Faithful Citizenship

BISHOPS ISSUE DOCUMENT ON VOTER RESPONSIBILITY
The Editor’s Notebook

**Forming our consciences before voting**

By David Gerick, Editor

We have a job to do. Election Day is just a month away, and as citizens we have an opportunity to fulfill our role in directing the course of our nation, state, and local community.

For much of history, kings and similar rulers directed the affairs of nations. In parts of the world, that is still the case, although in most modern nations, democracy now entrusts citizens with the power to shape their own governments. America was a leader in this evolution, and we have much to thank our founding fathers for in the establishment of a representative democracy in the United States. In our system, we do not directly vote on every action of government, but we vote for representatives who we expect will direct our government in accord with principles that are true and just.

Our faith has a crucial role to play in the decisions we make in selecting these representatives. God’s law and the teaching of Christ are not simply matters of personal faith and comfort. They are guidelines for all aspects of life in the whole of society. For our government to be effective and moral, it must follow a set of principles that are based on God’s plan, not merely drifting about with the ebb and flow of our current conventional wisdom.

We can help to direct the actions of government by voting with our conscience. But our conscience is not just what feels good and fair to us. Our conscience must be formed in accord with God’s truth. While the responsibility to make choices in political life rests with each individual voter, the teaching authority of the Church is to bring to light the truth for a properly formed conscience.

As the bishops of the United States have stated, “Many issues surround the present political arena and several should be taken most seriously and guide an individual voter’s conscience: respect for the lives of unborn children; respect for people who are terminally ill; protection of traditional marriage; avoidance of excessive consumption of material goods due to destruction of our natural resources; protection of fellow Christians and religious minorities throughout the world; protection of religious freedom and our freedom of conscience, as well as the freedom of the Church to serve; economic policies to assist the poor; and promotion of peace in our communities and our world.”

“All of these recent developments should assist one in the determination of his or her political responsibility, especially during this election season. The Church’s obligation to participate in the moral fabric of society is essential, as we recognize our right to vote should not be limited to a human endeavor, but one in which we share the truth of Jesus Christ in political dialogue, especially when it comes to which future path we intend our nation to take. Our public practice reflects our personal beliefs.”

This issue of Catholic Times will examine all of the things we need to consider to properly form our consciences before voting in the coming election. The final choice is up to each of us. When we enter that voting booth, we must pray that our hand be guided by the Holy Spirit and not our own human nature.

When political choice is tough, pray and vote your conscience, pope says

By Cindy Wooden

Catholic News Service

ABOARD THE PAPAL FLIGHT FROM AZERBAIJAN (CNS) -- Catholics facing difficult political choices must study the issues, pray about the election, and vote according to their consciences, Pope Francis said.

Flying back to Rome from Azerbaijan on Oct. 2, the pope was asked by a reporter what U.S. Catholics should do in a presidential election where both candidates hold some positions contrary to church teaching.

Although he was in a relaxed mood and welcomed reporters’ questions for almost an hour, Pope Francis said he would never comment on a specific electoral campaign.

“The people are sovereign,” he said. “Study the proposals well, pray and choose in conscience.”

Pope Francis also was asked when he would name new members to the College of Cardinals and what criteria he would use to choose them.

He said he still had not decided precisely when to announce the names or hold the consistory to create the new cardinals, but it probably would be at the end of this year or the beginning of 2017.

As for the choices, Pope Francis said the list of worthy candidates is long, “but there are only 13 places” to reach the limit of 120 cardinals younger than age 80.

The selection process will aim for a geographic mix, he said. “I like it when one can see in the College of Cardinals the universality of the church, not just the European center, shall we say.”

Although he and the reporters traveling with him had not yet returned to Rome and already were set to go to Sweden from Oct. 31-Nov. 1, a journalist asked the pope where he would be traveling in 2017.

A trip to Fatima, Portugal, is definite, he said. He intends to go on May 13 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima.

Also on the calendar, the pope said, is a trip to India and Bangladesh and another trip to Africa, although the specific nation or nations has not been decided.

Asked about his promise to visit Colombia after peace was established in that nation, Pope Francis said the peace agreement signed in September between the government and rebels was important, but the people of Colombia still have to vote to ratify the agreement and begin the real work of living in peace.

In addition, the pope confirmed that he had spoken with Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints’ Causes, about setting aside the usual five-year waiting period to allow the collection of eyewitness testimony regarding the murder in July of French Father Jacques Hamel as he celebrated Mass.

“It is very important not to lose the testimonies,” the pope said. “With time, someone may die, another forgets something.”

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**Front Page photo:**

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has used this logo to illustrate its “Faithful Citizenship” documents since the first such message was issued in 2007.

Logo courtesy U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.
**Ad campaign cites poll showing most Americans favor abortion restrictions**

*By Catholic News Service*

March for Life Action has launched a public awareness campaign through digital and television outlets, saying that candidates running for public office who promise to expand women’s access to abortion “are out of touch with American voters.”

“With this ad, we encourage Americans to take a deeper look at their candidates,” said Jeanne Mancini, president of March for Life, in a statement issued on Sept. 22, the day the campaign began.

“Politicians who claim to be ‘pro-choice’ essentially advocate for abortion on demand up until the time of birth, paid for by your taxpayer dollars,” she said.

“This radical position is out of touch with the large majority of Americans.”

The first phase of the campaign ran through Sept. 26, the date of the first in a series of presidential debates between Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton and Republican nominee Donald Trump.

Without using actors, the ad features six women from different political and professional backgrounds. It will run during major network programs including *Madame Secretary*, the *Today* show, *CBS This Morning*, *60 Minutes*, and other major programs. It will be seen in Columbus and Dayton, as well as in Pittsburgh and Scranton, Pennsylvania; Richmond, Virginia; and Washington, D.C.

The campaign cites results of a Marist poll, commissioned by the Knights of Columbus and released in late July, which found that Americans strongly support abortion restrictions.

“The majority of Americans in favor of abortion restrictions has been consistently around eight in 10 for the better part of a decade,” said Barbara Carvalho, director of the poll, which was conducted by the Marist Institute for Public Opinion in Poughkeepsie, New York.

“Though self-identification as ‘pro-life’ or ‘pro-choice’ can vary substantially from year to year, the support for restrictions is quite stable.”

Though 51 percent of Americans say they are “pro-choice,” the poll showed again that about eight in 10 Americans support substantial restrictions on abortion and would limit it to be performed within the first three months of pregnancy. This includes 62 percent of those who identify as “pro-choice,” 85 percent of African-Americans, and 84 percent of Latinos.

“With an overwhelming majority of Americans in favor of substantial restrictions on abortion, it’s time for politicians to change the fact that current U.S. law does not reflect the hearts and minds of its own people regarding life,” Mancini said.

“As we state in the ad, it’s time for our voices to be heard and the extremism on this issue to end,” she added.

The Democratic Party platform states that one of the party’s goals is to overturn the federal Hyde Amendment, which bars the use of federal funds for virtually all Medicaid abortions.

**Catholic University’s president urges ‘zeal’ in defending religious liberty**

*By Mike Latona/Catholic News Service*

A pharmacy in Olympia, Washington, loses its court challenge to a state law requiring the owners to violate their religious beliefs by supplying emergency contraceptives.

A Colorado court cites discrimination in ruling against a baker who refused on religious grounds to make a wedding cake for a same-sex couple.

A California bill proposes to deny significant state funding for religious colleges and universities if they don’t remove perceived discriminatory policies against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students, faculty, and staff.

These recent cases reflect a decreasing ability for people in this country to exercise their constitutional right to religious freedom, according to John Garvey, president of The Catholic University of America.

“This political and cultural climate has become increasingly hostile toward people of faith,” Garvey, one of the nation’s leading scholars on religious liberty, told a gathering of approximately 300 people during his presentation, “The New Religion Wars,” at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Rochester, New York.

Garvey, who delivered the second annual Catholic Courier lecture on Sept. 15, described a trend of increasingly coercive actions toward those who, because of their religious beliefs, refuse to submit to the established order -- even though, he said, our nation’s Founding Fathers emphasized the freedom to practice such beliefs.

He acknowledged that the religious freedom concerns in the United States don’t equate to the violence perpetrated against people of faith in several other countries, where people pay for their religious beliefs in bloodshed. Nor, Garvey said, does the American situation match the loss of life among early Christian martyrs by decree of the Roman emperors.

Yet Garvey noted that the root causes of such circumstances are similar and -- amid declining percentages of Christians and growth in the numbers of “nones,” or those with no religion at all -- that he foresees greater potential problems ahead.

Garvey encouraged his audience to stick to their religious convictions in the face of powerful opposition, saying, “If we want not only to win religious liberty battles but to convert our secular culture, we need to commit to living out the Gospel with the same zeal shown by the Christians in the early church.”

He said the best modern-day example of such zeal has been exhibited by the Little Sisters of the Poor in their protest of the Affordable Care Act’s contraception mandate for employers. In *Zubik v. Burwell* -- commonly known as “the Little Sisters of the Poor case,” which The Catholic University of America joined as co-plaintiff -- the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously voted on May 16 to return the case to the lower courts.

Garvey has led Catholic University since 2010 and is a noted constitutional scholar and author. He recently was appointed by Pope Francis to the board of directors of the Vatican’s Agency for the Evaluation and Promotion of Quality in Ecclesiastical Universities and Faculties. He thus becomes the first person from the United States to serve with the agency, which was created in 2007 by Pope Benedict XVI to ensure high standards in Catholic institutions of higher learning.

Garvey writes frequently about religious freedom in his Catholic News Service column *Intellect and Virtue*, which often appears on the commentary pages of the Catholic Courier, newspaper of the Diocese of Rochester, which sponsors of the annual lecture.

In introducing Garvey, Rochester Bishop Salvatore R. Matano thanked him “for all you have already done to preserve the freedom of the Catholic Church in the United States in these most difficult times.”

Garvey’s lecture was attended by priests and other leaders in the Diocese of Rochester, as well as community officials, *Courier* board members, Catholic University of America alumni, and representatives from the interfaith community.

Mohammad Rumi, interfaith committee chair and a trustee at the Islamic Center of Rochester, said he agreed with Garvey’s comments as they relate to the struggles his Muslim brethren face.
Daddy

Did you take your vitamins this past week? We offered Sunday Mass last weekend for the unborn. They are so helpless, and rely completely on us to make the right choices and to take care of them before they are born and after. Of course, there is only one right choice for life, but in the instance when the wrong choice is made, those unborn souls need our prayers. And even more importantly, those making the choices need our prayers. We offered our reception of the Eucharist for the respect and preservation of life at all levels. We commit ourselves to upholding life in the unborn, in babies, in children, in criminals, in drug addicts, in the mentally challenged, in our enemies, and in the elderly. We also offered a rosary for life. Our lives are sacred and so are those of everyone else. We revitalize on Respect Life Sunday and throughout this month.

Our practical challenge this week is to pray some more and meditate on the following letter. When we talk about choices of life and death in abortion, we typically focus on the women. It is never easy for her; and she needs our prayers, no matter what she chooses. We love her in either case. But rarely do we have an opportunity to hear from a man who is involved in the choice. Unfortunately, he is usually indifferent or far away. The following is an actual letter from a man involved in a choice, received by way of our Women’s Care Centers. Read, reflect, and pray for all involved.

“My baby: I want to introduce myself to you because I won’t get the chance to meet you in this life. I’m your dad! I want to tell you that I love you and I’m sorry. I’m sorry I failed you, I did everything that I could do to fight for you. When you go home to Jesus you might ask Him why this happened. I don’t have the answer other than this is a choice your mother made. I’m sorry that in this life I’ll never get to hold you or kiss you. I’m sorry that I’ll never hear you laugh or cry. I wish I could have been different. I looked forward to learning if you were a boy or a girl. In this life I’ll never know, so I’ll never get to give you a name. When you see Jesus ask Him to bring you to meet your great-grandfather. I called him Poppy. I promise you He will give you a name. Before you know it I will be reunited with you. I want you to ask Jesus how many prayers I’ve prayed for your mother to keep you and to change. For God to change her heart and come to know Him. I don’t know why this is happening, but know Jesus is perfect and loves you as I love you. I hope you understand that you are my world next to Jesus. Poppy will be there as well as other family members of ours. You will be fine and feel no pain, but as your dad I will be carrying this around with me the rest of my life. Yes as time passes I will heal, but I will always be your dad and will never ever forget you. Your expected due date was Dec. 15 and from this day forward I will always have that day set aside as your day. I’m still struggling that I don’t have a name for you. I think about when I was little Poppy used to call me his ‘little bambino’ which is Italian for baby. So the best I can do for now is call you my little bambino. As I close this letter to you I need you to know that I wanted you and would give my life for yours. I’m sorry I failed you, but Jesus won’t and He will meet you and welcome you home to heaven. Please remember I love you! I will see you one day and I do look forward to meeting you, holding you, kissing your face, and learning your name. With all my love to you my little bambino! I love you. I’m sorry. All my love, your Daddy.”

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

Thomas Edison Awards for Excellence

The Ohio Academy of Science has selected Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul School and 10 of its teachers to receive Governor’s Thomas Edison Awards for excellence in STEM education for their accomplishments during the 2015-2016 school year. Chillicothe Bishop Flaget School and 10 of its teachers received a similar honor. The two diocesan parochial schools were among 45 schools and 460 teachers selected statewide.

To qualify for the Edison award, a school must conduct a science fair with 20 or more students; qualify one or more students for one of the academy’s 16 district science days; have students participate in at least one youth science opportunity beyond the classroom; and convince professionals from STEM business, industry, government, and academic employers that the school’s program meets the academy’s definition of STEM education.

STEM education involves the mastery and integration of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics for students from pre-kindergarten to grade 12. It incorporates scientific inquiry, and technological design through student-focused, project-based curricula to develop skills of communication.

Lay Carmelite Order Local Chapter

Are you being called to a life of deep prayer? Are you drawn to a life of service following the call of Our Lord Jesus? Are you drawn to sharing prayer time with others like you in community? If you’ve answered “Yes” to these questions, you may be ready to become a part of the Third Order of Carmelites, a lay order.

Carmelite spirituality has as its patrons the prophet Elijah, who incorporated the spirit of contemplation and active service to the Lord, and Our Blessed Mother, the perfect disciple of Christ, under her title of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Many well-known saints, such as St. Teresa of Avila and St. Therese of Lisieux, “the Little Flower,” are a part of the Carmelite tradition.

The Carmelite charism is threefold: First, the exercise of daily prayer deepened with meditation and contemplation; second, the practice of living out the Lord’s mission of service; and third, the development of one’s sense of community by being an active part of the local and worldwide family of Carmel.

If you’re being called to the Carmelite spirituality and would like more information about the local Carmelite chapter, contact Mike Hessenauer at (614) 568-7791.

DCCW Morning of Reflection

The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women will sponsor a morning of reflection at 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 19 at Columbus Ss. Augustine & Gabriel Church, 1550 E. Hudson St. Sister Louise Mary, OP, will lead the program, which will be on the theme “God Is Here! God Is Now!” and will look at God’s presence in our lives and seeing this as God’s grace.

The cost is $20 per person. To register, send your name, street address, email address, and phone number to DCCW, 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215 by Tuesday, November 15.

A registration form also may be found on the DCCW website, www.coldsdioc.org/Offices/DeptforSpiritualLifeandParishMinistry/DiocesanCouncilofCatholicWomen.aspx. For more information, contact DCCW president Mickey McCormick at (614) 783-5555.

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Pope blasts gender theory as the ‘great enemy’ of marriage

VATICAN CITY (CNA/EWTN News) -- In a lengthy, off-the-cuff speech in the nation of Georgia, Pope Francis said the world today is at war with marriage and urged couples to fight against modern threats to the sacrament, such as gender theory.

Speaking to Irina, a Georgian wife and mother who gave her testimony in front of the pope and hundreds of priests, seminarians, and religious on Oct. 1, the pope said “you mentioned a great enemy of marriage today -- gender theory.”

“You don’t know, you don’t know how much children suffer when they see parents fight and separate,” the pope said, explaining that while certain “complex situations” exist, “you must do everything to save a marriage.”

Turning to the pope’s post-synodal exhortation Amoris Laetitia, Irina said she was happy that he decided to use the word “joy” when referring to the concept of family, and voiced her desire to “rediscover marriage as a sacrament for evangelization, as a force of witness for the church.”

Pope Francis also heard the testimony of three other people, including an Armenian priest serving the Armenian Catholic community in Georgia, a Georgian seminarian, and a young man representing the nation’s youth.

Rather than giving a prepared speech for the occasion, Francis opted to go without a text, studiously taking notes while each of the four spoke. He then delivered lengthy off-the-cuff remarks.

In his observations, the pope repeated much of what he has said before, telling Irina that the recipe for a happy marriage can be found in three phrases: “May I,” “thank you,” and “I’m sorry.”

“Matrimony is the most beautiful thing God created,” he said, explaining that since man and woman have been created in God’s image, “it is when the two become one that his image is reflected.”

“I understood the line when you spoke about the difficulties that come in the family, the temptations, so we resolve things on the road of divorce,” he said, explaining that when a divorce happens, “two people pay.”

“God pays, because God is the one who made them one, and when they divorce, they dirty what God has made,” he said, adding that a couple’s children also pay the price of the separation.

“You don’t know, you don’t know how many children suffer when they see parents fight and separate,” the pope said, explaining that while certain “complex situations” exist, “you must do everything to save a marriage.”

If the devil enters and tempts the couple, trying to distract the husband by drawing him to a woman who seems more attractive or to distract the wife with a man who might seem better than her husband, “ask for help immediately,” Francis said. “Ask for help right away when these temptations come.”

Pope Francis also spoke of the important role mothers and grandmothers play in passing on the faith and keeping it “solid.”

Responding to the seminarian, named Kote, the pope said that a vocation always begins at home, typically with “the mother or grandmother.”

He stressed the importance of remembering the faith that has been passed onto us, but also the moment of the Lord’s call, when he said “Come, come.”

This memory is especially needed in the moments of darkness that can arise in the life of a priest or religious because of difficulties in community life or with the diocese or through a sense that things just aren’t moving forward, he said.

When this happens, it’s important not to look backwards, he said, explaining that “if you want to look back, remember that moment. As in this way the faith remains solid, the vocation remains solid.”

The pope also pointed to the essential roles Mary and the church play as a mother, saying that as a mother, the church remains open and doesn’t “close in on itself.”

“There are two women that Jesus wanted for all of us: his mother and his bride. Both of them are similar. The mother of Jesus he left as our mother. The church is the spouse of Jesus, and she is also our mother,” he said.

With Mary and the church, we have a sure way of going forward, the pope continued, adding that “here we again find the woman. It seems like the Lord has a preference, and his preference is to bring the faith forward through women.”

On a final point, he spoke about ecumenism, stressing the need for Catholics to defend themselves...
Where is heaven?; Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen’s body

Q. I am 91 years old and I am wondering just where heaven is. I have heard priests say that it is here on earth, the same as hell and purgatory. But when I pray the Apostles’ Creed I say “He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.”

We all want to go to heaven and see Jesus, but I would like to have some idea of where it is. Can you help me? (Altoona, Pennsylvania)

A. In addition to the words to which you refer in the Apostles’ Creed, there are multiple scriptural quotations that might lead one to believe that heaven is “up.” In the account of Christ’s ascension, for example, the angels say to the apostles: “Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way” (Acts 1:11).

In the Gospel of John, Christ tells Nicodemus, “No one has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man” (John 3:13). And Psalm 14 says, “The Lord looks down from heaven upon the children of men” (Psalm 14:2).

The reality, though, is that God does not occupy some remote geographic corner of the physical universe, and no MapQuest search can determine exactly where heaven is. The difficulty comes in trying to express transcendent ideas in human language. Time and space are finite concepts, and God is not limited by them.

Far better to be guided by the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which tells us that the expression “who art in heaven” in the Lord’s Prayer “does not mean a place (‘space’), but a way of being; it does not mean that God is distant, but majestic. Our Father is not ‘elsewhere’: He transcends everything we can conceive of” (No. 2794). Or as Pope St. John Paul II said in a Wednesday audience on July 21, 1999, heaven is “neither an abstraction nor a physical place in the clouds, but a living, personal relationship with the Holy Trinity.”

After death, we will experience fully that unity with the divine, to our everlasting and perfect joy. Just how that will happen, what it will look and feel like, is not yet ours to know. But as Billy Graham once said, “The only GPS that can give you flawless direction is the ‘Gospel plan of salvation.’”

Q. I have been following the legal wrangling over where the body of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen should rest: New York, where he is buried now, or Peoria, Illinois, where he was born. I am appalled that diocesan leaders would do battle over something like this.

Sheen belongs to God and the church -- not to whoever has his bodily remains. I feel that the argument should cease, so that the canonization process can get moving. Am I missing something? (Yorktown, Virginia)

A. Fulton Sheen was born in 1895 in the village of El Paso, Illinois, which is part of the Catholic Diocese of Peoria. But he spent most of his priestly life in Washington, D.C., where he taught philosophy and theology at The Catholic University of America, and in New York City, where he served as an auxiliary bishop for 15 years and where, from 1951 to 1957, he hosted the television program Life is Worth Living, which drew 30 million viewers every week.

When Archbishop Sheen died in 1979, he was buried in New York City, in accordance with his family’s preference and his own choice. He had purchased a plot in Calvary Cemetery in Queens, but was accorded the honor of being buried in a crypt beneath the high altar of St. Patrick’s Cathedral.

In 2002, his home diocese of Peoria, with the agreement of Cardinal Edward M. Egan, then-archbishop of New York, began to process Archbishop Sheen’s cause for canonization. It has since collected 15,000 pages of testimony. In 2012, Archbishop Sheen was declared venerable by the Vatican, the step immediately prior to beatification.

The Diocese of Peoria has long felt, since it has done the work and borne the expense of the canonization process, that Archbishop Sheen’s body should be transferred for enshrinement in St. Mary’s Cathedral in that city. Both Archbishop Sheen’s family and the Archdiocese of New York have resisted, citing the archbishop’s own desire to be buried in New York. (Peoria also has claimed that verbal promises were made in the early 2000s by Cardinal Egan that the body could be moved to Peoria.)

The canonization process has been tabled while this difference on the final resting place is being resolved. In the most recent development in June 2016, Archbishop Sheen’s niece and oldest living relative filed an action in the New York Supreme Court asking that her uncle’s remains be transferred to Peoria, hoping that this will unblock the process so the canonization can proceed.

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

2016 White Mass for Catholics

The Catholic Medical Association and the Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center are sponsoring the annual White Mass for Catholic professionals and students in the healing arts at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 19 in the center, 64 W. Lane Ave. Bishop Frederick Campbell will be the celebrant.

The Mass will celebrate the Oct. 18 feast day of St. Luke, patron saint of physicians. Those attending are asked to wear white coats or professional medical wear.

The evening will begin at 5 p.m. in the main sanctuary, with a lecture titled “Cross Roads: Navigating Faith and Science in Medical School” by fourth-year medical student Lindsey Marugg, the current national president of the student CMA, who will discuss challenges and triumphs in medical school as a Catholic. Although the talk is geared toward medical school, it also will be applicable to students in health care-related professional schools or undergraduate studies.

The Mass will be followed by a social on the second floor of the center, featuring light appetizers and networking with students, residents, and practicing medical professionals of all fields.

Hartley hall of fame induction

Columbus Bishop Hartley High School will induct its third class of Athletic Hall of Fame members during the annual “Evening with the Hawks” celebration at the school, 1285 Zettler Road, on Saturday, Oct. 15.

Inductees include John Eramo (football, wrestling, class of 1980), Jennifer (Fetters) Noble (softball, 1992), Donald Tidwell (track and field, 1993), Richard Lavender (baseball, 1997), and the 1986 state championship football team. The purpose of the event is to celebrate past, present, and future Hawks and raise money for the school’s athletic program.

The evening will include a social hour, silent auction, dinner, and the induction ceremony. The nomination form for future Hall of Fame members can be found on the school’s website, www.bishop-hartley.org.

THEORY, continued from Page 5 against worldliness, and to “never fight” with the Orthodox, who are the religious majority in the nation.

“Let’s leave that to theologians,” he said, describing proselytism as “a great sin against ecumenism. We are never to proselytize the Orthodox.”

Instead, ecumenism is achieved through friendship, accompaniment, mutual prayer, and common works of charity when possible, he said.

Pope Francis closed his remarks by praying that God would “make us men and women of the church, solid in the faith that we have received from our mother and grandmother, solid in the faith which is sure under the mantle of the holy mother of God,” and leading attendees in praying the Hail Mary.

The encounter concluded with the recitation of the Our Father in Georgian and the Pope’s blessing. From the parish, the Pope went on to visit a health and rehabilitation center run by the Order of St. Camillus.
175th Anniversary Celebration at Logan St. John

Logan St. John Church finished a yearlong series of events marking its 175th anniversary on Sunday, Sept. 11 with a special Mass celebrated by Bishop Frederick Campbell.

The celebration commemorated the donation of a small parcel of land on Sept. 7, 1841, by Catholic pioneers John and Margaret Ucker to the Archdiocese of Cincinnati (which included Logan at the time). The land is 1.5 miles north of Logan on Walnut-Dowler Road. The original log church building located there has long since gone, but a Catholic cemetery remains at the site. St. John Church moved to its current Market Street location in the late 1850s. The current church was built in 1898.

Concelebrants of the Mass included the church’s pastor, Father William Ferguson, and the pastor emeritus, Msgr. William Dunn, who served the parish for 12 years before his retirement in 2014. Also in attendance were clergy native to the parish and who serve elsewhere, including Father Jeffrey Rimelspach, Father William Hahn, and Franciscan Brother Joseph Schmitzer, FFI.

After the Mass, more than 100 people convened in the parish social hall for a luncheon and a formal program which included the reading of a proclamation from the Ohio House of Representatives recognizing the church and its contributions to the community. Church historian Jim Anderson read a summary chronology of the parish’s history. The program also included the viewing of the final chapter of a four-part DVD history of the church.

Several of the guest clergy spoke and shared their memories of the parish. Msgr. Dunn recalled with gratitude that many parishioners and staff members were supportive in addressing whatever needs the parish had during his tenure as pastor.

Father Rimelspach, a Logan native who serves as pastor of Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona Church, mentioned that his mother was from the Kessler family, which was one of the parish’s founding families. He was thankful for the seeds that were enkindled in him to consider priestly ministry during his years studying at St. John School.

Father Hahn, also a native of Logan, who is pastor of churches in Chillicothe, Washington Court House, Waverly, and Zaleski, noted that he is part of the early Geiger family of Logan. He appreciated that the entire parish community treated him as a member of its extended family when he was a child. He encouraged the parish’s young people to become actively involved in church life as committed disciples of the Lord.

Brother Joseph, who lives in Connecticut as a friar of the Franciscans of Mary Immaculata, reflected on the Bible reading at Mass. He said it was very appropriate for this anniversary celebration, noting that we all feel that we have been lost sheep or lost coins at least once, yet God’s mercy calls us forward.

The celebration concluded with three choral selections performed by the fifth- and sixth-grade students of St. John School, directed by Judie Henninger. Deacon Don Robers ended the celebration with a final prayer and blessing.

Photo: Bishop Frederick Campbell speaks with Patrick and Stacie Howe of Logan St. John Church and their son, Aiden.

Answering God’s Call

AT 102, SHE HAS NO NEED TO MEND HER WAYS

Sr. Edwina Devlin, OP

by Sister Rene Weeks, OP

Being 102 years old might not be that big a deal to some people. After all, the number of Americans living beyond their 100th birthday has been climbing steadily for the last 15 years.

But when you hear the story of Sister Edwina Devlin, OP, a Dominican Sister of Peace, you wonder how she remains so vibrant and energized. Even though she is legally blind, Sister Edwina takes regular walks down the hall of the Mohun Health Care Center in Columbus to visit other residents, using a walker that happened to be outside her room one day when she was feeling a little wobbly.

Sister Edwina attributes her long life to living independently. “I have always been very independent. Maybe it is time to mend my ways,” she said with a bit of a grin. Being legally blind does not stop her from enjoying music and books. Someone reads aloud to her for an hour three times a week. She currently is enjoying a book of anecdotes about Irish immigrants to Ohio.

What’s her approach to life? “Whatever God wants, I want,” Sister Edwina said. “I have always put my trust in the Lord, and I am always happy. I don’t mind staying alive. I have this wonderful relationship with God. First thing in the morning, while I am still in bed, I look at the cross, and then I start my day.”

She celebrated her birthday on Sept. 18 with other residents of the Mohun center, a skilled nursing facility which is sponsored by her congregation.

Her life story begins in Yakima, Washington, where she was born in 1914. World War I was raging in Europe, Pope Benedict XV was in the Vatican, and a gallon of gas costs 12 cents. Her parents had moved to Yakima from Steubenville so her father could find work. Her mother died when Evelyn was two years old. Her three older siblings were placed in boarding schools, but her father needed care for his youngest child. She lived with a neighbor for three years. Her grandparents brought her back to Ohio when she was five.

Reflecting on her prayer life, Sister Edwina smiled. “My favorite way to pray is just to be quiet and let thoughts come and go,” she said. “The distractions I brush away. I love to pray the rosary, too. Eucharist and the daily Scripture readings are important. We have a wonderful chaplain here (Father Stanley Azaro, OP) and I enjoy his homilies.”

On her 18th birthday, in 1932, she entered the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs (now the Dominican Sisters of Peace) in Columbus. She made her final profession of vows on Aug. 14, 1934.

Sister Edwina earned a bachelor of arts degree in English from St. Mary of the Springs College (now Ohio Dominican University) and a master of arts degree in English from Hunter College in New York City. During her teaching career, which began well before she earned her first degree, she taught every elementary school grade except eighth.

“I was totally surprised when I was sent to Braddock, Pennsylvania, to teach high school English, biology, algebra, and geometry,” Sister Edwina recalled. “English, yes. But I hadn’t even had a course in biology and only the basics in algebra and geometry. Sister Hilary told me to go to the fish store and buy guppies and she would show me how to use them to teach the reproductive system. It worked somehow.”

After teaching for 20 years, mostly in western Pennsylvania, as well as in Connecticut and New York, Sister Edwina volunteered for the mission the Dominican Sisters were opening in 1966 in Chimbor, Peru. She quickly found that she had no ear for languages, so, creatively, she taught English to adults who wanted to learn it. Among her students were doctors, nurses, professors, and other professionals, for whom English was an asset.

She stayed in Peru for nine years, then came to Ohio in 1975 for the first time since beginning her teaching career 40 years earlier, and has remained in the state ever since.

She has spent most of those four decades in the Diocese of Columbus. She was religious education coordinator at Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas Church from 1975-79, then served for nine years at parishes in Marietta and Bellaire in the Diocese of Steubenville.

From 1988-93, she worked in the St. Mary of the Springs congregation’s Motherhouse in Columbus as retirement coordinator, serving also from 1991-93 with the Columbus diocesan Tribunal. She returned to Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas from 1993-2000 as a parish volunteer, then retired to a ministry of prayer and presence at the Motherhouse from 2000-11 and at the Mohun center since then.

Still resourceful and independent at 102, Sister Edwina does not need to change her ways any time soon. She’s doing just fine.
Bishop Hartley National Merit Scholars

Columbus Bishop Hartley High School seniors Sarah Buckingham, Erin Carmon, Andrew Heimiller, and Elizabeth Huggins have been selected as National Merit Scholarship semifinalists. Hartley seniors Maggie Farrell, Frances Hillyer, Elias Maloof, and Valerie Zaino were honored by the scholarship program as commended students.

The four semifinalists will continue in the competition for 7,500 scholarships worth more than $33 million. Approximately 90 percent of the semifinalists are expected to attain finalist standing, and approximately half of the finalists will be awarded a National Merit Scholarship.

Approximately 1.6 million juniors in more than 22,000 high schools entered the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2015 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. The semifinalists represent less than one percent of high school seniors in the United States and include the highest scoring entrants in each state.

About 34,000 commended students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Commended students placed among the top five percent of those taking the test.

Adoration at St. Pius X Church

Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church, 1051 S. Waggoner Road, will offer Eucharistic Adoration from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays beginning Nov. 2. The parish is initiating scheduled adoration in front of its tabernacle to promote the devotion and to pray for the success of its current capital campaign, which includes plans for parish improvements that include construction of an Adoration chapel if sufficient funds are raised.

Columbus Bishop Hartley High School students recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Program are (from left): Maggie Farrell, Andrew Heimiller, Frances Hillyer, Elias Maloof, Sarah Buckingham, Erin Carmon, Valerie Zaino, and Elizabeth Huggins. Photo courtesy Bishop Hartley High School
Listening at the keyholes: how to love better and learn more

When two 20-somethings slung a wire across rooftops in Boston, they were hoping to hear each other’s voices transmitted across that line. It worked, and they did, but in the process, they also picked up a far more exotic sound: powerful radio waves emitted from the sun.

Alexander Graham Bell was 26 and working in a fifth-floor attic when he spoke those famous words into a mouthpiece: “Mr. Watson, come here. I want to see you.”

The message to his assistant was transmitted, Bell wrote in his journal: “To my delight he came and declared that he had heard and understood what I said.”

Any charged wire becomes not only a transmitter but an antenna, and Bell’s assistant, Thomas Watson, an earnest 22-year-old he had plucked from a machine shop, spent hours listening to the strange chirps and whistles coming from their accidental antenna. By using the first telephone, it turned out that the young men actually were dialed into the sun. Watson correctly guessed that he was picking up activity on the surface of the sun through its radio waves.

Fifty years later, Bell hired an engineer to study those noises, ushering in a new age of space exploration – radio astronomy – and prodding astronomers to scale up their antennas, connect them to loudspeakers, and catch the radio waves made by stars and planets. New insights into the solar system were unlocked not through looking, but listening.

Scientists discovered that makes a hissing noise. Jupiter, when carried through short waves of radiation, sounds like pebbles thrown on a tin roof. The sun roars like the sea. And a pulsar, which is a pulsating radio star, beats like a drum – the faster the star spins, the faster the beat.

To hear these celestial structures is to know them in a new way, to render them “a little more tangible,” said Honor Harger, a New Zealand sound artist, in a recent talk about this field of study. “It’s through listening that we’ve come to uncover some of the universe’s most important secrets,” she said.

Her words came through my iPhone via a podcast and resonated deeply with the lost art I have been pondering this autumn: listening. This is a season that call us to quiet, to hear the crinkling of leaves and the clapping of wind whipping through cornfields.

The Holy Father has charged us to be a “listening church,” but our noisy information age makes it hard to listen well, and my generation may suffer the most. We consume sound bites and snapchats, headlines and thumbnails. We are stuffed so full that we forget how to be empty and attuned: to listen to each other, to the Mass, to ourselves, and to God.

How embarrassing to think of the many times I missed out on really hearing others because I talked over them or missed the question they were begging to be asked, because I made it about myself or reinforcing something comfortable rather than challenging myself to go somewhere new.

When we set down our phones and set aside our agendas, we can listen in a transformative way. We can love better and learn more.

“When it’s God who is speaking,” St. John Vianney once said, “the proper way to behave is to imitate someone who has an irresistible curiosity and who listens at keyholes. You must listen to everything God says at the keyhole of your heart.”

I love the image of a curious child, snooping and sleuthing, pressing his ear to a keyhole in hopes of picking something up. That’s how we should lean in and listen to God, eager to discern every whisper. That’s how we should approach the world around us, observing and appreciating – neighbors, grandparents, colleagues, cashiers – and listening at all the keyholes.

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota, and the editor of SisterStory.org.

OLP students help feed the poor

This year, Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School has begun Eucharistic Adoration in the school chapel. During this special time, students, staff, and their families will have the opportunity to sit before the Blessed Sacrament and worship Our Lord in a very intimate way.

Members of Sherri Magee’s fourth-grade class at Columbus Our Lady of Peace School make sandwiches for the parish St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Photo courtesy Our Lady of Peace School

Photo courtesy St. Francis DeSales High School
“The United States stands in the midst of an important national election year, a time when Catholics are called to make decisions about our political leadership. Our job is to help people see that the candidates urge all citizens to participate fully in the political life of our nation, whether through voting, registering to vote, to be informed on the relevant issues, to become involved in the party or campaign of their choice, and to vote freely according to their consciences.”

“Being a faithful citizen doesn’t begin in the voting booth. When the election is over, continue to follow up and be informed on the issues you care about, and clearly distinguish good policies from bad policies, even when the candidates themselves don’t.”

“We ask for eyes that are free from blindness so that we might see each other as brothers and sisters, one in equality, especially those who are poor in body or spirit. We ask for hands that are free from discrimination so that the political leaders of this country can be embraced as siblings and brothers in Christ.”

“We ask for minds and hearts that are open to hear the voice of leaders who will bring us closer to your Kingdom.”

“We pray for discernment so that we may choose leaders who hear your Word, live your love, and provide a moral example in the ways they walk.”

“We ask in this year of your Son Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit.”

**Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship**

**A CALL TO POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY FROM THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF THE UNITED STATES**

Catholics often face difficult choices about how to vote. This is why it is so important for us to understand the political and moral consequences that are involved in each individual decision. We ask voters to consider the following questions:

1. **What is the essential meaning of that definition?**
   - This version of the document reflects the essential meaning, or racist behavior, if not vote for someone because of that person’s stated or unsaid views. The document encourages to be guided by his or her moral conscience and express your moral principles in a thoughtful way and working to change the culture. It states that a Catholic would be guilty of formal cooperation in grave evil. At the smallest level, a Catholic would be guilty of formal cooperation in grave evil. By his or her conscience and action, she promotes. It should also include the conscientious voter faces a dilemma. This is why it is so important for us to understand the political and moral consequences that are involved in each individual decision.

2. **If both candidates support an intrinsic evil, or to ignore a fundamental moral evil.**
   - There may be times when a Catholic decides to vote for the candidate who is more likely to promote the good of our community. To explain this, the document states that a Catholic would be guilty of formal cooperation in grave evil. At the smallest level, a Catholic would be guilty of formal cooperation in grave evil. By his or her conscience and action, she promotes. It should also include the conscientious voter faces a dilemma. This is why it is so important for us to understand the political and moral consequences that are involved in each individual decision.

3. **Do they have any unusual or discriminatory views?**
   - Catholics today have a duty to be involved in the political life of our nation, whether through voting, registering to vote, to be informed on the issues you care about, and clearly distinguish good policies from bad policies, even when the candidates themselves don’t.

4. **Are they likely to do what they promise?**
   - We ask for minds and hearts that are open to hear the voice of leaders who will bring us closer to your Kingdom. We pray for discernment so that we may choose leaders who hear your Word, live your love, and provide a moral example in the ways they walk. We ask this in the year of your Son Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit. We ask for eyes that are free from blindness so that we might see each other as brothers and sisters, one in equality, especially those who are poor in body or spirit. We ask for hands that are free from discrimination so that the political leaders of this country can be embraced as siblings and brothers in Christ.

5. **Are they likely to do what they say they will do?**
   - Catholics today have a duty to be involved in the political life of our nation, whether through voting, registering to vote, to be informed on the issues you care about, and clearly distinguish good policies from bad policies, even when the candidates themselves don’t.
REFLECTIONS ON CHOOSING POLITICAL CANDIDATES

WALKING WITH GOD

“We take up the task of serving the common good with joy and hope, confident that God, who ‘so loved the world that he gave his only Son,’ walks with us and strengthens us on the way (John 3:16). God is love, and he desires that we help to build a ‘civilization of love’ -- one in which all human beings have the freedom and opportunity to experience the love of God and live out that love by making a free gift of themselves to one another.” Introduction, Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship.

RESPECTFUL, THOUGHTFUL AND CIVIL DIALOGUE

“We who follow Christ must not only speak the truth but must do so in love (Ephesians 4:15).’ It is not enough that we know or believe something to be true. We must express that truth in charity with respect for others so that the bonds between us can be strengthened in building up the body of Christ.” Civil Discourse: Speaking Truth in Love, Cardinal Donald Wuerl.

PRUDENTIAL DISCERNMENT

“The Church’s teaching is clear that a good end does not justify an immoral means. As we all seek to advance the common good -- by defending the inviolable sanctity of human life from the moment of conception until natural death, by promoting religious freedom, by defending marriage, by feeding the hungry and housing the homeless, by welcoming the immigrant and protecting the environment -- it is important to recognize that not all possible courses of action are morally acceptable. We have a responsibility to discern carefully which public policies are morally sound. Catholics may choose different ways to respond to compelling social problems, but we cannot differ on our moral obligation to help build a more just and peaceful world through morally acceptable means, so that the weak and vulnerable are protected and human rights and dignity are defended.” #20 Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship. Catholic Conference of Ohio

What is the candidate’s commitment to protect all human life, from conception to natural death?

What is the candidate’s commitment to addressing threats to marriage and family, as understood by the Church, as well as other serious threats to human life and dignity such as racism and other unjust discrimination, the use of the death penalty, resorting to unjust war, the use of torture, war crimes, the failure to respond to those who are suffering from hunger or a lack of health care, or an unjust immigration policy?

How does the candidate measure up in both words and actions with the totality of Catholic Social Teaching?

What would be morally grave reasons to support and/or oppose a candidate? (Please refer to the U.S. bishops’ document “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship,” paragraphs 34 through 37).

What is my assessment of the candidate’s personal integrity, governing philosophy, performance and ability to influence a given issue?

Has the candidate demonstrated sufficient competency to hold such an elected position?

Examining party platforms in light of Catholic teaching may be a helpful consideration, especially when a voter faces a dilemma in a voting choice. (Catholic Conference of Ohio)

Catholic Spiritual Day Spa Program

A Catholic Spiritual Day Spa program conducted by Father Josh Wagner, pastor of Columbus St. Dominic and Holy Rosary-St. John churches, will take place Saturday, Oct. 8 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Sunbury St. John Neumann Church, 9633 E. State Route 37. Doors open at 9 a.m., and a continental breakfast will be served. Father Wagner will talk on “Harvesting Hope” at 9:30, followed by gentle stretching and walking led by Lori Crock at 10:30. Lunch, catered by Freedom Ala Carte, will be at 11:45. A mindfulness rosary and examination of conscience begins at 12:30 p.m., with the Sacrament of Reconciliation available. The program will conclude with a Votive Mass to Mary at 1:30. Admission is $47 per person. For more information or to register, go to www.spiritualdayspa.com.

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Catholic Spiritual Day Spa Program

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Alvin Rodack, new ODU vice president

Alvin Rodack has been selected as the new vice president for finance and administration at Ohio Dominican University. He will begin his duties on Tuesday, Nov. 1.

He will oversee the university’s operating budget and financial operations, which includes the offices of the controller, accounting/audit, bursar, payroll, payables, and Perkins grant coordinator. He also will manage operations in the departments of human resources, purchasing, physical facilities, financial aid, and auxiliary services, which includes the bookstore, conference and food service operations.

“I am very pleased that we were able to attract a veteran finance professional with the breadth of experience that Al Rodack brings to the table,” said Dr. Peter Cimbolic, ODU president. “His expertise and extensive history of successful asset management in a complex university setting make him the ideal individual to manage ODU’s finances.”

Rodack comes to ODU following a 35-year career at The Ohio State University, where he served for the last six years as senior director for financial services. He spent most of his career in OSU’s treasurer’s office, managing the university’s financial assets, including treasury management, debt management, all non-endowment investments and operations of an internal bank. In addition, Rodack worked with the university’s risk management, bursar, and accounts receivable departments. He also has been an investment officer and fixed income portfolio manager for PNC Bank.

A Certified Treasury Professional, Rodack is chairman of the Treasury Institute for Higher Education. He has served as an adjunct lecturer in finance at OSU and as a faculty member at the College Business Management Institute. He received a bachelor of science degree in accounting and a master of business administration degree in finance from OSU.

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Marian Grotto Dedication

Members of the Passen and Pardi families gathered at Columbus Bishop Watterson High School to dedicate a Marian grotto which was placed in the Dominican Hall entry in memory of Patti (Pardi) Passen, a member of the Watterson Class of 1980, who died on Feb. 11, 2014, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. Pictured are (from left): Passen’s father- and mother-in-law, Ron and Ruby Passen; her parents, Paul and Charlene Pardi; her children, Watterson graduates Nina, Eddie, and John, and Watterson junior Francesca; and her husband, Ron Passen Jr.

Photo courtesy Bishop Watterson High School

Our Lady of Peace Childrens Choir

The children’s choir at Columbus Our Lady of Peace Church, rehearsing with music teacher Stephanie Doyle.

Photo courtesy Our Lady of Peace Church

St. Michael Grief Support

A grief support group will be forming and will meet for six weeks beginning Sunday, Oct. 30 from 2:30 to 4 p.m. at Worthington St. Michael Church, 5750 N. High St.

Participants will be able to receive support and comfort as they adjust to the loss of a loved one. A Christian-based manual, suggested readings, and handout material will be available.

Co-facilitators are C.G. Jones and Mary Ann Koncal. Contact Jones at cgjones@columbus.rr.com or (614) 846-2361 or call the parish office at (614) 885-7814 to register.
The power of Israel’s God extends to his enemies

2 Kings 5:14-17; 2 Timothy 2:8-13; Luke 17:11-19

The story of Elisha curing the Syrian general Naaman of his leprosy begins in 2 Kings 5:1 and ends in verse 27. We have but four verses from this entertaining tale. Naaman wasn’t just any old soldier. He was the army commander of the king of Aram (Syria). That meant he was a person of great renown. One of his slaves, a young girl, was taken from Israel and given to his wife. The girl is the one who tells the general’s wife about “the prophet” in Samaria who could heal him of his leprosy.

Equipped with a letter of introduction from the king of Syria, Naaman proceeds to meet with Israel’s king, handing him the letter which said, “With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman to you, that you may cure him of his leprosy.” Israel’s king thinks he is being set up until Elisha hears about the king’s dilemma and tells the king to send Naaman to him. When Naaman arrives, Elisha refuses to see him, but tells him to wash seven times in the Jordan River. The general grows furious, because he is not used to being snubbed, certainly not by one of Israel’s “prophets.” He objects that Syria has much better waters than Israel. The general insists on taking dirt back from the place so he can worship Israel’s God in the future. The power of the God was connected with the land in which the God operated. Naaman vows never to offer sacrifice to any God except Israel’s God, the Lord. The story establishes that the Lord is God in Israel and that his power extends even over the feared and dreaded enemy (in this case a Syrian general), as long as he respects Israel’s God and the Lord’s prophet, Elisha.

The gospel continues Jesus’ journey to Jerusalem, which began in Luke 9:51. Jesus has been making his way toward Jerusalem to confront what awaits him there. Some suggest that “traveling through Samaria and Galilee” should read “between Samaria and Galilee.” On the other hand, Luke did not know Palestinian geography too well, as others observe.

Lepers were banned from public association, thus explaining their standing “at a distance” and calling to Jesus. They call him “Master” and ask for mercy (“Have pity on us”). When “Master” is used in Luke, it is only used by Jesus’ disciples to speak to him. Jesus tells them to show themselves to the priests, which was required in Leviticus 14:2-3. There is no healing at that point. The trust they place in him by doing what he told them renders them cleansed of their leprosy.

Only one leper returns to give thanks, and he is a Samaritan. He glorifies God, but he thanks Jesus after falling at his feet. He thereby acknowledges that Jesus works in concert with God. Jesus is disturbed that none of the others returned, but he tells the Samaritan (“this foreigner”), “Stand up and go; your faith has saved you.” Luke favored Samaritans, probably because they were considered non-Jewish and therefore Gentiles, for whom he wrote (note the Good Samaritan parable).

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

Prison ministers to gather on Oct. 21

A gathering of jail and prison ministers and volunteers in the diocesan Returning Citizens Ministry will take place Friday, Oct. 21 at West Jefferson Ss. Simon and Jude Church, 9350 High Free Pike.

The event will begin with Mass at 6 p.m., celebrated by Bishop Frederick Campbell, with dinner and a meeting to follow.

The guest speaker will be Mike Davis, religious services administrator and chief of the office of offender re-entry and enterprise development for the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction.

All who minister to inmates in jails, prisons, juvenile correctional facilities, and immigration detention facilities throughout the diocese, as well as volunteers in re-entry ministries, and their guests are invited. RSVP by Friday, Oct.14 to the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at (614) 241-2540 or socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org.

Visit us at www.colsdioc.org

The Weekday Bible Readings

MONDAY
Galatians 4:22-24, 26-27, 31-5:1
Psalm 113:1b-5a, 6-7
Luke 11:29-32

TUESDAY
Galatians 5:1-6
Psalm 119:41-43, 45-47, 48
Luke 11:37-41

WEDNESDAY
Galatians 5:18-25
Psalm 1:1-4, 6
Luke 11:42-46

THURSDAY
Ephesians 1:1-10
Psalm 98:1-6
Luke 11:47-54

FRIDAY
Ephesians 1:11-14
Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 12-13
Luke 12:1-7

SATURDAY
Ephesians 1:15-23
Psalm 8:1-3b, 4-7
Luke 12:8-12

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE WEEK OF OCTOBER 9, 2016

SUNDAY MASS
10:30 a.m. Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com. Mass with the Passionist Fathers at 7:30 a.m. on WWHO-TV (the CW), Channel 53, Columbus. and 10:30 a.m. on WHIZ-TV, Channel 18, Zanesville. Check local cable system for cable channel listing. Mass from Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, Birmingham, Ala., at 8 a.m. on EWTN (Time Warner Channel 385, Insight Channel 382, or WOW Channel 378).

(Encores at noon, 7 p.m., and midnight).
Mass from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee at 6:30 a.m. on EWTN (Time Warner Channel 385, Insight Channel 382, or WOW Channel 378).

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

We pray Week IV, Seasonal Proper of the Liturgy of the Hours.
September is the driest month we have in Ohio. True to form, the first three weeks of the month were dry, but the last week of September was wet, and we know it is only the beginning. It is quite likely that in a couple of months or less, we could have snow on the ground. In some ways, this is a metaphor for life. Sometimes our lives are sunny and storminess is the last thing we want to ponder. However, our faith teaches us to enjoy the good days and be prepared for the storms.

Recently, the late Mother Teresa was canonized a saint and became St. Teresa of Calcutta. She dedicated a good chunk of her life to those who seem to encounter nothing but storms. She first encountered the poor of Calcutta while living a relatively comfortable life as a nun teaching Catholic schoolchildren from the city’s middle- and upper-class Catholic and non-Catholic families. She felt a call to help those abandoned by India’s caste system, particularly those people considered “untouchable.”

Mother Teresa is an interesting study. She was born in Albania, a nation whose Christian population at the time of her birth was only about 25 percent, split between Catholic and Orthodox Christians. The rest of the nation was Muslim. When the Iron Curtain descended upon Albania after World War II, the nation was ruled by a militant atheist, Communist madman Enver Hoxha. He took Albania out of the Warsaw Pact in 1968 because he felt that after Stalin’s death, communism had become too “watered down.” All religious believers in Albania were subjected to unspeakable crimes. Mother Teresa, looking afar from India on what was happening in her homeland, must have felt her life was full of unique circumstances, which meant she was destined for unique opportunities.

Perhaps no one reading this column will be called to do what Mother Teresa did, but all of us are called to use our Catholic faith to help the faithful and the not-so-faithful with the talents and abilities God gave us. All of us probably have known or still know someone whose life is full of extraordinary challenges. Perhaps there is not much we can do for them, but we can do something.

We probably have all been to a funeral home to pray for and remember someone who we knew had lived through some terrible trials and tribulations. Perhaps in addition to those trials, that person was living with people who treated him or her badly, and though we knew about it, we felt there was nothing we could do about. Then we went to the funeral home or church and suddenly our conscience informed us that we could have done something.

Maybe now is the time to take stock of our own lives and the lives of those around us. Sometimes we know someone who, through no fault of his or her own, is living with health challenges, is out of work, or is facing some other hardship. We might say, “I am glad I am not them” and do nothing more. However, when we get to the bottom of it, we know we can do something. Perhaps we have thought this way, then found ourselves in the same position sometime later. You don’t have to be a history major or theologian to know how things change in the course of time.

There are people we have met who seem to have few storms in their lives. Sometimes they seem oblivious to their good fortune, and sometimes they seem very grateful and actually spend their time, talent, and treasure helping those about whom it can be said, “If they didn’t have bad luck, they would have no luck at all.”

Now might be the best time to ponder how we can help people facing the storms of life. It often happens that such a person, or someone close to that person, then is able to help us when we face our own storms. Sometimes we can see the storms coming, but sometimes they completely catch us off guard. It is best to be faithfully prepared when the storms do come, whether their arrival is expected or, as is more often the case, unexpected.

Hartline is the author of “The Tide is Turning Toward Catholicism” and a former teacher and administrator for the diocese.
ADAMS, Helen (Mack), 88, Sept. 20
St. Joseph Church, Dover
ARKLEY, David, 70, Sept. 20
St. Bernard Church, Corning
DEMANDANTE, Vicky L. (Martin), 67, Sept. 25
St. Anthony Church, Columbus
DEVINE, Dennis M., 51, Sept. 27
St. Paul Church, Westerville
DIMEL, Evelyn M. “Eve” (Corbin), 89, Sept. 24
Holy Family Church, Columbus
DUGAN, Helen E., 87, Sept. 23
St. Cecilia Church, Columbus
DUNN, Jennie (Lewis), 72, Sept. 23
St. Joseph Church, Dover
ELGIN, Joanne “Jodi” (Thompson), 84, Sept. 29
St. Mary Church, Columbus
HARD, Daniela, 77, Sept. 30
St. Anthony Church, Columbus
HINAMAN, Sherri (Ames), 56, Sept. 24
St. Christopher Church, Columbus
KRANNITZ, Paul E., Jr., 78, Sept. 21
St. John Church, Logan
KRASCHINSKY, Janet P. (Memmel), 82, Sept. 30
St. Mary Church, Marion
MARTIN, Kenneth R., 78, Sept. 28
St. Anthony Church, Columbus
MYERS, Betty (Williams), 94, Sept. 24
St. Joseph Church, Dover
NESSLER, Sharon (Hoffman), 59, Sept. 24
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City
OVERSTREET, Linda (Husch), 75, Sept. 28
St. Anthony Church, Columbus
PEYTON, Virginia A. (Jeany-Giani), 93, Sept. 30
St. Matthias Church, Columbus
ROSE, Joseph W., 92, Sept. 25
St. Mary Magdalene Church, Columbus
SENCHISHIN, John, 85, Sept. 27
St. Peter Church, Columbus
SMURR, Marjorie E., 84, Sept. 28
St. Andrew Church, Columbus
WEINER, David B., 79, Sept. 28
Holy Family Church, Columbus

Virginia M. Berni
Funeral Mass for Virginia M. Berni, 98, who died Sunday, Sept. 25, was held Wednesday, Sept. 28 at Dennison Immaculate Conception Church. Burial was at St. Mary Cemetery, Dennison.

She was born March 17, 1918 to Joseph and Angela (Castonato) Tomasina and was a 1936 graduate of Dennison St. Mary High School.

She was head cook for St. Mary School for 40 years, was a housekeeper for the parish rectory, owned and operated a grocery store with her husband, Joseph, and also worked at other businesses. She was a member of the parish Altar Society.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, and a brother, Tony. Survivors include sons, Jim (Betty) and Joseph (April); daughter, Marie (Robert) Eberle; seven grandchildren; and 21 great-grandchildren.

James W. Purcell
Funeral Mass for James W. Purcell, 64, who died Wednesday, Sept. 28, was held Monday, Oct. 3 at Columbus St. Anthony Church. Burial was at Calvary Cemetery, Bellefontaine.

He was born March 8, 1952 in Bellefontaine to John and Betty (Wright) Purcell.

He was a graduate of The Ohio State University and had been on the staff at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School since 2003, serving as a teacher until 2011 and managing the spirit shop and book store since the beginning of the 2011-12 school year. He taught earlier at Toledo Whitmer and Whitehall-Yearling high schools.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Tom; and sister, Mary Kay Allen. Survivors include his wife, Mary; son, Tim; and daughter, Megan.

Gladys McAndrews
Funeral Mass for Gladys McAndrews, 107, who died Wednesday, Sept. 28, was held Monday, Oct. 3 at Canal Winchester St. John XXIII Church. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was born Feb. 16, 1909 in Russia, Ohio to Walter and Bertha (Apple) Baumgardner.

She graduated from the Grant Hospital School of Nursing in Columbus in 1929. She was a nurse at the hospital for six years until her first child was born, and later became a volunteer nurse at Columbus St. Aloysius School for about 20 years and served as president of that school’s parent-teacher organization. She also played the violin and was a member of the Golden Buckeyes musical group at the Martin Janis Center in Columbus.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, John; son, James; daughter, Julie; brother, Ralph; and sisters, Treva Fraley and Opal Wiessinger. Survivors include sons, John (Mary Ann) and Joseph (Susan); daughters, Judy (Ed) Alten, Joanne (Don) Ireland, and Janet (Joseph) King; 20 grandchildren; and 47 great-grandchildren.

Send obituaries to:
tpuet@columbuscatholic.org

Students invited to explore vocations
“In God’s Service”, a vocations program for high school students of the Diocese. This is a morning of sharing, testimony, reflections and Mass.

The program will be presented on November 3rd at Christ the King Catholic Church, 2777 E. Livingston in Columbus.

The program will feature Bishop Frederick Campbell and Sister Teresa Weind, SND de Namur telling their story of answering God’s Call to the Priesthood and the Consecrated life. The program will honor Father Thomas Petry, pastor of St. Anthony Catholic Church for his loving and dedicated service as a Priest.

Mass will follow with Bishop Campbell as Celebrant and Homilist. Lunch will be provided for students attending and they should sign up with their high school Chaplain or Campus Minister.

This program is sponsored by the Diocese of Columbus Office of Vocations and Black Catholic Ministries of Columbus, all are welcome to attend the program and Mass.

Meet the Candidates
The diocesan Office for Social Concerns is joining the Franklin County Consortium for Good Government in inviting county residents to Meet the Candidates forums on Tuesday and Wednesday, Oct. 18 and 19.

The Oct. 18 event will take place at the Peggy McConnell Arts Center, 777 Evening St., Worthington. The forum site on Oct. 19 will be the First Congregational Church, 444 E. Broad St., Columbus. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. on both nights, with refreshments served. Candidates will speak from 7 to 9 p.m.

All candidates in competitive races for countywide offices and Ohio House seats from the county have been invited. Visit www.franklincountycconsortium.com to learn which candidates and issues will be featured at each forum.
HAPPENINGS

Tom & Jerry’s Auto Service
1701 Kenny Road
614-488-8507

Consecrate Russia to Our Lady of Fatima

CRAFPTYPOLOOZA
Oct. 22 from 9AM-3PM.
80+ booths of handmadearts and crafts.
St. Timothy Church
1070 Thomas Lane, Columbus, OH 43220

ST. MARY CHURCH/GROVEPORT
586 Groveport Road, Groveport, OH
66TH ANNUAL SMORGASBORD
Sunday, OCT 16th, 12:30-6:00 PM

ST. CHRISTOPHER ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
614-416-1910

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

Holy Hour at Holy Family
6 to 7 p.m., Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., Columbus. Holy Hour of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by meeting of parish Holy Name and Junior Holy Name societies, with refreshments.

Frasassi Society Meeting at St. Patrick
7 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Meeting of parish’s Frasassi Society for young adults. Topic: Discussion on “The Presence of God” by Father Anselm Moynihan, OP.

Holy Hour of Reparation at Columbus Sacred Heart
7 to 8 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 893 Hamlet St., Columbus. Eucharistic Holy Hour following Holy Hour of Reparation prayer format, concluding with Benediction and social period.

Parish Mission at Newark St. Francis de Sales

DeSales Traditions Mass and Breakfast
7 a.m., St. Francis DeSales High School, 4312 Karl Road, Columbus. Mass for alumni, followed by school’s annual Traditions homecoming breakfast.

St. Cecilia Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
St. Cecilia Church, 454 Horton Road, Columbus. Begins after 8:15 a.m. Mass; continues to 5 p.m. Saturday.

Monthly Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 3252 Refugee Road, Columbus. Begins after 9 a.m. Mass; continues through 6 p.m. Holy Hour.

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.

Catholic Men’s Luncheon Club
12:15 p.m, St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Catholic Men’s Luncheon Club meeting. Speaker: Bishop Frederick Campbell.

St. John Chrysostom First Friday Sale
4 to 6 p.m., St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church, 5858 Cleveland Ave., Columbus. First Friday sale of proiog, stuffed cabbage, noodles, baked goods.

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

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

Catholic Italian Festival at St. John the Baptist
5 to 11 p.m. Friday, noon to 11 p.m. Saturday, noon to 7 p.m. Sunday, St. John the Baptist Church, 720 Hamlet St., Columbus. 27th annual Columbus Italian Festival, featuring live entertainment, Italian food, children’s area, rides. Parade and high school marching band competition, 1 p.m. Sunday.

Family Farm Day Fundraiser
8 a.m., bus leaves St. John XXIII Church, 5710 Winchester Southern Road, Canal Winchester, for tour of Hahn farm family, 12085 State Route 93 North, Logan, benefiting Family Honor program’s St. Martin de Porres Place family retreat house project. $50 per person. Guests may drive themselves to the farm, but this is not an open house. Pack your own lunch. Tour is from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

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.

Workshop on Catholic Art and Architecture
9 a.m. to noon, St. Catharine Church, 500 S. Gould Road, Columbus. “Art, Architecture, and the Liturgy” workshop with architect William Heyer. Sponsored by diocesan Office for Divine Worship. Cost $5.

Spiritual Day Spa at St. John Neumann
9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., St. John Neumann Church, 9633 E. State Route 37, Sunbury. Spiritual Day Spa program with Father Joshua Wagner, including stretching and walking with Lori Crook, lunch, rosary, and confession, concluding with Mass $47 per person.

Laudato Si’ Program at de Porres Center
10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Drive, Columbus. “Enlivened by ‘Laudato Si’: We Care for Our Common Home,” a dialogue sponsored by the diocesan Office for Social Concerns and Creative Care Team. Free, lunch included.

St. Mark Emerald 5K Fun Run and Walk
10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Forest Rose Bike Path, 1570 Granville Pike, Lancaster. Emerald 5K fun run and walk benefiting the Foundation Dinners of Fairfield County, the Lancaster St. Mark Church Emerald Food Pantry, and the Bridges of St. Mark ministry helping the Raph Sic Mission Church in Can Tho, Vietnam.

Evening of Mercy and Promise for Asia’s Hope
6 p.m., Life Center, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 3730 Broadway, Grove City. “An Evening of Mercy and Promise,” a presentation on behalf of Asia’s Hope, Ministry sponsored by area churches benefiting homes for Asian children at risk of exploitation.

DeSales Class of 1996 Reunion
7:30 p.m. Luigi’s City Pizza, 1069 Polaris Parkway, Columbus. Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School Class of 1996 20th anniversary reunion.

Jesus Retreat for Young Adults at St. Therese’s Retreat Center, 5727 E. Broad St., Columbus. “Who Do You Say That I Am?”, the Jesus retreat for young adults, presented by Chairs, which offers retreat experiences in the Jesuit tradition. Hosted by diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

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

St. Christopher Adult Religious Education
10 to 11:20 a.m., Library, Trinity Catholic School, 3462 Grandview Ave., Columbus. Book discussion of “The Other Wes Moore,” a story of two children with the same name born blocks apart from each other in Baltimore, and the different paths their lives took.

Holy Hour at Columbus St. Francis of Assisi
6:30 p.m., Panera restaurant, 4519 N. High St., Columbus. Monthly meeting of the Calix Society, an association of Catholic alcoholics. Preceded by 5:30 p.m. Mass at Our Lady of Peace Church, across street from meeting site.

Holy Hour at Columbus St. Francis of Assisi
6:00 p.m., Publix store, 4519 N. High St., Columbus. Monthly Holy Hour following 6 p.m. Mass. 614-299-5781

Encourage Ministry Monthly Meeting
6:30 p.m., Encourage, an approved diocesan ministry dedicated to families and friends of persons who experience same-sex attraction. Encourage respects the dignity of every person, promotes the truth of God’s plan for each of us, and focuses on sharing our love. Confidentiality is maintained. Call for site.

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‘Happenings’ submissions
Notice: items of Catholic interest must be received at least 12 days before expected publication date. We will print them as space permits.
Listings cannot be taken by phone.
Mail to Catholic Times Happenings,
197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215
Fax to 614-241-2518
E-mail as text to tpuet@columbuscatholic.org

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: Msgr. Frank Lane on “Your Vote.” RSVP to nancywhetstone@gmail.com or julienapoiron@gmail.com.

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

Catholic Post-Abortion Healing Ministry
6:30 p.m., support group meeting, 2344 Dover Road, Columbus (Christ the King, convent first floor west of the church).

Encourage Ministry Monthly Meeting
6:30 p.m., Encourage, an approved diocesan ministry dedicated to families and friends of persons who experience same-sex attraction. Encourage respects the dignity of every person, promotes the truth of God’s plan for each of us, and focuses on sharing our love. Confidentiality is maintained. Call for site.
St. Joseph Cathedral Concert

Sunday, Oct. 16, 3 p.m.

Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral’s recently appointed music director and organist, Dr. Richard K. Fitzgerald, will perform works by Langlais, Widor, and Hakim, and an improvised accompaniment to the 1903 silent film Vie et Passion du Christ in a concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 16.

He will be joined by his wife, Peabody-trained horn player Rebecca Fitzgerald, for a debut performance in the concert series at the cathedral, 212 E. Broad St.

Admission is a suggested donation of $10 at the door.

Concerts in a Country Church

The 2016-17 “Concerts in a Country Church” series at Washington Court House St. Colman of Cloyne Church opens on Sunday, Oct. 9 at 3 p.m. with “Brass-Tacular!”, featuring the Cedarville University brass ensemble and organist Craig Jaynes, music director of the series and the church.

The Cedarville quintet first appeared in the series at its hymn festival this past February. The five young players proved to be particularly talented and adept, presenting some of the finest brass playing ever heard in the area. They were asked immediately to come back this fall. “We knew several members were seniors and that this probably would be the last chance we would get to work with them,” Jaynes said. “We are indeed fortunate that they accepted the invitation.”

They will be performing a number of works originally written for brass, as well as some composer-written transcriptions. Jaynes will perform two major solo organ works and will join the quintet for some sonic explosions which will include a couple of old favorites.

Other concerts in the series, also on Sundays at 3 p.m., are scheduled for Feb. 12 with organist Christopher Urbiel, music director at Newark St. Francis de Sales Church, and April 30 with the Hillsboro High School symphonic choir, directed by David White.

Season tickets for all three concerts in a reserved section are $25 and may be purchased at the door or by mailing a check, payable to St. Colman Concerts, to the church, 219 S. North St., Washington Court House OH 43160. Tickets for individual concerts are $10 at the door.
Memorial for unborn in Toledo seen as answer to prayers to end abortion

By Katie Breidenbach
Catholic News Service

The moment Ann Barrick stepped from the sidewalk onto the crumbling parking lot, her eyes filled with tears.

“You pray about these things, and you never think you’re going to see it happen,” she said.

For nine years, Barrick stood on that sidewalk, praying that the Center for Choice of Toledo would cease to exist. Every autumn, she led the 40 Days for Life vigil outside the abortion facility.

Her prayers were answered. Shuttered in 2013, the Center for Choice was bulldozed at the beginning of September. Today, the derelict parking lot leads only to a muddy plot studded with fragments of the building’s former foundation.

“It can’t be anything but prayer. There’s no reason this place should have come down,” Barrick said.

Adding miracle to miracle, representatives from multiple pro-life organizations met at the offices of the Diocese of Toledo on Sept. 26. The ecumenical group is executing a once far-fetched vision: to convert the site of the clinic into a memorial for the unborn.

Denise Emerine purchased the land two years ago, with the aid of many sponsors. “We really felt that the Lord was wanting this to be a place to engage people and not be a place of death,” said Emerine, who also directs the Greater Toledo House of Prayer. “He is the redeeming God. He’s bringing hope. Out of the ashes he’s bringing beauty.”

The group, which also includes representatives from Catholic Charities, the Foundation for Life, and local crisis pregnancy centers, christened the site Hope Park and wants to complete the memorial by October 2017. Artistic renderings show a grassy area adorned with trees that has two paths leading to three free-standing walls. “Faith,” “Hope” and “Love” are emblazoned on the walls, along with verses from Chapter 61 of the Book of Isaiah.

Plans also include a wall of remembrance where mothers can add the names of unborn children. A single dogwood tree that once marked the entrance of the clinic will remain on the grounds as the Tree of Hope, symbolizing the triumph of life.

“There are some projects that you can feel you’re part of something big. This is one of those projects,” Tim Schlachter, chair of the Hope Park building committee, told Catholic News Service. To him and the other members, even the estimated cost of the project shows God’s hand: $610,000, a number that echoes the “61” of the chosen chapter of Isaiah.

“When Jesus went into the synagogue, they handed him the Torah to read Isaiah 61, ‘The spirit of the Lord is upon me, he has anointed me to set the captives free,’” Emerine said. “So I believe he’s saying ‘I want to restore life back to all the families that have been affected by the death sentence that was here.’”

The conversion of the clinic has redeeming significance to Mandy Sattler, one of the planning members. Nine years ago, as a student just beginning nursing school, she had her own abortion at the Center for Choice. She described the shame that kept her silent for years, and the hope that this new chapter brings.

“To know that the building had been taken down, it was a sign for me: God’s taking care of this, he’s big enough for this, you can let it go,” Sattler said.

When the Center for Choice closed in June 2013, it had documented more than 50,000 abortions in 30 years. Many of the organizations planning Hope Park had been praying and working for years to see it shuttered.

The breakthrough came when the clinic was unable to secure a transfer agreement with a local hospital. Such an arrangement is required by Ohio law for all ambulatory surgical facilities, giving a doctor admitting privileges should a patient be in a condition requiring hospitalization.

Ed Sitter, executive director of the Foundation for Life, has focused his organization’s efforts on shutting down Capital Care Network, the city’s one remaining abortion clinic. “If women have more time to really contemplate their decision, they get more informed, they get more aware, they’re empowered to make a life-affirming decision,” he said.

From Sept. 28 until the beginning of November, prayer vigils for the national 40 Days for Life campaign are being held outside Capital Care Network. A Thanksgiving service at Hope Park was planned for Thursday, Oct. 6.

Peter Range, director of the Office for Life and Justice at Catholic Charities, is helping to organize those events.

“It’s amazing to see God’s hand at work and a good reminder that God does have the ultimate victory. Life does eventually triumph over death,” he told CNS.

“Prayer is really truly one of our most powerful weapons,” Sitter explained. “I believe that Capital Care Network will also close, like the Center for Choice, and I believe that abortion will become a thing of the past.”
SPAGHETTI DINNER
October 16 - Noon to 6:00 pm
Our Lady of Victory Parish Life Center

Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 12900
Dinner includes: Spaghetti/Meatballs, Salad, Bread,
Dessert and Choice of Drink
Carryout is available!

Prices:
Adults - $8, Children - $6

Proceeds will benefit various projects
of the Knights of Columbus, Our Lady of Victory Council 12900
Monetary donations also accepted for this cause