THE
CANONIZATION
OF
ST. TERESA
OF KOLKATA

September 4, 2016
Vatican City
The Editor’s Notebook

St. Teresa: our guide in love and mercy

By David Garick, Editor

The Church has acknowledged another saint. This one is a saint from our own lifetime -- a saint whom we already love because she has loved us so deeply.

On Sunday, Pope Francis canonized Mother Teresa of Kolkata, recognizing her saintly status resulting from her life of devotion and her miraculous intercessions after her death.

Saints are not designated to be part of a Christian hall of fame. Rather, saints are acknowledged because they are spiritual guides who can inspire and strengthen us in our journey through this world toward our goal of eternal life in heaven.

The world has known that Mother Teresa was a very special person. For decades, the name “Mother Teresa” was in our lexicon as the very image of saintly life. We all look at this woman with amazement and say, “I try to live a good life, but I am no Mother Teresa.” She is the standard we hold to live a good life, but I am no Mother Teresa. We need only ask:

We do not need to make an epic journey to live out this command. Again, Mother Teresa tells us how to begin: “It is easy to love the people far away. It is not always easy to love those close to us. It is easier to give a cup of rice to relieve hunger than to relieve the loneliness and pain of someone unloved in our own home. Bring love into your home. For this is where our love for each other must start.”

St. Paul tells us, “If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing. …So faith, hope, love remain, these three, but the greatest of these is love.

Let us ask God for the grace to love as Christ loved. Mother Teresa loves each of us so much that she will intercede for us in that prayer. St. Teresa, pray for us.

Pope proposes care for creation as a new work of mercy

By Junno Arocho Esteves

Catholic News Service

Calling for concrete actions that benefit human life and the environment, Pope Francis proposed adding the care and protection of creation to the traditional list of corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

The pope said that as a spiritual work of mercy, care for creation requires “a grateful contemplation of God’s world,” while as a corporal work, it calls for “simple daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation, and selfishness.”

The pope reflected on the need for an integral ecology in Christian life in his message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation on Thursday, Sept. 1.

The message, titled “Show Mercy to Our Common Home,” reflected on the day of prayer as an occasion for Christians to “reaffirm their personal vocation to be stewards of creation” and to thank God “for the wonderful handiwork which he has entrusted to our care.”

Presenting the pope’s message at a news conference on Sept. 1, Cardinal Peter Turkson, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, said the day of prayer follows the example of the Orthodox Church, which initiated the prayer day in 1989.

The cardinal told journalists that Pope Francis’ message calls on Christians to be “honest with ourselves” and acknowledge that “when we hurt the earth, we also hurt the poor” and thus commit “a sin against creation, against the poor, and against those who have not yet been born.”

“This means that we must examine our consciences and repent. I realize that this is not the way we traditionally think about sin. These are sins, Pope Francis says, that we have not hitherto acknowledged and confessed,” Cardinal Turkson said.

In his message, the pope said concern for the planet’s future unites religious leaders and organizations and draws attention to “the moral and spiritual crisis” at the heart of environmental problems.

“Christians or not, as people of faith and goodwill, we should be united in showing mercy to the earth as our common home and cherishing the world in which we live as a place for sharing and communion,” Pope Francis said.

Pollution and global warming, caused partly by human activity, he said, has turned the beauty of God’s creation into a “polluted wasteland” that impacts the world’s poor, who have suffered the brunt of “irresponsible and selfish behavior.”

“As an integral ecology emphasizes, human beings are deeply connected with all of creation. When we mistreat nature, we also mistreat human beings,” the pope said.

He added that the Year of Mercy offers Christians an opportunity to experience not only an interior conversion, but also an ecological conversion,” one that recognizes “our responsibility to ourselves, our neighbors, creation and the Creator.”

The first step on the path of conversion is to reflect on the harm done to creation by lifestyles inspired by

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Front Page photo:
St. Teresa of Kolkata, founder of the Missionaries of Charity, was canonized at the Vatican on Sunday, Sept. 4.
CNS photo/Nancy Wiechec
BY TIM PUET

A Newark organization dedicated to changing the systems that keep people in poverty was recognized last week when the national assembly of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul met in Columbus.

A program on “Being Communities of Salt and Light” on Friday, Sept. 2 highlighted the work of the Newark Think Tank on Poverty, which was organized in the summer of 2014 by the society’s Newark chapter.

The think tank meets on the second Saturday of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Many of those attending the gatherings are members of the community who have experienced barriers in obtaining sustainable work, safe housing, and accessible transportation. At the meetings, they look at ways to challenge those barriers.

The organization has been focusing on the problems of people returning from incarceration. As a result of its efforts and those of other groups, Newark City Council and the Ohio Legislature have approved measures that bar public employers from including questions on job applications concerning an applicant’s criminal background.

Other priority topics for the group are mental health issues and addiction recovery, said Warren Wright, president of the Columbus diocesan St. Vincent de Paul council. He said the think tank is a project of the Vincentian Ohio Action Network and is supported by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. Rich Rossi of Delaware St. Mary Church’s St. Vincent de Paul conference said plans are under way to establish a similar organization in Delaware County.

The think tank was one of eight innovative programs across the nation featured during a luncheon talk at the assembly by Jill Rauh and Susan Sullivan of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. They looked at ways parishes and organizations are continuing to respond to the bishops’ 1993 “Communities of Salt and Light” statement on integrating various Catholic social justice programs.

Rauh and Sullivan also recognized a program at Nativity of Our Lord Church in Cincinnati whose goals are similar to the one in Newark, as well as efforts by parishes in Arizona, Texas, Pennsylvania, and Missouri, and by the national St. Vincent de Paul Society. Stories of those and more than 40 other programs designed to help people pray together, reach out together, learn together, and act together are included on the bishops’ www.wearesaltandlight.org website.

About 700 people attended the assembly, which lasted from Wednesday, Aug. 31 to Saturday, Sept. 3, at the Greater Columbus Convention Center and the Hyatt Regency Hotel and had a theme of “Hear the Cry of the Poor.”

On Thursday, Sept. 1, they heard a keynote address on “Intercultural Competence: The Practice of Inclusion” by Dr. Fidelis D’Cunha, a Vincentian leader from Detroit. Bishop John Quinn of Winona, Minnesota, national spiritual adviser for the society, led a morning retreat on “Pope Francis and the Vincentian Embrace of the Poor” on Friday.

A symposium on restorative justice led by former Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Janine Geske, professor at the Marquette University law school and director of Marquette’s restorative justice initiative, highlighted Saturday’s activities, along with a program on “Protecting and Promoting the Financial Well-Being of Those We Serve,” including a presentation by former Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray, director of the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Daily Masses which were part of the assembly were celebrated by Father Clarence Williams, CPPS, pastor of Columbus St. James the Less Church, on Wednesday; Father Charles Klinger, pastor of Westerville St. Paul Church and spiritual adviser for the diocesan Vincentian council, on Thursday; and Bishop Quinn on Friday. Father Joshua Wagner, pastor of Columbus St. Dominic and Holy Rosary-St. John churches, was homilist for the Friday Mass. Bishop Frederick Campbell was the celebrant for Saturday’s closing liturgy.

Taking part in the various Masses were the Gospel choir and the Bakhita Dance Ministry of St. Dominic Church, the contemporary musicians of Columbus Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, the Last Call band of Columbus St. Christopher Church, organist Sharon Silleck, choral director Sheila Cafmeyer, and the Ohio Dominican University choir.

A Thursday-night concert featured Nathan Medley of Columbus Our Lady of Peace Church and young Christian musician Audrey Assad. The concert

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Did you contemplate the data we looked at last week? Did you see it as an inspiration, or just some interesting filler for your mind? The reflection of that data allows us to make a choice to do nothing, as is often the case, or to use it as the basis for a model to pray more maturely and more regularly, no matter how we feel. We should pray when we are joyful and happy, praising and loving our God who provides the gifts that make us happy. We should pray when we are sad or angry, asking our God for the grace to forge ahead and overcome the challenges and struggles that may cause us pain and suffering. And we should pray when we are in the middle of the road, or even feeling kind of “blah,” being sure that we never become too complacent or satisfied with our lives. There is always room for grace and mercy, and there is always room to put our faith into action. Pope Francis certainly has caused a tremendous impact on a lot of people around the world. His effect helps us to do more while strengthening our faith. Last week, Mother Teresa was officially named a saint of the Church. We knew this was coming and what better role model could there be in living our faith as a good and faithful steward of the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Are each of us called to specifically do the same as her – drop what we are doing and care for the poor, sick, and dying in the streets of the world? No, but we are called to be on the lookout for opportunities to do similar things whenever possible and to make a difference right now, right here, in our particular place and time. If we miss those opportunities or ignore them, we have failed our witness to our faith while failing our very selves.

I remember exactly where I was 15 years ago on Sept. 11. I was at home, preparing to travel to St. Louis for a new consulting assignment. Needless to say, I went nowhere that day, as all air travel was suddenly suspended. I vividly recall the catastrophic, horrific, repulsive visuals of that awful day. Aside from the anger and fear and disgust of that day, there were the victims. And to be accurate, there still are victims. Men and women were brutally murdered for no good reason. Was it under the guise of and rationalization of religion and faith? It was evil and hatred! Other men and women sacrificed their lives attempting to save people in the World Trade Center towers or in a plane over Pennsylvania. It was not under the guise or rationalization of anything. It was given selflessly with true faith and love. This was pure humility, like that of St. Mother Teresa. So, what have we learned? What are we doing differently? How do we live our lives and practice our faith differently than we did 15 years ago? St. Mother Teresa would tell us to serve those in great need, especially those who cannot help themselves. Jesus tells us to do the same by loving our neighbors as ourselves and by loving our enemies. How do we do so while fighting evil?

Our practical challenge this week is to both love our enemies and fight evil. We do so by praying for those who hate us and want to kill us. At the same time, we fight them and their evil and protect ourselves, our loved ones, and our nation. We show great love in doing just that. Evil is to be bravely destroyed in the name of love. We can do so without hatred. In the name of all the victims of 9/11 and the victims who still suffer today from cancer and trauma, let us commit to maintaining great faith, hope, and love in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and this great country of ours, the United States of America.

Jeric is director of development and planning for the Columbus Diocese.
Dr. Peter Cimbolic is Retiring as President of ODU

Dr. Peter Cimbolic is retiring as president of Ohio Dominican University, effective Aug. 1, 2017. He announced his pending retirement to the university community on Wednesday, Aug. 31.

“I am proud of the progress we have made to expand and diversify Ohio Dominican’s academic offerings during my tenure,” he said. “I will spend the coming months doing everything I can to ensure a smooth transition for our next president, with full confidence that the university is well positioned to grow and prosper in its unique mission as central Ohio’s Catholic university.”

University board chair Thomas Mueller said a national search will be conducted to select the person to replace Cimbolic, who is the 15th person to serve as president of the university, which was founded in 1911 as St. Mary of the Springs College by the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs, now known as the Dominican Sisters of Peace.

“On behalf of the board of trustees and the entire Ohio Dominican community, I want to express my deepest gratitude to President Cimbolic for his years of dedicated service to the university,” Mueller said. “Looking forward, I am confident that we will identify an outstanding candidate who will lead Ohio Dominican boldly in the years ahead.”

ODU’s board of trustees has hired Dr. Tom Courtice, a nationally respected search consultant in higher education leadership, to help conduct the search. The search committee chair will be board member and 1972 Ohio Dominican alumnus Thomas Winters.

“I am honored to have the opportunity to lead the search for Ohio Dominican’s next president,” Winters said. “The process will be a total team effort that involves trustees, faculty, staff, alumni, and students. I look forward to working with the search committee to identify an individual who can build on our strong position and provide the vision and leadership to ensure that ODU may continue to thrive in the future.”

Cimbolic became ODU’s president in 2010, coming to the institution from Marywood University in Scranton, Pennsylvania, where he had been provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Under his leadership, ODU implemented a long-range strategic plan and introduced several market-sensitive academic programs, including central Ohio’s first and largest physician assistant studies master’s program. Other new programs launched during his tenure include software engineering, insurance and risk management, health care administration, supply chain management, and a range of certificates and minors.

One of his priorities as president was to elevate the academic profile of ODU’s incoming students, which resulted in the university moving into the top tier of U.S. News and World Report’s annual ranking of Midwest colleges and universities.

Pilgrimage to Carey Shrine

Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral is sponsoring a pilgrimage to the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey on Saturday, Oct. 1.

The pilgrimage is open to all. It will include a tour of the basilica, Mass, devotions, enrollment in the Confraternity of Our Lady, the rosary, exposition and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, prayers for healing, and prayers with individual pilgrims with a relic of the True Cross.

The motor coach will depart from the cathedral at 8 a.m. and return at approximately 5 p.m.

The cost is $20 per pilgrim. Hot and cold lunches will be available for purchase at the Shrine cafeteria.

To reserve a spot, send a check for the number of reservations to St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus OH 43215, or call (614) 224-1295 for more information.
God and birth defects; How late is late?

QUESTION & ANSWER
by: FATHER KENNETH DOYLE
Catholic News Service

Q. I have several very devout and pious friends who believe that God creates children with birth defects to become his “victim souls” because God needs suffering in order to make up for what was lacking in the suffering of Christ in the work of redemption.

They quote to me the account of the man born blind in John 9:3 and Mother Teresa, who once said that suffering is the kiss of Jesus. Does God really do this? Ever? (Newton, New Jersey)

A. I do not support your friends’ explanation. God can do anything he wants. He doesn’t “need” human suffering to complete the work of redemption. If God decided that what Jesus did was sufficient in itself, that would surely be within the divine prerogative.

Having said that, I do not claim to know why the Lord allows children to be born with birth defects. That is one aspect of the “problem of evil,” which has triggered theological discussion and debate since the dawn of creation -- and without a solution that totally satisfies.

One need only look at the Book of Job in the Old Testament. Though Job had lost nearly everything he valued in life -- family and friends, health and crops -- he chose simply to continue to trust in God. “The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord” (Job 1:21).

So the ultimate and honest answer to the question is: “We don’t know.” For as long as we remain on this side of heaven, we simply do not know how to reconcile God’s goodness with the fact that much of his creation is wounded and broken, but we trust that the reasons will be revealed once we enter the peace of God’s presence.

Part of the explanation, theologically, is that sickness, imperfection, disease, and death were not part of God’s original plan, but came through the disobedience of the earliest human beings. To me, though, the most helpful thought is that human beings move forward on the path of goodness and work out their salvation through their special kindness to those who are vulnerable. (I have seen it in my own family with my parents’ tender care for my sister, who died of multiple sclerosis at age 28.)

I believe this is part of what is meant in the Gospel of John when Jesus says that the man was born blind not through his parents’ sins or his own, but so “the works of God might be made visible through him” (John 9:3).

Q. We recently moved and now have attended four Catholic churches close to our new home in an effort to figure out which one we would like to join. It appears that the church has relaxed any sort of tradition on timely arrival for Mass.

At least 20 percent of the parishioners at each of these churches seem to arrive for Sunday Mass any time they want, right up until just after the readings. There seems to be no official response to this habit from the pulpit.

So my questions are these: How late is acceptable? Just so you’re there by the time the readings start? Before the Gospel? Before Communion? Or is the church just happy to have us there at all -- even if we are 20 minutes late or more?

Maybe I’m picky, but when does this become an affront to God? To the celebrant? To your fellow parishioners? (Maryland)

A. First, to your question as to “How late is acceptable?” Half a century ago, it was common for moral theologians and liturgists to speak of the “three principal parts of the Mass”: that is, the offertory, consecration, and Communion. If you missed any of these, you were not supposed to “count” the Mass.

That minimalist approach has been set aside, lest it encourage the weak of heart to arrive as late as possible. The Mass is now viewed as an integrated whole, a single act of worship from the entrance rite through to the final blessing and dismissal. The current Code of Canon Law says simply, “On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are obliged to participate in the Mass” (Canon 1247).

Those who habitually arrive late need to rethink their priorities, and a gentle reminder from time to time in the parish bulletin might be in order. (I would not do it from the pulpit -- for fear of embarrassing and perhaps “turning off permanently” someone sitting in front of me.)

It strikes me that if someone were invited to a state dinner at the White House, he wouldn’t call and say he’d be a little late. Forgive me if I sound unpatriotic, but the eucharistic meal trumps a state dinner. I even think that we should get to Mass a few minutes early -- to relax, pray, and prepare ourselves spiritually to meet Jesus in holy Communion.

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

From various perspectives, what does it mean to be human?

Ohio Dominican University’s Center for Dominican Studies is offering a series of presentations and discussions to help explore the question of what it means to be human.

These four events will take place on the university’s campus at 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. Members of ODU’s faculty will lead the presentations.

“Respecting the dignity of every human person is the foundation of a society wherein all people have a God-given right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness,” said Sister Matthias Sterner, OP, director of the Center for Dominican Studies at Ohio Dominican. “These discussions will help us develop a deeper sense of the sacredness of all people, always responding to the best in them, which helps to develop the best in ourselves -- a win-win situation.”

Each presentation will take place at 3:30 p.m. in the Colonial Room of Sansbury Hall on ODU’s campus. Event dates, all on Thursdays, are listed below:

- Sept. 15: “The Search for Human Nature,” presented by Dr. Michael Dougherty, professor of philosophy;
- Sept. 29: “The Impact of Our Criminal Justice System on Human Beings,” presented by Dr. Chenelle Jones, assistant professor of criminal justice;

Information on the discussion series is available at ohiodominican.edu/BeingHuman, or call (614) 251-4722.

Joseph’s Coat Dinner

The Joseph’s Coat clothing and furniture ministry, which has its primary service area in eastern Franklin and western Licking counties, will host its inaugural Stepping Stones fundraising dinner from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 24 at Haaf Hall of the Grange Insurance building, 671 S. High St., Columbus.

The purpose of the dinner is to inform people about the impact of Joseph’s Coat and invite people to participate in its ministry as a donor. There is no cost to attend, although a table can be sponsored for a $250 donation. A free-will offering will be taken at the dinner, which will have former WCMB-TV news anchor Cabot Rea as master of ceremonies.

Reservations are required by Sunday, Sept. 18. For more information, contact Patricia Lutz at (614) 395-2057 or at pghgrl11@aol.com, or go to the Joseph’s Coat website, www.josephscoatofohio.org.

Joseph’s Coat was founded in 1998 as an ecumenical ministry of Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church and churches from several Protestant denominations. It is based in a 12,600-square-foot warehouse off East Broad Street near Mount Carmel East Hospital.

In 2015, it made more than 92,000 donations of clothing, personal care items, furniture, and household goods to families and individuals. This is double the amount it distributed two years ago.
Record Society Meeting

Four priests with ties to Worthington St. Michael Church, which is celebrating its 70th anniversary, will talk about the history of the parish at 5750 N. High St. when the Catholic Record Society gathers there at 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 18 for its quarterly meeting.

The speakers will be Msgr. William Dunn, who was associate pastor at St. Michael from 1965 to 1967 and pastor from 1990 to 2002, and Msgr. John Cody, Father Peter Gideon, and Father Michael Watson, all of whom grew up in the parish. Msgr. Cody recently retired as pastor of Columbus St. Christopher Church, and Fathers Gideon and Watson are pastors of Lancaster St. Mark and Delaware St. Mary churches respectively.

In addition to the presentation, there will be a display of photographs and other historical items from the parish archives. A reception and a short business meeting of the society will follow the panel discussion.

The meeting will be in the church’s undercroft. Park behind the buildings. Signs will be posted to assist those unfamiliar with the St. Michael campus. An elevator is available to the lower level. For more information, contact Mike Finn at fcoolanin@aol.com or (614) 268-4166.

Healing Retreat

The Columbus Catholic Renewal (previously known as the Catholic Charismatic Renewal) is sponsoring a “Set Apart for Healing” retreat at Columbus Christ the King Church, 2777 E. Livingston Ave., on Sunday, Sept. 18.

It will begin at 3:30 p.m. with recitation of the rosary, followed from 4 to 5 by Eucharistic Adoration, with praise led by the Living Stones Catholic musical group. Priests will be available during this time for confession.

Mass at 5 p.m. will be celebrated by Father J.R. Hadnagy, OFM Conv, who is in residence at the Basilica and Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey.

Father Hadnagy will offer special prayers for healing, and the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick for the chronically ill will be administered. Fellowship will follow. Those attending are asked to bring a dish to share. There is no charge.

For more information, go to www.cccrcolumbus.org, or email info@cccrcolumbus.org. The Columbus Catholic Renewal is under the authority of Bishop Frederick Campbell through his appointed liaison, Father Dean Mathewson.

Cyber Security Workshop

The Martin de Porres Center in Columbus will present a workshop on “Cyber Security: The Digital Child” from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Monday, Sept. 26.

This workshop is geared toward parents and professionals who engage with today’s students. It will educate attendees on how to establish a positive online presence and to help students think critically about appropriate online engagement.

There is a suggested donation of $10. For more information, call (614) 416-1910 or go to www.martindeporrescenter.net. The center, a ministry of the Dominican Sisters of Peace, is at 2330 Airport Drive, Columbus.

Talking to Kids About Porn and Human Sexuality

A growing concern today involves the role of pornography as the next generation’s instructor in human sexuality. For many young people, pornography has become the only guide to sexuality they have known. For Catholic parents, this raises the critical challenge of how best to approach these matters with their children, given that kids as young as eight or nine already may be acquiring information and viewpoints about human sexuality behaviors from Internet pornography. I would like to present six practical suggestions for parents, culled from parental testimonies and insights, from other experts in the field, and from former users of pornography.

First, steer away from “The Talk” and toward a more integrated approach. Having “The Talk” relies on the misguided notion that parents have educational content or factual knowledge that they are duty-bound to try to deposit into their children’s brains. This approach is not only awkward and paternalistic, but can convey a sense that sexual education is a one-time, get-it-over-with ordeal. Kids require ongoing guidance and support from their parents — an expressed willingness to enter into these important discussions that stress the beauty of sexuality in marriage and what it is really for, rather than just telling them what not to do or scaring them away from sexually transmitted diseases.

Second, be attentive to opportune moments to share wisdom and stories. Because we live in a highly pornified culture, opportunities for parents to share and discuss important value assessments regarding human sexuality with their children arise often. Driving by a billboard with a risqué picture or seeing something on TV might, for example, serve as an opportunity to note how it’s against the love of women to use them as sex objects. Passing through a part of town where prostitutes are plying their trade might spark a discussion about how many women involved in prostitution are victims of human trafficking and how the vast majority wish they could break free of it, etc.

Third, avoid Internet access in the bedroom. Sometimes parents will say, “The kids have access at school and everywhere else, so I let them have unrestricted access at home. They’ve got to learn how to handle it anyway.” But the home setting needs to differ from the outside world, serving as an oasis and a protected environment for children. If someone offered to install a pipe into your child’s bedroom that could be turned on to pump in raw sewage, you would not agree to it. Yet many parents fail to restrict what is entering their children’s bedrooms through the Internet and TV.

Fourth, be wary of Internet access on cell phones. “Due diligence” with cell phones for children might mean looking for handsets that function strictly as phones without Internet access, or maybe the kids should be given a phone only at those times when they are dropped off at events such as piano practice, soccer, etc. As children grow older and show signs of maturing, restrictions and limitations can be scaled back.

Fifth, monitor Internet usage. Check browser history and make use of monitoring software, even though a particular child may be an angel. Keep the family computer in a shared space like the living room, with the screen visible so family members can be aware of each other’s online activities. Laptops and tablets can pose an inadvertent temptation in this respect as teens sit cuddled up on the couch with screens not visible to others. In family life, we are called to serve as our brother’s keeper. Set limits on “screen time” for children, and maintain password/access control over devices. Have the neighbor’s kids deposit their electronic devices on the kitchen table during visits to diminish the temptation to slip away to a private part of the house and surf the Net, perhaps with younger siblings in tow. Such practices may also serve to indirectly evangelize other families in the neighborhood regarding the serious threats from Internet porn.

Sixth, set appropriate rules regarding relationships, and be involved in the kids’ dating practices. Too often parents are tempted to take a “hands-off” approach to this area of their children’s lives. When I was growing up, we knew (and eventually appreciated) my father’s rule that we couldn’t date until we were 18. Setting appropriate rules for kids serves as a sign of a parent’s love and concern for them. Whenever parents determine that dating should begin, it offers further opportunities and occasions to discuss problems and scenarios that can help teens set moral boundaries.

Talking to kids and helping them to become good stewards of the gift of human sexuality bestowed by God is hard work. In a culture that forcefully communicates a pornified counter-gospel, though, it is certainly one of the most important and enduring gifts parents can seek to provide for the happiness and well-being of their children.

Father Tadeusz Pachelczyk, PhD, earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did postdoctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, Massachusetts, and serves as director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org.
Woman’s forgiveness after husband’s death is dramatic example of mercy in action

Kim Owens of Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church (seated) is shown comforting the family of a man whose motorcycle struck and killed her husband, Bob, a lay missionary, on May 29 in Siem Reap, Cambodia. The meeting occurred in a hotel two days after the crash, which Kim Owens witnessed. Bob and Kim Owens and their granddaughter, Jayla Owens, were among several parishioners from the Grove City church who had traveled to Cambodia to work at a children's home they support. “My granddaughter and I were trying to recover from what had happened,” Kim Owens said.

“Another woman who had learned of what had happened was there, and I was doing some spiritual reading when a knock came at our hotel room door. A police officer was there with the mother and sister-in-law of the motorcycle driver and said they had come to ask my forgiveness for what happened.

They fell on their hands and knees. We cried on each other’s shoulders, consoling each other as well as we could. It was the right thing to do. They told me of their sorrow, and I told the mother I wouldn’t want anything to happen to her son. This is something I normally wouldn’t talk about, but I feel that in this Year of Mercy Pope Francis declared, it’s important to let people know this dramatic example of how one family displayed mercy. If there is a bigger message to come this, it’s one of peace and healing, which was Bob’s mission,” said Owens, finance associate at the Grove City parish.

The group which traveled to Cambodia represents central Ohio Catholics who since 2015 have provided financial support for the children’s home in Battambang, Cambodia. The family-style facility, which houses 22 orphans and uncared-for children, is one of three homes administered by Asia’s Hope, a Columbus-based, multidenominational, grassroots movement working to aid orphaned children. Members of the group from the Grove City parish would like to take over administration of the home and are conducting meetings aimed toward achieving that goal.

Photo courtesy Ray Sheridan

Diocesan Eagle Scouts

Anthony Panico, a member of Boy Scout Troop 298 of Columbus St. Agatha Church, attained the Eagle Scout rank, the highest honor in Boy Scouting. Besides completing his merit badge and leadership requirements, the Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School senior led a service project in which he and others created 100 basic weather survival backpacks for the homeless served by The Open Shelter in Columbus. He also collected $1,835 for the project. Each drawstring backpack included a plastic-coated tarp with metal grommets, 100 feet of braided rope, a laminated card of tarp shelter design pictures, two tall candles, two lighters, and hand warmers. He is shown with Harry Yrprem (left) of The Open Shelter.

Photo courtesy Teresa Schirtzinger

Nick Watkins, a member of Boy Scout Troop 295 and Columbus St. Andrew Church, has attained the rank of Eagle Scout. He is shown receiving symbols of the achievement from his scoutmaster, Brian O’Brien, at a troop court of honor. Watkins, a senior at Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, collected and delivered 2,200 children’s books to start a library for ABLE Families, a nonprofit organization in Kermit, West Virginia.

Photo courtesy Watkins family

"GOD'S MERCY IS EXALTED FROM THE CROSS"

HOLY YEAR OF MERCY MISSION
IN CELEBRATION WITH THE FEAST DAY OF
THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
SEPTEMBER 13 - 14 - 15, 2016
ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH
PARISH ACTIVITY CENTER
670 W. MAIN ST., PLAIN CITY, OH 43064
OFFICE: 614-873-8850 PH

TUESDAY, SEPT. 13, 7 P.M.
WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 14, MASS AT 6:15 P.M.
THURSDAY, SEPT. 15, 7 P.M.
THERE WILL BE A BRIEF MISSION TALK AFTER EACH SESSION EVERY NIGHT
FOLLOWED BY CONFESSIONS AT 8 P.M.

REV. FR. THOMAS BLAU, OP
DOMINICAN FATHER OF ST. PATRICK’S COLUMBUS
AN APPOINTED MISSIONARY OF MERCY
BY POPE FRANCIS
Inspiration comes from unexpected places, like a movie theater on a Saturday morning. The name Florence Foster Jenkins first came to my attention while listening to National Public Radio on WOSU. She was a wealthy woman, born in Pennsylvania in 1868, who loved music from an early age and who, in later life, embarked on a quest to become a professional singer. The catch was — well, she couldn’t sing.

I came to the theater that morning to see a movie, starring Meryl Streep, which has been made about her life. Unsure of what to expect, I settled into my seat and watched a most unusual story unfold. I was prepared to dislike Florence — a New York socialite who belonged to all the right clubs and moved in upper-class social circles; someone who, I imagined, could buy her way into anything she wanted. Indeed, she eventually did rent Carnegie Hall to perform at a concert. To my surprise, something about Florence stayed with me as I left the theater.

Maybe that’s what her fans loved and why they flocked to her concerts. Maybe that’s why today, Judy Garland and the Beatles are the subject of an equal number of inquiries at Carnegie Hall. Here was a woman who remained true to herself, no matter the circumstances. She loved what she did and brought joy and pleasure to her fans while doing it.

As I scribbled notes in my journal, reflecting on her life, other thoughts appeared on the page. I noted the young boy in the Gospel who offered up his few loaves and fishes when a huge crowd that had been listening to Jesus grew tired and hungry. His gift was not much, but with God’s blessing, it became enough. And what about the servants who invested the money they had been given by their master rather than burying it out of fear?

I wrote of artists with glorious talent whose paintings moved me to tears at the Musée d’Orsay and of the simple string of paper cranes, folded from scraps of wrapping paper and spaced by small pieces of a plastic drinking straw, that were made by an old woman in the streets of Thailand and hang in my office.

Gifts seem unevenly given. Life is kinder to some people than to others. Yet, every person — from the richest to the poorest, from those who appear most accomplished to those who, by society’s standards, have done little — holds a spark of Divinity to share. Our journey is to discover what that is and to give it away.

That’s all God asks of us: to do the best we can with what we have been given. Not to become overwhelmed by our flaws, deficiencies, or struggles, but to accept ourselves and our gifts and to live life with energy, enthusiasm, and love. To the world’s surprise, the offered lives of those considered “least” often change it most profoundly.

The only quote I could find from Florence Foster Jenkins was this: “Some may say that I couldn’t sing, but no one can say that I didn’t sing.” She gave what she had to give. In the end, how it was received was less important than that it was given.

(Note: This column marks 30 years of my writing for the Catholic Times. I thank the paper for providing space to share my reflections on the Sacred that is present in everyday life. I thank you, my readers, and hope that in some small way, these columns have helped you celebrate that Presence in your own lives.)


Catholic Laywomen’s Silent Retreat

Stressed by the mania in today’s world? Frustrated by all the election hoopla? Here’s an opportunity to go off the grid and focus on God.

All women of the diocese are invited to a silent retreat from Friday, Sept. 30 to Sunday, Oct. 2 at St. Therese’s Retreat Center, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus. Sponsored by the Catholic Laywomen’s Retreat League, this respite begins with registration Friday at 5:30 p.m. and ends Sunday at noon.

Father Vincent Petersen, OSF, will be the retreat master. Currently in ministry at the Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey, Father Petersen, a Franciscan priest who is also an artist and a musician, will give four conferences on the topic “Love and Praise: Reflections on the Writings of Pope Francis.” The fee is $125, which includes a private room for two nights and six meals. Assistance is available for those who need financial help. This retreat features Mass all three days, as well as all-night Eucharistic adoration on Saturday and two opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The Stations of the Cross, the Rosary, and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy also will be offered.

Those attending are encouraged to participate in as much or as little of the schedule as the Spirit moves them. Quiet times for private prayer and meditation will be included, adding to the depth of the experience.

The retreat league particularly invites women who have made little — holds a spark of Divinity to share. Our journey is to discover what that is and to give it away.

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The retreat league particularly invites women who never have made a silent retreat to “come away and rest for a while” in the beautiful setting of St. Therese’s Retreat Center. Let the caring staff cook and care for you and let the Lord fill you with his presence.

For more information, e-mail retreatleague@gmail.com and you will receive a registration form listing all the pertinent details. You also may call Sharon Gehrlich, CLRL secretary, at (614) 882-1946, to learn more.

The registration deadline is Thursday, Sept. 15. Space is limited and fills quickly, usually within the first week. You are registered only when your deposit of $50 is received. No phone or email registrations can be accepted.
By Junno Arocho Esteves and Cindy Wooden

Pope Francis proclaimed the sainthood of Mother Teresa of Kolkata, hailing her courage and love for the poor. In his homily, the pope said to applause at the canonization Mass in St. Peter’s Square, Maria Demuru said, “I couldn’t miss this. Even if I had just been bombed, I would not keep the powerful away from the poor.”

St. Teresa of Kolkata is pictured on a tapestry on the façade of St. Peter’s Basilica in honor of the canonization Mass on St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican on Sunday, Sept. 4.

CNS photo/Stefano Rellandini, Reuters

A Missionaries of Charity sister serves at a refection of St. Teresa of Kolkata after Pope Francis celebrates her canonization Mass in St. Peter’s Square on Sept. 4.

CNS photo/Paul Haring

Mother Teresa: ‘Do small things with great love’

By Catholic News Service

A favorite motif of Blessed Te-

rresa of Kolkata was “Do small things with great love.”

But the “small things” she dispensed to the sick, to the elderly, to the orphaned and destitute were much more than simple acts of charity. As she once said, “I couldn’t miss this. Even if I had just been bombed, I would not keep the powerful away from the poor.”

She was an advocate for children, a fierce critic of the abortion as the world’s greatest destroyer of people. “If men who have legalized abortion are the poorest of the poor, then it is I who am the poorest of the poor, because I am the poorest of the poor of this world.”

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When Mother Teresa received the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway, on Dec. 10, 1979, she accepted it “in the name of humanity, of the unborn, of the abandoned, of the unloved, unkind, forsaken for society.”

She called for an end to abortion as the world’s greatest destroyer of people.

“Wherever someone is reached by exploitation, corruption, poverty, and disease,” her influence is worldwide. The Missions of Charity, which Mother Teresa founded in 1950, has more than 5,300 anchorites, novices, and postulants from 30 nations. In addition, there are Missionaries of Charity brothers and sisters on five continents who live in 820 convents and in 156 nations.

The missions are run by laypeople who wanted to be associated with her work, an informally structured ecological international association of Co-Workers of Mother Teresa was formed. Teresa of Kolkata was born in 1910 to an ethnic Albanian family in Skopje, in what is today the country of Macedonia. She came to Rome for the canonization of St. Teresa in St. Peter’s Square.

He said Mother Teresa lived out this vocation to charity in her commitment to find the vacant bench and bringing comfort to those who were left to die on the side of the road.

She also “made her voice heard before the powers of this world.”

The first reading at the Mass was read by Jim Tevesy, who served as Mother Teresa’s legal counsel in the United States and Canada from 1985-87 and is a director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives from 2002-06. After the Mass, 250 Missionaries of Charity sisters and 50 Missionaries of Charity brothers served pasta to about 1,500 homeless people who had come to the Mass from shelters, dormitories, and soup kitchens the or-

ners of supplies she needed – nappies (diapers), plastic pants, chamber pots. We didn’t expect a saint to come to us and tell them to give that child to us, but she did.”

When she was criticized for not using her considerable in-fluence to change situations such as the arms race or orga-

nization. She was an advocate of children, a fierce critic of the abortion as the world’s greatest destroyer of people.

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acquiesced her of being, among other things, a fraud and a “ghoul”; of providing inadequate and dangerous medical treatment for patients; of taking money for her personal gain; and of using her fame to “promote the agenda of a fundamentalist pope.”

And New York Daily News columnist Dick Ryan said many American nuns were quietly critical of Mother Teresa’s lack of acceptance of or support for their lifestyle and their self-image as American religious women intent on fostering social justice and religious renewal. For Mother Teresa, love for the dying, the scandal of abortion, and the obedient servant-hood of women were paramount — to the exclusion of such issues as social problems and male domination in the church, Ryan said.

American columnist Colman McCarthy sought to answer the critics.

“Undoubtedly,” he wrote, “Mother Teresa would be much closer to the orthodoxies of American social improvement if she were more the reformer and less the comforter. But instead of committee reports on how many people she’s moved ‘above the poverty line,’ all she has are some stories of dying outcasts. Instead of acting sensibly by getting a grant to create a program to eliminate poverty, she moves into a neighborhood to share it.

“When Mother Teresa speaks of ‘sharing poverty,’ she defies the logic of institutions that prefer agendas for the poor, not communion with individual poor people. Communion disregards conventional approaches. It may never find a job for someone, much less ever get him shaped up. Thus the practitioners of communion are called irrelevant. They may get stuck -- as is Mother Teresa -- with being labeled a saint.”

Mother Teresa was born Agnes Ganxhe Bojaxhiu to Albanian parents in Skopje, in what is now Macedonia, on Aug. 26, 1910. She had a sister, Aga, and a brother, Lazar. Her father was a grocer, but the family’s background was more peasant than merchant.

Lazar said their mother’s example was a determining factor in Agnes’ vocation.

“Already when she was a little child, she used to assist the poor by taking food to them every day like our mother,” he said. When Agnes was nine, he said, “She was plump, round, tidy, sensible, and a little too serious for her age. Of the three of us, she alone did not steal the jam.”

At the canonization from Columbus (from left): Alex Wysokinski, Jordan Petersen, Sarah Payne, Gina Cecutti, and Andy Whiteman. Photo/Andy Whiteman

As a student at a public school in Skopje, she was a member of a Catholic sodality with a special interest in foreign missions.

“At the age of 12, I first knew I had a vocation to help the poor,” she once said. “I wanted to be a missionary.”

At 15, Agnes was inspired to work in India by reports sent home by Yugoslavian Jesuit missionaries in Bengal -- present-day Bangladesh, but then part of India. At 18, she left home to join the Irish branch of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, known as the Loreto Sisters. After training at their institutions in Dublin and in Darjeeling, India, she made her first vows as a sister in 1928 and her final vows nine years later.

While teaching and serving as a principal at Loreto House, a girls college in Kolkata, she was depressed by the destitute and dying on the city’s streets, the homeless street urchins, the ostracized sick people lying prey to rats and other vermin in streets and alleys.

In 1946, she received a “call within a call,” as she described it. “The message was clear. I was to leave the convent and help the poor while living among them,” she said.

Two years later, the Vatican gave her permission to leave the Loreto Sisters and follow her new calling under the jurisdiction of the archbishop of Kolkata.

After three months of medical training under the American Medical Missionary Sisters in Patna, India, Mother Teresa went into the Kolkata slums to take children cut off from education into her first school.

Mother Teresa went into the Kolkata slums to take children cut off from education into her first school. Soon, volunteers, many of them her former students, came to join her.

In 1950, the Missionaries of Charity became a diocesan religious community, and 15 years later, the Vatican recognized it as a pontifical congregation, directly under Vatican jurisdiction.

In 1952, Mother Teresa opened the Nirmal Hriday (Pure Heart) Home for Dying Destitutes in a dormitory -- formerly a hostel attached to a Hindu temple dedicated to the god Kali -- donated by the city of Kolkata. Although some of those taken in survive, the primary function of the home is, as one Missionary of Charity explained, to be “a shelter where the dying poor may die in dignity.” Tens of thousands of people have been cared for in the home since it opened.

When Blessed Pope Paul VI visited Bombay (now Mumbai), India, in 1964, he presented Mother Teresa with a white ceremonial Lincoln Continental given to him by people in the United States. She raffled off the car and raised enough money to finance a center for leprosy victims in the Indian state of West Bengal.

See TERESA, Page 14

递给邮箱的标题：20160901 - 母亲特蕾莎的生涯

正文：

“毫无疑问，”他写道，“特蕾莎·蒙台梭利会更接近于美国人对社会改进的看法，而不是通过委员会报告来改善贫困。她可能永远不会为某人找到工作，更不会让他改变自己。因此，那些从事‘分享贫困’的人被称作不相关。他们可能被困——就像特蕾莎·蒙台梭利一样——被贴上‘圣徒’的标签。”

特蕾莎·蒙台梭利1910年8月26日出生于斯科普里（今马其顿），她有一个姐姐，一个哥哥。她的父亲是个杂货商，但她们家的背景更像农夫而不是商人。

拉扎说，母亲的榜样是决定性因素。

“当她还是个小女孩的时候，她就经常为穷人送去食物，就我们母亲那样，”他说。当特蕾莎9岁的时候，他说，“她个子高，圆头圆脑，聪明，有点严肃，比我们其他两个都严肃。对于她这个年纪来说，她并没有偷东西。”

在卡利科特，她被排斥，生病的人们被老鼠和别的野兽在街道和小巷里拖死。

1946年，她收到了“一个叫作‘一个叫作’的东西”，她描述道。“信息是清楚的。我要离开修道院帮助穷人生活在一起。”她说。

两年后，梵蒂冈给了她离开洛雷托姐妹会的许可，跟着新的使命。

1950年，慈善机构成为天主教教区的一部分，15年后，梵蒂冈承认这是一个教宗驻外教会，直接在梵蒂冈的管辖之下。

1952年，特蕾莎·蒙台梭利在加尔各答的斯堪索里开设了‘纯洁之心’的慈善机构，为垂死的穷人提供庇护。

当教宗保禄六世在孟买（今孟买）访问时，1964年，他把一辆白色的林肯大陆车送给了特蕾莎·蒙台梭利，这辆车是孟买人民赠送给他的。她把车卖掉了，然后用筹得的钱为印度西孟加拉邦的印度教寺庙建造了一个中心，为麻风病患者提供护理。

9月11日，2016年
Groundbreaking at Mattingly Settlement
St. Mary

Ground has been broken for the new parish life center and chapel at Mattingly Settlement St. Mary Church, which will be built on the site of a structure that served as an outhouse for most of the time since the church was dedicated 160 years ago. Pictured are (from left): Father Don Franks, pastor, with Bob Mattingly Smeltzer, John Stubbs, and Jim Walton, representing Kendrick Heavy Equipment and the project’s general contractor, Lepi Enterprises; Father Franks also is shown in the top picture with his father, Charlie Franks. Sacred furnishings for the new building recently were donated by the former Church of the Nativity in Utica, which was closed and merged with Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul Church earlier this year after the Utica church building was razed in 2015 because of structural issues. Other sacred items for the center were donated by the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity and come from the chapel of the former Good Samaritan Hospital in Zanesville, which is slated for demolition because it is being replaced by a larger hospital. The parish is conducting a novena on the first Friday of each month to pray for election of a worthy president of the United States. The novena will conclude on Nov. 4 with Mass at 6:30 p.m., followed by praying of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and all-night Eucharistic Adoration until Mass at 7 a.m. the following day. The annual turkey dinner at Mattingly Settlement’s sister parish, Dresden St. Ann, will take place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 6. Last year, 129 volunteers served 840 dinners.

Photo courtesy St. Mary Church

MERCY, continued from Page 2

“a distorted culture of prosperity,” which brings about a “disordered desire to consume more than what is really necessary,” he said.

The pope said that ecological conversion requires a serious examination of conscience, recognizing one’s sins “against the Creator, against creation, and against our brothers and sisters,” and sincere repentance.

Sincere conversion and repentance are shown by a firm resolve to change course and bring about concrete actions that respect creation, such as energy conservation, recycling, and caring concern for others.

“We must not think that these efforts are too small to improve our world. They call for a goodness which, albeit unseen, inevitably tends to spread and encourage a prophetic and contemplative lifestyle,” he wrote.

A change of course also requires governments to take steps to protect the environment. While praising their adoption of the 2015 sustainable development goals, Pope Francis called on world leaders to honor their commitments on halting the rise of global temperatures and on holding citizens accountable and to “advocate for even more ambitious goals.”

The pope said that adding care for creation to the corporal and spiritual works of mercy acknowledges human life and everything that surrounds it as “an object of mercy.”

“In our rapidly changing and increasingly globalized world, many new forms of poverty are appearing,” he said. “In response to them, we need to be creative in developing new and practical forms of charitable outreach as concrete expressions of the way of mercy.”
Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle C)

Moses exercises his role as mediator, saving his people

Father Lawrence L. Hummer

Exodus 32:7-11,13-14;
1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-32

Probably the single greatest offense that the people of the Old Testament commit is the making of “gods” for themselves with their own hands. “I am the Lord your God. . . . You shall have no other gods besides me.” So reads the first commandment. Moses rails against the Hebrews for violating this commandment. All the prophets rail against both Israel and Judah for violations of the commandment, as do many of the Psalms.

In Sunday’s first reading, the people, under Aaron’s leadership, make for themselves a golden calf which they hail as a god, and Aaron builds an altar to it. Meanwhile, Moses is up the mountain in conversation with the Lord. The Lord orders Moses to go down to this “stiff-necked (that is, stubborn) people,” whom the Lord in anger wants to destroy.

Here we see what a pivotal role Moses played for the people and why he became hallowed down through the ages. He talks the Lord down from anger and a desire to destroy the people. He reminds the Lord how great their deliverance from the Egyptians has been. The Egyptians would turn it against the Lord and argue that the Lord had intended to do this from the start. Moses then asks the Lord to remember their ancestors, Abraham and Isaac and Israel (the founders of this people). He appeals in the name of the covenant that the Lord swore with the ancestors. In the end, the Lord relents from the intention to destroy the people.

Moses exercises his role as mediator to the hilt. He reminds that Lord that the Israelites are YOUR people. You must take care of them. You promised. His appeal works in the end. Some commentators note that this passage and Exodus 34:1-10 are read in the synagogue on the public fast days that commemorate national disasters or near-disasters. God only knows what shape the commemoration of 9/11 will take in this country, but fasting and prayer would be more beneficial than boisterous shouts of superiority. We are, after all, remembering 3,000 innocent ones who died, and the untold numbers of people who have died since in other parts of the world, as a result of this tragedy. Remember them, Lord, and have mercy.

Luke’s and Matthew’s Gospels both include the parable of the lost sheep, although Luke’s is much longer and adds the detail about setting the sheep on his shoulders to return home with it. Luke also includes the rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner. The parable of the lost coin is unique to Luke, once again stressing the joy of a sinner who repents.

Finally, the parable of the forgiving father, often called the story of the prodigal son (and also only found in Luke’s Gospel), stresses the loving fidelity of the father in the story above all else. The two sons both act badly, in different ways. The younger son divides the family fortune by claiming his share, which he blows, and then bottoms out. Returning to ask forgiveness, the father runs out to greet him, interrupting the apology to welcome him home. He restores him to full membership in the family with the sandals and the ring.

The older boy never really knew what it meant to be a son. When his father comes out to him to ask him to join in the joy because the younger boy has come back, he argues with his father: “Look at all these years I served (literally, slaved for) you . . . and you never even gave me a young goat. . . .” Rather than share in the joy of the lost son who has returned, he pouts and bemoans his own sorry self. In the end, the only one who shines is the father, whose love for both sons knows no limits.

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

TERESA, continued from Page 12

Twenty-one years later, when President Ronald Reagan presented her with the presidential Medal of Freedom at the White House, he called her a “heroine of our times” and noted that the plaque honoring her described her as the “saint of the gutters.” He also joked that Mother Teresa might be the first award recipient to take the plaque and melt it down to get money for the poor.

In addition to winning the Nobel Peace Prize, Mother Teresa was given the Pope John XXIII Peace Prize in 1971; the Templeton Prize in 1973; the John F. Kennedy International Award in 1971; the $300,000 Balzan Prize for Humanity, Peace and Brotherhood in 1979; the Congressional Gold Medal in 1997; and dozens of other awards and honors, including one of India’s highest -- the Padma Shri Medal.

Even after health problems led her to resign as head of the Missionaries of Charity in 1990, her order re-elected her as superior, and she continued traveling at a pace that would have tired people half her age. In 1996 alone, she had four hospitalizations: for a broken collarbone; for a head injury from a fall; for cardiac problems, malaria and a lung infection; and for angioplasty to remove blockages in two of her major arteries.

In late January 1997, her spiritual adviser, Jesuit Father Edward le Joly, said, “She is dying, she is on oxygen.” That March, the Missionaries of Charity elected her successor, Sister Nirmala Joshi. But Mother Teresa bounced back and, before her death on Sept. 5, 1997, she traveled to Rome and the United States.

Mother Teresa was beatified in record time -- in 2003, just over six years after her death -- because St. John Paul set aside the rule that a sainthood process cannot begin until the candidate has been dead for five years.
**The measure of a person**

Now that football season is upon us, I thought I would discuss the role of sports and faith. In the proper context, sports can aid us in our faith journey because it supplies the lessons we need to grow in our faith and become better people. Sporting analogies can be found in the New Testament. One must remember that the ancient Olympic Games still were taking place in the lifetime of St. Paul, who often used such analogies.

Sports are very popular in the United States, but in certain nations with socialist or quasi-socialist planned economies, sports is truly the only place where one can compete without being overseen by the watchful eye of big government. We live in a world where many people claim to be persecuted by one thing or another. The lesson of sports gives us a road map to break free from this victim complex.

St. Paul often uses the analogy of running a race and showing perseverance in our Christian journey. One almost can picture an ancient marathon runner when St. Paul uses this terminology. Our struggle in the modern secular world, which often is hostile to our Catholic faith, takes new meaning through St. Paul’s words.

During my JV basketball coaching days at Marion Catholic in the late 1980s and early 1990s, I learned a great deal from coaches Rick Schuler and Vince Lombardo. Coach Lombardo is now at Columbus Bishop Watterson High School and has a state basketball championship to show for his efforts, but both men competed against the odds in a school whose football and basketball heyday was by then in the rear-view mirror. The past didn’t mean anything to the students, who still wanted to compete and win. The lessons those students were taught, and the lessons they taught us, are not forgotten.

The coaches we competed against also are not forgotten. Many were very complimentary in referring to the struggles we faced. Others said they never would take on such a challenge, which surprised me. Some people will talk about accepting a challenge, but others, for all their tough talk, never do.

The late Woody Hayes said “You win with people.” Coach Hayes may have been known for his “three yards and a cloud of dust” offense, but he often adjusted and threw the ball more in seasons when he had a quarterback and receivers with sufficient talent. Some football coaches seem to want to impress the sporting world with their high-tech offenses. Others take the opposite extreme and never change their offensive style, which doesn’t truly benefit the talent of the players they coach. Sports are all about working with what you have to get better and grow, rather than to stagnate. Both extremes fly in the face of coach Hayes’ philosophy of working with and adjusting to the talent he had.

In separate interviews for my first book, The Tide Is Turning Toward Catholicism, coach Lou Holtz and his predecessor at Notre Dame, Gerry Faust, told me stories about Woody Hayes that showed the measure of the man. It seems one assistant coach wasn’t doing his job to coach Hayes’ liking, and he was literally thrown through the door to help him appreciate the gravity of the situation. You might ask “What was his shortcoming?” It seems the students under his charge weren’t attending class very frequently, and upon hearing the news, coach Hayes let his feelings be known.

In his last year with the Buckeyes, Hayes drove down to Cincinnati, where Faust was coaching at Archbishop Moeller High School, one night following an Ohio State practice on the chance that he would catch Faust after one of Moeller’s practices. Coach Hayes had a great deal of respect for his coaching colleague and knew Faust would give him an honest answer to a question that was troubling him about the Ohio State staff.

Some people seem to make sports its own religion, but in its proper context, sports can be a valuable aid in life for understanding the vital lessons God is trying to teach us.

*Hartline is the author of “The Tide is Turning Toward Catholicism” and a former teacher and administrator for the diocese.*

**Family Farm Day**

Jim and Nicole Hahn are hosting a Family Farm Day field trip at their farm, 12085 State Route 93 North in Logan, to benefit the St. Martin de Porres Place family retreat house project.

A bus will leave the parking lot of Canal Winchester St. John XXIII Church, 5170 Winchester Southern Road, at 8 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 8 and will be back at around 4 p.m. The tour is scheduled from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The rain date is Saturday, Oct. 15.

Guests will have a chance to collect eggs, feed rabbits, groom dogs, slop pigs, and collect buckeyes. There also will be a scavenger hunt, a nature hike, and games. Water bottle refills and a station for nursing mothers will be available. Participants are asked to pack their own lunch. Those who may choose to drive themselves to the site are advised that this is not an open house.

The de Porres Place project is an extension of the Family Honor program offered at several parishes. It involves the proposed creation of a place where families can play and pray together and continue important conversations they began during the program.

The fee is $50 per person and a $20 transportation charge per family. Make checks payable to St. Martin de Porres Place and send them to Rebecca Gjosstein, 6720 Hayhurst St., Worthington OH 43085. For more information, email rebeccagjosstein@sbeglobal.net or call (614) 406-3507.

**Pilgrimage to Washington**

Columbus Christ the King Church, 2777 E. Livingston Ave., is sponsoring a pilgrimage to several Catholic shrines in Washington, D.C. A bus will leave the church at 5:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 14 and return late the following day.

The cost is $200 per person for shared double occupancy or $250 for a single room. The price includes transportation, hotel accommodations and dinner Friday night, a hot breakfast at the hotel Saturday, driver gratuity, and guided tour fees.

For a detailed itinerary or to register, call the parish office at (614) 237-0401.

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**Catholic Diocese of Columbus**

**ACCOUNTANT**

The Accountant will work closely with the Controller within the Diocesan Finance Office to ensure financial records are accurate and up to date and provide accounting support for diocesan offices and agencies, as well as parishes and schools when required. The Accountant will also perform various duties in the area of cash disbursements and cash receipts, including the processing of checks and electronic items and will record accounting transactions in QuickBooks, and assist in account analysis.

The ideal applicant must possess a four year Accounting Degree; must have a working knowledge of financial systems –QuickBooks, general ledger, A/R, A/P and must also possess a minimum of three years accounting experience for this full time position.

Job offer is contingent on the successful passing of the mandatory background screening and completion of the VIRTUS “Protecting God’s Children” program. Salary is commensurate with education and experience; benefits are according to Diocesan policy.

Send cover letter, resume and references by September 9, 2016 to Dominic Prunte at:

dprunte@columbuscatholic.org
Sister Helen Walter, OP

Funeral Mass for Sister Helen Walter, OP, 97, who died Saturday, Aug. 27, was held Friday, Sept. 2 at the Motherhouse of the Dominican Sisters of Peace. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was born Sept. 21, 1918 in Pittsburgh to John and Katherine (Holler) Walter.

She graduated from St. Lawrence High School in Pittsburgh and earned a bachelor of science degree in education in 1949 from the College of St. Mary of the Springs (now Ohio Dominican University) and a master of science degree in education in 1974 from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh.

She entered the Congregation of St. Mary of the Springs (now the Dominican Sisters of Peace) in 1936 and made her profession of vows on Aug. 14, 1938, taking the name Sister Mary Lambert.

In the Diocese of Columbus, she taught at Lancaster St. Mary (1956-57 and 1959-60), Columbus Holy Spirit (1963-64), Columbus St. Philip (1964-66), and Columbus St. James the Less (1967-68) schools, and was principal of Somerset Holy Trinity School (1969-71). When she retired from teaching, she was an assistant dietitian (1993-98) and a congregational volunteer (1998-2007) at the Motherhouse. In 2007, she became part of the ministry of prayer and presence at the Mohun Health Care Center. She also taught in Michigan, Pennsylvania, and the Diocese of Steubenville.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Gerard and Paul; and sisters, Sister Germaine Walter, OSF, Beatrice Gaylord, and Dorothy Pearlman. She is survived by cousins.

CONFERENCE, continued from Page 3

was the start of a youth and young adult program that included a service project at Westerville Area Resource Management and a video conference linking young people from more than 40 nations.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society is an organization of lay Catholics whose principal objective is the spiritual advancement of its members, known as Vincentians, through the doing of good for someone else. As its mission statement says, its members “see the face of Christ” through the eyes of the poor.

It was founded in 1833 in France as a student group known as the Conference of Charity by Blessed Frederic Ozanam. Its patron, St. Vincent de Paul, founded the Congregation of the Missions (known as the Vincentian Order) and the Daughters of Charity in 1625.

It has an estimated membership of more than one million people in 140 nations. In the United States, it has more than 97,000 active or associate members, known as Vincentians, in 4,400 parish conferences, including about 3,000 members in 62 conferences in the Diocese of Columbus. Each conference provides assistance to those in need in the parishes and communities it serves.

The diocesan St. Vincent de Paul Council operates St. Lawrence Haven, which feeds the hungry five days a week at the former Columbus Holy Cross School building, and a clothing distribution center at the Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs office in Columbus. It also has a funeral fund aiding people who die with no means for burial and a Saturday food program delivering weekend meals to the homebound and the needy.

The Bishop Griffin Center, a food pantry and social service center on Columbus’ east side, is a Vincentian organization operating independently of the diocesan council. Vincentians in Newark operate St. Vincent Haven for homeless men, as well as a thrift store and food pantry, in addition to their work with the poverty think tank.

The society’s annual report for 2015 says that nationally, Vincentians provided 17.9 million hours of volunteer service, helping nearly 24 million people through home, prison, and hospital visits valued at more than $1.2 billion.
SEPTEMBER

THROUGH OCT 30, SUNDAY
Jubilee Museum Exhibit on Birth of Catholicism in Ohio
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays, 1 to 3 p.m. Sundays. Jubilee Museum and Catholic Cultural Center, 57 S. Grubb St., Columbus. “The Birth of Catholicism in Ohio,” an exhibit highlighting items relating to the early history of the Catholic Church in the state, including the original 1818 federal land grant for the site on which Ohio’s first Catholic Church was built. $10 admission.
614-600-0054

8, THURSDAY
Blue Mass at St. Timothy
5 p.m., St. Timothy Church, 1088 Thomas Lane, Columbus. Annual Blue Mass honoring first responders and victims of the Sept. 11 attacks, celebrated by Bishop Frederick Campbell and sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 1445.
614-451-2671

Cenacle at Holy Name
6 p.m., Holy Name Church, 154 E. Pattenden 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.
614-221-4323

Program on Practicing Meditation at de Porres Center
6:30 to 8 p.m., Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Drive, Columbus. Program on practicing the steps of meditation. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a mat or towel. $10 suggested donation.
614-416-1910

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.
614-372-5249

Reflections’ Labyrinth Walk at Shepherd’s Corner
7 to 8:30 p.m., Shepherd’s Corner Ecology Center, 987 N. Waggoner Road, Blacklick. Labyrinth walk with “Reflections” theme led by Sister Diane Kozlowski, OP. Suggested donation $5.
614-866-4302

Theology on Tap Meeting
7 to 9 p.m., El Vaquero Restaurant, 3210 Olentangy River Road, Columbus. Theology on Tap discussion and social group for young Catholics. Speaker: Rachel Muha, founder of Run the Race Club, on “Suffering and Forgiveness.” RSVP to tbuthologyontap@gmail.com or Columbus Theology on Tap Facebook page.

9, FRIDAY
Shepherd’s Corner Ecology Center Open House
10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Shepherd’s Corner Ecology Center, 987 N. Waggoner Road, Blacklick. Center, a ministry of the Dominican Sisters of Peace, will be open, weather permitting.
614-866-4302

Silent Retreat for Men at St. Therese’s
9-11, FRIDAY-SUNDAY
Silent retreat for men, sponsored by Catholic Laymen’s Guild. Time of silence in between. Simple lunch included, ended after 8 p.m. Call David Garick at 614-224-5195.

9-11, FRIDAY-SUNDAY
2:30 to 4 p.m., Ministry center, Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus. “Happy, Holy and Healthy: Helping Our Teenagers Find Balance” workshop with Roy Pettitfs, licensed counselor, award-winning author and speaker. For all adults who interact with teenagers, including parents, youth volunteers and teachers. Contact Katy Wyatt at kwyatt@cotma.org.

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

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

11-13, SUNDAY-TUESDAY
Parish Mission at St. Cecilia
614-878-3533

12, MONDAY
Helping Teens Find Balance Workshop for Leaders
9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Ministry center, Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus. “Happy, Holy and Healthy: Helping Our Teenagers Find Balance” workshop with Roy Pettitfs. For leaders as youth ministers, youth workers, volunteers and teachers who work closely with teenagers. $55 fee includes lunch. Contact Katy Wyatt at kwyatt@cotma.org.

Aquinas Alumni Luncheon
11 a.m., TAT Ristorante di Famiglia, 1210 S. James Road, 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
7 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Church, 136 Buttes Ave., 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 everyone, promotes the truth of God’s plan for each of us, and focuses on sharing our love. Confidentiality is maintained. Call for site.
614-296-7404

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

13-15, TUESDAY-THURSDAY
Parish Mission at Plain City St. Joseph
Plain City St. Joseph Church Year of Mercy mission with Father Thomas Blau, OP, parochial vicar of Columbus St. Patrick Church, appointed as a missionary of mercy by Pope Francis. Talks at 7 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday in parish activity center, 670 W. Main St. Mass at 6:15 p.m. Wednesday in church, 140 West Ave., followed by mission talk and reconciliation each night.
614-873-8850

14, WEDNESDAY
Turning Leaves and Tea Leaves
2 to 3:30 p.m., Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Drive, Columbus. Turning Leaves and Tea Leaves book club with Dominican Sisters Marileen Anzenberger and Colleen Gallagher.
614-416-1910

Delaware St. Mary Theology on Tap
7 p.m., El Vaquero restaurant, 259 S. Sandusky St., Delaware. Meeting of Delaware St. Mary Church Theology on Tap discussion and social group for young Catholics.
740-513-3325

15, THURSDAY
Centering Prayer Program at Newman Center
Noon and 7:30 p.m., St. Thomas More Newman Center, 64 W. Lane Ave., Columbus. Introduction to centering prayer with Father Vinny McKiernan, CSP. 614-291-4674, ext. 106

ODU ‘What Does It Mean to Be Human?’ Program
3:30 p.m., Colonial Room, Sansbury Hall, Ohio Dominican University, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. Dr. Michael Dougherty, ODU philosophy professor, speaks on “The Search for Human Nature” at first of four talks in Center for Dominican Studies series on what it means to be human.
614-251-4722

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

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.

Abortion Recovery Network Group
7 to 8 p.m., Gateway Center, 1207 W. Lane Ave., Columbus. Introduction to centering prayer with Father Vinny McKiernan, CSP. 614-291-4674, ext. 106

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614-251-4722

September 11, 2016

HAPPENINGS

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

On Tuesday, Aug. 30, Columbus was buzzing with civic discussion as part of The Columbus Foundation’s The Big Table activity. The event brought more than over 5,000 people together on one day devoted to participation in community-building conversations, creation of new relationships, and collective growth in understanding the needs of others across the region. Catholics engaged in these discussions at the organizational and individual levels.

Several organizations within the Diocese of Columbus participated in the event by hosting a table or multiple tables, including The Catholic Foundation, Catholic Social Services, and St. Vincent Family Center. More than 60 people joined in conversation at the eight tables hosted by these organizations. Additionally, many Catholic individuals exchanged dialogue at tables hosted by others, such as longtime law-enforcement chaplain Father Leo Connolly, pastor of Columbus St. Cecilia Church, who attended a table hosted by the Columbus Division of Police.

“Building relationships is the most difficult and important step in making any community more just and compassionate, so I am grateful for the opportunity it afforded me to get to know more people, to hear things from a new perspective, and to see the good intentions with which people are living their lives and working to strengthen our community,” said Rachel Lustig, president and chief executive officer of Catholic Social Services.

The Catholic Foundation hosted five tables throughout the day, with participants representing Catholic social service, religious, and education organizations, as well as members of the Foundation’s St. Martha Giving Circle.

“It was clear that the Holy Spirit was working in the room, because each conversation kept coming back to the same overarching themes,” said Amy Parker, vice president of grants management and diocesan partnerships for the Foundation.

Topics such as access and availability of services, better coordination of service providers, mental health issues, the need for more mentors and mentor training, and addressing the root problems of poverty came up at nearly every table discussion.

“The Big Table conversation brought together great minds on the importance of collaboration and how to continue to find solutions to enhance the quality of life for persons in need of various services. One of the most important action items that came out of our session was that Columbus is a great listening city. It’s now time to take action,” said Eric Troy, St. Vincent Family Center board member and program director at The Ohio State University’s Keith B. Key Center.

While The Big Table took place on only one day, its initial conversations sparked ongoing commitments. For example, a few women from the St. Martha Giving Circle are making plans to reconvene, this time at the Reeb Center on the city’s south side. Additionally, participants from the tables hosted by St. Vincent Family Center agreed to continue the conversation and hold each other accountable for action.

As the participants reflect over the next days and weeks and continue to process the ideas generated in the discussions, it is likely that more potential solutions will surface to drive positive outcomes for the community.

In the meantime, the words of Connie Sauter, board member for The Catholic Foundation and member of the St. Martha Circle, sum it up nicely:

“This isn’t Calcutta, but we can be missionaries right here in our community. This is what the pope calls us to do.”

Chillicothe parishioners take mission trip to Uganda

A group from Chillicothe St. Peter Church, led by Father William Hahn, pastor, recently took a mission trip to the Milyante orphanage in Uganda, which it has helped sponsor for the past five years. Members of the group built hand washing stations for the children and taught them about healthy habits. One of the missionaries was a doctor and completed physical evaluations of the residents. The children also were taught how to make cord rosaries and were guests at a party featuring games and crafts. Fundraising efforts before the trip enabled the group to provide 65 pairs of shoes to the residents through the Shoe That Grows program. The parish plans to continue support of the orphanage with a visit by its director next month.

Photos courtesy St. Peter Church
Museum exhibits documents from early Ohio Catholic history

The original federal land grant for the land in Somerset on which Ohio’s first Catholic church was built has been donated to the Jubilee Museum and Catholic Cultural Center in Columbus on a permanent loan basis by descendants of Ohio pioneer settler Jacob Dittoe. Pictured with the document, dated Dec. 29, 1808, and signed by President Thomas Jefferson and Secretary of State James Madison, are (from left): Shawn Kenney, museum executive director; Cynthia Dittoe; her husband, Dr. Robert Dittoe; their son, Michael; and Father Kevin Lutz, museum founder.

Robert Dittoe is the great-great-great-great-grandson of Jacob Dittoe, who had moved to Ohio in the late 1790s from Maryland. Longing to fill his spiritual needs, the pioneer wrote Bishop John Carroll of Baltimore, asking for a priest to come to Ohio, and the bishop responded by sending Dominican Father (later Bishop) Edward Fenwick. Dittoe deeded land to Father Fenwick, and the original Somerset St. Joseph Church was built on that land. The current St. Joseph Church, the third with that name, was dedicated in 1843. Until now, the museum has displayed a copy of the land grant. The original is the centerpiece of an exhibit on “The Birth of Catholicism in Ohio” which is on display at the museum, 57 S. Grubb St., through Sunday, Oct. 30. The exhibit also features Jacob Dittoe’s 1808 Bible, a piece of the tree under which Father Fenwick said the first Mass in Ohio, vestments belonging to Bishop Carroll, a teapot owned by Bishop Sylvester Rosecrans, the first bishop of the Diocese of Columbus, and items from the Dominican Order’s early years in the state. The museum, the largest collection of diversified Catholic art and artifacts in the United States, is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays, and 1 to 3 p.m. Sundays. Admission is $10.

CT photos by Tim Puet

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Annual Hartley Fest back-to-school kickoff

Columbus Bishop Hartley High school students (from left) Blake Newsome, Braylon Mitchell, Paddy Gilliland, Gabby Sharp, Ashley Tipton, Azaria Greene-Williams, and Megan Gallagher enjoy a game of corn hole at the third annual Hartley Fest back-to-school kickoff. The event, sponsored by the Hartley House Parent Organization, featured refreshments and friendly competition with games including human hungry hippos; corn hole; spike ball; tug-of-war; and more. Participants earned “tickets” which counted toward a competition for the school’s house system. The House Parent Organization sponsors several events throughout the school year for students and parents, in addition to hosting events such as a teacher appreciation breakfast for Catholic Schools Week and a senior graduation breakfast.

Photo courtesy Bishop Hartley High School
Ohio Dominican gears up for challenges of a new football season

BY DOUG BEAN

Ohio Dominican University learned at least one thing in its 2016 football season opener last week.

The Panthers will not go undefeated.

Facing a tough opponent on the road last Thursday, the Panthers were beaten for the second straight year by Ferris State, falling 41-0 to the No. 9-ranked team in NCAA Division II, in Big Rapids, Michigan. ODU had won its last five season openers before losing to one of the preseason GLIAC favorites.

It was the first game of the season for the Panthers in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference in their final year as a member. Next fall, the university will move to the Great Midwest Athletic Conference.

Ohio Dominican also began a new era with Kelly Cummings as head coach. Cummings, defensive coordinator at the school since 2013, took over in January when Bill Conley resigned after leading the Panthers to two GLIAC South Division championships and two NCAA playoff berths, with the team advancing to the national quarterfinals two years ago.

Cummings has big shoes to fill. Conley came in as head coach when Ohio Dominican’s athletic programs transitioned from NAIA to NCAA Division II and built a winner from the ground up, turning the Panthers into one of the best teams in the nation while compiling a 46-21 record in six seasons.

Cummings’ job is to continue that success. The Panthers finished 8-3 last year and second in the GLIAC South.

“Our program is not broke,” Cummings said. “Coach Conley did a great job.”

Against Ferris State in the opener, Ohio Dominican fell behind 17-0 at halftime and was outscored 24-0 in the second half. The Bulldogs finished with 477 total yards, compared with the Panthers’ 198, ran 30 more offensive plays, and had possession for nearly 12 more minutes.

The margin for error is small in the GLIAC. Take last year, for example. Ohio Dominican lost two games by three points each to two of the top teams in the conference.

“The competition in our conference is so great,” Cummings said. “I’ve told people that you could have a great football team and walk out of there with only four or five wins (in a season). This is a heck of a level of football.”

Ohio Dominican junior quarterback Grant Russell, in his second year as the starter, generated much of the offense against Ferris State, completing 19 of 25 passes for 120 yards.

“When you look at us, we have a lot of experience on both sides of the ball,” Cummings said. “We’ve got a quarterback in Grant Russell who has matured and really grown up a lot in the last year.”

Columbus Bishop Hartley High school graduate Jacob Mercier finished with six receptions for 46 yards in the opener. Mercier, a wide receiver, also lost one of three fumbles by the Panthers.

Providing stability to offense this season is a solid and experienced line. One of the veterans up front is redshirt junior Andrew Lorenz of Columbus Bishop Watterson High School. Lorenz has started games since the 2014 season and was on the honorable mention list for the all-conference team a year ago.

“How good or bad we’re doing to be offensively is on our offensive line,” Cummings said. “I’m excited to see what we do up front on that side of the ball. We’ve got some guys who are experienced in the right spots.”

Two of the team’s best skill players last year on offense are missing. Wide receiver Dez Stewart spent time in the Washington Redskins’ preseason training camp in August, and running back Brandon Schoen is injured for the second straight year, has been placed on the medical hardship list, and won’t return until next season. Also departed is All-American and former Hartley kicker Brent Wahle.

That leaves the Panthers with a young group of running backs and receivers.

“I don’t know how we’re going to be,” Cummings said. “I’m excited about our kids because I know they’ve done a good job. I know they’re going to play hard and they’re going to compete.”

On the other side of the ball, Cummings expects the defensive line and the linebackers to be anchors as the season progresses. Hunter Maynard, a redshirt senior, is a Watterson grad, and senior Paul Wesselhoeft is a preseason All-America candidate.

The blowout loss in the opener notwithstanding, Cummings is excited about the season and the future of the program. He knows the area well, having worked as an assistant at Toledo and Findlay and in the central Ohio area at Wittenberg and Denison.

Cummings also is looking forward to playing in a new conference in 2017. The GMAC should be more manageable in terms of travel and the competition level. Several other Ohio schools, including Walsh University, which share similar academic standards and funding levels will join Ohio Dominican in making the move.

“Being a part of the GLIAC, it’s made our program a tough program,” Cummings said. “It’s put us where we’re at. But it’s a Michigan conference.”

A majority of the Michigan-based schools in the GLIAC are public universities, making it a challenge for Ohio Dominican and other private schools to play at that level for sustained periods.

“We’ve been fortunate to compete with those people,” Cummings said. “I think it’s awesome the job ODU has done against those teams.”

The Panthers would love to leave the GLIAC with a title this season. They’re picked to finish second behind Ashland in the South Division and face a tough schedule, but remain upbeat despite the rough opener.

“With our kids, I don’t ever talk about wins and losses and national championships,” Cummings said. “I truly believe that if you go out and work hard and do the things you’re supposed to do at the end of the day, you’re going to have an opportunity.”