



DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

CATHOLIC TIMES

A journal of Catholic life in Ohio

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THE FIRST WEEK OF LENT
VOLUME 65:19



LENT 2016

The Editor's Notebook*Lent is the company of Christ*

By David Garick, Editor



Lent provides us with many challenges and some seeming contradictions. The liturgical atmosphere is rather somber, yet it is filled with expectation of overwhelming joy.

We engage in fasting and abstinence, yet we receive great spiritual nourishment. We contemplate our own sins and weakness, yet we are comforted by forgiveness and reconciliation with Our Lord through the sacraments.

Most of the attention given to Lenten devotion seems inwardly focused. That is important. This is a time for each of us to refocus our personal relationship with Christ. It is a time to overcome those stumbling blocks that stand in the way of achieving the life we are called to live. So we spend time alone in prayer, as Jesus himself did when he prayed, fasted, and was tempted in the wilderness for 40 days.

We fast and abstain from meat on Fridays and feel the personal loss that reminds us of the much greater sacrifice Christ made for us. We go to confession and bare our transgressions in private before a priest acting in the name of Christ to receive Christ's absolution of our sins and direction in amending our lives.

But we should not allow all this introspection to isolate us. God never intended for us to have to make this spiritual journey alone. Christ told us that he would remain with us always. He does so through the Church, which is the living body of Christ. The Church, with all of its diverse members, exists to support and encourage us as we

make a lifelong spiritual journey.

So during Lent it is especially appropriate that we seek out companionship from our community.

St. Paul spoke of that in his Letter to the Hebrews when he wrote, "Let us hold unwaveringly to our confession that gives us hope, for he who made the promise is trustworthy. We must consider how to rouse one another to love and good works. We should not stay away from our assembly, as is the custom of some, but encourage one another."

We can do that through joining other Catholics in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament or in reliving Christ's Passion in the Stations of the Cross. We can do it through joining with members of our community in Lenten missions and programs, where we learn more about our faith and share in the building of a strong community of believers.

We can even do it through simple fellowship with our neighbors at a weekly fish fry. Most importantly of all, we do it through participation in the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, in which we all share in the very body, blood, soul, and divinity of Christ.

So we go into Lent with the challenge to empty ourselves of the parts of our nature that weigh us down so that we can fill ourselves with the love of Christ and of our neighbors, who make up the enduring body of Christ on earth. Only then can we truly and joyfully take up our own cross and follow Christ in eternity.



Front Page photo:
A woman receives ashes during an Ash Wednesday Mass. Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent, a time of prayer, fasting, and charity.

CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz

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OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT Clergy Assignments

Confirming the appointment of the Superior Delegate of the Congregation of the Sons of the Immaculate Conception, Father John Mathew Vadakkettom, CFIC, from service outside the diocese to hospital and prison ministry in the Diocese of Columbus with residence at Holy Cross Church, Columbus, effective Dec. 7, 2015.

Confirming the appointment of the Prior Provincial of the Dominican Fathers and Brothers, Father Jerome Zeiler, OP, as Parochial Vicar, St. Patrick Church, Columbus, effective Jan. 16, 2016.

Father Abdon Lee, from pastoral care of the St. Andrew Kim Taegon Korean Catholic Community of Columbus, to service outside the diocese, effective Jan. 25, 2016.

Confirming the nomination of Archbishop Thaddeus Cho Hwan Kil of Daegu, Korea, Father Dukwoo Antonio Kim, from service outside the diocese to pastoral care of the St. Andrew Kim Taegon Korean Catholic Community of Columbus, effective Feb. 1, 2016.

CATHOLIC TIMES

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Marriage Preparation: It's not just a weekend class

By Dan Thimons

Director, Diocesan Marriage and Family Life Office

The Catholic Church celebrates World Marriage Day each year on the second Sunday in February, which this year is Feb. 14 – coincidentally, the same day as Valentine's Day.

The office offers a number of programs and events throughout the year to help engaged couples prepare for marriage and married couples enrich their lives together.

When most people think of marriage preparation, they typically think of a weekend class which includes several engaged couples. This class is certainly an important step of marriage preparation, but it is simply that: a step.

While the Diocesan Marriage and Family Life Office offers an excellent marriage preparation class, we do so with the understanding that this is not nearly enough. It is not possible for a couple to realistically prepare for a lifelong commitment by attending a weekend class. Just as a priest prepares for his vocation for six to eight years, so, too, a couple needs much more than a weekend to prepare for marriage.

Pope St. John Paul II, in his apostolic exhortation *Familiaris Consortio*, underscored this need for a thorough marriage preparation process and provided the Church with a valuable framework for going forward. He identified three stages of marriage preparation: remote, proximate, and immediate preparation.

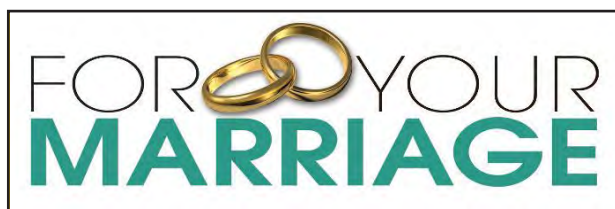
It could be said that remote preparation happens in childhood, proximate preparation during adolescence, and young adulthood, and immediate preparation during the engagement period.

The immediate preparation for marriage, which occurs during the engagement period, is a six-step process in the Diocese of Columbus. This immediate preparation involves meetings with a priest or deacon; completion of a marriage inventory; a marriage preparation class; education in Natural Family Planning; the Sacrament of Reconciliation; and planning the wedding liturgy.

In spite of this clearly defined and thorough immediate preparation for marriage, we are faced with the reality that regardless of how strong a couple's immediate preparation for marriage may be, it is simply not enough. As John Paul II indicated, preparation for a lifelong marriage must begin long before a couple is engaged, especially focusing on the childhood and adolescent years.

As we look toward strengthening the proximate preparation for marriage, the Diocesan Marriage & Family Life Office is excited to partner with The Culture Project International, an initiative of young people set out to restore culture by proclaiming the dignity of the human person and the richness of living sexual integrity.

This is done through delivering presentations to young people in schools, conferences, and parishes, as well as engaging culture through relationship



building, dialogue, and conversation. The Culture Project invites young people to reclaim a life of virtue, thereby promoting a culture fully alive.

Thanks to a generous \$20,000 grant from the Our Sunday Visitor Institute, five missionaries from The Culture Project will be stationed in the Diocese of Columbus from Monday, Feb. 15 to Thursday, March 31. They will offer presentations on human dignity and sexual integrity to schools, youth groups, CCD and PSR classes, and others in the diocese, at no charge.

This one-and-a-half month demonstration project will hopefully set the stage for the permanent presence of The Culture Project as this ministry looks toward expanding its rapidly growing presence into the Diocese of Columbus.

Initiatives such as The Culture Project will be an important part of strengthening the proximate preparation for marriage in our diocese. The faith-filled and joyful witness of the young people who are involved in this effort will inspire our youth to become fully alive sons and daughters of God as they discern their own vocations.

To learn more about The Culture Project International or to schedule a presentation at your parish or school, visit www.restoreculture.com. To learn more about how you can be a part of helping The Culture Project establish a more permanent presence in the Diocese of Columbus, contact the Diocesan Marriage and Family Life Office at (614) 241-2560.

The diocesan marriage preparation program, titled "The Joy-Filled Marriage," takes place on one weekend from 6 to 9:30 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday. It includes group workshops led by a team of diocesan staff, married couples, a priest, and

a medical professional, with time at the end of most of the sessions for individual reflection by each couple.

Dates and places for this year's remaining diocesan marriage preparation programs are: March 4-5 (sold out), Westerville St. Paul Church; April 1 and 2, Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church; and April 29-30, May 20-21, and June 17-18, Columbus St. Elizabeth Church.

There is a \$175 fee, which includes the cost of dinner Friday and breakfast and lunch Saturday, and pre-application is required. Applications cannot be accepted at the door or by phone. It is recommended that a couple attend a minimum of four to six months before the scheduled wedding date.

If you are preparing to marry after loss of a spouse because of death or annulment, you may be a candidate for diocesan remarriage preparation, which addresses additional relevant issues. The format is similar to that of the marriage preparation program, with a special emphasis on challenges such as healing the past and blending families.

These Saturday sessions will take place on March 5 (sold out), at Westerville St. Paul Church, April 2 at Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, and April 30, May 21, and June 18 at Columbus St. Elizabeth Church.

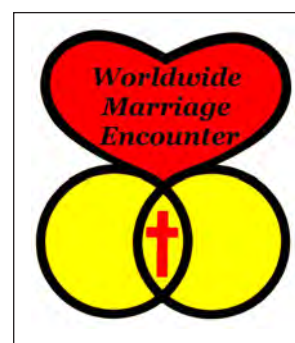
Each year in June, the Marriage & Family Life Office sponsors the annual diocesan Jubilee of Anniversaries, honoring couples celebrating their 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th, 55th, 60th and subsequent anniversaries. The event includes a Mass celebrated by Bishop Frederick Campbell, followed by a reception. This year, it will be at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, June 26, at Columbus St. Andrew Church.

The office also provides and encourages educational opportunities on the meaning and mystery of marriage throughout the various stages of life. For more information on these programs and on all the events listed above call (614) 241-2560, send an email message to familylife@colsdio.org, or go to <http://familylife.colsdio.org>.

Marriage Encounter Has Helped Keep Our Marriage Strong

By Mark and Elizabeth Ficocelli

Being raised by Marriage Encounter parents, Mark Ficocelli convinced his young fiance, Elizabeth, to make an Engaged Encounter weekend in 1984. The event proved so fruitful for their relationship that they made a Marriage Encounter weekend in 1991 and an anniversary Marriage Encounter weekend in 2007. Since then, the Ficocellis (pictured on Page 5), who are members of Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church, have presented Marriage Encounter weekends to hundreds of other married couples to share the blessing with them. Here they discuss their experience in a conversation that takes written form.



Elizabeth: Contrary to what people sometimes think, Marriage Encounter is not group therapy or marriage counseling. It's a private, intense, and intimate encounter with your spouse. It's a special time dedicated to just the two of you, without interruption – that's a bonus right there! On the weekend, you learn about yourself and what you bring to your relationship – both the good and the not-so-good. You're both given a

new communication tool to help you address pertinent issues critical to a married couple.

Mark: The weekend builds intimacy and trust, while

See ENCOUNTER, Page 5

PRACTICAL STEWARDSHIP

By Rick Jeric

Cardio

Were you struck by the story of the Four Chaplains this past week? I believe it is very difficult to read their story and not be affected by their bravery, courage, service, and especially humility. They simply gave their lives for others. They were literally all in the same boat together. As Christians, we know that Jesus Christ gave His life for all of us collectively and for each of us as individuals. The love of God, poured out through His only Son, bleeds for you and for me. The two ministers, priest, and rabbi humbly gave their lives in the Judeo-Christian spirit of love and complete respect for human life. No one asked for a count of how many Christians, Jews, or others were among the 904 on board. They clearly saw the face of God in every man they attempted to save. We pray for the grace to be like them. We have their legacy in tangible things like postage stamps and a chapel. We have a day of remembrance. But most of all, we have their example. All four of the chaplains would gladly give up these remembrances in exchange for one more life saved. As we prayed this past week, may we be an example of such love and humility.

This Sunday is Valentine's Day. Our thoughts turn to love, and suddenly everywhere we go, we see hearts. While stories surrounding St. Valentine may or may not be true, it can be a very good thing for us to focus on what real love is. We can be married or single, and we all experience true love throughout our lives. The root of many words, and even a term in itself that relates to the heart, is "cardio." It is probably more of a Greek word than Latin, but whenever we hear or read "cardio," we know the heart is involved. We recall those times in our lives when we experienced true love, and the experience is always felt in our hearts. We may not always remember hearing the word "love," but we knew it was there. That is what cardio is – an experience of the heart. The love of our conception and birth brought us into the world. The love of our Christian initiation and growth formed us as children of God: Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation. We experience love in many other ways, including: The love of our parents caring for us every step of the way. A similar love as we care for our parents as they age and need our attention. The love of our family, friends, teachers, doctors, nurses, priests, and religious who touched our lives as we grew. Any of those hugs, when we needed them most. The love of our spouse on our wedding day, on our best days, and especially on our worst days. The love of other clergy and the faithful on ordination day. The sincere and loving touch for a child who needs us. The same experiences of which we are a part for our own children and grandchildren. The love of Jesus and our family as we make the final journey from this life to that which is eternal.

Our practical challenge this week is to show real love, straight from our heart, to those who can experience that love. Our families, friends, co-workers, classmates, parishioners, and even strangers can feel our loving touch by our Christian love. Make a cardio commitment to live that love in special and even common, everyday ways. The tangible things like cards, hearts, candy, dinner out, etc., are all good. But the true cardio love comes from within. Show it, share it, and live it.

Jeric is director of development and planning for the Columbus Diocese.



ODU to host instant decision day

Central Ohio high school students will have an opportunity to apply and be accepted into college on the same day during Ohio Dominican University's instant decision day from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 13 in the Bishop James A. Griffin Student Center, located on ODU's main campus at 1216 Sunbury Road.

"We know there are many students who haven't yet applied to college, and this is a great opportunity for them to not only start the process, but also complete it," said Michelle Houck, ODU's interim director of undergraduate admission. "Applying to college can be stressful for both students and their families, and we want to make this process as seamless as possible. In addition to being given an admissions

decision the same day, prospective students will also learn if they are eligible for ODU's merit scholarship, which can total as much as \$19,000."

During instant decision day, students can complete their ODU admission application on campus and submit their transcript and test scores. Admission counselors will review the materials and give an on-the-spot admissions decision.

During their visit, attendees also will be invited to tour ODU's campus and speak with students, faculty, and staff about Ohio Dominican's academic programs and student life.

Students can sign up for the event at ohiodominican.edu/Instant. Walk-ins also are welcome.

Free financial seminars at ODU

Ohio Dominican University and Education First Credit Union will present free seminars on a variety of topics related to financial literacy on select dates from Feb. 16 to April 23 in rooms 258 and 260 of the Bishop James A. Griffin Student Center on ODU's main campus, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus.

A home buying seminar for ODU students, the campus community, and local residents will take place at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 16.

Four sessions at 12:30 p.m. Saturdays will be available for high-school students and their parents. Dates and topics are Feb. 27, college funding; March 19, money and ethics; April 2,

preparing for your future; and April 23, basic money management.

To register for a seminar, email Tiffany Pirwitz, administrative assistant in ODU's business division, at pirwitzt@ohiodominican.edu.

The seminars will be led by Education First staff and a team of ODU junior and senior students majoring in finance and economics who have met established criteria.

Students who attend five or more seminars in the fall of 2015 and the spring of 2016 are eligible for ODU credit. Attendees of the 12:30 p.m. sessions will be entered to win a gift card. Lunch will be provided free of charge.

DeSales receives grant from foundation

Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School has received a 2016 responsive grant in the Catholic education and faith formation category from The Catholic Foundation.

This \$7,000 grant allowed for installation of 13 new high-resolution IP security cameras for greater monitoring of activities outside the school, while also enabling staff to clearly

identify visitors entering the building. Additionally, the grant allowed the school to upgrade internal viewing software for easy playback and review of camera footage.

DeSales principal Dan Garrick said the school is grateful to Mike O'Reilly, a 1989 DeSales graduate, for assisting with strategic planning and installation of the cameras.

Prayer gathering postponed

The citywide prayer gathering scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 13 by the diocesan Catholic Charismatic Renewal has been postponed.

The new date for the event is Saturday, March 5 from 9 a.m. to noon at Columbus Our Lady of the Miraculous

Medal Church, 5225 Refugee Road.

The day will begin with Mass, followed by breakfast and teaching, with contemporary Christian music throughout the program and healing prayer teams available. For more information, contact Pat at (614) 861-1242.

ENCOUNTER, continued from Page 3

increasing passion and joy for one another. It literally changes people's lives and helps them to rediscover their spouse and fall in love all over again. We all know there isn't much in society to support marriage today. Plus, many people have never had the benefit of growing up with a healthy model of marriage, so it's very easy to slip into disillusionment. Disillusionment is a normal part of the relationship cycle, but you definitely don't want to get stuck there. Marriage Encounter shows couples how to transform times of disillusionment into times of real joy.

Elizabeth: The weekend is given by three couples and a priest who give talks on important relationship issues that each couple reflects on in private. You might think "Why do priests make and give Marriage Encounter weekends?" The fact is, priests are in a relationship, too – their spouse is the people they serve. That relationship involves communication, trust, vulnerability – just like a marital relationship. And by the way, you don't have to be Catholic to make a weekend. Many of the couples who attend are in interfaith marriages. The main focus of the weekend is not on religion, it's on marriage.

Mark: Our Marriage Encounter weekend was life-changing for us. I discovered on our weekend that I had a choice in how I responded to situations, and that was very freeing. I also became convinced that Elizabeth really wanted the same thing as me – a solid and passionate marriage. And that gave me great hope.

The weekend has inspired me to become a better husband and father. I like to tell my friends that the transformation our marriage made because of our weekend was like the difference between driving a Taurus and a Ferrari!

Elizabeth: On our weekend, I came to understand myself better. I faced some fears I was having and learned to trust Mark with my feelings, instead of stuffing them, as I often tended to do. I found the communication tool a better way to engage in a healthy and productive discussion with Mark. It has helped me to be real and honest with him. I also learned to listen better to Mark's feelings. Our weekend has not only been the best thing we ever did for our marriage, it has been the best thing we have done for our family.

Mark: I'm convinced that if we hadn't strengthened our marriage with the incredible intimacy and trust we have now, our relationship may not have survived some of the challenges life has thrown our way over the years, like long-term unemployment and the death of a loved one. It was like God was preparing us in advance, to make us solid enough to withstand the trials. In all my 55 years, Marriage Encounter is still the best model for relationship I have found.

Elizabeth: We all know that marriage is in a state of crisis. And when marriage is in crisis, the family is in crisis. Marriage Encounter is a perfect enrichment program for the Church. It has been around



for 40 years, it has a presence in more than 90 countries worldwide, and has helped countless couples appreciate the sacrament they have and what a difference their relationship can make in the Church and in the world.

Mark: Why not fortify your marriage and make it all it can be, a blissful union God has always intended for you? Our next Marriage Encounter weekends are as follows:

Feb 19-21, St. Therese's Retreat Center, Columbus;
April 22-24, Sunbury St. John Neumann Church;
Aug. 5-7 and Nov. 11-13, Holiday Inn, Worthington.

Find out more by calling (614) 834-6880 or visiting <http://www.wmecolumbus.org>.

Retrouvaille helps couples find hope for troubled marriages

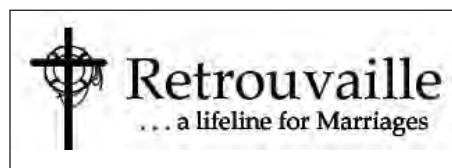
Here are a few questions to ask yourself about your marriage.

- **Has your marriage experienced a breakdown in communication?**
- **Has it become unloving and uncaring, or grown cold and distant?**
- **Are you thinking about separation or divorce? Have you already?**
- **Are you unable to rediscover your loving relationship on your own?**

If you answered "Yes" to any of these questions, perhaps you should consider Retrouvaille.

In Retrouvaille, you will discover how listening, forgiveness, and communication can fan the embers of a troubled marriage into life again.

The Retrouvaille weekend is presented by three married couples and a priest. All the presenters have experienced disillusionment and conflict and can offer hope as they share their personal stories of reconciliation and healing. You will find courage and strength in the realization that you are not alone.



Retrouvaille presents techniques of communication that enable a couple to begin to understand each other in new and positive ways and provides ways to keep your individual, marital, and spiritual needs in balance.

You will discover ways to rebuild trust and find forgiveness.

You will not be asked to share your problems with anyone else. You will be encouraged to put the past behind you, to rediscover each other and a new beginning.

A relationship is not healed in a single weekend experience. The six-week post-session stage of the Retrouvaille program offers a more relaxed setting to explore other subjects relating to marriage and love, to renew your commitment, and to develop new insights and skills as you apply the Retrouvaille concepts to your marriage.

If you want to talk to someone or register for Retrouvaille of Columbus, call (614) 288-0597 or (800) 470-2230 or visit the Retrouvaille website at www.HelpOurMarriage.com

Retrouvaille is rooted in the Catholic tradition, but couples of all faiths or no faith are welcome to participate. Weekends scheduled this year are April 29-May 1 and Oct. 28-30 at St. Therese's Retreat Center in Columbus. Weekends also are scheduled in February, April, and October of 2017 and 2018 at St. Therese's and the Procter Center in London.

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.

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DISPOSING OF OLD MISSALS



QUESTION & ANSWER

by: FATHER KENNETH DOYLE
Catholic News Service

Q. What can one do with old missals that no longer follow the current Mass? I have one from when I was young (I am now 71) and even one from my mother, who is long gone. I know that I cannot throw them out. Does one burn them? I asked my parish priest, who did not seem to know. (Columbia, Maryland)

A. In November 2011, when the revised *Roman Missal* rendered obsolete the *Sacramentary* and *Lectionary*, which the church had used for decades, the Secretariat of Divine Worship at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops was asked by many parishes what should be done with the old books. It recommended that they be buried in an appropriate location on parish grounds, or, in the alternative, that the books first be burned and

the ashes then buried.

But that advice was predicated on the fact that those books might well have been blessed, since the church's *Book of Blessings* does provide a ritual for blessing official liturgical books to be used at Mass.

Your situation, though, is different. Presumably your old missal, and your mother's, were never blessed. So I don't think that you should feel any obligation to burn them. (In fact, it might be dangerous for you to try!)

And can you imagine if all books or booklets that contained Mass texts had to be burned and/or buried -- including the hundreds of thousands of seasonal missalettes that move into obsolescence each year?

You may dispose of your missals in whatever respectful way you choose -- but you might first ask whether your parish library might want them for their historical value.

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

Natural Family Planning classes

The diocesan Marriage and Family Life Office offers small-group classes on practicing Natural Family Planning, which are taught by diocesan-trained teachers. Their training is in one of two NFP methods -- the ovulation method, which teaches observation of the fertility signs of sensation and the physical aspects of cervical discharges; or the symptothermal method, which takes into account discharge, body temperature, and cervical position.

The two-hour classes take place on four dates, with a follow-up contact about three months after the last class. Couples may attend the first session for free; however, pre-registration is required. If couples wish to continue, the fee is \$85. The next set of classes, teaching the symptothermal method, will begin from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, April 21 at the Catholic Center in downtown Columbus, and continue at the same times on the subsequent Thursdays of May 19, June 16, and July 14. There also will be classes at 7-9 p.m. Mondays, beginning May 23 and continuing on June 20, July 18, and Aug. 15, at Gahanna St. Matthew Church. For more information, contact the Marriage and Family Life Office at (614) 241-2560.

The Couple to Couple League, a nationwide organization promoting marital chastity and the use of NFP since 1971, teaches the symptothermal method in three classes spaced about a month apart at Dover St. Joseph Church. The cost is \$130 a couple. The next series of classes, all at 1 p.m. Sunday, will be offered on March 20, April 17,

and May 15. Call the church at (330) 364-6661.

Creighton Model FertilityCare and the FEMM fertility management program are medical approaches to NFP which are based on the ovulation method. Creighton Model introductory sessions, all from 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays, are scheduled on Feb. 13, March 5, and April 9 at Columbus St. Patrick Church. Instructional follow-up classes are by appointment. More information is available at www.freedomfertilitycare.com.

The Marriage and Family Life Office also has contact information for Creighton Model teachers in Athens, Chillicothe, Columbus, and Worthington. Go to www.colsdioc.org and click on the links for "Offices," "Marriage and Family Life Office," and "Natural Family Planning."

The FEMM women's health center may be contacted at (614) 360-9995. It is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at 1872 N. High St. in Columbus.

The Family of the Americas Foundation presents a simplified ovulation method that uses color stamps and mucus stickers to record fertility signs. Fees vary for materials and additional individual sessions. Instructions, textbooks, and charts are available in English and Spanish.

For more information, contact Mark and Mary Jo Starrs of Marion St. Mary Church at (740) 389-4451 or mjstarrs@yahoo.com (English) or Father Joseph Klee of Columbus Sacred Heart Church at (614) 372-5249 or frjosephklee@yahoo.com.



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Divorced Catholics: Abandoned By a Spouse, But Not By the Church

By Keith F. Luscher

It is good news that Catholics experience a lower divorce rate in the United States than others (at 28 percent, as reported in October 2013 by the *National Catholic Register*). That said, divorce remains significant, representing 11 million Catholics.

To say it is difficult and painful to go through the end of a marriage – especially one of many years with children involved – is a great understatement. Truly, *anyone* who has experienced it, whether it has been for 10 days or 10 or more years, will tell you it is a trauma that cannot be imagined and is never forgotten.

While it is painful to go through divorce, it is often even more painful to endure it *as a Catholic*. This is because the Church holds marriage on a level much higher than does the rest of the culture, including our Protestant brothers and sisters.

In the culture, marriage is a contract; in the Church, it is a *covenant*. So what's the difference? I was taught in school that there is a very significant

difference between the two:

- A contract says “I will do my part if you do yours.”
- A covenant states “I will do my part *whether or not* you do yours.”

That is the example Christ gave us. He does His part lovingly and willingly, even as we fail to do ours every day. It is that level of love and commitment we are called to model when we enter into a marriage covenant with another (and with God as a third partner). When that covenant is not valid, or when a valid marriage fails, it makes for an even heavier cross for us to bear.

Unfortunately, divorce is one of the most significant factors that drive Catholics away from the Church. Many Catholics don't fully understand what the Church really teaches about love, sex, marriage, divorce, annulment, or remarriage. There are simply too many myths and misunderstandings that can cause frustration, anger, and, sometimes, a profound sense of abandonment from the Church.

In recent years, movements have been formed to promote healing and

wholeness for Catholics who have found themselves carrying this cross. A few years ago, Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church began offering a 12-week support program, published by Ascension Press, called *The Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide* (CDSG).

This program was created by Rose Sweet, a nationally known Catholic educator and author on the topics of divorce, annulment, and remarriage. She herself has been civilly divorced.

In 2015, other Catholics joined with those in Grove City to create an apostolate specifically designed to promote and foster *The Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide* at other parishes throughout the diocese. This pastoral community of Catholic men and women, lay leaders, and clergy, known as *Separated & Divorced Catholics of Columbus and Central Ohio*, also aims to provide other means of support, love, and encouragement for Catholics experiencing marital separation and/or divorce. This includes guidance on seeking annulments for Catholics who are civilly divorced.

The CDSG program is now offered in Grove City and at Columbus St. Catharine and Zanesville St. Nicholas churches. Other parishes plan to offer the program in 2016 and beyond.

It is truly unfortunate that some people find themselves leaving the Church

during a time when they need it the most. It is up to all of us to reach out with unconditional love and mercy to our brothers and sisters who find themselves in this awful place. As Bishop Frederick Campbell put it so well during one of his call-in sessions on St. Gabriel Catholic Radio (I am paraphrasing here): “Even if someone has been abandoned by a spouse, we must work to ensure that they know their Church will *never* abandon them.”

The Church is the messenger of truth, revealed to us by God. Sometimes that truth is difficult for us to hear, and sometimes we don't want to hear it. Christ gave us that truth, adding to it His example of love and mercy. We hope that this ministry to divorced and separated Catholics will foster emotional and spiritual healing and bring people closer to Christ, His Church, and the truth she delivers.

For more information about our apostolate and *The Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide*, visit us online at www.DivorcedCatholicColumbus.org.

Luscher has four children and came home to the Catholic Church following a 25-year absence. He is a member of Columbus St. Catharine Church and a co-founder of Separated & Divorced Catholics of Columbus and Central Ohio. He may be reached at keith.luscher@gmail.com or (614) 706-4337.

The Catholic Foundation Continues Its Support of the Columbus Catholic Men's and Women's Conferences

The Catholic Foundation has announced its sponsorship of the 2016 Columbus Catholic Men's and Women's Conferences. Each year, thousands of Catholics gather at these events for the opportunity to deepen their relationships with God and strengthen their commitments to serve as disciples of Christ. With the men's conference in its 19th year and the women's in its ninth, these annual events have fostered transformative spiritual growth for thousands of men and women. It is projected that 2016 will be a record-breaking year for conference attendance.

Through its sponsorship of both the conferences, The Catholic Foundation has provided funding for bus reimbursements for parishes outside of Interstate 270. In addition, the Foundation awarded grants to assist with scholarships for men and women who otherwise

would be unable to attend because of financial limitations. Interested parishes should contact the conferences directly for bus reimbursement and scholarship information. Grants also were awarded to provide translation services for the hearing-impaired and Spanish-speaking population. It is the Foundation's goal to eliminate all barriers that would prevent anyone from attending the conferences.

Registration for both events is available online. The women's conference will take place on Saturday, Feb. 20, followed by the men's conference on Feb. 27. Both events are held at the Voinovich Center of the State Fairgrounds and include a lineup of dynamic, inspiring speakers. The Catholic Foundation encourages you to take a powerful step in your faith formation by attending the 2016 Columbus Catholic Men's and Women's Conferences.



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CATHOLIC RADIO**

JEFF BERNARD, CATHOLIC MAN OF THE YEAR 2016

BY TIM PUET

Reporter, Catholic Times

Gratitude was the dominant theme for Jeff Bernard as he accepted the 2016 diocesan Catholic Man of the Year award from Bishop Frederick Campbell.

After thanking his parents, wife, children, and Gahanna St. Matthew Church family, and speaking of his devotion to the Virgin Mary, saying “I owe her my all and I will work to honor her all the days of my life,” Bernard expressed several thoughts on gratitude, describing it as “the most powerful weapon against evil.”

“Gratitude is the correct response to mercy,” he said. “If you take a good look at the world today, you’ll see that there is a shocking lack of gratitude.

“Our general position seems to be defensive – that we work to preserve our self-interest. This, as you might guess, is the opposite of gratitude. Gratitude, just like charity, has many faces, and gratitude, just like charity, needs to be in focus at all times, to ensure that we do our duty to help our fellow man and to love God as we should.

“Gratitude should always be the beginning and end of every prayer, every action, and every day,” Bernard said. “If we don’t have gratitude, it becomes difficult for us to trust in God. If we don’t trust God, it becomes impossible for us to surrender to his will. If we don’t surrender to his will, our life is likely to become or remain a mess.

“I’m convinced that gratitude is the beginning and end of salvation. When men and women are living lives of gratitude, they see the world differently and they live out the words of the Our Father.

“They believe God, they work to build the Kingdom, and they live in peace. They are satisfied with their daily bread,



Jeff Bernard of Gahanna St. Matthew Church, Catholic Man of the Year for 2016, and his wife, Heather, are shown following presentation of the award on Friday, Feb. 5 at Columbus St. Patrick Church with Bishop Frederick Campbell and the couple’s children, Natalie (held by her mother) and (from left) Joshua, Andrew, Samantha, and Joseph. CT photo by Tim Puet

trusting in God and confident that they have enough. When they find themselves with abundance, they are quick to share and exercise charity as second nature. People who are truly grateful to God for all that they have are quick to surrender themselves to prayer.

“When they find God in prayer, they submit themselves gently to his will. They find themselves wanting to do things outside of their routine,” he said. “They become Kingdom people who are no longer concerned about the passing things of this world. They live in heaven, even though they may suffer each new day.

“Every time I lose sight of my vision, I return to the mercy of the Church. I renew my gratitude by allowing myself to be loved,” Bernard said at the Catholic Men’s Luncheon Club’s monthly meeting on Friday, Feb. 5 at Columbus

St. Patrick Church.

Before the award presentation, Father Ryan Schmit, parochial vicar at St.

Matthew, and parishioner Steve Davis talked about Bernard’s impact on their lives. Father Schmit said the honoree “is a holy man,” and that “it is good to honor virtue and holiness where it is found” as a way of showing that “living a life of holiness is not a thing of the past, but it still going on today.”

He said what stands out most about Bernard is “his conversion and transformation in Christ and the manner by which he lives out his vocation as a husband and father and as an actively participating member of this parish and this diocese.” Father Schmit also read a note of congratulations from Father Theodore Sill, pastor at St. Matthew, who was unable to attend the luncheon.

Davis said that he has known Bernard for four years and looks up to him as a mentor and as an example of the type of man described in Matthew 4:19: “Come after me and I will make you fishers of men.” Most of his talk was devoted to listing the accomplishments which led him and others to nominate Bernard for the award.

See **CATHOLIC MAN**, Page 15

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LIVING Faith

Lent is “Come-As-You-Are”

Lent comes quickly this year. “That’s why I’m not ready,” I tell myself as I sit quietly and ponder this column. I wanted to be more centered. I wanted my office to be straightened up, desk uncluttered to better concentrate. I wanted to have prayed more, read more, been still more. But here I am, on the brink of Lent, behind in lots of things, and not prepared for the season at all.

Or maybe that’s how we are meant to greet this liturgical season: No big preparations. No cultural hoopla like the marketing blitz that accompanies the coming of Christmas. This is a “come-as-you-are” event, and usually, this is how I am.

I’m pulled in many directions, full of good intentions



GRACE IN THE MOMENT
Mary van Balen

and forgotten resolutions. Jesus has words for me in this Saturday’s gospel. When the Pharisees ask him why he’s hanging out with the sinners and riffraff, he seems a bit surprised. Why wouldn’t he? After all, he says, those who are healthy don’t need a physician; the sick do.

So as Lent approaches, I console myself with the thought that I fit right in. Jesus isn’t expecting my office table to be clear of papers, bills, and books. He knows me too well. I think he’d feel right at home at my dining room table. It hasn’t had a tablecloth on it since Christmas. Instead, it’s been home to my daughter’s 3-D printer, which arrived during her stay as she recuperated from a broken foot.

And he wouldn’t mind eating leftovers or a hastily prepared meal after I return from a long day at work. No, as I read through the Mass readings before and after Ash Wednesday, I began to relax. If I’m willing to slow down and sit with Jesus at my table and in my heart, no matter the mess, then I’m ready for Lent.

Last week, a group of friends and I shared dinner, conversation, and prayer. One woman played a song, *Pilgrim*,

by Enya, and this line caught my attention: “All days come from one day/That much you must know/You cannot change what’s over/But only where you go.”

All days come from one day. “That day is this day,” I thought. The present day, the only one we have. Paul says something like that in Ash Wednesday’s second reading: “In an acceptable time I heard you, and on the day of salvation I helped you. Behold, now is a very acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”

Now, this moment, is the acceptable time. This day. And then the day that follows. And the day that follows that. One day at a time is the day of salvation. The anonymous author of *The Cloud of Unknowing* puts it this way: “Therefore, be attentive to time and the way you spend it. Nothing is more precious. ... God gives only the present, moment by moment.”

The thing is, I’m often not there. Not following Enya’s wisdom, I’m tempted to rethink the past, allowing regrets and sorrow from yesterday’s pain to capture my attention. Or I can spend time speculating about future scenarios for family, friends, and our world.

What grace to have this liturgical season to remind us how important it is to embrace each day along with its joys and sorrows; to trust that “this day” has something good for us, or at least that some opportunity to grow, something good can come from it.

What blessing to have the wisdom of those who have gone before us. It’s a mixed-up crowd we walk with, this “communion of saints,” canonized or not, living or dead, who recommend ancient disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving for our journey through Lent.

There are as many ways to observe these directives as there are people who follow them. One may do well to abstain from food, another from “screen time.” One may need to give herself permission to celebrate who she is, while focusing on others might be the call for someone else. Maybe we give time, money, or talents. Perhaps the grace is in receiving what is offered.

But what it comes down to is spending these 40 days shedding what gets in the way of attending to God-with-us. It’s about nurturing ways of being that help us listen to the Holy One within and believe the amazing truth that God loves us, calls us to share Love in this world, and will help us do it. It’s about choosing to live as fully as we can, trusting that all days will come from the one day lived well.

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LENT

40 DAYS OF RENEWAL

Renew Your Faith

Churches throughout the Diocese of Columbus will be presenting a variety of Lenten programs focusing on prayer, penance, and preparation for Easter.

Most parishes will conduct penance services, either individually or in conjunction with other parishes in their deanery. Many also will offer the traditional Lenten devotion of Stations of the Cross.

In addition to those activities, special seasonal events planned by parishes of the diocese include the following:

Buckeye Lake Our Lady of Mount Carmel – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Sundays, 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.

Columbus Immaculate Conception – Parish mission with Father Joshua Wagner, pastor of Columbus St. Dominic and Holy Rosary-St. John churches. Theme: “WORD to Your Mother,” Monday to Wednesday, Feb. 22 to 24, 7 p.m.

Columbus Our Lady of Victory – Parish mission with Father Wagner. Theme: “WORD to Your Mother,” Monday to Wednesday, Feb. 15 to 17, 7 p.m.

Columbus St. Agatha – Soup suppers with proceeds benefiting Hands Together program in Haiti, Wednesdays, 6 p.m. Parish mission with Father Wagner. Theme: “The Four Phrases That Will Change Your Life,” Monday to Wednesday, March 14 to 16, 7 p.m.

Columbus St. Elizabeth – Day of reflection with composer Dan Schutte.

Theme: “Whom Shall I Send?” Responding in Faith to God’s Call,” Saturday, Feb. 13, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost \$25, including breakfast and lunch. “24 Hours with the Lord,” Friday and Saturday, March 4 and 5. Program includes Stations of the Cross, 7 p.m. Friday; reconciliation service at 7:45; Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 8:30 p.m. Friday to 5 p.m. Saturday; confession, 8:30 to 10 p.m. Friday; Morning Prayer, 8 a.m. Saturday; Confirmation Mass with Bishop Frederick Campbell, 5:30 p.m. Saturday.

Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral – Father Anthony Stephens of the Fathers of Mercy preaches at all Masses on “God’s Mercy Has No Bounds,” Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 13 and 14. Bimonthly Healing Mass and Service, Monday, March 21, 6:30 p.m. Walking Stations of the Cross, an annual four-mile walk, stopping at 14 sites around downtown to commemorate Jesus’ crucifixion, Friday, March 25, 8 to 11 a.m., starting at cathedral. Tenebrae service, designed to recreate the sense of betrayal, abandonment, and agony related to Good Friday, featuring the Cathedral Schola and including Talis’ *Lamentations of Jeremiah*, Friday, March 25, 8 p.m.

Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona – Sung Vespers, Thursdays, approximately 7:30 p.m. following Stations during weekly Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Exposition on Holy Thursday, March 24, follows 7 p.m. Mass and continues to 11 p.m.

Columbus St. Mary – Living Stations of the Cross with St. Mary School eighth-graders,

Wednesday, March 23, 1:30 p.m.

Columbus St. Patrick – Parish mission with Father Carleton Jones, OP, prior of St. Dominic’s Priory, Washington. Theme: “Behold the Wood of the Cross.” Sunday to Tuesday, March 13 to 15, 7 p.m.

Columbus St. Timothy – *People of the Passion*, a performance of music, drama, and dance, suggested for audiences age 12 and older, Saturday, Feb. 27, 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Corpus Christi Center of Peace, Columbus – “Come Away and Pray: A Retreat in the Spirit and Style of the Taizé Community,” 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 12 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13. Day of contemplative prayer and silence, Saturday, Feb. 20, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Lenten quiet mornings, reflecting on the Lenten readings through the prism of mercy, Mondays, Feb. 22 to March 21, 10 a.m. to noon. Yarncrafters retreat, “Ah! The Knots of Our Lives,” Friday to Sunday, Feb. 26 to 28.

Delaware St. Mary – Parish mission with Father Thomas Blau, OP, parochial vicar, Columbus St. Patrick Church. Theme: “Understanding God’s Mercy,” Sunday to Tuesday, Feb. 21 to 23, 7 p.m.

Dover St. Joseph – Eucharistic Adoration and Mass, followed by guest speaker from Franciscan University of Steubenville, Tuesdays, Feb. 16 to March 15, with adoration at 5 p.m., Mass at 6, and talk from 7 to 8. Speakers and subjects: Feb. 16, Dr. James Pauley, “Lent and the Call to Intentional Discipleship”; Feb. 23, Professor Amy

LENTEN ACTIVITIES AROUND THE COLUMBUS DIOCESE

Roberts, “Knowing and Following Christ in Prayer”; March 1, Dr. Donald Ascii, “Christ Lives in Me: Reflections On Embracing the Call to Follow Christ”; March 8 and 15, Dr. John Bergsma, “Seven Habits of a Highly Effective Catholic.” “24 Hours with the Lord,” Friday and Saturday, March 4 and 5. Program includes Mass at 7 p.m. Friday, followed by confessions, with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from the end of Mass to 4 p.m. Saturday, including Morning Prayer at 8 a.m. Saturday. Walking Stations of the Cross led through the city by parish youth group, Friday, March 25, noon. Living Stations in Spanish, Friday, March 25, 8 p.m.

Granville St. Edward – Lenten soup suppers with parish music director Paul Radkowski speaking on topics related to papal encyclical *Laudato Si’*, Tuesdays, 6 p.m. Topics: “Our Common Home,” Feb. 16; “We Are Not God,” Feb. 23; “Global Solidarity,” March 1; “Eucharist and Creation,” March 8; “A Time to Act, A Reason to Hope,” March 15.

Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help – Parish mission with author and teacher Mary Sharon Moore, Monday to Wednesday, Feb. 15 to 17, 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Theme: “Lord, Teach Us to Pray.”

Kenton Immaculate Conception – Day of renewal with Dr. John R. Wood. Saturday March 19, with lunch at 11:30 a.m., retreat from 12:30 to 3:15 p.m., confession available at 3:30, and Mass at 4. Theme: “Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary Mission: The Church As God’s Holy Highway to Heaven.”

Lancaster St. Mary – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, sung Vespers, and Benediction, Sundays, 4 p.m. Adoration, Thursday, Feb. 25, from end of 9 a.m. Mass to Benediction at 1:45 p.m. Living Stations of the Cross with St. Mary School eighth-graders, Friday, March 4, 7 p.m.

Logan St. John – Talk on the New Evangelization with Father Joshua Wagner, Wednesday, March 9, 7 p.m.

Marion St. Mary – Holy Hour, Mass, and talk, Tuesday, Feb. 16, with Holy Hour and confessions from 5 to 6 p.m., Mass at 6:30, and talk at 7:15, with Father Thomas Blau, OP, speaking on “God’s Mercy and Yours.” Study of the Letter of James and the encyclical *Laudato Si’* with Deacon Todd Tucky, Thursdays, Feb. 18 to March 17, 6 to 7:30 p.m. “Sunday Afternoon at the Movies” featuring *When the Game Stands Tall*, Sunday, Feb. 28, 2 p.m. Living Stations of the Cross with students from St. Mary School and the Parish School of Religion, Friday, March 18, 5:30 p.m.

New Philadelphia Sacred Heart – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and confessions, followed by Evening Prayer, Mondays, 5 p.m.; “A Light for My Path: Praying the Psalms On the Way of the Cross” prayer service, Wednesday, March 9, 6:15 p.m.

Plain City St. Joseph – Lenten soup suppers, Tuesdays following 5:30 p.m. Mass, parish activity center. Talks based on *Rediscover Jesus* by Matthew Kelly, Thursdays, Feb. 18 to March 17, 7 to 8 p.m., church.

Powell St. Joan of Arc – Lenten theme is “Living Waters in a Dry Land,” with parish collecting funds to build water stations in Africa through Catholic Relief Services and contemplating the spiritual “dry land,” with Christ as its living water.

Reynoldsburg St. Pius X – Lenten soup suppers, Wednesdays, Feb. 17, March 2 and 16, 5 to 6:30 p.m. Parish mission with Adam Storey, marriage and family life director, Diocese of Des Moines, Iowa, Sunday to Tuesday, March 13 to 15, 7 to 9 p.m. Children’s Stations of the Cross, Sunday, March 20, 6 p.m. Tenebrae service, Wednesday, March 23, 7:30 p.m. Blessing of Easter food baskets, Saturday, March 26, 1 p.m.

Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center, Newark – Lenten morning of reflection

with Sister Louis Mary Passeri, OP. Theme: “Mercy Upon Mercy,” Saturday, March 19, 9 a.m. to noon. Cost \$20, including continental breakfast.

St. Therese’s Retreat Center, Columbus – Silent retreat for women, sponsored by Catholic Laywomen’s Retreat League, Friday, March 4 at 6 p.m. to Sunday, March 6 at noon. Palm Sunday silent retreat for men, sponsored by Catholic Laymen’s Retreat League. Friday, March 18 at 6 p.m. to Sunday, March 20 at noon.

Sunbury St. John Neumann – Book review of *Rediscover Jesus* by Matthew Kelly, Fridays, 7:30 p.m. Parish mission with Father Victor Galier of St. Anthony of Padua Church, Atlanta, Sunday to Tuesday, Feb. 21 to 23, 7 p.m. Theme: “Under Divine Renovation.” “Exploring the Passion” liturgies, Mondays, Feb. 29 and March 7, 14, and 21, 7 p.m. Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration, Tuesday, March 8, 7 p.m. featuring presentation on “Becoming and Making Disciples” with Joel Stepanek of Life Teen International, followed by Adoration. Holy Hour of Adoration,



Saturday, March 19, 7 p.m. Tenebrae service, Sunday, March 20, 8 p.m.

West Jefferson Ss. Simon and Jude – Mass with Anointing of the Sick for World Day of the Sick, followed by lunch, Thursday, Feb. 11, noon. Soup and salad suppers, Tuesdays, Feb. 16 and March 8 and 15, after 6 p.m. Mass. Parish mission with Father Thomas Blau, OP, Tuesday to Thursday, March 8 to 10, 6:45 to 8 p.m. (Tuesday talk follows supper).

Westerville St. Paul – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Thursdays through March 17, from after 8:30 a.m. Mass to 7 p.m.



Eucharistic devotions during Lent in parishes

For readers who may be interested in taking part in Eucharistic devotions during Lent, here is an updated list of parishes in the diocese where Eucharistic adoration or exposition takes place on a regular basis.

In addition to the activities listed, Lenten penance services will be conducted at a number of parishes. Readers are advised to contact parishes for specific dates and times.

Anyone with additions or corrections to this list may contact Tim Puet at Catholic Times.

Buckeye Lake Our Lady of Mount Carmel – Exposition: Sundays of Lent, 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.

Chillicothe St. Peter – Adoration: Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Columbus Christ the King – Exposition: First Fridays, 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Columbus Holy Cross – First Fridays, from end of 7:30 p.m. Mass to 11:30 p.m. Eucharistic vigil begins with Mass, followed by communal prayers, confession, litanies, Rosaries, hymns and quiet time between prayers, concluding with Benediction at 11:30.

Columbus Holy Family – Exposition: Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m., Thursdays, 10 a.m. continuous to 11:45 a.m. Friday, ending with Benediction. Contact church for details concerning entry.

Columbus Holy Name – Exposition: Thursdays, 6 p.m., featuring prayers in the Cenacle format of the Marian Movement of Priests; Fridays, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., Holy Hour and Benediction, followed by Mass. Adoration: Saturdays following 8:30 a.m. Mass.

Columbus Immaculate Conception – Exposition: 24 hours, seven days a week, except during the Sacred Triduum, in the children's center (former convent). Press rear entry buzzer.

Columbus Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal – Exposition: First Friday, from end of 9 a.m. Mass through Holy Hour at 6 p.m.

Columbus Our Lady of Peace – Exposition, Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Columbus Our Lady of Victory – Exposition: First Monday, 7 to 8 a.m.; First Friday, from 8 p.m. Friday to start of 8 a.m. Saturday Mass.

Columbus St. Agnes – Exposition: First Sunday, 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Columbus St. Andrew – Exposition: Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, from end of 6:30 a.m. Mass to 8:15 a.m.; Tuesdays, from end of 8:30 a.m. Mass to 9 p.m.

Columbus St. Anthony – Exposition: First Fridays, from end of 9 a.m. Mass to noon.

Columbus St. Catharine – Holy Hour, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursdays with exposition, Benediction, and confession. Exposition: First Friday, after 8 a.m. Mass to 9:30 a.m.

Columbus St. Cecilia – Exposition: First Fridays, 9 a.m. Friday to 4 p.m. Saturday.

Columbus St. Christopher – Adoration and prayer ministry: Weekdays from end of 8:30 a.m. Mass to 4:30 p.m.

Columbus St. Elizabeth – Exposition: second Sunday of the month, 6 to 7:30 p.m. "24 Hours with the Lord," Friday and Saturday, March 4 and 5. Program includes Stations of the Cross, 7 p.m. Friday, followed by reconciliation service at 7:45; Adoration, 8:30 p.m. Friday to 5 p.m. Saturday; confession, 8:30 to 10 p.m. Friday; Morning Prayer, 8 a.m. Saturday; Confirmation Mass with Bishop Frederick Campbell, 5:30 p.m. Saturday.

Columbus St. Francis of Assisi – Eucharistic Holy Hour: second Tuesday of the month, following 6 p.m. Mass.

Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral – Holy Hour with Adoration and confession: Wednesdays, following 5:15 p.m. Mass; Thursdays, 10:45 to 11:45 a.m.

Columbus St. Ladislav – Adoration: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays in former convent. Call Sister Wilma Ross, SCN, at (614) 444-2598 for instructions on how to enter.

Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona – Exposition: Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. year-round, with sung Vespers and Benediction at 7 p.m. on the Thursdays of Lent.

Columbus St. Mary – Exposition: First Fridays, 9 to 10 a.m.

Columbus St. Mary Magdalene – Exposition: second Monday of the month, following 8:15 a.m. Mass in church; fourth Saturday of the month, 9 a.m. to noon in Bishop Campbell Hall.

Columbus St. Patrick – Adoration: Third and fourth Fridays of the month, 8 p.m. Friday to 7 a.m. Saturday (church locked; call church office at (614) 224-9522 for access information). Exposition: 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. Fridays (church open).

Columbus St. Peter – Exposition: First Fridays, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; all other Fridays, 9 to 10 a.m.

Columbus St. Stephen – Exposition: Wednesdays, 6 to 7 p.m., first Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., other Fridays, 5 to 9 p.m., first Saturdays, 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. Sunday.

Columbus St. Thomas – Adoration: Wednesdays, 7 to 8 p.m., Fridays, 3 to 4 p.m. (bilingual), first Fridays, 6 to 7 p.m.

Columbus St. Timothy – Exposition: Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Danville St. Luke – Exposition: Once a month (date varies), from after 10 a.m. Mass

until 8 p.m. prayer service Sunday.

Delaware St. Mary – Exposition, Mondays, 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Dover St. Joseph – Exposition: Thursdays from 9 to 10 a.m. all year; Tuesdays from 5 to 6 p.m. during Lent; Friday and Saturday, March 4 and 5, from end of 7 p.m. Mass Friday to 4 p.m. Saturday, including Morning Prayer at 8 a.m.

Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare – Exposition: First Fridays from end of 9 a.m. Mass to 5 p.m., in Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

Gahanna St. Matthew – Exposition: 24 hours, seven days a week, except during the Sacred Triduum, in basement adoration chapel. Open to the general public from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. If you wish to visit at other times when church is locked, call Bryan Gebhart at (614) 226-9617.

Granville St. Edward – Exposition: 9:30 a.m. Monday to 9 a.m. Tuesday.

Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help – Exposition: First Fridays, from end of 8:30 a.m. Mass to 8:30 a.m. Saturday.

Jackson Holy Trinity – Exposition: First Fridays, 11 a.m. to noon.

Kenton Immaculate Conception – Exposition: First Thursdays, from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., closing with Benediction.

Lancaster St. Bernadette – Exposition: Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Lancaster St. Mark – Exposition: Mondays, 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesdays, 8:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.

See ADORATION, Page 13

St. Margaret of Cortona 1600 N. Hague Ave. Phone: 614.279.1690

18th Annual **Fish Fry** Free seconds!

Best in Town

Every Friday from February 12 - March 18 • 4:30 - 7:30 pm

BEST IN TOWN!

fried ocean perch, baked cod, baked potatoes, french fries
baked steak fries, coleslaw or apple sauce, rolls & butter
free coffee, home made desserts, pop & beer extra

Carry-outs available at the door • Adults \$9.50 • Seniors \$9.00 • Children (10 & under) \$4.50

Central Ohio Irish Club Proudly Presents



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Admission: \$40/adults, \$25/ages 4-11 (includes dinner) • Questions? Email ceilimillennium@gmail.com
Online tickets ONLY: <https://centralohioirishclub.ticketspice.com/shamrock-the-night-away> (NO DOOR SALES)

One man's story of how Operation Rice Bowl made a difference

BY TIM PUET

Reporter, Catholic Times

A snack from Catholic Relief Services changed Thomas Awaipo's life.

Hunger was a constant presence for Awaipo and his three brothers while growing up in the village of Wiaga in northern Ghana. He was orphaned before the age of 10, and saw two of his brothers die, one in his arms, because of malnutrition. The third just took off one day in the late 1970s. Awaipo hasn't seen him since and continues to look for him.

"We were always hungry, and sometimes we couldn't sleep because of it," Awaipo (pictured) told Diocese of Columbus staff members earlier this month. "To me, the worst experience imaginable is being hungry at night. Then one day, Catholic Relief Services came to my village.

"The first thing they did wasn't to set up a church, but to build a school. I didn't know what school was and was scared of it, like most of us kids. We'd run into the bush and hide for fear of being dragged into school. But the CRS people tricked me. They offered snacks, and when you're hungry, nothing else matters. However, to get the snack, I had to walk five miles to go to school.



"I loved the snack, but hated school. I felt like I was being taken hostage. When

you're hungry, though, nothing else matters. So I kept going to school, and somehow I started to like it.

"Now here it is close to 40 years later. I don't know exactly how long ago it was, because we never paid attention to things like the date of our birth, so that keeps me young. I'm as young or as old as I think I am. I kept on going to school and ended up coming to America for 16 months to earn a master's degree in public administration from California State-Hayward.

"Today I'm working for Catholic Relief Services in my homeland, and now I'm tricking children to go to school the same way I was tricked. God sent me an angel, and that angel was CRS. Through Operation Rice Bowl, CRS made all the good things in my life possible. Now I have the chance to pay forward and do the same for kids who are like I was."

Operation Rice Bowl is Catholic Relief



Services' Lenten faith-in-action program for families and communities. For more than 40 years, CRS has collected funds in cardboard containers shaped like rice bowls, with 75 percent of the money going toward its programs to alleviate hunger and provide clean water, improved agriculture, education and health services, and small-business support around the world. The other 25 percent stays

within the diocese for its own efforts to combat hunger and poverty.

Awaipo has been married for 20 years and lives in his homeland with his wife and their four daughters, who range from college age to seven years old. He is one of 70 CRS staff members in Ghana, all but three of whom are natives of the African nation. From December to early February, he was in the United States to speak about the agency's mission.

His last stop was in Columbus, where he spoke to Rice Bowl coordinators, students at Columbus Bishop Watterson, Bishop Ready, and Cristo Rey high schools and Immaculate Conception School, the Dominican Sisters of Peace, and diocesan employees.

"I've seen hungry kids in Ghana, in Nigeria, in Haiti, and, yes, here in the United States," Awaipo said. "From my own experience, I know that the greatest evil in the world is a child going to bed hungry. I am an example of how Operation Rice Bowl works and the difference its message of gratitude and thanksgiving makes – a story of hope, which all started for me because of a little snack.

"I lost my parents at a young age, but through CRS, God put into my life people who took better care of me than my parents ever could – the CRS workers, the priests who adopted me and sent me to schools, and the sisters who paid for my college.

"Human beings are God's language of hope, of compassion, of everything good. CRS is the Catholic Church's largest development agency, serving more than 100 nations. In this Year of Mercy, you can help it bring God's mercy and love to millions through your support of Operation Rice Bowl."

Many churches in the diocese distribute Rice Bowl containers or have them available in their gathering spaces. For more information about Operation Rice Bowl and CRS, go to www.crsrice-bowl.org or contact Erin Cordle of the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at (614) 241-2540.

ADORATION, continued from Page 12

Lancaster St. Mary – Exposition: 4 p.m. on Sundays of Lent, with sung Vespers and Benediction; Thursday, Feb. 25, following 9 a.m. Mass and continuing until Benediction at 1:45 p.m.

Logan St. John – Exposition: First Fridays, from 8:30 a.m. Friday to 8 a.m. Saturday, in adoration chapel.

London St. Patrick – Adoration: First Fridays, from end of 9:30 a.m. Mass to Benediction at noon.

Marion St. Mary – Adoration: Fridays, from after 8:30 a.m. Mass to 9 a.m. Saturday. Holy Hour with Exposition and confessions: Tuesdays, 5 to 6 p.m.

Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes – Exposition: First Fridays, from after 5:15 p.m. Mass to 10 a.m. Saturday.

Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul – Exposition: 5 p.m. Thursday to 5 p.m. Friday, followed by Mass and Benediction.

New Albany Church of the Resurrection – Exposition: Call parish office at (614) 855-1400 for times or go to parish website, www.churchoftheresurrection.com.

New Boston St. Monica – Adoration: Mondays and first Fridays, 6 to 7 p.m.

New Lexington St. Rose – Exposition: First Fridays, from after 8 or 9 a.m. Mass to 4 p.m.

New Philadelphia Sacred Heart – Exposition: 9 a.m.

Tuesday to 5:15 p.m. Wednesday. Confession and Adoration, followed by Evening Prayer service, 5 p.m. Mondays during Lent.

Newark Blessed Sacrament – Exposition: Noon to midnight Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays in chapel; 9 a.m. to midnight Wednesdays in sanctuary.

Newark St. Francis de Sales – Exposition: 7 p.m. Sunday to 4 p.m. Saturday, in day chapel behind sanctuary.

Pickerington St. Elizabeth Seton – Adoration: 24 hours, seven days a week, except when Mass is being celebrated and during the Sacred Triduum, in the church's Eucharistic Chapel.

Plain City St. Joseph – Exposition: 6 to 11 a.m. Monday through Thursday, 6 to 8 a.m. Friday, and 6 to 11 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Portsmouth Holy Redeemer – Exposition: Thursdays, 8:30 to 10 a.m.

Portsmouth St. Mary – Exposition: Fridays, from end of noon Mass to Benediction at 5:30 p.m.

Powell St. Joan of Arc – Exposition: 9 a.m. Monday to 8 a.m. Friday.

Sunbury St. John Neumann – Exposition: 24 hours, seven days, except for weekend Mass times. Holy hours: Tuesday, March 8 and Saturday, March 19, 7

p.m. Chapel is locked from 4 p.m. to 9 a.m. daily. If you wish to visit during those hours, contact Amy Davis at (614) 579-9874 or amymdavis@hotmail.com.

Washington Court House St. Colman of Cloyne – Exposition: Tuesdays during the school year, 6 to 8 p.m.

Waverly St. Mary – Exposition: First Wednesday, from end of 5:30 p.m. Mass to Benediction at 7 p.m.

Westerville St. Paul – Exposition: Thursdays during Lent, after 8:30 a.m. mass to 7 p.m. Holy Hour: Thursdays, 6 to 7 p.m. all year.

Wheelersburg St. Peter in Chains – Adoration: Sundays, 5 p.m.

Worthington St. Michael – Exposition: 24 hours, seven days a week, except during daily and weekend Masses and during the Sacred Triduum, in the church's Adoration Chapel.

Zaleski St. Sylvester – Exposition: First Wednesday, from end of 5:30 p.m. Mass to Benediction at 7 p.m.

Zanesville St. Nicholas – Exposition: First Fridays, 8 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.

Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas – Exposition: Wednesdays, after noon Mass to 8 p.m., with Holy Hour from 7 to 8.

First Sunday of Lent (Cycle C)

Jesus' victory means the devil's 'time' never comes



Father
Lawrence L. Hummer

**Deuteronomy 26:4-10;
Romans 10:8-13;
Luke 4:1-13**

The ritual described in Sunday's first reading "anticipates" what was later established as accepted practice. During the historical period of Moses, there was no such thing as an altar before which the priests would place anything. Nor, it must be quickly added, had the people entered into the land flowing with milk and honey, to this point. The setting for Deuteronomy remained the desert, even as Moses and the people had begun forays into the land they would soon occupy.

Offering first fruits to the Lord stemmed from the ancient Semitic belief that the creator-God owned the produce of the land. The only way it could be made available for the use of people was by first offering some of it back to God the provider. In that way, it came to be understood as God sharing in divine property. The same applied to eating flesh or fowl. An offering of some of it back to God enabled people to eat of the excess. Because it was the *first* of the fruit or the grain or the flock, it was thought to be the *best* part given back to God. If nothing else, this belief system maintained an awareness of God at every turn. We too often fail to remember this today, because so many dwell in cities.

The "confession" of each one who comes offering some of the "first fruits of the products of the soil" identifies the one confessing with the ancestors, not only in going down into Egypt, but also in being brought up out of there, after being oppressed. On top

Lenten Retreats

St. Therese's Retreat Center, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus, will be the site of two traditional Lenten retreats in March.

The Catholic Laywomen's Retreat League will sponsor a silent retreat for women that will begin with dinner on Friday, March 4 and conclude after brunch Sunday, March 6. For more information, email retreatleague@gmail.com. This retreat usually fills to capacity very quickly.

The Palm Sunday silent retreat for men that the Catholic Laymen's Retreat League has sponsored for nearly 50 years will take place Friday, March 18 to Sunday, March 20. For more information, contact David Ball at daveball226@gmail.com.

of all that, "the Lord brought us into this country ... this land flowing with milk and honey." This confessional statement links those who make it one with the people from whom they have descended, and makes them heirs to the same covenant the Lord had made with their ancestors. The act of bowing down in the presence of the Lord completes the ritual.

This reading is paired with the temptation scene from Luke's Gospel. Luke and Matthew both quote three times from Deuteronomy and once from Psalm 91. Mark has none of this. We must suppose that Matthew and Luke drew from a common source for this scene.

Both evangelists note that one "does not live on bread alone" in the first temptation, regarding hunger. Matthew and Luke switch temptations two and three. In Luke, the second temptation becomes one of earthly power ("all the kingdoms of the world in a single instant"). The response is "You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve." Matthew uses the same words after his third temptation.

Finally, Luke brings Jesus to the "parapet" of the Jerusalem temple. A parapet was a railing atop the highest building in the temple complex to prevent people from falling. There the devil says, "if you are the Son of God," throw yourself over, because it is written, "He will command his angels ... to guard you" and "with their hands they shall support you lest you dash your foot against a stone." Matthew's quote from Psalm 91 here is worded slightly differently in Greek. Jesus' response is the same in both Gospels: "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test."

Luke adds the intriguing line "When the devil had finished every temptation, he departed from him **for a time** (Greek *kairos*)." Some commentators think that "time" came during the Agony in the Garden. However, there Jesus is intently at prayer with the Father. In fact, the devil will never return for a "time," because Jesus destroys the devil's power by curing sickness, disease, and suffering. Jesus' final victory is destroying death (the devil's playground and source of his "power"), and thereby, the devil's "time" never comes again.

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

Morning of Reflection

The annual Lenten morning of reflection at Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center, 2734 Seminary Road S.E., Newark, will take place from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 19.

Sister Louis Mary Passeri, OP, will be the presenter, focusing on the topic "Mercy Upon Mercy." The cost is \$20, including a continental breakfast. Payment is due upon reservation.

Register by calling (740) 928-4246, going to the center's website, www.stspeterandpaulretreatcenter.com, or emailing info@stspeterandpaulretreatcenter.org.

The Weekday Bible Readings

MONDAY
Leviticus 19:1-2,11-18
Psalm 19:8-10,15
Matthew 25:31-46

TUESDAY
Isaiah 55:10-11
Psalm 34:4-7,16-19
Matthew 6:7-15

WEDNESDAY
Jonah 3:1-10
Psalm 51:3-4,12-13,18-19
Luke 11:29-32

THURSDAY
Esther C:12,14-16,23-25
Psalm 138:1-3,7c-8
Matthew 7:7-12

FRIDAY
Ezekiel 18:21-28
Psalm 130:1-8
Matthew 5:20-26

SATURDAY
Deuteronomy 26:16-19
Psalm 119:1-2,4-5,7-8
Matthew 5:43-48

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 14, 2016

SUNDAY MASS

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

Mass with the Passionist Fathers at 7:30 a.m. on WWHO-TV (the CW), Channel 53, Columbus, and 10:30 a.m. on WHIZ-TV, Channel 18, Zanesville. Check local cable system for cable channel listing.

Mass from Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, Birmingham, Ala., at 8 a.m. on EWTN (Time Warner Channel 385, Insight Channel 382, or WOW Channel 378).

(Encores at noon, 7 p.m., and midnight). Mass from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee at 6:30 a.m. on ION TV (AT&T U-verse Channel 195, Dish Network Channel 250, or DirecTV Channel 305).

DAILY MASS

8 a.m., Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Birmingham, Ala. (Encores at noon, 7 p.m. and midnight). See EWTN above; and on I-Lifetv (Channel 113 in Ada, Logan, Millersburg, Murray City and Washington C.H.; Channel 125 in Marion, Newark, Newcomerstown and New Philadelphia; and Channel 207 in Zanesville); 8 p.m., St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com.

We pray Week I, Seasonal Proper of the Liturgy of the Hours

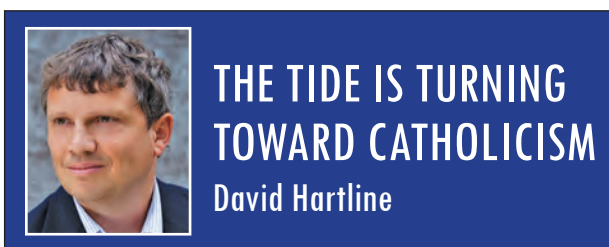
Lent: A Time for Cleansing, Growing, Helping and Planning

Lent is a period for cleansing and renewal. In ancient times, people would fast and give alms to the needy. Now we have more opportunities to better ourselves and those around us, but do we take advantage of them? A trip to the confessional is one of the best ways we could take advantage of Lent.

The other day, during a brief period of warmer temperatures, I noticed a traffic jam and wondered if there had been an accident. When I passed what I thought must have been the accident site, I noticed it was the turn lane for a car wash, and the backup was the result of all the cars waiting in line. A couple of blocks later, I passed a Catholic church which had its Mass and Saturday confession times listed.

This took place early on a Saturday, so I didn't drive by during confession time. I don't often gamble, but I'm going to go out on a limb and wager that the traffic coming into the church for confession, unlike the car wash traffic, wasn't backed up and blocking the street. Isn't it amazing that we will wait for a long amount of time to clean our car, but pass on a chance to clean our souls?

There was a time when confessionals were packed on Saturdays and on the other listed times the Sacrament of Reconciliation might be offered in a parish. However, for some reason, even though all of the saints and countless other holy men and women regularly went to confession through the years, too many of us, for one



**THE TIDE IS TURNING
TOWARD CATHOLICISM**
David Hartline

reason or another, don't think we need to go.

Mercy and helping those in need are the two things Pope Francis most frequently covers in his many homilies and impromptu talks. However, confession and the snares of the devil are not far behind. If there were any doubt, Pope Francis has even been photographed going to confession, which, in a subtle way, lets the faithful know the significance he places on the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

It is important to note that the first thing Jesus did when he returned to the Apostles on Easter Sunday night was to institute the Sacrament of Reconciliation. He told them, "Receive the Holy Spirit, whose sins you forgive are forgiven, and whose sins you retain are retained" (John 20:19-23).

"Why is this such a big deal?" you might ask. In order to grow, people have to know their limitations and shortcomings, which any successful business, sports team, band, or theater group must recognize if it is to

achieve its goals. The same applies to us on a personal level. We have to get ourselves in order before we can think we can successfully help those around us.

Much as you have to put on your own oxygen mask in a plane before you can help a loved one or a nearby passenger in an emergency, we have to get our house in order before we truly help those who need it. That's not to say that we can forgo helping the less fortunate before we turn the corner. That's the last thing I mean to imply. However, we can be much more helpful if we have learned to fight the good fight and run the race, as St. Paul reminds us.

When you are freed of the burden of past sins, you will want to go out and help those in need because you will feel grateful for the newfound joy you have. A person who is truly joyful wants to let others know what makes him or her so happy. A trip to the confessional could take lots of burdens off your shoulders. It could give you the joy and happiness you wished you had all your life. Now is the time to prepare for Lent and making yourself whole. Perhaps you may want to go on a solitary or group retreat this Lent, or perhaps this is finally the year you go to the diocesan Catholic men's or women's conference. The choice is yours. The time is now.

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

CATHOLIC MAN, continued from Page 8

Bernard is serving his second term as grand knight of St. Jude Council 5801 of the Knights of Columbus, which he has led to Star Council status, the highest council honor in the organization. He has been instrumental in starting a women's group for the wives of council members.

He was active in formation three years ago of the Columbus chapter of the Militia Immaculata, a worldwide evangelization movement founded by St. Maximilian Kolbe in 1917 that encourages total consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary as a means of spiritual renewal. The chapter has more than 200 members.

He also helped start a perpetual adoration program which began on Ash Wednesday last year in a chapel created for the program in the church basement. He teaches Confirmation readiness classes for seventh- and eighth-graders in the Parish School of Religion.

He recently became involved in a multiparish effort to respond to the continuing poverty in Vinton County. Each Friday, he and others in the program drive a van with needed supplies to the St. Francis Center in McArthur.

He and his wife, Heather, have been married 14 years and have five children ages 12 to one, three of whom have special needs. Bernard has been employed by Caterpillar Financial Services for 13 years.

He was unanimously chosen as the recipient of the award by a selection committee consisting of David Ball and Kurt Purcell of the Catholic Men's Retreat League, Andrew Baker and Steve Friend

of the Catholic Men's Ministry, Roger Baughman and Bill Messerly of the Serra Club, Gary Anderson and Fred Scheltz of the Knights of Columbus, and Tim Merkle, Frank Hartge, and John Schechter of the luncheon club. Father Michael Lumpe, rector of Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, was the group's spiritual adviser.

The club established the award in 1957 and has presented it in each year since. The 2015 recipient was Bill Hinger of Columbus Immaculate Conception Church.

Other nominees for the 2016 award were Chris Damo of Worthington St. Michael (nominated posthumously); Tom Dailey of the Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center; Anthony Joseph of Columbus St. Andrew; Bob Poirier of Columbus Immaculate Conception; Dan Reichard of Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral; Jeff Baker of Columbus St. Timothy; Kevin Hillyard of Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes; Mike Paszkiewicz of Reynoldsburg St. Pius X; Peter Krajnak and William Heyer of Columbus St. Catharine; Robert Fowles of Columbus Sacred Heart; and Michael Haller of Chillicothe St. Mary.

The club meets on the first Friday of every month, except January and in the summer, following the 11:45 a.m. Mass at St. Patrick. Its next meeting will be on March 4, with Father Michael Mary Dosch, OP, pastor of St. Patrick Church, as the speaker. More information is available by visiting www.ColumbusCatholicMen.com or contacting Tim Merkle, luncheon club president, at htm@ejhlaw.com.



COLORING CONTEST WINNERS

Elizabeth Sullivan (second from left) of Westerville finished first in the state of Ohio in the kindergarten through second grade division of a Christmas coloring page program sponsored by the Catholic War Veterans. Her page will advance to the national level. Finishing second was Jimmy Dennett of Reynoldsburg, and Sarah Sylvester (left) was third. Finishing first in the state in the third-through-fifth-grade division was Brooklyn Wolf of Canal Winchester. Annie Stedman (right) of Lithopolis was second. The students' entries were sponsored by St. Patrick Post 1963 of the Catholic War Veterans. David Nixon, first vice commander of the post, is in back.

Photo courtesy CWV Post 1963

Pray for our dead

BENNETT, Joseph E., 74, Feb. 5
St. Mary Magdalene Church, Columbus

CLARK, Margaret P., 80, Feb. 5
Our Lady of Peace Church, Columbus

DURANT, Jeanette A. "Jane," 87, Jan. 30
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

DYSON, Robert F., 96, Jan. 30
St. Anthony Church, Columbus

FINNEGAN, Paula E., 93, Jan. 30
St. Mary Church, Marion

GEORGE, Julia A., 49, Feb. 4
St. Christopher Church, Columbus

HALEY, Theresa "Joann," 87, Feb. 6
St. Mary Church, Columbus

HOLCOMB, Sandy E., 71, Feb. 5
St. Joseph Church, Circleville

JONES, William, 63, Jan. 28
Immaculate Conception Church, Dennison

KOPP, James, 92, Jan. 31
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

KRUCZYNSKI, Grace A., 87, Jan. 31
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Grove City

KUHN, Lois M., 82, Feb. 6
St. John Neumann Church, Sunbury

MARKSTEIN, Martha B., 87, Feb. 2
St. Thomas Church, Columbus

MATTINGLY, Mildred M., 90, Jan. 30
St. Joan of Arc Church, Powell

O'DELL, Betti L., 84, Feb. 3
St. Elizabeth Church, Columbus

O'DONNELL, Judith, 72, Jan. 30
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

RAVER, Christina M., 68, Jan. 18
St. Ladislav Church, Columbus

RICHARDS, Theresa R., 88, Feb. 2
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

ROSILE, Jonathan, 31, Jan. 31
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Grove City

ROWE, Christina A., 90, Jan. 31
St. Mary Church, Marion

SAFFELL, James L., 80, Feb. 2
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

STOCK, Mary J., 83, Jan. 20
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

SUTTON GRESSLE, Geraldine M. 96, Feb. 4
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

SYLVESTER, Addy R., 10 months, Feb. 4
St. Matthew Church, Gahanna

TOMSON, Stella E., 96, Jan. 31
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

WELZ, Carme, 85, Jan. 28
Immaculate Conception Church, Dennison

YSASI, Kimberly J., 45, Feb. 1
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

ZAMARELLI, Catherine, 88, Jan. 31
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Grove City

Margaret R. Will

Funeral Mass for Margaret R. "Peg" Will, 91, who died Sunday, Jan. 17, was held Saturday, Jan. 30, at Columbus St. Timothy Church.

She was born on July 1, 1924, in Evansville, Indiana.

She was principal of St. Timothy School from its opening in 1963 until the end of the 1972-73 school year. She also taught at schools in Indiana, California, and Columbus, worked for

14 years in the Newspaper in Education program for *The Columbus Dispatch* and served as an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist at Riverside Methodist Hospital.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 67 years, Herman; and brother, Tom Reising. Survivors include sons, Tom and Roch (Carol); daughter, Leslie (Rich) King; four grandsons; and five granddaughters.

Peggy-Ann M. Malloy

A funeral service was held Saturday, Jan. 30 at the Spence-Miller Funeral Home in Grove City for Peggy-Ann M. Malloy, 70, who died Wednesday, Jan. 27.

Burial was at Sunset Cemetery, Gal- loway.

She was employed by the insurance office of the Diocese of Columbus from 2006 to 2015.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Hilbert and Helen Mann. Survivors include her husband, Jim; and a brother, Darrow (Patricia).

Morgan Assman

Funeral Mass for Morgan Assman, 57, who died Sunday, Jan. 24, was held Friday, Jan. 29 at Columbus Christ the King Church. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

He graduated from in 1976 Columbus South High School and earned a teaching degree in industrial technology at The Ohio State University, where he was a four-year letterman in baseball. He was baseball coach at Columbus

Bishop Hartley High School for many years and retired from teaching in 2015. He also was a teacher and coach at Gahanna Lincoln High School and in Buras, Louisiana.

Survivors include his wife, Christy; sons, Nick (Jenny) and Marty (Jordan); brothers, Stephen (Susan), Kevin (Martha), and Ben (Kathy); daughter, Denise (Paul) Leithart; and two granddaughters.

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Fridays, 2/12 - 3/18, 4:30 - 7 pm

Fresh Ocean Perch (fried)

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\$9 Adults, \$5 Kids • *Carryouts available*

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Fridays during Lent,

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Fried Ocean Perch or Baked Cod, with French Fries, Baked Potato, Baked Steak Fries, Cole Slaw, Applesauce, Roll & Butter, and homemade Desserts. Free seconds & coffee!

Adults/\$9.50; Seniors/\$9.00;

Children (10 & under) -\$4.50

Pop, Beer, & Carryouts available. Info: 279-1690

ST. CHRISTOPHER CHURCH

LENTEN PASTA DINNER

1420 Grandview Avenue

Trinity School Cafeteria

Fridays: Feb. 12 - March 18 • 5-7pm

\$7.00 for adults/\$4.00 for kids/\$25.00 per Family
Pasta Sauce Provided by local area restaurants
February 19th - ZCucina Ristorante

ST. ANTHONY PARISH

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Sunday, Feb. 28, 2016

12:00 - 6:30 pm

DINE-IN OR CARRYOUT

1300 Urban Drive ~ Columbus, Ohio
stanthonykofc14093@gmail.com

LENTEN FISH FRY

Fridays 5-8 pm, Feb 12-March 18

ST. MICHAEL CHURCH

5750 N. High St., Worthington

Fish Dinner: Regular-\$8; Small-\$6

Macaroni Cheese Dinner - \$6

Clam Chowder, Desserts - \$1

Dine In, Drive Thru & Carryout

LENTEN FISH FRY'S - COME JOIN US

ST. ANDREW CHURCH

Nugent Hall (below the church)

1899 McCoy Rd. Upper Arlington

February 12, 19, 26 March 4, 11, 18

4:30 - 7:00 P.M.

Baked cod or deep fried perch, sides, dessert & beverage included, also cheese pizza & mac 'n cheese

Adult \$10, Child (10 and under) \$5

Carryout \$9 / \$4 (no dessert or beverage)

NEWARK CATHOLIC

ALL YOU CAN EAT LENTEN FISH FRY

February 12 thru March 18, 2016

Fridays 4:00-7:00

Adults \$10.00, Seniors \$9.00,

Kids \$5.00, 3 & under eat free!

Early Bird Special 4:00-5:00

ST. ELIZABETH CHURCH

6077 Sharon Woods Blvd, Columbus

Lenten Fish Fry • February 12

\$9: Adult dinner -Baked & Fried Fish, Shrimp

\$6 Small dinner: Fish or Grilled Cheese

Sandwiches Mac & Cheese

Includes 2 sides, biscuit, dessert & beverage

Carryout available

Followed by a concert by Dan Schutte at 7 p.m.

Concert cost \$15

H A P P E N I N G S

FEBRUARY

11, THURSDAY

Cenacle at Holy Name

6 p.m., Holy Name Church, 154 E. Patterson Ave., Columbus. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, with prayers in the Cenacle format of the Marian Movement of Priests.

Holy Hour of Reparation at Columbus Sacred Heart
7 to 8 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 893 Hamlet St., Columbus. Eucharistic Holy Hour following Holy Hour of Reparation prayer format, concluding with Benediction and social period. **614-372-5249**

Theology on Tap Meeting

7 to 9 p.m., El Vaquero Restaurant, 3230 Olentangy River Road, Columbus. Meeting of Theology on Tap discussion and social group for young Catholics. Topic: "The Gifts of the Holy Spirit" with youth minister Aaron Richards. RSVP to cbustheologyontap@gmail.com or Columbus Theology on Tap Facebook page.

Catechism Uncorked in Delaware

7 p.m., Amato's Woodfired Pizza, 6 S. Sandusky St., Delaware. Catechism Uncorked social for 36- to 64-year-olds, sponsored by Delaware St. Mary Church adult faith formation program, featuring social time, questions for a special guest, and food available for purchase. **740-513-3325**

Sung Vespers at St. Margaret of Cortona

7:30 p.m., St. Margaret of Cortona Church, 1600 N. Hague Ave., Columbus. Sung Vespers, following Stations of the Cross during weekly Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, continuing every Thursday through March 17. **614-279-1690**

12, FRIDAY

Dan Schutte Concert at St. Elizabeth

7:30 p.m., St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon Woods Blvd.,

Columbus. Concert with Dan Schutte, author of many familiar contemporary hymns, featuring talk based on his hymn "Here I Am, Lord." Tickets \$15. **614-891-0150**

Discussion of 'Rediscover Jesus' at St. John Neumann

St. John Neumann Church, 9633 E. State Route 37, Sunbury. First of six Friday-night discussion programs on "Rediscover Jesus" by Matthew Kelly. **740-965-1358**

12-13, FRIDAY-SATURDAY

Youth Ministry Leaders Retreat

Procter Retreat Center, 11235 State Route 38, London. Retreat for all adult leaders and volunteers in youth ministry, sponsored by diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. **614-241-2565**

Taize Retreat at Corpus Christi

7 p.m. Friday to 4 p.m. Saturday, Corpus Christi Center Peace, 1111 E. Stewart Ave., Columbus. "Come Away and Pray" retreat in the spirit and style of the Taize monastic community, led by Anita Davidson and Pete McClernon. Cost \$100 for accommodation and two meals; \$40 for commuters, including Saturday lunch. **614-512-3731**

13, SATURDAY

Life and Mercy Mass in Plain City

9 a.m. Mass, St. Joseph Church, 140 West Ave., Plain City. Saturday Life and Mercy Mass, followed by rosary and confession.

Day of Reflection with Dan Schutte at St. Elizabeth

9 a.m. to 3 p.m., St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon Woods Blvd., Columbus. Day of reflection with Dan Schutte. Theme: "Whom Shall I Send?: Responding in Faith to God's Calling." Cost \$25, includes meals. **614-891-0150**

Instant Decision Day at Ohio Dominican

9 a.m. to noon, Bishop Griffin Student Center, Ohio Dominican University, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. Instant decision day, allowing high school students to apply to ODU, submit transcript and test scores, and receive an on-the-spot admissions decision. **614-251-4453**

Creighton Model NFP Introductory Session

10 a.m. to noon, St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Introductory session for Creighton Model Natural Family Planning classes. Information at www.freedomfertilitycare.com.

St. Mary Magdalene Speaker Series

5 p.m., St. Mary Magdalene Church, 473 S. Roys Ave., Columbus. Parish Year of Mercy series continues with Heather Swiger of the St. Vincent de Paul Society speaking on "Feeding and Clothing the Poor." RSVP to 614-274-1121, extension 13.

14, SUNDAY

Exposition at Our Lady of Mount Carmel

9:15 to 10:15 a.m., Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 5133 Walnut St. S.E., Buckeye Lake. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, continuing every Sunday during Lent. **740-928-3266**

St. Christopher Adult Religious Education

10 to 11:20 a.m., Library, Trinity Catholic School, 1440 Grandview Ave., Columbus. "The Bible and the Mass, Part 1" with Deacon Gregg Eiden.

Kateri Prayer Circle at St. Mark

1 p.m., Aranda Center, St. Mark Church, 324 Gay St., Lancaster. Kateri Prayer Circle meeting to honor St. Kateri Tekakwitha and promote Native Catholic spirituality. **740-756-7008**

Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic Meeting

1:30 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus.

Meeting of St. Catherine of Siena chapter, Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic.

World Marriage Day Program

2 to 4 p.m., Marian Hall, Immaculate Conception Church, 366 E. North Broadway, Columbus. World Marriage Day program sponsored by diocesan Marriage and Family Life Office, with psychologist Dr. Andrew Sodergren speaking on "Love, Marriage, and the Meaning of Life," followed by Holy Hour at 3. **614-241-2560**

Adoration, Vespers, Benediction at Lancaster St. Mary
4 p.m., St. Mary Church, 132 S. High St., Lancaster. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, sung Vespers, and Benediction. continuing every Sunday during Lent. **740-653-0997**

Prayer Group Meeting at Christ the King

5 to 7 p.m., Christ the King Church, 2777 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus (enter at daily Mass entrance). Weekly parish prayer group meets for praise, worship, ministry, and teaching. **614-886-8266**

St. Margaret of Cortona 'Catholic Conversations' Series

6 to 8 p.m., Columbus Brewing Co., 525 Short St., Columbus. Monthly "Catholic Conversations" series for anyone 21 and older, sponsored by Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona Church. Speaker: Deacon Matt Landman on "Love." RSVP to nancywhetstone@gmail.com or julienaporano1@gmail.com.

Spanish Mass at Columbus St. Peter

7 p.m., St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road, Columbus. Mass in Spanish. **706-761-4054**

15, MONDAY

Adoration, Evening Prayer at New Philadelphia

5 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 139 3rd St. N.E., New Philadelphia. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and confessions, followed by Evening Prayer, continuing every Monday during Lent. **330-343-6976**

15-17, MONDAY-WEDNESDAY

Parish Mission at Our Lady of Perpetual Help

9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m., Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 3730 Broadway, Grove City. Parish mission with author and teacher Mary Sharon Moore. Theme "Lord, Teach Us to Pray." **614-875-3322**

Parish Mission at Our Lady of Victory

7 p.m., Our Lady of Victory Church, 1559 Roxbury Road, Columbus. Parish mission with Father Joshua Wagner, pastor of Columbus St. Dominic and Holy Rosary-St. John churches. Theme: "WORD to Your Mother." **614-488-2428**

16, TUESDAY

Adoration, Mass, Speaker at Dover St. Joseph

5 p.m., St. Joseph Church, 613 N. Tuscarawas Ave., Dover. Eucharistic Adoration, followed by Mass at 6 and talk from 7 to 8 with Dr. James Pauley of Franciscan University of Steubenville. Topic: "Lent and the Call to Intentional Discipleship." **330-364-6661**

Holy Hour, Mass, Talk at Marion St. Mary

5 p.m., St. Mary Church, 251 N. Main St., Marion. Holy Hour and confessions, followed by Mass at 6:30 and talk at 7:15 with Father Thomas Blau, OP, parochial vicar of Columbus St. Patrick Church. Topic: "God's Mercy and Yours." **740-382-2118**

Lenten Soup Supper at Plain City St. Joseph

Parish activity center, St. Joseph Church, 670 W. Main St., Plain City. Lenten soup supper following 5:30 p.m. Mass. **614-873-8850**

Lenten Soup Supper at St. Edward

6 p.m., St. Edward Church, 785 Newark-Granville Road, Granville. Lenten soup supper with parish music director Paul Radkowski speaking on "Our Common Home." **740-587-3254**

Lenten Soup and Salad Supper at West Jefferson

Ss. Simon and Jude Church, 9350 High Free Pike, West Jefferson. Lenten soup supper following 6 p.m. Mass. **614-879-8562**

Rosary for Life at St. Joan of Arc

Following 6:15 p.m. Mass, St. Joan of Arc Church, 10700 Liberty Road, Powell. Recital of Rosary for Life, sponsored by church's respect life committee.

Home Buying Seminar at Ohio Dominican

6:30 p.m., Bishop Griffin Center, Ohio Dominican University, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. Home buying seminar for students, the campus community, and area residents, sponsored by ODU and Education First Credit Union. Register at pirwitz@ohiodominican.edu.

Catholic Women's Conference Choir Practice

7 to 8 p.m., St. Timothy Church, 1088 Thomas Lane, Columbus. Final practice for women wishing to be choir members for Columbus Catholic Women's Conference on Saturday, Feb. 20.

Prayer Group Meeting at St. Mark

7:30 p.m., St. Raymond Room, St. Mark Center, 324 Gay St., Lancaster. Light of Life prayer group meeting. **740-654-6928**

17, WEDNESDAY

Abortion Recovery Network Group

9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Westerville Area Resource Ministry, 150 Heatherdown Drive, Westerville. Pregnancy Decision Health Center abortion recovery network group meeting. **614-888-8774**

Homestead Exemption Information at Corpus Christi

10 a.m., Corpus Christi Center of Peace, 1111 E. Stewart Ave., Columbus. Information session with Franklin County auditor's office representative on qualifying for the homestead exemption for senior citizens and the permanently disabled. **614-512-3731**

Lenten Soup Supper at St. Pius X

5 to 6:30 p.m., St. Pius X Church, 1051 S. Waggoner Road, Reynoldsburg. Lenten soup supper. **614-866-2859**

Lenten Soup Supper at St. Agatha

6 p.m., St. Agatha Church, 1860 Northham Road, Columbus. Lenten soup supper benefiting Hands Together program in Haiti. **614-488-6149**

Alpha Course Introductory Dinner at London St. Patrick
6:30 to 8:30 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 61 S. Union St., London. "Come and see" dinner introducing 10-week Alpha course on faith development and enrichment. **740-852-0942**

18, THURSDAY

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Paul

Following 8:30 a.m. Mass to 7 p.m., St. Paul Church, 313 N. State St., Westerville. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, continuing every Thursday through March 17. **614-882-2109**

Cenacle at Holy Name

6 p.m., Holy Name Church, 154 E. Patterson Ave., Columbus. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, with prayers in the Cenacle format of the Marian Movement of Priests.

Holy Hour of Reparation at Columbus Sacred Heart

7 to 8 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 893 Hamlet St., Columbus. Eucharistic Holy Hour following Holy Hour of Reparation prayer format, concluding with Benediction and social period. **614-372-5249**

All fund-raising events (festivals, bazaars, spaghetti dinners, fish fries, bake sales, pizza/sub sales, candy sales, etc.) will be placed in the "Fund-Raising Guide."

An entry into the Guide will be \$18.50 for the first six lines, and \$2.65 for each additional line.

For more information, call David Garick at 614-224-5195.

'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@colsdio.org

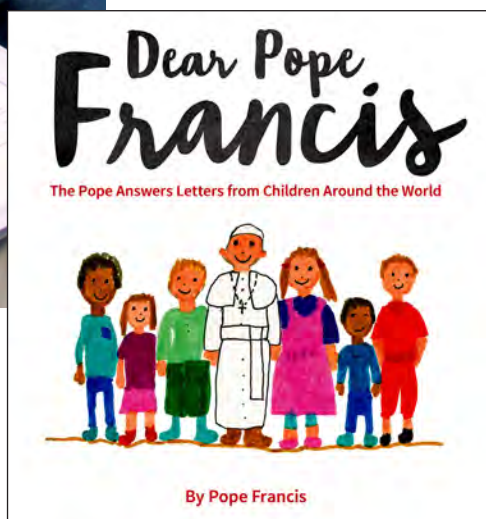


BOOK REVIEW

*Simple, not silly:
Children's questions become
book by Pope Francis*



By the Pope: Dear Pope Francis



By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

Children may say the darnedest things, but when it comes to questions about faith, they can make even the most learned parents and priests pause.

"These are tough," Pope Francis said when presented with questions from 30 children from around the world.

Jesuit Father Antonio Spadaro, who went through the questions with the pope, said half the time he personally was stumped when thinking about how he would have responded. But the pope wasn't.

The questions, illustrated with the drawings of the children aged 6-13, and the pope's answers will be published Tuesday, March 1 as the book *Dear Pope Francis*.

"What did God do before the world was made?" one child asked. "Do bad people have a guardian angel, too?" asked another.

In the book, coordinated and published by the U.S.-based Loyola Press, Pope Francis responds to those and 28 other queries; some of the questions are theological, others are practical and a few are about

the pope personally, including what he wanted to be when he grew up.

To the question about what God was doing before creation, the heart of the pope's answer is, "Think of it this way: Before creating anything, God loved. That's what God was doing: God was loving."

Questions about Jesus, war and peace, and about heaven also are included, though Father Spadaro was keeping those exact questions and answers under wraps during a late-January interview.

Some of the personal questions made Pope Francis laugh and the pope's answers to those questions made Father Spadaro laugh, the Jesuit said. The pope admits in the book that when he was small, he wanted to be a butcher because the butcher his grandmother bought meat from had an apron with a big pocket that seemed to be full of money.

The children's questions are "simple, but not silly," said Father Spadaro, who discussed them with Pope Francis and recorded his answers.

Father Spadaro heads *La Civiltà Cattolica*, a Jesuit journal filled with articles on philosophy, theology, literary criticism, and political theory. He has never worked with young children and said he was in awe of how the pope handled the questions -- taking them seriously and responding to them honestly and clearly.

Some of the pope's answers, he said, are "inspired."

"This is important," Father Spadaro said. "It says a lot about the magisterium of Pope Francis; he knows his ministry can reach children."

At the request of Loyola Press, Father Spadaro asked Pope Francis last May if he would be willing to do the book. The Jesuit publishing house had asked Father Spadaro to approach the pope since he had conducted the first big interview with Pope Francis in 2013.

"The pope said 'Yes' immediately and with enthusiasm,"

Father Spadaro said.

Loyola Press then reached out to dozens of Jesuits and collaborators around the globe, asking them to solicit questions and drawings from children. Sometimes Loyola had to ship off crayons, markers and paper because the children had none.

In the end, 259 children in 26 countries submitted questions. The big batch of letters are in 14 languages and come from children in wealthy cities, poor rural areas, and even refugee centers.

Choosing which letters the pope would answer in the book was done with input from the children, parents, grandparents, teachers, and Jesuits, Father Spadaro said. But he went into the reserve pile and pulled out a few more as well.

In August, Father Spadaro read the letters out loud to the pope in Italian, but the pope also scrutinized the drawings, the Jesuit said. He commented on the scenes and colors and often had a good laugh over the way the kids drew the pope.

For the answers, "I was not just taking dictation," Father Spadaro said. The pope enjoys a conversation; for the book, that meant the pope would sometimes discuss the questions and potential answers with the Jesuit scribe and, often, would return to add something to an answer after they had already moved on to other letters.

"He's a volcano," Father Spadaro said.

The pope would look off into

space as if picturing the children and responding to them in person, usually in Spanish, but sometimes in Italian, the Jesuit said.

The questions stayed with the pope, who later referred to some of them in speeches and homilies, he said. The most noticeable example was the question from 8-year-old Ryan in Canada about what God was doing before creation.

In the pope's unscripted talk at the Festival of Families in Philadelphia in September, Pope Francis told the crowd, "A young person once asked me -- you know how young people ask hard questions! -- 'Father, what did God do before he created the world?'"

"Believe me, I had a hard time answering that one," the pope admitted in Philadelphia. "I told him what I am going to tell you now. Before he created the world, God loved, because God is love."

Although it might not be "theologically precise," the pope said that night, God's love was so great that "he had to go out from himself, in order to have someone to love outside of himself. So God created the world. ... But the most beautiful thing God made -- so the Bible tells us -- was the family."

Pope Francis will have a chance to meet nine or 10 of the children in late February, when he has promised a private audience for some of the people who took part in the project.



NEWS IN PHOTOS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill reads a prayer during the Christmas service on Jan. 7 at Christ the Savior Cathedral in Moscow. After almost three decades of tense Catholic-Russian Orthodox relations, Pope Francis will meet Patriarch Kirill on Feb. 12 in Cuba, en route to Mexico.

CNS photo/Sergei Chirikov, EPA



The body of St. Padre Pio is carried in procession in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican on Feb. 5. Pope Francis had asked that the relics of Padre Pio and St. Leopold Manic be brought to Rome for the Year of Mercy.

CNS photo/Paul Haring



A health worker fumigates for mosquitoes as part of preventive measures against the Zika virus at a cemetery near Lima, Peru, on Feb. 1.

CNS photo/Mariana Bazo, Reuters



Please support the Black and Indian Missions Collection on February 13 and 14

By Leandro M. Tapay

Diocesan Missions Director

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has designated the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 13 and 14, for the Black and Indian Missions Collection to support the Black, Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut missions in the United States.

Almost all of the nation's dio-

ceses and archdioceses receive support from the USCCB's Black and Indian Missions Office.

Our donations help bring the light of the Gospel to these missions, which do not have the financial basis to support the Church.

For many decades, the Church in the United States has sent missionaries and mission funds

overseas to serve the people of Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Oceania. Many communities in the United States need the same kind of help.

Funds from the collection are used for evangelization in impoverished rural and reservation communities and for providing the basic needs of children in these areas. The funds are distributed in the

form of grants to strengthen and promote evangelization programs where they otherwise would cease to exist because of lack of local funding.

Many evangelization efforts are being made through this collection. From Alaska's wilderness, to the inner cities of the rural South, to the deserts of the American Southwest, our contributions go to the neediest people of our nation.

In recent years, the needs of these communities have outgrown the Black and Indian Missions Office's ability to provide the necessary support. As a result, Catholic schools have closed, programs have

been curtailed, and social services to feed and clothe the poor have been diminished. Financial help is badly needed in the mission areas of our nation.

On behalf of His Excellency, Bishop Frederick Campbell, and Father Andrew Small, OMI, national director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States, I would like to thank you for your donations to the Black and Indian Missions.

Together, through our financial gifts, we join with the clergy, religious, and lay people who minister to the Black and Indian communities across the nation.



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I would like to thank for your help in promoting in your parish the Black and Indian Missions Collection on the weekend of Feb. 13 and 14.

Since 1884, proceeds from the collection have been distributed to dioceses supporting and strengthening evangelization programs, which would otherwise be in danger of disappearing, among the Black, American Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut communities of the United States.

These communities exist in almost every archdiocese and diocese in the United States. Missionary priests, religious, catechists, and devoted lay people work tirelessly in parishes, missions, and reservations to promote the faith. Through our contributions, we work hand in hand with missionaries who deliver the light of Christ's witness to the impoverished, isolated, and long-suffering people in these communities.

Thank you for inviting your parishioners to join with me in the missionary work of the Church as the National Black and Indian Collection is conducted throughout the Columbus diocese. Through our prayers and generosity, we share in spreading Christ's Gospel message in Black and Indian communities across the country.

Together, let us truly be missionaries through our sacrifice and the love of Jesus Christ we share.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

**Most Rev. Frederick F. Campbell, DD, PhD
Bishop of Columbus**

