

The Catholic **TIMES**

The Diocese of Columbus' News Source

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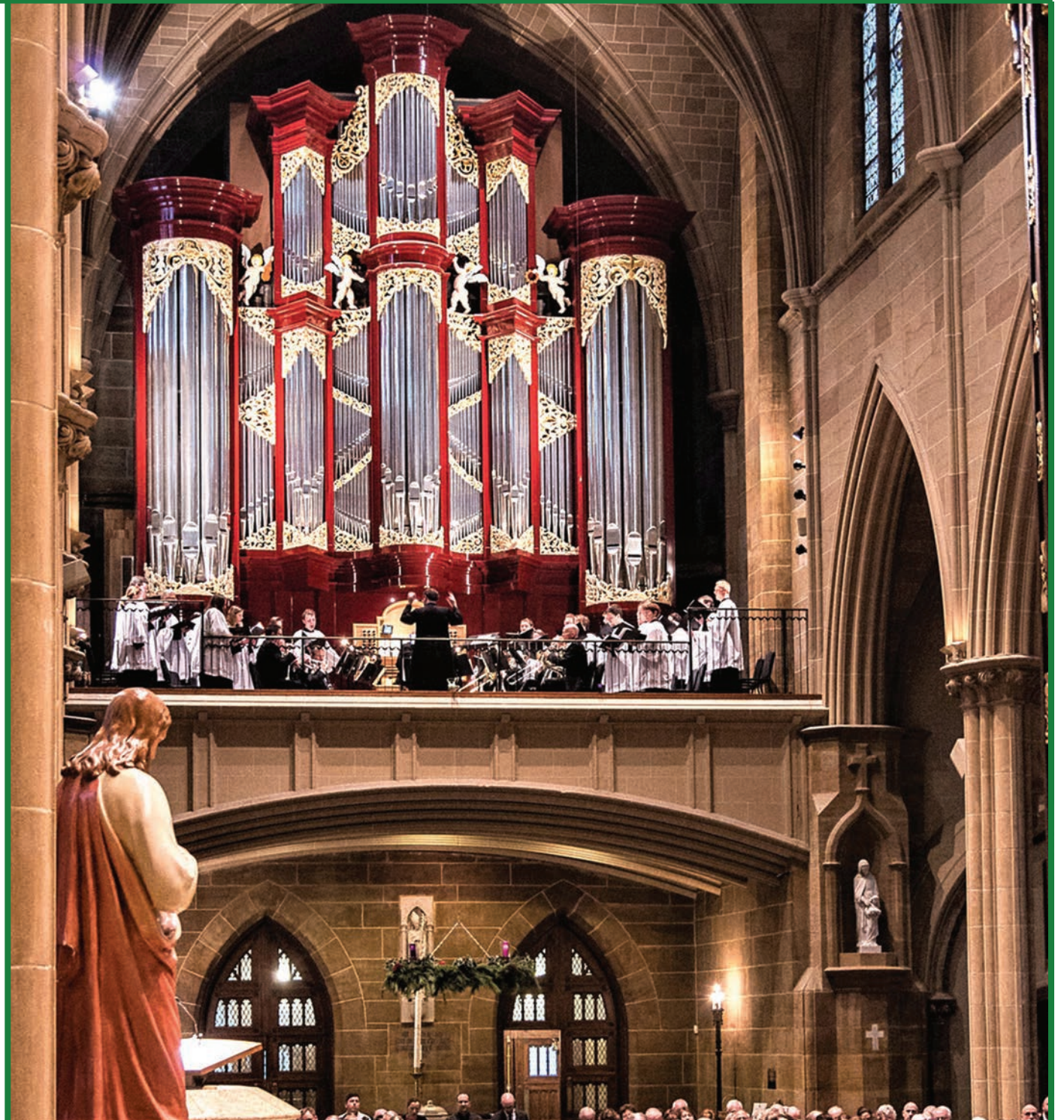
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Priest added to diocese's list of clergy credibly accused of sexual abuse

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following announcement was released shortly after the print deadline for the last issue of *The Catholic Times*. That is the reason for the delay in publishing.

As part of the Diocese's continued investigation of allegations of sexual abuse of a minor, the Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan, Bishop of Columbus, has added retired Diocesan priest David Schilder, 77, to the lists of priests credibly accused of sexual abuse of a minor.

This action and announcement are made in accordance with the Catholic Church's *Charter and Norms for the Protection of Children and Young People* and the Diocese's published *Policies for Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Minors and Response to Allegations Thereof*.

In July 2004, the Diocese of Columbus received a partial and incomplete report of possible sexual abuse of a minor regarding Father Schilder. The report did not provide specifics relating to the alleged conduct but indicated that the alleged conduct occurred in 1968. Because of the incompleteness of the report, no determination as to credibility was possible at that time, and no process to remove Father Schilder from the priesthood could be initiated. Nevertheless, the allegation was reported to Franklin County Children Services on July 16, 2004. Subsequently, Father Schilder retired for health reasons and was instructed not to engage in public ministry as a priest.

On September 16, 2019, a second accusation of sexual abuse of a minor, allegedly occurring sometime during the 1981 to 1983 time period, was reported to the Diocesan Victim's Assistance Coordinator. Diocesan officials promptly reported the allegation to the Columbus Police, notified Father Schilder of the allegation, and commissioned an independent third party investigation of the allegation. The investigators interviewed both the alleged victim and Father Schilder, who

denied ever sexually abusing a minor.

On November 20, 2019, a meeting of the Diocesan Board of Review for the Protection of Children was convened to assess the results of the investigation and make a recommendation to the Bishop as to whether the allegations against Father Schilder appeared to be credible. The Review Board found the allegations credible and made a recommendation to the Bishop that Father Schilder's name be added to the list of priests credibly accused. Bishop Brennan has accepted that recommendation and has placed Father Schilder on administrative leave pending further canonical and administrative processes.

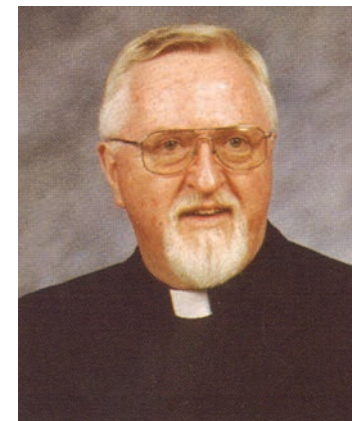
Plans are under way to set up outreach in the Diocese, and more information will be provided to parishioners in the Diocese in the near future. Additionally, Bishop Brennan has directed that the third party investigators who investigated the allegations against Father Schilder continue their investigation to ensure that anyone who may have been abused by Father Schilder is identified and their needs addressed. The Diocese will report the results of its investigation to the proper local authorities and will cooperate with local law enforcement in any way requested.

Father Schilder began serving as a priest of the Diocese of Columbus in 1968. His assignments have included: Assistant Pastor, Holy Rosary Parish, Columbus (1968-1969); Assistant Pastor, St. Timothy Parish, Columbus (1969-1970); Teacher, Bishop Ready High School, Columbus (1969-1970); Chaplain, Chillicothe Correctional Institution (1970-1976); Assistant Pastor, St. Agnes Parish, Columbus (1976-1977); Associate Director of Catholic Cemeteries, with residence at St. Joseph Cemetery (1977-1978); Director of Catholic Cemeteries (1978-1984); Chaplain, Central Ohio Council, Boy Scouts of America (1973-1975); Orient Correctional In-

stitution, with residence at Corpus Christi Parish, Columbus (1985-86), later in residence, St. Ladislav Parish, Columbus (1986-1997); Chaplain, Elkton Federal Correction Institution, with residence at St. Paul Parish, Salem, Ohio, Youngstown Diocese (1997-2001) and Chaplain, Ashland Federal Correction Institution, Ashland, Kentucky (2001-2004).

The Diocese of Columbus encourages anyone who may have experienced sexual abuse by clergy or others associated with the Church to notify law enforcement immediately and also the Diocesan Victim's Assistance Coordinator at (614) 224-2251, (866) 448-0217, or helpisavailable@columbuscatholic.org. Forms for reporting abuse are available in Catholic parish and school offices and can be accessed from the diocesan website (www.columbuscatholic.org).

Although significant progress has been made since implementing the Catholic Church's *Charter and Norms for the Protection of Children and Young People* and the Diocese's published *Policies for Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Minors and Response to Allegations Thereof* in 2002, Bishop Brennan believes that additional steps are necessary to confirm that all allegations of sexual abuse, no matter how long ago they occurred, have been properly identified, investigated, and where confirmed the necessary reconciliation and healing measures are made available to the victims and their families. To that end, Bishop Brennan has retained attorney

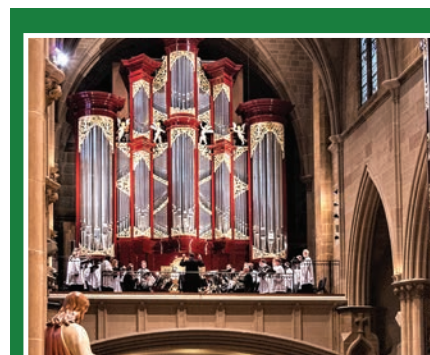


Father David Schilder

Thomas Bonasera of the Dinsmore & Shohl law firm to conduct an independent third party audit of Diocesan clergy personnel files.

The audit will specifically involve a review of all clergy files to determine that the Diocese's list of credibly accused priests is complete. Mr. Bonasera is past president of both the Ohio State Bar and Columbus Bar Associations.

Additionally, Bishop Brennan has commissioned a task force to perform a complete review of safe environment policies and procedures as well as its outreach efforts within the Diocese, charging them with the mission to ensure that the Diocese is doing its utmost to provide healing and assistance and that no one affected by the crisis of sexual abuse of children and young people in the Church suffers in silence and isolation. The Task Force's is expected to provide a report for Bishop Brennan's review by January 31, 2020.



Front Page photo:

MUSIC AT CHRISTMAS

Many Catholics and even non-Catholics come to the Christmas Masses at St. Joseph Cathedral and other churches in the diocese to hear the beautiful music of the season. (Photo courtesy St. Joseph Cathedral)

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\$67,500 donated in diocese during #iGiveCatholic campaign

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

Parishes, schools and ministries of the Diocese of Columbus raised \$67,500 for a variety of activities through the national #iGiveCatholic crowdfunding program, which was part of #GivingTuesday on Dec. 3, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving.

Donations were made by 421 people and benefited 53 ministries, which received amounts ranging from \$14,090 for Columbus St. Andrew Church to \$25 for four ministries. Most of the money was donated on Dec. 3, but donors also had the option of donating online throughout November in advance of #GivingTuesday.

The amount raised by St. Andrew from 61 donors will cover nearly the entire \$15,000 cost of a 37-piece set of three-octave bells for a new bell choir to be formed by parish music director Philip Lortz.

“Adding bells to our program has been in the back of my mind for a while,” he said. “When I became choir director here 13 years ago, my biggest focus was developing the choir. It has grown to 60 people, and I’ve often thought during the last few years that bells would be a wonderful addition, but I knew it would be relatively costly.

“That seed was planted again this summer when I attended a National Association of Pastoral Musicians conference in Raleigh, North Carolina, and heard the Raleigh Ringers bell group. I came back and talked about it at a parish staff meeting and was encouraged to tell people that I’d like a bell choir,” Lortz said the day after the fundraising effort.

“Thanks to #iGiveCatholic, the money needed was raised much quicker than I had anticipated. I can call the company that makes the bells today and place an order.”

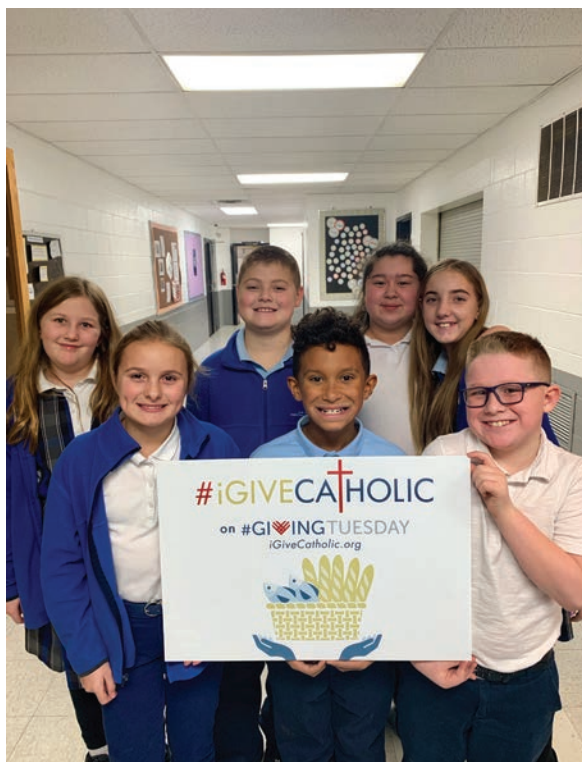
The bells and related accessories will come from Malmark Bellcraftsmen in suburban Philadelphia. Lortz said it will take four to eight weeks to fill the order, so he’s hoping the bell choir’s first performance can be sometime during the Easter season.

A donation of \$400 to the bell campaign enabled the donor to have a personalized inscription placed on a bell handle. A \$200 donation allowed donors to share an inscription. As of Dec. 4, only six handbells were left to inscribe.

The parish’s Give-A-Bell campaign is continuing. Lortz said donations beyond the \$15,000 mark will go toward possible purchase of a set of handchimes. “These are wonderful instruments in their own right and would be an excellent learning tool for the children’s choir,” he said.

Diocesan schools raising the largest amounts through the crowdfunding effort were Columbus Our Lady of Bethlehem School and Childcare, Newark Blessed Sacrament School and Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help School.

Our Lady of Bethlehem raised \$8,225. Its 68 donors were the largest number for any diocesan par-



Students at Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help School hold up a sign of support for the #iGive Catholic giving campaign. The school raised \$7,150 through the program. Photo/Our Lady of Perpetual Help School

ticipant in the program.

“Through #iGiveCatholic, the school’s safety and security efforts continue, and funds raised in 2019 will be used to replace the blue awning which provides shelter to students and staff,” said Lauren Harrington, Our Lady of Bethlehem marketing and development coordinator.

“We thank everyone who played a part in the success of this year’s campaign and will continue our efforts to provide exceptional faith formation and early education in a safe, nurturing community to each student and family the school serves.”

Our Lady of Bethlehem offers care to children age six weeks through kindergarten and has a summer program for children ages 3 through Grade 6.

Blessed Sacrament’s total of \$7,175 from 26 donors was more than twice the amount it raised in 2018, the first year for #iGiveCatholic in the diocese. This represented the largest percentage increase from last year for any diocesan participant in the program and was substantially beyond the \$4,000 goal school principal Josh Caton had set.

“It was exciting to see the money coming in all day,” Caton said. “The response far exceeded our expectations.” The money will be used for classroom furniture and materials necessary to start an all-day preschool in August in the parish elementary school building.

“A preschool will fulfill a need in the community and will allow us to introduce our school to new families who are coming to Licking County to work at the distribution and data centers being built by Amazon, Google and others,” he said.

“We’ve received many calls from parents saying they’re looking for a Catholic school and wanting to know if we have a preschool. Our experience has shown that after people come to our building and see our staff and teachers, they often decide this is where they want their children to be.”

Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help School received \$7,150 from 21 donors. School marketing and outreach coordinator Brad Allen said the money will provide funds for the school’s STEM program and for items not part of the regular budget, such as guest speakers and field trips.

“School principal Julie Freeman believes in providing alternative ways of learning by getting out of the classroom once in a while. Her goal is to have every grade level take a field trip at least once a year,” Allen said.

“Social media played a big role in promoting the campaign,” he added, echoing comments from Lortz, Harrington and Caton. “We put out a couple of blasts in the days leading up to #GivingTuesday and the day itself. They included students holding up signs of support for the campaign, to remind people that their gifts were not for buildings but for the children in those buildings. Seeing the #iGive website updating totals as they came in also helped because people could immediately see the impact of their gifts.”

“St. Andrew, Our Lady of Bethlehem, Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady of Perpetual Help provide examples of what #iGiveCatholic is designed to do,” said Jenna Zins of the diocesan Office of Development and Planning, which coordinated the campaign throughout the diocese.

“Parishes were able to choose a dream project and raise money to pay for all or a significant part of it in a way that appeals to people’s generosity at this time of year and is different from standard methods of fundraising. We’re grateful to all participating organizations and the donors who helped them in their mission of doing God’s work,” she said.

Nationally, the #iGiveCatholic campaign raised more than \$7.3 million from more than 29,000 donors. That amount has grown each year since the effort started in 2015 in the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Parishes and programs in that state and Georgia have raised the largest amounts and had the most donors every year.

The overall #GivingTuesday program, which began in 2012 in New York City and now includes 52 nations, raised \$1.97 billion in the United States alone – \$511 million on Dec. 3 and the rest in advance.

Besides those already mentioned, diocesan organizations raising the most money through #iGiveCatholic were: Columbus Catholic Women’s Conference, \$3,480 (16 donors); Delaware St. Mary School, \$3,310 (37); Back in His Arms Again ministry, for families grieving the loss of an infant, \$2,818.75 (20); Columbus St. Timothy School, \$1,825 (14); Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, \$1,755 (30); and Columbus St. Anthony Church and School, \$1,425 (19).

Armenian Church; penitential rite at Mass

QI have a friend who received baptism, confirmation and first Eucharist as a child in the Armenian Church. For the past 25 years, though, he has attended a Catholic church weekly and receives the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation. He supports the Catholic Church both financially and with time and talent.

They were told by a nun that this is OK, but recently they heard something on a Catholic radio channel that is making them doubt that. This friend is more Catholic in his actions than most of my friends who were born Catholic. Is there any advice you can give that might relieve his anxiety? (Largo, Florida)

AI should tell you first that there is a slight possibility that your friend is already a Catholic. The Armenian Catholic Church is one of about two dozen Eastern Catholic churches that are in full communion with Rome and accept the doctrine of papal primacy. More likely, though, he belongs to the Armenian Orthodox Church. (While there are about 35,000 Armenian Catholics in the United States, Armenian Orthodox number nearly half a million.)

So what would your friend need to do to become a Catholic? He would need only to make a profession of faith, a declaration that he believes all that the Catholic Church teaches. Most significantly, he would not need to be re-baptized or re-confirmed,

As the trees surrender their last leaves and winter wraps around us, we can look toward Advent as an opportunity to find resolve to be more fully who we are (God's children) and to cooperate with God's grace in becoming who we are called to be (saints). So while we wait for the Christ Child's birth, we can weave together the best of what makes us who we are and the promise of who we still are becoming.

Resolve can unify a beginning and determine an ending. Living with resolve often can be seen in duality, as being both/and: I will resolve to set my own course and I am resolved to accept the lot I have been given. Annie Dillard said, "How we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our lives."

December seems so fast-paced that January almost comes as a relief. Imagine the day when you can begin to see a little white space on your calendar. January is often the first time many of us have the breathing room to reminisce about the blur of the holiday seasons. We wonder how it all unfolded so quickly: the breaking into time of our Savior, the gift giving, the gatherings, the family traditions we eagerly awaited – all of it here and then gone in a flash.

What if this year, we determine to shake up our own default settings (yes, a nod to our diocesan IT group) and instead lean into the wonder, nostalgia

QUESTION & ANSWER

Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service

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



since those Orthodox sacraments he has already received are recognized as valid by the Catholic Church. (Likewise, his reception of holy Communion as an Orthodox Christian has been a validly consecrated Eucharist.)

QEvery Mass I attend begins with a penitential rite, which I take to be the forgiveness of sins for those who are there worshipping. And then, just before Communion, we say, "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed." Why, then, does the church require Catholics to go to confession? (Russellville, Arkansas)

AIt is true, as you indicate, that several times throughout the Mass we indicate our unworthiness to participate in such a sacred act. However, none of these expressions of sinfulness and sorrow is equivalent to sacramental absolution,

and they do not dispense us from the obligation of confessing grave sins before receiving holy Communion.

The church's *Code of Canon Law* states clearly that "a member of the Christian faithful is obliged to confess in kind and number all grave sins committed after baptism and not yet remitted directly through the keys of the church nor acknowledged in individual confession" (Canon 988.1).

Grave, or "mortal," sins are those involving serious matter, committed with knowledge of their gravity and the deliberate consent of the will. The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, the church's official "guidebook" on liturgy, notes, "the priest calls upon the whole community to take part in the penitential act, which, after a brief pause for silence, it does by means of a formula of general confession. The rite concludes with the priest's absolution, which, however, lacks the efficacy of the sacrament of penance" (No. 51).

The penitential rite (as well as the reception of Communion and other acts of prayer and devotion) can, though, forgive venial sins. Strictly speaking, one is obliged to go to the sacrament of penance only for serious sins – although it is a certainly a good idea to confess regularly even for lesser sins and imperfections. In 2013, Pope Francis revealed that he himself goes to confession every two weeks and considers it the best path to spiritual healing and health.

I resolve to ... ?

FAITH IN ACTION

Erin Cordle

Erin Cordle is associate director of the diocesan Office for Social Concerns.



and good-for-the-soul moments that will last in our hearts forever?

Many of us can point to a time in our lives when someone's kindness made all the difference, when we felt the comfort of being valued, even if by the grace of a stranger. In a season when wish lists are made and gifts are given, we naturally stay attuned to the needs of those in our inner circle. This year, I challenge us to look beyond our own immediate company and consider the often-overlooked people in our community.

Do you have a list (at least a mental list) of friends with whom you have meant to keep in touch? Is there an isolated person on your street who could use a couple minutes of your time to talk and break the boredom? How much time would it really take to shovel a path to Mrs. Wilson's front door? What about those who find help through our Catholic social service agencies?

She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7).

The question we often ask in our office is: Can we make room in our hearts for those in need, to change the environment, to make a difference? Our office has a listing of Catholic agencies and their needs on the diocesan website at <https://columbus-catholic.org/social-concerns-office>: Catholic Charities Christmas Help.

From our website: "People need your help. They need the basics: food, clothing, and household items. ... Can you make room in your life for our neighbors in need? If you can help, support our diocesan sponsored organizations or your parish and community ministries. If you need help, please give them a call."

On our journeys during Advent, we have opportunities to move closer to God and to pursue the whole picture of who we are made to be. We are called to live in the abundance of our own stories and to know that each piece – the broken, the sad, the hard, just as much as the fulfilled, the good, the happy – plays into who we are as children of God.

A world of untapped potential is buried within each of us. I pray that this Advent will provide you with opportunities to resolve to set it free.

Stewardship and the season of giving

The holiday season is here. We have seen Christmas decorations in retail stores ever since back-to-school items went on clearance. Those who dared to decorate their tree or listen to holiday music before Thanksgiving can now be bold without fear of reproach. As faithful Catholics, we know that the culmination of it all is the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We also know that this is a season of giving. If we were not already there, in the span of less than a week, we had Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, Cyber Monday and Giving Tuesday to thrust us full throttle into the giving spirit.

St. Paul quotes Jesus in Acts, “It is more blessed to give than receive” (Acts 20:35). Gift giving, especially at Christmastime, is a happy tradition that brings about excitement for givers and recipients alike. But this notion that Paul speaks of may seem counterintuitive, especially considering today’s world of consumerism. Our current culture tries to convince us that having more stuff is better and whoever ends up with the most toys wins. Giving may be better than getting, but admittedly, getting is pretty great too.

When we approach this season of giving from the angle of stewardship, we recognize that all of our gifts – our lives, families, friendships and work,

STEWARDSHIP, LIVING OUR FAITH

Wendy Piper

Wendy Piper is associate director for the diocesan Office of Development and Planning.



but also our skills, talents and abilities – come from God. They are gifts God has entrusted to us, and God calls us as Christian stewards to use our gifts for good. Therefore, if it is more blessed to give than it is to receive, then do not our blessings come from giving to others the things God has first given to us? In the words of St. Peter, “As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace” (1 Peter 4:10).

A few years ago, I ambitiously decided that instead of buying Christmas presents for my family, I was going to make them by hand. This was not a hasty or last-minute decision. I have quite a few nieces and nephews, so this effort began months in advance in order to finish by Dec. 25. It was

not merely a reason to avoid crowded shopping malls, nor was it an attempt at saving money. Ask any crafter or artist and they will tell you: making something instead of buying it does not necessarily mean it costs less. No, this plan was intentional and carefully strategized with the hope that each child would have a treasured keepsake that is as special as he or she is.

Once I get an idea in my head, I tend to outdo myself, and this Christmas project was no exception. I spent countless hours investing time and energy into each gift. I poured far more of myself into them than I would have by venturing out on Black Friday and buying gifts that someone else had made. I had sewn a piece of my soul into them, making each one unique enough to reflect the personality of its recipient.

When Christmas arrived, my stomach was in knots as my nieces and nephews opened their gifts one by one. The anticipation had been building since I first dreamed up this crazy plan, and had snowballed into the moment that was now immediately in front of me. And then it hit me. Finally being able to share these gifts with my loved ones – gifts that I had made using the gifts that God had given me – was the greatest blessing. Indeed, I was more blessed to give than to receive.

Listening for meaning, direction and movement during Advent

I am poring through Scripture readings and books while preparing for an Advent retreat, revisiting favorite writings and discovering new ones. As readers do, I filter the words through my current state of mind, faith, and being. A passage that held deep meaning five years ago provides little inspiration this time around. On the other hand, something I had passed over before jumps out from the page and speaks to me. Of course, there are passages that always touch the heart.

An essay in Madeleine L’Engle’s *Miracle on 10th Street: & Other Christmas Writings* provided the “word” for this reflection: “Advent is about listening.”

I usually think of this season as a time of waiting or keeping watch for something that is coming. While listening is part of active waiting and of remaining alert for what is to come, lately I’ve noticed my lack of practice – at least of the deep listening Madeleine writes about.

I listen for things like the washer or dryer buzzer alerting me that the load is finished. The oven timer lets me know food needs checked or removed. My mobile phone signals the arrival of a text message, email or call, with a distinct sound for each. But really, I don’t actually listen for these. They are loud enough that the intricate inner workings of my ear (a miracle in itself) hear them whether or not I’m paying attention. These examples are more “hearing,” I guess.

Then there is the “mother’s ear” that is remarkably attuned to her children’s soft whimpers or cries that alert her that some loving attention is needed. Sometimes she just knows. This is closer to the “listening” of Advent, rooted not simply in sound

GRACE IN THE MOMENT

Mary Van Balen

Visit Mary van Balen’s blog at <http://www.maryvanbalen.com/the-scallop>.



waves and anatomy, but in soul and attention.

Advent listening attends to more than sound. It listens for meaning, direction and movement deep down in our center. We listen with the ear of the heart as St. Benedict instructs in his Rule’s prologue. We listen for the Divine within us, the Christ, without knowing what exactly that will sound like or if it “sounds” at all.

A few weeks ago, I saw the movie *Harriet*. (See it if you can.) It revealed much about the most well-known conductor on the underground railroad, Harriet Tubman. She was born into slavery, escaped to freedom, and returned to the South 19 times, freeing about 70 other people. (These numbers vary depending on the source.) A remarkable woman in countless ways, she seems to me to have been an “Advent listener.”

She said she didn’t travel alone. The Lord traveled with her, sometimes speaking to her and guiding her to safety. Many people thought she was delusional, but her story never changed. When asked what it was like to hear the voice of God, she said

sometimes it was soft like a dream and sometimes it stung like a slap in the face. Either way, she needed to pay close attention to it before she knew what it meant. It led her by safe paths; it directed her to return to the South again and again.

The messages came unexpectedly, sometimes while she was leading a group, sometimes when she was asleep. The thing is, she heard it. Deep down, she was listening with the ear of her heart, all the time. Open. Ready.

Harriet’s story reminds me of this passage in Isaiah: “Whether you turn to right or left, your ears will hear these words behind you, ‘This is the way, follow it’ (Isaiah 30, 21).

We will hear if we are listening.

Our world is noisy and keeps us busy. We “hear” lots, but listening is difficult. These weeks before Christmas are even louder and busier than usual, filled with marketing messages bombarding us from television, radios and computer screens as we hurry about our preparations.

Advent is about listening deeply. Dark nights, candlelight from our Advent wreaths, sweet smells of holiday baking, or long winter walks can provide a bit of quiet. But even in the midst of activity, with practice, the ear of our heart listens to the whisper of the Sacred within: Have hope. God-with-Us is here. Follow the Word.

You can buy Mary’s collection of columns, “Reflections for Advent and Christmas: A Grace in the Moment Book,” from Biblio Publishing at info@zippublishing.com (614) 485-0721 or contact Mary at maryvanbalen.com.

Books for Christmas – 2019

Resist the twitterization of thought. Give books for Christmas! The following titles will delight, instruct, edify (or all of the above):

Churchill: Walking with Destiny by Andrew Roberts (Viking): There seems to be no end to the making of books about Winston Churchill. I own 17 and have no hesitation in saying this is the best Churchill biography ever, written with a narrative drive that sustains your interest through even the familiar bits. It's also a treasure trove of witticisms, including this rapier-quick Churchillian riposte to Charlie Chaplin's announcement at a Chartwell dinner party that his next movie role would be Jesus Christ: "Have you cleared the rights?"

In Oceans Deep: Redemptive Suffering and the Crucified God by Eduardo Echeverria (Lectio Publishing): A powerful reflection on the mystery of evil from a fine theologian and insightful commentator on matters ecclesiastical, written while he was mourning the death of a 2-year-old granddaughter.

Land of Hope: An Invitation to the Great American Story by Wilfred M. McClay (Encounter Books): The antidote to the damage caused by Howard Zinn's wretched *People's History of the United States*. Give it to every millennial on your Christmas list.

Appeasement: Chamberlain, Hitler, Churchill, and the Road to War by Tim Bouverie (Tim Duggan Books), and *1941: The Year Germany Lost the War*, by Andrew Nagorski (Simon & Schuster): Two powerful reminders that pretending totalitarians don't mean what they say makes matters worse.

The Day Is Now Far Spent by Robert Cardinal Sarah in conversation with Nicolas Diat (Ignatius Press): Cardinal Sarah is a radically converted Christian disciple whose love for Christ impels him to speak without euphemism about Catholicism's contemporary challenges. Some may find the cardi-

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE George Weigel

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



nal's reading of the signs of the times apocalyptic; the same people would likely say the same thing about St. Augustine.

The Guarded Gate: Bigotry, Eugenics, and the Law That Kept Two Generations of Jews, Italians, and Other European Immigrants Out of America by Daniel Okrent (Scribner): A chilling exploration of how WASP prejudice married to crackpot "science" warped American politics and law – and a preview of how the same cocktail of nonsense (and some of the same people) helped advance the abortion license.

Last Testament by Benedict XVI with Peter Seewald (Bloomsbury Continuum): Forty-five minutes with the Pope Emeritus in October easily rank among my most bracing conversations of 2019. This interview-style memoir ought to (but likely won't) clear up some misconceptions about a brilliant and holy man, as it ought to (but certainly won't) put a stop to lurid speculations about the reason for his abdication.

Touched with Fire: Morris B. Abram and the Battle Against Racial and Religious Discrimination by David Lowe (Potomac Books): An overdue celebration of a man of conviction and courage and a useful reminder that not so long ago, "liberal" meant something much better than "crazy leftist."

George Marshall: Defender of the Republic by David L. Roll (Dutton Caliber): Hard as it may be to imagine these days, giants once walked the earth along the Potomac littoral. As U.S. Army chief of staff throughout World War II, then postwar secretary of state and secretary of defense, George Catlett Marshall didn't get everything right; no one does. But he was the antithesis of those who crave distinction from high office instead of bringing distinction to it, and his example continues to inspire.

Primal Screams: How the Sexual Revolution Created Identity Politics by Mary Eberstadt (Encounter Books): Anything Mary Eberstadt writes is worth reading – and doubly so when her latest exploration of our wounded culture worries a *New York Times* columnist.

Why Celibacy? Reclaiming the Fatherhood of the Priest by Father Carter Griffin: A powerful explanation of an ancient tradition's relevance for 21st-century Catholicism, which should have been a reference at the Amazonian synod but wasn't. Especially useful for seminarians, but important reading regardless of your state of life in the Church.

The Gifted School by Bruce Holsinger (Riverhead Books): A delicious send-up of bulldozer parents in a progressive town, but also (and perhaps unintentionally) a stark evocation of lives without God.

How Catholic Art Saved the Faith: The Triumph of Beauty and Truth in Counter-Reformation Art by Elizabeth Lev (Sophia Institute Press): Liz Lev not only makes you see things you never saw before in a painting or a sculpture; she brilliantly explicates the meaning of what you're seeing afresh.

And (if I may): *The Irony of Modern Catholic History: How the Church Rediscovered Itself and Challenged the World to Reform* (Basic Books): I hope you and those on your gift list enjoy reading it as I enjoyed writing it.

Inmate relied on Jesus in running half-marathon, race called life

By Michele Williams

St. Paul said in Hebrews 12:1, "Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith."

I recently ran my first half-marathon and came to deeply understand the meaning of that scripture.

The half-marathon was in support of October's Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Our entry fee was a donation to the Ohio Domestic Violence Network.

The money raised went to help women in shelters hire attorneys, obtain protection orders, and cover court costs and emergency room bills. Many of those women escaped their abuser with their lives and very little else.

Domestic violence is by far the most

important issue in my life, so I ran for four reasons: 1) for the women who, in breaking the silence, are asking for help; 2) for the women who are too scared, threatened, ashamed or embarrassed to say anything at all; 3) for those who need the strength to face another day of pain and chaos; and 4) for myself, to temporarily elude the guilt and regret that are my constant companions.

We race participants were all survivors running for survivors. But we did not forget those who became victims, and had a moment of silence for them before the race started. They deserve respect, remembrance and the tears shed for lives taken too soon. Domestic violence is a destroyer of all things: hope and trust, logic and reason, families and freedom. Sometimes there is no way short of a miracle to overcome the terrible destruction. Raising mon-

ey by running a half-marathon was a good way to increase awareness and, we hope, prevent future tragedies.

As I trained, I kept Paul's words in mind. I fixed my eyes on Jesus and my heart on family, and drew strength from the Holy Spirit. It took a long time and a lot of hard work to build the endurance necessary to run 13.1 miles. I had to make changes in my lifestyle and give up things that hindered my progress to make room for those that helped. My prayer life grew exponentially. I learned exactly where my help comes from. It comes from the Lord!

I believe this is similar to the way living as Catholics requires us to give up whatever gets in the way of our relationship with Jesus. Control issues, unforgiveness, pride, guilt, impatience over waiting for God to act. Anything sound familiar? At one

time or another, these have caused me to stumble in life and in my training. Whenever I looked away from Jesus and saw only my dire circumstances, I lost my footing and my way. I was living and running in the darkness of despair.

When I remembered to cry out to Jesus, things improved. I asked for help from the One who sees and knows all, who forgives, loves and gives mercy unconditionally. I regained strength as I focused on Jesus. Confident in His love for me once again, my life and training were back on track.

On race day, the course was 13 laps on a 1-mile-long route winding through the prison grounds where I've been incarcerated for more than 25 years. It gave me a surprisingly different perspective. The race started in

Local news and events

Jason Evert to speak at Delaware St. Mary in February

A family-based event titled “Purified,” focusing on chastity and featuring best-selling Catholic author Jason Evert, will take place from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20 at Delaware St. Mary Church, 82 E. William St.

The program for parents and young people ages 13 and older will include a talk by Evert and time for prayer, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Free resources focusing on God’s plan for love will be distributed to everyone in attendance.

Tickets are \$20 per person. For tickets, go to www.charity.com/purified or contact Renee Olney at (740) 833-6151.

Evert has spoken to more than one million people about the virtue of chastity. He has written several books, including *Theology of the Body for Teens* and *How to Find Your Soulmate Without Losing Your Soul*. He and his wife, Crystalina, co-founded The Chastity Project and the website chastity.com.

He earned a master’s degree in theology and undergraduate degrees in counseling and theology from Franciscan University of Steubenville and is a frequent guest on Catholic and secular radio and television programs.

Evert also will be speaking to students at Columbus Bishop Watterson High School on Friday, Feb. 21 and to the diocesan Catholic Men’s Conference on Saturday, Feb. 22.

Catholic Medical Association plans events in new year

The central Ohio chapter of the Catholic Medical Association will host wine and cheese events in January and February at Wellnitz Hall of Hilliard St. Brendan Church, 4475 Dublin Road.

A program on Thursday, Jan. 9 from 8 to 9:30 p.m. will feature a video presentation on “Gratitude: A Pathway to Physician Resilience and Happiness.” One hour of continuing medical edu-

Bishop Brennan begins “ad limina” visit in Rome



At left, Bishop Robert J. Brennan of Columbus and other bishops from Ohio and Michigan arrive for Mass in the crypt of St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican on Monday, Dec. 9. The bishops were making their “ad limina” visits to report on the status of their dioceses to the pope and Vatican officials. At right, Bishop Brennan prays while concelebrating Mass in the crypt. CNS photo/Paul Haring

cation credit will be available to participants.

A video on “Selfless Self-Preservation: The Paradoxical Duty of Resilience” will be shown on Thursday, Feb. 13, also from 8 to 9:30 p.m., with an 0.75-hour credit available.

All Catholic health care professionals are invited. For more information, go to www.cmacbus.com or contact Dr. Marian Schuda at (614) 769-5150.

Two Columbus Dominican sisters celebrate 50th anniversaries

During the past year, two Columbus members of the Dominican Sisters of Peace – Sister Arleen Kisiel, OP, and Sister Roberta Miller, OP – celebrated their 50th anniversary of entering the congregation. They were among 23 members of the congregation who marked milestone anniversaries in 2019. The sisters have spent a total of more than 1,500 years in service to God, the Church and its people.

Sister Arleen has been an educator and school counselor in Ohio, Chi-

cago and Michigan and a religion teacher in Pennsylvania and Ohio. She went on to serve as a counselor in New York, Canada and Pennsylvania. She returned to Columbus in 1996 to serve the congregation, first as a member of its leadership and later in other roles.

Sister Roberta began her religious ministry as a teacher in Ohio and New York. She continued her ministry of education as a professor in the sociology and humanities departments at Ohio Dominican University from 1983 to 2013. Today, she is coordinator of the congregation’s nonviolence grant through Catholic Health Initiatives.

Celebrating their 60th anniversaries this year are Sisters Melinda Burkhart, Catherine Malya Chen, Marlene Dimmerling, Maureen Flanagan, Patricia Gavaghan, Rosalie Graham, Diane Hooley, De Chantal Lorenz and Anne Rutledge.

Sisters Jacqueline Baum, Mary Ann Connolly, Mary Ann Fedor and Colleen Gallagher celebrated 65 years of

consecrated life. Sisters Melita Bearinger, Denise Bourgeois, Raymunda Brooks and Mary Jo Fox have spent 70 years as consecrated religious. Sisters Mary Hoguet and Dorothy Lemon marked 75 years of consecrated life. Sister Edwina Devlin has dedicated 85 years of her life to God and the Church.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd anniversary at St. Ladislav

The year 2020 will be the 20th anniversary for the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program at Columbus St. Ladislav Church. The program is a hands-on, Montessori-style method of religious education for children from infancy to age 12.

The anniversary will be marked with a celebration following the 11 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Jan. 5 in the former St. Ladislav School building, 277 S. Reeb Ave. There will be a special blessing of classrooms, followed by an open house and a parish international potluck in Huber Hall.

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predawn darkness that made navigating a bit difficult in some areas. That’s when I really let the Lord guide me! When the sun finally rose, it seemed like God’s fingers were lifting it into the sky among the clouds. I’ve never witnessed such an awesome display.

Lap after lap, the cheers of staff members and inmate spectators grew. They sounded like wildly excited angels.

I ran the race with perseverance in the most incredible 2:06:28 of my life. I felt strong and accompanied by Jesus himself every step of the way.

Crossing the finish line has become one of my greatest achievements. Talk about a miracle!

I hope to run a race in the free world if I’m judged worthy to re-enter it. The hard work, tears and determination of training are reflections of how

I live my Catholic life in prison every day. I am constantly reminded to keep my eyes fixed on Jesus, do my very best and believe in miracles.

Michele Williams is an inmate at the Ohio Reformatory for Women in Marysville.

'Common treasure': Timeless Christmas music lures, touches faithful

By Doug Bean
Catholic Times Editor

There's something about music at a Christmas Mass that soothes the soul, evokes memories and keeps the world's problems outside church walls, at least for a little while.

A familiar song may take listeners back to a happy moment during their childhood or a remembrance of a Christmas spent going to church with family or friends. For some, certain carols or hymns trigger a sense of sadness over lost loved ones or recollections of better days.

Most of the sacred music that Catholics will hear at Masses throughout the diocese during the Christmas vigil and on Christmas morning will be recognizable. For many, the joyful sounds created by singers, instrumentalists, bells and organs will kindle a sense of awe and wonder and raise hearts and minds to meditate on the miracle of Christ the Savior's birth.

The choirs and musicians who perform at Christmas – many of them volunteers – play an important role in creating a reverential atmosphere in sanctuaries that will be packed with regular Mass-goers and many visitors, some of whom may come to church only for Christmas and Easter.

While music has taken on many forms at parishes in the past 40-plus years, the Christmas repertoire remains timeless and traditional. It awakens a sense of the sacred that often is missing at Masses during the regular calendar year, outside of Lent and the Easter season.

The sublime beauty of the liturgy at Christmas falls in line with Pope Benedict XVI's 2007 apostolic exhortation *Sacramentum Caritatis* on the Eucharist as the source and summit of the Church's life and mission. In the letter, Pope Benedict said regarding liturgical song:

"Generic improvisation or the introduction of musical genres which fail to respect the meaning of the liturgy should be avoided. As an element of the liturgy, song should be well integrated into the overall celebration. Consequently, everything – texts, music, execution – ought to correspond to the meaning of the mystery being celebrated, the structure of the rite and the liturgical seasons. Finally, while respecting various styles and different and highly praiseworthy traditions, I desire, in accordance with the request advanced by the Synod Fathers, that Gregorian chant be suitably esteemed

and employed as the chant proper to the Roman liturgy."

Most people would agree that the Mass, particularly during Christmas, is enhanced by not only the sweet sounds of the music, but also the lyrics that tell the story of the events that took place 2,000 years ago in Bethlehem surrounding the Savior's birth.

"When the music and the liturgy work together, it makes the Mass the most beautiful," said Kathleen Tully, director of music at St. Patrick Church in downtown Columbus. "When the

some Gregorian chant. There's a vast repertoire to draw from. There are many appropriate chants to draw from that the Church gives us for every season.

"We have an excellent choir, so I try to make fullest possible use of that. I try to have the repertoire as varied as possible, meaning different styles coming from different time periods, different countries."

In a prelude concert starting at 11 p.m. Christmas Eve and then at midnight Mass, the Cathedral choir will mix old favorites (*Silent Night, Cov-*

erity is a big part of it."

At smaller parishes that don't have the same access to professional musicians as the cathedral, music choices depend on the talent and budget available. Some churches are able to hire brass or strings to accompany parish ensembles, which range from children's choirs, smaller scholas and soloists to larger groups.

At Marion St. Mary and Cardington Sacred Hearts, where Father Thomas Buffer is pastor, the parishes are blessed not only to have traditional choirs, but also a men's choir at St. Mary and a brass quartet at Sacred Hearts.

Considerable time and effort go into the preparation for multiple Masses at Christmas. Most choirs begin rehearsals in November, but some start working on the music well before that. Depending on the parish, some musicians participate on Christmas Eve and Christmas morning. The music, readings and responses vary at each Mass.

"All of the musicians know there are rather high expectations put on them at Christmas, and people expect everything to be most beautiful and just right," Father Buffer said. "The work that the musicians put in to prepare is something that most people don't see, and they deserve a lot of credit and recognition for that."

Father Buffer pointed out that the Christmas Eve Masses are by far the most well attended, which is "a striking fact because you have this pressure to devote more resources to those liturgies. There are Catholics who are 25 to 30 years old who have never been to Mass on Christmas Day."

Father Bill Hritsko, pastor at Buckeye Lake Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Heath St. Leonard, has mastered the art of using the musicians at his disposal, particularly at smaller parishes. He has worked with guitars, organs, strings, instrumentalists, dulcimers and keyboards. Both Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Leonard are blessed to have bell choirs, and the family choir at Our Lady spans three generations.

Like many parishes, Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Leonard bring back old Christmas standbys each year. But Father Hritsko, who has a music background and takes an active role in parish programs, normally adds at least one new selection with a different ethnic origin every Christmas.

This year at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, a new offering will be *Nu Oli*



Members of the Columbus St. Patrick Church choir sing last month during the dedication of the parish's new pipe organ.

Photo courtesy Thomas Deliduka

music and the liturgy are perfectly wedded, that is when people talk about experiencing a beautiful Mass."

"Music brings the liturgy to another level," said Richard Fitzgerald, music director at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, who conducts the diocese's preeminent choir. "The Mass is timeless, and the abstract nature of music also communicates a sense of timeliness.

"It's a great art form to use in the liturgy, and, of course, the Church fathers understood that. That's why music is an indispensable part of the liturgy. It's not a supplement, it's not something additional. It's intrinsic."

Fitzgerald considers the patrimony of the Church when making musical selections for the Christmas season and throughout the year. Decisions on which songs to include also are dictated by parish traditions and the chants and responses provided by the liturgical guidelines for each of the various Masses.

"I want to respect the traditions of the Church," he said. "I always program

entry Carol, *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* and others) with lesser-known classical pieces. This year's selections at Midnight Mass include works from 16th century Dutch and English composers, a Galician chant titled *The Virgin Birthgiver of God*, and a *Gloria* by 20th century Austrian composer Josef-Friedrich Doppelbauer.

In addition to the choir, the Cathedral features its own brass ensemble and principal organist Nicole Simental. The Cathedral's playlist may be found at cathedralmusic.org.

A first at the cathedral this year will be Bishop Robert Brennan, installed in March as the spiritual leader of the diocese, presiding at the Midnight Mass.

"The Midnight Mass is special," Fitzgerald said. "One thing that's unique about the liturgical Christmas season is there's really a lot of crossover with the secular culture. For some people that don't go to church at all or may be agnostic, these things are inextricable to the season. Famil-



Richard Fitzgerald (left), director of music at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, leads the choir through a performance.
Photo courtesy St. Joseph Cathedral



The diocese's preeminent choir at St. Joseph Cathedral includes a significant number of singers who are younger than age 35.
Photo courtesy St. Joseph Cathedral



Father Bill Hritsko (left) leads Buckeye Lake Our Lady of Mount Carmel's schola and bell choir during a Dec. 6 performance at the Ohio Statehouse. CT photo by Doug Bean

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(*Glad Tidings*), a Hawaiian piece accompanied by ukulele.

A tradition at the parish is singing *Every Knee Must Bend*. Father Hritsko always uses *Silent Night* to end what he calls the prelude concert before Mass, and then *O Come, All Ye Faithful* as an entrance hymn.

"People come to Christmas Eve because it's what you're supposed to do, and also it brings for a lot of people fond memories of childhood even though they don't go to Mass every week: 'I like Christmas because I know the songs,'" he said. "That's why I select a lot of the same songs."

Some churches present as much as an hour of music before the Mass begins and provide churchgoers a chance to sing carols along with the choir. Father Hritsko encourages such participation because the music is so well known and "the liturgy is the work of the people."

He will be singing himself at Mass for the 49th consecutive year – a streak that started when he was 7 years old.

Father Hritsko and most pastors and music directors can't speak definitively to whether someone who attends Mass only at Christmas might be prompted to come back to the sacraments more frequently because he or she was moved by the beauty of the liturgy, but that's always the hope.

"I've heard from a couple of people through the years that they go to beautiful Masses, who aren't even religious, because they know that's the thing they're missing," Tully said. "It embodies something."

Most everyone would agree that listening to hymns and chants in church offers an escape from the commercialization of the holiday.

"The music is being used in a sacred context," Fitzgerald said. "It's not an advertisement or a solicitation or anything in that context. It's used in a sacred worship space, and it's meant to serve the liturgy."

"The Christmas mystery has inspired some of the most touching and beautiful music ever composed," Father Buffer said. "You have so much wonderful music, but a very short amount of time to deploy it."

"From the point of view from people who come to Mass, one thing that shouldn't be forgotten is the value of being connected with the past. So much of the music that people consume on a daily basis is something that's very new, and it's going to be

totally forgotten in two months because it has no lasting value. It's like a consumer product that you use and throw away.

"The traditional music of Christmas isn't like that. Everyone understands that it's part of our common treasure."

"The music used in liturgy connects Christmas with something outside the commercial understanding of Christmas," Tully said. "It elevates Christmas to the place where it's supposed to be."

"When you hear a carol sung at Mass, that's different from hearing it from over a speaker at Walmart. The words of Christmas music and Christmas prayers are so hopeful and often very sweet, maybe more than a lot of other liturgies. I think that touches people that don't regularly come to Mass."

St. Patrick Church, located a few blocks from the cathedral in downtown Columbus, and many other parishes throughout the diocese celebrate an early vigil Mass often attended by young families. Children's choirs typically sing at those late-afternoon Christmas Eve Masses.

Masses beginning at the midnight hour have become harder to find in recent years, but St. Patrick and the cathedral are two churches that stick with the traditional starting time. Our Lady of Mount Carmel is another. (A complete schedule of Christmas Masses will be published in next week's issue of *The Catholic Times*.)

"It's the tradition," Father Hritsko said of Mass at midnight. "We would sometimes get several of the ministers from other denominations (when he was pastor at Coshocton Sacred Heart) because it's what you do, even though they're not Catholic."

"They come because we celebrate the Lord's birth at the time the tradition says. You have this concert before, and then we celebrate the birth of Christ at the time it happens. That's also a testament of our faith when we have people from other denominations who say they're going to Midnight Mass."

As for the music, Father Hritsko has received responses from people saying, "I remember singing that when I was a kid. I'm so glad you're using that song. I wait all year to hear that piece." It's that touchstone. There's just something about the constancy of Christmas music."

There's growing evidence to indicate that young people are being drawn to sacred worship not only at Christmastime, but also throughout the year. Co-



Father Thomas Buffer is pastor at Marion St. Mary and Cardington Sacred Hearts churches. He's also an accomplished organist.
Photo courtesy Thomas Deliduka

lumbus Holy Family Church offers Masses in the Extraordinary Form (more commonly known as the Latin Mass), and there will be Latin Masses on Dec. 24 and 25 at Columbus St. Leo Church.

"It's interesting to note that most of the (cathedral) choir is under the age of 35," Fitzgerald said. "A good portion of the choir are people in their 20s. In general, there is an interest in getting away from a lot of the songs that came out of the '60s, '70s and '80s, music that doesn't conform to church doctrine on sacred music."

"I see a diminishing interest in that type of thing and more of an interest in music that aligns better with Church teaching."

St. Patrick, which is staffed by the Dominican Friars, attracts a large number of young people seeking a sense of the sacred.

"I think young people recognize that the worship of God should be something out of the ordinary. It shouldn't sound like our everyday," Tully said. "I have a choir of 40, and more than half of them are under 30. They want to sing beautiful music well for God. That's the reason they're doing it."

At an assortment of parishes throughout the 23-county Diocese of Columbus, an ever-expanding diverse population has led to more Masses being celebrated in Spanish and other languages. (Check next week's *Catholic Times* for a list of those Christmas Masses.)

No matter what language is used, the songs are universally understood, timeless and highly anticipated.

After all, Father Buffer said, "Christmas without *Silent Night* isn't Christmas."

One Dominican sister's call came gently; two others fought it

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

There is nothing uniform or predictable about God's call to serve him through the life of a religious sister. That is evident in the vocation stories of the three Dominican Sisters of the Immaculate Conception Province who live in the St. Dominic Convent at 2575 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus.

For Sister Leonarda Zielinska, OP, the desire to become a sister was something she slowly embraced as she became more aware of it. Sister Wenancja Disterheft, OP, and Sister Paulina Porczynska, OP, both scorned the thought of entering religious life, experienced life-changing moments, then struggled with the possibility of spending their lives in God's service.

"When I was starting high school, a girl from my neighborhood entered a community of sisters, and I began thinking more and more about doing the same thing," Sister Leonarda said. "By the time I was a senior, the feeling became strong enough that I began looking for a community. I learned about the Dominicans through a book, felt they were a good fit, started corresponding with them and entered the order in 1996."

"I never wanted to be a sister," said Sister Wenancja, who like the other two sisters is a native of Poland. "Then about 15 years ago, I attended a night of prayer sponsored by Dominican friars at around the time of Pentecost. During that experience, I began to feel that maybe God wanted me to serve him, but I put up a lot of resistance."

"The thought that he was calling me was a little frightening, so I fought it. But as I kept searching and praying, the feeling grew stronger, and I came to a point where I couldn't fight it anymore. I became a Dominican sister in 2005."

"I was a very rebellious teenager," Sister Paulina said. "To be honest, I was a punk. This period of rebellion lasted almost until the end of high school, and the last thing I could imagine was becoming a sister. But it turned out God had a plan for me. A friend convinced me to go on a pilgrimage to the Shrine of the Black Madonna in Czestochowa, where I went to confession for the first time in six years. The moment the priest gave me absolution changed everything. I felt loved, happy and free."

"A year later, I attended the same pilgrimage and knew something was going on in my heart," she said. "A friend saw me and asked if I was thinking of becoming a sister. I told

him, 'No,' then realized I was standing in the same place where I had been given absolution a year earlier. That question was a pretty clear sign from God, though I tried to run from him and went to college hoping to distract myself. But God's call was too strong, and I joined the sisters in 2005."

The Dominican congregation the three sisters entered was founded by Venerable Mother Kolumba Bialecka in Poland in 1861 and is part of the worldwide Dominican community, which traces its roots to St. Dominic de Guzman in the 13th century and includes two other branches in Columbus.

The Polish congregation came to Chicago in 1925 to serve the city's Polish

St. Patrick, a position formerly held by Sister Maria Vianney, who has been at Justice since 2017. Sister Wenancja attended Ohio Dominican University, taking an English-language class for one semester in 2014, then was transferred to Calgary and later to Mountain Home before returning to Columbus in October. She is now working at the soup kitchen. Sister Paulina, who came to Columbus five years ago, worked in the kindergarten of St. Mary School in Columbus' German Village and now directs the preschool at Gahanna St. Matthew Church.

Sister Leonarda's religious education program at St. Patrick conducts classes for about 330 students from 4

a Victorian-era residence that includes a distinctly modern addition. "That house was really too big for us and the work we wanted to do," Sister Leonarda said. "Father Stash also was in touch with the Little Servant Sisters of the Immaculate Conception," another Polish-based order, which has a motherhouse in New Jersey. "They wanted to establish a pre-kindergarten here, and sisters from both congregations agreed the house where we were living was a perfect location for them," she said.

The Dominicans then began looking for a new convent, with the help of a real estate agent, and found a former dentist's office near Christ the King Church that would provide sufficient living space, a basement, and room for a chapel, guest accommodations and a meeting area.

After sharing quarters at Christ the King with the sisters of the Missionary Servants of the Word during a short period of transition, the Dominicans moved to their Livingston Avenue location in late 2016. The East Broad Street building now houses the St. John Paul II Early Childhood Education Center, operated by the Little Servant Sisters, who also have a convent there.

Sister Leonarda said renovations to the St. Dominic Convent are nearly complete. "We're very grateful for all the donations we have received from people belonging to various parishes in the Columbus area, with special thanks to The Catholic Foundation for establishing a fund for remodeling the convent and for awarding a grant allowing us to buy liturgical items for the building," she said.

The sisters sponsor several activities in the convent chapel and meeting areas. A Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration takes place every Monday and Wednesday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. On the second Saturday of every month, the rosary is prayed at 8 a.m., followed by Mass, with an emphasis on prayer for vocations and marriages. A high school girls group meets on the fourth Saturday of the month. The sisters and four young women from Columbus traveled to Justice in late October for a vocations retreat.

The sisters encourage people to join them for Adoration and the second-Saturday Mass and welcome anyone who would like to visit the convent, especially young women or men discerning whether they are being called to religious life. They ask to be notified in advance because of their daily prayer schedule. The convent may be reached at (614) 826-1619, and the congregation's website is www.sistersop.com.



From left: Sisters Leonarda Zielinska, Wenancja Disterheft and Paulina Porczynska, OP.
Photo courtesy Dominican Sisters

immigrants. In 1936, it opened a motherhouse on farmland in the Chicago suburb of Justice, Illinois, which is why the congregation sometimes is known as "the Dominicans from Justice." Today, the sisters' Rosary Hill complex in Justice includes the motherhouse, a nursing home and a retreat center. The sisters began ministries in Milwaukee in 1946; Calgary, Canada in 1968; and Mountain Home, Arkansas, in 1996.

They came to Columbus in 2013, about a year after Father Stash Dailley, diocesan vicar for religious, who has helped bring five orders of sisters to the Diocese of Columbus in recent years, first contacted the congregation. He and Father Michael Mary Dosch, OP, pastor of St. Patrick Church at the time, then visited the motherhouse. Following the visit, Sisters Leonarda, Wenancja and Maria Vianney Kysely, OP, arrived in Columbus to establish a convent on Sept. 4, 2013.

Sister Leonarda has lived in Columbus since then. She originally served at the Holy Family Soup Kitchen and now is religious education director at

years old to high-school age that meet at 10:15 a.m. on Sundays. The program includes the first two levels of the hands-on, Montessori-style Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, for children age 3 through 9, on Wednesday mornings; a monthly Children's Hour of Mercy, which includes Eucharistic Adoration and Reconciliation, from October to April for children 3 years old to sixth grade; and a one-week Vacation Bible School in the summer.

Sister Wenancja's work at Holy Family every weekday includes "lots of moving around," she said. "I do everything I can, mostly in the pantry."

Sister Paulina said the most important part of her involvement with the St. Matthew preschoolers is "preparing them for kindergarten and making sure the children know that we have one God who loves and cares for them every day. I try to teach them how to pray and encourage them to build a deep relationship with God. I want them to love Him and all of His people."

When the sisters came to Columbus, they initially lived at 957 E. Broad St., in

Third Sunday of Advent (Cycle A)

'Clean house' to make way for the Lord

Isaiah 35:1-6a,10
Psalms 146:6-10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

Lord, come and save us!

We all feel the weight of it – the burdens of our own personal history and our shared history. We have to admit that our culture is not a culture that shows us the way. On the contrary, so many things fight against the freedom and respect of each unique person that we profess to hold as sacred and self-evident. We are in a sorry state in our families, in the economy, in the practice of our faith. We must cry out, *“Lord, come and save us!”*

Our ancestors carried their crosses and they passed on what they could not carry to us, adding a few troubles of their own making for good measure. Our parents are not perfect – just ask us; we’ll tell you what they did to us. And our children: What did we do to deserve the heartaches they add? And if we are honest, we have to admit that we are no great shakes ourselves sometimes. We allow sin, weakness and temptation to lead us down roads to nowhere.

What are we to do about it?

“Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord.”

“Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand.”

Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about one another; that you may not be judged.”

Father Timothy Hayes

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



“Behold, the Judge is standing before the gates.”

Lord, give me patience! And give it to me right now!

Don’t pray that prayer. ... Do you know how He teaches patience? He makes us wait. He puts a heavier load on our wagon. And He tells us to hurry to the kingdom.

This Sunday, we celebrate our trust in the Lord and our hope for the salvation He has promised.

We are called to rejoice, to acknowledge that the Lord is indeed coming.

“Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you.”

Jesus comes, but somehow the salvation He brings seems a little less than what we expected. Even John the Baptist is not sure: *Are you the One or are we to expect another?*

Jesus sends back a response that calls for observation of the action of grace:

“Go and tell what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are

cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me.”

Consider what happens when we make use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and enter into prayer with those who acknowledge our sin and guilt: Can we not see ourselves more clearly? Do we not walk more freely? Are we not drawn back into the life of the community? Do we not hear the truth when it is spoken?

Have we not heard the Good News? Jesus is with us and Jesus gives His life for us. Advent reminds us that He is coming.

All are invited to prepare for the coming of the Lord by “cleaning house.” Take the time to pray, to reflect on the need for healing and reconciliation and for mercy. Approach the one who saves through the sacramental life of the Church.

Blessed are we who receive the Lord as He comes to us! *Lord, come and save us!*



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THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

MONDAY
 Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a
 Psalm 25:4-9
 Matthew 21:23-27

TUESDAY
 Genesis 49:2, 8-10
 Psalm 72:1-4, 7-8, 17
 Matthew 1:1-17

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

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

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

SATURDAY
 Songs 2:8-14 or
 Zephaniah 3:14-18a
 Psalm 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21
 Luke 1:39-45

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE: WEEK OF DEC. 15, 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. Mass from St. Francis de Sales Seminary, Milwaukee, at 10 a.m. on WWHO-TV. Check local cable system for cable channel listing.

Mass from Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, Birmingham, Ala., at 8 a.m. on EWTN (Spectrum Channel 385, Insight Channel 382, or WOW Channel

378). (Encores at noon, 7 p.m., and midnight).
 Mass from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee at 6:30 a.m. on ION TV (AT&T U-verse Channel 195, Dish Network Channel 250, or DirecTV Channel 305).

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

DAILY MASS

8 a.m., Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Birmingham, Ala. (Encores at noon, 7 p.m. and midnight). See EWTN above; and on I-Lifetv (Channel 113, Ada, Logan, Millersburg, Murray City,

Washington C.H.; Channel 125, Marion, Newark, Newcomerstown and New Philadelphia; Channel 207, Zanesville).

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

Videos of Masses are available at any time on the internet at these parish websites: Mattingly Settlement St. Mary (www.stannstmary.org); Columbus St. Patrick (www.stpatrickcolumbus.org); Delaware St. Mary (www.delawarestmary.org); and Sunbury St. John Neumann (www.saintjohnsunbury.org).

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



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**AM 820
 CATHOLIC RADIO**

PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

ALLEN, Patricia A. (Welch), 87, Dec. 5
St. Joseph Church, Plain City

HOERMLE, William P. Jr., 90, Dec. 7
Christ the King Church, Columbus

HOWIE, Dr. Michael B., 75, Aug. 22
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

LANNUTTI, Troy J., 17, Nov. 29
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

LATZ, Ronald J., 86, Dec. 5
St. Aloysius Church, Columbus

LOGSDON, Esther M. (Steffen), 98, Dec. 2
St. Mary Church, Lancaster

MALYK, Dora (Felicia), 97, Nov. 29
St. Mary, Mother of God Church, Columbus

McDONALD, Maria D. (Susi), 77, Nov. 30
St. John the Baptist Church, Columbus

McHUGH, James E., 74, Dec. 1
St. Brendan Church, Hilliard

MERKLE, Edward J. "Ned," 72, Dec. 8
St. Mary, Mother of God Church, Columbus

PARKER, William D., 82, Nov. 23
St. Joseph Church, Somerset

PENN, Joyce (Earl), 78, Dec. 2
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

PICKSTONE, Mary J. (Riggi), 91, Dec. 2
St. Michael Church, Worthington

RINE, Jackie L., 65, Nov. 26
St. Bernard Church, Corning

RYAN, Elizabeth R. "Betty" (Wagner), 92, of Gahanna, Dec. 3
Sacred Heart Church, Bernard, Iowa

SNIDER, Lillian M., 96, Nov. 30
St. Timothy Church, Columbus

STAHL, James E., 83, Dec. 5
St. Patrick Church, London

STRAYER, Gloria J. (Piccotti), 86, Dec. 1
St. Margaret of Cortona Church, Columbus

TWISS, Judith F. (Flege), 82, Nov. 30
St. Margaret of Cortona Church, Columbus

WILES, Barbara J. (White), 77, Dec. 7
St. Mary Magdalene Church, Columbus

Franciscan University opens school of spiritual direction

Responding to the spiritual needs of both the local and global Church, Franciscan University of Steubenville founded a school of spiritual direction during the fall 2019 semester.

The school, which is based around a curriculum faithful to the magisterium of the Catholic Church, was launched after a one-year pilot program began forming 18 men and women as spiritual directors who now serve communities in eastern Ohio and northern West Virginia.

The school's mission is to cultivate the spiritualization of the interior life and elevation of the soul through prayer in its students, teaching them to help others achieve the same.

Students of the school meet as a group once a week for 24 weeks during the school year and daily for two weeks in the summer.

Classroom sessions focus on topics that lay the foundation for spiritual direction, while a practicum focused on prayer and discussion helps students discern and act as conduits of the Holy Spirit working in the lives of the people they serve.

Applications are being accepted for the 2020 summer and fall terms. For more information, visit www.franciscan.edu/school-spiritual-direction or email inquiries to ssd@franciscan.edu.



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and VFVOC

DECEMBER

13, FRIDAY**Church Tour in Portsmouth**

6 to 8 p.m., Scioto County Courthouse, 602 7th St., Portsmouth. Annual holiday tour of churches in Boneyfiddle historic district, including St. Mary Church. Tours every half-hour. **740-354-4551**

Christmas Concert at Holy Redeemer

7 p.m., Holy Redeemer Church, 1325 Gallia St., Portsmouth. "Grant Us Peace," a Christmas concert presented by the combined musicians and choirs of the Scioto County parishes.

Adoration Holy Hour at St. John Neumann

7:30 p.m., St. John Neumann Church, 9633 E. State Route 37, Sunbury. Advent Holy Hour of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

13-14, FRIDAY-SATURDAY**St. Pius X Men's Retreat**

6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, St. Pius X Church, 1051 S. Waggoner Road, Reynoldsburg. Men's retreat with Father Stephen Dominic Hayes, OP, of Columbus St. Patrick Priory. Theme: "Clothing Yourself With the Armor of God." Cost \$30; includes breakfast and lunch Saturday. Followed by 5 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass. **614-322-9473**

14, SATURDAY**Wilderness Outreach Advent Hike**

8 a.m. to noon, Clear Creek Metro Park, off U.S. 33 near the Fairfield-Hocking county border. Wilderness Outreach annual Advent hike for men and boys. Hikes can be from three to 12 miles. Begins with breakfast at 7. **614-679-6761**

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.

St. John Chrysostom Christmas Cookie Sale

10 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church, 5858 Cleveland Ave., Columbus. Church's 15th annual sale of Christmas cookies, baked goods and gifts. **614-882-6103**

Bridgettine Sisters Wreath-Making Workshop

10 a.m., 3 p.m. or 6 p.m., St. Birgitta Convent, 40 N. Grubb St., Columbus. Wreath-making workshop with the Bridgettine Sisters. Proceeds will be used for their proposed chapel adjacent to Holy Family Church. Cost \$20; 15 seats per class. 3 p.m. session begins with Chaplet of Divine Mercy. **614-824-5807**

Frassati Society Attends A Christmas Carol

1:45 p.m., Hilliard Arts Council, 5425 Center St., Hilliard. Columbus St. Patrick Church Frassati Society for young adults attends Hilliard's annual production of *A Christmas Carol*. Cost \$5, five canned goods or one toy. **614-224-9522**

Anointing of the Sick at St. Pius X

5 p.m., St. Pius X Church, 1051 S. Waggoner Road, Reynoldsburg. Communal Anointing of the Sick after Mass. **614-866-2859**

Anointing of the Sick at Grove City

5 p.m., Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 3730 Broadway, Grove City. Communal Anointing of the Sick after Mass. **614-875-3322**

Church Tour in Lancaster

6 to approximately 9:30 p.m., St. Mary Church, 132 S. High St., Lancaster is final stop of Fairfield Heritage Association's annual candlelight tour of seven downtown churches, with 15-minute choral programs at each stop. Tickets \$12 (\$10 advance), \$4 children 5 to 12. **740-654-9923**

Concert at St. Joan of Arc

7:30 p.m., St. Joan of Arc Church, 10700 Liberty Road, Powell. "Earth Shall Ring: An Advent and Christmas Music Celebration" with parish choir and chamber orchestra. **614-761-0905**

15, SUNDAY**Bambinelli Sunday at St. Thomas Aquinas**

St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 144 N. 5th St., Zanesville. Bambinelli Sunday, with children bringing Christ Child figures from family Nativity scenes to be blessed at 8 and 11 a.m. Masses and children's celebration in Rosary Hall from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. **740-453-3301**

Anointing of the Sick at Grove City

8 and 9:30 a.m., noon, 5 p.m., Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 3730 Broadway, Grove City. Communal Anointing of the Sick after Mass. **614-875-3322**

Anointing of the Sick at St. Pius X

8:30 a.m., St. Pius X Church, 1051 S. Waggoner Road, Reynoldsburg. Communal Anointing of the Sick after Mass. **614-866-2859**

Exposition at Our Lady of Mount Carmel

9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 5133 Walnut Road S.E., Buckeye Lake. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every Sunday during Advent. **740-928-3266**

St. Christopher Adult Religious Education

10 to 11:20 a.m., Library, Trinity Catholic School, 1440 Grandview Ave., Columbus. Discussion by Barbara Fink and Angela Baumann of Willa Cather's novel *Death Comes to the Archbishop*, about frontier Archbishop Jean-Baptiste Lamy of Santa Fe, New Mexico, who spent time as a priest in Newark and Danville.

Blessing of St. Gerard Majella at Holy Family

After 11 a.m. Mass, Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., Columbus. Blessing of St. Gerard Majella, patron of expectant mothers, for all women who are pregnant or wish to become pregnant. **614-221-1890**

Angelic Warfare Confraternity at St. Patrick

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

Open House at Bishop Ready

1 p.m., Bishop Ready High School, 707 Salisbury Road, Columbus. Open house for students in grades five to eight, potential transfer students and their parents or guardians. **614-276-5263**

Kateri Prayer Circle at St. Mark

1 p.m., Aranda Center, St. Mark Church, 324 Gay St., Lancaster. Kateri Prayer Circle meeting to honor St. Kateri Tekakwitha and promote Native Catholic spirituality.

Father Sluka's 50th Anniversary Mass

2 p.m., St. Margaret of Cortona Church, 1600 N. Hague Ave., Columbus. Mass celebrating the 50th anniversary of the ordination of Father Jerome Sluka to the priesthood, followed by reception from 3 to 5. **614-279-1690**

Polish Mass at Holy Family

2 p.m., Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St.,

Columbus. Monthly Mass in Polish. **614-221-4323**

St. Catherine of Bologna Secular Franciscans

2 to 4:30 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Church, 386 Buttles Ave., Columbus. Prayer followed by ongoing formation, general meeting and fellowship. Visitors welcome. **614-895-7792**

Martin de Porres Center Christmas Concert

2 to 3 p.m., Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Drive, Columbus. Christmas concert with Urban Strings Youth Orchestra ensemble. **614-416-1910**

Lessons and Carols at St. Colman of Cloyne

3 p.m., St. Colman of Cloyne Church, 219 S. North St., Washington Court House. Lessons and carols with parish choir and soloist Jared Joseph.

Our Lady of Victory Advent Concert

3 p.m., Our Lady of Victory Church, 1559 Roxbury Road, Columbus. Parish's 10th annual Advent concert, featuring parish choir and an orchestra, with Advent and Christmas music of several traditions and styles. **614-488-2428**

Children's Musical at Cols. St. Peter

3 p.m., St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road, Columbus. Children's musical *Carriers of the Light*, with snacks to follow. **614-889-2221**

Lessons and Carols at Lancaster St. Mary

3 p.m., St. Mary Church, 132 S. High St., Lancaster. Lessons and carols concert telling the story of salvation history. **740-654-9923**

Taize Evening Prayer at Corpus Christi

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

Prayer Group Meeting at Christ the King

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

Diaconate Students Installed as Acolytes

5:15 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Mass with Bishop Emeritus Frederick Campbell installing 10 students of the diocesan Diaconate School of Theology to the ministry of acolyte. **614-241-2545**

Catechesis at the Cathedral

6:45 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Fifteenth of weekly series of sessions with Father Adam Streitenberger on the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. **614-224-1295**

Lessons and Carols at Columbus St. Patrick

7 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Lessons and carols concert marking Third Sunday of Advent. **614-224-9522**

Lessons and Carols at St. Cecilia

7 p.m., St. Cecilia Church, 434 Norton Road, Columbus. Advent lessons and carols concert.

Ss. Simon and Jude Live Nativity Scene

7 p.m., Ss. Simon and Jude Church, 9350 High Free Pike, West Jefferson. Live Nativity scene presented by parish youth group. **614-879-8562**

15-23, SUNDAY-MONDAY**Simbang Gabi Celebration at St. Elizabeth**

7:30 p.m., St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon Woods Blvd., Columbus. *Simbang Gabi*, a Filipino Christmas tradition, featuring celebration of Mass for nine consecutive nights. Dec. 23 closing celebration begins with Mass at 7 celebrated by Bishop Robert Brennan, followed by celebration dinner in Pastors' Hall. **614-891-0150**

16, MONDAY**Holy Hour at New Philadelphia Sacred Heart**

5 to 6 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 139 3rd St. N.E., New Philadelphia. Advent Holy Hour with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Evening Prayer and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. **330-343-6976**

Evening Prayer at St. John Neumann

6:30 p.m., St. John Neumann Church, 9633 E. State Route 37, Sunbury. Advent Evening Prayer with Deacon Carl Calcara. **740-965-1358**

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**

Lessons and Carols at Grove City

7:30 p.m., Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 3730 Broadway, Grove City. Advent lessons and carols concert. **614-875-3322**

16-18, SUNDAY-TUESDAY**Parish Mission at Dover St. Joseph**

7 p.m., St. Joseph Church, 613 N. Tuscarawas Ave., Dover. Parish Mission with Father Joseph Tuscan, OFM Cap, followed by Eucharistic Adoration. **330-364-6661**

17, TUESDAY**Exposition, Mass at Ss. Simon and Jude**

5 p.m., Ss. Simon and Jude Church, 9350 High Free Pike, West Jefferson. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by Mass at 6.

Rosary for Life at St. Joan of Arc

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

18, WEDNESDAY**Abortion Recovery Network Group**

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

Young Catholic Professionals Trivia Night

5:30 to 8:30 p.m., Miller's Ale House, 1201 Olentangy River Road, Columbus. Young Catholic Professionals group trivia night and Christmas party. Information at www.ycpcolumbus.org.

Frassati Society Assists at Food Pantry

6 p.m., Worthington Resource Pantry, 6700 Huntley Road, Columbus. Columbus St. Patrick Church Frassati Society for young adults serves pantry customers and stocks and organizes the pantry. **614-224-9522**

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**

Advent Faith Formation at Delaware St. Mary

6:30 to 8 p.m., office building, St. Mary Church, 82 E. William St., Delaware. Third of three "A Very Mary Advent" adult faith formation programs with Deacon Todd Tucky and Julie Lutz. **740-363-4641**

19, THURSDAY**Exposition at Church of the Resurrection**

9:30 a.m. to 11 p.m., Reservation chapel, Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road, New Albany. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament each Thursday during Advent.

Cenacle at Holy Name

6 p.m., Holy Name Church, 154 E. Patterson Ave., Columbus. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, with prayers in the Cenacle format of the Marian Movement of Priests.

Vespers, Benediction at St. Margaret

7 p.m., St. Margaret of Cortona Church, 1600 N. Hague Ave., Columbus. Parish's regular Thursday Eucharistic Adoration concludes with sung Vespers and Benediction. **614-279-1690**

Lancaster Theology on Tap

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

Celebration at St. Cecilia School



Bishop Robert Brennan celebrated the Feast of St. Cecilia with the students of Columbus St. Cecilia School. Pictured are members of the school's Student Council and, in the top row with the bishop (from left): teacher Caity Blacet; deacon candidate Mark O'Loughlin; Deacon Jack Malone; Father Leo Connolly, St. Cecilia Church pastor; Father Patrick Watikha; and Lori Smith, school principal. *Photo courtesy St. Cecilia School*

Logan students donate pajamas



Logan St. John School students teamed up with the Scholastic Book Club for their annual pajama drive. The students and their families donated 57 pairs of pajamas to children who are affected by instability, and Scholastic matched each pair of pajamas with a new book. *Photo courtesy St. John School*

Care packages for Run the Race

Columbus St. Andrew School students assembled more than 250 care packages for the Run the Race Club as a Christmas service project. Shown putting a package together are (from left): Drew Blatt, Elaine Gbeckor-Kove, Olivia LaSusa, Isabelle Poulouse and Madeline Lane. The project began with a talk on gratitude by Rachel Muha, founder of the club, which provides after-school and summer activities for at-risk children on Columbus' west side. Students, school staff members and their families collected toys, school supplies and other personal items, and fourth-graders spent a recess period indoors assembling the packages. *Photo courtesy St. Andrew School*

St. Anthony reading program



Columbus St. Anthony School has purchased a reading program known as myON Reader which provides access to more than 6,000 enhanced digital books. Titles are matched to each student's interests, grade and reading level. *Photo courtesy St. Anthony School*

Scouts collect food for Griffin center



Members of Cub Pack 169 and Scout Troop 169, sponsored by Columbus Our Lady of Peace Church, collected about 1,750 items of food for the Bishop Griffin Resource Center as part of the annual national Scouting for Food drive. They are shown with a truck from the diocesan St. Vincent de Paul Society, which transported the food. Beth Wiley is cubmaster of the pack and Slade Hankinson is scoutmaster of the troop. *Photo courtesy Beth Wiley*



Sister Barbara Hahl retiring from Mount Carmel

Sister Barbara Hahl, CSC, is retiring from the Mount Carmel Health System after 38 years to return to her religious community, the Sisters of the Holy Cross in Notre Dame, Indiana.

She will step away from her role as Mount Carmel's senior vice president of community health and well-being at the end of this year. She will work throughout 2020 on special projects and community events, visit staff members and organize the Mount Carmel archives before retiring on Dec. 31 of that year. She also hopes to write a book about the system's history.

In her current role, she is responsible for the spiritual health and wellness of the entire Mount Carmel system, including mission services, spiritual care services and outreach. Those duties will be assumed on Jan. 1, 2020 by Brian Pierson, the system's regional director of outreach and population health.

Sister Barbara has served with the system since 1981 in various roles. She was its manager of medical records, and then became assistant administrator at Mount Carmel East Hospital for clinical and non-clinical services. She was interim chief operating officer at Mount Carmel East for nine months, then developed and ran all outside businesses for Mount Car-

mel Health for 10 years.

When she started at Mount Carmel, she was one of about 20 religious sisters serving the health system. For the past six years, she has been the only sister connected to Mount Carmel, maintaining a link that has been uninterrupted since two Holy Cross sisters were invited to Columbus in 1886 to assist with the founding of the original Mount Carmel Hospital, then known as Hawkes Hospital, in the city's Franklinton neighborhood.

"For almost 40 years, we have witnessed a servant leader like no other. Sister Barbara has spent a lifetime being a voice for those who have none and teaching others to do the same," said Mike Englehart, Mount Carmel interim president and chief executive officer. "Her tireless work has contributed in so many ways to our mission. There is no doubt her influence will be carried to the next generation – and the next.

"There are no amount of accolades or thank-yous that can accurately reflect just how much we appreciate Sister and her contributions to Mount Carmel, nor can we precisely capture exactly what she means to our colleagues and physicians, our patients and our communities," Englehart said. "We want to thank Sister for her tireless work, her compassion and her



Sister Barbara Hahl, CSC

Photo courtesy Mount Carmel Health System

words of wisdom for so many years. Mount Carmel is eternally grateful to Sister Barbara."

After spending 15 years as a teacher and principal in elementary schools

in Illinois and Indiana, Sister Barbara turned to health care, serving at hospitals in Utah and Indiana before coming to Columbus. Her passion for caring for those who are most vulnerable led to Mount Carmel's community health and well-being programs being nationally recognized.

Sister Barbara received a bachelor's degree from St. Mary's College at Notre Dame, a master's degree from Indiana University and an additional master's degree in administration from the University of Notre Dame.

She is on the boards of several central Ohio organizations, including Catholic Social Services, the Franklinton Development Association and the Affordable Housing Trust for Columbus and Franklin County.

In addition, she is on the Mount Carmel Foundation's finance and allocations committees and has a reserved seat on the foundation's board.

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10:30 a.m. ~ Mass

5:15 p.m. ~ Mass

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March for Life bus trips available

Danville St. Luke, Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas and Sunbury St. John Neumann churches will be sponsoring bus trips to the annual March for Life in Washington, which will take place Friday, Jan. 24.

This is the 21st consecutive year for the trip from Danville, which will be for three days and two nights, from Thursday to Saturday, Jan. 23 to 25. The cost again will be \$280 for a double room and \$240 each for three or more persons in a room.

This covers the bus ride, two nights at the Hampton Inn in Alexandria, Virginia, with a hot breakfast each morning, and a tour of Washington.

The bus will depart Danville at 6 a.m. Thursday. The group will attend a vigil Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception that evening. On Friday, there will be some touring in the morning, followed by the march at noon. Departure is on Saturday morning, with arrival in Danville on Saturday night.

A \$50 deposit is due as soon as possible. Make checks payable to St. Luke Parish. For more information, contact the church office at (740) 599-6362 or Shelby Mickley at (740) 504-4519. Checks may be sent to St. Luke Church, Post Office Box P, Danville, OH 43014.

The St. Thomas Aquinas pilgrimage will be from Wednesday to Friday, Jan. 22 to 24.

Prices for the bus trip and one night at the DoubleTree hotel in Silver Spring, Maryland are \$50 per person for four people in a room with two queen-size beds, \$100 per person for two people in a room or \$200 for one person.

The bus will leave the church at 11:45 p.m. Wednesday and arrive in Washington at 6 a.m. Thursday. Highlights include a tour of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception during the day on Thursday, the National Prayer Vigil for Life Mass at the nearby Pope St. John

Paul II National Shrine that night, and participation in the march on Friday. Meals will be provided Thursday night and Friday morning and afternoon. Participants will pay for other meals in Washington and on the way home. Arrival in Zanesville will be at about 11 p.m. Friday.

Payment for the trip is due by Monday, Dec. 16. To register or to learn more, contact parish faith formation director Rob Rodgers at (740) 453-3301, extension 125 or roddgers@saintthomaszanesville.org.

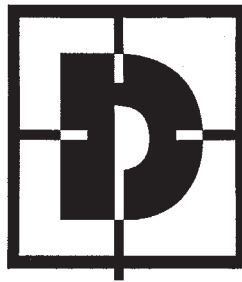
St. John Neumann Church's family pilgrimage will depart the church parking lot at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 22 and return there around 2 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 26.

It includes visits on Jan. 23 to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, the March for Life Conference and a Vigil Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. After an interdenominational prayer service and the rally and march on Jan. 24, there will be a tour of national monuments. On Jan. 25, pilgrimage participants will attend the National Pro-Life Summit at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in Washington, departing about 6:30 p.m.

Participants may sleep on a mat at Sacred Heart Church in Bowie, Maryland (\$105 per person, lunches packed at the church) or stay at the Hampton Inn in Bowie (\$240 to \$510 per person, depending on number of occupants per room, price includes box lunches). Anyone younger than 18 must be accompanied by a parent or other adult.

A nonrefundable reservation deposit of \$60 is due immediately, with the balance due on Monday, Jan. 6. For more information and registration forms, go to the parish website, www.saintjohnsunbury.org (search: march for life 2020) or call Lorraine Vance at (740) 965-2674 or Renee Brehm at (740) 972-9954.

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