

The Catholic **TIMES**

The Diocese of Columbus' Information Source

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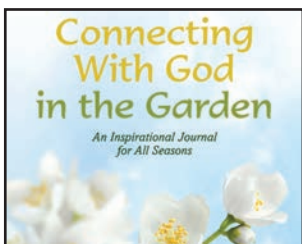
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NEWMAN CENTER BEGINS A NEW CHAPTER AT OHIO STATE

Synod on Synodality responses compiled, sent to Rome

By Doug Bean
Catholic Times Editor

The responses to the local Synod on Synodality listening sessions that took place this year were distilled into a regional report that was sent to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and eventually to Rome.

More than 100 similar summaries from 114 bishops' conferences throughout the world had arrived by late August at the office of the Synod of Bishops.

Also submitting responses were Vatican dicasteries, Eastern Catholic churches, religious congregations, societies for apostolic life, Catholic social media "influencers" and individuals or groups not recognized by the Church.

The synod process began in October 2021 with a first phase that focused on listening sessions and surveys taken from participants worldwide. That information was assimilated as part of the second phase that will result in the creation of a document in late October or early November summarizing the responses.

"We are facing an ecclesial dialogue without precedent in the history of the Church, not only for the quantity of responses received or the number of people involved but also for the quality of participation," said Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich, the relator general of the Synod on Synodality, at an Aug. 26 news conference.

In the Diocese of Columbus, 12 English-speaking and three Spanish-speaking meetings were held in March at deaneries in Franklin County and in Lancaster, Portsmouth, Newark, Dover, Zanesville, Marysville and Marion. Sessions for university and high school students were conducted in April and May.

Those results were compiled by a team from the diocese into a 10-page report that was eventually incorporated into the regional document. Representatives from all Ohio and Michigan dioceses – which included Martha Bogue, a parishioner at Worthington St. Michael Church and a member of the Diocesan Pastoral Council – met during the summer to finalize the 10-page regional

report, which was forwarded to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for inclusion in the final compilation sent to the Vatican.

Close to 1,000 people participated in local synods across the Diocese of Columbus.

The Church-wide Synod on Synodality listening sessions were conducted during a period when the diocese was immersed in its Real Presence Real Future (RPRF) planning initiative, creating logistical challenges to schedule the synod listening meetings while continuing to receive feedback from parishioners on Real Presence Real Future.

"The request for the synod sessions came at a time when we as a diocese were already scheduling RPRF parish meetings, sending out surveys and encouraging participation in many different ways," said Father Michael Hartge, moderator of the Curia who led the diocese through both processes.

"I was nervous that this important topic would get lost in the shuffle or confused with RPRF.

"The volunteers did a marvelous job in devoting time to engage in the provided training and lead these unique sessions in each deanery. Martha Bogue was instrumental on the team in thinking of the details for the training sessions and meetings themselves. She was on the diocesan drafting committee along with other synod volunteers, which read all the comments and prayerfully discerned how we could faithfully represent the comments of everyone in a 10-page report.

"Martha was also chosen to be on the Region VI report committee, so her experience with this worldwide synod exceeds almost everyone's in the diocese. I'm proud of the work we were able to accomplish all during that interim time period when we didn't have a bishop."

Bishop Earl Fernandes succeed-



ed Bishop Robert Brennan, who launched the Real Presence Real Future project, when he was ordained and installed as the 13th bishop of Columbus on May 31. The diocese was without a bishop when the synod meetings were held in March.

Regional and national synod reports are expected to be published on the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' website, www.usccb.org, at a date to be determined.

At each local synod gathering, participants were divided into small groups composed of lay people, clergy and religious. Each was given an opportunity to respond to general questions that revolved around experiences in the Church.

"There were no surprises in comparing our diocesan synod report to the feedback I heard in the regional writing team meetings," Bogue said. "The universality of the Church was communicated in the voices of the participants in the synod.

"The frustrations and joys seemed to be universally echoed throughout Region VI. Every diocese reported a consistent topic of feedback – we need to be more welcoming in our churches to the LGBTQ community, women, people who feel marginalized and those who have experienced divorce and have remarried."

During many synod discussions locally and nationally, comments emerged on controversial issues questioning the Church's teaching on married priests and the ordination of women.

It should be emphasized that the synod was not initiated to change Church doctrine but to provide a venue to listen to the people. Cardinal Hollerich was questioned about this point at the Vatican press conference.

"I fully believe in the tradition of the Church, and what I think is important in

this process is not changing doctrine," he said.

A second theme to emerge from Columbus – and nationally – focused on transparency.

"The issue of transparency seems to also be consistently on the minds of participants. People seem to feel like we need to have better communication from the pope to the bishops to the priests and to the laity, and that would alleviate feelings of frustration," Bogue said.

"Most session participants related that scandals in the Church have created mistrust, and the way to build that trust is to just tell people what the reality is, about everything from issues of abuse to finances to pastoral changes."

A related concern expressed across the country could be labeled as a need for co-responsibility. "Basically, the question repeatedly voiced in listening sessions was: Why can't we all share in the decision-making process?" Bogue related. "We understand that there is a hierarchy, but instead of just saying no, can leaders offer the why, which would diffuse frustration and create understanding."

Additionally, catechesis and evangelization came up repeatedly as concerns throughout the diocese and in the U.S.

"Another major theme was catechizing or passing on the faith to the next generation," Bogue said. "At almost every session, there were parents sharing, 'I'm just so sad. I tried so hard to pass the faith on to my children, sent them to Catholic schools, took them to Mass, and they just don't practice.'

"How we pass along the faith to our children so that the faith remains alive and active, so that they maintain a personal relationship with Jesus – this is a significant concern, for parents and grandparents. Participants often took pause at the loss and confusion they feel when they see how their children have left the Church."

Also mentioned were concerns about clericalism, but regional representatives from the Ohio and Michigan dioceses offered various definitions of that term.

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Front Page photo:
NEWMAN CENTER
Evelyn Dyson, an Ohio State University sophomore from Elyria, Ohio, prays along with other students during a Mass to open the school year at the St. Thomas More Newman Center, which has a renewed focus on serving the large campus population.

CT photo by Ken Snow

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Final draft models based on diocesan data, parishioner feedback

By Doug Bean
Catholic Times Editor

A collaborative effort that involved 34 commission members, clergy and advisers resulted in the release of final draft models for future configuration of parishes and schools in the diocese as part of the Real Presence Real Future initiative.

The models that were released last week at www.realpresencerealfuture.com represent recommendations that will be evaluated by Bishop Earl Fernandes over much of the next year.

Real Presence was launched at the start of 2021 by former Columbus Bishop Robert Brennan, who left the diocese to assume a new appointment in the Diocese of Brooklyn, New York in late November 2021. Father Michael Hartge, the diocese's moderator of the Curia, assumed responsibility for overseeing the process after Bishop Brennan departed.

Nothing is set in stone yet with the parish and school models. The bishop will make the final determination.

There are four models for parishes: one church with one pastor, one parish and one pastor with multiple churches, multiple churches under one pastor and one staff, and multiple churches under one pastor with multiple staffs.

Recommendations for elementary schools are broken down into two categories: parochial and diocesan. Parochial schools would be operated by the affiliated parish, which is currently the norm at the elementary level. Diocesan schools would be run by administrators from the diocese. The diocesan model is similar to how diocesan high schools currently operate.

It should be noted again that the final draft models are proposals and subject to change.

Parishioners throughout the diocese were provided the opportunity during the past year to ask questions, digest information and offer feedback through a survey on the plans for how parishes and schools will be structured in the coming years.

More than 8,000 individuals from the diocese's 105 parishes participated in a survey after the second-round draft models were released in the spring. The feedback was compiled and reviewed by a diocesan team of clergy members and the Real Presence Real Future commission before the final recommendations were sent to Bishop Fernandes.

"No one can say they didn't have the opportunity, between the online surveys and in-parish meetings and presentations, to voice our opinions," said commission member Mike Haller of Chilli-cothe St. Mary Church.

A diocesan team was charged with creating the various draft models. The final models were crafted after absorbing the survey feedback and data that ranged from clergy staffing to Mass participation.

The commission members assisted in an advisory role during the initiative. They also reviewed the surveys and provided comments and recommendations on the final-round drafts, but they were not decision makers.

"After the first round, you could clearly see input from parishioners and from pastors across the diocese," Haller said. "Several things evolved right up to the very last meeting and the final recommendations. The diocese leadership got to hear what's really happening in all areas.

"What we thought were going to be our last recommendations, three or four of those were changed at the last meeting just because staff from the diocese went to the parishes and talked and saw what was happening and made changes. So, I hope the message is that truly the diocese listened to the concerns of the parishes, and that was very apparent because the models changed right up to the last recommendation.

"I think that's a very strong statement, and parishioners should know that their voices were heard."

Some of the feedback taken into account before determining the final models included the presence of religious orders, social services, ethnic communities, clergy allocation and geography (travel distance to a parish for clergy and parishioners and the presence of only one Catholic church in various counties).

"We saw where maybe some of the drafts needed to be shored up a little bit or other considerations to take into account," said Deacon Paul Zemanek, who serves at Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church.

"For example, if there was a model where it was going to combine two or three parishes, and maybe one of the parishes was more heavily laden with a Hispanic demographic, we wanted to make sure that they were taken care of and have their spiritual needs met."

Commission members met quarterly through Zoom or in person.

"I'll be honest, the volume of information was overwhelming," Haller said. "We reviewed one grouping of churches at a time and got feedback from others by asking questions.

"I think the most important thing was that this was an eye opener. I think for years parishioners have said, 'We've got a priest shortage,' but when Bishop Brennan put the numbers out, I think everybody said, 'We do have a problem.'"

By 2030, the diocese is projected to have 80 active priests and 60 of those

available for assignment as pastors. With 105 parishes currently operating, something eventually had to give.

"When you see it on paper, it makes you pause," Haller said. "So, I think that the most important thing that came out of this entire process is that now parishioners see that there's truly a crisis with vocations. Decisions had to be made, and that's really the driving force behind everything that has come out of this.

"The bottom line is, something has to be done. Leaving it as is won't work, and we need to refocus on vocations. Being very honest and open and saying we have a problem is tough, but it's a nationwide issue, a Catholic Church issue with a big 'C,' and here's what we have to do now."

Six diocesan deacons joined the commission in the final stages to offer their input.

"I think the reason the deacons were invited is because in the comments from the surveys there were some that felt that deacons have various backgrounds in sales or in finance, running companies, and it was important to make sure that they were engaged because the deacons have a very tight relationship with their priest," Zemanek said. "And so, we need to be in step with our priests and working with them to implement a particular model for each parish."

Deacons attended the last few commission meetings to help review the final draft models.

"There was definitely serious consideration taken into what the parishioners had to say themselves," Zemanek said. "Everyone may still not have gotten what they wanted, but I felt that those who set those parameters and guidelines did listen.

"Change, as we know, is very difficult no matter what kind of change it is. And I can empathize with those that maybe the change isn't going to be lined up with what they were looking for, but hopefully they'll be able to put it in perspective with what they know about the priest shortage and why we're having to go through this process."

Haller said the commission members recognize that the models aren't perfect and that they could change after the bishop's evaluation, but they were generally pleased with the process.

"When you're talking about this size of an organization, it won't be perfect," Haller said. "I think it's as good as it can be with what we have to work with. It's certainly up to Bishop Fernandes to make the final decision and decide if it works.

"We just don't know what the next four or five years are going to bring as



Real Presence Real Future

Diocesan draft models available

The Diocese of Columbus released on Wednesday, Aug. 31 the final Real Presence Real Future draft models that outline potential structuring for parishes and schools.

The new models, previous draft models and information regarding Real Presence Real Future can be found at www.realpresencerealfuture.org.

The newly released models emerged from a process beginning in 2021 that included parish consultations, listening sessions, initial draft models and feedback gathering.

Father Michael Hartge, the diocese's moderator of the Curia who oversaw the project, said the recommendations for parishes and schools at a yet-to-be-determined point will now be reviewed by Bishop Earl Fernandes. Models include possible clustering, consolidations and closures.

The new bishop is expected to assess the models during the coming months as he becomes more familiar with the diocese. He has indicated that he doesn't plan to make any announcements on his overall vision for the diocese until next summer at the earliest.



8,336
Submissions



70%
more than 10 years
in the parish

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How to lose the battle but win the war

The expression that someone has “lost the battle but won the war” means that, although that person was defeated in a small conflict, he or she won a larger one.

Such was the experience of St. Ignatius of Loyola (feast day July 31). He was soundly defeated at Pamplona, Spain. He had to be carried for two excruciating weeks over mountainous terrain to reach Loyola, his ancestral Spanish home.

While recovering from wounds received at Pamplona, he had a “conversion” experience while reading the *Life of Christ* and the *Book of the Saints*.

You can visit the room where it happened, called the Chapel of the Conversion in Loyola. That name is a misnomer, however. Ignatius’ conversion began there, but it did not end there.

Like Ignatius, many of us might pinpoint the moment when we started our journey of conversion. But, as Catholics, we also know that the conversion pro-

FAITH IN ACTION

Erin Cordle

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



cess is a series of moments – advances and setbacks – that lasts a lifetime.

That was true for Ignatius. He had resolved in his sickbed to serve his earthly king no more and to follow the King of Kings. So, he set out to rival the greatest saints through extreme prayer and fasting, nearly killing himself in the process.

Eventually, Ignatius went to Manresa, a small town on the River Cardener near Barcelona. It was there that he thought he had reached the end of his rope. He was so distraught from the lack of progress in his new

life that he contemplated suicide.

That was when he gave up his will to a higher power. He told God, in effect: “I have done all I can. I’m handing it over to you, to do with it what you will.” And that’s when things started to change. At Pamplona, he had refused to surrender and lost the battle. At Manresa, he surrendered and started winning the war.

We have many examples of saints and others living strong Gospel lives in service to others. Like Ignatius, we can be so focused on emulating our faith heroes that we forget their conversions were based on their lives and their circumstances, not ours.

We are on our own faith journeys. Our ongoing conversions are as different as we are. We have our own battles to lose to win the war.

I pray that we can lose the battles we need to lose while focusing on winning the ultimate war – living graced, Gospel lives serving others.

Filling our spare time with faith first

I am sitting in a clean, organized house, and it is making me uncomfortable.

Not to say that there hasn’t been a rhythm and order to our home over the years, but as more and more of our children begin the transition from living at home, the quiet and order that I once prayed for, or wondered what it would feel like, is being given to me, and I can’t say we are friends yet.

When I was “in the trenches” of parenting, it seemed the kitchen was a revolving door of dishes, the laundry room a mountain of whose clothes are whose, and meals were simple but healthy. Prayer happened because we realized it sustained us, because again, we were in the trenches of raising eight kids under the age of 10.

There is more wiggle room in our family dynamic now, and I am not sure it will serve us as well as I once thought.

How easy it is to say “yes” to more activities because the time is available! We push more worldly things ahead of the sacred and soulful because we think we are giving to our children or our family by these yeses. For so long, we had to say “no.” We just could not do it. We could not afford it, either in money or in time.

Freedom is an interesting concept. We have a God

ALL THAT WE HAVE

MaryBeth Eberhard

MaryBeth Eberhard writes about marriage, life experiences of a large family and special needs. She attends Sunbury St. John Neumann Church.



Who is there to guide, Who has laid out a foundation for a happy life, but the choice is ours to make. The paradox that I’m seeing is that when we were the most tired, most spent, most emptied of all we had to give to our family, marriage, church, we were the happiest and the most fulfilled.

Prayer time was paramount because it was necessary. Without it, we could not go on. Our “well” needed to be filled with the grace that comes from that discipline. We gave more, too. We realized that if the church was the center of our family, then that involvement would surround us with a community of people who support one another. We loved helping people move, bringing a family a meal and welcoming in the seminarians and priests for meals. Our home and our hearts were filled.

It is easy to fall into a rut when thinking about stepping into parish life. We sit back and look at our calendar and put our “yes” for parish life in around all our

other commitments, but perhaps we need to reverse that process. Faith first. We are going to step into parish life: greeters, youth group, service activities, etc., and all our other commitments will need to fit around this.

We do this with Mass. We will not attend a sports game if it is held before Mass on Sundays. But this is the season! I love a new beginning and am excited about being more intentional. And intentional is the word here.

As my children have grown, and my youngest is now 10 years old, I have more free time. It is easy to fill, but the worldly filling of time doesn’t fill our hearts. We were created to love and to serve. So, in this season of new beginnings, may we stop and ask the Lord where He is guiding our family? What are our gifts now as this new group? How can we serve and be served within parish life, and He will light the way.

I value a family that is a “yes” family. They are not walked upon, but rather are known for making things possible. They serve graciously and without reserve. May we all take time to appreciate where we are in this season and seek to have our identity rooted in our faith community because from there, our well is filled.

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Another commonality in the reports highlights individuals taking issue with

a return to tradition in the celebration of the Mass, incorporating more Latin into the liturgy and the embrace of tradition by young priests and seminarians.

But the prevailing sentiment among synod participants appeared to be gratitude for the process.

“Across the board,” Bogue said, “participants verbalized just how much they appreciated simply being heard. I was at a session where somebody said, ‘This is like free therapy!’ If a person has some long-standing, deep-seated frustrations with the Church, these sessions offer a place to be heard, without interruption. Even without the expectation of change, they appreciated the opportunity to talk.

“The way sessions were formatted, people had a series of questions, and each member was given three minutes

to respond. Many realized, ‘I’m not the only one who feels that way. Our parish is experiencing similar frustrations,’ which seemed surprising and helpful to many.”

The Synod on Synodality now enters the “Continental,” or global, phase, which will be followed by the “Universal” phase in 2023. The goal, according to the Holy See, is to provide a path forward for Catholics to journey together as a Church as part of the mission to proclaim the Gospel.

“So many positives came out of this synod process,” Bogue said. “Like most participants, I didn’t know what to expect and was equally grateful for the experience. As we journey together in our faith, it is clear that listening to one another is beneficial and essential.”



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Luncheon will honor Birthright's 50th anniversary

By Tim Puet
For *The Catholic Times*

A little more than 50 years ago, a group of central Ohio women became aware of the work of Birthright, an organization founded in Toronto in 1968 to help women facing unplanned pregnancies.

Kathy and Pat Foley of Columbus traveled to Toronto to meet Birthright founder Louise Summerhill, and in 1971, the Foleys and others gathered at the home of Columbus resident Dorothy Hoelker to begin plans for a Birthright office in Columbus.

Dr. Thomas Hughes donated space for the organization on the second floor of his office at 481 E. Town St. It opened on April 1, 1972, with Edna Whitacre as receptionist. Hoelker and Whitacre died within a week of each other this year.

In the 50 years since its opening, Birthright Columbus has aided thousands of pregnant women in central Ohio, serving as what its director, Barbara McMullen, describes as “a friend to any pregnant woman, especially those who think no one cares about their situation.”

The organization will mark its 50th anniversary at a luncheon from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 1 at Mozart's restaurant, 4784 N. High St., Columbus.

“Birthright is not a medical facility,” McMullen said. “Louise never wanted it to perform medical functions. Those are for agencies such as the Pregnancy Decision Health Centers and the Women's Care Center in Columbus.

“Birthright is a place where a woman can go to and know she will be listened to and supported in a nonjudgmental way before, during and after pregnancy, regardless of her age, race, religion, marital status or financial situation.

“We help a pregnant mother form a plan that fits with her life, through listening first and then offering information and referrals for medical and financial support, housing, legal and social assistance, counseling and other services. We also offer the type of urine-based pregnancy tests that can be bought at stores and have diapers and a limited selection of baby items available. All this is free to anyone requesting our services,” she said.

“Birthright is not a diaper giveaway service,” said volunteer Pat Day, “but one thing we're especially happy about is that we never closed during the COVID pandemic, at a time when there were diaper shortages, and we helped an awful lot of people by providing diapers and anything else they needed.”

“We're an all-volunteer organization, we don't have a big office and we don't have a lot of things on hand. But God always seems to provide whatever we need to keep going. It was always Lou-

ise's intention to keep our finances low because we're here to help pregnant women, not to sit on money.”

“One of the great things about Birthright is that it doesn't have any political or medical affiliations,” McMullen said. “We're just here to support pregnant women. Now that the Supreme Court has repealed the Roe v. Wade decision and left the abortion question up to the states, we're not getting calls related to abortion questions. We did get one recently from a man whose girlfriend wanted to have an abortion, but those kinds of calls are rare.”

McMullen said the best choice for a pregnant woman in a difficult situation and for her child sometimes involves allowing a couple to assume the responsibility of being the child's primary caregivers after birth.

“We used to call that ‘putting a child up for adoption’ and ‘giving a baby away,’ but have come to realize these are terms that had their origins in slavery,” she said. “Now we use the term ‘making another life plan’ because a woman in fact is not giving up the child but has determined she needs someone else to raise him or her.

“The woman is always the child's mother and under today's laws has the right to petition for regular visitation with the child. When such cases work well, everyone benefits – the mother, the child and those who raise the child.”

McMullen said the number of volunteers assisting Birthright Columbus fluctuates, but it has a core group of nine or 10 who keep its office staffed every weekday except holidays from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Several volunteers have served the organization for more than 20 years, including Marge Kilanowicz, 26 years; Marcia Ball, 25 years; Day, 23 years; and McMullen, 21 years.

McMullen said that, based on the number of visitors since January, she anticipates about 200 women will visit Birthright this year for pregnancy assistance. That's slightly down from the number of visitors in 2020 and 2021, which totaled 284 and 274, respectively.

“With the number of volunteers we have, it's just enough to keep us busy,” she said. “It allows us more time to spend with women, and that's the one thing we have to offer that other centers often can't because so many people go there.

“For instance, the Women's Care Centers often see 50 women daily because they offer ultrasounds and other medical services, but they can't spend the time we can with people.”

Besides its locally based services, Birthright International also offers 24/7 help at 1-800-550-4900.

The organization doesn't help only pregnant women. Estee Harris of Columbus said Birthright was of great

assistance to him and his family – wife Tina and sons ages 15, 14 and 3 – throughout the pandemic.

He said he thinks of four things when describing Birthright to others. “First and most important, they are godly,” he said. “They enlightened me on matters of faith. Prayers are always a part of their interaction, and they have always anticipated our needs, before we even knew we needed anything.”

McMullen said another example of the help Birthright gives involved a woman from Egypt and her husband. Neither had a job, and the woman's religion prohibits abortion, but she wasn't sure what to do.

“I told her, ‘We'll work together and see what we come up with,’” McMullen

said. “I asked what her husband could do. She said he was best at working with his hands. It turned out the apartment complex where they lived needed a maintenance person, so he applied for the job, got it and was given free rent as well.

“The baby was born on my birthday, and they named her Barbara after me. That was about 10 years ago.

“The mother had been a nurse and wanted to work with the elderly in a nursing home but needed to take a certification course which had a fee. I called the Ohio Nurses Association, and it agreed to waive the fee. The mother later was hired by the Mother Angeline McCrory Manor nursing facility.

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BIRTHRIGHT, *continued from Page 5*

“We do everything we can to refer people for jobs and other things, but we ask them to make the calls themselves after we learn of something. Many don’t; this couple did, and it worked. I don’t know what happened to them afterward, but I hope they’re doing well.”

Until early September, Birthright had been operating from a location on West Mound Street for six years, but it has to move because its lease has run out. McMullen said Birthright’s new location also will be on the west side, but details of the move had not been completed when this issue of *The Catholic Times* went to press.

The organization remained in its original location on East Town Street for 16 years, then moved in 1988 to 22 E. Gay St. Subsequent moves were to 35 E. Gay St., then to a location on Skidmore Street on Columbus’ west side, across from Holy Family Church, and after that to West Mound Street.

Birthright also had a location on Columbus’ north side for nearly 45 years. It had an office at Christ the King Lutheran Church at Dublin-Granville Road and Interstate 270 from 1976 to 1980, then moved to a pair of buildings on the 4700 block of North High Street.

One of those buildings also housed a thrift shop that remained open until the pandemic shut most businesses in Ohio for a time in spring 2020. The shop did not reopen after that. The North High Street location was donated by longtime Birthright supporter Marjorie O’Neil, who died on Dec. 18 of last year.

McMullen said Birthright benefits from the generosity of many parishes and individual donors. Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona Church has a baby drive every October and annually fills a van with various items. Regular donations of baby blankets and washcloths come from the shawl ministry of McMullen’s parish, the New Albany Church of the Resurrection. A knitting and crocheting group from Groveport St. Mary Church donates blankets. A quilter from Columbus Holy Spirit Church who is downsizing her collection gave several quilts to Birthright. A Girl Scout troop provides rice sacks to help women deal with pain related to pregnancy.

McMullen said her organization’s primary material needs are for extra-large maternity clothes and large-size diapers.

Birthright receives financial support from a fund established with The Catholic Foundation by Dr. Edmond Goold to benefit pregnant women living on Columbus’ west side and from the Marian Foundation, but most of its funding comes from individual donors through events such as its annual luncheon.

This year’s luncheon will feature talks by Brittney Mellema, national director of Birthright USA, and by Estee Harris. There also will be a raffle with prizes including a television set, a Christmas quilt, a hand-knitted afghan and a \$50 Kohl’s gift certificate, and a silent auction with themed baskets and

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Bishop celebrates Mass for homeschoolers

Bishop Earl Fernandes processes to the altar at Sunbury St. John Neumann Church to celebrate a Mass for Catholic homeschoolers to open the new year on Monday, Aug. 22. To the side of the bishop is Deacon Carl Calcara (partially hidden), who serves at the parish; and directly in front of the bishop is Father Dan Dury, pastor at St. John Neumann. Ahead of Father Dury are Father Jins Devasia, HGN, the parochial vicar at St. John Neumann; Father Paul Marich, OP, a parochial vicar at Columbus St. Patrick Church, and altar servers.

CT photos by Ken Snow



Members of the Wilson family (from left) Mary, Mack, Trey, mom Christa (holding 14-month-old Stuart) and Finn kneel during Mass. The Wilsons are members of Columbus St. Patrick Church, where the entire family entered the Catholic Church last Easter.



At a picnic after the Mass for homeschoolers at St. John Neumann Church, the Diller family from Stoutsville, the Heskamp family from Columbus and the Russell family from Orient share food and fellowship.

Recalling freedom's gift

By Sister John Paul Maher, OP

When Pope John Paul II visited Maryland in 1995, he spoke about America's founding documents and President Abraham Lincoln's question on whether a nation "conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal" could "long endure."

The Holy Father went on to say that "democracy cannot be sustained without a shared commitment to certain moral truths about the human person and human community." (Homily at Camden Yards, Oct. 8, 1995)

He then stated, "The basic question before a democratic society is: 'how ought we to live together?'"

It's a question posed to each of us. How are we answering this question by our actions and in the way we educate our young people?

The question about "how ought we to live" is also a question about the meaning of freedom. For our understanding of freedom reflects our understanding of the human person, their dignity and their end goal.

If we understand freedom to be the ability to choose what I want to do, when I want to do it, however I want to do it, we have a narrow understanding of the human person, which is summarized in a will to power, regardless of the needs or good of others.

This breeds selfishness, sorrow and a "me" generation. In this case, the human person is not much more than their wants and the desire of the moment, devoid of an enduring joy or good that is outside of themselves.

Intellectual virtues guide us on path to truth, God

If I knew all things in the world and had not charity, what would it profit me before God, who will judge me by my deeds? – Thomas à Kempis, *The Imitation of Christ*

With this column, I will explore the human intellectual virtues. I'm not sure how many would have intellectual virtues in their list of virtues, but because this is Aquinas Corner and St. Thomas lists them, that's good enough for me.

St. Thomas has three intellectual virtues: understanding, knowledge (science) and wisdom. Exploring these virtues reveals the potential of the human mind to go to the height and depth of truth.

We can observe in babies and onward how the intellect has a natural drive to explore. *Curiosity* is a good word to describe that drive. Before going further, I will note that on four occasions the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* uses the word curiosity, three of those referring to "unhealthy" *curiosity*. So don't use strengthening your intellectual virtues as an excuse for "all" exploration.

Humanity learns many things, often best systematically. Learning (truths) will build on prior things learned (truths). In many subjects, as with our faith, there is a "hierarchy of truths."

When learning things, we don't learn randomly, like prepping for *Jeopardy!* Our learning desire goes deeper (higher), to know why things are the way they are. As Father James Brent, O.P., puts it, "Our awareness of reality may be distinguished roughly into things to be explained and the things that do the explaining." In the language of St. Thomas, the things that do the

“Every generation of Americans needs to know that **freedom consists** not in doing what we like, but **in having the right to do what we ought.**” – St. Pope John Paul II

This is a kind of all-or-nothing freedom, without limits, which degrades the person and their unity as an embodied soul, often separating the body from the heart. As John Paul II put it, "A freedom which claims to be absolute ends up treating the human body as a raw datum, devoid of any meaning and moral values until freedom has shaped it in accordance with its design." (Veritatis Splendor, 1993, 38)

Rather, as the Second Vatican Council explained, "Genuine freedom" is "an outstanding manifestation of the divine image" in man: "God willed to leave man in the power of his own counsel, so that he would seek his Creator of his own accord and would freely arrive at full and blessed perfection by cleaving to God." (Gaudium et Spes, 17, cited in VS, 38)

The more the divine image is manifested in the human person, the greater their freedom.

Yet, John Paul acknowledges there is a real "question

troubling so many people today: how can obedience to universal and unchanging moral norms respect the uniqueness and individuality of the person, and not represent a threat to his freedom and dignity?" (VS, 85)

This is because, ultimately, "the Crucified Christ reveals the authentic meaning of freedom" as "he lives it fully in the total gift of himself and calls his disciples to share in his freedom." (VS, 85)

What is true, universal and unchanging is also what makes us free. "You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:32) The human person's truth is their calling to live as a self-gift.

It is in surrendering ourselves to love, in a gift of self, that we find our freedom. As John Paul puts it, "Jesus reveals by his whole life, and not only by his words, that freedom is acquired in love, that is, in the gift of self." (VS, 87)

Ultimately, as disciples of Christ, we must contemplate Jesus crucified if we wish "to understand the full meaning of freedom: the gift of self in service to God and one's brethren." (VS, 87)

John Paul II said, "Every generation of Americans needs to know that freedom consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought." (Homily, Oct. 8, 1995)

Let us give thanks for the gift of freedom and live it as we ought, bearing witness to Christ.

Sister John Paul Maher, OP, is principal of Worthington St. Michael School and a member of the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist.

AQUINAS CORNER

Richard Arnold

Richard Arnold, a parishioner at Chillicothe St. Mary, holds an MA in Catechetics and Evangelization from Franciscan University of Steubenville and is a husband and a father to two children.



explaining are "principles."

When a person studies a subject, he or she acquires an awareness of truths. This person is said to have understanding. The intellectual virtue of understanding is the fixed and stable disposition of the intellect to grasp the principle or reason why things are so in a certain subject.

By going deeper (higher) into a subject, placing truths in an orderly whole and intelligible pattern, we come to knowledge. The intellectual virtue of knowledge is the stable disposition of the intellect to see truths in a subject as an orderly whole in light of a first principle.

Understanding and knowledge are acquired by studying things often during a long time and addressing many questions.

The intellectual virtue of wisdom takes these prior virtues, stretches as far as possible, asking about reality as a whole, seeing how they relate to the first principle, God.

Let's stop here briefly. When we study and learn about the world, we learn individually and collectively. Paragraphs 1936 and 1937 of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* provide insight:

"On coming into the world, man is not equipped

with everything he needs for developing his bodily and spiritual life. He needs others. Differences appear tied to age, physical abilities, intellectual or moral aptitudes, the benefits derived from social commerce, and the distribution of wealth. The "talents" are not distributed equally.

"These differences belong to God's plan, who wills that each receive what he needs from others, and that those endowed with particular "talents" share the benefits with those who need them. These differences encourage and often oblige persons to practice generosity, kindness, and sharing of goods; they foster the mutual enrichment of cultures."

Translation: We are equal in dignity but not much else. Being the smartest person on the planet is not our end. Human virtues benefit not only ourselves but others, too, and are foundational for receiving the theological virtues.

Check out a Bishop Fulton J. Sheen 20-minute TV episode titled, "How to Improve Your Mind" on YouTube. Broadcast in 1956, the episode touches on these virtues in the bishop's pithy, witty way.

Where is God in this? Wisdom, understanding and knowledge are three gifts of the Holy Spirit that each of us receives at baptism and that are strengthened at confirmation. When it comes to the Church, the Holy Spirit provides charisms. Whether extraordinary or simple and humble, charisms are graces of the Holy Spirit that directly or indirectly benefit the Church, ordered as they are to her building up, to the good of men and to the needs of the world (see 1 Corinthians 12:1-11).

In the next column, I will discuss a chief impediment to these and basically all virtues.

BIRTHRIGHT, continued from Page 6

a hand-knitted afghan.

Tickets for the lunch are \$50 per person, with raffle tickets at \$2 each

or three for \$5. Checks may be made payable to Birthright Columbus. The reservation deadline is Saturday, Sept.

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Draft models reflect sad truths of fewer priests, parishioners

If one thing was made abundantly clear during the diocese's Real Presence Real Future process, it's that the Church desperately needs more priests and more active Catholics.

And the Church needs them sooner rather than later.

For anyone whose parish might be recommended for closing or consolidation in the final Real Presence Real Future draft models released last week at www.realpresencerealfuture.com, the news hits hard. The frustration is understandable.

First, keep in mind that the final models are not set in stone. Bishop Earl Fernandes will now review them during the coming months. No decisions will be coming until next summer at the earliest.

Second, realize that no one wants to see a parish close. It's heartbreaking. Generations of parishioners made sacrifices of time, treasure and talent to build and sustain those churches. To see them abandoned is a serious gut punch.

Third, and this is a tough one, we have no one to blame but ourselves. Not only have the number of priests dwindled during the past 60 years, but also the ranks of the Catholic faithful have shrunk year after year.

So, fewer priests and fewer parishioners mean fewer churches. It only stands to reason.

A quick review of the diocesan numbers reveals the sad facts.

By 2030, projections indicate only 72 priests will be available for parish ministry. Of those, 60 will be eligible for assignments as pastors.

As for the sharp decline in the number of parishioners, all you have to do at many parishes is look at the number of people in the pews and reduced Mass schedules due to lack of priests and attendees.

From 1987 to 2021, average Sunday Mass attendance has fallen in the diocese almost 50%, from approximately 94,000 to 48,500.

The situation was made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic in spring 2020, when churches were closed for two months, and substantial numbers have not re-

EDITOR'S REFLECTIONS Doug Bean



turned for whatever reason. The Sunday Mass average was 68,000 in 2019; two years later, it was 48,500.

How did the Church get to this point of crisis? Yes, it's a crisis when baptized and confirmed souls choose to stay away from the eternal life-giving sacraments.

Let's start with the culture. Secularization increases by the day. Materialism and self-aggrandizement have become inculcated in the minds of young people. Sundays are for shopping and leisure and sports. Going to church is something that old people do. And when some Catholics do go to church to fulfill their obligation, they're out of there after Holy Communion to rush off to who knows where.

There's also a mindset in some quarters that the Church needs to become increasingly progressive to appeal to more people. That seemed to be a prevailing theme in the feedback from the Synod on Synodality listening sessions recently conducted in the diocese and throughout the world.

Some Catholics mentioned clergy abuse issues, and some believe that if artificial contraception, abortion, same-sex unions, female priests and deacons and lay governance are adopted, the church would experience a resurgence. On the contrary, churches were much fuller a generation ago when these norms weren't embraced by the culture and people lived more frugally and faithfully.

As far as styles of worship, the Church has accommodated praise and worship, multicultural and more reverent Masses. Today's Masses tend to be more praise-and-worship oriented because of a community aspect that developed from a perception that the Second Vatican Council emphasized celebration more than reverence.

But traditional is making a comeback among groups of young people. That's evident in the young, large

families attending the churches where traditional Masses are offered and among the young people discovering the truths and beauty of the Catholic faith through the sacred mysteries.

Getting back to the severe shortage of priests, the problems with vocations are a microcosm of the incredible shrinking numbers of Catholics.

One reason fewer Catholics are attending Mass is because families are much, much smaller these days. Fewer children in Catholic families impacts the number of potential candidates who are open to considering the priesthood.

Those who might be interested in a religious vocation face the same material temptations of all young people in a world that doesn't equate success with holiness. If we hope to reverse this trend, faith formation from the earliest age is so, so important to imbue Catholic values in children.

Among the men currently attending seminary or recently ordained as priests, they seem to have a love for the tradition of the church and reverent celebration of the Mass. That's an encouraging development, but, surprisingly and sadly, synod participants expressed concern that young priests are too traditional.

That's likely a reflection of the current Church leadership in Rome, which has placed severe restrictions on the Traditional Latin Mass. In some dioceses, Latin Masses are now effectively banished.

And yet traditional orders are attracting the most vocations because the men in those seminaries love the beauty of the sacred liturgy as it has been celebrated for centuries.

That's not to say a return to Latin Mass will solve the current Church crisis or that there's anything wrong with the post-Vatican II Mass. Some faithful Catholics seem to loathe Latin.

But maybe, just maybe, there's something to be learned from the past. The Church and good Catholics need to come up with an answer in relatively short order or we'll be faced with more parish closings and mergers.

On the folly of ignoring dictators

Earlier this year, I had the honor and pleasure of being introduced to Hatfield House, ancestral home of the Marquesses of Salisbury, by the seventh marquess, Robert Michael James Gascoyne-Cecil, and his wife, Hannah. After Hannah, the daughter of a distinguished Scottish Catholic family, showed Father Alexander Sherbrooke and me around Hatfield's magnificent gardens, a fine lunch was followed by the Salisburys giving us an extended tour of the house, which came into the Cecil family as part of a land-swap with King James I in 1607.

Then came the topper.

Robert took Father Sherbrooke and me down to the basement of Hatfield House, which holds the extensive Cecil family archives — a historical treasure trove in which I could have happily spent days, if not weeks. We were shown a first-edition Authorized Version, the King James Bible. We examined the hand-written order for the execution of Mary Queen of Scots — as well as autograph letters by Mary and her cousin, Elizabeth I, who had spent much of her childhood at Hatfield House. Beautifully illuminated prayer books were glorious reminders of the days before missalettes and other disposable “worship aids.”

While the marquess was off finding yet another trea-

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE George Weigel

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



sure for us to examine — perhaps it was one of the hand-drawn maps on which England's defense against the Spanish Armada was planned, or an early map of the then-“New World” — my eye caught sight of a small notebook on the shelf to my right, which held some of the records of Robert's grandfather, Robert Arthur James Gascoyne-Cecil, the fifth marquess, called “Bobbety” by his familiars since his childhood. Known as Viscount Cranborne before acceding to the Salisbury title upon the death of his father, Bobbety played a large role in British public life, as the Cecils had done since Elizabethan times. In 1935, he was serving as Joint Parliamentary Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs during the premiership of Stanley Baldwin, who sent Cranborne and Anthony Eden (then a rising star in the parliamentary Conservative Party) to Berlin to see what was afoot with Adolf Hit-

ler and the German Third Reich.

The notebook I leafed through was a typed diary of that visit, and it contained the seating chart for what must have been the Dinner Party from Hell. At the center of one side of an elongated table sat the man Winston Churchill would later describe as “a manic of ferocious genius, the repository and expression of the most virulent hatreds that have ever corroded the human breast — Corporal Hitler;” across from Hitler were Eden and Cranborne. Ranged around the table and at smaller side tables were the loathsome gangsters of the Nazi hierarchy, including, if memory serves, Himmler, Goering, Goebbels and Ribbentrop, most with their spouses. One can only imagine the conversation. (Not to mention the meal, given Hitler's food manias and vegetarianism.)

Yet what was most striking in that diary was Lord Cranborne's terse summary of the strategic future: there would be no stopping Hitler by any means other than armed force. The Fuehrer had made himself a de facto dictator by the Enabling Act of 1933. Nine months before the Eden-Cranborne mission he had announced Germany's remilitarization, including the

It's time to make history in our state, country

By Beth Vanderkooi

About two months ago, the Supreme Court released its final decision in the Dobbs case, a decision that returned the full authority to regulate or ban abortion to individual states. Within hours, Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine and Attorney General Dave Yost had worked together to restore Ohio's heartbeat law, a law prohibiting abortion after a baby's heartbeat can be detected.

Abortion advocates responded sharply, saying that only one or two percent of women having abortions have them before the age of gestation. However, we have continued to see abortion clinics open with patients, families, employees and volunteers on site, and we have heard from many people asking how this could be possible.

There are a few things happening. First, we believe abortion clinics were a little misleading about the number of women who have abortions vs. the number of patient contacts who are pre-heartbeat. For example, women who had to wait two or three weeks before scheduling an abortion are getting in immediately, and some procedures that perhaps would have been held for a week or two due to gestational age are less likely to be delayed.

Philanthropists, municipal governments and corporations have also provided millions of dollars to help women access abortion networks out of state. Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio recently announced that in the last month it had provided 200 women with so-called

WEIGEL, continued from Page 8

reintroduction of conscription and the creation of a German air force. In all of this, he was following the plan he had described in detail in his turgid screed, *Mein Kampf* (My Struggle). Until early 1939, however, much of the civilized world refused to see what Lord Cranborne saw and refused to believe that Hitler meant what he wrote. Rather, the civilized world averted its eyes from what it should have recognized as the unmistakable threat posed by a re-arming Germany, which had taken on much of the world in 1914-1918 and almost won.

Looking through Bobbety Cranborne's diary, it was impossible not to think of those today who still refuse to take Vladimir Putin at his word when

MODELS, continued from Page 3

things are implemented, but at least this is a great starting point."

With Bishop Fernandes having dealt with a similar restructuring while serving as a priest in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, commission members ex-

pression passed. In this system, women come into an abortion clinic, pay several hundred dollars to the clinic for their pre-procedure testing and paperwork, and if they are beyond the fetal heartbeat stage, clinic employees and volunteers arrange for transportation and sundries for out-of-state abortions.

In many ways, none of this has been surprising. Anyone who thought that the Dobbs decision meant it was time to take a victory lap is mistaken. As we have reiterated, now is when we really need to buckle down and be present, be prayerful, and be proactive to be pro-life.

However, we need to realize that Ohio abortion clinics, including two in Columbus, are still open and hundreds of babies are still dying in our communities every week.

In fact, this past week brought long-welcome news in the pro-life movement, as the infamous Women's Med of Dayton announced it would be closing both its Ohio and Indiana offices in mid-September (absent any legal intervention in Ohio and Indiana). Closure of Women's Med is significant beyond even the immediate cause of celebration; it also marks a symbolic victory because its founder is known as one of the men who developed the gruesome partial birth abortion procedure. As we stand in prayerful celebration with our Dayton-area friends, we also think this will increase the number of women who come to Columbus to get an abortion or an abortion passport. Not only due to proximity, but also because some abortion providers in Dayton got their start

he claims that Ukraine is a non-nation, or who defend his brutal war against Ukraine as a response to legitimate Russian security concerns, or who somehow believe that a "barking" NATO provoked Putin to do what he had signaled for decades that he intended to do: namely, reverse history's verdict in the Cold War. Such blindness is not only a matter of historical amnesia or unrealistic foreign policy "realism." It is also a moral and spiritual failing — the moral failure to recognize evil for what it is, and the spiritual failure to summon the wit and will to oppose it before it destroys whatever stands in its path.

Thus a terrible situation is made worse.

pressed confidence in his ability to assimilate the models and make prudent decisions.

"We'll just keep praying for vocations and for Bishop Fernandes as these tough decisions are made," Haller said.

in Columbus, and the City of Columbus has set aside more than a million dollars to assist with abortion access and harass pregnancy help centers.

We are living in historic times. I cannot emphasize strongly enough how much the next few months will determine if Ohio will be a state that ends the barbaric practice of intentionally killing children in the womb, or if we will expand abortion through all of pregnancy and mandate taxpayer funding. The biggest determinant will be: who shows up?

So, if you would like to make history, please see now as a time to show up. Dayton's clinic will close in time for the Fall 40 Days for Life campaign. Women will still show up to Planned Parenthood, and when they arrive, we need prayerful, peaceful, hopeful, and helpful people there to meet them in their need. This is an exciting time to sign up for an hour or coordinate a day for your church (www.gcrtl.org/40-days-for-life). God willing, this could be the last 40 Days for Life campaign in Columbus.

We cannot just assume that lawmakers will enact a full abortion ban this fall. They too will be looking to see who shows up at pro-life events, at community events and on election day. Ohio has recently announced a large uptick in voter registration among women and

most assumptions are that this is due to post-Dobbs activity among abortion advocates. What are we doing to talk about faithful citizenship (not partisan politics) in our churches?

The next few months will offer a multitude of opportunities to live our faith in the public square. There is no question that history is being made. The only question? Will you show up to be a part of it?

Calling all artists

Greater Columbus Right to Life is calling all artists, from the youngest among us to the young-at-heart to design a poster or tee shirt design that best embodies the prolife message of "Always Pray and Do Not Give Up."

GCRTL will be taking entries from different age groups, including elementary and middle school, high school and college, and adults. Winning designs will be duplicated for use in March for Life tee shirts and posters. Winners will be selected from each age group, with cash prizes.

Both individual entries and classroom contests are welcome. Entries are due on Sept. 16. For complete rules and information, poster size, and submission information visit www.gcrtl.org/design.

Beth Vanderkooi is the executive director of Greater Columbus Right to Life.

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Newman Center strengthens emphasis on students

By Tim Puet
For *The Catholic Times*

The St. Thomas More Newman Center at 64 W. Lane Ave. in Columbus is “on the doorstep” of the Ohio State University (OSU) main campus. Its purpose is to serve students at OSU and other central Ohio colleges.

The emphasis has been renewed with the recent appointment of Father Adam Streitenberger, director of evangelization for the Diocese of Columbus, as executive director for the center and the assignment of Patrick McNulty, who had been working in the evangelization office, as the center’s assistant director.

The center is one of many Catholic ministries near secular campuses nationwide that are named for St. John Henry Newman, who helped bring secular higher education and the Catholic Church closer together in the 19th century in England. It has served OSU since 1946 and has been at its current location since 1971.

The Paulist Fathers had operated the center from 1956. This summer, the diocese made changes to bring the ministry closer in alignment to diocesan priorities on evangelization. The Paulists declined the diocese’s invitation to remain at the site as chaplains under diocesan direction.

Bishop Earl Fernandes announced the change not long after he was installed as bishop of Columbus on May 31. Father Streitenberger, however, said the process to have the diocese increase its involvement at the center began with Bishop Fernandes’ predecessor, Bishop Robert Brennan, now bishop of Brooklyn, New York.

“Bishop Brennan was passionate about evangelization and about forming a renewed vision for the center to make it more student-oriented,” Father Streitenberger said. “He brought in FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) and increased the diocese’s support for Saint Paul’s Outreach (SPO), which has been on campus for more than a decade.

“Bishop Fernandes has a similar commitment to a culture of evangelization and vocations and to maintaining the vision Bishop Brennan had.”

FOCUS and Saint Paul’s Outreach, based in Denver and St. Paul, Minnesota respectively, share a mission of sending young missionaries to college campuses to meet students where they are, encourage them to examine their lives and show them how the Catholic Church can help bring meaning and purpose as they pursue their goals

“We have to acknowledge that the purpose of the Newman Center is to be a student center. That’s the reason



Bishop Earl Fernandes processes to the altar with Father William Hahn (foreground) and Father Adam Streitenberger ahead of him for a Mass to open the academic year on Tuesday, Aug. 23 in the St. Thomas More Newman Center at Ohio State University.

CT photos by Ken Snow



Staff members at the Ohio State Newman Center are (from left) Sister Loretta De Domenicis, a member of the Daughters of Mary, Help of Christians and the new campus minister; Reneé Lemire, new campus lay minister; Josh Bartz, communications and social media director; Bishop Earl Fernandes; Pat McNulty, assistant director; Father Adam Streitenberger, executive director; Sarah Lightle, communications associate; and Emily Leipold, president of IGNITE, formerly the Buckeye Catholic student organization.

it was founded,” Father Streitenberger said. “Unfortunately, because of developments over time, that role wasn’t always clear. The center was in some ways much like a diocesan parish, serving a broader community rather than mostly students, and that blurred its founding vision.”

Announcement of the diocese’s new role at the center and the Paulists’ departure brought criticism in the secular media. The diocese responded with a statement saying that the decision was not motivated by political reasons but reflected Bishop Fernandes’ pastoral priorities of evangelization and promotion of priestly vocations. The diocese

also said the bishop wants to be close to young people and keep them engaged with the mission of the Church.

The renewed vision and mission at the Newman Center are referred to as “Buckeye Catholic” and include all outreach activities to OSU from the campus ministry, SPO and FOCUS. “We are one Buckeye Catholic community on mission to proclaim Christ and to form disciples,” Father Streitenberger said.

“The center exists to draw students to Jesus Christ, to aid in vocational discernment and to provide training for the next generation of Christian leaders,” McNulty said. “We want to show students how to use faith resources to ben-

efit them directly and to try to lead them in ways they need to be led during this state of their lives.”

McNulty, 26, who as assistant director will be in charge of most of the center’s day-to-day operations, is a graduate of Colorado State University and served at campus ministries there and at Iowa State University and with FOCUS before coming to Columbus in summer 2020 to work with the diocesan evangelization office.

The center’s pastoral staff also includes campus ministers Renee Lemire and Sister Loretta DeDominicis, FMA. Lemire, a Florida State University graduate, came to Columbus a month ago and was involved in campus ministry at Florida State. She also served with SPO in Boston for two years. Sister Loretta, a member of the Salesian order, was at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School during the 2021-22 school year.

“Sister Loretta and I are working for the same purpose but have different specialties,” Lemire said. “I’ve hit the ground running and will be taking part in daily evangelization efforts including FOCUS and Bible studies students may want to set up. Sister Loretta’s work will be mainly that of a spiritual director, promoting formation experiences, especially those dealing with vocational discernment.”

Newman Center staff members and student leaders took part in several activities when OSU’s fall academic quarter began in late August. The highlight was a Mass celebrated by Bishop Fernandes on Tuesday, Aug. 23. Other activities included the university’s involvement fair, the Buckeye Bash on the OSU Oval, a trivia night, women’s and men’s night programs, a two-day on-campus retreat, a hog roast and a pizza and game night.

Parents of students are being invited to the center’s 10 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Sept. 18, with a reception to follow. A wine and cheese event for alumni is scheduled for 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 30 at the center as part of OSU’s homecoming weekend.

Weekend Masses at the center are at 5:30 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m., noon, 6 and 9 p.m. Sunday. Weekday Masses are at 7:30 a.m. and 5:45 p.m., with the 7:30 Mass being a recent addition for students with early classes. There is a Holy Hour with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. every weekday, with confessions at 4:30 p.m. weekdays and 30 minutes before each weekend Mass.

The center’s weekly gathering formerly known as BCAT has a new name – Ignite – but remains at 8 p.m. Tuesday. It consists of a four-week cycle of

Several area colleges have a Catholic presence

By Tim Puet
For *The Catholic Times*

Besides Ohio State University (OSU), where the St. Thomas More Newman Center for students is just steps away from the northern edge of the campus, several other college and university campuses within the Diocese of Columbus have ministries serving student needs.

The Otterbein Catholic Student Ministry (OCSM) at Otterbein University in Westerville is in its 15th year since being founded in 2007, said Maria Tarbell, an Otterbein faculty member who has been the group's adviser for seven years. She said the group has a strong relationship with Westerville St. Paul Church and with the Pontifical College Josephinum, which has assigned seminarian Jake Asuncion to the parish for the 2022-23 academic year.

The group meets weekly at St. Paul Church for Sunday Mass, sometimes followed by a gathering for brunch and fellowship. Masses also are scheduled in the Otterbein campus chapel at 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 10 and on All Saints Day, Tuesday, Nov. 1; the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Thursday, Dec. 8; and Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2023.

In addition, OCSM is sponsoring weekly chats on Monday evenings, with an emphasis on guest speakers, videos and group discussion, and a weekly Bible study of the coming Sunday's Mass readings on Thursday evenings.

It will be bringing a prominent speaker to the campus during the 2023 spring semester and sending representatives to the diocesan Catholic Young Adult Conference on Saturday, Oct. 15 at Sunbury St. John Neumann Church and the diocesan men's and women's conferences in February at the state fairgrounds. It also has supported an annual trip to the March for Life in Washington.

Columbus St. Patrick Church is be-

ginning its second year of an outreach ministry aimed particularly at students attending Columbus State Community College and the Columbus College of Art and Design, both of which are across the street from the church, said Father Stephen Alcott, OP, pastor. The group meets at 9 a.m. on Fridays, will attend a Columbus Clippers game on Saturday, Sept. 17, and is planning hikes and other events.

Father Alcott said the weekly meetings will present overviews of various topics related to faith formation, including prayer, the Lectio Divina method of Scripture study and Father Michael Schmitz's Bible in a Year program. It also is working with the Newman Center on its October Buckeye Awakening retreat at the Damascus Catholic Mission Campus.

Ohio Dominican University in Columbus has Masses at 7 p.m. Sundays and noon Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in its Christ the King Chapel. Eucharistic Adoration takes place there from noon to 1 p.m. on the first Friday of each month. Father Dan Millisor, a diocesan priest, is the campus chaplain.

The chapel at Ohio Northern University (ONU) in Ada has Sunday evening Masses scheduled at 7 p.m. on Sept. 11, Oct. 16, Nov. 13 and Dec. 4. In addition, Ada Our Lady of Lourdes Church is not far from the campus. Its pastor, Father Ed Shikina, said ONU's long-established Catholic student organization recently changed its name to ONU Catholic from the Newman Club. He also said FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) has lay missionaries helping with campus min-



Officers in the Otterbein University Catholic Student Ministry group in Westerville meet at the start of the academic year with Jake Asuncion (right), a seminarian at the Pontifical College Josephinum for the Diocese of Columbus. Pictured are (from left) Maya Steiger, vice president; Brooke Caldwell, treasurer; Emma McGreal, president; and Valerie Rastatter, public relations chair.

Photo courtesy Otterbein Catholic Student Ministry

istry and leading ONU students in Bible studies online.

Capital University's Catholic Student Organization (CSO) sponsors a Mass at 5 p.m. Sundays in the Kerns Religious Life Center on campus. Drew Tucker, director of Capital's Center for Faith and Learning, said CSO also hosts weekly rosary recitation and Bible study on Thursday evenings at the center.

A message on CSO's website says, "Our mission is to be a family for Catholic students on campus, to be a welcoming place for students to learn about Catholicism, and to serve the community as God calls all Christians to do. We are different from other religious organizations on campus first because we are affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church. We are also different because,

while we affiliate with a specific Christian denomination, we welcome all students to come learn and grow with us."

For the second year, Aaron Wagner, a parishioner of the Scioto Catholic Consortium, is offering students at Shawnee State University in Portsmouth one of the Bible studies of Father Robert Spitzer, SJ, who is seen regularly on the EWTN network, said Father Brian Beal, Scioto Catholic pastor.

In addition, newly hired youth minister Lexi Graf will be forming initiatives to invite college students into greater participation in Catholic life within the consortium. Father Beal said Father Adam Streitenberger, diocesan evangelization director, has been in contact with him about establishing a household of FOCUS missionaries to serve Shawnee

State students and faculty, beginning in August 2023.

Father David Sizemore, pastor of Newark St. Francis de Sales Church, said parish youth and young adult minister Molly Loy is assembling a team to establish a Bible study at Ohio State University-Newark within the next couple of months. This will be the parish's first step into ministry at the OSU branch campus.

Loy also is working with OSU Newman Center assistant director Patrick McNulty on creating training resources for campus ministry with the goal of helping college ministries throughout the diocese with planning, logistics and timelines so they can better focus on their mission of evangelizing students.

NEWMAN CENTER, continued from Page 10



Bishop Earl Fernandes is joined on the altar by Father Adam Streitenberger (left) and Father William Hahn, diocesan vicar for clergy and vocations director.



Congregants pray the Our Father during the Newman Center Mass.

CT photos by Ken Snow

programs related to the same theme and includes prayer, fellowship and a talk about faith.

On the second Wednesday of each month, Buckeye Catholic sponsors groups that meet at the center and are known as The Melchizedek Project for men and Avow for women. Both are designed to help young people discern their vocation in life and whether they are being called to a religious vocation.

"One of the center's goals is to promote a vocations culture, that is, a culture designed to help answer the questions of 'How am I going to serve God?' and 'How am I going to serve my neighbor?'" McNulty said.

"For most people, the answer to that question involves marriage and family

life, but on a campus as large as Ohio State's, there are many students whom God has called to the religious life who just need to be exposed to that possibility.

"We want to provide the resources so that when students ask that question, they know where to go and how to discern so they can hear God's call to choose whatever path is best for them," he said.

"A lot of great things are happening under the roof of the Newman Center and the umbrella of Buckeye Catholic," Father Streitenberger added.

The center also is continuing its pop-

See NEWMAN CENTER, Page 12

Bishop attends Ohio State-Notre Dame game



Bishop Earl Fernandes (right) and Father Adam Streitenberger, director of evangelization for the diocese and executive director of the St. Thomas More Newman Center, enjoy the Ohio State-Notre Dame football game on Saturday, Sept. 3 in Ohio Stadium. Bishop Fernandes was attending his first Ohio State game since becoming the new shepherd of the diocese in May. Second-ranked Ohio State defeated fifth-ranked Notre Dame 21-10 in the season opener. *CT photo by Ken Snow*



Knights serve Ronald McDonald House meal



Volunteers from Father Hohman Knights of Columbus Council 5253 of Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church prepared and served lunch for residents of Ronald McDonald House at Nationwide Children's Hospital, their parents and staff members on Wednesday, Aug. 17. This was the fifth year in a row, including the pandemic year of 2020, that the council has provided a meal for the facility, the largest Ronald McDonald House in the world, with rooms for 137 long-term patients of the hospital and their families. Meal volunteers were (from left) Shawn Ellis, Mike Krolikowski, Cheryl Krolikowski, Tom Vollmer, Horace Gilmore, Tom Skinner, Tina Banaski, Scott Banaski, Christina Zacovic, Dave Williams, Tom Holliday and Tess Coucell. *Photo courtesy K of C Council 5253*



Students share a sign of peace during Mass at the Newman Center serving Ohio State University students. *CT photo by Ken Snow*

NEWMAN CENTER,
continued from Page 11

ular Buckeye Awakening retreats, which take place twice a year at the Damascus Catholic Mission Campus in Knox County. The next retreat, the 25th in the series, will take place Friday to Sunday, Oct. 6 to 8.

Speakers will include Father Streitenberger and members of the Newman Center and Damascus staffs; Father William Hahn, diocesan vocations director; and Dominican friars from St. Patrick's Priory in Columbus. The event is for students from OSU and all other central Ohio colleges.

Buckeye Catholic also sponsors Bible studies, men's and women's groups throughout the week, and RCIA classes, for people considering joining the Catholic Church, on Thursdays. FOCUS missionaries lead and form students to run Bible studies. SPO provides men's and women's formation, organizes student households and sponsors an annual retreat at Damascus called Fan in the Flame, McNulty said.

Future activities will be added to the center's calendar. For more information about the Newman Center, go to www.buckeyecatholic.com or call (614) 291-4674.

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Police officer speaks to luncheon club about faith on the job

By Tim Puet
For *The Catholic Times*

Columbus Police Officer Mark Hauenstein says that although their profession requires that they be armed, the most important object Catholic officers can have with them is not a gun.

“As Catholic police officers, the most effective weapon any of us can carry at all times is a rosary,” Hauenstein told the Catholic Men’s Luncheon Club at its monthly meeting on Friday, Sept. 2 at Columbus St. Patrick Church.

“It’s important to defend people’s lives, but what’s more important than the salvation of souls?” Hauenstein asked. “We should be as passionate in praying the rosary as some people are passionate about the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms.”

Hauenstein said he always has a rosary with him as an effective encouragement to prayer in his free time. “This week when I was doing rifle training, for example, I would take out my rosary and pray when I had free moments, while other officers would be resting or on the phone.”

“Police officers are used to being surrounded by some kind of activity,” he said. “We fear the silence. I encourage you not to get wrapped up in the noise of everyday life, but to pray or to study Catholic teaching.” He said his patrol car is always tuned to St. Gabriel Catholic Radio in Columbus so he can keep learning about the faith while he is trying to put that faith into action by serving others.

“Always be ready to explain your faith and the reasons for your hope, but do it with respect for the other person. Don’t go out and Bible thump, but do go out and be a good example,” he said.

Hauenstein, 44, is a graduate of Columbus Christ the King School, where his mother was a teacher; Columbus Bishop Hartley High School; and Ohio State University (OSU). He has been a police officer for 21 years, 20 of them as a second-shift patrol officer.

For the past year, he has been a community liaison officer in the city’s Fourth Precinct, which includes the University District, Weinland Park, parts of Italian Village and Victorian Village and the area near Battelle Memorial Institute. He is a member of Columbus St. Timothy Church, where he is an usher, lector and extraordinary minister of the Eucharist, and of his parish’s Knights of Columbus council.

As a member of the Columbus police honor guard, he has taken part in the funerals of many officers during the past two decades. “This allows me to honor my colleagues while performing the corporal work of mercy of praying for



Columbus Police Officer Mark Hauenstein addresses the Catholic Men’s Luncheon Club.

Photo courtesy Frank Hartge

the dead,” he said.

“In attending so many funerals, I’ve come to realize that although suffering in itself is empty and has no meaning, it has a purpose when united to Jesus’ suffering on the cross. Through Jesus, our load is lightened, and our suffering becomes tolerable.”

Hauenstein said he grew up in a family in which his mother was Presbyterian until becoming a Catholic, and his father was Catholic. That meant he alternated between attending Brookwood Presbyterian and Christ the King churches. “I felt when I was a kid that I didn’t need church, yet I know now that Jesus was always at my side,” he said. “Despite my ignorance, God still had a plan for me.”

In college, he became a part-time employee of the OSU police department, escorting people who requested such help and using two-way radios to tell the university police about areas of concern. He was working with the department in February 1997 when OSU officer Michael Blankenship was shot and killed in response to a report of a suspicious person inside the university’s Wexner Center for the Arts.

“That changed and humbled me,” he said. “This wasn’t supposed to happen to a colleague. After thinking about it for a long time, I came to the conclusion that God allows things like this to happen to bring us closer to God, whether we are asking His support or we are venting our anger to Him. If there was no suffering in the world, would we feel the need to turn to God and help our neighbor?”

Hauenstein began his talk by showing a video clip from a Christmas show of the old *Dragnet* television series, with

its idealized portrayal of police, and following that with a clip of what started as a traffic accident and deteriorated into a confrontation, with police trying to keep spectators back so they could investigate the scene while dealing with taunts that included racially insensitive language.

“You want to seek Jesus in everyone you serve and protect, but it’s not easy in situations like this,” he said. “Raise your hand if you think it would be hard to keep calm in the face of what you just saw.” Several hands went up.

“This is the kind of chaos and insanity a street officer has to deal with on

a daily basis,” he said. “Jesus is there, but folks are so wrapped up in their own situation that it’s hard to see Him.”

“All of this is ultimately an example of how original sin affects us. In so many situations, what you see on the surface as criminal behavior is one thing, but maybe the persons involved were abused or neglected as children or didn’t have a mom or dad, or both. ... The family is under attack by Satan, and when there is no family, everyone suffers.

“We’re hearing a lot today in Columbus about Kias and Hyundais being stolen by a juvenile peer group with children as young as 8 years old,” he said. “Chances are they’re dealing with a lack of love and faith and support, and perhaps with domestic violence or alcohol abuse in their families.

“This is what makes kids turn to gangs where they can find a false sense of security or a form of love – steal a car, and you’ll have respect. It’s conditional love, but it’s more than they’re getting at home.”

Hauenstein said that although police work is constantly stressful and challenging, and every moment can be unpredictable, it provides officers with many opportunities to fulfill Jesus’ command to take up His cross and follow Him.

“A Catholic police officer is called by the nature of his job to discipleship, to serve others,” he said. “There are people who hate police officers, and

See OFFICER, Page 15

DIVINE COMEDY

If your parish is interested in inviting Deacon Dan to do his “Divine Comedy” presentation, contact him at divinecomedydan@gmail.com. “Divine Comedy” is full of clean jokes, saintly humorous examples and hysterical religious cartoons. It is about how our faith life is enriched by daily humor.

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24th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

God shows mercy; we must, too

Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14
Psalm 51:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19
1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15:1-32

Those alive and aware in 2001 in the United States will admit that Sept. 11, 2001, changed our view of the world.

We went from being content that since the Civil War, our land, had not experienced the ravages of war directly. Many families, whose loved ones have been in harm's way, have felt the sting due to their service overseas, but we did not see it in our streets. That day forever changed our sense of safety at home and abroad.

We have begun to acknowledge what the people of Israel had to admit, that our relationship with God and others must change for us to find the peace we seek. Living in the age of the "war on terror," we have grown accustomed to fear as a daily companion.

In the meantime, those who have grown up since 9/11 are "comfortable" with the only world they have known. We cannot explain to them what happened to change our perception of the world, and we hope that they never experience it.

Each generation has its troubles. The Scriptures this weekend reveal that God is aware of our plight. Even as God offers the wisdom of the law that will form His people to Moses on the mountain, the people are returning to Egypt in their creation of the golden calf as their god. They cannot sustain fidelity without the presence of a strong leader.

God deepens the relationship Moses has with the "stiff-necked people" he has led out of Egypt. Once again, it becomes clear that God understands the human heart. On many occasions, Moses has complained about being yoked to this people. God suggests a new start with Moses himself. "Let me alone, then, that my wrath may blaze up

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Father Timothy Hayes

Father Timothy M. Hayes is pastor of Chillicothe St. Mary and St. Peter; and Waverly, St. Mary, Queen of the Missions.



against them to consume them. Then I will make of you a great nation."

In response, Moses suddenly becomes the advocate and bridge he is meant to be. Looking back at how far God has walked with this people and calling to mind the promises God has made to the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Moses urges God to be faithful to His promises and to give the people another chance.

God's mercy is emphasized in Paul's First Letter to Timothy and in the Gospel parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin and the wayward son. Paul acknowledges that God forgave his sins and opened the way for him to serve as the missionary to the Gentiles. The shepherd, the woman who lost the coin and the father of two sons all mirror the zeal of God's love, showing the wondrous lengths He will go to gather His people to Himself.

Revenge might be on our minds in the face of the troubles and cruelty in our world. Nonetheless, we are invited to see the power of mercy to change the world. In every case presented in the Scriptures, human judgment would reasonably allow what and who are lost to remain lost. Divine judgment calls us rather to see how God has been merciful to us and to extend that to others, even those who have sinned against us.

As wounded human beings, we can be caught up in our suffering and in the suffering of those we love. The Gospel calls upon us to move beyond the wound and to embrace those who see us as enemies, inviting them to become something new. How much God loves us! So are we to

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

Amos 8:4-7
Psalm 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8
1 Timothy 2:1-8
Luke 16:1-13

In the catalog of those accounted as saints with feast days on our liturgical calendar are many who were kings and queens, individuals with authority and power in the temporal sphere. These were the politicians of old, and they responded to the call to holiness to a heroic degree. What is happening in our time?

Very few would call any political leader of our time saintly. On the contrary, it has become commonplace to admit,

sometimes grudgingly, oftentimes with the claim of "being realistic," that doing what needs to be done requires getting hands dirty.

St. Paul lived before the political saints came along, living under the power of the Roman Empire, which had become expert at cruelty and establishing power by violence, crushing all opposition.

His response was not to criticize or lament the political intrigues. Instead, he wrote to Timothy: "Beloved: First of all, I ask that supplications, prayers, petitions, and thanksgivings be offered for everyone, for kings and for all in authority, that we may lead a quiet and

THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

9/12-9/17

MONDAY

1 Corinthians 11:17-26,33
 Psalm 40:7-10,17
 Luke 7:1-10

TUESDAY

1 Corinthians 12:12-14,27-31a
 Psalm 100:1b-5
 Luke 7:11-17

WEDNESDAY

Numbers 21:4b-9
 Psalm 78:1b-2,34-38
 Philippians 2:6-11
 John 3:13-17

THURSDAY

1 Corinthians 15:1-11
 Psalm 118:1b-2,16ab-17,28
 John 19:25-27 or

Luke 2:33-35

FRIDAY

1 Corinthians 15:12-20
 Psalm 17:1bcd,6-7,8b,15
 Luke 8:1-3

SATURDAY

1 Corinthians 15:35-37,42-49
 Psalm 56:10c-14
 Luke 8:14-15

9/19-9/24

MONDAY

Proverbs 3:27-34
 Psalm 15:2-4b,5
 Luke 8:16-18

TUESDAY

Proverbs 21:1-6,10-13
 Psalm 119:1,27,30,34-35,44

Luke 8:19-21

WEDNESDAY

Ephesians 4:1-7,11-13
 Psalm 19:2-5
 Matthew 9:9-13

THURSDAY

Ecclesiastes 1:2-11
 Psalm 90:3-6,12-14,17bc
 Luke 9:7-9

FRIDAY

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11
 Psalm 144:1b,2abc,3-4
 Luke 9:18-22

SATURDAY

Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:8
 Psalm 90:3-6,12-14,17
 Luke 9:43b-45

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION

MASS SCHEDULE: WEEKS OF SEPT. 11 AND SEPT. 18, 2022

SUNDAY MASS

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

10:30 a.m. Mass from Portsmouth St. Mary Church on St. Gabriel Radio (FM 88.3), Portsmouth.

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 Breezeline 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.

12:05 p.m. weekdays, 8 a.m. Saturdays, Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com and diocesan website, www.columbuscatholic.org. (Saturdays on radio only).

Videos of Masses are available at any time on the internet at these and many other parish websites: Mattingly Settlement St. Mary (www.stannstmary.org); Columbus St. Patrick (www.stpatrickcolumbus.org); Delaware St. Mary (www.delawarestmary.org); Sunbury St. John Neumann (www.saintjohnsunbury.org); and Columbus Immaculate Conception (www.iccols.org). Check your parish website for additional information.

We pray Weeks IV and I of the Liturgy of the Hours

love and show mercy to those who have wounded us. Forgiveness and mercy allow us to move forward.

While we continue to seek justice and to establish peace in our borders, we must also open a way forward and create a new world of harmony that allows

mercy to have the last word. This will allow our children to know a way of life that moves beyond fear and retribution. "To the king of ages, incorruptible, invisible, the only God, honor and glory forever and ever. Amen."

Pray that the rich, famous and powerful accept God

tranquil life in all devotion and dignity. This is good and pleasing to God our savior, who wills everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth."

The response to our modern situation, to create the peace and tranquility needed to deepen our knowledge of the truth, ought to be similar to Paul's. First, we must pray for politicians. If our goal is to live and share the truth, then we must approach everything from that intention.

Divisiveness will not lead to a peaceful witness of the truth of the Gospel. While it is true that those who misuse power to their own ends rather than for the common good should be admon-

ished, we must approach this task with hearts full of love and offering first a witness of good will.

Paul continues: "It is my wish, then, that in every place the men should pray, lifting up holy hands, without anger or argument."

Desire for power is often a disguise for desire for money. These go hand in hand. To discover corruption, the adage says, "Follow the money." The Gospel tells us, "You cannot serve both God and mammon." To serve God relativizes

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JEROME
JOHN
TERESA

ACCEPT GOD, continued from Page 14

all that can attract us in this world.

The saints of old who had power and money learned to put God first and then used their influence to take care of the poor and those without a voice. Their response to holiness was not necessarily a call to give up their influence, but rather to put their whole persons at the service of the Gospel.

Every human being has a circle of influence. When we discover a talent and put it in the service of others, we begin to know ourselves better. Assisting others in this world and witnessing faith to them clearly by putting God first is the way to true power. The paradox of the Gospel is always that we receive more than we give.

Bishop Fulton Sheen used to go after “big fish” to evangelize. Through his witness many came

to know the reasonableness of the Catholic faith, and not a few among the powerful and famous responded to his invitation to become Catholic.

Perhaps we need to have a “campaign” that promotes conversion among the politicians and those with influence, first praying for them and then inviting them to the salvation that comes from knowledge of the truth.

The Church proposes the faith. The invitation to believe must be freely accepted.

Let us offer *supplications, prayers, petitions, and thanksgivings for everyone*, especially for our politicians and those who are famous, and *for all in authority, that we may lead a quiet and tranquil life in all devotion and dignity*. May all come to knowledge of the truth that offers salvation.

OFFICER, continued from Page 13

there’s not a week that goes by when someone doesn’t ‘flip me the bird’ or use some nasty expression toward me,” he said. “At those times, I keep in mind John 15:18: ‘If the world hates you, know that it has hated Me before it hated you.’”

“In 21 years as a police officer, I’ve learned to offer all my worries to Jesus and put my faith and trust in Him,” Hauenstein said. “I am still a work in progress, remembering that Christ came to serve everyone, even His opponents. I don’t hesitate to tell others that I am Catholic and don’t shy away from doing so.”

Hauenstein closed his talk by showing a promotional video he made for the Columbus Divi-

sion of Police. The video, which can be seen on Facebook, ends with him saying, “Through all the ups and downs, this job has only strengthened my Catholic faith and my relation to God, which is the most important part of my life. Each day, I’m reminded to serve others and to be willing to sacrifice my life if necessary to save someone else.”

The video ends with a reference to former Columbus Chief James Jackson, who led the police department for 19 years before retiring in 2009 and was a police officer for 51 years. “As Chief Jackson used to say, ‘Service is the rent that we pay for our room here on Earth,’” Hauenstein said.

Words of Wisdom

by Pat Battaglia, aka Dr. Fun

Draw a path from letter to letter to spell the capitalized words to complete the wisdom statement. Move one square at a time, up, down, right, left and diagonally until all letters are used once. Ignore any black squares.

Work becomes worship ...

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PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

ABLE, Luke J. 62, Aug. 15
St. Rose of Lima, New Lexington

AKERS, Leslie A., 67, Aug. 21
St. Matthew Church, Gahanna

APPOLONIO, Teresa, 85, Aug. 31
St. Christopher Church, Columbus

ARNETT, Ann E. (Buehler), 89, Aug. 24
St. Mary Church, Groveport

BAILEY, Evelyn (Vitale), 80, Aug. 18
Church of the Resurrection, Johnstown

BIANCHI, John F., 52, Aug. 31
Resurrection Cemetery, Lewis Center

BLAKE, Donald L., 85, Aug. 28
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

BRADY, Matthew, 45, Aug. 19
St. Joseph Church, Dover

BUSCH, Janet E. (Abbott), 89, Aug. 19
St. Matthew Church, Gahanna

CIANELLI, Elda L. (Centofanti), 101, Aug. 27
Resurrection Cemetery Chapel, Lewis Center

DEVEREAUX, Patricia E., 84, Sept. 2
St. Patrick Church, Columbus

EGAN, Leona Faye, 94, Aug. 26
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

ELLIS, John Henry, 72, Aug. 18
Sacred Heart Church, Coshocton

GEISER, Ralph M. "Sonny" Jr., 90, Aug. 25
St. Timothy Church, Columbus

GILLESPIE, Susan (Kegler), 78, Aug. 31
Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus

HANINGER, Steve G., 75, Aug. 9
St. Christopher Church, Columbus

HAMMOND, Gennoah, 88, Aug. 27
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

HEFFLEY, Douglas "Doug," 80, Aug. 11
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

IACOBONE, Anthony, 72, Aug. 18
Holy Spirit Church, Columbus

JENKINS, Thomas E. "TJ," 84, Aug. 24
Resurrection Cemetery Chapel, Lewis Center

KOTYS, William, 79, Aug. 25
St. Paul Church, Westerville

KRAUSS, Roman W., 96, Aug. 31
St. Mary Church, Groveport

LINDSAY, Donna J. (Kitchen), 86, Aug. 24
Church of the Ascension, Johnstown

LYNCH, Thomas Alan, 83, Sept. 2
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

MILLER, Gerald, 90, Aug. 18
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

PALLOTTA, Sabatino, 99, Aug. 29
Our Lady of Victory Church, Columbus

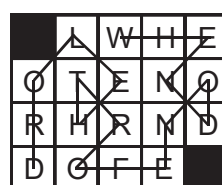
ROHR, Constance S. (Cornwell), 77, Aug. 5
St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Pickerington

SERGIO, Sally F. (Nicol), 79, Aug. 21
St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Pickerington

SKEELE, Thomas F., 70, Aug. 22
Resurrection Cemetery Chapel, Lewis Center

VERMILLION, Richard, 94, Aug. 12
St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

WIESE, Dr. Joe D., 87, Aug. 23
Ss. Simon and Jude Church, West Jefferson



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October 15, 2022, at St. John Neumann

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JOHN 1:5

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www.ColumbusCatholicWomen.com

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Saturday † February 25, 2023
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Concert series begin this month at Marysville parish

The Music on the Hill concert series returns to Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 1033 W. 5th St., after being suspended the past few years because of the COVID-19 pandemic with a season opener at 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 25.

The first of five concerts in the series, which extends through June, will feature an opening gala with Chelsea and Paul Melcher and Sarah and Richard Jeric performing vocal selections ranging from opera to musical theater and piano duets.

Paul Melcher is the former director of music at Our Lady of Lourdes and Richard Jeric is the current director. Chelsea Melcher and Sara Jeric are accomplished vocalists.

Music on the Hill began a decade ago when Father David Poliafico was pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes and Paul Melcher served as the director of music for the parish and coordinator of the series.

The founding mission of the series continues to be to bring free and open music experiences to the community.



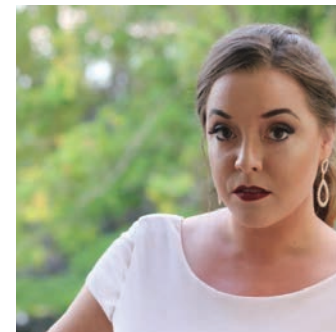
Paul Melcher



Chelsea Melcher



Richard Jeric



Sarah Jeric

Highlights from the past decade include the University of Notre Dame Glee Club, the Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Youth Choir, and performances of Handel's Messiah.

"We're excited to have the concert series return to Our Lady of Lourdes and we hope many people will be able to join us for the performances," said Father Kevin Kavanagh, the current pastor.

Other concerts in the series are:

November 20: A piano recital featur-

ing Richard Jeric performing well-known masterpieces by composers Beethoven and Chopin

February 12, 2023: Sacred choral works performed by the St. Joseph Cathedral Choir under the direction of Dr. Richard Fitzgerald

April 16, 2023: Fireworks for Trumpet and Voice with piano and organ accompaniment featuring trumpeter Matthew Swihart and Sarah Jeric

June 11, 2023: Clarinet spectacular with Jacob Moyer, a member of The

President's Own U.S. Marine Band

All concerts are free and open to the public. Donations are accepted, and individuals or businesses interested in sponsoring the series at various levels of giving are asked to contact Richard Jeric at richard@lolol.cc.

For more information, updates and announcements throughout the season, visit the parish website at www.olol.cc or the Music on the Hill Marysville Facebook.

Author connects to, communicates with God through nature

By Elizabeth Pardi

Columbus resident Cecile Smith's first book, *Connecting With God in the Garden*, was published in April. Described on the cover as "an inspirational journal for all seasons," the book opens with an explanation of how Smith heard God's voice for the first time in her garden.

While looking at the sky, "I heard these words in my heart: I am here with you every day beneath my endless sky. I have given you all these things so that you can know me. Nature is the revelation of my very self, and if you look closely enough and listen in the breeze, I will whisper to you and you will hear my voice."

After that, she returned to her garden daily to converse with God through nature. She cites simple events that became messages from the Lord, such as, "A variety of insects gathered on the sedum affirms the power of community" and "Limbs gently swaying in the breeze suggest that I too can sway with the vicissitudes of life."

Smith's book is her effort to help others converse with Christ in nature. She offers simple criteria for discerning whether it is God's voice one is sensing: "A word, thought, idea or feeling – that is not your own – will immediately enter your mind or heart. ... His message is always full of love ... (and) you gain a deep, inner feeling of peaceful contentment."

Although Smith began writing the

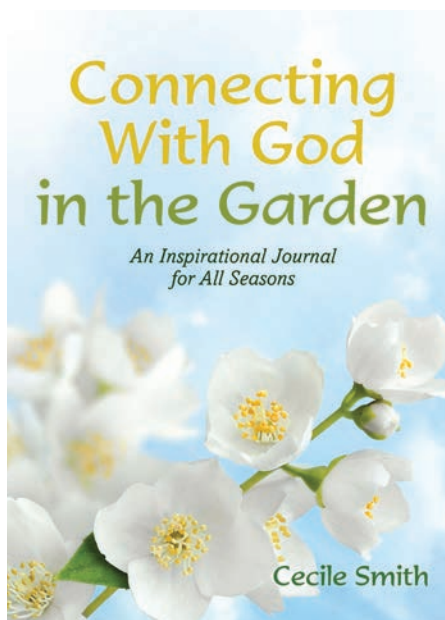


Cecile Smith

content for *Connecting With God in the Garden* a decade ago, she didn't intend for her reflections to become a book. "I kept my writings to myself," she said.

But when she shared them with her mother, a devout Catholic, writer and lover of nature who is now 100 years old, her mother responded by asking for 10 copies to give to friends.

After that, as Smith continued sharing her writings with people who became deeply affected by them, she began putting together a manuscript to eventually have published. However, she had not yet included guidance on how to communicate with the Lord.



us all these things (in nature) so we can know Him." She cites in her book a verse from Romans 1 in which Paul says that God is "able to be understood and perceived in what he has made."

Connecting With God in the Garden is organized into two parts, the first explaining and emphasizing personal communication with God. The second part is divided into four sections, one for each season. Poems by Smith, saints' quotes, Scripture verses and reflection invitations are all followed by black spaces in which readers can write their thoughts.

Even for winter, Smith offers ways to survey what is happening in nature – what she describes as "the slumbering landscape" – and acquire inspiration and messages from the Lord.

I was surprised at how quickly Smith's method helped me to find God in nature once I took time to sit alone, in silence, and be open to how He was speaking to me. Trees, shrubs, flowers and the sky provided answers when I asked the Lord for His perspective or guidance.

As for Smith's personal life, the writer maintains an impressively active lifestyle. After homeschooling her children when they were young, she now has many grandchildren and owns and operates a Pilates studio where she trains and teaches.

Connecting With God in the Garden is available on Amazon, Target.com or Barnesandnoble.com. To learn more about Smith and her work, visit her website, cecilesmith.com.

"I thought most people who were already devout would know how to contemplate in the garden, and all they needed were my reflective poems to get them started," she said. But her editor urged her to incorporate instructions for readers to begin their own communication with Christ through nature. As a result, the first section of her book helps people understand and cultivate this communication.

"After all," Smith said, "(God) spoke to our first father and mother, Adam and Eve, in the garden every day. This is how we began our human heritage and how we must continue, for He gave

School year begins at Immaculate Conception



Father Matt Hoover (left photo), pastor at Columbus Immaculate Conception Church, greets students in the parking lot arriving for the start of the 2022-23 school year on Wednesday, Aug 24. Gathered inside the parish school are staff and students praying the Hail Mary before the beginning of classes.

Photos courtesy Immaculate Conception Church

Plain City St. Joseph parishioner wins national award



Amara Suchy, a Plain City St. Joseph Church parishioner and a student at Jonathan Alder High School, learned when she returned from summer break that she received national recognition with a second-place award in the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese poster contest after submitting her entry last spring. She

has also served as a Blessed Week Ever camp counselor and a parish school of religion aide and has helped with the Rosary Garden. Other activities include student director for the Jonathan Alder band, lighting and sound crew for the high school musical, show choir band, National Honor Society, 4-H club president, poultry ambassador for Madison County and junior fair board member in Madison County.

Photo courtesy Jonathan Alder High School

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German tradition at St. Mary School



First graders at Columbus St. Mary School in the German Village area participated in Schultüte, a German tradition of receiving treats and school supplies in a cone-shaped container for the upcoming year. The tradition dates to the early 1800s in Germany and is given to first graders to welcome them to the school year. The tradition is also observed in parts of the Czech Republic, Poland, Austria, Switzerland and Belgium. Bishop Earl Fernandes (not pictured) was present for the Schultüte.

Photo courtesy St. Mary School

Guardian angel mural at London St. Patrick



London St. Patrick School has a new guardian angel mural painted over the summer by parents Moly Gruz and Karie Randal. Families are encouraged to have pictures of their children taken with the wings. Students and teachers have started a tradition this year of reciting the Guardian Angel prayer at the end of each school day.

Photo courtesy St. Patrick School

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Local news and events

Serra Club sponsors young women's vocations luncheon

The Serra Club of North Columbus will host its annual vocations luncheon for young women from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Jessing Center of the Pontifical College Josephinum, 7625 N. High St., Columbus.

The featured speaker will be Sister Leonarda Zielinska, OP, religious education director of Columbus St. Patrick Church. The luncheon is for young women in eighth through 12th grade. They will have a chance to talk to all the religious sisters in attendance when the speaking program is attended.

Those wishing to attend are asked to contact their school by Saturday, Sept. 17. Schools will get in touch with Programs@SerraColumbus.org to list the number of students and adults attending.

Foundation to accept responsive grant applications throughout September

The Catholic Foundation will accept applications for its responsive grants from Thursday, Sept. 1 to Friday, Sept. 30.

The foundation awards grants annually to organizations within the Diocese of Columbus that embody the foundation's four pillars of giving: parish life, Catholic education, social service and vocations. Last year, the foundation awarded a record \$16 million in total granting, which included responsive grants.

To learn more about applying, visit the foundation's responsive grant page at <https://grants.catholic-foundation.org/responsive-grants>. For complete details on grant eligibility, types of projects accepted by pillar, funding opportunities and application requirements, go to www.catholic-foundation.org/grants or contact Dan Kurth at (614) 443-8893, extension 109.

Father Toner to celebrate Healing Mass this month at St. Aloysius

Father Pat Toner will celebrate a Healing Mass at 6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 16 in Columbus St. Aloysius Church, 2165 W. Broad St.

The program will start with the rosary, followed by worship music and individual prayer with prayer teams. Mass will begin at 7 and will include the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. The Mass will be sponsored by the Columbus Catholic Renewal. For more details, go to www.cccolumbus.org or call Pat Shroyer at (614) 886-8266.

Our Lady of Peace planning fall festival on Oct. 8

Columbus Our Lady of Peace Church and School, 20 E. Dominion Blvd., will sponsor a fall festival from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 8. The day will include a chili cookoff, children's games, pumpkin painting, the Greek Village On the Go food truck, a 50/50 raffle, a bake sale, a beer tent, bingo and more.

Father Sean Dooley, pastor, said the parish had a summer festival for years until COVID arrived in 2020. Since the school is undergoing a gym renovation, having a festival this summer was not feasible. He said the parish and school communities have used the time off to regroup and reorganize.

"We're still discerning if we'll return to a summer festival," said parish evangelization director Anthony Rosselli. "In the meantime, we wanted to try some-

thing unique – something other churches aren't doing. We thought a fall chili cookoff might be a great way to set our festival apart. We did a scaled-down version of a fall festival last year. It was a huge hit, so we decided to expand it. This year, it will be an all-day event with a lot more activities."

Festival proceeds will go toward the purchase of a new exhaust system for the school cafeteria. The previous exhaust system had to be removed because it was not up to code. For more on the festival, and to learn how to enter your chili in the cookoff, visit www.olp-parish.org.

Woolard planning tour to San Antonio missions, other sites

Longtime Catholic tour planner Linda Woolard of Newark will be taking a maximum of 40 people next spring on a bus tour to the San Antonio, Texas area.

The tour will be highlighted by visits to the San Antonio Missions National Park, which includes the Mission San Jose, founded in 1720, to the Alamo, which is best-known for the battle there in 1836 between Texans and Mexicans but originally was a Catholic mission, and to the San Fernando Cathedral in San Antonio.

Tour dates are from Saturday, April 29 to Sunday, May 7. Tour participants will attend Saturday evening or Sunday Masses on the two weekends when they are traveling.

In San Antonio, the tour also will visit the King William District; El Mercado; the Institute of Texan Cultures; and the River Walk and take a river cruise. Other stops will include the National Ornamental Metal Museum in Memphis, Tennessee; the Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park, including the LBJ Ranch; the Magnolia Market at the Silos in Waco, Texas and the William J. Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock, Arkansas.

The cost of the trip is \$895 per person, based on double occupancy, with \$75 due on making a reservation. For more information, contact Woolard at (740) 323-3105 or lindawoolard@windstream.net

Shepherd's Corner to celebrate 30th anniversary

The Shepherd's Corner Ecology Center, a ministry of the Dominican Sisters of Peace, will be celebrating its 30th anniversary at its annual Shepherds Fest from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday,

Sept. 24. Leading up to the event is an outline art auction which begins Friday, Sept. 9 and will conclude during the celebration.

The center is open to visitors most Fridays from now until mid-November. The sisters ask that anyone interested in visiting let them know by phone or email. Shepherd's Corner may not be open on some Fridays. Those will be noted on its website, www.shepherds-corner.org. There is a suggested donation of \$2 per person.

The center also hosts labyrinth walks once each month. Dates and themes through December are: Thursday, Sept. 15, Recognizing and Preparing for Change; Wednesday, Oct. 12, Connected; Tuesday, Nov. 8, Autumn Harvest; and Tuesday,

Dec. 20, Winter Solstice. All the walks are scheduled from 7 to 8:30 p.m. There is a \$5 suggested donation and reservations are required.

Shepherd's Corner invites people to join the sisters in experiencing the joys and responsibilities of caring for land, life and spirit, inspiring others to become shepherds of creation. For more information, go to its website or call (614) 866-4302.

Adoration scheduled at Our Lady of Peace

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be offered on the first Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7 p.m. at Columbus Our Lady of Peace Church, 20 E. Dominion Blvd.

Beginning in September, adoration also takes place at the parish every Thursday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Blue Mass to take place Sept. 9 at St. Timothy

The annual Blue Mass honoring active and retired law enforcement, firefighters and emergency medical personnel will be held at 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 9 at Columbus St. Timothy Church, 1088 Thomas Lane.

Bishop Earl Fernandes will be the celebrant and homilist.

The Blue Mass honors all active, retired, and deceased law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services – and remembers the 2,973 who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001.



OCTOBER 8, 2022
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Swag: All participants receive bread and a bottle of wine, or bread and a jar of Trappist Monastery jam.

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