COLUMBUS ST. ANDREW CHURCH OFFERS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE
The Editor’s Notebook

Apocalypse Now?

By David Garick, Editor

As I write this column, the 2016 election is drawing to a close. It has been a nasty election, and our nation is deeply divided. Whichever way the vote turns out, half of the nation will be convinced that the end of the world is at hand. Well, it is not. It is good that at the same time we are looking back at the results of this current election, our Scripture readings point us to the real end times that lie ahead for us as Christians.

The prophet Malachi tells us, “Lo, the day is coming, blazing like an oven, when all the proud and all evildoers will be stubble, and the day that is coming will set them on fire, leaving them neither root nor branch, says the LORD of hosts. But for you who fear my name, there will arise the sun of justice with its healing rays.”

And in the Gospel, Christ himself says, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be powerful earthquakes, famines, and plagues from place to place.”

But the ultimate struggle is not between candidates and political parties. The true struggle is between the power of evil and the ultimate ruler of all of heaven and earth, Jesus Christ. We are soldiers in that struggle. At a recent Red Mass dinner in Texas, Archbishop Jose Gomez of Los Angeles put it this way, “No matter who is president, Jesus Christ is still the King. And we are still called to be saints and to renew this world in the image of his kingdom. Politicians come and go; nations rise and fall; empires fade away. What remains and what continues is the Church that Jesus established on the rock of St. Peter. No matter who wins [this election], and no matter who loses, we are called to follow Jesus Christ as children of God and missionary disciples, to be faithful to Christ and to build God’s kingdom here on earth.”

That does not mean we will have it easy. We stand in the way of evil, and evil is very powerful. The elites in government, media, and society are highly secularized and hostile to religion. They seek to banish faith from public life and to persecute those who follow Christ rather than what they see as the spirit of the times and the desire of human will. Jesus warns us, “They will seize and persecute you, they will hand you over to the synagogues and to prisons, and they will have you led before kings and governors because of my name. … You will even be handed over by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends, and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name, but not a hair on your head will be destroyed. By your perseverance you will secure your lives.”

We Christians must continue to work for peace, justice, love, and the sanctity of life. With God’s help, we have some hope of attaining these in some notable way in this life. But the great promise of God is for the next life. The vindication and reward are only certain then. Our hope is only absolute in the Risen Christ.

Pope Francis reiterates a strong ‘No’ to women priests

By Hannah Brockhaus
CNA/EWTN News

Pope Francis has said that the issue of women priests has been clearly decided, while also clarifying the essential role of women in the Catholic Church.

“The ordination of women in the Catholic Church, the final word is clear. It was said by St. John Paul II, and this remains,” he told journalists.

His statement came in response to a question concerning women priests which a reporter asked him during a news conference on his flight back to Rome from Sweden on Tuesday, Nov. 1.

The pope had just ended a two-day trip to the Scandinavian nation, where he participated in a joint Lutheran-Catholic commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

The pope took part in ecumenical events alongside Swedish Lutheran and Catholic leaders, including the first female Lutheran archbishop in Sweden, Antje Jackelen. She is the head of the Church of Sweden, the largest denomination of Lutheranism in Europe.

After stating that the issue of female ordination is closed, the pope added that women are very important to the Catholic Church, specifically from a Marian dimension.

“In Catholic ecclesiology, there are two dimensions to think about,” he said. “The Petrine dimension, which is from the Apostle Peter and the apostolic college, which is the pastoral activity of the bishops, as well as the Marian dimension, which is the feminine dimension of the Church.”

Pointing out that Holy Mother Church “is a woman,” Francis said that the mystery of the Church as the spouse of Christ can help us understand these two dimensions.

“I ask myself ‘Who is most important in theology and in the mysticism of the Church: the Apostles or Mary on the day of Pentecost?’ It’s Mary!” he said.

The Church doesn’t exist without this feminine dimension or “maternity,” the pope said, because the Church herself is feminine.

Pope Francis said he thinks women “can do so many things better than men, even in the dogmatic field,” but clarified how the Marian dimension is still a separate dimension from that of priests and bishops.

From the beginning of his papacy, Francis has been clear on the issue of women priests, while emphasizing the unique and important role of women in the Church.

Among concerns surrounding the pope’s trip to Sweden, and the hope for continued progress on the path to communion between Lutherans and Catholics, was the issue of female ordination.

This is alongside other social and ethical issues, such as homosexuality and abortion, which are points of division not only between Catholics and Lutherans, but also within the global Lutheran community.
By Cindy Wooden / Catholic News Service

Urging Catholics and Lutherans to take decisive steps toward unity, Pope Francis nevertheless offered no new openings to the idea of sharing Communion before full unity is achieved.

“We Christians will be credible witnesses of mercy to the extent that forgiveness, renewal, and reconciliation are daily experienced in our midst,” the pope said on Oct. 31 during an ecumenical prayer service in the Lutherans’ Lund cathedral, which was built as a Catholic cathedral in the 11th century.

With the prayer service, Pope Francis and leaders of the Lutheran World Federation launched a year of activities to mark the 500th anniversary in 2017 of Martin Luther’s efforts to reform the church.

For Pope Francis and the Vatican, Catholics are called to commemorate the event by focusing on concrete ways to express and strengthen doctrinal agreements reached by Catholic and Lutheran theologians during the past 50 years. The most appropriate way to mark the anniversary, they said, was with common prayer and renewed commitments to working together to help the poor and promote justice.

The Lutherans agree, but many also saw the joint commemoration as a moment to recognize that joint agreements during the past 50 years on issues of faith mean it is appropriate to expand occasions when Eucharistic sharing is possible.

The Catholic Church has insisted that regular sharing of the Eucharist will be possible only when divided Christians have attained full unity.

In his homily at the Lund cathedral, the Rev. Martin Junge, general secretary of the Lutheran World Federation, expressed his hope for shared Communion sooner.

He said that in the past, Catholics and Lutherans sometimes carried stones to throw at each other, but this is no longer possible “now that we know who we are in Christ.” He said the stones cannot be used “to raise walls of separation and exclusion.”

“Jesus Christ calls us to be ambassadors of reconciliation,” he said, and to use stones for “building bridges so that we can draw closer to each other, houses where we can meet together and tables -- yes, tables -- where we can share the bread and the wine, the presence of Jesus Christ who has never left us and who calls us to abide in him so the world may believe.”

A joint statement signed in Lund by Pope Francis and Lutheran Bishop Munib Younan, president of the Lutheran World Federation, said, “Many members of our communities yearn to receive the Eucharist at one table as the concrete expression of full unity.”

Particularly referring to Catholic-Lutheran married couples, the two leaders’ statement said, “We experience the pain of those who share their whole lives, but cannot share God’s redeeming presence at the Eucharistic table. We acknowledge our joint pastoral responsibility to respond to the spiritual thirst and hunger of our people to be one in Christ.”

However, they did not authorize further opportunities for shared Communion, but expressed longing “for this wound in the body of Christ to be healed. This is the goal of our ecumenical endeavors, which we wish to advance, also by renewing our commitment to theological dialogue.”

Pope Francis began the service praying that the Holy Spirit would “help us to rejoice in the gifts that have come to the church through the Reformation.” In an interview released Oct. 28, he said those gifts were greater appreciation of the Bible as God’s word and an acknowledgement that members of the church are called to a process of ongoing reform.

The service was punctuated with music from around the world, including a Kyrie or Lord Have Mercy in Aramaic, the language Jesus spoke. Catholic and Lutheran leaders took turns asking God’s forgiveness for maintaining divisions, “bearing false witness” against each other, and allowing political and economic interests to exacerbate the wounds in the body of Christ.

Lutheran Archbishop Antje Jackelen of Uppsala, the first woman to serve as primate of Sweden, read the Gospel.

In his homily, Pope Francis insisted that Catholics and Lutherans must “look with love and honesty at our past, recognizing error and seeking forgiveness.”

He said the division among Christians goes against Christ’s will for his disciples, weakens their ability to serve the world, and often makes it difficult for others to believe Christianity is a religion of peace and fraternity.

The Gospel reading at the service, from John 15, was about Jesus being the vine and his disciples being the branches. In his homily, Junge said that too often in the past 499 years, Catholics and Lutherans saw each other “as branches separated from the true vine, Christ.”

Yet, he said, “Jesus never forgot us, even when we seemed to have forgotten him, losing ourselves in violent and hateful actions.”

After 50 years of Catholic-Lutheran dialogue, he Junge said, “we acknowledge that there is much more that unites us than that which separates us. We are branches of the same vine. We are one in baptism.”

**VATICAN CARDINAL EXPLAINS LIMITS OF EUCHARISTIC SHARING**

By Cindy Wooden / Catholic News Service

The Catholic Church continues to insist that sharing the sacrament of Communion will be a sign that Christian churches have reconciled fully with one another, although in some pastoral situations, guests may be invited to the Eucharist, said Cardinal Kurt Koch.

During Pope Francis’ Oct. 31-Nov. 1 trip to Sweden, the Swiss cardinal, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, was asked about the possibility of Catholics and Lutherans receiving Communion together.

He told reporters that the Catholic Church makes a distinction between “Eucharistic hospitality for individual people and Eucharistic communion.”

The term “hospitality” is used to refer to welcoming guests to the Eucharist on special occasions or under special circumstances, as long as they recognize the sacrament as the real presence of Christ. Eucharistic communion, on the other hand, refers to a more regular situation of the reception of Communion by people recognized as belonging to the same family.

“Eucharistic communion, for us Catholics, is the goal of ecumenical dialogue and will be “a visible sign of ecclesial communion” or full union, Cardinal Koch said at a news conference. “The other question -- hospitality in the case of a mixed marriage -- is a pastoral question,” which will require discussion, particularly on the level of dioceses.

“It is very difficult to give a universal declaration because the pastoral situations are very different” from country to country, the cardinal said.

Earlier on Oct. 31, Pope Francis and Lutheran Bishop Munib Younan, president of the Lutheran World Federation, signed a joint declaration which included recognition that “many members of our communities yearn to receive the Eucharist at one table as the concrete expression of full unity.”

Catholic-Lutheran married couples, in particular, “experience the pain” of sharing their whole lives, but being separated at the table of the Lord. “We acknowledge our joint pastoral responsibility to respond to the spiritual thirst and hunger of our people to be one in Christ,” they said.

The two leaders did not authorize further opportunities for shared Communion, but expressed longing “for this wound in the body of Christ to be healed” with the help of increased theological dialogue.

Speaking at the news conference with Cardinal Koch, the Rev. Martin Junge, general secretary of the Lutheran World Federation, told reporters, “At this point in time, we don’t have a concrete model of how we would go about” making pastoral provisions for couples in mixed marriages.

However, he said, “it is around the table where people in our communities experience the fragmentation of the church the hardest, and that requires a response.”
Election outcome expected to influence religious freedom in health care

By Dennis Sadowski
Catholic News Service

A pair of Catholic physicians say changes in the way health care is paid for and stronger relationships between doctors and their patients will do more to improve people’s health and uphold the sanctity of life than bureaucratic government-run programs and expensive insurance policies.

Dr. Marguerite Duane, adjunct associate professor of family medicine at Georgetown University, and Dr. Lester Ruppersberger, president of the Catholic Medical Association, also maintain that control over health care must be in the hands of patients and their families, rather than any bureaucracy.

Both physicians offered their views on Wednesday, Nov. 2 during an hourlong discussion in Washington sponsored by Christ Medicus Foundation at the Catholic Information Center on “The Changing Face of Health Care and the 2016 Election.”

The program took place six days ahead of the Nov. 8 election. Each of the four participants said the next presidential administration and the new Congress will influence how the U.S. health care system evolves.

The panelists expressed concern over the erosion of conscience protections for hospitals and health care workers and the rights of individuals to choose a doctor who aligns with their religious beliefs and to purchase insurance without paying for health services they morally oppose.

“People have to realize that Americans of all stripes, regardless of their religious affiliation, that we are losing our religious freedom ... at amazing speed,” said Louis Brown, the foundation’s director.

“We’re seeing with the increased power of the executive, of the White House, and regulatory agencies that a lot of things can be done or undone without congressional action, and there’s a lot of danger,” Brown said.

He said the new Congress is expected to strengthen the Weldon Amendment, a federal law enacted in 2005 to protect the conscience rights of institutions and individuals, and to clarify some aspects of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

Then there’s the makeup of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Brown said observers expect at least three and perhaps four justices will be appointed by the next president, and they probably will play a key role in health care services as lawsuits make their way through appeals.

The foundation-led discussion stemmed in part from its CURO health care ministry, a health sharing program that bills itself as an alternative to traditional health insurance. It enables people to pay for medical expenses without being part of an insurance plan they feel compromises their religious beliefs.

The panelists covered several topics, with the physicians expressing concern for increasingly restrictive regulations emerging from the Affordable Care Act that serve to marginalize the conscience of health care workers, Catholic hospitals, and patients.

A fourth panelist, Matt Bowman, senior counsel at the Alliance Defending Freedom, outlined some of the lawsuits filed nationwide on discrimination grounds challenging the rights of hospitals and health care professionals to deny to offer care that violates their religious beliefs.

Citing her experience treating patients at the Spanish Catholic Center in the Archdiocese of Washington, Duane said she has learned health care does not have to be expensive or guided by a checklist of actions in order to meet reimbursement guidelines or government mandates.

“Much of our health care costs does not actually pay for health care,” Duane told the forum. “It covers the administration of the bureaucracy that continues to build and expand and will only hasten and worsen with the Affordable Care Act. All of this money we are putting into this health care system is not helping people get healthier. It’s helping government to grow bigger. It’s helping government to have greater control in our lives and what we do.”

The ACA is facing new challenges after the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced in October that 2017 premiums for midlevel health plans will increase by an average of 25 percent and that consumers in some states will find fewer insurance companies offering coverage.

Duane called for greater use of direct primary care, an alternative care model in which a trusting relationship between patient and doctor is encouraged and fee-for-service incentives are replaced with a flat monthly fee. She said direct primary care leads to better outcomes because people feel connected to their doctor.

In cooperation with another physician, Duane has formed a direct primary care practice in which basic care is delivered at homes or elsewhere. She said the monthly cost is $79 for individuals and $250 for families.

Duane said that comprehensive health insurance can be used instead for more costly procedures, and that because it would be used less often, premiums could be lower. She compared such a system of comprehensive health insurance to automobile insurance, which is accessed only in cases of serious damage to a vehicle.

Ruppersberger said the Catholic Medical Association has long recognized the need for health care delivery reform. He pointed to the association’s 2004 white paper Health Care in America: A Catholic Proposal for Renewal, which offered specific policy proposals based on Catholic moral and social teaching.

He said the document pointed to a “crisis” in American health care that stems from the lack of health insurance coverage which millions of Americans had in 2004 and continue to have today, despite the ACA.

“The crisis in American health care is more than a crisis of the insured and uninsured,” Ruppersberger said. “It is a crisis afflicting the patient-physician relationship, which has been eroded by factors that include financing health care, but that are more properly understood as having their roots in the loss of a common understanding, within and without the medical profession, of the sanctity and inviolability of each human life and the dignity of the person.”

He said the Catholic Church can provide the needed guidance to “enact meaningful health care policies that uphold the sanctity of life from conception to natural death, as well as the common good, and to do so in a financially sustainable fashion.”

Acknowledging that the document must be updated to reflect changes in the health sector since then, Ruppersberger noted that any recommendations the Catholic Medical Association offers will conform with Catholic social and moral teaching.
Former pro athlete and jurist says faith is about doing good, avoiding evil

By Joanne Fox

Catholic News Service

Former pro football player and Minnesota judge Alan Page offered a simple premise on how his faith is exemplified in his life.

“Try to do good. Try to avoid evil,” said the graduate of a Catholic high school and Catholic university.

He made the comments as keynote speaker at a recent dinner in Sioux City.

Sporting a colorful bow tie that set off his white- and gray-speckled beard, and speaking deliberately and unpretentiously about his life, Page gave credit to his parents for instilling in him the importance of education.

“I am the person that I am today, interested in education, because of my parents’ belief to seek excellence in anything you do,” he said at a news conference before a local chamber of commerce dinner.

When asked whether his mother or his father would be most proud of their son today, Page responded without hesitation. “Both of them,” he said in earnest. “Both of them.”

Page’s working-class parents moved to Canton, Ohio, when their youngest son, Alan, was nine years old.

“Our parents, my mother (Georgianna) in particular, were very strong on making sure we got educated,” Page told the Chicago Tribune in 1988. “She realized early on that was the key to the only way out to a better life. She had the perception that the education at Central Catholic (High School) was better than the public schools. She thought it was important, even in the face of paying tuition.”

In his dinner speech, Page said sports never were at the top of his wish list for his life.

“People would ask me in fourth grade what I wanted to be, and I would reply, ‘A lawyer,’” he said, then modestly smiled and added, “I guess I watched too many Perry Mason shows.”

However, in ninth grade, Page decided to follow his older brother into the gridiron and soon discovered he had an aptitude for the game. He verified that he worked on a construction team that erected the building that houses the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton -- where he was inducted in 1988.

Following his 1963 high-school graduation, a scholarship enabled Page to pursue his collegiate studies at the University of Notre Dame. He was a member of the Fighting Irish football team that won the 1966 national championship.

After graduating from Notre Dame with a bachelor’s degree in political science in 1967, Page was a first-round draft choice of the Minnesota Vikings. He was named NFL Most Valuable Player in 1971, becoming the first defensive player to win that award.

During his football career, Page started law school. He earned his law degree from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1978.

He was an attorney in both private practice and at the state attorney general’s office. In 1992, he was elected to serve as a justice on the Minnesota State Supreme Court. He was the first African American to serve on that court. Page reached the mandatory court retirement age of 70 in 2015.

In 1988, he and his wife, Diane Sims Page, established the Page Education Foundation of Minneapolis, a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization that assists students of color with post-secondary education. The foundation has awarded more than $13 million in scholarships to more than 6,500 students.

Page said those scholarships are not a handout. In return, recipients help develop positive attitudes about education among elementary- and middle-school children by volunteering as tutors and mentors in their communities. Scholarship winners have given more than 420,000 service hours in their communities.

Earlier this year, Page talked about the importance of education to students at Benilde-St. Margaret’s High School in St. Louis Park, Minnesota, as part of its Black History Month celebrations.

Page, who experienced both segregation and integration, has concerns about the justice system treating people of color more harshly than whites.

“People of color are arrested more often, charged more often, stopped and searched more often, given longer sentences, higher bail, and less fair trials,” Page said, citing a 1993 Minnesota Supreme Court study on the judicial system. “That hasn’t changed dramatically in the state of Minnesota. It hasn’t gotten any better across the country. We need to figure out how to treat everybody equally.”
John the Baptist and original sin; Morality in warfare

QUESTION & ANSWER
by: FATHER KENNETH DOYLE
Catholic News Service

Q. Recently, while watching EWTN, I heard a priest say that some theologians now believe that John the Baptist was born without original sin. This was new information for me, but then I looked at the Gospel of Luke (1:15), where the angel Gabriel tells Zechariah that his son John will be “filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother’s womb.”

I asked my local priest and he said that many people are great and holy, but only Mary was born without original sin. What is the current thinking of the church? Is there something new that I missed? (Clinton, New Jersey)

A. Other than Jesus, only the Virgin Mary was conceived without original sin. That is the defined doctrine of the church, which is celebrated on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. With regard to John the Baptist, there never has been any definitive declaration by the church (by way of a conciliar statement or infallible papal pronouncement) that he was born free of original sin.

However -- and it may not be generally known by Catholics -- there is a common and long-held belief within the church that this is so. That belief is based on the scriptural passage you cite (Gabriel’s words to Zechariah) and also on Luke 1:41, where, upon Mary’s visiting Elizabeth, the baby (John) recognized Jesus and “leaped” in Elizabeth’s womb. The Catholic Encyclopaedia says, “As the presence of any sin whatever is incompatible with the indwelling of the Holy Ghost in the soul, it follows that at this moment John was cleansed from the stain of original sin.”

Nearly every saint’s feast day is celebrated on the day of the person’s death, the day presumed to mark that saint’s entrance into heaven. The only two exceptions are Our Lady and John the Baptist, who both have feast days marking their births. Long ago, St. Augustine noted that the reason for this is the church’s common belief that John entered the world freed (in the womb) from original sin.

Q. My husband was an officer in Vietnam, and he gave an order that probably killed several of the enemy. He says that if he had to do it over, he would do it again in order to save his men. But he doesn’t expect to ever go to heaven. Is he right? (Greensboro, North Carolina)

A. At the time of the Vietnam conflict, opinions varied as to its moral propriety, although Pope Paul VI argued strongly for the cessation of the conflict by negotiation and consistently tried to bring the warring parties to the table. In 1968, the U.S. Catholic bishops issued a pastoral letter calling upon Congress to allow selective conscientious objection.

But at the same time, Catholics never were prohibited from participating in the hostilities. So it could well be that your husband felt that the war, and his own participation in it, were morally justified in preserving freedom and preventing Communist aggression.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says that even in a just war, “non-combatants, wounded soldiers and prisoners must be respected and treated humanely. Actions deliberately contrary to the law of nations and to its universal principles are crimes, as are the orders that command such actions. Blind obedience does not suffice to excuse those who carry them out” (No. 2313). The My Lai massacre, for example, fails any moral test. But it does not seem, from what you say, that your husband was involved in any such atrocity. He sought only to protect the men in his charge who were under attack.

It saddens me that he feels he has forfeited any chance of eternal salvation. I can’t even imagine what a heavy burden that must be. Why not suggest that he talk to a priest, be assured of God’s mercy, and perhaps confess any moral misjudgments he may have made, if there were any?

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

By Rick Jeric

Smart Is So Sexy

I’m back! It’s not that easy to get rid of me. While the short break from writing weekly was good, I am very happy to be back at it. I will not be writing the same column as I did for the past nine years. Hopefully, the change will be welcome, while continuing to challenge us in our thoughts, actions, and spiritual growth. The column is titled “The Everyday Catholic.” I will offer thoughts, reflections, and stories regarding events and people in everyday life. I hope to make each column interesting and informative, with the goal being a better and improved Catholic way of life for all of us. As Catholic Christians, we are briefly on this earth to achieve holiness, to strive for perfection as our Heavenly Father is perfect, and to one day pass from this life to eternal life with our God and one another. Along the way, we bring as many others with us as possible. We do so by our example and our Faith.

Right off the bat, you may have been drawn to the subject of this column, “Smart Is So Sexy.” That term, “sexy,” means a lot of different things to a lot of different people. I suppose that term “smart” means a lot of different things to a lot of different people, too. Let’s start with “sexy.” It is interesting how that term has evolved in my lifetime. Fifty years ago, the word “sex” was used mostly when speaking scientifically. The “revolution” of the ’60s and ’70s made it much more mainstream a term, and now it is used in a variety of ways, both good and bad. And the descriptive nature of the world always will be unique and subjective. “Smart” can be very subjective, also. How do we measure how smart someone is? Standardized tests? Grades? A number or a letter? I was watching ESPN the other day, and one of the female hosts was wearing a t-shirt that said “Smart Is So Sexy.” I might agree, but how we interpret those terms goes a long way. Am I book smart, street smart, or simply gifted with natural intelligence? Better yet, how smart am I when it comes to my Faith? Yes, Faith with a capital F. How much real, solid knowledge do I have of my Catholic Faith? Am I smart enough to engage others in meaningful conversation and discussion regarding our Faith? We have to be ready and willing, not shy and fearful. For reflection, it is more important for us to quote Scripture and our Catechism, or to promote a way of life that is reflective of Jesus Christ? So is it at all sexy to have these types of discussions? Let us assume that “sexy” means “attractive,” in this case. Initially, we are all physically attracted to someone with potential to be our spouse. Are they “sexy”? Can they be sexy with their Faith? In other words, we want so much to be attractive physically, and we would always be flattered if someone refers to us as “sexy.” How much do we desire to be true champions of our Faith, proclaimers of the Gospel, and real doers of the Word? I think a good and genuine combination of all these attractions makes a great relationship. Yes, the right combination of “smart” can be the right combination of “sexy.” Let us hope that our attraction is heightened for fellow everyday Catholics and Christians who are smart and sexy, as together we lock arms and navigate our way to eternal life and love in Heaven.

ST. ANTHONY NEW CATHOLICS

Columbus St. Anthony School eighth-grade student Sophia Gersper (center) was welcomed into the Catholic Church and received the sacraments of Baptism and the Eucharist during a Mass last year. She will be confirmed with the rest of her class later this year. She is pictured with classmates (from left) Makayla Shuey, Adriana Moon, Megan Shuey, and Monserrat Tlahuel-Flores.

Retreat Center Capital Campaign

Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center in Licking County has launched a capital campaign for funds to expand and improve the building. Center director Robert Overman said about $160,000 is needed to provide an energy-efficient boiler system, WiFi accessibility, refrigerated storage units, and air-conditioning units.

Replacement of the boiler system, costing $110,000, is the most expensive item and already has taken place. The center was built in the mid-1950s as a seminary for the PIME order of missionary priests, and its boilers served the facility for more than 60 years.

New boilers were necessary because parts were no longer available for the old ones, and the old system had become potentially unsafe.

A WiFi system was installed in September for $3,700. This allows electronic devices to connect to the Internet and has become almost mandatory for meeting sites, because most groups require WiFi availability in all meeting rooms to present their educational programs.

Food safety for retreat participants is of the upmost importance, resulting in the need to replace the compressors and condensers in the center’s original refrigerator units. Overman said it is hoped that the current units will be replaced in December at a cost of $6,500.

The center’s north hall, the hall’s meeting rooms, and the chapel could be used nearly every weekend and on many weekdays every by retreat groups, but are unusable during the peak retreat system because they are too hot. The cost of providing a cooling system for those areas is estimated at $38,000.

Overman said the center’s operating revenues are not sufficient to cover the cost associated with these improvements and required updates.

Requests for grants for funding of the renovation have been made where the center was able to apply, but the need is immediate.

“We are in need of your support and prayers to complete our ministry at the Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center,” Overman said. “We will continue to operate in a frugal manner so that more retreatants will be able to enjoy the peace, tranquility, and spirituality the center offers.”
U.S. Catholics Can Mark Jubilee Year of Mercy by Sponsoring Scholarships for Poor Children in Kenya

Cross Catholic Outreach’s recent launch of a scholarship program for poor children (see story on opposite page) is poised to have a major impact halfway around the globe in the African nation of Kenya. Beyond blessing the children, the creative outreach will also help two of that country’s needy Catholic schools.

This is a significant program, especially in this Jubilee Year of Mercy and in light of the recent teachings of Pope Francis. Excitement is clearly building around the Church’s call to a New Evangelization,” explained Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach. “Our special program will allow American Catholics to sponsor inexpensive scholarships to lift up the neediest children in Kenya.”

In addition to helping hundreds of young children gain a primary education, Cross Catholic Outreach’s new scholarship program will have an important second benefit. It will encourage and empower the priests and nuns behind two of the nation’s most exciting outreachs — Brother Beaupang Catholic School and St. Andrew Nakייעmurya School. Both are located near the city of Nairobi.

“The priests and nuns who established these Catholic schools have made tremendous personal sacrifices to extend Christ’s love in the communities they serve,” said Cavnar. “When American Catholics step forward and fund a $110 scholarship to their schools, it will be incredibly encouraging to them. It will show them that we American Catholics are grateful for their work and want to help them in their noble cause of educating the poorest of the poor.”

Why is the scholarship so important? The answer is simple. Without this support, children would simply go unschooled. Families subsisting on only a few dollars a week can’t afford the luxury of sending a child to school.

“Those who establish a scholarship are helping put a child in school for a full year, and the daily classroom experience also includes a meal — sometimes the only meal that child eats all day,” Cavnar said. “And what is the alternative? Leaving a child illiterate and without hope? Is that really an option? I doubt Pope Francis would see it that way.”

Some will ask if there is a way to support the goal without funding a full $110 scholarship for a school year. The answer, Cavnar emphatically said, is “yes!” Donors who contribute to the scholarship fund in any amount are helping to build the general scholarship pool, which will also fund students in need.

“Every gift, large or small, will make a difference,” Cavnar said. “As we collect up to $110, another scholarship will be funded. As a newspaper reader responding to this need, you can have a profound impact on the poor with any and every gift you make toward this cause.”

Cross Marks Jubilee Year of Mercy with Opportunities for Service

Visit a special section of Cross Catholic Outreach’s website (www.CrossCatholic.org/Jubilee) and you will find several special opportunities to bless the poor during these last months of the Jubilee Year of Mercy. One of these outreachs is a program to educate poor children (see stories above and on opposite page).

A visit to the website also reveals three indisputable strengths of the organization — its cost-effectiveness, its impressive Catholic leadership and its emphasis on funding projects that have specific and tangible benefits for the poor.

Cross Catholic Outreach is clearly having an impact both overseas and here in the U.S.

“Donors most often notice our level of effectiveness. They want their donations to be used wisely, so they appreciate the fact that nearly 95 percent of donations we receive are used for program services and that so little of our expenses are allocated to fund-raising and administration,” explained Cross Catholic Outreach’s president, Jim Cavnar. “The second thing they look for is integrity in our leadership, and they find that in the seven bishops and archbishops who serve on our board of directors. It shows we are an official Catholic outreach, and that we promote Catholic teachings and values through our work. The Church is strengthened through our mission.”

This fact has been noticed by Catholic bishops and archbishops in the U.S., and they have endorsed the charity as a result. As of this moment, Cross Catholic Outreach has the endorsement of more than 85 U.S. dioceses, and the list continues to grow.

Results are one reason for this attention. Cross Catholic Outreach has a history of effectively supporting existing Catholic parishes and programs overseas, and thereby empowering the Catholic Church worldwide.

“When we dig wells, build homes or launch medical clinics, the people in the community associate those things with the Catholic Church. Self-promotion isn’t our goal. Our goal is to empower the Catholic Church — the priests, nuns, parishes and lay leaders already working in the community,” explained Cavnar. “Many of Pope Francis’ recent teachings support that approach — as does the Jubilee Year of Mercy itself. That’s why we created special opportunities for American Catholics to serve the poor this year.”

Pope Francis recently met with Cross Catholic Outreach’s president, Jim Cavnar.
$110 Scholarships for Catholic Education Can Lift Struggling African Children Out of Poverty

A door of opportunity is opening for impoverished African children, and whether that blessed door stays open will largely depend on the generosity of American Catholics. The “door” to this brighter future is a scholarship, and it can only be offered if U.S. Catholics will sponsor the $110 outreach offering a full year of schooling for a child in need.

“Cross Catholic Outreach established this unique new scholarship program to fight illiteracy and poverty in Africa and other developing countries of the world. The Cross Catholic Outreach scholarship program was established to help unschooled children aged 4 to 12, and it allows us to provide a life-changing education for a boy or girl at a cost of just $110 for the full school year,” explained Jim Cavnar, president of the relief organization, Cross Catholic Outreach.

Now that the program is in place, it needs benefactors to step forward and fund a scholarship in their family’s name. Mr. and Mrs. Jones can create the Jones Family Scholarship, for example. Dr. Smith can establish the Mary Smith Scholarship to honor his mother. Each scholarship can be for a single school year or renewed annually to keep the gift going as part of a family legacy to benefit the poor.

“With a gift of just $110 you can launch a scholarship with a life-changing impact on a child in need,” Cavnar explained. “A certificate is sent to you, the benefactor, to commemorate the new scholarship, and the child overseas is blessed with the grant of aid. It’s a priceless gift you are giving—an education brings opportunities, new hope and dignity. These are things you can’t buy off a shelf, but they come with this outreach.”

How many scholarships does Cross Catholic Outreach hope to launch this year? The program’s initial goal is to educate 5,000 needy youngsters who are currently “on the outside, looking in” — and some children are literally in that position, according to Cavnar. They stand outside schools and watch longingly as others enter.

“When you travel to places like Haiti, Kenya, Zambia or the Philippines, you encounter the terrible hardships of the poor and you see how hungry they are for hope,” Cavnar said. “In some of the countries where we serve, children stand outside schools praying to get in. These kids are illiterate, but they’re wise enough to know an education provides new opportunities and a way out of the slums. They pray the school door will someday open for them — but most realize that is only going to happen if their families get help. Their parents are too poor to afford even the few, meager expenses of their children’s schooling.”

The new Cross Catholic Outreach scholarship program meets this need. It serves as a “golden ticket” — opening the door to a quality education — which is amazing, considering the scholarships can be provided for just $110 per year. And despite the low cost, the quality of the education is high.

“In establishing this scholarship program, we started by choosing quality institutions that could qualify as Cross-accredited Catholic Schools,” Cavnar said. “These schools are also monitored to ensure they continue to meet our standards. We insist each school has a strong Catholic identity, hires a capable staff of teachers, includes spiritual teachings within the curriculum and provides students with a broad, practical education. It’s important that our scholarship students end up with a solid education — one that gives them greater opportunities in their communities.”

Some may wonder about the low cost of establishing a scholarship. Most of us are only familiar with U.S. college scholarships, which are typically valued in the thousands of dollars. The difference, Cavnar admitted, is startling but true.

“Who among us can deny the value and impact of this program? The Catholic schools overseas are extremely efficient. The teachers who work there are also sacrificing. Many work for a few dollars a day in order to ensure these children get an education. When a donor contributes his or her portion by funding a scholarship, amazing things are being accomplished,” he said. “So my hope is that many will step forward. If just a few dozen of this newspaper’s readers make that decision, the impact will be profound. It’s a simple fact. When Catholics focus their compassion on meeting a specific need, amazing things can be accomplished. I’ve seen it happen again and again and again.”

This optimistic view of Catholic charity flavors everything Cross Catholic Outreach does. Cross Catholic was founded more than 10 years ago to create a stronger link between American Catholics and Catholic mission work being done overseas, and its efforts have produced impressive results. Catholic priests and nuns working “in the trenches” have been empowered by Cross Catholic Outreach and its U.S. benefactors to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, provide safe water to the thirsty, house the homeless, protect the orphaned and — as this case demonstrates — educate the poor.

The ministry has accomplished these outreach in more than 40 countries worldwide, and it does its work in an extremely cost-effective way. Less than 6 percent of its resources are used for administrative or fundraising expenses — nearly 95 percent are spent on program services to benefit the poor.

“Of all the work we do, we consider educational outreaches among our most important and effective,” Cavnar said. “Why? Because a Catholic education has three critical benefits to the poor. It elevates the poor out of illiteracy. It opens doors of opportunity that help create self-reliance — teaching a man to fish, as the saying goes. And just as important, it communicates Catholic truths that transform lives from the inside out. That is why we encourage donors to establish these scholarships. They are one of the most valuable gifts a person can give.”

How to Help:

To fund Cross Catholic Outreach scholarships for the poor, use the postage-paid brochure inserted in this newspaper or mail your gift to Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC01264, PO Box 97168, Washington DC 20090-7168. Write “SCHOLARSHIP” in the comment line of the brochure to ensure your gift is routed properly.

If you identify an aid project, 100% of the proceeds will be restricted to be used for that specific project. However, if more is raised for the project than needed, funds will be redirected to other urgent needs in the ministry.
Columbus St. Agnes Church hosted its fourth annual All Hallows Eve party, with children and adults dressing as their favorite saints and enjoying dinner, fun, and games. They were entertained by the “singing nuns” — (from left) — Cindy Oddi, Sandy Bonneville, and Mitzi Barnes of Columbus St. Mary Magdalene Church.

Photo courtesy Sandy Bonneville

Big News at ODU: We’re Freezing Tuition, Room & Board!

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Seeing Everything Shining Like the Sun

Liturgically speaking, November begins with celebrating the holy ones who have gone before and who live among us: the saints and the saints-becoming. Canonized or not, they are those who open our eyes to both the presence of God-with-Us and to the responsibility to reverence that Presence in how we live our lives.

What if we looked at this month through the eyes of the saints? Would we see things we usually overlook? Would we be moved to act in ways out of our ordinary routines?

Trees blazing with color soon will drop their leaves and stand starkly against winter skies. On some days, snow will cling to their branches and cover the ground. Beauty has many faces. Growth often happens deep within, out of sight. While autumn’s riot of color shouts, winter’s muted palette speaks in whispers.

What happens to one affects us all. The great contemplatives speak of encountering God within, spending silent time resting in the Sacred Presence. Often, though, in the midst of contemplative practice, nothing much seems to be going on, other than distractions. When tempted to wonder where God is within, out of sight. While autumn’s riot of color shouts, winter’s muted palette speaks in whispers.

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Silence guards the life that has withdrawn to the center, content to wait and gather strength.

Looking with these saints helps us see not only the ordinary and spectacular realities of the universe. St. Hildegard of Bingen, living in the 12th century, wrote about ecology, natural science, and medicine. St. Albert the Great, whose feast we celebrate next week, was a philosopher and scholar recognized for his knowledge and writing, not only about theology, but also about the sciences, including physics and astronomy.

Watching the super moon rise this coming Monday, Nov. 14, or gazing at the dance of the moon and planets can be worship.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, a Jesuit priest born in the late 19th century, was a mystic and accomplished geologist and paleontologist. His vision of the evolutionary nature not only of matter, but of spirit, and his understanding of the Cosmic Christ continues to inspire today.

Looking at the Great, whose feast we celebrate next week, was a queen and mother who came to the monastery door as Christ. Mother Teresa saw the face of Jesus in every dying person she lifted from the street. How do we see these people, fleeing for their lives? How do we welcome them to our place to live and raise their families, we do well to remember how these saints saw every person. St. Benedict instructed his monks to greet every stranger who came to the monastery door as Christ. Mother Teresa saw the face of Jesus in every dying person she lifted from the street. How do we see these people, fleeing for their lives? How do we welcome them when they arrive at our shores?

The Trappist monk Thomas Merton wondered at God dwelling within every person he saw at a busy intersection in Louisville, Kentucky. “There is no way of telling people that they are all walking around shining like the sun!” he thought.

When we are able to see the hand of God in every speck of earth or distant star, to recognize the Holy Presence in others, or to trust the Indwelling in ourselves, we can pray for Grace so, like the holy ones who have gone before us, we will reverence the Sacred that is in our midst or knocking on our doors.

How many stories are told of saints who lived their lives serving the poor and marginalized, the sick and suffering? Elizabeth of Hungary, whose feast also is celebrated next week, was a queen and mother who gave herself so wholeheartedly to sharing her fortune with the poor and nursing the sick that, when her husband died on the way to battle, she was thrown out into the street by his parents, who were offended by her discipline of prayer and good works!

Martin de Porres entered a Dominican monastery as a lowly lay helper, but spent much of his life using gifts for healing, tending not only the monks, but also the poorest in his city of Lima, Peru.

Today, as millions of refugees leave their homelands destroyed by wars and violence, looking for a safer place to live and raise their families, we do well to remember how these saints saw every person. St. Benedict instructed his monks to greet every stranger who came to the monastery door as Christ. Mother Teresa saw the face of Jesus in every dying person she lifted from the street. How do we see these people, fleeing for their lives? How do we welcome them when they arrive at our shores?

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Columbus St. Andrew Church parishioners say their parish combines the strength and variety of programs a large church can provide with the warmth and friendliness of a small congregation.

"When I came to the area served by the parish a few years ago, I had a choice between going to St. Andrew's or attending a smaller parish about the same distance from my house," said parishioner Jen Wenzke. "I went to Mass at both churches, and for three weeks in a row when I came to St. Andrew's, someone different would come up to me and say, 'You have such a nice family. I couldn't help but be impressed by people's thoughtfulness.'"

Wenzke is in charge of the parish's cultural arts committee. She says St. Andrew's Catholic School, as part of the JESCRD (Saint Andrew Children's Recreation Ed- ucation Foundation) and located at 6100 Northwest Columbus, is the Bryce Eck Center, a former Masonic temple the parish purchased in 2000 and is the home of its youth ministry, Knights of Columbus, and senior citizen programs - "something for every stage of life," Johns said.

The parish also has a larger hall, named for the late Msgr. Michael Nagen, the parish's founding pastor. It also was built in 1998 and is located underneath the church. Msgr. Nagen served as pastor from 1955-69. He was followed by Father Tony's out there welcoming kids on their first day of classes. Right: Photos courtesy St. Andrew Church (left); CT Photos by Tim Puet

Left: Columbus St. Andrew Church, with a statue of St. Andrew in the center of a recently built circular driveway. Center: The church's main altar. Right: Pictured are (from left) St. Andrew parishioners David and Amy Tague; Msgr. Stephan Moloney, pastor; with his dog, Mabel, partly shown; and parishioners Lori Poussin, Norma Johanson, and Tom Lynch.

People greeted me and made me feel comfortable from the start, and I try to do the same. I say 'Hello' and strike up a conversation if I don't recognize some- one, and see others doing it as well. An- other helpful key is that although this church is a large building, it's very open, with lots of light coming through, adding to the welcoming atmosphere."}

Tague is a factor, on the liturgy commit- tee and Parish Council, a choir member, an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist, and a volunteer with the Parish School of Religion. Her husband, David, belongs to Knights of Columbus Council 11275, atten- ds the parish's men's fellowship break- fast on the first Saturday of each month, and is active in adult faith formation, PCR, and a marriage preparation program the parish recently started. These organizations are among more than 40 offered by the parish, said pa-}

"I'm constantly amazed that whenever I go walking my dog (Mabel, an eight-year- old min-pin-dachshund), no matter what the hour, there's always a bunch of cars in the parking lot," Msgr. Moloney said. "That's always encouraging to see so much in- volvement."

"What you get out of the parish is what you get into it," said Norma Johanson, co- chair with Poussin of the annual parish Fes- tival. "A large parish like this gives you so many opportunities to benefit from what's being offered. One of these blessings is that we have two priests, allowing us to have two and sometimes three Masses a day."

Weekend Masses are at 4:30 p.m. Sat- urday and 7:30, 9, and 10:30 a.m. and noon Sunday. Weekday Masses are at 6:30 and 8:30 a.m., and there is a 9 a.m. Mass that Saturday with its day's liturgy. Clergy serving the parish are Msgr. Moloney, pa- rish council Vicar Anthony Davis, and Deacon Thomas Berg Jr.

The church and school are at the corner of McCoy and Reed roads, adjacent to McCoy and Reed roads, adjacent to the parish's founding pastor. It also was built in 1998 and is located underneath the parish's general fund this year. Highlights include an Italian dinner catered by the Susi family's Berwick restaurant, plus other food, live music, raffles, silent auction, games of chance for children and adults, and casino games for those 21 and older.

Another major parish activity is taking place this weekend - the annual holiday bazaar and bake sale sponsored by the parish women's club, which will be on Sat- urday, Nov. 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in St. Andrew's Hall. Dozens of vendors will offer crafts and gift items, there will be a suffe for a live Christmas tree, plenty of chocolate booties will be available with other baked goods, and lunch will be served in the school.

"This is my first assignment as a priest, and what's impressed me most about our school - the quality of the students and of the education they receive," said Father Davis, who was ordained in May 2015.

"Father Tony's out there welcoming kids every day. That's really important to them," Amy Tague said.

"It's been quite a challenge, but we have 400 students in kindergarten through eighth grade. "Our keystone is the pillars of faith, character, academics, and community," said Joel Wichtman, who has been the school's principal for six years and was a teacher there for six years before that. Students are divided into more than 30 family groups, each consisting of pupils from all grades.

The families are part of a virtue-based program and meet regularly for faith- and service-based activities and healthy com- petition. Every student at St. Andrew School learns a foreign language from his or her first day there, with Spanish required for kindergartners through fifth grade and a Latin requirement for grades six through eight. "Latin skills may seem outdated, but it is a valuable asset in building voca- tional skills and for students pursu- ing the science, medical, or legal fields," Wichtman said. He also noted that stu- dents studying Latin have higher SAT verbal scores and that St. Andrew's eighth-grade students surpass 85 percent of their counterparts in standardized national tests.

The school offers the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program to supplement religious instruction from first to fourth grades. This activity also is offered sepa- rately for preschool and kindergarten students. The hands-on program is simi- lar to the Montessori method. "The unique people young in CGS seem to stick with them better than a conventional ap-
support students with special needs. In the past year, it has provided movable “wiggle chairs” that help active children stay engaged in learning; established an endowment fund through The Catholic Foundation; matched an occupational therapist to students needing help with fine motor skills; and provided adaptive kits to the PSR to improve the experience of first Communion and first Reconciliation. Its fundraisers include a “Caps and Corks” craft beer and wine tasting program, scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 11, 2017. The organization is asking for donations of $20 bottles of wine for the event.

The parish preschool meets in the Eck Center, with sessions in the morning for three- and four-year-olds and in the afternoon for pre-kindergarten students. Kris Pellissier, who has been the center’s director since it opened, said it focuses on development of the whole child.

“The integrated curriculum addresses the developmental stages and processes taking place within the heart, mind, and body of each child,” she said. “Every child’s academic, social, moral, and creative needs are supported, while keeping in mind the teaching of Jesus the Good Shepherd.”

The PSR program has been directed by Suzie Emsweller for the past 14 years and meets in two sessions – Wednesday after school for first through fifth grades and Sunday nights for grades six through eight. She said it has about 250 students, from those in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd through eighth grade. On the last Sunday of the month, the older group usually takes part in the parish’s monthly middle-school youth program, which encourages building a Christ-centered life through games, small groups, and short talks.

The parish also has a high-school youth group which meets every Sunday evening for talks, small-group discussion, prayer, and social time. The group also meets on the first Tuesday of the month at church for a meal and to attend Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, and on Fridays at 7 a.m. during the school year at the local Panera restaurant for Bible study.

The parish offers several opportunities for adult faith formation, including Bible studies which recently have included Bishop Robert Barron’s *The Mystery of God* DVD series, a 10-session program on the Old Testament prophets, and the Jeff Cavins Bible timeline.

On the first Saturday of each month, there is a men’s fellowship breakfast at 7:30 a.m. in Nugent Hall. In addition, men’s faith sharing gatherings take place at 7 a.m. on the first and third Wednesday morning of the month and at 8 a.m. on the second and fourth Saturday, all at Nugent Hall.

Parents of St. Andrew School and PSR students gather each Wednesday at 8 a.m. during the school year in the bride’s room at Nugent Hall to recite the rosary for children, families, principals, teachers, and support staff of both institutions and for priests, deacons, and seminarians.

A week after its holiday bazaar, the women’s club will sponsor its annual retreat at St. Therese’s Retreat Center in Columbus from Friday to Sunday, Nov. 18 to 20. Father Davis will lead the retreat. Its theme will be “Through the Narrow Gate: Disciples Without Relativism or Favoritism.”

The Knights of Columbus council, which has more than 200 members, is getting ready for its biggest annual event – its 23rd annual Christmas tree sale. It begins Friday, Nov. 25, the day after Thanksgiving, and will continue for the next three weeks at the parish athletic fields. David Tague said that last year, all but three of the 230 trees available were sold. Unsold trees were donated to St. Lawrence Haven in downtown Columbus.

Hours for the sale are 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, and 1 to 7 p.m. Sunday. The money goes to activities including assistance to seminarians, programs for the developmentally disabled, and providing Christmas baskets for inner-city families. Besides the tree sale, the Knights sponsor weekly Lenten fish fries and host pancake breakfasts, an
ST. ANDREW, continued from Page 14

Easter egg hunt, and a “euchre palooza” tournament that takes place three times a year. The next tournament is in February.

Social outreach activities for the parish include the work of its St. Vincent de Paul Society, which visits home-bound parishioners and those in nursing homes; collects food for St. Stephen’s Community Center; makes sandwiches for St. Lawrence Haven; recycles school supplies; collects blankets, clothing, and hygiene and cleaning products at various times of the year; and learns of the particular needs of parish members and families and deals with them on a one-on-one basis.

Parishioners serve lunch for residents of the Columbus Open Shelter on the second Sunday of each month, and dinner on the fourth Thursday. The parish has an Advent Giving Tree every year, works with Habitat for Humanity, and has a group known as Caring Spirit to assist parishioners who find themselves needing help with basic tasks because of circumstances such as recent illness or hospitalization. A parish committee known as Calming the Storm provides confidential help to victims of domestic violence.

The parish senior citizens group meets on the second Thursday of each month at the Eck Center, as well as sponsoring day trips and longer excursions, and there is a garden club that meets every Monday evening from spring through fall, weather permitting.

Philip Lortz directs the parish music program. Liturgical music is provided at the 9 a.m. Sunday Mass by the parish choir. A youth choir, the Choristers, adds music for special seasonal events, and includes school and PSR students. A Resurrection choir serves the parish by singing at funerals. This past Sunday, Nov. 6, the parish and Resurrection choirs combined for a remembrance service for all loved ones who have died.

The parish offers Eucharistic Exposition every weekday in its chapel between the two scheduled Masses. On Tuesday, it is offered from 6 to 9 p.m., concluding with Benediction. The Office of Compline, the Catholic Church’s official night prayer, recently was added to the closing, with Msgr. Moloney playing the organ. David Tague said the Tuesday evening Exposition has become so popular that it has been moved from the chapel to the main altar.

Exposition also takes place from 7 to 9 p.m. on Fridays during Lent, ending with Benediction, and including Stations of the Cross at 7:30. Other prayer activities at the church include recital of the rosary at 8 a.m. weekdays and 8:30 a.m. Saturdays and of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy after the 8:30 a.m. weekend and 9 a.m. Saturday Masses. A devotion statue of the Infant of Prague is located in the far northeast corner of the church, with prayer cards available concerning that devotion. The parish Legion of Mary chapter prays the rosary and meets in the Eck Center on Fridays following the 8:30 a.m. Mass.

St. Charles is water polo runner-up

The Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School water polo team had a 29-9 record and finished second in the state tournament, losing the championship game 13-11 to Cincinnati St. Xavier. Ben Sugar had five goals in the game and was named to the all-tournament team for the third year in a row. Goalie Jack Carlin had 10 blocks and eight saves. After a first-round bye, St. Charles defeated Milford 20-11 and Dayton Oakwood 19-5. The Cardinals won state titles in 2010, 2011, 2013, and 2014 and finished second in 2015. “The final was really competitive, but we just came up short against a really good team,” varsity coach Geoff Gear said. “We did a great job in our first two games, and we are proud of the way the boys played.”

Photo courtesy St. Charles Preparatory School.
Parishioners at Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church heard a presentation last month on Asia’s Hope, an organization which provides comprehensive long-term care for orphaned children in Cambodia, Thailand, and India who cannot be safely reunited with their extended families or communities of origin. 

The parish’s relationship with the Columbus-based organization has become quite personal, in part because Bob Owens, a parishioner, was killed this past May 30 when he was struck by a motorcycle in Cambodia while on a trip to aid an Asia’s Hope children’s home. With him were his wife, Kim; their granddaughter, Jayla Owens, and four other parish members.

The four parishioners and John McCollum, Asia’s Hope executive director, took part in the presentation. It was McCollum’s first visit to the parish since Owens’ funeral.

He said that the Asia’s Hope model of care is different from that of the large institutional orphanages found in many developing nations. His organization keeps its homes small and focuses on creating an extended family among a home’s orphans. It has been doing this since 2006, when the organization hired a Christian married couple to be in charge of its first home. The couple already had children of their own and acted as surrogate parents for 40 orphans. The goal of the home was for the parents and two “aunts” to develop parent-child relationships with the orphans.

Asia’s Hope has expanded to 32 homes, many of them sponsored by Columbus-area churches. Father Dan Millisor, pastor of the Grove City church, said he has been interested in helping children in southeast Asia since traveling there in 1997 during a sabbatical. He hope the parish can sponsor the Battambang 5 (BB5) home sponsored by Asia’s Hope in Cambodia.

The parish already has a relationship with the home’s family because of the efforts of parishioners Debbie and Ray Sheridan. Debbie Sheridan spoke about the home at Sunday Masses on a weekend in May, with a second collection being taken up to raise money for the organization. The collection raised sufficient funds to purchase six bicycles and a motor scooter for the BB5 family. The scooter is shared by the home’s university students so they can commute to classes.

In addition, the Parish Women’s Association has adopted BB5 for Christmas and is collecting presents for the children. Our Lady of Perpetual Help School students are participating in activities throughout the academic year to learn about and support BB5. Kim Owens asked that donations be made to Asia’s Hope in lieu of flowers being sent to her husband’s funeral. That money will pay for three of BB5’s children to attend university classes in the 2016 and 2017 school years.

Father Millisor said he hopes that sponsoring BB5 will help the parish to “have a missionary outreach that is way beyond us. It helps us to see the bigger picture of the universal church. … I think that sense of the bigger church and the bigger need that’s out there is so very important for us to keep our eyes on, and I just think that Asia’s Hope offers us an incredible opportunity to do that.”

Debbie Sheridan wants the parish to develop a personal relationship with the BB5 family, saying, “When we brought this to Father Dan, it was really important that it was not just another line item on the budget.”

To help form that relationship, Asia’s Hope, has a number of resources. In addition to sharing photographs of the families at its homes, it can arrange Skype video calls between parishioners and families, with translators assisting in question-and-answer sessions. A visual tour of the BB5 home is also available at the Asia’s Hope website, www.asiashope.org, so parishioners can see how the family lives together.

The parish’s next mission trip will occur over two weeks in late May and early June of next year, with Father James Colopy, associate pastor, accompanying parishioners. There will be some sightseeing opportunities, but more than a full week will be spent with the BB5 family, “playing with the kids, doing things with them, reading with them, going with them on trips, and taking them out to dinner. They love pizza,” Debbie Sheridan said.
Only three national holidays, all of them coming within less than two months of each other, are almost universally observed in the English-speaking world.

Two of them will readily come to mind for most people. They are Christmas Day and New Year’s Day.

The third may not be so easily identifiable and has a variety of names. That day is this Friday, Nov. 11, the anniversary of the signing of the armistice that ended World War I.

It’s known as Veterans Day in the United States, and Remembrance Day in Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, and the rest of the British Commonwealth. It retains the name of Armistice Day in New Zealand, France, Belgium, and Serbia. In Poland, it’s Independence Day, because that nation became an independent state with the signing of the armistice.

In all those nations, it’s celebrated with solemn ceremony as a day to memorialize all those killed in combat, as well as military veterans in general.

Traditionally in the United States, a wreath is laid at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery at 11 a.m., the time the armistice was signed, with the president often participating in the event.

This year, the ceremony at Arlington on Nov. 11 will include a representative from Columbus — Armina Crawford (pictured), who in August was elected to her second one-year term as national commander of the Catholic War Veterans, an organization founded to honor and support Catholics who have served in the military or are on active duty.

The CWV has about 7,500 members in 222 posts nationwide, including about 1,500 in 26 Ohio posts, said Becky Wolf of the organization’s state office in Columbus.

“To me, Veterans Day is a day set aside to thank and honor all those who served honorably in the military, whether in wartime or peacetime,” Crawford said.

“We thank the living veterans for their service and acknowledge that their contributions to our national security are appreciated, and underscore the fact that all those who served, not only those who died, have sacrificed and done their duty.”

“I thank all who have served in the past and those who currently are serving. Through your dedication and love of country, we can sleep better at night knowing you are watching us. May God continue to bless you as you protect this great nation of ours.”

Crawford is the first woman to be elected national commander of any veterans organization. She was in the Women’s Army Corps from 1966-68, where she rose to the rank of platoon sergeant. She has been a CWV member since 1999 and is employed at the Pontifical College Josephinum.

She is a member of Catholic War Veterans Post 1936, one of two CWV posts in Columbus. Post 1936 was founded in the mid-1990s, has about 40 members, and meets at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at Columbus St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road.

CWV Post 1963 was chartered in December 2011, has a membership of about 15, and meets on the third Sunday of each month after the noon Mass at Columbus St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave.

Both posts sponsor a number of joint and individual programs benefiting veterans and children. Those activities include quarterly bingo afternoons at the Veterans Administration hospital in Chillicothe, marching together in Memorial Day and Veterans Day parades in Columbus and Worthington, participating in high school Vets in the Classroom programs, and corporate Communion Sundays when the posts combine to attend Mass, with fellowship afterwards.

The two posts both contribute to the annual Central Ohio Stand Down event which provides assistance of various kinds for homeless veterans and took place this year on Oct. 18 in the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

They also are involved in volunteering and in making items for the Chalmers P. Wylie VA Ambulatory Care Center in Columbus, which has become one of the VA’s busiest facilities, serving 2,000 veterans daily and currently building several additions to meet the demand.

Those items include handmade lap blankets, hats, scarves, and cards for veterans receiving chemotherapy at the clinic’s infusion care center. Puzzle books and pencils also have been donated to help the veterans fill the time they spend in waiting and in treatment.

Post 1936 also has donated to the Mid-Ohio Foodbank and to Fisher House, a home away from home for families of veterans receiving medical care at the VA’s major facility at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base In Dayton, and has provided speakers for local schools and taken part in youth patriotism programs, said post commander Ted Mosure.

Mary Ann Janning, commander of Post 1963, said her post sponsors Christmas coloring book contests, essay contests, and poster contests, sends holiday care packages and manufacturers coupons to military families overseas, conducted a cleanup day in the spring with the Columbus Bishop Hartley High School baseball team, and works extensively with the American Heritage Girls of Columbus St. Patrick Church, explaining flag etiquette and discussing the history of the nation’s military.

During this year’s Memorial Day weekend, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts from Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church joined the American Heritage Girls and members of the CWV posts to decorate graves of about 1,300 veterans.

The Catholic War Veterans of Ohio has a voting seat on the advisory committee to the director of the Ohio Department of Veterans Services. Janning recently completed two years in that position, with Mosure replacing her.

Nationally, the CWV funds scholarships for high school seniors going on to advance their education. Applicants from Post 1963 have benefited from that program on several occasions.

The organization was founded in Brooklyn, New York, in 1935 by Msgr. Edward J. Higgins to benefit and support Catholic World War I veterans, received a papal blessing from Pope Pius XI later that year, was recognized by the VA as a veterans assistance group in 1940, and received a congressional charter in 1984.

It is one of only three congressionally chartered national veterans service organizations that is decidedly of a religious nature, and the only one that is Catholic.

It is not a part of the Catholic Church, so its posts are not parish organizations in the strictest sense, but support of the church and its activities is a central reason for the CWV’s existence.

Applicants for membership in the Catholic War Veterans must be U.S. citizens and baptized Catholics, and be former, retired, or active-duty members of any of the armed forces, including their respective Reserve and National Guard components.

An applicant must have served at least 90 days active duty and have an honorable discharge. A veteran does not have to have served in combat or in a war zone to be eligible to join.

For more information on the CWV, go to its national website at www.cwvusa.org. To learn more about the local posts, contact Mosure at tedmosure@aol.com or Janning at r.janning@att.net.

Photo: Participating in installation of officers for Catholic War Veterans Post 1963 at Columbus St. Patrick Church were (from left): Mary Ann Janning, post commander; Michael Strainic, of Eastlake, CWV state commander; and Father Joseph Scordo, OP, a retired military chaplain, procurator of the Dominican House of Studies in Washington. (Photo courtesy CWV Post 1963)
Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle C)

A day of reckoning and a day of salvation

Father Lawrence L. Hummer

Malachi 3:19-20a;
2 Thessalonians 3:7-12;
Luke 21:5-19

When I studied theology an eternity ago, there was a continuous and lively discussion about the “already-but-not-yet (or not-yet-fully)” aspect of the Kingdom of God. Jesus preached primarily that the Kingdom was near, but not yet here. Christians always remain on the edge when it comes to reflecting on “the coming of the day (of the Lord)” or on “the end.” This is directly connected with the Gospels’ announcement of the Kingdom of God, because not until the end is the Kingdom fully realized.

Malachi (meaning “my messenger” in Hebrew) is listed as the last of the prophets of the Old Testament. The Book of Malachi was written just after the Babylonian exile ended, probably about 450 BC. Christians understand it as the lead-in to the New Testament because it speaks of the coming of “my messenger,” whom we understand to be either Christ or, in some cases, John the Baptist. The day of his coming will be “blazing like an oven,” which makes it not a happy prospect. It is a day of reckoning for the proud and all evildoers, but a day of salvation for all who fear the name of the Lord.

The prophet indicates that the Lord loves Israel, but objects that the people return that love poorly. They marry non-Jews, who worship foreign gods. They allow divorce. They cheapen the worship of the Lord by offering inferior animals. For all of these reasons and more, the day on which the messenger of the Lord comes will be a day of fright and fear for those who have not remained faithful to the covenant with the Lord.

Yet the revolt against Rome began in 66 AD, and by 70 AD, the Temple was destroyed. That destruction hit at the heart of Jewish religion, because the Temple not only provided and supported a lot of businesses, but it also gave priests and others major roles to play in the public offering of sacrifices. After the Temple was destroyed, the big question for Judaism was how it was going to survive.

Luke wrote from the perspective of the 80s AD, which meant he knew all this had happened, as did Matthew and John. Mark wrote in either the late 60s or early 70s, so he had somewhat less information with which to work.

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

The Gospel forms part of what is called the “apocalyptic discourse,” wherein Jesus acts as a prophet by anticipating the destruction of the Temple. In Luke, some prefer to call it his “eschatological discourse,” which has to do with the end time. Jesus never answers the disciples’ questions “Lord when will this happen? And what sign will there be when all these things are about to happen?” He warns them not to be deceived by false prophets who come in his name, or by wars or insurrections. He adds the warning of powerful earthquakes and signs from the sky. He warns about some of what they will undergo as his disciples, being handed over to their enemies because of his name. Finally, he says that by perseverance, they will secure their lives.

The question is whether this reflected what was known by Luke to have happened when he wrote the Gospel, or whether it came from Jesus in advance of the events, as though he had some kind of ability to see into the future. Some of this was inevitable, given the challenge to the status quo which Jesus represented for Judaism. Naturally, Jesus’ followers were going to run afoul of the religious and political leadership if they remained loyal to his teaching.

He also noted a Vermont case in which doctors are required to tell a terminally ill patient about all treatment options available, including physician-assisted suicide.

“This is a serious issue about whether health care professionals or health care facilities will be able to practice medicine consistent with their beliefs,” Bowman said of the lawsuits pending nationwide. “But it’s also an issue about whether their patients will be able to choose them. There are many women who want the freedom to choose a doctor to deliver their baby, and their doctor also does not kill babies.”

Follow Sadowski on Twitter: @DennisSadowski.
Looking for some uplift after this tawdry election cycle? Some inspiration for tackling what lies ahead? A good way to enrich Advent? Examples of sanctity to help you be the missionary disciple you were baptized to be? Then let me recommend Bishop Robert Barron’s new DVD series, Catholicism: The Pivotal Players.

_Pivotal Players_ is a follow-up to Bishop Barron’s immensely successful 10-part megaseries, _Catholicism_, the most compelling presentation of the symphony of Catholic truth ever created for modern media. Key figures in Catholic history appeared throughout the original series to illustrate this truth of the faith or that facet of the Catholic experience. Now, with _Pivotal Players_, six of the most striking personalities in Catholic history take center stage, the adventure of their lives serving to deepen our understanding of the “faith once delivered to the saints” (Jude 1:3).

The six are Francis of Assisi, Catherine of Siena, Thomas Aquinas, John Henry Newman, G.K. Chesterton, and Michelangelo Buonarroti: the reformer, the mystic, the theologian, the convert, the evangelist, and the artist. Two are doctors of the Church – a Franciscan and an Umbrian, a Sienese, a sort-of Neapolitan, and a devout Florentine). Each of them was the human analogue to what astrophysicists call a “singularity,” someone to whom the old rules of spiritual gravitation didn’t apply.

And they shared something else in common besides the passionate intensity of their Catholic faith: each lived at a time of crisis for the Church, and each helped the Church address that crisis creatively while remaining true to itself.

Francis of Assisi and Catherine of Siena lived at times when institutional Catholicism had become complacent, losing its evangelical edge. By creating something utterly new in Catholic life – the mendicant religious order dedicated to evangelization – Francis inspired in the Church a new Gospel radicalism centered on the joyful experience of salvation. By persuading (perhaps better, shaming) Pope Gregory XI to return to Rome from his political exile in Avignon, Catherine of Siena made it possible for the papacy to be again the center of unity for the entire Catholic world, as Christ intended it to be.

Thomas Aquinas, for his part, grafted the “new learning” of Aristotle into Catholic theology in a creative synthesis that gave the Church conceptual tools that remain powerful today. In doing so, he helped create what we know in the West as higher education, even as he showed the Church how to incorporate the best of the “modernity” of his time into its intellectual and spiritual life without losing touch with the truths it had long possessed as a bequest from the Lord.

Michelangelo lived during that moment of sometimes-brash human assertiveness we call the Renaissance; his theologically driven art (which Bishop Barron explains in perhaps the most scintillating part of _Pivotal Players_) enriched the classically inspired humanism of his day by marrying it to the biblical account of the human person.

Newman and Chesterton, closer to our moment, were key figures in crafting a Catholic response to the scientific revolution and the other dramatic changes that were reshaping how we think about things – and imagine our place in the scheme of things – during the 19th and 20th centuries. That each of them did so in wonderfully winsome prose helped demonstrate the continuing vitality of the Catholic mind and spirit in an increasingly skeptical age, even as they bequeathed to the 21st-century Church models of apologetics that remain cogent at a time like ours, when skepticism has often hardened into cynicism or just plain boredom.

There are important things to be learned from each of these God-touched human personalities for the challenges Catholicism faces in the post-modern world of the 21st century. Kudos to Bishop Barron for bringing those things to our attention in a gripping way.

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

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**Richard Finn elected director of the Catholic Cemetery Conference**

The Catholic Cemetery Conference, an international Roman Catholic faith network of cemeterians and suppliers, has elected Richard Finn, director of the Catholic Cemeteries of Columbus, to its board of directors as director at large for the Midwest. The election took place during the 67th annual CCC convention in Orlando, Florida.

Finn has worked for the Diocese of Columbus for 35 years in various positions, including general manager, manager of Resurrection Cemetery, sales and advertising director, and sales counselor.

He received the designation of Certified Catholic Cemetery Executive in 2000. He has served as chair of the CCC group insurance trust, Committee on the Future member, and nominating committee member.

He earned a bachelor of science degree in business administration from The Ohio State University, is a member of the Knights of Columbus, and is a past president of the Catholic Cemeteries of Ohio. He and his wife, Karen, have two children.

The Catholic Cemetery Conference, a membership association of cemeteries and related suppliers, helps Catholic cemetery staff members enhance their skills in caring for the deceased and comforting their loved ones through ministry, education, networking, and service opportunities. It has members from 140 dioceses in 45 states, plus 10 dioceses in Canada and Australia. The members work for facilities ranging from small parish cemeteries to large multicemetery diocesan operations.

The Catholic Cemeteries of Columbus include St. Joseph and Mount Calvary cemeteries in Columbus, Resurrection Cemetery in Lewis Center, and Holy Cross Cemetery in Pataskala.

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**Man of the Year Nominations**

The Catholic Men’s Luncheon Club is accepting nominations for the 2017 diocesan Catholic Man of the Year award, to be presented by Bishop Frederick Campbell at the club’s luncheon on Friday, Feb. 3.

The award recognizes a layman who, through his daily actions, words, and prayers, exemplifies the “good and faithful servant.” The recipient will have the opportunity to share his personal testimony at the meeting.

Nominations will be accepted through Thursday, Dec. 29. For details and nomination instructions, go to http://www.catholicmensministry.com/cmlc. Completed nominations and supporting letters should be emailed to catholicmanoftheyear@gmail.com.
Pray for our dead

Ann M. Kammer

Funeral Mass for Ann M. (Lally) Kammer, 80, who died on Oct. 31, was held Thursday, Nov. 3 at the New Albany Church of the Resurrection.

She was born Feb. 1, 1936, in Wheeling, West Virginia to Joseph and Mary Margaret Lally. She was a graduate of St. Joseph Academy in Wheeling and West Liberty (West Virginia) State College.

She taught first grade for more than 25 years at Gahanna St. Matthew School and was a teacher in Wheeling before her marriage.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and brothers, Joe and Bill. Survivors include her husband, William; daughters, Sally (John) Buckles and Amy (Kirk) Schaefer; sister, Margie; and six grandchildren.

There is no charge for obituaries. To have an obituary printed in the Catholic Times, send it to: tpuet@columbuscatholic.org

Obituaries cannot be taken by phone.
Obituaries will be edited for length/clarity/style and printed as space permits.
Catholic Conversations Series
6 to 8 p.m., Sports on Tap. 4030 Main St., Hilliard. Monthly Catholic Conversations series for anyone 21 and older, sponsored by Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona and Hilliard St. Brendan churches. Speaker: Deacon Andy Naporano on “Why Is There Suffering?” RSVP to nancy.whetstone@gmail.com or julienaporano1@gmail.com. Spanish Mass at Columbus St. Peter 7 p.m., St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road, Columbus. Mass in Spanish.
706-761-4054

11, 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. 614-866-4302

11-12, FRIDAY-SATURDAY
Ohio Dominican Presents’ Ghost of a Chance’
7 p.m., Mixteces Theater, Erskine Hall, Ohio Dominican University, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. University’s Panther Players present the romantic comedy “Ghost of a Chance.” Free admission. 614-251-4453

12, 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.

Nature Walk at Shepherd’s Corner
2 to 3:30 p.m., Shepherd’s Corner Ecology Center, 987 N. Waggoner Road, Blacklick. Nature walk with AmeriCorps volunteer Miranda Land. Suggested donation $5. 614-866-4302

12-13, SATURDAY-SUNDAY
Diocesan Youth Conference at St. Paul
9:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, St. Paul Church, 313 N. State St., Westerville. 2016 Diocesan Youth Conference. Theme: “Blessed Are the Merciful” featuring music by Steve Angrisano. Includes workshops, reconciliation, lunch Saturday and Sunday, dinner Saturday, and closing Mass at 2:45 p.m. Sunday celebrated by Bishop Frederick Campbell. 570 both days. $55 Saturday; $45 Sunday. 614-247-2565

Vikki Pignatelli Quilt Exhibit at St. Pius X
Following 5 p.m. Saturday and 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. and noon Masses Sunday, St. Pius X Church, 1051 S. Waggoner Road, Reynoldsburg. Exhibit of 10 spiritual art quilts by parishioner and nationally known quilter Vikki Pignatelli. 614-866-2859

13, SUNDAY
St. Christopher Adult Religious Education
10 to 11:20 a.m. Library, Trinity Catholic School, 1440 Grandview Ave., Columbus. “Eating from the Garden of Eden: Best Herbs and Food from Bible Days” with Rita Nader Heikenfeld.

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

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

Vikki Pignatelli Talk at St. Pius X
4 p.m., St. Pius X Church, 1051 S. Waggoner Road, Reynoldsburg. Vikki Pignatelli talks about the stories behind her quilts and her spiritual journey. 614-866-2859

Penance Service at St. Philip
4 p.m., St. Philip Church, 1573 Elaine Road, Columbus. Communal penance service to mark next Sunday’s close of the Jubilee Year of Mercy, with several priests available for individual confession and absolution. 614-237-1671

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

16, WEDNESDAY
Abortion Recovery Network Group
9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Westerville Area Resource Ministry, 150 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. 614-721-2000

Newborn Needs Program at Shepherd’s Corner
7 to 8:30 p.m., Shepherd’s Corner Ecology Center, 987 N. Waggoner Road, Blacklick. Newborn Needs program for people wishing to knit or crochet afghans or clothing items for premature and needy newborn infants, with Sister Diane Kozlowski, OP. OP available. Also on Nov. 30 and Dec. 7. Suggested donation $5 per session. Registration deadline Nov. 14. 614-866-4302

16-19, WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY
Three Bags Full Consignment Sale
6 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 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, early shopping at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 15 with purchase of $10 advance ticket), Community Wesleyan Church, 161 Myrtle Ave., Newark. Three Bags Full consignment sale of children’s items. Unsold and unclaimed items are donated to Catholic and pro-life charities. 614-561-5300

THURSDAY
‘Count Your Blessings’ Program at Shepherd’s Corner
10 to 11:30 a.m., Shepherd’s Corner Ecology Center, 987 N. Waggoner Road, Blacklick. Sister Margarette Chandler, OP, leads program in which participants acknowledge the many blessings they receive every day. Suggested donation $5. Registration deadline Nov. 14. 614-866-4302

Catholic Times
The theater department of Columbus Bishop Ready High School presents the Tony Award-winning musical Annie Get Your Gun, directed by faculty member Jill Larger, at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 18 and Sunday, Nov. 20 and 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 19. The show, a story about Annie Oakley and Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, with music and lyrics by Irving Berlin, features some of musical theater's most notable songs. From Anything You Can Do and I Got the Sun in the Morning to the show-stopping There's No Business Like Show Business, the musical numbers represent a songbook of Americana. The book by Dorothy and Herbert Fields tells a timeless story of a young woman caring for her siblings and facing stiff competition in a male-dominated world. Ready's production features Andrew Pindell as Buffalo Bill, Claire Ferguson as Annie Oakley, and John Pyles as Frank Butler. A cast of more than 25 students transports the audience back to a time when Wild West shows were all the rage. Without television or the Internet, entertainment was a community occurrence – much like theater still is. Tickets are $10 for adults, $9 for those 65 and older, and $8 for students. For more information, contact the school at (614) 276-5263.

Peter and the Starcatcher

Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School drama department presents its fall production, the Tony Award-winning play Peter and the Starcatcher, at 8 p.m. Thursday to Saturday, Nov. 17 to 19, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 20, in the campus theater, 2010 E. Broad St. Adult tickets are $10 and student tickets are $5. Reservations may be placed by calling the St. Charles main office at (614) 252-6714 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Peter and the Starcatcher upends the century-old story of Peter Pan. The wildly theatrical adaptation of Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson’s best-selling novels was conceived for the stage by directors Roger Rees and Alex Timbers and written by Rick Elice, with music by Wayne Barker. From marauding pirates and jungle tyrants to unwilling comrades and unlikely heroes, Peter and the Starcatcher playfully explores the depths of greed and despair ... and the bonds of friendship, duty, and love.

12 Angry Jurors

Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School will bring the drama 12 Angry Jurors to its stage next weekend. The play, adapted from Reginald Rose's 12 Angry Men, involves the deliberations of the jury at a homicide trial. At the beginning, the jurors cast a nearly unanimous vote of “guilty,” but a single “not guilty” vote is cast. Throughout the play, one dissenter sows a seed of reasonable doubt. Join the cast for a night of drama and see what the verdict will be. The play will be presented at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 18 and 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 20 in the school’s little theater, 4212 Karl Road. Tickets are $8 and are on sale at the high school from 10:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. each weekday.

Ohio Dominican University's theater organization, the Panther Players, will perform the comedy Ghost of a Chance at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Nov. 11 and 12 and Thursday and Friday, Nov. 17 and 18, and 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 19. The performances will take place in the Sister Mary Andrew Matesich, OP, Theater in Erskine Hall at ODU's main campus, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. General admission is $8. Children younger than five will be admitted free. Admission is also free for students who show their university ID. Free parking is available in the Gold Lot west of Sunbury Road.
By Allana Haynes
Catholic News Service

After nearly 100 years since construction began on the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, the placement of a final mosaic – inside the Trinity Dome – is expected to be completed in December 2017.

The national shrine in Washington, D.C., will mark the centennial of the laying of its foundational stone in 2020.

The final mosaic will be the “crowning jewel” of what is the largest Catholic church in the United States and will complete it from an architectural standpoint, said the senior managing director of OPUSfidelis, a Virginia-based marketing agency that is promoting the project.

Although the mosaic will complete the architecture of the shrine, there will continue to be additions and expansions.

More than 70 chapels exist within the shrine, each with a one-of-a-kind history, representing multiple ethnicities and cultures.

Martin Rambusch of Rambusch Design Co. said his role in the project was to help bring to life the concept of the mosaic.

“We help play the role of helping to visualize and craft and delineate and create the vision that is conceived, either visually or verbally, from the client,” he told Catholic News Service this summer. “We make that happen through drawings, through models, through conversation, through sketching, and then we go from there.”

He explained that the concept for how the mosaic would look went through many stages to be brought from a sketch to a full-scale design that will be displayed beneath the dome.

“There was a gentle verbal description given to us,” said Rambusch. “We went through making sketches to define and delineate those conceptual ideas. We then went through conversations and refinements and adjustments when submitting, so it is a communal process in participation of a variety of different groups and ourselves have then evolved to the design that is now being made in Italy.”

He said the design for the Trinity Dome mosaic will complement the designs already existing within the shrine.

The mosaic will depict the Trinity, Mary, and 13 saints associated with the United States or the national shrine, the four evangelists, and words from the Nicene Creed.

The artwork is being created at the Travisanutto Giovanni mosaic company in Spilimbergo, Italy, and will be shipped to the national shrine in 30,000 sections, weighing a total of 24 tons and composed of more than 14 million pieces of glass.

“Prior to our work, there has been no sketch for the Trinity Dome. That sketch never existed. We are creating that from scratch,” Rambusch explained. “(For) this dome, like the other domes, we are using similar materials, a similar color palette, the same installation techniques, the same fabrication techniques, and we are doing our very best for this dome to read as a harmonious design as you enter the church.

“We are able to do that because we are involved as the designers over the previous projects as well – the Gallery Hall, the Incarnation Dome, and the Redemption Dome.”

Rambusch said the technique of putting together the final mosaic will not differ from the previously constructed mosaics, because the aim is to create a seamless aesthetic.

“That’s why we’re following the same techniques to be consistent and make sure that the techniques and the visual presentation will be consistent,” he said.

He said construction of the final mosaic is not only the completion of the shrine, but the completion of work done over multiple generations.

“It’s with great pleasure that we, Rambusch, were selected to be involved in this project,” he said. “For us, it is as well a culmination of work there at the basilica. We were involved in the first chapel in the lower church, and we continue to be in business doing what is in our mind – great work for great people.

To be around to have an opportunity to be involved in this culmination project, which is (over) three generations, is very exciting for us.”

CNS photos by Tyler Orsburn
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For prospective students in grades 5 through 8, potential transfer students, and their parents/guardians

Sunday,
November 20, 2016

General Session begins at 1 p.m.
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Looking ahead... for incoming freshmen:
Registration deadline:
Thursday, December 1, 2016
Placement exam:
Saturday, December 3, 2016
Scholarship exam:
Saturdays, January 7 and 21, 2017

For more information, please contact:
Mr. Joe Lang, Director of Admissions,
614-276-5263, ext. 201  •  jlang@cdeducation.org