CATHOLIC MISSIONS BRING LIGHT IN WORLD’S DARK PLACES
The Editor’s Notebook

We are all Misionaries

By David Garick, Editor

This week, Catholic Times looks at the mission of the church. For most of us, the word “missionary” is vaguely exotic. We know what a missionary does, but we don’t really see a connection to our everyday lives. We have all heard the Gospel accounts of how Our Lord sent his disciples to carry his message to the entire world, but we don’t think he is talking to us. Every one of us who professes to call Jesus Christ our Lord is happy to accept his act of sacrifice that gives us redemption and everlasting life, but we tend to be leery of his call to us to pick up our crosses and follow him.

The great gift of faith is not something we can hoard. It does us no good if we try to keep it just for ourselves. Christ wants us to give of ourselves, as he did, to aid the least among us … the poor, the sick, the troubled. He wants us to share with them his eternal message of love and salvation. We can do that with those around us every day. But we also have an obligation to reach out to people around the world. This issue of Catholic Times takes a look at how outreach from the Diocese of Columbus is living out Christ’s call of service to the world. In these stories, you will read about people who have made a very personal commitment to make a difference in the lives of people who live far away in a vastly different environment, but with whom we share a common relationship in Christ. They need our financial support and they need our prayers and our encouragement as they face enormous challenges in bringing food, shelter, education, and, most importantly, the love of God. The mission of carrying the Gospel to the four corners of the earth did not end in the First Century. It continues today and will continue in every generation.

Pope announces 17 new cardinals, including three from U.S.

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

Pope Francis will conclude the Year of Mercy by creating 17 new cardinals, including three from the United States: Archbishop Blase J. Cupich of Chicago; Bishop Kevin J. Farrell, prefect of the new Vatican office for laity, family and life; and Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin of Indianapolis.

(Archbishop Cupich was president-rector of the Pontifical College Josephinum from 1989-96.)

Announcing the names of the new cardinals Oct. 9, Pope Francis said, “Their coming from 11 nations expresses the universality of the church that proclaims and witnesses the good news of God’s mercy in every corner of the earth.”

The new cardinals -- 13 of whom are younger than 80 and therefore eligible to vote in a conclave to elect a new pope, and four over 80 being honored for their “clear Christian witness” -- will be inducted into the College of Cardinals on Nov. 19, the eve of the close of the Year of Mercy.

The next day, they will join Pope Francis and other cardinals in celebrating the feast of Christ the King and closing the Year of Mercy, the pope said.

Shortly after the pope’s announcement, Archbishop Tobin tweeted, “I am shocked beyond words by the decision of the Holy Father. Please pray for me.”

The first of the new cardinals announced was Archbishop Mario Zenari, who, the pope explained, “will remain apostolic nuncio to the beloved and martyred Syria.”

The last of the cardinals he named was Albanian Father Ernest Simoni, a priest of the Archdiocese of Shkodre-Pult, who will turn 88 on Oct. 18. He had moved Pope Francis to tears in 2014 when he spoke about his 30 years in prison or forced labor under Albania’s militant atheistic regime.

Ordained in 1956, he was arrested on Christmas Eve 1963 while celebrating Mass and was sentenced to death by firing squad. He was beaten, placed for three months in solitary confinement, and then tortured.

He was eventually freed, but was arrested again and sent to a prison camp, where he was forced to work in a mine for 18 years, and then 10 more years in sewage canals.

In creating 13 cardinal-electors -- those younger than 80 -- Pope Francis will exceed by one the limit of 120 cardinal-electors set by Blessed Pope Paul VI. The number of potential electors will return to 120 on Nov. 28 when Cardinal Theodore-Adrien Sarr of Dakar, Senegal, celebrates his 80th birthday.
By Leandro M. Tapay
Diocesan Missions Director

The Church’s annual World Mission Sunday is Oct. 23, when Catholics all over the world will gather at the Lord’s Table to celebrate with joy our common vocation as missionaries.

Our prayers and financial help, through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, support the work of the mission Church – its witness to Christ and service to the poor.

Pope Francis, in his 2016 Mission Sunday message, said, “Let us not close our hearts within our own particular concerns, but let us open them to all of humanity.”

Let us heed the Holy Father’s call to open our hearts as we connect on World Mission Sunday with every corner of the globe – with the Americas, where catechists travel to remote areas to bring the Good News of God’s great love to families; with Europe, where new churches are being built to welcome faith communities renewed after years of persecution; with Asia, where six million children receive education from Religious sisters in 16,000 church-run elementary schools; with the Pacific islands, where 1,000 young men are preparing for the priesthood, bringing the Lord’s healing hope and peace to those in need; with Africa, where those who are sick are provided with loving care at 6,400 Catholic hospitals and small clinics.

Pope Francis calls us to consider world mission (mission ad gentes) as a great work of mercy – to “go out” as missionary disciples, each generously offering our talents, creativity, wisdom, and experience in order to bring the message of God’s tenderness and compassion to the entire human family. We may not be called to go to the missions physically, but we are all called to support the missions through our sacrifices, prayers, and financial donations.

The pope says that by virtue of the missionary mandate, the Church cares for those who do not know the Gospel, because she wants everyone to be saved and to experience the Lord’s love. She is commissioned to announce the mercy of God – the beating heart of the Gospel (Misericordiae Vultus, 12) – and to proclaim mercy in every corner of the world, reaching every person, young and old.

Pope Francis says that when someone encounters mercy, it brings deep joy to the Father’s heart, for from the beginning, the Father has lovingly turned toward those most vulnerable. His greatness and power are revealed precisely in his capacity to identify with the young, the marginalized, and the oppressed. He is a kind, caring, and faithful God who is close to those in need, especially the poor. He involves himself tenderly in human reality, just as a father and mother react tenderly toward their children.

On behalf of Bishop Frederick Campbell and Father Andrew Small, OMI, national director of the Society of the Propagation of the Faith, I would like to thank you for your help in promoting the mission spirit in your parish. May God continue to bless all you do.

Former Columbus resident helps Glenmary reach beyond only Catholics

By John Stegeman

When 97 percent (or more) of the population isn’t Catholic and you’re looking to establish a Catholic presence, it is smart to make friends where you can.

Establishing Catholic missions in rural parts of Appalachia and the southern United States is the task of the Glenmary Home Missioners. The Cincinnati-based society of priests and brothers are missionaries to forgotten corners of America.

Former Columbus resident Frank Lesko (pictured at right), Glenmary’s director of Catholic-Evangelical relations, helps Glenmary establish relations with other religious congregations.

Glenmary puts a priority on ecumenical outreach to reduce alienation, enhance understanding, and foster reconciliation between Catholics, Evangelical Christians, and other faith communities in the rural Southeast United States.

“A lot of people think reaching out to other Christians to build ecumenical relationships is dangerous, because it may seem like stepping outside of the Catholic Church and blurring the lines,” Lesko said. “It is no surprise then that some people are wary of it. We see it completely differently. It is inherently part of being Catholic. It’s actually not a separate activity.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On Sunday, Oct. 23, we join with Catholic communities from around the world to celebrate World Mission Sunday, a Eucharistic celebration for all the missions of the world. Organized by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, it offers each of us the opportunity to demonstrate our solidarity in support of missions and the missionaries who serve them.

The needs of our missions grow every day. With the creation of new dioceses in third-world countries, vocations to the priesthood and religious life are increasing, thereby increasing the need for new seminaries and houses of formation. In some areas where the Church was once persecuted or suppressed, it is now welcomed, increasing the need for chapels and churches.

The involvement and commitment of all of us is needed to foster and support this important work.

Let us unite with Catholics across the globe to pray and offer sacrifices and gifts for the missionary work of the Church. Most grateful to you for your continuing generosity and support, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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

See MISSION, Page 6
Farewell

Did you get a lot out of that letter last week? It was such a unique combination of inspiration, sorrow, and emotion. The sincere and intense feelings of that dad are hard to imagine. Life throws a lot at us, and sometimes it hits us real hard, right between the eyes and in the heart. But when a life is taken away, before it even has a chance to breathe, it has to be devastating. In this month for the respect of life, we need to pray extra fervently for those impacted by the disrespect for so much life. We also pray for those who do so with great doubt, hesitancy, and fear. We love them, we forgive them, and we hope they get whatever they need to help them through the permanent scars, especially the emotional and spiritual ones. Pray often for all our lives.

After 407 of these columns, I am saying farewell. This is my last Practical Stewardship column. I want to sincerely thank all of you for reading the Catholic Times, for reading this column, and especially for all the feedback I have gotten over the past nine years, both positive and not. I really do appreciate any and all of the comments I get. I also thank our publisher, Bishop Campbell, and our editor, Dave Garick. You know what a great inspiration each of them is. I am also saying farewell to my position as director of the Office of Development and Planning for the Diocese of Columbus. The good news is that I am not going very far, and will remain very closely associated with the diocese and all the wonderful people therein. I am very excited to be joining the team at Women’s Care Center. There are two centers in Columbus, and I will maintain an office at the center at 935 E. Broad St. They have been blessed with tremendous growth, saving and serving so many moms and babies, and they now have 25 centers in eight states. I will be helping in the Columbus centers, along with a number of other people. Bishop Campbell is the center’s board chair here in Columbus, and this is a cause that is very near and dear to his heart. So this will be a relatively easy transition for me. I want to say that I have never met more dedicated, giving, selfless, sincere, or humble people as those who serve at Women’s Care Center. They are the best, and it is incredible what they do on a daily basis. Let me share some statistics that are unique to Columbus. In the past year, our Columbus centers had a seven percent increase in pregnancy testing, and 3,067 women made 7,900 visits, which is an average of 32 women each day. Ultrasounds are up 45 percent this year, and should exceed 2,000 for the first time in 2016. The counselors are truly heroic in their ability to meet women where they are and encourage a choice for life. More than 90 percent of women served by the center in Columbus choose life. Parenting class attendance is up 81 percent this year, and more than 50 women per week attend classes in Columbus. As of September, more than 1,200 babies are expected to Columbus moms. That is more than 60 classrooms full of children. Amazing.

If you enjoy reading this column, I have some good news. If you do not like it, I am sorry to disappoint you, but I will be starting a new column in November. I am discerning what the subject matter will be and how I will approach it. The next column will run just two times a month. Thank you again, farewell for now, and I look forward to writing again in a few weeks. Please pray for me in my new position.

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

Baking for needy families

Students at Columbus St. Joseph Montessori School will bake rolls for families experiencing food scarcity.

As a part of a yearlong community service plan based on the Catholic social teaching of care of God’s creation, students will bake and deliver more than 700 freshly baked rolls to the Bishop Griffin Food Pantry on the city’s east side.

In September, the school was selected to participate in King Arthur Flour’s Bake for Good program. Bake for Good incorporates, math, science, and reading to teach children about baking and sharing.

Students in fourth to eighth grades will start by watching a Bake for Good video, reading the accompanying recipe booklet, and having a group discussion. Once the rolls are delivered, students will reflect on the activity and share their findings with students in the lower grades.

St. Charles open house

Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, 2010 E. Broad St., will host its annual open house for all eighth-grade boys and their parents on Nov. 6.

The main program will begin at 1 p.m. in the school’s Robert C. Wuter Student Commons. Afterward, there will be an opportunity to speak with faculty members, coaches, students, alumni, and advisory board members. School and campus tours will be conducted and refreshments will be served.

If you would like more information about the open house or to have your name placed on the school’s “prospective student” mailing/email lists, you are invited to call the school’s main office at (614) 252-6714.

Poll Workers sought for Franklin County

The Franklin County Board of Elections is recruiting detail-oriented individuals to serve as poll workers on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 8.

To qualify, you must be a U.S. citizen and registered to vote in Franklin County; have transportation to the polls on Election Day; and be willing to serve from 5:30 a.m. to at least 8 p.m. on Election Day.

Eligible applicants will be trained and will receive compensation of at least $148 for their training and Election Day service. To apply, contact (614) 525-5393 or go to www.workelectionday.com.
Breakfast with the Bishop speaker says charity must be reciprocal

BY TIM PUET, Catholic Times Reporter

Charity must recognize the dignity as human beings of both the recipient and the giver to be truly effective, a nationally known developer of Christian communities said at Catholic Social Services’ annual Breakfast with the Bishop.

“This happened over and over again, and it’s not what we had in mind,” he said. “We came to realize that no one is so poor that he or she has nothing to give. We began to change things so that everyone could participate without losing their sense of self-respect.”

Lupton began to ask contributors to the Christmas program to “give an extra gift – the gift of dignity.” Instead of coming to homes to present toys, his ministry set up a shop in a storefront and had the parents from those homes visit the shop to purchase toys for a minimal cost. Those who were unemployed or lacked the money to buy gifts were given jobs at the site. In addition, the name of the program was changed from Adopt A Family to Pride for Parents.

“We learned two important lessons from this,” he said. “One is that parents would much rather work to earn money for toys than stand in free toy lines.” The change especially allowed the fathers to feel a sense of fulfillment. “The other thing that was important was appealing to the universal fact that everyone loves to find a bargain,” he added. “Why do we think it’s such a blessing to just set up a program to give people something and deny them the joy of finding a bargain?”

Lupton has written about this and other experiences in a book titled Toxic Charity, which Catholic Social Services employees have studied as part of a review of their programs, and in a recently released follow-up volume, Charity Detox.

He said CSS was in the forefront of “a change in the paradigm of the way we are doing charity,” leading to “a new paradigm of service which acknowledges that everyone is gifted. We are creating new ways of exchange that, instead of depleting the dignity of those we serve, it enhances their dignity,” Lupton said.

The program took place Tuesday, Oct. 4 at the Columbus Renaissance Hotel. It was followed by a discussion at the Bryce Eck Center of Columbus St. Andrew Church, sponsored by The Catholic Foundation and featuring Lupton and a local panel discussing best practices on how to reduce poverty.

Bishop Frederick Campbell, in a reflection following Lupton’s talk at the breakfast gathering, noted that the date was the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi.

“No one takes pride in being poor, but I know of an exception,” the bishop said of St. Francis’ embrace of a simple lifestyle. Bishop Campbell told of how even before the encounter with Christ that changed his life, Francis had embraced a leper and called him “my brother,” providing “a gift of welcome, of concern, of companionship” that is essential to true charity.

“The term ‘toxic charity’ is kind of startling and provocative. It’s an ambiguity,” the bishop said. “Charity, to a certain extent, should be toxic,” he continued, comparing it to the medicine Coumadin, which began as a pesticide, but was found to be beneficial in preventing heart attacks, strokes, and blood clot. “To the pesky rat, it’s fatal, but to someone with heart disease, it can be a life preserver,” he said.

“Charity is toxic to indifference, toxic to alienation, to a loss of the sense of human dignity, and to blindness,” the bishop said. He was referring to the type of spiritual blindness shown by the rich man in the story in Luke’s Gospel in which such a man refuses to recognize the needs of Lazarus the beggar.

Bishop Campbell noted that the word “charity” comes from the Latin caritas – “a word chosen by Christians because they couldn’t find in Latin any other term for the love of God.”

“Charity is toxic to the attitudes and interior realities that lead us to misconstrue the work to which we are called,” he said. “Caritas is toxic in the way it burns away egotism, indifference, and blindness and heals our hearts and souls as it stirs up our wills to do the charity of Christ.”

Rachel Lustig, president and chief executive officer of Catholic Social Services, said the agency, whose programs focus on helping poor and vulnerable families and senior citizens reach their potential, assisted nearly 13,000 people last year, with 990 volunteers adding more than 125,000 hours of service to the nearly 100,000 hours worked by the agency’s staff. Ninety-five percent of CSS clients said they were satisfied with its services.

She announced that the CSS Our Lady of Guadalupe Center on Columbus’ west side will be moving to a larger location because its food pantry and other services have outgrown the current site. In addition, CSS recently received a $423,000 federal grant to host the Foster Grandparents Program, which engages senior citizens to serve as role models, mentors, and friends for vulnerable children.

CSS family services range from food assistance to intensive counseling and case management support. The agency’s 2015 impact report said it provided housing stabilization to 100 percent of domestic violence survivors who came to it for such assistance. In addition, 98 percent of graduates of its violence intervention classes stayed out of jail, and 90 percent of clients seeking counsel-

See BREAKFAST, Page 14
Catholic prosecutor and death penalty; Preaching needed on adultery

by: FATHER KENNETH DOYLE
Catholic News Service

Q. As you can see from the envelope, I am in prison. Since the church opposes the death penalty, I am trying to understand how a Catholic prosecutor can be allowed to argue repeatedly in favor of it.

From my side of the prison wall, I can tell you that the death penalty would be so much easier for me than living in a prison cell for 40 or 50 years with no chance of parole. Right now, I am coming up on 23 years.

So my second question is this: Is life without parole a justifiable sentence in Jesus’ eyes or the church’s? (Jefferson City, Missouri)

A. The Catholic Church today clearly and strongly opposes the death penalty. In June 2016, in a video message to an international congress against capital punishment, Pope Francis called for “a world free of the death penalty.”

The pope’s words in that message were perhaps the most definitive yet in the church’s growing opposition to the execution of criminals. “Nowadays,” the pope said, “the death penalty is unacceptable, however grave the crime of the convicted person.”

The Catechism of the Catholic Church stops somewhat short of that, saying that “the traditional teaching of the church does not exclude recourse to the death penalty, if this is the only possible way of effectively defending human lives against the unjust aggressor” (No. 2267).

The Catechism quickly adds, though, that in contemporary society, cases in which execution is an absolute necessity “are very rare, if not practically nonexistent.” Interestingly, more than two-thirds of the 195 independent nations recognized by the United Nations have abolished the death penalty in law or practice.

I can understand how Catholic prosecutors or judges might argue that, since the church’s historical position on the death penalty has not been categorical and absolute, they should be free to carry out the responsibilities of their jobs; but given the clarity of the church’s current position, I would think it more proper for such officials to recuse themselves when the death penalty is on the table.

As for “life without parole,” a committee of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops asked in 2013 for an end to the practice (in 38 states) of imposing such a sentence on offenders younger than 18. The bishops did not extend the argument to adult offenders, but in October 2014, speaking to a delegation from the International Association of Penal Law, Pope Francis called a life sentence “just a death penalty in disguise.” His words seemed to indicate that he was expressing a personal opinion on this, not a definitive church teaching.

Q. My husband has broken his marriage vows, having been unfaithful with another woman. (She is also married.) All during this time, he was going to Mass and receiving Communion.

The situation is not uncommon, and I know of many other women similarly hurt. While individual priests have been very kind to me during this time, I don’t understand why marital infidelity is rarely addressed from the pulpit. Adultery is a full-out assault on the family; it leaves a woman broken and the children damaged.

Yet even though marriages are failing in record numbers, I never hear this issue addressed in church. Would you include in your answer advice about staying in the marriage -- because the majority of wronged spouses whom I know want to forgive and to salvage their families, but the pain is very great and much guidance is needed.

By the way, I am pretty tired of hearing the Gospel story of the women caught in adultery, followed by a sermon on forgiveness and not being judgmental. There is a last line in that reading, where Jesus says, “Go, and from now on do not sin anymore.” (Northwest New Jersey)

A. Sometimes I choose to run a letter in this column not so much for the chance to answer it, but because the letter itself makes a valuable point. Yours is a moving description of the widespread hurt caused by marital infidelity. (For one thing, adultery says to the innocent spouse, “You were not good enough for me.”)

I agree that the issue should be addressed more frequently from the pulpits, though it is a bit awkward with children in the congregation. (I also feel that more should be said about pornography, which is a rampant addiction. Some studies have shown that 40 million Americans regularly visit porn sites and that 35 percent of all Internet downloads are related to pornography.)

With regard to staying in a marriage after one spouse has strayed, I believe that if the relationship can be put back together, that is always the best option -- especially for the children; but to do so, you’d be best advised to see a marriage counselor to help you through the process.

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

MISSION, continued from Page 3 from our faith. We are to witness to our faith to everyone we meet and to reach out to whomever we can. This includes Christians who belong to other denominations.”

Columbus’ own Catholic community had a role in inspiring Lesko to his current line of work. He came to Ohio Dominican University to obtain his master’s degree in theology.

While in school, he worked at Shepherd’s Corner, an ecological ministry of the Dominican Sisters of Peace in Blacklick. He later was part of a team that established a Catholic Worker community, and served as music director at Columbus Ss. Augustine & Gabriel Church.

“Columbus had a big role to play in my spiritual formation,” Lesko said. “I loved Columbus and would have stayed there, but the need to find full-time work doing Catholic ministry compelled me to leave.”

Glenmary’s ecumenical efforts drew Lesko to the society, particularly the role of reaching out to those who had little contact with Catholicism.

“Among non-Catholic Christians, many misunderstandings abound to this day,” Lesko said. “Reaching out to them does a lot to ease those tensions and create a friendlier place for Catholics to live and practice their faith. In some ways, we help the larger community get ready to accept a new Catholic presence and break the ice.”

Father Neil Pezzulo, Glenmary’s first vice president, is also the chairman of Glenmary’s Commission on Ecumenism. While ecumenism has always been part of Glenmary’s charism, the society doubled down on its efforts with the hiring of Lesko in 2014.

“We shouldn’t ignore Jesus’ prayer for unity in Scripture, and we don’t,” Father Pezzulo said. “We all have a role in bringing about this unity, and where Glenmary serves, most of the people we encounter outside the missions are non-Catholics. A Glenmary missioner cares for all the people of their assigned counties, not just the Catholics in the pews.”

Because Glenmary’s missions are spread across three states (Tennessee, Georgia, North Carolina), Lesko leverages the power of the Internet to foster interdenominational dialogue.

“I maintain several social media sites promoting dialogue and understanding between Catholics and Evangelicals,” he said. “There are many amazing stories of Christian unity happening in the small towns, hollers, farms, and fields of the rural Southeast, and my job is to make sure it does not stay hidden, but is rather put on a hilltop (the Internet) so all the world may see.”

Despite its nearly 80-year ministry, many people are still unaware of the Glenmary Home Missioners. Lesko helps explain what Glenmary does by drawing comparisons to the Holy Father.

“If you like what you see in Pope Francis, then there is a lot you will probably like about Glenmary,” he said. “Glenmary pastors really have the ‘smell of their sheep,’ to paraphrase the pope. They work hard to build relationship in their community and walk with the people in their faith life and daily struggles.”
By Tim Puett, Catholic Times Reporter

Mary van Balen says she felt a bit apprehensive when the late Mike Collins, longtime editor of the Catholic Times, asked her in the autumn of 1986 to write a monthly column.

“I was really grateful for the offer, but felt very nervous,” she said. “I wondered how I could come up with 12 ideas a year to fill the space.”

After a few months, her concerns began to ease. “Now I don’t worry about what to write,” she said. “When you’re writing about everyday spirituality, you find inspiration almost anywhere. It’s often a case not of finding one thing to write about, but of choosing a subject among several possibilities.”

Those 12 columns she wasn’t sure about have multiplied over time into 360. This month, she and the Times celebrate 30 years of her “Grace in the Moment” column, which can be found on Page 9 of this week’s issue.

Van Balen, who turns 66 on Oct. 20, said she can’t remember a time when she wasn’t putting her thoughts on paper. “Even as a child, I was writing diaries and journals, and I’ve never stopped,” she said.

She grew up in Columbus attending Christ the King Church. Her father, Joseph Van Balen, was a mechanical engineer who designed mining equipment for the Lee Engineering and Jeffrey Manufacturing companies. Her mother, Geneva, worked with what now is the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Mary was the third of five children – “the middle in all ways. I have an older brother and sister and a younger brother and sister,” she said.

She graduated from Columbus Bishop Hartley High School in 1968, received a bachelor of science degree in social welfare from The Ohio State University, and became a certified elementary school teacher.

She has been involved in education in various ways for much of her life, as a founding staff member of Indianola Alternative School in Columbus; an enrichment teacher in the Lancaster city schools; an instructor working with abused women and single mothers in the Even Start Family Literacy Program; curriculum director at Lancaster’s Eastside Center for Success, an afterschool program for at-risk elementary children; an adult education teacher in Lancaster; and an instructor in Ohio University-Lancaster’s Kids in College program. She is the mother of three grown children.

She began writing for Catholic periodicals in the early1980s, coming to Collins’ attention through stories which appeared on the Times “Generations” page (a predecessor of the current “Living Faith” page) and through articles she had written for the Ligourian magazine, a national publication of the Redemptorist Fathers.

“My columns naturally reflect Catholic spiritual tradition,” she said. “However, they’re not denominational columns, meant mainly for Catholics, but about spirituality in general.

“For me, writing is prayer. It helps me to recognize the presence of God in my own life and to become more awake and attentive to that presence, and to share and reflect any bits of insight into God’s Self I may have received. I don’t know if this is helpful to others or not, but I hope it’s able to raise people’s awareness of how intimate God is and wants to be with all of us.”

Van Balen said her September column on Florence Foster Jenkins, a woman who loved music and gained many fans and sympathizers in her quest to become a professional singer, despite an obvious lack of talent, seemed to resonate with readers.

“More people spoke to me about Florence than about anything else I’ve written in a long time,” she said. “I think it’s because her story spoke to the fact that everyone has gifts and that we are called to share those gifts. It’s not important whether society thinks you are great, but that you give what you have to share. As Florence put it, ‘Some may say that I couldn’t sing, but no one can say that I didn’t sing.’”

“Writing is such a solitary work,” van Balen said. “You do it because it’s what’s in you. In the era before email, I used to come from Lancaster to see Mike and turn in my column. We’d have wonderful chats over coffee, and I got some sense of how my writing was being received. Now I just write columns, click a button and send them. For the most part, I don’t know who they may have touched. But every once in a while, I hear from someone saying what I wrote made a difference.

“I remember that one time, when I was a presenter at an event, someone pulled out a column I had writ-
Pet Blessing

Students at Columbus St. Joseph Montessori School celebrated the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi earlier this month by having Father Anthony Lonzo of Columbus Sacred Heart Church bless classroom pets. Blessings were received by a pleco fish, a guinea pig, a corn snake, and even a python. Father Lonzo is shown blessing the guinea pig, with assistance from second-grade student Ramon Muguruza-Weaver.

Photo courtesy St. Joseph Montessori School

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Where Grace Is Found and Given Away

Yesterday, I came home from work and picked the five remaining stems of tall, pink snapdragons and one red geranium. They fit perfectly into a vase purchased from a shop near the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. The dark-green matte outer layer had been etched down to the pale terra cotta, creating the Dakota. The dark-green matte outer layer had been etched down to the pale terra cotta, creating the Dakota. The dark-green matte outer layer had been etched down to the pale terra cotta, creating the Dakota.

The Lakota came to mind, and the other Native Americans and supporters who gather with them in prayer and presence, again striving to protect their land, this time by protesting construction of the Dakota pipeline.

Their struggle was one reason I needed flowers on my table last night and why I’ve stopped perusing New York Times headlines as part of my morning routine. The violence and suffering in the news is overwhelming.

Hatred, stoked by fear and ignorance, fills our national election politics. The voices of marginalized around the world—the poor, women, LGBT people, children, refugees, and others—are rarely heard. Glacial ice-melts and extreme weather patterns call for action to address global warming, but the will to pursue alternative energy sources and lifestyle changes is lacking. My heart was worn out.

So I picked flowers. I brewed tea and poured it into a favorite mug made by Joan Lederman, who lives in Woods Hole, creating glazes with sediment collected from the ocean floor. My mug is part of her Earth Crust/Space Dust series, and a band of its glaze contains asteroid-laden dust from 65 million years ago. I rubbed the blue sea glass that fills the thumb well on the handle, sipped Lady Grey, and let my heart soak up beauty.

Next, I pulled my guitar case out from under the bed, where it’s rested undisturbed for a year. A thin stack of papers lay beneath the instrument. Old and yellowed, they were covered with song lyrics and chord notations written in my hand during the ‘60s and ‘70s. I remembered them all, and my fingers quickly found their places on the strings. I played and sang, listening to my younger self celebrating the glories of an October day or a patient, hopeful love.

I heard my weary heart calling for grace and comfort from the wind, sun, and rain after learning of the sudden death of a college friend. Many of my songs danced with Divine Mystery found “within and without, above and below” or gave melody to psalms. Singing for an hour, I sank my heart-roots deep into that Holy Presence.

When my unpracticed fingertips became sore, I returned the guitar to its case and picked up a friend’s newly released memoir, Harnessing Courage. Despite its serious topic (Laura Bratton was diagnosed with a retinal disease at the age of nine that eventually took her sight.), the first pages made me laugh out loud, picturing her confident, three-year-old self remembering every ballet step and leading the other stagestruck toddlers through their first dance recital.

As night came, I remembered holy ones whose feasts fall on this week’s liturgical calendar, who persevered despite their world’s ills. With the courage to challenge the status quo, Pope St. John XXIII threw open the windows of the Church to let in fresh air, trusting the Spirit to bring renewal.

St. Teresa of Avila, the great Carmelite mystic, reformer, and first woman to be declared a doctor of the Church, struggled with illness, opposition, and an investigation by the Inquisition. She defined contemplative prayer simply as a close sharing between friends and frequent time spent alone with God, who loves us.

And while Madeleine Delbrel (born in France in 1904) isn’t declared a saint, Robert Ellsberg writes about her in Liturgical Press’s Give Us This Day reflection for Thursday, Oct. 13, the date of her death. She knew that holiness could be encountered in people’s everyday life. “Each tiny act is an extraordinary event, in which heaven is given to us, in which we are able to give heaven to others.”

That’s why surrounding myself with beauty, singing, and enjoying the gifts of others was just what I needed last night. It helped me descend to my center, resting in Healing Presence, finding grace in the moment. God refreshes the heart and provides strength to be grateful for life that is given even in the midst of suffering. As John, Teresa, and Madeleine knew, we must trust and spend time with God in whatever ways deepen our relationship. Then we will have Spirit to share and can be part of the ongoing transformation of a wounded world.


An Empty Nest... or Endless Possibilities?

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An Empty Nest... or Endless Possibilities?
The Catholic Church always has been a mission church, beginning with the apostles, who spread the faith throughout the known world, and continuing today in more than 1,100 mission dioceses on every continent except Antarctica. Representatives of 38 mission organizations spoke throughout the Diocese of Columbus this year as part of the annual Missionary Cooperation Plan sponsored by the diocesan Missions Office. They were selected from among more than 300 applications submitted by mission societies, religious orders, dioceses, and lay missionary groups.

Here are some highlights of the work of some of those organizations:

Franciscan Friars of the Custody of the Holy Land

The Franciscan Friars of the Custody of the Holy Land refuse to leave Syria, despite the constant dangers looming from ISIS militants.

Eight friars live in the ruins of Aleppo, once Syria’s second-largest city. Friar Ibrahim reports that in Aleppo, there is no electricity, water, food, or work. Hospitals don’t have medicine and are not spared from attack. Many doctors have run away and the people die without any medical care.

Every day, there are innocent victims in the schools, on the streets, and inside the houses. The poorest of the poor are all that’s left in the city, and they fear they will be captured and their children killed or enslaved.

Friar Ibrahim says “Only the great faith of the Catholics living through this tragedy is the one thing that leaves a door open to hope.” When there is a pause in the fighting, they come out from their hiding places to Franciscan missions in Aleppo, Damascus, and two other cities.

In Aleppo, water is being used as a weapon and is purposely shut off. Friar Ibrahim says “Only the great faith of the Catholics living through this tragedy is the one thing that leaves a door open to hope.” When there is a pause in the fighting, they come out from their hiding places to Franciscan missions in Aleppo, Damascus, and two other cities.

In southern Ethiopia, the Spiritans work among the nomadic Borana, herders of cattle and goats who have lived on the fringes of Ethiopian society for generations. These people are slowly accepting the faith of the Catholics living through this tragedy is the one thing that leaves a door open to hope.”

The Crosiers also operate an orphanage, a farm, and a development center, and lead two parishes serving a combined 60,000 people. In addition, they have a crisis counseling center that serves about 1,000 people annually, helping with the most severe cases of displaced persons. In 2015, an agricultural-vegetarian science program was added, with plans to offer physics and technology classes in the future.

In 1958, the Crosiers began serving the Asmat people in the region of Papua in Indonesia, where about 70,000 people are scattered across 100 villages in a territory of roughly 17,400 square miles. Ten Crosiers work with the Asmat community in the Diocese of Agats, ministering through pastoral and faith service, spiritual direction, Masses and sacramental services, schools, health and wellness programs, and socio-economic education, teaching the people self-sustainability. The Crosiers are sustained by providing altar candles and altar bread for local parishes, as well as through contributions.

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MISSION ~ BEGINNING WITH THE APOSTLES, CONTINUING IN MISSION DIOCESES

BY TIM PUEY

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Oblates of St. Francis de Sales

The de Sales Oblates were founded in 1876 and serve in several North American communities, including Toledo, Ohio. The order has more than 200 priests, sisters, brothers, and deacons at missions in Brazil, Uruguay, Ecuador, Colombia, Haiti, India, Ukraine, South Africa, Namibia, and Benin.

In 2003, Father William Gore established a mission in western Ukraine, in an area where the communists inflicted their greatest persecution upon that nation’s Christian people. Four years earlier, de Sales Oblates from Brazil began evangelization programs in the slums of Manta, Ecuador. Father Walter DeSailer, de Sales Oblates from Brazil began mission in Botswana. They provide pasto-

Sisters of Charity of Nazareth

The Sisters of Charity of Nazareth were founded in 1812 in a simple log house in the area known as St. Thom-
as in the newly established diocese of Bardstown, Kentucky. Today, they serve in many parts of the United States and have expanded their outreach to India, Nepal, Belize, and Botswana.

Their first international expansion was to India in 1947. There now are hundreds of members of the congregation serving throughout the nation. They administer and teach in schools, have established job training centers for youth, teach English classes in rural villages and city slums, and offer empowerment programs to women on self-esteem, tailoring, and craftmaking. The sisters also are active in anti-human trafficking efforts.

In 1975, the congregation began ministering in Belize. They engage in education, community-based programs, and medical and social services.

The sisters have been in Nepal, which borders India on the northeast, since 1979. Though sometimes faced with the chaos of an unstable government and threats, the sisters have established much-needed ministries serving mentally disabled children, offering women’s empowerment programs, administering schools, and providing health care through rural mobile medicine clinics.

In 2000, the sisters established a mission in Botswana. They provide pastoral ministry to men and women and day care services for children in the African nation who are orphaned or in need. They teach skills training classes to women and work to provide the basic necessity of water. To those affected by HIV or AIDS, sisters administer holistic programs and a hospice.

Redemptorists – Region of St. Gerard

The Redemptorists – the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, founded by St. Alphonsus Ligouri – have missions in more than 75 nations. Their Region of St. Gerard, named for St. Gerard Majella, who himself was a Redemptorist, was established in 1990 and has 12 missions – five in Russia, two in Ukraine, and five in Belarus.

Their pastoral center is Grodno, Belarus, has 10,000 parishioners, with 200 children receiving their first Communion this year. Because the Catholic Church in these nations is still rebuilding after years of Soviet rule, the Redemptorists are emphasizing the formation of pastoral centers in large cities as a way of guaranteeing the Church’s future existence and development. They especially are working with young people to create a young and dynamic church.

Their main tasks involve setting up parishes in the Russian community of Togliatti and the Sokol district of Minsk in Belarus. In Togliatti, they worship in a small temporary chapel. The parish has about 160 people. A small pastoral center is being built slowly, with construction of the roof, as well as installation of windows and a tower, being finished last year. The state of the Russian economy has halted further work on the building.

Institute of the Incarnate Word

The Institute of the Incarnate Word was founded in Argentina in 1984 by Father Carols Miguel Rela. It includes priests, religious brothers and sisters, and lay associates.

In addition to managing houses of formation in Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, Italy, Taiwan, the United States, and the Philippines, it provides professors for diocesan seminaries and universities in Italy, Peru, the Holy Land, Papua New Guinea, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, and the United States.

One of its priests in Papua New Guinea, Father Martin Praco, tells this story: “You will not find crocodiles, or bows and arrows, or anything we are accustomed to associating with Papua New Guinea in this chronicle. Instead, I speak of an elderly woman named Margaret, known as Maggie, who has dedicated her life to God by remaining unmarried and serving him as sacristan in her village chapel.

“She is so devoted that one day, she came late for Mass and felt she could not receive Jesus in holy communion. She could not hide her tears; in other words, she cried for love of Our Lord. I confess that it pained me greatly to see her cry, but at the same time, it brought me great joy because I thought, ‘This woman truly loves Jesus.’

“At this moment, the words of Our Lord to Peter, ‘Do you love me more...’
Children there are afflicted with HIV. “Medications plus love give them a guarantee of a fullness of life,” said Father Don Halpin, OFM Conv, of the order’s Mount St. Francis Center for Spirituality in Indiana following a recent visit. “The friars there serve – along with Indian School Sisters of St. Francis – with love and attention.”

**Passionist Fathers**

“We Passionists have been privileged to live and work among the people of Papua New Guinea for more than 50 years,” writes Father Kevin Dance, CP. “As part of bringing Jesus’ Gospel message to life, we have dug out a mountainside to make a landing strip for our mission plane. Alongside simple churches from native materials, we have built small lifesaving clinics in the rain forest and opened classrooms to bring the wonder of reading and writing to the people.

“We’ve had the privilege of forming prayer leaders and catechists for the villages, who do so much of the work of instructing and of breaking open God’s word for their own people. To make this possible, we built, furnished, and supported a pastoral formation center. People come from distant villages and stay for several months to take courses at the center.

“We also have some wonderful small projects such as *Sentta B’long Helfpin*, which offers developmentally disabled and crippled children hope that they may know some independence in their lives. The *Sentta B’long Anselm* trains young men with little education and no skills to become carpenters and builders so they can find a future for themselves and their families.”

**PIME Missionaries**

The PIME Missionaries are priests and brothers who commit themselves to lifelong missionary service, especially to non-Christians. PIME is the Latin abbreviation for the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions in Latin.

The order is a familiar one to residents of the Diocese of Columbus because from 1956 to 2003, it operated a seminary in Licking County that is now the Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center. Its missionary mandate comes directly from the Vatican. Founded in Italy in 1850, PIME is an international society of apostolic life with about 500 members in 18 nations.

In the northern panhandle of Cameroon, the missionaries serve nearly 100 villages through the Bethlehem Foundation, which improves circumstances for children with physical, mental, and sensory disabilities so they can have a more productive life.

In Myanmar, the order is looking for donations for 15 scholarships for a group of high school students from its mission in the Taunggyi Diocese. These are students of high academic achievement who have been selected for the school, but need the $260 scholarships for boarding expenses, school supplies, and other needs so they can learn how to be good leaders and educate others where there is no school.

In Mexico, PIME missionaries work in the Diocese of Acapulco. Outside of the famed resort area that is the diocesan seat, there is much poverty among the indigenous Mixtec people who live in the mountains. The great need there is simply clean water to replace what now comes from a public cistern. Installation of a water filter at the mission house would fill that need.

**Hands Together**

Hands Together’s seven tuition-free schools in Haiti educate 6,500 students, providing preschool, elementary, and high-school programs and scholarship assistance for college. Nutrition and feeding programs provide meals, food kits, emergency food and preschool malnutrition programs that feed 25,000 people each month. Eight rural schools in poor villages help 3,000 students and provide work for about 100 teachers. Hands Together’s support extends to 97 parish schools and 1,000 teachers.

Because of Hurricane Matthew, classes at those schools have been canceled temporarily, and they are serving as shelters for people who have lost their homes. One high school building was flooded by five feet of water. Students there are cleaning out the mud left behind. Hands Together is cooking 6,000 hot meals a day, preparing food kits for families to use once they leave the shelters, and taking all the sheets it has available and giving them out to people.

The program’s specially designed mobile clinic circulates throughout three Haitian dioceses to bring access to care in places where quality health care is scarce. Agricultural Support through Hands Together’s Clarke Farm empowers rural farmers and provides training to students seeking vocations in agriculture. The organization also offers water well drilling to bring clean, life-giving water to villages and farms.
Amalek was a generic name for a nomadic tribe in the Sinai and Negev deserts, probably from as early as the second millennium BC. Deuteronomy 25:18, in order to put Amalek in the worst possible light, says the Amalekites attacked the weakened stragglers of the fleeing Israelites. Israel continually struggled with the Amalekites (among others) for their entire history. The fight is introduced here in Exodus to show that, even after their deliverance from Pharaoh’s armies, the Israelites continued to face obstacles. Amalek was a generic name for a nomadic tribe in the Sinai and Negev deserts, probably from as early as the second millennium BC. Deuteronomy 25:18, in order to put Amalek in the worst possible light, says the Amalekites attacked the weakened stragglers of the fleeing Israelites. Israel continually struggled with the Amalekites (among others) for their entire history. The fight is introduced here in Exodus to show that, even after their deliverance from Pharaoh’s armies, the Israelites continued to face obstacles.

In this bizarre scene, Moses holds up his hand (or hands) with the staff to demonstrate the power of the Lord in fighting Amalek. After appointing Joshua to pick some men to fight, they engage in battle. If Moses tires and lowers the staff, his men begin to lose the battle. When Moses finally sits down on a rock, Aaron and Hur support his arms, enabling Joshua to mow down Amalek and his people with the sword. Much later Jewish commentators, sensitive to the supposition that Moses is controlling the battle with magic, suggest that the raised hands directed Israelite thoughts to God in heaven, who then rewarded them with victory. This scene actually answers a question that Moses had raised in verse seven, in the context of the battle. When Moses finally sits down on a rock, Aaron and Hur support his arms, enabling Joshua to mow down Amalek and his people with the sword. Much later Jewish commentators, sensitive to the supposition that Moses is controlling the battle with magic, suggest that the raised hands directed Israelite thoughts to God in heaven, who then rewarded them with victory. This scene actually answers a question that Moses had raised in verse seven, in the context of the battle.

In the following scene, Moses is told to record this event in a document, with the Lord stating, “I will blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven.” Many Jews have seen the reappearance of Amalek throughout history in various people who have hated Jews and Judaism. Hitler was one of many such figures, all of whom failed to destroy this people, chosen by God in an eternal covenant. The Gospel with which this story is paired is another one unique to Luke. It is a parable about the need to pray always. The judge in the parable was a real prize winner, neither fearing God nor respecting any human being. “Respecting” as a parallel to the idea of fearing God is not quite the meaning. It is more like not showing deference to anyone. The listener may well question his motive for granting her a fair judgement, but the Lord instructs the disciples to “pay attention to what the dishonest judge says.” This is the first time we are informed that he is dishonest, unless it be argued that justice delayed is justice denied.

Jesus compares this to God procuring justice for his “chosen ones” who call out day and night, and God will not delay, responding quickly. The final sentence is puzzling. “But, when the Son of man comes, will he find faith on earth?” It may relate to verse one which raised the issue of whether God’s chosen people are capable of faith. If people should stop praying, it would show a lack of faith, but that would likely be Luke’s editorial work rather than part of the original. Some commentators argue that it had nothing to do with Luke, but was a part of the original source Luke used. Either opinion works.

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

BREATHBREAKFAST, continued from Page 5

The agency provided 96,000 meals, and it reported a 54 percent increase in services at the St. Francis Outreach Center in Portsmouth.

The increase in the number of seniors has resulted in growth in CSS programs for older people. The agency’s goal is to grow the number of seniors it serves by eight percent each year. That figure was 17 percent for 2015. CSS also reports that 95 percent of Senior Companion and 98 percent of Transportation Services clients said the agency helped them remain independent. One-hundred percent of clients had their living needs met through Payee and Money Management programs, and 95 percent of companionship clients said they felt less lonely because of visits from CSS Senior Companion and Friendly Visitor programs.

A record crowd of 550 people attended this year’s Breakfast with the Bishop, which raised $75,000, plus additional money donated at the door. CSS’ other major fundraiser, the Spirit of Hope Gala, is scheduled Saturday, March 11, at the Hilton Columbus Downtown.

The Weekday Bible Readings

MONDAY
Ephesians 2:1-10
Psalm 100:1b-5
Luke 12:13-21

TUESDAY
2 Timothy 4:10-17b
Psalm 145:10-13,17-18

WEDNESDAY
Ephesians 3:2-12
Isaiah 12:2-3,4b-6

THURSDAY
Ephesians 3:14-21
Psalm 33:1-2,4-5,11-12,18-19
Luke 12:49-53

FRIDAY
Ephesians 4:1-6
Psalm 24:1-4b,5-6
Luke 12:54-59

SATURDAY
Ephesians 4:7-16
Psalm 122:1-5
They’re confessors, not “culture warriors”

Like Shelby Foote’s three-volume masterpiece, *The Civil War: A Narrative*, Francis Parkman’s seven-volume colossus, *France and England in North America*, is worth reading and rereading for its literary elegance, as well as its historical insight. Parkman, like Foote, wrote history from a point of view: in Parkman’s case, the Whiggish conviction that, when Wolfe defeated Montcalm on the Plains of Abraham in 1759, North America was won for liberty against papish authoritarianism. Yet, again like Foote, the elegiac southerner who recognized Lincoln’s greatness, Parkman was bigger than his point of view and could thus celebrate the heroism of the 17th-century Jesuits martyred in the raw wilderness of the New World.

Rereading the last volume of Parkman’s massive work, I was struck, however, not by the Bostonian’s occasional historiographic dyspepsia, but by his keen insight into the future. Here, in the late 19th century, was a man who had spent decades chronicling the pre-history of the United States. Yet at the very end of it all, he turned his mind to the challenges ahead of his nation, and did so in ways worth pondering today. The prose is a bit old-fashioned, but the message is spot-on contemporary in this election season:

“The disunited colonies became the United States. The string of discordant communities along the Atlantic coast has grown into a mighty people, joined in a union which the earthquake of civil war only served to compact and consolidate. … (Americans) have become a nation that may defy every foe but that most dangerous of foes, herself, destined to a majestic future if she will shun the excess and perversion of the principles that made her great, prate less about the enemies of the past and strive more against the enemies of the future, resist the mob and the demagogue as she resisted Parliament and King, rally her powers from the race for gold and the delirium of prosperity to make firm the foundations on which that prosperity rests, and turn some fair proportion of her vast mental forces to other objects than material progress and the game of party politics. She has tamed the savage continent, peopled the solitude, gathered wealth untold, waxed potent, imposing, redoubtable; and now it remains for her to prove, if she can, that the rule of the masses is consistent with the highest growth of the individual; that democracy can give the world a civilization as mature and pregnant, ideas as energetic and vitalizing, and types of manhood as lofty and strong, as any of the systems which it boasts to supplant.”

For some years, courageous Catholic bishops in these United States have been issuing a similar challenge: to avoid a “perversion of the principles” on which American democracy rests – a deterioration that reduces freedom to willfulness; to “resist the mob and the demagogue,” when the people fall for the blandishments of the sound bite and embrace candidates unworthy of public office; to see in the American democratic experiment “something more than the race for gold”; and to live the truths of Catholic social doctrine in order to “make firm the foundations on which … prosperity rests.”

In doing all this, these bishops have followed the lead of the Second Vatican Council by calling their people to live freedom nobly, not as self-indulgence, but as a method of responsibility. Theirs has been a genuinely public service, for in challenging U.S. Catholics to give our nation a new birth of freedom rightly understood, these bishops have called the entire country to reclaim the “principles that made her great,” including those principles that the social doctrine calls “the dignity of the human person,” “the common good,” “subsidiarity,” and “solidarity.”

For their pains, these bishops are derided in some quarters as “culture warriors.” It’s a title that St. Augustine, St. Charles Borromeo, and Pope St. John Paul II (in his days as archbishop of Cracow) would have regarded as an apt description of their responsibilities when faced with cultural aggressions of various sorts. But the real term for the American bishops who have issued a challenge similar to Francis Parkman’s is another that could be applied to Augustine, Borromeo, and Wojtyla: “confessor” – a synonym for defenders of the faith.

For the faith includes the truth about the human person and human communities, which nations ignore at their peril.

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

Van Balen, continued from Page 7
ten, which she had been carrying with her, and said it had helped her through a difficult time. I don’t remember what the subject of the column was, but it was a humbling experience to realize that my words had an impact on someone because they were what she needed to hear.”

After living in Lancaster for many years, van Balen moved back to Columbus in 2010. She was employed at Macy’s department store for five years. Last year, she began working at Delphia Consulting in downtown Columbus as a technical writer – “something I never would have anticipated, since I’ve never taken a formal writing class.”

She has written four books and has contributed articles to several Catholic publications, and conducts retreats and days of reflection on a variety of topics, including journaling and spirituality. She also writes a blog, *The Scallop*.

Its title comes from the use of the scallop shell as a symbol of pilgrimage, particularly along the Camino de Santiago in Spain. “Just as all the ridges in the shell converge on one point, no matter where we start on our spiritual journey, we all end up in God’s embrace,” she explained.

“I don’t know how long I’ll write for the *Times*, but I don’t ever see myself as not writing,” she said. “It’s part of who I am.”

Van Balen may be reached through her website, www.maryvanbalen.com, where her blog also may be found.
Pray for our dead

ALEXANDER, Rose A. (Cooper), 91, Oct. 5
Holy Rosary-St. John Church, Columbus

BASINGER, Robert L., 70, Sept. 30
St. Aloysius Church, Columbus

BOSSA, Jacqueline R. (Degenfelder), 90, Oct. 4
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, Columbus

BOYER, Carolyn A. (Storer), 81, Oct. 1
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, Pickerington

BRUSH, Eloise (Stumm), 96, Oct. 6
Holy Spirit Church, Columbus

BOYER, Carolyn A. (Storer), 81, Oct. 1
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, Pickerington

LaBELLE, Rita C. (Ricci), 84, Oct. 3
St. Agatha Church, Columbus

LILLER, Betty L. (Czika), 67, Oct. 1
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

MAGNUS, Elizabeth J. (Reynolds), 96, Oct. 3
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

MELILLO, Michael E., 60, Oct. 5
St. Mark Church, Lancaster

MURRAY, Jo Rita (Logsdon), 80, formerly of Columbus, Oct. 5
St. Francis of Assisi Church, Triangle, Va.

PEREZ HERNANDEZ, Diego, 42, Sept. 25
St. Joseph Church, Dover

PRINCE, Valentina (Casar), 77, Oct. 6
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

SCHNEIDER, Richard A., 77, Oct. 3
St. Leo Church, Columbus

SIERADZKI, Edward, 76, Oct. 3
St. Paul Church, Westerville

SULLIE, Margaret, 89, Aug. 30
St. Joseph Church, Dover

THEADO, Valerie M., 90, Oct. 2
St. Mary Church, Columbus

WALZAK, C. Paul “Skip,” 75, Sept. 28
St. John Neumann Church, Sunbury

WEAVER, Martha, 83, Oct. 4
St. Joseph Church, Dover

WUELLNER, Richard W. Jr., 72, Oct. 1
St. Catherine Church, Columbus

ZURY, Marie B., 68, Sept. 27
St. Paul Church, Westerville

Sister Celia Kiesel, OSF

Funeral Mass for Sister Celia Kiesel, OSF, 90, who died Sunday, Oct. 9, was held Thursday, Oct. 13 at the chapel of the Sisters of Francis of Penance and Christian Charity in St. Peter's Church, New York. Burial was in the sisters' cemetery.

She was born July 15, 1926, in The Bronx, New York, to the late Conrad and Mary (O’Connell) Kiesel. She graduated in 1944 from Bayside (New York) High School, and received a bachelor of science degree in education in 1961 from Rosary Hill (now Daemen) College in Amherst, New York, and an associate of arts degree in 1978 from Ohio Dominican College. She continued her professional education in 1980 and 1981 at the St. Jude Center/Roswell Park Memorial Institute in Buffalo, New York.

She was employed by the New York Telephone Co. and served in the Air Force for two years before being discharged as an airman second class in July 1955.

She entered the Stella Niagara Franciscan congregation on Sept. 4, 1955 and professed her first vows on Aug. 18, 1958, taking the name Sister M. Conrad, and her final vows on Aug. 23, 1961.

In the Diocese of Columbus, she was a teacher and housemother at St. Vincent Orphanage in Columbus (1965-68), a teacher at Columbus St. John the Evangelist School (1968-70), in pastoral and social work with the diocesan outreach program at Murray City (1982-86), shop manager and a teacher at the St. Vincent de Paul Shop and Creative Day Care in Columbus (1986-87), and in pastoral ministry at Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona Church (1987-88). She also served in various positions in New York, New Jersey, and Florida.

Survivors include brothers, Conrad (Margaret) and Anthony (Patricia); and sisters, Sister Marcella Kiesel, OSF, and Virginia (Vincent) Shary.

Deacon Joseph P. Checca Jr.

Funeral Mass for Deacon Joseph P. Checca Jr., 68, who died Thursday, Oct. 6, was held Monday, Oct. 10 at Seton Parish, Columbus. Burial was at Holy Cross Cemetery, Pataskala.

He was born Feb. 6, 1948, in Steubenville to the late Joseph and Vincentia (Pettinella) Checca.

He received a medical technician certificate from Cleveland Junior College in 1969 and a physician assistant certificate from the Cleveland Clinic Foundation and Cuyahoga Community College in 1970. He also received a degree in life sciences from Otterbein College.

He was employed for many years as a physician assistant by Ohio Gastroenterology in Columbus, and was a member of the American Academy of Physician Assistants and of Knights of Columbus Council 11187 in Pickerington.

Survivors include his wife of 44 years, Lilia (Porco); daughters, Vinci (Jason) Cozart and Catherine (Darren) Howell; four grandsons; and three granddaughters.

Send obituaries to tpuet@columbuscatholic.org

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October

13, THURSDAY- SATURDAY
Three Bags Full Consignment Sale
10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.
Selected items half-price Friday night and Saturday.

13, SATURDAY
Sacred Heart Congress at St. Matthew
7 a.m. to 1 p.m., St. Matthew Church, 807 Havens Corners Road, Gahanna.
Mass celebrated by Father Ted Sill at 11:30 a.m. and talks by Dr. Timothy O’Donnell, president of Christendom College, and Father Stash Dailey, spiritual director of Sacred Heart Columbus.

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.

Undergraduate Open House at Ohio Dominican
9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Bishop Griffin Center, Ohio Dominican University, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus.
Open house for prospective undergraduate students. Includes meal.

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.

Rosary Rally at Our Lady of Peace
Noon, Our Lady of Peace Church, 20 E. Dominion Blvd, Columbus.
Rosary rally which is part of a series of simultaneous events across the nation sponsored by America Needs Fatima, asking God to save America through the rosary.

Hartley Athletic Hall of Fame Induction
10:30 p.m., Bishop Hartley High School, 1285 Zettler Road, Columbus.
Induction of four individuals and the 1986 football championship team into school’s athletic hall of fame as part of annual “Evening with the Hawks” banquet.

15-16, SATURDAY-SUNDAY
Santa Maria Scouting Program at Jubilee Museum
Jubilee Museum and Catholic Cultural Center, 40 S. Grubb St., Columbus.
Santa Maria Award program for all diocesan youth and adults, sponsored by diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting, using Columbus’ “voyages” as an example of a life of faith.
1 p.m. Saturday to 9:30 a.m. Sunday for youths in grades 6-12 and parents, ending with Mass. 3 to 6:45 p.m. Saturday for youths in grades 1-5 and parents. Cost $45 for overnight program, $15 for Saturday program.

16, SUNDAY
St. Agatha Adult Education
9:30 a.m., St. Agatha Church, 1860 Northam Road, Columbus.
Second of four talks with Father Edmund Hussey on basic questions about our faith. Topic: “Why Do We Pray?”

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

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

St. Padre Pio Secular Franciscans
130 to 5 p.m., St. John the Baptist Church, 7277 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus.
Mass, liturgy of the hours, and initial formation with visitors.

Cathedral Concert Series
3 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus.
Concert featuring cathedral’s recently appointed music director, Dr. Richard Fitzgerald, as organist and his wife, Rebecca, playing horn. Admission $10.

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

‘Wild Goose’ Video Series at Christ the King
5 p.m., Christ the King Church, 2777 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus.
Parish prayer group and Columbus Catholic Renewal present Week 4 of seven-week “The Wild Goose” video series about the Holy Spirit, with Father Dave Pivonka, TCR.

Marian Concert at St. Leo
6:30 p.m., St. Leo Church, 221 Hawthorn St., Columbus.
Concert dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes and featuring three choirs from Columbus St. Mary Church and choirs from Columbus Holy Family Church, the Columbus Polish and Korean communities, and Columbus St. Patrick Church with soloist Cecile Smith. Father Nicholas Droll will offer meditations on Mary between selections. Concert will begin with crowning of Mary and end with writing of petitions to her and Jesus, to be burnt that evening.

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

18, TUESDAY
Rosary for Life at St. Joan of Arc
Following 6:30 p.m. Mass, St. Joan of Arc Church, 10700 Liberty Road, Powell. Recital of Rosary for Life, sponsored by church’s respect life committee.

Meet the Candidates Forum
7 to 9 p.m., Peggy McConnell Arts Center, 777 Evening St., Worthington.
Meet the candidates forum sponsored by Franklin County Consortium for Good Government, featuring candidates in competitive races.

21, FRIDAY
Shepherd’s Corner Ecology Center Open House
10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Shepherd’s Corner Ecology Center, 987 N. Waggoner Road, Blacklick. Center, a ministry of the Dominican Sisters of Peace, will be open, weather permitting.

Heatherdown Drive, Westerville. Abortion recovery network group meeting for anyone recovering from abortion or who has been through a recovery program and wants to stay connected.

Christ Child Society Red Wagon Fare Luncheon
Noon, Villa Milano, 1830 Schoor Road, Columbus. Christ Child Society of Columbus annual Red Wagon Fare luncheon and style show, with boutique open at 9:30 a.m. featuring local vendors and Saks Fifth Avenue style show. $50 per person. Register at www.christchildssociety.org.

White Mass for Medical Professionals and Students
6 p.m., St. Thomas More Newman Center, 64 W. Lane Ave., Columbus. Annual White Mass for professionals and students in the healing arts, sponsored by Catholic Medical Association, preceded by talk at 5 by CMA student representative Lindsey Mangus on “Cross Roads: Navigating Faith and Science in Medical School.” Social time with appetizers follows Mass.

Meet the Candidates Forum
7 to 9 p.m., Peggy McConnell Arts Center, 777 Evening St., Worthington. Meet the candidates forum sponsored by Franklin County Consortium for Good Government, featuring candidates in competitive races.

Abortion Recovery Network Group
At St. Agatha
10 a.m. to 1 p.m., St. Agatha Church, 2350 W. Mound St., Columbus. Talk on Biblical literacy with John Jay Jackson, adjunct instructor at Ohio Dominican University, sponsored by Diocese of Columbus Religious Educators. Lunch included. $20 for association members; others $25.

Catechism Uncorked in Delaware
10 a.m. to 7 p.m., St. Mary Magdalen Church, 50 W. Sandusky Ave., Delaware. Social for 36- to 64-year-olds, ware. Catechism Uncorked social for 36- to 64-year-olds, sponsored by church’s respect life committee.

Pray?”

Prayer Group Meeting at St. Mark
7 p.m., St. Mark Church, 324 Gay St., Lancaster.
Light of Life prayer group meeting.

Abortion Recovery Network Group
Meet the Candidates Forum
At St. Patricks
7 to 9 p.m., Peggy McConnell Arts Center, 777 Evening St., Worthington.
Meet the candidates forum sponsored by Franklin County Consortium for Good Government, featuring candidates in competitive races.

Prayer Group Meeting at St. Mark
7 p.m., St. Mark Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus.
Meeting of parish’s Frassati Society for young adults.

Topic: “How to Get the Most Out of the Mass” with Father Jerome Zeiler, OF.

Ohio Right to Life Sponsors D’Souza Talk
7 p.m., Church of the Nazarene, 4770 Hoover Road, Grove City. Ohio Right to Life sponsors talk by author and filmmaker Dinesh D’Souza, $20 per person.

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.

Mail to Catholic Times Happenings, 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215
Fax to 614-241-2518
E-mail as text to tpuet@columbuscatholic.org
Westerville St. Paul School invites the community, prospective students, and their parents to an open house after the 7:30, 9, and 10:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. Masses on Sunday, Oct. 16 to view the fresh new look resulting from a summer-long renovation program which continued through the first two weeks of the school year. The $2.3 million remodeling involved improvements to three of the four wings of the school building.

“The improvements which were made this summer visibly demonstrate an evolution of change in the way we approach the teaching and learning process,” said school principal Kathy Norris. “We have changed the way we think about the process during the last eight years. How we educate students has changed, with the memorizing of facts being replaced by the accessing of information and its applications.”

Much of this accessing takes place in the library space, now known as the learning commons. This area will house a new program known as Learning Rx, a site-based brain training and cognitive-focused reading and math intervention for students. The area also will include a presentation stage, flexible seating, custom-built shelving and cabinetry, and a garage door that opens into the technology lab.

With the school’s physical changes will come more chances to address students’ individual needs. Money raised through the school’s “Reaching for Tomorrow” campaign will provide the physical learning environment needed to sustain and promote formal and informal learning, supporting individual and group work, providing space for presentation and exploration, and promoting interaction and a sense of community.

Norris said this will lead to more learning opportunities. “Research proves that instead of memorization, students now need assistance in learning how to find and select relevant information for problems they need to solve. They need to learn how to collaborate with others as they solve these problems and communicate their solutions to their teachers and to the world beyond the classroom,” she said.

The completed renovation also includes new lighting, ceilings, shelving, cubbies, and dry erase boards, as well as new paint throughout, replacement of the heating, ventilating, and air conditioning systems, updating of all existing restrooms, and improvements to the wi-fi system and connectivity in classrooms. The results of the lighting and HVAC upgrades alone are estimated to result in a 50 percent cost savings to the school.

Each classroom has been outfitted with a short throw projector and interactive projections screen for use by teachers and students with increased display size to improve visibility. The school also has a unified paging, intercom, and bell system with time synchroniza-

See RENOVATION, Page 19
lion has been raised. Approximately 25,000 square feet of new space will be added to the school once the remaining $3.5 million has been raised.

The expansion, which is planned to begin in the summer of 2017, will house a dedicated middle school with an additional 13 classrooms. The addition will include a science lab and an art room and will provide space that will finally allow every teacher in the school to have his or her own classroom, as well as classrooms that can be used as collaborative learning spaces, accommodating an entire grade of 100 students in one space. An elevator will be installed to make the entire building handicap accessible.

About 2,200 square feet of the addition will allow for expansion of the main school offices and auxiliary offices. The glass breezeway between the school and the parish hall will be expanded by about 2,600 square feet, creating desperately needed enhanced-learning spaces and an enlarged first-floor gathering area.

In anticipation of the school expansion, a former multipurpose room was converted into two temporary third-grade classrooms, eliminating what had been a large gathering and meeting space for the parish and school.

The additional meeting and breakout space which will be provided if sufficient funds are raised in phase two will offer a consistent place for children with special needs to receive occupational and physical therapy and a space for children who are gifted and talented to meet for enrichment. There will also be areas for teachers of all grade levels to meet regularly and engage in ongoing work related to curriculum, instruction, and assessment, and for parent volunteers to assist in seasonal and yearlong classroom and school projects.

St. Paul School is the largest in the Diocese of Columbus, with 815 students in kindergarten through eighth grade, and was selected as a national Blue Ribbon school in 2013. The additional classrooms also will benefit the Parish School of Religion program, also the largest in the diocese, with nearly 800 students. It will provide enough space to offer first- through eighth-grade classes on both Monday and Wednesday nights, instead of the current arrangement of elementary-school classes on Mondays and middle-school classes on Wednesdays.

“This plan sets a renewed direction that envisions a strong future for both the school and the PSR,” Norris said. “The spiritual dimension, the values taught, the enrollment, and the academic achievement are all strong. The school and PSR have enjoyed years of success and are looking forward to many more.”

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SUMMARY OF 2015 RECEIPTS

SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH (SPOF)
World Mission Sunday Offering 95,041
Membership Offerings 60,365
Legacies 129,165
Undesignated Gifts 23,169
Total SPOF: $307,939

SPOF SPECIAL DESIGNATED FUNDS
Missionary Cooperation Plan 346,295
Mass Offerings 4,245
Missionary Childhood Association 7,786
Latin American Collection 58,502
Home Missions 61,115
Black/Indian Missions 65,078
Peter’s Pence 77,130
Total Special Designated Funds $619,651

GRAND TOTAL MISSIONS OFFICE RECEIPTS $927,590