RALLYING IN DEFENSE OF LIFE
AT THE OHIO STATEHOUSE
The Editor's Notebook

Standing for Life

It's been 43 years. That's how long we have been fighting against the horror of legalized abortion in the United States. In the context of the entire history of mankind, that's not a long time. But when you consider the life experience of people alive today, this is going on for most of their lives. For the women most likely to be victims of this phony choice for which they supposedly have a constitutional entitlement, this injustice has kept them from drawing their first breath on this earth. It's been 43 years and the battle goes on. It goes on because it matters.

This is where the new secularism has led us. We live in a society where things that are socially unacceptable things you can do to other people and to yourself and fast rules about what is right and wrong. Today's conventional wisdom insists that everybody has to decide for himself or herself what is right or wrong, based on the situation they are in at that moment. Our world today is centered on self … to the culture of death.

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During this Year of Mercy, Columbus St. Mary Magdalene Church, 473 S. Roy Ave., will present a series of talks on topics related to mercy.

The series begins at 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 16 with a discussion on the Year of Mercy by Mark Huddly, bishop emeritus for the diocese.


PRACTICAL STEWARDSHIP

By Rick Jeric

Chaplains

I want to thank everyone for their great support of St. Joe’s Food Pantry. The Cocktails for a Cause event at Double Comfort in the Port of St. John’s Food Pantry. The “Cocktails for Inner-City Needs, 5 p.m. Saturday, March 19; “Financial Stewardship for Social Concerns” — 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 19, at the church. Please RSVP to Cindy Mowery at (513) 454-2073. The number is (513) 207-4377.

Year of Mercy Speaker Series

As the 45th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court’s Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion, a strong majority of Americans — including a majority of those who consider themselves “pro-choice” — support additional restrictions on abortion, “pro-choice” labeling. The findings are detailed in a new study released this week, released by the Knights of Columbus.

While Americans who identify as “pro-choice” overwhelmingly support restrictions on abortion, “pro-choice” Americans also support such pro-

Going Beyond Labels, New Marist Poll Shows Consensus on Abortion Limits

Survey shows 8 in 10 Americans and 2 out of 3 pro-choice supporters want restrictions

Porter, say that laws can protect both a mother and her unborn child. Only about one in five (15 percent of Americans, 15 percent of women, 23 percent of pro-choice identifiers) disagree.

The poll also found that majorities of Americans see abortion as both ultimately harmful to women and morally wrong. By a 2-to-1 margin, pro-choice Americans (57 percent) agree that abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy, the poll found, dramatically decreases a woman’s ability to fully participate in today’s society, including work and family life.

Six in 10 pro-choice Americans (60 percent), an increase of 16 percentage points over the first three months of preg-

It is the goal of the Diocese of Columbus to make the Church a place of safety: a place of prayer, ministry and comfort. Everyone who enters our churches, schools, or facilities must be confident in this. New initiatives are in place to help people suffering from abuse at church. In order to assure the safety of our youth, the Diocese of Columbus has enacted a complete program of protection. As part of this program, there is a comprehensive intake and triage process, and pastoral care for anyone who has suffered the crime of sexual abuse at the hands of diocesan clergy or church employees or volunteers. The Diocese of Columbus will report any and all allegations of abuse reported to it to the authorities and will cooperate fully with those authorities.

Recourse Life Conference

The 2016 diocesan Respect Life con-

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

Respect Life Conference

The 2016 diocesan Respect Life con-

The 2016 diocesan Respect Life con-

The 2016 diocesan Respect Life con-
Repentance required for forgiveness?

**QUESTION & ANSWER**

**by Father Kenneth Boyle**

**Catholic News Service**

**222 St. Mary St., Lancaster, Pa.**

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**PLUMBING • DRAINS & BOILERS**

**THE TRAGEDY OF ADDICTION**

Addiction can be extremely harmful, and in some cases, fatal for those individuals ensnared by it. It can be seriously disruptive and damaging to those around them. Who is to blame when it comes to addiction? The addicted person? The parents of the addicted person? Those who too closely identify with the addicted person? Why? "Can I just stop just drinking one more time?" Our diocesan Lenten activities published in the Feb. 14 edition of Catholic Times. The series "Symbolon II: Living the Faith," exploring how Jesus used his resurrection to bring new life to the human race, begins March 6. It will be offered through Formed, a new Web-based digital library that offers a variety of courses in English, Spanish and Italian. You can access Formed at www.formed.org and use the parish access code M2BD6B. For more information, contact Maria Vonada at (740) 513-3525 or mvonada@diocesesanet.org.

**Corpus Christi Retreat Center**

The Corpus Christi Retreat Center is hosting a one-day retreat for clergy and religious in the Archdiocese of Columbus, Ohio, on March 20. The retreat will focus on the importance of prayer and the need for spiritual growth. The event will be held at the retreat center in Delaware, Ohio. For more information, contact Lisa Miller at (614) 299-7700 or lisa.miller@delphostate.com.

**Delaware St. Mary Faith Formation**

Delaware St. Mary Church, 522 E. William Street, is planning several adult faith formation programs for this year. The following programs are scheduled:

- **Walking Toward Eternity** with Jeff and Emily Carr can be offered by group or in a one-on-one setting. This program explores the joys and challenges of marriage and family life from a Catholic perspective. It is offered on Sundays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at St. Mary Church. Contact the church office at (740) 513-3525 for more information.
- **Marriage and Family** is a comprehensive program designed for couples preparing for marriage or wanting to deepen their understanding of the Catholic Church's teaching on marriage and family life. This program is offered on Sundays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at St. Mary Church. Contact the church office at (740) 513-3525 for more information.
- **Confirmation Preparation** is a program for students in grades 8-10 who are preparing for Confirmation. This program is offered on Sundays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at St. Mary Church. Contact the church office at (740) 513-3525 for more information.
- **Eucharistic Adoration** is a program for adults who wish to deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ through the Eucharist. This program is offered on Sundays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at St. Mary Church. Contact the church office at (740) 513-3525 for more information.

**Contact information:** For more information, contact Lisa Miller at (614) 299-7700 or lisa.miller@delphostate.com.
The ninth annual Columbus Catho-
lic Women’s Conference will take place from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 20 at the University Center on the State Fairgrounds. This year’s theme is “Mercy Changes Everything,” in line with Pope Francis’ declaration of a Yea-
ning Year of Mercy.

Many women will be there for the ninth year in a row, including body, who read about the first conference, which took place at Columbus St. An-
thony Church in 2008, in her parish bul-
letin. “It was beautiful,” body said, “because sight, she is certain it was a nudge from God to help her realize the nub-
ber of women who were expe-
riencing God’s mercy through the Sacrament of Reconciliation that day and it lit a fire in her. She is now one of the largest cheerleaders for this conference.”

Jody said there is much to love about the confer-
ence; however, Eucha-
ristic Adoration in 2015 was a particular mark on her heart. She was taken with emo-
tion.

She was moved and awestruck by Jesus’ true Di-
vine Presence. She loves the Catholic faith and the sacraments and devotions and Jesus’ call to mercy.

The conference opens the hearts of many first-timers, while at the same time deepening the faith of the more devout. “This day truly captures so many women wherever they may fall in their faith journey – the journey that ultimately defines our ethnic identity.”

Jody said. The day will begin with Mass, celebrated by Bishop Frederick Campbell, followed by a day of inspiration. This year’s speakers are Jennifer Fulwiler, an atheist who became Catholic; Father Nathan Crumly, CSSR, a member of the Community of St. John and founder of Eagle Eye Formation Ministries; Senta Corbit, a dynamic author and speaker on living out the Scriptures; and singer-songwriter Sarah Keiper.

There will be a Holy Hour of Adora-
tion and Exposition, with dozens of priests available to hear confessions.

In attendance will be seminarians, permanent deacons, sisters, and more than 1,500 laywomen, all taking part in a day of renewal to draw closer to Christ.

This year, the conference will have more vendors offering a chance to get to know many ministries or the op-
portunity to purchase religious goods.

If you are “on the fence” about attending, call the Office of the St. Ga-
briel Radio archives and find Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard or call 614-841-3100.

Don’t miss your opportunity to join in this day designed just for women. To register, visit www.columbuscatholic-
 hempstead/31570001.html

Photo courtesy of St. Anthony School

Dominican Sisters Retreat

The Dominican Sisters of Peace in-
vite single Catholic women, ages 18 to 64, to attend a five Come and See re-
creational retreat from Friday to Sun-
day, March 11 to 13.

Although this conference is normally the order’s conference, this year we are opening it to feature a somewhat different aspect of the instrument, and that is its abili-
to lead a congregation in singing the great hymns. The best hymns always have a wonderful combination of powerful words, and they are capable of speak-
ing to the audience’s spirit, heart, and emo-
tions, hence the title of the program,” said Sisternoon.

Interspersed with the hymns will be organ works based on the themes. Each hymn will have its own special ar-
angement. Members of area choirs will be seated together in the middle of the church to help lead. Several of the hymns also will be accompanied by a brass quartet from Cedarville Univ-
ersity.

“Catholicism is a movement," Sisternoon said, “a movement to see the presence of God in our lives. ‘Come and See’ ret-
reats in the spring will feature the same music director, parish organist Craig Jaynes, who will be accompanied by the sang-bass quartet.”

“The retreat will begin at 6 p.m. March 11, in the St. Anthony Church. The fee is $10 and may be purchased at the door.

The church is at 219 S. North St., two blocks east and one block south of the Fayette County Courthouse.

More information is available at www.
steelmmusic.org or by calling (577) 322-2757. For questions, call or text Sister June Fitzgerald, OP, at (570) 336-3991 or stjohns@fayettecountymail.com.

Participants may register online for the retreat or request a registration form from the retreat or request a registration form from Sisternoon. For questions, call or text Sisternoon. For questions, call or text Sisternoon.
March for Life marks 43rd anniversary of Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion

By Kurt Jensen

Catholic News Service

Catholic admirers of inclusion mixed with strong political language before the March of Life got underway on Friday, Jan. 22, in Washington.

At a loan-spon sored Mass for life at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church that morning, Father Pad ry Gil ger's homily reminded a small group of students that Jesus Christ asked them to be inclusive when he chose his disciples, they too, should be respectful of others' opinions.

“As we join in the fight against the scourge of abortion, our differences remain, and that’s OK,” he said.

Later, at the March for Life rally at the Washington Monument, attended by nearly 50,000 people, Carly Fiorina, the former Hewlett-Packard chief execu tive officer who is running for the Republican presidential nomination, spoke to her standard political stump speech.

She drew loud cheers with her claim, “This is our day to reassert American innocence that all Americans can express a culture of life.”

A lawsuit against Daleiden and the center over the videos has reached the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, with the National Abortion Foundation and Planned Parenthood accusing him of manipulating his interpretation of his organization and illegally taping without permission, and violating in violent threats against abortion clinics and the women who go there.

Planned Parenthood officials claim that the videos were edited to manipulate the interview and that any mention of money for tissue and body parts is related to customary handling fees. But Daleiden and the Center for Medical Progress that pur port to show California representatives of Planned Parenthood discussing the sale of parts of aborted fetuses.

By Patrick Mattison

Catholic News Service

A baby in a manger is proof enough for Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York that Americans can express a culture of life.

And this infant wasn’t the Christ child. Instead, it was a newborn left by his mother in the crib of a manger scene at a parish in the New York City borough of Staten Island.

Calling it “a sad but gripping story,” in his homily on Thursday, Jan. 21, during the opening Mass of the National Prayer Vigil for Life at the Basil ica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, Cardinal Dolan said the woman who had left the baby had come from, or who left him there — until, a week later, the sobbing mother, a young Mexican woman, re maining anonymous, told her story to a journalist.

“Cardinal Dolan, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ pro-life committee, recounted the mother’s words, noting the irony that the woman who had left her baby at Holy Child Jesus Church.

“I was so afraid,” she said, “and, all of a sudden, a car appeared at the house, suddenly I went into labor,” she said. “I must have been in excruciating pain for at least two hours. I started pushing because, each time I did, the pain would let up. I pushed for 15 minutes and finally the baby, a boy, was born. Then he came out. I didn’t cry at first, and so was afraid he was not right. I didn’t know what to do so I left the umbilical cord on I wrapped him in a clean towel and started to look for place safe and warm.”

“I’m very religious,” the woman had continued, “so right away I thought of my church, Holy Child Jesus (in the Diocese of Brooklyn). I go there a lot, and the priests and people are so good. I just knew if I left him in God’s hands, my baby would be OK. So, I ran into my church and put him in the empty crib. Then he started crying. I just kept him warm enough. I had in the back of my head, knowing Father would find my baby and the people would care for them. They did.”

“Very sorry,” Cardinal Dolan said, “and I submit it to you, the jury, this evening as Exhibit A in our case for a culture of life.”

He added, “In God’s world, it is not far fetched to imagine another scenario, what might have happened that mother’s grim and understandable apprehension and isolation could have led her to Planned Parenthood.

She could have been going to a parish which she found cold, unwelcoming, and, impersonal, where she did not feel safe, and where she would not have been inclined to turn in her crisis. Cardinal Dolan said.

“Or, in those fearful minutes after her baby’s birth, she might have run to a church only to find it locked, with a sign on the outside telling her probably in God’s hands. And finally, she was back to the 11,000 people who were participating in the March for Life on or around the nation’s capital on or around the Roe anniversary.

MARCH, continued from Page 20

The rally was the first formal involve ment by the evangelical community in the March for Life, held on the ann iversary of the Supreme Court’s Roe v. Wade decision which legalized abortion.

Over the years, pro-lifers participating in the March for Life have endured freezing rain, snow, and subzero tem peratures, and more than has blizzards have swept through the nation’s capital on or around the Roe anniversary.

But this year, the circum stances on Jan. 22 were a much colder one in which mardens were held in the March for Life.

Daly also was headlining the first major pro-life conference for Catholics to be held in conjunction with the March for Life.

Cardinal Dolan said, was “by initiating these prayers carrying heavy snow and people of Holy Child Je sus Parish in New York City, by acknowledging that Jesus, poor abandoned baby born far from the crib of a manger scene at the Immaculate Conception in Washington, the baby was by Catholic News Service)

The prospect of a major storm carrying heavy snow and high winds made the na tion’s capital already less im possibly crowded. Compared to the 15,000 people who were packed into the opening mass of the National Prayer Vigil for Life last year, only 9,000 were on hand on Jan. 21, ac cording to Jacqueline Hayes, a shrine spokesperson.

Clergy turnout was similarly smaller for the Mass. Unlike entrance processions in recent years, which lasted a half hour, the Jan 21 procession took 20 minutes.

One indication of a reduced turnout for the vigil was the announcement on Tuesday, Jan. 19, by the Archdiocese of St. Louis that it was canceling its annual Gen eration: Hasn’t it been a cause that would have sent hundreds of youth to Washington.
RESPECT LIFE RALLY IN COLUMBUS

Above: Holding a banner representing Newark’s two Catholic parishes are Ryan Allyn (left) and Theresa Geiger, students from Newark Catholic High School. Right: Peggy Deeter, a Columbus resident who works with the post-abortion healing ministry of the Pregnancy Decision Health Centers, which reach out to women in confidence.

BY TIM PYTE

Tuesday, January 26, 2016

U.S. Sen. Bob Portman urged a chilled, but enthusiastic crowd at the annual Respect Life rally at the Ohio Statehouse to “be a booming voice for the voices” through their continued support for preserving the right to life, from conception to natural death, for everyone, including the unborn.

Portman was a surprise guest speaking at the rally, which organizers said was about by 450 people who gathered on the state Capitol building’s west lawn at noon Thursday, Jan. 21, the 43rd anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court’s Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion nationwide.

The Republican senator from the Cincinnati area was in Washington to speak at the March for Life there, but decided to swing by Ohio in anticipation of a weekend snowstorm that blanketed the nation’s capital, with 22 inches of snow measured at the White House. Both Portman, executive director of Greater Columbus Right to Life, sponsored the rally, said she didn’t know until moments before the event that Portman would be there.

The day set for the rally is usually one of the coldest of the year in Columbus, and this year was no exception, with Friday’s noontime temperature at 26 degrees, but feeling much colder because of 20 mph winds.

In spite of the cold, the crowd for the event was greater than anticipated, with many people who were in Washington to decide during the weekend because of the snow forecast to come to Columbus instead. Those who changed their plans included about 60 high-school students from Lancaster Fisher Catholic, 30 from Newark Catholic, and groups from Columbus Bishop Watterson and St. Charles Preparatory.

Several bus trips to the Washington march from parishes in the Diocese of Columbus also were affected by the weather.

Sister Maureen Vanderkooi said a booking conflict led to this year’s Columbus rally being held outdoors, after being in the Statehouse atrium in 2014 and 2015. Most of the speakers at the rally led off with words about the weather.

The Rev. John Coates, pastor of the Metropolitan Church of God in Christ, opened the program by thanking God for the relative warmth of the day, compared with the weather in Washington. Portman started and ended his remarks by telling the crowd it was “freezin’ for a reason.”

The senator pointed out that “many classmates characterized me as a racist and a misogynist gender traitor,” she said. “Others engaged in personal attacks. Instead of seeing me as someone who cared about the lives of the unborn, they said I was someone who wanted to control women and take away their rights.”

She told law school administrators about what had happened, but “instead of practicing tolerance and looking into the concerns, the administrators lectured me on how my faith-based beliefs on abortion could harm my legal career and my ability to write as an editor for Ohio State University’s law journal,” Gesiotto said. “Rather than practicing acceptance, they added to the bullying of pro-life conservatives by experimenting across this country.”

“We knew there was bad weather coming and people were prepared to fold our plans as needed,” said Lorraine Vizas, who has organized March for Life trips from Sunbury to Washington for the past 17 years. “On Thursday, some of our buses took part in a full day of conferences, including a private talk from a representative of the Population Research Institute. Others went to the March for Life rally.”

Fathers Michael Henry Davis, OSB; priests of Columbus St. Patrick Church.

"I will not back down to intolerance. The hardest things and the right things are often the same things. That’s why it’s important that we never back down."

RALLY, PAGE 19

Prepared for Thursday, January 21, 2016

RESPECT LIFE RALLY IN COLUMBUS

"The kids at Newark Catholic have a great desire to see their support for the culture of life," said the Rev. Charles Preparatory.

"The day set for the rally is usually one of the coldest of the year in Columbus, and this year was no exception, with Friday’s noontime temperature at 26 degrees, but feeling much colder because of 20 mph winds. In spite of the cold, the crowd for the event was greater than anticipated, with many people who were in Washington to decide during the weekend because of the snow forecast to come to Columbus instead. Those who changed their plans included about 60 high-school students from Lancaster Fisher Catholic, 30 from Newark Catholic, and groups from Columbus Bishop Watterson and St. Charles Preparatory. Several bus trips to the Washington march from parishes in the Diocese of Columbus also were affected by the weather. Sister Maureen Vanderkooi said a booking conflict led to this year’s Columbus rally being held outdoors, after being in the Statehouse atrium in 2014 and 2015. Most of the speakers at the rally led off with words about the weather. The Rev. John Coates, pastor of the Metropolitan Church of God in Christ, opened the program by thanking God for the relative warmth of the day, compared with the weather in Washington. Portman started and ended his remarks by telling the crowd it was “freezin’ for a reason.” The senator pointed out that “many classmates characterized me as a racist and a misogynist gender traitor,” she said. “Others engaged in personal attacks. Instead of seeing me as someone who cared about the lives of the unborn, they said I was someone who wanted to control women and take away their rights.” She told law school administrators about what had happened, but “instead of practicing tolerance and looking into the concerns, the administrators lectured me on how my faith-based beliefs on abortion could harm my legal career and my ability to write as an editor for Ohio State University’s law journal,” Gesiotto said. “Rather than practicing acceptance, they added to the bullying of pro-life conservatives by experimenting across this country.” Despite the attacks, I will continue to write pro-life pieces,” she said. “I will not back down to political correctness and religious intolerance. The hardest things and the right things are often the same things. That’s why it’s important that we never back down. Not speaking, but carrying a bumper reading “I Regret My Abortion,” Madison Geigar, USA pageant, is a graduate of The John Carroll High School and transforms the faces of others with her own experience as a way to shed light on the trauma that abortion really is, which they don’t hear about.”

The innovation was given by Father Don Franklin, pastor of Dresden St. Ann Church, who quoted pro-life statements from the 1973-to-be-can -honized Blessed Mother Teresa and from the ecumenical Evangelist Fi -la and African (from the Pope’s St. Paul II and Pope Francis respectively. He described those active in the post-life movement as “the valiant warriors. We cannot be afraid.”

Father Michael Mary Dosch, OP, pastor of Columbus St. Patrick Church.

"If life is the first of all human rights, and without the right to life, no freedom is possible. As we acknowled -ge this, we also come to realize that if any life is threatened all of our lives are threatened,” Bishop Campbell said.

Those from central Ohio who had cut short their plans to march in Washington on Friday included two busloads of pilgrims who had left Sunbury St. John Neumann Church on Wednesday, Jan. 20, for an anticipated midnight arrival in Bowie, Maryland, where one group stayed at a hotel and another was given lodging inside a church. The buses didn’t make it until 5 a.m. Thursday, because slippery roads slowed traf -fik on Interstate 270 about 30 miles south of Washington.

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The financial statements entitled Catholic Diocese of Columbus – Diocesan Organization, represent the combined financial position and activity for the Chancellor, the Catholic Cemeteries, the Diocesan Offices and funds managed at a diocesan level (e.g. Parish Aid, Self Insurance and Vana Trust Funds). The information presented was extracted from acknowledged financial statements. These statements do not include the financial position or activity of our parishes or schools, or agencies that are governed by their own boards, as each reports their financial information separately to their communities.

The financial statements for the Catholic Diocese of Columbus – Diocesan Organization were audited by the independent firm of Schnee Downs & Co., Inc. The audit was conducted according to auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. For the fiscal years ended June 30, 2015 and June 30, 2014, the auditors provided an unqualified opinion.

As for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015, Net Assets decreased from the previous fiscal year. Our financial position and results were negatively impacted by two significant factors. The first factor was ‘Pension-related changes other than net periodic pension cost’. In accordance with current accounting principles, we are required to measure our defined benefit pension liability using current economic factors, although this liability will be funded and paid well into the future. The lower return on our investments contributed to an increase in our pension liability, as did a change in the mortality tables, which were updated to take into account an increase in life expectancy. The impact of these changes has been recognized as a decrease in net assets in the Statement of Activity. The second negative impact on net assets was due to the limited investment return on our endowments and internally managed investments. For the year ended June 30, 2015, investment returns on endowments and internally managed investments were $6.5 million less than for the year ended June 30, 2014.

The second factor was ‘Change in net assets prior to pension-related changes’. This factor includes the change in net assets from the beginning of the fiscal year to the end of the fiscal year prior to the pension-related changes. In this case, the change in net assets prior to pension-related changes was a decrease of $6.6 million for the year ended June 30, 2015.

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As Bishop, I have a responsibility to provide all Catho-
lics in the Diocese of Columbus with an annual view of our financial position and activity. I am pleased to inform you that our independent accounting firm has completed their procedures on our reports and have issued an unqualified opinion on them.

2015 was a year of an ever changing financial landscape. The stock market and overall investment environment struggled throughout the year. For both our investment and endowment accounts, we experienced a much lower return than the prior fiscal year. We continue to manage closely the prudent expenditure of funds at a Diocesan level, as well as the issuing of grants to parishes and other Diocesan entities in need.

The on-going market challenges, along with changes in actuarial assumptions, also resulted in a significant increase in our pension liability. Although for financial reporting purposes we reflect an overall liability for pension ben-
etfits, our actuaries have confirmed that our pension fund is sound.

On a positive note, our High Schools recorded positive results even with much lower earnings on endowments. For the Parishes, overall it was a positive year with funds generated for repayment of debt and major capital expenditures.

We, the Church, continue to be blessed by the continued generous stewardship of the faithful, giving their time, talent and treasure, for the benefit of others. I continue to pray for those who have been negatively impacted by the economy, and for those who so selflessly serve them.

As we look to the future, our ability to work as one Church, continuing the good works of the Church by assisting those in need, can only occur with the assistance of those in the community, like yourselves, who possess the talents and are willing to give of your time.

I am grateful for the generosity of all those who support the work of the Church, and I greatly appreciate as well the many volunteers and committee members, both at the parish and diocesan level, who assist in this work. With every best wish, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Frederick F. Campbell, D.D., Ph.D.
Bishop of Columbus
DIOCESAN HIGH SCHOOLS FINANCIAL REVIEW
FOR FYE JUNE 30, 2015 & 2014

The financial statements entitled Catholic Diocese of Columbus – High Schools, represent the combined financial position and activity for the Diocesan High Schools.

The financial statements for the High Schools are reviewed by the independent CPA firm of Schneider Downs & Co., Inc. The review was conducted according to Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015, not including the continuing start-up of Cristo Rey, enrollment decreased by .3% and Tuition decreased by .9%. Our ability to increase tuition to offset rising costs continues to be tempered by the reality of the economic challenges being faced by our families.

Total Net Assets increased $6.09 million. The majority of which was related to Cristo Rey activities. Income was down year over year primarily due to a decrease in the return on endowment assets, and a decrease in contributions which occurred in prior years in support of the start-up of Cristo Rey.

Cristo Rey Columbus High School is a Catholic High School educating underserved students in the Columbus area using a work/study model in support of tuition costs. Cristo Rey began the 2013-2014 school year with 82 students. With the addition of a second class for the 2014-2015 school year, enrollment increased to 187 students.

DIOCESAN PARISHES FINANCIAL REVIEW
FOR FYE JUNE 30, 2015 & 2014

The financial statements entitled Catholic Diocese of Columbus – Parishes, represents the consolidation of the receipts and disbursements for the parishes and associated elementary schools of the Catholic Diocese of Columbus. This statement was compiled from the unaudited financial reports submitted by those organizations.

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015, Total Parish Receipts increased 5.4%. Offerity rose 3.2% compared to the prior year. Fund Drive receipts increased 55.5% due to several parishes undertaking significant fund drives for major construction compared to the prior year. Other Parish Income decreased by 12.7% due to insurance proceeds received in the prior year related to the Sacred Heart Church fire. School Income rose 4.2% while parish costs rose 1.0%

Total Parish Disbursements increased 3.1% year to year mainly due to increases in Parish Salary & Benefits (4.8%), Diocesan Assessment (19.2%) and Depreciation (25.9%). The increase in Diocesan Assessment resulted from the increase in the assessment rate from 5.0% to 6.0% Overall, Excess Receipts over Disbursements increased by 28.2%. It should be noted that much of this Excess is used to retire debt and for major capital expenditures.

For those interested in the financial results for a particular parish, please contact that parish directly.
Wearyed by some, utterly rejected by others


Continued from Page 13

We all gather at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for a Vigil Mass. The group, which included travelers from Pataskala and Mount Vernon, left Alexandria, Virginia, at 6:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 20.

Dan Schulte Concert

Dan Schulte, composer of familiar liturgical songs including “Oh Holy Night,” “O Holy Night,” and “Song of Peace,” will be at Columbus St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 N. Whitehall Road, on Saturday, March 26. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. with a light refreshment in the social center preceding the concert. The admission fee is $10 per person includes breakfast and lunch. A combined ticket for the two events is available for $15. Details are available by calling the church at 614-457-2244 or online at www.stelizabethchurch.org.

The Columbus Catholic Women’s Conference, which will take place Saturday, Feb. 20, at the Voinovich Center on the State Fairgrounds, is looking for women with the gift of a singing voice and would be willing to take the stage at the conference. The event, which will take place Saturday, Feb. 20, at the Voinovich Center on the State Fairgrounds, is looking for women with the gift of a singing voice and would be willing to take the stage at the conference.

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Men’s Conference

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Father Gennaro Sesto, SDB
Funeral Mass for Father Gennaro "Jerry" Sesto, SDB, 84, professor of canon law at the Pontifical College Je- sus for 14 years, who died Friday, Jan. 15, was held Tuesday, Jan. 19, at Don Bosco Preparatory School, Ramsey, New Jersey. Burial was at the Salesian Cemetery in Osseo, New York.

He was born in Belford, Maine, on Aug. 1, 1921, to the late Mary and Thomas Sesto. He remained in the United States, where he joined the Salesian order until 1946, and he also died of stomach cancer (1968-70) at Salesianum.

During the rest of his priory career, he was director of Don Bosco Preparatory and served in various roles at Don Bosco College, the provincial house, in New Rochelle, New York, and the Salesian Regional House in Harrison-Staten Point, New York. From 2003 until his retirement in 2013, he was in parish work at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Elizabeth, New Jersey. At the time of his death, he was the senior member of the Salesian Province of New Rochelle.

Survivors include a brother, Thomas; sisters, Lucy Barke, Ann Geibl, and Victoria LaFrance; and several nephews and nieces.

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In order to heal and to save, Pope Francis said in a new booklength interview on mercy.

"By welcoming a marginalized person whose body is wounded and by wounds the inner soul whose soul is wounded, we put our credibility as Christians on the line," the pope told Italian journalist Andrea Tornielli (pictured) in The Name of God’s Mercy, which was released on Tuesday, Jan. 12.

In the interview, the pope spoke about experiencing an overwhelming sense of mercy during confession when he was 17 years old, provided more details about stories he has recounted in homilies, explained his comment, “Who am I to judge?” about a homosexual person seeking God, and discussed the need he saw to invoke a jubilee Year of Mercy.

He also talked about the relationship of mercy and justice and addressed criticism that his focus on mercy amounts to watering down church doctrine and that God’s mercy is not focused sufficiently on justice.

To preach the Gospel, the church must counter an attitude that says there is sin that cannot be healed or forgiven, the pope said.

“The church does not exist to condemn,” he said. “We must bring them back to the reality with the loving gaze of the Lord. We do it with the words of forgiveness, not condemnation.”

“Jesus sends forth his disciples not as scholars of the law, but as sheep without a shepherd,” the pope said. “The Christian message is transmitted by embracing those in difficulty, by embracing the outcast, the marginalized, and the sinner.”

Obviously, he said, the church cannot and does not pretend sin is unimportant. But “God forgives everyone. He offers new possibilities to everyone. He shows his mercy on everyone who asks for it,” the pope said. The Christian message is a clear sign of God’s love and mercy.

Speaking to Tornielli, Pope Francis made no comment on homosexuality as such, other than to insist that “people who do not know how to forgive”

“God’s love and mercy. If they cannot open that door and grant forgiveness, the priests, especially in the confessional, must do all they can to communicate God’s love and mercy. If they cannot offer absolution to someone, the pope said, they should at least offer a blessing.

"The fact that the person entered the confessional is a clear sign of God’s grace already at work.

"As a continent, even when I have found myself before a locked door," he said. "I have always tried to find a crack, just a tiny opening, so that I can pry open that door and grant forgiveness and mercy."

For as his “Who am I to judge?” remark to reporters in July 2015 when asked about the church’s attitude toward homosexual persons, Pope Francis said, “I was trying to bring for heart the Catechism of the Catholic Church, where it says that those persons should be treated with delicacy and not be marginalized.

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Romeo and Juliet

The Columbus Bishop Hartley High School drama department will present Romeo & Juliet from Friday to Sunday, Feb. 5 to 7 at the Columbus Performing Arts Center, 549 Franklin Ave. Friday and Saturday evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday matinee performances will be at 2:30 p.m. at the Monday evening performance. Tickets are $7 and will be sold at the door only, beginning one hour before each performance.

The cast includes Josh Duffy Cooper as Romeo and Rachel Sautley as Juliet. Supporting cast members include Better Huggins, Christopher Cruz, Ben Smallwood, Ryan Reed, Nick Warrick, Emilee Zoog, Ben Smallwood, and Sarah Buckingham re-

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Graduating Seniors – Still waiting on college admission? Get an instant decision from Ohio Dominican! Bring your HS transcript and test scores to one of our Instant Decision Days on Feb. 3, Feb. 11 or Feb. 13. We will review your materials and give you an immediate admission decision.

Register today at ohioedominican.edu/Instant.
The 2016 annual Columbus Catholic Men’s Conference, with the theme “Call to Discipleship,” will take place Saturday, Feb. 27 at the Voinovich Center on the State Fairgrounds.

A dynamic lineup of speakers is scheduled, including Father Larry Richards, Hector Molina, and David Karam.

**Father Richards** was born in Pittsburgh and is pastor of St. Joseph Church in Erie, Pennsylvania. He speaks from experience as a pastor of an inner-city parish, a high-school chaplain, a counselor, and an evangelist. He has directed hundreds of retreats, parish missions, and conferences.

Not preachy but direct, Father Richards challenges men to be strong, without putting on a mask of false strength or machismo.

He talks to men about how to focus on the right goal, to live as a beloved son of God, to acknowledge their faults and to live according to the Holy Spirit, to be a man of true love and of wisdom, to appreciate properly the differences between men and women, to pursue holiness, and to make a difference in the world.

He hosts the EWTN radio shows *The Reason For Our Hope* and *Open Line*. He can be seen on the EWTN televised programs *Living Right with Dr. Ray* and *Crossing the Goal*.

**Molina** is a lay evangelist who began his ministry as a lay pastoral associate in the Diocese of Brooklyn, New York. He then served the Archdiocese of St. Louis as director of Hispanic ministry and later as founding director of the Office for the New Evangelization.

In 2009, Molina launched a full-time speaking apostolate, through which he ministers at Catholic events throughout the United States, Canada, Australia, southeast Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

He served for two years as an apologist and speaker on the staff of Catholic Answers, the largest lay-run apostolate of apologetics and evangelization in North America. Molina currently is chief executive officer of Casting Nets Ministries. He specializes in evangelization and apologetics, has keynoted more than 100 conferences, and has conducted scores of parish seminars, workshops, missions, and retreats in English and Spanish throughout the United States and abroad.

**Karam** is chairman of Sbarro Holdings, LLC. He formerly was president of the Wendy’s International Inc. subsidiary of Wendy’s Restaurants and as treasurer of Emerald Foods, Inc.

He was responsible for all operations and business activities for Wendy’s company- and franchise-owned restaurants in North America.

He serves as chair of the professional advisory council for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, and as a trustee of the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption.

Karam holds a bachelor’s degree in accounting from The Ohio State University and is a graduate of the owner-president management program at the Harvard University Graduate School of Business Administration.

The conference day will begin at 6 a.m. with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, led by Father Dan Dury of Columbus St. Catharine Church.

Registration and breakfast will start at 7, with talks beginning at 8.

Sportscaster Doug Lessells will be master of ceremonies. Conference music will be directed by Aaron Richards and Brendan O’Rourke.

The day will conclude with Mass celebrated by Bishop Frederick Campbell. Mass music will be directed by Christopher Walsh, with organist Paul Melcher. The event will end around 2:45 p.m.

Visit www.columbushomemen.com for registration information.