

# The Catholic TIMES

THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS' INFORMATION SOURCE

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### Diocesan merger possible

Last week, Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey Monforton announced that a merger of his diocese with the Diocese of Columbus is under consideration because of the declining population and number of Catholics in the region, a continued shortage of priests and economic issues, Page 3



### Catholic young adults meet

The annual diocesan Catholic Young Adult Conference featured guest speakers, breakout sessions, prayer and Mass on Saturday, Oct. 15 at Sunbury St. John Neumann Church, Page 7



### Mass, March for Life

A sizable crowd from throughout the state turned out on Wednesday, Oct. 5 for a Mass at St. Joseph Cathedral, a rally at the Statehouse and the Ohio March for Life in downtown Columbus, Page 8



## WORLD MISSION SUNDAY 2022: SPREADING THE FAITH, FEEDING SOULS

# More priests from religious orders coming to diocese

Father William Hahn, diocesan vicar for the clergy, has announced that members of the Pallottine order of priests will be serving as administrators at four more diocesan parishes.

Father Andrez Kozminski, SAC, who has been parochial vicar of Columbus St. Christopher Church, became administrator of Columbus Sacred Heart Church, effective Saturday, Oct. 1, and will become administrator of Columbus St. John the Baptist Church effective Tuesday, Nov. 1, All Saints Day.

Father Slawomir Siok, SAC, who has been serving outside the diocese, will become administrator of Columbus St. Mary Magdalene and St. Aloysius churches, effective Monday, Nov. 1.

Father Adam Streitenberger had been serving as administrator at Sacred Heart. He has been appointed as executive director at the Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center. Deacon Frank Iannarino has been administrator at St. John the Baptist. Father Patrick Toner is retiring as pastor at St. Mary Magdalene and St. Aloysius.

The Pallottines have been serving in

the diocese since 2021, when Father Wojciech Stachura, SAC, was appointed pastor of Columbus St. Christopher Church, a position he retains.

Priests belonging to what is formally known as the Society of the Catholic Apostolate are known as the Pallottines in honor of their founder, St. Vincent Pallotti. The order has approximately 2,300 members in more than 40 nations.

New assignments within the diocese also have been announced for priests of the Mercedarian, Missionary Servants of the Word and Theatine orders.

Mercedarian Father Daniel Bowen, O de M, has joined Fathers Michael Donovan, O de M, pastor, and Joseph Eddy, O de M at Columbus Holy Family Church. The Mercedarians – the Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mercy – came to the parish this year and plan to use the rectory as a student house for seminarians studying at the Pontifical College Josephinum to become priests of their order.

Father Eduardo Velazquez Alvarado, MSP, pastor of Columbus St. Stephen the Martyr Church, has been appointed

pastor of Columbus St. Agnes Church, with Father Efrain Villalobos Cuellar, MSP, parochial vicar at St. Stephen, succeeding him as pastor there.

Father Leonardo Cuautle, MSP, associate administrator at St. Stephen, has been appointed to service outside the diocese. All are members of the Missionary Servants of the Word, an order that has been serving the Latino community in Columbus since arriving at St. Stephen in 2011.

Theatine Fathers Victor Mendez Cano, CR; David Arroyo Alonso, CR; and Salvador Cisneros Carrillo, CR have been serving as parochial vicars at Columbus Christ the King and St. Thomas the Apostle churches since late July. Theatine Father Tomas Carvahal, CR, arrived in Columbus in July 2021 and is assigned to Dover St. Joseph Church.

Father Carvahal's arrival at Dover in 2021 marked the first assignment of a Theatine to serve in a state outside Colorado since the order left New York more than 100 years ago.

The Maronite Catholic community

in Columbus once again has a priest of its own. Father Jacques Kik has been assigned to pastoral ministry at Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Mission in Columbus by Bishop A. Elias Zaidan of the Maronite Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon, based in Los Angeles. Father Kik also is serving as part-time parochial vicar at Powell St. Joan of Arc Church.

Father Eugene Joseph has been reassigned from St. Joan of Arc to Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, where he is serving as parochial vicar. Father Joseph was born in India, moved to England when he was 10 years old and was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Columbus because he completed his seminary studies at the Pontifical College Josephinum.

His ordination took place in England in July 2021 because he had to return there as a result of paperwork problems related to his change in immigration status as a priest and because the COVID-related closing of the U.S. Embassy in London prevented processing of the paperwork.



## Clergy assignments announced

The Diocese of Columbus announced the following clergy changes that are effective on the dates noted below:

Confirming the nomination from the Prior Provincial, **Father Daniel A. Bowen, O. de M.**, from service outside the Diocese, to in residence, Holy Family Church, Columbus, effective September 2, 2022.

**Reverend Kenneth Brighenti**, from the Diocese of Metuchen, to priest faculty, Pontifical College Josephinum, effective September 22, 2022.

Confirming the nomination from the Prior Provincial, **Reverend Leonardo Cuautle, MSP**, from Associate Administrator, St. Stephen the Martyr Church, Columbus, to service outside the Diocese, effective October 1, 2022.

**Reverend Eugene Joseph**, from Parochial Vicar, St. Joan of Arc Church,

Powell, to Parochial Vicar, St. Joseph Cathedral, Columbus, effective September 20, 2022.

Confirming the assignment of Bishop A. Elias Zaidan, Bishop of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles, **Reverend Jacques Kik**, from service outside the Diocese, to pastoral ministry to the Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Mission in Columbus and residence and part-time Parochial Vicar, St. Joan of Arc Church, Powell, September 20, 2022.

Confirming the appointment of the Superior Delegate of the Society of the Catholic Apostolate (Pallottines), **Reverend Andrzej Koźmiński, S.A.C.**, from Parochial Vicar, St. Christopher Church, Columbus, to Administrator, Sacred Heart Church, Columbus, effective October 1, 2022 and St. John the Baptist Church, Columbus, effective

November 1, 2022.

Confirming the appointment of the Superior Delegate of the Society of the Catholic Apostolate (Pallottines), **Reverend Kamil Kudelko, S.A.C.**, from service outside the diocese, to Parochial Vicar, St. Christopher Church, Columbus, effective October 1, 2022.

Confirming the appointment of the Superior Delegate of the Society of the Catholic Apostolate (Pallottines), **Reverend Slawomir Siok, S.A.C.**, from service outside the diocese, to Administrator, St. Mary Magdalene and St. Aloysius Churches, Columbus, effective October 17, 2022.

**Reverend Patrick Toner**, from Pastor, St. Mary Magdalene and St. Aloysius Churches, to retirement, effective October 17, 2022.

Confirming the nomination from the

Provincial of the Theatine Fathers, **Reverend Victor Mendez Cano, CR**, **Reverend David Arroyo Alonso, CR**, and **Reverend Salvador Cisneros Carrillo, CR** from service outside the diocese, to Parochial Vicars, Christ the King and St. Thomas the Apostle Churches, Columbus, effective July 26, 2022.

Confirming the nomination from the Prior Provincial, **Eduardo Velazquez Alvarado, M.S.P.**, from Pastor, St. Stephen the Martyr Church, Columbus, to Pastor for Saint Agnes Church, effective October 1, 2022.

Confirming the nomination from the Prior Provincial, **Reverend Efrain Villalobos Cuellar, M.S.P.**, from Parochial Vicar, St. Stephen the Martyr Church, Columbus, effective October 1, 2022.



Front Page photo:

### WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

Cate Broadbent (right), who left Zanesville in 2018 for an apostolate as a missionary, prays with a family in Peru.

Photo courtesy Family Missions Company.

## The Catholic TIMES

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BISHOP EARL K. FERNANDES: President & Publisher  
DOUG BEAN: Editor (dbean@columbuscatholic.org)  
EMMA NOEL: Layout/Design (enoel@columbuscatholic.org)  
MAILING ADDRESS: 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215  
EDITORIAL/ADVERTISING: (614) 224-5195 | FAX (614) 241-2518  
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(subscriptions@columbuscatholic.org)

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# Steubenville-Columbus diocese merger under consideration



**Holy Name Cathedral in Steubenville**  
Photo courtesy Wikimedia Commons

Seventy-eight years after the Diocese of Steubenville was formed from counties that were part of the Diocese of Columbus, a process has begun to make the two possibly one again.

Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey Monforton informed his diocesan staff and clergy on Monday and announced publicly on Tuesday that a potential merger is being explored with Columbus.

Bishop Monforton indicated that Ohio's bishops have discussed what he called the "best solution" moving forward and that the Congregation for Bishops in Rome and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops have been apprised of the situation.

"There is concern about the effectiveness of our diocese in evangelization and celebration of the sacraments a decade from now," he said.

There is no estimate yet on how long a potential unification might take to move through the various channels or how the changes ultimately will be structured, including a destination for Bishop Monforton, 59.

Columbus Bishop Earl Fernandes expects the U.S. bishops to address the situation at their November plenary assembly in Baltimore. A possible suppression of the Steubenville diocese will need their approval before the Vatican becomes involved and issues a final decision.

"Prior to my arrival, the Ohio bishops discussed the matter of the viability of the Diocese of Steubenville," Bishop Fernandes said in an email to priests. "The Ohio bishops were unanimous that the situation in Steubenville couldn't continue much longer.

"At this point, I ask you to keep the Diocese of Steubenville and Bishop Monforton in your prayers as they receive this news."

The Diocese of Steubenville currently consists of 54 parishes and three missions, three high schools, one junior high and nine grade schools. It is also home to Franciscan University of Steubenville.

Thirty-six active priests (six age 70 and older and 12 in their 60s) and 14 deacons serve fewer than 30,000 Catholics, accounting for about 7% of the total popula-

tion of 490,000 in the Steubenville diocese, which has been hard hit in the past 40 years by economic woes, job losses and internal financial difficulties. By comparison, the next smallest diocese in Ohio is Youngstown with 146,000 Catholics.

Bishop Monforton cited a dramatic decline of 45% in Sunday Mass attendance over the past 30 years, including a 20% drop in the past nine years, and the dwindling and aging population in the Ohio Valley.

"We are reminded that stubbornness and fortitude are not synonymous," Bishop Monforton said. "Stubbornness serves self while fortitude, a virtue, serves Christ and his Church. It is with fortitude that we address this sad reality head-on.

"While we have much to be grateful for in our Christian discipleship since 1944, we owe it to our Lord Jesus Christ and the Church to address this difficult reality. In a way, like Jesus Christ, we fix our faces toward Jerusalem, fully aware that following the passion and death leads to the resurrection."

The Steubenville diocese's 13 counties are Athens, Belmont, Carroll, Gallia, Guernsey, Harrison, Jefferson, Lawrence, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble and Washington, stretching from the towns of Malvern and Minerva in the north to Ironton in the south. Eight of the 13 counties border the Ohio River.

Among the cities in the diocese besides Steubenville are Athens, Marietta, Ironton, Gallipolis, St. Clairsville, Carrollton and Cambridge. One of its notable churches, the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, is in Marietta.

The Diocese of Columbus encompasses approximately 220,000 Catholics across 23 counties. Bishop Fernandes was ordained and installed as the diocese's 13th bishop on May 31 at Westerville St. Paul Church.

The possible merger would be the second to occur in the United States in the past few years. In 2020, the Diocese of Juneau, Alaska, which had the fewest number of Catholics in an American diocese, was combined with the Archdiocese of Anchorage.

At this point, it remains unclear how any restructuring might take place among Steubenville, Columbus and potentially Ohio's other four Roman Catholic dioceses.

Pope Pius XII created the Diocese of Steubenville on Oct. 21, 1944, as a missionary diocese, splitting off the 13 counties in eastern and southeastern Ohio from the Diocese of Columbus due to the large geographic area.

Bishop John King Mussio, the chancellor in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, was installed on May 23, 1945, as Steubenville's first shepherd in Holy Name Cathedral. At that time, the 42-year-old Mussio was the country's youngest bishop.

Bishop Mussio, a former boxer, retired in 1977 and died a year later. Since then, four bishops have guided the Steubenville diocese, including Bishop Monforton, who was installed on Sept. 10, 2012 after serving in the Archdiocese of Detroit.

Two months after the creation of the Steubenville diocese, Bishop Michael Ready was appointed the fifth bishop of Columbus on Nov. 11, 1944, and one of his first major duties was to oversee the implementation of the new diocese while also adding counties to the Columbus diocese that were previously in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

In recent years, the Steubenville diocese has dealt with financial hardships and improprieties.


Former comptroller David Franklin embezzled nearly \$300,000 from the di-

ocese, which he acknowledged in federal court in July 2020, and also neglected to report to the Internal Revenue Service nearly \$2.8 million in payroll taxes that were withheld from employees. The diocese not only owed that amount to the U.S. government, but also Franklin's malfeasance resulted in an additional \$1 million in penalties and interest.

The following month, in August 2020, Msgr. Kurt Kemo confessed to taking more than \$300,000 from the diocese for personal indulgences but had paid back \$289,000 before he was sentenced to six months in state prison. Kemo, the former vicar general, had served as the diocesan administrator in the interim between Bishop Daniel Conlon's appointment to the Diocese of Joliet, Illinois, and Monforton's arrival.

Earlier this year, Bishop Monforton announced that, due to a lack of funds, he was canceling a renovation of Holy Name Cathedral that had started in 2014. Bishop James Hartley, the fourth bishop of Columbus, had received his first assignment as a pastor at Holy Name in 1885 when it was a parish church and was consecrated as a bishop there on Feb. 25, 1904 before being formally installed at St. Joseph Cathedral in Columbus on March 1, 1904.

*Your Catholic Cemeteries Invite You to Prayer Services for Your Deceased as a Complement to the Feasts of All Saints Day and All Souls Day...*



## CEMETERY SUNDAY

*November 6, 2022 at 2:00 pm*

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**RESURRECTION CEMETERY**  
*Deacon Steve Petrill*

**2:00 P.M. PRAYER SERVICE**

CHAPEL MAUSOLEUM  
9571 N. High St./U.S. Rt. 23 N.  
Lewis Center, Ohio 43035  
**614-888-1805**

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**ST. JOSEPH CEMETERY**  
*Deacon Roger Pry*

**2:00 P.M. PRAYER SERVICE**

OUR MOTHER OF SORROWS CHAPEL  
6440 S. High St./U.S. Rt. 23 S.  
Lockbourne, Ohio 43137  
**614-491-2751**

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**HOLY CROSS CEMETERY**  
*Fr. Leo Connolly*

**2:00 P.M. PRAYER SERVICE**

CHAPEL MAUSOLEUM  
11539 National Rd. S.W./U.S. 40 Rt. E.  
Pataskala, Ohio 43062  
**740-927-4442**

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**MT. CALVARY CEMETERY**  
*Deacon Jeffrey Fortkamp*

**2:00 P.M. PRAYER SERVICE**

PRIEST CIRCLE  
Mt. Calvary at W. Mound St.  
Columbus, Ohio 43223  
**614-491-2751**

**ST. ALOYSIUS BAZAAR**

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## Seeing dementia through a lens of gratitude

Most people look forward to their trips back home. They get to visit family members, stop at restaurants where they hung out as kids, laugh and share memories. That is not the experience I have when I go back home. That is also why building a strong family environment where Jesus fills the places and spaces of our daily lives is the foundation of our family's mission.

Nevertheless, Jesus reminds us in the Fourth Commandment that as sons and daughters we are called to honor our fathers and our mothers, and I know that in doing so we are formed more closely into the person God created us to be.

I have always upheld the sanctity of life. From the moment of conception to the moment of natural death, God has a plan for each life He creates. I have been looking at this plan from so many viewpoints lately as I care for my aging and ill father. I look at life from my lens and see myself in the throes of living, of doing and going. The verbs for him are changing, and with a great deal of prayer, I am seeing life from his lens, and my heart aches.

None of us truly knows when our time here on earth will end. God numbers our days, but with my father, he is sitting, waiting and, when asked, his list of regrets is longer than an eager child's Christmas list.

Loving someone with dementia forces you to look in

### ALL THAT WE HAVE

MaryBeth Eberhard

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



the mirror and see your humanity, your strengths and then your weaknesses. You realize the wounds you carry will not be healed by the one you are caring for even though he or she may be your parent. Perhaps even without the diagnosis, they never would. There is surrender here. Not a surrender where I hold up my hands and give up, but a waving of a white flag that says, "I can't do this on my own. I need You to lead me." How beautiful this white flag must be to Jesus!

The parent-child relationship is changing, but the honor must not. Learning to have grace with others helps us to be merciful with ourselves, and I have a feeling a whole lot of mercy and grace will be necessary on this next part of my journey with my father.

The lens I am using right now is also pointing me toward my own children and the life we have created and continue to live. As I reflect on the activeness of my life right now, I realize that a life lived with gratitude and giving will carry through the seasons.

## Why Vatican II was necessary

Writing my new book, *To Sanctify the World: The Vital Legacy of Vatican II* (Basic Books), afforded me the welcome opportunity to dig into the Council's 16 texts and the many fine commentaries on them. It also made me ponder why the Council was necessary. That question is often raised today by young Catholics who, unsettled by the excessive ecclesiastical air turbulence over the past decade and generally ill-informed about the pre-conciliar Church, imagine that everything in Catholicism was copacetic until John XXIII made the fatal mistake of summoning an ecumenical council. That, however, was not the view of some quite orthodox Catholic leaders in the decade before Vatican II.

Msgr. Giuseppe De Luca was a stalwart churchman who had drafted the Holy Office decree placing the books of 1947 Nobel Prize-winner André Gide on the Index of Forbidden Books. In 1953, however, he found the atmosphere in the Holy Office, the Suprema among curial offices, insufferable. So he vented his frustrations to Msgr. Giovanni Battista Montini (the future Pope Paul VI) in these no-nonsense terms: "In this suffocating atmosphere of unctuous and arrogant imbecility, perhaps a scream — chaotic but Christian

### THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

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



— would do some good."

Then there was the Swiss polymath-theologian Hans Urs von Balthasar. In 1952, he published a small book in German, *Razing the Bastions: On the Church in This Age*, in which he worried that the great Catholic tradition had become fossilized and had "slipped out of the [Church's] living center of holiness." The "great salvage operation" of the Counter-Reformation had been necessary, Balthasar argued, but it was over, and the Church had to get out of its defensive crouch and get on with offering humanity the truth of God in Christ.

In the years after the Council, Joseph Ratzinger (the future Pope Benedict XVI), one of the three most influential theologians at Vatican II, knew that the Council's reception was imperfect and its implementation even more imperfect. Nonetheless, he identified further reasons why Vatican II was necessary and why its teaching was essential for the Church's life going forward:

"[The] Council reinserted into the Church as a whole a doctrine of [papal] primacy that was dangerously isolated; it integrated into the one mystery of the Body of Christ a too-isolated conception of the hierarchy; it restored to the ordered unity of faith an isolated Mariology; it gave the biblical word its full due; it made the liturgy once

more accessible; and, in addition, it made a courageous step forward toward the unity of all Christians."

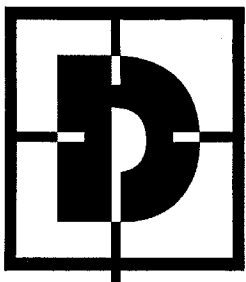
Thus the Council had many theological and doctrinal achievements to its credit. These were crucial to rekindling a radical, Christ-centered faith that would be the source of a revitalized Catholic mission to convert the modern world. Similarly, the Council's rejection of Catholic triumphalism was good in itself and necessary for its mission: "It was both necessary and good for the Council to put an end to the false forms of the Church's glorification of self on earth, and by suppressing her compulsive tendency to defend her past history, to eliminate her false justification of self."

That having been done, however, Ratzinger believed that continual, obsessive self-flagellation put another obstacle in the path of evangelization and mission. Unlocking the promise of the Second Vatican Council meant renewing our faith in the Lord's pledge "to be with you always" (Matthew 28:20). So, the future pope concluded, "it is time ... to reawaken our joy in the reality of an unbroken community of faith in Jesus Christ. We must rediscover that luminous trail that is the history of the saints and of the beautiful — a history in which the joy of the Gospel has been irrefutably expressed throughout the centuries."

That reference to "the saints and the beautiful" helps us understand another reason why Vatican II was necessary. The Church's pre-conciliar proclamation and apologetics were strong on logic. But a world become irreligious — not pagan, for paganism had a sense of this world's englobement in a greater reality, but irreligious, tone-deaf to rumors of angels — was not, in the main, going to be converted by logical demonstrations. It would be converted by holiness, manifest in the lives of those who had become friends of the Lord Jesus Christ and joined themselves to his cause. It would be converted by the Church offering more beauty than the world could manage to create.

Where Catholicism is alive today, and Vatican II well-received and implemented, it is because local churches have embraced holiness and beauty as evangelical and catechetical pathways toward a Christocentric future.

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# Psychedelic drugs and new mental health treatments

Researchers are investigating a new generation of drugs for treating mental illness derived from psychedelic substances. A molecule known as psilocybin, for example, found in “magic mushrooms,” appears to be helpful in treating patients with depression. Although these powerful psychoactive substances can be abused for their hallucinogenic/psychedelic properties, several strategies can help assure their therapeutic use in an ethically-sound way for the treatment of mental illness.

One strategy involves an approach known as “microdosing.” A microdose relies on a fraction of the dose that typically causes a hallucinogenic, psychedelic experience. Anti-depressant benefits have been reported with doses a 10th to a 20th of the psychotropic “tripping dose,” thereby avoiding a full-blown psychedelic experience.

A 2022 study published in the journal *Nature* by researchers from the University of British Columbia confirmed that at one month post-treatment, psilocybin microdosers demonstrated greater observed improvements in mood and mental health when compared with non-microdosed controls.

In addition to psilocybin, a faster-acting psychedelic drug known as dimethyltryptamine, or DMT, is also being studied for its ability to provide durable anti-depressant activity for some patients, with benefits reportedly lasting three to five months after treatment.

Psychedelic-assisted approaches show particular promise when combined with psychotherapy sessions to treat severe depression or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or both. After a microdosing session, an individual may report feeling more emotionally tender, more sensitive to his or her own feelings, and more open to breaking out of neurotic thought loops.

In the hands of a skilled therapist, it may be possible to use that period of reflection to help a patient find his or her way through a past trauma. Integration becomes quite important, as the therapist seeks to “imprint” new insights and create new pathways.

Some clinicians have emphasized that without sup-

## MAKING SENSE OUT OF BIOETHICS

Father Tad Pacholczyk



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

portive interventions and appropriate psychotherapy, if a painful experience is unlocked, there is a risk of re-traumatization and severe stress. Individuals being treated with psychedelics might be triggered to confront unanticipated and painful memories; alternatively, visceral, uncomfortable or frightening experiences may be provoked, potentially making matters worse for an individual who is seeking improved mental health. Accompaniment and therapy in psychedelic treatment is, therefore, particularly important. An already-established, trusted and tested relationship with a psychotherapist is invaluable prior to turning toward approaches that rely on drug-induced alterations of one’s mental state.

Although the physiological safety of psychedelics is relatively well established, psychological and psychiatric effects are less predictable, with effects that depend on setting, health, mood, belief systems and cultural environment. A good measure of caution and circumspection are required and these agents should only be used under skilled supervision. People have entered into states of psychosis after experimenting with psychedelic drugs. Experiencing a “bad trip” can leave individuals with flashbacks for years. If someone is already on the brink of psychosis or despair, the wrong experience could be very damaging.

When it comes to psychotherapy, moreover, not all practitioners will necessarily be equally competent. The adage, “Be careful who you allow to walk in the landscape of your mind,” implies that care and practical wisdom are called for when pursuing profession-

al guidance and support. A competent Catholic psychotherapist can assist with treatment from a holistic angle that integrates spiritual, religious and psychological dimensions, all of which may be needed for healing therapies to be most effective.

Young people require special attention and protection from drug-induced effects. Early exposure to mind-altering drugs can turn into disastrous multi-year stretches with various addictions. Mind-altering drugs raise the prospect of pushing youth with fragile, still-developing neural circuits “over the edge” and leading them into a future marked by struggles with substance dependencies.

For more extreme cases of depression, patients receiving larger psychedelic doses than microdoses have also sometimes reported enduring improvements. Advocates for the use of psychedelic substances note that while some may recoil at the prospect of “tripping” or encountering distortions in perception, those facing severe depression already have a highly distorted perception and that such drugs may help derail patterns of neural activity that underlie these distortions.

As clinical work with psychedelic substances advances, we may begin to see the development of other variants of these molecules that will offer desirable therapeutic outcomes without the “hallucinations” that are often seen as a barrier for these types of drugs.

Recognizing a certain eagerness on the part of the public to become early adopters of psychotropic therapies, e.g. marijuana treatments promoted on limited evidence, it remains important to emphasize how prudence and caution are in order. In the words of one researcher, “public uptake of microdosing has outpaced evidence, mandating further prospective research.”

As these drugs begin to appear on the scene for valid therapeutic purposes, it will be important to acknowledge the risks and dangers of non-monitored or self-administered psychedelics, even as we seek to identify and carefully minister to mental health subpopulations that may benefit significantly from these novel and promising approaches.

## Holy Spirit can help us share Jesus with others

One of the things I love about our exercise class is the lighthearted banter, the sharing and the joy that we have in hearing about each other’s lives while training nearly 10 years together.

We respect each other and honor each other’s dignity and privacy. The camaraderie eases the challenges of the workouts and makes the environment comfortable, supportive and fun.

The lighthearted banter, sharing, fun and mutual respect are also a doorway into sharing Jesus and inviting others into a relationship with Him. When I was involved in *Cum Christo*, we said, “Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ” in that order. People are more open to hearing about faith, God, Jesus and prayer when they know that you care about and love them first.

I’ve shared about Jesus with some of my fitness friends and others who don’t know Him because we have something else in common first — a family, hobby or work connection, for example. Sometimes I’m struck by the fact that I’m the only active Christian this person knows.

I ask the Holy Spirit to lead me into authentic conversations with people in a way that can help them know that Jesus loves them and desires a relationship

## HOLY AND HEALTHY

Lori Crock

*Lori Crock is a SoulCore Rosary prayer and exercise leader and a St. Brendan parishioner. Lori is online at [holyanhealthy catholic.com](http://holyanhealthy catholic.com), where she shares her passion for faith and fitness.*



with them.

Recently I was visiting some longtime friends out of state, and one of them asked me a question during a lively dinner discussion: If a company develops medicine/technology that allows people to live 30 more years, would I do it?

I pondered this for a moment and asked the Holy Spirit to guide my answer. My reply was that I’d have to pray about it and research the Church’s position on it, and that my No. 1 priority is to be with God in eternity someday, so delaying that by 30 years doesn’t seem like something I’d like to do.

This led to a deep conversation about God, faith, family, humanity and the current cultural challenges we face in all seasons of our lives. At first, I wasn’t sure if what I said had an impact

on my friend, but at one point he admitted that he didn’t know his Catholic faith and said he would like

to learn more.

I asked him his preferred method of learning, and he said podcasts and videos (not books). I immediately forwarded to him links to leading Catholic voices whom I think are accessible (and, at times, lighthearted) no matter where we are on our faith journey such as Father Mike Schmitz, Bishop Robert Barron and Father Josh Johnson. He was open and grateful.

Our friendship, laughter, mutual respect and common interests (family and baseball) fostered this powerful conversation. I will try to keep it going with lighthearted encouragement and sharing of resources as I feel prompted.

We never know how God will work in someone’s heart, but we do know He can use any means to reach someone. Even our small, feeble attempts to share our faith can bear fruit. Thank you, Holy Spirit.

Let us be ready and willing to enter into these conversations about faith with boldness and joy under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

From 1 Peter:15-16 “Always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who calls you to account for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and reverence.” Praise be Jesus Christ, now and forever, Amen.



Open House  
November 6

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# Conference aims to keep faith alive among young adults

By Jake Asuncion

The Columbus Catholic Young Adult Conference was held Saturday, Oct. 15, at Sunbury St. John Neumann Church. The theme of the conference was “Presence,” and the Bible verse the theme was based on is from Galatians 2:20: “Yet I live, no longer, but Christ lives in me; insofar as I live in the flesh, I live by faith in the son of God who has loved me and given himself up for me.”

A Pew Research survey conducted in 2008 found that 71% of Catholics would leave the faith for Protestantism, and 12% for unaffiliated/none by age 23. The Catholic Young Adult Conference aims to confront this issue of young adults leaving the Church by sharing the Gospel with them and empowering them to be evangelizers.

Pope St. Paul VI, in *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, writes, “Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.”

Conference keynote speakers were Kim Zember and Father Michael Fulton. Zember is the founder of Overcome Ministries, which helps people who struggle with same-sex attraction to live an authentic life as a child of God and a life of chastity in God’s grace.

She once lived a homosexual lifestyle, but after years of feeling unfulfilled, she realized she needed to change. By God’s grace and love, she now speaks nationwide about the love and mercy of God and how they can change lives. The theme for Zember’s talk was holiness.

Father Fulton is parochial vicar at Columbus Christ the King Church. Since his years attending St. John Neumann as a high schooler, Father Fulton had a love for the Holy Eucharist. While in seminary, he continued to dive deeper into the Mass and saw how important it is for all Catholics. The theme for his talk was mission.

Other speakers were Noah Gilchrist, a ministry leader at Damascus Catholic Mission Campus in Knox County; Father Jacob Stinnett, parochial vicar for a three-parish consortium in southern

Ohio; Sister John Paul, O.P., principal of Worthington St. Michael School; and Drew Snyder, director of evangelization at Christ the King Church.

Before the talks began, conference emcee Brad Pierron reminded everyone in attendance of their universal call to holiness and mission.

Then Zember shared a message about God’s love and how it changed her life. She focused on the call to holiness and being loved by God first. She said that

sometimes people focus too much on what they do and then think this is how God loves them. People tend to think that they can love others out of their own love, and that they can fix themselves. Rather, she said, “we love because He first loved us.” (1 John 4:19)

She said that God’s transformative love is what makes people holy, but they need to be loved by Him. A person’s identity is not in the things he or she does, but from being a child of God, she said. People need to have a relationship with God, which leads to their identity as a child of God, she said.

Father Fulton shared his message of a call to mission. He pointed out how important the presence of God was to the Israelites in the Old Testament. Not only did they worship God, but they also made sure that His presence was the center of their lives and cities, he said. If the Israelites focused on the importance of the presence of God in their lives, why aren’t we doing the same thing? he asked.

The trappings of the Mass aren’t for show but to remind the faithful that God is among His people, he said. Father



Participants gather around a fire at the Columbus Catholic Young Adult Conference on Saturday, Oct. 15 at Sunbury St. John Neumann Church.

Photo courtesy Amanda Mahle

Fulton reminded the audience that they need to focus on God’s presence in their lives because this is what propels them in their mission.

The conference’s final speaker was Father Dan Dury, pastor of St. John Neumann Church. His homily focused on the Gospel reading for Sunday, Oct. 16, and the need for prayer.

Jake Asuncion is a Diocese of Columbus seminarian at the Pontifical College Josephinum.



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# Ohio March for Life draws statewide participation

By Tim Puet  
For *The Catholic Times*

A crowd estimated at 2,000 people and representing every Catholic diocese in Ohio filled the west lawn of the Statehouse for the inaugural Ohio Rally and March for Life on Wednesday, Oct. 5. They heard from leaders of the national March for Life education fund and of several of the state's largest pro-life organizations, with the hourlong program followed by a march in downtown Columbus.

Jeanne Mancini of the Washington-based March for Life said the U.S. Supreme Court's June 24 *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* ruling, which held that the Constitution does not confer a right to abortion, was in large measure the result of "events like this where you are publicly witnessing to the dignity of the unborn person."

"Our work is not over but is in a new, perhaps more important, phase," she said, and then asked the audience, "Will you love the unborn heroically? Do you think abortion is the human rights issue of our day? Will you march for the day when abortion is unthinkable in Ohio and the United States?"

She also invited the crowd to the 50th March for Life in Washington on Jan. 22. That day marks the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* ruling, which the *Dobbs* decision overturned.

"Ohio is a pro-life state," said Aaron Baer, president of the Center for Christian Virtue, the state's largest Christian public policy organization. "From the (Ohio General Assembly's) passage of the Heartbeat Bill (that prohibits most abortions after the first detectable fetal heartbeat), to the pregnancy centers throughout our 88 counties, Ohio has made protecting unborn children and their mothers a priority. Passing legislation is easy. Now we have to transform the way we view sex and the family and each other," he said. "We have to purge society of ideas such as that kids are a burden and that women are objects to be used and abused."

Peter Range, executive director of Ohio Right to Life, said his organization is concentrating on "what" and "how" issues. The "what" is legislative passage of the Human Life Protection Act.

The "how" involves three areas: being rooted and grounded in love for everyone in the abortion process, including abortion doctors and nurses; suffering with parents in need who have decided to choose life; and proclaiming the dignity of the human person and that everyone is made in God's image and likeness.

"I'm here to tell you that each one of you has a mission and a purpose in life and that you will fulfill it," he said. "Every preborn also has a mission and purpose, and our mission is to help them fulfill it."

The day of the event was sunny and



The Ohio March for Life began on High Street in downtown Columbus.

CT photos by Ken Snow



Diocese of Youngstown Bishop David Bonnar offers the opening prayer at the Ohio March for Life on Oct. 5.

mild, a marked contrast from the weather during the *Roe* Remembrance programs that have taken place at the Statehouse every January on the anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision. Margie Christie, president of the Right to Life Action Coalition of Ohio, noted that at the beginning of her talk.

"I'd much rather march in October than January," she said. Christie said she's often asked, "Why do you march?" and her response is, "Every life, born or unborn, has a God-given right to grow and live out their destiny. Motherhood and fatherhood are the most important roles anyone can play. If we don't speak up for moms and dads, who will?"

She urged the audience to "keep on marching, speaking out, buying diapers, protesting and waving signs."

Ruth Cabrera-Henriquez, a mother of two boys, said she was ready to abort her first child after a doctor recommended it because of complications in the womb. But she went to another doctor for a second opinion, and he referred her to a pregnancy help center for an ultrasound.

"When I saw my baby in the ultrasound, I knew I couldn't go through with

the abortion," she said. "I can't imagine my life without both of my children."

Her first child, Victor, appeared with her on the stage and said, "I'm happy the pregnancy center helped Mommy. I love my life."

Also speaking were Alveda King, daughter of civil rights activist A.D. King and niece of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and Ohio Rep. Jena Powell,

R-Arcanum. The invocation was delivered by Bishop David Bonnar of the Diocese of Youngstown and the closing prayer by Pastor David Forbes of the Columbus Christian Center.

Entertainment before the rally was provided by Damascus Catholic Mission Campus. Mary Sara Menkhaus of Damascus sang the national anthem, and children from Tree of Life Christian School in Columbus led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The rally was preceded by a Mass at St. Joseph Cathedral, with Bishop Bonnar as homilist. Columbus Bishop Earl Fernandes was out of town, and the state's other bishops were unable to attend.

Bishop Bonnar's homily contained frequent references to St. Joseph and his title "defender of life," and to St. Paul, who wrote in the day's first Scripture reading about his charge to preach the Gospel to the uncircumcised and to be "mindful of the poor."

"Like St. Joseph, we are called to be a ministry of presence to those whose life is threatened or diminished. And like St. Paul, we are bound to be mindful of the poor among us, especially those who have no voice, chance or enough resources. But we can do none of this work alone, for we are always dependent on God to lead us on the journey of life," he said.

"Despite the sharp and painful differences that divide us not just on the issues of life but so much more, if we are truly proponents and advocates of life, and if we seek to be like St. Joseph and St. Paul, we cannot judge or disregard the life of those who think differently than us. We cannot dismiss the fact that God created them, too. They are life, too.

"At the same time, we must never hesitate to take these individuals and the differences that are ours to prayer, asking the Father to 'lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.'

"And we must never stop beholding the example and intercession of our universal patron, St. Joseph, who welcomed, cherished and safeguarded life."



Sidney Lehman High School students attended Mass at St. Joseph Cathedral before the march.

## Ohioans show solidarity in support for life at Mass, march

Children, high school and college students, seminarians, priests and religious were among the crowd of about 2,000 on Oct. 5 at the Ohio March for Life.

The largest groups of young people traveled from Cincinnati Elder High School and Sidney Lehman High School for the march and to attend a Mass for Life at St. Joseph Cathedral. Eighth-graders from Worthington St. Michael School also were present as were numerous right-to-life groups.

Colleges represented included Walsh University in North Canton for both the Mass and march and Franciscan University of Steubenville, whose students carried the banner at the beginning of the march, which began in front of the Statehouse on South High Street and went north before turning on Gay Street and then onto Wall Street before returning to the capitol building on East Broad Street.

The contingent from Walsh included about 35 from the Cavs for Life group. Diocese of Youngstown Bishop David Bonnar, who celebrated the Mass in Columbus in Bishop Earl Fernandes' absence, mentioned the students from his diocese during the Mass.

Walsh director of campus ministry Ben Walther said, "We're very proud to be pro-life at Walsh, and we wouldn't want to miss this opportunity for the first-ever Ohio March for Life. We also wanted to rally behind our bishop.

"We know there's a lot of work to do still at the state level, and we'll continue to go to the National March for Life as well. But we want to use this as an opportunity to educate our students how important it is to be in touch with our senators, our legislators, our representatives for all pro-life causes."

The U.S. Supreme Court ruling in June that overturned *Roe v. Wade* and returned decisions on abortion back to the states has given the pro-life movement a long-awaited shot in the arm, but almost everyone agreed Wednesday that one major victory is not enough in the battle



# On World Mission Sunday, be a witness to Jesus Christ

By Sister Zephрина Mary, FIH  
Director, Diocesan Missions Office

The theme of the 2022 World Mission Day is “You shall be my witnesses.” (Acts 1:8) Oct. 23 is World Mission Sunday, the day set aside every year for Catholics worldwide to recommit themselves to the missionary work of the Church.

As we celebrate this day, it should serve as a continuing commitment to build the Church as the Christian community where nothing separates us – language, nation, culture, ethnicity or gender. We remember that we are all one human family; we are all children of God. We are not missionaries for this one day alone, but every day.

In 2021, the faithful of the Diocese of Columbus contributed \$63,866.01 to the World Mission Sunday collection. On behalf of Bishop Earl Fernandes and Msgr. Kieran Harrington, national director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, thank you for your generosity and kindness toward the missions of the Church.

Pope Francis released the theme of the 2022 World Mission Day on the Feast of the Epiphany. The pope said, “This is the central point, the heart of Jesus’ teaching to the disciples, in view of their being sent forth into the world. The disciples are to be witnesses of Jesus, thanks to the grace of the Holy



**A man paints the inside of a church in Uganda.** Photo courtesy Diocese of Arua

Spirit that they will receive. Wherever they go and in whatever place they find themselves.

“Christ was the first to be sent, as a ‘missionary’ of the Father (cf. John 20:21), and as such, he is the Father’s ‘faithful witness.’ (cf. Revelation 1:5) In a similar way, every Christian is called to be a missionary and witness to Christ. And the Church, the community of Christ’s disciples, has no other mission than that of bringing the Gospel to the entire world by bearing witness to Christ.” (Rome, St. John Lateran, Jan. 6, 2022)

World Mission Sunday, instituted in 1926 by Pope Pius XI at the request of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, calls us each year in the spirit of

the Church’s unity and universality to a renewed commitment to everyone’s responsibility for the spreading of the Gospel message.

Pope St. John Paul II said, “I feel it my duty to recall the wise disposition of my predecessors Pope Pius XI and John XXIII, who stipulated that all offerings collected on World Mission Sunday be destined in their entirety to the needs of the mission ad gentes.” (Vatican City, June 7, 1992)

St. Pauline Marie Jaricot founded the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, which was formally established on May 3, 1822. Despite the challenges that the missions confronted during the pandemic, the 200th anniversary is cause for joy.

Father Tadeusz J. Nowak, OMI, secretary general of the Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith, wrote: “Thank you for your generous and valuable service to the mission entrusted to us by the Holy Father, inspired by our beloved foundress, Pauline Marie Jaricot. May the Lord bless us all so that we may continue to respond to the vocation that Pauline courageously accepted in devoting her life to evangelizing the world so that the gospel can take root in every country and culture to the ends of the world.” (In Fides, May 4, 2021)

Our planet contains more than 7 billion people, and two-thirds of them do not believe in Jesus Christ. The number of Catholics is more than 1 billion. Christians number almost 2 billion. According to the Vatican Second Vatican, missionary proclamation has conversion as its goal: “That non-Christians be freely converted to the Lord under the action of the Holy Spirit who opens their hearts so that they may adhere to him.” (Ad Gentes, 13)

Jesus is the only Savior who redeemed all humanity through His death and resurrection and freely gave eternal salvation to all. Perhaps, to receive this blissful eternity after our death, we need to believe and accept Jesus Christ is our God and Redeemer.

We continue to promote global missions by coordinating and managing the mission programs and collections in our diocese. You enable us to plan, continue in mission and share the good news – Christ’s love and mercy toward communities locally and globally.

Your part in our shared Church’s mission will be rewarded by God’s blessings. Let us unite with Catholics across the globe to pray and offer sacrifices and gifts for the missionary work of the Church. Our Lady, Queen of the Missions, pray for us!

## Bishop urges prayers, donations for missions

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We celebrate World Mission Sunday the weekend of Oct. 22-23 this year. I am looking forward to the Diocesan Eucharistic celebration on Saturday, Oct. 22 at the 5:15 p.m. Mass at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral. I hope that you are able to join me at this Mass, where we focus our attention on the missionary task of the Church – not only worldwide, but also here in the Diocese of Columbus and within ourselves.

I encourage all the faithful in the diocese to recommit to our common vocation that is received through baptism to be missionaries “to the ends of the earth.” While the Mass will focus on our efforts here in the diocese, I also ask you to focus on this mission through prayer, participation in the Eucharist and by giving generously to the World Mission Sunday collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

Pope Francis’ message for World Mission Sunday this year reflects on the theme “You shall be my witnesses.” (Acts 1:8) It highlights our zealous participation in evangelization. Together, through our prayers and financial sup-

port, we bring the Lord’s mercy and concrete help to the most vulnerable communities in the pope’s missions.

I invite to you join in union with Catholics throughout the world in prayer and personal sacrifice made to God through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. I am most grateful for your mission solidarity.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*+ Earl U. Fernandes*

Bishop of Columbus

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## For sister, study in Dominican Republic turned into life's work

By Sister Carol Ann Gross, OP

In September 1990, I traveled to the Dominican Republic to study Spanish. My 13-week experience of study and getting to know our Adrian Dominican Sisters and their work with the poor in this beautiful country changed my life.

I fell in love with the Dominican people. Their enthusiasm for life, their resilience and their generosity led me to ask to return to minister among them.

For 31 years, I ministered in the countryside and in the poor, crowded barrios of the city, ending with a "ministry to the ministers" in spiritual direction. My favorite and most active involvement was in the poor barrio of Haina, just outside the capital city of Santo Domingo, where I spent 16 years and where I continue to serve on the board of a not-for-profit organization that spon-

sors a neighborhood health clinic.

The clinic opened in 2005 when our sister parish in Michigan sent us \$5,000. At the same time, one of our young people was finishing his medical degree and needed a placement to do service for a year. With another \$5,000 from a foundation, we established our medical clinic in the newly built sacristy of our chapel.

With help from volunteers in the neighborhood, our first project was to set up stations in homes where mothers could get help when their babies became sick, usually because of contamination in the environment.

Oral rehydration and instruction were given, and many babies were saved from trips to the hospital and even from death. Mothers learned and passed on their knowledge of what to do so that gradually they took care of these needs themselves.

Volunteers assisted the doctor in the out-



**Students at Espiritu Santo Fe y Alegria School.** Photo provided by Sister Carol Gross

reach and in the clinic, serving as receptionists and assistants. One of them was Eliza. At first, she avoided anything medical. Gradually she overcame her fears and became a very competent assistant.

Her confidence led her to finish her high-school education. She then enrolled in the university and is completing her

nursing degree this fall. She manages the clinic and provides the nursing care that is so sorely needed by the poor in our barrio who have no place else to go.

Helping people help themselves is one important aspect of our mission work. People like Eliza, our young doctor and many of our teachers, administrators and pastoral workers continue to grow in their knowledge and commitment to serving their own people.

A school started by our sisters 28 years ago is almost fully staffed by teachers and administrators who began with either a high school education or who are alumni of the school. Most have been helped by scholarships funded by those who have given generously to mission appeals, like you of the Columbus Diocese. We thank you and pray for you as you continue to reach out to those close to you and to those who live beyond our borders.

## Couple helps Cambodian children living with HIV/AIDS

John and Kathy Tucker left their home in central Texas to serve as Catholic lay missionaries in 1997. They served in Oaxaca, Mexico for three years before joining Maryknoll and moving to Cambodia in 2000 to serve there.

Cambodia is in southeast Asia, and from 1975 to 1979 it suffered from the genocide of the communist Khmer Rouge. The Khmer Rouge caused the deaths of 1.7 million Cambodians including most of the educated population.

John and Kathy started working in a Maryknoll program that helped adults dying of AIDS. They soon realized that, as the adults died, they often left behind children with no one to care for them. Often, the children were also infected with HIV, and many were sick and dying.

In response, John and Kathy founded and directed the successful Little Sprouts program through Maryknoll. They raised funds to purchase antiretroviral medications (ARVs) for Cambodian children.

ARV medications totally suppress but do not destroy the HIV virus. They must



**Children in the village.**

Photo provided by John and Kathy Tucker

be taken daily and consistently to keep the virus inactive. If not, it reactivates and begins to destroy the body's immune system, making a child vulnerable to opportunistic infections that lead to death.

The program grew to become the largest pediatric HIV/AIDS treatment program in southeast Asia, supplying more than 400 children with free ARV medications.

In 2006, seeing an urgent need for expanded assistance to support the estimated 4,000 Cambodian children living with HIV/AIDS, John and Kathy founded New

Hope for Cambodian Children (NHCC).

At that time, no orphanage in Cambodia would accept children infected with HIV/AIDS. NHCC's primary goal is to provide children orphaned or abandoned due to their HIV a safe and loving place to live and thrive.

NHCC built a village outside of the capital, Phnom Penh, on 18 acres. Twenty-four family style houses were constructed in which eight to 10 children can live with trained house parents.

Houses were grouped in a cluster of three with a dedicated kitchen and eating area. At one time, 240 orphans and abandoned children lived in Our Village.

Thanks to the current availability of antiretroviral medicine in Cambodia, women with HIV are no longer infecting their babies with the virus at birth, and the mothers are not dying of AIDS. As children are no longer being infected at birth or orphaned, new children are not being referred to NHCC for residential care.

NHCC currently has 75 orphans and abandoned children with HIV/AIDS living in Our Village.

NHCC also provides total support for another 25 children in the New Hope Houses program. They have completed their studies in Our Village and have moved to urban Phnom Penh to study in a university or complete vocational training. NHCC pays their tuition and covers housing, food, medical care, transportation and support staff costs.

To help the young adults who have left the formal support of NHCC but still encounter problems as they become self-supporting, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, NHCC has started Hope Plus.

This program provides temporary support to young adults if they lose their job or have other emergencies. It also helps them to keep taking their medicines. Three hundred young adults have access to this program.

New Hope for Cambodian Children collaborates with the country's government and non-governmental organizations to assist Cambodian children and their families living with HIV/AIDS. For more information, visit [www.newhopeforcambodianchildren.org](http://www.newhopeforcambodianchildren.org).

## Congregation educates, cares for poor children in India

The state of Odisha, in eastern India, is the 11th largest state by population in the country, with approximately 42 million people, most of them living in rural areas.

The state has the third largest tribal population in the country. Odisha is home to 13 vulnerable tribal groups, and 32.6 percent of the population lives below the poverty line.

The state, which borders the Bay of Bengal, is prone to cyclones, floods and drought. Odisha has the highest newborn mortality rate in the country at 32 deaths per 1,000 live births with steep urban-rural disparities. About 800,000 children remain partially immunized or un-immunized, most of these in 14 tribal dominated districts.

The problems of the children can be traced to high levels of poverty, rigid social norms and cultural practices, displacement of families and frequent natu-

ral calamities. And the COVID pandemic made the situation worse. Children dropping out of school and a lack of accessibility to education are also problems.

These children can be supported only through institutions where they can be cared for, protected, educated and brought up as good citizens. So, the Congregation of the Sons of the Immaculate Conception (CFIC) is extending its mission in these needy areas of India where its members can fully actualize its charism and the vision of its founder, Luigi Maria Monti.

St. Joseph's Nivas, the new community of CFIC Indian Province in Odisha, aims to extend the congregation's youth mission. St. Joseph's Nivas is in Serema, in Rayagada Diocese, and is near St. Francis Xavier Parish Church in Gumuda.

The community is designed to house poor



**Children in the Indian state of Odisha are served by the Society of the Sons of the Immaculate Conception.**

Photo courtesy CFIC

and needy children of the area. It cares for and educates the needy children of the villages of the parish as well as nearby parishes.

The children who are admitted to the poor boys home will be educated in the St. Ann's English Medium CBSE School,

which is near the community. The initial plan is to accommodate 50 students and, in the coming years, up to 200 students.

The purpose of this mission is to provide poor children with a safe place; good education in a Catholic school; good food and adequate clothing; adequate medical care; physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual formation; a disciplined life; counseling and motivation for a better future.

Caring for children is a big responsibility entrusted to all by Jesus. For members of the Congregation of the Sons of the Immaculate Conception, it is their duty and the charism of their founder to care for poor children.

Many children in the tribal communities lack food, education and clothing. So, members of the religious congregation reach out to them and form them for a better tomorrow through their children's mission.

# God's call led area missionary to Mexico, Peru and back to U.S.

By Tim Puet  
For *The Catholic Times*

Cate Broadbent of Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas Church said she first heard God's call to serve as a missionary more than 25 years ago. Her response to that summons has taken her on a path that started in Ohio and has led to Mexico, back to Ohio, to Peru and back again to the United States.

Today she is serving as media and communications manager for the Family Missions Company (FMC), which is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year and is the subject of a story elsewhere in this week's *Catholic Times*. FMC is based in Abbeville, Louisiana, and she works for the organization remotely from Fort Collins, Colorado, where she lives with her husband, Mike.

Broadbent grew up in New Concord, graduated from John Glenn High School in that community and attended St. Thomas Aquinas Church because Zanesville was the closest community with a Catholic parish.

"When I was very young, I heard a missionary priest present a Mission Sunday homily at St. Thomas on his experiences in Africa. That stirred something in me that I eventually discerned to be a calling

to serve God," she said.

"I graduated from John Glenn in 2000 and went directly from there to work with the Apostolate for Family Consecration (AFC)," an association founded in 1975 by Servant of God Gwen Coniker and her husband, Jerry, and based at a former seminary in Bloomingdale, near Steubenville.

The AFC supports and challenges Catholic families to grow in holiness and truth together so that they can become fully alive in Christ. It offers Catholic family vacations and retreats at the former seminary, now known as Catholic Familyland. Broadbent was with the organization from 2000 to 2013, including four years in Mexico, where AFC had missionaries for several years but no longer has a presence.

"I fell in love with the culture in Mexico and felt I would be doing missionary work again, but decided after 13 years with AFC that it was time to go back home to Zanesville, where I used the talents God gave me as a graphic designer and communicator and served as music minister at St. Thomas," she said.

She remained in that position from 2014 to 2018. "During much of that time, I felt my work in the mission field was not finished," she said. "A friend of mine



**Cate Broadbent is joined by her music students in Peru.**

*Photo courtesy Family Missions Company*

who was with FMC persuaded me to visit an FMC mission in Mexico, where I saw Catholic families performing corporal and spiritual works of mercy, preaching and serving the poor.

"This reawakened my desire to be a missionary. I hated to leave Zanesville, but the call to the missions was that strong, and I knew I had the encouragement of Father Jan Sullivan, the pastor at St. Thomas, and the parishioners there," Broadbent said.

She was with FMC in Peru from 2018 to

2020. "Missionary work there involved all age groups, everything from youth ministry to working with the elderly," she said. "One of the most important things we did was serving as catechists in the absence of priests.

"The area I served had two priests covering about 100 miles. They couldn't stop at every village each Sunday, so we had Scripture services and classes during the weeks they were absent. There's a lot of poverty there, but family members have a great love for each other and for the Church," Broadbent said.

"After two years in Peru, I felt God was calling me back to the United States so I could use my graphic communications skills," so she returned to America in 2020. Soon after her return, she met her husband through a Catholic online dating site. They were married on Oct. 1, 2021.

"I've been to quite a few places in the last few years, so it would be nice to settle down for a while, but I'm always open to wherever God may be leading me through my love for mission, for community and now for my husband," Broadbent said. "God is preparing me for something else, but for what, I do not know."

## Family Missions Company brings aid to the ends of the earth

By Cate Broadbent  
*Family Missions Company*

As a young married couple fresh off a conversion experience, Frank and Genie Summers took a radical step. They sold their belongings and left behind a comfortable life in the United States to serve as Catholic missionaries abroad along with their son, Beau.

Many thought they were crazy. They were indeed crazy for the Lord. They knew the Lord was calling them, and they could not ignore that call.

After working among the poor with their family in several countries including Tonga, the Bahamas, American Samoa, the Philippines and Mexico – their own children growing in number along the way (seven in all) – they were inspired to train other families and individuals to serve as foreign missionaries.

They saw that the harvest was great and the laborers few, and that more laborers were needed in the vineyard of foreign Catholic missions. Thus, Family Missions Company (FMC) was born.

In 1997, the small organization began operations, and in 2001 the Summers led the first formal training for FMC missionaries. From a humble home base in southwest Louisiana, these missionaries were sent to the ends of the earth.

Twenty-five years after the founding of FMC, hundreds of missionaries from across the United States and other parts of the world have been trained to serve in

Central and South America, the Caribbean, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

The objective of Family Missions Company is to serve the poor, preach the Gospel and make disciples – carrying out both corporal and spiritual works of mercy. While recognizing that the poor have needs that cannot be neglected, FMC also knows that only Jesus can feed their souls and ultimately satisfy them.

FMC missionaries serve both in places that are culturally Catholic but under-evangelized and in countries where the majority of the population has never heard the Good News. They take on a variety of ministries according to the needs of the area they are serving and the gifts God has given each missionary team or family.



**Cate Broadbent gives Holy Communion to a woman while serving as a missionary in Peru.**

*Photo courtesy Family Missions Company*

John Paul Plummer began his journey with FMC as an intern in 2016. During that time, he experienced the call to full-time foreign missions and has served in northern Peru since 2018.

Plummer and his teammates live in an area where two priests are responsible for more than 100 villages – some of which require several hours of travel and a four-wheel-drive vehicle to reach. The presence of missionaries is essential for providing catechesis and evangelization, equipping local lay leaders and assisting the people in their material needs.

One of the projects Plummer's team has spearheaded is that of creating sustainable income for families and individuals struggling to make ends meet. Last year, they sought to assist Rider, Monica and their two small children, whose mud home had suffered significant rain damage. This family was working odd jobs and making only enough money to buy food each day. There was little hope of saving to repair their home.

The missionaries could have simply raised funds for the repairs. Instead, they found a way to help Rider and Monica sustain themselves for the long term. They invested in the equipment

necessary for the couple to start a bakery and the training to run it.

The business has become a success. The family bakes bread daily for customers from all over town, and now they are looking to expand their selection.

Not only do Rider and Monica have a sustainable source of income, but they also have a more manageable schedule. This allows them to be evangelists in their own village, serving alongside the missionaries in some of their efforts.

The missionaries have also helped start a successful family restaurant and are now beginning a tilapia farm for a man who is too fragile in health to work an intense job. Plummer says he finds joy "seeing how the locals take pride in their jobs, work hard and support themselves and their families through these means."

In this area of northern Peru, FMC has three missionary families and a team of women, in addition to the team of men that Plummer leads. Peru is just one of the locations throughout the world where FMC missionaries are carrying out Christ's command to "go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel." (Mark 16:15)

To learn more about becoming a full-time missionary, supporting FMC's work or going on a weeklong mission trip, visit [familymissionscompany.com](http://familymissionscompany.com).

*Cate Broadbent has served as a missionary in Mexico and Peru. She is currently the manager of media and communications for Family Missions Company and lives in Colorado with her husband, Mike.*

## Outreach to Haiti provides moments of hope

To participate in mission is an invitation to think as Christ does and to know that each person we meet is our brother or sister. The mission of the Diocese of Norwich (Connecticut) Outreach to Haiti ministry is to share our faith, give witness to God's love and bring hope to our brothers and sisters in Haiti.

As the late Maurice Blumberg shared in an article in *Catholic Exchange*, "Hope is faith directed to the future. It's faith acting on and trusting in the promises God has made. It's hope that moves us to say 'yes' to God, and it's hope that gives meaning to our trials."

We know this is true for all who help support the work we do in the Archdiocese of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, both in the neighborhood we serve, Christ the King, and in 14 communities whose parishes are part of our Parish Twinning Program. It is the Holy Spirit that moves us to say "yes" to God, and this same faith and hope allow our Haitian friends to know God is with them, especially during times of trouble.

As Christ's servants, we create moments of hope for ourselves and others as we direct our faith to the future and say "yes" to God. Through our diocesan ministry, Outreach to Haiti, we experience many moments of hope: Father Berthony, Parish of Sts. Martin and Yves, Del-

mas: "Thanks to you, I am a priest today! Thank you for the work you do at the Parish of Les Palmes, Our Lady of Presentation."; Dr. Sherley Sainterve, Hôpital Le Cayes: "My life changed the day I was selected for the Outreach to Haiti Student Sponsorship Program that provided me a scholarship. ... I will be forever grateful to Outreach ... for helping me realize one of my biggest dreams, which was to be a doctor and serve the poorest community of my country."; David, a post-secondary student: "I am this young boy you have been helping since I was a kid. ... It is this program (Outreach's education sponsorship program) which has inspired me to dream about a better life. ... This education I have been gifted makes me obligated to become all that I can that God, family and country desire of me."; Lamerchie Vancol, a participant in Outreach's small business development program, FAK: Women Advancing Now, who expanded her peanut butter and jam business thanks to a small loan from Outreach: "I believe my being chosen to participate in FAK is a miracle sent from above!"; Dr. Jacquet, Outreach's medical director and a pediatrician: "Nelson entered our Food and Nutritional Supplement Program at 13 months with a weight of 8 kilos (17.6 pounds). After six weeks, he moved up to Phase 2 of the



**The Outreach to Haiti ministry provides assistance to children in the Archdiocese of Port-au-Prince.**

*Photo courtesy Outreach to Haiti*

treatment and was completely healed after four months and two weeks with a weight of 12 kilos (26.5 pounds). He is just one of the many malnourished children we have brought to full health."; Jude Cangé, Outreach's director of operations: "Our staff

views their work as a special vocation as they answer God's call and serve as His instrument of love."

Outreach to Haiti works throughout the Archdiocese of Port-au-Prince providing life-enhancing and life-saving services through our center in the Christ the King neighborhood, home to 60,000 men, women and children; and through our Parish Twinning Program serving 14 other neighborhoods whose parishes are twinned with parishes in the Diocese of Norwich and in other U.S. dioceses.

Our faith calls us to share the Church's mission. "It's hope that moves us to say 'Yes' to God, and it's hope that gives meaning to our trials." Let us take these words to heart in our faith journey, as we consciously walk more closely with God. Let us take time each day to reflect on Christ's gifts of faith, hope and love and how we might share these with our brothers and sisters throughout the world.

## A floating community of faith is found in the Philippines

By Jerome Albuero, SVD

I was serving in Madagascar as an assistant priest at St. Tamaro Parish in the country's north when I took a vacation to my home country, the Philippines, in December 2020. This was in the middle of the pandemic, and as with many situations during the pandemic, things did not go as planned.

I was about to make my return trip to Madagascar in March 2021. I didn't get farther than the Philippine airport. I was held there and told Filipinos were still banned from entering Madagascar because of the high number of COVID cases in our country.

I was a missionary without a mission, but not for long. With the consent of my superior in Madagascar, I was temporarily assigned as a guest priest at St. Isidore the Farmer Parish in the Philippines South Province.

The parish is made up of 28 mini-chapels: 27 are on land while one is in the middle of the Agusan Marsh. St. Peter's chapel is in Loreto, Agusan del Sur. The residents are Manobo families. They are the indigenous people in the province. The place is popularly known as the Manobo floating community. Also called the Agusan Marsh Panlabuhan Floating Village, it is a tourist attraction.

I celebrated Mass with them during the feast of St. Peter, which is the congregation's feast day, and it was a memorable journey. It took an hour traveling by pump boat from Poblacion to Sitio Panlabuhan.

A great silence fell as we entered the marshland. One would hear the whistling of the wind, the chirping of the birds and the splashing of the water. One would also notice small floating houses built on raft-like bamboo foundations and with roofs made of tin or coconut leaves.

During the hot season, parts of the marshland turn to hard soil. This makes fishing a difficult livelihood, so people prefer farm-



**Father Jerome Albuero, SVD, with the Manobo community in the Agusan Marsh region of the Philippines.**

*Photo courtesy Divine Word Missionaries*

ing along the riversides. But when the rainy season comes, the land turns muddy and wet, and fish can be seen just outside the doorsteps of the floating houses.

Sadly, the water level in the marshland has become unpredictable. People transfer their houses from one place to another depending on the season or the level of the water.

This is also true of our mini-chapel. It has always been movable and transferrable! The community is made up of 50 families. In this time of pandemic, we visit them to bring spiritual hope and encouragement and also rice.

What I admire about these people is their love of peace, their strong sense of community, their camaraderie and their unwavering faith. Their love, care and respect for the environment is apparent in their belief that Magbabaja (the creator) favored them by giving them the gift of nature, which allows them to get their food and resources free.

As a Divine Word missionary, I am inspired by the Manobos' faith, hope and resiliency. The joy and smiles on their faces whenever a priest visits renews my spirit of mission. As missionaries, we are called to actively spread the Divine Word and to positively make a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters, whether in cities, mountains, valleys, seas or even marshlands.

## Sisters care for poor, sick, refugees in Tanzania

On Sept. 14, 1958, the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, four girls from Burundi joined the Congregation of the Franciscan Sisters of St. Bernadette. This remarkable moment was vivid evidence of God responding to the needs of the people in Rulenge Diocese (today Rulenge-Ngara Diocese) who were facing a flood of refugees from neighboring Rwanda and Burundi who were fleeing their countries' civil wars.

The people there yearned for places of worship where there were no schools or hospitals. Due to a lack of transportation, many mothers delivered their babies on the side of the road before reaching medical care. Some mothers died, leaving their children without support.

The Franciscan Sisters of St. Bernadette were formed in 1958 under the leadership of Bishop Alfred Lanctot from Canada, who belonged to the White Fathers. The bishop put the community under the care of the Sisters of Queen of Angels from Canada who guided them through religious formation until the 1970s, when the community secured native formation directors.

The bishop founded the community to live the Franciscan spirit, which is to love and accept all God's creatures as gifts. As it was for St. Francis of Assisi, the sisters strive to bring Franciscan happiness to marginalized people. The sisters provide pastoral and social services such as taking care of orphans, the sick in hospitals and those with HIV/AIDS;



**Sisters care for orphans and teach in schools.**

*Photo courtesy Franciscan Sisters of St. Bernadette*

assisting refugees; empowering women; teaching children; and caring for the disabled.

Poverty and the location of the sisters' community have challenged their mission. They serve people living on less than \$1 a day. They depend mostly on subsistence agriculture, and that relies on rainfall. The rainfall, however, is unreliable, leading to drought that can result in severe famine.

Also, Tanzania borders Rwanda and Burundi, countries that have experienced civil wars that led to floods of refugees and an increase in orphans in the area. The Franciscan Sisters of St. Bernadette have cared for these people by providing food, clothing, shelter and medical aid.

The sisters cannot accomplish their mission without your support. Impelled by St. Francis who believed in God's providence and lived Jesus' words of seeing people as brothers and sisters, the Franciscan Sisters of St. Bernadette believe in that, too. They hope that you will be a part of their mission through your support.



**The Sisters of Notre Dame help students learn in a variety of schools in Africa and elsewhere.**

*Photo courtesy Sisters of Notre Dame*

## Sisters of Notre Dame list success stories in Africa, Asia

Sincere thanks to the many individuals who supported the Sisters of Notre Dame's global mission programs in Africa, India and Papua New Guinea through a gift to the annual Missionary Cooperative Plan.

The sisters working in these mission countries have accomplished much in the past year. Here are highlights: In India, Sister Sudha, who manages schools and hostels for low-caste girls in Patna and Gaya, provided food to surrounding villages during India's pandemic lockdown, especially to the elderly, widows, orphans and mentally and physically challenged; In Darjeeling, India, as soon as COVID symptoms appear, people come to the sisters' health center to receive medication and home remedies for healing. Sister Nalini gave first-aid training to community development workers so that they could reach out to 20 villages across the region to assist COVID patients and refer them to hospitals when necessary; In Papua New Guinea, the sisters are working at their ministries in Notre Dame Secondary School; the Shalom Care Center for HIV patients; the Maria Kwin Technical, Vocational, Educational School; and in ministry at the Diocesan Radio Station. Many lives are touched by these ministries; In Tanzania, grade seven students at the Aloysia Home for Orphans and other at-risk girls successfully completed their national exams and all received the government distinction of being promoted to secondary school. The sisters in Tanzania are building a small computer lab for their primary grade students as well as a library and writing center to expand students' reading and writing skills; In Uganda, the students at St. Julie's earned high marks on each level of the 2021 national exams, including the only females in the top 10 students on the junior college level, and all primary students earning the top score for the first time in the school's history.

Thank you for your generosity to the Missionary Cooperative Plan and your interest in the international mission priorities of the Sisters of Notre Dame.

## Nurse volunteers serving remote villages in Uganda

By Christine Farmer

My mission journey began Dec. 17, 2019, prior to the COVID pandemic, on the invitation of Bishop Rayarala Vijayakumar, Diocese of Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh, India. On my arrival there, I was greeted with an overwhelming reception of joy, welcome and cheers that is usually reserved for rock stars. I would be spending the next several weeks as a guest of the bishop and a member of the mobile medical team from the diocese.

Having worked for more than 40 years as a registered nurse in the United States and having volunteered as a nurse with a medical team caring for victims of the Haiti earthquake in 2010, I felt prepared and eager to serve the missions in whatever capacity needed. I also felt a deep sense of privilege to be given this opportunity.

I was embraced by the mobile medical team. Our five-member team included a doctor, a nurse (myself), a social worker, an interpreter and a driver. Also, of great importance was the overland vehicle that



**Christine Farmer, a nurse, has served as a medical missionary in India.**

*Photo courtesy Christine Farmer*

would carry us to the remote mountain villages to serve the tribal people who otherwise had no access to medical care.

Roads to the villages were nonexistent and best described as washed out gulleys and dirt paths, edging along sheer cliffs dropping into thickly forested valleys. Edgy to say the least.

On arrival, the team was warmly met by a village contact person who helped set up tables and chairs and a makeshift

pharmacy. Once organized, we would sit and wait ... and wait ... and wait. As an American used to efficiency, I would need to quickly learn the rhythm of village life. Our patients would eventually appear for care once their field work was finished.

Most often, women appeared requesting help with pain in the joints, hands, knees, and back usually from the demands of hard physical labor. High blood pressure was another problem needing monitoring from the team's monthly visits.

I soon realized the villagers only access to health care was the mobile medical team. If more care was needed, the team doctor would write a hospital referral, and the social worker would facilitate a future appointment for the patient requiring many obstacles to fall away, the stars to align and transportation to appear.

Unfortunately, because of the pandemic, I could not travel to India for the next two years. However, I have gladly accepted Bishop Rayarala's invitation to return to the diocese of Srikakulam and look forward to being among the tribal people again in 2023.

## Ugandan diocese managing growth in parishes

By Father Simon Peter Engurai  
*Diocese of Soroti (Uganda)*  
*Mission Coordinator*

Every year, as part of the Mission Cooperation Plan (MCP), parishes in the Diocese of Columbus host a group from the missions. The purpose of this program is twofold. First, it's a reminder to the faithful that we are a universal body of Christ, the Church. Second, it provides an opportunity to support the spread of the Gospel and to meet the needs of the brothers and sisters in the mission countries.

This year, the diocese hosted and supported, among others, the Diocese of Soroti, Uganda.

The Diocese of Soroti is in eastern Uganda and was formed by Pope St. John Paul II in 1980. The population of the area covered by the diocese is 3.5 million people, and the Catholic population is 1.7 million people, representing about 45%. Compared to the rest of the country, the region is poor owing to decades of civil war and dependence on subsistence agriculture.

In spite of these challenges, the Catholic faith is growing exponentially. Every church in the diocese is filled beyond capacity on Sundays. The people walk up to 7 miles to church, and many end up standing outside because the church is full.

On average, 30,000 infant baptisms take place each year. Diocesan liturgical events such as ordinations attract an average of 3,500 people. There are no churches or facilities that can accommodate such numbers. As a result, these liturgies are held outdoors.

In March 2019, after almost five years without a bishop, the diocese welcomed a native priest, Joseph Eciru-Oliach, 48, as its third bishop. Appointed by Pope Francis, Bishop Eciru-Oliach inherited a

diocese with major needs and challenges, but he soon embarked on meeting these challenges with energy and enthusiasm.

In response to the growth in the faith, the long distances people must walk to church and the overflowing churches, the new bishop within the first year of his tenure created 15 parishes and has since then created another 10. That means 25 new parishes were formed within three years.

To those who challenged the bishop's efforts as being impractical and unachievable given the lack of funding, he said that when the first missionaries came to the region, the conditions were worse than today. Furthermore, he assured that the Lord will always provide for His work.

This unprecedented initiative from the new bishop has stirred excitement in the local populations that now can have a priest in their community. The celebration of the Eucharist and other sacraments is available on a daily and weekly basis.

The growth in the faith is not only being consolidated but also is getting an exponential impetus. Most of these new parishes have no proper churches and rectories and must use makeshift structures and facilities. The local people, although poor, are giving their time, energy and resources toward establishing their new parishes.

Plans for a cathedral, conceived at the inception of the diocese, were halted by the onset of civil war, and the diocese used an existing church as a cathedral. Unfortunately, it can sit no more than 800 people, but plans are underway to construct a cathedral (Regina Caeli) with a seating capacity of 4,000.

On behalf of the bishop and people of Soroti, I am grateful to the bishop, the Mission Office and people of the Diocese of Columbus for the opportunity to participate in the 2022 MCP.



**An outdoor Mass is celebrated in the Diocese of Soroti, Uganda.**

*Photo courtesy Mission Cooperation Plan*

### ST. ANDREW HOLIDAY BAZAAR

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## Friars counsel survivors of Sri Lankan bombings

It was April 21, 2019, Easter Sunday.

On that day, two Catholic churches and one Pentecostal church in Sri Lanka were bombed while the congregations were in worship.

One Catholic church that was attacked was St. Sebastian (Katuwapitiya).

After the blast, at almost every home there was a funeral. In some houses there was more than one coffin. In many families all the members were lost, and there was no one to arrange the funeral. Priests and seminarians had to carry and bury the coffins.

Altogether more than 300 people were killed in the three attacks.

More than 120 people were massacred in St. Sebastian Church alone.

Now more than three years have passed, but the parish is still under a gloomy cloud due to the loss of loved ones and the suffering of the wounded.

Things became worse with the pandemic lockdown.

But we cannot see the mental and psychological agony and damage. It's not visible like a physical wound.

We as Franciscans are called to heal the wounds of the people and to bring peace through forgiveness. It is challenging because few resources exist to care for so many with psychological issues.

Some survivors still don't eat properly,



**Bombings of three churches in 2019 left more than 300 people dead.**

*Photo courtesy TOR Franciscans*

some cannot sleep at night, some are still in a psychological coma and suffering from the trauma, and some others have given up hope.

We began trauma counseling sessions for those survivors who need help. Franciscan friars who are qualified to conduct clinical psychological counseling initiated this ministry. When the demand soared, we called for professional counselors as well. Now we have established a life healing center called "Emmaus" to provide trauma counseling for the Easter attack survivors.

We need your help to continue our service, to train our friars in clinical counseling and to pay the professional counselors.

Your generosity makes a huge difference in the lives of those innocent victims.

We thank you in advance, and we pray for God's blessings for your families and for your well-being.

## Ugandan parish needs funds to build larger church

By Father Godfrey Chandya Legai  
*Arua Diocese, Uganda*

Arua Diocese in Uganda, east Africa, is rural and materially and economically poor. For the past eight years, the diocese has hosted more than 1 million refugees from South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. This influx has greatly increased the number of Christians attending Catholic churches in the diocese, especially St. Mary Assumpta.

Parishioners of St. Mary Assumpta need your financial support to help construct a larger church to accommodate at least 2,000 people..

Lazarus is in our midst today crying out for help, just as he did in Jesus' time. The Gospel story is a simple one about two people. One is a poor man named Lazarus, who is in dire need. The other is a rich man who is in a position to help Lazarus. The needs of the poor man are small, and it would take very little for the rich man to help him. Unfortunately, the rich man never gets around to it – he ignores Lazarus.

It is not a sin of commission, or doing something he should not do. It is sin of omission, not doing something he should have done. The rich man doesn't lift a finger to help Lazarus.



**Bishop Joseph Eciru-Oliach has led the Diocese of Soroti, Uganda since 2019.**

*Photo courtesy Mission Cooperation Plan*

We can become a part of the "thousand points of light" that are forming all over the world to help the needy on our planet. We can light a candle to overcome the darkness.

We would be grateful and appreciative of your generous consideration of this humble financial request.

## Jeric joins Josephinum staff

Rick Jeric has returned to Columbus to serve as the senior director for major gifts at the Pontifical College Josephinum, the seminary announced last week.

Jeric, who previously worked in development and fundraising for the Diocese of Columbus and as president and CEO of the Women's Care Center in Columbus, most recently served as the executive director of the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of La Crosse, Wisconsin. He began his new duties at the Josephinum, 7625 N. High St., on Oct. 17.

"I am delighted to welcome Mr. Jeric to the Josephinum staff," said Father Steven Besau, the rector and president of the seminary. "His deep and abiding Catholic faith, past experience as a nine-year member of the Josephinum's Board of Trustees, and many decades of skilled fundraising experience will help to ensure the Josephinum's continued excellence in the formation of holy, generous, adaptable, and resilient priests."

As the senior major gifts officer, Jeric joins the Advancement Office, where he will work with Father Besau and Doug Stein, vice president for advancement.

Jeric will focus on major gift solicitations, capital and special campaign gifts, and estate giving.

"The timing of Mr. Jeric's arrival at the Josephinum is nothing short of providential," Stein said. "In mid-October, we will launch our Annual Fund, which this year has the most ambitious goal in our 134-year history – \$1.8 million – designated for seminary operations and seminarian tuition assistance.

"I know Rick is eager to reconnect with many of the long-time connections he has made for the Josephinum over the years. He and I are looking forward to working together to support the mission of this exceptional seminary."

He also wrote a column that ran in *The Catholic Times* for years before he left for Wisconsin.

"I have loved being a part of the Josephinum in a variety of ways for the past 20 years" he said. "I am so very happy and humbled to join the community in a new and supportive way that will help continue this great legacy of future priests for the people of God."

Jeric and wife Theresa are the parents of three adult children.

## LIFE, continued from Page 8

to protect the unborn.

"We wanted to make our presence known and that defending life is a really important part of being Catholic and is especially part of our mission at Walsh University," said Haili Kendall, a senior who is the president of Cavs for Life. "Defending life is a really important part of being Catholic, and so it's important to show up and to prayerfully protest."

There has always been a palpable energy surrounding the pro-life movement, and speakers at the Statehouse encouraged the crowd to continue their vigilance, not only with prayerful demonstrations at the local level but also in voting, supporting mothers in need, responding with love to those who disagree on abortion, praying and using media to spread the message.

"I think it's very vital to come out and show that the younger generation are also the ones protesting because it starts to show other people who are in our generation and who are members of our society that it's not just the older people, it's not just the women, it's men and women," Kendall said. "It's everybody, it's children who are defending life.

"It's not cool to be pro-choice. It's awesome to be pro-life."

While the Supreme Court decision has led to attacks on some pregnancy help centers in the U.S., pro-life Catholics believe there's a positive shift toward respect for all life.

"I definitely think so," Kendall said, "especially when you consider the hostility that you're facing whenever you walk outside Planned Parenthood and pray and when you come out here and you defend life, you can definitely see

that it's changing, and it's for the better. That's where their hostility comes from because (abortion supporters) know they're losing."

The largest group at the Mass and march came from Elder. The all-boys school brought a busload of 50 participants, and there was a waiting list of students who wanted to attend but couldn't because of space limitations.

The next largest group, from Lehman, included 35 students. Bishop Fernandes taught religion at the school for two years (2002-04).

"We were caught off guard with the dates just because of everything that happened over the summer with the overturn (of Roe)," said Colleen Daubenmerkl, a religion teacher at Elder and moderator of the pro-life club, which has about 75 members. "So, I was so pleasantly surprised that I had this many guys. We're super excited about that."

Elder's pro-life group participates in various events such as praying outside Planned Parenthood and a baby bottle campaign to raise money for a local pregnancy center.

"I think some of them were a little disappointed that we couldn't go back to D.C. (in January, when a trip to the National March for Life was canceled), but obviously being able to come to Columbus is important, and so we rallied together, and maybe next year we'll have even more kids join us.

"These guys are all busy. They've got all of these extracurriculars going on. So, when they found out that we were going to be doing a day trip, they were even more excited. And with Seton (High School) being next door, I'm hoping maybe next year we can collaborate together."

## LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS

## 'New Evangelization' topic for speaker at Columbus St. Andrew Church

Tim Glemkowski, executive director of the 2024 National Eucharistic Congress, will speak on "The New Evangelization" at Columbus St. Andrew Church, 1899 McCoy Road, at 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12 in the parish hall.

Glemkowski will share his insights on the three-year National Eucharistic Revival initiated by the U.S. bishops in June 2022 on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus that will culminate in July 2024 with the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, the first event of its kind in the U.S. in almost 50 years.

The bishops have called for the National Eucharistic Revival as a grassroots effort to restore devotion and belief in the Real Presence of Jesus.

Glemkowski, a Franciscan University of Steubenville graduate, has served as director of strategy for the Archdiocese of Denver and is the founder and former president of L'Alto Catholic Institute and Revive Parishes, an apostolate dedicated to helping parishes form disciples. A speaker and author, Glemkowski also has worked as a high school theology teacher and as a director of youth and young adult ministry and of evangelization and catechesis.

Light refreshments and desserts will be available. For more information, contact Emily Jaminet, St. Andrew Church director of RCIA and adult faith formation, at [ejaminet@standrewparish.cc](mailto:ejaminet@standrewparish.cc).

### Ohio Dominican hosting instant admission night

Central Ohio high school students can begin and complete their college search during instant admission night at Ohio Dominican University (ODU) on Thursday, Nov. 3 from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Bishop James A. Griffin Student Center, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus.

Students can complete a free application to ODU, receive an on-the-spot admission decision, file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and submit a deposit to secure their spot in an upcoming entering class. They also can take a campus tour and speak with students, faculty and staff about the university's academic programs and student life.

This event is for high school and transfer students interested in enrolling for either the spring or fall 2023 semesters. To register, go to [ohiodominican.edu/visit](http://ohiodominican.edu/visit).

### Josephinum opens lecture series

The Pontifical College Josephinum will open its 2022-2023 "Building Spiritual Bridges to the Community" lecture series with Dr. Timothy O'Malley, director of education at the McGrath Institute for Church Life and academic director of the Notre Dame Center for Liturgy.

He will speak on "Eucharistic Amaze-ment: Healing the Human Heart in Our Age" at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 26, in the

college's Jessing Center, 7625 N. High St., Columbus. The lecture and parking are free; reservations are not required. For more information, visit [pcj.edu](http://pcj.edu) or call (614) 985-2274.

### Vietnam POW to speak to men's luncheon club

Retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Edward J. Mechenbier, who was held captive in North Vietnam from 1967 to 1973, will present an illustrated talk titled "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to a Vietnamese Prison" to the Catholic Men's Luncheon Club on Friday, Nov. 4.

The meeting will follow the 11:45 a.m. Mass at Columbus St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave. Free parking is available in the Columbus State Community College Grant Avenue parking lot (25-S), across the street from the church. No reservations are necessary. A \$12 donation for the lunch and meeting is suggested.

In 1967, Mechenbier was shot down on his 113th combat mission, his 80th over North Vietnam. On his return to the United States, he was awarded the Silver Star with oak leaf cluster for his resistance to demands by the North Vietnamese for information, confessions and propaganda material. He also received a Bronze Star with "V" device for his efforts to conduct himself strictly in accordance with the code of conduct for war prisoners.

The club's December lunch on Friday, Dec. 2 will feature a talk by Columbus Bishop Earl Fernandes.

The November luncheon will be sponsored by the diocesan Catholic cemeteries. Contact Jim Gernetzke at [jimgernetzke@noslumine.com](mailto:jimgernetzke@noslumine.com) if you are interested in sponsoring a future luncheon.

### St. Colman to present Mozart's 'Requiem'

The annual Concerts in a Country Church series at Washington Court House St. Colman of Cloyne Church will begin with a performance of Mozart's "Requiem," with choir, soloists and chamber orchestra, at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 6. Admission is \$20 at the door.

Parking is free and available in the church and parish center lots and on nearby streets. For reservations, write to St. Colman Concerts, 219 S. North St., Washington Court House, Ohio 43160 or call David Jaynes at (937) 675-7055.

### St. Joseph Cathedral adds weekday morning Mass

Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., has added a 7:30 a.m. Mass to its schedule on Mondays through Fridays beginning Monday, Oct. 17. It will continue to have a 12:05 p.m. Mass on those days, with confessions available from 10:45 to 11:45 a.m. There will be Bene-

diction of the Blessed Sacrament, with confessions, from 5 to 6 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

The 5:15 p.m. Wednesday Mass, Holy Hour and confession have been eliminated. The last of those Masses was Oct. 12.

Weekend Masses will remain the same: 5:15 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays and 8 and 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Sundays.

### Ohio Dominican announces saints lecture series dates

Ohio Dominican University (ODU) again will present three lectures on Dominican saints during the 2022-23 academic year in its Sister Mary Andrew Matesich, OP, Theatre, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus.

Each talk will be presented by a Dominican Sister of Peace, representing ODU's founding congregation. The presentations are free; registration is not required.

The St. Albert the Great Lecture on "Caring for Our Common Home: A Dominican Response" will be presented by Sister Sharon Zayac, OP, at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 16.

"Thomas Aquinas and the Call to Justice" will be the title of the St. Thomas Aquinas Lecture, presented by Sister Marcelline Koch, OP at 11 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 26.

Sister Joan Wolf, OP, will be the presenter for the St. Catherine of Siena Lecture on "Catherine, the Voice for Justice and Peace" at 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 19.

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30th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

## Humility needed in prayer

**Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18**  
**Psalm 34:2-3, 17-18, 19, 23**  
**2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18**  
**Luke 18:9-14**

What does it take to enter the heart of another? How do we enter the heart of God?

God answers this question through the Scriptures on the divine side of the equation. "The Lord hears the cry of the poor." To be heard on high, we must be empty of our attachments. To see as God sees is wisdom. To hear with the heart of God is to make a connection at the deepest level possible.

We are not adept at hearing in our time. Our minds and hearts are too full of answers, ideas, our way of doing things. We are not ready to be empty to receive what God wants to offer us. This is sad. As Mame put it (a bit cleaned up for polite company): "Life is a banquet, and most (of us) are starving to death!"

Prayer has the capacity to "pierce the clouds; it does not rest till it reaches its goal, nor will it withdraw till the Most High responds, judges justly and affirms the right." However, it is only the "prayer of the lowly" that can do this. God alone is God, and an encounter with God requires humility and openness.

Jesus tells the parable of the two who went to the temple to pray. One is a "master pray-er," an expert in prayer, who knows the law and is convinced that his prayer will be heard. The other is a humble sinner who has no pretensions. Much to everyone's surprise, Jesus affirms that only the one who was

### 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.*



aware of his lowly state went home with a real relationship with God.

The description of the first one to pray makes it clear: "The Pharisee took up his position and spoke this prayer to himself, 'O God, . . .'" In claiming "his place," the Pharisee did not realize the truth of his own need. In praying "to himself," he failed to look to God. In other words, by his judgments, he pretended to be God. God, Who knows the heart, heard the prayer of the humble sinner.

How are we to put real prayer into practice? We must listen. We must hear the cry of the hearts of those around us who are truly in need. This calls for discernment. It is not a matter of merely trying to meet material needs. The greater hunger in our time is the hunger for real connection and for spiritual food. We do not have to go far to discover this need. It is in front of us all the time.

Who knows your heart and your need? Have you found a way to be empty of your desire to "look good" in the face of others? Can you set aside your worries about what other people think about you? Have you ever allowed God into your heart, speaking not out of your accomplishments and the praise of the world, but out of your need for God to help you

10/24-10/29

MONDAY

Ephesians 4:32-5:8  
 Psalm 1:1-4, 6  
 Luke 13:10-17

TUESDAY

Ephesians 5:21-33  
 Psalm 128:1-5  
 Luke 13:18-21

WEDNESDAY

Ephesians 6:1-9  
 Psalm 145:10-14  
 Luke 13:22-30

### THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

THURSDAY

Ephesians 6:10-20  
 Psalm 144:1b, 2, 9-10  
 Luke 13:31-35

FRIDAY

Ephesians 2:19-22  
 Psalm 19:2-5  
 Luke 6:12-16

SATURDAY

Philippians 1:18b-26  
 Psalm 42:2-3, 5cdef  
 Luke 14:1, 7-11

10/31-11/5

MONDAY

Titus 1:1-9  
 Psalm 24:1b-4b, 5-6  
 Luke 17:1-6

TUESDAY

Titus 2:1-8, 11-14  
 Psalm 37:3-4, 18, 23, 27, 29  
 Luke 17:7-10

WEDNESDAY

Exekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12  
 Psalm 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9  
 1 Corinthians 3:9c-11, 16-17

John 2:13-22

THURSDAY

Philemon 7-20  
 Psalm 146:7-10  
 Luke 17:20-25

FRIDAY

2 John 4-9  
 Psalm 119:1-2, 10-11, 17-18  
 Luke 17:26-37

SATURDAY

3 John 5:8  
 Psalm 112:1-6  
 Luke 18:1-8

### DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION | MASS SCHEDULE: WEEKS OF OCT. 23 AND OCT. 30, 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](http://www.stgabrielradio.com) and diocesan website, [www.columbuscatholic.org](http://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 DirectTV 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 1-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](http://www.stgabrielradio.com).

[stgabrielradio.com](http://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](http://www.stgabrielradio.com) and diocesan website, [www.columbuscatholic.org](http://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: Manningly Settlement St. Mary ([www.stannstmary.org](http://www.stannstmary.org)); Columbus St. Patrick ([www.stpatrickcolumbus.org](http://www.stpatrickcolumbus.org)); Delaware St. Mary ([www.delawarestmary.org](http://www.delawarestmary.org)); Sunbury St. John Neumann ([www.saintjohnsunbury.org](http://www.saintjohnsunbury.org)); and Columbus Immaculate Conception ([www.iccols.org](http://www.iccols.org)). Check your parish website for additional information.

WE PRAY WEEKS II AND III OF THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

## Zacchaeus benefits from God's plan to bestow mercy

**Wisdom 11:22-12:2**  
**Psalm 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13, 14**  
**2 Thessalonians 1:11-2:2**  
**Luke 19:1-10**

The account of the conversion of Zacchaeus, another tax collector whose fate we know, follows last week's story of the two persons who went to pray at the temple. In this case, we meet one who is literally small, that is, short in stature. His approach to Jesus shows a zealous heart, open to a change of mind toward generosity.

Zacchaeus serves as the patron saint of all who are "vertically challenged." Short people have often been ridiculed. As one who is tall, I have offered advice to the "little ones" I have encountered: "It doesn't matter how tall you are, as long as your feet reach the ground."

Servers in the sacristy who have difficulty finding the right size alb or cassock often smile at this advice. I usually follow up with an observation: "Some who are tall have their heads in the clouds, and their feet do not reach the ground."

This is probably a bit too philosophical.

When the children who have been shorter begin to be taller than their parents, I have other advice: "No matter how tall you are, you should still look up to your parents!"

The Lord encounters Zacchaeus as He plans to pass through Jericho. Luke tells us that "He intended to pass through the town." The encounter with the heart and zeal of the tax collector changed Jesus' mind, and His visit to Zacchaeus' home resulted in a fourfold conversion. "Today salvation has come to this house because this man too is a descendant of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost."

Wisdom sings out God's Love for all His creation and the manner in which God's mercy offers room for repentance. With a hint of the compassion revealed in Jesus' encounter with sinners, the author of wisdom points out how God relates with the very opposite of "smiting" that many of the Old Testament texts are famous for. In other

to be the poor one seeking mercy?

The prayer of the tax collector, hated by all, is simple: "O God, be merciful to me a sinner." Such a prayer indeed pierces the clouds and is given what it seeks. Jesus affirms: "I tell you, the latter went home justified, not the former;

for whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

The Lord hears our cry if we become poor and humble. May we pray with sincerity and open our hearts to those entrusted to our care.

words, we are given a glimpse into the mind of the One God Who has a plan for all humanity, a plan that includes mercy as a central theme.

In the Second Letter to the Thessalonians, Paul speaks of being "worthy" of the calling that comes to us from God. "We always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and powerfully bring to fulfillment every good purpose and every effort of faith, that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, in accord with the grace of our God and Lord Jesus Christ."

At the time of an ordination, the bishop asks whether the candidate has been found "worthy." Everyone who has heard this question about himself, and every vocation director or seminary rector who must answer the question, cringes slightly, each one knowing the fragility of the candidate being presented.

The answer of the Rite of Ordination used to be, "Quantum humana fragilitas nosse sinit, et scio, et testificor ipsum

dignum esse ad hujus onus officii. . . ." This was translated: "As far as human frailty allows one to know, I am certain and I testify that they are worthy to undertake the burden of this office."

The current ritual expresses the answer this way: "After inquiry among the people of Christ and upon recommendation of those concerned with his training, I testify that he has been found worthy." When I used to answer the question as a director of vocations, I had in mind a fuller translation of the meaning of the expression "worthy": "Do you judge this candidate as being able to stand under the weight of the office?"

Paul's prayer is that we may be made worthy of our calling, that is, capable of keeping in mind God's vision for the world and His way of unfolding that plan. We must be like Zacchaeus, zealous to see Jesus and ready to look ridiculous in the sight of others. We must also open our hearts, repenting of our former ways and of how we have failed to treat others fairly.



All Saints Day

# With God's help, we can repent, believe, be holy

**Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14**  
**Psalm 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6**  
**1 John 3:1-3**  
**Matthew 5:1-12a 8**

Saints begin in time and find their way into eternity only by the grace of God and by a choice of God as their all. The call to holiness is universal. We are invited to walk the path that leads to fulfillment in a relationship with God that is real, true and all-encompassing. This must be a free choice, and it can happen only by reliance on divine help.

What are the "steps" to become a saint? The answer to this is the heart of the Gospel: "Repent and believe in the Good News." We must change our minds and plunge into the life of the Trinity through the power of the Spirit and the Paschal Mystery of Jesus' life, death, resurrection and ascension into glory.

We do this when we respond to Jesus' call to live the blessings of the poor in spirit, the meek, the mourning, those hungering and thirsting for righteousness. We are open to the gift of glory when we are merciful, clean of heart, makers of peace, accepting of the persecution and trials that come to those who hold out the hope of glory before a world bound up by its own limitations.

The Solemnity of All Saints, Nov. 1, and the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed – All Souls Day, Nov. 2 – remind us and offer a liturgical experience of the communion of saints. As Catholics, we affirm that there are three "states of being" on the road to holiness: saints in training, here on earth; souls in purgatory, experiencing their final purification before entering into glory; and the saints in heaven, who urge us on to victory.

Awareness of the communion of saints is a wonderful consolation. As long as we live open to the grace of God, we can always reach for it. When we think of those who have completed their earthly journey as witnesses of faith, we can find in ourselves the capacity to follow after them.

Certain canonized saints become personal patrons. Those who are known to us who always had God at their center are given the Feast of All Saints, and we celebrate them today.

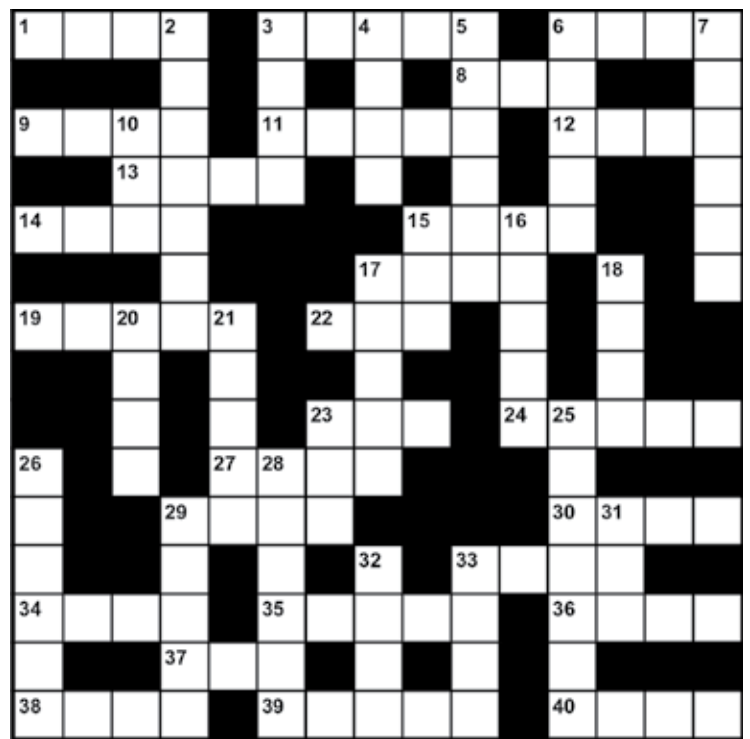
For some souls whom we knew who did not turn fully away from God, but who had an openness to Him, we can offer prayers and Mass intentions and other works of charity with them in mind. All Souls Day is a reminder that the hope of salvation is given to all and that we have a relationship with those who have gone ahead of us. This is one of the most precious treasures of the Catholic faith that was known in the first generations of Christianity and that has been kept alive through the centuries.

The saints in glory see the face of God and know the glory that was promised to them as a reward of their faith. With the souls in purgatory, we turn toward God to express the desire of our souls for the fulfillment that is promised: "Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face." As the Church triumphant, the Church suffering and the Church militant (that is, "on the march"), we acknowledge our unity as the one, holy Church.

Our weakness is overcome by grace and by the prayers of our heavenly patrons and the souls in purgatory who pray for us, grateful for our remembrance of them in our prayers. When we seek to live the Beatitudes in time, we prepare for the life of the beatitude of eternity.

"Beloved: See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are. . . . Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope based on him makes himself pure, as he is pure."

## CATHOLIC CROSSWORD



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### ACROSS

- 1 Ordinary \_\_\_
- 3 Direction from Jerusalem to Nazareth
- 6 Easter flower
- 8 Nathan told David that taking Bathsheba was like stealing this (2 Sam 12:3)
- 9 Where Samson slew the Philistines (Judg 15:9)
- 11 Prize won by Mother Teresa
- 12 Second woman mentioned by name in the Bible (Gen 4:19)
- 13 "...from now on will all \_\_\_ call me blessed." (Lk 1:48)
- 14 "Urbi et \_\_\_"
- 15 Friday in Lent no-no food
- 17 Gospel with the most chapters (abbr.)
- 19 Biblical tooth action?
- 22 "\_\_\_ to the World"
- 23 Tunic-like vestment
- 24 He entered Judas (Lk 22:3)
- 27 The yoke of Jesus (Mt 11:30)
- 29 OT book about a Jewish heroine
- 30 A gift of the wise men
- 33 "\_\_\_ wide the doors to Christ"
- 34 Our Lady, \_\_\_ of Christians
- 35 Biblical measure
- 36 Liturgical season
- 37 Commandment number
- 38 Our \_\_\_ of Lourdes
- 39 St. Juan \_\_\_
- 40 Site of first miracle

### DOWN

- 2 Patron saint of jewelers
- 3 They take solemn vows
- 4 Biblical epic starring Burton and Mature (with "The")
- 5 Image for the "hope of salvation" (1 Thess 5:8)
- 6 "...whatever you did for one of these \_\_\_ brothers of mine" (Mt 25:40)
- 7 Name of God
- 10 OT prophetic book
- 15 Marian month
- 16 Catholic fitness guru, Charles \_\_\_
- 17 Unsinkable Catholic survivor of the Titanic
- 18 Catholic actress of Cheaper by the Dozen fame
- 20 Charity
- 21 Catholic actress and First Lady of the American Theatre
- 23 \_\_\_ Wednesday
- 25 Like Michael or Raphael
- 26 Wife of Jacob
- 28 Be present at Mass
- 29 Condition of the tomb on Easter morning
- 31 A mark of the Church
- 32 "...the Lord is with \_\_\_"
- 33 The Diocese of Youngstown is found here

**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.**

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E	N	L	L	W

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# PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

**AGRIESTI**, Assunta B. (Bovio), 87, Oct. 7  
St. Mary, Mother of God Church, Columbus

**DENNIS**, Marcella, 76, Oct. 2  
St. Dominic Church, Columbus

**FOX**, Ruth (Biedenbach), 93, Oct. 6  
St. Joseph Church, Dover

**HALL**, John A., 59, Oct. 7  
St. Ladislav Church, Columbus

**HAWK**, Ron, 78, Sept. 20  
St. Luke Church, Danville

**HUGLEY**, Jeanette (Simpson), 76, Sept. 3  
Holy Rosary-St. John Church, Columbus

**IGEL**, Theodore F., 95, Sept. 10  
Holy Cross Church, Columbus

**LUCIANI**, Anna M., 59, Sept. 25  
St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Columbus

**McGEE**, Lillian Margaret, 96, Sept. 30  
St. Leonard Church, Heath

**MOELLER**, Agnes J., 93, Oct. 3  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

**MOLLIKA**, Anthony F., 90, Oct. 1

St. Andrew Church, Columbus

**NIEHAUS**, Thomas B., 83, Oct. 3  
St. Peter Church, Columbus

**PAUL**, Ronald A. "Ron," 89, Oct. 7  
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

**SAPP**, Michael A., 67, Sept. 15  
St. Luke Church, Danville

**SCHILLACI**, Florence G., 102, Oct. 2  
Christ the King Church, Columbus

**SIERAWSKI**, Thomas J., 58, Oct. 3  
St. Mary Church, Delaware

**SHARON**, William F., 81, Sept. 30  
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Pickerington

**SWEENEY**, Catherine L. (Fisher), 73, Sept. 27  
St. Rose of Lima Church, New Lexington

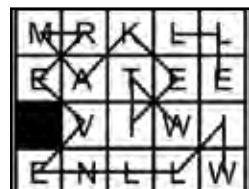
**TORNARE**, Dolores "Dee," 74, Oct. 4  
St. Margaret of Cortona Church, Columbus

**TRACHEFF**, Charles A., 69, Sept. 3  
Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Marysville

**WALSH**, Gerald L. "Jerry," 85, Oct. 1  
St. Michael Church, Worthington



CROSSWORD SOLUTION



WORDS OF WISDOM SOLUTION

## THELMA R. FERNANDES

Funeral Mass for Thelma R. Fernandes, 84, who died Wednesday, Oct. 5 and was the mother of Bishop Earl Fernandes, was celebrated Saturday, Oct. 15 at Perrysburg St. Rose Church, followed by a private burial.

She was born on Aug. 19, 1938 in Mumbai, India to Albino and Maria Stella Noronha.

She earned Bachelor's degrees in political science and sociology, a Master of Fine Arts degree in sociology and a teaching certificate from St. Xavier's College in Mumbai and a Master of Education degree in guidance and counseling and an education specialist certificate from the University of Toledo.

She taught at various schools in Mumbai before emigrating with her husband, Dr. Sydney Fernandes, to Toledo in 1970. She served as a substitute teacher at Toledo St. Thomas Aquinas School while her children went to school there, then worked for two decades at the University of Toledo as an academic adviser and received the institution's Outstanding Adviser Award for the 1989-1990 academic year.

She also was a part-time counselor

for the Rescue Crisis behavioral health organization, president of the International Women's Auxiliary of Toledo and a member of the Pi Lambda Theta national honor association in education. After retiring from the university, she became office manager for her husband's medical practice in the Toledo suburb of Oregon.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, siblings Hillary, Joe, Lucy and Louisa, and a granddaughter. Survivors include Bishop Fernandes and sons Deacon Trevor Fernandes of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (Tamarra), Karl (Shaila), Ashley (Shruti) and Eustace (Anne), and 15 grandchildren.

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#### DUBLIN ST. BRIGID OF KILDARE CHURCH

The full-time Director of Music Ministry coordinates and supervises all aspects of the music program. Hours vary by day depending on scheduled meetings, rehearsals and liturgies.

**ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:** Select and prepare appropriate music for three weekend liturgies; serve as organist/pianist for weekend Masses, Holy Days, weekly school liturgies, seasonal school prayer services, weddings, and funerals; collaborate with the school music teacher to prepare appropriate music and rehearse with student cantors for weekly school Masses and seasonal school prayer services; recruit, train, schedule, and rehearse weekly with cantors for weekend and Holy Day Masses, weddings, funerals, and other various liturgies; collaborate with the Director of Choirs in selecting appropriate choral pieces for the Adult

Choir, Youth Ensemble, and Children's Choir; accompany weekly Adult Choir and Youth Ensemble rehearsals; direct and accompany Brigid's Gael (contemporary group) for weekly rehearsals; prepare music for wedding and funeral liturgies; meet with couples to plan music for their weddings ceremonies/Masses; hire and rehearse instrumentalists for Christmas and Easter liturgies; collaborate with the Director of Choirs through frequent communication, with the primary goal of maintaining and promoting a high standard of music at St. Brigid of Kildare Parish.

**REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:** Bachelor's degree in music; experience in parish music ministry, excellent organ and piano skills; strong leadership skills; competent with diverse musical styles; strong pastoral skills and sensitivity as well as organizational, communication, and planning skills; active, practicing Roman Catholic.

Interested candidates should submit resume and cover letter by **NOV.1** to: Msgr. Joseph Hendricks, Pastor, St. Brigid of Kildare Church, 7179 Avery Rd., Dublin, OH 43017, [jhendricks@stbrigidofkildare.org](mailto:jhendricks@stbrigidofkildare.org).

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## St. Bernadette students pray rosary on feast day



Lancaster St. Bernadette School students and staff gathered in the church to pray the Rosary on Oct. 7, the feast of our Lady of the Rosary. The prayers were led entirely by students.

*Photo courtesy St. Bernadette School*

## Dennison IC honors first responders



Dennison Immaculate Conception School hosted its annual St. Michael's Day celebration on Thursday, Sept. 29, honoring all law enforcement, firefighters, first responders and military in appreciation for their service and protection. A prayer service was held in the church. Father Jeff Coning read Scripture passages and closed with a blessing and a prayer. The school's junior choir provided music. Representatives attended from the Uhrichsville Police and Fire Departments, Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Office and Dennison's Fire Department. Refreshments were provided on the school playground and students made cards for the first responders and had time to visit and have pictures taken with them. St. Michael is honored as the patron saint of law enforcement, first responders and the military.

*Photos courtesy Immaculate Conception School*



## St. Charles seniors recognized by National Merit's College Board



Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School had five seniors named 2023 National Merit Semifinalists, six recognized as Commended Scholars and two who received National African American Recognition Awards. Those who qualified for the National Merit Scholarship program recorded the highest scores of all high school students on the Pre-Scholastic Aptitude/National Merit Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) they took last year as juniors. The National African American Recognition Program Scholars qualified for their honor based on their academic achievements in school and outstanding performance on the PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT™ 10 and/or AP exams. They are (front row from left) Warren D'Souza, Beckham Parsons, Evan Rayburn, Owen Galvin; (second row from left) Matthew Hollis, Thomas Matthews, Peter Hou, Connor Newcomb; (back row from left) Elijah Cassidy, Corbin Robinson, Nathaniel Edon and Robert McMillen. D'Souza, Parsons, Hou, Galvin and Matthews were semifinalists; Hollis, Newcomb, Cassidy, Robinson and McMillen were Commended Scholars and Rayburn and Edon earned National African American Recognition Awards.

*Photo courtesy St. Charles*

## St. Andrew students work with apples



Fifth-grade students at Columbus St. Andrew School get a hands-on lesson in food production thanks to St. Andrew graduates Wayne and Gretchen Kleman, who brought in their restored late 19th century farm equipment for a demonstration. The students used the machinery to peel, core and juice their apples, and got to sample the juice they made themselves.

*Photos courtesy St. Andrew School*

## Tuscarawas County parishioners take part in Rosary Coast to Coast

Nearly 150 parishioners from all five Tuscarawas County parishes participated in the National Rosary Coast to Coast celebration on Sunday, Oct. 9 at Dennison Immaculate Conception Church. The afternoon began with a prayer for the country offered at the same time it was to be prayed in Washington, D.C. and was followed by the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Volunteers led by Immaculate Conception parishioner Barb Ross offered the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and the Rosary in union with parishes throughout the United States. "The parish is honored to host the county on this very special day of prayer," said Father Jeff Coning, the pastor at Immaculate Conception and New Philadelphia Sacred Heart churches. "Our parishioners were looking for a way to channel their anxieties and concerns about the future and this seemed like a good way to do it." The day of prayer closed with a Eucharistic procession, Benediction and Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

*Photo courtesy Immaculate Conception Church*



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# Coaches revitalizing elementary school football in diocese

By Liz Pardi

Student participation in elementary school football in the Diocese of Columbus has dropped, but some Columbus-based Catholics who are passionate about the sport want to bring the numbers back up.

Between 2009 and 2019, the number of students playing diocesan elementary school football dropped more than 50 percent, reflecting a decline in all diocesan sports involvement.

“There are a multitude of reasons why participation has decreased,” said Ben Lamielle, football coach at Hilliard St. Brendan.

But the number of students who played football this season is up over last year. In 2022, six teams played at the varsity level (Grades 7-8) and seven in a senior reserve league (Grades 5-6). Flag football also is offered for fourth- and fifth-graders. Some teams consist of students from two or more schools.

“I absolutely love the game of football,” said Daniel Kurth, coach of the combined St. Andrew, Immaculate Conception (IC) and Our Lady of Peace seventh- and eighth-grade team. “It made an enormous impact on my life.” Kurth cited toughness, perseverance and sacrifice as qualities football helped him develop.

“I was also fortunate enough to have coaches that emphasized our Catholic faith and pastors who cared enough about the sport and community to come to our games and even practices,” he said. “This helped me relate to my faith on a more tangible level and helped me get to know our priests as men.”

Kurth and Lamielle, along with coaches Drew Purcell of Columbus St. Timothy and Jack Elgin of Westerville St. Paul, have come together to increase interest in diocesan football. “Drew and Ben run free speed and conditioning training sessions at St. Andrew during the summertime that

anyone can attend,” Kurth said. In the spring, Kurth “went into the schools and spoke about (the football) program and all the opportunities for fun and development football gives to young men.”

Other attempts to increase interest and support in the game have included open houses for younger grades, skills and drills camps during the summer, team pep talks from high school players and coaches and special practices – one for cheerleaders and another for players’ mothers – to encourage fellowship and teach plays to the teams’ supporters.

“While I haven’t seen the participation numbers for this season,” Lamielle said, “I’m confident that it’s increased.”

In addressing parents’ concerns about

injuries, especially concussions, he said the coaches have been emphasizing safety. “All of the programs in the diocese are USA Football certified, which means every single coach is up to date with the latest guidelines and coaching recommendations in regard to player safety.”

Updated equipment, practicing methods and injury management procedures all reflect an increased emphasis on safety. “I grew up playing football in the ‘90s,” Lamielle said, “and how we do things today is so much safer and better for the kids.”

Lamielle added that he and the other coaches have been promoting flag football for younger grades to “present them with a fun experience that eases them into contact.”

“It’s not just about increasing participation, it’s about making sure we give our families a great experience.” He noted the enjoyment he gets from coaching at St. Brendan, praising the players and their parents and saying his goal is to ensure “the experience that diocesan football offers is well organized, allows players and teams to grow and thrive and is safe, fun and deeply rooted in our faith.”

Kurth, who played football at St. Andrew, said he was “blessed to ... learn how to lead a football program from former coaches like Ed Niper and Wally Theado.” Niper and Theado, who coached at IC and St. Andrew, respectively, have since retired. “I am really trying to take the amazing foundation that the two of them helped build and take it forward to the next generation of young men,” Kurth said.

He also mentioned the good relationships among his coaching staff, including his younger brother Thomas and several men Kurth graduated with from high school: Eric Hard, Conor Sullivan, CJ Steele and Thomas Vaccaro. “I think the kids (on the team) can see how much all the coaches ... genuinely like each other, and that rubs off on the tone of our practices tending to be more upbeat and fun.”

The coaches noted that the priority of the Columbus diocese elementary football program is not so much winning games as it is forming men. According to Theado, who coached for 42 years, “We said all along that (the team) is an extension of our homes. We said we would treat these boys as we treat our own kids, (leading them) from adolescence to adulthood.”

The last regular-season game for the league was Sunday, Oct. 16, with the playoffs to follow. For more information on the program, contact commissioner Julius Palazzo at jmpalazzo@juno.com.



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Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of heaven, blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in necessity. Oh, star of the sea, help me and show me herein, you are my Heaven and Earth. I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to secure me in this necessity. There are none who can withstand your powers. Oh, show me herein you are my Mother. Oh, Mary conceived without sin, pray for us, who have recourse to thee. (Repeat three times) Oh, Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hand. (Repeat three times) Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads that I can obtain my goals. You gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me, and in all instances in my life, you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine.

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#### Society for the Propagation of the Faith (SPOF)

World Mission Sunday	\$63,866
Membership	\$44,463
Other Gifts	\$116,542
<b>Total SPOF:</b>	<b>\$224,871</b>

#### Special Designated Funds

Missionary Cooperation Plan	\$50,297
Mass Offerings	\$23,608
Latin American Collection	\$39,428
Home Missions	\$49,848
Black/Indian Mission	\$51,146
Peter's Pence	\$50,903
<b>Total Other:</b>	<b>\$479,631</b>

**Grand Total Receipts** **\$704,503**

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