CATHOLIC WOMEN’S CONFERENCE
DRAWS RECORD CROWD OF 3,000
The Editor’s Notebook

The Power of Faith-filled Living

By David Garick, Editor

Many Catholics believe that faith is something you either have or don’t have. And once you have faith, it’s like owning a car: As long as you don’t deliberately get rid of it or sell it off, it’s yours. The truth is that faith is a lot more complex than that.

Faith does not come all at once. It can constantly grow and mature all through life, just as it can slowly fade away. Our physical bodies become strong and our skills become more acute through exercise and training, but can atrophy through being sedentary and inactive. Faith matures and strengthens us through the application of faith in all of our lives.

Most of us were brought into the Church by our parents, baptized as infants, and made part of the Body of Christ. That is not the end of the story. It is only the beginning. That set us on the path to faith. But that path is a long journey that is fraught with many challenges. It leads us, filled with trepidation, to the cross, and through the cross, we reach our true goal of eternal life with Christ. However, that journey is not automatic.

That is why we need to put our faith to work, exercising it in our lives every day. Jesus challenges us to live our faith with our neighbors, giving freely, not just from our material treasures, but through the sharing of our spiritual treasure that is Christ Himself. We must be evangelists, just like his original disciples. Only that way can we stay on the narrow path He calls us to follow.

This past weekend, more than 3,000 Catholic women came together in Columbus for an annual conference that helped them expand their focus of faith beyond the walls of the church and strengthened them in their journey to live and share the Gospel. This coming weekend, a similar conference will help fortify men from our diocese in their spiritual journey.

Pope: Being Christian is doing God’s will, not just talking the talk

By Carol Glatz

Catholic News Service

For a Christian, talk is cheap; the faith requires concretely doing God’s will and serving the least, as well as those around you, Pope Francis said at his morning Mass.

“God is concrete” and so is the Christian life, he said on Feb. 23 during the Mass in the chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthae.

Christianity isn’t a religion that’s all talk, because “just talking leads us to vanity, to pretending to be Christian,” he said.

The day’s reading from the Gospel of Matthew (23:1-12) describes Jesus telling the crowds and disciples to beware of the scribes and Pharisees, who have taken on the authority to teach, but do not live as good role models. “For they preach, but they do not practice,” Jesus says.

This kind of hypocrisy still exists, the pope said, according to Vatican Radio.

“How many times we meet people -- including you, you know -- so often in the church (who say) ‘Oh, I am very Catholic!’” But, the pope said, look at how they live their lives.

“How many parents say they are Catholic, but they never have time to talk to their own kids, to play with their own kids, to listen to their own kids. Perhaps their parents are in a retirement home, but they are always busy and they can never go visit them and they leave them abandoned,” he said.

These people may justify themselves by saying, “Well, I am very Catholic, you know. I belong to this group.” This is the religion of all talk. I say I am this, but I do what’s worldly.”

Talking without doing “is a deception,” he said. This path “leads us to where these doctors of the law were, these clergies, who like to dress and act as if they were royalty, you know? This is not the reality of the Gospel,” the pope said.

God wants people to stop doing evil and to learn to do the good, he said. “Being Christian means doing -- doing God’s will.”

On judgment day, he said, “what will the Lord ask us? Will he say to us: ‘What have you said about me?’ No! He will ask about the things we have done.”

Fulfilling the deeds listed in the Gospel of Matthew’s words about judgment, such as clothing, feeding and caring for those in need, welcoming the stranger, and visiting the imprisoned, “is the Christian life,” he said.

The pope prayed, “May the Lord give us this wisdom to understand fully what the difference is between saying and doing and teach us the path of doing.”
Missionaries of Mercy

BY TIM PUET
Reporter, Catholic Times

One of five Dominican friars in Columbus who have been appointed missionaries of mercy by Pope Francis says the title isn’t meant merely to honor a few individuals, but describes the role of every priest.

“All priests are missionaries of mercy,” said Father Michael Mary Dosch, OP, pastor of Columbus St. Patrick Church. “It was a great gesture of the pope to designate some of us in this way. In so doing, he has recognized the importance of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and of how through the sacrament, God manifests his omnipotence and omniscience, how this brings his mercy to people and raises them up in surprising and exalted ways.”

Father Dosch is one of 1,124 priests worldwide who were given the honor during the 5 p.m. Mass at St. Peter’s Basilica in the Vatican on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 10. He was among 742 of the designated priests who attended the ceremony. The parochial vicars at St. Patrick’s – Fathers Thomas Blau, Cassian Derbes, and Boniface Endorf – received similar papal appointments, as did Father Emmanuel Bertrand, who resides at the Mohun Health Care Center in Columbus.

They are among 18 friars from the Dominican Province of St. Joseph chosen as missionaries of mercy. The others are Fathers Jordan Turano, Pius Pietrzyk, Andre-Joseph LaCasse, Innocent Smith, John Devaney, James Dominic Brent, Gabriel Torretta, Nicanor Austriaco, Thomas Petri, Bill Garrott, Thomas Joseph White, Matthew Carroll, and Benedict Croell, several of whom have served in the past at St. Patrick’s or at Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas Church, where the pastoral staff also consists of Dominicans.

The appointment of missionaries of mercy is part of the Jubilee Year of Mercy declared by the pope for the period from Dec. 8, 2015, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, to Nov. 20 of this year, the Feast of Christ the King. Speaking to the missionaries at an audience on Tuesday, Feb. 9, the pope said he had entrusted them with this responsibility “because it asks you to be first-hand witnesses of God’s closeness and his way of loving. Not our way, which is always limited and sometimes contradictory, but his way of loving, his way of forgiving, which is precisely mercy.”

The homily emphasized the missionaries’ role in hearing confessions, with the pope referring, as he often does, to the confession that, in his words, “re-oriented my life. What did the priest tell me? I don’t remember,” he said. “I only remember that he gave me a smile, and then I don’t know what happened.”

He urged the priests to “express the motherhood of the Church” and to use not “the club of judgment,” but “the blanket of mercy” to bring sinners into God’s grace. “A missionary of mercy carries the sinner on his shoulders and comforts him with the power of compassion,” he said. “And the sinner who goes there, the person who goes there, finds a father.”

In announcing the appointment of the missionaries of mercy from the St. Joseph Province, the Dominicans said the role of the missionaries is to be “a living sign of the Father’s welcome to all those in search of his forgiveness; facilitators for all, with no one excluded, of a truly human encounter, a source of liberation, rich with responsibility for overcoming obstacles and taking up the new life of Baptism again; guided by the words ‘For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy upon all’ (Romans 11:32); inspiring preachers of mercy; and heralds of the joy of forgiveness – welcoming, loving, and compassionate confessors, who are most especially attentive to the difficult situations of each person.”

Father Dosch and the other appointees in attendance at the commissioning Mass received a personalized scroll announcing their appointment. Those not at the Mass, including the other four missionaries of mercy from Columbus, are having the scrolls sent to them.

Each of the missionaries also received a letter from Archbishop Rino Fisichella, president of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of New Evangelization, saying that for the duration of the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis has granted them the faculty of lifting the penalty of excommunication for certain sins – a power normally reserved to the pope.

The letter states these sins are “profanation of the Eucharistic species by taking them away or keeping them for a sacrilegious purpose; use of physical force against the Roman Pontiff; absolution of an accomplice in a sin against the Sixth Commandment” – the commandment forbidding adultery – and “a direct violation against the sacramental seal by a confessor.”

For the Year of Mercy, the pope also granted to all priests worldwide the authority to absolve women for the sin of abortion. Priests in the United States were granted this authority several decades ago by the nation’s bishops.

The pope retains the exclusive authority of absolution for certain sins, such as unauthorized ordination of a bishop.

“This aspect of being a missionary of mercy is one the missionaries are unlikely to use often, if at all, but it’s the one everybody asks me about,” Father Dosch said.

He said that in planning for the Year of Mercy, the pope had asked bishops and the major superiors of religious congregations to nominate priests for possible appointment as missionaries of mercy. Father Kenneth Letoile, prior provincial for the Province of St. Joseph, nominated the priests from the province who were chosen for the honor.

“I don’t know whether other friars in the province were nominated besides those of us who were selected,” Father Dosch said. “The whole community expressed interest because we hear so many confessions. That has been part of the Dominican charism since St. Dominic de Guzman founded the Order 800 years ago. The Dominican Order’s formal name is the Order of Preachers, and St. Dominic said that if you’re not an effective confessor, you won’t be an effective preacher. Good preaching, in turn, should move people to confession and to conversion of their lives.”

The priests at St. Patrick’s hear confessions every weekday (except holy days and public holidays) following the 11:45 a.m. Mass, as well as from 4 to 5 p.m. Saturdays and a half-hour before Sunday Masses at 7, 9, 10:30 a.m. and noon. Father Dosch said that because of the interest in the Year of Mercy, the friars at St. Patrick’s plan to provide more opportunities for confession and to conduct a series of Holy Hours and preaching related to the topic of God’s mercy during the Easter season.

While in Rome, Father Dosch also met with the postulator general of the Vatican’s Congregation of Saints to discuss the sainthood cause of Blessed Margaret of Castello, a 14th-century Dominican for whom there has been a special devotion at St. Patrick’s since the 1930s. A shrine to her, with a relic of her incorrupt heart, has been at the church since the late 1950s.

“I have seen miraculous things happen through God’s mercy as granted in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and I expect to see that mercy abounding in this year dedicated to it,” Father Dosch said. “But mercy is broader than confession. Its ultimate emblem is the crucifix.”

“Mercy is God being able to transform evil, imperfection, misery, and sin. The greatest evil we have ever done is to kill the Son of God, and through that evil, God has given us our salvation. If he can do this in the worst case, we can bring anything to him and know it will be forgiven and he will bring us into his loving embrace.”
Leap

Did you celebrate the authority and teaching that stems from the Chair of St. Peter this past week? For some, it is easy to embrace the virtues and moral guidance that come from our bishops, including the pope. After all, it is one of the primary responsibilities of any bishop to teach the faithful – you and me – on an ongoing basis. We are taught because our hunger for learning, especially when it comes to our faith, should never be satisfied. The day that I think I know it all, and that I have a complete grasp of my faith, is the day that my mind becomes closed and my ego inflates beyond the capacity of both brain and heart.

For some, it is very difficult to understand why an imperfect human being should be telling us what to do. We have the absolute authoritative teaching of Jesus Christ. Is that not enough? Am I not astute enough to form my own conscience and make my own decisions based upon that? Sounds like an excuse to rationalize. It even sounds like our children when they argue with us and sometimes challenge our authority.

This month we find ourselves in the midst of a leap year. The extra day, or Leap Day, occurs on Monday, Feb. 29. Of course, because an actual year is one-quarter of a day longer than 365 days, we add an additional day once every four years. This keeps most things in balance. Julius Caesar started this not long before the birth of Jesus Christ. He and his astronomers figured it out and established a practice that remains to this day. So what do we do with this extra day? Unfortunately, it is not a day off, nor do we get extra pay for an extra day of work. But it does give us an extra day to pray, to attend daily Mass, to receive the sacraments, and to simply live life as large and as lovingly as we can.

Maybe we can seize this day as an opportunity to do something special. After all, it is kind of a “non-day” that comes along only once every four years. How about an opportunity to tell someone how much he or she means to us? I have an older sister who is younger than me. How is that possible? She is a leap year baby, born on Feb. 29, 1956. This year, she will turn both 15 and 60 at the same time. She is a wonderful person, and we had such good times together growing up, even when she was terrorizing me by putting spiders down my shirt, among other things. This might explain my arachnophobia. The point here is not my sister, but to recognize the opportunity to evangelize by love and example. Our work here on earth is never done. We are charged with a great and challenging commission to teach all nations and root their faith in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Our practical challenge this week is to take advantage of that extra day. Make Feb. 29 a day of prayer and evangelization. It is a Monday. Get the week off to a great start, and do what you normally do. In addition, commit to extra prayer, extra love, and extra Christian example. Extra patience, kindness, and outward signs of love can go a long way, especially on day 60 of 366. I am going to take extra time to talk to my sister as she gets ever so much older. At the same time that I ask her which is more exciting for her now – AARP membership or a driver’s license – I will let her know how much she has meant to me for all these years. Make the most of your Leap Day.

Jeric is director of development and planning for the Columbus Diocese.
The semiannual Three Bags Full consignment event will take place at five central Ohio locations in March and April.

Sale dates, times, and sites are:
- Tuesday, March 8, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. (presale, ticket required)
- Wednesday, March 9, from 6 to 9 p.m.
- Thursday, March 10, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Friday, March 11, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Saturday, March 12, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Thursday, March 31, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Friday, April 1, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Saturday, April 2, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Three Bags Full consignment event for spring scheduled at five locations

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Friday, March 11, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Saturday, March 12, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Thursday, March 31, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Friday, April 1, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Wednesday, April 6, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. (presale, ticket required)
Thursday, April 7, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Friday, April 8, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Saturday, April 9, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Three Bags Full consignment event

The sale began in 2004 in Newark with 12 participating families, led by DeAnn and Kurt Nightingale, who were trying to find a way of making money by selling their children’s outgrown items without having a garage sale. Today, more than 800 families sell quality children’s and teen items of all types, as well as adult women’s clothing, maternity wear, shoes, toys, bikes, and yard toys. Thousands of shoppers from a 100-mile radius come to the event, which takes place on spring and fall weekends.

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QUESTION & ANSWER
by: FATHER KENNETH DOYLE
Catholic News Service

Q. In the Bible, Jesus says “Do this in memory of me.” But he doesn’t say that it has to be done every Sunday and holy day. So many young people are falling away from the church because of its rigidity. Please explain why we are obligated. (Cedar Rapids, Iowa)

A. The responsibility to gather on Sundays for the Eucharist has been recognized by Christians since the earliest days of the church, although it was not specifically written into law until the fourth century. That obligation is codified in the current Code of Canon Law (in No. 1246), which says that “Sunday ... must be observed in the universal church as the primordial holy day of obligation.”

Sunday is singled out as sacred, of course, because it was the day of Christ’s resurrection. In the Didache, which was the compendium of Christian teaching written in the second half of the first century, believers were directed as follows: “On Sundays, get together and break the bread and give thanks, confessing your sins in order that your sacrifice may be pure.”

It is true, as you say, that the Sunday Mass obligation is a precept of the church rather than a verbatim command of Jesus, and therefore it could be modified by competent church authority. But it doesn’t seem to me that removing the obligation would serve to bring young people back to more regular Eucharistic practice.

The solution, I think, has more to do with liturgies that celebrate joyfully what Jesus has done, with homilies that are well-prepared and directed to the challenges people face daily, and -- most of all -- with parents who show their children, by example, the importance of the Mass in their lives.

Q. Recently, we celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany, and I was reminded what an important feast it is. (Jesus and Mary were present, and in some parts of the world, the feast is called “Little Christmas.”)

My question is this: Why isn’t the Epiphany one of the mysteries of the rosary? When St. John Paul II introduced the “luminous mysteries,” the Epiphany could have been the third of these mysteries -- instead of “the spread of the kingdom,” which is still a mystery to me! I feel presumptuous second-guessing JP II, but would you please comment? (Dublin, Ohio)

A. When Pope St. John Paul II in 2002 proposed a new set of mysteries, he did so because he wanted to make the rosary more of an overview of the entire life of Christ. He felt that there was a gap between the childhood of Jesus, which we meditate on in the joyful mysteries, and Christ’s passion and death, reflected on in the sorrowful mysteries. (The glorious mysteries celebrate the triumph over sin and death of Christ and the Virgin Mary.)

The pope pointed out that it is during his three years of public ministry that Jesus reveals his identity to us and invites us to share in his vision of God’s plan. (If the Epiphany were to be added, as you suggest, it would properly belong to the joyful mysteries -- but that would make six of those, and our present rosary beads would be out of date!)

I agree with you that the third of these luminous mysteries (the proclamation of the kingdom) is rather generic and a bit harder to grasp than the other four, which highlight specific events (the baptism in the Jordan, the miracle at Cana, the Transfiguration, and the institution of the Eucharist). That third mystery refers to the various parables, especially in Matthew’s Gospel, in which Jesus teaches us the great value of the kingdom of God (a treasure hidden in a field, a pearl of great price, the leaven in the flour, a mustard seed, etc.).

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

Men’s Luncheon Club

The next Catholic Men’s Luncheon Club session, on Friday, March 4, will feature Father Michael Mary Dosch, OP, pastor of Columbus St. Patrick Church, who has been appointed a missionary of mercy by Pope Francis. He will be speaking on “Mercy and Justice.” The event will take place following the 11:30 a.m. Mass at the church, 280 N. Grant Ave., and will conclude by 1 p.m. No reservations are necessary. A $10 donation is requested to cover the cost of the lunch and meeting.

For information on the Catholic Men’s Luncheon Club, contact its president, Tim Merkle, at htm@ejhlaw.com.
24 Hours for the Lord

Sunbury St. John Neumann Church, 9633 E. State Route 37, will be taking part in the worldwide “24 Hours for the Lord” Lenten initiative sponsored by the Pontifical Council for the New Evangelization on Friday and Saturday, March 4 and 5.

Pope Francis is inviting every parish around the world to open its doors for 24 hours so that the faithful might encounter Jesus Christ anew in Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The initiative also is intended to be a time of reflection and prayer, an opportunity to speak with a priest, and a chance to rediscover, or perhaps discover for the first time, the great mercy at the heart of the Catholic faith.

The schedule of “24 Hours” activities at St. John Neumann is as follows:

Friday, March 4: Adoration, 4 to 8:30 p.m. in the chapel, 8:30 p.m. to midnight in the church, including a Holy Hour with worship music from 8:30 to 9:30; Stations of the Cross, 6:45 to 7:30 p.m. in the church; Lenten reflection presentation, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the church; Reconciliation, 8:30 p.m. to midnight in the church.

Saturday, March 5: Adoration, midnight to 8 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the chapel, 2 to 3 p.m. in the church, and 3 to 3:45 p.m. in the chapel; Mass, 8 a.m. in the chapel; Reconciliation, 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the church.

For more information, contact Amy Davis at (614) 579-0874 or amymdavis@hotmail.com.

Movies That Touch Our Hearts

ReMoved, the story of a 10-year-old girl navigating her way through the foster care system after being removed from her home and separated from her younger brother, is the next film in the “Movies That Touch Our Hearts” series at the Christus Center of Peace, 1111 E. Stewart Ave., Columbus. It will be shown at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 10.

Described as being one of the most realistic portrayals of the challenges faced by all who are involved in foster care, the film is used by social service agencies as a tool for training case workers who work with children, their families, and foster parents.

After the film is shown, there will be a discussion with LaVeda Foster, a case worker for Buckeye Ranch, who has worked for years with the foster system, plus another adult who will share from personal experience what it’s like to grow up in the foster system.

A free-will offering will be taken to support the center’s work. Those interested in attending are asked to register online at ccenterofpeace.org, email corpuschristicenterofpeace@gmail.com, or call (614) 512-3731.

Answering God’s Call

A call from God to a religious vocation may come at any time, and in what may seem to be an unlikely place. Sister Marjorie Davis, OP, said the moment she began to recognize her call came while watching a made-for-television movie.

The program which changed her life was “A Time for Miracles,” an ABC Movie of the Week which was shown in 1980 and featured Kate Mulgrew as St. Elizabeth Seton, the first saint born in the United States. St. Elizabeth was a widowed mother of five who founded the Sisters of Charity at Emmitsburg, Maryland, in 1810 and spent the 10 remaining years of her life pioneering Catholic education in this country.

Sister Marjorie said she had not seriously thought about the religious life before watching the movie, although she was an involved parishioner at Westerville St. Paul Church. At the time, she was 32, was employed as a secretary, had been engaged at one point, and was active in the dating scene.

“When I saw Mother Seton’s story, something began to happen to me which I now recognize as a call from God,” she said. “At first, I thought what I was feeling was a joke and it couldn’t really be God speaking to me. But as I thought about it some more, I realized ‘Oh my God! This is real!’ and began feeling an excitement I couldn’t have imagined.”

Sister Marjorie, 67, grew up as the third child in a family of six who lived a short distance from Our Lady of Peace Church in north Columbus. After graduating from Columbus Bishop Watterson High School, she was a secretary for Chemical Abstracts Service for two years before going to Ohio Dominican College (now University).

During some of her college summers, she was a waitress at Yellowstone and Glacier national parks. After graduating from Ohio Dominican in 1972 with a degree in social work, she was employed at the former Jai Lai restaurant near The Ohio State University. The Jai Lai was the favorite eating place of OSU football coach Woody Hayes and his wife, Anne. “They were there all the time. I remember Anne would have pumpkin pie and Woody would have chocolate ice cream,” she said.

Sister Marjorie also lived for a year in St. Paul, Minnesota, with friends she had made while working in the West. Moving back to Columbus, she did secretarial work for a law firm and a concrete company. An important point in her faith life came when she took part in a Christ Renews His Parish weekend at St. Paul Church in the late 1970s.

“Through that weekend and other supportive, educational programs and lots of prayer, support of family and friends, and spiritual direction, I found myself trying to discern where God was calling me to serve,” she said.

The realization that her call was to the religious life began a two-year period in which she worked with Sister Noreen Malone, OP, who at the time was with the diocesan vocations office, to determine which order of sisters might be best for her. She considered several congregations, but said “I kept coming back to the Dominicans,” who had educated her at Our Lady of Peace, Watterson, and ODC.

Dominican “Sister Catherine Colby began talking with me, and we just clicked,” she said. “I knew she was really listening to me. Father Jim Petry, who was at St. Paul’s at the time, led the Christ Renews His Parish retreats and became my spiritual director. He gave me a lot of books which helped develop my faith, as I came to realize I was really thirsting for God and didn’t want this to be just another fad.”

Sister Marjorie entered the community of the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs (now the Dominican Sisters of Peace) in 1982, making her first profession of vows on Aug. 11, 1985, and her final profession on the same day three years later.

After taking her first vows, she was employed at Ohio Dominican’s financial aid office for two years. From 1987 to 1990, she was involved in what she describes as her favorite ministry, working at The Dwelling Place in New York City, a transitional shelter for homeless women in Manhattan.

“I worked individually with the women living there, giving them money and medicine and helping them learn social skills so they could obtain housing and live on their own,” she said. “Through that experience, I realized how I wanted to use my social work degree to help others.”

She has lived and worked in Columbus since returning from New York. She obtained a master’s degree in social work from OSU in 1992 and was a case manager and team leader for the Southeast Community Mental Health Center from 1991 to 1996 and again for a brief period in 2008. From 1996 to 2004, she was social services director for the Mohun Health Care Center.

During much of that period at Mohun and through 2007, she also was part of the vocations ministry for her congregation.

“The Mohun center is unique because it’s for retired priests and religious,” she said. “More than at most places, you become their family, since the residents are unmarried and in many cases are the last surviving sibling of a family.”

The year of 2008 was a memorable one for Sister Marjorie because, shortly after returning to work for Southeast, she was diagnosed with lung cancer, “even though I never smoked,” she said. “Through a combination of chemotherapy, the care I received at the Zangmeister treatment center, a positive attitude, and, above all, prayer, I’m in remission now,” she said.

“The experience has taught me to live each day fully, do the best I can, and know that if I die, I’m going to see God. It’s a win-win situation, so I’m at peace with whatever happens.”

Sister Marjorie decided that when she returned to work in 2009 after her cancer treatment, she wanted to do something different. Three days after considering a position with the Dominicans’ Heartland Farm in Great Bend, Kansas, she was asked if she would consider becoming campus minister at ODU.

She accepted that post and has been there ever since. Since 2013, she also has been one of about a half-dozen members of her congregation across the nation who serve as core animators, a position which involves support for the vocations ministry in their geographic area.

In these ministries and whatever she does in the future, Sister Marjorie said, “I want to be a witness of God’s love; to be a productive role model of living the Gospel life, trying to be there for everyone, trying to bring about a more just world and to be as involved as I can with the world.”
Mount Carmel Celebrates Grand Opening of MC Fitness & Health

A blessing ceremony was conducted to mark the grand opening of MC Fitness & Health, a new state-of-the-art health and fitness facility in Lewis Center operated by Mount Carmel Health. MC Fitness & Health is the largest and most comprehensive facility of its kind in central Ohio and will blend elements of wellness, fitness, and medical care.

The 130,000-square-foot facility at U.S. Route 23 and Corduroy Road includes a state-of-the-art fitness center, a demonstration kitchen for healthy cooking classes, a healthy food cafe, and a spa.

In the tradition of Mount Carmel’s people-centered care, MC Fitness & Health will provide a personalized approach to help patients and fitness center members be at their best health and reach their wellness, nutrition, and fitness goals through health assessments, followed by a personalized program for each member.

Most of the center is dedicated to keeping people healthy, but a medical services area is included for when people inevitably get sick or injured. Integrated medical care will be offered in the form of an emergency department, cardiac rehabilitation, chronic disease management, imaging services, occupational health, physical therapy, and a women’s health center, along with other primary care and specialty physician offices, including Mount Carmel Sports Medicine Specialists.

Deacon Jeffrey Fortkamp, director of acquisitions and integration for the Mount Carmel Medical Group, blessed the facility. The blessing reflected on the commitment of Mount Carmel to bring opportunities for health and wellness to individuals and families living in Delaware County. “As the health care industry continues to transition away from just treating people after they are already sick, to one that focuses on prevention and keeping people well, Mount Carmel is at the forefront of this change in central Ohio. This facility embodies that leadership,” said Dr. Richard Streck, Mount Carmel executive vice president and chief clinical operations officer, during the ceremony.

“MC Fitness & Health is a demonstration of our commitment to transform the way health care is delivered in central Ohio, and we are very proud to provide this healthy-living destination to the residents of Delaware County,” Streck said.

For more information, visit www.mountcarmelhealth.com/mcfitnesshealth.

Photo: Attending the blessing ceremony and grand opening for the MC Fitness & Health Center in Lewis Center were (from left): Deacon Jeffrey Fortkamp, director of acquisitions and integration, Mount Carmel Medical Group; Aaron Whittaker, president and chief executive officer, Mount Carmel Medical Group; Brett Justice, vice president of strategic advancement, Mount Carmel Health System; Rob Quigley, Orange Township trustee; Dr. Richard Streck, executive vice president and chief operations officer, Mount Carmel Health System; Unhee Kim, president, Mount Carmel St. Ann’s; Lisa Knapp, Orange Township trustee; Peg Bravo, vice president of operations, Power Wellness; Barb Lewis, Delaware County commissioner; Dr. Frank Orth, Mount Carmel Emergency Care; Deanna Stewart, president, Mount Carmel Foundation; Jarrod Daddis, managing principal, NexCore; and Tom Rhind, president, Power Wellness. Photo courtesy Mount Carmel Health
Always and Everywhere

Earlier this week, I had only one student for my evening strength class. I was a little disappointed that more people didn’t make it to class, even though I understand that work, traffic, family plans, or simply being tired after working all day can make it hard for people to make it to class.

However, this turned out to be a great opportunity for me to work one-to-one with this student on his weightlifting technique.

I ended up training, as well, because it makes it more fun for the student, and it can be helpful, especially if the student is a visual learner.

We had a great time challenging each other to moving well and lifting strong.

Our conversation shifted from training to a new topic when the student began talking about a personal struggle. I listened and offered encouraging words. I felt blessed to know this student, who has been working to develop new, healthy habits for the past few months.

By the end of class, we both were feeling energized from talking, laughing, and training.

As I was driving home, I said a little prayer for my student. Life can be hard, and praying for each other is so powerful. I am really proud of my student’s progress inside and outside the gym; I prayed that this child of God will continue to be strong and active in the faith during daily life.

I started thinking about how God felt so present to me, through this student, in the gym while we were training. I am always a little surprised that God’s presence is so clear to me in my workplace, in the middle of what I do every day.

But why not? God is always and everywhere, which surely means he is where we are in the midst of our ordinary activities. How often do I miss seeing him because I am too busy?

The one-to-one time with my student was an important reminder to me that God reaches us through the people and events in our daily lives just as powerfully as he does in our quiet prayer time. But if we are moving too fast, we’ll surely miss the little miracles.

“I see in my neighbor the Person of Jesus Christ.”

— St. Gerard Majella.

Lori Crock is a wife, mother, Plain City St. Joseph Church parishioner, strength and movement coach, and owner of MoveStrong Kettlebells in Dublin.

Sacredness in family life program

National speaker Dr. Jo Ann Paradise (pictured) will present a workshop on “Rediscovering the Sacredness of Family Life” from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, March 10 at Gahanna St. Matthew Church, 807 Havens Corners Road.

This workshop will explore Catholic teaching on the “domestic church” that roots marriage in vocation and vocation in baptism. Participants will be given concrete tools and practical skills for developing ways to evangelize parents so that they are more equipped and inspired to be intentional about forming their children in faith. Teacher-catechists, parents, and grandparents are invited.

The workshop is sponsored by the diocesan Office of Religious Education and Catechesis, with the support of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing. Light snacks will be provided, and 1.5 hours of religious education certification methods/enrichment credit will be awarded.

To register, email ore@cdeducation.org or call Sandy Lape at (614) 221-4633, extension 1341 by Friday, March 4.

Paradise is a national consultant for the Our Sunday Visitor curriculum division. She has been a catechetical leader in the Diocese of Pittsburgh for more than 30 years and is a former teacher in Catholic elementary and secondary schools. She holds a doctoral degree in spirituality and has a deep love for the retreat work she does with catechetical leaders, principals, teachers and catechists. Through her stories, she helps faithful adults develop the skills they need to be heralds of the Good News.

Holy and Healthy

Lori Crock

Lori Crock is a wife, mother, Plain City St. Joseph Church parishioner, strength and movement coach, and owner of MoveStrong Kettlebells in Dublin.

Award Recipient

Alexandra Weikert of Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School has been chosen as one of 12 recipients of the Outstanding Young Women of 2016 award from the Zonta Club of Columbus. She will be honored at a luncheon and will have an opportunity to win a $1,000 scholarship.

Photo courtesy St. Francis DeSales High School
I n nine years, the annual Catholic Women’s Conference of the Diocese of Columbus has become what its organizers describe as the largest event of its kind in the nation.

A record-setting crowd of more than 3,000 attendees gathered last week in Columbus for the conference, which opened on Saturday, Feb. 20, in the Voinovich Center at the State Fairgrounds to hear talks by Father Nathan Cromley, CSJ, and Sonja Corbitt, and music by Sarah Kroger.

About twice as many women attended this year’s event than were able to make it to the 2015 conference, which was af-
fected by a seven-inch snowfall that kept many of those who purchased tickets from attending. This year, the temperature on Saturday ranged from 35 to 50 degrees, but conference co-chair Ju
een Naprono said the weather wasn’t as much of a factor in the increased atten-
dance as one might expect.

"There were about 100 walk-ins who bought tickets at the door," she said. "It was a great way to start our event, but we knew earlier that we’d have a record crowd this year, unless we had a repeat of last year’s weather, because of the pace of advance sales. Women who have been to past conferences spread their enthusiasm about it to their friends.

"I’ve heard that many women say that women are craving to be together for a day of spirituality, to know God more. Even in this big crowd, we know God is speaking to us as individuals, through the speakers who are telling their own story of conversion.

Following recital of the rosary, a Mass celebrated by Bishop Frederick Camp-
bell, and remarks by Father Nathan Blau, OP, of Columbus’ St. Patrick Church, one of five Divine Officiums in Columbus is up-
pointed by priests as missionaries of mercy, Fulwiler told her story of con-
version from atheism to Catholicism.

She said she grew up in a household where her father was an atheist and her mother was a “Macy’s,” someone who under-
stood what was on sale at Macy’s with anything concerning religion. She said her father, as an engineer who de-
vised something to true only if it could be scientifically proven and who thought of religion as dangerous, raised her to be an atheist because he said so, but she must face true assumptions.

She said her conversion came in five steps: meeting her husband, realizing love exists; asking, "What is it true," in the lives of the Apostles, their willingness to per-
acceptance and, in most cases, execution, and at how Christianity spread throughout the Roman Empire despite constant efforts to suppress it. He con-
cluded none of this could have happened if it was not true.

"What if before Jesus returned to heaven, the Apostles who are telling their own story
speaking to us as individuals, through the voices of mercy, Fulwiler told her story of con-
version to Jesus through Mary. He

Fulwiler lived in Austin, Texas, where she met her husband, Joe, when both were in graduate school. Joe was an atheist because he said so, but to seek truth she went to where their story is similar to Fulwiler’s experience.

She said she grew up in a household where her father was an atheist and her mother a “Macy’s,” someone who understood what was on sale at Macy’s, and who thought religion was dangerous.

What if before Jesus returned to heaven, the Apostles who are telling their own story, through the voices of mercy, told us to go where their story is similar to Fulwiler’s experience.

Fulwiler concluded her talk by saying, "We are all called to conversions," to the possibility God exists – “who takes the lead in our lives, who brings us to where we need to be.”

"I’m almost afraid to consider the lavishness of that mercy because it makes me realize love was real, that it came from somewhere eternal and would exist beyond me as I thought about prayer, but I didn’t know what to do. So I’d say, ‘God, if this is true, I’m open to hear from you.’ Then I said ‘Amen’ because that’s what I heard people saying on TV.”

Fulwiler said and because she didn’t receive a magic answer to her prayer, she doubted in Buddha for a few months. Then she turned to the book of the Bible, in a translation that she and her husband had read, and found a long, narrow box which held a candle. “My mom’s parents were Cath-
olic, and this was my baptism candle. It was Catholic, was Catholic all along, and didn’t know it,” she said.

She then told the audience, "Perhaps you have loved ones who have been baptized and have turned away from the Church. I’m here to tell you there’s hope for them. Keep praying for them, because, like me, they have belonged to Christ all along.”

Father Cromley, a member of the Com-
missary of St. John in Laredo, Texas, is a Toledan native and a promoter of total consecration to Jesus through Mary. He

Mary was saints, but she went through the same trials of faith that you are. That’s why she need her desperation, because of it, she was able to turn to her faith. And that’s why she doesn’t understand, she said.”

“God has entrusted everyone he created to the 2015 conference, which was af-
fected by a seven-inch snowfall that kept many of those who purchased tickets from attending. This year, the temperature on Saturday ranged from 35 to 50 degrees, but conference co-chair Ju
een Naprono said the weather wasn’t as much of a factor in the increased atten-
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dance as one might expect.
Corbitt said that lesson was of great comfort to her when she herself became a divisive figure after being appointed director of religious education at a parish in Gallatin, Tennessee, not long after becoming a Catholic. The appointment caused resentment among some parishioners who felt that position should not be held by someone new to the Church.

“Ultimately, the bishop had to step in and support me,” she said. “That wouldn’t have happened in my old church, where people would just go and form another congregation. That showed me the unity of the Catholic Church. And if anyone says the Catholic Church doesn’t support women, you can’t prove it by me.”

Corbitt said the parable of the prodigal son is the story of both the profligate younger son and the pouting older son, and that all of us have played both roles at various times.

“The younger son was determined to be lost, and I know I’ve been that way. The older son exaggerated his goodness. ‘This son of yours wasted everything,’ he said. How did he know? If a story isn’t bad enough, we’ll embellish it because we’re self-righteous,” she said.

When we are acting like either son, “we are missing the party” which comes at the end of the story, she said. “I was the prodigal daughter, but eventually, I realized God had been preparing for me to come to the party all along.

“Most of you here are ‘cradle Catholics,” Corbitt said. “Thank you for holding the fort for 2,000 years so you can be as much of a blessing to us as we who are new to the faith want to be for you.”

She said the key to the parable is in the father’s words to the older son that “You are always with me. All I have is already yours.”

This Jubilee Year of Mercy in the Catholic Church “is meant to teach you to risk big and to throw everything on God’s mercy,” as the prodigal son did to his father. “God cares for you more than for anything you do for him.

Mercy changes everything,” she said, repeating the theme of the conference. Kroger, a musician from Atlanta, added to the day’s reverent atmosphere with liturgical music between talks and during a Holy Hour of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and gave her own testimony. “I knew I could sing, but was terrified of ever opening my mouth at an event like this,” she said. “But at a retreat, someone told me ‘If you have a gift from God and know it, but are not using it, you are denying the glory of God within you.’ After that, I said ‘Yes’ to God about singing, and I’ve had an incredible journey.”

She said she asked God what she should concentrate on this year, and the word “presence” came to her. “We have lost the art of being present to people, even as we have become more connected through technology,” she said. “We are desperate for the presence of God. He wants to meet you exactly where you are.”

Columbus Catholic author, broadcaster, and speaker Elizabeth Ficocelli was master of ceremonies for the day, which also included lunch and the opportunity to visit displays from more than 60 Catholic organizations and vendors.

For the first time, the conference was signed for the deaf. For that reason, Susan Bender, who is deaf, traveled to Columbus for the event from St. Patrick Church in Bellefontaine, which is in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

“I’ve known about this conference for years and it’s wonderful to have an interpreter present,” she said in sign language. “Everyone’s stories have been so powerful, and seeing them interpreted makes them so much more clear.”

Christine Stepien of Hillary St. Brendan Church also was able to hear the speakers through the signers. “There’s so much I want to know about the faith, and today I received a great education,” she says. “It’s an amazing feeling to be among 3,000 women and to get a powerful sense of the presence of God and how we can bring that presence to the world.”
St. Matthew Music Educator Receives $2,500 Grant from Columbus Symphony

The Columbus Symphony recently announced the winners of its 2016 music educator awards, honoring individuals who make a difference in the community through a dedication to music education and promotion of a greater understanding of and appreciation for the art form.

The 2016 music educator award for elementary education went to Randy Frazier, general music, choir, and drama director at Gahanna St. Matthew School. He will receive a $2,500 grant to spend at his discretion on music education endeavors. Past winners have used the money to host guest instructors, repair instruments, take professional development classes, or purchase new instruments, computer software, and music.

Frazier (pictured) is a music specialist at St. Matthew School, where he teaches more than 600 students in grades kindergarten through eight. He earned a bachelor’s degree in music education in 2000 from The Ohio State University, where he was a member of the symphonic choir, chorale, men’s glee club, symphonic band, and marching band. In 2008, Frazier earned a master’s degree in music education with an emphasis from Capital University, where he graduated with distinction. He oversees St. Matthew’s music program for all grade levels, preparing students for participation in a Christmas performance, a Veterans Day performance, four musical theater productions, nine talent shows, and a diocesan honor choir each year. Additionally, he teaches fourth- and fifth-grade students to play the soprano recorder, which is sometimes used at Mass.

Frazier also gives private lessons and serves on the planning committee for the diocesan honor choir program. He is a former member of the Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral choir and schola and the Columbus Cecilia Singers, and is director and tenor of the a cappella vocal group Voice-Quad, best-known for its performances as Victorian Christmas carolers at the Easton Town Center.

He will be presented with his award at a dinner on Saturday, April 16, at the Sheraton Capitol Square Hotel, followed by a presentation on the stage of the Ohio Theater before the Columbus Symphony concert that evening.

London St. Patrick Logo Competition

Concepts submitted by London-area residents Abby Swierz and Nick Young (pictured) inspired the logo design for this year’s 150th anniversary celebration of London St. Patrick Church.

Swierz is an eighth-grade student at St. Patrick School. Young is a home-schooled eighth-grader and a member of the parish youth group.

A contest to select the winning ideas for the logo was open to all St. Patrick School students, as well as students in the Parish School of Religion and youth group. Members of the 150th anniversary committee selected the two winners from about 100 entries.

“Aby and Nick had similar concepts of using a Celtic cross with Celtic knotting,” said Deacon Dan Hann, committee chairman. “Aby drew the detailed St. Patrick image for the center of her design. She also developed the lettering font. Nick’s proportions for the Celtic cross, as well as his intricate Celtic knotting, were used in the finished logo.”

Andrew Carter, Caleb Cline, Zach Swierz, Emma Scott, and Lily Jones were semifinalists in the contest. The finished design will appear on parish T-shirts, stationery, and publications throughout the year.

Festivities will kick off with a 5:30 p.m. Mass on St. Patrick’s Day, Thursday, March 17, at the church. Dinner in the parish center will follow. The meal will feature corned beef, cabbage, and stew. A children’s menu will be available.

Other 150th anniversary commemorative events include a parish trip to Ireland in April and a reunion of St. Patrick School alumni in August.

“There are additional projects that are ongoing,” Deacon Hann noted.

Bishop Frederick Campbell will celebrate Mass at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 30, to conclude the anniversary observance.

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Catholic Cemeteries

Cemetery field workers will be removing winter-time and artificial decorations from graves and mausoleums at all Catholic cemeteries beginning March 1, 2016.

We request that families wishing to retain any personal keepsakes, to please remove them by March 1.

Due to the number of decorations involved, the cemetery staff can not be responsible for collecting or storing personal items. Thank you for your cooperation.

Spring Clean-up!

FIELD

**CATHOLIC CEMETERIES**

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**ST&D SEP#**
**614-491-27$**

**MT& ALVARY**
**614-491-27$**

**HOLY ROSS**
**740-927-4442**

**ST&D SEP#**
**614-491-27$**

**MT& ALVARY**
**614-491-27$**

**HOLY ROSS**
**740-927-4442**
**Third Sunday of Lent (Cycle C)**

**Removal of sandals and untying of personal knots**

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Where the scrutiny takes place for RCIA participants, most parishes will use the alternate readings from Cycle “A” for the next three weeks. We will address only the readings for the “C” cycle.

In Exodus, Moses encounters “the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob.” Note how the Hebrew author uses the same expression for each of the ancestors (“the God of your fathers, the God of . . .”). Rabbis later remarked about the consistency of the expression, that like each of the patriarchs, so each person must believe in God based on personal decision, not just on what has been handed down (see The Jewish Study Bible by the Jewish Publication Society).

Moses is told to remove his sandals as he approaches the burning bush. Among many other explanations for the custom of removing sandals in approaching holy places is the idea that we should untie all knots before approaching God. Isn’t that what we do when we profess our faith and promise to follow Christ? We lay ourselves bare and untie all the knots we get ourselves into. A wonderful thought, whether it’s connected to this custom or not!

By asking the name of God, Moses thinks he will have more credibility when he comes to his kinsmen to tell them God has sent him. The name itself is not very helpful. People have struggled for centuries trying to give meaning to what has no meaning. It is mystery and remains so. It is a way of saying to Moses and to all later generations, “You can come this close, but no closer.” Like the place where Moses encountered the Lord (this far, but no farther), so the divine name can reveal only so much, but no more.

Luke’s Gospel reading presents Jesus’ response to questions raised about certain tragedies that occurred. Jesus says those affected by the events were not any guiltier of sin than anyone else. Although we have no independent report of Pilate mixing Galilean blood with the blood of sacrifices the Galileans themselves were offering, it was certainly possible that Pilate could have done such a thing (a man’s inhumanity to men). We also have no other witness about the tower at Siloam falling and killing 18 people. (Wrong place, wrong time. See Father Fitzmyer’s commentary.) In either case, Jesus says their deaths were not because of their sins.

These two incidents and the parable of the barren fig tree are unique to Luke. Luke uses the untimely deaths of the people mentioned as a warning to his audience about the need to repent, lest they suffer a far worse fate. The parable, which some think similar to, but certainly not the same as Mark 11:12-14,20, shows the need to respond to the loving care offered by God now, while it is possible. The fig tree will be cut down if it does not produce fruit. On the other hand, some have deemed this a “parable of mercy,” stressing the merciful care of the gardener for the tree, rather than looking to its destruction. The actions of Jesus in healing the sick and freeing the oppressed represent the same kind of loving care the gardener gives to the fig tree.

In the Corinthians reading, Paul indulges in some Christian “midrash,” which is a rabbinic way of explaining a Biblical text. Paul presumes his readers know the basic story of the Exodus, as he refers to “the cloud, the sea, the food, the drink, the rock, and the grumbling.” Paul combines all this imagery to speak of baptism and Eucharist. He also notes that all of this has been done “as a warning for us, upon whom the end of the ages has come.” So they believed and so Paul taught.

_Father Lawrence Hummer, pastor at Chillicothe St. Mary Church, may be reached at hummerl@smarychillicothe.com._

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**Wooden rosaries made for presents**

Students at Our Lady of Bethlehem School and Childcare each painted a wooden bead in a shade of pink to honor St. Valentine. The beads were used to assemble two large rosaries, one of which will be given to the Pontifical College Josephinum, while the other will be used by students in the school’s chapel. The school, located at 4567 Olentangy River Road, Columbus, serves students from infants (six weeks and older) to kindergarten. It will have an open house from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, March 6. Open enrollment for school (age 2 through kindergarten) and the summer program (age 2½ through sixth grade) is underway.

Photo courtesy Our Lady of Bethlehem School

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**The Weekday Bible Readings**

**MONDAY**
- 2 Kings 5:1-15b
- Psalm 42:2-3:4
- Luke 4:24-30

**TUESDAY**
- Daniel 3:25,34-43
- Psalm 25:4-5b,6,7bc,8-9
- Matthew 18:21-35

**WEDNESDAY**
- Deuteronomy 4:15-9
- Psalm 147:12-13,15,16,19-20
- Matthew 5:17-19

**THURSDAY**
- Jeremiah 7:23-28
- Psalm 95:1-2,6-9
- Luke 11:14-23

**FRIDAY**
- Hosea 14:2-10
- Psalm 81:6c-11b,14,17
- Mark 12:28-34

**SATURDAY**
- Hosea 6:1-6
- Psalm 51:3-4,18-21b
- Luke 18:9-14

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**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 33, Columbus, and 10:30 a.m. on WHIZ-TV, Channel 18, Zanesville. Check local cable system for 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).
- Mass from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee at 6:30 a.m. on ION TV (AT&T U-verse Channel 195, Dish Network Channel 250, or DirecTV Channel 305).
- Mass from 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).

**DAILY MASS**
- 8 a.m. 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).

We pray Week III, Seasonal Proper of the Liturgy of the Hours.
Your Mission, Should You Decide to Accept It

One of the earliest television memories I can remember is from the opening segment of the original Mission: Impossible television show, in which a tape recorder started to smoke as a voice bellowed, “Your mission, should you decide to accept it, is….” This was followed by the same voice saying, “This tape will self-destruct in five seconds,” with the tape then sizzling and disintegrating. Kids today would find such special effects primitive, but if you were growing up then, it was a big deal. Oddly enough, this has a parallel in the life of a believer, God never forces us to do the good he wants, just as no one on the Mission: Impossible team was forced to follow an assignment, but it is in our own self-interest to follow his will.

I thought about this during a six-hour drive to the Kitchener-Waterloo area of Canada, where I recently gave a talk. I spoke to the “Faith and Froth” group organized by Dr. David Wang and his wife, Dr. Jodie Wang. They are two very special people whose intellect and generosity is eclipsed only by their faith. You’d better have faith if you are raising nine children in this modern era. They live in Canada’s high tech corridor, that nation’s version of Silicon Valley. As you can imagine, it is hardly a place where faith naturally flourishes.

However, the Wangs feel called to change that equation. Perhaps Dave’s father, a happy-go-lucky 86-year-old who barely escaped the wrath of Mao Zedong’s Communist forces, has something to do with it. Though many members of his family violently and brutally perished at the hands of Mao’s men, he instilled in his children the importance of faith, having seen firsthand the work of those who want to violently extinguish that faith.

I have spoken at “Faith and Froth” before and once again was impressed with the diverse Catholic group that assembles to hear the various speakers the Wangs bring to their talks. These folks have accepted their mission and are doing what they can to better themselves and those around them. A potluck dinner is served before the talk, with beverages being served during the talk and often continuing to be consumed long into the night. Members of the group talk about the personal peaks and valleys in their spiritual lives, and the conversation often is steered toward more lofty subjects. There also is lots of humor on display, lest anyone think too much of themselves.

I told the group that this meeting wasn’t that much different than an early Christian gathering of 2,000 years ago, aside from an occasional text coming in on someone’s cell phone or the light that was electronically produced and the heat that thankfully kept us all warm in a Canadian winter.

God occasionally calls us to be alone for a period of time while he molds and shapes us, but for the overwhelming majority of our earthly existence, we are called to be surrounded by inspiring, faith-filled people. Everyone needs community—lay people (young and old), priests, sisters, and even monks and nuns living in remote communities. We need each other to help us preserve and reach our goals.

This doesn’t mean we are not called to associate with those who have no faith or with people who belittle us. Jesus called us to be in the world, helping even the ne’er-do-wells. Jesus just doesn’t want us to be shaped by their influence and their ways.

You don’t have to be a psychiatrist or a sociologist to realize that as our world is increasingly more individualistic and less community-oriented, all kinds of pathologies are going to happen, from violence to odd and disturbing behavior. People need people. Even the most self-assured introverts need the company of others, whether it be close friends or just someone they feel comfortable enough to bounce ideas off of and share dreams and disappointments.

We are about halfway through Lent. Easter will be here before you know it, and hopefully you won’t be kicking yourself for another missed Lenten opportunity for spiritual growth. Soon, the weather will turn warmer and our minds will ponder pleasant, warm summer thoughts. Here’s no better time than the present to accept your mission, find more time for a group get-together, and maybe even seek out someone who might need a little camaraderie and friendship.

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

Church safety sessions

The Diocese of Columbus is offering free training sessions on church safety and security, presented by OSS-International, which will provide valuable information to parish staff members and volunteers on how to help keep their environment safe and secure for all parishioners and guests.

Topics will include a historical perspective of known issues that can occur in church settings; how to perform a parish security assessment; methods to de-escalate confrontational situations; and general safety guidelines and tips.

The sessions will last from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and are scheduled on Saturdays at three sites around the diocese. Dates and locations are: March 12, New Albany Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road; April 2, Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul Church, 303 E. High St.; and April 16, Circleville St. Joseph Church, 134 Mound St.

All clergy, staff, and other interested persons are invited. A light lunch will be offered at each session. Please RSVP to the diocesan Chancery at (614) 224-2251 if you plan to attend so there can be a good head count for each session.

Merit Scholarship Finalists

Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School seniors Julia Murray (left) and Brittany Truong have been recognized as finalists in the 2016 National Merit Scholarship Program. They are among about 15,000 finalists who are eligible for about 8,000 scholarships to be awarded in the spring. Academic records, participation in school and community activities, leadership ability, employment, and honors and awards received are all considered in determining scholarship recipients.

St. Pius X parish mission

The spiritual life committee of Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church, 1051 S. Waggoner Road, will host the annual parish mission at 7 p.m. Sunday, March 13 to Tuesday, March 15. “Life of Passion, Life of Love” will be the theme of this year’s mission, with Adam Storey, director of the marriage and family life office for the Diocese of Des Moines, Iowa, as the featured speaker.

Storey will speak about how a life of passion must be rooted in a loving relationship with Jesus Christ. It is in Jesus where we encounter the most passionate lover conceivable and where we find fulfillment of our heart’s deepest desires. He will explore the value of this relationship, discuss common challenges to the relationship, and offer five practical, simple ways for everyone to grow closer to God.

The topic for the first night will be “Passionate Hearts,” about entering into a loving relationship with God. Subsequent topics will be “When the Rubber Meets the Road,” showing that developing and nurturing a relationship with Jesus is accessible to all of us, and “Let’s Get Real,” talking about small patterns of holiness every Christian can embark upon each day.

For information, call Leah Kelly at (614) 866-2859.
**Pray for our dead**

**David A. Glenn**

Funeral Mass for David A. Glenn, who died Saturday, Feb. 6, was held Friday, Feb. 12 at Columbus Holy Rosary-St. John Church. Burial was at Evergreen Burial Park, Columbus.

He was born Feb. 16 to Lee and Rebecca Glenn, and was a graduate of Columbus St. Dominic School, Columbus Bishop Hartley High School, and Ohio Dominican College. He served for several years as executive director of the St. John Learning Center, was a service bailiff for Franklin County Municipal Court, most recently was a clerk for Franklin County Probate Court and operated his own insurance agency. He also was a Boy Scout leader at Columbus St. Dominic Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Jack. Survivors include his former wife, Margarita; sons, Elango (Jakia) and David (Janelle); daughters, Marilyn (Bryan) and Amanda; siblings, Lois and Beverly; and 12 grandchildren.

**Martha Sheeran**

Funeral Mass for Martha Sheeran, who died Saturday, Feb. 6, was held Friday, Feb. 12 at Columbus Holy Rosary-St. John Church. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was a charter member of Christ the King Church and its longtime organist. She was a member of the Catholic Women’s League and several other organizations. She was preceded in death by her husband, James. Survivors include many nieces, nephews, and cousins.
HAPPENINGS

FEBRUARY

THROUGH MARCH 20, SUNDAY
40 Days for Life
7 a.m. to 7 p.m., sidewalk in front of Founder’s Women’s Health Care Center, 1243 E. Broad St., Columbus. 40 Days for Life campaign of daily vigils at clinic. Individuals may sign up for one- or two-hour shifts, Churches, schools, and other organizations may select one day in which their representatives will cover all shifts.
614-445-8508

25, THURSDAY
Pregnancy Decision Health Center Open House
5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Pregnancy Decision Health Center, 5900 Cleveland Ave., Columbus. Open house and tour for prospective volunteers.
614-888-8774, extension 6115

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.

Scripture, Encyclical Study at Marion St. Mary
6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Marion St. Mary School, 302 W. Main St., Marion. Study of the Letter of James and the encyclical “Laudato Si” with Deacon Todd Tucky, continuing on Thursdays through March 17.
740-362-2118

Guided Meditation Program at the Porres Center
6 to 7:30 p.m., Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Drive, Columbus. Program introducing guided meditation practices with Dr. Sonia BasSheva Manjon. $10 suggested donation.
614-416-1910

26, FRIDAY
Discussion of ‘Rediscover Jesus’ at St. John Neumann
8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday, St. Charles Preparatory School, 2010 E. Broad St., Columbus. School’s drama department presents “The Ladies of Sacred Murder,” a comedy-drama by John William See. Tickets $10 adults, $5 students.
614-252-6714

26-28, THURSDAY-SUNDAY
Yarncrafters Retreat at Corpus Christi
Corpus Christi Center of Peace, 1111 E. Steward Ave., Columbus. “Ah, the Knots of Our Lives! A Weekend Retreat for Yarncrafters,” led by Erin Cordle of the diocesan Office for Social Concerns. Participants may bring projects to work on. Cost: $25 for full weekend, $60 for commuters, including Saturday lunch and supper.
614-512-3731

27, SATURDAY
Columbus Catholic Men’s Conference
8 a.m. to 2:45 p.m., Vonovich Building, State Fairgrounds, Columbus. 19th annual Columbus Catholic Men’s Conference, with talks by Father Larry Richards, Hector Molina, and David Karam. More at www.pluggingcatholicmen.com.

Catholic War Veterans Monthly Meeting
6 to 7 p.m., Bishop Griffin Center, Ohio Dominican University. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, continuing every Thursday through March 17.
614-279-1690

28, SUNDAY
Exposition at Our Lady of Mount Carmel
9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 6133 Walnut St. S.E., Buckeye Lake. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, continuing every Sunday during Lent.
740-928-1266

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

St. Christopher Adult Religious Education
10 to 11:20 a.m., Library, Trinity Catholic School, 1440 Grandview Ave., Columbus. “Who is Jesus?” with Scripture scholar Karen Gagel.

St. Catherine of Bologna Secular Franciscans
2:30 to 5 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Church, 386 Bottles Ave., Columbus. Rosary. Meet in church for prayer, followed by general meeting, ongoing formation, and social.

Catholic War Veterans Monthly Meeting
7 p.m., St. Joseph Church, 134 W. Mound St., Circleville. Parish mission with Father Thomas Buffer, pastor, Marion. Theme: “Home Sweet Home.”
740-477-2549

29, MONDAY
Lenten Quiet Morning at Corpus Christi
10 a.m. to noon, Corpus Christi Center of Peace, 1111 E. Steward Ave., Columbus. Centering prayer group meeting, beginning with silent prayer, followed by Contemplative Outreach DVD and discussion.
614-512-3731

College Funding Seminar at Ohio Dominican
12:30 p.m., Bishop Griffin Center, Ohio Dominican University, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. College funding seminar for high school students and their parents, sponsored by ODU and Education First Credit Union. Register at pwiwitz@ohiodominican.edu.

People of the Passion’ at St. Timothy
7:30 to 9 p.m., St. Timothy Church, 1088 Thomas Lane, Columbus. “People of the Passion,” a performance of music, drama, and dance, suggested for audiences 12 and older.
614-451-2671

30, 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. Donald Asci of Franciscan University of Steubenville. Topic: “Christ Lives In Me: Reflections On Embracing the Call to Follow Christ.”
330-364-6661

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 “Global Solidarity.”
740-587-3254

Catholic War Veterans Monthly Meeting
7 to 8 p.m., St. Mary Church, 893 Hamlet St., Columbus. Catholic War Veterans Post 1936 meeting. For those who served three months, were honorably discharged, or are on active duty.
614-221-7601

Abortion Recovery Network Group
7 p.m., Pregnancy Decision Health Center, 665 E. Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus. Abortion recovery network group meeting for anyone interested in recovering from abortion or who has been through a recovery program, and wants to stay connected.
614-444-4411

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 Northam Road, Columbus. Lenten soup supper benefiting Hands Together program in Haiti.
614-488-6149

Catholic Missionary Society of St. Paul
7 to 8 p.m., Our Lady of Peace Church, 20 E. Dominon Blvd., Columbus. Parish mission with Father Kevin Kavagnagh, parochial vicar at Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church and former Our Lady of Peace pastor. Theme: “Home Sweet Home.”
614-263-8824

March

30, 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. Donald Asci of Franciscan University of Steubenville. Topic: “Christ Lives In Me: Reflections On Embracing the Call to Follow Christ.”
330-364-6661

Catholic War Veterans Monthly Meeting
7 to 8:30 p.m., St. Mary Church, 82 E. William St., Delaware. Program on “Life From Beginning to End” with Jerry Freewalt of the diocesan Office for Social Concerns.
740-363-4641

’Maximilian: Saint of Auschwitz’ at St. Catharine
614-231-4509

Lenten Prayer Group Meeting at St. Mark
7:30 p.m., St. Raymond Room, St. Mark Center, 124 Gay St., Lancaster. Light of Life prayer group meeting.
614-654-6928

2, WEDNESDAY
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

Abortion Recovery Network Group
5 p.m., Pregnancy Decision Health Center, 665 E. Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus. Abortion recovery network group meeting for anyone interested in recovering from abortion or who has been through a recovery program, and wants to stay connected.
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7 to 8 p.m., Our Lady of Peace Church, 20 E. Domion Blvd., Columbus. Parish mission with Father Kevin Kavagnagh, parochial vicar at Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church and former Our Lady of Peace pastor. Theme: “The Good News of Lent.”
740-477-2549

Parish Mission at Circleville St. Joseph
7 p.m., St. Joseph Church, 134 W. Mound St., Circleville. Parish mission with Father Thomas Buffer, pastor, Marion. Theme: “The Good News of Lent.”
740-477-2549

Parish Mission at Our Lady of Peace
7 to 8 p.m., Our Lady of Peace Church, 20 E. Dominon Blvd., Columbus. Parish mission with Father Kevin Kavagnagh, parochial vicar at Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church and former Our Lady of Peace pastor. Theme: “Home Sweet Home.”
614-263-8824

3, 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
The Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School drama department will present its winter production, *The Lady Cries Murder!*, a comedy by John William See, from 8 p.m. Thursday to Saturday, Feb. 25 to 27 and 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 28 in the campus theater, 2010 E. Broad St. Adult tickets are $10 and student tickets are $5. Reservations may be placed by calling the St. Charles main office at 614-252-6714 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Set in 1938, *The Lady Cries Murder!* is a classic detective tale of the period, packed with twists. A successful radio producer has purchased a detective story from a writer named Raymond Chandler. Chandler is incensed that the producer is rewriting and distorting the story, but seems powerless to do anything. With that as a background, the playwright segues into one of the slickest, smartest, funniest spoofs of the hard-boiled detective genre ever to hit the boards.

*The Lady Cries Murder!* draws much of its inspiration from the hard-boiled detective novels of the 1930s and '40s. These novels, by such authors as Chandler, James Cain, Dashiell Hammett, and others, depict a world where flawed anti-heroes and their femmes fatale live in a world permeated with corruption and despair.

St. Charles also is pleased to announce women’s auditions for its spring musical, *Godspell*, at 4 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, March 1 and 2 at the campus theater. Auditions are open to all high school women in central Ohio. For more information, email Doug Montgomery at scdramadirector@aol.com or call the school’s main office.

In Divine Mercy for Moms, the authors draw upon their own experiences to introduce you to St. Faustina and her five essential elements of the Divine Mercy message:

- The image of the Merciful Jesus;
- The Feast of Divine Mercy;
- The Chaplet of Divine Mercy;
- The House of Mercy;
- Spreading the honor of Divine Mercy.

With heartwarming stories and practical advice, this book reveals that mercy is not just a gift to be received in the confessional, but a spiritual resource that strengthens those who extend themselves in word, deed, and prayer. Designed for personal or group study, Divine Mercy for Moms celebrates the infinite mercy of God and the role of Mary, the Mother of Mercy, in the lives of all believers.

The book also includes group study questions, prayers of mercy, and 30 reflections from the authors’ website, Mercy4Moms.
NEWS IN PHOTOS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Pope Francis arrives to pray at a cross on the border with El Paso, Texas, before celebrating Mass at the fairgrounds in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, on Feb. 17. CNS photo/Paul Haring

Family members follow the casket of the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia to a hearse waiting outside the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington after his Feb. 20 funeral Mass. CNS photo/Tyler Orsburn
A record crowd of 540 middle-school students and adult leaders attended the annual Bosco Bash, sponsored by the diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at Columbus St. Cecilia Church. The event is named in honor of St. John Bosco, the patron saint of youth. “Unbreakable” was the theme for the day, which featured Christian rapper Righteous B (Bob Lesnefsky), who used stories and music to talk about God’s unbreakable bond of unconditional love for us. The Station 14 band provided praise and worship music. The event is planned by parish youth ministers, led by Holly Monnier, youth ministry coordinator at Columbus St. Peter Church. The Diocesan Youth Council helped plan and lead activities, and Father Leo Connolly celebrated the closing Mass for the event. Photo courtesy diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

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June 13-18, 2016

Join Father Michael Hinterschied on a Holy Year of Mercy Pilgrimage to the shrines of Eastern Canada June 13-18, 2016

- Enjoy the European charm of historic Quebec City and pass through the Holy Door of the Cathedral of Notre Dame de Quebec
- Take in the spiritual power of one of North America's most loved pilgrimage sites, the Basilica of Ste. Anne de Beaupré
- Visit the Shrine of Our Lady of the Cape, overlooking the St. Lawrence River
- See the town where Saint Kateri Tekakwitha lived and visit her tomb
- In Montreal tour beautiful Notre Dame Basilica and have Mass at magnificent Saint Joseph's Oratory atop Mount Royale
- Daily Mass at the Holy sites

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