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Putting others first

Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School freshman Jocelyn Green, who is battling leukemia, chose to help others rather than take a gift for herself from the Make-A-Wish Foundation, donating a check for more than \$10,000 to Nationwide Children's Hospital during a presentation at the DeSales-Bishop Hartley football game, Page 3



Respect Life Month

October is designated by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops as Respect Life Month and various organizations throughout the Columbus area share some of the work they're doing to help pregnant mothers in need of assistance, Page 8



Schools care for creation

A number of Catholic elementary and high schools around the diocese have programs in place starting in pre-K to teach students about the importance of environmental stewardship and sustainability, Page 9



OCTOBER DEVOTED TO THE GIFT AND GRACES OF PRAYING THE ROSARY

Columbus woman attributes cure to St. Padre Pio

Saint's relics coming to St. Mary, Mother of God Church in German Village area later this month

By Tim Puet
For The Catholic Times

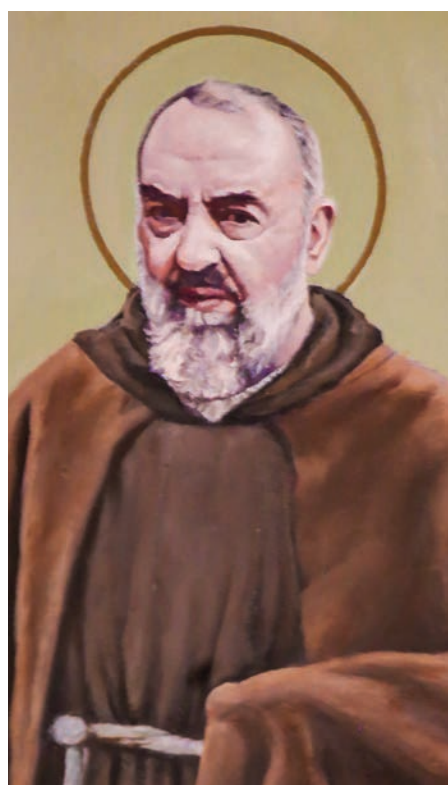
A member of St. Mary, Mother of God Church in Columbus' German Village neighborhood has a particular reason to be enthusiastic about the opportunity to view relics of St. Padre Pio at her home parish.

Lori Mitchell, who is 71 and has a devotion to Padre Pio that goes back to her childhood, said prayer to the saint cured her of severe hip pain that did not go away, even after hip replacement surgery.

"The pain was a problem I'd dealt with for years," she said. "There were times when it would flare up especially badly, then ease off, but it was always there. I'd make it through the worst of the pain, saw several doctors and even had stem cell therapy, but none of it worked. I tried to avoid surgery but finally had it in 2019.

"After the surgery, I got around with the help of a walker but never progressed to the use of a cane because the pain was too intense. After a few weeks, the doctor saw that I could hardly walk and was shocked. The pain remained horrible, even after extra therapy. This was in 2019.

"One day, my son texted me and said, 'Try harder. You need to pray to Padre Pio. He helps heal people,' then adding,



Padre Pio

'I'm not trying to be sarcastic,' because he is not a religious person.

"I was amazed to be getting this advice from my son. I had been devoted to Padre Pio since around 1962, when my father urged me to sit with him and watch a TV program about Padre Pio, who was already well-known then as someone who could intercede with God for miracles.

"I began praying to Padre Pio and bought some holy oil blessed with one of his relics. About eight weeks lat-

er, the pain became significantly less. Within a couple weeks, it went away entirely. The doctor said he was amazed and could find no explanation for it. I credit it to Padre Pio's intercession," Mitchell said.

"At about the same time, I learned that a friend had cancer. I was really worried about him, because he was born Catholic and had gotten away from the Church. I began praying for him, using prayers from Padre Pio's prayer book and the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

"At his funeral, several people talked about how he had a conversion and had found faith in Jesus again. The conversion began about the time I started praying for him, and I feel Padre Pio's intercession also was responsible for that."

Mitchell is on the committee putting together the program for the veneration of relics of St. Padre Pio at St. Mary Church, 684 S. 3rd St., from 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Oct. 28 and 29, and 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 30. Bishop Earl Fernandes will celebrate a Mass in honor of the veneration at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 28.

The relics will include crusts of the saint's wounds, a lock of his hair and gauze with his bloodstains, each in a separate reliquary.

St. Padre Pio, formally known as St. Pius of Pietrelcina, was born Francesco Forgione in Pietrelcina, Italy, on May 25, 1887 and died on Sept. 23, 1968, at San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy, where he had lived the simple life of a Capuchin Franciscan friar for 51 years. He was beatified in 1999 and canonized in 2002. More than 300,000 people attended his canonization.

He was ordained a priest in 1910, served with the Italian army in World

War I and was discharged after it was discovered he had tuberculosis. He was sent to San Giovanni Rotondo in 1917.

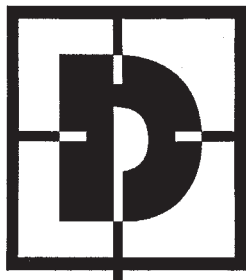
On Sept. 20, 1918, as he was making his thanksgiving after Mass, Padre Pio had a vision of Jesus. When the vision ended, he bore the stigmata – the wounds of the crucified Christ – on his hands, feet and side, where they remained for the rest of his life. St. Francis of Assisi was the first known stigmatic. Confirmed cases of the phenomenon are rare, totaling about 300 since the 13th century.

Receiving the stigmata resulted in much interest and controversy for Padre Pio. In 1924, and again in 1931, the authenticity of the stigmata was questioned, and he was not permitted to celebrate Mass publicly or to hear confessions. He did not complain of these decisions, which were soon reversed. Pope St. Paul VI dismissed all allegations against him in the 1960s.

Padre Pio also experienced other spiritual phenomena, such as visions of Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary and attacks by Satan. He was said to have had the gift of reading souls and the ability to bilocate (be in two places at once). His powers as a healer were known throughout his life, drawing thousands of visitors to San Giovanni Rotondo. Numerous physical and spiritual healings continue to be attributed to him.

St. Padre Pio is buried in San Giovanni Rotondo. The veneration of his relics in Columbus is being sponsored by the St. Pio Foundation, a Tuckahoe, New York-based organization that sponsors a tour of the relics each year to give people an opportunity to have a "spiritual encounter" with Padre Pio, to pray to him and to ask for his intercession.

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Front Page photo:

MONTH OF THE ROSARY

October is traditionally recognized as the Month of the Rosary and also designated as Respect Life Month by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Photo courtesy of iStock

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CATHOLIC RADIO



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CENTRAL OHIO SOUTHERN OHIO

DeSales freshman thinks of others while battling cancer

Jocelyn Green's story will break your heart and warm it, too. If that seems impossible, it makes perfect sense when you learn what the young teen has gone through and what she has handled herself.

A year and a few weeks after Jocelyn was diagnosed with acute T-cell leukemia/lymphoma, the Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School freshman stood on the field at halftime of a football game against Columbus Bishop Hartley on Friday, Sept. 23 and donated a check for more than \$10,000 to Nationwide Children's Hospital.

Despite the horrible illness she had dealt with for the past year, Jocelyn, 14, was giving to others rather receiving sympathy.

Her family accompanied her, and diocesan Superintendent of Schools Adam Dufault, Bishop Earl Fernandes, fellow cheerleaders and many others witnessed her charity. Students from both schools remained silent during the ceremony and then chanted, "We love you, Jocelyn," in a touching display of support.

"That's the respect that they showed for her," said Jocelyn's mom, Allina.

Jocelyn had qualified to have a wish granted from the Make-A-Wish Foundation due to the severity of her illness. Most kids want to travel or meet a celebrity. She thought about asking to take a trip with her family but said she didn't feel that requesting something for herself was the right thing to do because her family could take vacations.

"She said, 'Mom, I just can't ever imagine sitting on a beach when I could have helped someone else,'" Allina said. "So, I had to call back and say, 'I'm sorry, she doesn't want her trip. She would just like to donate it.'"

Instead, Jocelyn thought about the kids on the 11th floor at Nationwide Children's waiting sometimes for hours to receive outpatient treatments such as blood transfusions and chemotherapy. During the many monotonous hours she has spent there, she noticed that not all of the children and their families have access to technology that could entertain them. And so, Jocelyn donated the electronics and streaming services that would be available to everyone.

In addition to the financial contribution from Make-A-Wish, DeSales' Golden Hearts service club held fundraising and awareness activities for pediatric cancer in the week leading up to the game. Club members organized Penny Wars during lunch periods, picture-taking opportunities with teachers in crazy costumes for donations and, on game day, a "Golden Out" dress-down with all proceeds going to Jocelyn's efforts.

Bishop Hartley also raised money on



Freshman Jocelyn Green (third from left) gets a group hug from Columbus St. Francis DeSales cheerleaders before the Stallions' Sept. 23 football game against Bishop Hartley. She presented a check to Nationwide Children's Hospital raised through donations and the Make-A-Wish Foundation to help cover the cost of electronics and streaming services for kids undergoing outpatient treatments for blood transfusions and chemotherapy.

Jocelyn's behalf. All told, \$10,039 was presented to Nationwide Children's.

"We wanted to certainly bring attention to really what I believe is just an unbelievable inspiration," DeSales principal Dan Garrick said, "and someone who personifies what I believe our school should be about.

"We were playing another Catholic school who I felt very confident that we could partner with them. And not only celebrate Jocelyn's wonderful story, but also create another great environment for awareness and advocacy.

"Even though we compete fiercely on the athletic field, we share our faith, and we share our mission. And I think all that came together beautifully.

"And I thought Bishop Fernandes captured that at halftime during his comments when he said that when you look at the essence of what Catholic education should be, what we're witnessing tonight is a true embodiment of that. It's really faith in action, and that's what we're talking to our young people about all the time."

Discovering the cancer

Jocelyn, the youngest of Charlie and Allina Green's three daughters, was participating in dance competitions during summer 2021 when she and her mother noticed that she became winded.

Jocelyn had always been a spitfire, active in dance and cheerleading. She also experienced pain in her chest that seemed like a possible muscle strain.

She made several doctor visits in August thinking the problem might be related to asthma and allergies, and she received two new inhalers. She also had

undergone a physical that month, and it was determined she was severely anemic.

"It was starting to get hard to breathe, and I was losing my breath really easily, ... and my chest started to hurt sometimes," Jocelyn said.

On Sept. 12, while she was cheerleading at a football game for Westerville St. Paul School, where she was beginning eighth grade, Jocelyn said she "wasn't able to do a lot" of the cheers, and Allina pulled her off the field. They headed for a Nationwide Children's Close to Home clinic in Westerville.

"They took a scan, and they found a mass on my chest," Jocelyn said. "But I didn't find out until the next day that it was cancer.

"They sent us straight to the main campus emergency room, and then straight to ICU," Allina said. "'Traumatic' doesn't even describe it.

"Our whole world turned black, and I just had no idea how I was ever going to tell someone, a child, that they had cancer. It was very hard as a mom to say she had cancer, but I know the hospital encourag-



Bishop Earl Fernandes speaks at halftime of the DeSales-Hartley game after a check presentation ceremony, sharing with the crowd that Jocelyn Green's generous donation as she battles cancer embodies the true spirit of Catholic education.

Photos courtesy St. Francis DeSales High School

es it. I can't even describe the words."

The mass on her chest was blocking 48% of her esophagus, and fluid amassed around her heart and lungs. A drain was placed in her chest that remained there for three weeks. Within two days of chemotherapy, the mass broke down, but she developed acute kidney dysfunction and had to undergo dialysis for three days.

"Each time they would take a test or they did an X-ray, they would keep saying, 'We're sure it's this' type of cancer, Allina said. "But then it just kept on getting worse and worse."

A spinal tap caused Jocelyn to have seizures, necessitating scans to make sure her health wasn't affected.

That's a lot of trauma for a then-13-

See CANCER, Page 20



Jocelyn Green (center) is joined by her sisters (from left) Jillian and Juliana, both St. Francis DeSales graduates, and parents Allina and Charlie.

Photo courtesy St. Francis DeSales High School

Blessings of cool, colorful fall refresh the spirit

By Michele Williams

Welcome, fall! This is my favorite time of year. I love everything about it, from the cooler days and nights to leaves beginning their color extravaganza to football games on TV each weekend. I think it is because fall undeniably marks the passage of time – summer is over, winter is coming and “there is a season for every activity under the heavens.” (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

The first time the outdoor temperature reaches only 75 degrees is reason enough to celebrate surviving another long, hot summer in the Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW).

It’s ironic because summer used to be my favorite season. I have a treasure-trove of good memories – camping and going on vacation with my family, traipsing around the mall or movie theater complex with my best friend or reading a book in our air-conditioned family room when it was too hot out to do anything else.

Prison, by definition, eliminates all of those options. There is no vacation, mall or other escape from the relentless heat and humidity. Most of the housing units are concrete blocks encased in dark-red brick, which means they fire up like ovens in the summer sun.

The rabid heat inside raises our misery index to the max and causes the devil to run amok. Tempers flare, and fights happen all the time. Finding peace is difficult, but I remain thankful for the 8-inch plastic fans I strategically place in my cell that push the air around. Prisoners are probably the only people who pray for cloudy days and rain – both of which bring temporary respite.

Don’t get me wrong. I have plenty of reasons to enjoy summer because I travel vicariously through fam-

ily and friends for three months. The miracle of modern technology (i.e., the cellphone) makes this happen.

Although I’ve never used or even held a cellphone, I’ve been on the receiving end of their amazing functions. I’ve been included in family reunions and vacations, walks along the beach and even a concert! I listened to my niece’s nursing school graduation, saw some fireworks on the Fourth of July from the middle of Indian Lake and tagged along on the shores of the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico.

I never forget how blessed I am because my family and friends include me in special activities all summer. They use their phones to send pictures and short videos of summer events I would otherwise miss.

On the flip side, though, it is painfully obvious to everybody that I am not physically there. Sometimes the “one foot in prison, one foot out with you” existence becomes bittersweet. As much as I value phone calls, pictures and videos, the prison phone disconnects automatically after 30 minutes, the videos are only 30-seconds long and the reality of my almost 30-year absence smacks me (and everyone else) in the face.

I inevitably find myself in two opposite camps for a while. First is Camp RejoiceAndGratitude for having the chance to be part of those activities. Second is Camp RemorseAndGuilt where I’m reminded that my own detrimental decisions caused this pain. I acknowledge each camp for what it is and ask God to help me keep my emotions balanced as I work through them. It can be hard to catch my breath at times.

When fall rolls around, though, I feel like I can breathe deeply again. It is so rejuvenating! The first cooler night brings the promise of relief, and “joy comes in the morning” (Psalm 30:5) becomes my mantra.

On weekends, after an early morning run on the

track, my favorite thing to do is take a cup of coffee back outside to walk with my friends in the slightly chillier air – it really revs up the gratitude attitude! And, this might seem silly, but I get excited with the first televised football games because the season begins with fans in the stadiums wearing T-shirts and ends with them wearing parkas. I love transition, which lasts the entirety of fall.

This year, the most noticeable changes to ORW came when the morning glories climbing my housing unit took just a tad longer to open because the sun came up just a tad later. Yet, their beautiful purple colors seemed more vibrant, as if they had gotten a second burst of energy midmorning.

Looking out my window, beyond the double razor-wire fence, there is a big field where I watch deer playing in the cooler evenings. There is one tree along the back boundary that changes color from green to yellow-orange first. It’s always the same one – I’ve watched it for years – and have deemed it my personal wink and smile from God.

A friend sent me a quote by Catholic author Matthew Kelly: “Your whole life, whether you flourish or not, whether you’re happy or miserable – it all depends on the moment right in front of you and what you do with it.”

I appreciate that quote and have come to realize that staying in the moment, whatever season it might be, truly is important because it will come around only once. Some moments are good, and some are not, but that is life, no matter where we live.

I strive to remain thankful for the blessings I have and especially for the fall season!

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

With courage, our moral convictions become moral actions

Traditionally, the four virtues are called “cardinal” – from the Latin word for “hinge.” These four – prudence, temperance, justice and fortitude (also called courage) – are considered the chief capacities that enable one to live a moral life. These virtues empower Catholics to live lives that imitate Jesus.

As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches, virtues “dispose all the powers of the human being for communion with divine love.” Of the cardinal virtues, St. Thomas Aquinas declares that courage is the necessary condition of every virtue as it provides the strength of will needed to exercise any virtue consistently. Courage is the willingness to do what is right despite obstacles, frustrations and fear.

A common denominator in people of moral action is courage. St. Thomas Aquinas holds that courage is not the absence of fear. Rather, it is the ability to overcome fear. It is the strength of character to persevere in doing the right things despite being afraid.

Courage is not a Superman virtue. You don’t need courage if you’re invulnerable, impervious to harm or without risk. Courage presupposes our vulnerability. Courage is necessary precisely because we can be harmed by doing what is right.

Courage also is necessary because we can be wounded, or worse, in doing the right thing. We need the inner determination and resolve to act in the face of fear, to act despite knowing we can be hurt in the pursuit of good.

Of the cardinal virtues, St. Thomas Aquinas stresses the importance of courage. Without courage we cannot

FAITH IN ACTION

Erin Cordle

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



be consistently moral or good. We can succumb to fear – the fear of being judged disloyal; the fear of losing the approval of family and friends; the fear of being fired; the fear of threatening letters, emails or tweets; the fear of loneliness or abandonment; the fear of being hurt or injured; or even the fear of being killed.

African American author Maya Angelou writes, “Courage is the most important of all the virtues, because without courage you can’t practice any other virtue consistently. You can practice any virtue erratically, but nothing consistently without courage.”

She also laments that while many of us have empathy, or the ability to understand and respond to the pain of another, “we may not have enough courage to display it.” Without courage, we cannot be kind, true, merciful, generous or honest, especially if doing so puts us at risk.

Fear is an important instrument of control. Fear keeps us from being our best selves, our true selves. Moral courage is the willingness to take a potentially costly moral action simply because it is the right thing to do. It is acting despite the personal consequences because of the harm that can be prevented or the good that can be provided for others. Moral courage is what turns moral conviction into moral action.

What distinguishes courageous people is not necessarily their beliefs but their willingness to act on their beliefs in the face of opposition, ridicule, danger and fear. Being afraid is part of the human condition. Courage enables us to translate our moral convictions into action, despite being afraid.

As Christians, we believe that courage is a gift of the Holy Spirit. I am inspired by the courageous folks who do what is right and who stand for truth despite enormous pressures. I pray for a greater infusion of courage in our public leaders, my friends and family, and in all people of good will who work for the common good, the poor, the vulnerable and the marginalized.

Through our baptism, we all are called to holiness and to have the courage to be living saints. To be Christians, we need to acknowledge that we have active parts in God’s ongoing story. We need to know our actions, or our failures to act, have consequences. We cannot simply wait for a better world. We must be courageous and take responsibility for effecting the changes necessary to bring our world closer to God’s heavenly home.

Courage translates our moral convictions into moral actions. May God bless your moral actions.

“Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the Lord is finished.” (1 Chronicles 28:20)

Exorcist to speak at Gahanna St. Matthew Church

If anyone has ever harbored a shred of doubt that Satan does exist, listen to Father Vincent Lampert or any trained Catholic exorcist for a few minutes, and those feelings will quickly disappear.

The faithful in the Diocese of Columbus will have that opportunity when Father Lampert, the exorcist for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, presents "Exorcism: The Battle against Satan and His Demons" on Friday, Oct. 28 at Gahanna St. Matthew the Apostle Church.

The evening begins with confessions in the church from 6 to 6:45 p.m. Father Lampert's talk will start at 7 p.m., followed by questions and discussion from 7:50 to 8:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public and includes pizza in the St. Anthony Room from 6 to 6:45 p.m.

Father Lampert, 59, was ordained to the priesthood in 1991 and appointed by former Indianapolis Archbishop Daniel Buechlein as the archdiocese's exorcist in 2005. He also serves as the pastor of St. Peter and St. Michael the Archangel churches in Brookville, Indiana, near the Indiana-Ohio border about 17 miles west of Oxford, Ohio.

Seventeen years ago, Father Lampert got the job when the archdiocese's exorcist died.

"I was a pastor of a parish and really never dreamed that one day I was going to inherit the job," Father Lampert said. "My bishop selected me, and so I didn't volunteer.

"He told me he wanted a priest who believed in the reality of evil and not one who was too quick to believe that everyone who reached out to me was actually dealing with extraordinary demonic activity. And he said, 'You don't want the job, and that's why you're getting it because I would be worried about anybody who would want the job.'"

At that time, there was no prescribed exorcism school for priests. Father Lampert was sent to Rome for three months to be trained along with Father Gabriele Amorth, who went on to become the official exorcist for the Diocese of Rome, in an apprenticeship under Father Candido Amantini, a Passionist priest who did exorcisms on the Holy Stairs near the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome.

"There was also a Franciscan priest who allowed me to sit in on about 40 exorcisms that he performed while I was there, and I was able to learn firsthand," Father Lampert recounted. "That's what the Church says is the best way to become an exorcist, because you can do all the reading and studying you want, but it's actually hands-on that teaches you what to do or what not to do."

Since then, the Pope Leo XIII Institute was established at the University of St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein, Illinois, as a ministry under the auspices of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to provide priestly



Father Vincent Lampert
Catholic News Service file photo

formation, education and evangelization regarding the Church's teaching on exorcism, healing and deliverance.

Father Lampert has become known nationally for his work and often receives requests for help from outside his archdiocese. But he noted that every diocese technically has one exorcist, who is the bishop by virtue of his episcopal ordination.

In the Diocese of Columbus, Bishop Earl Fernandes has trained as an exorcist, but most local bishops designate one or more priests in their diocese to serve in that ministry.

"Because I'm publicly known, I get about 70 emails and phone calls a week," Father Lampert said. "When I was appointed, my bishop didn't just want me to do the ministry in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, but he also wanted me to help educate people.

"Honestly, I can't work with everyone who reaches out to me, but I tried to connect them either with somebody in their local diocese or their local area. I always tell people the best thing to do is to reach out to their priests.

"Like when you're sick you go see your general doctor, then you could be referred to a specialist."

There are cases when Father Lampert might work with an individual who's outside his diocese initially and then refer them for ongoing spiritual direction to a priest closer to the person's home.

Interestingly, he said half the people who contact him are not Catholic. Some come from other faith traditions. Some have no faith.

"It's usually their pastors who tell them to reach out to the Catholic Church," he said. "Catholics have a well-organized way of addressing the demonic.

"And then I think there is just that perception out there that the Catholic Church can help you if you're dealing with the devil. Look at all these movies and things on TV that are depicting the priests who are front and center helping someone who's afflicted."

More times than not, the people seek-

ing help are asking for prayer and spiritual guidance rather than an exorcism.

If there is cause to believe someone might be possessed, an exorcist conducts an extensive evaluation.

"Cases of demonic possession are extremely rare," Father Lampert explained. "Maybe one out of every 5,000 cases.

"People can be dealing with some other forms of extraordinary demonic activity like demonic infestation, the presence of evil in a location; vexation, where somebody is being physically attacked; obsession, where someone's being mentally attacked. Those cases, there's thousands of those I would deal with on an annual basis."

In those instances, Father Lampert instructs parish priests that they can take care of an infestation, for example, by going to bless a house. He often sends prayers and offers advice to clergy on how to handle specific issues.

"There are a lot of these situations where you can do blessings or prayers or things that can help individuals," he said.

In his years as an exorcist, the priest estimates he has done 20 exorcisms that involve demonic possession, an average of about one a year, which is more than most exorcists, he says, because he's known throughout the United States.

"I know other exorcists across the country, and they haven't even had one case in like five years," he said.

In the extreme cases of possession, exorcists in the U.S. follow protocols that start with a psychological evaluation followed by a physical examination from a family doctor. Then there's an intake questionnaire trying to determine if the activity is demonic.

Step three involves determining possible demonic activity, such as the ability to speak and understand languages otherwise unknown to an individual; having superhuman strength; having elevated perception, meaning the person knows things that they should not otherwise know, which could be a sign that a demon is speaking and not that person.

Step four is a negative reaction to something of a religious nature, such as being blessed with holy water, being shown a crucifix and having the Bible read. Step five, considered the most important, is to normalize the person's spiritual life.

"It's not enough just to cast evil out," Father Lampert said. "God has to be invited in."

Thankfully, Father Lampert says that, in every case, he has experienced success with an individual.

"Sometimes exorcisms have to be repeated over a period of time," he said. "But each prayer session does provide some spiritual relief even if it doesn't cast out the demon at that particular time because, ultimately, God will determine the time and the place when the demon will be cast out."

In instances that include demonic activity, the extraction of the evil one of-

ten resembles what might be depicted in a movie. But because the devil can be tricky, Father Lampert has witnessed situations where demons give the false impression that they've left a person when, in fact, they've not done so.

"What I've noticed is that just before the demon comes out, there's like a shriek or scream," Father Lampert described. "It's like the stories that we hear in the Bible.

"And then, literally, there's a glow about the person. And the best way I can describe it would be to think of a halo around the painting of the saints. They're not radiating their own glory. They're radiating the glory of God. And I witness that whenever someone has a demon expelled from them."

These experiences remind the world that the devil isn't just a movie character, and that hell does exist.

"A lot of people today might say that evil is nothing more than humanity's inhumane treatment of one another that's something of our own making and it's not personified," Father Lampert said. "And yet Church teaching has been consistent that the devil is personified and a concrete reality."

Pope St. Paul VI presented Church teaching about Satan in 1972 during a series of Wednesday Angelus talks in which he said the devil shouldn't be downplayed.

The antidote to evil, Father Lampert stressed, is prayer and the sacraments. He recommends the prayer to St. Michael the Archangel and a prayer to St. Joseph that became popular during the Year of St. Joseph in 2021.

"There are a lot of other prayers that people might just start to think that they have to say every day," he said, "and I think the danger with that would be that people just focus too much on the devil.

"I think it's healthier to look to the sacramental life of the Church, go to confession and go to ask for the anointing (of the sick)."

He recommends seeking spiritual guidance and learning more about spiritual warfare in books from Father Chad Ripperger, who serves in the Archdiocese of Denver, and others.

"Obviously, with somebody who's dealing with the demonic, they must have opened the doorway for the demonic into their lives by some type of sinful behaviors," Father Lampert said. "So that person definitely can go to confession. And any exorcist will tell you that a good confession is better than an exorcism prayer because it has sacramental grace that comes with it.

"When we confess our sins, we place them in the hands of God. And once we give them over to God, the devil cannot use that against us."

For more details on Father Lampert's upcoming local presentation, visit <https://www.stmatthew.net/events/exorcist>.

Satan is well-armed in battle for your soul

In my previous column, I closed by indicating that I wanted to discuss a chief impediment to the virtues. Any ideas?

Because we are body/soul creatures, it would stand to reason that something in these areas impedes the virtues.

In the body, we experience many things (passions/hungers/pains/ecstasy, etc.) that impact the virtuous life. Clearly some of those are helpful. When our body is in excellent condition, we can order it more closely with the soul. When it is not, as far too often, there is war.

It's not surprising that one of the many early heresies (lies) dealt with the body. Briefly, the Albigensians believed the spirit was created by God, while the body was created by an evil god, and that the spirit must be freed from the body. For example, having children was one of the greatest evils because it imprisoned another "spirit" in flesh. This, of course, is a lie.

Next, let's look at the soul. In the soul resides our intellect, will and memory. This is where I believe the greatest battle for the virtuous life takes place. This is where the devil and his army fight to separate you from Jesus.

"And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell." (Matthew 10:28)

"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."

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.



(Ephesians 6:11-12)

I touched on the intellectual virtues of St. Thomas Aquinas, and one of the most notable words used was "truths."

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) covers a great deal under the idea of truth, putting a large section under the Eighth Commandment.

We read in CCC 2467, "Man tends by nature toward the truth." St. Thomas writes, "Men could not live with one another if there were not mutual confidence that they were being truthful to one another."

Before Pilate, Christ proclaims that He "has come into the world to bear witness to the truth." (John 18:37) To bear witness to the truth necessarily implies that there is a war against the lie. We read in John 8:44 where Jesus refers to Satan as "a liar and the father of lies."

What does it mean to be the "father of lies?" Part of what it means is he is so good at it, many times he is indistinguishable from the truth and plays into the war between our flesh and spirit.

"Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." (1 Peter 5:8)

Read the temptation of Jesus in either Matthew 4:1-11 or Luke 4:1-12. Note the use of hunger, power and pride against Jesus. Also, note how in this case the devil uses and twists the truth. He knows Scripture better than you.

We can take solace that Christ conquered sin and death, but the devil and his minions are still fighting for every soul. If one chooses to fight this battle solo, it will be a massacre. We are absolutely no match in spiritual warfare.

Lies plague us today and will tomorrow. Anything that is not true is a lie.

"But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their licentiousness, and because of them the way of truth will be reviled. And in their greed, they will exploit you with false words; from of old their condemnation has not been idle, and their destruction has not been asleep." (2 Peter 2:1-3)

What is the worst lie? Jesus seems to save his strongest statements for those committing hypocrisy. All three of the synoptic Gospels (Matthew 6:1-6, 23:13-36; Mark 7:6; Luke 6:42, 12:1, 56) cite his condemnation, with Matthew giving full voice. I would speculate Matthew gave more ink to it because he might have felt the condemnation of hypocrisy as a tax collector when he was called by Jesus.

Next column, I will cover more on the lie, the role ignorance plays and where the final arbiter resides.

Evangelization: What and when?

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE SYNOD GENERAL SECRETARY:

His Eminence, Mario Cardinal Grech
General Secretary
Synod of Bishops
00120 Vatican City

Your Eminence:

The "National Synthesis of the People of God in the United States of America for the Diocesan Phase of the 2021-2023 Synod," prepared by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, is a very disappointing document, not least because it largely focuses on what the 1% of U.S. Catholics who participated in these "synodal" discussions find wrong with the Church — a roster of grievances that, unsurprisingly, reflects both the progressive Catholic agenda in American Catholicism and certain dominant (if false) impressions about our local Church in Rome. But rather than amplify others' critiques of the "National Synthesis," I would like to share with the General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops some good news about U.S. Catholicism: news that might well be of interest to the universal Church as it considers its evangelical future.

Catholic schools in America are a treasure the country is beginning to recognize as such. When America's state-run schools were failing students and parents during pandemic lockdowns, Catholic elementary schools stepped into the breach, providing on-site and online instruction that government schools were incapable of mounting — thanks in large part to self-interested, unionized teachers. By contrast, Catholic schoolteachers tend to think vocationally, and that made a huge difference. Moreover, Catholic schools in our inner-urban areas, like the new, state-of-the-art Mother Mary Lange School in Baltimore, are the most effective anti-poverty

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

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



program the U.S. Church has ever devised — and they serve students from many religious backgrounds.

The U.S. Church is experiencing something of a Golden Age in Catholic campus ministry. This encouraging fact of 21st-century U.S. Catholic life has many expressions. There are vibrant ministries on major state-university campuses; the most notable of these, at Texas A&M University, has become a rich source of vocations to the priesthood and religious life while preparing many Catholic couples for marriage and family life. The Thomistic Institute, initiated by the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, is bringing serious Catholic content to 83 college and university campuses this academic year; another Dominican initiative, "Aquinas 101," has 90,000 online subscribers, and its imaginative expositions of Catholic philosophy and theology have gotten over 5 million views on YouTube. The Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS), a peer-to-peer evangelization effort, is now present and actively serving on 195 U.S. and eight international campuses.

Catholic seminaries have been thoroughly reformed. While vocations to the priesthood are down over the past decade — perhaps reflecting the constant criticism of priests from Rome — American seminaries are in their best shape in decades, and in all aspects of priestly formation: personal, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral.

Catholics constitute a core constituency of the vibrant American pro-life movement. Pope Francis has spoken frequently about the dangers of a "throwaway

culture." U.S. Catholics are doing something about challenging that, at both ends of the life spectrum.

Vocations to consecrated life in the United States are increasing where religious institutes embrace the Gospel in full and live a distinctive manner of life. Examples include the St. Joseph Province of the Order of Preachers, the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia Congregation, the Sisters of Life and the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Michigan. As in other sectors of the world Church, Catholic Lite is a failure in fostering American vocations to religious life, while "all-in Catholicism" attracts some of our best young people.

Younger Catholic scholars are leading a renaissance of Catholic intellectual life. The most impressive scholarship in U.S. Catholicism today is being done by men and women who have transcended the liberal/conservative dichotomies of the immediate post-Vatican II period, who have embraced the Council's teaching as authoritatively interpreted by John Paul II and Benedict XVI, and who are engaging a disturbed culture in order to convert it. Theirs is the future, not the warmed-over Catholic Lite that has returned to several pontifical universities in Rome.

Catholic parishes are livelier in the United States than in virtually any other developed country. These parishes have their challenges, to be sure, but they remain the institutional bedrock of American Catholic life and are engaged in a variety of innovative pastoral programs that seek to engage the marginalized and disaffected — often aided by dynamic Catholic associations like the Knights of Columbus, another jewel in the U.S. Catholic crown, and by the creative catechetical materials developed by the Augustine Institute and Word on Fire.

I hope these brief notes help fill out the portrait of U.S. Catholicism you have been sent by the bishops' conference. They tell a story the entire world Church needs to hear.

Bishop to long-married couples: 'Share your wisdom'

Bishop Earl Fernandes celebrated Mass at the diocese's annual Jubilee of Anniversaries for the first time and asked the married couples gathered at Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church to serve as witnesses to young people who might be reluctant to enter into the sacrament.

The diocese's Office of Marriage and Family Life annually recognizes couples who have reached significant milestone wedding anniversaries of 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55 and 60 or more years. This year's Mass and reception took place on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 25 and was attended by a large gathering of honorees, family members and friends.

On the altar for Mass with Bishop Fernandes, who was ordained and installed as the diocese's 13th bishop on May 31, were Msgr. Joseph Hendricks, pastor at St. Brigid of Kildare; and Deacons Paul Zemanek, Steve Petrill and Frank Iannarino.

A reception was held afterward in the parish hall, where Bishop Fernandes personally greeted many of the attendees.

Each registered couple, regardless of whether they attended the Mass, were given certificates marking the longevity of their marriage.

That long-term marital commitment, Bishop Fernandes emphasized in his homily, is what the world needs to see, particularly with divorce becoming widespread.

"How many young people today hesitate to get married?" Bishop Fernandes asked. "Maybe they experienced the pain of divorce.

"You are living proof that they can make it. But (they might ask) how would I make it? That's where your wisdom comes in – your lived experience. This is what I ask, no matter how old you are, is to share your wisdom, share your gifts.

"We are grateful to you for your many sacrifices, for your faith. But now let us continue to compete well. Each and every day we try to grow in holiness. Each and every day we encourage others and offer witness along this great and marvelous journey."

Bishop Fernandes began his 17-minute homily reflecting on the readings for the 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time before speaking to the married couples about their vocation.

The bishop mentioned watching the sacrifices made by his four brothers and their wives in raising families. He also referred to the special bond his own parents shared.

"Many of you are celebrating great jubilees," the bishop said. "You wouldn't be here if you hadn't opened your heart to Christ.

"You also open your hearts to the gift of life, and you open your hearts to Christ in moments of crisis. I look

at my brothers and their wives raising their children, and I say that's hard work. I could never do that.

"A crisis is not always a bad thing. It's also an opportunity for growth or sanctification or forgiveness or repentance. No marriage is ever perfect, though they are blessed. We give thanks to God for you because you have given witness to Christ and the Church."

A Catholic marriage, he pointed out, is a lifelong commitment that takes work but produces abundant rewards.

"We speak of marriage as a sacrament," he said. "Some of you are old enough to be taught the Baltimore Catechism. What is a sacrament? A sacrament is an outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace.

"In marriage, it is the husband and wife who are ministers of the sacrament. A special bond is formed that nothing can ever separate because it symbolizes the love that Christ has for His bride, the Church.

"And for many years, you have given witness. I also offer you words of encouragement. Keep going, don't stop now. St. Paul told Timothy to compete well in the fight for faith. Heaven awaits you. Marriage has its ups and downs, but it needs sanctification."

Bishop Fernandes referenced the insights of Sts. Pio of Pietrelcina and Pope John Paul II on marriage. Padre Pio's feast day was celebrated two days before the jubilee, on Sept. 23.

"Padre Pio spoke of God as the divine artist and that He wanted to build a building out of living stones," the bishop said. "Some of you know the trials of marriage. Padre Pio says that's just the divine artist.

"In the end, the divine artist has created a masterpiece. St. John Paul II says



Teresa Warren, daughter of diocesan marriage formation specialist Brooke Warren, examines the cross worn by Bishop Earl Fernandes after the Jubilee of Anniversaries Mass on Sunday, Sept. 25.



Bishop Earl Fernandes poses for a picture after the Jubilee of Anniversaries Mass at Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church.



Frederick and Mary Ellen Lancia, members of Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church celebrating 62 years of marriage, were among the couples participating in the Jubilee of Anniversaries Mass at their home parish.



Leonard III and Karen Berglund, attending with their family, were celebrating their 25th anniversary. They are members of Powell St. Joan of Arc Church.

Photos courtesy Larry Pishitelli

marriage is a vocation and gift to build up the Church and increase the kingdom of God in the world.

"You have been building the Church through your families."

Bishop Fernandes pointed to ongoing sacrifice as the key to any successful marriage. That sacrifice will bear the ultimate fruit in the end.

"When you go home to your domestic churches, continue to celebrate," he said. "Money and the things of this world are passing away. Love and God's love, that is forever, and that is our eternal reward."

After the homily, the bishop asked the honorees to stand for a special blessing of their marriages:

"Eternal Father, you have so exalted the unbreakable bond of marriage that it has become the sacramental sign of your Son's union with the Church as its spouse. Look with favor on these couples, who you have united in marriage, as they ask for your help under

the protection of the Virgin Mary. They pray that in good times and in bad they will grow in love for each other. They will resolve to be of one heart in the bond of peace.

"Lord, in their struggles, let them rejoice, and you are here to help them. In their needs, let them know that you are there to rescue them. In their joys, let them see that you are the source of completion of every happiness."

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Schools promote environmental stewardship

By Tim Puet
For *The Catholic Times*

Care for the environment God gave us always has been a part of Catholic teaching, with the work of St. Francis of Assisi providing the most prominent example. There has been a particular emphasis on the subject since Pope Francis issued his second encyclical, “*Laudato Si’*: On Care for Our Common Home,” in 2015. The encyclical takes its name from a song written by St. Francis and mentions him prominently in its early stages.

The pope addresses the document to “every person on the planet” and says today’s ecological crisis is “a summons to profound interior conversion.” The encyclical’s basic theme has been summarized by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops as “God created the world and entrusted it to us as a gift. Now we have the responsibility to care for and protect it and all people, who are part of creation. Protecting human dignity is strongly linked to care for creation.”

Since his ordination this year, Bishop Earl Fernandes has displayed his concern for the proper stewardship of God’s creation by presenting each parish and school of the Diocese of Columbus with a tree to be planted.

Many diocesan schools have sponsored environmentally themed programs for several years.

The Environmental Club at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School was founded by former DeSales teacher Ruth Seggerson and has existed for at least 15 years, said club adviser Ryan Buechner.

He said the club makes its presence known every day by taking care of trash pickup throughout the school. Through a grant from the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, the club has formed a partnership with the zoo’s Teen ECO Summit to create sustainable conservation action plans for a more eco-friendly campus.

Last spring, the club built a greenhouse that involved everyone in the school through Earth Day activities. Each home-

room grew seedlings that were planted in the greenhouse during summer.

“We’ve seen some dinky cucumbers and tomatoes so far, but that’s a start which has encouraged everyone,” Buechner said. “We planted more tomatoes, zucchini and cucumber seeds when school started in September. We’re hoping for enough of a crop that we can donate what we’ve grown to a food bank at the end of the school year.”

The 12-by-6-foot greenhouse is 8 feet tall and located in a field between DeSales and Columbus St. Matthias School. It was built with materials purchased at a home improvement store, including plastic glass with steel and aluminum framing.

Surrounding the greenhouse is a pollinator garden where wildflowers are grown to attract butterflies and bees.

Last year, the club also cleaned a city park and a section of Cleveland Avenue, with the city of Columbus providing a grant for the activity. The group meets twice a month after school to check on the garden. Buechner said club members also informally keep an eye on things through the week, with one particular student watering the plants every day during a study hall.

“Club members recognize the need to give back in response to what God has given them, and they really enjoy the active service aspect of what they’re doing,” Buechner said. “They’re not just talking about social justice as a way of performing their required service hours, but they’re doing something that can be seen and in time will provide a practical example of feeding the hungry.”

Mothers of four London St. Patrick School students decided last year that because the school is on a large, rural plot, a garden and outdoor classroom would provide an excellent way to teach students to care for the ecosystem. They raised about \$7,000 in cash and an equal amount of in-kind donations, collected plants to start the garden and began the work on Earth Day, April 22, 2021.

Kathleen Ries, the mother of four St. Patrick School students, said the garden is divided into a number of areas. At the entrance is a berry patch where blackberries,

strawberries, raspberries and grapes are being grown, and some strawberries are being harvested. There also is a pollinator garden and a solar-powered fairy garden, a small area where grapes and other plants that ripen on vines are being grown along arch-shaped spaces in hopes that they will be cultivated for the parish festival this summer.



Chillicothe Bishop Flaget School students at all levels are engaged in a number of projects this year that include raising butterflies and observing their life cycle, caring for school garden flowers, studying plant growth in a greenhouse, beautifying of the school campus and participating in the Ohio Energy Project’s e3 Smart program that focuses on energy savings.
Photos courtesy Bishop Flaget School

The largest part of the garden is a 100-foot-long space where plants and vegetables native to Ohio either are growing now or will be planted in the spring. These include potatoes, tomatoes, carrots, peas, lettuce, squash, peppers and broccoli.

There also is an early learning center where pre-kindergarten students are getting a chance to do dirt digs and have a “mud kitchen,” plus a sensory area with herbs for the students to smell, touch and taste. A compost pile, rain barrel, tool sheds, log tables and chairs also are part of the garden.

“This is a long-term project where students will be able to learn year after year,” Ries said. “Right now, the pre-kindergarten students are using it the most. They absolutely love the idea of being able to pick things like strawberries, which are blooming. They’ll also be able to harvest lettuce, peas and broccoli this fall. We’ll start a lot more plants in the spring and get the rest of the school involved. Once more plants are harvested, the hope is to have the school cafeteria use them for lunches.”

Ries said there are plans to form a garden club consisting of students who will keep an eye on the garden during the summer.

While the weather is still warm enough, the garden also is being used as an outdoor classroom for art classes with teacher Alecia McCafferty, one of the four mothers who planned the garden, and for religion classes. More outdoor classes are planned for the spring.

Students named the garden St. Fiace’s Clover Grove after a relatively obscure seventh-century Irish monk known for his expertise in growing plants and who is the patron saint of gardeners. It has an Instagram page under [@st_fiace’s_clover_grove](#).

Environmental awareness is a part of the Chillicothe Bishop Flaget School curriculum beginning in pre-kindergarten, said principal Laura Corcoran. Pre-K students raised butterflies inside their classroom, observed the butterflies’ life cycle and documented it by journaling the process for a month and creating diagrams of butterfly body parts.

Fourth-graders participated in the Ohio



Energy Project’s e3 Smart program, a science-based study of where energy comes from, how it’s used in our daily lives and how our own behaviors can help save money and the planet.

The students completed energy audits of their homes and the school and received equipment such as weather stripping and low-energy light bulbs to help make their homes more energy-efficient. Fourth- and fifth-graders also took part in a STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) project involving design challenges and planting, cultivating and caring for the school flower gardens.

The school has a greenhouse purchased with a grant from Monsanto’s Grow Rural Communities Grants. In the greenhouse, students have studied everything from plant growth to the effects of solar energy and temperature. Corcoran said students hope to grow food in the greenhouse that they can eat in the spring.

Students are building boxes for a bluebird trail on the school property that will replace boxes damaged by summer storms. Students will continue to monitor the boxes, documenting bluebird activity and making sure food is available if the birds winter in Ohio, as they have for the past few years.

Students also feed songbirds in the winter and have determined the type of food to put in the feeders to make sure they are not drawing unwanted birds or predators. In addition, each grade level at the school has adopted a section of the building or grounds where they are involved in weekly cleaning and beautification projects.

Corcoran said the students’ consistent efforts on behalf of wildlife have resulted in the school being awarded certified wildlife habitat status by the National Wildlife Federation.

Dover Tuscarawas Central Catholic Elementary School teacher Becky Sedares said there has been a pollinator garden at the school since 2019, when it was estab-



Members of the Environmental Club at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School with adviser Ryan Buechner (left).

Photo courtesy St. Francis DeSales High School

Foundation grants benefit Newark schools, parishes

By Tim Puet
For *The Catholic Times*

Many Catholics in the Diocese of Columbus are familiar with The Catholic Foundation's role in receiving, investing, distributing and managing donations from people desiring to provide long-term assistance to diocesan parishes, schools and institutions.

But because much of its work is done without fanfare, few might realize the extent in which the foundation is involved in every aspect of Catholic life in central and southern Ohio.

Loren Brown, the foundation's president and chief executive officer, says it's easy even for the organization's directors to underestimate the scope of its activities. So once a year, to showcase its efforts, the board conducts a quarterly meeting away from its downtown Columbus office.

This year, the board met at Newark Catholic High School and heard representatives of the school, Newark Blessed Sacrament Church and School and Newark St. Francis de Sales Church and School tell how those institutions have benefited from the generosity of foundation donors.

"Donors give through the foundation because we are authentically Catholic and because they see growth in the faith, like here in Newark, through its many grants," Brown said. "My hope is that these positive results will inspire more of our faithful to help us grow these ini-

tatives at our parishes and schools."

Diocesan school Superintendent Dr. Adam Dufault began the program by saying the diocese has the 28th largest Catholic diocesan school system in the United States, with more than 17,000 students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade in 52 schools in 15 counties, with several schools having waiting lists. Enrollment in the schools rose by 2 percent in 2020-21, 4 percent in 2021-22 and 2 percent in 2022-23 despite the effects of the COVID pandemic.

"Our story is not one of doom and gloom but of positive growth," he said. "It comes from being sacramentally based, having a plan and having the support of our pastors, parents, principals, teachers and The Catholic Foundation."

Diocesan schools are continuing to implement a strategic plan as part of the diocese's Real Presence Real Future initiative, using the five marks of an authentically Catholic school as defined by Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB, of Vancouver, Canada, as a framework. Dufault said the plan was formed with the help of nearly 1,000 people working through a lengthy planning process and that the foundation's encouragement, cooperation and financial support have done much to make it a success.

Brown said the foundation has awarded the Newark parishes and schools about 40 grants totaling about \$500,000 in the past five years for projects of all types.

Newark Catholic principal Tom Pickering said one of the largest and

most notable of those projects is his school's 500-seat auditorium, which was completed in May and was the site for the meeting. Having an auditorium has enabled the school to move many events, including graduation, from the gymnasium. The additional space has been used for production of high school plays, elementary school musicals, a spring cabaret and art show, many all-school faith opportunities and a number of events involving the community beyond the school's walls.

The auditorium includes a television studio allowing students to produce the school's morning announcements. That program has been an unexpected success, starting with seven students and now involving 54.

The diocesan strategic plan's approach of integrating all aspects of the curriculum and showing how they are related has led to activities such as "The Mathematics of Art," an exhibit in which Newark Catholic students learned the role of symmetry, proportion and calculation in art and then created their own artwork that was displayed in the school.

Pickering said Intel Corp.'s decision to build several computer chip fabrication plants in northwest Licking County, bringing in thousands of new residents, will have an enormous impact on all aspects of life and is beginning to change the curriculum at Newark Catholic. He said what had previously been mainly a college preparatory curriculum is changing to one in which there will be tracks

for college prep and for specific positions at Intel and related companies that are expected to locate near the Intel complex.

That change also will lead to creation of a maker's space in the school for STREAM (science, technology, religion, education, art and mathematics) programs and to upgrades to the school's athletic and wellness facilities, as well as additions to the student services and mental health services areas.

Pickering said the school's enrollment has held steady at between 220 and 225 students in recent years, but that number is likely to increase to 300 with the addition of Intel employees' families. He also noted that over the past few years, there has been a marked increase in the percentage of ninth-graders coming to the school from institutions other than Newark Catholic's parochial "feeder schools" in Newark, Mount Vernon and Reynoldsburg.

That percentage has risen from 1.8 percent in 2017-2018 to 19.2 percent in the current school year. Pickering said that increase was the result both of Catholic schools staying open when other schools were closed because of COVID and of a growing desire for students to have a morally and spiritually based Catholic education in a time of social upheaval.

Blessed Sacrament's presentation to the foundation board was given by Fa-

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SCHOOLS, continued from Page 8

lished with help from SWARM (the Sustainable Wildlife Area Restoration Movement) and the Ohio Native Plant Society.

"We installed more than 700 native plants, including asters, purple coneflowers, royal catchfly, milkweed, spiderwort and prairie grass, all to attract butterflies and other insects," Sedares said. "All of this expanded on an annual fifth-grade project to study the life cycle of the butterfly."

A grant from Project WILD of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources enabled Sedares to purchase items such as field microscopes, large nets, insect claspers, a rain barrel and magnifying glasses and containers so students could capture and study insects found in the garden. The students also collect kitchen waste that is placed in a compost bin.

Sedares said 37 fifth- and sixth-graders take part in classes in the garden, and about 25 are involved in an after-school environmental club that weeds and tends the space.

The club's efforts have resulted in changes at the school to promote environmental sustainability. These include replacing wax-coated milk cartons with recyclable plastic bottles; eliminating



London St. Patrick School's pre-K class plants pea seeds in their recycled milk jug greenhouses.

Styrofoam cups, instead using restaurant-style, dishwasher-safe cups; no longer selling bottled water and having students get their water in reusable glasses; ending the use of ketchup and mustard packets, using bottles instead; and eliminating plastic straws.

"Working to preserve the environment provides a great opportunity for cross-curricular learning in the areas of religion and science," Sedares said. "It



The pre-K class works in the outdoor classroom space.

Photo courtesy St. Patrick School

teaches both the care of God's creation and the marvels God has made and allowed us to observe through things like the life cycle of the monarch butterfly, its migration patterns, ecosystems and the symbiotic relationship among all items up and down the food chain."

The diocesan Office of Catholic Schools said that in addition to these four schools, several others are taking part in significant efforts related to the environment. These



St. Fiacre statue stands in the middle of St. Patrick School's fairy garden with solar powered lights, rocks and water fountain.

include Columbus Our Lady of Peace, St. Joseph Montessori, St. Mary Magdalene and St. Mary German Village; Lancaster St. Bernadette and St. Mary; Portsmouth Notre Dame elementary and high schools; Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare; Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help; Newark Catholic High School; and Worthington St. Michael. Schools planning environmental classrooms are Columbus St. Catharine and Reynoldsburg St. Pius X.

Cradling Christianity raises funds for Holy Land



(From left) Bishop Earl Fernandes, Father Peter Vasko, OFM and Msgr. Frank Lane speak at a benefit dinner for the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land after an opening Mass on Sept. 22 at Columbus Our Lady of Victory Church. Father Vasko, president of the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land, provided an update on the status of Christians in the Holy Land. At right, Bishop Fernandes listens to Msgr. Lane's keynote address, "Christianity in the Holy Land: An Epic Tale." Cradling Christianity was founded in Columbus in 2006 to provide education, housing and employment assistance for Christians in the Holy Land.

Photos courtesy Larry Pishitelli



FOUNDATION, continued from Page 9

ther Tony Lonzo, parish pastor; Josh Caton, school principal; and teacher Meaghan Chapman. "To say The Catholic Foundation has been instrumental in helping the school would be an understatement," Father Lonzo said. "The school and parish staffs have become much more integrated as a team. It's impossible to say how great the foundation's impact has been."

Caton said introduction of the SPICE (Special People in Catholic Education) program and improvements in security are two notable areas in which the foundation has helped Blessed Sacrament.

SPICE, which receives consistent grant funding from the foundation, concentrates on helping special-needs students and has expanded throughout the diocese and elsewhere since it was started at Columbus St. Catharine School 20 years ago. Thanks to SPICE, "more than at any time in its history, Blessed Sacrament is equipped to meet the diverse learning needs of students," Caton said.

He said foundation grants have enabled the school to provide a full-time intervention specialist and a sensory room and to increase the number of its students with state-required Individual Education Plans (IEPs) from two to 10. The three Newark diocesan schools all are providers of Ohio's Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarships and alternate from year to year in requesting special needs-related grants from the foundation.

Caton said he first became involved with the foundation after local law enforcement officers conducted a safety assessment of his school and found that its emergency communications system

was severely lacking.

"Responsive grants from the foundation helped us fund an entirely new communications system that can broadcast emergency messages throughout the school and church from any phone station," he said. "They also provided new fencing for our playground and courtyard, key fob access at all doors and additional security cameras, all of which have made our campus more safe and secure than ever before."

In addition, the school now has a preschool that started with four students in August 2020 and now has 24 and is serving as an effective evangelization tool for students and parents alike.

Chapman said the foundation also has provided funds for the parish's Alpha for Marriage course, designed to strengthen individual marriages and to build community. She said 15 couples took part in the course in winter 2021, and 10 of them have enrolled in family-based faith formation programs.

Father Lonzo said the parish also is starting a Hispanic ministry, with its first regularly scheduled Mass in Spanish taking place at 1 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 2. He said all six Licking County parishes are cooperating in the ministry, which will be based at Blessed Sacrament.

Blessed Sacrament and St. Francis de Sales were among several parishes receiving grants from the foundation so pastors, staff members and parishioners could attend the Divine Renovation USA Conference in Dallas this past summer. The event's main themes were creating a vision, focusing on hospitality and renewing a parish's mission.

Investiture for Equestrian Order



Milwaukee Archbishop Jerome Listecki, KC*HS confers the rank of "Knight Commander with Star of the Holy Sepulchre" on Bishop Earl Fernandes during the promotions ceremony of the annual Investiture of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre, North Central Lieutenantcy, on Sept. 24 at St. John Cantius Church in Chicago. Bishop Fernandes, already a member of the Order, received the promotion as a result of his elevation from priest to bishop on May 31.

CT photo by Ken Snow

Father Dave Sizemore, pastor of St. Francis de Sales, said nine representatives from his parish went to the conference, which focused on a model of distributive leadership designed to have more people share responsibility for parish activities.

"Although there may be others on staff, many parishes in fact have been run by a priest, a secretary, a maintenance director, the school principal and a housekeeper," he said. "The Divine Renovation model is designed to spread responsibility among more people. In adopting it for our parish, we used the concept of a senior leadership team (SLT) – a group of nine committed people including myself, from whom flow the decisions for everything that happens in the parish."

"They are supported by about 50 parish staff members, half paid and half offering their services not for money but to benefit the mission of the parish because they don't need the money. It's the same with the school. This program is working very well for us because of the cooperation and enthusiasm of the team members."

"It's taken the weight of the world off my shoulders because I don't have to make all the decisions. I feel more joyful, excited and motivated, and I don't dread the administrative part of being a pastor anymore. Administration, after all, is Latin for 'toward ministry.'"

Father Sizemore said his parish's experiences with the SLT program will be shared with other parishes considering a similar model.

The parish school also is undergo-

ing significant changes in its curriculum. This is the second of three years in which it is implementing a classical Catholic education model.

Classical education is defined as developing the whole child with a Catholic world view that emphasizes the relationship between God and truth, beauty and goodness in His creation. Students are challenged to think critically and creatively while studying traditional subjects.

"It's unapologetically Catholic, designed to form children to understand themselves and the world around them as part of something greater and of God's design," said school principal Sally Mummey.

She said the classical curriculum started with history and literature in 2021-22, is continuing this year with math and will be followed with other subjects in 2023-24, including the addition of Latin.

Its spiritual dimension includes two Masses a week, Eucharistic Adoration once a month, the Scriptural Rosary, Lectio Divina and other forms of prayer and devotion on a regular basis.

"The classical curriculum is giving students a renewed, more profound love for the Eucharist and the sacraments and more confidence in things such as memorizing and learning about different eras of time and the Church's impact on history," she said. "It's also encouraged students to evangelize within their own families. You can see it at weekend Masses. Where you used to see 10 to 15 school families at each Mass, the number today is more like 50 to 60."

Confraternity fosters devotion to rosary

By Father Paul Marich, OP

This past Sunday at Columbus St. Patrick Church, parishioners were given blessed roses after each Mass, and those attending the noon Mass had the opportunity to march in procession around the block outside the church afterward, praying the rosary and singing hymns in honor of Our Lady.

Such are the customs surrounding Rosary Sunday, celebrated on the first Sunday of October and still commemorated at many Dominican parishes such as St. Patrick. While the liturgical feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is Oct. 7, in older liturgical books, the feast could be transferred to the first Sunday of October so that more of the faithful could take part in its celebration, eventually becoming known as “Rosary Sunday.”

Today, while the prayers and readings for the Mass are taken from the Sunday in Ordinary Time, parishes can celebrate the rosary through traditional devotional practices related to Rosary Sunday.

The blessing and giving of roses might seem to have an obvious connection to the rosary, simply because of the name. But throughout history, many miraculous cures have been attributed to touching blessed roses, leading to the custom of distributing them to the faithful around the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.

Moreover, the custom of a rosary procession was a monthly practice for members



An outdoor procession after the noon Mass on Sunday, Oct. 2 at Columbus St. Patrick Church honors Our Lady of the Rosary.

of the Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary, occurring on the first Sunday of each month. At St. Patrick, these traditional practices surrounding the rosary have become a staple for the first Sunday of October.

Before Rosary Sunday, members of the Madonna Garden Club prepare nearly 1,500 roses for the faithful, de-thorning each stem and placing them in vases. The roses are then blessed at the Saturday vigil Mass, and after each weekend Mass, parishioners come forward to receive a blessed rose from one of the Dominican friars.

The Rosary Procession concludes the weekend celebration, as several altar boys carry a statue of Our Lady of Fatima around the block, while a friar leads the faithful in praying the rosary. When all have returned to the church, the procession concludes with the chanting of the Litany of Loreto.

Dominicans have a special love and fondness for the rosary and have been its promoters and preachers since the beginning of the order. While legend holds that Our Lady gave the rosary to St. Dominic

in an apparition, what we know today as the rosary developed over time.

Elements from the psalter (notably 150 Hail Marys corresponding to the 150 psalms), the “Angelic Salutation” prayer (which we know as the first part of the Hail Mary, and which would have been familiar to St. Dominic), and meditation on different events in the life of Christ all came together to form a simple, med-



Father Paul Marich, OP, parochial vicar at Columbus St. Patrick Church, leads the rosary. *CT photos by Ken Snow*

See ROSARY, Page 15

Remembering our queen, seeking her protection

By Sister John Paul Maher, OP

There are several saints to celebrate in October. Above all, we honor Our Lady, especially as our victorious queen. We recall her preeminence as a defender of God’s people and protector of the image of her Son in us.

Mary’s powerful intercession has brought God’s grace into human history, changing the outcome of wars and lives. We remember this every year with the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on Oct. 7, commemorating the Battle of Lepanto in 1571.

Another example is memorialized in the trilogy of Polish Nobel laureate Henryk Sienkiewicz, describing the Holy Mother’s projection over the people of Jasna Gora against invaders attacking the monastery housing the image of Our Lady of Czestochowa in 1655.

The prior of the monastery, Father Augustyn Kordecki, was inspired to lead a defense of the holy place against all odds, saying that only God could have so blinded the eyes of the enemy to attempt such a siege. Led by the Spirit, the prior knew an attack on Our Lady’s image would be the enemy’s downfall, and they persevered in the fight. To the glory of God, the enemy was defeated.

Other examples could be given recounting victories over physical and spiritual enemies by the powerful intercession of Our Lady. Surely, we need many such victories today.

It is always God who pours forth every grace, but in His generosity and love, He chooses to do so through the

hands and prayers of His mother.

Because Mary is the most beautiful creation coming from the heart of God, how much delight it must bring to the Father to see Mary shower gifts on His children.

We would do well not to miss the opportunity to receive such powerful projection and loving care from her helping hands. She is full of grace and rejoices to draw us closer to Christ.

St. Paul reminds us, “Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.” (Romans 5:20) And so it is in God’s plan, as grace is always abundant to overcome sin.

We are clearly living in an era in which sin abounds, and even a failure to recognize or address sin permeates lives and communities. Not seeing sin for what it is adds to mental confusion and the spiritual fog in our hearts.

This is where we need Our Lady, as the bright morning star, to accompany us and give clarity and direction to our lives. Just as she did at Christ’s birth for the Magi, today Mary reveals Christ to the nations, encouraging us to come and adore, raising up the King for all to see.

One of the most powerful ways we can adore is to visit the Presence of God in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar. The power of God in the sacraments is unmatched, and the more we can cleanse our souls with God’s grace, the greater our reinforcements in the daily battle for good over evil.

Another powerful protection is to stay close to Our Lady, especially through a prayerful recollection of the mysteries of the rosary. Calling upon the holy names of Jesus and Mary is a real protection, where we claim our

allegiance to stand with God on our pilgrimage to heaven.

We can thank God that we make this journey accompanied by multitudes, both celestial and earthly. We are made in God’s image, children of the Father, belonging to the family of the Church.

Let us give thanks that we can turn to the Queen of Heaven to help us reach our final home. Our Lady of Victory, pray for us.

Recalling Mary’s queenship, consider:

- Growing in awareness of her powerful intercession by reading a spiritual book such as *Champions of the Rosary: The History and Heroes of a Spiritual Weapon* by Donald Calloway, MIC.
- Visiting an image of Mary and offering a “Hail Mary” for the intentions of our Holy Father Pope Francis.
- Going on a pilgrimage to visit a shrine of Our Lady such as Our Lady of Consolation in Carey.
- Learning about Our Lady of Fatima and consecrating oneself to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
- Praying lectio divina on Luke 1:39-56 and Revelation 12.
- Reading Pope St. John Paul II’s letter “On the Holy Rosary” (www.vatican.va, Oct. 16, 2002).
- Praying a family rosary or daily decade with age-appropriate meditations such as Debbie Staresinic’s *On a Mission to Love*, which incorporates a Christian anthropology and our vocation to live as a gift of self.

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.

Pregnancy Decision Health Centers provide vital services

Abortion is traumatic. It hurts individuals, families and communities. That is why the crisis intervention programs and services provided through Pregnancy Decision Health Centers (PDHC) are so critical.

PDHC opened its first pregnancy resource center on the eighth anniversary of Roe v. Wade, Jan. 22, 1981. At the core of PDHC's four pillars of services are its 24/7 hotline and four pregnancy resource centers. Hotline staff and volunteers serve women and families by answering calls, texts and chats, often as the first point of contact for an individual seeking help.

They are the listening ear, the voice of hope and reassurance and the resource to get individuals connected to services to meet their needs in a moment of cri-

sis. This year, they have responded to more than 27,000 calls, texts and chats.

"The opportunity to communicate God's grace and hope to the uncertain, the undecided, the hurting, is a humbling privilege," said Rachel, PDHC's Hotline Connections Manager. Rachel recalled one individual who called the hotline requesting information on Abortion Pill Reversal (APR) services. This individual shared how ashamed she felt about initiating an abortion by taking the first set of abortion pills and had changed her mind.

"When praying for the abortion reversal client, especially this one, God always impresses on my heart the humility, strength and courage it takes to initiate this process: To say, 'I was wrong, will you please help me?' To

share parts of a very personal story and choices made in secret and shame. To place faith in strangers and in an unknown outcome.

"I marvel at the heart of that mother, who although she did not think she was ready to be one, acted out a mother's heart in every decision thereafter. That is the Holy Spirit's work in which we have the honor to share a small part, to be the tangible voice of reassurance, of hope, of the love of the Father."

After successful APR services at PDHC, this new mom was connected with ongoing prenatal care. She shared her news with family members, was reunited with the father of her unborn child, planned a baby shower and is expecting her little boy's birth very soon.

APR services are critical because

A client shared with Pregnancy Decision Health Centers: "You saved my baby's life. Your words helped me go forward with my pregnancy."



Photo courtesy PDHC

See PDHC, Page 13

Faithful citizenship and hard teachings

By Beth Vanderkooi

When I was going through the RCIA process, I was very much drawn by the beauty, the intellectual rigor and the consistency of Catholic teaching, but there were several things that I found challenging to understand and accept. Top of the list were the finer points related to the Eucharist and Transubstantiation.

I was not alone in this, and it isn't a struggle unique to converts. A 2019 Pew poll suggested that only about a third of Americans who identify as Catholic believe in the Real Presence.

I read a lot. I prayed. Ultimately, where I found the answer was the same place that many have found it – the text of John 6, specifically the Bread of Life discourse. To set the scene, Jesus is talking about what it takes to get to Heaven, and everyone is excited – they all want it. But as he continues to speak, they grumble and question him, shocked and disbelieving that he is suddenly talking about actually eating his flesh and drinking his blood.

These were verses that I'd never really heard or seen in my previous faith experiences, and while it was helpful to me to read, you can see how uncomfortable many of the disciples were. Finally, we learn that many disciples responded, "This saying is too hard, who can accept it?" Soon after, we learn that "many" left. It turns out that this has always been challenging as a concept.

The discourse really captured my imagination, and to this day I sometimes wonder what I would have done if I were there. On one hand, I'd like to believe that if I were there in the presence of Christ, following Him, hearing Him teach, witnessing His miracles (or meeting those who had), that I'd stay there through the end. I'd like to think I'd be one of the people staying through until the end. On the other, I am drawn to the known, the logical and the rational. I can identify with anyone who heard something so shocking and contrary to their beliefs that they just walked away.

I have been speaking a lot lately to churches and groups about both the Dobbs decision and engagement in the political process as a faithful (and pro-life) Catholic. If you have not yet read the USCCB's recent document, "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship"

(or FCFC), it is worth getting a copy and reviewing it this election season (find it at: bit.ly/USCCBcitizenship).

While FCFC covers a multitude of issues, it is perhaps most notable for bringing clarity to the discussion on engagement in the political process specifically in an area where there is much tension – opposing intentionally induced abortion and euthanasia vs following personal conscience. The FCFC explains that a well-formed conscience is a matter of a desire for the good, an investigation of the facts and prayerful discernment. As the text continues, the bishops explicitly note that this idea of following our conscience is not a substitution or justification for following our partisan preferences or personal interests, but is something that is "shaped by the moral convictions of well-formed consciences and focused on the dignity of every human being, the pursuit of the common good, and the protection of the weak and vulnerable" (§14). They continue that this is how God reveals the truth to us: by calling us to do what is good and shun what is evil (§17). They also establish a distinction between those things which "we must never do, as individuals or as a society, because they are always incompatible with love of God and neighbor," with the prime example of intrinsic evil – the taking of innocent human life by abortion or euthanasia (§22).

The FCFC is quick to note that simply opposing evil is not enough; we are called also to do good. Thus, we have a "moral imperative" to respond to other issues for the good of neighbor and we need to have concern for things like feeding the hungry, caring for the sick, housing the homeless, providing for education and dignified work, ensuring justice, ending discrimination, and caring for the environment. The FCFC is quick to distinguish this type of work as things that are "universally binding on our consciences and may be legitimately fulfilled by a variety of means."

Taken together, it is an unequivocal statement. It establishes certain categories like abortion that must always be opposed, while acknowledging that how to accomplish other moral imperatives can be up for debate. So, some advocates may work to feed the hungry by distributing food at a foodbank or a meal ministry, others may raise money or donate food for that purpose, still others may work to create or advocate

for good-paying jobs and stable family structures, and some may advocate for legislative action or spending to support safety net programs. There is a legitimate role for each of these in our personal lives, and they make reasonable debates and distinctions for those in elective office.

So how do we exercise our consciences in an increasingly divided, complex and partisan political world? I do not pretend that partisan politics do not exist, or do I pretend that any one party has a monopoly on living out our faith.

But we must not lose sight of the fact that exercising our consciences means opposing laws, policies, and candidate positions that violate the dignity of human life. It means recognizing that sometimes we will encounter situations or teachings that conflict with our own desires, challenge our lived experiences, contradict our wishes to fit in with the culture, or frustrate our efforts to engage difficult situations with what seems like a "compassionate" response.

I do not want anyone to misunderstand or skew my words and think that I am elevating opposing abortion to the level of a sacrament. I would argue instead that the Eucharist is the antidote to abortion. Consider, for a moment the shouted mantra of "My Body, My Choice," verses the saving words, "This is my Body..."

We must acknowledge the social and political tension that exists for many, including Catholics, when it comes to abortion and politics, a tension that is exceptionally obvious as we enter both this first Respect Life month and political season post-Dobbs. If you or someone you love is struggling to understand, accept, or embrace the pro-life position, if it is becoming your hard saying that you think you cannot accept, before you walk away, remember this: Being faithful can be difficult during many of the seasons of our lives; election season is no different. The Church, in her wisdom, has given us a roadmap: embrace good, shun evil, grow in your knowledge of faith and virtue, examine the issues carefully, and reflect prayerfully on what is happening in the world around us. Perhaps spend a few hours these next weeks before the Blessed Sacrament and invite your imagination to consider the discourse.

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

Bethesda Healing Ministry sets October fundraiser

Bethesda Healing Ministry – a safe, loving and compassionate place to begin a healing journey from a past abortion experience – will hold its annual fundraiser Saturday, Oct. 15, at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St.

The event, with the theme “Cast Your Net” (John 21:1-14), will begin with the rosary at 8:30 a.m. and Mass at 9, followed by brunch and a program in the cathedral undercroft. Keynote speaker will be Father Thomas Blau, O.P.

Tickets are \$35. To register, visit www.bethesdahealing.org/event.

Bethesda Healing ministry knows that the emotional pain suffered after an abortion is not talked about openly. Almost everyone knows someone who has had an abortion experience. Many suffer afterward, keeping it a secret for years or even until death.

Jesus tells us to come to Him. He will wash away our sins and make us new. If our sins are forgiven by Jesus, why don't we forgive ourselves? Why do we continue to hurt?

Bethesda Healing Ministry can help work through the emotional pain after an abortion. Meetings take place the second and fourth Mondays of each month, and dinner is provided before each meeting. Bethesda promises anonymity and compassion, and everyone is welcomed with love.

A priest is an important part of the ministry team, and each session begins with prayer and reflection. Through community support, the healing journey begins, and the individual will know they are not alone. Healing will take time and differ for each person; many members stay to help others through their journey.

Bethesda meets on the campus of Columbus Christ the King Church, 2777 E. Livingston Ave. The parish supports and promotes the ministry by putting information in the bulletin and in the confessional. The Knights of Columbus, The Catholic Foundation, The Catholic Times and St. Gabriel Catholic Radio have supported Bethesda Healing Ministry for more than 20 years.

Hurting souls should know Bethesda Healing Ministry is waiting with open hearts and welcoming arms to start their healing journey.

Bethesda Healing Ministry is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, relying on the generosity of supporters to continue its work.

To become a Friend of Bethesda by making a donation, visit www.bethesdahealing.org.



Ray Rhone, who works at St. Stephen's Community House in Columbus, unloads diapers delivered by Bottoms Up.

Photo courtesy Bottoms Up

OSU medical student inspired by conference speakers

By Grace Hobayan

I applaud the Catholic Medical Association for putting together an outstanding educational conference in Denver in September to help members search for truth amid inaccurate media reports.

The sessions offered practical skills to help attendees learn how best to share the good news of Christ in their professional lives. One speaker taught how to give presentations that not only invite audiences to think more deeply about a given topic (e.g., abortion pill reversal) but also inspire audiences to learn more about the topic on their own.

Another speaker taught Catholic health-care professionals how they can reestab-

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chemical abortions via the abortion pill continue to increase and represented 80% of the abortions in Franklin County in 2020. The abortion pill is available in local abortion clinics and can be ordered online. The average success rate of APR services is 64% to 68%, and at PDHC, babies have been saved with this service.

PDHC's pregnancy resource centers are run by a team of nurses, staff members and volunteers who serve the whole woman – body, mind and soul. More than 900 ultrasounds have been provided this year. And we are thankful for the blessing of more than 700 life decisions.

As another pillar of service, PDHC has been walking alongside women and families throughout pregnancy and beyond, providing pregnancy and parenting education and practical support and resources through the Family Empowerment Center.

New moms and dads have been em-

lish trust among patients when mistrust in the health-care system is rising in part due to conflicting information on the internet.

One speaker gave excellent explanations of the neuroscience behind media addiction and how Catholic health-care professionals can help patients overcome such addiction.

And at the end of the conference, the keynote speaker, Father David Pivonka, TOR, president of Franciscan University of Steubenville, talked about how his late father served Christ as a physician who upheld the sanctity of life.

I am grateful to God for the opportunities to connect with other Catholic medical students, residents and physicians who authentically practice accord-

powered through more than 500 in-person class visits and more than 5,700 online parenting class visits this year. Each parenting class participant is matched with a volunteer family advocate, who provides communication and emotional support throughout the program.

PDHC's prevention pillar of service was added in 1984, known as Common Sense Culture (CSC), and serves Franklin and Fairfield counties. This program aims to reach youth in the community to prevent their involvement in a crisis pregnancy.

Middle and high school students are taught skills to build character and establish healthy relationships. CSC educators provide sexual risk avoidance education, teaching students that they can choose the habits that form their futures.

In 1989, PDHC added the fourth pillar of service, our Abortion Recovery (aR) ministry because there was an unmet need in the community. Some center volunteers were struggling with un-

ing to the faith. I am particularly passionate about the topics covered at this conference as a young medical student with such proximity to various types of social media that are full of messages and ideas contrary to the faith.

With the wisdom imparted by each speaker, I am well-equipped to defend the sanctity of life as a Catholic health-care professional amid a challenging secular environment. With my practical knowledge of faith-rooted communication skills, I am more prepared to share the light of Christ with my patients and colleagues.

Grace Hobayan is a third-year medical student in the Ohio State University College of Medicine.

resolved grief over their past abortions as they were meeting with women in crisis pregnancies.

With today's increase in at-home abortions via the abortion pill, women are immediately traumatized by what they see and experience during a self-managed abortion and are reaching out for help much sooner. The mission of aR is to provide a safe, confidential, non-judgmental place for individuals to restore, reclaim and recover from a past abortion.

In these challenging times, the mission of PDHC becomes more critical. There will always be unexpected and challenging pregnancies, and women and their babies will still need love, hope and practical help for healthy outcomes for their families. We continue our mission of rescuing lives and impacting families for generations.

For more information, visit SupportLifePDHC.org.

Bottoms Up works to meet diaper need

When a young woman is faced with an unexpected pregnancy, many issues invade her thoughts.

“What am I going to do? Will the father of the baby stay with me? How can I tell my parents? What will my friends think of me? What will other men think of me? What does my reputation look like?”

And, because abortion was made legal in 1973, the inevitable question: “Should I, can I, have an abortion?”

Now that Roe v. Wade has been overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court, that question still pervades, although the answer is more complex. Now, there are other questions: “Where can I go? Does my state allow abortions? If I need to travel, how can I get there?”

One of the questions that is always asked by this young woman, particularly if she is living below the poverty line, is: “How can I afford a baby?”

In today's economy, with spiraling inflation, this question becomes even more weighty for poor women. And they often can't see beyond that reality.

To address that reality is why Bottoms Up Diaper Bank was founded in 2018. Tim and Jo Welsh realized that poor women need help transitioning from childbirth to motherhood, and that diapers are part of “affording a baby.”

Since 2018, the Welshes have distributed more than 3 million diapers to food banks, child-care facilities, domestic abuse shelters, pregnancy centers and other organizations that serve mothers in need. And the organization continues to grow.

“We're now serving 16 Ohio counties and have more than 75 community part-

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Women's Care Center helps with crisis pregnancies

By Charles A. Mifsud

I would sum up my experience on the board of the Women's Care Center (WCC) of Columbus with the words "impactful," "rewarding" and, most important, "growth."

The story of the WCC is one of amazing growth. A professor at the University of Notre Dame founded the first WCC in a tiny house in Indiana in 1984. The first year, staff members served 300 women. Now they serve more than 30,000 women annually at 34 centers in 12 states: Ohio, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

It has become the largest pregnancy center in the United States, serving more women and saving more babies than any other.

In Columbus, the WCC was founded in 2008 on Broad Street, down the road from an abortion clinic that opened in 1973, the year of the Roe v. Wade U.S. Supreme Court decision. Just a few months later, a second center opened next to the largest abortion clinic in the region.

In 2011, I had just finished my service on the board of directors of Ohio Right to Life and was asked to join the

board of the WCC. I found that my work with the Women's Care Center was more impactful and rewarding because it involved giving immediate and direct help to women in need.

And I have seen results. Since the WCC opened, the number of abortions performed in Columbus has declined 47%. Talk about impactful. The center sees an average of 51 women a day, 90% of whom choose life. In Columbus in 2021, 3,307 women made 14,467 visits to the Women's Care Center, were given 2,850 ultrasounds, resulting in 2,037 babies saved. And that is so rewarding.

And speaking again of growth, currently 1 in 8 babies born in Franklin County starts with Women's Care Center.

WCC services start with free, confidential counseling, support and education for pregnant women. Counselors give women the information they need about pregnancy and abortion so they can make decisions that are right for them.

Also, free pregnancy testing and ultrasounds are available. The highly skilled client care team meets each woman with unconditional love and offers genuine assistance before and after her baby is born. After a choice for life, women need help to have

healthy babies and build nurturing families. But the work doesn't end with the birth of a baby.

Women earn coupons from using WCC services, including initial visits, pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, follow-up visits, and taking in-person parenting classes. These coupons can be redeemed at the WCC Crib Club for clothes, car seats and other baby supplies.

There is a variety of parenting classes to choose from, including Strong Fathers, Mommy and Me, Sibling Rivalry, Movement for Moms, Crockpot Cooking, Pediatric Hygiene, Budgeting Basics, Stress Management and more.

With these classes and the Crib Club, the WCC helps moms have healthier babies, learn parenting skills and build strong families.

A long-serving couple on the WCC board is Roger and Sally Baughman. They first heard of the WCC at Luxury Bingo, the center's annual fundraising dinner.

Being so impressed with the WCC mission, they expanded their role and serve on the board to offer the center their experience in not-for-profit governance and development.

"We have always been pro-life," Roger said, "but hearing the stories and seeing what the WCC does we be-

came interested in doing more. Since joining the board, we are amazed at the accomplishments being done every day to save babies."

Sally said, "One thing we have learned that, in many cases, these gals have difficult decisions to make in regards to keeping their babies. We believe the love and support given to them at the center is the main reason they do so."

The word "growth" is going to take on a much larger role. With the U.S. Supreme Court decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, which overturned Roe v. Wade, abortion will, I hope, be banned across much of the United States. Crisis pregnancy centers will need to expand dramatically to help women who would have aborted their babies in the past. This will mean more client visits. It will mean huge growth in the need for pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, Crib Club visits and parenting classes.

The board of the Women's Care Center sees this as an opportunity to help women in need, to help their babies and to help the world through building strong families. An unexpected pregnancy can be difficult to face alone, and the Women's Care Center is here to help.

BOTTOMS UP, continued from Page 13

Fundraiser for Bethesda Healing Ministry at St. Joseph Cathedral

"CAST
YOUR NET" John 21:1-14

Saturday, October 15, 2022

8:30 AM - Praying the Rosary
9:00 AM - Mass
10:00 AM - Brunch & Program

Featuring Keynote Speaker:

Fr. Thomas Blau, O.P.

Diocesan Mission Preacher from St. Patrick Catholic Church

St. Joseph Cathedral

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\$35/person

Register online:

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ners that we deliver to," said Jo Welsh, president of Bottoms Up. "When Tim came up with this idea, we were just trying to do something good for a few people, but apparently God thought just a few people wasn't enough."

The latest group of partners comes from Gallia, Meigs and Jackson counties, some of the most impoverished in Ohio. Delivering diapers to these counties involves logistics issues, as it's about a two-hour drive to that part of the state from central Ohio. But Welsh takes it in stride.

"What Bottoms Up does is not extraordinary," she said. "We're just living up to our Christian mandate to aid those in need. We've never tried to make it grow, but it just grows by itself."

Diaper need, according to the National Diaper Bank Network, is the lack of sufficient diapers to keep a child clean, dry and healthy. And the need continues to grow in Ohio and across the nation.

Bottoms Up estimates that satisfying the diaper need in the counties it serves would require more than 8 million diapers a year. Bottoms Up can't fill that need. But Welsh is hopeful.

"If we continue to be blessed with the support that we've experienced in the first four years of our existence, we can make greater inroads to the aggregate need and help more and more mothers and families as a result. In August, we distributed nearly 48,000 diapers to our partners in Franklin County alone. We think that's pretty amazing, but

it's not nearly enough."

Those diapers likely helped nearly 1,300 families, and the 3 million diapers that Bottoms Up has distributed since it started have helped approximately 100,000 families in need.

Welsh is passionate about helping those less fortunate who, in many cases, have nowhere else to turn. Making sure that food pantries and other community partners always have the right size diaper in the right quantities is the goal of Bottoms Up.

"We don't want to have any mother be turned away from any of our partners when she comes to them seeking help with her diaper need. Thankfully, to our knowledge, no mother has," Welsh said.

"The stories that we hear are just heartbreaking. Every week, we hear of a grandmother raising her grandchildren, or a mother scraping out a used diaper and re-using it because she can't afford enough diapers."

In the end, Welsh is just grateful.

"To be given this opportunity to serve the poor is a profound privilege. God is good."

Bottoms Up Diaper Bank is a nonprofit organization that works to end diaper need in the area it serves. For more information, contact Welsh at jo@bottomsup.life or visit <https://www.bottomsup.life>.

Catholic nurses group to review conference talks

Recent national Catholic health-care conferences will be briefly presented for discussion at the Catholic Nurses Columbus council meeting Tuesday, Oct. 11, immediately following the 5:45 p.m. Mass at the Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center near Ohio State University.

The council is in partnership with the Catholic Medical Association (CMA), with the CMA White Mass to be held Oct. 18 at the Newman Center.

The conferences that will be summarized include the 2022 International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants XXI World Congress. The congress, with the theme "United in Mission, United in Faith," was held Aug. 2-4 in Pennsylvania and was hosted by the National Association of Catholic Nurses-USA.

Bishop Joseph Coffey, auxiliary bishop for the U.S. military, served as homilist for the congress' opening Mass, and Cardinal Peter Turkson greeted nurses

on behalf of the Holy See and the Pontifical Academy of Sciences and the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, of which he is chancellor.

About 250 nurse leaders from 20 countries attended the congress. Association President-elect Maria Arvonio spoke on "Healthcare Therapies 2022: Are You Offering 'Culturally Competent' Spiritual Care?" Dr. Kim Dong Yeon of the Catholic University of Korea spoke on the "Analysis of Spiritual Nursing Diagnosis."

Local nurse-chaplain Dr. Teresa Durbak Sipos spoke about student nurse research data and the resultant course developed to teach nurses to provide spiritual care. The course, "Integrating Spiritual Healthcare Interventions into Nursing Praxis: An Educational Intervention," focuses on pastoral and moral theology including the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services. (Contact trinitycounselingLLC03@gmail.com for more information about the course.)

Dr. Sipos also presented at the National Association of Catholic Chaplains conference Aug. 19-22 in New York addressing health-care provider needs. Her recent article, "Spiritual intervention may alleviate moral injury and depression among nurses," can be found at: <https://bit.ly/3UX7rJ3>.

Catechesis, or teaching the faith, is defined in canon law as part of the Church's missionary work, acknowledged during the 2019 Synod on the Amazon by Pope Francis, which highlighted the work of catechists as a vocation.

Salvifici Doloris (29), the 1984 Apostolic letter by Pope St. John Paul II, defines the health-care professions as a vocation. Nursing spirituality is within the scope and practice of nursing. However, nursing ministry has become a lost art with spiritual health-care interventions rarely taught in nursing schools.

Therefore, catechesis of health-care professionals is essential to the healing ministry of Jesus Christ. A role model for health-care professionals, St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, reminds us to minister to the suffering as holy transparent vessels with great love.

Pastoral Care Week/Spiritual Care Week is Oct. 23-29. This year's theme is "Relevant and Responsive in Times of Crisis." Pastoral Care Week gives opportunities for organizations and institutions to recognize the spiritual caregivers in their midst and the ministry that the caregivers provide. Father Mark Hammond is chaplain for local Catholic nurses.

Nursing faculty and students are invited to all National Association of Catholic Nurses-USA events, and student nurse membership is free.

For more information, contact catholicnursescolombus@gmail.com.

ROSARY, continued from Page 11

itative way of contemplating the life of Christ with and through the intercession of his Mother Mary.

A 15th century Dominican, Blessed Alan de la Roche, popularized the devotion by using it as a method of preaching and by establishing the first rosary confraternities. Dominicans have continued to use the rosary as an effective means of preaching about the life of Christ, while also praying it alongside the Liturgy of the Hours.

For the Dominicans, the Rosary is structured like the Divine Office, with an opening verse similar to the opening of Lauds and Vespers (rather than the popular method of beginning with the Apostles' Creed, an Our Father and three Hail Marys). Moreover, when Dominicans pray the rosary, they go back and forth between the sides of the choir to pray the parts of the Hail Mary, much like they do when praying the psalms.

With such great love for the rosary, the Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary

has been established as an official confraternity of the Dominican Order. While many local rosary confraternities arose throughout the centuries, such as the one established by Blessed Alan, Pope Leo XIII last reorganized the confraternity in 1898, entrusting it to the Dominicans.

This means that the Dominicans have oversight of the confraternity and are responsible for enrolling new members and establishing new charters of the confraternity in parishes (popularly known as "Rosary Altar Societies").

Members of the confraternity promise to pray 15 decades of the rosary each week. Members share in the spiritual benefits of all the rosaries prayed by their fellow confraternity members, as well as participating in the good works of the Dominican Order.

For several years, the offices of the Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary for the Dominican Province of St. Joseph have been located at St. Patrick, which

makes the Rosary Sunday customs at the parish more meaningful.

Those interested in joining the confraternity can go to www.rosaryconfraternity.org for more information and to enroll online.

Father Paul Marich, O.P. is a parochial vicar at Columbus St. Patrick Church and is the promoter of the Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary for the Dominican Province of St. Joseph.



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28th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

Faith: Giving thanks for blessings

Amos 6:1a, 4-7
Psalms 146:7, 8-9, 9-10
1 Timothy 6:11-16
Luke 16:19-31

One criticism of the Christian way of life often made through the ages – and prevalent now – is that in stressing the reality of eternity, engagement in this world is de-emphasized.

For some, the Christian perspective seems to be “pie in the sky by and by when you die.” The fact that Christianity encourages us to “take up our cross” and to learn from suffering also serves, critics say, to imply that we are complacent about the suffering of others.

The parable of the nameless rich man and the beggar Lazarus and the prophetic critique of the prophet Amos tell a different story.

People of faith are called by God in no uncertain terms to better the plight of those around them and create a world that includes justice and mercy for those who have been sidelined. As people of faith, in the Jewish heritage and in Christianity, we are called to rise from our “beds of ivory” to attend to others. When we fail to do so, the prophets and Jesus call us out.

The promise of eternity is not an invitation to leave the world in its sad state. Rather, it is a message of hope that suggests that even though our efforts might often seem to fail or be slow in accomplishing our goals, that in the long run, God is on our side and justice will prevail.

Woe to those who are complacent and do nothing in the face of injustice! Blessings are proclaimed, both in this life and in the life to come, for those who

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.



work on behalf of justice and for those who have not experienced what God has intended for all even in this world. Lazarus is remembered by name and is comforted in the bosom of Abraham.

In only three months, we will celebrate Christmas. The joy of the Incarnation of the Son of God offers a way of seeing this world that reminds us that our faith is not only about what will happen to us after our earthly life is over. The prophetic vision also suggests that we must see what is happening around us and commit ourselves to all that establishes justice.

Pope St. Paul VI is famous for saying, “If you want peace, work for justice.” Justice is not merely about giving each person what is due, though that is its center. Rather, justice is about opening up the fullness of shalom, a peace that is more than the absence or cessation of war.

We must be concerned about “competing well for the faith,” as St. Paul counsels Timothy. Our witness must provide evidence that we have allowed God’s love for the world to penetrate our hearts. Our actions on behalf of justice are to be directed not only to an earthly fulfillment, but also to the blessings God holds in store for us “in the bosom of Abraham.”

Who is at your doorstep, awaiting your acknowledgment? Can you open

10/10-10/15
MONDAY
 GALATIANS 4:22-24,26-27,31-5:1
 PSALM 113:1B-5A,6-7
 LUKE 11:29-32
TUESDAY
 GALATIANS 5:1-6
 PSALM 119:41,43-45,47-48
 LUKE 11:37-41
WEDNESDAY
 GALATIANS 5:18-25
 PSALM 1:1-4,6
 LUKE 11:42-46
THURSDAY
 EPHESIANS 1:1-10
 PSALM 98:1-6
 LUKE 11:47-54

THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

FRIDAY
 EPHESIANS 1:11-14
 PSALM 33:1-2,4-5,12-13
 LUKE 12:1-7
SATURDAY
 EPHESIANS 1:15-23
 PSALM 8:2-3B,4-7
 LUKE 12:8-12
 10/17-10/22
MONDAY
 EPHESIANS 2:1-10
 PSALM 100:1B-5
 LUKE 12:13-21
TUESDAY
 2 TIMOTHY 4:10-17B
 PSALM 145:10-13,17-18
 LUKE 10:1-9

WEDNESDAY
 EPHESIANS 3:2-12
 ISAIAH 12:2-3,4B-6 (PS)
 LUKE 12:39-48
THURSDAY
 EPHESIANS 3:14-21
 PSALM 33:1-2,4-5,11-12,18-19
 LUKE 12:49-53
FRIDAY
 EPHESIANS 4:1-6
 PSALM 24:1-4B,5-6
 LUKE 12:54-59
SATURDAY
 EPHESIANS 4:7-16
 PSALM 122:1-5
 LUKE 13:1-9

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION | MASS SCHEDULE: WEEKS OF OCT. 9 AND OCT. 16, 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.

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

your eyes and be concerned not only about your own wellbeing and that of your family and your circle of friends?

The rich man carries with him a concern for the “success” of his brothers, even as he sees Lazarus as one who could offer him relief from his torment. Abraham reminds him that the truth is

evident for any who have the heart to receive it. Can we open our eyes and commit to serve this world? Only then can we hope for the eternity of bliss promised to us.

The Gospel is not an invitation to forget this world and leave it as it is. Rather, it is a call to build up the kingdom among us.

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

Perseverance in spreading the Gospel will bear fruit

Exodus 17:8-13
Psalms 121:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8
2 Timothy 3:14-4:2
Luke 18:1-8

“But when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

Jesus asks this question of His disciples following a parable inviting them to fervent and persevering prayer. There have been ages in human history when it seemed unthinkable for faith ever to be extinguished from the earth. Wherever the Gospel has been proclaimed, human beings have responded and built cultures and material signs of faith. It can easily be thought that the Lord was exaggerating to encourage the disciples to persevere.

In our time, however, it is apparent that the Lord’s question was not rhetorical. Faith can be lost, and, sadly, there are many signs of its fragile na-

ture. Even though it can lead us to great heights and to the establishment of realities that are filled with beauty, faith can slip through our fingers.

The ancient city of Ephesus, which appears in many Scriptures and was the home to many early Christian leaders, including St. Paul, St. John, St. Timothy and even Mary, the mother of Jesus, would seem to be a place where faith would endure.

It was there that the title of Mary as Theotokos, mother of God, was given. However, a pilgrimage there finds few Christians and many ruins, both pagan and Christian. Visitors find little evidence that the faith has endured, apart from their own desire to make a pilgrimage.

Many families say that in only one or two generations, their faith has been set aside by their descendants. Sadly, at times, when these faithful souls die, their

families do not give them the funeral rites that are an expression of their faith.

We must “fight the good fight” for the faith. Like Moses, we must raise our arms in prayer, relying on others to help us to keep our hands raised high as Aaron and Hur did for him. The battle will continue if we do not try to do it alone and if we invite others to join us in prayer.

St. Paul calls for perseverance. “I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingly power: proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching.” Our witness includes doing all we can to proclaim the faith, even when it is being rejected.

What advice can we give to families that have begun to lose the faith?

I often suggest to parents and grand-

parents to keep this intention in their prayers in every way possible. Light candles. Pray rosaries. One mother chose to go to Mass twice every Sunday, once for herself and once for her daughter who was not attending at the time. The daughter eventually came around. After her marriage, her husband converted to the Catholic faith, and they chose to raise their children in the faith as well.

Speak to your children about your desire for them to put into practice what you have taught them. Choose four times a year for this simple affirmation. Don’t harp on it. Speak it clearly and then share a cup of coffee. Invite them to join you whenever you go to Mass or to Adoration. Tell them what you heard in a homily or what you learned from a Bible study. Share your joy.

CATHOLIC WORD SEARCH

THE ROSARY

www.wordgamesforcatholics.com


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L	S	L	E	V	E	I	C	F	R	O	B	O	S	H
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| CRUCIFIX | DECADES | FIVE |
| GLORIOUS | GLORY BE | HAIL HOLY QUEEN |
| HAIL MARY | JOYFUL | LUMINOUS |
| OUR FATHER | PRAYER | SORROWFUL |

FAITH, continued from Page 16

Buy religious gifts for your grandchildren. Take them to church when you go. You might want to try what one grandmother did: volunteer in an Atrium for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Learn how to be a catechist yourself. Give presentations to your grandchildren when they visit. Include the neighborhood children who come to visit them. Eventually you might find out that they have convinced their parents to take them to their parish to prepare them for First Holy Communion.

Don't give up. God wants you to win the battle for their souls more than you want to do that yourself. Persevere in your witness. Your faith is seen by others. Your love for God will bear fruit.



DIOCESE of COLUMBUS

CHILD PROTECTION PLAN

It is the goal of the Diocese of Columbus to make the Church a place of safety: a place of prayer, ministry and comfort. Everyone who enters our churches, schools, or facilities must be confident in this. Not one child or young person should suffer from abuse while at Church. In order to assure the safety of our youth, the Diocese of Columbus has enacted a complete program of protection. As part of this program, the Diocese of Columbus will provide appropriate, just, and pastoral care for anyone who has suffered the crime of sexual abuse of a minor at the hands of diocesan clergy or church employees or volunteers. The Diocese of Columbus will report any and all allegations of abuse reported to it to the authorities and will cooperate fully with those authorities.

Help is available: The Diocese of Columbus wants to hear from anyone who has suffered. If you wish to report an allegation of abuse or need pastoral and/or clinical care in order to begin or continue the process of healing from sexual abuse as a child at the hands of a member of the clergy or a church employee or volunteer, simply call the diocesan Victims' Assistance Coordinator. You can find contact information at the bottom of this notice. If you wish to receive a copy of the diocesan complaint form or any of the diocesan policies and procedures, simply call the number below or visit the diocesan web site at www.columbuscatholic.org.

To contact the diocesan Victim's Assistance Coordinator, call:
LAURA LEWIS
614.224.2251 | helpisavailable@columbuscatholic.org

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.

To be alone in silence ...

	N	O	B	
E	L	S	E	O
W	I	A	T	O
I	T	H	G	D

IS TO BE ALONE WITH GOD

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The successful candidate must be able to support the mission of the Josephinum and should have two or more years of related experience working as a housekeeper. The Josephinum offers a competitive salary and benefits package for the right person. **Please respond with a resume and/or call 614-885-5585 to schedule an appointment by October 7, 2022 to:**

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PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

ANGELO, Carmen C., 91, Sept. 26
Holy Spirit Church, Columbus

BURKE, John J., 80, Sept. 23
St. Paul Church, Westerville

CAREY, Eleanor A. (Washburn), 77, Sept. 12
St. Matthew Church, Gahanna

CATALOGNA, Vincent T., 75, Sept. 26
St. James the Less Church, Columbus

CHAMPA, Frederick J., 84, Sept. 13
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

DAVIS, Air Force Chief Master Sgt. (Ret.) Hannibal A. Jr. "Junior," 75, Sept. 14
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, Columbus

DEL MATTO, Mary L. (Herald), Sept. 24
St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Pickerington

DOMBECK, Robert M., 93, Sept. 11
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

EMMENEGGER, Greta M. (Hackett), 86, Sept. 27
St. Philip Church, Columbus

FLYNN, Lois A. (Lauer), 96, Sept. 16
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

FOLEY, Anthony G., 69, Sept. 18
Christ the King Church, Columbus

GRADY, Dr. Paul R., 49, Aug. 30
Resurrection Cemetery Chapel, Lewis Center

KRANCEVICH, Janina (Fiskiewicz), 95, June 18
Our Lady of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

KRANCEVICH, Mark E., 68, July 14
Our Lady of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

McGOVERN, Gilbert, 79, Sept. 21
St. Paul Church, Westerville

McNABB, Carol A. (Woodworth), 85, Sept. 12
St. Stephen Church, Columbus

PEACOCKE, Catherine A., 85, Sept. 24
St. Patrick Church, Columbus

PHILLIPS, Patricia A. (McGue), 76, Sept. 25
St. Mary, Mother of God Church, Columbus

PIEMONTE, Anthony Joseph, 93, Sept. 21
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

TRAPP, Marilyn W. (Witteman), 100, Sept. 21
St. Catharine Church, Columbus

VAN FOSSEN, Warren, 93, Sept. 21
St. Joseph Church, Dover

VERNE, David J., 81, Sept. 19
St. Paul Church, Westerville

WARE, Dorothy J., 90, Sept. 28
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

Melanie L. Quinlan

Funeral Mass for Melanie L. Quinlan, 65, who died Wednesday, Sept. 21, was celebrated Friday, Sept. 30 at New Philadelphia Sacred Heart Church. Burial was at Calvary Cemetery, New Philadelphia.

She was born on Oct. 7, 1956, in North Baltimore, Ohio to the late Wylie and Winnie (Britton) Lafferty and was a 1975 graduate of New Philadelphia High School.

She was the parish secretary for Sacred Heart Church after serving as a classroom aid at the parish elementary school. She later worked for the Tuscarawas County Public Library and also was employed by the Endres Floral Co.

Survivors include a son, Wylie; a daughter, Katie (Sam) Rodriguez; a grandson and a granddaughter.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

(Act to August 23, 1970: Section 3685, Title 36, United States Code)

CATHOLIC TIMES

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There are no known bondholders, mortgages and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more total amount of bonds, mortgages and other securities.

The purpose, function and non-profit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes have not changed during the preceding 12 months.

	AVERAGE NUMBER OF COPIES:	THROUGH 9/11/22 ISSUES
A. Total number of copies printed (net press run)	6,300	6,283
B. Paid circulation:		
1) outside-county mail subscriptions	2,700	2,692
2) in-county mail subscriptions	3,300	3,291
3) sales through dealers, carriers, street vendors, counter sales, other non-USPS paid circulation	0	0
4) other classes mailed through USPS	0	0
C. Total paid circulation:	6,000	5,983
FREE DISTRIBUTION:		
1) by mail outside-county	0	0
2) by mail in-county	0	0
3) other classes mailed	0	0
E. free distribution outside the mail	250	250
F. Total free distribution	250	250
G. Total Distribution	6,250	6,233
H. Copies not distributed	50	50
I. Total	6,300	6,283
J. Percent paid and/or requested circulation	96%	95.99%

I CERTIFY THAT THE STATEMENTS MADE BY ME ABOVE ARE CORRECT AND COMPLETE. DOUG BEAN, EDITOR.

Albert and Irene Cassady

Funeral Mass for Albert Cassady, 91, who died on Wednesday, Sept. 21, and Irene (Schneider) Cassady, 88, who died on Thursday, Sept. 22, was celebrated Tuesday, Sept. 27 at Columbus St. Leo the Great Oratory. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

The couple, who had recently celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary, were active in a number of Catholic ministries. Both were part of a nationwide postcard ministry that performed evangelization anonymously by taking people's names from telephone directories and inviting them to send for free Catholic literature if they were non-Catholics.

Irene was involved with the local Our Lady's Rosary Makers organization and made thousands of rosaries for most of her life. She also was a member of the Blue Army of Fatima and several other Marian organizations. She was a graduate of Columbus St. Mary High School.

Albert was employed by the City of Co-

lumbus Division of Power for 30 years as a meter reader and repairman. He also was a member of the Grandview Heights City Council for 11 years, was a fourth-degree member of the Knights of Columbus and was active in its St. Patrick Council 11207 and Our Lady of Victory Council 12900. He was a graduate of Columbus Central High School and served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

Both were longtime members of Columbus St. Patrick Church and belonged to many clubs and organizations, including the Shamrock Club of Columbus, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Columbus Maennerchor, the Swiss Club and the Harmony Glee Club.

Albert was preceded in death by a brother, Irene by brothers and sisters, and both by two great-grandchildren. Survivors include sons, Joe (Christina) and Rob; Albert's sisters, Mary Ann Theil and Jean King; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Anthony J. Lisska

Funeral Mass for Anthony J. Lisska, 82, who died Monday, Sept. 19, was celebrated Saturday, Sept. 24 at Granville St. Edward the Confessor Church. Burial was at the Denison University Cemetery in Granville.

He was born in Columbus to the late Joseph and Florence (Wolfel) Lisska. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy from Providence (Rhode Island) College in 1963, a Master of Arts degree from St. Stephen's College and a doctorate from Ohio State University.

He spent his entire academic career of 52 years, from 1969 to 2021, as a philosophy professor and administrator

at Denison, specializing in the study of St. Thomas Aquinas and natural law. He held two endowed professorships, founded the Denison Honors Program in 1987 and served as its first director, received the Sears Foundation Teaching Award in 1990 and was honored as the Carnegie Foundation Professor of the Year in 1994. In 2016, the Gilpatrick Center at Denison was rededicated as the Lisska Center for Intellectual Engagement in his honor.

Survivors include his wife, Marianne; daughters, Megan (Peter Bryan) and Elin (Sean Christensen), a grandson and two granddaughters.

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Franklin County Municipal Court Judge Mark Hummer gives the wine to Bishop Earl Fernandes after the bishop received the hosts from Franklin County Court of Common Pleas Judge Kimberly Cocroft during the Presentation of the Gifts at the Red Mass for individuals involved in legal fields.
CT photos by Ken Snow



Attending the Red Mass from Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School were (from left) sophomore Ian Ruiz; Ned Gruber, vice principal for learning formation and Latin teacher; senior Jackson Keller and Jack Gibbons, faculty chair for the department of social studies and U.S. government teacher.

Bishop celebrates Red Mass at Cathedral

Bishop Earl Fernandes asked members of the legal profession to listen to what God is calling them to do and to rely on the Holy Spirit to carry out their duties in his homily at the Red Mass on Wednesday, Sept. 28 at St. Joseph Cathedral.

The annual Red Mass is offered especially for individuals who work in the legal field, which includes judges, attorneys, law school professors, students and government officials, in honor of St. Thomas More, an English lawyer and judge in the 15th and 16th centuries who was executed during the reign of King Henry VIII after refusing to take an oath of supremacy to the ruler.

“God calls us to something great: to be defenders of the orphan, the widow, the least in our society; to be defenders of the dignity of the human person; to be defenders of the rights of all,” Bishop Fernandes said. “So we have a great responsibility and, therefore, we present



Justices and attorneys kneel during the annual Red Mass celebrated on Wednesday, Sept. 28 at St. Joseph Cathedral for legal professionals.

our offering of this votive Mass to the Holy Spirit.

“Because if we are to proclaim the kingdom of God, if we are to stand up to injustice, if we are to judge rightly, we know ourselves all too well that we can’t do it on our own. We must recognize our own fragility and weakness and, precisely, there is a moment for us of conversion.

“We need the help of the Holy Spirit who leads us into all truth, who helps us to be courageous within the virtue of fortitude, who helps us to be prudent in choosing among the best things in order to accomplish an end.

“This Holy Spirit is what the saints call ‘the soul of our souls,’ who is always with us. But we have to make a difficult decision to discern the right way to go.”

Bishop Fernandes promised to pray in particular for judges, who must make difficult decisions on a daily basis that involve livelihoods and families.

The bishop has a personal connection that provides him with insight into the duties of a judge. One of his five brothers, Trevor, has served as a Lucas County Probate Court magistrate for 24 years and is also a deacon of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in the Diocese of Toledo.

“For my part, I am grateful for what you do,” Bishop Fernandes said at the Mass. “But for my part, too, I promise you my prayers that the Holy Spirit of God will descend upon you to give you the strength you need to live your vocations.

“St. John Paul II said, ‘A vocation is a gift whose purpose is to build up the Church and increase the kingdom of God in the world.’

“We can make all kinds of excuses

because it is easier, more comfortable, more convenient, not to witness to justice. But Jesus calls us not to mediocrity, not to keeping the mere letter of the law, but to greatness.

“It is one thing to strive for justice, but a still greater virtue than justice is charity: to give of ourselves, to seek the good of another; not to call down fire

but to show mercy and compassion and, above all, love.

“This is the greatness of your call. This is the greatness of our call. It might take different forms, but it is on the basis of our love that we will be judged.

“May God grant us his grace that we might be found worthy.”



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DeSales students earn recognition



Nine Columbus St. Francis DeSales students received recognition this fall from the National Merit Scholarship Program. Honorees included (from left) Alex Herrmann, National Merit semifinalist; Rebecca Fekru, National African American Recognition Award winner; Madison Walker, National African American Recognition Award winner; Owen Eckstein, National Merit commended student; Adam Feltz, National Merit commended student; Olivia Sanabria, National Hispanic Recognition Award winner; Michael Saka, National Merit commended student; Morgan Davis, National African American

Recognition Award winner; and Sonia Vargas, National Hispanic Recognition Award winner. Photo courtesy St. Francis DeSales



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CANCER, continued from Page 9

year-old, but looking back now, Jocelyn said, “I don’t really remember much of it.”

After three weeks of treatment, Jocelyn went home on Oct. 2. The spritely teen had gone into the hospital weighing around 97 pounds. She was down to 77 pounds after losing the muscle mass she had built through her physical activities.

“It’s a lot of post-traumatic syndrome, because the girl I took into the hospital wasn’t the girl I brought home,” Allina said.

“It was really hard for me to walk for a long time,” Jocelyn said. “I couldn’t go up the stairs at my house until, I’d say, maybe November. I lost all my strength.”

Coping with treatment

Although she returned home to Westerville in October 2021, she would spend countless hours during the next year, sometimes more than 10 hours a day, on the 11th floor at Nationwide Children’s, where the children’s oncology and hematology department is located.

“It was just nonstop back and forth for treatments,” her mom said. “You need so many blood transfusions, then you need platelet transfusions, and there are so many side effects from the chemo.”

The chemotherapy has made Jocelyn’s hair fall out twice. It’s currently growing back after a recent round of chemo.

“I was admitted into the hospital maybe five times or maybe more because I either got a blood clot as a side effect or I got pancreatitis as a side effect,” Jocelyn said. “And there was just one week in the summer my blood counts were so low I kept getting nosebleeds, and they wouldn’t stop.

“And then I got COVID this summer. And that turned into croup. My immune system is down. But the last time I was admitted into the hospital was June, and that’s pretty good.”

The rigorous treatments and recovery kept her from resuming in-home school for several months. When she began again, tutors came to the family’s home.

The treatment, recovery, fatigue and compromised immune system essentially wiped out in-person attendance at St. Paul during her eighth-grade year. She went back to the school building for the final few days of classes in spring and to graduate with her classmates. She also received the sacrament of confirmation at St. Paul Church.

Going to high school

Before the cancer hit, Jocelyn had planned to follow her sisters – Jillian, a freshman at Miami University, and Juliana, a sophomore at Ohio State University – to DeSales. But with her eighth-grade year essentially wiped out and with the tenuous status of her health, there were concerns about her returning to classes and adapting to a new environment.

But the DeSales administration had a plan in place, her mother said. Jocelyn balances treatments and classes, and she has returned to limited cheerleading.

“Everyone’s really welcoming here and super nice,” Jocelyn said. “Everyone tells me here just how strong I am.”

Her ability to adapt to high school is a testament to her fortitude. Garrick said Jocelyn recently spent a week with treatments in the morning and classes in the afternoon.

“People don’t realize she’s still in treatment,” Allina said. “It’s hard, because she might fall asleep every day in school because she’s still taking the chemo pills, and she has the medicine she takes, her blood thinners for blood pressure, because she still has the acute kidney damage and she gets blood clots. That’s a side effect of chemo.”

Benefiting from support

Without question, the past year has been anything but easy for the Green family. Jocelyn’s condition necessitated drastic changes and sacrifice.

Allina, a teacher at Heritage Middle School in Westerville, and her husband decided that Allina would stay home with Jocelyn during her recovery.

“My daughter, who was a senior at DeSales, I missed out on a lot of things with her so I wouldn’t have to leave the hospital,” Allina said. “She was a varsity cheerleader, and my husband made all her games.”

Allina missed almost an entire year of teaching, but because of the sick days she had accumulated and her colleagues’ donating their sick days, the family didn’t lose income.

Earlier this year, Allina signed up for a walk benefiting the lymphoma-leukemia society and set her fundraising goal at \$250. She raised more than \$7,000.

Those are just a few of the blessings the family has received from the community.

“We had meals every day for probably six or seven months from (Generations) dance studio.

They did a meal train, and we had dinners just nonstop,” Allina said. “The eighth-grade parents got us a very high-end cooler for our porch where the meals would go. And I could just keep going on and on.

“But what the community did for us, it just shows what a sweet person Jocelyn is. She’s just the most positive kid you’ll ever meet.”

Father Jonathan Wilson, the pastor at St. Paul, provided spiritual support, coming to the house on weekends to offer Mass and Holy Communion.

“I will have to say when she was diagnosed, and they told me those words, I was very angry,” Allina said. “I just didn’t understand why it didn’t happen to me and why it had to happen to her. And I have to admit, there are still times I ask why, but I don’t think I’ll ever know that.”

Garrick came to know the family while the siblings have attended DeSales, and he’s not surprised to see how they’re handling this adversity and the generosity that Jocelyn showed with her donation.

“It still moves me profoundly,” he said. “Faith is such an important part of their DNA.

“While in some respects you are somewhat taken aback that a 14-year-old has the maturity and the worldview to make that decision. But you put it in the context of the manner in which she has been raised by her family and their involvement at St. Paul, it’s something that I could see her doing.”

Jocelyn’s generosity doesn’t come as a surprise to Allina, who said her daughter was a giver at a young age. Jocelyn credits her family and Catholic school for instilling that attitude.

“I’ve always felt like, if I’m able to help, I will,” she said, “because they’ve always taught me to treat people the way you want to be treated and be kind, and it’s just always stuck with me.”

Looking to the future

Jocelyn and her family know the exact date – Jan. 18, 2024 – that her treatments are scheduled to end. She’s currently in a maintenance phase.

Each day she’s hoping to feel a little stronger.

“Every kid that goes through this with blood cancers, it’s a long haul,” Allina said. “Unfortunately, we’re considered one of the lucky ones. When you’re in the hospital, you see that because there’s so many cancers where the treatment may be quicker but the relapse is much greater.

“There’s still a long way to go.”

Bishop blesses portraits, celebrates Mass at St. Michael on feast day



Above photo: After Mass, Bishop Fernandes blessed portraits of Blessed Carlo Acutis and Pope St. John Paul II before they were hung in the church. Acutis, who was beatified in 2020, is considered a model for 21st century youth because of his great love for his Catholic faith and the Eucharist. He developed a website to promote Eucharistic miracles around the world before he died in Italy of leukemia in 2006 at age 15. St. John Paul died in 2005 at age 84 after leading the Church as pontiff for more than 26 years. Right: Bishop Earl Fernandes processes to the altar with Deacon John Crerand alongside to celebrate Mass for the Solemnity of the Archangels Gabriel, Raphael and Michael on Thursday, Sept. 29 at Worthington St. Michael Church with students from the school in attendance.

CT photos by Ken Snow



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Stories of Marian shrines in Ohio, U.S. make inspiring reading

Mary's Miracles: A Traveler's Guide to Catholic America
Marion Amberg | Our Sunday Visitor 2022

Most of the world's most recognizable Marian shrines can be found outside the United States in places such as Lourdes, France and Fatima, Portugal, but within the 50 states are a multitude of lesser-known gems devoted to Our Lady.

In *Mary's Miracles: A Traveler's Guide to Catholic America*, author Marion Amberg has mapped out more than 50 spots dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary in America that stretch from Massachusetts to California and Florida to Alaska.

Three of those are located in Ohio. The most recognizable to many pilgrims in the Diocese of Columbus would be the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey, just outside the northern reaches of this diocese in the Diocese of Toledo.

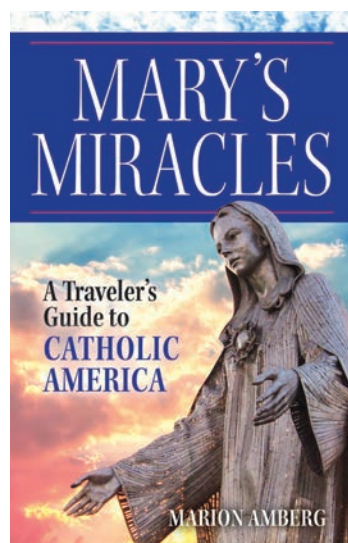
The Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon in North Jackson might be more familiar to inhabitants of the northeast corner of the Columbus diocese. The third Ohio shrine mentioned in the book resides in Garfield Heights and honors Our Lady of Czestochowa.

Amberg's latest book follows on the heels of *Monuments, Marvels and Miracles: A Traveler's Guide to Catholic America* in which she took readers on a journey to more than 500 holy sites throughout the nation, including several destinations in the Buckeye state.

"I've long been fascinated with Ohio's deep Catholic roots ... the 'bishop factory,' Steubenville, Cincinnati's legendary churches (especially St. Rose with the flood gauge) and, of course, Mary's miracle shrines and chapels," Amberg said in an email. "So many great stories in Ohio!"

Indeed, Amberg doesn't just regurgitate basic facts and information about the various Marian spots. She includes interesting and insightful stories from each stop.

At the Our Lady of Czestochowa shrine in Garfield Heights, for example, Amberg relates an interesting historical anecdote that Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, the future Pope St. John Paul II, visit-



ed there in 1969 while in the United States. The section includes a black and white photo of a youthful-looking Wojtyla standing in front of the icon. While there, he joined Polish sisters in praying before the icon and singing hymns.

Amberg devotes eight pages to the basilica in Carey. She explains who Our Lady of Consolation is, the history of the shrine and some of the many miracles that have occurred there in more than 100 years. The brief description of the miracles will leave readers in awe at the intercessory power of Our Lady.

There are so many more captivating stories packed into the pages of this unique travel guide that readers certainly won't become bored. The book does include its share of facts as well, including a tidbit that the Our Lady of Good Hope shrine in Champion, Wisconsin in the Diocese of Green Bay is the site of the only Church-approved Marian ap-

parition in the United States.

Amberg conveniently groups the shrines into seven geographic regions with a map of the states in each area and includes with each site at least one photo and the physical address, contact information and website.

The index in the back of the book groups the shrines and sites of devotion under their Marian titles (Our Lady of the Rosary, Our Lady of Prompt Succor and so on).

Not every place of Marian devotion in the U.S., including several spots in Ohio, made the book. An all-inclusive list would have ballooned the size of the book.

The combination of Amberg's gift for storytelling and the book's format make *Mary's Miracles* a pleasurable, easy read. Pick it up and take it one chapter at a time or use it as a travel guide when planning a vacation or trip to a particular region of the country.

If a physical visit is impossible, the word pictures provided in *Mary's Miracles: A Traveler's Guide to Catholic America* will suffice as the next best thing to being there.

Mary's Miracles: A Traveler's Guide to Catholic America is available online and at Catholic book stores and gift shops.

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After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others whom he sent ahead of him in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit. - Luke 10: 1

LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS

Catholic Medical Association sponsors White Mass

The annual White Mass sponsored by the Catholic Medical Association (CMA) of Central Ohio will be celebrated at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 18, the Feast of St. Luke, the evangelist and physician, at the Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center, 64 W. Lane Ave.

Bishop Earl Fernandes will be principal celebrant. Concelebrants will be Father Adam Streitenberger, director of the center, and Father Bob Penhallurick, pastor of Hilliard St. Brendan the Navigator Church, who is chaplain of the local CMA chapter and has a Master's degree in bioethics.

It is known as the White Mass because of the white outfits worn by medical professionals and the white vestments worn at Mass for the feast day.

Seasons of Hope announces next sessions

The next six-week group of sessions sponsored by the Seasons of Hope Bereavement Ministry will take place on Sundays from Oct. 9 to Nov. 13 from 2 to 4 p.m. at Worthington St. Michael Church, 5750 N. High St.

The sessions, sponsored by the parishes of the North High Deanery, are for

anyone suffering from the loss of a loved one and looking for friends to share in the grief and healing process. Any appropriate COVID protocols will be followed.

To register, call Karen Droll at (614) 582-8848, or e-mail her at ksdroll@gmail.com. Registrations will be taken through Sunday, Oct. 23.

Recently ordained priest to speak at luncheon club

Father Paul Marich, OP, a Youngstown native who was ordained as a priest of the Dominican order this past May, will speak on his journey toward ordination on Friday, Oct. 7 at the monthly meeting of the Catholic Men's Luncheon Club.

The meeting will follow the 11:45 a.m. Mass at Columbus St. Patrick Church, 280 S. Grant Ave., where Father Marich is parochial vicar.

Free parking is available in the Columbus State Community College Grant Avenue parking lot (25-S), across the street the church. No reservations are necessary. A \$12 donation for the lunch and meeting is suggested.

The November lunch on Friday, Nov. 4 will feature Army Major Gen. (Ret.) Edward J. Mechenbier speaking on his nearly

six years as a prisoner of war in Vietnam.

The October luncheon will be sponsored by Able Printing. Contact Jim Gernetzke at jimgernetzke@noslumine.com if you are interested in sponsoring a future luncheon.

Ss. Augustine & Gabriel celebrates friends, family Mass

Columbus Ss. Augustine & Gabriel Church, 1550 E. Hudson St., will celebrate its autumn Friends and Family Mass on Sunday, Oct. 16, followed by a potluck. All current and past parishioners and former students of St. Augustine and St. Gabriel schools are invited.

Holy Cross to sponsor church tour next month

Columbus Holy Cross Church, 204 S. 5th St., is sponsoring a tour of the church building from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 13.

The church, built in 1833, is Columbus' oldest house of worship.

"First-time visitors to Holy Cross are frequently awed by the splendor which they experience when they enter the church," said Father Michael Gentry, its pastor. "Their reaction is understandable. Holy Cross Church presents

a worship space of visual magnificence.

"Parishioners may perhaps take somewhat for granted what they see on a regular basis. But an opportunity to give conscious attention to what has long been familiar can hopefully make it possible to see the same things anew in a deeper and more appreciative way."

Tour participants will be given an explanation of symbolism and significant details in its artwork, highlighting what is unique and unusual and even pointing out a major blooper. The tour will include biblical and theological commentary.

Refreshments will be served in the parish center after the presentation. If you are planning to attend, an RSVP to matthews9244@sbcglobal.net would be appreciated, but not necessary.

Christ the King reunion planned in November

The Columbus Christ the King School Class of 1970 will hold a reunion from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 5.

Contact Rick Boone for more details at 614-563-6854 or moonjuice56@gmail.com.

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CHAPEL MAUSOLEUM
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Pataskala, Ohio 43062
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MT. CALVARY CEMETERY
Deacon Jeffrey Fortkamp

2:00 P.M. PRAYER SERVICE

PRIEST CIRCLE
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