell: We are in the final process of organizing that list. We wanted to be extremely careful in it as we put the names together. The chancellor of the diocese, who as chancellor is primarily responsible for the documents and records of the Church, has worked very hard over the past months to get everything going back to 1868, which was the foundation of the diocese. And we are now working with our legal people to complete that list. We wanted it to be reviewed by our lay review board. Yes, we are preparing the list, but we wanted to be really careful about it because of all of the emotions, all of the questions that will surround

it. We wanted to be very careful.

Question: Have you had a particular pastoral focus as auxiliary bishop of Rockville Centre and how do you see yourself going forward connecting with different groups and ministries?

Bishop Brennan: I've been very fortunate in 30 years as a priest to have had such a wide variety of pastoral experiences, both inside of church administration and at the parish level. I think I've been just about everywhere and enjoyed it all. Being a priest is such a wonderful adventure, you know. Just the simple fact of being a priest opens up so many doors, so many horizons, invites you so many areas of peoples' lives and community life and Church life.

I've been working a lot lately with the immigrant community on Long Island and they've been embraced me with tremendous kindness. I'm humbled by their goodness to me. Over the years, I had done a fair amount of work in youth ministry. Over the years, I've worked in catechetical ministry. You name it in the parish, I've been there, not because of any virtue on my part but because of all of the opportunities and the good people who are so welcoming and inviting me into those areas of pastoral life.

Questions: Will vocations be a focus?

Bishop Brennan: Vocations will be a very important focus, a very important focus, and I know that Bishop Campbell has been working on that. I know that we have a very good tradition here. We have some very fine priests, some of whom I've already met, and are encouraging and inviting

others to become priests.

To those seminarians and to those considering priesthood, I give a lot of credit. It's never easy to make that decision, and to do so in a world that's in such tumult and in a church that's in such tumult requires tremendous heroism, and so I salute them and thank them for their response, and certainly encourage them. It's a great adventure being a priest, and if the Lord is calling someone to that – the same with religious life, a great adventure – I know some really fine religious women and men, and they would say the same thing about their lives and their vocation. If the Lord is stirring your heart, there's probably something to it and I certainly want to do what I can to encourage it.

Question: Can you talk about the tumultuous times the Church is facing? How does the Church survive going forward?

Bishop Brennan: That's an easy question. The Church survives through the Holy Spirit and in the presence of our Lord. Our part is a little more complicated. So we have to put our faith and our trust in the Holy Spirit. We have to follow the lead of the Holy Spirit, even though sometimes it's going to be difficult. Sometimes we're going to have to take difficult steps. Sometimes we're going to have to face some hard truths. But the fact of the matter is – I mentioned before I'm a little nervous, that's an understatement – but there's a certain confidence in knowing that the Holy Spirit will guide us and lead us to the truth and helps us to live that truth together with one another.