

The Catholic **TIMES**

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Appeal helps religious communities care for their aging members

The annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection will take place Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 7 and 8 in the Diocese of Columbus.

The parish-based appeal is coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO). Proceeds from the collection help hundreds of religious communities to care for aging members. About 30,000 senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious-order priests in the United States benefit from the collection.

Last year, the Diocese of Columbus donated \$141,776.63 to the collection. The appeal raised \$27.7 million nationwide, and 360 religious congregations received financial assistance. Distributions are sent to each eligible congregation's central house. Communities combine this funding with their own income and savings and apply it toward retirement expenses such as medications and nursing care.

"We are humbled and profoundly grateful for the countless Catholics who honor the service and witness of senior religious through their prayers and

generosity," said Sister Stephanie Still, PBVM, the NRRO's executive director.

Catholic bishops of the United States initiated the Retirement Fund for Religious in 1988 to help address the lack of retirement savings among U.S. religious communities. Since the collection's launch, \$872 million has been donated to the appeal.

Despite this generosity, many congregations struggle to provide for aging members. Most older religious served for low wages that did not include retirement benefits. Today, many communities face a critical shortage in retirement savings. Moreover, retired religious outnumber wage-earning members, resulting in declining income and a rising cost of care.

Proceeds from the annual collection allow the NRRO to offer assessment tools, educational programming, services and resources that enable communities to evaluate and prepare for long-term retirement needs. The NRRO also coordinates an extensive network of volunteer consultants, including experts in eldercare and financial planning, to help congregations lower costs while enhancing care.

"Donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious enable our office to provide financial assistance for an array of direct needs," Sister Stephanie said. "They also underwrite education and resources that help religious communities stretch retirement dollars and plan for the future."

Visit retiredreligious.org to learn more.



The weekend of Dec. 7-8 is the annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

Restored steeple, tower dedicated in Glenmont



Parishioners of Glenmont Ss. Peter and Paul Church celebrated completion of restoration work on the building's steeple and bell tower at a dedication ceremony led by Bishop Robert Brennan on Sunday, Nov. 17 and attended by a crowd of about 100 people, which filled the small church. The tower of the 162-year-old building had been covered with vinyl and was restored to its original look through a donation from a Catholic Foundation endowment fund set up by former parishioner Joseph Dete, who now lives in West Liberty, near Bellefontaine, and his family. The fund provides for maintenance work at the Glenmont church and Holmes County's other parish, Millersburg St. Peter Church. Tower restoration had been a longtime dream of Father Ron Aubry, who returned to the two churches as pastor in July 2018 after serving in that role from 1991 to 2011. The bishop said the restored tower "will serve as a beacon for the spiritual renewal of Holmes County Catholics." Loren Brown, the Catholic Foundation's president, said the dedication was "a wonderful celebration of faith in Holmes County," where the Catholic Church has maintained a strong presence since 1846 in the midst of the world's largest Amish community. Bruce Boylan, diocesan facilities director, said the restoration cost about \$35,000 and was done by Berlin Construction Ltd. of Millersburg. After the dedication, Bishop Brennan celebrated a Mass in Millersburg, which was followed by a thanksgiving lunch.

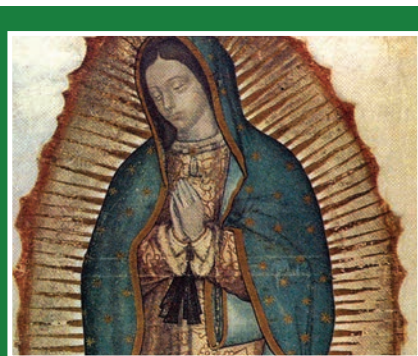
Photo courtesy The Catholic Foundation

Monday, December 9, 2019

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

This is NOT a Holy Day of Obligation in 2019.

Check individual parishes for schedule of Mass times



Front Page photo:

**OUR LADY
OF GUADALUPE**
The Catholic Church celebrates the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Thursday, Dec. 12, and a number of parishes and organizations will have special events in her honor. (Wikipedia photo)

Catholic TIMES

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Street medicine gets a lift with new Mount Carmel vehicle

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

The Mount Carmel Outreach coach, with its logo of hands reaching out to touch each other, has been a familiar sight on the streets of central Ohio for the past decade.

Like many 10-year-old vehicles, it still runs well but has reached a point where it's due for a rest while continuing to be used occasionally.

Starting this month, it's being replaced by a new coach bearing the logo "Mount Carmel Street Medicine" and the face of one of the thousands of uninsured and underinsured people its programs serve annually. The 40-foot vehicle is longer, wider and heavier than its 38-foot predecessor and features improved technology and expanded exam rooms and pharmacy areas. The older vehicle will be retained to serve as a backup when the new one is being serviced.

"The new coach is much more patient-friendly," said its driver, emergency medical technician Jason King. "The most noticeable difference is that it's 12 feet wide instead of 8½ feet. It's still a tight fit, but now two people can pass each other inside. You couldn't do that in the other vehicle, so people would have to squeeze along the sides and maneuver around if they were going in different directions. We also can bring donors of items inside rather than having them wait outdoors because of lack of space."

The extra width allows the coach to have two large examination rooms and a separate waiting room. Unlike the older vehicle, the new one has enough space to clearly define each area, providing better opportunities for patient education and one-on-one discussion with medical personnel. King said that because the new coach also is heavier – 33,000 pounds compared with the older vehicle's 26,000 – it's more stable, allowing it to have four slide-out compartments that provide increased storage space.

There's also more space for donated items such as clothing and hygiene products for the people who come to the coach at one of nine Columbus locations it visits on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. Those sites include Stowe Mission and St. Stephen the Martyr Church on Mondays, Clinton Township on alternate Tuesdays,

the Short North Medical Center on Wednesdays, the Holy Family Soup Kitchen and Jordan's Crossing Resource Center on Thursdays, the Salvation Army's south side location on alternate Fridays, and two sites serving homeless young people and victims of human trafficking.

About a dozen people are available to serve patients at each location. The coach carries King; Dr. Jack O'Handley, Mount Carmel medical director for community health and well-being;



Mount Carmel Outreach staff members (from left) Jalee Helmuth, Jason King, Andrew Pierson, Jackie White and Dr. Jack O'Handley inside the new Mount Carmel Street Medicine coach, which travels to nine locations throughout Columbus to serve the uninsured and the underinsured. It replaces a 10-year-old vehicle and features improved technology and expanded exam rooms and pharmacy areas.
CT photo by Tim Puet

nurse practitioner Jackie White; and a charge nurse and a medical technician to the sites, where they are joined by at least three patient-care nurses who check vital signs and determine the level of attention each patient needs; two or three case managers; and a data-entry specialist.

Services provided as part of the coach's visits have expanded considerably over the years.

"Having case managers and other nonmedical personnel on hand allows people to discuss transportation, housing, food stamps, insurance and Medicaid issues and other concerns," said registered nurse Jalee Helmuth.

"We also work with the eight PrimaryOne community health centers in Columbus to refer people for primary health care and provide referrals to JOIN (the Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs), St. Stephen's Community House, the St. Vincent Family Center and other agencies, depending

on a person's needs.

"Meals are available at the same time we stop at almost all of our sites. That encourages people to come. Once they're fed, it's easier to take care of their other concerns at the same time."

Because of the continuing impact of the opioid crisis, Mount Carmel Outreach workers have been trained to administer a potentially lifesaving dose of naloxone nasal spray (Narcan) to people showing signs of an opioid overdose. Mount Carmel Health is

The coach is mostly white on the outside but bears the nickname "The Red Rover" in a reference to part of the history of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, who have been affiliated with Mount Carmel Health since coming to Columbus in 1886.

The Red Rover was a Confederate steamer that the Union Army captured during the Civil War and converted to a hospital ship staffed by the sisters. The name is one of many tributes paid throughout the coach to the sisters' legacy with the Mount Carmel Health system, which has grown from one hospital on Columbus' west side to four hospitals, a college of nursing, and many other facilities serving more than a million patients throughout central Ohio each year, including more than 5,600 street medicine patients from July 2018 to this past June.

Mount Carmel Street Medicine began clinical services in 1998, but the health system's outreach program offering community health care to those in need has a history of more than 30 years. O'Handley has been with Mount Carmel for 24 years, White for 21 and King for 17, and they have seen the program evolve to its current state of providing much more than health care.

"I hadn't planned to be a street doctor, but I became a doctor because I wanted to help people, and this turned out to be a dream job," O'Handley said. "It gives me the opportunity to treat the most vulnerable people when they're most in need of help. What better reason than that is there to be a doctor?"

Helmuth has been a Mount Carmel employee for six years, the past two as part of the outreach team. "I had to wait a few years to do that work, and it's something I always wanted to do," she said. "It gives me an opportunity to serve as a nurse in a sacred place, to provide care at the most critical times of many people's lives and to build long-term relationships and a rapport you can't get anywhere else."

"We become the hands and feet of Jesus," King said. "And we get so much back that you can't imagine."

For more information about the Mount Carmel medical outreach coach, go to <https://www.mountcarmel-health.com/about-us/community-benefit/outreach-programs/mobile-medical-coach-and-street-medicine> or call (614) 546-4200.

part of Ohio's Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided With Naloxone), which offers similar instruction and provides participants with a naloxone kit at the conclusion of training.

"More and more, the coach stops also include the presence of a peer supporter – someone who has lived through addiction and recovery and can relate to someone else in the same situation," White said. "Peer supporters often can connect with people dealing with addiction and can deter them better than anyone else, because of how their lived experience allows them to understand the struggle another person is going through."

King said the coach was built in Columbus by Farber Specialty Vehicles and cost about \$550,000. Most of that money came from the Mount Carmel Foundation through proceeds of its annual Champagne and Diamonds gala, with significant support also from Diamond Hill Capital Management.

Making Advent into more (and less)

Every year, I look back at Advent and sigh. “I’ve failed ... again!” Every. Single. Year.

You’d think after a couple of decades, a few kids, living life, that I would learn.

But you’d be wrong.

And to be honest, I’m glad I’m wrong. I’ve learned to be glad in that “eyes rolling, groaning, complaining loudly” way I have.

Over the years, I’ve come to accept that failure might not be the worst thing. Maybe I’ve set my sights a bit differently than what God intends. Maybe what I define as failure – missing the mark I set – isn’t actually a lack of success. Maybe, in fact, I’ve (once again) turned my expectations into something they shouldn’t be.

Advent is short, so quick it’s hardly there. It’s not like Lent, dragging on and weighing you down. During Advent, there’s an ongoing battle between what it means to get ready for Christmas and the fact that it’s not yet actually Christmas (despite the songs, despite the parties, despite all the food).

This year, I’m looking at Advent as a journey with Mary and Joseph. I keep an olive wood statue of them, a gift from a dear friend of our family, on my desk. Mary is perched seated on the donkey, holding Baby Jesus, and Joseph is supporting her from behind.

On the way to Bethlehem, Mary was very, very, very pregnant ... and on the back of a donkey. I relate. I’ve been very pregnant during Advent, though never on the back of a donkey. Joseph had to be feeling the stress himself: hugely pregnant wife, long and dangerous journey, nowhere to stay once they arrived. I’ve seen my own husband struggle with the role of providing and taking care of his

FINDING FAITH IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Sarah Reinhard

Sarah Reinhard is a Catholic wife, mother and writer in central Ohio. Get her Catholic take every week-day at <http://bit.ly/TripleTakeOSV>.



family, bearing the weight of it and every so often needing a reminder that God is there to bolster him.

I wonder whether Mary and Joseph sang during that long, plodding distance. There’s a lot of music going on at this time of year, maybe more than any other. It’s music that, for once, is pretty universal, fairly positive, and usually inspiring people who don’t sing to pipe up.

For years, I’ve been firmly in the “no Christmas music during Advent” crowd. But recently, I started considering the joy that Advent promises. Joy is a funny thing: Whereas happiness is emotionally based and hinged on circumstances, joy is not. Joy is more profound, something deeper and wider and more.

Joy, like love, is a choice we make.

Have I been denying Advent the joy it so gently has requested from me all these years? As I prepare for the most amazing gift in the Baby in the Manger, have I been holding myself aloof from the actual gift he has for me?

In my own version of preparing, have I locked him out and kept him from offering the joy that’s

right there?

It’s an interesting concept that I’m going to try to embrace this year. In the midst of the many failures of the past, this year stands alone. There have been a few personal challenges that have brought me to my knees, literally and spiritually.

Earlier this year, I lost my job rather unexpectedly, and found myself with both free time and lots of stress. Then we found out that one of our children needed pretty major ankle surgery. The job loss and the ankle surgery happened within weeks of each other, and they left me reeling.

But they also opened my eyes to the reality of peace and the need I have for it. Peace doesn’t just happen, falling from the sky like sparkly snow and landing where it will. Peace is, so often, a state of mind and a cooperation with grace.

I’ve struggled with peace for years. And now, this Advent, I find myself reflecting on joy. I can’t help but smile that both of those are words that are everywhere this time of year, as the excitement of Christmas seeps earlier and earlier.

So many of the people I know and love are dealing with their own struggles: job loss, health issues, sudden deaths, mental health challenges, a hatred of red and green sparkles. We are all wounded, and sometimes this time of year brings it right to the top to simmer and fester.

Rather than fight against it, I’m going to try something a bit crazy this year: I’m going to lean into it. That’s the invitation God keeps sending to me: “Lean into me.” So, fine. What can it hurt?

It can’t make the failure of Advent any worse ... and it may just make it eternally better!

St. Juan Diego and the Immaculate Conception

Another liturgical year ended and a new one just began. Let’s hope it’s a good one, without any fear, a la John Lennon. And we are ready to do the same thing with another calendar year. This Sunday is somewhat unique, since we celebrate the Second Sunday of Advent on Dec. 8. Of course, this is normally the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Advent Sundays cannot be superseded, so the celebration of the Immaculate Conception is moved to Monday, Dec. 9. Never fear if you cannot handle Mass two days in a row. Even though the solemnity, usually a holy day of obligation, is moved to Monday, the obligation is dispensed this year. Right off the bat, this gives us all a wonderfully blessed opportunity to do something special for Advent. Joyfully and prayerfully and humbly, let us all go to Mass on Monday. I know we can do it. Let us fill every church in the diocese. Flash mobs and crowds hungering for the Eucharist and longing for the intercession and love of our Blessed Mother.

I hate to say that this is very unlikely, but the reality is that our busy lives are more important than 45 extra minutes for any celebration of a solemnity. If you read this, please go. It’s a great opportunity to prepare the way of the Lord in Advent. And remember, our Blessed Mother Mary is the new Eve, the one human woman conceived without sin and the one who said “Yes,” truly making Advent what

EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

Rick Jeric



it is then, now, and forever. A time of prayer, anticipation, and service.

Who of us, man or woman, would get on a donkey and travel to help a cousin in advanced age and pregnant, while I myself am pregnant? Yes, women are strong and loving. I wonder if Hollywood ever would consider the portrayal of Mary as a “superhero”? She has all the qualities that we would want in a daughter or mother. She may not be able to beat up the bad guys or be as physically strong as some of our female heroes (I think “heroines” is politically incorrect these days), or even save the world like ... wait a minute, I think she was instrumental in doing exactly that.

She is the Immaculate Conception, the Gate of Heaven, the Help of the Afflicted, the Morning Star, the Mother of Mercy, the Mother of the Church, Our Lady of Grace, Our Lady of Light, Queen of All

Saints, Queen of the Americas, Queen of Families and Queen of the World. A lot of potential sequels here, but unfortunately, I doubt that any of these would be a big hit at the box office.

Poor St. Juan Diego. His feast day is Dec. 9, except this year. He gets bumped for the Lady he saw, who spoke to him as Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Immaculate Conception. Can we even imagine that St. Juan Diego would give this the slightest thought? The humility that characterizes all the saints is something for which we must all strive. We may not be able to instantly transform our lives into daily humility and living the Beatitudes, but we can do a little each day. We have opportunities every day to pause, set our egos aside, and be humble. And we have opportunities constantly to live the Beatitudes.

As we encounter the stress and busyness of the Christmas season, let us try to focus on three Beatitudes: blessed are the poor in spirit, blessed are the meek, and blessed are the merciful. I visited the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington a few weeks ago. Among all the beauty, grandeur, awe and ornate surroundings, Mary stands out brightly and boldly as our Mother and the Immaculate Conception. She embraces us in her poorness of spirit, her meekness and her mercy.

Medicine and a "Sense of the Sacred"

As clergy, we touch upon very holy realities when we baptize, consecrate the Eucharist, give absolution to sinners, or anoint the sick. These special moments engage divine grace in deep and important ways in the lives of those to whom we minister.

In the midst of these sacred realities, we remain, nonetheless, very human and fallible instruments. I remember one time when a bishop contritely divulged in my presence that during the consecration that morning, all he could think about was a good cup of hot coffee.

We clergy need to attend carefully to the graced realities we regularly handle lest we end up squandering or losing our sense of the sacred. The old adage reminds us: *familiarity breeds contempt*. An elderly priest and professor in Rome used to urge us as seminarians: "Seek the grace to celebrate each Holy Mass as if it were your first Mass, your last Mass and your only Mass."

Similar challenges exist in the world of medicine. Physicians who work with frail, vulnerable human beings every day must be attentive when it comes to the sacredness of their subjects and their profession.

One of the lesser-known lines from the famous Hippocratic Oath has always intrigued me: "In purity and holiness I will guard my life and my art." Doctors face a range of unique temptations that the oath enumerates: It counsels them to swear off "all mischief and in particular of sexual relations with both female and male (patients)," as well as all abortions and acts of euthanasia. To engage in any of these activities is to lose one's way, forswearing the sacredness of the medical profession's calling.

Yet some doctors, not unlike some priests and bishops, end up losing touch with this "sacred dimension."

An article in *The Irish Times*, written by a physician in the run-up to the 2018 abortion referendum in Ireland, exemplified this loss and profanation of

MAKING SENSE OUT OF BIOETHICS

Father Tad Pacholczyk

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, PhD, earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did postdoctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Massachusetts, and serves as director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org.



medicine's sacredness.

Following a routine 20-week ultrasound of her third pregnancy, Dr. Caroline McCarthy described her sadness at learning that her baby "had no kidneys and as a result, there was no amniotic fluid. His lungs could not develop properly without the fluid, but he wouldn't need his lungs or his kidneys until after birth, so the pregnancy would probably carry to term." She was told she had two options: "Carry my baby to term and he would either be born dead or die shortly after birth, or travel to the UK to end the pregnancy."

After a few days spent in a haze of panic and tears, Dr. McCarthy and her husband, Michael, took a flight out of Ireland to undergo a "compassionate induction" of labor at Liverpool Women's Hospital. The terminology brought to mind an astute observation a friend had once made: "Beware of any medical procedure with the word 'compassion' in its name; it often conceals wrongdoing."

When the hospital clerk arrived to get their informed consent signature, the procedure listed on

the form was "feticide termination of pregnancy." Feticide is a medical term referring to the killing of a human, in this case during an early stage of development – "fetal homicide." After Dr. McCarthy's labor was induced, a large-gauge needle (termed a "catheter" in the article) was used for the feticide. It passed through her abdomen and uterus into her baby's heart, and potassium chloride was injected to stop its beating.

Shortly thereafter, her stillborn son was delivered: "I saw his perfect little face for the first time. I felt that same post-birth relief and elation as I had after the birth of my other two children. The midwife wrapped him in a towel and I held him close. I felt at complete peace with my decision and just sat holding and staring at my beautiful son. In the morning, the midwife helped us dress John. We spent the day holding and looking at him and taking photographs."

It's hard to miss the jolting unseemliness of the family's taking photos of their dead child whose life they had just ended. Dr. McCarthy's actions cannot be squared with her vocation as a mother or with her sacred calling as a physician to "do no harm." That sacred calling translates into helping all those born with birth defects or afflicted by disease, without ever imposing death penalties onto them. Ahead of all others, physicians are tasked with grasping this key truth.

Hippocrates possessed unusual wisdom and foresight to codify these real dangers for the soul of the medical professional millennia ago. As we witness an unprecedented collapse of the sense of the sacred within the world of the healing arts today, we must assiduously pray for those who have turned their backs on that ancient and time-tested oath and vigorously support those fighting to uphold its tenets within medicine's hallowed hallways.

Can Catholics be Freemasons?

By Father Adam Streitenberger
*Diocesan Coordinator
for Evangelization*

Many people have asked recently if Catholics can be members of the Freemasons (or their associated groups like the Shriners and Eastern Star). The answer is NO. It is a mortal sin and has the added penalty of automatic excommunication.

Before 1974, this was not even a question. In 1974, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in Rome contacted the bishops' conferences throughout the world about Freemasonry. Because of this, there was some confusion on the part of a few bishops and priests about whether the Church's judgment had changed.

The same congregation clarified in 1981 that membership in Masonry continued to be a grave sin and a cause for automatic excommunication. Moreover, the CDF reiterated that local bishops do not have the authority to determine whether local

Masonic groups were exempt from this judgment.

Further confusion was added after the 1983 *Code of Canon Law* (or law book of the Church) did not explicitly mention Masonry. In November 1983, the CDF, headed by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger (the future Pope Benedict XVI), stated, "Therefore the Church's negative judgment in regard to Masonic association remains unchanged since their principles have always been considered irreconcilable with the doctrine of the Church and therefore membership in them remains forbidden. The faithful who enroll in Masonic association are in a state of grave sin and may not receive Holy Communion."

Why can't Catholics belong to the Freemasons? The answer to this question also explains why Masonry was not mentioned explicitly in the 1983 code. Freemasonry is a separate religion. It may claim to be a non-religious fraternal organization, but it has its own doctrines and rituals. An

organization with its own doctrine, morality, and liturgy is the textbook definition of a religion.

Even more, the doctrines held by Freemasonry are contrary to our Catholic faith.

Masons believe in a god who created the world. But this god merely started the process and is not personally involved in our lives. Masons believe that every religion is equally true and that one cannot know doctrinal truths for certain. Masons are relativists, meaning they do not believe in absolute truth. Finally, higher degrees of Masonry also espouse the divisive and destructive nature of organized religion.

In the 1983 code, heresy, apostasy, and schism are mentioned as acts that cause automatic excommunication. Heresy is the holding of truths contrary to divine revelation. Apostasy is when a Catholic joins another religion. Membership in the Masons is an act of both heresy and apostasy and therefore fits the definition of those

acts that cause automatic excommunication.

What about a Freemason who converted to Catholicism? Most people who join the Freemasons do so to progress in the business or political world. Formal renunciation of Freemasonry can cause serious difficulties in one's professional life. If a Mason converts to Catholicism, all that is required is that he cease practicing Freemasonry.

If possible, formal and public renunciation is preferable; however, a private renunciation and ending of involvement is sufficient. It is the same when a Muslim or a Protestant converts to Catholicism. We do not require them to go to their former community and renounce their previous religion, but we also expect them to stop their involvement in that religion.

One cannot hold to two religions simultaneously, nor can he or she hold to two contradictory truths. We are either Catholics or we are Masons. We cannot be both.

Chalice for gluten-intolerant; adultery and annulment

Q Why was my annulment denied when my spouse broke a commandment by committing adultery during our marriage (resulting in a divorce)? Though many people are leaving the church, I want to stay and get married in the church. Why am I being denied that right? (Dallas, Georgia)

A In the Catholic Church's view, adultery itself is not a valid reason for annulling a marriage. For an annulment, one must be able to go back to the start of the marriage and be able to show either that the couple was prohibited from marrying by the laws of the church or that the consent of one or both of the spouses was invalid.

Some common grounds for that lack of consent (from the website of the Diocese of Rochester, New York) are: "inability to assume the essential obligations of marriage for psychological reasons" or "willful exclusion of essential elements or properties of marriage, such as children, fidelity or permanence."

So while the fact of adultery itself does not render a marriage invalid, it is possible that infidelity could offer evidence that one or both of the spouses had not entered the marriage with the proper commitment required for a valid marriage to come into existence. (Practically speaking, I would think that the sooner into the marriage the adultery took place, the easier it might be to show a lack of proper commitment at the outset.)

One of the church's canonical grounds for annulment is "error concerning the unity ... of marriage" (Canon 1099).

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.



As the Archdiocese of Atlanta explains on its website, some questions to be raised are these: "At the time of marriage, did either you or your former spouse believe that it was acceptable to have other sexual partners after marriage? Was there anything in the family background to explain the belief that marriage was not an exclusive (totally faithful) relationship?"

And so, I would say to the writer of our question: If you simply offered the fact of your spouse's adultery in petitioning for an annulment, I understand why it was denied. But if you can go back to the very time of the marriage and show that your spouse lacked the requisite consent to exclusivity, you might want to re-submit the case to your diocesan tribunal.

Q More and more people are being diagnosed with celiac or wheat allergies. Because of the particle of the host that is dipped into the

chalice right before Communion, someone who is gluten-intolerant cannot receive the precious blood from the chalice. What is your suggestion? (Missouri)

A It is true that celiac disease is now more prevalent than had earlier been realized. (This disease is an immune reaction to eating gluten and can damage the lining of the small intestine.) A Mayo Clinic study in 2012 estimated that some 1.8 million Americans suffer from this disease.

For most of those so afflicted, low-gluten Communion hosts provide a solution. The parish from which I recently retired purchased these hosts from the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in Missouri.

Dr. Alessio Fasano, then the director of the Center for Celiac Research at the University of Maryland, had estimated in 2004 that the percentage of gluten in these hosts was so remote that someone who suffered from Celiac disease would have to consume 270 of them daily before reaching the danger point.

To accommodate victims of Celiac disease who wish to receive the precious blood, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops recommended in their 2016 newsletter on divine worship that a separate small cup of wine be consecrated that would not be a part of the commingling rite. (At the commingling rite in the Mass, just before the Lamb of God prayer, the priest drops a small particle of the host into his chalice as a sign of the mingling of Christ's body and blood.)

A last chance for Australian justice in Cardinal Pell case

My late parents loved Cardinal George Pell, whom they knew for decades. So I found it a happy coincidence that, on Nov. 12 (which would have been my parents' 70th wedding anniversary), a two-judge panel of Australia's High Court referred to the entire court the cardinal's request for "special leave" to appeal his incomprehensible conviction on charges of "historic sexual abuse," and the even-more-incomprehensible denial of his appeal against that manifestly unsafe verdict.

Thus, in 2020, the highest judicial authority in Australia will review the Pell case, which gives the High Court the opportunity to reverse a gross injustice and acquit the cardinal of a hideous crime: a "crime" that Pell insists never happened; a "crime" for which not a shred of corroborating evidence has yet been produced; a "crime" that simply could not have happened in the circumstances and under the conditions it was alleged to have been committed.

Since Cardinal Pell's original appeal was denied in August by two of three judges on an appellate panel in the State of Victoria, the majority decision to uphold Pell's conviction has come under withering criticism for relying primarily on the credibility of the alleged victim. As the judge who voted to sustain the cardinal's appeal pointed out (in a dissent that one distinguished Australian attorney described

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

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



as the most important legal document in that country's history), witness credibility – a thoroughly subjective judgment call – is a very shaky standard by which to find someone guilty "beyond a reasonable doubt." It has also been noted by fair-minded people that the dissenting judge, Mark Weinberg, is the most respected criminal jurist in Australia, while his two colleagues on the appellate panel had little or no criminal law experience. Weinberg's lengthy and devastating critique of his two colleagues' shallow arguments seemed intended to signal the High Court that something was seriously awry here and that the reputation of Australian justice – as well as the fate of an innocent man – was at stake.

Other recent straws in the wind Down Under have given hope to the cardinal's supporters that justice

may yet be done in his case.

Andrew Bolt, a television journalist with a nationwide audience, walked himself through the alleged series of events at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne, within the timeframe in which they were supposed to have occurred, and concluded that the prosecution's case, and the decisions by both the convicting jury and the majority of the appeal panel, simply made no sense. What was supposed to have happened could not have happened how it did and when it did.

Australians willing to ignore the vicious anti-Pell polemics that have fouled their country's public life for years also heard from two former workers at the cathedral, who stated categorically that what was alleged to have happened could not have happened how it did and when it did, because they were a few yards away from Cardinal Pell at the precise time he was alleged to have abused two choirboys.

Then there was Anthony Charles Smith, a veteran criminal attorney (and not a Catholic), who wrote in *Annals Australasia* that the Pell verdict and the denial of his appeal "curdles my stomach." How, he asked, could a guilty verdict be rendered on "evi-

Local news and events

Diocese sponsoring conference on Church and millennials

The diocesan evangelization office is sponsoring a conference in January on how the Church can reach out to members of the millennial generation – people who were born between 1980 and 1996.

The event will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Gahanna St. Matthew Church, 807 Havens Corners Road. It will begin with Mass and a light breakfast and include talks by four speakers representing youth ministries throughout the nation, with lunch from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Presenters will be Pete Burak, director of the i.d. Ministry for young adults; Sarah Kaczmarek, associate director of the Alpha Catholic Ministry; Ali Hoffman, co-youth director for St. Catharine of Siena Church in Carrollton, Texas; and Pete Burds, college campus ministry director for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

“Many parishes in the diocese want to reach out to young adults, but don’t know where to start. The purpose of this event is to give parishes a chance to discover how to become a spiritual home to young adults and to learn the tools for evangelizing them,” said Father Adam Streitenberger, diocesan coordinator for evangelization. The program is for all priests, deacons, parish and diocesan staff members and leaders, and young adult leaders.

“Eighty percent of millennials who were raised Catholic stop practicing their faith by the age of 23,” Father Streitenberger said. “Forty-one percent believe religion is very important, and of those people, only 52 percent are absolutely certain God exists. Only 15 percent of millennial Catholics attend Mass on a weekly basis. It is crucial for the Church and each of us to learn how to minister to young adults.”

The event is free. To register, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mcc-columbus-tickets-80113241863?aff=ebdssbdest-search>. More information is available at www.millennialchurchconference.com.

Catholic Man of the Year nominations open

The Catholic Men’s Luncheon Club is accepting nominations for the 2020 diocesan Catholic Man of the Year award, which will be presented by Bishop Robert Brennan on Friday, Feb. 7 at Columbus St. Patrick Church.

The award is presented to a layman

Founders Day for Claver organizations



The St. Cyprian Council of the Knights of Peter Claver, Court 298 of its Ladies Auxiliary, and its local Junior Daughters group celebrated the order’s Founders Day at Columbus St. Dominic Church. Members of all three groups are pictured. The order is the nation’s largest African American lay Catholic organization and was founded in November 1909 by four priests and three laymen in Mobile, Alabama. It is named for St. Peter Claver, a Spanish Jesuit priest who ministered to African slaves in what is now the nation of Colombia.

Photo courtesy Gabriela Holland

who, through his daily actions, words and prayers exemplifies the “good and faithful servant.” The recipient will have the opportunity to share his personal testimony during the ceremony.

Nominations will be accepted through Tuesday, Dec. 31. For details, nomination instructions and the required online nomination form, go to catholicmensministry.com/cmoy.

Men of the East Holy Hour

Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 144 N. 5th St., will host the Men of the East ministry’s monthly traveling Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration and reflection from 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 12.

Men of the East is a ministry for all practicing Catholic men who attend one of the 12 parishes in Knox, Licking or Muskingum counties. It exists to support, strengthen and help maximize the spiritual growth of the Catholic men of those counties and is a part of the diocesan Catholic Men’s Ministry.

Theresa Cincione to sing at Christmas Mass

Internationally known soprano Theresa Cincione, a Columbus native, will sing at the 9 a.m. Christmas Mass at Columbus St. Christopher Church, 1420 Grandview Ave.

Cincione has sung in leading roles at the Metropolitan Opera House in

New York City and in opera venues around the world. Her performances at the Met include principal roles in *Elektra*, *Die Meistersinger*, *Carmen*, *Manon*, *The Ghosts of Versailles*, *Idomeneo*, and *Lady MacBeth of Mtsensk*.

In addition, she regularly sings at the annual Newport Music Festival in Rhode Island during the summer. She lives in New York City, where she performs in charity events and teaches voice.

St. Vincent de Paul thrift store to open on Jan. 13

Bishop Robert Brennan will be on hand to bless the diocesan St. Vincent de Paul Society’s new Columbus thrift store at 9 a.m. Monday, Jan. 13. Refreshments will be served beginning at 8.

The store in the Carnaby Center at 5969 E. Main St., in part of a former T.J. Maxx store, will have about 16,500 square feet of space for donated new and used clothing, glassware, toys, household goods, furniture and other items. It will be open from 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday.

Donations for the store are being accepted at the site from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. Volunteers are needed from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays to transfer more than 200 skids of merchandise and 19 truckloads of fixtures from a

smaller building at the shopping center to the store location.

For more information on the stores and the society, or to volunteer or donate items, call (614) 377-1065, go to www.svdpcolumbus.org and click on “thrift stores,” or email colssvdpthriftstores@gmail.com.

St. Brigid School open house scheduled for Jan. 12

Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare School, 7179 Avery Road, will have an open house from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 12.

The event will include tours of the two-time national Blue Ribbon school, with representatives from all its academic activities and related programs available to answer questions.

Registration for preschool through eighth grade for the 2019-20 academic year will take place from Monday, Jan. 6 to Sunday, Jan. 19.

To RSVP for the open house, go to www.stbrigidofkildare.com/apply.

Catholic cemeteries host funeral directors

Members of the Central Ohio Funeral Directors Association reviewed the various parts of the Catholic funeral liturgy at a continuing education program sponsored by the Catholic cemeteries of Columbus at Columbus Corpus Christi Church.

The presentation was based on the Order of Christian Funerals and the funeral directives of the Diocese of Columbus. Father Vince Nguyen, pastor of Corpus Christi and Columbus St. Ladislav and St. Mary, Mother of God churches, was the presenter and discussed all aspects of the funeral liturgy, beginning with the vigil for the deceased and continuing with the Mass of Christian Burial, the final commendation, and the rite of committal.

Rich Finn, director of diocesan cemeteries, was on hand to answer questions and to encourage greater cooperation between cemeteries and funeral homes in serving families.

The Ohio State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors granted two hours of continuing education credit for the program. Materials provided by the Catholic cemeteries included a pricing brochure, a copy of cemetery

Our Lady of Guadalupe: Forgiving to Juan Diego and all of us

By Father David Schalk
Pastor, Columbus Christ the King Church

I do not see my mother very often because she and my father moved to Tennessee almost 20 years ago. But I try to call her every Monday, my day off. That weekly call is important. It gives my mom and me an opportunity to catch up. I ask how she is doing, and she usually asks me about the weather in Ohio. We enjoy talking to each other over the phone. However, some Mondays I do not call my mother. Sometimes I am very busy – I do not even have five minutes to call her! And, honestly, sometimes I forget.

It is not a good thing to forget to call your mother. That is the fourth commandment, right? “You shall honor your father and mother.” I feel terribly guilty when it slips my mind to call. And it does not help that when I eventually do call, my mother can be very dramatic. She answers the phone, “Hello.” I say energetically, “Hello, Mom! It’s David.” She asks, “Who?” I reply, “Your son, Dave.” Then she playfully says, “I did not know that I had a son with that name. If I had a son, he would have called me on Monday.” That is when I have to apologize to my

mother, and she quickly forgives me.

Our Lady of Guadalupe is not as dramatic as my mother. In fact, she is very gentle with us because she knows that sometimes we are busy or forgetful. Think about the story of the apparitions that took place in Mexico in 1531. Do you remember the moment in the story when Juan Diego tried to avoid the Virgin of Guadalupe? Yes, he tried to avoid her! It was on Dec. 10, 1531, when the Virgin appeared to Juan Diego for the third time. She asked him to return to the hill of Tepeyac the next day to receive a sign confirming her desire that a church be constructed on that sacred spot. But Juan Diego did not return to Tepeyac on Dec. 11. Rather, he stayed home to care for his sick uncle, Juan Bernardino.

On the following day, Dec. 12, Juan Bernardino wanted to go to confession and receive the Anointing of the Sick, so he asked Juan Diego to look for a priest. Afraid that his uncle would die very soon, Juan Diego left for the city to find a priest. Knowing that the Virgin would be waiting for him on the hill of Tepeyac, he tried to go another way around the hill. Of course, the Virgin was waiting for him on the other side and asked, “Where are you going?” Juan Diego was embarrassed



St. Juan Diego

Wikipedia photo

and apologized, “I beg you to forgive me. Be patient with me a little longer.” The Virgin replied with those famous words: “Hear me and understand well, my little son, that nothing should frighten or grieve you. Let not your heart be disturbed. ... Am I not here, who am your Mother? Are you not under my protection? Am I not your health? Are you not happily within my fold?”

Can you see the tenderness of Our

Lady of Guadalupe in their exchange? Yes, Juan Diego should have been obedient to his Mother. He should have trusted her and returned to the hill to seek her help. But he foolishly did not. However, instead of making him feel more guilty, Our Lady of Guadalupe quickly accepted his apology and comforted him. She did not grow impatient with his foolishness because she was a merciful Mother.

Sometimes I forget to talk with my mother in Tennessee. And sometimes I forget to talk with my Mother in heaven. In other words, my devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe is sometimes very strong, but sometimes very weak. I promise to pray the rosary every day, but often I am lazy. And I want to visit the chapel of Our Lady of Guadalupe in my church more often, but most of the time I just walk by without even a pause. In other words, I can easily relate to Juan Diego, who was worried about other things and forgot to obey the fourth commandment.

That is why the celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe is so important. This is the day when the Mother of God receives all of her wayward children.

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Young people bring ‘pure energy and enthusiasm’ to national conference

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

Mike Hall has been involved in youth ministry for more than 30 years and says he has never seen anything to match the enthusiasm of the young people attending this year’s National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC).

Their energy was most apparent at the closing Mass of the three-day event on Saturday, Nov. 23 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. It was a vigil Mass for the Solemnity of Christ the King, and during his homily, Indianapolis Archbishop Charles Thompson led the 20,000 young people in attendance in the chant “Viva Cristo Rey!” That Spanish phrase means “Long live Christ the King” and was the cry of the Cristero movement fighting for religious freedom in Mexico in the 1920s.

“At the end of the Mass, the archbishop started asking the youths a few questions about their conference experience and invited them to give gratitude to various groups responsible for



Young people from Sunbury St. John Neumann Church at the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis.

Photo courtesy St. John Neumann Church

the event,” said Hall, who is retiring this month after 10 years as director of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese of Columbus. “As the teens started applauding, the

energy level started growing from each invitation to applaud to the next.

“Suddenly, they broke into wild applause that lasted several minutes. It was a wave of pure energy and enthusiasm resulting from three days of prayer and celebration, and it was genuine and exciting. When the bishop finally got to give his final blessing, the young people danced, clapped and sang the closing song, then remained in celebration for much longer as a band played on and on. They seemed to want to stay forever.”

Hall said more than 250 young people from the diocese attended the event, representing 20 groups – 18 individual parishes, Columbus Bishop Watterson High School and the combined five parishes of Tuscarawas County.

“I’ve been to a dozen or more of the conferences, and this was the best yet,” Hall said. “The energy levels seem to grow from conference to conference.”

“It’s been amazing,” said Allison Dible, a participant from Sunbury

St. John Neumann Church. “It’s just so incredible to see so many young people all in one space praising God. It’s just really inspiring.”

“It took my breath away. I can’t begin to explain how much love there is (here) and such beautiful community,” said participant Elizabeth Eberhard of St. John Neumann.

Having several opportunities for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament was meaningful to Megan Davis, who is from the same parish. “My mind is always running, and I am thinking all the time about anything and everything,” she said. “The fact that I didn’t have any thoughts during Adoration was the biggest blessing and probably a miracle. I was able to focus on talking to God, and it gave me peace of mind, which helped me get through the situation I was praying to God about.”

“The accepting and supportive environment of NCYC made it easy to nurture my faith and allowed me

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Parishes celebrate Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Parishes throughout the Diocese of Columbus will celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe with Masses and other events, mainly on Sunday, Dec. 8 and the feast day itself, Thursday, Dec. 12.

That day is the anniversary of the third and final apparition of the Blessed Virgin to St. Juan Diego in 1531 at Tepeyac Hill, near Mexico City.

Some parish programs will include the “Happy Birthday” serenades to Mary that are known as *mananitas*. The schedule for activities throughout the diocese is as follows:

Parroquia Santa Cruz, Columbus – Procession starting at the COTA Park and Ride stop, 4939 N. High St., traveling 3.9 miles down High Street and Patterson Avenue to Holy Name Church, 154 E. Patterson Ave., Columbus, 8 a.m. Dec. 8, with *mananitas* upon arrival at the church, followed by Mass and refreshments. Mass, followed by *mananitas*, 9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11. Rosary, 7 p.m. Dec. 12, with Mass at 7:30, followed by refreshments.

Columbus Christ the King –

Mananitas and rosary, 6 a.m. Dec. 8, followed by breakfast at 7. Procession, 11:30 a.m. Dec. 8, starting at Columbus St. Philip Church and traveling to church for 12:30 p.m. Mass, followed by a celebration at 1:30 p.m. in All Saints Academy gym.

Columbus St. Agnes – Procession and rosary, 6:30 p.m. Dec. 12, followed by Mass in Spanish at 7 and fiesta in the social hall. *Posadas*, which re-create Mary and Joseph’s search for a place to stay in Bethlehem, will take place at 7 p.m. daily from Monday, Dec. 16 to Tuesday, Dec. 24 at the church and will include a bilingual posada at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19 in Columbus St. Mary Magdalene Church.

Columbus St. James the Less – Mass, 7 p.m. Dec. 12, followed by a procession around the church and food and fellowship in the school cafeteria.

Columbus St. Ladislav – Procession, 5:30 p.m. Dec. 12, followed by Mass at 6 and re-enactment of the apparitions and potluck dinner at 7.

Columbus St. Peter – Rosary, 9:30 p.m. Dec. 11, followed by coffee and pastries at 10, play at 10:30, and

mananitas in the Blue Room. Rosary in Spanish, 6:30 p.m. Dec. 12, followed by Mass at 7 and social gathering in the Blue Room at 8. *Posadas*, 7 p.m. daily from Dec. 16 to Monday, Dec. 23, except for Wednesday, Dec. 18 and Sunday, Dec. 22.

Columbus St. Stephen – Procession starting at 9 a.m. Dec. 8 from church’s upper parking lot to corner of Sullivant Avenue and Georgesville Road and back, followed by Mass at noon. Dramatization of Mary’s appearance to St. Juan Diego, 9 p.m. Dec. 11, followed by dancing at 10, Vigil Mass in Spanish at 11 and *mananitas* at midnight. *Mananitas*, 5 a.m. Dec. 12, followed by Mass in Spanish at 5:30 a.m., Mass in English at 8:30 a.m. and Mass in Spanish at 7 p.m.

Columbus St. Thomas – Procession from back entrance of Mann’s Trailer Park and Sixth Avenue to church, 10:15 a.m. Dec. 8, followed by bilingual Mass at 11:30 and celebration at William Adams Community Center, 854 Alton Ave.

Delaware St. Mary – Mass in Spanish, noon Saturday, Dec. 14, including *mananitas*, followed by

social gathering in Beitel Commons from 1 to 3 p.m.

Dover St. Joseph – *Mananitas*, 8 to 9 p.m. Dec. 11, Eucharistic Adoration follows at 9 p.m. and continues until 5:45 a.m. Dec. 12, followed by Mass at 6 a.m. *Posadas*, 7:30 p.m. daily from Dec. 16 to Tuesday, Dec. 24.

Marion St. Mary – Two-mile procession from Crescent Heights Road to church, 11 a.m. Dec. 8, followed by traditional dancing in Moira Hall at 12:30 p.m., Mass in Spanish at 1, and dinner and music at 2:30. *Mananitas* and rosary, with coffee and doughnuts afterward, 5:30 a.m. Dec. 12. Mass in Spanish, 7 p.m. Dec. 12, followed in Moira Hall by a re-enactment of Mary’s appearance to St. Juan Diego at 8:30.

Newark St. Francis de Sales – Mass, 6:30 p.m. Dec. 11, followed by fiesta in Johnson Hall. Confessions starting at 5:30.

Portsmouth Holy Redeemer and St. Mary – Re-enactment of Mary’s appearance, 6 p.m. Dec. 12, with Spanish Mass at 7, followed by potluck dinner, all at St. Mary.

CONFERENCE, continued from Page 8

to strengthen my relationship with God,” said Claire Nagy of Columbus St. Christopher Church. “The various speakers taught me how to apply my Catholicism to daily life, which is something that is often difficult for teenagers.”

Lacey Richcreek of Coshocton Sacred Heart Church described the conference as “an interesting weekend of studying, meditating, music, meeting people and running into people I know. I had a lot of fun. It also gave me hope. A lot of people were very nice and respectful to me, and I did not hear the trash that comes out of so many people’s mouths. It was so amazing to have so many people celebrating Mass who love God with all of their hearts, minds and souls.”

Another Coshocton parishioner, Andrew Jacob, said, “Not only do you get to grow further in your faith, you get to do it with people that feel the same way you do. I met so many amazing people I could relate to so much and enjoyed being with my friends and making new ones.”

A highlight of the event was a vid-



Students representing the five Tuscarawas County parishes – Dover St. Joseph, New Philadelphia Sacred Heart, Dennison Immaculate Conception, Newcomerstown St. Francis de Sales and Zoar Holy Trinity – at the National Catholic Youth Conference.

Photo courtesy Kathy Hamilton

eotaped greeting from Pope Francis at the conference’s opening Mass. It was the first time a pope has addressed the NCYC.

“I send you an affectionate greeting and my prayers at this moment of

encounter that you are living,” he said, occasionally lifting his eyes from a transcript to the camera. “May it be an opportunity to deepen your faith and communion. May it light your missionary hearts with the courage and

strength to live in and with the Lord, always as a church sent forth.”

“Go and fill your surroundings, even the digital ones. Not of convictions,” the pope said, setting his paper down and speaking off-script directly to the youths. “Not to convince others. Not to proselytize. But to bear witness of the tenderness and mercy of Jesus.”

He closed his message by blessing the participants with the sign of the cross. “And don’t forget to pray for me,” he added.

The conference, the nation’s largest event for Catholic young people, is organized by the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry. It has taken place every two years since 1983, when it began with regional events in Washington, D.C., and San Francisco that drew a combined 4,000 people.

That number steadily increased, and it eventually became necessary to have the conference in arenas with a seating capacity of around 20,000, including Nationwide Arena in Columbus, which hosted the 2007

See CONFERENCE, Page 10



Members of the Columbus St. Thomas Church youth group at a booth sponsored by Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa during the National Catholic Youth Conference last month in Indianapolis. About 20,000 young people from across the nation attended.

Photo courtesy St. Thomas Church

CONFERENCE, continued from Page 9

NCYC. Two years later, the event was in Kansas City, Missouri. It found a home in 2011 in Indianapolis in the domed stadium that also is the home of the Indianapolis Colts. It has taken place there four more times and will remain in Indianapolis at least through 2025.

The conference, which this year had a theme of “Blessed. Broken. Given,” includes Masses, music, Adoration, prayer, workshops, and opportunities to participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. There are also concerts, dances and a comedy club. An area known as the thematic park is set up with interactive educational and recreational activities, as well as traditional exhibits and vendor booths.

For 15 hours during the conference, hundreds of priests shared God’s

mercy with a steady stream of NCYC participants who stood in line for Reconciliation.

Father Timothy Wyciskalla of St. Mark the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis said the sacrament “is one of the greatest things they offer at NCYC.”

“This is one of the highlights of the whole thing. You normally don’t see this – thousands of kids and hundreds of priests all doing this together,” he told *The Criterion*, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

“It’s quiet and they experience the sacrament, some of them for the first time in a very long time. It’s an intimate, private moment with them and God.”

Information from *Catholic News Service* was used in this story.

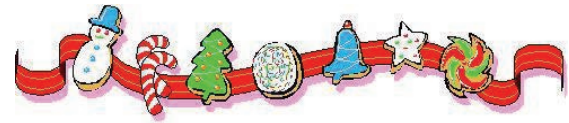
GUADALUPE, continued from Page 8

She was compassionate to Juan Diego and she is compassionate with us. We simply need to return to her and ask for her mercy. With heavy hearts, we echo the words of Juan Diego, “I beg you to forgive me. Be patient with me a little longer.” And she replies, “Am I not here, who am your Mother? Are you not under my protection?” Hearing those words again, we can deepen our devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe and we can commit to loving her as we should.

Importantly, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe takes place during the season of Advent, when we make changes in our lives to prepare for the coming of the Lord. We make changes

to become better disciples of Jesus and better children of the Mother of God. The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is a day of renewal in our faith. It is a day to look back on the year and make plans to do better in the year to come.

This is the key: Our Lady forgave the foolishness of Juan Diego so that he could be her missionary and ambassador to the world. The Mother of God forgives our weakness so that we can mature and strengthen our commitment to God and his Church. Our Lady of Guadalupe recognizes our weakness, offers us her forgiveness and then sends us out to live our faith fully. Let us not forget our Mother. We can trust that she has a plan for each of us.



St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church

5858 Cleveland Ave., Columbus 43231

Annual Christmas Cookie Sale

December 14, 2019
10:00am until 2:00pm

Homemade cookies, goodies, gifts and more!
There will be a tour of the church led by our pastor, Fr. Robert Jager at 11:30am
ONLY Cash or Check accepted in payment.

Emmanuel

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Second Sunday of Advent (Cycle A)

Advent brings us closer to Jesus through Mary

Isaiah 11:1-10
Ps. 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17
Romans 15:4-9
Matthew 3:1-12

Father Timothy Hayes



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

Advent is a season of expectation and hope.

Our Catholic faith stretches us into a way of seeing that transforms us and everything around us. We see the same world as everyone else. We live in the same world and even do the same things as everyone else. And yet we see it all differently.

Mary gives a way to understand this. Our liturgical calendar and the season of Advent draw us into Mary's heart in a particular way.

- The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (celebrated this year on Monday, Dec. 9) shows God's expectation for our humanity fulfilled and opening to a greatness beyond our understanding.

- The new Feast of Our Lady of Loreto (Dec. 10) invites us to reflect upon Mary as the heart of the Home of Nazareth, the place where Jesus was formed for His public mission.

- The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Dec. 12) offers a call to live the Gospel among a people and a culture; "*¿No soy yo aquí que soy tu Madre?*" – "Am I not here who am your Mother?"

- Mary is the Mother of Jesus and Mother of the Church. Advent invites us to live the birth of Christ "from the inside." The Church of today sends out the call to share the Gospel by witness: to experience, to live and to shine out the radiation of joy

Advent is also a season of *surprise*, bringing with it a *challenge to greater engagement with the life of grace*.

John the Baptist appears on the scene with a message that unsettles everyone.

When was the last time you were unsettled? We are bothered, upset, unsettled by many things: when things don't go as we expected or don't go our way, when someone interrupts our routine, when we are made aware of acts of violence or terrorism that create an atmosphere of fear, or when something happens to change the

world around us. That is the human condition.

But when was the last time you were unsettled *by the Gospel*?

Advent reminds us that we are called to be stretched in our efforts to promote God's plan for humanity. God has a vision for us that is beyond our understanding, but one that seeks our willing participation.

John reminds of the need to go into the desert and to come to the water. He calls us to repent and to commit to a new way of living. He invites us to be ready.

We await the coming of Christ at the end of time. We seek to be truly open to His coming at every moment. We prepare to welcome Him anew at Christmas. Advent invites us to be ready whenever He comes to us.

God's vision for the human family is real. We may be accused at times of having a perspective that does not take into account fallen human nature, but we cannot make the mistake of thinking that God has a vision that is impossible.

When God wills something and asks for our cooperation, it does not matter how well we do. As St. Teresa of Calcutta put it, we are called to be faithful, not successful.

When we accomplish God's purpose and plans, it is His grace that is truly responsible.

What does God seek from us? "*Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance.*"

Good fruit, in Biblical terms, is evidence of the presence of the kingdom. As John the Baptist called for a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, we are called to show the power of God's grace at work in us.

Advent is a time to review our manner of living. It is a time for cleanup, not so much in a penitential way (as Lent is), but rather in a preparatory way. Is your house ready to receive the Guest who is on His way?

THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

MONDAY
 Genesis 3:9-15, 20
 Psalm 98:1-4
 Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12
 Luke 1:26-38

TUESDAY
 Isaiah 40:1-11
 Psalm 96:1-3, 10-13
 Matthew 18:12-14

WEDNESDAY
 Isaiah 40:25-31
 Psalm 103:1-4, 8-10
 Matthew 11:28-30

THURSDAY
 Zechariah 2:14-17 or
 Revelation 11:19a;
 12:1-6a, 10ab
 Judith 13:18bc, 19 (Ps)
 Luke 1:26-38 or
 Luke 1:39-47

FRIDAY
 Isaiah 48:17-19
 Psalm 1:1-4, 6
 Matthew 11:16-19

SATURDAY
 Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11
 Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19
 Matthew 17:9a, 10-13

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE: WEEK OF DEC. 8, 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 II, Seasonal Proper, Liturgy of the Hours.

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PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

AUMULLER, Jean M. (Higgins), 89, Nov. 25
St. Michael Church, Worthington

COYNE, Coleman C. "Coke," 79, Nov. 16
St. Paul Church, Westerville

DEVANEY, Helen (Krysh), 86, Nov. 27
Christ the King Church, Columbus

EIFERT, Ronald W., 85, Nov. 26
St. Michael Church, Worthington

FANCELLI, Joseph, 92, Nov. 24
St. James the Less Church, Columbus

GEHLKEN, Beverly (Lucht), 77, Nov. 26
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Zanesville

GIFFEN, Diana M. (Miele), 76, formerly of
Columbus, Nov. 4
St. Thomas More Church, Henderson, Nev.

GRIGSBY (Bishopberger), Cheri A., 75,
Nov. 7
St. Leonard Church, Heath

HARTNETT, Colletta M. (Hughes), 86,
Nov. 23
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

KELLEY, Rita M. (Boch), 97, Nov. 26
St. Mary Church, Bremen

KISTNER, Edward J., 56, Nov. 25
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

MALONE, W. Michael, 92, Nov. 24
St. Mary Church, Groveport

MARGO, Carmella (Lamonica), 96, Nov. 23
St. Joseph Church, Dover

NIEMANN, Grant "Louie," 55, Nov. 21
St. Bernadette Church, Lancaster

SPEICHER, Dr. Carl E., 86, Nov. 13
St. Patrick Church, Columbus

STRATMAN, Anthony, 97, Nov. 25
Our Lady of Victory Church, Columbus

TELERSKI, Dolores (Streng), 97, Nov. 22
Corpus Christi Church, Columbus

WALKER, Mary L. (DiLoreto), 82, Nov. 29
St. Elizabeth Church, Columbus

ZIELKE, Clarence "Butch" Jr., 76, Nov. 27
St. Patrick Church, Columbus

LOCAL NEWS, continued from Page 7

rules, and an explanation of the Catholic Church's position on cremation.

Those desiring a copy of any of these items may obtain them at the offices of St. Joseph Cemetery (614-491-2751), Resurrection Cemetery (614-888-1805) or Holy Cross Cemetery (740-927-4442). Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays and 8 a.m. to noon Saturdays.

St. Pius X to host men's retreat

The men's ministry of Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church is sponsoring a retreat for men at the church, 1051 S. Waggoner Road, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13 and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14.

The speaker will be Father Stephen Dominic Hayes, OP, of Columbus St. Patrick Priory. His topic will be "How clothing yourself with the armor of God and understanding the seven divine longings of the heart will help you become the man God intends you to be."

The retreat will include Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, in addition to private and public prayer time. Its conclusion will be followed by the parish's 5 p.m. Vigil Mass on Saturday. Breakfast and lunch will be served Saturday and snacks and beverages

WEIGEL, continued from Page 6

dence ... so weak and bordering on the preposterous?"

The only plausible answer, he suggested, was that Pell's "guilt" was assumed by many, thanks to "an avalanche of adverse publicity" ginned up by "a mob baying for Pell's blood" and influencing "a media (that) should always be skeptical."

Even more strikingly, the left-leaning *Saturday Paper*, no friend of Cardinal Pell or the Catholic Church, published an article in which Russell Marks – a one-time research assistant on an anti-Pell book – argued that the two judges on the appellate panel who voted to uphold the cardinal's conviction "effectively allowed no possible

will be available during the retreat.

Participants will go home Friday night and return Saturday. The cost is \$30, payable Friday, and scholarships will be available. For more information, contact John Zacovic at jzacovic1@gmail.com or (614) 322-9473 or register at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040c4faaae-2fabf49-spx2020>.

Wilderness Outreach plans Advent hike

The annual Advent hike for men sponsored by the Wilderness Outreach organization will take place Saturday, Dec. 14 in Clear Creek Metro Park, just off U.S. 33 on the border of Fairfield and Hocking counties.

Breakfast will be at 7 a.m., with the hike beginning at 8 and concluding at noon. It can be as short as three miles or as long as 12 miles. Men of all ages are invited, with father (and grandfather)-and-son groups especially encouraged to attend.

Organizers ask that participants register in advance to determine how much food needs to be prepared. Call or email John Bradford at (614) 679-6761 or wildernessoutreach2560@gmail.com or go to the organization's website, www.wildernessoutreach.net.

defense for Pell: there was nothing his lawyers could have said or done, because the judges appeared to argue it was enough to simply believe the complainant on the basis of his performance under cross examination."

The Australian criminal justice system has stumbled or failed at every stage of this case. The High Court of Australia can break that losing streak, free an innocent man, and restore the reputation of Australian justice in the world. Whatever the subsequent fallout from the rabid Pell-haters, friends of justice must hope that that is what happens when the High Court hears the cardinal's case – Australia's Dreyfus Case – next year.



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DECEMBER

6, FRIDAY

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

Eucharistic Adoration at Columbus St. Peter
9 a.m. to 8 p.m., St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky
Row Road, Columbus. First Friday Eucharistic
Adoration in day chapel.

First Friday Masses at Holy Family
9 a.m., 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

Monthly Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 5225
Refugee Road, Columbus. Begins after 9 a.m.
Mass; continues through 6 p.m. Holy Hour.

Catholic Men's Luncheon Club
12:15 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant
Ave., Columbus. Catholic Men's Luncheon Club
meeting, with Father Christopher Yakkell, parochial
vicar for the Perry County Consortium of Parishes,
speaking on his experiences as a new priest.

Five-Choir Christmas Concert at Resurrection
7:30 p.m., Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E.
Dublin-Granville Road, New Albany. Christmas
concert featuring five parish choirs and orchestra.

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.

6-7, FRIDAY-SATURDAY

40 Hours of Adoration at St. Peter
St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road,
Columbus. 40 hours of continuous Eucharistic
Adoration, beginning at 3 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 5
and concluding at 8 a.m. Dec. 7.

6-8, FRIDAY-SUNDAY

Immaculate Conception Novena at St. Elizabeth
7 p.m., St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon Woods
Blvd., Columbus. Final three nights of novena for
the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

7, SATURDAY

Admissions Testing at Bishop Hartley
Bishop Hartley High School, 1285 Zettler Road,
Columbus. Admissions testing for Class of
2024. Students wishing to be considered for a
scholarship must be tested on this date. Go to
www.bishop-hartley.org and click "Admissions" tab.
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

Women's Day of Recollection at Holy Family
8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Holy Family Church, 584 W.
Broad St., Columbus. Women's day of recollection
sponsored by parish Confraternity of Christian
Mothers, featuring two talks by the confraternity's
national director, Father Joseph Tuscan, OFM
Cap; 9 a.m. Mass; continental breakfast and lunch.
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.

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

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.

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, extension 329

Open House at St. Martin Retreat House
10 a.m. to 8 p.m., St. Martin de Porres Family
Retreat House, 22997 Goose Creek Road, South
Bloomingville. Open house at newly established
site in Hocking Hills for families wishing to go on
short retreats at no charge. Cookies, cocoa, game
room, photos with a St. Nicholas portrayer will be
available, and families will be able to reserve a
free weekend. 614-406-3507

Young Catholic Professionals Retreat
1 to 4:45 p.m., St. Matthew Church, 807 Havens
Corners Road, Gahanna. Retreat sponsored
by Young Catholic Professionals organization.
Information at www.ycpcolumbus.org.

'The Nativity Story' at Grove City
6 p.m., Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 3730
Broadway, Grove City. *The Nativity Story* movie
and cookie decorating, sponsored by parish
Respect Life ministry. 614-875-3322

'From the Cathedral Pulpit' Series
6:45 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad
St., Columbus. Talk by Dr. Mary Healy, professor
of sacred Scripture at Sacred Heart Seminary in
Detroit, on "Lessons for Evangelization from the
New Testament." Third in a series of "From the
Cathedral Pulpit" talks on discipleship. Includes
music and a light reception. 614-224-1295
'A Bethlehem Carol' at St. Joan of Arc

7:30 p.m., St. Joan of Arc Church, 10700 Liberty
Road, Powell. 27th annual performance of *A
Bethlehem Carol* children's Christmas program,
with about 60 children participating.

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

8, SUNDAY

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. Talk on sacred
relics with certified catechist Barbara Fink.

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

Lessons and Carols, Vespers at Cathedral
3 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St.,
Columbus. Lessons and carols with cathedral
choir and brass ensemble. Suggested admission
\$10. Followed at 4:45 by Advent solemn Evening
Vespers before 5:15 Mass. 614-241-2526

Maennerchor Concert at Columbus St. Mary
4 p.m., St. Mary, Mother of God Church, 672
S. 3rd St., Columbus. Concert by Columbus
Maennerchor men's, women's and children's
groups, preceded by parish bell choir at 3:45.

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 Conversations Series
6 to 8 p.m., Otie's Tavern and Grill, 5344 Center
St., Hilliard. Monthly Catholic Conversations series
for anyone 21 and older, sponsored by Columbus
St. Margaret of Cortona Church. Speakers:
Local Catholic authors Michele Faehne and
Emily Jaminet on "What Is Grace?" Contact Julie
Naporano at julienaporano1@gmail.com.

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

Solemn Vespers at Columbus St. Patrick
7 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave.,
Columbus. Sung Advent solemn Evening Vespers.

9, 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.
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
Bethesda Post-Abortion Healing Ministry
6:30 p.m., support group meeting, 2744 Dover
Road, Columbus (Christ the King convent, first
building west of church). 614-718-0227, 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's readings.
Priests Renew Vows at St. Elizabeth

7 p.m., St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon Woods
Blvd., Columbus. Mass for the Feast of the
Immaculate Conception includes renewal of vows
of the congregation of the Sons of the Immaculate
Conception by the parish's priests. 614-891-0150

9-12, MONDAY-THURSDAY

Parish Mission at Holy Family
Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., Columbus.
Parish mission with Father Brian Mullady, OP, of
Portland, Oregon. Theme: "Preparing Your Soul for
the Coming of Christ." 614-221-4323

10, TUESDAY

Eucharistic Adoration at Bethesda
11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Bethesda Healing Ministry,
2744 Dover Road, Columbus. Monthly Eucharistic
Adoration in chapel.

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.

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. Confidentiality is
maintained. Call for site. 614-296-7404

Abortion Recovery Network Group
7 p.m., Pregnancy Decision Health Center, 665
E. Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus. 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

11, WEDNESDAY

Center for Dominican Studies Series
Noon to 12:30 p.m., St. Catharine of Siena Room,
Erskine Hall, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus.
Lecture by Sister Shawn Fitzpatrick, OP, on
"Advent: The Hope and Promise of Christmas."
Fourth talk in Center for Dominican Studies
monthly series on "Truth." Lunch provided; call for
seating. 614-251-4722

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. Second of three "A Very
Mary Advent" adult faith formation programs with
Deacon Todd Tucky and Julie Lutz. 740-363-4641

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.

Young Catholic Professionals Speaker Series
7 to 9 p.m., Immaculate Conception Church,
414 E. North Broadway, Columbus. Dr. Ashley
Fernandes, associate director of the Center for
Bioethics and Medical Humanities, speaks at
Young Catholic Professionals executive speaker
series. Information at www.ycpcolumbus.org.

Serrans host vocations luncheon



Students from six diocesan elementary and high schools attended the annual Serra Club of North Columbus vocations luncheon at the Jessing Center of the Pontifical College Josephinum. Father Ed Shikina, parochial vicar at Hilliard St. Brendan Church, was the keynote speaker. He credited Father Paul Noble, vocations director for the Diocese of Columbus, for encouraging him in his vocation and showed the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops video *Fishers of Men*. He said the video inspired him to compare vocations to the priesthood to the call to become superheroes — to be someone remarkable and do something remarkable. Father Jeff Rimelspach, Serra Club chaplain, said the opening and closing prayers for vocations. After the luncheon, participants toured the Josephinum grounds and buildings.

Photo courtesy Serra Club of North Columbus

Students visit government buildings



Columbus Trinity Elementary School seventh- and eighth-grade students attended a middle-school youth and government seminar in downtown Columbus. The event included tours of the Ohio Supreme Court chambers and the Statehouse, a mock legislative session and actual House and Senate sessions. Taking part in the tour were (from left): first row, Nolan Nye, Madi Dickson, Sophia Suerdieck, Jessica Murray and Ryan Ferguson; second row, eighth-grade teacher Elaine Schuttinger, Jacob Blubaugh, Sarah Qemalli and Rece Hatem.

Photo courtesy Trinity Elementary School

Hats help cancer research

Columbus Bishop Hartley High School senior Libby Erwin has knitted hundreds of hats for pediatric cancer patients at Nationwide Children's Hospital to wear after undergoing chemotherapy. She sells the hats at craft bazaars at a display titled "Caps for a Cause," with the proceeds going to cancer research. She also knits a smaller version and donates them to be used as nests for injured birds at the Ohio Bird Sanctuary in Mansfield. She has taken part in nearly 1,000 hours of volunteer service activities at Hartley in the past four years, with a goal of reaching 1,200 by graduation. She is shown with one of the hats and an award she received from the hospital last month.

Photo courtesy Jennifer Erwin

Fisher Catholic freshmen support PDHC



The Irish4Life group of Lancaster Fisher Catholic High School collected \$1,254.16 to benefit the Pregnancy Decision Health Centers, which provide programs supporting women through pregnancy and beyond. Pictured are members of the freshman class, which collected the most money among the school's four classes and presented a check for the school's total amount to Anna Dillon of PDHC. *Photo courtesy Fisher Catholic High School*

Prisoners knit items for needy



In anticipation of winter, inmates at the North Central Correctional Complex in Marion knitted caps and scarves to be donated to those in need. Fran Kempf of Casa Maria, which provides resources for the needy of the Hilltop area of Columbus, receives the items from Father Joseph Klee at a recent meeting of the Columbus Chapter of the Lay Missionaries of Charity, the lay branch of St. Teresa of Calcutta's religious order.

Photo courtesy Father Joseph Klee



St. Charles wins water polo state title



Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School won its sixth state water polo championship and second in a row, defeating Upper Arlington 9-6 in the championship game. The Cardinals' other titles came in 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014 and 2018. Team members are (from left): first row, Jack Simone, Chris Edwards, Thomas Lennox, Seth Miller and Ryan Seidt; second row, assistant coach Maura Moore, Donnie Richardson, Travis Miller, Sawyer Davidson, Alex Nash, Andrei Proca and head coach Geoff Gear; third row, Adam Edwards, Matthew Kravitz, Wil Borchers, Austin Grzybicki, Lukas Rakowsky, Gabe Nervez, Sean Noonan, Will Elsrod and Jackson Baird; fourth row, Nolan Weger, Ryan Alfred, Spencer Aurnou-Rhees, Yadu Mangray, Quinn Moore, Aiden Miller and Adam Fellows; fifth row, Andrew Carter, Jack Price, Alden Jordan, Jack Keller, Jack Ryan, Conner Lofthouse, Danny Richardson, Peter Hou, Jackson Miracle and Matthew Schmidt.

Photo courtesy St. Charles Preparatory School

Bishop visits St. Anthony School



Bishop Robert Brennan came to Columbus St. Anthony School to say Mass and visit classrooms. He talked to students about paying attention, listening to God and being ready for God to direct them on their paths in life.

Photo courtesy St. Anthony School

St. Cecilia students create mosaic



Columbus St. Cecilia School third-grade students created a paper mosaic of the Virgin Mary and surrounded it with prayers asking her for help in their daily life and the courage to always follow Jesus. Throughout October, the students searched through the Gospel reading passages where Mary was present, from the Archangel Gabriel's announcement that she was to be Jesus' mother through the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Photo courtesy St. Cecilia School

St. Agatha students collect candy



Fifth-grade students at Columbus St. Agatha School collected more than 350 pounds of candy for A Kid Again and NC4K, which support children with serious illnesses and their families, and the 12th floor at Nationwide Children's Hospital, where children with cancer are treated.

Photo courtesy St. Agatha School

Anthony Metnes earns Eagle Scout rank



Anthony Metnes, a member of Scout Troop 826 and Columbus St. Mary, Mother of God Church, received his Eagle Scout rank during a court of honor at the troop's sponsoring organization, VFW Post 9473 in Reynoldsburg. He is pictured with his pastor, Father Vince Nguyen. For his Eagle project, he sent 40 20-liter backpacks filled with first-aid and hygiene items, school supplies, batteries, flashlights, rope and tools to Jeramie, a rural community in Haiti. He also raised funds to purchase five goats for families in the town, in cooperation with the Haitian Health Foundation of Norwalk, Connecticut. He has been in Scouting since 2008 and has served his troop as patrol leader, chaplain and scribe. He is a 2019 graduate of Columbus Bishop Hartley High School and a member of Pope St. John XXIII Council 5429 of the Knights of Columbus, and is attending Ohio State University-Newark.

Photo courtesy Metnes family

Rosecrans' eight-man football a winner, will return in 2020

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

For Zanesville Bishop Rosecrans High School, the first year of eight-man football was a success both on and off the field.

"We finished with a 5-3 record, and any time you're over .500, it's a good season," coach Gage Lotozo said. "Once people saw we were having some success and the eight-man game wasn't that different from 11-man football, they adjusted pretty well to the change. As the year went on, the excitement grew, and we ended up drawing more fans than the 11-man team did in 2018.

"We had coaches from other teams coming to several practices to see how this version of the game worked, and we traveled to some great places, leading to some great experiences. As a whole, it was a very satisfying year."

The Bishops played two games against each of four teams, outscoring opponents 387-223 for an average score of 48-28. They defeated Sandusky St. Mary 64-19 and 42-14 and Ashtabula St. John 60-8 and 53-0;

split with Toledo Christian, losing 54-42 in Game 2 and winning 66-24 in the season finale; and lost 54-18 and 50-42 to unbeaten Holgate.

"For scheduling purposes, I've already made the call to continue the eight-man format next year," Lotozo said. "We want to set up a schedule as early as possible because our biggest problem this year, once we decided to switch to eight-man play in late July for numbers purposes, was trying to schedule other eight-man teams.

"There's enough eight-man teams in northwest Ohio that an eight-man league is being formed there. We're not going to join the league, but we'll be playing those schools and filling out the schedule with teams from the Cincinnati and Canton areas. So scheduling shouldn't be an issue."

Thomas Spohn, a junior, ended up as the team's leading rusher and passer, rushing for 1,229 yards and 17 touchdowns on 99 carries and completing 33 of 76 passes for 650 yards and 15 scores. He also caught eight passes for 221 yards and three touchdowns.

Senior Nick Losco ran for 886 yards and seven TDs on 98 carries

and caught 21 passes, nine of them for touchdowns, for 502 yards. He also intercepted two passes. Sophomores Brock Lowe and Tommy Bernath each had two interceptions and returned one of them for touchdowns.

As the scores indicate, eight-man football is a much more wide-open game than its 11-man counterpart. "You can score quickly and often, and everyone went for the two-point conversion all the time," Lotozo said. "A major adjustment was taking into consideration the amount of space each player had. When you've got fewer guys, it's harder to squeeze on a ball carrier, and if one guy doesn't get where he's supposed to be, you get a massive hole.

"Another big difference was in special teams. We didn't kick off deeply for the most part, but had a lot of squib kicks. Special teams play is still the most nerve-racking part of the game, no matter which way you play it, because it takes so little to open up a big hole."

Eleven-man football might return to Rosecrans for 2021, said Lotozo, who teaches social studies at Zanesville Bishop Fenwick School. He was a

head coach for the first time this year after two years as a Rosecrans assistant and three years as linebackers and special teams coach at Bethany (W.Va.) College, his alma mater.

"We had enough sixth- to eighth-grade players at Fenwick this year to form a middle school team. And I'm hoping six or seven of the eighth-graders will come to Rosecrans next year and replace the seven senior players who are graduating," he said.

"We'll also continue 'hallway recruiting' efforts to try to get more guys to come out next year. I'm getting a sense that football is starting to catch on again because of what we did this year, and I'm hoping we can have a roster of 20 to 25." This year's team started with 13 players and ended with 14 after a player joined the squad during the season.

"Whatever we choose is best for the future, eight-man or 11-man, we'll embrace it," Lotozo said. "The change this year put us in a good spot in terms of numbers for the first time in years and allowed us to focus on building things the right way. That's what's most important."

Hartley falls in state semifinals

The diocese's last remaining team in the Ohio high school football playoffs was stopped short of reaching the state final.

Bishop Hartley fell behind Trotwood-Madison 24-0 on Friday, Nov. 29, and, despite a furious fourth-quarter rally, lost 24-19 in a Division III semifinal at London High School.

The Hawks finished with a 12-2 record and ranked No. 1 in the final regular-season state poll, and won regional and Central Catholic League titles. Coach Brad Burchfield also noted that the team had the highest grade-point average in program history.

"We are so proud of the kids and the program and the season," Burchfield said. "It was a tremendous amount of fun to be around them and coach this team every day. They accomplished so much on the field, but the overall contribution to the tradition and the culture is what I am most fond of and what I will reflect back on the most looking back. It was a great year full of awesome experiences."

Hartley came roaring back in the

fourth quarter against Trotwood-Madison with touchdown runs of 1, 1 and 2 yards by senior Jalan January, who finished with 145 yards on 45 carries. Two-point conversion tries failed after the first two scores, and the Hawks trailed 24-12 before Angelo Evans recovered an onside kick with 3:40 left.

January's third TD run and a Ryan Hawk extra-point kick closed the gap to five points. The defense then made a stop to give Hartley one final chance.

Hartley moved into Trotwood-Madison territory, but quarterback Miles Fleming was sacked on second down, threw an incompleting on third down, and a final pass was intercepted with 32.7 seconds left.

"I think we just ran out of time," Burchfield said. "In a close game like that, you can always look back at several plays that you wish would have gone the other way, but that is football at this point.

"I was so proud of the effort of the kids. They continued to battle and it was a great football game. We just came up a little short."

Nine DeSales athletes sign



Nine Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School students have signed letters of intent to continue their athletic careers in college. They are (from left): Noah Swenson, lacrosse, Florida Southern; Dante Fuller, lacrosse, Rutgers; Jack Ayers, lacrosse, University of Indianapolis; Mason Rickens, lacrosse, Rutgers; Will Shaffer, soccer, Wright State; Liz Renken, lacrosse, Colorado Mesa; Emma Brown, volleyball, Robert Morris; Maryanne Boyle, volleyball, Providence; and Bella D'Amico, volleyball, Georgia Tech.

Photo courtesy St. Francis DeSales High School