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**DELAWARE ST. MARY: AN ACTIVE
CHURCH IN A GROWING AREA**

The Editor's Notebook

What's in your backpack?

By David Garick, Editor

School soon will be back in session. Our Catholic schools are geared up to receive the influx of students for a new school year. Stores are full of supplies that students will need as they head into a new grade with new teachers, subjects, and challenges. There were some big crowds at stores last weekend as parents loaded up on clothes and school supplies during the weekend sales tax holiday the state declared for back-to-school shopping.

Buying school supplies is exciting for students. I always enjoyed getting new supplies for the coming year. A lot of that is still the same today, although today's students have a lot of supplies we never had, or even dreamed of, back when I was in school. Pocket calculators? When I was in school, that was called a pencil. And it better have a good eraser. Smart phone? The only phones we had were not smart at all, just big and clunky and only one for the whole family, and it was firmly attached to the kitchen wall. Pad computer? Not even Flash Gordon carried something like that. And to carry all of these things, students need the ubiquitous backpack. When I was a student, I had a backpack. But that was part of my Boy Scout equipment for camping and hiking. I would never have thought of taking it to school. We carried our books to and from school under our arm. Carrying them in some kind of bag would have been "uncool." But kids today have a lot more stuff to carry back and forth than we did, so I guess a backpack makes a lot of sense.

In addition to the brightly colored physical backpacks our students carry, they also have a spiritual backpack. For

that matter, all of us have one. It carries the tools we need to cope with the pressures of everyday life. Those tools center on the sacraments of the church. One of the first things students and the rest of us can do is lighten our spiritual backpacks of the excess baggage we keep there. Much of what weighs us down is tied to sin. Through Confession, we lighten the load and can focus on the work that lies ahead.

Of course, one of the most important tools in our backpack is the Eucharist. Regular reception of Communion unites us with Christ, and He strengthens us and leads us forward. It's great to have the Rosary tucked away in your spiritual backpack. Meditating on the holy mysteries with our Blessed Mother brings a sense of peace and order that helps us to keep our life in perspective.

And, of course, prayer is the ultimate utility tool in our spiritual backpack. When King Solomon was feeling overwhelmed with the task of taking over the rule of his father, David, the Lord came to him and said, "Ask me for something and I will give it to you." Solomon asked for wisdom. God was pleased and Solomon became a great ruler. We, too, can use prayer to ask God for wisdom in dealing with the challenges that face us. As St. Paul instructs us, "Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil."

In school and in life, keep that backpack handy.



Pope creates commission to study women deacons

Pope Francis has instituted a new commission for the study of women deacons, the Vatican announced on Tuesday, Aug. 2.

The decision comes several months after a papal audience with a group of religious sisters, during which the pope expressed his willingness to consider forming a commission to study women deacons and their role in the early Church.

According to the Aug. 2 press release, the pope came to the decision after a period of "intense prayer and mature reflection."

The new commission will be headed by the secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Archbishop Luis Francisco Ladaria Ferrer, who will lead a group of 12 members, half of whom are women.

Lay and religious women have been chosen for the commission, including Sister Mary Melone, SFA, director of the Antonianum university; professor Phyllis Zagano of Hofstra University in Hempstead, New York; and Marianne Schlosser, professor of spiritual theology at the University of Vienna and a member of the International Theological Commission.

Also included in the list is Father Robert Dodaro, OSA, president of the Augustinianum University in Rome.

The Vatican statement mentioned a May 12 papal audience with members of the International Union of Superiors General, during which the question

of women deacons was raised at a question-and-answer session.

At the audience, one sister asked why the Church does not include women in the permanent diaconate. She had referred to an ancient tradition in the Church in which there were female deacons (albeit not-ordained), and suggested that a commission be established to study the possibility.

Reports quickly circulated following the event that Pope Francis was paving the way for the ordination of women deacons and potentially even women priests. The Holy See's press office director, Father Federico Lombardi, SJ, clarified in a May 13 statement that the pope had no such intention.

During an in-flight press conference after his trip to Armenia on June 26, the pope spoke of cases in the early Church where women were given roles similar to that of deacons. For instance, women would be employed to baptize other women for the sake of modesty, since, at that time, the practice involved full immersion.

The subject of women deacons previously has been studied by the Church, including in a 2002 document from the International Theological Commission, an advisory body to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Pope Francis also told journalists during the June 26 press briefing that there was no change in the works to allow for ordination of women to the diaconate.



Front Page photo:
Delaware St. Mary Church was dedicated in 1888. Its two Gothic towers make it a highly visible landmark along U.S. 36 in the city's downtown.

CT photo by Tim Puet



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Why Middle East Christians feel betrayed by the West

(CNA/EWTN) -- Religious freedom is for non-Muslims in the Middle East, too, a Syrian Catholic leader said in a strong warning about the future of the region's Christians and about the "Machiavellian" nature of Western foreign policy.

"My friends, the very existence of Eastern churches, those churches that are from the apostolic time, is at stake. They are in danger," Patriarch Ignatius Youssef III Younan of the Syriac Catholic Church of Antioch said on Tuesday, Aug. 2.

Christian leaders try to encourage their flock to stay in their home nations. "But believe me, this is not easy," the patriarch said. "Because the Christians in Syria, they feel abandoned, even betrayed by the so-called powerful nations, most particularly in the West."

Patriarch Younan's comments were included in a talk in Toronto to the Supreme Convention of the Knights of Columbus.

He had strong words concerning Western foreign policy. "We have to stand up to apply the principle of religious freedom. You can't be the best ally with regimes that discriminate and do not grant religious freedom to non-Muslims," he said.

"We have to say it with a clear voice: It is not honest and sincere to be the ally of such regimes and just say 'we have an annual report about religious freedom,'" he said, in an apparent reference to the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom.

He called for enforcement of the U.N. Universal Declaration on Human Rights and action from Western nations, the Russian Federation, China, Brazil, and the United Nations. "What we need most is to stand up and defend our religious freedom and our civil rights," he said.

The patriarch is based in Lebanon, but oversees many of the



Iraqi Christian refugees holds banners during a prayer service in Fuheis, Jordan, to remember the first large exodus of Iraqi Christians targeted by the Islamic State group.

CNS photo/Nader Daoud

Catholic faithful in Syria. He recounted Middle East Christians' past warnings to the West to be careful in Syrian intervention and to reject talk of the "Arab Spring."

"The situation in Syria is very complex," he said.

The patriarch cited the web of religious, racial, and linguistic minorities in that nation. He warned of the risk of exporting Western-style democracy into regions where it never has been exercised and where separation of religion from the state has not taken place.

If Islam is the religion of a nation, he said, that means "you're going to discriminate against non-Muslims, for whatever confession they are."

Given that religious freedom in the Middle East is linked to relations with the Islamic religion, he said, contemporary Middle East Christians "do not understand how we can close our eyes to political parties based on Islam."

He cited the motto of the Muslim Brotherhood: "Allah is our objective, the Prophet

is our leader. The Koran is our law. Jihad is our way and dying for God is our ultimate desire."

Patriarch Younan warned that some methods of teaching Islam to children lack exegesis and are a danger, leading to situations such as the

murder of the French priest Father Jacques Hamel.

"In the Koran, we have verses that inspire tolerance, this is true, but also we have verses that inspire violence," the patriarch said. "And if you tell those kids that all those verses are coming from God,

literally the words of God ... you will be able to change that young man into a beast."

The general situation of Iraqi and Syrian Christians was also a focus of the patriarch's remarks. He spoke of the kidnappings and killings of civilians and the atrocities committed by the Islamic State group and the warring parties in Syria. He recounted the destruction of churches and monasteries in Iraq and Syria and the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Iraqi and Syrian Christians.

Unless Christians are protected, he warned, Christianity soon will die in Syria, Iraq, and even Lebanon. He said it would be comparable to Turkey, where there are few Christians despite its history of ecumenical councils and Fathers of the Church.

The Knights of Columbus have raised more than \$11 million for Christian refugees since 2014. The Catholic fraternal organization has helped provide food supplies, medical clinics, infrastructure, and housing. It also has supported Syriac Catholic priests exiled from Mosul.

Local discussion of Christians in the Holy Land

A Mass, dinner, and program hosted by Cradling Christianity on Tuesday, Sept. 6 will feature a firsthand discussion of the difficulties faced by Christians in the Holy Land. The event will take place at Columbus St. Agatha Church, 1860 Northam Road. Attendees will hear from Father Peter Vasko, president of the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land, and from Raymond Arroyo, news director and anchor of the Eternal Word Television Network.

Cradling Christianity was founded 11 years ago by a local group of pilgrims who felt moved by the plight of the Christian community in the Middle East. Under pressure from both sides in the ongoing struggles in that region, the Christian population that once totaled 20 percent of the Holy Land has plummeted to barely two percent of the population in the very place where Christianity originated. In the past decade, Cradling Christianity has raised more than three-quarters of a million dollars in the Columbus area to aid Holy Land Christians. The organization works with the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land to build public support for the Holy Land's Christian community and to provide housing, employment, and educational opportunities to stem the tide of Christians being forced to leave their homeland.

For more information on the event and to become sponsors or make reservations, contact Charles Mers at cmers@columbus.rr.com or call (614) 890-6996

PRACTICAL STEWARDSHIP

By Rick Jeric

Social

Have you kept the past at a good distance behind you for the past two weeks? We are human, and it is nearly impossible to forget the past, especially extremes that stand out in our minds and memories. If they had a huge effect or impact, we will not soon forget. I have vivid memories of some of the happiest, most joyful times of my life. They include my parents and siblings, my good friends, and now my wife and children. Unfortunately, no matter how hard I try to forget, I also have vivid memories of my greatest sins and failures. The great equalizer of love, forgiveness, and mercy is the great experience of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. I find such tremendous joy in the vivid memories of the Confession experience, directly and closely intertwined with the sinfulness. What a gift of God's mercy we have! All we need to do is humbly and sincerely ask. It may seem strange to recall an experience of Confession, but what better experience is there than the loving embrace of the merciful Father, much as in the parable of the prodigal son. Let us love and forgive one another unconditionally in this Year of Mercy.

We are human beings, created out of pure love, and made in the image and likeness of God. How dare we criticize, hate, mock, or hurt one another? I also thought that we were created as social beings. Looking at all the violence across the United States this summer causes us to wonder and ponder. What are we doing to ourselves? What is the real value of violent protests? Is the message what really counts? It seems that the only way – or the quickest way – to get attention these days is to perform as violently and vehemently as possible while the television cameras are on. Is this the best way to get things done or to accomplish our goals? Should we seek dialogue and talk, or should we go immediately to the bombs and shootings? What do protesters hope to accomplish? And I continue to wonder what the real purpose is for the national conventions of the Democratic and Republican parties. Is it to nominate a candidate for president of the United States, or is it to entertain all the groups who seek an opportunity to have their voices heard, and to have their protests seen on a media that needs to fill news time on a 24/7 basis? As I write this column, I am enjoying lunch at a local establishment on a beautiful summer day. I look outside and nearly everyone is staring at their cell phones as they walk. To the left of me, out the window and on the patio, are four people of various ages waiting to order lunch. It is amazing to see all four of them with their heads down, looking intently at their cell phones, with thumbs and fingers moving feverishly over the screen. How social are we? How social should we be? How socially numb have we become? Maybe our hearts have grown cold from the lack of human touch and interaction. Yes, we are and must be social beings, not social media beings.

Our practical challenge for these next two weeks is to make a loving and social difference to our beings. Our beings are our spouses and families, and everyone with whom we come into contact. Set the phone aside and greet everyone with a look in the eye and a verbal greeting. Dare I suggest leaving the phone at home for a day or turning it off for a day? We may just come back into contact with the entity that means the most – the human person.

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



Stewardship Employment Ministry

Stewardship Employment Ministry (SEM) has been providing a faith-based solution to guiding job seekers through the hiring process for more than eight years and is getting ready to expand its efforts.

SEM was founded in 2008 at Westerville St. Paul Church by parishioner Thomas Nann. It aims to provide valuable resources to the unemployed and the underemployed through workshops, webinars, and one-on-one training in resume creation and interviewing techniques.

Program participants attend weekly educational sessions at St. Paul Church. Nann said the sessions continue to be modified to make sure they provide current information, with the help of 13 companies and organizations which collaborate with the ministry. He said SEM has helped 962 people become employed in the last eight years, with the likelihood that the number is larger, based on attendance at the job fairs the ministry conducted between 2008 and 2013. SEM's limited finances have prevented any more of these events from taking place.

A grant from The Catholic Foundation which the ministry received through St. Paul Church is allowing it to step up its efforts. Nann said he has talked with parishes in the Northland Deanery in hopes of expanding to that area, and has more

than 10,000 brochures ready to distribute to the deanery's churches.

"We are undergoing a complete overhaul of our website and we are nearing a completion date. We will be able to become a bit more interactive via cell phone technology, and have means for job postings, as we previously had," he said.

SEM also is sponsoring a golf outing on Monday, Sept. 19 at the Clover Valley Golf Club, 8644 Johnstown-Alexandria Road, Johnstown. The cost is \$80 per person, with discounts available for sponsorships with foursomes. More information is available from Frank Fullin at frank.fullin@gmail.com

"We are very excited to branch back out again to other parishes and maintain our Christian duty of serving God in this endeavor," Nann said. "Unemployment is and has always been a problem. We have never had a zero unemployment rate. We all know someone who is either unemployed or underemployed.

"Our means of support is still the charitable donations from those whom we have helped, and from outside interested parties. With these donations, we are able to provide our services at no cost at all. We are not aware of any other service in this realm that can say that. This has always been the practice of SEM, and we never want that to change."

Novena, Mass Changes

A monthly novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help and a monthly Mass in the Tagalog language for the Filipino community of central Ohio, which had been taking place at Columbus Holy Cross Church, have been moved to Columbus St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon Woods Blvd., because of the transfer of Father Ramon Owera, CFIC, to St. Elizabeth as administrator.

The novena will be at 7 p.m. on the first

Wednesday of each month, followed by Mass. The Filipino Mass will be at 7:30 p.m. on the first Saturday. St. Elizabeth also will become the site for the annual Filipino Simbang Gabi celebration on the nine days leading to Christmas Eve.

Holy Cross, 205 S. 5th St., will remain as the site for a Eucharistic vigil from 7:30-11:30 p.m. on the first Friday of each month, beginning with Mass and concluding with Benediction.

Holy Cross Church

Secretary/Church Administrator

Holy Cross Parish is seeking an organized, friendly, computer skilled (Microsoft Word & Excel), individual to assist the Pastor with office responsibilities and church-related business, including, but not limited to, mailings, sacramental matters related to records, answering the phone and other clerical duties. This part-time position is 12 – 16 hours per week and requires flexibility that includes the ability to work a few Sundays to greet and register new parishioners.

Job offer is contingent on the successful passing of the mandatory background screening and completion of the VIRTUS "Protecting God's Children" course. Please forward a cover letter, resume, and references by August 31, 2016 to:

Holy Cross Church, 204 S. Fifth St., Columbus, Ohio 43215

The Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be celebrated this year on Monday, Aug. 15. The feast is usually a holy day of obligation in the United States, but in 1991, the nation's bishops permitted an exemption from the obligation on years when Aug. 15 is on a Saturday or a Monday. This means Catholics are not required to attend Mass on that date this year.

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150 students, adults take part in Gospel Road

The 2016 Gospel Road service camp sponsored by the diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry took place in Columbus and Reynoldsburg from Sunday to Thursday, July 10 to 14, with 150 high school students and adult leaders taking part, serving at 44 sites in Columbus, Whitehall, Reynoldsburg, and Gahanna. They stayed at Columbus Holy Spirit and Reynoldsburg St. Pius X churches. Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School and three local YMCA facilities generously opened their facilities for daily showers.

The young people served at 44 sites, mostly performing home repairs, painting, yardwork, and general cleaning for private homeowners who otherwise could not afford to pay for this kind of work. The youths also provided volunteer service work for community agencies such as Habitat for Humanity, a home for elderly veterans, and city parks. At the closing assembly on the final day of service, Whitehall

Mayor Kim Maggard addressed the group and expressed her abundant gratitude for the way its members made a difference for many of the community's elderly citizens. She said the young people showed their virtues as followers of Christ through their living example of his love.

One resident wrote in a thank-you note, "We feel privileged to have had these great young people help us by building a much-needed railing along our steps." Another homeowner said "I can't believe the difference that your work has made in my house! God bless you all!" The youths in turn were deeply moved by their experiences. Many of them "adopted" new grandparents for the week, taking the opportunity to sit and talk with the people they served and taking group pictures to share with their families and friends. Despite several days of oppressive heat, the teens worked diligently to finish every job. One crew even came back the day after Gospel Road ended to finish

laying a vinyl floor.

Hard work wasn't the only item on the agenda. Each day began and ended with prayer and worship. The theme for 2016 was "Care for Our Common Home," and daily prayer included scripture and readings from Pope Francis and his encyclical *Laudato Si'*. The young people were reminded daily that the Pope Francis tells us the poor are the people most severely affected by climate change. On one evening, the group participated in Eucharistic Adoration; on another, the Sacrament of Reconciliation was offered, and on the final evening, Father Bill Arnold celebrated Mass at Holy Spirit. To beat the heat, there was a swim party on Monday night at the Pickerington pool. Another evening was devoted to making crafts and packing meals for the poor and the homeless.

Gospel Road was planned and directed by a group of youth ministers from several parishes, along with several other adult volunteers. The food was prepared and served by a large group of Holy Spirit parishioners, directed by Dan Rath. Dan's wife, Kathie, was Gospel Road director, with assistance from St. Pius X youth ministry coordinator Judie Bryant and several others. The Gospel Road planning team is looking for a site for 2017.



Fear of confession; Parish territorial requirements



QUESTION & ANSWER

by: FATHER KENNETH DOYLE
Catholic News Service

Q. I have always had a great fear of confession. Once I got in there, I would be so scared that I would just say the first thing I could think of, in order to get it over with. As a result, I have never really made a good confession in my entire life.

I am now 70 years old. I have asked God to forgive me, but I wonder if that's enough. Our parish is small; the priest knows everyone and that is part of the problem. But don't tell me to go to another church for confession, because that wouldn't help. I would still just clam up.

Can Jesus forgive me for this? I do try to be a good person and a good Catholic. (Des Moines, Iowa)

A. In the words of the Vatican's Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, the sacrament of penance "requires each penitent to confess to a priest all mortal sins ... after a diligent examination of conscience." The church's *Code of Canon Law* indicates that this integral confession of sins by number and kind constitutes "the only ordinary means by which a member of the faithful conscious of grave sin is reconciled with God and the church" (Canon 960).

But quickly, that same canon goes on to allow that "physical or moral impossibility" can excuse one from confession of this type. In their pastoral wisdom, confessors typically have applied this to someone with a very scrupulous conscience, for whom a detailed and comprehensive listing of sins would be so troubling as to be practically impossible.

I can see your own situation as being similar: The deep and immediate anxiety that you experience upon entering the confessional might allow a priest to dispense you from what is known as the "integrity of confession."

Why not visit with a priest you know and explain your situation? He might decide that it would be sufficient for you to indicate in a general way your sorrow for any sins and then receive absolution.

Yes, I understand that a certain sense of guilt and shame for sin is a normal and healthy part of penance, but the experience is meant fundamentally to be one in which the penitent can rejoice in the Lord's presence and relax in the assurance of his mercy.

The fact that this has not been so for you in the past tells me that a different approach is warranted, and the church's compassionate guidelines envision this.

Q. I am a regular reader of your column, and I have seen you recommend that people attend Mass at a different parish if some conflict or issue makes them feel uncomfortable at their local church. I wonder if you are aware of how hard it can be to do this and still have access to the church's "services."

Some dioceses are set up with rigid territorial boundaries and require you to join a certain parish based on your address. You aren't permitted to join another one without the permission of the pastor of your territorial parish.

If he won't grant permission – which does occur – and you don't support/attend your mandated parish, you are a "man without a country" when it comes to permission notes to be godparents or sponsors, to get married or have a child baptized, attend a Catholic school, even to arrange a funeral, etc.

My family has been caught in this loop, and moving is not a viable option. Any recommendations? (City of origin withheld)

A. Canonically, parishes are set up territorially (Canon 518). There is no canonical obligation to register formally in a particular parish, although this is helpful to a parish administratively and to a parishioner seeking needed permissions. Without doing a single additional thing, you automatically belong to the parish where you live.

You are, of course, free to go to Mass wherever you want. Flexibility on this is a growing phenomenon in our nation of ever-increasing mobility. A Notre Dame study in the 1980s showed that 15 percent of American Catholics regularly attended Mass at a church other than their neighborhood parish. That number has almost certainly grown since then.

It seems reasonable for Catholics to belong to a parish where they enjoy the liturgy, like the priest, and feel comfortable with the parish community. Although I also see the wisdom of "belonging where you live"; human nature being what it is, there's a greater chance you will be involved in a parish's programs and activities if you live nearby.

Your territorial pastor has certain jurisdiction over faith and sacramental life; a Catholic marriage, for example, must take place in the territorial parish of one of the Catholic parties or with that pastor's permission (Canons 1110 and 1111.1).

Theoretically, whether you can join a different parish is at the discretion of the local bishop, but very few are strict about this. In general, bishops (and pastors) are happy and grateful that someone wants to join any parish. All you need to do is find a pastor willing to accept you, and I can guarantee you that there will be plenty.

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

Youth Behavior Workshop

The diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry is sponsoring workshops with award-winning author and speaker Roy Petitfils on the topic "Happy, Holy, Healthy: Helping Our Teens Find Balance."

There will be separate workshops for parents from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 11 and for parish leaders from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, Sept. 12 at the New Albany Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road. The Sunday workshop is free. There is a \$15 fee for the Monday workshop, which includes lunch and has a registration deadline of Sunday, Aug. 28.

If you work with teenagers, you undoubtedly have noticed higher levels of destruction and anxiety and more kinds of destructive behavior. You've probably also noticed it's getting more difficult for them to keep Christ at the center of their lives. This workshop will provide information, tools, resources, and inspiration for helping teens not only survive, but thrive in the midst of their difficult adolescent years.

Petitfils is a licensed counselor at Pax Renewal Center in Lafayette, Louisiana, specializing in work with teens and young adults. He studied ministry and spirituality at The Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas and holds a master's degree in mental health counseling from the University of Louisiana-Lafayette. He has worked with youth and young adults for more than 20 years as a minister, teacher, school administrator, school counselor, and counselor in private practice.

Bethesda Remembrance Program

The Bethesda Healing Ministry will sponsor an afternoon of prayerful remembrance and intercession from 1 to 4 p.m. Friday, Sept. 16 in the Jessing Center of the Pontifical College Josephinum, 7625 N. High St., Columbus.

The event is for anyone directly or indirectly impacted by abortion. It will include a Mass, personal testimonies from people affected by abortion, intercessory prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, recital of the rosary, and an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. A free-will offering will be taken.

Bethesda Healing Ministry is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt organization dedicated to providing hospitality and healing for anyone dealing with the effects of an abortion.

For more information, call Kathy Conway at (614) 309-7958 or Judy Schlueter at (614) 537-6452 or email kconway@bethesdahealing.org or jschlueter@bethesdahealing.org.

Year of Mercy Speaker Series

The Year of Mercy speaker series at Columbus St. Mary Magdalene Church, 473 S. Roys Ave., will continue at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 16, with a talk by Christine Money, executive director of Kindway, an offender re-entry program that works.

The title of the talk in the church basement will be "Uniting People, Restoring Hope, Honoring Christ." Pretzels, beer, chips, and soda will be available.

Brendan Kopf, Scholarship Winner

Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School graduate Brendan Kopf has been awarded a Glenna R. Joyce Scholarship to attend the University of Notre Dame as a member of the Class of 2020. He plans to major in mechanical engineering and will explore additional opportunities in sustainable energy or a related field.

Joyce scholarships to Notre Dame or The Ohio State University are awarded to seniors graduating from schools in Franklin County and bordering counties. They cover all standard expenses for four years at either institution, including tuition, room and board, mandatory fees, books, transportation, and incidental expenses. They have been awarded since 1961.

Kopf maintained a 4.18 grade-point average and was a 2016 National Merit Scholarship finalist, National Honor Society member, Advanced Placement scholar with distinction, and Presidential Scholar nominee. He achieved a perfect ACT score at the end of his sophomore year and earned *summa cum laude* and *magna cum laude*



designations on the National Latin Examination. He also was a member of the Engineering Club for three years and received a Perfect Score Award in his senior year.

He was a member of the St. Charles junior varsity soccer team for two years and was on the rowing team, which is a club sport at the school, for two years, earning the Ohio High School Athletic Association's 2016 Archie Griffin Sportsmanship Award for his efforts to establish rowing as a varsity sport. He is also an active scuba diver with many diving certifications.

He worked as a summer intern at Ohio State's Byrd Polar Research Center, was a student Latin and math tutor, was a volunteer for the My Brother's Keeper service group, and was awarded the Excellence in Character Award in 2016 for his efforts. He volunteered at Habitat for Humanity in Delaware and participated in several other activities. He serves as an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist at Sunbury St. John Neumann Church.

Silent Retreat for Men

The Catholic Laymen's Retreat League will sponsor its annual fall silent retreat for men from Friday to Sunday, Sept. 9 to 11, at St Therese's Retreat Center, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus.

Father Stephen Hayes, OP, will lead the retreat. Its topic will be "Taking up the Cross: Becoming Modern Crusaders

for the New Jerusalem of Christ."

The cost for the weekend is \$130, including two nights' lodging and meals.

For information and registration go to: <http://www.retreatleague.org> or contact Charles Kielkopf at (614) 268-0175 or kielkopf.1@osu.edu.

CREMAINS AND RESPECT FOR THE HUMAN BODY

In the famous story of David and Goliath, Goliath boasts to the young David that after he kills him, he will give his flesh "to the birds of the sky and beasts of the field." He conveys his profound disdain for David by speaking this way, deprecating even his corpse. This offends our sensibility that dead bodies should not be desecrated, but instead should be respectfully buried. Proper disposition and care of another's body also manifests our Christian faith in the resurrection of that body on the Last Day. Over time, this has evolved into a deeper understanding about the handling of corpses, including regulations surrounding cremation.

For Catholics, cremation is considered an acceptable form of handling the human body after death, although as noted in the *Order of Christian Funerals*, cremation "does not enjoy the same value as burial of the body. ... The Church clearly prefers and urges that the body of the deceased be present for the funeral rites, since the presence of the human body better expresses the values which the Church affirms in its rites."

Moreover, cremation can lead to problematic practices, which Bishop (now Cardinal) Raymond Burke referenced in a pastoral letter to the faithful in the Diocese of La Crosse, Wisconsin, in the year 2000:

"With the growing practice of cremation, there has also developed a certain lack of care for the cremated remains of the dead. Funeral directors who have been asked to store the cremated remains report that those remains often are left unclaimed by family or friends. Those charged with the arrangements for the funeral rites of the deceased should see that the cremated remains are interred or entombed at the earliest possible time. ... It is not permitted to scatter cremated remains over a favorite place, and it is not permitted to keep cremated remains in one's home or place other than a cemetery. ... The cremated remains of one deceased person may not be mixed with the cremated remains of another person. It is not permitted to divide the cremated remains and inter or entomb them in more than one place."

These clearly articulated concerns remind us of our obligation to respect the remains of the dead, even in their ashen state. By becoming lax in our approach to handling cremains, we easily can betray the respect that is owed.

A story comes to mind involving a friend of mine who works as a pilot. He was asked to take up a pas-



MAKING SENSE
Out of Bioethics
Father Tad Pacholczyk

senger in a small plane for the "final repose of ashes" into the ocean. As they were taking off, he told the passenger, "Just be sure that you don't ever open that urn! It needs to be thrown overboard when I open the hatch window and give you the signal." The passenger, however, was determined to do it his way, and when the pilot opened the window, he popped off the top of the urn and tried to scatter the ashes at sea. Instead, the ashes were seized by the violent air currents and scattered throughout the internals of the airplane, among all the instrumentation and dials, and in the hair and clothing of the pilot and the passenger.

Another reason to bury cremains in the earth or inter them in a mausoleum, rather than scattering them abroad, is to establish a particular place to be able to visit and pray for the soul of that person in the physical presence of his or her mortal remains. The burial site serves as a point of reference and connection to the embodiment of that individual, rather than reducing him or her to a kind of vague and wispy nothingness.

Keeping Grandma's ashes on the fireplace mantle or up in the attic alongside the antique paintings is another problematic practice that easily can end up downplaying or denying her human dignity, tempting us to treat her mortal remains as just another item to be moved around among our various trinkets.

It can be helpful to encourage the family, and all who are involved with cremains, to think about ashes in a manner similar to how we'd think about a full body. Would we keep a casket and corpse at home for a few weeks? If not, then we shouldn't do the same with someone's ashes. Regrettably, many people are not thinking about cremains as the revered remnants of a fellow human being, but more as something to be disposed of whenever it's convenient for our schedule and budget. We don't approach full-body caskets that way because we recognize more clearly the duty to bury our beloved dead. The sacred memory of our departed family and friends, in sum, calls us to carefully attend to their remains with authentic and objective gestures of respect.

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

READ THE BIBLE

Bishop Watterson graduates, student earn Eagle Scout recognition

Two recent graduates and a current student of Columbus Bishop Watterson High School have earned the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest honor for a member of the Boy Scouts of America.

Andrew Condon, a member of the Watterson Class of 2016, built a portable wash house for the Pickaway County Sportsman Club. The 8-by-6-foot structure was built from scratch, with an eight-foot shingle roof, working plumbing, and a drain pit for water. The wash house will be used for hand washing and cleaning small objects. Condon coordinated volunteers who put in 203 hours on the project, including his own 40 hours.

Evan Jones, a returning Watterson senior,

led a project to build eight picnic tables for Columbus Immaculate Conception Church and School. He raised \$1,350 to purchase material for the tables, which will be used for a variety of church and school functions.

Another Class of 2016 member, David Szolosi, raised more than \$2,000 to purchase box fans for LifeCare Alliance's Beat the Heat box fan drive. He is shown with Maria Jones, development manager for LifeCare Alliance.

Photos courtesy Bishop Watterson High School



Andrew Condon



Evan Jones



David Szolosi and Maria Jones

Retreat for couples

The diocesan Office of Marriage and Family Life is sponsoring a retreat for married couples from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 27 at Columbus Immaculate Conception Church, 414 E. North Broadway.

The event will include a Mass celebrated by Bishop Frederick Campbell, reflections by the bishop, and presentations by Deacon James Keating on "Spousal Prayer: A Way to Marital Happiness."

Deacon Keating was ordained a deacon in the Diocese of Columbus and is now director of theological formation at the Institute for Priestly Formation at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska.

The cost is \$65/couple, which includes a light breakfast, lunch and a Spousal Prayer book. To register, visit <http://familylife.colsdioc.org> or call (614) 241-2560.



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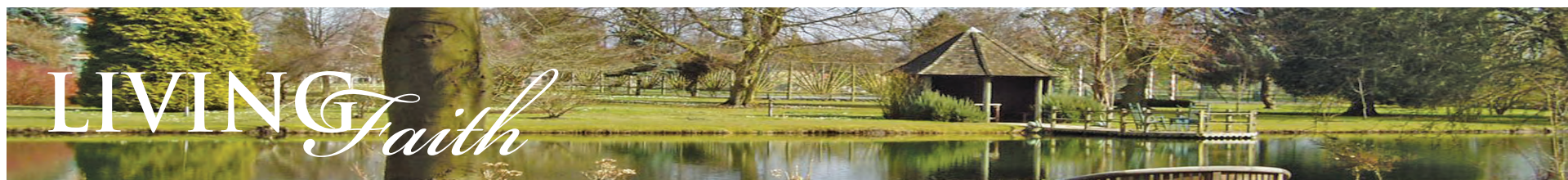
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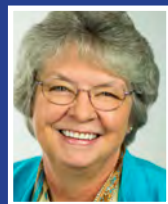
While preparing to write this column, I read through the Mass readings for the week as I often do. Actually, I had a topic in mind, but the Spirit had another tucked into Sunday's second reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. "Brothers and sisters:" it begins, "Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith."

It was the phrase "keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus" that let me know, clearly, this was the column. Here's the back story. Last month, I sent an email to a good friend in Boston asking for prayers. We'd met during our first gathering for members of the Shalem Institute's spiritual guidance program a couple of years ago and have stayed in touch ever since, continuing to share our journeys through letters, emails, and an occasional phone conversation.

When I wrote that email, life was feeling particularly overwhelming. Changes in family routine and a world where violence seemed more random and sinister than ever -- though of course it's always sinister and often random -- were getting the best of me. My "worry gene" had kicked in, and I couldn't quiet my mind or spirit for long. Falling asleep at night was difficult.

The email request for prayer wasn't about this sense of turmoil, but, as the Spirit would have it, my friend's answer was.

It turned out he was on a challenging retreat. With the change of venue from a lovely new retreat house on



GRACE IN THE MOMENT Mary van Balen

the ocean (the building had fallen behind schedule and wasn't ready) to a gloomy old institutional building that once housed a seminary, and the discovery that the retreat was for spiritual directors giving the Ignatian Exercises (which he was not), the first few days were tough going.

He felt distant and agitated. Then, as he wrote, "I heard Christ telling me: 'Look at me. Just at me.' Finally, last night, I was able to settle a bit in prayer."

I couldn't get those words out of my mind. "Look at me. Just at me." That night, I tried to do that, to keep my focus on Christ, not on events swirling around me and pulling me with them into dis-ease and anxiety. I fixed the gaze of my heart on Jesus. The one who loves. The one who holds. The one who is always "with."

It wasn't easy. Nagging fears and a sense that the world was somehow careening out of control kept calling for my attention. Not being sucked into the chaos required a conscious choice again and again to heed Christ's words: "Look at me."

Slowly, that choice to look at Love made a difference. The grip of events that were tempting me with illusions of the ability to control them loosened. Instead of

imagining control, I felt moved to surrender to trust instead. Not a trust that everything was going to go as I wanted it to or that evil didn't exist, but a trust that everything didn't depend on me and my constant attempts to figure it out. The chatter that filled my head started to fade, until finally there was blessed quiet. Churning and turmoil were being replaced by stillness and calm.

I slept well that night, and many nights after. Whenever I felt worry taking hold or fear seeping into my center, I repeated Christ's injunction, "Look at me. Just at me," and turned the eyes of my heart to Love.

So today, when I came across the admonition in Hebrews to embrace the wisdom of the "cloud of witnesses" and let go of burdens and sin that cling to us, to go forward and meet whatever is ahead while keeping our eyes on Jesus, I remembered my friend's words that have become a powerful prayer for me.

It's not magic. Sleep sometimes eludes. Deep openness is still a gift. I wake up knowing I have work to do. Transforming the world is everyone's work. But we don't do it ourselves.

We do it by letting Love fill us until we can bring that Holy Mystery to every place and every person we meet. Somehow, we face the evil and craziness and unknown with the steadiness of Love. I'm not sure how it works. It has something to do with being present. It has something to do with trust. It has everything to do with Love.

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Mary and the Father's Mercy: Reconciler of People and Nations

When I became a parent, I realized that the prodigal son couldn't hold a candle to the merciful father. There stands a man whose baby has gone away. All he wants is for his son to come back, the son he cuddled in infancy, rough-housed with in boyhood, trained in older years. Having once been a wild young man himself, he's not insulted by his son's need to "sow his seeds" and learn from his mistakes, but he's saddened to see his son go away.

Then one day, word arrives that his son, the one he thought he never would see again and who might have been dead, for all he knew, is coming back! Imagine his elation. It would be like finding out that your worst fears were bunk and your highest hopes coming true. His reaction, in light of this, is completely in line -- only the finest for the son who has been away from home.

This must be my glimpse into God's love for me. We can do some very terrible things, things that damage



Finding Faith in Everyday Life Sarah Reinhard

our souls and fracture our relationships with the people around us, and God is there at the end of the driveway, waiting for us.

At Betania, Mary gave herself the title "Reconciler of People and Nations." In my mind, that makes her The One at Before the End of the Driveway. She's the one who tells Father we're coming. She's the one who urges us on, encourages us to keep going, assures us of His anticipation for our arrival.

In a series of apparitions unlike any others, Mary ap-

peared 31 times between March 25, 1976 and Jan. 5, 1990 at Betania, Venezuela, identifiable as Our Lady of Lourdes, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Our Lady of Sorrows, and Our Lady of Grace.

Mary appeared to the visionary Maria Esperanza Bianchini for the first time on March 25, 1976, the Feast of the Annunciation. Mary's message identified this new title: "Daughter, here you have me with my hands enriched with graces and covered with splendors of light, to call all my children to conversion. This is the seed of glory I offer as Mary, Reconciler of People and Nations, for I come to reconcile all of you. Reconciliation is the inheritance of divine brotherhood of my divine Son!"

Mary appeared to Maria six times before the apparition of March 25, 1984, when 108 people witnessed the

DELAWARE ST. MARY OPENS DOORS TO COMMUNITY IN MANY WAYS



Top: Aerial view of Delaware St. Mary festival. Above (from left): Deacon Todd Tucky, parishioners Carolyn Ferroni, Diana Toth, Gina Stull, and Janet Conroy; Father Michael Watson, pastor; and parishioner Andy Kastle. Below: Church's main altar. Photos: St. Mary Church (top 2); Tim Puet, Catholic Times



BY TIM PUET
Reporter, Catholic Times

With its Gothic clock tower soaring 160 feet above street level, St. Mary Church is a landmark for anyone traveling through the city of Delaware, whether skirting the edge of downtown along U.S. 23 or going through the heart of the city on William Street (U.S. 36), the city's main east-west route, where the church has stood for about 130 years.

"Being in the center of downtown is a great asset because it gives us tremendous visibility," said Deacon Todd Tucky, a member of the parish who has served it as a deacon for the past year and was ordained in 2012. "That's especially true during our parish festival, when Henry Street adjacent to the church is blocked off and rides are placed there, and other activity takes place on the church lawn where everyone traveling along William Street can see it.

"The festival draws thousands of people each year on the third weekend in June, most of whom are not Catholics. This is one way we open our doors to the community. Another way is through the work of our St. Vincent de Paul Society, on its own and with other community groups."

Brian Wilson of the St. Vincent de Paul Society said his organization provided more than \$80,000 in financial aid, including food, clothing, medical, and dental assistance, to about 4,100 people last year. The society also works with parish organizations to assist other service agencies such as the local Common Ground Free Store, the Family Promise interfaith hospitality network, and the St. Francis Center in McArthur.

The history of St. Mary Church dates to 1835. Most of its early members were Irish and German immigrants. That heritage is represented on the prayer wall behind the church's main altar by statues of St. Patrick and St. Boniface, which stand on either side of a central statue of the Virgin Mary and the infant Jesus.

The first church building was erected in 1850, and an addition to it was built in 1865. A school was established in 1860. The school was the first in the Diocese of Columbus to be served by the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate, based in Joliet, Illinois. They were followed from 1905 to 1983 by the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity, based in Manitowoc, Wisconsin. The current church at 82 E. William St. was dedicated in 1888 and

has served the parish ever since. It was entered on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.

For many years, St. Mary was the only Catholic church in Delaware County. The county's population changed little from the 1840s through the end of World War II, then started growing slightly. For the next 30 years, it remained a largely rural county. Those rural roots are still particularly evident on the September day every year when the city of Delaware virtually shuts down for the Little Brown Jug harness race at the county fairgrounds just north of town.

By the 1970s, the county's location just north of Columbus and the availability of its farmland for housing resulted in rapid growth, which is only now starting to level off. Its population increased from about 43,000 in 1970 to about 193,000 today. St. Mary Church shared in that growth, with its number of registered families increasing from 276 in 1974 to 960 in 1976 to the current total of 2,200. That number would be considerably larger were it not for creation of new parishes in the Delaware County communities of Sunbury and Powell in the 1980s.

The church built in the 1880s has continued to serve the Delaware parish well, thanks to constant and ongoing maintenance and parishioners' respect for the building's beauty and tradition. Father Michael Watson has served as pastor for the past three years and has been gradually expanding the parish's footprint through acquisition of surrounding structures and land and reuse of buildings that are part of the site.

"Because of our downtown location, we want to turn the area around the church into more of a campus," Father Watson said. "We hope to obtain more space if and as it becomes available, with the general goal of providing more accommodations, more parking, and improved facilities, mostly through renovation of existing space rather than building new facilities."

Anyone driving or walking by the church property can see some of this work currently going on. When the *Catholic Times* visited the parish, machines were grading land where a house once stood, preparing the area for use as a playground for the parish school. At the same time, wallboard was being tossed out a third-floor window of a building adjacent to the church that serves as the location for some parish offices.

The third-floor space, which has been



Left: Delaware St. Mary Church students prepare to receive their first Communion.

Right: A scene from a Delaware St. Mary Parish School of Religion class. Photos courtesy St. Mary Church



used for storage, is being remodeled and will become living quarters for Father Watson, who currently lives in a recently acquired single-family house on the church property. Father Watson said tenants have been found for the house. An elevator will be added to the building the pastor is moving into, which will be returning to part of its original use, having served as the church's rectory for a number of years.

Another plot of recently acquired land has been turned into parking space. The church's former convent, now known as Kavanagh Hall in honor of former pastor Father Kevin Kavanagh, is used as meeting space by several parish organizations. A building next to it is now the site of the parish faith formation office.

Other recent renovation includes the installation of new front doors which include stained glass and replace doors which had a storefront-type appearance; addition of a patio in what had been an area overgrown with shrubs; repainting of the exterior trim work, which is being assisted by a \$30,000 grant from The Catholic Foundation and excess Bishop's Annual Appeal funds; and tuckpointing of the exterior brick facade as funds become available.

The parish also is replacing and updating its system for assisting people with hearing difficulties. The aerial on the system's transmitting unit has become detached and its receiver units are outdated.

Much of this work has been accomplished because of the financial stability resulting from a significant increase in returns from the parish festival. Net revenue for this year's festival was about \$90,000, compared with about \$5,000 three years ago, before Father Watson's arrival.

"The festival started in 1998 and had been a fairly small event, more like a parish picnic, with games and inflatables," Deacon Tucky said. "Father Watson had helped initiate the festival at Columbus St. Andrew Church, where he was pastor before coming here, and felt we could grow ours into a larger event, with rides, entertainment, food trucks, and a silent auction."

"Sponsorships have been the key to the festival's growth," Father Watson said. "We offer several levels of sponsorship ranging from \$250 to \$5,000, with incentives which grow for each level. The parishioners and the community really stepped up when I proposed expanding the festival. In particular, Christian Cottrill and Josh Monahan helped bring in the carnival rides and expand them to Henry Street, and Brian Stier also played a key role.

"People have a good time at the festival and it generates enormous goodwill. It also serves as an evangelization tool, bringing the Catholic Church in an everyday way to people who might not encounter it otherwise."

The parish's other principal fundraiser is its annual Harvest Ball dinner-dance and auction in the fall. The event's chairman, Andy Kastle, said it brings in about \$40,000 a year. "It's a great evening of fellowship and fun and provides a way to express gratitude to some of the many parishioners who deserve our thanks," he said.

Each year, the efforts of one or more parish members are highlighted by the ball committee. This year's honorees are longtime parishioners Mary Ford and Beverly

Catechism Uncorked gives adults an opportunity to talk about faith matters in a non-church setting. Photo/Delaware St. Mary Church

Reiner. "They constantly dedicate themselves to our parish and community and are great faith witnesses," Kastle said. This year's ball will be on Saturday, Oct. 22 in the Bridgewater Conference Center, 10561 Sawmill Parkway, Powell. Tickets are \$75 apiece, \$150 per couple, or \$685 for a table of 10. Sponsorships are available.

Other annual social events include a fashion show sponsored by the parish women's group in April and a Halfway to the Little Brown Jug "night at the races" in March, sponsored by the parish athletic association to raise funds for school sports programs. The parish's annual blessing of pets is another event which, like the festival, draws interest from all over the community. It takes place around Oct. 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. "It usually includes about 50 or 60 pets of all types, including dogs, cats, and some horses, since this is harness racing country," Father Watson said.

St. Mary School is getting set to welcome students on Wednesday, Aug. 24, for its 157th academic year. Gina Stull, who is in her third year as principal and has been on its faculty since starting as a substitute teacher 16 years ago, said she anticipates an enrollment of 330 students in kindergarten through eighth grade and 75 in programs for younger students. These include morning preschool twice a week for three- and four-year-olds, and half-day pre-kindergarten either three or five times a week.

"Our focus is on faith, family, and academic excellence," Stull said. "Our student-teacher ratio is 14-to-1 and we have a nice mixture of veteran and younger teachers. Classes are fully equipped with the latest devices including Smart boards, Juno sound systems, iPads, and laptop computers. State EdChoice expansion grants and Jon Peterson special-needs

See **CHURCH**, Page 12



CHURCH, *continued from Page 11*

scholarships are available to our students. We offer occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech therapy programs and have three intervention specialists, two intervention tutors, and a counselor.”

Spiritual activities include weekly Mass, the rosary every month, a Living Rosary in October, and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for classes on a rotating basis. “We have Living Stations of the Cross programs during Lent for the school and for the parish. Those are quite a production, with the students practicing two or three months for them,” Stull said. “We also have a special Christmas lunch where the entire school eats together at one time and the parents serve the children.”

The school’s main fundraiser is an annual fall magazine sale sponsored by the School-Parish Organization parent group. Other fundraising activities sponsored by the organization or by the SPiCE group for special-needs children include meat sales in the fall and spring and an apple pie sale in November. A spaghetti dinner to raise money for an annual eighth-grade trip to Washington is taking place from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. this Saturday, Aug. 20 at the school.

St. Mary School also offers a SACC (School-Age Child Care) program for elementary students and a Pre-K Kamp program for preschoolers during times of the day when school is not in session, as well as during the summer and on snow days, allowing children to be cared for at the school from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. every weekday, except for a two-week period in August when the school building is being prepared for the coming academic year. “We recognize the need of many parents for this type of program,” she said. “This gives them the chance to know their children are being given care they can trust in a well-supervised program.”

The Parish School of Religion for parish students attending public schools takes place on Sunday morning and afternoon and has about 410 students in kindergarten through eighth grade, said parish religious education director Diana Toth. Preschool students in both PSR and the parish school take part in the hands-on Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program. Toth said a highlight of the past school year’s PSR activities was the collection of more than 700 pairs of socks for the homeless by fifth-graders.

At most parishes with both a PSR and an elementary school, students from the

two groups have little chance to interact with each other, but St. Mary provides them with that opportunity through programs known as TAG (Tweens and God) for third- to fifth-graders and Summit for grades six and seven. Both groups meet on the first Saturday of the month in back-to-back sessions, with the younger group meeting first.

“The parish started this about seven or eight years ago because we recognized these students don’t get to mix a lot. We wanted them to grow in faith together in ways outside the classroom as they all prepare to be confirmed together when they get to eighth grade,” Button said. “TAG and Summit give them a chance to combine fun with age-appropriate service activities,” such as collecting canned food, writing military personnel, and putting together care packages for students facing long hospital stays.

St. Mary was one of the first parishes in the diocese to offer a Life Teen Mass for high-school students, which is on break for the summer but will resume in the fall on Sunday evenings. During the summer, Life Teen had a ministry group which met on Tuesdays for discussion or service activities. Again this fall, the parish youth ministry also is offering a young people’s version of the Alpha course, which is designed to explore the basics of Christianity in a deeper way.

“After 22 years in youth ministry, I have seen various techniques and ministries that have both worked and failed,” said parish youth minister Carolyn Ferroni. “What seems to be the strongest bond with teens is their love for the Mass and the opportunity to have real relationships. Our weekly teen Mass includes our Cross Connection music ministers, followed by youth ministers. We follow curriculum guidelines, then break it down through peer ministry and one-on-one time.”

Parish adult faith formation activities this year will include a return of the Alpha program, which attracted about 75 people last year; a Bible study program which Deacon Tucky said will highlight the book of Isaiah in the fall and an as-yet undetermined topic in the spring; and the Walking with Purpose Scripture study program for women. RCIA classes for the fall will begin Tuesday, Sept. 6. Deacon Tucky said that last year, about 20 people in the parish completed the RCIA process and became Catholics.

Maria Vonada, parish adult faith formation director, said the parish will resume its Theology on Tap program for young

adults (ages 21-35) and the Catechism Uncorked series for older adults on a monthly basis in the fall.

These discussion groups usually feature a speaker and give people a chance to ask questions about the church and its teachings in a restaurant or other non-church setting. The parish also has a Catholics Returning Home program for inactive Catholics who want to return to the church and are unsure of what to do about it.

Several of the programs for adults also will be offered in Spanish. The parish has a Spanish Mass at 5:30 p.m. on the last Sunday of each month. Its other weekend Masses are at 4:30 p.m. Saturday and 7:30, 9, and 10:45 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. Sunday. Eucharistic Adoration takes place from 6 to 11 p.m. each Monday.

Toth said the parish began a grief support group about two years ago. “It was started by Diane Beitel and Kathy Mills, who had recently lost spouses. Under their leadership, it has become a group which concentrates not so much on therapy, but on providing an upbeat spirit bringing hope and the joy of the Resurrection. They’ve made it more of a loving experience than a textbook therapy

activity,” she said.

Deacon Tucky is in charge of the parish’s military outreach and said it is working with the Ohio National Guard on a pilot program to serve Guard members and their families both before and after deployment and while the troops are on active duty, and to train other clergy to provide assistance to those families.

“The Guard has recognized the wide spectrum of ways that military service affects its personnel and their families, and has come to a greater realization of the need to reach out to all of them when they are hurting, with counseling and whatever other assistance is needed,” he said.

“Offering this service is another way in which St. Mary Church meets people where they are – the military, police, nurses, firefighters, business people, from low income to high income. There are many windows through which people can encounter Christ. We provide a lot of them and hope what we offer will lead to a positive response,” Deacon Tucky said.

For more information about Delaware St. Mary Church, call (740) 363-4641 or go to its website, www.delawarestmary.org.

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St. Thomas More Newman Center Selected for Prestigious Lilly Endowment Grant

By Austin M. Schafer

The Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center, the Catholic campus ministry for The Ohio State University, has received a three-year grant totaling \$99,000 through the Lilly Endowment's Campus Ministry Theological Exploration of Vocation Initiative (CMTEV). This initiative supports a variety of campus ministries at public universities across the nation that demonstrate the capacity to design and conduct high-quality vocational exploration programs.

The grant will support the center's new peer ministry program, which will provide opportunities for undergraduate students to gain experience in various areas of pastoral ministry, discern their vocation, and explore the possibility of a call to professional ministry in the Catholic Church. Peer ministers will engage in biweekly formation sessions, plan and conduct supervised ministry that promotes ministerial growth and spiritual development, and participate in opportunities for practi-

Serving as peer ministers for 2016-17 at the Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center are (from left): Zachary Conti, faith formation; Emma Trippier, RCIA; Alexis Willoughby, service trips; and Mary Chudy, social concerns. Not pictured is Laura Hils, liturgical music.

Photo courtesy St. Thomas More Newman Center

cal ministry experiences.

For the 2016-17 academic year, five undergraduate students have been selected to serve as peer ministers at the Newman Center after undergoing an extensive application, discernment, and interviewing process.

Candidates were asked to explain why they wished to be a part of the peer ministry program. "I would like to be a peer minister because I have grown so much in my faith through the Newman Center and would like to take the next step," said Alexis Willoughby, selected to be peer minister for service trips.

Zachary Conti, peer minister for faith formation, said, "I believe that the power to better our society lies in those



who are led by the Spirit of Christ, and I want to take part in that transformation and promote the Kingdom of God."

For some, the ability to combine God-given gifts with work and faith is very appealing. "I am looking for a way to fully immerse myself into my faith and be challenged to live out my beliefs each and every day through my work," said Laura Hils, service minister for liturgical music. "I have sung in choir at my church my entire life, and I am excited to use my gifts to serve God and others."

Emma Trippier, peer minister for RCIA, is looking forward to journeying with those seeking conversion to the faith. "God has graced me with the gift of listening, and I think God has placed this seed in my heart to minister to others," she said.

Mary Chudy, peer minister for social concerns, hopes to turn her passion for social justice into a vocation. "I sense God calling me to work for social justice in local situations. One does not have to cross an ocean to find horrid injustices running rampant and com-

pletely overlooked in our own backyards," she said.

Grant funding through the CMTEV initiative will help the Newman Center integrate current program offerings with the new peer ministry initiative for a strategic focus on vocational discernment and leadership. Each peer minister will work an average of six to eight hours per week and be paid for his or her nine-month commitment to the program.

Lilly Endowment Inc. is an Indianapolis-based private philanthropic foundation founded in 1937 by three members of the Lilly family – J.K. Lilly and sons J.K. Jr. and Eli – through gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical business, Eli Lilly & Co.

The endowment exists to support the causes of religion, education, and community development. Its religious grants are designed to deepen and enrich the religious lives of American Christians. The endowment does this through initiatives to enhance and sustain the quality of ministry in American congregations and parishes.

To learn more about or to make a donation to support the future of the Newman Center's new peer ministry program, contact Austin Schafer, the center's pastoral associate for campus ministry, at (614) 291-4674, extension 116 or aschafer@buckeyecatholic.com.

Team Spirit Award

Four Westerville St. Paul School staff members won the team spirit award at the Sweet Carolines Amazing Race, an annual event benefiting the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. The team, nicknamed the Rammer Jammers, consisted of (from left) Theresa Valentine, second-grade teacher; Janet Ackley, second-grade paraprofessional; Rita Swallow, kindergarten paraprofessional; and Michelle Posani, kindergarten teacher. The race is organized by the family of Caroline Reither, who was diagnosed with



Type 1 diabetes when she was seven. Teams of two or more people solve clues and compete in challenges that take them on an adventure across the Columbus area. This year's race covered a course that included the Zoombeezy Bay amusement park and sites in Dublin and Upper Arlington, concluding with dinner and an award ceremony at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School.

Photo courtesy Michelle Posani

614-276-1439 modlich-monument.com

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle C)

An explanation of why families were split about Jesus



Father
Lawrence L. Hummer

**August 14 -- Jeremiah 38:4-6,8-10;
Hebrews 12:1-4;
Luke 12:49-53**

These verses from Jeremiah come from the final days of the kingdom of Judah. Jeremiah has warned any who would listen to him that they should flee from Jerusalem, or they will die “by the sword, by famine and by pestilence.”

He has told them it is better to surrender and live than to fight and die. The princes of the city accuse Jeremiah of treason and demoralizing those who remain in Jerusalem. The king, who has next to no power left, hands Jeremiah over to them.

Ebed Melek (in Hebrew, “servant of the king”) alerts the king to what the princes have done to Jeremiah. They have thrown him into a pit and are starving him because there is no more bread in the city.

Ultimately, the king will release Jeremiah, but the city will be ransacked and left in total ruin. Zedekiah’s family and the princes will be killed and Zedekiah himself will be blinded and dragged off to Babylon as a prize of war, utterly humiliated and defeated.

This is paired with a Gospel reading which presents Jesus in the role of a prophet, using prophetic language to describe his ministry of Jesus as a kind of reckoning: “I have come to set the earth on fire and how I wish it were already blazing!”

Inasmuch as he already has been baptized, the baptism Jesus still awaits must be a veiled reference to the cross and the shedding of his blood. The rest of the passage seems to be a prophecy after the fact. The practical effects of Jesus’ death and resurrection will divide families

against each other, and even individual members within a family. The whole idea of a divine Son who became a man was repulsive to many of his contemporaries. So it is more the practical results than the intention of Jesus which bring about these interfamily squabbles and divisions. This is also an indirect, though probably intentional allusion to Micha 7:6.

At the same time, in the Infancy Narrative, Simeon says to Mary: “Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be contradicted” (Luke 2:34). It is likely that Luke intended to make this connection with the Infancy Narrative.

Some commentators suggest that Jesus gradually realized during his earthly ministry that his preaching about the kingdom was beginning to upset people and that criticism of him was starting to grow. This would suggest that Jesus knew early on that his preaching was upsetting an increasing number of people.

Others, as noted above, think that this “prophecy after the fact” was the product of the community for which Luke wrote between 80 and 90 AD. The reader must decide for him or herself.

Some might think that this is reading into the text, but there are times when the Gospels invite deeper and more personal encounters with the Word. Many times when questions are asked of the disciples, they are directed to all listeners of every age. At other times, we are left to think about a scene and decide for ourselves what the evangelist meant for us. Sunday’s Gospel seems to be one of those times.

It is evident that our image of Jesus as peacemaker is shattered when we come across a scene such as this. It forces us to realize that there had to be serious grounds for the crucifixion of Jesus. This passage forces us to think things through and to realize that what is odd about this scene argues for its truth. We know that families were split over the Jesus question, and this helps explain the puzzle.

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

Three Bags Full Consignment Event

The semiannual Three Bags Full consignment event will take place at five central Ohio locations between now and November.

The sale will be on Wednesdays through Saturdays at all five sites. Dates and locations are: Aug. 31-Sept. 3, Franklin County Fairgrounds, 4100 Columbia St., Hilliard; Sept. 21-24, Hartford Fairgrounds, 14028 Fairgrounds Road, Croton; Oct. 12-15, Grove Community Christian Church, 3420 Blacklick Eastern Road N.W., Baltimore; Nov. 2-5, HighPoint Nazarene Church, 795 Pollock Road, Delaware; and Nov. 16-19, Community Wesleyan Church, 161 Myrtle Ave., Newark.

Times for the sale are 6-9 p.m. Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. Selected items will be sold at half-price Friday and Saturday. All five

events also will have an early shopping period, for which a \$10 advance ticket is required, beginning at 7:30 p.m. (7 in Croton) on the Tuesday evening before they are opened to the general public.

Sellers earn money on the items they make available. They name the selling price and earn 65 percent. If they volunteer to help with the sale, they can earn as much as 80 percent. Unsold and unclaimed items are donated to Catholic and pro-life charities.

Complete details and registration information may be found at www.threebagsfull.info. Register to obtain a seller number, price your items, print your price tags, pin tags on items, select a dropoff time at the location of your choice, and volunteer.

For more information, go to the website or call Joyce Black at (614) 561-5300.

The Weekday Bible Readings

8/15-8/20

MONDAY

Rev 11:19a;12:1-6a,10ab
Ps 45:10-12,16
1 Corinthians 15:20-27
Luke 1:39-56

TUESDAY

Ezekiel 28:1-10
Deuteronomy
32:26-28,30,35cd-36b (Ps)
Matthew 19:23-30

WEDNESDAY

Ezekiel 34:1-11
Psalm 23:1-6
Matthew 20:1-16

THURSDAY

Ezekiel 36:23-28
Psalm 51:12-15,18-19
Matthew 22:1-14

FRIDAY

Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 107:2-9
Matthew 22:34-40

SATURDAY

Ezekiel 43:1-7b
Psalm 85:9ab,10-14
Matthew 23:1-12

8/22-8/27

MONDAY

2 Thessalonians 1:1-5,11-12
Psalm 96:1-5
Matthew 23:13-22

TUESDAY

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3a,14-17
Psalm 96:10-13
Matthew 23:23-26

WEDNESDAY

Revelation 21:9b-14
Psalm 145:10-13,17-18
John 1:45-51

THURSDAY

1 Corinthians 1:1-9
Psalm 145:2-7
Matthew 24:42-51

FRIDAY

1 Corinthians 1:17-25
Psalm 33:1-2,4-5,10-11
Matthew 25:1-13

SATURDAY

1 Corinthians 1:26-31
Psalm 33:12-13,18-21
Matthew 25:14-30

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE WEEKS OF AUGUST 14 AND 21, 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 6:30 a.m. on WHIZ-TV, Channel 18, Zanesville. Check local cable system for cable channel listing.

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

(Encores at noon, 7 p.m., and midnight).

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

DAILY MASS

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

8 p.m., St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com.

We pray Weeks IV and I, Seasonal Proper of the Liturgy of the Hours

Faith, Reason, and the Olympics

As summer winds down, it is natural to ponder the good that happened and reflect on the good that is to come.

It seems that each year, summer flies by, and for those of us with school-age children, school seems to creep up on us as the calendar hits August and we ponder the start of the academic year.

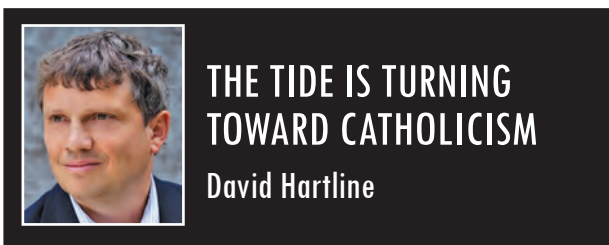
The school year originally was in sync with the agricultural calendar and gave a natural rhythm to life. It seemed that just a few decades ago, the school year started on the day after Labor Day and ended on the Friday before Memorial Day.

It also coincided with the church year. For many religious orders associated with education, July was a time of getting away from it all on retreat or “down time” as the priests, brothers, and sisters pondered the year that was and contemplated what was to come. There was a beginning and an end which soothed the psyche.

Sadly, in our hectic, fast-paced world, there rarely seems to be a beginning and an end. The end of the calendar year means many folks scramble to buy Christmas gifts and rarely have time to catch their breath before the new year begins.

They hardly have time to ponder the really important things -- faith, family, and friends.

In a world that is increasingly losing its faith or diminishing the importance of religion, life must seem



THE TIDE IS TURNING TOWARD CATHOLICISM

David Hartline

like an endless slog of work and drudgery. No wonder so many people dive off the deep end, into the pit of debauchery. Faith and reason tell us that dive into the abyss need not be attempted. There is a better way.

Perhaps you have a family member or friend who has taken the dive, and you don't know what to do. If that person won't listen to faith, do as St. Thomas Aquinas instructed and persuade him or her with reason.

Consider the Olympics currently taking place in Rio. While many people focus on the more famous athletes, think of those athletes of whom you may have little knowledge or no knowledge at all.

These athletes perfect their sport while going about their daily lives. They do so with little fanfare. They do it for the love of their particular sport and take pride in their unsung accomplishments and the lessons those activities provide them on life's greater journey.

These athletes don't have time to stew about the disadvantages their sport receives or the slights they have endured in life. Instead, they go about

their business and perfect their craft, and hopefully become aware of what is really important.

Brazil and the Olympics are a great example of this better way of doing things. More years ago than I care to remember, a professor told one of my classes studying Latin America that Brazil was different.

He said that in many nations, a street vendor might see a tourist and think “Here's my chance to make some extra money.” However, in Brazil, the professor explained, the street vendor feels an obligation to be a great ambassador for the nation. He might give you a better deal or even the biggest fruit or vegetable in the bin.

As the summer winds down, now is the time to ponder on what you can do to be a better person. It might even begin with taking a few hours or a day or two to consider how you can become that person you once liked and admired. Perhaps you can find that person in one of the Olympic athletes.

While you are at it, you might even want to dust off your Bible, go online, study your faith, and begin to put it in action by doing something positive for those around you. It just might be the best thing you did all summer.

*Hartline is the author of **The Tide is Turning Toward Catholicism**, founder of the **Catholicreport.org** and a former teacher and administrator for the diocese.*

REINHARD, continued from Page 9

Virgin Mary over the course of three-and-a-half hours. Msgr. Pio Bello Ricardo began a three-year investigation into the apparitions and approved them on Nov. 21, 1987, making them the fourth Marian apparitions approved by the Catholic Church in the 20th century. The approval verifies that the apparitions are authentic and of supernatural character.

In the meantime, Mary continued to appear to Maria. Her messages always emphasized her title Reconciler of People and Nations. She reached

out, as she always does, encouraging everyone to come closer to her Son. She offered prayer, and especially the rosary, as a way to find peace. By appearing in other recognizable forms, often as Our Lady of Lourdes, Mary stressed the continuity of her messages across time. She wove the past apparitions into the present and the future, accentuating their messages.

There's nothing new in Betania, nothing that a call to conversion and forgiveness hasn't already covered. And yet in this new title, we see better

where we're headed, how we are to get there, Who is waiting to grab us in His embrace when we arrive.

Conversion is a word that makes us all think of the person we know who wasn't raised a Catholic, the person who seems to still be on fire for the faith despite the humdrum of it all, the lucky lout whose prayers seem to be heard and answered. I think, hearing it from Mary, it must have inspired Maria -- and others who heard it later -- to think about conversion as something more attainable than we usually do.

Being reconciled isn't easy, whether it's with a family member or the crazy driver behind us at the grocery store. Conversion is hard, too, requiring us to put forth effort that is uncomfortable and difficult. It isn't limited to the people who find themselves part of the Easter vigil crowd, flocking into the Catholic Church with a fire under their feet.

The fact that conversion and forgiveness go hand-in-hand is undeniable. Is it possible to really love God when I haven't forgiven Uncle Louie?

Can I really be an example of Christian stewardship if I'm treating your kids like they're second to all of my other commitments? If I can't accept -- or give -- forgiveness, can I really be a different person? Can I really be changed?

Like the prodigal son, I have to remember that the road is long in front of me. There's no way around the walk, no bike or car or horse. But Mary walks beside me, reminding me that the violence in my heart can end. I just have to keep walking, reaching for forgiveness, converting myself to God's will.

*Reinhard is online at **Snoring-Scholar.com**.*



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Pray for our dead

- ARMAS, Oscar A., 70, July 25**
St. Mary Church, Lancaster
- ASBECK, Frank X. III, 72, Aug. 2**
St. John Neumann Church, Sunbury
- BALDESCHWILER, Phyllis, 95, Aug. 5**
St. Vincent de Paul Church, Mount Vernon
- BENSON, Pierre J., 78, Aug. 1**
St. Patrick Church, Columbus
- BISUTTI, Josephine M., 76, Aug. 5**
St. James the Less Church, Columbus
- BLANCHARD, Mary, 88, May 27**
St. Vincent de Paul Church, Mount Vernon
- BLUBAUGH, Dwight, 95, July 1**
St. Vincent de Paul Church, Mount Vernon
- BRENDZA, Anna L., 88, July 25**
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia
- BROPHY, Phyllis L., 85, July 23**
Our Lady of Victory Church, Columbus
- CANNON, Betty J., 92, Aug. 3**
St. Rose Church, New Lexington
- CASTRODALE, Joseph A., 14, July 26**
St. Paul Church, Westerville
- CONCEPCION-MORRIS, Ann, 35, July 13**
St. Mary Church, Marion
- COTTER, Josephine, 101, July 26**
St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin
- CRAIG, Agnes L., July 8**
St. Monica Church, New Boston
- CUEVAS, Javier J., 40, July 27**
St. Stephen Church, Columbus
- DeVILLERS, Eli, 87, June 29**
St. Vincent de Paul Church, Mount Vernon
- DeVILLERS, Mary, 88, May 23**
St. Vincent de Paul Church, Mount Vernon
- DIEHL, Larry, 69, June 21**
St. Vincent de Paul Church, Mount Vernon
- EYERMAN, Pierce D., 85, July 26**
St. Leo Church, Columbus
- FAVRET, William E., 91, Aug. 5**
St. Agatha Church, Columbus
- FLESHER, Ellen, 76, July 4**
St. Mary Church, Marion
- HABASH, Mary L., 87, July 21**
St. Peter Church, Columbus
- HEFFLEY, Barbara J., 73, June 28**
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark
- HOGUE, John K., 58, July 27**
St. Brendan Church, Hilliard
- KNECHT, Margaret L., 83, Aug. 3**
Holy Spirit Church, Columbus
- LEAL, Rebecca N., 90, July 31**
St. Ladislav Church, Columbus
- LOUISA, Irene, 94, July 12**
St. John Church, Logan
- MANTEY, Carolyn, 87, July 18**
St. Mary Church, Marion
- McCULLOUGH, Susan J., 75, July 26**
St. Elizabeth Church, Columbus
- MIRGON, Michael L., 68, July 24**
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Zanesville
- OBERFIELD, Mary J., 81, June 30**
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark
- O'BRIEN, Michael J., 53, formerly of Columbus, July 23**
Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi, Santa Fe, N.M.
- RADERMACHER, Sharon, 72, July 28**
St. Vincent de Paul Church, Mount Vernon
- RECCHIE, Joseph J., 95, July 23**
St. Catharine Church, Columbus
- REHAK, Louis, 93, Aug. 3**
Our Lady of Peace Church, Columbus
- ROBINSON, Georgia A., 76, July 9**
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville
- ROMANO, Mary A., 105, July 22**
St. Mary Magdalene Church, Columbus
- RUFFINI, Rudolph, 83, Aug. 4**
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia
- SWIERZ, Emily R., 84, July 31**
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville
- VILLA, Jose E., 72, June 17**
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark
- WADSWORTH, Jean F., 90, July 29**
St. Joseph Church, Sugar Grove
- WALBECK, Herbert, 85, Aug. 5**
St. Mary Church, Delaware
- WEILBACHER, Susan T., 68, July 29**
St. Mary Magdalene Church, Columbus
- WORTHINGTON, Helen N., 88, July 15**
St. John Church, Logan
- YELICH, Harvey G. "Tappy," 83, Aug. 4**
St. Margaret of Cortona Church, Columbus
- ZADNIK, Rudolph S., 88, July 28**
St. Agatha Church, Columbus
- ZINGARELLI, Cookie E., OFS, 72, Aug. 5**
Christ the King Church, Columbus

Theresa Shakal

Funeral Mass for Theresa Shakal, 81, who died Monday, Aug. 1, was held Saturday, Aug. 6 at St. John the Baptist Church in Cooks Valley, Wisconsin.

She was born April 4, 1935, in Woodmohr, Wisconsin, to John and Katherine (Borovka) Sykora.

She was preceded in death by her

parents, one daughter, six brothers, and six sisters. Survivors include her husband, Pete; six sons, including Daniel (Leah), an employee of the Tribunal of the Diocese of Columbus; two daughters; one brother; two sisters; 31 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Jacqueline A. DiPietro

Funeral Mass for Jacqueline A. DiPietro, 93, who died Wednesday, July 20, was held Monday, Aug. 1 at Columbus St. Elizabeth Church. Burial was at Resurrection Cemetery, Lewis Center.

She was born Nov. 15, 1922 to Casto and Agnes (Francisco) Pomante. She

was preceded in death by her husband, Fred, and son, Father Rodric DiPietro, a priest of the Diocese of Columbus. Survivors include a son, Fred (Vickie); daughter, Julie (Ezio) Cecchetti; six grandsons; one granddaughter; 16 great-grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Send obituaries to: tpuet@columbuscatholic.org



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 8 p.m. rock band Conspiracy,
 Entertainmenton Saturday:
 6 p.m. animals from Columbus Zoo;
 8 p.m. band Reaganomics

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

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

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

'Happenings' submissions

Notices for items of Catholic interest must
 be received at least 12 days before expected
 publication date. We will print them as
 space permits.

Items not received before this deadline may
 not be published.

Listings cannot be taken by phone.
 Mail to Catholic Times Happenings,
 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215
 Fax to 614-241-2518
 E-mail as text to
 tpuet@columbuscatholic.org

AUGUST

11, THURSDAY

Cenacle at Holy Name

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

Theology on Tap Kickoff

7 to 9 p.m., Nugent Hall, St. Andrew Church, 1899 Mc-
 Coy Road, Columbus. Kickoff for 2015-16 for Theology
 on Tap discussion group for young adults. Speaker: Fa-
 ther Thomas Blau, OP, of Columbus St. Patrick Church.
 Main dish, drinks provided. Bring side dish or dessert,
 posting what you will bring on TOT Facebook page. \$5
 per person.

12, FRIDAY

Shepherd's Corner Ecology Center Open House

10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Shepherd's Corner Ecology Center, 987
 N. Waggoner Road, Blacklick. Center, a ministry of the
 Dominican Sisters of Peace, will be open, weather per-
 mitting. 614-866-4302

12-13, FRIDAY-SATURDAY

Columbus St. Mary Class of 1961 Reunion

Columbus St. Mary High School Class of 1961 55th-ann-
 versary reunion, beginning Friday night at Plank's Cafe, 743
 Parsons Ave., continuing Saturday with 4 p.m. Mass at St.
 Mary Church, 672 S. 3rd St., and dinner at Schmidt's, 240 E.
 Kossuth St. 843-270-6296

Columbus Rosary High School Reunion

Reunion for Columbus Rosary High School classes of 1961-
 68 and eighth-grade classes of 1958-64, beginning Friday
 night at Plank's Cafe, 743 Parsons Ave. (alumni only), con-
 tinuing Saturday at the Swan Club, 2121 Noe-Bixby Road.
 614-237-8432 or 614-337-2204

13, SATURDAY

Cols. Immaculate Conception Bus Trip to Carey Shrine

8 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church, 414 E. North
 Broadway, Columbus. Bus trip to the Shrine and Basilica
 of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey as part of parish cen-
 tennial celebration. Cost \$30; reservations required.

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.

Shepherd's Corner Labyrinth Walk

7 to 8:30 p.m., Shepherd's Corner Ecology Center, 987 N.
 Waggoner Road, Blacklick. Labyrinth walk led by pastoral
 associate Susan Bellotti, reflecting on the change from
 summer freedom to fall routine. Suggested donation \$5.
 614-866-4302

14, SUNDAY

Kateri Prayer Circle at St. Mark

1 p.m., Aranda Center, St. Mark Church, 324 Gay St., Lan-
 caster. Kateri Prayer Circle meeting to honor St. Kateri
 Tekakwitha and promote Native Catholic spirituality.

Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic Meeting

1:30 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus.
 Meeting of St. Catherine of Siena chapter, Lay Fraternities
 of St. Dominic.

Meeting for Catechetical Leaders and Youth Ministers

1:30 p.m., Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Drive,
 Columbus. Diocesan Youth and Young Adult Ministry
 meeting for preschool, PSR, youth ministry, RCIA, and
 adult faith formation directors, ending with dinner and
 recognition. 614-241-2565

Prayer Group Meeting at Christ the King

5 to 7 p.m., Christ the King Church, 2777 E. Livingston
 Ave., Columbus (enter at daily Mass entrance). Weekly
 parish prayer group meets for praise, worship, ministry,
 and teaching. Also on Aug. 21. 614-886-8266

Holy Family Pilgrimage to Carey Shrine

6:15 p.m., Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., Colum-
 bus. Pilgrimage to the Shrine and Basilica of Our Lady of
 Consolation in Carey for candlelight procession and Vigil
 Mass for the Feast of the Assumption. Cost \$20; no food
 served. 614-674-1716 or 614-562-6173

Spanish Mass at Columbus St. Peter

7 p.m., St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road, Colum-
 bus. Mass in Spanish. Also on Aug. 21. 706-761-4054

16, TUESDAY

Rosary for Life at St. Joan of Arc

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

Catholic Foundation Grant Workshop

6:30 to 8 p.m., The Catholic Foundation, 257 E. Broad St.,
 Columbus. Workshop to provide a better understanding
 of the grant process for any organization planning to ap-
 ply for a Foundation grant. Advance registration requir-
 ed. 614-443-8893

ODU Adult and Continuing Education Info Session

6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Bishop Griffin Center, Ohio Dominican
 University, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. Information
 session on ODU adult education and continuing educa-
 tion programs. 614-251-7400

St. Mary Magdalene Speaker Series

7 p.m., St. Mary Magdalene Church, 473 S. Roys Ave.,
 Columbus. Parish Year of Mercy series continues with
 Christine Money on "Kindway: Uniting People, Restoring
 Hope, Honoring Christ," a re-entry program for prisoners.
 Pretzels and beer available. RSVP to 614-274-1121, ext. 13.

Prayer Group Meeting at St. Mark

7:30 p.m., St. Raymond Room, St. Mark Center, 324 Gay
 St., Lancaster. Light of Life prayer group meeting.
 Also on Aug. 23. 740-654-6928

17, WEDNESDAY

Abortion Recovery Network Group

9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Westerville Area Resource Ministry, 150
 Heatherdown Drive, Westerville. Abortion recovery net-
 work group meeting for anyone recovering from abortion
 or who has been through a recovery program and wants
 to stay connected. 614-721-2100

18, THURSDAY

Cenacle at Holy Name

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

Abortion Recovery Network Group

7 to 8 p.m., Gateway Center, 2670 N. Columbus St.,
 Lancaster. Abortion recovery network group meeting
 for anyone recovering from abortion or who has been
 through a recovery program and wants to stay connect-
 ed. 614-721-2100

Holy Hour of Reparation at Columbus Sacred Heart

7 to 8 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 893 Hamlet St., Co-

lumbus. Eucharistic Holy Hour following Holy Hour of
 Reparation prayer format, concluding with Benediction
 and social period. 614-372-5249

19, FRIDAY

Pregnancy Decision Health Center Open House

8 to 10 a.m., Pregnancy Decision Health Center, 22 E. 17th
 Ave., Columbus. Open house for prospective volunteers
 for all PDHC locations. 614-888-8774, extension 6115

Shepherd's Corner Ecology Center Open House

10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Shepherd's Corner Ecology Center, 987
 N. Waggoner Road, Blacklick. Center, a ministry of the
 Dominican Sisters of Peace, will be open, weather per-
 mitting. 614-866-4302

19-20, FRIDAY-SATURDAY

Columbus Sacred Heart High School Reunion

Reunion for Columbus Sacred Heart High School classes
 of 1961-66, beginning from 7-11 p.m. Friday at the recep-
 tion house of Raymond Memorial Golf Course, 3860 Tra-
 bue Road (no tickets at door), continuing Saturday from 1
 to 4 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church, 893 Hamlet St.
 740-928-1166 or 614-523-0823

20, SATURDAY

Life and Mercy Mass in Plain City

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

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. 614-512-3731

21, SUNDAY

Columbus St. Francis of Assisi 120th Anniversary Mass

10 a.m., St. Francis of Assisi Church, 386 Buttles Ave., Co-
 lumbus. Mass celebrated by Bishop Frederick Campbell
 to mark parish's 120th anniversary, followed by home-
 coming reception. 614-299-5781

Blessing of St. Gerard Majella at Holy Family

After 11 a.m. Mass, Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad
 St., Columbus. Blessing of St. Gerard Majella, patron of
 expectant mothers, for all women who are pregnant or
 wish to become pregnant. 614-221-1890

Angelic Warfare Confraternity at Columbus St. Patrick

Following noon Mass, St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant
 Ave., Columbus. Monthly meeting of Angelic Warfare
 Confraternity, with talk on chastity-related issues fol-
 lowed by Holy Hour. 614-224-9522

St. Padre Pio Secular Franciscans

1:30 to 5 p.m., St. John the Baptist Church, 720 Hamlet St.,
 Columbus. Fellowship and ongoing formation followed
 by adoration and prayer, Liturgy of the Hours, and initial
 formation with visitors. 614-282-4676

Taize Evening Prayer at Corpus Christi

4 to 5 p.m., Corpus Christi Center of Peace, 1111 E. Stewart
 Ave., Columbus. Evening Prayer in the style and spirit of
 the Taize monastic community, with song, silence, and
 reflection. 614-512-3731

22, MONDAY

Bethesda Post-Abortion Healing Ministry

6:30 p.m., support group meeting, 2744 Dover Road, Co-
 lumbus (Christ the King convent, first building west of the
 church). 614-718-0277, 614-309-2651, 614-309-0157

Our Lady of Peace Men's Bible Study

7 p.m., Our Lady of Peace Church, 20 E. Dominion Blvd.,
 Columbus. Bible study of Sunday Scripture readings.

WORLD YOUTH DAY - 2016

“Teach your elders well,” pope says, calling youths to elevate the discourse



Pilgrims attend the Way of the Cross at World Youth Day in Blonia Park in Krakow, Poland, on July 29.

CNS photo/Paul Haring



By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

Aware of the risk of being described as naive or being accused of spouting platitudes, Pope Francis called on young people to model the paths of mercy and respect for adults, then demonstrated what he meant.

“Today, we adults -- we adults -- need you to teach us, like you are doing now, how to live with diversity, in dialogue, to experience multiculturalism not as a threat but an opportunity,” the pope

Pope Francis hears a confession as he visits the Divine Mercy Shrine in Lagiewniki, a suburb of Krakow, Poland, on July 30.

CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano, handout

told young people gathered for a prayer vigil on July 30 in Krakow, Poland.

“Have the courage to teach us that it is easier to build bridges than walls. We need this,” he said.

Many people find it easy to sit on the couch and tweet popular stereotypes such as “All Muslims are terrorists” or “Immigrants steal our jobs,” he said.

Pope Francis acknowledged that it is a huge task to build bridges and said he knew many people might not feel up to it at first. But, he said Christians have an obligation to make at least an attempt.

Start small, he said. Take the hand of someone next to you.

It is possible that no one will accept that extended hand, he said, “but in life you must take risks. One who never risks never wins.”

At a time when civil discourse seems not only to have rejected “political correctness,” but also grandma’s “if you can’t say anything nice, don’t say anything at all,” Pope Francis said Christians are called to watch their tongues and their texting fingers.

“We are not here to shout against anyone. We are not about to fight. We do not want to destroy. We do not want to insult anyone,” he said. “We have no desire to conquer hatred with more hatred, violence with more violence, terror with more terror.”

Perhaps more than any event so far in the Year of Mercy, the World Youth Day celebrations focused on the traditional Catholic lists of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

“It was very powerful to be in Poland in this Year of Mercy, in the land from which Pope St. John Paul II, quoting from St. Faustina Kowalska’s diary, said must come ‘the spark of mercy which will prepare the world’ for the final coming of Jesus,” said Father Joseph Yokum.

Father Yokum led a group from Wheelersburg St. Peter in Chains, New Boston St. Monica, and Pond Creek Holy Trinity churches on a pilgrimage to World Youth Day. A group from Columbus St. Catharine Church led by Father Dan Dury also was on hand.

The pope’s pilgrimage to Poland included a stop at the former Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz. Many World Youth Day pilgrims, including Father Yokum’s group, also visited Auschwitz. Some members of that group were seen nationally on the CBS News coverage of the pope’s visit.

The reality of evil, violence, and terrorism filled the newspapers in late July, strongly contrasting with the sight of

young Catholics dancing in the streets of Krakow or a million of them on their knees before the Blessed Sacrament or thousands standing in line for confession in a park.

In Poland and on his return flight to Rome, Pope Francis did not ignore the signs of evil. But he made it clear his bet for a better future was on the hope-filled, energetic, courageous, and open tendencies of the young and their willingness to get to know those from another nation, race, or another religion.

On the flight back to Rome on July 31, a journalist asked the pope, “Why, when you speak of these violent acts,” such as the brutal murder of an elderly priest in France, “you speak of terrorists, but never of Islam? You never use the word Islam.”

Every religion has members who are violent, Pope Francis replied. “If I spoke of Islamic violence, I would have to speak of Catholic violence as well. Not all Muslims are violent; not all Catholics are violent. It’s like fruit salad -- there is a bit of everything. There are violent people in these religions. One thing is true: I believe that in almost every religion there is a little fundamentalist group.”

The pope told reporters about his

long discussion in May with the grand imam of Egypt’s al-Azhar University, the highly influential center of Sunni Muslim learning. “They are looking for peace, for encounter,” the pope said.

“I do not think it is right to identify Islam with violence,” the pope told reporters. “This is not right and it is not true.” (Catholic Times reporter Tim Puet contributed information to this story)



Pope Francis gestures after inviting World Youth Day pilgrims to sit in front of his chair during a July 30 prayer vigil at the Field of Mercy in Krakow, Poland. CNS photo/Paul Haring



Pope Francis walks with World Youth Day pilgrims as he arrives for a July 30 prayer vigil at the Field of Mercy in Krakow, Poland. CNS photo/Paul Haring



Father Joseph Yokum (back row, second from left) and pilgrims from Wheelersburg, New Boston, and Pond Creek traveled to Poland for World Youth Day. Photo courtesy Fr. Joseph Yokum



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Youth at Steubenville conferences show their openness to discerning religious life

This summer, more than 50,000 participants at Steubenville Youth Conferences, sponsored by Franciscan University of Steubenville, encountered Christ in new ways at one of 23 conferences held across the United States and Canada.

Taking an extra step in acknowledging God's will in guiding their lives, about 6,000 of these young people answered the vocations call, coming forward to receive a special blessing at the Sunday Mass that ended each conference.

At the conference at Franciscan University from Friday to Sunday, July 8 to 10, Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey Monforton called forth those in attendance who were open to discerning religious life.

"Thank you for your fortitude, your humility," Bishop Monforton said before asking young women to respond to the call by coming to the foot of the stage for the blessing.

Nearly 100 young women came forward – some hesitantly, some in small groups. Bishop Monforton extended his hands and invited the 2,000 people in attendance to also stretch out their hands and offer their prayers. "Knowing the Lord is inviting you to whatever lies before you, you are lights burning brightly for all to see. Continue to listen to the Lord and travel through the Immaculate Heart of Mary to the Sacred Heart of Jesus," he said.

Heather Leclair of Two Rivers, Wisconsin, was one of the young women who received the blessing. "God put this desire in my heart that I'd been ignoring for years," she said. "Last year at Steubenville, he really opened my heart to religious life. This year, he also reaffirmed that desire.

"A vocation is finding what it is that

God is calling you to do that is going to bring you complete joy, happiness, and union with him, whether that is religious life or marriage," she said. "Right now, religious life is very prominent in my heart, and I'm just going to see where he takes me and follow where he is calling me."

Then it was the young men's turn. They came from all corners of the dimly lit Finnegan Fieldhouse – some from the bleachers, some from a few feet from the stage. One conference worker joined the conference participants at the foot of the stage.

Blessing the young men, Bishop Monforton quoted Luke 10:2: "The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few. ... And so, praying to you for more laborers, those who will tend your flock, shower your blessings upon our brothers here who are discerning the priesthood. Give them fortitude, give them strength and humility, docility to hear your word and that the life of your Son is ever grown in their hearts."

Adam Szalay, a member of St. Richard Parish in Pittsburgh, went forward for the call.

"Any time I'm presented with the opportunity of a blessing, or an opportunity to take a courageous step to show others that I am discerning, I like to take it," he said. "I felt called to go get that blessing."

Szalay said discernment is "a constant battle between my plan for myself and God's plan for me, being comfortable versus being called out of my comfort zone.

"Last night at adoration, they said to ask God for one word," he said. "He said 'Brother' to me. I don't understand what that means, but that was something big

that I took from the conference."

Bishop Monforton said the vocations call is a reminder of each person's own vocation as a "common thread (that is) rooted in the love of Jesus Christ. ... One begins to have clarity of position toward a vocation when casting one's gaze on the face of Jesus. This invites response."

Attesting to the impact of the vocations call, a recent survey by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate showed that 10 percent of newly ordained priests and 21 percent of women

professing perpetual vows in religious life said they had attended a Steubenville youth conference.

This summer, Franciscan sponsored six adult and 23 youth conferences throughout the nation and in two Canadian provinces. Young adult conferences are scheduled this fall in Steubenville, Houston, Atlanta, and Milwaukee. The 33 events are expected to reach more than 60,000 people altogether. Visit www.steubenvilleconferences.com for a complete list of conferences.



Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey Monforton speaks at a youth conference at Franciscan University of Steubenville to young women who came forward in response to his call to express an openness to discerning the religious life. Photo courtesy Franciscan University of Steubenville



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