New rector: The Pontifical College Josephinum will have a new rector/president, Page 2

Vespers, installation: Orchestrating the events to usher in a new bishop takes a lot of people working in concert, Pages 3, 8, 9

‘Unplanned’: A film about a former Planned Parenthood facility director’s conversion to pro-life advocate debuts this week, Page 18

BISHOP CAMPBELL ENDS 14 YEARS AS DIOCESE’S SPIRITUAL LEADER Pages 10-13
New rector to lead Pontifical College Josephinum

Father Steven P. Beseau, assistant professor of moral theology at The Athenaeum of Ohio in Cincinnati, has been selected as the 17th rector/president of the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus.

He will assume the position on Monday, July 1, succeeding Msgr. Christopher Schreck whose five-year tenure in the position ends on Sunday, June 30.

Columbus Bishop Frederick Campbell, vice chancellor of the Josephinum, shared the news in person with the seminary community on Tuesday, March 19, the Feast of St. Joseph, 10 days before Bishop Campbell is to be succeeded as bishop of Columbus by Bishop Robert Brennan, auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, New York.

Bishop Brennan at that time also will become the college’s vice chancellor, a position traditionally held by the bishop of Columbus at the Josephinum, the only pontifical seminary outside of Italy.

Father Beseau’s appointment was announced in official correspondence from Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States of America, by means of a decree from Cardinal Beniamino Stella, prefect of the Vatican Congregation for the Clergy in Rome.

Father Beseau was present for the announcement of his appointment.

“It is a great honor to be appointed by the Congregation for Clergy as the 17th president/rector of the Pontifical College Josephinum,” he said. “Aware of its great history, its esteemed alumni and excellent faculty, I am grateful for and humbled by this appointment and ask for your prayers.”

Father Beseau was ordained as a priest of the Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kansas, in 1995 and holds bachelor of sacred theology and master of divinity degrees from the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Illinois, and a licentiate and a doctorate in sacred theology (both summa cum laude) from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Rome, Italy). He has been teaching at the Cincinnati seminary since 2016.

From 2009 to 2016, he was director of the St. Lawrence Catholic Campus Center in Lawrence, Kansas. He earlier was a pastor and high school chaplain in the Archdiocese of Kansas City.

Additional assignments and memberships Father Beseau held within the archdiocese include: chaplain for the Daughters of St. Francis DeSales and the Catholic Medical Association; founder and director of the St. Lawrence Institute for Faith and Culture; diocesan pastoral life committee chair; and member of the diocesan presbyteral council and college of consultants.

He was appointed after a search and interview process conducted by a special committee of the seminary’s board of trustees.

“The seminary is blessed to welcome such a highly qualified priest whose impressive credentials, including extensive pastoral experience and seminary formation, equip him so well for this position,” said the board’s chair, Bishop Terry LaValley of Ogdensburg, New York. “We pledge our prayers and support to Father Beseau as he embraces this key role in leading young men in their journeys of discernment to the priesthood.”

“The entire Josephinum community enthusiastically welcomes Father Beseau and his abundant gifts of priestly leadership,” said Msgr. Schreck, a priest of the Diocese of Savannah, Georgia.

“We are confident that his appointment signals and again assures a dazzlingly bright future for the Josephinum’s work of preparing future priests, in continuing the tradition of our founder, Msgr. Joseph Jessing, and under the intercession and inspiration of St. Joseph, patron of the Universal Church.”

Although Father Beseau will assume his new position on July 1, his inauguration as president will take place in the fall, when seminarians and faculty have returned to campus at the conclusion of summer break.

“I extend my gratitude to Archbishop Pierre, Bishop Campbell, Bishop LaValley and the entire board of the Josephinum for their confidence in me,” Father Beseau said. “It is a privilege to be a part of the formation of seminarians, equipping them to be men of faithfulness, generosity and service. Through the intercession of St. Joseph, whose solemnity we celebrate today, I ask that the Lord grant the Josephinum seminary community peace, hope and joy.”

The 2019-2020 year of formation will be the Josephinum’s 131st year of educating men for the Catholic priesthood. Since its founding in 1888, more than 1,900 priests have received their formation and education at the college.
Bishop’s installation has ‘many moving parts’

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

Every Mass is special because it is where ordinary bread and wine are transformed into the body and blood of Christ. What sets a bishop’s installation Mass apart is that it happens so rarely in the life of a diocese.

When Auxiliary Bishop Robert Brennan of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, New York, is installed as bishop of Columbus on Friday, March 29, it will be the 12th time this has happened in the diocese’s 151-year history and only the third time it has occurred in the past 36 years.

Such a significant event takes considerable planning. The announcement of Pope Francis’ selection of Bishop Brennan to succeed retiring Bishop Frederick Campbell was made on Thursday, Jan. 31. Five days later, on Tuesday, Feb. 5, leaders of various departments of the Diocese of Columbus began weekly meetings to plan for both the installation Mass and an evening Vespers service, which will take place on Thursday, March 28.

The date for the installation was selected by Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the Vatican’s apostolic nuncio to the United States. Msgr. Moloney said he learned of the nuncio’s choice of date about a day or so before the announcement of Bishop Brennan’s appointment was made. “It’s been a whirlwind ever since,” he said.

The Mass and the Vespers service will take place at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, which has room in its sanctuary pews for about 500 people and can seat another 300 or so in chairs behind the altar. This limited capacity means that tickets are required for both the Vespers and the Mass.

Julie Greer of the diocesan Chancellor said each of the diocese’s 105 parishes was sent tickets for two lay representatives per event. Tickets also went to members of the diocesan clergy, religious sisters and representatives of diocesan schools, fraternal and service organizations, and ethnic communities, as well as to civic and ecumenical representatives and members and guests of the Brennan family.

Those unable to attend the events can watch them live on EWTN television and various online portals or listen to them on St. Gabriel Catholic Radio AM 820 in Columbus and FM 90.9 (Radio 90AM 820).

Music at Vespers, installation Mass will represent diversity

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

The Diocese of Columbus, especially in the Columbus metropolitan area, has become much more ethnically diverse in the past 36 years.

That is shown in the program for the Vespers service on Thursday, March 28 and the installation Mass on Friday, March 29 at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral for Bishop Campbell’s successor, Bishop Robert Brennan, auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, New York.

In addition to selections by the cathedral choir, the Vespers service will feature a Gospel choir consisting of members of Columbus Holy Rosary-St. John and St. Dominic churches and a Latino choir of representatives from diocesan parishes with large Hispanic populations.

The Mass will include several musical selections in Spanish and prayers of the faithful in eight languages.

“Bishop Brennan worked closely with the Hispanic community of the Rockville Centre diocese (which has about 500,000 Latino Catholics) and asked that the two services be as ethnically diverse as possible,” said Dr. Richard Fitzgerald, music director of the cathedral. “He specifically requested one hymn in Spanish, Canción del Misionero (Song of the Missionary) for Vespers.”

“This is a song with a beautiful lyric whose message translates in English to ‘Jesus is calling you,’” said Yvette Reategui of the diocesan Chancellor, who organized the Latino choir for the Vespers service. The hymn’s first verse, in English, is “Lord, take my new life and service, and give me newness of life. . . . Whirlwind ever since,” he said.

The Mass and the Vespers service will take place at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, which has room in its sanctuary pews for about 500 people and can seat another 300 or so in chairs behind the altar. This limited capacity means that tickets are required for both the Vespers and the Mass.

Julie Greer of the diocesan Chancellor said each of the diocese’s 105 parishes was sent tickets for two lay representatives per event. Tickets also went to members of the diocesan clergy, religious sisters and representatives of diocesan schools, fraternal and service organizations, and ethnic communities, as well as to civic and ecumenical representatives and members and guests of the Brennan family.

Those unable to attend the events can watch them live on EWTN television and various online portals or listen to them on St. Gabriel Catholic Radio AM 820 in Columbus and FM 90.9 (Radio 90AM 820).

See INSTALLATION, Page 8

See MUSIC, Page 8
Lenten series: Losing and finding Jesus in the Temple

By Sister Constance Veit, LSP

In this third of Mary’s sorrows, we jump ahead several years. St. Luke relates this scene in his Gospel (2:41-51):

“Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was 12 years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him.

“After three days, they found him in the Temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, ‘Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety.’ And he said to them, ‘Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?’

“But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart.”

This Scripture passage teaches us something important about Jesus and something equally important about his parents. First, we can see that at 12 years old, Jesus had an understanding of his uniqueness and his mission: “Did you not know that I had to be in my Father’s house?” Developing an identity of one’s own apart from one’s parents is a normal part of adolescence, and so Jesus was like other young people in this respect. By staying behind in Jerusalem without telling his parents, he was beginning to forge his own path in life. At age 12, he already knew who his real Father was, even though he had known Joseph as his earthly father since his birth.

Now let’s look at Mary’s reaction when she finds Jesus in the Temple. St. Luke tells us that Jesus’ parents did not understand what he said to them: “Son, why have you done this to us?”

Parents and other family members often fail to understand when a young person shares their dream of a vocation in the church. Ambition, social pressures and even anti-religious prejudice often prevent families from teaching their children to see life as a vocation given by God. The Gospel account of the adolescent Jesus, subject to his parents but able to detach himself from them to follow his own vocation, sheds light on how the Gospel influences family relationships.

Mary let her Son know that he had caused them anxiety, but she didn’t scold or discourage him. We are told that she kept all these things in her heart. I think this means that she tried the best she could to understand her Son as he was.

Pope St. John Paul II, who wrote so much about Mary, taught that there was a certain darkness to Mary’s faith; everything wasn’t always crystal clear. She must have suffered because of her inability to understand and the emotional distance from her Son this caused. But she kept it all in her heart, remained close to her Son and grew in faith. Her life was a progressive growth in faith; she didn’t always have it all together.

After this scene in the Temple, the Holy Family sort of falls off the radar and we don’t hear about them again until Jesus has reached adulthood and begun his public ministry. Mary is mentioned several times during Jesus’ active ministry; for example, at the wedding feast of Cana. She must have experienced ups and downs in her life as the Lord’s mother and first disciple, and there must have been many days when she just didn’t grasp what was happening.

I often reflect on Jesus’ first appearance in the synagogue in Nazareth. Although Mary’s presence isn’t mentioned, we can assume she was there, since it was their hometown. How must she have felt when her Son told his compatriots that a prophet is never welcome in his own country, and when they tried to throw him over the brow of the hill?

What we do know is that Mary persevered in faith through good times and bad, even when she didn’t understand.

Father Don Calloway, MIC, a Marian Father of the Immaculate Conception and popular author, said, “Our society, and this generation in particular, has grown up with a poor attitude for persevering. As soon as things don’t go our way,” he wrote, “we tend to jump ship and look for other options… As soon as there is some inconvenience or a burden, there is a tendency to try to ‘break free.’…” “If this relationship begins to cause me hardship, I’m out….”

Mary didn’t do this. She can teach us perseverance and faithfulness to our vocation, and she will obtain these graces for ourselves and for young people if we ask her for them.

Sister Constance Veit, LSP, is director of communications for the Little Sisters of the Poor.

---

Dominican Learning Center receives $9,900 grant

The Dollar General Literacy Foundation has awarded a $9,900 grant to the Dominican Learning Center to help more than 40 adult learners earn their GED, or high school equivalency degree. The grant is part of more than $150 million in grants awarded by the foundation since it was founded in 1993.

“A high school diploma or GED raises median weekly earnings by almost $200,” said center director Lisset Mendoza. “This increase in wages makes a real difference in the life of a family and in the financial health of the Central Ohio community.”

The center is the only facility in central Ohio that offers a Spanish-language GED program. Now in its second cycle, this program has an 80 percent graduation rate, and all of its new graduates have received promotions or pay raises at their jobs. Just as important is the boost in confidence and self-esteem that this educational opportunity has helped provide.

“Of all the successes that we have seen from the Spanish GED program, perhaps one of the most moving is from a woman who did not graduate,” Mendoza said. “This student stopped coming to class, and when she called to withdraw, she said, ‘I had no hope in my life. I was poor, my husband was abusing me. I truly had no hope. But this class showed me my own strength and has given me the confidence to leave my abuser and start my life again.’ That story is how education changes lives.”

The Dominican Learning Center has more than 400 adult learners enrolled from 49 nations. One of its goals is to promote peace and non-violence among central Ohio immigrant communities.

The center, located in Columbus’ south side, offers personalized, one-on-one education for adults with a wide variety of educational needs. Learners can improve their math or literacy skills, work toward a GED, learn English to prepare for citizenship, and sharpen computer skills.

Center staff members and 250 volunteer tutors meet with adult learners at libraries and other public locations convenient to the learner’s home or work. The center was founded in 1994 by the Dominican Sisters of Peace.
Local news and events

Turban Project moving to new home

The Turban Project has outgrown its space at Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center in Newark and is moving to the Look Up Center, 50 O’Bannon Ave., Newark. The Look Up Center is a faith-based community center that is donating the space, which is sufficient to allow for many years of growth by the project. Other donations are paying for moving and painting.

The project provides free headwear, blessed by a priest, to men, women and children who have lost their hair because of medical issues. Shipping also is free.

In the six-and-a-half years since its founding by Kathy Braidich, it has supplied more than 30,500 items. It is affiliated with 34 hospitals or treatment centers in central and southern Ohio and parts of Kentucky and West Virginia. It also has 13 independent satellite projects in other states, and seven more in other nations. Braidich said that in the past year, it doubled the previous year’s amount of items supplied.

The project runs solely on donations and always is in need of costume jewelry “bling,” fabric, decorative buttons, or gift cards to Joann Fabrics, Hobby Lobby or Walmart. Monetary donations may be sent to The Turban Project, 7871 Ridge Road, Frazeyburg OH 43822 or may be made via Paypal through the project’s website. www.turbanproject.com. It also has a Facebook page titled “The Turban Project.”

Bereavement ministry to meet

The Seasons of Hope Bereavement Ministry, sponsored by the North High Deanery, is continuing its latest six-week session on Sundays from March 31 to May 5 (except Easter Sunday) at Columbus Immaculate Conception Church, 414 E. North Broadway. With registration starting at 1:30 p.m. and a group sharing session from 2 to 4. The session began on Sunday, March 24.

St. Catharine breaks ground on expansion project

Columbus St. Catharine Church broke ground on Sunday, March 17, for the Msgr. David V. Sorohan Center and Adoration Chapel, which will include reception and meeting spaces, kitchen and storage areas, a prayer garden, additional classrooms for St. Catharine School, and a new preschool in the renovated former convent building. Pictured are (from left): Bruce Boylan, facilities director for the Diocese of Columbus; John Mackessy, campaign steering committee co-chair; Trish Schindler, campaign steering committee co-chair; Msgr. Sorohan, campaign steering committee honorary chair; Father Dan Dury, pastor; Deacon Chris Reis; Bill Riat, project development committee chair; Scott Harper, project architect; Jim Negron, senior vice president, Corna Kokosing Construction Co.; and Matt Palmer, campaign steering committee co-chair. Photo courtesy St. Catharine Church/Tim Magree

Lenten events at Newark St. Francis

Newark St. Francis de Sales Church, 40 Granville St., will have soup and bread suppers, followed by Stations of the Cross, on Thursday, April 4 and Thursday, April 11 and will host EWTN personality Dr. Ray Guarendi for a talk on Wednesday, April 10.

The suppers, to be served by representatives of various parish organizations, will be served at 6:30 p.m. in Johnson Hall. The Stations at 7 will be in different formats – Mary’s Way of the Cross on April 4, presented by the parish women’s group, and the Stations with Taize chant on April 11, featuring the parish choir.

Dr. Guarendi’s talk, “Passing On the Faith to Your Family,” will be at 7 p.m. April 10. Building, nurturing and restoring the faith of children and grandchildren in today’s world can be one of the hardest tasks of parents. With a mixture of biting humor and practicality, Guarendi will talk about how to bridge the gap between society’s idea of the best child-rearing practices and what Christian parents are called to do to ensure their children carry on the faith and get to heaven.

For more information on any of these events, call the parish office at (740) 345-9874.

ODU to host lecture on justice

Sister Megan McElroy, OP, will speak on “Justice – Seeing Catherine through Contemporary Eyes” at the annual St. Catherine of Siena lecture sponsored by Ohio Dominican University’s Center for Dominican Studies and office of academic affairs.

The talk will take place at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, April 25 in the Colonial Room of Sansbury Hall on the ODU campus, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus.

Sister Megan serves on the leadership team of the Dominican Sisters of Grand Rapids, Michigan, which she joined in 1988. She previously has been a pastoral associate in Sterling Heights, Michigan; a high school theology teacher in Lake Forest, Illinois; and co-director of the Collaborative
Wear ashes all day?: A blessing at Communion?

At Mass on Ash Wednesday, we heard the injunction from Matthew’s Gospel, “Take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them.” But I have found that wearing ashes is a recognizable reminder of the season for those whom I meet during the business day, and it can sometimes serve as a tool for evangelization.

(Recently, I explained to an associate at lunch the significance of ashes and the rules of the Lenten fast, and I noticed that he wound up eating less – although maybe he was simply being polite!) So my question is this: Should I wash off my ashes early in the day to honor the biblical directive or wear them throughout the day with the hope of prompting conversation about them? (Philadelphia)

I would say “Wear the ashes all day.” The passage you quote from (Matthew 6:1) is taken from Christ’s Sermon on the Mount, and earlier in that same sermon, Jesus had said, “Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father” (5:16).

It all has to do with motivation; what Jesus rules out is wearing ashes “to win the praise of others” (6:2). But that’s not why you are wearing them; your goal instead is to have people look at your forehead and wonder what it means.

The ashes serve first as a sign of repentance; in the early church, converts who were coming into the church at Easter were sprinkled with ashes during Lent as a sign of their need for forgiveness. We are not perfect people; all of us stand in need of God’s mercy. Second, the ashes indicate our mortality – the fact that our bodies will one day return to the dust of the earth.

When worn for the right reasons, ashes witness publicly to our belief. Matthew’s Gospel discourages not the outward show of faith, but the interior pride that could undermine it. As you have found, the ashes can sometimes lead to a discussion about their meaning, and that is surely a worthy outcome.

At the present time, there would seem to be no absolute and universal “church rule” regarding the practice. Clearly, there are some situations where laypeople can offer blessings: Parents often do so when children are going to bed or families are gathered around the table.

But the Catechism of the Catholic Church does note that “the more a blessing concerns ecclesial and sacramental life, the more is its administration reserved to the ordained ministry” (No. 1669).

In 2008, the Vatican’s Congregation for Divine Worship was asked specifically about an extraordinary minister’s wish to receive Communion. “Extraordinary ministers are deputed for the sole purpose of distributing Holy Communion. They are not to administer blessings or lay hands upon people who approach them but do not wish to receive Communion.”

The Diocese of St. Petersburg, Florida, on the other hand, says in its guidelines that when a person comes to them in the Communion line with arms crossed, an extraordinary minister “may place a hand on the individual’s shoulder and say, ‘May God bless you.’ They do not make the sign of the cross over the individual in the manner of a priest or deacon.”

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

LOCAL NEWS, continued from Page 5

DOMINICAN NOVITIATE IN ST. LOUIS

She has written extensively and presented on a variety of topics that explore the Dominican tradition. She is Michigan’s representative for the Leadership Conference of Women Religious Region VII, co-chair of the National Promoters of Preaching, and promoter of preaching with the Dominican Sisters of Grand Rapids.

ODU EVENT TO LOOK AT OPIOID CRISIS

Ohio Dominican University will address and explore the current opioid epidemic on Monday, April 15, as it hosts “Inside the Epidemic: The Opioid Crisis in Columbus.”

It will take place in the Matesich Theater in Erskine Hall on ODU’s campus, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus, beginning with a reception at 6:15 p.m., and continuing with a panel discussion from 7 to 9.

Featured panelists will include anesthesiologist Dr. Steven Lins; a representative from the Columbus Division of Fire; and people who are recovering from addiction. The discussion was scheduled after students from Columbus Cristo Rey and Bishop Ready high schools presented the idea during ODU’s Catholic High School Visit Day in May.

“Our city, region and nation continue to be impacted by this horrendous epidemic,” said Andy White, the university’s director of student involvement. “This event will explore numerous facets of this issue, including possible causes, what’s being done to address it, the dangers of addiction, and the process of recovery.”

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, more than 130 people die every day after overdosing on opioids, which can include prescription pain relievers, heroin, and synthetic opioids such as fentanyl.

Cristo Rey to present first play

The first play in the history of Columbus Cristo Rey High School, a staged reading of The Exonerated by Erik Jensen and Jessica Blank, will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 5 and 6 at the school, 400 E. Town St.

The Exonerated tells the true stories of six wrongfully convicted surivors of death row and moves between first-person monologues and scenes set in courtooms and prisons. The six intertwoven stories paint a picture of an American criminal justice system gone wrong and of six brave souls who persevered to survive it.

The cast includes Cristo Rey students Daizy Asante, Kevin Brown Jr., Danielle Freeman, Asiatu Kamara, Jeremiah Rufus and Emily Turley and faculty or community members Oliver Corrigan, Sarah Doherty, Jim Doherty, Tyson Ewing, Juan Garcia and Binh Huynh.

Admission is a donation to Metropolitan Community Services-TOUCH, a nonprofit organization serving at-risk and vulnerable populations in Franklin County.

ODU TO HOST VISIT DAY

Ohio Dominican University invites students from Columbus diocesan high schools to attend its Catholic High School Visit Day on Thursday, May 2 from 8:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. on the ODU campus, 1215 Sunbury Road, Columbus. Attendees can register at ohiodominican.edu/VisitDay.

Those attending the event will have an opportunity to participate in activities, including classroom experiences, campus tours, a student panel discuss-
I give up. I also give, I pray, and I fast. Lenten sacrifice is only as tough and meaningful as we choose to make it. And there is also sincerity. I recall as a seven-year-old giving up my favorite television show (Batman) for Lent. But I just could not do without it, so I sat on the steps where I still could hear the television and could see its reflection in the kitchen window. I did not watch the television directly, but it was not a very sincere sacrifice, even for a seven-year-old.

Please support the many wonderful parish fish fries. But try not to overdo it and gorge yourself on all that fried fish. And take it easy on the mac and cheese, too. Make the Friday abstinence meaningful, and not just an all-you-can-eat fry day. Even skip it, but if you do, donate the cost to the parish. Remember, we are praying, fasting and donating.

I give up being angry at those who support evil and morally reprehensible things such as war, social injustice, abortion, discussing the fate of a newborn with brain damage, euthanasia, assisted suicide, or sending confused and dementia/Alzheimer’s-ridden seniors out on an ice floe to be devoured by self-righteous population control mongers who want a bigger piece of the pie. I will pray for them, but I also will be positive and proactive in being sure this misguided mentality does not move forward into succeeding generations. Pray and fast as penance for our sins, but also for life and for a change of hearts and minds. I give up using God’s name in anger. What a stupid thing that is. Words are meaningful. How is it that I can take the same name in vain that I love and pray to each day? God cannot understand that behavior, but, thankfully, He can forgive and never will stop loving. I will focus on keeping the Commandments and maybe trying something new, like “Gosh darn it.”

I give up the selfish ways in which I treat my wife sometimes. She is a saint for putting up with me for the past 36 years. Just like so many parts of our lives, our love evolves and gets stronger with time. Even though she does not deserve my behavior sometimes, I am very blessed by authentically celebrating and protecting the good in them.

Wideness is an interesting word to ponder in spiritual terms. There is a beautiful hymn titled There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy, and that hymn inspired me to think about the many ways the wideness of God can shape our lives.

God’s mercy is so magnanimous that it’s incomprehensible – and yet we are called to that same mercy with each other, 70-times-7. To think of the wideness of God’s mercy as a never-ending, vast stream of love washing over us, healing us, forgiving us and bringing forth new life is a beautiful image that fills me with hope.

Wideness is akin to openness – the openness we are called to with God in prayer, sharing our triumphs and challenges, joys, sins and sorrows, giving him room to work to help us grow stronger. We also are called to live this openness with our brothers and sisters by authentically celebrating and protecting the good in them.

In Luke 9:11, we see the wideness of Jesus’ love as “He received them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and he healed those who needed to be cured.”

Wideness lends itself to an image of big, outstretched arms welcoming people with a hug and a smile in a spirit of hospitality. May the wideness of our thanksgiving for each other carry us out of the narrow focus on ourselves. May we instead be poured like a libation into a visitation frame of mind, where we live in the wideness of loving and caring for each other.

Wideness can be giving God the time and space to work in our lives, whether through the sacraments, reading Scripture, adoring him in the Blessed Sacrament or prayerfully listening for God amid the activity of family, work and play.

Let us give God the latitude to transform us by inviting him into the great expanse of us … body, mind and soul. May we magnify the Lord by courageously seeking his strength, rather than limiting the fullness of God’s plan for us.

Lyrics from There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy speak of the majesty of God: “There is grace enough for thousands. … For the love of God is broader than the measure of our mind: And the heart of the Eternal is most kind.” He pours his grace out to us constantly. Do we notice and do we respond? Let us boldly ask God for the strength to comprehend with all the holy ones what is the breadth and length and height and depth,” giving thanks for the miraculous wideness of God’s merciful love.
Music at Vespers and the installation Mass for Bishop Robert Brennan on Thursday and Friday, March 28 and 29 at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral will include not only a traditional choir and organ, but Gospel and Latino choirs to reflect the universal and multicultural nature of the Catholic Church.

CT file photo by Ken Snow

88.3 in Portsmouth.

The Brennan contingent from the Diocese of Rockville Centre will include family members, diocesan Bishop John Barres, one retired bishop and three auxiliary bishops. In addition, bishops from Ohio and other states will be in Columbus for the installation Mass, with several also attending Vespers.

At press time, the list of out-of-state bishops planning to attend one or both of the events included Cardinal Timothy Dolan of the Archdiocese of New York and bishops from Detroit and Grand Rapids, Michigan; Buffalo, New York; Charleston, South Carolina; and Des Moines, Iowa, as well as the Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh and the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic, New Jersey. Diocesan school Superintendent Adam Dufault was in charge of finding hotel rooms for the visitors.

MUSIC, continued from Page 3

ance through difficult times and are very appropriate for Lent,” said Vernon Hairston, the choir’s director.

The prelude also will feature works by Maurice Durufle and Dietrich Buxtehude, both famous names in the organ repertoire, and Ave Regina Caerorum by Johann Joseph Fux, a composer of the 17th and 18th centuries. The latter work will be repeated as a Marian antiphon at the end of the service.

Music for the procession at Vespers will be Echo Fantasia, a 16th- or 17th-century work by Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck, followed by the familiar hymn Lord, Who Throughout These 40 Days.

Fitzgerald has composed settings of psalms and antiphons for the service that will include Psalm 132 and portions of the 11th chapter of Revelation, which are the Catholic Church’s Vespers (Evening Prayer) selections for the date. Words for the day’s Gospel canticle come from Luke 1:46-55, familiarly known as Mary’s Magnificat.

Following a reflection by Bishop Brennan, the cathedral choir will sing Te lucis ante terminum, an anthem based on a traditional Latin evening hymn. This version, written by Henry Balfour Gardiner in 1908, is considered a classic of the English choral tradition.

The Gospel canticle will be followed by the Lord’s Prayer, and other prayers and intercessions concluding the service.

Fitzgerald said that because Bishop Brennan’s installation Mass is taking place during Lent, he chose music for the occasion that is “festival, but not over the top. There won’t be any brass, and because it’s Lent, there won’t be Alleluias, but it will be joyful music.”

The cathedral’s assistant music director, Nicole Simental, has written two selections in Spanish for the Mass – one for the entrance procession and the second as a Communion antiphon.

The music program will begin with Bach’s Prelude and Fugue in G Major. Fitzgerald said the procession that follows will take about 20 minutes and include A Choral Flourish by Ralph Vaughan Williams, a work by Simental, Bach’s Fantasia in G Major, and the familiar Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation.

The Liturgy of the Word includes the day’s scheduled readings, Hosea 14:2-10 and Mark 12:28-34 (the two great commandments), as well as Philippians 3:8-14 (“I consider everything as a loss because of the supreme good of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord”).

Bishop Brennan’s homily will be followed by the multilingual prayers of the faithful. The prayers will be said first in English, then in one of the many languages in which Masses are regularly celebrated in the diocese. Readers and their languages will be: Alfred Akainyah, Twi (a language spoken in Ghana); Thanh Pham, Vietnamese; Marilú Ayala, Spanish; Virginia Hardy, English; Nedi Melidor, Creole (spoken in Haiti); Damian Lee, Korean; Odee Dammarell, Tagalog (spoken in the Philippines); and Teresa Edoja, Igala (spoken in Nigeria).

Pam Harris, director of the diocesan Catholic Ethnic Ministries office, organized the prayers of the faithful.

“In addition to the communities represented in the prayers, we also reached out to diocesan representatives of the Syro-Malabar Catholic rite, which is prominent in India, and they will attend the installation Mass,” Harris said.

“The Liturgy of the Eucharist will begin with Herbert Howells’ Te Deum, a 20th-century work. Music for the Holy, Holy, Holy, memorial acclamation and Great Amen will be from the Mass in Honor of St. Benedict, with the Lamb of God coming from Fitzgerald’s Missa Brevis.

The cathedral choir will sing antiphons by Simental and Fitzgerald, and Ave Verum Corpus by William Byrd, while the Eucharist is distributed. After Communion, the selection will be Palestina’s Tu Es Petrus, which also was sung at Bishop Campbell’s installation.

The recessional hymn will be Lord, You Give the Great Commission, with Widor’s Toccata from Symphony No. 5 as the postlude.

“It’s a very eclectic program, very much in line with the desire Bishop Brennan has expressed that music be representative of the people of the diocese and be authentic,” Fitzgerald said.

“He loves being able to celebrate the life of the diocese and to include ethnic variety while respecting the classical tradition. It’s a great start, and I anticipate this type of programming will continue and flourish.”

The Liturgy of the Eucharist will begin with Herbert Howells’ Te Deum, a 20th-century work. Music for the Holy, Holy, Holy, memorial acclamation and Great Amen will be from the Mass in Honor of St. Benedict, with the Lamb of God coming from Fitzgerald’s Missa Brevis.

The cathedral choir will sing antiphons by Simental and Fitzgerald, and Ave Verum Corpus by William Byrd, while the Eucharist is distributed. After Communion, the selection will be Palestina’s Tu Es Petrus, which also was sung at Bishop Campbell’s installation.

The recessional hymn will be Lord, You Give the Great Commission, with Widor’s Toccata from Symphony No. 5 as the postlude.

“It’s a very eclectic program, very much in line with the desire Bishop Brennan has expressed that music be representative of the people of the diocese and be authentic,” Fitzgerald said.

“He loves being able to celebrate the life of the diocese and to include ethnic variety while respecting the classical tradition. It’s a great start, and I anticipate this type of programming will continue and flourish.”

The Liturgy of the Eucharist will begin with Herbert Howells’ Te Deum, a 20th-century work. Music for the Holy, Holy, Holy, memorial acclamation and Great Amen will be from the Mass in Honor of St. Benedict, with the Lamb of God coming from Fitzgerald’s Missa Brevis.

The cathedral choir will sing antiphons by Simental and Fitzgerald, and Ave Verum Corpus by William Byrd, while the Eucharist is distributed. After Communion, the selection will be Palestina’s Tu Es Petrus, which also was sung at Bishop Campbell’s installation.

The recessional hymn will be Lord, You Give the Great Commission, with Widor’s Toccata from Symphony No. 5 as the postlude.

“It’s a very eclectic program, very much in line with the desire Bishop Brennan has expressed that music be representative of the people of the diocese and be authentic,” Fitzgerald said.

“He loves being able to celebrate the life of the diocese and to include ethnic variety while respecting the classical tradition. It’s a great start, and I anticipate this type of programming will continue and flourish.”

The Liturgy of the Eucharist will begin with Herbert Howells’ Te Deum, a 20th-century work. Music for the Holy, Holy, Holy, memorial acclamation and Great Amen will be from the Mass in Honor of St. Benedict, with the Lamb of God coming from Fitzgerald’s Missa Brevis.

The cathedral choir will sing antiphons by Simental and Fitzgerald, and Ave Verum Corpus by William Byrd, while the Eucharist is distributed. After Communion, the selection will be Palestina’s Tu Es Petrus, which also was sung at Bishop Campbell’s installation.

The recessional hymn will be Lord, You Give the Great Commission, with Widor’s Toccata from Symphony No. 5 as the postlude.

“It’s a very eclectic program, very much in line with the desire Bishop Brennan has expressed that music be representative of the people of the diocese and be authentic,” Fitzgerald said.

“He loves being able to celebrate the life of the diocese and to include ethnic variety while respecting the classical tradition. It’s a great start, and I anticipate this type of programming will continue and flourish.”
The Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary Court 298 donated 65 layettes to the Columbus Christ Child Society. Court 298 annually donates baby clothes and care items to the society, which provides the layettes to mothers in need. Pictured are (from left) Christ Child Society representative Lori Caldwell and Mary Galloway, Janice Davis and Gabriella Holland of Court 298.

Photo courtesy Court 298
Decrease in priests among Bishop Campbell’s challenges

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

In his 14 years as shepherd of the Diocese of Columbus, Bishop Frederick Campbell faced the challenge of responding to the spiritual needs of a growing number of Catholics in the 23-county diocese while dealing with a continued reduction in the number of priests.

When he was installed as bishop of Columbus in 2005, the diocese had about 250,000 Catholics, who were served by 179 diocesan priests, including 122 in active service, in 105 parishes. That was slightly more than half the number of priests serving the diocese in the late 1960s. Today, the diocese has 147 priests, including 97 in active service, serving 280,000 Catholics in 105 parishes, with many priests at or near retirement age.

Another 41 men are studying for the diocesan priesthood, including five who will be ordained in May. That number has been growing in recent years. In addition, 10 men are studying to be permanent deacons, joining the 114 now serving the diocese.

One way in which Bishop Campbell has attempted to maximize diocesan resources involved creating clusters of parishes served by one priest or several priests at a central location, with each parish retaining its traditional identity.

The first such grouping occurred in 1986 with creation of the Perry County Consortium of Parishes, with churches in New Lexington, Crooksville, Junction City and Corning. The consortium is served by one pastor and one associate pastor.

The diocese currently has 20 clusters ranging in size from two to six parishes. Some are within the city of Columbus, while the largest in terms of geography covers more than 50 miles from one end to the other.

Most of the clusters have been formed in the decade since Bishop Campbell made two significant steps in 2008 to help him plan for the diocese’s future. He asked each parish to study its needs, and he created a diocesan pastoral and strategic planning committee, with representatives from groups including the diocesan presbyteral, diaconal, pastoral and finance councils, the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, educational institutions and health care ministries.

Five orders of sisters came to the Diocese of Columbus during Bishop Campbell’s 14 years here. First were the Missionary Sisters, Servants of the Word, an order based in Mexico. They established a convent to serve the largely Hispanic community at Columbus St. Stephen the Martyr Church in 2009 and opened a second convent at Columbus Christ the King Church in 2013. Priests of the same order came to St. Stephen in 2013 to assume pastoral duties there.

They were followed in 2011 by the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, who serve as administrators and teachers at Worthington St. Michael School.

The Dominican Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, an order founded and mainly serving in Poland, established a convent near downtown in 2013, and are serving parishes near downtown Columbus. Another Polish-based order, the Little Servant Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, also has a convent near downtown, where it recently opened a preschool.

The Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, an order based in India, took up residence in 2014 at Chillicothe St. Peter Church and began evangelizing in Ross and Pike counties.

Members of these orders are among 225 religious sisters living in the diocese.

Most of the diocese’s sisters are members of a congregation that has been known as the Dominican Sisters of Peace since it was formed in Columbus on Easter Sunday 1830. The Dominican Sisters of Peace have their general office in Columbus. One of the highlights of Bishop Campbell’s tenure was the National Catholic Youth Conference in 2007, when 20,000 young people from across the nation came to Columbus in November to fill Nationwide Arena in what The Catholic Times described then as the largest activity staged by the diocese in its history. In that same year, more than 1,000 women attended the National Conference of Catholic Women’s convention in Columbus, and the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership also gathered in the city.

What the Catholic Conference of Ohio described as the first statewide gathering of priests took place in 2009 in Columbus, with about 670 of the state’s Roman and Eastern rite priests and members of religious orders attending.

In 2005, during his first year as bishop, the Columbus area’s first Catholic radio station, St. Gabriel Radio, went on the air on the frequency of 1270 AM. Three years later, it began broadcasting on the more powerful 1580 AM signal.

See CAMPBELL, Page 11
CAMPBELL, continued from Page 10

In December 2011, Ohio State University sold its radio station at the 820 AM frequency, which offered an even stronger signal, to St. Gabriel Radio for $2 million. This allowed the station to expand its broadcast reach to most of the diocese and much of the rest of Ohio. It recently added a transmitter in Portsmouth to extend its programming into those parts of the diocese it could not reach, as well as to parts of northeast Kentucky.

The station has presented a weekly program titled From the Chair, featuring Bishop Campbell, for most of its existence. The program usually consists of a short reflection by the bishop. Once a month, it expands to an hour-long format, during which the bishop usually takes calls from listeners. Occasionally, the longer program has featured the bishop’s annual question-and-answer discussions with diocesan seminarians and high school students.

Bishop Campbell dedicated new church buildings at West Jefferson Sts. Simon & Jude in 2006 and the Johnstown Church of the Ascension in 2007. The largest church building in the diocese, Westerville St. Paul, located in the diocese’s largest parish in terms of membership, was dedicated in 2011. This church has 1,400 seats and frequently is used for large diocesan functions, including the ordination of priests and the annual Rite of Election.

The most recent church dedication in the diocese was at Cardington Sacred Hearts Church in 2015, two years after a fire destroyed the parish’s previous church building and hall.

The Utica Church of the Nativity was closed in 2016, one year after the church building was torn down because of structural issues. The parish was merged into Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul Church, with some parishioners also transferring to nearby parishes in Newark and Johnstown. Extensive renovation occurred at Columbus St. Mary, Mother of God in June 2016, and it now has about 400 students in four grades.

JOIN, the Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs, moved in 2007 from its original location on East Gay Street to a larger building at 578 E. Main St. Ruth Beckman retired in 2015 as its director and was succeeded by Lisa Keita. Formed in 1967 by 10 inner-city Columbus parishes, the agency has provided emergency aid to hundreds of thousands of people, providing everything from bus passes and birth-certificate vouchers to eyeglasses, shoes and burial assistance, and making referrals to other agencies on poor and vulnerable senior citizens and families, serving more than 30,000 people each year.

The diocesan Catholic Foundation grew steadily under Bishop Campbell, increasing the amount of grants it awards to $14 million annually, benefiting parishes, schools, religious orders and diocesan-related non-profit organizations by providing money for physical and personnel improvements, evangelization efforts and other activities. In 2010, the foundation relocated its offices to the original Wendy’s restaurant building at 257 E. Broad St. in Columbus, across from St. Joseph Cathedral.

Facilities in the diocese that closed during Bishop Campbell’s tenure included the Salesian Boys and Girls Club in Columbus in 2008; the Cathedral Book Shops in downtown Columbus and at St. Therese’s Retreat Center in 2011; Marion Catholic High School in 2013; and the Corpus Christi Center of Peace in 2016.

In June 2015, Bishop Campbell led a ceremony of re-consecration of the diocese to the Sacred Heart of Jesus at the cathedral. The diocese originally had been consecrated to the Sacred Heart in 1873 by its first bishop, Sylvester Rosecrans.

About 6,000 people from several states came to Columbus in October.
Bishop Campbell’s farewell homily at St. Joseph Cathedral on Sunday, March 24

“My brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ, we are now deep in the observance of the holy season of Lent. Last Sunday, we heard the account of the Transfiguration of Jesus before the eyes of three chosen disciples. Overwhelmed as Peter, James and John were by the vision, they did not understand its full meaning, a meaning only to be revealed in the Resurrection. But we disciples, living long after the event, acknowledge that the Transfiguration of the Lord is a revelation of both the divine glory of Jesus and the glory to which all of the faithful are called.

“This glory is the end and purpose of all the days of our lives here on Earth. Yet we must also remember the Gospel passage proclaimed to us on the first Sunday of Lent, when for our sakes, Jesus spent 40 days in the desert, overcoming all temptation and calling every Christian to repentance and conversion by removing all impediments to our achieving entrance into the everlasting glory of God.

“Now on the third Sunday of Lent, we enter into the deepest mystery of Lent: the encounter with Jesus Christ, with whom we are on pilgrimage to a new life, and that life forever.

“To paraphrase the words of the old catechism, ‘We must know Christ, love Christ and serve Christ.’ Through our worship in sacramental life, we can hear Christ if we but open our ears, and know him present to us if we but open our eyes.

“It is important to understand that Jesus came to reveal his Heavenly Father to us so that we might realize what it means to say, ‘I believe in one God.’

“Who then is this God who sent his only begotten Son to us and gave us the Holy Spirit to open hearts and minds?

“The revelation of God in Jesus Christ is the fullness of the revelation of the divine, but it is not the only one that occurred.

“Preceding the coming of Jesus was a long history of God sharing his divine life with the people whom he had chosen. The encounter of Moses with the burning bush is certainly one of the most dramatic examples.

“Throughout the Old Testament, the image of God as fire occurs frequently. Isaiah tells us that God is fire. The faithful experience this fire as warmth and light. The unfaithful know it as consuming heat. But it is the same fire of God.

“How we experience it depends so much on our fidelity and hope.

“The 17th century philosopher and mathematician Blaise Pascal, when he wrote the account of his conversion experience, described his moment of encounter of God through Jesus Christ with the word ‘FIRE’ written with all capital letters.

“But the meeting of Moses with the God of fire is particularly arresting. The fire burns, but does not consume. A voice comes from the fire, calling Moses to recognize the presence of the Holy One and commanding him to take on a mission. Most remarkable about this encounter is the request of Moses to know the name of the one who is sending him to Pharaoh.

“In our own time, naming has lost a lot of its meaning and importance. For Jesus and his Jewish ancestors, to give a name was an almost holy responsibility, and to speak the name, a deep privilege. For the name represents the personal reality and purpose of an individual. When Jesus gave Simon an extraordinary responsibility and author-

Bishop Frederick Campbell prays during Mass at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on Sunday, March 24. CT photos by Ken Snow
HOMILY, continued from Page 12

ity, the Lord changed his name to Peter, the Rock.

“Throughout the Bible, to know the name of another was to share a particular intimacy with that person. In giving his name to Moses, God invited him to stand before the Divine Presence as a chosen one, and even friend, although that word seems to have lost a lot of impact in our own society where politeness fades and everyone is immediately on a first name basis in the most casual and fleeting moment.

“Yet the name which God speaks simultaneously reveals the person speaking and conceals its innermost mystery: ‘I am who am.’ This is what you shall tell the Israelites. ‘I am’ sent me to you.’

“Jesus was later to appropriate this name for himself when he told the skeptical Pharisees, ‘Before Abraham came to be, “I am.” And the Pharisees picked up stones to hurl at the Lord, for they knew that Jesus was claiming to be one with our heavenly Father.

“Moses was so overwhelmed to be given the name of God that he later exclaimed to the people, ‘What other nation has a god so close to them as we?’ So holy was the name of God that to use the name with care and reverence is enshrined in the second commandment received from God through Moses.

“Christians can just as certainly marvel how, in Jesus Christ, whose name we now bear, God has come so close to us so as to take on our human flesh and destiny and utterly transform it into everlasting glory.

“So Peter was to proclaim that there is no other name in heaven or on Earth by which we are saved than the name of Jesus.

“And St. Paul announced that at the name of Jesus, every knee shall bend. “My friends, the Church dedicates the remainder of Lent to knowing and understanding the person of Jesus and his mission. We shall encounter him as the bringer of the Kingdom, the forgiver of sins, the healer of hearts and bodies, the just judge, the lord of creation, the embodiment of love unto death, and the giver of new life. And he shall also be revealed as the companion with us on the way to the Kingdom, ever present in his Word and Sacraments.

“Ooh, our Lord could be sharp on occasion, as the parable of the fig tree indicates. But how patient he is with correcting the faults of those who seek to know him and love him and desire to serve him for the glory of God and our lasting good.

“We must know him before we can love him. For we cannot love what we do not know. And if we cannot love him as we ought, how then are we to serve him in the guise of our neighbor in need?"

“As I gaze around this cathedral, I am blessed and grateful to see so many faithful companions on the pilgrimage of grace to the heavenly kingdom. So many friends. Such faith and devotion.

“I’ve been enthralled and encouraged by the beauty of our worship, remembering the words of a noted 20th century theologian that ‘Without beauty we will soon cease to pray. And without the ability to pray, we shall cease to love.’

“‘This homily will likely be the last one which I preach from this pulpit as your bishop. I remember, however, the words of St. Augustine, speaking to his own congregation many centuries ago when he said, ‘My friends, for you I am a bishop, with you I am a Christian.’

“In all things, I have strived, in the words of St. Richard of Chichester, ‘To help you know Christ more clearly, to love him more dearly and to serve him more nearly.’

“The pilgrimage to the Kingdom entails a heart and mind turned toward God, an authentic humility, and the capacity for great joy. For the companions on this journey is the Lord Jesus Christ who repeatedly told us, ‘Do not be afraid. It is I.’

“For this reason, Christians do not say ‘Goodbye,’ but rather, ‘Farewell,’” meaning ‘May the rest of your journey be well continued and well completed.’

“Praise be the name of Jesus Christ.”
Fourth Sunday of Lent (Year C)

**Taste and see the goodness of the Lord**

The story of the two brothers, often called “the tale of the prodigal son,” is really a much more comprehensive tale. It is a tale that involves sin and guilt and shame, to be sure. But it is also an account of love, reconciliation and an invitation to allow mercy into the complexity of relationships we all experience.

Where do you experience guilt? Some try to tell us that guilt comes only from the outside, from what we have been taught by authorities who rule over us when we are young, and that guilt is really only arbitrary.

We can all easily think of the cliché excuses for doing various actions that have “traditionally” been considered wrong:

- Everyone is doing it.
- I disagree: I don’t think it’s a sin.
- I am not hurting anybody, so I will do what I want.

No doubt you can think of many other excuses that you have used as a reason to give in to your chosen temptation.

Some excuses may come at you from the outside:

- You’re just chicken.
- Come on, join us.
- Don’t be a scaredy-cat.

These reasons for giving in to popular sins are part of peer pressure. It is also true that “misery loves company” and that others who have succumbed to “forbidden delights” want you to share with them so they don’t have all the guilt.

True guilt, which is a gift, although it does not feel like one, comes from within. We are aware that what we have done is wrong and we want to make amends.

The prodigal son is on his way to this kind of guilt as he makes the journey back to his father, rehearsing all the way just what he will say to get a place in the family estate.

We learn – by experiencing the failure of sin to deliver on its false promise – that sin is not our true nature. When we are humbled, we can admit to our best selves that we want to live up to our dignity, the innate worth we have that comes from God.

God promises His people that once they repent, guilt is removed and sin is purged away. What happens in our hearts when guilt is removed? We become free – free to love as God loves, and capable of showing mercy.

From our own weakness and sin, we learn humility, truth, compassion and empathy. We grasp the true meaning of our relationships. We open our hearts to God.

The merciful father, who is the true hero of the parable, opens his own heart to mercy and love, inviting both of his sons to share the true inheritance that comes from being a member of his family. The younger son, the one who wandered, is welcomed back into the fullness of family life. The elder son, is invited, but we do not yet hear his response. We are left to marvel at the depths of mercy and to decide for ourselves whether we will become ambassadors of the message of reconciliation.

The invitation of Laetare Sunday is to taste joy in anticipation of Easter. We may listen to the voice of our conscience, which moves us to open our hearts to mercy. Alternate readings for the Second Scrutiny at Masses this Sunday are:

**I Samuel 16: 1b,6-7,10-13a, 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6, Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-41**

Year A readings, used at Masses when the Scrutinies are prayed over participants in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), invite us to open our eyes to see the light that is revealed by Jesus through His healing ministry. We are called to acknowledge the glory of God, who shines His light in the darkness of our world.

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

---

**THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS**

**MONDAY**
Isaiah 65:17-21
Psalm 30:2,4-6,11-12a,13b
John 4:43-54

**TUESDAY**
Ezeciel 47:1-9,12
Psalm 46:2-3,5-6,8-9
John 5:1-16

**WEDNESDAY**
Isaiah 49:8-15
Psalm 145:8-9,13c-14,17-18
John 5:17-30

**THURSDAY**
Exodus 32:7-14
Psalm 106:19-23
John 5:31-47

**FRIDAY**
Wisdom 2:1a,12-22
Psalm 34:17-21,23
John 7:1-2,10,25-30

**SATURDAY**
Jeremiah 11:18-20
Psalm 7:2-3,9b-12
John 7:40-53

**DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE: MARCH 31, 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 EWTN (Spectrum Channel 385, Insight Channel 382, or WOW Channel 378). (Encores at noon, 7 p.m., and midnight).

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

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

**DAILY MASS**
8 a.m., Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Birmingham, Ala. (Encores at noon, 7 p.m. and midnight). See EWTN above; and on I-Lifetv (Channel 113 in Ada, Logan, Millersburg, Murray City and Washington C.H.; Channel 125 in Marion, Newark, Newcomenstown 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 IV, Seasonal Proper, Liturgy of the Hours.

---

**Living ‘I Do’ – Weekly Marriage Tips**

Remember how Jesus said to remove the wooden beam from your eye before pursuing the splinter in someone else’s eye? Any fault you find with your spouse is a problem to your spouse. You will see clearly!

*Diocese of Columbus Marriage and Family Life Office*

---

**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.
Your Eminence:
I noted with interest your recent announcement of a “binding synodal process” during which the Church in Germany will discuss the celibacy of the Latin-rite Catholic priesthood, the Church’s sexual ethic and clericalism, these being “issues” put on the table by the crisis of clerical sexual abuse.

Perhaps the following questions will sharpen your discussions.

1) How can the “synodal process” of a local Church produce “binding” results on matters affecting the entire Catholic Church? The Anglican Communion tried this and is now in terminal disarray; the local Anglican churches that took the path of cultural accommodation are comatose. Is this the model you and your fellow-bishops favor?

2) What does the celibacy of priests in the Latin-rite have to do with the sexual abuse crisis? Celibacy has no more to do with sexual abuse than marriage has to do with spousal abuse. Empirical studies indicate that most sexual abuse of the young takes place within (typically broken) families; Protestant denominations with a married clergy also suffer from the scourge of sexual abuse; and in any event, marriage is not a crime-prevention program. Is it cynical to imagine that the abuse crisis is now being weaponized to mount an assault on clerical celibacy, what with other artillery having failed to dislodge this ancient Catholic tradition?

3) According to a Catholic News Agency report, you suggested that “the significance of sexuality to personhood has not yet received sufficient attention from the Church.” Really? Has St. John Paul II’s Theology of the Body not been translated into German? Perhaps it has, but it may be too long and complex to have been properly absorbed by German-speaking Catholics. Permit me then, to draw your attention to pp. 347-358 of Zeuge der Hoffnung (Ferdinand Schoeningh, 2002) the German translation of Witness to Hope, the first volume of my John Paul II biography. There, you and your colleagues will find a summary of the Theology of the Body, including its richly personalistic explanation of the Church’s ethic of human love and its biblically-rooted understanding of celibacy undertaken for the Kingdom of God.

4) You also note that your fellow-bishops “feel ... unable to speak on questions of present-day sexual behavior.” That was certainly not the case at the Synods of 2014, 2015, and 2018, where German bishops felt quite able to speak frequently to these questions, albeit in a way that typically mirrored today’s politically-correct fashions. And I’m sure I’m not alone in wondering just when the German episcopate last spoke to “present-day sexual behavior” in a way that promoted the Church’s ethic of human love as life-affirming and ordered to human happiness and fulfillment, at least in the years since its massive dissent from Humanae Vitae (Pope St. Paul VI’s 1968 encyclical on the ethics of family planning)? But that, as I understand Pope Francis, is what he is calling us all to do: Witness to, preach, and teach the “Yes” that undergirds everything to which the Church must, in fidelity to both revelation and reason, say “No.”

5) The CNA report also noted that your “synodal process” (which, in a nice tip of the miter to Hegel, you described as a “synodal progression”) would involve consultations with the Central Committee of German Catholics. My dear Cardinal Marx, this is rather like President Trump consulting with Fox News or Speaker Pelosi consulting with the editors of the New York Times. If you’ll pardon the reference to Major Heinrich Strasser in Casablanca, even we blundering Americans know that the ZdK, the Zentralkomitee der Deutschen Katholiken, is the schwerpunkt, the spearhead that clears the ground to the far left so that the German bishops can position themselves as the “moderate” or “centrist” force in the German Church. You know, and I know, and everyone else should know that consultations with the ZdK will produce nothing but further attacks on celibacy, further affirmations of current sexual fads, and further deprecations of Humane Vitae (based, in part, on the ZdK’s evident ignorance of the Theology of the Body and German hostility to John Paul II’s 1993 encyclical on the renovation of Catholic moral theology, Veritatis Splendor).

Your Eminence, the German Church — the Catholicism of my ancestors — is dying. It will not be revitalized by becoming a simulacrum of moribund liberal Protestantism.

I wish you a fruitful Lent and a joyful Easter.

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

A Warm Welcome

The Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan, D.D.

We send our prayers and best wishes as you begin your ministry as the Twelfth Bishop of the Diocese of Columbus.

Dorothy, Cathy and Richard Murnane and Family

DEE PRINTING, INC. • 614-777-8700
4999 Transamerica Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43228
Publishing Catholic Church Bulletins Since 1974

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

SHERIDAN FUNERAL HOME

740-653-4633
222 S. COLUMBUS STREET
LANCASTER, OHIO 43130
WWW.SHERIDANFUNERALHOME.NET

Knights of Columbus
5750 N. High St., Worthington
Fish Dinner: Regular-$9.00, Small-$7.00
Macaroni-Cheese Dinner - $7.00
Meal: Fish (or Mac/Cheese), Fries, Roll, Cole Slaw (or Apple Sauce), and Beverage

St. Michael Church
All Fridays in Lent 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Dine In, Handicap Seating Available
Drive Thru, Carry Out

Sirloin Steak Dinner: $7.00
Taco Dinner: $6.00

Discover the Catholic Difference

An open letter to Cardinal Reinhard Marx
**PRAY FOR OUR DEAD**

**Dezhen M. Chen**

Funeral Mass for Dezhen M. Chen, 80, who died on Sunday, March 17 at the Mohun Health Care Center, was celebrated on Thursday, March 21 in the Motherhouse of the Dominican Sisters of Peace. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was born in Shanghai, China on Nov. 5, 1938 to Joseph and Mary Chen and came to the United States in 1988, seeking religious freedom.

She was employed for 30 years as a nurse’s assistant at the Mohun center, operated by the Dominican sisters, with whom she lived until her death.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and sisters Catherine, Theresa, Rose and Marie. Survivors include a son, Wang Lang Bar; daughters, Wang Min and Wang Yu; and a sister, Sister Catherine Malya Chen, OP.

**Watterson presents ‘The Addams Family’**

Columbus Bishop Watterson High School is presenting *The Addams Family* as its 54th annual musical. The story of the “creepy and kooky, mysterious and spooky” characters and their macabre humor will be presented at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 5-6 and 12-13 and 2 p.m. Sunday, April 7 in the school’s little theater, 99 E. Cooke Road.

An alumni reception and the school’s inaugural performing arts and fine arts hall of fame induction will take place at 6 p.m. April 6. Tickets are available at bishopwatterson.com.

Family members include Bridget Noonan as Wednesday, Sam Koehler as Gomez, Nicole Orsini as Morticia, Jon Agan as Uncle Fester, Kieran York as Lurch, Abby Rieser as Pugsley and Molly Rafferty as Grandma. Playing members of the “normal” Beineke family are Jack Warner as Lucas, Liam Lenzotti as Mal and Emily Hohlefelder as Alice. The play includes a live orchestra.

Bishop Watterson is one of 10 central Ohio schools participating in the 2018-2019 Marquee Awards sponsored by the Columbus Association for the Performing Arts. Winners of the best actor and best actress awards in this competition will advance to the national Jimmy Awards program for student theater participants in New York City this summer.

**INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING IN THE CATHOLIC TIMES?**

CONTACT EDITOR DOUG BEAN AT 614-224-5195
LENTEN FISH FRY
Fridays 5-8 pm, Mar 8-Apr 12
ST. MICHAEL CHURCH
5750 N. High St., Worthington
FISH DINNER: RIN REG $9, SMALL $7
MACARONI/CHICKEN DINNER $6
SIDES: CLAMCHOWDER, MAC/CHICKEN $2
DESSERTS $1
Dine In, Drive Thru & Carryout

FISH STRIPS
$10 Adults, $5 Kids - Carryouts available

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

‘No Greater Love’ at Church of Our Lady
5 p.m., Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 5225 Refugee Road, Columbus. Part 4 of Edward Sri’s six-part No Greater Love series, telling the story of Christ’s Passion on location, repeating at 6:30 p.m. April 1. 614-851-1242

Anointing of the Sick at St. Elizabeth
After 5:30 p.m. Mass, St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon Woods Blvd., Columbus. Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is administered. 614-891-0150

31, SUNDAY
Exposition at Our Lady of Mount Carmel
9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 5135 Walnut Road S.E., Buckeye Lake. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament each Sunday during Lent. 740-926-3250

Anointing of the Sick at St. Elizabeth
After 9 and 11 a.m. Masses, St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon Woods Blvd., Columbus. Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is administered.

St. Christopher Adult Religious Education
10 to 11:30 a.m., Cafeteria, Trinity Catholic School, 1400 Grandview Ave., Columbus. Old Testament study with Scripture scholar Angela Burdge.

Praise Mass at Church of Our Lady
11 a.m., Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 5225 Refugee Road, Columbus. Praise Mass with upbeat contemporary music.

‘Catholicism’ Series at Holy Cross
Noon, Holy Cross Church, 204 S. 5th St., Columbus. Parts 7 and 8 of Bishop Robert Barron’s 10-part Catholicism series. 614-224-3416

Seasons of Hope Bereavement Ministry
2 to 4 p.m., Our Lady of Peace Church, 20 E. Dominiv Blvd., Columbus. Second meeting of six-week support group sponsored by Seasons of Hope bereavement ministry for those who have lost a loved one sponsored by North Hill Deanery. Contact rose.daiga@gmail.com.

Frassati Society Hike at Scioto Grove Park
2 to 5 p.m., Arrowhead picnic area, Scioto Grove Metro Park, 5172 Jackson Pike, Grove City. Columbus St. Patrick Church Frassati Society for young adults takes a spring hike. 614-224-9529

Catholic Church Series
3 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Concert with Jonathan Dimmock, organist of St. Ignatius Church, San Francisco. 614-241-2526

Evening Prayer and Vespers at St. Colman
3 p.m., St. Colman of Cloyne Church, 219 S. North St., Washington Court House. Evening Prayer and Vespers. 740-335-5000

Vespers, Supper at Portsmouth St. Mary
4 p.m. St. Mary Church, 524 6th St., Portsmouth. Solemn Vespers and simple supper.

Sung Vespers at Cathedral
4:45 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Sung Vespers with the cathedral choir.

‘The Wild Goose Loose at Christ the King
5 to 7 p.m., Christ the King Church, 2777 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus (enter at daily Mass entrance). Lenten preparation program featuring The Wild Goose is Loose DVD series on the Holy Spirit with Father Dave Pivonka, TOR.

Spanish Mass at Columbus St. Peter
7 p.m., St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road, Columbus. Mass in Spanish, with confessions from 6 to 7. 706-761-4054 or 614-294-7702

1, MONDAY
Aquinus Alumni Luncheon
11 a.m., TAT Ristorante di Famiglia, 1210 S. James Road, Columbus. Monthly Columbus Aquinus High School alumni luncheon.

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

Evening Prayer at St. John Neumann
6:30 p.m., St. John Neumann Church, 9633 E. State Route 37, Sunbury. Evening Prayer led by Deacon Carl Calcarra. 740-956-1358

Eucharistic Adoration at Our Lady of Victory
7 to 8 a.m., Our Lady of Victory Church, 1559 Roxbury Road, Columbus. First Monday Eucharistic Adoration, beginning with Morning Prayer, concluding with Mass. 614-488-2428

Marian Prayer Group at Holy Spirit
7 to 8:45 p.m., Hermann Hall, St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, 600 Hill Road North, Pickerington. The story of St. Catherine of Siena, part of Bishop Robert Barron’s ‘Pivotal Players’ video series.

1-3, MONDAY-WEDNESDAY
Parish Mission at St. Michael
7 to 8:30 p.m., St. Michael Church, 5750 N. High St., Worthington. Parish mission presented by Father Anthony Dinovo, pastor, and staff members, with theme “Our Faith, Our Mission.”

2, TUESDAY
Our Lady of Good Success Study Group
Noon to 2 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 893 Hamlet St., Columbus. Monthly meeting of Our Lady of Good Success study group. Social period, followed by remedial catechesis study and discussion. 614-294-7702

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

3, WEDNESDAY
Center for Dominican Studies Lecture Series
Noon to 12:30 p.m., St. Catherine of Siena Room, Erskine Hall, Ohio Dominican University, 1215 Sunbury Road, Columbus. Sister Louis Mary Passeri, OP, speaks on ‘I Was Thirsty and You Gave Me to Drink’ as part of Center for Dominican Studies series on justice. 614-251-4722

Artist’s Reception at de Porres Center
6 to 7:30 p.m., Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Drive, Columbus. Artist’s reception for Katie Butler, whose works will be featured in an exhibit, “Everyday Adventures in Cartooning and Autism,” from Thursday, April 4 to Friday, May 10.

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

Marion Devotion at St. Elizabeth
7 p.m., St. Elizabeth Church, 8077 Sharon Woods Blvd., Columbus. Marion devotion with Scriptural reflection, followed by Mass and monthly novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, with Father Ramon Oweria, CFIC. 614-891-0150

ARTICLES

CLASSIFIED

OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH
1539 Roxbury Road
Marble Cliff (Parish Life Center)
FISH FRY DINNERS
Fridays, 3/8 - 4/12, 4:30 - 7 pm
Fresh Ocean Perch (fried)
Baked Potatoes, French Fries or Rice
Salad or Slaw, Beverages, Dessert included
$10 Adults, $5 Kids - Carryouts available

St. MARGARET OF CORTONA CHURCH
1600 N. Hague Ave, Columbus
21st Annual
“Best Fish Fry Dinner in Town”
Fridays during Lent, March 8 - April 12, 4:30 - 7:30 PM
Fried Ocean Perch or Baked Cod, with French Fries, Baked Potato, Sweet Potato, Macaroni & Cheese, Cole Slaw, Applesauce, Roll & Butter, and Homemade Desserts. Free coffee.
Adults - $10; Seniors - $9.50; Children 10 & under - $5; under free 3
Pop, Beer, Seconds & Carryouts available. Info: 279-1690

FISH FRY
Knights of Columbus
ST JOAN OF ARC PARISH
Powell
FRIDAYS March 8 — April 12, 5 — 7:30 PM
All you can eat meals available:
Baked & Fried Fish, French Fries, Mac & Cheese, Green Beans, Cole Slaw, Rolls, Soft Drinks.
Adults: $10, Children: $5, Carry-out: $9.
Cash or Check only.
www.bestfishfry.com

ST. CHRISTOPHER CHURCH
LENTEN PASTA DINNER
1429 Grandview Avenue / Trinity School Cafeteria
Fridays — March 8 thru April 12
5PM to 7PM
$8 for adults / $5 for kids / $30 per Family
Meatless Pasta Sauce provided by local area restaurants
March 29 – Zucchin di Spirito
April 5 — TAT Ristorante
April 12 — Bravo Cucina Italiana

ST CATHERINE’S K OF C FISH FRY
500 S Gould Rd, Columbus
Friday, March 8, 15 & April 5, 12,
4:30-7:30 pm
ALL YOU CAN EAT

Dine-in, Carry-out & Drive-thru
Adults $10; Seniors (65+) $8; Children (under 12) $5;
Under 5 Free
Fried Ocean Perch, Baked Cod, Fries, Mac & cheese,
Coleslaw, Applesauce, Rolls, Dessert & Beverage.
Beer and wine available for purchase.

ST. LADISLASH PARISH
277 Reeb Avenue
Annual Spaghetti Dinner
Sunday, April 7, 2019 12-5 p.m.
Pastie, homemade meatballs & sauce, salad, bread, homemade desserts & beverage
Adults: $9 Child/Seniors: $6
Carryouts available
Raffle

MARCH
28-29, THURSDAY-FRIDAY
33 Hours of Adoration at Resurrection
From end of 9 a.m. Thursday Mass to 6:30
‘Unplanned’ film is story of ‘hope, forgiveness and love’

By Catholic News Service

Abby Johnson’s life already was an open book. Now it has become a movie. “It’s not a film inspired by my life story,” she said. “It is my life story.”

Johnson, 38, is a former Planned Parenthood facility director turned pro-life advocate. She made the comments during a webinar about the film Unplanned, which is based on her 2011 book of the same name.

Johnson’s story of God’s redemption began to unfold in September 2009. Then one of Planned Parenthood’s youngest facility directors, she was called to assist with an abortion.

What she saw on the ultrasound convinced her that what she’d been told about abortion — and what she’d repeated to women for nearly 22,000 (abortion) industry — there will be help for them right after the film ... staffed 24/7,” Johnson explained.

“Abortion is an isolating issue. Women are alone in the decision and the aftermath. For them, “this film can be a tool of healing.”

Archbishop Naumann also pointed out the film’s depiction of the positive role that pro-life sidewalk counselors played in Johnson walking away from the abortion industry.

“It shows how pro-life advocates that pray and respectfully interact with those involved with abortion or that are thinking about having an abortion. They can really have an impact,” he said.

Johnson expressed hope that the film will inspire those involved with abortion to leave that industry. She started the nonprofit organization And Project Rachel post-abortion ministry.

The movie officially opens in theaters this weekend.

At the end of the film, a phone number is repeated to women for nearly 22,000 who worked or worked in the abortion industry – there will be help for them right after the film ... staffed 24/7,” Johnson explained.

“As a filmmaker, you feel a bit of panic. At the end of the film, a phone number is repeated to women for nearly 22,000 who worked or worked in the abortion industry – there will be help for them right after the film ... staffed 24/7,” Johnson explained.

Johnson exclaimed, “Don’t let the R rating scare you. Nothing is overdramatic” in the film, she assured. “Abortion is bad enough. Nothing is overdramatic” in the film, she assured. “Abortion is bad enough. Nothing is overdramatic” in the film, she assured.

Johnson credited God with the timing of the film’s release. She said none of those involved with the film could have foreseen how much abortion would be in the news right now.

“I think stories are the way people are moved today, not so much by reason,” Archbishop Naumann said. “And film in particular has the ability to inspire people.”

Johnson admitted that the release of the film has made her feel “vulnerable.”

“After watching the film for the first time with her husband, Doug, in their Colorado home, she felt a bit of panic.

“So if a woman is in a crisis pregnancy, needs help after an abortion, if a man needs post-abortion help, if someone works or worked in the abortion industry — there will be help for them right after the film ... staffed 24/7,” Johnson explained.

“Abortion is an isolating issue. Women are alone in the decision and the aftermath. For them, “this film can be a tool of healing.”

Archbishop Naumann also pointed out the film’s depiction of the positive role that pro-life sidewalk counselors played in Johnson walking away from the abortion industry.

“It shows how pro-life advocates that pray and respectfully interact with those involved with abortion or that are thinking about having an abortion. They can really have an impact,” he said.

Johnson expressed hope that the film will inspire those involved with abortion to leave that industry. She started the nonprofit organization And Project Rachel post-abortion ministry.

The film provides Johnson a second way to reach abortion workers. She purchased and mailed tickets for Unplanned to abortion facilities near theaters showing the film with a letter inviting feedback on the movie.

The goal is to “open up a dialogue with those who are pro-choice,” she explained. “We have to always be open to plant those seeds that the Holy Spirit can nurture in their life.

Johnson credited God with the timing of the film’s release. She said none of those involved with the film could have foreseen how much abortion would be in the news right now.

“I think this (film) will really change the dialogue about abortion in this country,” Johnson concluded. “For far too long, people haven’t really known how to talk about abortion. People are scared of the topic. They don’t know what to say, so they don’t say anything. I think this film will equip people with truth.”

More details about the film may be found at www.unplannedfilm.com.
The Columbus St. Andrew School second-grade Brownies celebrated Girl Scout Sunday by attending Mass at St. Andrew Church and having their picture taken with Father TJ Lehigh, St. Andrew Church parochial vicar.

Photo courtesy St. Andrew School

St. Michael students advance in history competition

Pictured are 11 Worthington St. Michael School students whose four projects scored high enough in regional competition at Ohio Wesleyan University to advance to State History Day on April 27 at OWU. The projects dealt with Anne Frank, polio, the 1967 Six-Day War in the Middle East, and the Cleveland Clinic fire of 1929. They were among 20 members of the school’s history club who submitted a total of nine projects related to this year’s History Day theme, “Triumph and Tragedy.” They had been working on the projects since October.

Photo courtesy St. Michael School

St. Rose sends five to State Science Day

Five New Lexington St. Rose School students are moving on to the State Science Day at Ohio State University on Saturday, May 11 after winning scholarships and monetary awards during regional competition at Ohio University-Lancaster. They are (from left): Clara Baker, Elle Mitchell, Lucy Watkins, Reese Hagy and Hannah Sheets. State Science Day is a program of the Ohio Academy of Science and has taken place annually since 1949, with more than 60,000 students participating.

Photo courtesy St. Rose School

Columbus St. Anthony School receives grant

Lancaster St. Bernadette School students have been growing a variety of vegetables and herbs throughout the school year in a tower garden. They also have been able to harvest the vegetables and use them in a variety of dishes they made themselves. Father Ty Tomson, pastor of St. Bernadette Church, recently joined fourth-grade students to make pesto using basil from the garden.

Photo courtesy St. Bernadette School

St. Andrew School received a grant from The Catholic Foundation to enhance its religious education and formation program. The grant will allow the school to purchase picture books of the saints, miniature Mass kits, “Steps to the Eucharist” movement mats, “Praying the Rosary” interactive tools, training for the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and more. Pictured are eighth-grade teacher Kelly Buzenski (left) and Foundation development officer Christy Steffy.

Photo courtesy St. Anthony School

Author visits Trinity students

Jason Reynolds (center, back row), an author of books for young adults, spoke to Columbus Trinity Elementary School students. He told them to remember that education is a gift and encouraged literacy among young people.

Photo courtesy Trinity Elementary School

Students grow vegetables indoors

Lancaster St. Bernadette School students have been growing a variety of vegetables and herbs throughout the school year in a tower garden. They also have been able to harvest the vegetables and use them in a variety of dishes they made themselves. Father Ty Tomson, pastor of St. Bernadette Church, recently joined fourth-grade students to make pesto using basil from the garden.

Photo courtesy St. Bernadette School

St. Anthony School receives grant

Lancaster St. Bernadette School students have been growing a variety of vegetables and herbs throughout the school year in a tower garden. They also have been able to harvest the vegetables and use them in a variety of dishes they made themselves. Father Ty Tomson, pastor of St. Bernadette Church, recently joined fourth-grade students to make pesto using basil from the garden.

Photo courtesy St. Bernadette School

Columbus St. Anthony School received a grant from The Catholic Foundation to enhance its religious education and formation program. The grant will allow the school to purchase picture books of the saints, miniature Mass kits, “Steps to the Eucharist” movement mats, “Praying the Rosary” interactive tools, training for the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and more. Pictured are eighth-grade teacher Kelly Buzenski (left) and Foundation development officer Christy Steffy.

Photo courtesy St. Anthony School
Thank you Bishop Campbell for being our Shepherd and Teacher!