



DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

CATHOLIC TIMES

A journal of Catholic life in Ohio



JANUARY 24, 2016
THE 3RD WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME
VOLUME 65:16
WWW.CTONLINE.ORG



**ST. STEPHEN'S COMMUNITY HOUSE
BRIGHTENS LIVES IN LINDEN**

The Editor's Notebook

A Helping Hand

By David Garick, Editor

This week, *Catholic Times* looks at the good work being done by St. Stephen's Community House. We are blessed indeed to have many wonderful organizations in the Diocese of Columbus working to provide food, clothing, and other assistance to those in need. I am especially proud of those groups that go beyond immediate assistance and help struggling people to develop their skills and build productive lives for themselves and their families. St. Stephen's has always excelled in that capacity.

I guess I feel a special connection to St. Stephen's because of a shared history. St. Stephen's was established in the early years of the 20th century to meet the needs of immigrant families from Italy and eastern Europe who were flooding into Columbus' south side to fill jobs in factories there. My grandfather was part of that immigrant tide, coming from Serbia and settling into a similar neighborhood in Newark.

By the time I came along, our family and our multiethnic neighbors had moved beyond the early struggles of adapting to a new culture. With the help of community organizations, the folks in my neighborhood went from receiving assistance to productive lives and helping others who were coming into the area. We were still far from wealthy, but the future was looking bright for members of my generation, who had prospects of a college education and a productive career.

One of the things I remember best about our old neighborhood was that although there was a lively mix of accents, foods, and customs, there was a common sense of appreciation for the chance people had been given to build

a life here and boundless optimism for what the future might hold.

After I got married and came to Columbus to work as a news reporter, my wife and I bought our first house in North Linden. It was another neighborhood of people who had moved from poverty into more comfortable, but far from affluent lives.

In the process of covering Columbus city government, I became acquainted with John Maloney, the longtime executive director of St. Stephen's, who had just become a city councilman. St. Stephen's had moved to Linden and John loved to show off the things it was accomplishing. I was overwhelmed with John's enthusiasm and the incredible results St. Stephen's was having in the neighborhood. I also was impressed with the support my neighbors provided in helping St. Stephen's carry out its mission.

John is gone now, but St. Stephen's continues to impress. The people receiving services now may be African American, Hispanic, Somali, Asian, and many other nationalities. What remains constant is that people are getting help with their immediate needs and a helping hand that encourages and prepares them to build a better life for their future and the future of their children. I know what it means to be able to take a look back and see not only how far I have come, but also to see the many faces of those who helped me and my family along the way. For many people, that look back includes a vision of St. Stephen's ... and it will for many years to come.



Thousands to Participate in 14-Hour National Prayer Vigil for Life

The National Prayer Vigil for Life will take place from Thursday afternoon, Jan. 21 to Friday morning, Jan. 22, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, where Pope Francis celebrated Mass during his recent visit to Washington. More than 20,000 pilgrims from around the nation will pray there before the annual March for Life for an end to abortion.

The vigil marks the 43rd anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* decisions legalizing abortion nationwide. Since those decisions, more than 56 million abortions have been performed legally in the United States.

The principal celebrant and homilist at the vigil opening Mass will be Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities. The Mass will be concelebrated by his fellow cardinals and many of the nation's bishops and priests in the basilica's Great Upper Church. The 14-hour vigil will continue in the Crypt Church with confessions, a National

Rosary for Life, Byzantine-rite Night Prayer, and holy hours led by seminarians from across the nation from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. That same evening, The Catholic University of America will host approximately 1,000 pilgrims overnight.

"It's a huge encouragement to see so many young people praying, fasting, and marching to end abortion," said Deirdre McQuade, assistant director for pro-life communications at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. "The loss of unborn children often devastates mothers, fathers, and other family members. And in the broader society, if life in the womb is not protected, then no one's right to life is secure.

"The Jubilee Year of Mercy calls us to pray for the respect of all vulnerable people and for the healing of those seeking peace after abortions."

On Jan. 22, the day of the March for Life, the basilica will host Morning Prayer in the Crypt Church. The vigil's closing Mass will be at 7:30 a.m. in the Great Upper Church, with Bishop David A. Zubik of Pittsburgh as principal celebrant and homilist.

Spiritual Transformation Funded by The Catholic Foundation

Off in the quiet plains of Pickaway County, a spiritual transformation is happening in an unexpected place. Each Monday, Deacon Don Robers of Logan St. John Church spends the day ministering to inmates at the Pickaway Correctional Institute, where he serves as the Catholic chaplain.

"It's one of the few things that I thoroughly look forward to doing," said Deacon Robers (pictured). "I'll do it as long as I can."

Deacon Robers spends much of the day in consultations with the men and always has a line waiting to see him. He teaches them about subjects such as apostolic succession, praying the rosary, and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. He also conducts RCIA classes, and Father Ted Machnik of Circleville St. Joseph Church comes once a month for Mass, baptisms, and confirmations.

Rather than allowing these individuals to feel hopeless and abandoned, Deacon Robers points them in the right direction on their journey in faith. He spends much of each visit just listening.

"They have nobody who talks to them or who cares about them," he said. "I



let them make phone calls to loved ones. I write letters to judges on their behalf."

In the afternoon, he shows a Catholic or Christian-based movie that serves as an opportunity to evangelize and bring in new men, Catholic and non-Catholic. This reputation of always having an open door spread quickly. When he took over as chaplain 10 years ago, eight men showed up each week. To-

day, 20 to 30 attend the various activities he offers.

"If the people in the pew would evangelize like some of these guys, the churches would be full," Deacon Robers said. "The men are really hungry. Most have been away from the Church for a long time."

In the last 10 years, Deacon Robers estimates that approximately 30 men joined the Catholic Church through his

ministry. He occasionally receives letters or phone calls from men who were released from the facility.

"That's really rewarding," he said. "You get to see the fruits of your labor. It's an awesome ministry."

With little to no funding, the ministry is always in need of Bibles, catechisms, and new religious videos to enhance its programs and open the doors for more inmates to experience the Catholic faith. For the past two years, Deacon Robers received grants from The Catholic Foundation to help purchase Spanish and English Bibles, catechisms, and religious videos. His program recently was awarded another grant to purchase a TV, DVD player, religious-themed DVDs, *Living Liturgy* Missals, a small monstrance, and adoration pamphlets.

Half of the inmates attending the services are converts, and Deacon Robers is eager to draw in more men. With the proper resources, an even greater number of inmates will be reminded of their value as children of God.

"I always know what's going to happen on Monday. I just don't know who it is until I get there. The catechesis starts right away," he said.

Holy Orders Candidacy

Six seminarians from the Diocese of Columbus were admitted to candidacy for Holy Orders at the Pontifical College Josephinum on Sunday, Jan. 10 by Bishop Michael Olson of Fort Worth, Texas. Pictured are (from left): seminarians Brett Garland, Todd Lehigh, and Robert Johnson, Bishop Olson, and seminarians Charles Hall, Thomas Herge, and Christopher Tuttle. The rite of admission to candidacy for Holy Orders is celebrated when a seminarian, usually in his second year of graduate study, has reached a maturity of purpose in his formation and has demonstrated the necessary qualifications for ordination. In the presence of the bishop, he publicly expresses his intention to complete his preparation for Holy Orders and his resolve to fully invest himself to that end, so that he will serve Christ and the Church faithfully.

Photo by seminarian Josh Altonji



Front Page photo:

Christine Lovelless chats with the Rev. Harvey Shaw, pastor of the nearby House of God Church, a volunteer at the OhioHealth Food and Nutrition Center of St. Stephen's Community House in Columbus.

CT photo by Ken Snow

CATHOLIC
TIMES

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Catholic Times (USPS 967-000) (ISSN 745-6050) is the official newspaper of the Catholic Diocese of Columbus, Ohio. It is published weekly 45 times per year with exception of every other week in June, July and August and the week following Christmas. Subscription rate: \$25 per year, or call and make arrangements with your parish.
Postage Paid at Columbus, OH 43218

Bishop Frederick F. Campbell, D.D., Ph.D. ~ President & Publisher

David Garick ~ Editor (dgarick@coldsdioc.org)

Tim Puet ~ Reporter (tpuet@coldsdioc.org)

Alexandra Keves ~ Graphic Design Manager (akeves@coldsdioc.org)

Mailing Address: 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215

Editorial/Advertising: (614) 224-5195 FAX (614) 241-2578

Subscriptions (614) 224-6530 FAX (614) 241-2573

(subscriptions@coldsdioc.org)

Postmaster: Send address changes to Catholic Times, 197 E. Gay St., Columbus, Ohio 43215. Please allow two to four weeks for change of address.

PRACTICAL STEWARDSHIP

By Rick Jeric

Bowie



I hope that everyone who read last week's column is able to support St. John's Food Pantry. If you are able to come in person this Tuesday, Jan. 26, it would be great to see you. If not, please consider a donation to a great cause. You will be helping our brothers and sisters in need right here in our own community. I will be one of two guest bartenders for the evening at Double Comfort, one of the restaurants in the Short North, located at 505 N. High St., across from the Columbus Convention Center. All the proceeds from the drinks I sell will go to St. John's Food Pantry at Columbus Holy Rosary-St. John Church. Non-drinkers are welcome to stop in, say "Hello," and make a donation. Please come after 5:30 p.m. The other guest bartender is Pete Beirne, and we will have a friendly competition throughout the evening to see who can raise the most in contributions. Help us make a difference for a great and practical cause. If you cannot make it, you can send a check, made out to St. John's Food Pantry to 648 S. Ohio Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43205. Or go to hrschurch.org/StJohnPantry to make a gift through PayPal. Thank you.

Few people have made a significant impact on my life, outside of Jesus Christ, my parents, and my wife and family. Many have made an impact, but few with significance. One of them was David Bowie. I am not sure why his music attracted me at the time, but I latched onto it forever. He has been my favorite artist since I was 13 years old. I relied on his music, lyrics, and theatrics to help get me through many challenges throughout my life. Even though I never met him or know him personally, his sudden death after a long battle with cancer left me with a void. Maybe you have had a similar experience with someone in entertainment, sports, etc. With Bowie, it is easy to question why I admire someone with his past lifestyle. I suppose if we dig deep enough, we can find fault with just about anyone, from the Beatles to Johnny Cash to Elvis to Sinatra to Mozart. To share some lyrics from a couple of Bowie's more obscure songs, I offer the following: "Soul love, the priest that tastes the Word and told of love, and how my God on high is all love"; and "Lord, I kneel and offer you my word on a wing, and I'm trying hard to fit among your scheme of things." And for all of us sinners, "God knows I'm good, God knows I'm good, God may look the other way today." And from one of his earliest anthems, "Changes - turn and face the strange - changes - time may change me, but I can't trace time." As a teenager, I can readily admit that there were many other songs, lyrics, and temptations that led me in different directions. I always appreciated that God was there and a part of those I admired most. Thank you for your impact, and rest in peace, David Jones.

Our practical challenge this week is to attend or make a good contribution to St. John's Food Pantry. In addition, think of someone who had a significant impact on your life, but you never met. Play his/her music, read his/her book, watch his/her video. Use it as a meditation this week, and find instances that relate to God. Pray to our loving God and thank Him for the gifts of His talented people who contribute to the cosmic dance of life that is eternal.

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

ODU cuts price of summer courses in half

College students in central Ohio will have a more convenient and affordable option to keep their education on track during the summer of 2016. Ohio Dominican University has expanded its summer course offerings and will offer them at a new reduced tuition. Courses for traditional undergraduate students will be available for \$350 per credit hour, which is significantly less than last year's price of \$600 per credit hour.

More than 50 undergraduate courses will cover a wide range of popular fields of study, including art, science, business, education, English, foreign languages, history, and theology. The courses will be available in a variety of flexible formats, including online, at ODU's main campus at 1216 Sunbury Road in Columbus, or a combination of both formats.

ODU's summer sessions range from two to eight weeks long, with available start dates in May, June, and July. The deadline to apply is May 16 for the May start date, June 6 for the June start date, and July 5 for the July start date.

"We've lowered the tuition for our

summer 2016 courses by nearly 50 percent, making ODU one of the most affordable options in central Ohio," said Dr. Theresa Holleran, ODU vice president for academic affairs. "In addition, Ohio Dominican's courses are easily transferrable to other area institutions, which is convenient for students who want to get ahead in their academic work during summer break."

ODU offers a variety of summer courses for both graduate-level students and adult students who are completing their undergraduate degree.

Students who participate in summer courses at ODU and/or an internship in central Ohio are eligible to live on campus. Convenient on-campus housing is available to non-ODU students for \$100 per week (minimum four-week stay) and \$350 per month for current ODU students. A meal option is also available to residents for \$25 per week.

To learn more visit ohiodominican.edu/Summer. Contact ODU's admissions office at (614) 251-4500 or admissions@ohiodominican.edu if you have any questions.

Lenten mission at Our Lady of Victory

Father Josh Wagner will present a Lenten mission at Columbus Our Lady of Victory Church, 1559 Roxbury Road, at 7 p.m. Monday to Wednesday, Feb. 15 to 17. The mission will be based on the mysteries of the rosary, with the theme "WORD to Your Mother."

Father Wagner will look at the rosary and the theology of Mary and show how getting to know Mary will bring us closer to Christ, teach us ways to cope with life's challenges and sorrows, and

remind us of the virtue of hope.

Father Wagner is pastor of Columbus St. Dominic and Holy Rosary-St. John churches.

In addition to his ministerial and administrative duties, Father Wagner is the owner of a speaking business, "Total Possibility."

He has spoken at large and small religious events and to businesses and non-profit organizations across the nation.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd: CATECHISTS NEEDED

St. Ladislav Parish, on Reeb Avenue, Columbus, is seeking catechists who are trained and certified to lead CGS atriums and catechist candidates who are willing to undergo training for this rich and rewarding program. The openings are for the 2016-2017 school year and classes are Sunday mornings from 9 AM to 10:45 AM at St. Ladislav. Our catechetical team is warm and friendly and willing to work with any interested candidates. Training is available in the Columbus area, and the parish will finance the cost of training.

If you are interested in this opportunity to share the joy of experiencing God with children ages 6-12, please contact Formation Leader

Jeff Adair at 614-907-8909 or via e-mail at jeffacsl@gmail.com

Ohio Dominican Receives \$450,000 Grant to Expand College Course Availability in Ohio High Schools

The Ohio Department of Education has awarded Ohio Dominican University a \$450,000 grant to help teachers become qualified to teach college-level courses in their high schools.

"This grant will give high-school teachers across the state enhanced access to affordable online courses they need in order to offer college-level curriculum to their students," said Dr. Theresa Holleran, ODU vice president for academic affairs.

"Programs like these are critically important to help introduce students, particularly those in rural and underserved areas, to the rigors of post-secondary study. We are grateful to the Ohio Department of Education for recognizing Ohio Dominican's commitment to providing educators the tools they need to positively impact the lives of their students and set them on a course toward lifelong learning."

Grant funding is available to teachers

in the form of scholarships to help pay for ODU's graduate courses in English or business, as well as other associated fees.

Teachers have the option of either enrolling in ODU's master's degree program or completing 18 graduate hours in that program if they hold a master's degree in a different academic discipline.

A 2012 study funded by The James Irvine Foundation found that career-focused dual enrollment programs can benefit underachieving students and those underrepresented in higher education. The study found that students who participate in these programs are more likely to graduate from high school, enroll in four-year colleges, and stay in college.

Through Ohio Dominican's Project JumpStart College Credit Plus program, students in grades seven to 12 have an opportunity to earn college credits while still in high school by

taking courses taught by qualified adjunct instructors. ODU began partnering with local high schools to provide this opportunity in 1992.

Today, the university partners with 18 Central Ohio schools. During the 2014-15 academic year, more than 530 high school students were enrolled in ODU courses. They completed nearly 2,500 credit hours.

Corpus Christi Events

The Corpus Christi Center of Peace, 1111 E. Stewart Ave., Columbus, invites everyone to spend some time with others in quiet reflection from 10 a.m. to noon on the Mondays of Lent, beginning Feb. 8 and continuing through March 21, with the exception of Presidents Day, Feb. 15.

In keeping with the Year of Mercy proclaimed by Pope Francis, participants will reflect together on the Lenten readings through the prism of Mary. The program will be led by Anita Davidson, center coordinator.

There is no charge, but a free-will donation is welcome.

A retreat for yarncrafters titled "Ah, the Knots of Our Lives!" will take place from 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26 to noon Sunday, Feb. 28, and will be led by Erin Cordle, director for the diocesan Campaign for Human Development and Catholic Relief Services programs.

Participants are invited to bring knitting, crocheting, tatting, and embroidery projects to work on. The cost of \$125 includes two nights' lodging and four meals. For those who do not wish

In 2009, the partnership was the first in the state of Ohio to be awarded accreditation by the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships. The organization grants accreditation to institutions that demonstrate compliance with quality initiatives, program development, national standards, and communication within its dual enrollment program.

to stay overnight, the cost is \$60, including lunch and supper.

Financial assistance is available for those who need it. Participants who can be encouraged to contribute to a scholarship fund to provide for such situations.

Previously announced events at the center include a weekend retreat in the spirit and style of the Taize community on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 12 and 13 and a day of contemplative prayer and silence on Saturday, Feb. 20.

A centering prayer group meets on the third and fourth Saturdays of the month at 10:30 a.m. The center's Women to Women Listening Circle continues to meet on the second Thursday of each month from noon to 1:30 p.m., with a simple soup lunch at 11:30 a.m. All women of any age or life circumstance are welcome to share their experiences. However, child care is not available.

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

St. Pius X School Open House

Reynoldsburg St. Pius X School, 1061 S. Waggoner Road, plans a very special night for its annual open house and art show, which will take place from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 25.

The school halls will be filled with student artwork and classrooms will be open, featuring examples of class

activities.

The school choirs will perform throughout the evening.

Members of the school advisory board and students from Student Council will provide tours to any interested families.

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Support for miscarriage; Foster father or stepfather?



QUESTION & ANSWER

by: FATHER KENNETH DOYLE
Catholic News Service

Thank you for a recent answer in your column regarding a miscarried child. Until my own personal experience in losing a child, I had no realization as to how deeply a miscarried baby can touch one's heart.

I had no idea where to turn for help, so, beyond my mother and my husband, I grieved in silence. A few years later, still grieving, I did contact a caring priest. He listened over the phone and said that he had seen a couple of prayers that might be appropriate. He then met with my husband and me and, through our discussion and prayer, I was helped to find closure.

But I am still puzzled that the Catholic Church does not have something more formal for grieving parents after a miscarriage occurs. Are there any resources, prayers, or rituals available for the numerous parents who sit with empty arms? (Burlington, Iowa)

Your search for solace after a miscarriage is understandable and, sad to say, all too common. The American Pregnancy Association states that 10 to 25 percent of all clinically recognized pregnancies end in miscarriage. It stands to reason, then, that the Catholic Church would provide resources for such grief-stricken parents, and in fact the church does offer a variety of options that can bring spiritual solace and hope.

The church's official *Book of Blessings* contains a ritual, commonly offered by a priest or deacon, called "Blessing of Parents after a Miscarriage." In it, a series of scriptural readings is provided, each of which highlights the continued presence and support of the Lord through times of sadness.

DELAWARE MISSION

Father Thomas J. Blau, OP, will lead a parish mission on "Understanding God's Mercy" at Delaware St. Mary Church, 82 E. William St., at 7 p.m. from Sunday to Tuesday, Feb. 21 to 23.

Father Blau is a Dominican priest and parochial vicar of Columbus St. Patrick Church, and formerly was campus minister at Ohio Dominican University.

The mission's Tuesday-evening session will conclude with a question-and-answer period. Child care is available. Call (740) 513-3325 if assistance is needed.

One of the prayers reads: "Compassionate God, soothe the hearts of these parents, and grant that through the prayers of Mary, who grieved by the cross of her Son, you may enlighten their faith, give hope to their hearts and peace to their lives."

Other prayers in that same ritual note the promise of eventual reunion with the miscarried child in heaven. One says, "Comfort these parents with the hope that one day we will all live with you."

Another option that the church offers to parents is a funeral Mass for the miscarried child. And since the church believes in the sanctity of life from the moment of conception, parents are always encouraged to give the miscarried child a name, acknowledging the child's unique identity and presence now before the Lord as an intercessor on behalf of the family.

Many dioceses also offer individual counseling and/or support groups for parents after a miscarriage. Your parish would have that information.

With the Church having just celebrated the Feast of the Holy Family, I am prompted to ask a question that has been on my mind for some time. I regularly hear Joseph referred to as the "foster father" of Jesus.

But if Joseph was indeed married to Mary, would it not be more accurate to call him the "stepfather" of Christ? A foster father is sometimes compensated for his role and serves in that capacity for only a short time, whereas a stepfather raises his stepchildren with love. I think that Joseph should be spotlighted as a wonderful example of what a stepfather should be. (Lilly, Pennsylvania)

A foster father is commonly understood to be a surrogate, a man who looks after and brings up a child in place of the natural or adoptive father.

A stepfather is generally taken to indicate the husband of one's mother after the death or divorce of his or her birth father.

Which of these definitions comes closer to describing Joseph? In one sense, neither is precise. Both titles seem to suggest that Joseph arrived on the scene later on, after the birth of the Christ child. But, in fact, Joseph was there from the start, betrothed to Mary (engaged, but with legal responsibilities) at the time of the annunciation.

Between the two titles, I think foster father is more accurate, and that is what the church historically has called Joseph. He filled the role of teacher, protector, and loving guardian of Jesus, though he was not his biological parent.

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

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Mount Carmel selected for care model

Mount Carmel Health Partners, the clinically integrated network for Mount Carmel Health System, has been selected as one of 21 participants in the Next Generation ACO (affordable care organization) Model, sponsored by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

As a member of Trinity Health and the Trinity Health ACO, Mount Carmel will join CMS and other ACOs across the nation in the initiative, whose goal is to ensure better health, better care, and lower costs for individuals and communities.

"It is an honor for Mount Carmel Health Partners to join all of the Next Generation ACO Model participants as we continue to advance our efforts to coordinate care for our patients. This is another great example of Mount Carmel and Trinity Health taking

the lead in innovating care delivery for our patients," said Dr. Daniel Wendorff, president and medical director of Mount Carmel Health Partners.

Mount Carmel is a leader in population health management in central Ohio, taking part in several innovative arrangements with public and private payers, including several ACOs.

Building on this strong position, including assuming responsibility for the care management of more than 190,000 patients, Mount Carmel Health Partners is embarking on its first national ACO through the Next Generation Model, which will allow participants to assume higher levels of financial risk and reward than found with previous national ACO initiatives.

"We will be sharing best practices from across the nation, which will result in

the highest quality of patient care within our health system and further cement our leadership of this innovative care model," Wendorff said.

The Next Generation Model is linked to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' "Better, Smarter, Healthier" approach, in which the department aims to tie 30 percent of traditional, or fee-for-service, Medicare payments to alternative payment models such as ACOs by the end of 2016 and 50 percent of payments to these models by the end of 2018.

Each organization chosen for the model has significant experience coordinating care for patient populations through other initiatives. The participants represent a variety of provider organizations and geographic regions and were selected through an open, competitive process.

World Marriage Day

The diocesan World Marriage Day celebration will feature Dr. Andrew Sodergren speaking on "Love, Marriage, and the Meaning of Life" on Sunday, Feb. 14 at Marian Hall of Columbus Immaculate Conception Church, 366 E. North Broadway. Light refreshments will be available at 1:30 p.m., followed by Sodergren's talk at 2 and a Holy Hour at 3.

There is no charge for the

event, which is being sponsored by the diocesan Marriage & Family Life Office, the Office of Black Catholic Ministries, and the Columbus chapters of World-wide Marriage Encounter, Engaged Encounter, and Retrouvaille. Seating is limited. Those wishing to attend are asked to RSVP by Wednesday, Feb. 10 to familylife.cols.dioc.org or (614) 241-2560.

Holy Land Pilgrimage

Father Joseph Klee of Columbus Sacred Heart Church will be the chaplain for a pilgrimage scheduled for Oct. 24 to Nov. 3.

The pilgrims will visit Galilee, Caesarea, Mount Carmel, Elijah's Cave, Cana, Nazareth, the Church of the Annunciation, Mount Tabor,

the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, Jerusalem, and Bethlehem.

The cost is \$2,930 per person, based on double occupancy. Since those areas are frequent pilgrimage venues, security and safety of the pilgrims are a priority. Many semi-

narians from the United States made pilgrimages there during this past Christmas season.

To register, contact **Tekton Ministries** at (317) 574-4191 or toll free at (866) 905-3787, or register online at www.tektonministries.org.

Celebrating Our Priestly Fathers

By Loren Brown

Throughout Scripture, Christ calls priests to fill countless roles. They serve as the mediators between God and man, overseers of the Church, and guardians of the faithful. It is through their divine ministry that Catholics come to understand Christ on a deeper level. *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* explains that Holy Orders is the sacrament through which the mission entrusted by Christ to His apostles continues to be exercised in the Church until the end of time. Hebrews 5:6 says "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek."

Thus, a priest's work never ceases to exist. Many priests in the Diocese of Columbus make plans to continue their work well beyond their earthly lives. Through estate planning and establishing endowment funds, they ensure perpetual financial support for other priests. In the past year, The Catholic Foundation established eight new funds created by, or in honor of, priests in our diocese.

For example, the Msgr. James Le'Roy Tonkinson Ruef Fund for the Training of Priests was created to provide support for the formation of seminarians in the diocese. By leaving a gift in his will, Msgr. Ruef solidified his commitment to ensuring that all men interested in pursuing a call to religious life have the resources to answer God's call. Like many of our priests, Msgr. Ruef had the incredible foresight to create a plan for his estate that aligned with his values and interests.

While Msgr. Ruef was committed to providing for priests in the beginning of their journey, The Catholic Foundation also works with many priests and individuals who feel strongly about providing for priests toward the end of their

journey. There is a great need to secure funding to ensure the financial stability of priests who retire after serving the Church. Younger generations of priests collaborated with donors to respond to this need. This year, for example, the Father Frank Stanton Endowment Fund for the Long-Term Care of Priests in the Diocese of Columbus was established to serve the ongoing needs of priests after retirement.

The Catholic Foundation also guides individuals, parishes, and other groups in establishing funds to honor priests from the diocese. For instance, The Msgr. Missimi Christian Athlete Scholarship Fund awards scholarship grants to eighth-grade Columbus Immaculate Conception School student-athletes who will attend a Catholic high school. This fund honors Immaculate Conception's beloved Msgr. Anthony Missimi, who retired in 2008.

Over the years, we've had many priests establish a fund through an estate gift, just as we've worked with many donors who wish to honor a priest. We hope more individuals will consider supporting the vocation in this way. Leaving a gift like this is a wonderful way to express appreciation to our priests, who dedicated their lives to guiding us in our lives.

The Catholic Foundation encourages donors, including priests, to consider establishing a fund or leaving a gift to support the priests of the Diocese of Columbus. In addition to individually named funds, the Foundation also administers funds such as the Support for Vocations Fund, the Diocesan Seminarian Assistance Fund, and the Long-Term Healthcare for Priests Fund.

Loren Brown is president and chief executive officer of The Catholic Foundation.

ST. CHARLES ADVENT PROJECT

Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School's Viriditas project, the 2015 schoolwide Advent service effort, was a success, thanks to the student body, the faculty, staff, and students' families. St. Charles homeroom teams directly provided gifts for 12 families residing in Columbus St. Dominic Parish. Weekly collections to benefit the work of St. John's Community Kitchen raised a total just short of \$4,000, which will help provide meals to homeless and hungry people on the near east side of Columbus. More than 300 hats, pairs of gloves, pairs of mittens, and scarves were contributed to the school's mitten tree project and have been donated to Columbus Holy Spirit School for distribution to students in need.

Photo courtesy St. Charles Preparatory School



CATCHING SNOWFLAKES

When the season's first significant snow fall in January, kindergarten students from Lancaster St. Bernadette School went outside to catch snowflakes on black construction paper. Is every flake different?

Photo courtesy St. Bernadette School



CHRISTMAS POSTER CONTEST

Pictured are participants in the Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest sponsored for Logan St. John School students by Knights of Columbus Council 2299 in Logan. They are (from left): Parry Boyle and Jackson Stimmel, runners-up, age 8-10; Isabelle Stowe, first place, age 8-10; Laila Anderson, runner-up, age 8-10; and Sam Sycks, first place, age 5-7. Callie Mohney was in first place in the age 11-14 group. First prize for each group was \$25. Other participants received a gift card.

Photo courtesy Logan St. John Church

JOURNALING WORKSHOP RESCHEDULED

The workshop on journaling with *Catholic Times* columnist Mary van Balen at the Corpus Christi Center of Peace scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 16, was postponed because she was ill. It has been rescheduled for 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, March 19.

Van Balen will share examples of her own journaling and help participants learn to use their journals to become awake to the extraordinary in daily life. A jeweler's loupe, which is a small magnifier, will help participants look more closely, slow down,

and be still. Poetry, music, and images will introduce fresh ideas. Participants are encouraged to bring their own journals or a favorite photo to help inspire them.

A \$25 participation fee includes lunch and coffee breaks. Journals will be available for purchase.

For more information, call (614) 512-3731, go to www.cccenterofpeace.org, or email corpuschristicenterofpeace@gmail.com. The center is at 1111 E. Stewart Ave., Columbus.



Reaching Our Goal



Men by Faith

J. P. Leo Thomas

You hear it all the time from family – “Promises, promises, promises.” Most are followed through, but few are completed. There are an endless series of resolutions made at the beginning of the new year that usually fall short of our intentions. “The mind is strong, but the flesh is weak” is a phrase I am reminded of time and time again. We give such a gallant effort to producing that ripened fruit.

This year, I am going to lose weight. This year, I am going to exercise more. This year, I will not give in to temptation. Sound familiar? Instead of us reaching for goals we may or may not reach, let's do something that is a sure bet. Let us rebuild our relationship with Christ and deepen our spirituality. Let us return to a time when we counted on more things than just calories.

Help a neighbor with mowing the lawn, visit someone who needs your companionship, say a “Thank You” to those who serve our country, or just give a compassionate smile and a warm handshake to those who look like they need it the most. These are such simple ways God gives every one of us to touch the life of another and perhaps to change our own outlook. You could also say a special prayer for someone or dedicate a rosary for a truly worthy cause or person.

Remember, you are not alone. This should not be a scary experience, but one we can embrace with humility, reverence, and grace. It is in human nature to seek out the impossible, to try and obtain such a high standard for ourselves that we just cannot keep it. But Christ gives us an attainable journey, so that we may invite others to go along for the ride.

I was sitting in church the other day and found myself in quiet reflection. I was deep in thought, but paused long enough to lift my head. I caught the glimpse of someone who seemed troubled and was shedding a tear. We talked for a while, and I found her husband was having some health problems and she was concerned he may not survive. I sat there with her, holding her hand, in complete silence. After a few minutes, I could see a smile appear in her eye. She thanked me for my time, and we both said a prayer for her husband and for our families.

It is remarkable to me that something as small as a warm hand could do so much good. You feel a sense of euphoria for doing good and wish that could last forever. A simple act of kindness, of love, can give you the courage to do some amazing things. It makes you feel you can now break that bad habit, give more of your time to your family and friends, to volunteer more, to pray more, and to be more of a person to people you may have felt were neglected.

Throw out the nets and see what you may catch. There is an abundance of life out there, if we are just willing to sacrifice and do the unselfish. You will find yourself trying and doing things you never would have imagined. By coming closer to Christ, we open a whole new world of possibilities. By forgiving yourself and forgiving others, you can reach any goal He sets in your path.

May His blessings be with you throughout this year, may the wind be forever at your back, and may His peace be with you always.

Joseph Thomas is a freelance writer and active in many diocesan and church ministries. He is a member of Gahanna St. Matthew Church. He posts his thoughts online at <http://truegiftoffaith.blogspot.com>.

Abortion number, rate both down, says ‘State of Abortion’ report

By Mark Pattison/Catholic News Service

Both the number of abortions and the rate of abortion are dropping, according to figures released in the third annual “State of Abortion in America” report issued by the National Right to Life Committee.

The number of abortions, which had peaked at about 1.6 million in 1989, is down to 1 million, according to federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention statistics quoted in the report, issued Thursday, Jan. 14.

The abortion rate for all women of childbearing age is down to 210 abortions per 1,000 live births.

The number of abortions performed at Planned Parenthood clinics, though, is up 250 percent in the same time period, according to Carol Tobias, NRLC president. The rate, Tobias added, has remained “relatively steady the last three years,” although the numbers have dropped for other services Planned Parenthood provides at its clinics.

Tobias characterized Planned Parenthood's revenues as “steady abortion income and a cool half-billion in income from state and federal governments.”

One of NRLC's priorities is government defunding of Planned Parenthood. President Barack Obama ve-

toed a bill that would have eliminated Planned Parenthood's eligibility to receive federal grants.

“This is the first time now that the Congress has actually approved legislation to defund Planned Parenthood,” said Douglas Johnson, NRLC legislative director. “The procedural pathway has been set. The only thing lacking now is a pro-life president.”

Johnson said the current Congress is “a pro-life Congress.” He cited 10 House roll-call votes and four Senate roll-call votes, all of which had garnered a majority of pro-life votes. He added that none of the Senate votes met the threshold to override a presidential veto of the defunding measure.

That would apply to a vote scheduled Tuesday, Jan. 26 in the House to override Obama's veto. “That veto is going to be sustained,” Johnson predicted.

The “State of Abortion” report noted that for 2012, the last year for which statistics are available, “more than one in five ... abortions performed at eight weeks gestation or earlier were listed as ‘medical’ abortions by the CDC.” “Medical,” the report added, “is code for chemical,” frequently “morning-after” drugs.

In the 36 states that report the marital status of women

undergoing abortions, “married women accounted for just 14.7 percent of abortions,” the report said, “with 85.3 percent of aborting women being unmarried.”

One exception to the 2012 statistical overview is the number of women dying from a legal abortion. The last year for which statistics are available is 2011. That year, two women died, compared to 10 in 2010. Since the 1973 Supreme Court decisions permitting abortion virtually on demand, 424 women have died in abortions, according to “The State of Abortion.”

The biggest toll, though, Tobias said, is the number of babies aborted, which she put at 58 million since the joint *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* rulings. In addition to the unborn children, Tobias cited “the lasting impact the abortion had on the mothers of these children.”

Even with lower rates, about 1 million abortions are performed annually in the United States, Tobias said. That reflects a 4.2 percent drop from year-before levels.

“We know ultimately we will be successful,” she said. “The immutable truth: Killing unborn children is wrong.”

ST. STEPHEN'S COMMUNITY HOUSE

Promoting self-sufficiency in the Linden area

BY TIM PUET

Reporter, Catholic Times

St. Stephen's Community House in Columbus has brightened the lives of hundreds of thousands of people and strengthened their families by providing many opportunities for personal growth.

Today, it's continuing the mission of advancing self-sufficiency in the Linden neighborhood in a way Bishop James Hartley probably never imagined when he founded the center nearly a century ago — bringing growth in a different sense by cultivating crops and raising fish in the middle of the city.

Project AquaStar, as St. Stephen's urban farm is known, is located in the back of the center, which is located at 17th and Joyce avenues.

It consists of a greenhouse and two hoop houses, plus a teepee which serves as a community gathering place in warmer weather and a symbol of thanks to the Native Americans who taught the nation's earliest settlers the lessons of self-sufficiency and sustainable farming they needed for survival.

"What we're doing is a process called aquaponics," said Henry Pettigrew, who is in charge of the AquaStar program. He said he eagerly took on the challenge of urban farming when the program began in 2013.

Before being hired by St. Stephen's, he had become familiar with the center during 10 years as a counselor with the Columbus city schools.

"It starts with fish," he said. "We obtain tilapia fingerlings in batches of 1,000. They grow together with plants inside the greenhouse, in six 1,200-gallon tanks of water heated to 79 degrees.

"The fish produce waste, which travels to the top of each tank. Microbes and worms convert that waste to fertilizer for plants placed at the

top of the tank waiting for it. The plants then convert the waste into nitrates that clean the water, which returns to the fish, and the cycle continues."

The tilapia eventually are sold, and the fertilized plants are taken to the hoop houses, where they continue to grow before also being sold.

The fish and plants are available at the center on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. all year. During the warmer months, they are on sale at a booth in Columbus' North Market.

Pettigrew said winter crops including collard greens, kale, mustard greens, rosemary, lemon, and thyme are currently available.

Depending on the season, tomatoes, cabbage, lettuce, and other vegetables grown at the center may be on sale, along with tilapia. He said about 5,000 fish have been sold to date.

Michelle Mills, president and chief executive officer of the center, said she began considering an aquaponics program in Columbus when she learned of the success of the Rid-All Green Partnership, which operates on Cleveland's east side in the area where she grew up.

She and Pettigrew, along with six other St. Stephen's staff members who volunteered, were trained about the program during a year of sessions there and in Columbus.

Students from nearby East Linden Elementary School are growing kale at the center as part of a program called Aqua Sprouts, which Pettigrew said is designed to teach them about aquaculture. The center hopes to expand it to other schools, emulating what has been done in Cleveland.

Project AquaStar has provided educational activities for more than 550 people, including about 400 students, since June 2014.

Through St. Stephen's partnership with the Central Ohio Workforce Investment Corporation (COWIC) and the Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services summer YouthWorks program, it has employed more than 25 at-risk youth during the past two summers and has helped eliminate the "summer slide" many urban young people experience when not in school.

"AquaStar has been a great enhancement to St. Stephen's mission in two key ways," Mills said. "It has established and educated people about a new method of bringing food security and healthy food choices to the neighborhood, while also reducing our footprint to the landfill by recycling, reusing, and composting and teaching families the importance of energy conservation.

"In addition, it has provided a major pivot point in the STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) education of our young people.

"As the program grows, I feel the value-added benefits of this new investment in the community will become more apparent to our donors and the public."

St. Stephen's began on the city's south side in 1919, moved to Linden in 1965, and has been at its current location since 1983. From the beginning, it has provided food for those in need. It's now better equipped than ever to perform this essential service.

Thanks to a \$300,000 donation and around \$20,000 in continuing annual support from the OhioHealth group of medical facilities, the center's pantry has grown, giving it more of an open look and enabling it to broaden its role as a resource for food and nutrition education.

It's now a choice pantry, meaning it's set up like a supermarket in which people are allowed to select



St. Stephen's staff members (from left): Michelle Mills, president and chief executive officer; Marilyn Mehaffie, vice president for programs and services; Latisha Addo, family services director; and Henry Pettigrew, vice president for Project AquaStar.



from whatever is available, according to household size and following federal nutrition guidelines, rather than being limited to receiving boxes of randomly selected food. "This allows people to save money, make healthier choices, and give them more ownership of the process," said Latisha Addo, who has worked at St. Stephen's since 1997.

"Every month, we assist about 1,700 people in 800 households," she said. "That number has been stable for the past year after increasing about 30 percent in the previous year. We serve people in eight ZIP codes that include northeast Columbus, Gahanna, Westerville, and part of Worthington. Because we have grown and are a choice pantry, we can say that 'if you come here, we will serve you' according to income and frequency guidelines. We don't have to limit ourselves to, say, the first 50 people daily."

The center is open every weekday (excluding holidays) from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. except Tuesday, when the hours are 3 to 6 p.m. Besides helping people with their food needs, Addo is a certified counselor with the Ohio Benefit Bank program of Franklin County Job and Family Services. This allows her to assist individuals and families by determining their eligibility for various public benefit programs and advising them of what types of assistance are available to them.

The infant mortality rate in Franklin County has been a growing concern in recent years. The county's total of 158 deaths of infants before their first birthday in 2014, the most recent year for which figures are available, was by far the year's highest for any Ohio county. "It's a particularly acute problem here in

Linden, where the infant death rate is higher than anywhere else in the city," Addo said.

"Education is the answer. At St. Stephen's, we offer our Brightening Little Lives Baby Nook to encourage and reward expectant and new mothers for taking the steps they need to ensure that their babies are born healthy and reach their first birthday.

"I can't emphasize enough the importance of the three ABC's of safe sleeping: Infants should sleep Alone, on their Backs, and in a (preferably empty) Crib. Just remembering those three things would save many infant lives," she said.

The Brightening Little Lives program began in 2011 with a grant from The Catholic Foundation. Expectant mothers who sign up for the program are given a pamphlet listing classes offered at the center on subjects such as safe sleeping, breastfeeding, nutrition, and car seat safety. The classes are part of a system which gives points for attendance. Points also are earned for prenatal and postnatal doctor visits and well-baby check-ups, on receipt of signatures from physicians or class instructors.

The points can be used to purchase various infant-care items, ranging from 1,000 points for a crib to 50 for bottles and diapers and 25 for smaller items. Addo said about 25 women have taken advantage of the points program in the past two years. The baby nook is open by appointment and supported by private donations.

"St. Stephen's is very, very helpful in a lot of different ways, and it really gives back to us in the community, especially in times of need," said Elizabeth Montgomery, an expectant mother currently using the nook's services.

Since 1991, St. Stephen's has been the site for a child care center supported by the local chapter of the Christ Child Society. It serves children ages six weeks to five years with year-round day care from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., two meals, a snack, and a variety of programs.

It's designed for the children of parents who are working, receiving job training, or attending an educational program. It was one of the first early-childhood programs in the nation to earn accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Other programs at St. Stephen's, covering every age range from infants to senior citizens, serve more than 30,000 families each year. St. Stephen's is accredited by the National Council on Accreditation.

The center's youth services department, for those ages five to 18 and their families, provides after-school and summer programming to students at the center and at the Hamilton, South Mifflin, and Windsor STEM academies. During the 2013-14 school year, 229 young people were served, with 97 percent passing to the next grade level, 89 percent meeting Columbus school attendance standards, and 78 percent demonstrating reading and math skills at or above grade levels.

The center also sponsors a small-group tutoring program to help young people achieve academic success. The most recent figures show that 48 youths participated and that 71 percent of them improved their literacy scores.

Hundreds of young people ages 14 to 24 enroll each summer in the center's Learn to Succeed program, in collaboration with the city of Columbus, Franklin County Job and

Family Services, and COWIC. The program provides work readiness skills, paid work internships, and case management services.

The center's Project LINK (Learning Innovative New Knowledge) program offers a free hands-on STEM program from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. every weekday from mid-June to mid-August, serving more than 200 youths ages 5 to 13.

For the past two school years, the center has offered the Pathways to Central Ohio engineering program, providing 30 high school students from the Columbus area with activities aligned with different aspects of engineering, as well as an understanding of engineering principles.

The center and Franklin County Children Services are partners in the Family-to-Family Initiative, a one-year program designed to eliminate barriers to family self-sufficiency through participation in services aimed at preserving, supporting, and stabilizing families. The program is offered at St. Stephen's satellite offices in north, south, and east Columbus and at the Gladden and Central community houses. It assists more than 500 families annually.

Since 2010, the center has offered an initiative known as Living Well in Linden, which focuses on providing health and wellness services to the surrounding neighborhood. In addition to the food pantry, it includes a bike loan program and a community garden.

The center provides a lunch to senior citizens every weekday, except holidays, in its dining area, in collaboration with LifeCare Alliance. It also offers advocacy, supportive ser-

See ST. STEPHEN'S, Page 12



From top: The front entrance of St. Stephen's Community House in Columbus; Henry Pettigrew nets some of the tilapia being raised there as part of Project AquaStar; Pettigrew works in a bed of collard greens inside a solar hoop house. CT photos by Ken Snow

ST. STEPHEN'S, continued from P. 11

vices, socialization and recreational activities, and workshops and seminars for seniors in Linden and surrounding areas.

St. Stephen's is a partner in many other community advocacy and parent engagement activities with organizations including Celebrate One, Primary One Health Care, CareSource, Kirwan Institute, WIC Women Infants & Children, Tax Time, and Alcoholics Anonymous.

It has a budget of nearly \$5 million per year, with about one-fourth of that total coming in roughly equal amounts from individual contributions, Franklin County Job and Family Services, and Franklin County Children Services.

The rest comes from the United Way, other community agencies, various fees, and the Diocese of Columbus, which provides about one percent of the total.

The center conducts several fundraising events throughout the year, including its second Fat Tuesday Fish Fry benefiting Project AquaStar, which will take place Tuesday, Feb. 9 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5 to 7:30 p.m.

It will feature a meal of homegrown tilapia, homemade baked macaroni and cheese, coleslaw, french fries (dinner only), and a roll. The price is \$12.

The center's largest fundraiser, Bravo! for the Children, includes silent and live auctions and food from the Bravo! restaurant group.

This is the 25th year for the event, which will be at Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School on Saturday, July 16. It benefits the child care center.

Youth services programs will be the beneficiaries of the annual Gingerbread Fantasy display of gingerbread houses at the Easton Town Center, the Shops at Worthington Place, and the Ohio Union in November and Decem-

ber.

Participants will be invited to vote for their favorite house by making donations. One voter will win a shopping spree at the Easton center.

More than 1,200 volunteers assist St. Stephen's annually, with the largest number taking part in the annual Christmas Cares Union Shares program, which collects nonperishable foods, new toys, and financial contributions for families in need.

This program, begun in the early 1950s, reaches more than 3,500 households each year with the support of the Central Ohio AFL-CIO, schools, business, and individuals.

Its kickoff will be in September, with distribution of items on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 19 and 20.

One of the things which makes St. Stephen's unique is its community canvass, through which staff members survey approximately 750 Linden residents each year to learn their needs and to make sure the center is meeting those needs.

St. Stephen's also is noted for the stability of its staff. This year, Mills will celebrate her 10th anniversary as president and CEO – a lengthy time by most accounts, but still a long way from the terms of her predecessors, John Maloney and Judith Statmiller.

Maloney started at the center as a coach in 1948 and was its executive director from the time of its move to Linden until his death in 1988. Statmiller worked there for 52 years before retiring in 2006 and being replaced by Mills.

Addo has been at the center for 19 years, and many other employees have worked at St. Stephen's for 10 to 20 years or more.

Asked to explain the reason for such longevity, Mills said, "We keep peo-



Expectant mother Elizabeth Montgomery (left) talks with Latisha Addo in the baby nook at St. Stephen's Community House. Montgomery's 3-year-old daughter, My'Joi, is between them.

ple because we are committed to our mission. We drive change based on the needs of the people and our staff, which the canvass helps determine. "Our vision doesn't come from what

the leadership wants, but from the other direction. We aren't here just to deliver a task every day, but to do what we know the people we serve are asking for. We listen to Linden."

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Notre Dame Students Take the Plunge into the Inner City

By Jerry Freewalt

Diocesan Office of Social Concerns

"How do you stay warm?" said a young woman as we prepared to eat dinner. Not your typical conversation topic at the dinner table, but this table was the OSU Star House drop-in center for homeless young people. She had spent the previous frigid January night in a tent in a youth homeless camp near downtown Columbus, hidden from view of daily commuters. I encountered her along the way as I led the annual Notre Dame Urban Plunge, a 48-hour intensive immersion program into the inner city.

Since the late 1970s, the diocesan Office for Social Concerns and the Notre Dame Alumni Club of Columbus have teamed up to host students from the University of Notre Dame during their winter break. But it was far from being a break for the nine students who ventured from homeless camps to Catholic charities and community agencies

to learn about inner-city poverty and various responses to alleviate it. The urban plunge is part of Notre Dame's Church and Social Action Seminar, an experiential learning course that includes course work, an immersion, and a paper. Yes, the students do receive college credit, and it's been my chance to be a Notre Dame "professor" for the past 20 years.

This year, I started off journey by teaching about The Ten Essentials when it comes to living in the backcountry. They include navigation, sun protection, insulation, illumination, first-aid supplies, fire, repair kit and tools, nutrition, hydration, and emergency shelter. I trained Boy Scouts last year before our summer trip to the Rocky Mountains, so talking about this list is second nature to me. The students looked at me a little strangely at first, but quickly realized how import these items are when visiting people in homeless camps.



University of Notre Dame students volunteering at the Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs (JOIN) as part of their 48-hour urban plunge. Photo courtesy Jerry Freewalt

As we parked our van near a wooded area in the city, people came out – men, women, and, in one case, small children, in need of each of The Ten Essentials. In addition to food, they needed hand warmers, blankets, propane tanks, batteries, and especially toilet paper. Yes, toilet paper was a universal need that was in short supply.

We encountered a young homeless man with a head injury. Chunks of skin and blood oozed all over his face. He needed emergency medical attention. I offered to treat him using my first-aid kit, but he refused, with a sense of shock and despair in his eyes. We gave him food and prayed with him and others. He went away into the darkness.

Although there were tragic situations on our journey, we did experience joy and laughter as well. The students played with children at St. Stephen's Community House's day care program. Warm hearts and witty humor were evident in dedicated volunteers at JOIN and the St. Vincent de Paul Clothing Center. They reminded the students to see the face of Christ in the poor. Smiles were exchanged as 203 people at St. Lawrence Haven were fed and LifeCare Alliance meals on wheels were delivered to senior citizens in 60 houses. It was almost a game as 2,000 toys, to be given away for the Three Kings celebration at Catholic Social Services' Our Lady of Guadalupe Center, were

sorted. There was quiet celebration for a second-grader with severe behavioral health issues who studied for his spelling test at St. Vincent Family Center.

The Notre Dame students caught their breath for a few moments to learn about how to run a nonprofit organization, what public policy issues are of concern to the Catholic Conference of Ohio, how communities can address change through the BREAD organization, and how homeless youth are making a difference through the Youth Empowerment Program. We finished the plunge with Mass at St. Joseph Cathedral, followed by an alumni reception.

The most important takeaway for the urban plunge participants was seeing the Church in action. As The Ten Essentials were provided, the students witnessed true Christian charity – love, mercy, and companionship.

Pope Francis has likened the Church to a field hospital after a battle, urging us to dust off our indifference and go out into the streets to heal our broken world and be friends with those who are lost in the throwaway culture.

The Notre Dame Urban Plunge does just that. It offers a glimpse into the plight of the poor, demonstrates the joy of the Gospel, and forms an indelible impression into the heart of a young adult that hopefully provides the essentials of faithful navigation for years to come.

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1 Corinthians 12:12-30;
Luke 1:1-4;4:14-21**

Ezra and Nehemiah were religious reformers of post-exilic Judaism, dating about 450 BC. They appear after the Second Jewish Temple is rebuilt, after the Exile has ended. Today, they are two separate books, but both are seen as the fulfillment of prophets such as II Isaiah and Jeremiah, who had promised a return from exile. The actual written works come from the fourth century BC. They provide comfort and renewed pride in retaking the land of Judah and in reclaiming the Law of Moses for survivors of the Exile.

They also have a heightened awareness that because the Israelites' ancestors ignored the prophets, the land was taken. Therefore, increased religious fervor lay behind their words. By insisting on religious purity, their instructions caused much difficulty for people who had learned to live with the change of circumstances caused by the Exile.

In today's world, we would call it religious fundamentalism. The "fundamentals" of this renewal were found in the Law, the contents of which were being read to "those men, women and children old enough to understand." Ezra wanted his fellow Jews to understand the Law he proclaimed as the authentic handing-on of the Law of Moses. It no doubt contained the editorial work of scribes while in exile. Ezra is highly regarded in Judaism as the one who exemplified faithfulness to the covenant.

Nehemiah was a former "cup bearer" (one who served the king's wine, and probably tasted it first!)

Catholics urged to use social media, novena to share pro-life message

As the Jan. 22 anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision approached, the chairman of the U.S. bishops' committee on pro-life activities urged everyone concerned about "the tragedy of abortion" to recommit themselves to a "vision of life and love, a vision that excludes no one."

Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York also called on Catholics to participate in a new "Nine Days for Life" campaign launched by the bishops' secretariat of pro-life activities.

The centerpiece of the campaign is a novena from Jan. 16 to 24 which has "as its overarching intention the end to abortion, according to the website 9daysforlife.com. Details about the campaign also are explained in a YouTube video: <http://youtu.be/gxJwfcfUjU>.

and a trusted aide to King Artaxerxes. The king appointed him to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. He was clearly the descendant of one of the original exiles and remained faithful to the religion of his ancestors.

Beyond the clarity of the Law of Moses, there was still need for someone to explain what Ezra the priest was saying, and that task fell to Nehemiah and a host of others. After weighing their own behavior against what the Law, now newly proclaimed, required, the people were moved to tears. Yet they are encouraged to rejoice, because now that they know what is required, they need not fall back into their former ways.

It is this same kind of joy which Pope Francis brings to the church. He says clearly what is required of us, which causes joy and not a few tears. He acknowledges what stands in the way of true joy, while finding joy as a constant companion of Christians. There is great rejoicing, but also lots of anger and bitterness at this simple message. So it was with Ezra and Nehemiah.

The Gospel combines the beginning of Luke with the early stages of Jesus' "public" career in Nazareth, where he was raised. The scene is unique to Luke, with Jesus reading from the prophet Isaiah (actually three different verses: Isaiah 61:1-2 and Isaiah 58:6). Going to synagogue on the Sabbath was Jesus' custom and was the same for all faithful Jews who lived outside the Jerusalem area. Jerusalem was the place for offering sacrifice.

The usual first-century synagogue service consisted of reading from and reflecting on the Law and the Prophets. It is in the reflection on Isaiah that Jesus announces, "Today, this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing." The reaction of the people will come in next week's Gospel.

Paul's reflections on the parts of the body, each with its own function but each serving the needs of the whole, are brilliantly applied to the church. We all have different roles to play, but are equipped with different gifts. Who should play what roles should be the work of the Spirit.

Father Lawrence Hummer may be reached at hummerl@stmarychillicothe.com.

The campaign makes use of something the founders of the pro-life movement decades ago would never have imagined -- social media. The novena is meant to be shared with the online community through social media posts, videos, and selfies labeled #9DaysforLife.

Each day's prayer guide -- in English or Spanish -- can be accessed through an app, email, or text message. People also can follow the novena campaign on Twitter, Instagram, or Facebook.

"Pro-lifers should reach out to "the great majority of Americans" who are "open to hearing a message of reverence for life. ... We who present the pro-life message must always strive to be better messengers," Cardinal Dolan said.

The Weekday Bible Readings

MONDAY
Acts 22:3-16 or 9:1-22
Psalm 117:1bc,2
Mark 16:15-18

TUESDAY
2 Timothy 1:1-8 or Titus 1:1-5
Psalm 96:1-3,7-8a,10
Mark 3:31-35

WEDNESDAY
2 Samuel 7:4-17
Psalm 89:4-5,27-30
Mark 4:1-20

THURSDAY
2 Samuel 7:18-19,24-29
Psalm 132:1-5,11-14
Mark 4:21-25

FRIDAY
2 Samuel 11:1-4a,5-10a,13-17
Psalm 51:3-7,10-11
Mark 4:26-34

SATURDAY
2 Samuel 12:1-7a,10-17
Psalm 51:12-17
Mark 4:35-41

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE WEEK OF JANUARY 24, 2016

SUNDAY MASS
10:30 a.m. Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com.
Mass with the Passionist Fathers at 7:30 a.m. on WWHO-TV (the CW), Channel 53, Columbus, and 10:30 a.m. on WHIZ-TV, Channel 18, Zanesville. Check local cable system for cable channel listing.
Mass from Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, Birmingham, Ala., at 8 a.m. on EWTN (Time Warner Channel 385, Insight Channel 382, or WOW Channel 378).
(Encores at noon, 7 p.m., and midnight).
Mass from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee at 6:30 a.m. on ION TV (AT&T U-verse Channel 195, Dish Network Channel 250, or DirecTV Channel 305).

DAILY MASS
8 a.m., Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Birmingham, Ala. (Encores at noon, 7 p.m. and midnight). See EWTN above; and on 1-Lifetv (Channel 113 in Ada, Logan, Millersburg, Murray City and Washington C.H.; Channel 125 in Marion, Newark, Newcomerstown and New Philadelphia; and Channel 207 in Zanesville); 8 p.m., St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com.

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

Looking toward November 8



THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE
George Weigel

To redeploy a phrase from President Ford, our "long national nightmare" -- in this case, the semi-permanent presidential campaign -- will be over in 11 months, or at least suspended for a year or so. It's not been an altogether edifying show to date; one may hope that, as the fields get winnowed down, a measure of the serious debate that befits a great republic might emerge. With a view to encouraging that, here are two suggestions for what Catholics in America might ponder before Nov. 8.

(1). The most important numbers to keep in mind between now and Election Day are "78," "80," and "83." Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer will be 78 by November 8; Justices Antonin Scalia and Anthony Kennedy will be 80 by then, and Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg will be 83. If the actuarial tables mean anything, those numbers suggest that the next president of the United States is likely to get two, perhaps three, and just possibly four nominations to the court.

This demographic reality creates an opportunity, unprecedented since the disaster of *Roe v. Wade*, to make significant advances in rebuilding the structure of legal protection for human life from conception until natural death in the United States. It also cre-

ates the possibility of reversing more than a half-century's jurisprudential malpractice in the matter of Church-and-state and reaffirming the truth about the First Amendment, which is that "no establishment" serves the goal of "free exercise." And it just might mean getting the question of what "marriage" is, and who may "marry" whom, reconsidered as a matter of constitutional law, not public policy preference.

It will thus make a vast difference who makes these nominations, and how the Senate that will advise and consent on them is configured. For if real progress on reaffirming the right to life, securing religious freedom, and defending marriage rightly understood is possible under one scenario, it is just as possible that the alternative scenario will produce a court that deals potentially fatal hammer blows to these causes for the foreseeable future.

(2). When the new president gets his or her first intelligence briefing in the Oval Office on Jan. 21, 2017, he or she may wonder what demon possessed him or her to want the job. For the world is almost certainly going to be more dangerous that day than at any point since the height of the Cold War, and perhaps as long ago as 1947. The campaign consultants will tell candidates that, when it comes to what we might call the Presidential, it is, was, and always will be about the economy. Serious Catholics will know better. It's about our national character. It's about building on, not wasting, the victory of freedom in the Cold War. It's about responsibility.

George Weigel is Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

Fish fry fan needs your help

Because Easter is early this year -- the date is Sunday, March 27 -- Lent is right around the corner. That means it's time for the annual *Catholic Times* fish fry issue, which will bear the date of Sunday, Feb. 7.

For the third year, the issue will feature a look at fish fries throughout the diocese by J.K. Mendenhall, the *Times* "fish fry guy."

Mendenhall attends three or four fish fries a night on the six Fridays of Lent before Good Friday, but needs help to do so, because he's blind. Through the generosity of *Times* readers, he's found

people to assist him in his travels so that he doesn't have to rely on the restrictions of the Central Ohio Transit Authority's Mainstream service, his main method of transportation. This year, he has a ride for most Fridays, but is looking for someone who could transport him on Feb. 12 and 19.

He promises an evening of good conversation and good fish to anyone interested. He lives near the intersection of State Route 161 and North High Street in Worthington and may be reached by calling (614) 846-6446 or (614) 400-8879 and leaving a message.

**START YOUR DAY
A BETTER WAY!**

**AM 820
CATHOLIC RADIO**

Pray for our dead

ARGENTA, Thomas O., 84, Jan. 9
St. Peter Church, Columbus

BANDY, David C., 63, formerly of Columbus, Jan. 3
St. Gertrude Church, Cincinnati

BELLAMY, William N., 88, Jan. 10
St. Catharine Church, Columbus

BOBO, Frances C., 93, Jan. 12
St. Leo Church, Columbus

COOPER, Beverly, 86, Jan. 11
St. Joseph Church, Plain City

DAY, Jo Ann, 88, Jan. 7
St. Catharine Church, Columbus

FIJALKOWSKI, Helen S., 101, Jan. 13
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

HARLETT, Barbara A., 72, Jan. 11
Our Lady of Peace Church, Columbus

KUNKLER, Helen, 77, Jan. 14
St. Mary Church, Bremen

MELARAGNO, Pat V., 95, Jan. 13
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

METZ, Alice J., 93, Jan. 14
St. Cecilia Church, Columbus

ROSE, William W., 88, Dec. 30
Church of the Nativity, Utica

SNYDER, Mike, 67, Jan. 12
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

SWAIN, Kerri L., 33, Jan. 12
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

WALENT, John M., 68, Jan. 8
St. Michael Church, Worthington

WITHEROW, Robert J., 76, Jan. 8
St. Elizabeth Church, Columbus

Joan C. Poirier

Funeral Mass for Joan C. Poirier, 94, who died Tuesday, Jan. 5, was held Monday, Jan. 11, at Columbus Immaculate Conception Church. Burial was at Resurrection Cemetery, Lewis Center.

She was born Nov. 14, 1921, in Winooski, Vermont to Honora and Laura LaMothe.

She worked at the Winooski Woolen Mill, then moved to Columbus following her marriage in 1948, joining Immaculate Conception Church. She was a founding member of Columbus St. Peter Church when it moved to northern Franklin County in 1970, then became an Immaculate Conception parishioner again in recent years.

In her parishes, she was an extraordi-

nary minister of the Eucharist, serving residents of the Mayfair Village care center, a volunteer at the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Shop, and a member of the bereavement committee and the RENEW group, and helped care for the landscaping at Resurrection Cemetery.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Robert; son, Michael; brothers, Prosper and Paul; and sisters, Noella Roy, Theresa Chasteny, and Sister Agnes LaMothe. Survivors include sons, Deacon Donald (Julie) Poirier of Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Robert (Marilynne), and Dennis (Deena); brother, Oscar; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Anne M. Faherty

Funeral Mass for Anne M. “Molly” Faherty, 83, who died Wednesday, Nov. 16, was held Saturday, Jan. 23 at New Lexington St. Rose Church.

She was born Jan. 23, 1932 to Stephen and Ruth (McGreevy) Faherty, and was a graduate of Columbus St. Joseph Academy and Edgecliff College in Cincinnati.

She was a former religious education director at Marysville Our Lady

of Lourdes Church and taught in religious education programs in California, Arizona, and Illinois. She also worked for the city of Columbus and retired after 20 years as an employee of the state of Ohio.

She was preceded in death by her parents, brothers, William and James; and sister, Joan Fitzgerald. Survivors include a brother, Timothy (Catherine); and several nieces and nephews.

Sister M. Thomasina John, PCJ

Funeral Mass for Sister M. Thomasina John, PCJ, 88, who died Saturday, Jan. 9, at the Mohun Health Care Center, was held Wednesday, Jan. 13 at the Motherhouse of the Dominican Sisters of Peace. Burial was at Mount Carmel Cemetery, Parkersburg, West Virginia.

She was born March 27, 1927, in Wheeling, West Virginia, to Thomas and Sadie John. She attended Duquesne University and LaRoche College in Pittsburgh, Wheeling (West Virginia) College (now Wheeling Jesuit University), and The College of Steubenville (now Franciscan University of Steubenville). She became a member of the Sisters of the Poor Child Jesus in Parkersburg in 1952.

She grew up practicing the Maronite rite of the Catholic Church, becoming a Roman Catholic on entering religious life because at the time, that was a requirement of the Catholic Church. That rule has since been changed.

Survivors include a cousin, Sister Sharon Peters, PCJ, in England; and several other cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Carl W. Weisgerber

Funeral Mass for longtime *Catholic Times* artist Carl W. Weisgerber, 93, who died Thursday, Jan. 14, was held Wednesday, Jan. 20 at St. John the Evangelist Church in West Chester, Ohio.

Weisgerber began working for the *Times* in 1966, when a Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School classmate, the late Bishop George Fulcher, who was the newspaper’s editor at the time, asked if he could contribute a cartoon each week.

He started off doing serious editorial and political cartoons, which evolved into works of a more humorous nature as they become a fixture of the paper for the next 40 years, until his retirement in 2006. The *Times* during that period was one of a handful of diocesan newspapers nationwide with a weekly cartoon.

He also was employed for about 30 years as a staff artist at the former Lazarus department store in Columbus, and was a parishioner of Colum-

bus Christ the King Church for 54 years. After retirement, he moved to Georgia and later to West Chester to be closer to his children.

He was born on June 27, 1922, and grew up as a member of Columbus St. Leo Church. In the 1940s, he studied engineering at The Ohio State University before serving overseas in the Army for 28 months during World War II. Upon his return, he attended the University of Dayton, worked for the Pennsylvania Railroad, and took correspondence courses from the Famous Artists School by mail.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 65 years, Ida Mae, and sisters, Helen Van Heyde, Margaret Endres, Mary Lou Kordes, and Ruth Weisgerber. Survivors include sons, Richard (Marie) and Gerry (Sallie); daughters, Marilyn (Donnie) Massey and Mary (Michael) Blubaugh; sister, Rose Marie Bighouse; two grandsons; seven granddaughters; and eight great-grandchildren.

H A P P E N I N G S

JANUARY

21, THURSDAY

Cenacle at Holy Name
6 p.m., Holy Name Church, 154 E. Patterson Ave., Columbus. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, with prayers in the Cenacle format of the Marian Movement of Priests. **614-866-4302**

Abortion Recovery Network Group
7 to 8 p.m., Gateway Center, 2670 N. Columbus St., Lancaster. Pregnancy Decision Health Center abortion recovery network group meeting for anyone interested in recovering from abortion or who has been through a recovery program and wants to stay connected. **614-888-8774**

Young Professionals Program at Newman Center
7:30 to 9:30 p.m., St. Thomas More Newman Center, 64 W. Lane Ave., Columbus. Faith and fellowship program for Catholic young professionals. **614-291-4674**

22, FRIDAY

Respect Life Mass and Rally for Life
10:30 a.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Bishop Frederick Campbell celebrates Mass in observance of the day of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through abortion, and of prayer for full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life, followed at noon by the annual Rally for Life at the Statehouse, sponsored by Greater Columbus Right to Life, to express support for pro-life activities on the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision. **614-866-2859**

23, 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

All fund-raising events (festivals, bazaars, spaghetti dinners, fish fries, bake sales, pizza/sub sales, candy sales, etc.) will be placed in the "Fund-Raising Guide." An entry into the Guide will be \$18.50 for the first six lines, and \$2.65 for each additional line. For more information, call David Garick at 614-224-5195.

'Happenings' submissions

Notices for items of Catholic interest must be received at least 12 days before expected publication date. We will print them as space permits. Items not received before this deadline may not be published. Listings cannot be taken by phone. Mail to: The Catholic Times Happenings, 197 East Gay St., Columbus, OH 43215 Fax to: 614-241-2518 E-mail as text to tpuet@colsdio.org

confession.

'Care for Our Home' Retreat at Shepherd's Corner
9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Shepherd's Corner Ecology Center, 987 N. Waggoner Road, Blacklick. Retreat led by Sister Marguerite Chandler, OP, and Sister Diane Kozlowski, OP, reflecting on Pope Francis' encyclical "On Care for Our Common Home." Some time will be spent outdoors if conditions permit. \$15 fee includes lunch. **614-866-4302**

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**

St. Pius X Family Fun Night
6 to 10 p.m., St. Pius X School, 1061 S. Waggoner Road, Reynoldsburg. Family fun night for parish youth and adult volunteers and anyone who is an inactive Catholic and is interested in returning to or joining the parish. Includes dinner, games, music, door prizes, and stewardship fair. Begins with Welcome Mass at 5 p.m. **614-866-2859**

24, SUNDAY

St. Christopher Adult Religious Education
10 to 11:20 a.m., Library, Trinity Catholic School, 1440 Grandview Ave., Columbus. Parishioners Susan Allardyce, Elaine DiSalvo, and Blanche Luczyk talk about their 2015 trip to Cuba.

St. Catherine of Bologna Secular Franciscans
2:30 to 5 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Church, 386 Buttles Ave., Columbus. Rosary, Meet in church for prayer, followed by general meeting, ongoing formation, and social. **Organ Concert at Cathedral**
3 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Organ concert with James David Christie, chair and professor of organ at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and organist for the Boston Symphony. **614-241-2526**

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

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

DivorceCare Support Group at St. Matthew
7 to 9 p.m., St. Michael Room, St. Matthew Church, 807 Havens Corners Road, Gahanna. First meeting of DivorceCare support group for people looking for help and healing from the hurt of divorce. Meetings continue every Sunday through May 1, except Feb. 7 and March 27. Cost \$30. **614-269-7098 or 614-575-1507**

25, MONDAY

St. Pius X School Open House
6:30 to 8 p.m., St. Pius X School, 1061 S. Waggoner Road, Reynoldsburg. Open house for prospective students and their parents, with student art show and presentations by school choir. **614-866-6050**

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

26, TUESDAY

Serra Club of North Columbus Meeting
Noon, Jessing Center, Pontifical College Josephinum, 7625 N. High St., Columbus. Serra Club of North Columbus meeting. Speaker: Father Tony Davis, newly ordained parochial vicar at Columbus St. Andrew Church. Reservations required.

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

Planned Giving Program at Grove City
6 to 8 p.m., Parish Life Center, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 3730 Broadway, Grove City. Program for professional advisers who assist people with planning for charitable giving, featuring Tiffney Hatem of The Catholic Foundation. **614-443-8893**

ASK Faith Formation Program at St. John Neumann
7 p.m., Faith and Family Center, St. John Neumann Church, 9633 E. State Route 37, Sunbury. ASK (Adults Seeking Knowledge) adult faith formation question-and-answer program. Food, drinks available. **740-965-1358**

Prayer Group Meeting at St. Mark
7:30 p.m., St. Raymond Room, St. Mark Center, 324 Gay St., Lancaster. Light of Life Prayer group meeting. **740-653-4919**

27, WEDNESDAY

Evening of Prayer for Men at St. Therese's
6 to 9 p.m., St. Therese's Retreat Center, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus. Evening of prayer and reflection for men with Father Josh Wagner, sponsored by Catholic Laymen's Retreat League. Theme: "The Four Pillars of Prayer." Cost \$25; dinner included. **614-753-1696 or 614-425-5422**
Westerville Theology on Tap Meeting
7:30 to 9:30 p.m., Old Bag of Nails, 24 N. State St., Westerville. Meeting of Westerville St. Paul Church Theology on Tap discussion and social group for young Catholics. Topic: "Morality," presented by Mary Poretta. **614-882-2537**

28, THURSDAY

Cenacle at Holy Name
6 p.m., Holy Name Church, 154 E. Patterson Ave., Columbus. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, with prayers in the Cenacle format of the Marian Movement of Priests. **Young Professionals Program at Newman Center**
7:30 to 9:30 p.m., St. Thomas More Newman Center, 64 W. Lane Ave., Columbus. Pub trivia night for Catholic young professionals. **614-291-4674**

30, 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.

Bosco Bash at St. Cecilia School
2:30 to 9 p.m., St. Cecilia School, 440 Norton Road, Columbus. Annual Bosco Bash rally for sixth- to eighth-grade students, sponsored by diocesan Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry. Theme: "Unbreakable," with speaker Bob Lesnfsky, also known as Catholic rapper "Righteous B," music by Station 14, skits, games, dinner, and evening Mass. cost \$20. **614-241-2565**

31, SUNDAY

St. Christopher Adult Religious Education
10 to 11:20 a.m., Library, Trinity Catholic School, 1440

Grandview Ave., Columbus. "Architecture and Prayer," with artist Gina Switzer using photos of area churches to discuss how sacred spaces can lead people more deeply into the mysteries of worship and contemplative prayer.

Praise Mass at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal
11 a.m., Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 5225 Refugee Road, Columbus. Praise Mass with upbeat contemporary music. **614-861-1242**

Open House at St. Brigid of Kildare School
Noon to 2:30 p.m., St. Brigid of Kildare School, 7175 Avery Road, Dublin. Open house for parents of prospective students. **614-718-5825**

Scout Day with the Bishop
3 p.m., Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road, New Albany. Annual Scout Day with the Bishop program, with Bishop Frederick Campbell honoring diocesan Scouts who have received religious awards.

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

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

31, FEB. 1-2, SUNDAY-TUESDAY

St. Edward Parish Mission
1 p.m. Sunday, 7 p.m. Monday-Tuesday, St. Edward Church, 785 Newark-Granville Road, Granville. Parish mission, led by Father Paul Fagan, CP. Theme: "Living by Faith the Challenge of the Holy Year of Mercy." **740-587-3254**

FEBRUARY

2, TUESDAY

Catholic War Veterans Monthly Meeting
7 p.m., Red Room, St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road, Columbus. Catholic War Veterans Post 1936 meeting. For those who served three months, were honorably discharged, or are on active duty. **614-221-7601**

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

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

3, WEDNESDAY

Prayer Shawl Making at Shepherd's Corner
7 to 8:30 p.m., Shepherd's Corner Ecology Center, 987 N. Waggoner Road, Blacklick. First of four biweekly sessions of making hand-knitted and crocheted prayer shawls for those in need, with Sister Diane Kozlowski, OP. Patterns available. Supply list sent on registration. No experience necessary. Suggested donation \$5. Registration deadline Jan. 31. **614-866-4302**

4, THURSDAY

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



EXHIBIT IN MEMORY OF AN ARTIST



The Personal Collection and Artwork of Father Harry Schneider



The Jubilee Museum, 57 S. Grubb St., Columbus, is honored to present "In Memory of an Artist: The Personal Collection and Artwork of Father Harry Schneider." The exhibition, which runs through Saturday, Feb. 6, offers visitors a chance to see highlights from Father Harry's art collection, as well as Father Harry's own artwork—jewelry, ceramics, and works on paper.

Father Harry's art collection includes a number of remarkable pieces; among them, a lithograph by American social-realist artist Ben Shahn, aquatints by French artist Georges Rouault, an etching of the Crucifixion by Baroque Dutch master Rembrandt van Rijn, silkscreens by Sister Mary Corita Kent, color lithographs of Dante's *Divine Comedy* by Salvador Dali, a color lithograph by Joan Miro, and a color pencil drawing of a woman by Jean Cocteau.

Father Harold E. Schneider (1928–2015) graduated with a fine arts degree from The Ohio

State University in 1952. Following graduation from Mount Saint Mary of the West Seminary in Norwood, he was ordained a priest by Bishop Clarence Isenman on May 26, 1962 at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral. Father Harry retired in 1998, but remained active, assisting at a number of parishes, including Gahanna St. Matthew and Columbus Holy Spirit.

Father Harry was a founding member and a past president of the Liturgical Art Guild of Ohio, and a board member of Ohio Designer Craftsmen and the Greater Columbus Arts Council. He studied interior design and ceramics at Ohio State, designed and executed mosaic architectural panels for his seminary, and worked in the studio of Sister Mary Corita in California. Serving as an assistant pastor in several Columbus churches, he advocated commissioning contemporary liturgical artists. As an art instructor at Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, he

established a program offering studio spaces to local professional artists in order to facilitate their communication with students. Active and well-respected in the Columbus art community, Father Harry supported artists by collecting prints, sculptures, and contemporary studio glass. He studied jewelry at the Columbus Cultural Arts Center and established a personal studio in the Jubilee Museum, where he designed and fabricated wonderful jewelry.

For more information please visit the museum's website at www.jubileemuseum.org or call (614) 600-0054. A suggested donation of \$10 per person is greatly appreciated.

MARTIN LUTHER KING SERVICE



The Community of Holy Rosary and St. John the Evangelist in Columbus conducted its annual service in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Monday, January 18. The featured speaker was the Rev. Kendal C. Wright of West Chester, Ohio, a nationally known author, lecturer, and Baptist

minister. In his remarks, Wright told the congregation, "We celebrate the life of Dr. King today because he was a messenger of love, hope, peace, truth, and dignity. He answered the Lord's call and dedicated his life to making this message a living testament to the power of the Holy Spirit through God's enduring love for all humankind."

CT photos by Ken Snow



SURVIVORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING FIND COMFORT IN HEALING RETREAT

As part of their continuing efforts to provide healing from the effects of human trafficking, the Dominican Sisters of Peace hosted a retreat at the beginning of the new year for 20 women who are trafficking survivors.

The women gathered at St. Therese's Retreat Center in Columbus from California, Texas, Florida, Colorado, Illinois, Michigan, and Ohio. They ranged in age from the early 20s to the 40s.

The retreat was organized by the sisters and Theresa Flores, founder of SOAP (Save Our Adolescents from Prostitution). Flores, herself a human trafficking survivor, is nationally known as a speaker and writer about the subject.

Human trafficking is a form of modern slavery that exists throughout the United States and globally. Traffickers use violence, threats, lies, debt bondage, and other forms of coercion to compel adults and children to engage in commercial sex acts against their will. Each part of the retreat was designed to lift the spirits of the women attending and to provide them with positive images of themselves.

The retreat began with the washing of feet, led by Sister

Carol Davis, OP, a substance abuse counselor and retreat leader from Niskayuna, New York. "I believe this retreat is important for healing," she said. "Survivors can claim their voice, speak their truth, and connect with others who understand."

Maria Durant, a Columbus television news reporter, offered tips on how to be interviewed, especially for survivors who want to tell their story.

Michigan State Highway Patrol Troopers Mary Capp and Tressa Duffin provided instruction in self-defense and nutrition. When the out-of-uniform troopers introduced themselves, some of the women initially reacted negatively. "I was often treated as a criminal by the police," one woman said. "I'm so glad you two understand."

Art therapists Mary Helen Fernandez Stewart and Lyndsey Archer guided the women in creating their LIFT books. LIFT stands for Listen and Know, Inspires, To Fly Free and Trust. The therapists work with the Hope and Liberation Coalition, which is dedicated to creating awareness and preventing human trafficking via the arts.



Left: Theresa Flores (left) and Sister Noreen Malone, OP, listen to trafficking survivors. Right: Dr. Katerina Rosenblatt with a LIFT book created in her art therapy session.



Sister Noreen Malone, OP, introduced the women to "the real woman at the well" in John's Gospel. "From her, we learn that God is not in the mountain, but in our thirst. God is not in the temple, but in the stream of our desire," Sister Noreen said.

Pastor Bonnie Laudeman, a chaplain with the Oakland County, Michigan, sheriff's office, spoke about "the bad girls of the Bible." "We don't transform ourselves. God does," she said. "We can't forgive ourselves. God forgives us."

Dr. Katerina Rosenblatt of Florida, founder of the There Is HOPE for Me foundation, talked about her experience of being trafficked as a teen. "Trafficking happens everywhere," she said. "At first, I tried to understand how God could allow these terrible things to happen to me. Now I know that God uses my life to touch the lives of others."

She recalled the subtle grooming process that prepared her to be trafficked. "I was looking for love, and instead I found manipulation," she said. "I want the sisters to know how much this retreat means to me. This retreat is my freedom time. I am celebrating this new year as my time to be free from

trafficking and abuse."

Dr. Carolyn Hixson, a Columbus-area obstetrician-gynecologist, offered health consultations to the women. She also presented a session on "Dealing with my 'Not-Enoughness,'" noting that everyone must learn to replace feelings of defeat and inadequacy with the truth.

Sister Maxine Shonk, OP, led the women in reflecting on the topic "What's Your Song? Reclaiming Your Innocence." This was followed by a drum circle.

Toward the end of the retreat, the attendees were asked what they had experienced. Words such as grace, hope, mercy, freedom, compassion, relief, and truth were repeated over and over.

The concluding session in-

involved each woman writing a word or phrase describing a burden she carried. The women placed the papers into a bowl of water and watched it slowly dissolve away. Sisters then prayed with each woman individually.

As a sign of support and comfort, the attendees were gifted with prayer shawls made by volunteers who prayed as they knitted them. The women also received Bibles and personal care items.

The retreat was funded by a grant from the Conrad Hilton Fund for Sisters, as well as donations from individuals.

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month. For more information on trafficking, visit www.stopenslavement.org or read *The Slave Across the Street* by Theresa Flores or *Stolen* by Katerina Rosenblatt.



Sister Carol Davis, OP, prays with a trafficking survivor during a retreat at St. Therese's Retreat Center. Photo courtesy Dominican Sisters of Peace

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