BISHOP ORDAINS TWELVE NEW DEACONS
FOR THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS
The First Week of Advent

HHS contraceptive mandate in limbo awaiting action by new administration

By Carol Zimmermann
Catholic News Service
The Little Sisters of the Poor and other religious employers who challenged the contraceptive mandate of the Affordable Care Act have been cautiously breathing a sigh of relief since the presidential election.

“Everyone is still protected by the Supreme Court’s order, but they know with a new administration, it could change in minutes,” said Mark Rienzi, lead attorney for the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, which represented the Little Sisters of the Poor earlier this year when they took their challenge to the court.

Although nothing has been announced yet, Rienzi seems confident that President-elect Donald Trump’s campaign promises to repeal some or all of the Affordable Care Act probably would put the contraceptive issue off the table.

“We feel optimistic,” he told Catholic News Service on Nov. 22, noting that a major part of Trump’s victory stemmed from support by religious voters convinced he would best represent them through pro-life policies and Supreme Court nominee picks.

The court heard oral arguments in the case on March 23. In a unanimous decision on May 16, the justices sent the matter back to the lower courts for the parties to work out a compromise.

The court also has ordered the government not to hit the plaintiffs with the hefty fines it has set up for noncompliance with the mandate.

“The previous administration went aggressively too far in bullying religious groups,” he added, saying that people supported Trump over Hillary Clinton specifically because of his “promises to do things for religious liberty.”

Rienzi also said he hoped that Trump, whom he described as “a practical man and a businessman,” would recognize that there is no need for the government “to be fighting the Little Sisters of the Poor” and that a reasonable solution should be found.

“I’m optimistic he will do what he was sent to do,” Rienzi added.

Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, expressed similar hope of working out the issue with the new administration.

A week after the election, he told reporters at the bishops’ fall general assembly in Baltimore that although he wasn’t sure what the Trump administration would do, he hoped “we can sit down with the administration or meet with them in some fashion, perhaps even in terms of Congress, relative to some pro-life things. I would certainly think some as-

By David Garick, Editor

Ministers of Word and Charity

He sees that they are not forgotten or excluded from the liturgical and communal life of the parish. The deacon may preside at baptisms, weddings and funerals when there is no Mass.

Over the years, I have had the privilege of getting to know quite a few of the deacons of the Diocese of Columbus. What strikes me most about them as a group is that, without exception, they model for us how to live a Christian life. Their generosity in doing acts of charity and serving all sorts and conditions of people remind me of how much more I could and should be doing.

Their faith and understanding of the Gospel shines brightly in their proclamation of the Word and their preaching at Sunday Mass, but perhaps more importantly in the way they live their faith in their jobs and their personal lives.

Their commitment to their families and partnerships with their wives serves as a model for all of us of how we are to nurture the most important of all human institutions.

In the fifth chapter of Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus says, “Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.” Nowhere does it shine more brightly than in the lives of our deacons.

Addition - There is one addition to the Adoration list published in the Nov. 27 Catholic Times. Heath St. Leonard Church has Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following the 9 a.m. Mass on the first Friday of each month until 2:30 p.m., concluding with Benediction.

The Editor’s Notebook

The 12 newest permanent deacons of the Diocese of Columbus at their Nov. 26 ordination ceremony (from left): first row, Deacon Frank Iannarino, director of the diocesan Office of Deacon Ministry; newly ordained Deacons Jason Nguyen, Stephen Petrill, and David Bezusko, and Deacon Byron Phillips, deacon of the Word for the ceremony; second row, Deacon Thomas Berg Jr., diocesan chancellor, and newly ordained Deacons Mark Weiner, Kevin Murri, Thomas Phillips III, and Ronald Onslow; third row, newly ordained Deacons C. Gregory Waybright, Thomas Rowland, and Paul Zemanek, Bishop Frederick Campbell, and newly ordained Deacons Michael Kopczewski and David Lozowski.

See MANDATE, Page 4
Bishop Frederick Campbell told the 12 newest permanent deacons of the Diocese of Columbus that through their ordination, they “will begin a new way of living in the church and for the church.”

The bishop said that through the Sacrament of Holy Orders, they “will be conformed to the person of Jesus Christ the servant, for the good of the people of God.”

Deacons David Bezusko, Michael Kopczewski, David Lozowski, Kevin Murrin, Jason Nguyen, Ronald Onslow, Stephen Petrill, Thomas Phillips III, Thomas Rowlands, C. Gregory Waybright, Mark Weiner, and Paul Zemanek were ordained at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on Saturday, Nov. 26, the last day of the 2016 liturgical year.

The cathedral, its gathering space, and the area beyond were filled with family members and friends sharing the deacons’ joy on a day which marked the end of four years of classwork and preparation for their new duties.

“It is vital to understand that before we speak about what a deacon does, we must be clear about what a deacon is,” the bishop said. “Being always precedes doing.”

He noted that the word for “servant” in Greek is diakonos and the word for “service” is diakonia.

“At the heart of Jesus’ diakonia is the caritas (Latin for charity) of God – a love that lives for the good of others,” Bishop Campbell said. “It is the meaning of that paradox of which Jesus spoke so often – the one who loses his life for the sake of the Gospel will find it, while the one who clings selfishly to his own life will lose it.

“It is in the joy-filled visiting of the sick, the care of the poor, the consoling of the sorrowful, the instruction of the ignorant and the doubtful, and the giving of one’s loving concern to the child, the youth, and the lonely that one understands the paradox of Jesus and discovers the meaning of one’s own existence here on earth. A man is ordained a deacon to give witness to this diakonia. … The church intends the diakonia to be an active and continual sign of the service of Christ,” the bishop said.

The new deacons, the first to be ordained for the diocese since 2012, were accompanied by their wives as they took seats in the congregation during the opening procession. They were called forward to stand before Bishop Campbell, who accepted them as candidates for the diaconate, then delivered his homily.

The candidates then declared their resolve to undertake their new ministry, promised respect and obedience to the bishop and his successors, and lay prostrate as the Litany of Saints was sung. Following their ordination, the new deacons were vested with their new stoles and dalmatics.

The ceremony concluded with the book of the Gospels being placed in each deacon’s hands and the offering of the sign of peace, first from the bishop and then from all other deacons in attendance, followed by the Liturgy of the Eucharist for the ordination Mass.

Bishop Frederick Campbell presents the Book of the Gospels to Deacon Ronald Onslow, one of 12 men the bishop ordained to the diaconate on Saturday, Nov. 26 at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral.

The deacons are vested with their stoles and dalmatics just after being ordained. CT photos by Ken Snow
Cardinal Dolan urges stronger effort to stop physician-assisted suicide

By Catholic News Service

The chairman of the U.S. bishops’ committee on pro-life activities has called for increased efforts and “renewed vigor” to stop legalized physician-assisted suicide after the practice was approved by Colorado voters and the District of Columbia City Council.

Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York urged Catholics to join medical professionals, disability rights groups, and others “in fighting for the authentic care” of people facing terminal illness in a statement released on Nov. 21.

“The act of prescribing a fatal, poisonous dose, moreover, undermines the very heart of medicine,” Cardinal Dolan said. “Doctors vow to do no harm, and yet assisted suicide is the ultimate abandonment of their patients.”

His concern comes after voters in Colorado passed a physician-assisted suicide measure that was on the Nov. 8 general election ballot. The law also allows a physician-assisted suicide measure that was on the Oregon, California, Vermont, and Montana.

Washington, D.C. City Council members on Nov. 15 approved the “Death with Dignity Act,” which permits physicians in the district to legally prescribe the drugs to patients who have been deemed mentally competent and who have received a terminal diagnosis of six months or less. The measure also allows third parties to administer the drugs. The bill goes to Mayor Muriel Bowser to veto or sign, or to let it become law without any action on her part. If it becomes law, it would be subject to congressional review before it takes effect.

Cardinal Dolan said the district’s measure was “the most expansive and dangerous so far” because it opens the door “to even further coercion and abuse.”

“Every suicide is tragic, whether someone is young or old, healthy or sick,” the cardinal added. “But the legalization of doctor-assisted suicide creates two classes of people: those whose suicides are to be prevented at any cost, and those whose suicides are deemed a positive good.

“We remove weapons and drugs that can cause harm to one group, while handing deadly drugs to the other, setting up yet another kind of life-threatening discrimination,” he continued. “This is completely unjust. Our inherent human dignity does not wane with the onset of illness or incapacity, and so all are worthy of protection.”

Seriously ill people require “authentic support, including doctors fully committed to their welfare and pain management as they enter their final days,” Cardinal Dolan’s statement said. “Patients need our assurance that they are not a burden — that it is a privilege to care for them as we ourselves hope to be cared for one day. A compassionate society devotes more attention, not less, to members facing the most vulnerable times in their lives.”

Editor’s Note: The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops issued a statement on assisted suicide 2011 titled “To Live Each Day with Dignity.” The full text is available online at http://bit.ly/2ga5cht.
Annual Collection Supports Eldercare Needs of Religious Communities

The annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection will take place Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 10 and 11, in the Diocese of Columbus. Coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO), the parish-based appeal benefits nearly 33,000 senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious-order priests whose communities lack adequate retirement savings.

The Diocese of Columbus contributed $141,461.52 to the last collection. Women and men religious who serve or have served in the diocese, but whose communities are based elsewhere, may benefit from the Retirement Fund for Religious.

Catholic bishops of the United States initiated the collection in 1988 to address the significant lack of retirement funding among U.S. religious communities. Proceeds help underwrite retirement strategies. Throughout the year, additional funding is allocated for congregations with the greatest needs.

“We are humbled by the love and support that Catholics across the nation share with our senior religious,” said Sister Stephanie Still, a member of the Sisters of the Presentation, the newly appointed executive director of the NRRO.

The retirement-funding deficit is rooted in low salaries and changing demographics. Traditionally, Catholic sisters, brothers and religious-order priests worked for small stipends. As a result, many religious communities lack adequate retirement savings. At the same time, elderly religious are living longer and now outnumber younger, wage-earning religious. Among communities providing data to the NRRO, 68 percent have a median age of 70 or older. The income of those engaged in compensated ministry cannot keep pace with the growing cost of eldercare.

In addition to providing financial support for immediate needs, proceeds from the annual appeal underwrite educational initiatives for retirement planning and eldercare delivery. Workshops, webinars, and print resources, for example, address topics ranging from property planning to caring for members with dementia.

“Our mission is to help religious communities meet current eldercare needs while preparing for the ones to come,” said Sister Stephanie. “We remain grateful for all those who support these efforts.”


ODU Commencement Ceremony

Ohio Dominican University’s 106th commencement ceremony will take place at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 17 in Alumni Hall on the university campus, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus.

Approximately 200 students will have degrees conferred upon them as they are joined by ODU faculty, staff, alumni, and hundreds of family and friends. The event will be preceded by a baccalaureate service at 9 a.m. in Christ the King Chapel.

The commencement speaker will be Dr. Julia M. McNamara (pictured), former president of Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, Connecticut. McNamara, a 1965 Ohio Dominican graduate, also will receive the degree of doctor of humane letters.

“It is indeed a privilege to be awarded this honorary doctorate from my alma mater,” she said. “It was here that I received the strong foundation that supported my many years of service to the Dominican tradition and to the mission of Albertus Magnus College. This is an honor which I shall cherish.”

“We’re delighted to welcome Dr. McNamara back home to ODU to join us in celebrating the outstanding accomplishments of our proud graduates,” said Dr. Peter Cimbolic, ODU president. “Julia has spent decades committed to improving her community as president of Albertus Magnus College and a member of the boards of many important local organizations. It’s fitting that we honor her for her steadfast devotion to advancing Catholic education during this year of her retirement.”

McNamara retired as president of Albertus Magnus on June 30 after 34 years of service. She is now president emerita. She also is vice chair of the Yale New Haven Hospital Board of Trustees and the Yale New Haven Health Services Corp, and serves on the board of trustees for Anna Maria College in Paxton, Massachusetts, and on the board of the NewAlliance Foundation. She has served on the boards of many other organizations and has received many community service awards.

She earned a bachelor of arts degree in history and French from Ohio Dominican; a master of arts degree in French from Middlebury (Vermont) College; and a master of arts degree and a doctorate in French language and literature from Yale University in New Haven.
Communion service for the sick; Voting for Hillary and hell

QUESTION & ANSWER
by: FATHER KENNETH DOYLE
Catholic News Service

Q. Recently, I attended a service for the sick. The priest read a passage from the Gospel and then he distributed Holy Communion before anointing the sick. Since it was a Saturday afternoon, I stayed in church afterward and attended the Sunday vigil Mass.

I have two questions. First, would my presence at the service described be considered as having attended Mass? And second, since I received Communion at the service for the sick, would I be permitted to receive again at the vigil Mass? (Riverside, California)

A. Many parishes -- I would even say most -- celebrate a communal anointing of the sick once or twice a year. This is consistent with the church’s desire, as expressed at the Second Vatican Council, that the sacrament not be reserved only for those who are at the point of death.

The council’s Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (Sacrosanctum Concilium) states that “as soon as any one of the faithful begins to be in danger of death from sickness or old age, the fitting time for him to receive this sacrament has certainly already arrived” (No. 73).

I am a bit surprised, though, that the celebration you speak of included only a Communion service and not a Mass. In my experience, it is far more common for parishes to celebrate the communal anointing at a weekend Mass. If the priest you mentioned had waited until 4 p.m. on that Saturday afternoon, a Mass celebrated then would have fulfilled the Sunday obligation for those in attendance.

As to your questions: First, no, you did not satisfy that obligation simply by receiving Communion.

Catholics are required on Sundays and holy days of obligation to participate in the eucharistic sacrifice, during which the self-offering of Jesus is represented for our benefit. This means a full Mass, in which the bread and wine are offered with the appropriate prayers, transformed by the words of the priest into the body and blood of Christ, and then received by the priest and those in attendance.

And, yes, even though you received Communion at the anointing service, you would have been permitted to receive once more during the vigil Mass. A Catholic may receive Communion a second time during the same day, within the context of a Mass. Canon 917 of the church’s Code of Canon Law says, “A person who has already received the most holy Eucharist can receive it a second time on the same day only within the eucharistic celebration in which the person participates.”

Q. I voted for Hillary Clinton in the recent presidential election. One priest (and maybe others) indicated that those who voted for Hillary would spend an eternity in hell. Is this correct? (Colonia, New Jersey)

A. I hope not. The Pew Research Center has determined that, in the 2016 U.S. presidential election, 45 percent of Catholics voted for Hillary Clinton. (Fifty-two percent voted for Donald Trump.) That would mean that millions of Catholics voted for Clinton, and I shudder to think that all of them are consigned to eternal damnation.

The best voting advice comes not from the individual priest whom you happened unfortunately to encounter, but from the pope himself and from the U.S. Catholic bishops. A month before the election, on a flight back to Rome from eastern Europe, Pope Francis was asked by reporters about the upcoming U.S. vote. He was reported to have said, “During an election campaign, I never say a word. The people are sovereign, and all I will say is this: Study the proposals well, pray, and choose in conscience!”

That guidance was consistent with the advice given by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in their quadrennial document titled Faithful Citizenship. In the most recent version (issued in 2015), they said, “We bishops do not intend to tell Catholics for whom or against whom to vote.” Instead, the bishops encourage readers “to evaluate policy positions, party platforms and candidates’ promises and actions in light of the Gospel and the moral and social teachings of the church.”

To help Catholics do that, the bishops list more than a dozen issues of public policy that intersect deeply with moral concerns, the goal being to advance the common good “by defending the inviolable sanctity of human life from the moment of conception until natural death, by promoting religious freedom, by defending marriage, by feeding the hungry and housing the homeless, by welcoming the immigrant and protecting the environment.”

The bishops caution Catholics who might be tempted “to use only selected parts of the church’s teaching to advance partisan political interests or validate ideological biases,” and they note that “there may be times when a Catholic who rejects a candidate’s unacceptable position even on policies promoting an intrinsically evil act may reasonably decide to vote for that candidate for other morally grave reasons.”

Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at askfatherdoyle@gmail.com and 30 Columbia Circle Drive, Albany NY 12203.

ST. CATHARINE MISSION

Columbus St. Catharine Church, 500 S. Gould Road, is sponsoring a parish mission from 7 to 8 p.m. Sunday to Tuesday, Dec. 11 to 13.

Dr. Perry J. Cahall, academic dean of the school of theology and professor of historical theology at the Pontifical College Josephinum, will speak on “The Holy Family: Living God’s Plan for Married and Family Life.”

The opening talk will be preceded at 6 p.m. Sunday by a social gathering with light refreshments and craft activities for children. Free child care will be available on all three nights. For more information, call (614) 231-4509.

WILDERNESS OUTREACH

This year’s Wilderness Outreach Advent hike for men and boys will take place Saturday, Dec. 10 at Tar Hollow State Park, 16396 Tar Hollow Road, Laurelville. The event will have something to offer to all Catholic men and boys.

Participants can choose between doing a 10-mile morning hike, a six-mile afternoon hike, or both.

The morning hike will begin at 8 a.m. at the big shelterhouse, preceded by Morning Prayer at 7:30. It will take place on the northern loop of the Logan Trail. The afternoon hike will start at 1 p.m. from the big shelterhouse around noon and proceed on the Ross Hollow Trail.

The big shelterhouse will serve as a base camp where the men will be treated to a roaring fire in the large stone fireplaces, coffee, hot chocolate, lunch, and supper.

Starting around 4 p.m., the men will gather for an evening that will include Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, celebration of the vigil Mass for the third Sunday of Advent with Father William Hahn at 5 p.m., and fellowship. Supper will be served and fellowship will proceed until around 8 p.m.

Anyone who would prefer to just hang around a fire in the back country is also welcome. Men are needed to help stoke the fires and fix food and hot drinks. Boys below the age of 18 must be accompanied by their father or legal guardian. The cost is a freewill donation to help cover the shelterhouse rental and food.

If you are interested in helping or participating, contact John Bradford at (614) 679-6761 or wildernessoutreach2560@gmail.com.

One week later, on Saturday, Dec. 17, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wilderness Outreach will sponsor its annual firewood fundraiser at 399 Carroll-Eastern Road N.W., Baltimore. Firewood will be cut, split, and loaded into your vehicle. All reasonable freewill donations will be accepted. Those in need will be given special consideration.

Fathers and sons are encouraged to attend and help cut, split, and load wood. For more information, contact Bradford at the phone number or address listed above.
Some humanitarian tragedies occur quietly and “in the background,” gradually coming to light years or decades after serious harm already has occurred. Examples are nerve damage in infants exposed to lead paint, or cancers in patients who were exposed to asbestos. More recently, the humanitarian tragedy of hundreds of thousands of embryonic human beings frozen and abandoned in fertility clinics – “orphans in ice” arising from the decades-long practice of in vitro fertilization (IVF) – has come to light.

As a priest and ethicist at the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia, I have seen an increasing number of Catholics who regret having engendered human life in this way. They also regret that they ignored or weren’t informed about the teachings of the Catholic Church on IVF and infertiltiy. They are perplexed and even tormented about what to do with these “spare” human embryos, who really are their cryogenic children.

When I am approached with this question, I stress that there are no easy answers. Human embryos never can just be thawed and discarded, as that would be morally indistinguishable from the case of discarding a newborn or an infant in a dumpster to die. In fact, the step of merely thawing out human embryos exposes them to great risk, with as many as half not being able to survive the process.

I usually suggest to parents that, for the time being, embryonic children should be kept frozen as a way of protecting them and respecting their life and integrity. As the discussion continues, I also may recommend that they consider setting up a trust fund, so that after they pass on, their frozen children will be provided for. These children, clearly, cannot be educated, clothed, or fed, but they can be afforded a measure of protection in their frozen state, with fresh liquid nitrogen continuing to be provided, at least for a time. Arranging to cover this expense of a few hundred dollars a year is one of the few ways that parents can concretely indicate their concern for their orphaned children.

The suggestion to set up a trust fund sometimes results in an awkward moment of surprise where parents may ask “Well, how long would I do that for? Obviously, I can’t do it forever.” Parents will have to decide for themselves whether setting up a trust fund in the first place makes sense as a kind of good-faith sign of their love and care for their own offspring, and, if so, for how long to maintain the arrangement. If they make provisions for a more extended period, say several decades, there is a greater likelihood that their embryonic children might be “rescued” if new scientific technologies for growing embryos outside the body end up being developed in the future.

This may become possible one day, even though there are real questions about whether such an “artificial womb” or “baby in a bottle” approach to gestation would be ethical, even with the praiseworthy intentions of saving lives and releasing orphaned embryos from their perpetual hibernation.

Others hope that one day, “embryo adoption” – the transfer of “spare” embryos to another woman who implants, gestates, and raises them as her own – might end up being recognized as morally allowable by the Church. This unusual form of adoption is still morally debated, and Dignitas Personae, the most recent Church document addressing the matter, raises serious concerns about the idea, as have a number of philosophers and bioethicists, myself included. When confronted with the absurd fate of having embryos trapped in a state of suspended animation indefinitely, few or no alternatives seem to exist. The future Pope Benedict XVI, in another important Church document called Donum Vitae, referenced this “absurd fate” when he summarized how there was “no possibility of their being offered safe means of survival that can be licitly pursued.” Certain sinful acts such as IVF, sadly, can provoke irrevocable and irresolvable consequences.

A few years ago, I had a conversation with a divorced woman who had seven frozen children in storage. She described how she agonized daily over the plight of her babies, and how it felt like an open wound that never could quite heal. She shared how each year, on the anniversary of the embryos’ creation – their “birthday” of sorts – she would place a call to the fertility clinic and inquire about their status. She would ask the staff to look up and verify how many were stored at the facility. Fearful that something might have happened to her children, or that they might end up being abandoned or forgotten, her annual call served as a reminder to herself and to those at the clinic that they were still there, that somebody still cared, despite the callousness of a world that seemed only too ready to ignore this ongoing humanitarian tragedy.

Father Tadeusz Pachelczyk, PhD, earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did postdoctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Massachusetts, and serves as director of education at the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org.
Operation Christmas Child at Bishop Ready

The Columbus Bishop Ready High School chapter of the National Honor Society sponsored its annual Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift campaign and collected 23 shoeboxes filled with gifts for children around the world. Various sports teams and school clubs and organizations sponsored and filled the boxes. The campaign is a project of Samaritan’s Purse, which delivers Christmas gifts to children in some of the hardest-to-reach nations worldwide. With the finished products are NHS members and officers (from left) Patrick Jansen, Danielle Lancia (treasurer), Katelynne DeVictor (president), Olivia Rowe, Katherine Perry (secretary), and Ian Binns.

Photo courtesy Bishop Ready High School

Operation Christmas Child at St. Andrew

Students of Columbus St. Andrew School, along with preschool and Parish School of Religion students from St. Andrew Church, collected more than 260 boxes for Operation Christmas Child. This is almost double the number they collected last year. Pictured are Father Tony Davis, St. Andrew parochial vicar; Cassie Thompson, fourth-grade teacher; and students Andrew Zarick and Megan Terveer. Father Davis blessed the boxes during a prayer service with the school.

Photo courtesy St. Andrew School

MARCH FOR LIFE BUS

For the 18th consecutive year, Danville St. Luke Church is sponsoring a bus trip to the annual March for Life in Washington.

The trip from Danville will be for four days and three nights, from Thursday to Saturday, Jan. 26 to 28. The cost is $280 for a double room and $240 each for three or more persons in a room. This is $40 less than last year because one night of the trip is being eliminated to cut expenses.

The cost covers the ride on a 54-passenger bus, two nights at the Hampton Inn in Alexandria, Virginia, and visits to various sites in Washington, with former St. Luke parishioner John Durbin, a career courier with the federal government, as tour guide.

The bus will depart Danville at 6 a.m. Jan. 26. The group will attend a vigil Mass at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception at 6 p.m. that evening and have pizza at the hotel afterward. On Friday, Jan. 27, there will be more touring in the morning, the march itself at noon, and dinner that evening, with departure Saturday morning and arrival in Danville on Saturday night.

A $50 deposit is due by Saturday, Dec. 10. Final payment is due by Tuesday, Jan. 10. Make checks payable to St. Luke Parish.

For more information, contact the church office at (740) 398-9710 or Bobbie Thomas at (740) 398-9710 or (740) 427-4044.

SOLES FOR SOULS

From now through Sunday, Jan. 15, Greater Columbus Right to Life is inviting churches, schools, businesses, and other organizations to join in “Soles for Souls,” an effort to collect 4,715 pairs of baby shoes and booties, in sizes ranging from newborn to about nine months.

Shoes in any condition, from new to very well-used, will be accepted. Do not send shoes that need to be returned, and check that shoes are not items of particular sentimental value before donating them.

The shoes and booties will be used in 2017 as part of a traveling memorial that shows the impact of abortion in the community, and will be available to churches, schools, pregnancy centers, and community partners. Any shoes in excess of those needed for the display will be donated to appropriate community partners to assist families in need.

Shoes and booties may be donated at any of several collection centers across central Ohio, including Greater Columbus Right to Life, 665 E. Dublin Granville Road, Suite 115, Columbus, and the office of St. Gabriel Radio, 4673 Winterset Drive; Columbus. To sign up to be a donation location or to find a location near you, visit www.gcrtl.org/soles.

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Mary as the Patron of the Nitty-Gritty in Motherhood

In the Guadalupean apparition, Mary appears to an apparently insignificant person, a poor Indian convert. Juan Diego was as “nobody” as it got.

On his way to morning Mass and catechism classes on the morning of Friday, Dec. 9, 1531, he paused by the hill called Tepeyac because he heard songbirds in a beautiful burst of harmony.

Hearing those songbirds must have made him smile. In the chill of early December, winter stretched ahead, promising gray days and possibly even cold feet. That reminder of the hope of spring, heard from an unexpected group of birds, was the perfect introduction of the woman he was about to meet.

She walked toward him, lovely and tan-complexioned. She was mestiza, a woman who was part Spanish and part Indian. Sunbeams surrounded her, songbirds heralded her, and Juan Diego first met her at the base of the hill where the Aztec mother goddess Tonantzin had been worshipped.

Did he suspect who she was? Were the signs undeniable? What must have gone through his head as the Mother of God approached him?

Mary called out to Juan and identified herself as the Virgin Mary, Mother of the one true God. She asked Juan to go to the bishop to request that a chapel be built on the hill.

It wasn’t an easy task, but being asked personally by Mary to do something difficult gave him the courage he needed. He went directly to the bishop’s palace and waited a long time before the servants let him in to see the bishop.

The bishop was doubtful. He listened politely, but remained noncommittal. He invited Juan to come back and visit. I wonder if he thought that was the end of things.

Mary was waiting at Tepeyac, and Juan told her about the conversation. He was discouraged, and tried to convince Mary to find someone more influential than him to persuade the bishop.

Mary insisted that Juan was the right person. “You are the one I have chosen for this task,” she assured Juan. In my mind, she hugged him.

The next day, Juan Diego went again to the bishop’s palace. He was treated more rudely than before by the servants, and the bishop was a little surprised to see him again so soon.

Once again, the bishop was reserved. “Ask for a sign,” he told Juan.

On his way home, Juan found the Virgin Mary waiting at the hill of Tepeyac, and he recounted the news. She assured him that the sign would be waiting for him in the morning.

He went home and found his dear widowed uncle, who lived with him, gravely ill. He didn’t — couldn’t! — return to Tepeyac for the promised sign because of the care his uncle required. His uncle, realizing he was near death, asked Juan to go to the next town and bring back a priest.

On his way to get the priest, Juan had to pass the hill of Tepeyac. He went around on the other side of the hill, but Mary found him and met him as he was passing.

Emarrassed, he explained about his dying uncle and their need for a priest. He promised to come back and help her as soon as he could.

“Do not be afraid,” she replied. “Am I not here who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not the fountain of your joy? Are you not in the fold of my mantle, in the cradle of my arms?”

She went on to assure him that his uncle was healed and that he, Juan, was free to go to the top of the hill to collect the roses blooming there.

The smell of those roses, which were sprinkled with dew despite the cold December temperatures, must have seemed doubly sweet to Juan as he gathered them into his tilma.

He brought them down to the base of the hill, where Mary spent a few moments arranging them. At the bishop’s palace, the servants were impolite to the point of disrespect, and made Juan wait for hours. When he finally was allowed in to see the bishop, Juan opened his tilma and the bishop, shocked by what he saw, immediately knelt on the floor.

There were more than flowers in Juan’s cloak.

The shock of it — tilmas are made with plant fiber, impossible to paint on or embellish much — and the beauty, brilliance, and power of the image was a convincing sign to the bishop.

It was, in fact, a miracle.

The story of the miracle spread fast and far. The chapel Mary requested was built within a few weeks, by Christmas, in part because of the instant devotion of Indians and Christians alike. On Dec. 26, a procession carried the tilma there.

In the seven years between 1531 and 1538, eight million natives of Mexico were converted to Catholicism because of her impact. She continues to influence people today as her image is spread and shared.

So much of what Our Lady of Guadalupe has to say is relevant to me now. She meets me where I am.

Our Lady of Guadalupe reminds me that Mary was human, like me. She reminds me that God loved us enough to send His Son through a woman. And, maybe most beautifully of all, she reminds me that my human struggles are redemptive and that peace in my life is attainable through the grace of God.

She’s the patroness of the unborn and the Americas, but for me, Our Lady of Guadalupe is also the patroness of the nitty-gritty, dirty and thankless, sleep-deprived, unacknowledged, invisible, and grace-filled aspects of motherhood.

She represents all that I’m reaching for and stands behind me as I cope with the hurdles and battle through the trenches as a mother.

She teaches me, so gently, what it means to savor the moments of chaos while they last.

Reinhard writes online at SnoringScholar.com and is the author of a number of books, including the latest, “The Catholic Mom’s Prayer Companion” (Ave Maria Press).
Dave Bezusko

Dave Bezusko described his commitment to serving the community in very clear terms when he earned his degree in journalism from Ohio State University in 1997. He maintained his focus on people, and he wanted to be an author, a director, and a producer. His work as a sports anchor at WHIZ-TV in Zanesville, Ohio, allowed him to get to know the players and coaches, and also to walk into a variety of situations. His job required not only knowledge of sports, but also an ability to write and produce news stories.

Over the years, Dave has continued to pursue his passion for storytelling. As a co-leader of the youth group at United Way of Logan County in Bellefontaine, he feels that service to the community brings much-needed perspective.

Bezusko feels his involvement with the youth group at United Way of Logan County in Bellefontaine, where he worked as a sports anchor, has consistently challenged him to do more to serve his community. He feels that his work with the youth group has given him the opportunity to humbly serve the people of God in the church.

Dave Bezusko's commitment to serving the community has been an ongoing process. It started in the fall of 2010, when he took a call to the diaconate.

Deacon Michael Lozowski

When Deacon Michael Kopczewski entered the Catholic Church, he asked himself what he wanted to be when he grew up, and he realized that he wanted to be a doctor and a farmer. As a boy, he often dreamed of being a doctor, but his vision was limited to practicing medicine. However, he soon realized that being a farmer was also a possibility. He pursued both goals, and he eventually became a doctor and a farmer.

Deacon Michael Kopczewski has served as a family practitioner at Coshocton County Memorial Hospital and a member of Community Sacred Heart Church, which he attends with his wife, Angela, and their three children. He has also been a teacher at St. Mary’s School in Coshocton.

Deacon Kopczewski holds a master's degree. He is a software engineer for a software development company.

Deacon Jason Nguyen

Deacon Jason Nguyen has served as a deacon for three years. He has been involved in several charitable organizations, including the Catholic Worker Movement and the Catholic Charities.

Deacon Jason Nguyen's family arrived in the United States in 1993 with nothing. They were refugees from Vietnam, living in a small town where they could not speak English.

A few years later, Nguyen was given the opportunity to study theology at the University of Detroit Mercy. He decided to pursue a Master of Divinity degree, and he was ordained as a deacon in 2007.

Deacon Jason Nguyen has been guided by the most common words spoken by Jesus: “For you have received what was not yours, give to others what was not yours.” He has served as a deacon in several parishes, and he has been involved in various charitable organizations.

Deacon Kevin Murrin

Deacon Kevin Murrin is a software engineer for a software development company. He has been involved in several charitable organizations, including the Catholic Worker Movement and the Catholic Charities.

Dr. Dave Lozowski has more than one vocation. He started working at a desk, but he soon realized that he wanted to be a farmer. He pursued this goal, and he eventually became a farmer and a doctor.

Deacon David Lozowski was born in 1967. He is a family practitioner at Coshocton County Memorial Hospital and a member of Community Sacred Heart Church, which he attends with his wife, Angela, and their three children. He has also been a teacher at St. Mary’s School in Coshocton.

Deacon David Lozowski holds a master's degree. He is a software engineer for a software development company.

Deacon Ron Onslow

Deacon Ron Onslow has been a deacon for 12 years. He has been involved in several charitable organizations, including the Catholic Worker Movement and the Catholic Charities.

Ron Onslow left the Boy Scouts and went to work as a vice president of marketing for a medical instrument company in Canton. He has been married for 31 years, and he has two children: Shannon, 26, and Andrew, 22.

Deacon Ron Onslow decided he would not be able to serve in the church. It became very clear that he was not cut out for this kind of work. He felt that God was calling him to a different kind of ministry.

When you place your trust in God, everything just falls into place. It became very clear to me that God was calling me to serve in the church. I felt that God was calling me to be a deacon, and I was very happy to accept this call.

Deacon Ron Onslow has been involved in several charitable organizations, including the Catholic Worker Movement and the Catholic Charities.

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Deacon Ron Onslow has been involved in several charitable organizations, including the Catholic Worker Movement and the Catholic Charities.

The Calling of Deacon Ron Onslow

When Ron Onslow left the Boy Scouts and went to work as a vice president of marketing for a medical instrument company in Canton, he was not sure what he wanted to do with his life. He felt that he was not cut out for this kind of work. He felt that God was calling him to a different kind of ministry.

The Holy Spirit showed him what he was called to do. He called him to the priesthood. He felt that God was calling him to be a deacon. He decided to accept God's call and to be a deacon.

When you place your trust in God, everything just falls into place. It became very clear to me that God was calling me to serve in the church. I felt that God was calling me to be a deacon, and I was very happy to accept this call.

Deacon Ron Onslow has been involved in several charitable organizations, including the Catholic Worker Movement and the Catholic Charities.

The Holy Spirit showed him what he was called to do. He called him to the priesthood. He felt that God was calling him to be a deacon. He decided to accept God's call and to be a deacon.
Deacon Steve Petrill

A hospital visit with a dying man led Deacon Steve Petrill to consider the diaconate in a deeper way.

Deacon Petrill, who has been a lector, extraordinary minister of the Eucharist, and minister to the homebound at his parish, Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare, visited with the man a couple of times.

“The first time I visited him, he seemed to be doing well. We had a nice visit and all was looking up,” said Deacon Petrill. “However, the second time I visited him, he had experienced some kind of traumatic medical event that morning and was at the end of his life, surrounded by his wife and children. It made me realize how ministry sometimes calls us into the very center of the most personal parts of other people’s lives.

“It turned out that the gentleman who passed away was a deacon in another diocese, and although we never talked about the diaconate in our first visit, I felt a nudge from the Holy Spirit by that very fact. My experiences with him really helped me grow in my desire to serve Christ and his church in a deeper way.”

Deacon Petrill is a professor of psychology and associate dean for research at The Ohio State University. He earned his bachelor of science degree in psychology from the University of Notre Dame, followed by master of arts and doctoral degrees from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland.

In his studies and work, he looks at links between biology, psychology, the environment, and sociology and culture.

“The church has reinforced the spiritual aspects as well; in particular how spirituality fits into the relations between the biological, psychological, social, and cultural aspects of who we are,” he said. “Many of our joys and struggles are how we relate these things to one another, and it has helped me see the Incarnation of Jesus in a fuller way.”

Deacon Petrill and his wife, Dawn, have been married for 21 years and have three children: Nate, 16; Anthony, 13; and Emily, 10.

He says that for as much as he has learned through his studies, he also has learned from his parish ministry.

“Any given day is someone’s best day and someone else’s worst day, for all kinds of different reasons with all points in between,” he said. “One has to be very flexible and attentive in order to truly serve the needs of others in those multiple moments that are occurring simultaneously.”

Choosing the diaconate was something that evolved out of a difficult period in his life about 10 years ago, when many people close to him were very sick and others died. Help from many people who reached out to him and his family had an impact on Deacon Petrill.

“I had to surrender to God and learn to trust him more deeply,” he said. “By the grace of God, these experiences jelled the contemplations of my earlier adult life and led me to actively move down the path I’m currently on.”

Deacon Tom Phillips

Deacon Tom Phillips sees the role of deacon, or of anyone working in a parish, as “being there.” It sounds so simple, yet it is a concept with many dimensions of meaning. It goes back to Phillips’ childhood at Columbus St. Thomas Church, where he still is a member.

“A former pastor explained that we couldn’t serve what we didn’t know needed serving, so he encouraged every parishioner to get to know and love each other and our neighbors, and the community in which we were planted,” said Deacon Phillips, who is bookkeeper for Columbus St. Thomas and St. Augustine & Gabriel churches.

He has been married to his wife, Maria, for 32 years. They have two children: Laura, 25; and Thomas, 22.

Deacon Phillips carries being there into not only his parish service, but also into volunteer work with Habitat for Humanity and the Northeast Area Commission. He said he has been blessed by the example shown by his uncle, Deacon John Slatcalf of Lorain St. Vincent de Paul Church, in being fully present to the people he serves.

“He often talks to me about the joys and sorrows of his vocation, the nuts and bolts of the process, and the hopes and fears he has going forward,” he said.

Deacon Phillips feels his uncle is a living example of discerning a call, as well as formation in service.

“Being there is a lot of things,” Deacon Phillips said. “In the parish, it’s awareness, having eyes and ears open to what the needs of the people and the pastor may be, and then voicing the needs in the right places. If we see someone struggling, we help or find someone who can. If we hear praise, we pass it on, or complaint, we resolve or find someone who can. Not that every need gets met or complaint gets resolved. Sometimes being there is simply to listen and hear or to look and see.

“Being there is stillness, providing a shoulder. Being there is action, lending our hands and arms and backs and taking on the tasks that have to get done when there’s no one else doing them, then helping to get the right person there next time. It’s improvement, discernment, and serenity at each step of the way. Ultimately, as a deacon, it is conformance to the will of Christ the servant, wherever ‘there’ is.”

Deacon Tom Rowlands

Deacon Tom Rowlands is the president of a company, father of four children and grandfather of 12, and has discovered that the best way to recharge is to participate in monastic retreats.

“This stems from a calling in my personal faith that is seeking an interior truth,” he said. “This is a calling that exists in everyone, and in the quiet of silent retreats at many monasteries, it is possible to approach, in an undistracted way, the silence of God’s loving hand as my life is being formed around the Christian faith that I follow through the teaching of the Catholic Church. In this quiet, it is possible to find the interconnectedness between what I enjoy in working with others and my personal journey, with its own failings and findings.”

Deacon Rowlands applies his monastic discoveries at his job at R.S. Hanline & Co., Inc., where he has been president for 20 years, as well as in his family life with Cindi, his wife of 38 years, and the families of their children. He belongs to Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona Church, where he has been actively involved with taking Communion to the homebound.

“I want to help the situations where faith is challenged, and is not easy to find or claim as being present right now in a person’s life,” he said.

These types of situations were present when, after receiving his bachelor of arts degree in business administration from Ohio University, Deacon Rowlands spent time as a teacher and coached wrestling and football at Lancaster Fisher Catholic High School before landing in his present job.

“Teenagers have a youthful faith, where life is full of so many potential paths,” he said. “Faith is always new to those who continue to seek relationship and truth in their faith life. Growth at all stages in a person’s relationship with God, while exciting and fruitful, is not always comfortable.”

Part of Deacon Rowlands’ faith journey has brought him to ordination.

“My vocation was a quiet and persistent call that I began to discern was God’s call to the diaconate,” he said.

Deacon Phillips feels his uncle is a living example of discerning a call, as well as formation in service.

“I want to help the situations where faith is challenged . . .”
Although Deacon Greg Waybright comes from three generations of what he refers to as “country preachers,” he never saw himself in this role. His grandfather, great-grandfather, and an uncle were Baptist ministers who traveled to revivals to preach, something Deacon Waybright found interesting from the perspective of an observer.

Deacon Waybright became Catholic when he was 22 years old.

“For the next 20-plus years, I found myself in the pews listening to many homilies from some amazing priests and deacons and never really seeing myself in those roles, but soaking it all in,” he said.

He has been married to his wife, Theresa, for 37 years. They have four children: Marc, 36; Jennifer Guton, 34; Jessica Golovin, 29; and Sara, 24.

When he was in his late 40s, faced with personal challenges, life made little sense.

“I went through several heart conditions and was told on three separate occasions by cardiologists that there was no logical way they could explain why I was still here,” he said. “Then suddenly, in late 2006, my father passed away after a very brief illness, right in front of me, which shook me to my very foundation.”

Two months later, he almost lost his mother.

“I began to question everything I thought I believed so firmly in, including my faith,” he said. “My mother had so many issues with her health and I suddenly found myself thrust into the role of a primary caregiver, having never realized what a saint my father really was as he kept all of this from us. I found my life suddenly unraveling around me, and I was lost.”

One morning at Mass at his home parish, Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church, while struggling to gain his spiritual footing, Deacon Waybright, who normally would have been engrossed in the homily, was focused on an image of Mary.

“I found myself pouring out my heart and all of the troubles and confusion in my life to our Blessed Mother, realizing at the very time I needed our Lord the most, I had turned my back and was facing life on my own,” he said. “I suddenly felt surrounded by the loving warmth of her motherhood and the love and forgiveness of Jesus. I asked silently how I could be of service to him and be in some way a service to others I knew going through life’s many problems, much like me.”

Pursuing the deaconate became crystal-clear in that moment.

“God has put so many interesting people in my path over the last six years who have helped me in this journey, and ones that he has allowed me to help, which has been quite humbling,” said Deacon Waybright. “I grew up with a single sister, and now I feel like I truly have 15 brothers in my fellow deacons.”

Deacon Mark Weiner

Watching the funeral Mass of Pope St. John Paul II on April 8, 2005, Mark Weiner came to the realization that he was called to do something in the church, but he wasn’t clear exactly what he was being called to do.

Deacon Weiner then increased his volunteer work at his parish, New Lexington St. Rose Church. But it wasn’t enough, so he and his wife, Patricia, decided to become extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist. He is also a lector and member of the parish festival committee. He and Patricia, who have been married for 26 years, have three children: Matthew, 25; Nicholas, 22; and Alaina, 14.

“Something was telling me that it just wasn’t enough,” he said. “Then I was at a Mass and saw a deacon on the altar. It was after that Mass that I really started thinking about being a deacon. I spoke with our pastor about it and he gave me some information.”

Deacon Weiner started classes, but struggled academically and decided to walk away.

“I thought it was just too much for me,” he said. “I didn’t go to class the next week. I was done. I decided to go to Adoration one evening on my way home from work, and as I knelt down, I started to pray, ‘Jesus, I am yours and I’ll do whatever you ask of me.’ I left with my answer and went back to class the next week.”

When he was officially called to candidacy, Deacon Weiner was working in a job that required a lot of mandatory overtime, and he felt unsure of receiving support from his supervisors. This led to his current position with the Perry County Consortium of Catholic Parishes. He ministers to the homebound and those in hospitals and nursing facilities, conducts baptismal preparation meetings, and assists with sacrament preparation for children.

Deacon Weiner said visiting the homebound has been enlightening for him.

“They’re so thankful and appreciative of me when I sit and visit with them, but they are the blessing,” he said. “I am the one that gets to learn from the wisdom of our elderly parishioners. I am nothing but a vessel that God is using the spread the good news. I thank God for using me, but at the end of the day, I am dust. I think that it is very important to keep that in mind. I come to serve, not to be served.”

Deacon Paul Zemanek

Deacon Paul Zemanek points to 2007 as a turning point for him. It was one of those times when life threw him a curve ball. His job was eliminated, and, with it, his planned career path.

“I was unemployed for 15 months,” said Deacon Zemanek, who is now director of corporate accounts for Honeywell International. “During this time, I was able to reassess what was more important in my life: doing something to reach my next profession and career advancement or doing something more applicable with my faith.”

So the man who is a natural mentor began looking for some guidance of his own. He attended a Cun Christo retreat and realized that some of the other men on the retreat had a stronger knowledge of their various faiths. Deacon Zemanek went to his pastor at Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Msgr. Joseph Hendricks, for some suggestions about books to read. Instead, Msgr. Hendricks suggested that Zemanek sit in on Deacon Frank Iannarino’s RCIA classes. It wasn’t long before he became an RCIA sponsor and took on the responsibility to set up the room for class meetings.

In 2010, he took over the St. Brigid RCIA program from Deacon Iannarino. He continued to lead the program until his diaconal internship at Columbus St. Peter Church began last year.

“Talk about evangelization and having a captive audience!” Deacon Zemanek said. “RCIA is a very serious responsibility, to get people interested in becoming Catholic and get them catechized so they learn the faith. Now I’m helping Father Mark Summers implement the St. Brigid RCIA program at St. Peter’s.”

Deacon Zemanek’s mentoring skills fit well with being a deacon. “It’s a skill set God gave me that I’m able to sit down with people and work with them. I like people,” he said. “In my work, I do a lot of mentoring from the sales position, to help other employees learn the basics and how to deal with customers. I’ve always enjoyed doing that type of thing.

“During the time I was unemployed, I learned how to network, and now I try to help others going through career transition. Some are more skilled at reaching out to others for help. It’s the ones who aren’t that really need the help. The other thing I learned was to pay it forward. A lot of people helped me, and now I have been able to help some of them.”

Deacon Zemanek said he probably was working his way toward the diaconate without even realizing it, getting involved in several ministries when he and wife Cathy became parishioners at St. Brigid of Kildare in 2000, then attending daily Mass more often after Sept. 11, 2001. He and Cathy have been married for 38 years and have two sons, Chris and Kevin. They were recently blessed with their first grandchild.

“The unemployment obstacle was the avenue God put in my way,” he said. “You don’t know why at the time, but when you look back, you can see why. That was an event that had to happen or I wouldn’t have been in a position for Deacon Frank to ask me if I had ever considered being a deacon. Man plans, God laughs.”

Deacon biographies were written by Colleen Mar, communications director at Columbus Bishop Watterson High School
Second Sunday of Advent (Cycle A)

**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand**

Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12

Isaiah views the future (and end time) with this prophecy about the Messiah to come. “A shoot from the stump of Jesse” referred to a descendant of David, the great king. David’s father was Jesse. David died in 960 BC, and Isaiah is writing about events that took place over a period of more than 200 years. On the other hand, “stump” also could mean the “trunk” of a living tree, so that the dynasty of David has not yet ended.

This section has spoken of how Jerusalem had almost been destroyed until its unexpected deliverance. Isaiah then directs his attention to an ideal time in the future when an ideal king would succeed David and not only would possess the spirit of the Lord, but would judge with justice for the poor and the land’s afflicted (in Hebrew, the anawin). His “mouth” and his “lips” symbolize the power of his words in dealing with the ruthless and the wicked. “Justice” and “faithfulness” will make up the rest of his battle gear.

In that ideal time, creation will return to its primordial past and the unthinkable will become commonplace. “The wolf as a guest of the lamb?” The unimaginable becomes real. The same will be true of the leopard and the kid, and the calf and the lion and the young child. All that Isaiah pictures is based on a vision of the original creation, in which everything was in perfect harmony.

“All my holy mountain” is a reference to Mount Zion and the city of Jerusalem. Similar in tone to Isaiah 60:1-6 and 2:2-4, Jerusalem is seen as the city to which the nations will come to find the Lord, who makes his dwelling there. It will be a time of universal peace. The vision remains elusive.

The Gospel turns our attention to the preliminary work of John the Baptist in preparing the way of the Lord. That is to say, from the evangelists’ point of view John’s work was preliminary. Obviously, John authored a reform movement, before Jesus did, which spread at least as far as Ephesus. He came as a prophet and lived away from the society into which he was born, preferring the wilderness near Jericho as his habitat. Many think he may have been in contact with the Qumran community of Essenes, who lived along the Dead Sea south of Jericho.

His proclamation: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand,” is the exact proclamation that Jesus announces in Matthew 4:17. In Mark, it is Jesus who makes the proclamation. Luke does not mention such a proclamation, nor does John. We are therefore unclear about whether this proclamation was exclusive to Jesus, or whether both John and Jesus made this kingdom proclamation. Matthew uses “kingdom of heaven” rather than “kingdom of God,” perhaps to avoid using the divine name. We do note that the nearness of this coming kingdom was essential to both John and Jesus and remains the basis of Christian hope to this day. Obviously, “near” is understood in a relative sense.

If Isaiah spoke of John, as the quote suggests, then John prepares the way of the Lord in a way even he found hard to understand (see Matthew 11:2-6). Christians had no problem understanding John as the predecessor of Jesus, and thereby understanding the fulfillment of the Isaiah passage as culminating with the arrival of Jesus as Lord.

John seemed hard on Pharisees and Sadducees, but it was because of their pretense in coming for baptizing, but not repenting. Repenting meant a turning of one’s own life back to God. It is what some of the later Christian mystics called the abandonment of the self. Advent reflections call us to do the same in preparation for an encounter with Christ.

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

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**St. Edward’s plans Lenten trip to Southeast**

The Edwardians group at Granville St. Edward Church is planning a Lenten journey to the Southeast.

Following morning Mass on Sunday, Feb. 26, the group will depart by motor coach for a six-night tour of Georgia and South Carolina.

Stops will be made at Savannah, Georgia; Jekyll Island; St. Simons Island; Parris Island; and Beaufort, South Carolina. The trip includes:

- **Ash Wednesday Mass** on March 1 in St. William’s Church on St. Simons Island.
- **The trip is open to anyone, and seats are available for $529 per person, with a $75 deposit before Wednesday, Dec. 21.**
- **For complete details and a brochure on the trip, email lindawoollard@windstream.net or phone (740) 323-3105.**

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**The Weekday Bible Readings**

**MONDAY**
Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalm 85:9ab,10,11-12,13
Luke 5:17-26

**TUESDAY**
Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalms 96:1-2,3,10ac,11-12,13
Matthew 18:12-14

**WEDNESDAY**
Isaiah 40:25-31
Psalms 103:1-2,3,4,8,10
Matthew 11:28-30

**THURSDAY**
Genesis 3:9-15,20
Psalms 98:1,2,3ab,3cd-4
Ephesians 1:3b,6,11-12
Luke 1:26-31

**FRIDAY**
Isaiah 48:17-19
Psalms 1:1-2,3,4,6
Matthew 11:16-19

**SATURDAY**
Sirach 48:1-4,9-11
Psalms 80:2ac,3b,15-16,18-19
Matthew 7:9a,10-13

**DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE WEEK OF DECEMBER 4, 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).
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 II, Seasonal Proper of the Liturgy of the Hours.
Recognizing the Real Jesus During Advent

You may wonder why I write about recognizing Jesus at Advent. After all, isn’t Advent about preparing for Jesus, the child in the manger? And why do we need to recognize him? I am talking about recognition of the real Jesus, not the one modern society has constructed. This isn’t anything new. History has been forced to deal with this conundrum since the earliest days of the Church.

Think about it. The Jewish residents of Israel were waiting for a warrior Messiah who would vanquish the occupying Romans with his swift sword. Jesus tried to tell his fellow Jews that although the Romans were bad, too many of his countrymen were smitten with Roman excess – the money, the lust, the debauchery, the very things Jesus railed against. Two thousand years later, we aren’t any different.

Advent is a time where we need to confront all that we know needs to be confronted in our lives. All too often, our world tells us that Christianity is about feeling good and helping others feel good. The world doesn’t want to hear much about sin, let alone heaven or hell. It is almost a given that our society believes you are going to heaven unless you are some sort of serial killer. But Jesus talked more about hell than heaven, probably because he wanted to warn us that hell is a real possibility if we become too full of ourselves and our own reasoning.

Think about how many times we have heard family or friends say they don’t like the Catholic Church because it isn’t fun, or it is too hard, or the Mass isn’t entertaining enough. Now, imagine some day in the future when Ohio State football coach Urban Meyer retires or goes to the National Football League and the university is searching for his replacement. Imagine some high-ranking university official saying the next head coach should be easy-going, have fun practices, and be a little more entertaining in his outlook. You know as well as I do that this imaginary official would quickly be escorted off the property, never to return.

Jesus may preach all about mercy, but like his Father in the Garden of Eden, he asks us not to do a few things. And like Adam and Eve, we do them anyway. Even when Jesus offers his mercy through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, few go regularly. Our pride is always our downfall. Friends of mine who served in Iraq and Afghanistan say many of the military personnel there somehow came to this realization during their tours of duty. They say there always were plenty of Catholic soldiers in those places inquiring when the priest was coming for Confession.

Looking in the mirror isn’t always easy. Sometimes, we have to confront our shortcomings and sins. My failings and mistakes weigh on me, but I realize I need to avoid blaming others or playing some sort of victim. This is an admission that I should have known better, and thankfully, through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, I can get back on track. The next time a Catholic tells you that he or she doesn’t need to confess to a priest because “that is not my thing,” respond by saying that the first thing Jesus did when he saw the Apostles on the night of Easter Sunday was to institute the Sacrament of Reconciliation (John 20:19-23).

All of us have been given opportunities to see God’s hand at work. At some of my speaking events, I have been fortunate enough to have met some men and women who lived a hard life. They often didn’t have two nickels to rub together, yet they persevered with a smile and a grateful attitude. I also have met athletes, actors, actresses, and rock stars who lived a life full of debauchery and are now on the straight and narrow path. Through them, I learned that although sin is attractive, it ultimately saps the life out of you. This Advent, let us all recognize the real Jesus and let him show us the way.

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

Funeral Mass for Sister Marguerite of the Sacred Heart Schoenung, SNDdeN, 86, who died Monday, Nov. 14, was held Friday, Nov 18 at the Mount Notre Dame Health Center in Cincinnati. Burial was in the sisters’ cemetery.

She was born June 22, 1930 in Cincinnati to the late Martin and Frances (Deters) Schoenung. She and her twin sister joined the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur together in 1951.

She served as a teacher for 45 years at schools in Dayton, Chicago, and Columbus, where she taught at St. Augustine School in the 1958-59 and 1965-66 academic years. After retiring from teaching in 1999, she was an AmeriCorps member for two years and was a tutor at a Catholic school in Cincinnati’s Corryville neighborhood until entering a ministry of prayer at Mount Notre Dame in 2012.

Survivors include sisters, Sister Frances Mary Schoenung, SNDdeN, and Julie Reese; and brothers, Jerry and Joseph.
**Happenings**

** Classified **

**Friends of the Josephinum Jewelry Sale**
**OUR BIGGEST AND FINAL SALE**
Friday, December 2, 2016
11:30 AM to 9:00 PM
The Jesuit Center at the Josephinum
Certified Diamonds and an expert's advice available
Gold, sterling silver and gem stones will be offered
Christmas Cheer refreshments will be served
FOJ members thank you for your support of seminarians.
Please continue by attending our LAST jewelry HURRAH!

**DECEMBER**

**Thursday, December 1**
Christmas Tour of Newark Churches
6 to 8 p.m., St. Francis de Sales Church, 40 Granville St., Newark, will be the last stop of the evening “Sights and Sounds of Christmas” tour of eight downtown churches.

**Friday, December 2**
St. Cecilia Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
St. Cecilia Church, 434 Norton Road, Columbus. Begins after 8:15 a.m. Mass; continues to 5 p.m. Saturday.

Monthly Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 5225 Refugee Road, Columbus. Begins after 9 a.m. Mass; continues through 6 p.m. Holy Hour.

Catholic Men's Luncheon Club
12:15 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Catholic Men's Luncheon Club meeting. Speaker: Father Daniel Swartz, parochial vicar of Gahanna St. Matthew Church, on his first few months as a priest and plans to be a military chaplain.

No St. John Chrysostom First Friday Sale
St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church's monthly First Friday sale of pirogi, stuffed cabbage, noodles, and baked goods will not take place this month. Its annual Christmas cookie sale will be on Saturday, Dec. 10.

Eucharistic Vigil at Holy Cross
Holy Cross Church, 205 S. 5th St., Columbus. 7:30 p.m. Mass, followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with various prayers, ending with Benediction at 11:30.

All Night Exposition at Our Lady of Victory
Our Lady of Victory Church, 1559 Roxbury Road, Columbus. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8 p.m. until Mass at 8 a.m. Saturday.

**Saturday, December 3**
Fatima Devotions at Columbus St. Patrick
7 a.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Mass, followed by devotions to Our Lady of Fatima, preceded by confessions at 6:30.

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

Lay Missionaries of Charity Day of Prayer
9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 893 Hamlet St., Columbus. Monthly day of prayer for Columbus chapter of Lay Missionaries of Charity.

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.

First Saturday Mass at Holy Family
9 a.m., Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., Columbus. First Saturday Mass for world peace and in reparation for blasphemies against the Virgin Mary, as requested by Our Lady of Fatima.

Bishop Hartley Admissions Testing
9 a.m., Bishop Hartley High School, 1285 Zettler Road, Columbus. Admissions testing for members of the school's Class of 2023. Those wishing to be considered for a scholarship must take this test on this date.

St. Mary Magdalene Speaker Series
10 a.m., St. Mary Magdalene Church, 473 S. Roys Ave., Columbus. Parish Year of Mercy series concludes with talk on burying the dead by Kambra Malone of the Back in His Arms Again ministry. Cookies and cocoa available. RSVP to 614-724-1121, extension 11.

**Centering Prayer Group Meeting at Corpus Christi**
10:30 a.m. to noon, Corpus Christi Center of Peace, 1111 E. Stewart Ave., Columbus. Centering prayer group meeting, beginning with silent prayer, followed by Contemplative Outreach DVD and discussion.

**Anointing of the Sick at St. Pius X**
5 p.m., St. Pius X Church, 1051 S. Waggoner Road, Reynoldsburg. Communal Anointing of the Sick at Mass.

Watterson Presents ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’
7 p.m., Bishop Watterson High School, 99 E. Cooke Road, Columbus. School’s drama department presents Shakespeare’s ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream.’ Tickets $5 to $10. “A Bethelaim Carol” at St. Joan of Arc
7:30 p.m., St. Joan of Arc Church, 10700 Liberty Road, Powell. 24th annual performance of “A Bethlehem Carol” children’s Christmas musical.

**Filipino Mass at St. Elizabeth**
7:30 p.m., St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon Woods Blvd., Columbus. Mass in the Tagalog language for members of the Filipino Catholic community.

**St. Christopher Adult Religious Education**
10 to 11:20 a.m., Library, Trinity Catholic School, 1440 Grandview Ave., Columbus. Talk by Angela Laniviere of the Youth Empowerment Program.

Exposition at Church of the Resurrection
Our Lady of the Resurrection Chapel, Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road, New Albany. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, beginning with procession following 11 a.m. Mass and continuing to 5 p.m.

Catholic Record Society Meeting
2 p.m., Nugent Hall, St. Andrew Church, 1899 McCoy Road, Columbus. Catholic Record Society quarterly meeting, with talk by author and historian Ann N. Hansen about her travels in 63 nations, emphasizing certain religious structures and their architecture.

Watterson Presents ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’
7 p.m., Bishop Watterson High School, 99 E. Cooke Road, Columbus. School’s drama department presents Shakespeare’s ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream.’ Tickets $5 to $10.

Christmas Concert at St. Elizabeth
3 p.m., St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon Woods Blvd., Columbus. “Born is the King” Christmas choir concert.

Exposition, Evening Prayer at Coshocton Sacred Heart
4 to 5 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, Walnut Street and Park Avenue, Coshocton. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Evening Prayer and Benediction, every Sunday during Advent.

Prayer Group Meeting at Christ the King
5 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.

**Christmas Concert at Columbus St. Mary**
5:30 p.m., Gymnasium, St. Mary School, 700 S. 3rd St., Columbus, St. Mary Church Christmas concert featuring parish handbell choir and the Maggie Consort.

**Silent Night in Sugar Grove**
6 p.m., St. Joseph Church, 306 Elm St., Sugar Grove. “Silent Night in Sugar Grove” Christmas program, beginning at St. Joseph’s and continuing at Sugar Grove United Methodist and St. Matthew Lutheran churches.

**Ohio Dominican Chorus Concert at Holy Family**
7 p.m., Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., Columbus.

Christmas concert featuring Ohio Dominican University chorus and harpist Tiffany Envid, sponsored by Columbus Holy Family and St. Mary, Mother of God churches.

Spanish Mass at Columbus St. Peter
7 p.m., St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road, Columbus. Mass in Spanish.

Catholic Times Happenings
1701 Kenny Road
614-488-8507
Consecrate Russia to Our Lady of Fatima

**Ohio Dominican Christmas Tree Lighting**
6 p.m., Erskine Hall, Ohio Dominican University, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. Lighting of university Christmas tree.

**Advent Evening of Reflection at St. Pius X**
7 p.m., St. Pius X Church, 1051 S. Waggoner Road, Reynoldsburg. Advent evening of reflection.

Lessons and Carols at Ohio Dominican
6 p.m., Christ the King Chapel, Ohio Dominican University, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. University chorus and campus ministry present lessons and carols program, followed by blessing of creche.

“Nick Your Neighbor” at Newark St. Francis de Sales
6:30 p.m., Johnson Hall, St. Francis de Sales Church, 40 Granville St., Newark. “Nick Your Neighbor” program celebrating the Feast of St. Nicholas. Participants will assemble bags with treats, holy cards, and invitations to Mass and holiday church events, leave them on the porches of homes near the church, ring the doorbell, and disappear, then return to church for a snack.

Catholic War Veterans Monthly Meeting
7 p.m., Red Room, St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road, Columbus. Catholic War Veterans Post 1936 meeting. For those who served three months, were honorably discharged, or are on active duty.

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

Relevant Program for Young Adults

**Wednesday, December 7**
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena at St. Elizabeth
7 p.m., St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon Woods Blvd., Columbus. Mass and monthly novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, with Father Ramon Owea, CFC.

Ohio Dominican Chorus Concert at St. John XXIII
7 p.m., St. John XXIII Church, 5170 Winchester Southern Road, New Albany. Relevant program for adults ages 21-35 (ph). Begins with Mass, followed by light appetizers and conversation with Father Jim Cazmar at Wyandotte Winery, 4640 Wyandotte Drive. Cost $5, with wine available for purchase.

Christmas Band Concert at DeSales
7:30 p.m., St. Francis DeSales High School, 4212 Karl Road, Columbus. Christmas concert with DeSales band and band students from four elementary schools.

All fund-raising events (festivals, bazaars, spaghetti dinners, fish frys, 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.

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 Catholic Times Happenings, 107 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215.
Fax to 614-241-2518.
E-mail as text to tpuet@columbuscatholic.org.

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**‘Happenings’ submissions**

Of interest to Catholic Times readers are items of public interest in the news, such as religious events, religious-related book releases, and similar events. Please provide a contact person and a telephone number in case we need to follow up. Please include a description of the item and date and time of the event. Email submissions are preferred. We cannot guarantee that all items received will be published.
ODU Concerts

The Ohio Dominican University chorus will present three public performances during the first week of December. Its *And the Angels Sang* Christmas concert will be at 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4 at Columbus Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., and 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 7 at Canal Winchester St. John XXIII Church, 5170 Winchester Southern Road. Under the direction of Sheila Cafmeyer, this concert will feature 30 university musicians, accompanist Doug Hare, and harpist Tiffany Envid.

This 75-minute concert of lullabies and songs of praise to the newborn King is sure to lift your heart and prepare you to receive Him once again. A lessons and carols program will be at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6 in the Christ the King Chapel of Sansbury Hall on ODU’s campus at 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus.

Dec. 4, Sunday - 7 p.m.
Ohio Dominican University Chorus
Christmas Concert
At Columbus Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St.
This concert features university musicians and harpist Tiffany Envid. The 75-minute concert of lullabies and songs of praise to the newborn King is sponsored by Columbus Holy Family and St. Mary, Mother of God churches.

Dec. 7, Wednesday - 7 p.m.
Ohio Dominican University Chorus
Christmas Concert
At Canal Winchester St. John XXIII Church, 5170 Winchester Southern Road. This concert features university musicians and harpist Tiffany Envid. The 75-minute concert of lullabies and songs of praise to the newborn King is sponsored by the parish.

Admission is free to all three events.

A Midsummer Night’s Dream

The Columbus Bishop Watterson High School theater department is pleased to present Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, a whimsical tale of squabbling lovers, magical fairies, and earnest working-class actors trying to catch their big break. The production is an updated version with modern music and costumes, while keeping Shakespeare’s traditional text. Audiences of all ages will delight in this classic tale of love, dreams, and magic.

Performances will be on Saturday, Dec. 3 at 7 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 4 at 2:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 9 at 7 p.m., and Saturday, December 10 at 7 p.m. at the school, 99 E. Cooke Road. All proceeds from the Sunday matinee will go tot Hope Hollow, a place of lodging and support for cancer patients and their families, which is operated by retired Watterson teacher Jane Jacquemin-Clark and her husband, Kevin.

Playing the lead roles are senior Jacob Erney as Oberon, junior M. Bea Hoenfield as Titania, and senior David Skulich as Puck. Others include senior Emma Koehler as Hermia, senior Nolan Kelly as Lysander, junior Brenna Smith as Helena, senior Sam Palazzo as Demetrius, senior Marty McKew as Theseus, freshman Eirann McClatchy as Hippolyta, junior Zach Uhazy as Egeus, freshman Izzy Koehler as Philostrate, senior Al Erney as Bottom, senior Paige Carter as Quince, junior Elizabeth Reiser as Flute, freshman Aidan Thomas as Snout, senior Anna Brubaker as Starveling, and junior Gracie Walker as Snug. The fairies will be played by juniors Sarah Cloud and Shannon Lynch, sophomores Gracie Bressoud, Kenzi Gelo, Zoe Lamaze, Mary Pulsinelli, and Olivia Ray, and freshmen Chiara Baker, Aidan DeGraw, Hayley Douridas, Kate Monnin and Riley Neville.

Tickets are $10 for adults and $5 for students and seniors. For ticket reservations please contact Gina DeMarco at gdemarco@cdeducation.org.

St. Joseph Cathedral
Lessons and Carols

Sunday, Dec. 11, 3 p.m.
The Cathedral Choir and Cathedral Brass mark the season with their annual presentation of lessons and carols, including works by Longlais, Verdi, and Mathias. The audience also will have the opportunity to join the choir, brass, and organs in singing the traditional carols of the season. Admission is a suggested donation of $10 at the door.
Local agencies have gift ideas for those most in need this Christmas

People need your help. They need the basics: food, clothing, and household items. Without your help, many children will go without Christmas gifts this year. Several diocesan organizations offer opportunities to provide that assistance.

Here is a list of some of them:

**Catholic Social Services (CSS)**

197 E. Gay St., Columbus 43215. Phone (614) 221-5891. Website www.colscss.org.

Catholic Social Services strengthens families, guides individuals toward economic stability, provides food, and serves as the extended family for seniors. Its supportive services branch (Attention: Debbie Hilliard) needs gift certificates for $25 each from either Kroger or Walmart for HOME Choice clients who have transitioned into the community. Its counseling and Pathways to Hope office (Attention: Jenni Fears-Volley) needs gift cards to a grocery store, Walmart, or Target. Its Our Lady of Guadalupe Center on Columbus’ west side (Attention: Alma Santos), a food pantry serving mostly Hispanic families, is asking for sugar, salt, dry spices, all-purpose flour, evaporated milk, and condensed milk.

**CSS Portsmouth Office**

2311 Stockham Lane, Portsmouth 45662. Phone (740) 353-3185. Attention: Donna Montavon.

The office is requesting winter coats in sizes 4T-XL, male and female; gloves and hats in child and adult sizes; boys and girls pants and jeans, sizes 8-16; peanut butter, jelly, and canned fruit for holiday food baskets; and Walmart gift cards.

**CSS Baskets of Love**

422 Main St., Suite 400, Zanesville 43702. Phone (740) 452-5057. Attention: Dave Desender. 1031 Brice St., Newark 43055. Phone: (740) 345-2565. Attention: Tania Gresham.

Catholic Social Services is working with area businesses and organizations to provide “baskets of love” to home-bound seniors.

People who would like to help are asked to place selected items in a small clothes basket or reusable canvas shopping bag, to be delivered by Tuesday, Dec. 20.

The baskets should include items such as paper towels, tissues, toilet paper, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, toiletries, sponges, laundry soap, fabric softener (small bottles), all-purpose cleaner, dusting cloths (Swiffer), dishwashing liquid, kitchen trash bags (13-gallon size), postage stamps, kitchen, bath, and hand towels, sugar-free candy, and large print word-find books.

Donations may be dropped off at the CSS Zanesville office (address listed above) from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays. For the Newark office, drop off donations between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. or call to make an appointment. Donations must be delivered by Friday, Dec. 9.

JOIN (Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs)

578 E. Main St., Columbus 43215. Phone: (614) 241-2530. Website: http://join.coldsio.org.

JOIN responds to people in need with emergency material assistance, serving more than 100 families each day with almost every problem imaginable, from birth to death. It always can use gas cards, food gift cards, gift cards for teenagers (from department stores such as Target and Meijer), bookstores, or stores selling music, games, and movies), basic hygiene items, cleaning supplies, and monetary donations.

**St. Francis Center**

108 W. Mill St., McArthur 45651. Phone: (740) 596-5820. Website: https://www.facebook.com/StFrancisOutreachCenter.

The center serves as a Catholic presence in the southeastern part of the Diocese of Columbus, assisting impoverished families in meeting their most basic needs of food and clothing. Needed items include food pantry staples, new toys, clothing, and monetary donations. Volunteers are needed to help pack food and toys on Sunday, Dec. 11 and Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 13 and 14. Call for details.

**St. Stephen’s Community House**

1500 E. 17th Ave., Columbus 43219. Phone: (614) 294-6347. Website: www.svfc.org.

St. Stephen’s Community House is a hub for advancing self-sufficiency in the community. It is committed to assisting residents in the Linden neighborhood of Columbus in building community and individual well-being. It provides food, clothing, housing, and spiritual support to people in need. It operates in parishes across the diocese and sponsors a daily lunch line at St. Lawrence Haven in Columbus, a clothing center in Columbus, a shelter in Newark, thrift stores, and other ministries. Needed items include food, clothing, especially men’s hats, gloves, socks, underwear, coats for adults and children, and Christmas gifts for families, which may be sent to the St. Vincent de Paul Clothing Center at 578 E. Main St. in Columbus (phone 614-241-2569). In addition, monetary donations for your parish St. Vincent de Paul conference are always helpful, especially during the holiday season.

**Catholic Charities Christmas Collection**

This annual collection allows the diocese to meet a variety of basic needs directly and through diocesan agencies and organizations, including those listed above. You can help share in this important work by generously supporting the Catholic Charities collection this year. Look for the envelope in your parish envelope packet for December.

**Diocesan Office for Social Concerns**

197 E. Gay St., Columbus 43215. Phone: (614) 221-5891. Website: http://socialconcerns.coldsio.org or socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org.

The Office for Social Concerns serves as the central diocesan resource for social justice education and advocacy. Learn more about Catholic teachings on important social issues and act on your faith to make a difference in your community and around the world.

**Catholic Relief Services**

Catholic Relief Services is the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States. Through the CRS Fair Trade crafts, coffee, and chocolate program (www.crsfairtrade.org), you can help struggling artisans and farmers around the world earn fair wages. The program offers great gift ideas, through a catalog which includes nearly 1,500 CRS projects that transform people and communities overseas for the long term. Your gift saves lives, and tells your loved one how much you care. More details are available at http://gifts.crs.org.
An evening of prayer and celebration of the diaconate community took place on Friday, Nov. 18 with Bishop Frederick Campbell

The honorees included (from left): Deacon Frank Iannarino, Director, Office of the Diaconate; Deacon Richard Baumann, celebrating 40 years of diaconal ministry, with his wife, Kay; Deacon Dwight Larcomb, celebrating 30 years of diaconal ministry; Bishop Campbell; Deacon Hector Raymond, celebrating 10 years, with his wife, Mary-Loyd; and Deacon Don Poirier of Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church, where the celebration occurred.

Unable to attend were 40-year honoree Deacon Frank Pannicia and his wife, Sandy, who live in Florida, and 25-year honoree Deacon Al Cain and his wife, Linda.

The evening also recognized and honored the 12 deacons who were ordained on Saturday, Nov. 26 at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral.

Advent Morning of Reflections
Saturday, December 10, 2016 • 9 a.m. – Noon
“HERE I AM”
Facilitated by: Sr. Louis Mary Passeri

God is always near us waiting to be found.
We are called to deepen our awareness of God’s presence and desire to share our lives more intimately.
The day will consist of prayer, presentation, silence and opportunity to share our reflections.

The cost is $20.00 per person and includes continental breakfast. Payment is due upon registration.
Please register via the following methods:
• by emailing to: info@stspeterandpaulretreatcenter.org
• by calling at: 740.928.4246
• make checks payable to: Diocese of Columbus - Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center

Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center
2734 Seminary Road SE, Newark, Ohio 43056

We thank you Deacon Ron Onslow for answering God’s Call to the Diaconate

May God bless you and keep you today and always as you begin to do His work here in the Diocese of Columbus and Tuscarawas

From Dover St. Joseph Church