The Lord is risen!

Alleluia!
Easter is finally here! What a glorious time. I have to admit that part of me wishes we could forget the whole of Lent, especially the intensity of Holy Week, and go straight to Easter. But it doesn’t work that way. All this focus on sacrifice, suffering, pain, humiliation, and death can be pretty hard to take. But it is necessary. There is no resurrection without death. The only path to heaven leads through the cross.

For 2,000 years, Christians have pondered the question “Why did Jesus have to die to save us?” The great theologians of the Church have discussed that question in much more detail than we can go into in this brief column. The simplest way I can put it is that God loves us so much He was willing to do the unthinkable so that we might accomplish something we never could do on our own.

God wants each one of us with Him eternally. But our human nature drives us away. We want to be our own god. We want to be in control. We are driven to sin … every one of us. God knows that the only way we can find peace with Him is for us to die to our corrupt humanity. But the more we sin and need this cleansing, the more impossible it is for us to accomplish this act of voluntary redemption. Only a perfect person could truly turn away from all human corruption, and that person already would be without sin, so no redemption would be necessary.

That is why God had to become man, to come among us and show us the way. Just as an adult takes the hand of a child and guides his or her way, God had to be
come one of us to show us how to live and, more importantly, to show us how to die. In St. John’s Gospel, we hear Him tell His disciples, “Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” He is God … He did not have to do that. But He became man and did it of His own will because we needed His example, His leadership, and His love.

St. Paul put it this way: “While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man -- though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we are now justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.”

That’s the beauty of Easter. It is not a miracle of an empty tomb that happened one time, 2,000 years ago. It is an enduring miracle by which Christ overcomes death then, today, and forever, and shows us how it is done. Just as after the resurrection, He showed himself to the apostles and strengthened them for the trials that lay ahead and their ultimate place beside him in heaven, He also comes to each of us today, through the Eucharist. He takes his place in our heart, strengthens us as we face our own crosses, and leads us through the death of our sinful natures to eternal joy with Him. He has risen! And so shall we!
By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

Just as the crowds and government officials tried to dodge responsibility for Jesus’ fate after he was arrested, so today, too many individuals and nations want someone else to care for refugees fleeing violence and for migrants seeking a better life, Pope Francis said.

Preaching about the story of Jesus’ passion and death on Palm Sunday, March 20, the pope said that in addition to betrayal and injustice, Jesus experienced indifference as the crowds who had hailed his entry into Jerusalem, as well as Herod, Pilate, and even his own disciples washed their hands of him.

“This makes me think of so many people, so many marginalized, so many migrants and refugees for whom many do not want to assume responsibility for their fate,” the pope said in his homily.

Greece and other European nations have been overwhelmed by refugees, particularly from Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan. An agreement between Turkey and the European Union went into effect on Palm Sunday to prevent refugees from attempting dangerous sea crossings from Turkey and to stem the continuing flow of refugees into Europe. Under the agreement, most refugees arriving in Greece will be returned to Turkey. For each refugee returned, one who has not left Turkey should be resettled in the European Union.

Carrying a woven palm branch known as a palumrello, Pope Francis led the Palm Sunday Mass for more than 60,000 people who had gathered on a warm spring morning in St. Peter’s Square.

Young people from Poland and around the world assisted at the Mass, carrying long palm branches in the procession and proclaiming the Scripture readings. With Krakow, Poland, set to host the international gathering of World Youth Day with Pope Francis in July, the day’s second reading was in Polish.

At the end of Mass, before reciting the Angelus, Pope Francis expressed his hope that in July, many young Catholics would converge on Krakow, “homeland of St. John Paul II, who began World Youth Day.”

The Palm Sunday liturgy begins with a commemoration of Jesus entering Jerusalem to acclamations of “Hosanna” from the crowd. In his homily, the pope said, “We have made that enthusiasm our own. By waving our olive and palm branches we have expressed our praise and our joy, our desire to receive Jesus who comes to us.”

The commemoration is not just about a historical event, the pope said. “Just as he entered Jerusalem, so he desires to enter our cities and our lives. As he did in the Gospel, riding on a donkey, so too he comes to us in humility,” he said.

Pope Francis prayed that nothing would “prevent us from finding in him the source of our joy, true joy, which abides and brings peace; for it is Jesus alone who saves us from the snares of sin, death, fear, and sadness.”

On the cross, at the height of his humiliation, Jesus reveals God’s identity as the God of mercy, Pope Francis said, adding that the cross is God’s cathedra, the place from which he teaches people all they need to know about him.

“He forgives those who are crucifying him, he opens the gates of paradise to the repentant thief and he touches the heart of the centurion,” he said.

Jesus’ life and death, the pope said, was a story of how, out of love, he “emptied and humbled” himself to save humanity.

In Holy Week, he said, the first sign of Jesus’ endless love is the scene of him washing the disciples’ feet “as only servants would have done.”

“He shows us by example that we need to allow his love to reach us, a love which bends down to us,” Pope Francis said. People must accept Jesus’ love, experience his tenderness and give witness to the fact that “true love consists in concrete service.”

“Hanging from the wood of the cross,” the pope said, Jesus faced his last temptation, which was to come down from the cross, “to conquer evil by might and to show the face of a powerful and invincible God.”

Instead, Jesus “takes upon himself all our pain that he may redeem it, bringing light to darkness, life to death, love to hatred,” the pope said.

My dear brothers and sisters in the risen Christ,

There is a great joy in experiencing the reawakening of nature after winter. Although our past winter was rather mild, we still rejoice in the early spring, which has come upon us with some surprise. Yet there is a greater joy that the Christian faithful experience along with the excitement of a new spring: the annual celebration of the festival of the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus from the dead, promising new life to all who encounter the power of the Lord’s message and His announcement of a Kingdom of truth and peace through the forgiveness of sin and the restoration of our human nature. This newness of life will stretch beyond our earthly death into eternity, banishing darkness, error, and fear. The power of the Resurrection answers the deepest longings of the human heart. It grants us meaning, dignity, and a future bright with the glory of God shining on the face of Christ. Those who proclaim the risen Lord can face the challenges of life with profound hope and a sincere and persistent joy.

You may notice, as you hear the scriptural accounts of the appearance of the risen Lord at Mass, their rather quiet character. While lacking high drama, they possess extraordinary power, as Jesus establishes His bodily reality in a glorified form to His disciples by calling them by name, eating with them, breathing out the Spirit upon them. The lives of the disciples are transformed. They no longer hide behind closed doors out of fear. With their hearts on fire with the words of Christ, filled with courage and joy, the disciples run from the upper room to proclaim the Good News: sin and death have no more power over them.

May the risen Lord, Who changed the lives of those early disciples, change your lives as well and fill your lives with joy, hope, and lasting peace.

The Lord is risen! Alleluia!

Most Rev. Frederick F. Campbell
Bishop of Columbus
PRACTICAL STEWARDSHIP

By Rick Jeric

Nonsense

Did you really focus on and pay attention to the Passion account in the Gospel of Luke this past Palm Sunday? Our reflection on the infinite and passionate love that God has for each of us can be very inspiring and spiritually invigorating, especially as we go through Holy Week and the Sacred Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. That love is exactly what God is. That love should identify us as Christians. It is not just for us to accept, experience, and keep to ourselves. It is for us to live and express joyfully, and to share with everyone. God’s love is always there, but it does not impact the world by accident. We are challenged to share and deliver that love. We are charged by Jesus Christ Himself to make disciples of everyone, and that can only happen with the passionate love of God. No matter how afraid we are, and no matter how zealous we are, we also have the promise from Jesus that He is with us always. That should give us the courage and the grace that we need.

There is darkness. There is the new fire. Christ is our Light. We all rejoice in the Exsultet. The Gloria is back. We eagerly listen to the history of our salvation in Scripture. Alleluias resound again. The Gospel of Luke proclaims that Jesus Christ is truly risen today. We welcome the newest members of our Catholic Christian community as they profess their faith, are baptized, and are confirmed. And we all receive the same Jesus Christ in the Eucharist, finally outside of Lent, and begin 50 days of celebrating the Easter season. The Easter Vigil is the greatest celebration of the year. We not only rejoice in Jesus Christ’s victory over sin and death, but we welcome our brothers and sisters into the faith community as a further witness to the challenge of the Great Commission. As we listen to the proclamation of the 24th chapter of Luke’s Gospel at the Easter Vigil, we hear a familiar account of the empty tomb after the Resurrection. The women who discover it are asked by an angel, “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” When they go back and tell the disciples, they do not believe them, and we are told that the story seemed like nonsense. Nonsense, indeed. So often, we must see to believe. We need that human experience of the senses, or we can doubt and call it nonsense. Jesus later appears and says “Peace be with you.” He breathes on them and they experience the Holy Spirit. Thomas sees and finally believes. The disciples on the road to Emmaus see the breaking of the bread, and Jesus is revealed. How often we reject our Lord and His truth when we choose sin. It is as if we view His Word and presence as nonsense. Fortunately, we have our annual Lenten journey that brings us back to the reality of finding Jesus Christ in our lives and actions among the living, not among the dead. Let us maintain the death of nonsense and rejoice in new life.

Our practical challenge this week is to simply rejoice. Go out of your way to dispel the darkness and nonsense. Especially with your spouse and family, be an active projection of the Light of Christ. Easter is not over on Monday. It is just the beginning of 50 days of celebration until Pentecost. Do not surrender to complacency. Let us make a real effort to maintain the grace and forgiveness from our Lenten journey. Show everyone that we are alive with Christ and that we reject sin as nonsense. Alleluia!

Jeric is director of development and planning for the Columbus Diocese.
Lancaster St. Bernadette STEM Program

Lancaster St. Bernadette School offers a monthly after-school STEM program, in which lessons, experiments, and activities take place for all students from preschool through fifth grade. During Book Fair Week, students used what they learned at a recent STEM meeting to design and build book-themed marble runs. The challenge resulted in 15 entries modeled after books such as “Harry Potter,” “Meet Cherry Jam,” and “There Was a Coyote.” Some of the materials used were paper towel tubes, egg cartons, and metal conduits. The winner of the contest received a free book from the fair. Pictured are contest participants and kindergarten students (from left) Ella Reed, Owen Huber, Flora Woo, and Ava Heinzman. Other book fair events included a hula-hop contest, a “dress like a book character” contest, and a guessing game.

ADMISSION, continued from Page 2

be told that they are being investigated and that if they are found to be lying or attempting to deceive, they will be rejected, with that information placed in the national database.

Msgr. Schreck’s memorandum said he has talked with a former FBI agent who has provided such services to a diocese. He said that although it will make the admissions process more expensive for the colleges and the dioceses which send seminarians there, including this step would have “the extremely beneficial effects of adding a further independent professional layer to the process and of deterring any attempt to present falsehoods in an application.”

The proposed pre-admission interviews would take place during the summer before seminary admission for applicants living within a day’s round-trip drive of the seminary. Those living farther away would be interviewed just before the orientation period preceding the start of fall classes. “Thus,” Msgr. Schreck’s memorandum said, “all acceptances are provisional (as, in fact, they are already), pending successful completion of the interview process and successful passage of the fingerprinting and criminal background check completed here and the required VIRTUS training” related to prevention of sexual abuse.

Msgr. Schreck’s memorandum said the proposed admissions changes were in response to allegations against Joel Wright, 23, a former seminarian of the Josephinum and of the Diocese of Steubenville, who was arrested in San Diego on federal felony counts of traveling with the intent to engage in illicit sexual conduct with a minor and aggravated sexual abuse of a child.

The memorandum said “due diligence was carried out” by the seminary and the diocese in checking Wright’s background and psychologically testing him under current admissions procedures. “Nevertheless, It is clear that in today’s world, our admissions process will benefit from the addition of components which can verify an applicant’s integrity as well as further detect deception, falsehood, and the provision of incomplete information on the part of the applicant,” it said.

The executive committee of the Josephinum’s board of trustees is reviewing the proposals. Its recommendations will be given to the full board at its next meeting on April 19. If approved, the changes will be put in place for the seminary’s 2016-17 formation year.

The Josephinum, founded as an orphanage in 1877, began training priests in 1888 and was given pontifical status by Pope Leo XIII four years later. The Vatican’s Congregation for Catholic Education appoints its rector. The apostolic nuncio to the United States appoints the formation faculty and serves as its chancellor.
Gestures and postures during Mass; Supporting friends or scandal?

Question & Answer
by: Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service

Q. I recently joined a small parish where the entire congregation holds hands together at the Our Father. I feel uncomfortable holding hands with people I don’t know; so instead, I put my hands in a prayer position as a signal to others not to grab for my hands. There is no other parish close by, and I don’t know how to handle this. (Charleston, West Virginia)

A. Several priests and seminarians of our diocese have reminded the faithful that only the priest should have his palms raised and extended during the Lord’s Prayer. However, elsewhere in the country, local customs persist. Most typical is that of joining hands with adjacent worshippers. Many end by raising joined hands after the doxology (the closing portion of the prayer). Can you please clarify the preference of the (Catholic Church)? (Since your column reaches a broad audience, I am hoping that this will help to bring back some harmonization.) (Wichita, Kansas)

Q. The two questions above reflect many that I regularly receive, and they demonstrate the continued angst over bodily gestures at Mass — especially during the Our Father. And even though I answered a similar question in this column four years ago, that has not surprised as it may seem — resolved the matter for all time. So let’s try again.

One fact is clear: In response to a query about the correct congregational posture while the Our Father is prayed, the website of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops says simply: “No position is prescribed in the Roman Missal for an assembly gesture.” I take that to mean that, within reason, people are free to do as they wish.

If you want to raise your hands with palms uplifted, have at it. If you prefer to join hands with your family or a (willing) pew-mate, then do that. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (in No. 42) says that in the liturgy, “a common posture, to be observed by all participants, is a sign of the unity of the members of the Christian community.”

That, however, gives no priest the right to impose a specific and universal gesture when the liturgical guidelines do not call for one. Surely the passion of some for uniformity and “harmonization” does not override everything else. More important, I think, is to leave worshippers free of anxiety and able to lift comfortably their minds and hearts to God.

Q. My wife and I were recently married, and we both feel strongly that we need to set a positive example in a secular culture which seems to condone so much immorality (sex outside of marriage, contraception, abortion, etc.).

Our dilemma is that there is a really “nice” Catholic couple (recently engaged) in our circle of friends whom we love going out with. The problem is that, as we recently learned, they are cohabiting.

We feel that if we were to continue to socialize with them, we might be condoning immorality. How do we balance our friendship against the “sin of scandal”? Is it appropriate to cut off social ties with them until they marry or decide to live separately? In other words, how do we show them the love of Christ while still upholding the teachings of the church? (Atlanta)

A. Thank God for people like you and your wife, people willing to adhere to the church’s teaching, which has guided Christians successfully and happily for many centuries.

Your issue now, though, is not so much one of morality as of strategy: What action by you and your wife can best help lead your friends to see the wisdom of the church’s view?

It seems to me that if you were to cut off all ties with them abruptly, this could create resentment and entrench them more deeply in their choice of an immoral lifestyle. (By the way, not just the Catholic Church, but many religions hold that couples should not live together as man and wife until they have made a religious and civil commitment that is formal and permanent.)

Why not, instead, take the courageous step of explaining to them, in a quiet and kind way, how much you enjoy their company, but also how much the moral values of the church mean to the two of you and how it saddens you to see them stray from those values?

You could suggest to them that they will surely be looking for God’s blessings throughout their marriage and that they might want to speak with the priest who will preside at their wedding about how to stay close to the Lord until that wonderful day arrives.

Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at askfatherdoyle@gmail.com and 40 Hopewell St., Albany NY 12208.

President’s Volunteer Service Award

Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School sophomore Kyle Moon has been honored with a President’s Volunteer Service Award. He received the award for his work with both the Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation of America (CCFA) and BuckeyeThon. He is actively involved with the CCFA’s central Ohio chapter, working several events throughout the year and helping his family host its own annual event, Dine Out for Crohn’s and Colitis, scheduled for Wednesday, April 27 at Giammarco’s, 6030 Chandler Court, Westerville. He and four other students also founded the Corral for the Kids Club at the school. The club works through BuckeyeThon, the largest student-run philanthropy at The Ohio State University, to conduct various events raising money and awareness for efforts to end childhood cancer.

Photo courtesy St. Francis DeSales High School

Corpus Christi Events

The Corpus Christi Center of Peace will be sponsoring a talk by Sister Ilia Delio, OSF, about maintaining a consciousness of presence and participation in the face of modern technology on Friday, April 28 from 7 to 9 p.m.

The talk is the annual Gerald May seminar presentation of the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation in Washington, from where it will be live-streamed. Sister Ilia teaches theology at Villanova University, holds a doctorate in historical theology from Fordham University, and is the author of 14 books, many of them related to the subject of care for creation. The event, with a suggested donation of $5 for person, is limited to 30 participants.

The center’s other special event for April is a talk on Servant of God Dorothy Day, founder of the Catholic Worker newspaper and movement and a candidate for sainthood, by Ohio Dominican University history professor Kathleen Riley from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 23, followed by lunch. The cost is $10 per person.

The center also is offering mornings of centering prayer from 10:30 a.m. to noon on Saturdays, April 2 and 23, its monthly Women to Women listening cycle from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, April 14, and Evening Prayer in the style of the Taize community, with song, silence, and reflection, from 4 to 5 p.m. Sunday, April 17.

For more information on any of these programs, go to www.cccenterofpeace.org, email corpuschristicenterofpeace@gmail.com, or call (614) 512-3731.

It can be difficult for Catholics to find a Mass when traveling or when it is not practical to attend their regular parishes. The website www.MassTimes.org makes it much easier to search for a Mass by presenting all the possibilities in a geographical area on one page. It includes Mass schedules for 117,000 churches in 201 nations or territories. The service also is available by phone. The number is (1-858) 207-6277.
Fisher Catholic High Schools Awarded $50,000 for Athletic Training Program

The NFL Foundation, the National Athletic Trainers’ Association (NATA), Gatorade, and the Professional Football Athletic Trainers Society announced that Lancaster Fisher Catholic High School is one of 15 schools nationwide selected for the Athletic Trainer Initiative, a grant which allows underserved high schools to expand access to athletic trainers and improve the safety of athletes.

The schools each received $50,000 to develop athletic training programs that will provide student-athletes with consistent access to this valuable resource. The announcement was made at the seventh annual Youth Sports Safety Summit, hosted by NATA and the Youth Sports Safety Alliance.

Fisher Catholic was the only Ohio school to receive this award.

“This effort addresses a critical need and provides the means for these high schools to establish athletic training programs that will enhance the health and safety of their student athletes,” said Jeff Miller, NFL executive vice president of health and safety policy.

“This is an area of priority for us, and we will continue to work with our partners to expand access to athletic trainers in more schools across the country,” he said.

Athletic trainers play a vital role in the health and safety of athletes. A recent study from the American Academy of Pediatrics showed that the presence of athletic trainers resulted in lower overall injury rates, improved diagnosis and return-to-play decisions for concussion and other injuries, and fewer recurrent injuries for student-athletes.

Nearly two-thirds of high schools lack a full-time athletic trainer and almost 30 percent do not have access to any athletic training services.

This grant helps to tackle this need by providing schools with the necessary funding, educational resources, and programmatic support to put athletic trainers on the sidelines and better protect their athletes.

Being Smart With Your Smartphone

The focus of Newark Catholic High School’s annual Mission Week was “Being Smart With Your Smartphone,” featuring talks designed to inform students and parents about the power and dangers of social media.

Speakers included counselor Tim Conrad and Upper Arlington Police Officer Don Stanko, both of whom are affiliated with Digital Danger.org.

After meeting with students, Conrad and Stanko talked with parents about the dangers associated with today’s technology and about the potential felonies their children could commit with their phones.

Kevin McNamara of Arbor Counseling, who also works with the My House Columbus anti-pornography initiative for men, examined the psychological effects of Internet addiction and pornography use. Father Thomas Blau, OP, parochial vicar of Columbus St. Patrick Church, looked at how social media can be a discipleship tool for young people, and Newark Catholic campus ministers Chris Grieb and Andrew Maynard presented a wrap-up discussion for parents, providing them with an overview of the mission and tools for continuing conversation with their children.

Blankets donated to JOIN

Columbus St. Anthony School students in all grades made fleece tie blankets to donate to the Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs. The students shared an opening prayer, read a Bible verse, and discussed JOIN, the hardships involved in poverty and homelessness, and the importance of sharing and providing for the less fortunate of our community. Students (from left) Vanessa Armstrong, Austin Rhodes, Grace Sabo, Abigail Womber, Daniella Graham, and Nathan Traver hold the blanket they made. Photo courtesy St. Anthony School
What started as an ordinary Spanish II class for junior and senior boys at Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School on Feb. 11 became a lesson in saving a life when the teacher, 65-year-old James Pena, collapsed in sudden cardiac arrest.

The 23 young men in the class immediately jumped into action—running for help, calling 911, and clearing away desks and tables so responders could work. School nurse Midge Cull came running with the school’s automated external defibrillator (AED), performing CPR until the AED was ready to use.

Within minutes, Pena was revived and transported to Ohio State University Hospital East, where Dr. Vincent Pompili and his team awaited his arrival in the heart catheterization lab. Today, Pena is alive and well because of the fast, heroic actions his students and fellow staff members took to get help.

The school and the hospital honored those who saved Pena’s life during a special recognition assembly. School principal Jim Lower is shown speaking at the event. Pena (wearing a gold tie) is seated at the left center in the front row, with his wife, Pierrette, to his left and Cull to his right. Seated on the left of the photo are the students from the Spanish II class. In the foreground of the photo, facing away from the camera, are Columbus firefighters and emergency medical personnel who responded to the emergency call.

Also shown are Pompili (second from right in front row) and other representatives from The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center heart and vascular emergency program. They emphasized to the group the importance of knowing how to perform CPR, the life-saving benefits of AEDs, and being willing and able to step forward when the moment demands it.

Pompili also announced a new partnership between OSU and the Columbus Division of Fire to provide AEDs for 10 locations on the city’s east side.

Photo courtesy St. Charles Preparatory School
A Masterpiece of His Creative Work

When I made the career change from marketing to fitness five years ago, I knew I was entering a field that had a focus on how the body looks.

However, my intent as a strength and movement coach was to help people become more functional with strength and movement, more range of motion in joints, and improved cardiovascular endurance.

What we do in the gym is designed to support what we do in our daily lives. We practice reaching, bending, lifting, and carrying to develop more grace, ease, mobility, stability, and strength for everyday tasks.

I had to be honest with people. The focus for us is on moving well and getting stronger, not on changing how the body looks. Many people don’t realize that how the body looks is 70 to 80 percent what we eat and how much we eat. It also is impacted by genetics, lifestyle, and activity level.

It has been exciting to watch people who come into the gym with aesthetic goals as they begin to develop functional goals. This may include improved balance, getting up and down off the floor with ease, lifting and carrying heavy weights, doing pullups or pushups, jumping on a box, or pushing something heavy.

Some of the physical changes they see right away are not what they expected. They have more energy, improved mental clarity, feel happier, and sleep better. Their musculature changes, too, but that takes consistent, moderate, patient training over months and years.

I am always encouraged by what Pope St. John Paul II said and wrote about the human body and spirit as it relates to athletics, with the potential for character development and improved self-knowledge.

In an address to the participants of an athletic championship in 1987, he said, “Sport, as you well know, is an activity that involves more than the movement of the body; it demands use of intelligence and the disciplining of the will. It reveals, in other words, the wonderful structure of the human person created by God as a spiritual being, a unity of body and spirit. Athletic activity can help every man and woman to recall that moment when God the Creator gave origin to the human person, the masterpiece of his creative work.”

Please share John Paul II’s powerful sentiment, because it could be life-changing for someone you love. Thanks be to God for the wisdom of the saints!

Lori Crock is a wife, mother and Plain City St. Joseph Church parishioner, strength and movement coach, and owner of MoveStrong Kettlebells in Dublin. Lori is online at movestrongkbs.com and holyhealthycatholic.com.
COLUMBUS ST. PATRICK HOSTS ITS FIRST ORDINATION SINCE 1872

Masses have been celebrated at Columbus St. Patrick Church since 1853, but it’s had few Masses quite like the one which was celebrated there on the morning of this past Saturday, March 19. For the first time since 1872, St. Patrick’s, Columbus’ second-oldest Catholic church, was the site for the ordination of a priest. Father Totleben, OP

Father Totleben has been a member of the Order of Preachers, familiarly known as the Dominicans, since 2006, made his profession in 2008, his first vows in 2007 and his final vows in August 2011, and he will be ordained to the priesthood on May 3, 2016.

Father Totleben accepted his vocation readily. One might ask just how he knew to come to a community which he didn’t know? He was silent and in his own words, “I discerned a call by a few minor signs and things: I saw a little cancer in an individual who never spoke who would become a priest.”

I realized that people who were aware of that connection lived one way, the way I wanted to, and people who didn’t have that realization lived another way, taking direction I wanted to avoid. Father Totleben said, “I was feeling that I was being called.”

I said, “My wife and I are certainly extremely happy about his ordination because we feel it’s always been his goal.”

“Without the priesthood, there is no Eucharist,” he said.

My time at St. Patrick’s has been a discernment retreat in Columbus, leading Eucharistic Adoration and prayer, discernment, and training in religious life at Cincinnati St. Catherine University where, from his academic background and his religious vocation, serves as a priest. He has received the liturgical ordination to the Order of Preachers,” the bishop continued.

Father Totleben’s parents are Alan and Judy Totleben, whose baptismal name is Joseph, who turned 17 Dominican and diocesan priests who were present repeated that gesture in a closing-circuit television feed.

The discernment retreat in Columbus played a big part in making me realize my calling,” he said.

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Like many Dominicans, Father Totleben, whose baptismal name is Joseph, took a new name on the Ordination: he chose the name Peter because “I’ve always felt drawn to Peter’s humility, his example of having one foot in the Kingdom of Heaven and the other on a human peel.”

Father Totleben’s parents are Alan and Junie Totleben of Farixing, Pa. His father said he wasn’t surprised that despite his resistance, his son ultimately responded to God’s call to the priesthood.

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I said, “My wife and I are certainly extremely happy about his ordination because we feel it’s always been his goal.”

“Without the priesthood, there is no Eucharist,” he said.

My time at St. Patrick’s has been a discernment retreat in Columbus, leading Eucharistic Adoration and prayer, discernment, and training in religious life at Cincinnati St. Catherine University where, from his academic background and his religious vocation, serves as a priest.

Like many Dominicans, Father Totleben, whose baptismal name is Joseph, took a new name on the Ordination: he chose the name Peter because “I’ve always felt drawn to Peter’s humility, his example of having one foot in the Kingdom of Heaven and the other on a human peel.”

Father Totleben’s parents are Alan and Junie Totleben of Farixing, Pa. His father said he wasn’t surprised that despite his resistance, his son ultimately responded to God’s call to the priesthood.

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Pro-Life Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine

By Beth Vanderkooi

Since 2007, Greater Columbus Right to Life (GCRTL) has been narrowing its focus to build a culture of life by creating a community of prayer, service, and education. In the process, we have helped hundreds of women turn away from abortion clinics, seen nearly a dozen abortion clinic employees leave the industry, and built life-changing communities of prayer throughout central Ohio.

Recently, a group of pilgrims representing GCRTL took that focus on prayer and community to a deeper level by traveling to Mexico as part of a pilgrimage which I was honored to lead. The trip was under the spiritual direction of Father Nick Droll, parochial vicar of Columbus St. Ladislas, Corpus Christi, and St. Mary, Mother of God churches.

When planning the pilgrimage, I wanted to focus on three things: the role of Our Lady of Guadalupe in evangelizing the Americas and bringing an end to the bloody practice of infant and child sacrifice; the value of praying with our counterparts in Mexico, who are building a continual prayer presence through 40 Days for Life and local church outreach at Mexican abortion clinics; and the need all of us have for a spiritual recharge as part of our own faith lives. There is a deeply spiritual element to pro-life work, and it opens us up to the possibility of spiritual warfare in a way I had not really anticipated.

With the assistance of Tekton Ministries, we built an itinerary that combined the typical pilgrimage visits to churches, basilicas, and holy sites with the elements of service often seen as part of a mission trip.

We began most days with prayer at a local abortion clinic, joining 40 Days for Life campaigns at two Mexico City neighborhood offices of the Marie Stopes organization. Stopes was a British contemporary of Planned Parenthood founder Margaret Sanger. The two shared a zeal for contraception, abortion, and eugenics.

In Mexico City, abortion is legal until 12 weeks and the clinics are open seven days a week. While it is now legal to gather outside of the clinics to pray, it is not legal to speak to a woman entering an abortion clinic. In only a few years, the work of 40 Days for Life has been effective – one of the three clinics we planned to pray at was closed in late 2015.

We always have found that our efforts are most effective when people join together in peaceful prayer and witness from different churches, cultures, and faiths. I had the same sense with our friends in Mexico. The 40 Days campaign leader in Ixtapalapa told us several times how important it was to her and her volunteers that we would come to support them.

We also heard from our tour guide that he has been guiding pilgrimages in Mexico for more than 25 years, and that our group praying with his people had moved him to tears. Later, he said our request to pray at a location in his neighborhood opened his eyes to a clinic he had not known existed.

It was not only our guide and participants in the local campaign who were moved. Kelly Hamilton, GCRTL treasurer and a member of Powell St. Joan of Arc Church, said, “Seeing the 40 Days for Life sign in Spanish (picture above) and praying with our pro-life brothers and sisters in Mexico was humbling and motivating. This is an international prayer movement that unites pro-lifers around the world. We stand together in solidarity to protect women and the unborn from abortion.”

Our pilgrimage to Mexico happened to coincide with Pope Francis’ trip to Mexico. This created a little additional logistical work, but also gave those of us brave enough to venture out into the city one night an opportunity to see the pope pass by in his motorcade. It also meant that many of the centuries-old churches and basilicas the pilgrims visited were especially bedecked with flowers and other tributes.

People have many perceptions of Mexico, and those perceptions often are not flattering, but it really is something special to be in a nation where nearly the entire population is Christian and mostly Catholic. Our tour guide estimated the population of Mexico to be 90 to 93 percent Catholic.

There is plenty of brightly painted pottery, a high rate of poverty, and communities suffering from corruption and cartels in Mexico, but our group had the opportunity to see behind the stereotypical facade to witness the faith, the art and architecture, the generosity, and the beauty of the nation and her people.

Earl Crosby, GCRTL vice president and a member of Worthington St. Michael Church, said, “The pilgrimage opened my eyes to how wide and deep Catholicism took root in Mexico in the 16th century. Long before Jamestown started building primitive cabins, Mexico was building magnificent cathedrals, which even today far outshine most of the cathedrals in the United States.”

The pilgrims spent the first and last days of the trip at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe. In addition to visiting the basilica and walking through the Doors of Mercy to view the tilma (cloak) of St. Juan Diego, we went to the Old Basilica, The Church of the Indigenous, and, after climbing Tepeyac Hill, The Church of the Well.

The pilgrims also had an opportunity to visit the Tulpetlac apparition site, thus seeing the places where all five apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe occurred. We celebrated Mass at the basilica, a massive church constructed in the shape of a circle, with a series of side altars overlooking the rest of the church, the main altar, and the tilma.

The group also had the opportunity to pray at some of the most beautiful churches in the world, which are heavily adorned with baroque and rococo paintings and carvings. Two especially stood out – the Shrine of Our Lady of Ocotlan and the Santa Prisca Cathedral.

Our Lady of Ocotlan is a lesser-known miraculous image of the Virgin Mary that appeared to a pious, indigenous convert in the midst of a plague. The Santa Prisca Cathedral in Taxco was founded by the Dominicans and built to form a rosary. The church and the art were stunning, to such a degree that during Mass, I found myself needing to close my eyes. It was dizzying to witness the beauty of the Mass in a place of such beauty. I mentioned the feeling to a fellow pilgrim, and she agreed, adding, “and yet, if you think about it, our senses cannot take in this beauty, but it is nothing compared to what heaven will be like.”

If you would like to experience more of the sights and sounds of our pilgrimage to Mexico, you can visit the trip page at www.gcrtl.org/guadalupe. We also would like to invite you to join your prayers to ours for an end to abortion by joining our spiritual adoption program.

We designed 1,000 prayer cards with an image of Our Lady and an invitation to spiritually adopt an unborn child at risk of abortion. We took those prayer cards with us to Mexico, where they were blessed at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe. We would like to send you one of them as part of our spiritual adoption program. Visit www.gcrtl.org/pray to request your card.

Thank you to all of the pilgrims who joined us, to our hosts in Mexico, and especially to Father Droll, who summed it up perfectly: “Our pilgrimage to Mexico was an amazing experience, and we thank our Blessed Lord and Our Lady of Guadalupe that we were able to witness to the sacredness of human life, even in another country, while our Holy Father was also visiting.”

Beth Vanderkooi is executive director of Greater Columbus Right to Life.
Mount Carmel Medical Group includes more than 200 primary care and specialty providers in over 40 office locations throughout central Ohio, so you can be sure to receive the patient-centered care you expect, in a location that’s convenient.

Find your nearest location at mountcarmelmedicalgroup.com or contact HealthCall at 614-234-2222 to be connected with a primary care or specialty physician.

Eighth-graders from Worthington St. Michael School participated in a day of service at the Women’s Care Center on East Broad Street in Columbus on Presidents Day, Feb. 15, when school was not in session. The students offered their time off in service to others in need. At the center, they bundled diapers and cleared out the basement. The Women’s Care Center is a support center for pregnant women in need who choose life for their babies. It provides pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, parenting classes, and educational counseling on a variety of topics. Last year, it performed more than 3,000 pregnancy tests and handed out more than 27,000 diapers to mothers in need. Donations to the center enable it to provide all of its services for free. Donations may be sent to Women’s Care Center, 935 E. Broad St., Columbus OH 43205.

Photo courtesy St. Michael School
Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord (Cycle C)

Without the resurrection, there is no New Testament

The readings for Easter are all from the New Testament. Because the resurrection of Christ is the central focus of Christian faith, without the resurrection of Christ, there would be no New Testament.

Chronologically, 1 Corinthians is the first written piece, dating to about 54 AD. Most commentators think Paul didn’t write Colossians, which is dated after Paul had died (in 64 AD?), possibly in the 70s AD. Luke wrote the Gospel and Acts of the Apostles between 80 and 85 AD. John’s Gospel is dated between 90 and 100 AD.

This brief survey shows that whatever we say about the resurrection of Christ (regarding written testimony) dates from the 50s AD. We cannot discount the importance of oral testimony, which began the entire process. This oral testimony would have begun when Christ Jesus died, perhaps between 27 and 30 AD. Early on, the exact date was not important because Christians believed that Christ was returning soon in glory. It was only when his return was delayed that questions began to arise. The precise dates remain elusive.

Paul chooses to rebuke the Corinthians for bragging about a sinful situation that they had accepted, which Paul rejected. The image of a little yeast leavening the dough is Paul’s way of saying that the one situation they have accepted as their freedom in Christ is enough to ruin the whole batch of dough (the community). The reference to “unleavened” dough and “our paschal lamb” having been sacrificed recalls the springtime celebration of Passover (and resurrection), which is when Paul was thought to have written the letter. Because the yeast (of malice and wickedness) puffs up the dough, Paul urges them to remain unleavened (using sincerity and truth).

Colossians addresses the effect of Christ’s resurrection. In baptism, we were raised from the dead of sin, and being raised, we ought to seek “what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.” If our lives are hidden with Christ in God, because of baptism, that should free us from the cares and woes of what goes on around us, precisely because we seek what is above.

Acts uses part of a sermon Peter gave in the house of the Roman centurion Cornelius, after which he and his household asked for baptism. It contains the summary statements about Jesus which made up part of the preaching ministry of the early church. The highlights of the sermon included John’s baptism, Jesus of Nazareth, the Holy Spirit, good works and healings, death by hanging on a tree, resurrection on the third day, witnesses commissioned to preach in his name, that he is the fulfillment of all the prophets, and that sins are forgiven in his name. One could do worse than to recall all this at Easter.

John’s account of the resurrection is limited here to Mary Magdalene, Peter, and the beloved disciple. It takes place on the first day of the week at the tomb, while it was still dark. Mary discovers the empty tomb and reports back to the other two what she has discovered. They rush to and enter the tomb and find only the burial cloths. The beloved disciple “saw and believed,” but all he saw was the empty tomb. They still did not “understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead.”

Luke agrees on the time and place, but puts (at first) unnamed women there, who enter the tomb and find two men in dazzling garments who announce that Jesus has been raised. They go and report to the eleven what they have discovered. Luke then lists the women as Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, with others unnamed. The apostles think their story seems like “nonsense,” but Peter alone runs to the tomb and sees only the burial cloths. He goes home wondering what has happened.

Father Lawrence Hummer, pastor at Chillicothe St. Mary Church, may be reached at hummerl@smmarychillicothe.com.

MARTIN DE PORRES CENTER OPEN HOUSE IS APRIL 24

The Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Drive, Columbus, will host an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 24. All are invited to visit and learn about the center and what it does, explore its space and art, experience its programs and community, and meet its staff.

The center, sponsored by the Dominican Sisters of Peace, was established in 2004. It provides program-
Easter Sunday Makes Everything Possible

Easter Sunday reminds us that with God, all things are possible. God came to us in the form of a man so that we could understand that he wasn’t some distant, Greek-godlike fixture high atop Mount Olympus. All through salvation history, God was preparing for Easter Sunday. Jesus walked in our steps, fully human and fully divine.

This seemed perplexing to the Gentiles, especially when St. Paul went to Greece and Italy and actually engaged the philosophers in dialogue -- something they relished. The idea of a loving God who cared for humanity seemed beyond their understanding. This is why the Judeo-Christian concept of the Almighty is beyond any psychological and sociological explanation. The Greek, Roman, and Near Eastern idea of a god was someone who was distant, viewed humans with disdain, and punished them frequently with lighting from above and volcanic eruptions.

St. Paul preached that God had done this before and could do it again, but preferred to use love as his choice vehicle for human engagement, rather than plagues and catastrophes. God gave all of us free will, which allowed for horrendous betrayals like that of Judas, and for amazing perseverance, as shown by the women at the cross and other followers of Jesus who didn’t flee when all seemed lost.

The early Christians showed amazing fortitude. So did more recent missionaries, such as those whom some of us remember from when we were younger, as they traveled to far-off places and risked life and limb for the Gospel. This seems inconceivable to many people today. In some cultures in which Christianity has not penetrated, the Christian concept of concern for others, even at the expense of oneself, still seems confusing and bewildering. I am sure all of us have encountered a fellow Christian performing acts of generosity and love that we find amazing and inexplicable. This all goes back to the love of Calvary, where the darkest Friday in history turned into the greatest Sunday in history.

What are we doing to thank God for his generosity? Are we going to study our faith more deeply, pray more, help those in need? Are we going to become more involved in our parish or a charitable cause near and dear to us, or, if nothing else, are we going to become closer to our family and friends? This shouldn’t be a mystery to us. All of us are probably well aware of our own shortcomings. Perhaps now is the time to remember the two most important times in our lives -- now and at the hour of our death. All of us probably remember this phrase from the countless times we have prayed the Hail Mary. There’s no better time than now to put our faith into practice.

Speaking of practice, sports is always a good example of how practice and repetition make us better-trained for the task that lies ahead. For sports fans, this is the time for March Madness, as rabid and lukewarm college basketball fans watch the twists and turns of the NCAA tournament. It isn’t uncommon for total strangers at a restaurant or bar to turn to total strangers and say “Can you believe that No. 2 seed lost” or “Did you see that half-court shot to win the game?”

Imagine if we believers were that passionate about our faith. The problem often is that we are afraid of what people think of us. During this Easter season, let us pray to discern who God wants us to approach concerning the events of Easter Sunday. Perhaps we can approach it as if we were on a team believing in something more powerful than ourselves. We can certainly pray about who and what God wants us to help this Easter season, but chances are we already know what he wants. The question is, “Will this be the Easter season we follow through?”

Hartline is the author of “The Tide is Turning Toward Catholicism” and a former teacher and administrator for the diocese.

THE TIDE IS TURNING TOWARD CATHOLICISM
David Hartline

Immaculate Conception School Science Olympiad Team qualified to advance to the state Science Olympiad on Saturday, April 9 at The Ohio State University. The top 40 middle school and high school teams from across Ohio will compete in the state tournament. The Immaculate Conception team brought home 27 awards, including first-place medals in Disease Detectives, Experimental Design, and Scrambler, along with a third-place team trophy. The Science Olympiad is North America’s most prestigious team science and technology competition. The 2016 Immaculate Conception team includes 35 fifth- through eighth-grade students, assisted by 24 volunteer coaches who began working with the students in November to help them develop the building skills and scientific knowledge that made it possible to advance so far.

SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

THE TIDE IS TURNING TOWARD CATHOLICISM
David Hartline

Immaculate Conception School
2015-2016 Science Olympiad Team
Grades 5-8

Photo courtesy Immaculate Conception School
Israeli restrictions for Holy Week, Easter

By Judith Sudilovsky /Catholic News Service

Israeli restrictions on reaching the Church of the Holy Sepulcher for Holy Week and Easter are part of the current Israeli government’s policy of making Jerusalem an exclusively Jewish city, said Yusef Daher, secretary-general of the Jerusalem Interchurch Center.

Describing the network of Israeli police barriers that disrupt the flow and number of people able to reach the church for Good Friday services and the Orthodox Holy Fire ceremony at the Easter Vigil, Daher acknowledged that although the single entrance and exit to the church cause a potential hazard in case of a fire, there had been no problem in more than a century.

“This (restrictions) did not happen 10 years ago,” he said.

The Holy Fire ceremony involves the sharing of fire, which, according to tradition, is brought forth miraculously from the tomb of Jesus by the Greek Orthodox and Armenian patriarchs.

The first flames are passed from person to person by torches to bundles of candles. Eventually, fire from the ceremony is sent to the various parishes of the Holy Land.

The ceremony has become a point of contention between the Israeli police and local Christians during the past 10 years.

Police say the single exit into a plaza makes the ceremony a high risk for visitors if a fire breaks out.

In 1808, a fire severely damaged the dome of the church’s rotunda, and dozens of pilgrims were trampled to death. In the mid-1800s, a fire during the Holy Fire ceremony reportedly also killed hundreds of pilgrims.

Palestinian Christians living in the West Bank and Gaza also need special permits to attend Holy Week and Easter ceremonies.

Israel grants the permits at the last minute, and then often does not grant enough for everyone in a family to travel.

At a March 17 media briefing in Jerusalem’s Old City, Father Jamal Khader, rector of the Latin Patriarchate Seminary in Beit Jalla, West Bank, compared the restrictions to the celebration of Holy Week, which reminds Christians that Easter is coming.

“It (reminds us) that this can’t go on forever, there is an end. Like with the Gospel, there is a resurrection of light and of happiness,” he said.

The Status Quo, the 1852 agreement that preserved the division of ownership and responsibilities of various Christian holy sites, governs the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, which is shared by Catholics, Armenians, and Greek, Ethiopian, Syriac, and Coptic Orthodox.

While the need for more exits has been acknowledged, because of the desire to maintain the Status Quo, church officials have been unable to reach an agreement on how to do so.

Israel has said it will refrain from taking unilateral action in order to avoid provoking church protests.

“Yes, there are some security issues” in terms of fire exits, Daher said. “Christians say that on a holy day, God will not allow anything dangerous to happen. Secular people say that is nonsense and something has to be done, but closing the plaza is not (the solution)”.

He said there are about 8,000 Christians living in Jerusalem and 50,000 Christians in the West Bank, with fewer than 2,000 in Gaza.

During the past two years, the Jewish Passover and the Easter holiday have coincided, and while the Jews entering the Old City have been given complete freedom of movement, the movement of Christians celebrating Good Friday and the Orthodox Holy Fire ceremony have been restricted by the barriers, Daher said.

Roseann Costello

A memorial Mass for Roseann Costello, who died Saturday, March 19, will be celebrated at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School at 5 p.m. Saturday, April 30.

A celebration of her life will take place at the Franklin Park Conservatory in Columbus from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, May 15.

She was a guidance counselor at DeSales from 2002-15 and was a counselor for more than 30 years, serving schools in eastern Ohio before coming to Columbus.

Funeral arrangements are pending. Additional details will be published in Catholic Times when they become available.

Pray for our dead

ARTER, Elizabeth “Bethie,” 20, March 17
St. Mary Church, Lancaster

BAUGUS, Martha A., 65, March 15
St. Paul Church, Westerville

BECHDOLT, Franklin F., 86, March 15
St. Paul Church, Westerville

BEERY, Grace, 84, March 19
St. Agatha Church, Columbus

CHARLTON, Grace, 83, March 14
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

CRANE, Shirley A., 72, March 14
Corpus Christi Church, Columbus

GALVIN, Sharon L., 70, March 17
St. Peter Church, Columbus

HANAWALT, William G., 81, March 16
St. John Neumann Church, Sunbury

HELLER, John H., 87, March 11
St. Michael Church, Worthington

KOPANIASZ, Alvina, 90, March 13
St. Paul Church, Westerville

LIBERTY, Nicholas R., 88, March 17
St. Matthias Church, Columbus

LOHSIRI, Anthony P., 69, March 15
St. Matthias Church, Columbus

McGRAW, Mary S., 94, March 13
St. Mary Church, Lancaster

PIAR, Donald O., 86, March 7
St. Vincent de Paul Church, Mount Vernon

REIK, John H. III, 56, March 16
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

RUSSELL, Sheila B., 83, March 19
St. Christopher Church, Columbus

SCHLAIRET, James P., 70, March 10
St. Vincent de Paul Church, Mount Vernon

SHINOSKIE, RoseMarie, 91, March 14
St. Mary Church, Groveport

SPIRES, Michael R., 72, March 19
St. Joseph Church, Sugar Grove

STICKEL, Barbara A., 74, March 13
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

VILARDO, Helen, 87, March 15
St. Agatha Church, Columbus

YATES, Imogene, 88, March 15
St. John Neumann Church, Sunbury

ZIMMER, Karen L., 73, March 17
St. John Neumann Church, Sunbury

Catholic Times

March 27, 2016

Additional details will be published in Catholic Times when they become available.

AM 820
CATHOLIC RADIO
MARCH

24, THURSDAY
Bishop Campbell Celebrates Mass of the Lord’s Supper
7:30 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Bishop Frederick Campbell celebrates the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord’s Supper.
614-224-1295

25, FRIDAY
Walking Stations of the Cross in Downtown Columbus
8 to 11 a.m., starting at St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Annual Walking Stations of the Cross, a four-mile walk stopping at 14 sites around downtown Columbus to commemorate Jesus’ crucifixion and reflect on various social issues.
614-241-2540

Living Stations in Spanish at Dover St. Joseph
8 p.m., St. Joseph Church, 613 N. Tuscarawas Ave., Dover. Living Stations of the Cross in Spanish.
330-364-6661

25-28 APRIL, SUNDAY
Divine Mercy Novena at St. Charles Borromeo, 1301 W. Broad St., Columbus
Divine Mercy Novena at St. Joseph’s Shrine, 1966 Ferris Road, Columbus
Divine Mercy Novena at Holy Name Church, 154 E. Patterson Ave., Columbus
Divine Mercy Novena at St. Mary Church, 6280 St. Mary Road, Columbus
Divine Mercy Novena at St. Mary of the Miracles Church, 5225 Refugee Rd., Columbus

Divine Mercy Chaplet at Chillicothe St. Peter
7 p.m., Chillicothe St. Peter Church, 101 Church St., Chillicothe. Daily recital of Chaplet of Divine Mercy, concluding on April 3 with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from end of 10:30 a.m. Mass until 3 p.m., when chaplet will be recited, followed by Benediction. Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available from 13:00 to 22:00.
740-364-6661

Divine Mercy Chaplet Recital at St. Joseph’s Shrine
7:30 p.m., St. Joseph’s Shrine, 1966 Ferris Road, Columbus. Divine Mercy Novena will be recited, followed by Benediction. Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available from 13:00 to 22:00.
740-345-4290

Divine Mercy Chaplet Recital at Holy Name Church
6 p.m., Holy Name Church, 212 E. Long St., Columbus. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, with prayers in English.
614-221-4323

26, SATURDAY
Wilderness Outreach ‘Carry the Cross’ Hike
7:30 a.m., Clear Creek Metro Park, off U.S. 33 near the end of 10:30 a.m. Mass until 3 p.m., when chaplet will be recited, followed by Benediction. Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available from 13:00 to 22:00.
740-774-2221

30, WEDNESDAY
Discussion of Diocesan Marriage Preparation Program
6 to 8 p.m., The Catholic Foundation, 257 E. Broad St., Columbus. Diocesan Marriage and Family Life Office representatives discuss the office’s program for remote, proximate, and immediate marriage preparation.
614-241-2560

Charismatic Mass at St. Matthias
7:30 p.m., St. Matthias Church, 1666 Ferris Rd., Columbus. Mass sponsored by diocesan Catholic Charismatic Renewal, preceded by rosary at 6 and praise and worship, with individual prayer ministry available at 6:30, followed by potluck fellowship.
614-500-8115

WESTERVILLE THEOLOGY ON TAP MEETING
7:30 to 9:30 p.m., Old Bag of Nails, 24 N. State St., Westerville. Meeting of Westerville St. Paul Church Theology on Tap discussion and social group for young Catholics. Topic: “Catholics and Muslims” with Father Rod Damico, parochial vicar, Westerville St. Paul Church.
614-882-2537

APRIL

1, FRIDAY
St. Cecilia Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
St. Cecilia Church, 434 Norton Road, Columbus. Begins after 8:15 a.m. Mass; continues to 5 p.m. Saturday.
614-679-6761

MONTHLY ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 5225 Refugee Rd., Columbus. Begins after 9 a.m. Mass; continues through 6 p.m. Holy Hour.
614-866-4302

CATHOLIC MEN’S LUNCHEON CLUB
12:15 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Catholic Men’s Luncheon Club meeting. Talk by Fred Shaffer of Hilliard St. Brendan Church on “Mercy: Becoming a Man Fully Alive,” and his return to Catholicism from a rock music career.
614-866-4302

2, SATURDAY
Divine Mercy Chaplet Recital at Chillicothe St. Peter
7 p.m., Chillicothe St. Peter Church, 101 Church St., Chillicothe. Daily recital of Chaplet of Divine Mercy, concluding on April 3 with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from end of 10:30 a.m. Mass until 3 p.m., when chaplet will be recited, followed by Benediction. Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available from 13:00 to 22:00.
740-364-6661

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET RECIITAL AT ST. JOSEPH’S SHRINE
7:30 p.m., Chillicothe St. Peter Church, 101 Church St., Chillicothe. Daily recital of Chaplet of Divine Mercy, concluding on April 3 with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from end of 10:30 a.m. Mass until Benediction at 3 p.m.
740-774-1407

3, SUNDAY
Bishop Campbell Celebrates Easter Morning Mass
10:30 a.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Bishop Frederick Campbell celebrates Easter Mass.
614-224-1295

PRAISE MASS AT OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL
11 a.m., Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 5225 Refugee Road, Columbus. Praise Mass with upbeat contemporary music.
614-861-1242

28, MONDAY
Bethesda Post-Abortion Healing Ministry
6:30 p.m., support group meeting, 2744 Dover Road, Columbus (Christ the King convent, first building west of the church).

OUR LADY OF PEACE MEN’S BIBLE STUDY
7 p.m., Our Lady of Peace Church, 20 E. Dominion Blvd., Columbus. Bible study of Sunday Scripture readings.
614-886-6266

CATHOLIC’S DIVORCE SURVIVAL GUIDE AT ST. NICHOLAS
7 p.m., St. Nicholas Church, 955 E. Main St., Zanesville. First meeting of 12-week Catholic’s Divorce Survival Guide program, designed to answer questions of and bring healing to separated and divorced Catholics.
740-463-0997

29, TUESDAY
Padre Pio Prayer Group at St. John the Baptist
12:30 p.m., St. John the Baptist Church, 168 E. Lincoln Ave., Columbus. Padre Pio Prayer Group meeting, including rosary, devotions, and 1 p.m. Mass.
614-294-5319

PRAYER GROUP MEETING AT ST. MARK
7:30 p.m., St. Mark Church, 1566 Ferris Rd., Columbus. Light of Life prayer group meeting.
614-654-6928

30, WEDNESDAY
Marriage Preparation Program at Grove City
6 to 9:30 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 3750 Broadway, Grove City. “The Joy-Filled Marriage,” diocesan Marriage & Family Life Office marriage preparation program. $175 fee per couple includes meals.
614-241-2560

SOUTHERN OHIO SCOUTING INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS PROGRAM
8:30 a.m. to 130 p.m. (8:30 to 11 a.m. for grades one to five), Holy Resurrection Melkite Catholic Church, 4612 Glenmaw Ave., Columbus. International awareness program sponsored by diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting for all diocesan youths and adults.
614-882-7806

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

‘Happenings’ submissions
Notices for items of Catholic interest must be received at least 12 days before expected publication date. We will print them as space permits. Items not received before this deadline may not be published. Listings cannot be taken by phone. Mail to: The Catholic Times Happenings, 197 East Gay St., Columbus, OH 43215. Fax to: 614-241-2518. E-mail as text to: tpuet@colodioc.org
Thinking in terms of the little engine that could, the annual Catholic Almanac, which sells about 5,000 copies each year, not only could, it can and does, every year since 1904.

A world of Catholic information gets packed into its 640 pages. And in the almanac’s 116 years, two men can claim to have been at the helm for more than half of its existence: Franciscan Father Felician Foy, who was its editor for 42 years, and Matthew Bunson, who succeeded Father Foy in 1997 and has been in charge ever since.

Father Foy supervised the production of the Catholic Almanac from his base in New Jersey. Thanks to technology, Bunson has been able to edit the work from Las Vegas and from the Huntington, Indiana, headquarters of Our Sunday Visitor, which publishes the compendium.

“Each year is so interesting to work on. Each year is so very different,” said Bunson in a telephone interview with Catholic News Service.

Even so, “I don’t see how he (Father Foy) managed to do it for 42 years,” Bunson said. “He came back from an ice-skating expedition with some fellow Franciscans and received a phone call and was told he would be taking over as editor of the almanac. So it wasn’t really a question.”

Father Foy’s editorship spanned the time from Pope Pius XII to Pope St. John Paul II, with the Second Vatican Council in between and “the slow creep of technology” to deal with. Father Foy also had a staff of as many as 50 people to direct. Bunson’s staff is considerably smaller – “three or four, depending on the time of year,” he said – plus “a trusted staff of writers and consultants.”

The early almanacs were a Catholic version of Poor Richard’s Almanac or the Farmer’s Almanac in that they provided detail on the past year in general so that Catholics didn’t need to buy another almanac to get those facts. “There would be baseball scores, the Oscars” in early editions of the Catholic Almanac, Bunson said. But as Catholics made greater strides in secular society, that kind of material got dropped.

The almanac serves as “a snapshot of what’s going on in the life of the church at that time. In the 1950s, you don’t find too much stress on ecumenical outreach. But that really begins to change in the years of the (Second Vatican) Council and the postconciliar period,” he said.

With Bunson at the helm, “one of the first things we realized that we wanted to do was to make sure that each year’s edition reflected more of that year. So we expanded the annual coverage. Each section of the almanac, we’re talking about doctrine, we’re talking about canon law, ecumenism and interreligious dialogue, the church in the world, each had to be looked at from top to bottom,” he said.

“You include as much new, interesting material, but important material, as possible. It kind of becomes a juggling game,” and “it’s where technology becomes your friend,” because he’s able to edit, insert, and delete material until the work absolutely has to be shipped to the printer, Bunson said.

For the 2017 edition, to be published this fall, “we are trying, as we always do, to keep up with Pope Francis,” he said. “With Francis, it’s in our new events section of the monthly news, including as much about his activities as possible. People are really interested in what Pope Francis is doing.”

What does the future hold for the Catholic Almanac? “One of things we’ll be looking at in the coming years is the digital opportunities for the almanac, as with any other publication,” Bunson told CNS.

“There’s a lot more we can do with the almanac, and it’s a really valuable resource, online as well as in published form. I’ve always been surprised over the years that we have many institution subscribers who see it as a go-to – you can’t find it on the Internet, the searches you’d have to do to find this information at your fingertips. There’s a shocking number of Catholics who read it to find out what’s going on in the church.”

Bunson also will get to edit the almanac from a third city: somewhere in the Washington area. He’s getting married in the fall, at about the time the almanac is published, and his fiance works for the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia. “She’s a Washington native, so it makes sense to move here,” he said. “I’m actually looking forward to what can be done from the Washington side, culturally, and what is going on the church in the Washington area.”
HOLY WEEK AROUND THE WORLD

Pope Francis arrives in procession to celebrate Palm Sunday Mass in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican on March 20. CNS photo/Paul Haring

Latin Patriarch Fouad Twal of Jerusalem walks in the annual Palm Sunday procession on the Mount of Olives overlooking the Old City of Jerusalem on March 20. CNS photo/Debbie Hill

The faithful hold candles in Jerusalem's Church of the Holy Sepulcher. CNS photo/Oliver Weiken, EPA
“Our Lords words regarding Divine Mercy Sunday:”

“The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sin and punishment. (Diary #699)”

“Jesus, I trust in You!”

Come Join Our Celebration!

**HOLY FAMILY**
546 West Broadway
12:00 p.m. (following Mass) Exposition of Blessed Sacrament
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Confessions
2:00 p.m. Singing of Chapter of Divine Mercy
3:00 p.m. Veneration of Divine Mercy image
5:00 p.m. Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

**CHURCH OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**
32 East Main Street, Newark, OH
10:00 a.m. Mass
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Reconciliation
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Confessions

**THE COMMUNITY OF HOLY ROSARY AND ST. JOHN ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**
648 South Ohio Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43205
9:00 a.m. Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration begins
Procession with Divine Mercy image
Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
Blessing of the Image & Enthronement
Chapel of Divine Mercy (mce of Rosary)
Veneration of the Lord’s image

**SAINTS SIMON AND JUDE CATHOLIC CHURCH**
5550 Highview Pike, West Jefferson, Ohio 43162 • (365) 579-7867
1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration
3:00 – 6:00 p.m. Confessions will be heard
6:00 p.m. Chaplet of Divine Mercy followed by Benediction

**ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH**
716 Church Street, Chillicothe, OH • (740) 774-1237
Friday, March 25 (Good Friday), 7:00 p.m. – Chaplet will be sung in church
Chapel of Divine Mercy will be recited Saturday, March 26 through Saturday, April 2, 3:00 p.m.
daily in the Church
Sunday, April 3 Divine Mercy Sunday
12:30 p.m. – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
3:00 p.m. – Chaplet of Divine Mercy to be sung in church, followed by Benediction
Confessions:
Good Friday – March 25 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 2 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

**ST. CATHARINE OF SIENA CATHOLIC CHURCH**
200 South Main Street, Logan, OH 43138
2:00 p.m. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation
3:00 p.m. Praying the Rosary
3:00 p.m. Chaplet of Divine Mercy (led by soloist)
3:30 p.m. Benediction

**ST. JOHN CHURCH, LOGAN, OH**
251 S Market St, Logan, OH 43138 • (740) 359-0245
2:00 p.m. Movie about the History of Divine Mercy in the Church Hall
2:45 p.m. Short Discussion
3:00 p.m. Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in Church
3:15 p.m. Confessions and Singing the Chaplet of Divine Mercy
3:30 p.m. Benediction and Reposalion of the Blessed Sacrament

**SAINT BRIGID OF KILDARE/DEANERY CELEBRATION**
7179 Avery Road, Dublin, Ohio 43017
2:00 p.m. Sacrament of Confession
3:00 p.m. Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament followed by Chaplet of Mercy (sung) and Benediction

(Deanery celebration includes: Saint Joan of Arc, Saint Timothy’s, Saint Andrews, Saint Brendan, Saint Brigid, Saint Margaret of Cortona, Saint Peter, Saint Agatha, Saint Christopher, Our Lady of Victory)