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FESTIVAL PULLOUT SECTION INSIDE

Editor's reflections by Doug Bean

During the month of Ma(r)y, pray for protection and direction

May is a beautiful time of year, but not just because flowers are beginning to bloom, the grass is greener, and the temperatures are warmer. It's traditionally a month for May crownings, first Communions, the sacrament of Confirmation, graduations, and ordinations.

It's also a month dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Devotion to Mary is timeless and unchanging. The Church encourages the faithful to pray to Jesus through Mary for any number of intentions, great and small, including the sanctity of human life. Anyone who says the Church has de-emphasized her role is not only misinformed but missing an opportunity to call upon a powerful advocate in heaven.

It was in May that Our Lady first appeared to the children at Fatima in 1917. She emphasized to the children the importance of praying the rosary.

We should pray to the Blessed Mother that adults and children who receive Holy Communion for the first time this month will begin a life-long love affair with Christ in his real presence. We should pray that the newly confirmed keep the faith and honor the sacraments.

All of us should beseech Mary to protect and guide the sons of the Church who will be ordained as transitional deacons and as priests this month. At the same time, pray ardently to her for more vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

And we need to pray to Our Lady now more than ever to ask her beloved Son to bring anyone who has gone astray back into the flock.

Last week, the Pew Research Center released a survey indicating that the majority of Americans believe in a higher power other than our God "described in the Bible."

Of the 90 percent who said they believe in a higher power, only 56 percent said they professed faith in the one true God. What's more troubling is that only 80 percent of Christians – and 69 percent of those who described themselves as Catholic -- believe in God. That means 28 percent of Catholics believe in a higher power or spiritual

entity other than God.

Others questions about faith received puzzling responses. Only 61 percent of Catholics said God is all-loving, all-knowing and all-powerful. Just 67 percent of surveyed Catholics acknowledged that God has the power to change all things, and 12 percent do not believe that God loves all people. Around 50 percent of Catholics see God's hand at work in most things that happen to them.

Also last week, the world watched with disbelief and sadness as little Alfie Evans died in Liverpool, England, several days after having life support withdrawn by a British children's hospital. He took his last breath a few weeks short of his second birthday.

The hospital considered his degenerative neurological condition untreatable and determined that he was not worth saving. His parents did everything they could to help their beloved son, but ultimately they were powerless to preserve the life of their own child. British and European courts rejected numerous pleas to keep him alive.

The hospital and the courts would not allow the parents to take him elsewhere for treatment. The Italian government had granted the boy special citizenship and his father met with Pope Francis in a plea for assistance. The Vatican-owned Bambino Gesù hospital in Rome had agreed to take Alfie, but he wasn't allowed to leave England.

Alfie lived for several days after the British hospital removed his life support and initially denied him nutrition, but time ran out and the Lord called him home.

Pray for his family and for parents with children who have life-threatening illnesses. Remember that God, the author of all life, creates every human person for a purpose no matter how difficult the circumstances might be.

In May, let's also pray to Jesus through Mary, the mother of God, for an increase in our faith and to share it joyfully with others in all that we do.



Pope asks Catholics to pray the rosary for peace each day in May

By Catholic News Service

Pope Francis prayed this week that the hopes for peace strengthened by a meeting of North and South Korea leaders will not be dashed, and he urged Catholics during the month of May to pray the rosary for peace.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in made a "courageous commitment" April 27 to ongoing dialogue to achieve "a Korean peninsula free of nuclear weapons," Pope Francis said April 29 after leading some 30,000 people in praying the "Regina Coeli."

"I pray to the Lord that the hopes for a future of peace and more brotherly friendship will not be disappointed and that the collaboration may continue bringing good fruits for the beloved Korean people and the whole world," the pope said.

Noting that May is a month the Catholic Church dedicates to Mary in a special way, Pope Francis told a crowd gathered in St. Peter's Square that he would begin the month with a visit to Rome's Shrine of Divine Love and lead a recitation of the rosary there.

"We will recite the rosary praying particularly for peace in Syria and the whole world," the pope said. "I invite you to spiritually join me and to prolong for the whole month of May praying the rosary for peace."



Front Page photo:

Children enjoy the activities at Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona's annual parish festival.

Photo by Larry Pishitelli

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Bishop: With historic Inter-Korean Summit, ‘God answered our prayers’

CNA/EWTN News

Local bishops called the Inter-Korean Summit an answered prayer after the leaders of the two Koreas signed a peace agreement on April 27.

In a historic first, North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un crossed the military demarcation line within the Demilitarized Zone that has divided the Korean peninsula since 1953 to meet with South Korean President Moon Jae-In on southern soil.

During the summit, both leaders signed the Panmunjeom Declaration stating that “there will be no more war on the Korean Peninsula and thus a new era of peace has begun.”

Within the joint statement, both Korean leaders agreed to “the common goal of realizing, through complete denuclearization, a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula” and to actively pursue further meetings with the United States, and possibly China, to establish a more permanent peace.

“The Panmunjom Declaration for Peace, Prosperity and Reunification on the Korean Peninsula is a historical event that opens the era of reunification of the Korean peninsula and is a gospel of hope on this earth,” Archbishop Kim Hee-Jung of Gwangju wrote in a statement April 27.

“I expect that the fruits of this inter-Korean summit, which God has made in response to our prayers and efforts, will be more energized by the unification ministry and private exchanges that the Korean Catholic Church has promoted during that time,” Archbishop Kim continued.

The April 27 declaration included a commitment to increased exchanges, visits, and cooperation between the two Koreas to promote a sense of unity, including the reunion of families separated during the Korean War.

The Korean archbishop noted that the Catholic Church in South Korea has actively engaged in private exchanges and cooperation efforts with North Korea in the past through the bishops’ National Reconciliation Committee and Caritas International Korea.

“Since 1965, the Korean Catholic Church has been praying for the true peace of the two Koreas and the reconciliation and reconcilia-



South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un meet inside the demilitarized zone separating the two Koreas on April 27.

CNS photo/Korea Summit Press Pool via Reuters

tion of the nation on June 25 every year,” wrote Kim, who currently serves as chairman of the Korean bishops’ conference.

“Until the day when complete peace is established on the Korean peninsula and divided peoples are united, the Catholic Church of Korea will accompany the journey for reconciliation of the people in unity,” promised the archbishop.

Leading up to Friday’s summit,

Bishop Peter Lee Ki-heon, president of the Korean Bishops’ Committee for the Reconciliation of the Korean People, called on Catholics to be united in prayer through “a Movement to Pray the Holy Rosary for Peace” each day at 9 p.m.

“Through these prayers, something miraculous is happening in this land by the help of God for whom nothing will be impossible,” he wrote on April 25.

Bishop Lee called the Inter-Korean

Summit “a miracle that could be unimaginable even six months ago” and credited “first and foremost” the “desperate prayers of the faithful.”

“God answered our prayers with this valuable opportunity,” said Bishop Lee, who continued to urge more prayers for the Korean Peninsula.

Some have criticized the Inter-Korean Summit for its lack of concrete details as to what is meant by “the common goal of realizing, through complete denuclearization, a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula” and how this could be achieved. There are currently an estimated 80,000 to 120,000 people in North Korea’s six political prison camps, in which the U.S. State Department has found evidence of starvation, forced labor, and torture.

“In reality, there are so many mountains that we have to climb in the path towards the dialogue phase. Therefore, we need to pray all the more ‘so that the will of our Father may be done on earth as in heaven,’” said South Korean Bishop Peter Lee Ki-heon.

“We need to fervently keep praying for an everlasting peace on this Korean Peninsula.”

Bishop’s Annual Appeal: Sharing his love, encouraging hope

By Diocesan Office of Development and Planning

“It is God’s loving mercy and grace by which we are strengthened and made new. It is a love we are not to keep to ourselves, but a redeeming love we are to share with others, giving encouraging hope to us all.”

These words by Bishop Frederick Campbell in his recorded message for the 2018 Bishop’s Annual Appeal shared a message of intentional discipleship.

The theme for this year’s appeal, “Sharing His Love, Encouraging Hope,” reminds us that as disciples we are to bring the love of Christ to all those we encounter. This weekend, May 4-5, we are all asked to support the Bishop’s Annual Appeal.

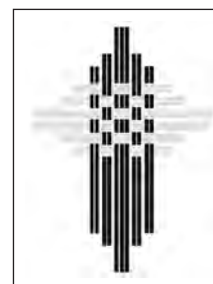
Each of us will have the opportunity at Mass to make a gift or a pledge of hope by participating in the Bishop’s Annual Appeal. This annual cam-

paign financially supports the education of our future priests and deacons as well as the many programs and ministries within our parishes and schools that seek to meet the educational, physical and spiritual needs of the people within the 23 counties of the Diocese of Columbus.

Faith is alive when we are generously Sharing His Love, Encouraging Hope. The love of Jesus Christ is the greatest gift of hope we have to share and as Pope Francis reminds us, “Compassion has a human face.”

The Bishop’s Annual Appeal gives us all an opportunity to change lives by offering a compassionate face of hope and assistance.

This year’s appeal goal is \$6.75 million. Every parish is given an individual goal and all parishioners are encour-



aged to participate, giving according to their means. Every amount paid over the parish goal will be returned to the parish to be used for the individual needs of that community.

Please consider a generous gift to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal. Thank

you for your continued prayers for the faith community of our diocese and for all those who seek God’s love and the hope that is found in Jesus Christ.

Additional information about the 2018 Bishop’s Annual Appeal is available from the diocesan Office of Development and Planning at 614-241-2550 or toll-free at 877-241-2550, by emailing devmailbox@columbuscatholic.org, or by logging on to www.columbusdiocese.org



St. Dominic parishioner receives volunteer award

Rosa McElroy, a parishioner at Columbus St. Dominic Church, recently was honored by Ohio State University Hospital East with its Recognizing An East Outstanding Community Hero (REACH) Volunteer Service Award. The REACH award acknowledges the long-term service and dedication of a hospital volunteer. She began volunteering in 1999 and has contributed more than 1,800 service hours. As part of her volunteerism, she brings Communion to Catholic patients.

Letter from the Vatican



Amy Kish's first-grade class at Columbus St. Anthony School recently received an answer from the Vatican to a letter the students wrote to Pope Francis. They were sent a picture and a letter that was read in class. Pope Francis thanked the children for writing to him and for their prayers, and he said he would continue to pray for them.

Seminarians to visit schools on annual bike tour

The annual Seminarians Bike Tour through the Columbus area will begin with pedals to the pavement on Monday, May 14 and run through Thursday, May 17 with stops at several elementary and high schools.

Diocese of Columbus seminarians from the Pontifical College Josephinum will gather at Columbus Holy Family Church on Sunday, May 13 before beginning their ride on Monday, May 14 with stops at St. Mary Magdalene School, Bishop Ready High School, and Trinity Elementary School.

The tour continues Tuesday, May 15 at St. Charles Preparatory School, Bishop

Hartley High School, and Reynoldsburg St. Pius X School.

The final two days include visits to St. Francis DeSales High School on Wednesday, May 16 and Westerville St. Paul School, Columbus Immaculate Conception School and Bishop Watterson High School on Thursday, May 17 before returning to the Josephinum.

The seminarians will visit classrooms to speak with students, answer questions about life in the seminary, and eat lunch with them at some of the stops.

For more information about the tour, contact the Office of Vocations at 614-221-5565.

Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Girl Scout named to state leadership position

Melanie "Mel" Magin of Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Senior Girl Scout Troop 1187 was elected to the Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland Council Board of Directors and installed at its annual meeting on Saturday, April 21 at the Boat House at Confluence Park in Columbus.

Magin is one of 10 Girl Scouts from the 33-county Council area selected for the committee.

During a one-year appointment in the leadership position, Magin will represent the views and opinions of the more than 18,000 Girl Scouts in the council area on topics and issues relevant to the Council leadership and work to shape the future of Girl Scouts.

Magin is a 10-year member of Girl Scouts, and a Red Sash of Merit and Girl Scout Silver award winner. He is a freshman at Co-



lumbus Bishop Hartley High School and a member of St. Pius X parish.

Photo: Melanie "Mel" Magin (left) of Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Senior Girl Scout Troop 1187 was named to the board of directors for the Girls Scouts of Ohio's Heartland Council, whose executive director is Tammy Wharton.

Ohio diocese announces bishop undergoing treatment for leukemia

Catholic News Agency

Bishop George V. Murry, S.J., of Youngstown has been diagnosed with a form of acute leukemia, the diocese announced April 30.

"He was admitted to the Cleveland Clinic on Sunday, April 29, 2018. He will undergo intensive chemo therapy for the next four weeks," said a statement from the diocese.

The statement asked for prayers for the bishop and said that periodic health updates will be released. At this time, doctors are not allowing visitors, the diocese said.

Bishop Murry currently serves as chair of the U.S. bishops' new Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism, which was established last year.

The ad hoc committee's work has included a press conference last fall at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial in Washington, D.C., and the creation of resources for the Sept. 9 Feast Day of St. Peter Claver as an annual day of prayer for peace within communities.

The committee is also working to promote education, resources, communications strategies, and care for victims of racism. A pastoral letter from the committee is expected to be released later this year.

Murry also chairs the conference's Committee on Catholic Education. In his statement for National Catholic Schools Week this year, he emphasized the role of Catholic schools in forming both the minds and hearts of students nationwide.

Bishop Murry was born in Camden, New Jersey, in 1948. He entered the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) in 1972, and was ordained to the priest-



hood seven years later. Murry holds a M.Div. degree from the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, California, and a Ph.D. in American Cultural History from the George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

He served in administrative roles in two Washington, D.C., high schools, as well as serving as a professor of American Studies at Georgetown University and as Associate Vice

President for Academic Affairs at the University of Detroit-Mercy.

In 1995, Pope John Paul II appointed him Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago. In 1998, the pope appointed him Coadjutor Bishop of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands and on June 30, 1999, appointed him bishop of the diocese.

Bishop Murry has led the Youngstown diocese since 2007.

New Cardinal Newman Guide helps families navigate college

Catholic News Agency

The Virginia-based Cardinal Newman Society released last week its annual guide to help young Catholics make an informed choice as they navigate their search for colleges and two Ohio universities made the list of recommended schools.

This year's guide lists 17 recommended residential Catholic colleges in the U.S., including Franciscan University of Steubenville and Walsh University in Canton.

The organization noted that this year marks 10 years since Pope Benedict XVI's visit to the United States. During that trip, he addressed the importance of Catholic education.

"First and foremost, every Catholic educational institution is a place to encounter the living God, who in Jesus Christ reveals His transforming love and truth," Pope Benedict XVI told educational leaders at The Catholic University of America on April 17, 2008.

One year later, the Cardinal Newman Society published its first Newman Guide to Catholic Colleges, which the organization's president, Patrick Reilly, presented to Pope Benedict in Rome.

Every year since, the Cardinal Newman Society has released an annual guide of recommended colleges, chosen based on strong Catholic identity and fidelity.

The other colleges on the recommended list are The Catholic University of America, University of St. Thomas, Benedictine College, University of

Mary, De Sales University, Mount St. Mary's University, University of Dallas, Belmont Abbey College, Ave Maria University, Christendom College, Thomas Aquinas College, John Paul the Great Catholic University, Wyoming Catholic College, Thomas More College of Liberal Arts, and Northeast Catholic College.

It also lists 11 non-residential, international, or online colleges in the country.

Each institution also includes a profile highlighting its unique characteristics, such as educational approach and culture on campus.

The Cardinal Newman Society explained that different types of colleges may fit different students' personalities, interests and needs, and the guide is intended to help them compare options to find the best fit for their situation.

A copy of the guide is currently available online, and a printed copy will be accessible in the fall.

The organization is also promoting its "Recruit Me" program, where high school students can be recruited by Catholic colleges, find tips on the college decision process, and take part in the Newman Society's \$5,000 Essay Scholarship Contest.

The society also runs www.CatholicEdJobs.com, a website for Catholic schools to be connected with faithful Catholic job candidates.

Founded in 1993, the Cardinal Newman Society advocates for faithful Catholic education at all levels.

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When incense is bothersome; Giving beggar's money



QUESTION & ANSWER

by: FATHER KENNETH DOYLE
Catholic News Service

Q On the feast of the Epiphany, I left Mass coughing and with a headache due to the large amount of incense used. I spoke to the celebrant after Mass, and he told me that the incense was part of the Mass and that I would just have to get used to it. I also talked to our pastor, but he offered no solution.

Again, at Easter Mass, I was not able to tolerate the incense. Because I am a volunteer accompanist with our music ministry, I entered the church only when I needed to play and spent the rest of the time in a community room where there was fresh air. Once again, I left with a cough and a headache which persisted for two days, and many other people complained about headaches and burning eyes.

So my questions are these: Which liturgies during the year require the use of incense, and wouldn't it be appropriate for a parish to warn parishioners when incense is going to be used? (East Windsor, New Jersey)

A . The use of incense at worship services has a long history, dating back to the Old Testament. The smoke of the burning incense is seen as symbolizing the prayers of the faithful rising toward heaven, and the act of incensing pays honor to the object to which it is directed -- whether the just-consecrated bread and wine at their elevation or the remains of the deceased at a funeral Mass.

Strictly speaking, though, there is no absolute require-

ment that incense be used at any particular Mass. Typically, parishes limit its use to Masses of particular solemnity, funerals and services that include Eucharistic adoration and processions.

Given that a certain number of people have respiratory problems that can be exacerbated by the smell of incense, a reasonable balance should be struck. Perhaps a certain area of the church can be reserved where worshippers would be less affected. If the church is too small for that to work and the celebrant knows in advance that someone who is particularly vulnerable may attend, I see no problem with forgoing the use of incense at that particular Mass.

And yes, I do recommend letting parishioners know in advance when incense will be used. One Catholic parish in Connecticut, for example, notes on its website that "we will never use incense at the Sunday 8:00 a.m. Mass. ... Incense will be used at the Sunday 10:15 a.m. Mass on the following feasts: the Epiphany of the Lord; Easter Sunday; Pentecost Sunday; the solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi); the solemnity of Jesus Christ the King."

Q We live in an area where a number of homeless people routinely hold up signs on street corners asking motorists for cash. Up until now, I have been giving them money every so often, as long as they seemed harmless enough. But our city recently put up signs asking the

public not to give them money and posting information on where the homeless can go for assistance.

So my question is: Should I continue to hand them money or stop doing so? I am in my 70s and am concerned about crime, and I also am aware that some of these people may just use the money for drugs and alcohol. But I feel guilty passing them by, as God has given me much and I do want to help. How can I tell whom to trust and who might not be so needy? (Hampton, Virginia)

A . It's an excellent question, and there are compelling arguments for a wide range of answers. I fully understand the reasons for discouraging the practice. For one thing, stopping motorists on street corners can imperil traffic safety; even more, channeling the needy to a social services agency promises a solution far more permanent.

But speaking personally, I find it hard to pass a person by -- and I regularly offer a few dollars. In doing so, I feel the backing of Pope Francis, who told an Italian journal in 2017 that helping someone in need "is always right," -- even allowing for the possibility that it might be spent on a glass of wine. It's important, said the pope, to reach out "by looking them in the eyes and touching their hands."

As for being able to distinguish between one who is legitimately needy and a "professional panhandler," the answer is: You can't always tell. But if I'm going to be wrong, I would rather be wrong on the side of kindness.

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

Bishop Ready offers summer sports camps

The Columbus Bishop Ready athletic department is sponsoring summer camps and a summer basketball league for elementary school students during June and July at the high school, 707 Salisbury Road.

Volleyball for grades 4-7 is scheduled for June 4-6 in the afternoon. Boys basketball will be June 25-28, with a morning session for grades 3-5 and an afternoon session for grades 6-9. Girls basketball for grades 3-8 is set for June 19-22.

Baseball will be July 16-18 in the evening for students in grades 4-8. Softball is set for July 16, 18 and 19, also in the evening, for grades 2-8.

Football for grades 4-8 July 23-25 will be held in the morning. Boys and girls soccer for grades 4-8 will be July 25-27 in the morning.

The fifth annual Silver Knights Summer Basketball League will be offered for boys entering grades 5 through 8 in the fall. Fifth- and sixth-grade students will play in the College Division on Tuesday evenings from June 5 to July 24; students in grades 7 and 8 will play in the NBA Division on Thursday evenings from June 7 to July 26 at the Bishop Ready gym.

Signup will be held at the school on Tuesday, May 15, and Thursday, May 17, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., with a makeup date on Saturday, May 19 from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

For a complete schedule with costs and registration form, download the flyer found at brhs.org, Athletics, Summer Camps. Additional information may be obtained by calling athletic director Steve McQuade at 614-276-5263, ext. 211.

Columbus Catholic Renewal's Pentecost vigil will be at St. Elizabeth

Parishioners throughout our diocese are invited to celebrate Pentecost together at a Vigil Mass sponsored by the Columbus Catholic Renewal on Saturday, May 19 at Columbus St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon Woods Blvd.

A rosary will be prayed at 7 p.m., followed by contemporary praise and worship (prayer teams will be available). Mass is scheduled to begin at 8:15 p.m. with Father Pat Toner as the celebrant. There will be a time of fellowship after Mass.

Pope Francis has called for a new openness to the Holy Spirit. Last year, he began his Pentecost cele-

brations at an ecumenical vigil on June 3, 2017 with some 50,000 Catholic charismatics and Pentecostals from more than 125 countries gathered for praise and worship at the site of the ancient Roman Circus Maximus. The pope's address gently located the renewal at the heart of the Church while highlighting its temptations.

The Columbus Catholic Renewal (formerly Catholic Charismatic Renewal) is under the authority of Bishop Frederick Campbell through his liaison, Father Dean Mathewson. For more information, e-mail ccrcolumbus.org or call 614-500-8178.

St. Vincent Family Center invites aspiring foster parents to meeting

Columbus St. Vincent Family Center has an urgent need for foster parents.

An informational meeting and open house for potential foster parents will be held at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 24 at the center, 1490 E. Main St.

May is National Foster Care Month and St. Vincent Family Center is using the annual observance to raise awareness about the demand for foster parents throughout Franklin County.

St. Vincent Family Center is currently responding to the most urgent crisis facing the community, which is the damaging effects of the opioid epidemic and the growing need of foster homes available for thousands of children living in Ohio's child welfare system as a result.

The demand for compassionate foster parents is greater than ever, as these little ones are being abandoned by addiction with no place to go. St. Vincent Family Center is deeply committed to providing these children with a safe family and a safe home while their families heal.

St. Vincent Family Center helps more than 5,000 families a year as one of Ohio's most experienced and skilled child behavioral health treatment centers. It is devoted to training, licensing, and supporting foster parents to love and care for children for as long as they need. The center encourages anyone with room in the heart or home to consider fostering a child. Foster parents can help change lives.

Evolving from the original St. Vincent Orphanage established in 1875 on the near east side of Columbus, the center has tended to the critical needs of children and families for more than 140 years.

To learn more about foster parenting or for more information on the upcoming open house, call 614-252-0731 or visit www.svfc.org.

COWBOYS, INFERTILITY AND DEEPER MORAL QUESTIONS

Most people still remember the story of Nadya Suleman, dubbed "Octomom," a single woman who used in vitro fertilization to become pregnant with eight babies simultaneously. Suleman had asked her fertility specialist, Dr. Michael Kamrava, to implant at least a dozen embryos into her uterus, leading to the birth of the famous octuplets in 2009. Dr. Kamrava's medical license was later revoked by the California Medical Board. In commenting on the case, Judith Alvarado, Deputy Attorney General in California, concluded that Dr. Kamrava had acted "like a cowboy" in ignoring fertility industry guidelines.

When it comes to the "wild west" of infertility — a field of medicine with little oversight and unbridled profit margins — there are a lot of cowboys out there.

Recently there was the case of Kelli Rowlette who, after having her own DNA analyzed in 2017 through a genealogy website, shockingly discovered that her biological father was actually a fertility specialist who had once treated her mother. Without her mother's knowledge or consent, the specialist had used his own sperm to impregnate her, while falsely claiming he was using a mixture of sperm from her husband (who had low sperm count) and a donor who was supposed to have been an anonymous university student with features similar to her husband.

Another infamous case involved Bertold Wiesner who, back in the 1940s, established a fertility clinic in London to help women struggling to conceive. His clinic supposedly relied on a small number of highly intelligent men to serve as sperm donors for artificial insemination, with more than 1500 babies being born. More than seventy years later, based on DNA testing of people who had been conceived at the clinic, it turned out that as many as 600 of the babies born may have relied on sperm from Mr. Wiesner himself.

There was also the troubling story of Dr. Cecil Jacobson of Fairfax County, Virginia. He was accused of a "purposeful pattern of deceit" during the 1980's when he fathered up to 75 children using his own sperm for artificial insemination with his female patients. He was eventually sentenced to five years in prison and had his medical license revoked.

Another notorious episode relied on DNA testing and other evidence gathered by police in Brazil. They discovered that many of the 8,000 babies born after IVF treatments at the clinic of Dr. Roger Abdelmassih in Sao Paulo were not genetically related to the couples who were raising them. Authorities believe that Abdelmassih misled many of his clients during the 1990s and early 2000s and impregnated them with embryos formed from other people's eggs and



MAKING SENSE Out of Bioethics

Father Tad Pacholczyk

sperm, in a bid to improve his clinic's statistics for successful implantations and births.

Yet another nefarious incident involved Doctors Ricardo Asch, Jose Bulmaceda and Sergio Stone, three fertility specialists and faculty members at the University of California at Irvine who ran a campus fertility clinic during the 1990s. They were accused of fertilizing eggs they had harvested from women and implanting the resulting embryos into unrelated women, as well as selling some of the embryos to scientists and researchers. Dozens of women and couples filed lawsuits against the doctors and the university.

One of the reasons these acts of deception by fertility specialists are so offensive to us is that we realize how the procreation of our own children is meant to involve a strict exclusivity between husband and wife. Whenever we violate that exclusivity by hiring outsiders to produce our offspring in clinics, or engage strangers to provide their sex cells for these procedures, unthinkable outcomes become possible.

The plethora of these cases also reminds us how many of the cavalier approaches to human procreation being promoted by the fertility industry are unethical at their core. We are witnessing an unprecedented burgeoning of laboratory techniques for manufacturing human life, many of which are deeply antagonistic to human dignity and contrary to the parental obligations assumed by spouses when they marry.

The natural exclusivity intended in parenthood is meant to afford protection, security about our origins, and the safety of the home hearth. In the headlong rush to achieve a pregnancy at any price, many couples, regrettably, are allowing hawkish businessmen to manipulate their sex cells, create their children in glassware, store them in frozen orphanages, and even discard them like medical waste.

The tragic fallout of these decisions should reignite our natural moral sensibilities, and point us back in the direction of the Creator's plan for human procreation. Our children are truly safeguarded in the dignity of their origins when they are brought into the world exclusively within the marital embrace of husband and wife. Turning to the lawlessness of modern day fertility "cowboys," meanwhile, is a quick study for violation and heartache.

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org

LIVING Faith

Finding the Love of Mary in the Blessed Sacrament

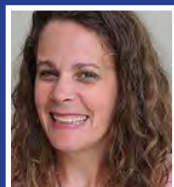
When I spend time with Jesus — and Mary, who's never far from her beloved Son — I open myself to the reality of presence as a spiritual connection. When I reach out my arms, forgetting that I'm all grown up now; when I let go and stop trying to do it all myself; when I humble myself and ask for help — it is then, in that moment of grace, that I feel the arms that never let go of me, that were always there. It is then that I see the loving gazes of Mother and Son (and Father!); it is then that I get a notion of the love God must have for me.

It is the delight of the ordinary, the experience of Jesus being interested in the silly little details of my life, that comes to mind when I hear the title Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament. Saint Peter Julian Eymard honored Mary with this title, pointing us to her intimate relationship to -- and with -- the Eucharist and reminding us of her role as a model for us. She shows us how to trust, even when we may not understand God's plan.

Mary never stopped or paused in her devotion to God. She lived with His Son in a most intimate way, by raising Him, and she was one of a few who were able to stand at the foot of the Cross. When it became clear that, in fact, Jesus meant for His followers to eat Him, to consume Him -- and not just in a metaphorical way! -- she was first in line, not because she was a raving cannibal, but because she trusted that God knew what He was doing.

Saint Eymard had a great devotion to Mary, and was a member of two different orders of monks, both devoted to Mary and both very influential to his spiritual formation. After quite a few years of reflection and, yes, interior combat, encouraged by the pope himself (Pius IX), he founded his own order, the Congregation of the Most Blessed Sacrament, on May 13, 1856.

Saint Eymard first used the title Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, in a talk in May of 1868, when speaking to novices in his order. Later, he would describe Mary as Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, as a statue, holding the Infant Jesus in her arms, with Jesus holding a chalice in one hand and



Finding Faith in
Everyday Life
Sarah Reinhard

a Host in the other.

It's significant that the apparitions in Fatima, among the most well-known of Mary's apparitions, began on May 13, 1917, preceded by an angel's visit the year prior. Both titles are celebrated on May 13 each year, and in both instances, under both titles, Mary is pointing back to her Son.

Mary's love for Jesus started when she said "yes" to the angel Gabriel and continued throughout her life, as she said "yes" to each of the aspects of her vocation as wife and mother. She showed her love of God, as so many women do, by living her life, fulfilling her duties, saying "yes" again and again... and again.

Imagine, for a moment, how a mother, even the mother of Jesus, expresses her love of her four-year-old, dirt under His fingernails and all over His face. Think about the mundane task of folding the Son of God's underwear. Visualize the routine of daily life, making dinner, clearing dishes, working through the day, but with the child Messiah.

In each of those normal, commonplace, ordinary tasks, Mary -- a human woman -- shows me what it means to love Jesus. She stands there, dirty laundry in a pile behind her, holding her Infant, and Jesus smiles at me, toothy and giggling while He holds a chalice and a Host.

They remind me, mother and Son, that when I consume the Blessed Sacrament at Communion, I am eating Jesus. Once He's in my body, He becomes an inseparable part of me, flowing through my blood, in me in a way that's both intimate and a little, well, freaky. Just as the drop of water that the priest adds to the wine during the Consecration at Mass cannot be separated, once added, from the wine, so Jesus cannot be taken away

from me. He's IN me.

How does Jesus become such a part of my everyday life, such a part of the mundane experiences of my world? He can't help it, because I welcomed Him in when I ate Him. His presence flows out from me, if I let it, and I become an instrument, cooperating with grace and living as God wants.

Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament holds Jesus twice, in her arms and in the Host He holds, and she shows us how to love Him as she did. "Go to my Son," the image says to me, gazing down at me through the centuries. "He's right there, waiting for you. Go to my Son."

Sarah Reinhard is a Catholic wife, mother, and writer in central Ohio and employed by Our Sunday Visitor. Get her Catholic take every weekday at <http://bit.ly/TripleTakeOSV>.



Learning about DNA

Nathan Traver of Columbus St. Anthony School was among the eighth graders in teacher Brandon Garrick's science class that built an edible candy DNA model while learning basic DNA structure and the rules of base pairing during a lab.

Celebrate our Catholic communities!



2018
Parish
Festival
Guide

Check festival locations and times on the following pages

Parish Festival listing



Delaware St. Mary
Festival
 82 E. William Street - Delaware
June 15 & 16
 5 p.m. to midnight
 Carnival Rides & Inflatables
 Midway Games
 Two Stages of LIVE Music featuring:
 THE REAGANOMICS | SHOTGUN MCCOY | IN A JAM
 REELIN' IN THE YEARS | LT. DAN'S NEW LEGS
 STEVE BROWN ... AND MORE
 Great Food | Mom Wilson's Brats | Berwick Catering
 Adult Games of Chance
 Silent Auction | Bake Sale | Church Tours
 Raffle with \$5000 Grand Prize
 More details at www.stmaryfestival.com
 Find us on Facebook



JULY

- **JULY 13-14 • St. Timothy**
1088 Thomas Lane, Columbus • 6 p.m.-midnight
- **JULY 14 • St. Luke**
Corner of Rambo and Market streets (U.S. 62), Danville • 5-9 p.m.
- **JULY 15 • Our Lady of Mount Carmel**
Parish Picnic, Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center, Newark • 2-6 p.m.
- **JULY 19-21 • St. Matthew the Apostle**
807 Havens Corners Road, Gahanna
Thursday 6-11 p.m., Friday 6 p.m.-midnight,
Saturday 5 p.m.-midnight
- **JULY 20-21 • Our Lady of Peace**
20 E. Dominion Blvd., Columbus
Friday 6-11 p.m., Saturday 5-11 p.m.
- **JULY 20-22 • St. Joseph**
613 N. Tuscarawas Ave., Dover
Friday & Saturday 5-11 p.m., Sunday 5-9 p.m.
- **JULY 21 • St. Ladislav**
277 Reeb Avenue, Columbus, Huber Hall • Noon - 6 p.m.
- **JULY 27-28 • Immaculate Conception**
Immaculate Conception School, 100 Sherman St., Dennison
6-11 p.m.
- **JULY 27-28 • Immaculate Conception**
414 E. North Broadway, Columbus
Friday 6 p.m.-midnight, Saturday 5 p.m.-midnight
- **JULY 27-29 • St. Margaret of Cortona**
1600 N. Hague Ave., Columbus
Friday 6 p.m.-midnight, Saturday 5 p.m.-midnight
Procession on Sunday after the 10:30 a.m. Mass

MAY

- **MAY 11 • Christ the King & St. Stephen the Martyr @ Our Lady of Victory**
1559 Roxbury Road, Columbus • Fiesta de Mayo: 6-10 p.m.

JUNE

- **JUNE 7-9 • St. Catharine**
500 S. Gould Road, Columbus • 5-11 p.m.
- **JUNE 7-9 • St. Thomas Aquinas**
144 N. 5th St., Zanesville
Thursday 5-10 p.m., Friday 5 p.m.-midnight,
Saturday 5 p.m.-midnight
- **JUNE 15-16 • St. Mary**
66 E. William St., Delaware • 5-11 p.m. both days.
- **JUNE 15-16 • St. Rose School Festival**
St. Rose School, 119 W. Water St., New Lexington
6 p.m.-midnight both days
- **JUNE 22-23 • St. John Neumann**
9633 E. State Route 37, Sunbury
Friday 6 p.m.-11 p.m., Saturday 5 p.m.-11 p.m.
- **JUNE 29-30 • St. Christopher**
1420 Grandview Ave., Columbus • 6 p.m.-midnight
- **JUNE 29-30 • Holy Trinity Garden Party**
225 S. Columbus St., Somerset
Friday 6 p.m.-midnight, Saturday 4 p.m.-midnight
139 3rd St. NE, New Philadelphia • 4-11 p.m.

AUGUST

- **AUGUST 1-4 • St. Nicholas**
Behind Bishop Fenwick School, 1030 E. Main St., Zanesville
Wednesday & Thursday 6-11 p.m., • Friday & Saturday 6 p.m.-midnight
- **AUGUST 3-4 • St. Stephen the Martyr**
4131 Clime Road, Columbus
Friday 6 p.m.-midnight, Saturday 5 p.m.-midnight
- **AUGUST 3-4 • St. Pius X**
1051 S. Waggoner Road, Reynoldsburg
Friday 6-11 p.m., Saturday 5-11 p.m.
- **AUGUST 4 • St. Joseph**
5757 State Route 383 N.E., Somerset • 4 p.m.-midnight
- **AUGUST 9-11 • Holy Spirit**
4383 E. Broad St., Columbus • Thursday 6-11 p.m.,
Friday and Saturday 6 p.m.- Midnight
- **AUGUST 10-11 • Our Lady of Victory**
1559 Roxbury Road, Columbus • 6-11 p.m.
- **AUGUST 10-11 • St. Mary**
361 E. Whittier & Bruck Sts., Columbus • Friday and Saturday 5-11 p.m.
- **AUGUST 10-11 • St. Brendan**
4475 Dublin Road, Hilliard • Friday 6 p.m.-midnight,
Saturday 3 p.m. -midnight
- **AUGUST 11 • St. Dominic**
453 N. 20th and Atcheson Street • 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- **AUGUST 12 • Immaculate Conception**
215 E. North St., Kenton • 10 a.m.-9 p.m.
- **AUGUST 17-18 • St. Elizabeth**
6077 Sharon Woods Blvd., Columbus
Friday 5-10 p.m. • Saturday Noon-3 p.m. and 6-10 p.m.
- **AUGUST 17-19 • Our Lady of Perpetual Help**
3730 Broadway, Grove City • 6 p.m.-midnight
- **AUGUST 17-18 • St. Andrew**
1899 McCoy Road (at Reed Road), Columbus • 5 p.m.-midnight
- **AUGUST 18 • St. Francis de Sales**
38 Granville St., Newark • Noon-11:30 p.m. Youth Color Run 9 a.m.
- **AUGUST 23-25 • St. Joan of Arc**
10700 Liberty Road, Powell • 6-11 p.m.
- **AUGUST 25 • Blessed Sacrament**
394 East Main St., Newark • 5-11 p.m.

- **AUGUST 25 • Church of the Blessed Sacrament**
394 E. Main St., Newark • 5-11 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

- **AUGUST 31-SEPTEMBER 1-2 • St. Michael**
5750 N. High St., Worthington • Friday 7-11 p.m.,
Saturday & Sunday 5-11 p.m.
- **SEPTEMBER 7-9 • Seton Parish**
600 Hill Road N., Pickerington
Friday 5 - 11 p.m., Saturday 3 - 11 p.m., Sunday Noon - 5 p.m.
- **SEPTEMBER 9 • St. Mark**
Outdoor Mass & Family Picnic
324 Gay St., Lancaster • 10:30 a.m.
- **SEPTEMBER 14-16 • St. Mary**
524 Sixth St., Portsmouth • Friday 5:30-10 p.m.
Saturday All Day, Sunday 12-4 p.m.
- **SEPTEMBER 15 • St. Mary**
School gym, 251 N. Main St., Marion • 5-10 p.m.
- **SEPTEMBER 15 • Sacred Heart**
805 Main Street, Coshocton
Saturday 5 - 9 p.m.
- **SEPTEMBER 22 • Church of the Ascension**
555.S. Main St., Johnstown
BBQ 4-7 p.m. & **Square Dance** 7-10 p.m.

OCTOBER

- **OCTOBER 5-6 • St. Mary**
On the school lawn at 700 S. Third Street, Columbus
Friday and Saturday 5-11 p.m. noon-7 p.m.
- **OCTOBER 5-7 • St. John the Baptist**
Hamlet and Lincoln streets, Columbus • Friday 5-11 p.m.,
Saturday noon-11 P.M., Sunday noon-7 p.m.



The body of Christ

By Father Herb Weber
Catholic News Service

It was Sunday morning in the village of Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala, and I was concelebrating Mass with the pastor.

Almost all those at the Mass were Tz'utujil Mayans, sharply dressed in their Tz'utujil traditional clothing, women in bright colored woven skirts and embroidered blouses, and the men in their vertical-lined white "pantalones," often embroidered as well. The men also sported great bright colored sashes around their waists and wore big cowboy-style hats to and from church.

Right after Communion, several men came up to the altar. Each received a pyx with a Communion host to take to the sick. They then walked out of the church and into local neighborhoods, each accompanied by another person with a votive candle, heading for some homebound individuals. The Mass had ended, but the celebration of Communion continued.

Of course, we don't have to go to Guatemala to see extraordinary ministers of holy Communion take the Eucharist to the sick. But seeing these men walk the distance and carry the hosts throughout the streets was especially inspiring.

Any discussion of the Eucharist as a sacrament has to address more than the reception of the Lord in Communion. Like the ministers whose ministry flowed from the Sunday Mass, understanding this sacrament begins with understanding the Mass itself.

Every year I take the time to interview every first Communion recipient in the parish during the weeks ahead of their big day. This is not meant as a test but an opportunity to discuss the sacrament with their parents present.

The children are often primed by their parents to say that the bread becomes the body of Jesus and the wine the blood of the Lord. But I also address the Mass itself, talking about the Liturgy of the Word as well as the Eucharistic prayer.

We talk about songs at Mass and even the artwork and visuals that



present themselves to the kids in church. In doing so I am reminding the children and their parents that knowing and participating in the Mass is necessary for appreciation of Communion. Understanding the Eucharist as Mass is necessary to understand the Eucharist as sacrament.

With adult groups like the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, I also address the full power of the words of consecration. What the priest speaks are not static words but involve the redemptive action of Jesus. He says, "For this is my body, which will be given up for you" and "for this is the chalice of my blood ... which will be poured out for you and for many."

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the bread and wine become the true body and blood of Jesus, which are also the same body and blood given up and poured out on the cross. Participation in the Eucharist is participation in Jesus' redemptive self-giving at Calvary.

Reception of the Eucharist, then, is participation in both the Last Supper and the sacrifice on the cross, both Holy Thursday and Good Friday.



A girl receives Communion during a children's first Communion Mass at an International Eucharistic Congress in Cebu, Philippines. ©NSphoto/Simone Orendain

As the Mayan men in Santiago Atitlan made so clear, the Eucharist that they carried to the sick was an extension of the Mass that had just been celebrated. They gave testimony to the reality that Christ is active on earth through their desire to share Christ's sacramental presence with those who could not come.

As Pope Benedict XVI wrote, in the Eucharist we become what we consume. Those men who had received and accepted Jesus in the Eucharist, along with the rest of the faith community they represented, were actual extensions of the body of Christ. They didn't simply carry the body or even share the body; they became the body.

The Eucharist unites and calls for ways to reach out to others. It can't be simply about someone "getting" Communion; it is being in communion with the Lord and with others who are also with the Lord.

I especially felt that unity during the five years I ministered to Catholics on death row in the state of Ohio. That was evidenced by inmate Glenn, who had just been baptized by my predecessor when I first met him. He had grown up with no faith or religious practice. For him, baptism was truly the beginning of a new life.

Each week I would talk with Glenn and share the Eucharist. Since I had five different sections to visit, I would rotate Mass and then take the Eucharist to those in the other sections. Glenn impressed me with his deep love for the Lord in this sacrament.

As Glenn's execution approached, he asked me to accompany him to his death. The night before he was to die, I had some personal time with Glenn. After a final celebration of the sacrament of reconciliation, he and I and another friend celebrated Mass as the guards looked on. It would be his last meal. It was also one of the Masses I recall best. He received the redeemer Lord with a smile and complete trust in a God of mercy.

Somehow that Mass and that final Communion highlighted that through this sacrament we are all made one in Christ, who gave up his body and whose blood was poured out for us.

Father Weber is the founding pastor of St. John XXIII Parish in Perrysburg, Ohio.

Anima Christi prayer

The Anima Christi (Soul of Christ) prayer is often recited by individuals after receiving Communion. The prayer appears in the opening words of St. Ignatius of Loyola's Spiritual Exercises and is often attributed to St. Ignatius, but the prayer was widely known in the 15th century, and several 14th-century manuscripts contain the prayer. The author of the prayer is unknown.

Franciscan Father Jack Wintz writes that "this sacred prayer is sublime and seems to transcend all time, all centuries."

"With the Spirit's help," the words of the prayer can lead us into union with Christ, he says.

Try reciting the prayer the next time you receive Communion.

ANIMA CHRISTI

Soul of Christ, sanctify me. Body of Christ, save me.
Blood of Christ, inebriate me.

Water from the side of Christ, wash me. Passion of Christ, strengthen me.
O good Jesus, hear me. Within your wounds, hide me.

Let me never be separated from you. From the malignant enemy, defend me.
In the hour of my death, call me. And bid me come to you,
That with your saints I may praise you Forever and ever.

Amen.

Sixth Sunday of Easter (Cycle B)

Divine friendship

Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

1 John 4:7-10

Gospel: John 15:9-17

By **Jem Sullivan**, *Catholic News Service*

Friendship with God and neighbor is the whole purpose of the Christian life from beginning to end. God creates each one of us out of love, to love one another. Our creation is an eternal and unique act of divine friendship for which no one, however holy, ever returns a sufficient response of thanks to God.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says it this way: “The first man was not only created good, but was also established in friendship with his Creator” (No. 374). For, “God created man in his image and established him in his friendship. A spiritual creature, man can live this friendship only in free submission to God” (No. 396).

This Sunday’s Gospel reminds us that friendship with God is the reason for our creation, ongoing existence and eternal goal. Jesus assures us in words that are astonishingly personal and deeply comforting: “I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends” (Jn 15:15).

Friendship with God is the divine invitation to which we must respond each day of our lives. We look to the faithful men and women of the New Testament whose story unfolds after the Lord’s resurrection.

And we turn to the saintly men and women who radiate into the church and into the world

the fruits of their friendship with God, deepened over a lifetime of prayer, nurtured by the church’s sacraments, and formed by the virtues of faith, hope and love.

The eternal community of divine friends is the Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Their divine friendship overflows into our world.

God’s desire for friendship with all of creation is fulfilled perfectly in the sending of his own beloved son, Jesus Christ, who suffered, died and rose from the dead to reconcile us to God. In his life, death and resurrection, the divine offer of friendship is extended to you and to me as “embracing in his human heart the Father’s love for men, Jesus ‘loved them to the end,’ for ‘greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends’” (No. 609).

Jesus’ invitation to friendship continues in every age in the church’s sacramental life. The sacraments are real tokens of divine friendship that initiate, restore, heal and lead us to true happiness and lasting fulfillment. In the sacraments, “God shows forth his almighty power by converting us from our sins and restoring us to his friendship by grace” (No. 277).

In an age when friendship itself is often counted by as superficial a measure as a mouse click, today’s Gospel invites us to walk in true friendship with Jesus so we may love one another as he commands us in the Gospel. Let us return to friendship with Jesus as we say in faith, “speak to me, Lord.”

Reflection Question:

What does it mean to be a friend of Jesus?

Sullivan is secretary for Catholic education of the Archdiocese of Washington.

Bishop Ready students recognized

Four Columbus Bishop Ready High School seniors were inducted into the National Business Honor Society at a ceremony held at the school in late April.

Pictured, from left, are Maria Illig, NBHS moderator and chair of the Ready business department; Anthony Baum, Katelyn Wolfe, Shelby Tracy, and Rebecca Xu. The society, which is a division of the National Business Education Association, promotes and recognizes academic achievement in business education at the secondary level.



The Weekday Bible Readings

MONDAY
Acts 16:11-15
Psalm 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a, 9b
John 15:26-16:4a

TUESDAY
Acts 16:22-34
Psalms 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8
John 16:5-11

WEDNESDAY
Acts 17:15, 22-18:1
Psalm 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14
John 16:12-15

THURSDAY
Acts 18:1-8
Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4
John 16:16-20

FRIDAY
Acts 18:9-18
Psalm 47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7
John 16:20-23

SATURDAY
Acts 18:23-28
Psalm 47:2-3, 8-9, 10
John 16:23b-28

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE WEEK OF MAY 6, 2018

SUNDAY MASS

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

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

Mass from Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, Birmingham, Ala., at 8 a.m. on EWTN (Spectrum Channel 385, Insight Channel 382, or WOW Channel 378).

(Encores at noon, 7 p.m., and midnight).

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

Mass from Massillon St. Mary Church at 10:30 a.m. on 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 in Ada, Logan, Millersburg, Murray City and Washington C.H.; Channel 125 in Marion, Newark, Newcomerstown and New Philadelphia; and Channel 207 in Zanesville); 8 p.m., St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com.

We pray Week VI, Seasonal Proper of the Liturgy of the Hours

Making a diverse College of Cardinals work

With the exception of the two consistories held by Pope John XXIII in 1958 and 1959, every creation of new cardinals since Pope Pius XII has decreased the percentage of Italian members of the College of Cardinals while internationalizing it. (John XXIII's first consistory actually increased the Italian membership to 40% of an expanded College.) That pattern of internationalization and, if you will, de-Italianization has continued with Pope Francis and the College now includes members from fifteen countries (such as Tonga, Laos, and Papua New Guinea) that have never given the Church a cardinal before.

There are obvious advantages to this internationalization, in terms of the cardinals' role as an ecclesiastical senate of senior papal counselors and their responsibility for electing the pope. A wider representation of countries and ecclesial experiences should, in theory, allow for a broader-gauged reflection on the Catholic reality in different parts of the world, both in the Roman offices, in whose work the cardinals participate and in a papal conclave. But that broadening can't happen if the cardinals don't meet with some regularity as a body – and they haven't in a long time. Since the Extraordinary Consistory of 2014 (during which Cardinal Walter Kasper opened the argument about marital permanence and sacramental discipline that continues, unabated, today), there has been no meeting of the College as a body, because Pope Francis has not called one. Cardinals who wish to see their new brothers invested in the College may attend the installation ceremony, but there have been no formal meetings of the whole



THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE
George Weigel

body of cardinals since February 2014.

This would seem to be a problem, for the blunt fact is that the members of the College of Cardinals really don't know each other. They've not had the opportunity to learn each other's concerns and views beyond what they read in the media. They've not measured each other spiritually and intellectually. They've not shared collegially in serious debate and discussion about the issues that confront the entire world Church. They are, in a sense, strangers. And strangers, as we all know, are often reluctant to speak frankly with each other. (Or even speak obliquely, which is more often the Roman manner.)

A college of strangers is not, presumably, what Pope Francis wanted with his diversification of the world cardinalate. But unless he begins gathering the men who will choose his successor on a more regular basis, the cardinals will enter a future conclave as strangers who, because of their lack of familiarity with each other, will likely rely on the world press for information about men they really should know from personal experience. Given the realities of world communications in the 21st century, it's inevitable that the media will play some role in a conclave. But the media shouldn't be so prominent in defining the playing field and the players.

There is also a structural problem with the way a conclave presently functions that Pope Francis, the reformer, might well address.

Under the current rules, the conclave begins balloting almost immediately after it's immured (i.e., locked up, with no contact with the outside world except for the famous smoke coming from a stack atop the Sistine Chapel). This rapidity of balloting should be reconsidered. Why not change the rules so that the actual cardinal-electors (as distinguished from the cardinals over 80 years old who do not vote in a conclave but who participate in the "general congregations" of cardinals during a papal interregnum) have three days by themselves to conduct discussions and get to know each other better? Wouldn't such a pause for common prayer, reflection, and fraternity, with no outside interference, help facilitate the kind of prudent decision-making the Church always hopes for in a papal election? Such a built-in "pause" would also minimize the pressure that has been felt in recent conclaves to reach a decision quickly in order to demonstrate the Church's unity before the world media starts speculating about divisions, crises, and so on. If it were clear to everyone that there would be no votes until the morning of the fourth day of a conclave, that pressure would largely dissipate.

The diversification of the College of Cardinals, in other words, has to be made to work toward the ends it was supposed to serve.

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

Gahanna St. Matthew students claim awards at state convention

Members of the Gahanna St. Matthew School Junior Beta Club brought home several awards from the Ohio State Junior Beta Club Convention held Monday, April 16 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

The club took first place in the following categories: Tower of Power, Advertising and Design, Quiz Bowl, Technology, Math 7th, Social Studies 8th, Language Arts 8th, Charcoal, Sculpture, Wreath and Jewelry. Second-place awards included Campaign Skit, Scrapbook, Ro-



botics, Math 8th, Science 8th, Social Studies 7th, Language Arts 7th, Talent, Speech, Color Photography, Digital Art, Woodworking, Sketching, and Poetry. Third-place honors were Book Battle, Banner, Living Literature, Recyclable Art, Essay, T-Shirt, and Fiber Arts.

Students are elected for membership to the club based on commitment to service, leadership, academics, and strong character.

In the photo: Gahanna St. Matthew Junior Beta Club members display their awards from the state convention in April.

Pray for our dead

ALLEN, Theresa M. (Keister), 74, April 30
St. Mark Church, Lancaster

ARNOLD, Charlene, 80, April 24
Sacred Heart Church, Coshocton

AUGUSTUS, M. Thomas, 88, April 12
St. Paul Church, Westerville

BIANCHI, Sara, 103, April 27
Our Lady of Peace, Columbus

BIRD, Eileen, 93, April 21
St. Patrick Church, Troy

BITONTE, James, 73, April 28
St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus

BRILL, Sandra 71, April 25
Sacred Heart Church, Coshocton

COX, Carolyn, 78, April 23
St. Paul Church, Westerville

DOODY, Anne "Sue," 83, April 26
St. Agatha Church, Columbus

FARIE, Ronald J., 75, April 24
St. Vincent de Paul Church, Mount Vernon

GINNS, Nora Agnes, 84, April 29
St. Bernadette Church, Lancaster

GOSSMAN, Douglas, 87, April 29
St. Matthias Church, Columbus

GROSSMAN, Delores, 74, April 30
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

HOLLERN, Joseph, 65, April 22
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

INA, Alfred, 81, April 24
Sacred Heart Church, Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts

MCCANN, Mary Joan, 91, April 28
St. Matthias Church, Columbus

PAXTON, Donald, 88, April 14
St. Patrick Church, Junction City

ROBINSON, Annabelle, 81, April 24
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

TAGGART, Robert T., 84, April 22
St. Brendan the Navigator Church, Hilliard

Mary Francis Rodenfels

Funeral Mass for Mary Frances "Fran" Rodenfels, 99, who died April 24, was celebrated on Monday, April 30 at St. Matthias Church in Columbus by her son, Father Jerry Rodenfels, and Father Charles Cotton and Father Ray Larussa. Burial was at Resurrection Cemetery.

She was a graduate of Holy Rosary High School and retired from her position as secretary at Westerville St. Paul School in 1981.

She was preceded in death by

her husband, Frank, son, Michael, daughter, Barbara "Bobbie" Rubin, and siblings, James J. Hanratty, Hugh B. "Bud" Hanratty Jr., and Margaret Young. Survivors include sons, Father Rodenfels, Administrator Pro-Tem at New Albany Church of the Resurrection; and Joe (Becca) Rodenfels, three grandchildren, son-in-law, George Rubin, daughter-in-law, Sandy Rodenfels, sister, Kathleen Sprenger, and nieces and nephews.

Michael Hritsko

Funeral services Michael Hritsko, 62, who died April 19, was held on Wednesday, April 25 at Firestone Park Presbyterian Church in Akron.

He is the brother of Father William Hritsko, a priest in the Diocese of Co-

lumbus.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Michael and Margaret. Survivors include brothers, David (Linda) Hritsko, Father Hritsko, and Mark (Denise) Hritsko, and three nephews.

Submit obituaries to:
tpuet@columbuscatholic.org

There is no charge for obituaries.

Obituaries cannot be taken by phone.

Obituaries will be edited for length/clarity/style and printed as space permits.

Corpus Christi parish hosts Mass, pancake breakfast on June 3

Alumni, faculty, staff and anyone with ties to Columbus Corpus Christi Church are invited to a special celebration at the parish, 1111 Stewart Ave., on Sunday, June 3.


A Mass for the Solemnity of Corpus Christi (Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ) will begin at 9 p.m., followed by a procession with the Blessed Sacrament through the prayer garden (weather permitting).

After returning to the church for benediction, there will be a com-

plimentary all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast prepared by Chris Cakes.

Current and past parishioners are encouraged to attend with their families. Former students are also asked to spread the word to classmates through the Alumni of Corpus Christi and St. Ladislav Catholic Elementary Schools page on Facebook.

For questions or more information, please email parishccslcolumbus@gmail.com or call 614-443-2828.



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H A P P E N I N G S

MAY

3, THURSDAY

Celacle 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

Eucharistic Holy Hour at Sacred Heart

7 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 893 Hamlet St., Columbus. Eucharistic Holy Hour with the intention of deepened holiness and an increase in the virtue of fortitude for the Holy Father, bishops and priests, concluding with Benediction, social period, and refreshments.

614-372-5249

ODU Catholic High School Visit Day

8:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Ohio Dominican University, 1215 Sunbury Road, Columbus. University hosts students from Catholic high schools for visit day. Includes classroom experiences, campus tours, discussions, lunch, Mass, student panel, admissions presentation, and group service project. Register at www.ohiodominican.edu/VisitDay.

4, FRIDAY

Deaconate Ordination

7 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Bishop Frederick Campbell will ordain diocesan seminarians Brian Beal, PJ Brandimarti, Bryant Haren, Kyle Tennant and Christopher Yakkell as transitional deacons. Light reception to follow.

St. Cecilia Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

St. Cecilia Church, 434 Norton Road, Columbus. Begins after 8:15 a.m. Mass; continues to 5 p.m. Saturday.

Monthly Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 5225 Refugee

All fund-raising events (festivals, bazaars, spaghetti dinners, fish fries, bake sales, pizza/sub sales, candy sales, etc.) will be placed as a classified ad.

A classified ad will be \$18.50 for the first six lines, and \$2.65 for each additional line.

For more information, call Doug Bean at 614-224-5195.

'Happenings' submissions

Notices for items of Catholic interest must be received at least 12 days before expected publication date. We will print them as space permits.

Items not received before this deadline may not be published.

Listings cannot be taken by phone.

Mail to: The Catholic Times

Happenings,

197 East Gay St., Columbus, OH 43215

Fax to: 614-241-2518

E-mail to tpuet@columbuscatholic.org

Road, Columbus. Begins after 9 a.m. Mass; continues through 6 p.m. Holy Hour.

First Friday Masses at Holy Family

12:15 and 7 p.m., Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., Columbus. First Friday Masses in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. 614-221-4323

Catholic Men's Luncheon Club

12:15 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Catholic Men's Luncheon Club meeting, with Sean Kenney of the Jubilee Museum at Columbus Holy Family Church speaking on his work with the museum.

Eucharistic Vigil at Holy Cross

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

All-Night Exposition at Our Lady of Victory

Our Lady of Victory Church, 1559 Roxbury Road, Columbus. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8 p.m. until Mass at 8 a.m. Saturday.

Eucharistic Adoration at Columbus St. Peter

9 a.m.-8 p.m., St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road, Columbus. First Friday Eucharistic adoration in the Day Chapel

4-7, FRIDAY-SUNDAY

Bishop Hartley High School Founders Day weekend

10 a.m. Friday, Bishop Hartley High School, 1285 Zettler Road, Columbus. Mass celebrated by Bishop Frederick Campbell Other events: Social and Sock Hop, 6 p.m. Saturday; Alumni Golf Outing at Westchester Golf Course, 1 p.m. Monday. 614-237-5421

5, SATURDAY

Fatima Devotions at Columbus St. Patrick

7 a.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Mass, followed by devotions to Our Lady of Fatima, preceded by confessions at 6:30. 614-240-5910

Catholic Record Society Spring Luncheon Meeting

11:30 a.m. Westminster-Thurber Community, 717 Neil Ave., Columbus. Monsignor Frank Lane will be the guest speaker. Topic: Lost Horizons and Forgotten Pieces on Pilgrimage. Luncheon will precede presentation at 12:15 p.m.. 614-241-2571

Mary's Little Children Prayer Group

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 5225 Refugee Road, Columbus. 8:30 a.m., confessions, 9 a.m., Mass, followed by Fatima prayers and Rosary (Shepherds of Christ format); 10 a.m., meeting. 614-861-4888

First Saturday Devotion at St. Joan of Arc

8:30 a.m., St. Joan of Arc Church, 10700 Liberty Road, Powell. Mass, followed by rosary in reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, concluding with Fatima prayers.

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.

Lay Missionaries of Charity Day of Prayer

9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 893 Hamlet St., Columbus. Monthly day of prayer for Columbus chapter of Lay Missionaries of Charity. 614-372-5249

First Saturday Mass at Holy Family

9 a.m., Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., Columbus. First Saturday Mass for world peace and in reparation

for blasphemies against the Virgin Mary. 614-221-4323

Centering Prayer Group Meeting at Corpus Christi

10:30 a.m. to noon, Corpus Christi Center of Peace, 1111 E. Stewart Ave., Columbus. Centering prayer group meeting, beginning with silent prayer, followed by Contemplative Outreach DVD and discussion. 614-512-3731

Filipino Mass at St. Elizabeth

7:30 p.m., St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon Woods Blvd., Columbus. Mass in the Tagalog language for members of the Filipino Catholic community.

5-6, SATURDAY-SUNDAY

Service-oriented Young Adults Retreat

8:30 a.m., St. Therese Retreat Center, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus. For the Least: A service-oriented retreat for young adults in their 20s and 30s to help the elderly, disabled and those in need in the community. Retreatants return to the retreat center Saturday evening through Sunday evening to reflect on how faith calls individuals to outreach and social justice. 614-241-2564

6, SUNDAY

Seasons of Hope Bereavement Ministry

2 to 4 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Church, 386 Buttles Ave., Columbus. Fifth meeting of North High Deanery's six-week Seasons of Hope Bereavement Ministry for those who have lost a loved one. Contact michaeljameschmidt@yahoo.com or mjulian@columbus.rr.com.

Columbus Frasatti Society Mass and Brunch

10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus followed by brunch at Upper Cup Coffee, 79 Parsons Ave., Columbus.

7, MONDAY

Aquinas Alumni Luncheon

11 a.m., St. Charles Preparatory School Walters Student Commons, 2010 E. Broad St., Columbus. Monthly Columbus Aquinas High School alumni luncheon.

Eucharistic Adoration at Our Lady of Victory

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

8, TUESDAY

Calix Society Meeting

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

Holy Hour at Columbus St. Francis of Assisi

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

Rosary for Life at St. Joan of Arc

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

EnCourage Ministry Monthly Meeting

6:30 p.m., EnCourage, an approved diocesan ministry for families and friends of persons who experience same-sex attraction. EnCourage respects the dignity of every person, promotes the truth of God's plan for each of us, and focuses on sharing our love. Confidentiality is maintained. Call for site.

10, THURSDAY

Women to Women Listening Circle at Corpus Christi

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Corpus Christi Center of Peace, 1111 E. Stewart Ave., Columbus. Women to Women program for women of all ages and life circumstances. Begins with soup lunch until noon, followed by listening circle. No child care available onsite. 614-512-3371

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.

Eucharistic Holy Hour at Sacred Heart

7 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 893 Hamlet St., Columbus. Eucharistic Holy Hour with the intention of deepened holiness and an increase in the virtue of fortitude for the Holy Father, bishops, and priests, concluding with Benediction, social period, and refreshments. 614-372-5249

11, FRIDAY

Fiesta de Mayo

6-10 p.m., Our Lady of Victory Church, 1559 Roxbury Road, Columbus. Fiesta de Mayo celebration sponsored by Columbus Christ the King and St. Stephen the Martyr churches.

13, SUNDAY

Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic Meeting

1:30 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Meeting of St. Catherine of Siena chapter, Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic.

Seasons of Hope Bereavement Ministry

2 to 4 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Church, 386 Buttles Ave., Columbus. Sixth meeting of North High Deanery's six-week Seasons of Hope Bereavement Ministry for those who have lost a loved one. Contact michaeljameschmidt@yahoo.com or mjulian@columbus.rr.com.

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. 614-237-0401

Spanish Mass at Columbus St. Peter

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

13--17, SUNDAY-THURSDAY

Seminarians Bike Tour 2018

Annual seminarians bike tour begins at Holy Family Church on Sunday, May 13 and ends Thursday, May 27 with stops at parish schools and high schools on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

14, MONDAY

Bethesda Post-Abortion Healing Ministry

6:30 p.m., support group meeting, 2744 Dover Road, Columbus (Christ the King convent, first building west of the church). 614-718-0277, 614-309-2651, 614-309-0157

Our Lady of Peace Men's Bible Study

7 p.m., Our Lady of Peace Church, 20 E. Dominion Blvd., Columbus. Bible study of Sunday Scripture readings.

Prayer Group Meeting at Christ the King

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

Catholic Travel

VALENCIA, SPAIN

A SURPRISING MEDITERRANEAN VACATION DESTINATION



Photos/clockwise:

St. Mary's Cathedral, in the heart of the Old Quarter, is beloved by Valencians

St. Mary's Cathedral displays a chalice claimed to be the Holy Grail

At La Ofrenda, flower offerings are made to Valencia's patron virgin during Las Fallas

Photos by Beth Ervin Leventhal

BY AARON LEVENTHAL

Mention travel to Spain, and immediately Madrid and Barcelona come to mind. However, after a week's stay in Valencia, the country's third largest city with a metropolitan population of 1 million along the Mediterranean, my wife Beth and I recommend it for any first-time visitor.

Valencia is a lively and progressive city, with a rich history dating back more

than 2,000 years beginning with the Romans, followed by the Visigoths and then the Moslem Moors until the 15th century. For nearly 700 years, Valencia has been decidedly Catholic in its culture and religious practice.

The best way to begin any visit is a stroll through the Old Quarter, the

most popular and lively area of the city, packed with historical buildings, churches, monuments, shops, restaurants, bars and hundreds of specialty shops and galleries.

At the Plaza de la Virgen is the beloved 13th century St. Mary's Cathedral, where an agate cup displayed there is claimed to be the Holy Grail, the chalice used by Christ at the last supper. The cathedral is adorned with 15th century frescoes, and you can climb the 207 steps inside the bell tower for a commanding view of the city.

Foodies love the Mercado Central, one of Europe's largest markets, in a building that dates back to 1914 with an impressive entrance and colorful ceramic tiles. More than 900 stalls offer a rich variety of fresh fruit, vegetables, fish, seafood and meat, along with other gourmet products. This is a great place to grab a quick lunch.

Recommended restaurants near the cathedral include El Colmado de le Lola and Mar de Avellanas. In the Old Quarter, La Casita de Sabino specializes in fish and San Tomasso is known for Italian cuisine.

At the end of the former riverbed of the Turia River, the City of Arts and Sciences is a spectacular new complex designed by famed Valencian architect Santiago Calatrava. Scientific and cultural venues here include Oceanografic, with 45,000 marine specimens making it one of the world's largest aquariums. The nine-kilometer Turia Gardens runs along the river and is ideal for strolling, hiking and cycling.

The nearby Bioparc features hundreds of wild African animals representing four ecosystems in beautifully landscaped natural habitats.

Popular beaches and the Valencia Marina with dozens of outdoor cafes and restaurants contribute to Valencia's seaside Mediterranean ambiance. Many of the city's most popular events, featuring music, sport, culture and gastronomy, are held at the marina, including 4ever Valencia Fest, a two-day music festival, June 29 and 30. Popular restaurants with outdoor patio seating include Vlué Arri-bar and Bodega Montana.

There are dozens of excellent museums, including the Museum of Fine Arts, which is ranked second only to the Prado in Spain, and the Gonzalez Marti National Museum of Ceramics, displaying beautiful historical and modern examples of the craft for which Valencia is famed.

For shopping, it's Plaza Redonda for classic handicrafts; Mercado de Colon, a



VALENCIA, continued from Page 18



Beth and Aaron Leventhal enjoy the city's Central Market, with more than 900 stalls

modern gourmet venue with 20 restaurants and cafes, along with florists and craft vendors; and the upscale Ensanche District, which emerged after the last of the medieval walls were demolished, where you'll find the thriving Ruzafa neighborhood known as Valencia's SoHo.

Just six miles out of town is Albufera Natural Park, a nature reserve with unspoiled dune beaches, forests, rice fields and the largest lake in Spain. We enjoyed a delicious seafood and paella lunch at Nou Raco Restaurant, followed by a lovely boat ride from its dock.

Albufera prides itself as the birthplace of paella. This traditional Valencian rice dish seasoned with saffron can be made with seafood, rabbit, vegetables or dozens of other ingredients. It can be found in nearly every restaurant, café and bar and is served often at Sunday family

gatherings. It is best washed down with a local wine, beer or "agua de Valencia," a combination of fresh orange juice and cava, a sparkling Spanish wine.

We stayed at ILUNION Aqua 4 Hotel, modern, elegant, moderately priced and near the City of Arts and Sciences. (www.ilunionaqua4.com) ILUNION Hotels are distinguished by a strong commitment to accessibility, sustainability, conservation and employing people with disabilities.

For more information, go to www.visitvalencia.com/en

Columbus-based travel writer Aaron Leventhal is a frequent contributor to The Catholic Times. He often leads small group trips for seniors. Check it out at leventhaltravel.com.

Photos by Beth Ervin Leventhal



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Catholic Times - Expires July 31, 2018

LAS FALLAS OF VALENCIA

BY BETH ERVIN LEVENTHAL

Ever since Aaron and I first visited Valencia 20 years ago, I have wanted to return during Las Fallas (FIE-us) a spectacular annual festival that attracts millions of people and has been designated by UNESCO as an "Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity."

At the Fallas Museum we had been intrigued by displays of hundreds of ninots (puppets or dolls) artfully made from cardboard, papier mache, wood and plaster. We learned that hundreds of large, themed monuments (fallas) displaying these ninots are constructed every year, and were shocked by the news that ultimately they are completely destroyed by fire in a public celebration. I was hooked!

Teasing me about possible pyromaniac tendencies, Aaron indulged me with a trip back to Valencia this past March. I was aware that with such high expectations there was the danger of disappointment, but Las Fallas (fire, in Valencian) exceeded my wildest dreams.

The fallas can be up to several stories high and take teams of community groups called casals fallers a full year to design and build. The celebration has an origin story loosely connected with the patron saint of carpenters, and takes place every year on the days leading up to St. Joseph's Day, March 19. Each year, the ninot indultat (the pardoned puppet) is selected by public vote to be saved from the fire and displayed in the museum.

What we didn't realize is that besides La Crema (the burning), there are many other amazing activities during the five days of the festival. The streets are alive day and night with people viewing the fallas, enjoying traditional treats such as churros with rich hot chocolate and dancing to the sounds of live bands.

Pyrotechnics abound. The daily mascleta— a massive display of firecrackers and fireworks in the town square—is nearly impossible to describe. The sound becomes progressively deafening, the ground beneath you begins to shake

and the reverberations penetrate your entire body. Oddly, about 10 minutes after it was over and the smoke had mostly cleared, I felt strangely calm and refreshed, perhaps benefiting from a festive form of shock therapy. For three nights, there are massive fireworks displays at the edge of the city, and the Cavalcada del Foc (Fire Parade) on March 18 is a sizzling procession of light and sparks, fierce drumming and devilish creatures. Night and day, revelers spontaneously throw firecrackers, which can be pretty startling.

La Ofrenda de Flores (offering of flowers) honors Valencia's Virgen de los Desamparados (Our Lady of the Forsaken). Hundreds of falleros and falleras in exquisite traditional costumes, accompanied by musicians, parade by a giant wooden sculpture of the Virgin to place flowers at her feet. Over the course of two days, the structure is totally filled in with bouquets of red, yellow and white carnations.

It all culminates with La Crema, on March 19, and this year that meant the immolation of more than 750 monuments at intersections and parks throughout the city. Each burning I saw was preceded by fireworks and dramatic music. The spectacle provokes a strange mix of anticipation, fascination, beauty and sadness and goes on until early morning.

www.visitvalencia.com/en



Hundreds of meticulously crafted fallas are displayed throughout the city and burned on March 19

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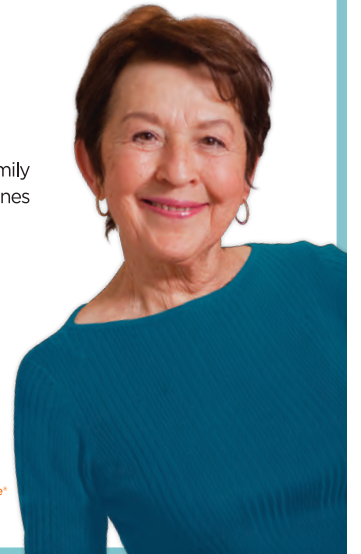
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