WORLD MARRIAGE DAY

The lasting promise: nurturing active, lifelong love
My wife and I are something of a curiosity to many of our younger friends and acquaintances. We've been happily married for more than 35 years. It's weird for them to grasp the concept of a relationship that has endured longer than the careers of three generations of their favorite television shows. Our relationship has no frame of reference. Often, their own parents are divorced. The idea of staying with one person forever seems almost incomprehensible.

I come from a generation in which a family had been through divorce was called a "broken home." You don't hear that phrase any more. It is now the norm. Many couples just move in together without any commitment to marry at all. They are not even married when children come along. Even if they do marry, most couples do not see their marriage as something that will never be dissolved and split up. The children enter into a perpetuating maze of parental and semi-parental relationships with stepparents and significant others. The nuclear family has become a nebulous ideal.

This is not what marriage is all about. What I am trying to say goes against everything that modern culture leads people to believe. Marriage is not for you to satisfy some inner need. Your wedding is not some great quest carried out to fulfill your own happiness to be the test of a "true believer." Marriage is not for what you get out of it. It is not a role you play until you are set free by the "reality" event. Marriage is not for what you believe. It is not all about you! Marriage is not a thing that modern culture leads people to be- come disassociated and split up. The children enter into a perpetuating maze of parental and semi-parental relationships with stepparents and significant others. The nuclear family has become a nebulous ideal.

We've been happily married for more than 35 years. It is now the norm. Many couples just move in together without any commitment to marry at all. They are not even married when children come along. Even if they do marry, most couples do not see their marriage as something that will never be dissolved and split up. The children enter into a perpetuating maze of parental and semi-parental relationships with stepparents and significant others. The nuclear family has become a nebulous ideal.
Did you stop being so judgmental this past week? I did my best, but it is very difficult. There was definite progress, but, of course, I still fall. At least I am much more conscious and aware of how I react to the actions of others, and how mindlessly judgmental I can be. My hope is that I keep trying and improving and do not slide back into that consistent, negative attitude that makes me “better” than everyone else. Humility teaches us that we are going to be on the receiving end of things sometimes. It is up to us individually to be sensitive to the emotions of others and not react angrily, aggressively, or with violence. As we said last week, if we truly want to see the hearts and minds of our brothers and sisters change, we must start with ourselves. Let us judge our own actions very critically while we judge the actions of others as well.

On Feb. 14, we traditionally celebrate St. Valentine’s Day. Love is in the air, along with the scene of hearts. All the material things we share are wonderful. It is a great thing for us to have one day out of the year to set aside to tell one another that we love them. Symbols of this love are to be shared, and are appreciated. Hugs and kisses abound, along with umbrellas and pies. Of course, we love God primarily and ultimately, and He loves us perfectly, eternally and unconditionally. Do not ever think that we have no way of showing our love for God in a real, physical way. Each hug and kiss we give is received by God. He is truly present in all of us. This is a very real way to show our love for God. While it is nice to listen to words like this, and to say we believe that whatever we do to one another is received by God, it is a beautiful love song, from one lover to another, and is especially nice when considered as a love song to God. Do not just sing to yourself, so as to escape embarrassment. I must admit that I have sung love songs to myself more often than usually, especially when I am thinking about my spouse, and the times of the past when my children were young and fond memories. God has a song for us, and it is called the Song of Solomon. This was the Song of Songs, or the “Song of Solomon,” in the Old Testament of the Bible. This book, or really a poem, is very different and unlike much of the rest of the Bible. It is a beautiful love song, from one lover to another, and is especially nice when considered in the context of this time in history. Read it sometime soon. It is brief and easy to read. There are two wonderful things to experience. One is the genuine, heartfelt, beautiful love that human beings can have for His bride, the Church. The other is the inspired Word of God that reminds us so vividly of the real definition of human love that is so dear to His bride, the Church. The other is the inspired Word of God that reminds us so vividly of the real definition of human love that is so dear to His bride, the Church.

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LOUD TALKING IN CHURCH

QUESTION & ANSWER

BY FATHER KENNETH DOYLE
Catholic New Service

You are raising a Catho-
lic in the 1950s and '60s. I left the Church in the '80s, but am now
starting to attend once more. However, I am still disturbed by the amount of noise
in church, especially right after Mass. As soon as the priest processions
out, our parish church sounds like a sports bar during the Super Bowl. I see children
running between the pews, yelling, talking, while their parents seem to
pay no attention. After Mass, they themselves are talking
in the back of the 50s and 60s, you could hear a pin drop
in church, and if it became necessary to speak, you
always did so in a whisper.
We were taught that this was God’s house, and that we there to pay
honor and reverence. The word I use is this is the “noise wall”.
We give thanks of Mass, it would seem
that time would allow gratitude to fill the soul for
the blessings we received.
The counteracting argument
of prayer is not just verti-
cal but horizontal — i.e.,
it puts us in closer touch
not only with the Lord,
but also with the com-
pany of disciples who share
our faith in Jesus.
It’s a natural instinct,
and I think most people
want to welcome one another and catch up
on one another’s lives —
and if it is a sign of a parish’s vitality that people
are socializing before and after Mass is over.
So the question becomes how to combine that value of community
with reverence due to Christ and His Church. I hope the parish
and the respect owed to those who present in the tabernacle
is being observed in the vesting room in the in church, as the priest processes out.

One concern is well expressed and well founded — the amount of noise during the celebration itself, it is
rare to see silence to be observed in the celebration itself, it is
certainly not heard in our church, in the sacristy,
the church, in the vesting room and in the sanctuary. This is
matters, I know of some
practices that are appropriate when filing out
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Catholic Education Association of Washington, D.C.

God Our Father... A Call To Justice

Blessings to All Married Couples from the Deacons and Their Wives in the Diocese of Columbus

The Columbus Bishop Ready High School Mothers’ Club is sponsoring its elec- 
d ninth annual prom fashion show and luncheon at 3 p.m. Saturday in the River Club Restaurant at Conference Island, 679 W. Spring St., Columbus.
Ready juniors and seniors will walk
runway as models for casual and prom attire. Tickets are $25 per person and the reservation deadline is Friday, Feb. 10.
For more information, contact Michelle Kelley at (614) 276-7827 or visit the Bishop Ready web site at www.brhs.org.

YOUNE SCHWAB HONORED AT WELCOME TO OUR HOUSE AS “CHAMPION OF CHANGE”

Columbus St. James St. Louis principal Yvonne Schwab (left) with S. James faculty member Vicki Pertula at the school’s annual awards dinner.

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Yvonne Schwab, principal of Columbus St. James the Less School, was one of nine Catholic educators named as “Champions of Change” and honored at the White House last month under President Barack Obama’s “Winning the Future” initiative.

The awards honored a few the chances to tell their stories during a panel discussion. Schwab didn’t use her story to make her point, but rather to use her story to support the point she was trying to make after Mass is over. Certainly, a nod of rec-
ognition and a smile, and even a whisper of “please” when greeting are appro-
propriate when filling out of the vestment. We have to accept
at the announcement of a direct level is better, considered, through the Mass itself,
our “church.” For Catholics of the Church, the martyrs during the Third Century who were opposed to the traditional Latin we have used for
began to use English instead of the redundant was minimized. The in the vesting room and in church, as the priest processes out.

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Do Whatever He Tells You

By Diana Marie Winkler

How many times have we read those words in John 2:5 or heard them from Mass? Jesus’ mother, Mary, is instructing the servers at the wedding feast in Cana: “Do whatever He tells you.”

They would have ignored what she said, it would have been just another wedding feast, but with embarrassing results. Sure, it would have been wonderful, it is so cherishing and beautiful, and I’m glad my husband doesn’t have anybody to compare me to. We only have each other.”

Diana Marie Winkler is a member of the Poor Clares of Martha Dies and serves as a member of the St. Vincent Haven shelter for homeless men, also Catholic. Through these everyday experiences she has learned how to be a “test-driver” of God’s love in our world. She shares with you how to let God test drive your life and get to know Him in such a way that He will be a constant companion and source of joy and comfort. This book is filled with stories of why Diana has decided to let God test drive her life. She shares examples of when she wasn’t ready, when she didn’t want God to be her test-driver, and when she was.

Do Whatever He Tells You: Later than these “test drives” of God’s love in your everyday life, you will find how to test drive the life of another. This book is a perfect companion for those who want to grow in their relationship with God, and for their loved ones. It is a perfect marriage gift to a young couple, or a wonderful gift for any occasion.

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The annual Marriage Day will be sponsored by the diocesan Marriage and Family Life Office. This year’s program will take place Sunday, Feb. 12, from 3 to 5 p.m. at Columbus St. Elizabeth Church, 6677 Sharon Woods Blvd.

The theme of the event will be “The Lasting Promise: Nurturing, Alive, Loving.” Westerville St. Paul Church parishioners Tony and Donna Bonina will be presenting a program based on the book, “The Power of Commitment,” by Scott M. Stanley, and Donna Bonina will be present.

Active, Lifelong Love. Westerville St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon Woods Blvd.

Catholic Times/February 12, 2012

The church celebrates Marriage Day each year with a series of programs by hosting the diocesan Marriage and Family Life Office. This year’s program will take place this Sunday, Feb. 12, from 3 to 5 p.m. at Columbus St. Elizabeth Church, 6677 Sharon Woods Blvd.

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Marriage Encounter: A chance to make good marriages better

By Mike and Kim Roberts

Worldwide Marriage Encounter’s mission of renewal in the Church and change in the world is to assist couples and priests to live fully into their responsible relationships by providing them with a Catholic “experience” and ongoing community support.

The weekend was brought to the United States and Canada in 1971 and is offered in more than 90 nations. About 3,000 weekends were presented in 1971, and recently, to about 10,300 couples in the United States. In the Columbus area, there were five weekends in 2011, with 94 couples attending.

We are parishioners at St.Peter and Paul Retreat Center. For more information on future dates or to attend a Marriage Encounter weekend, contact Paul or Martin Cloe at (740) 774-1800 or e-mail retrotouch@wmecolumbus.org.

Retrouvaille helps couples strengthen their marriages

When Jeff and Janice Williams married, they dreamed of a life blessed children, grandchildren, and friends, happy vacations, and everything that comes with a healthy marriage. For the past 30 years, that dream came true. Then everything changed. Their marriage, many difficult days along the way.

When they came to the point that they needed help to recover what they had, they found Retrouvaille on the Internet. They attended a Get Acquainted, and they signed up to attend a weekend.

Retrouvaille is a Catholic-based program designed to help hurting couples learn to communicate with each other, and often lose sight of their marriage as they become more interested in their children, and going separate ways with differing dreams.

Retrouvaille had its start in Canada in 1970, quickly spread into the United States, and is now offered around the world. Retrouvaille Columbus is a non-profit, all-volunteer organization.

Retrouvaille Columbus conducted a weekend in January of this year and another weekend in May and October. For more information, go to retrouvaille.org or e-mail whitaker@wmecolumbus.com.

RELIGIOUS LEADERS JOIN TOGETHER IN SUPPORT OF MARRIAGE, RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

OPEN LETTER IS A “SIGN OF HOPE” AND “COMPPELLING ARGUMENT”

Leaders of some of the largest religious communities in the United States have joined together in an open letter to all Americans to voice their shared concern for marriage and religious freedom.


The letter, written by Cardinal-designate Timothy Dolan, archbishop of New York and president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, was one of the four signing Catholic bishops.

“Marriage and religious liberty are at a crisis point in the United States,” he said. “This letter is a sign of hope and a compelling argument that needs to be heard — the argument that needs to be heard by all of us, but especially by our elected officials, the religious leaders, and the many people and groups whose interests are threatened by the growing belief that same-sex sexual conduct will re- sult in the civil rights of people and the church-state conflicts will result.”

They said that “these conflicts pose a threat to the future of religious liberty in this country, because altering the civil definition of ‘marriage’ does not change one law, but hundreds, even thousands, at once. By a single stroke, every law where rights depend on marital status—such as employment discrimination, em- ployment benefits, adoption, education, healthcare, elder care, housing, and other services—will come to depend on marital status. And, people who marry same-sex couples will be entitled to the same benefits and rights that people who marry opposite-sex couples receive. This is what is at stake. This is why marriages made in one context, and based on marital status, must be extended to all others. This is what marriage equality means.”

“EMPTY BOWLS” FUND RAISING

Students at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School, 4212 Karl Road, will be attending the Empty Bowls Fund raising event for the Mid-Ohio Foodbank at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 10.

Free soup and bread will be served, and handmade ceramic bowls will be available for a donation.

These attending the event are in- vited to stay afterward and stop in the gymnasium for the Stannah’s basketball game against Columbus Bishop Ready.

Catholic Times 13

February 12, 2012

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The letter, written by Cardinal-designate Timothy Dolan, archbishop of New York and president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, was one of the four signing Catholic bishops.

“Marriage and religious liberty are at a crisis point in the United States,” he said. “This letter is a sign of hope and a compelling argument that needs to be heard — the argument that needs to be heard by all of us, but especially by our elected officials, the religious leaders, and the many people and groups whose interests are threatened by the growing belief that same-sex sexual conduct will result in the civil rights of people and the church-state conflicts will result.”

They said that “these conflicts pose a threat to the future of religious liberty in this country, because altering the civil definition of ‘marriage’ does not change one law, but hundreds, even thousands, at once. By a single stroke, every law where rights depend on marital status—such as employment discrimination, employment benefits, adoption, education, healthcare, elder care, housing, and other services—will come to depend on marital status. And, people who marry same-sex couples will be entitled to the same benefits and rights that people who marry opposite-sex couples receive. This is what is at stake. This is why marriages made in one context, and based on marital status, must be extended to all others. This is what marriage equality means.”

“EMPTY BOWLS” FUND RAISING

Students at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School, 4212 Karl Road, will be attending the Empty Bowls Fund raising event for the Mid-Ohio Foodbank at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 10.

Free soup and bread will be served, and handmade ceramic bowls will be available for a donation.

These attending the event are invited to stay afterward and stop in the gymnasium for the Stannah’s basketball game against Columbus Bishop Ready.
in our passage seem to be eczema, psoriasis, and a these skin ailments arise, and usually through the leprosy in the modern medical sense is simply wrong. The "leprosy" mentioned was any of a number of skin afflictions called "leucoderma" in which the skin turns white as snow. If a priest declared such a person to be unclean, then he was to be segregated until such time as he was cured, when he could be restored to the communal life. Until that happened, he himself had to warn everyone that he was to be avoided from anyone approaching or touching him. The story is included in the readings because it pro- "Leprosy" was any number of skin ailments expressed by the Hebrew word, nark, which translated into Greek was lepra. The Latin translations also used lepra, and that's how people have thought of leprosy in the modern sense. We should understand it to mean careful skin dis- eases, as in some cases, instead of saying leprosy in the modern medical sense is simply wrong. The New Revised Standard Version adds a footnote to explain this, but continues to use the word "leprous" as translated from the original Greek. It is the only word that we know by its technical name as Hansen's disease in modern medicine. Hansen was a Norwegian researcher who isolated the leprosy patho- gen in 1868. The skin affliction was healed in Mark 1:40-45 by Jesus' healing touch for the outsider. We who act in his name, can be reached at hummerl@stmarychilli- coton.edu.

The story is included in the readings because it pro- vides background for Sunday's Gospel, which tells of Jesus healing a leper. The New Testament has the same problem when it comes to describing the man Jesus encounters. The man is called a leper in Greek, Pateroschephes. A leperos is translated as "leper" again. Hansen's disease does not appear in the Holy the core of his being, which is a bit stronger than mass, "Thelema," as used by the Ancient Order of D.CCXXI. The Latin phrase, "Aspido saepe in te," means Jesus insisted on the importance of his healing touch for the outsider. We who act in his name, can be reached at hummerl@stmarychilli- coton.edu.

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**RETREAT CENTER EVENTS**

A couples retreat is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, Feb. 24 and 25, at St. Peter Church, Columbus, 2734 Seminary Road S.E., Newark. The presenters will be Deacon Jim Larrimer, Sara A., 73, Feb. 6 Holy Family Church, Columbus DOHERTY, Dot, 82, Jan. 31 St. Theresa Church, Columbus DAMRON, Lacey, 88, Feb. 4 St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark CONNERS, Sheila M., 81, Feb. 2 St. Catharine Church, Columbus JCL, Presiding Judge. DENNIS STEVENSON, JCL, Presiding and sole Judge, no later than FEBRUARY 2012. 740-653-4633 Janice Bachman, OP, designed to al-

Call Deacon Steve DeMers at 614-224-6530 or 800-511-0584.

**HAPPENINGS**

**CLASSIFIED**

**GRANVILLE ST. EDWARD CHURCH**

**SPAGHETTI DINNER** - 4-7 p.m. sponsored by Holy Family Church, Columbus. Empty Bus Load Fund-raiser for Holy Family Bus Fund. Free soup and bread serve on, with homemade lasagna, pasta salad, and cookies. St. Edward's Church, 165 W. Main St., Granville. Chili and beef hotdogs for marvelous couples. Call 740-653-4633 or 740-511-0584.

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“Living the Call: An Introduction to the Lay Vocation” by Michael Novak and William E. Simon Jr.

Authors offer encouragement to recognize, pursue lay vocations

“Living the Call: An Introduction to the Lay Vocation” by Michael Novak and William E. Simon Jr. offers guidance for those discerning their call to the vocation they are now living. Readying themselves to hospital ministry, the authors devote one of their longer chapters to marriage: “Marriage is a great teacher of the delicacy of perception, and especially of attentiveness to those easily missed little signals that light our path toward the real. Marriage is a great purifier of the soul.”

Recognizing the number of married people who might be discerning how to answer a vocational call, in addition to sacramental marriage, the authors devote one of their longer chapters to marriage and the single life, using those pages as an opportunity to expound on the theology of marriage: “Marriage is a great teacher of self-purification, of other-centeredness, of deftness of perception, and especially of attentiveness to those easily missed little signals that light our path toward the real.”

“Living the Call” response for Novak and Simon.

The second half of “Living the Call” offers guidance for those discerning their vocation. It is comprised of chapters that offer reiterum type reflections. One chapter provides quotations from Thomas More, Thomas Aquinas, St. Therese of Lisieux. Readers are told, “Take the time to read each of them. Pause. Read again. Let them soak in. That is how spiritual reading is best done.”

“Living the Call” is reviewed by Brian T. Olszewski


The authors encourage readers to recognize, pursue lay vocations. In the first part of the book, they feature nine people who are engaged in a variety of ministries, from youth ministry to hospital ministry. The stories are engaging and might evoke an “I could do that” response from readers—a welcome response for Novak and Simon.

The stories are of the “feel-good” variety, with the authors calling attention to where they were in their lives and how they got into the vocation they are now living. Readers should beware that the stories lack the grit, heartache, pain, turmoil, and frustrations some in lay ministry encounter in trying to live their vocations. Those stories might frighten some who are discerning their vocations, but they should be noted in the discernment process.

This section includes a chapter on “parish ministry,” which includes opportunities ranging from “worship director to parish council member.” While the authors emphasize that training for these and other ministries might be required, they do not note that some of these (e.g., worship director, operations director, youth ministry) can be paid positions. A chapter on “lay ministry” includes a list of organizations (e.g., Jesuit Volunteer Corps, National Catholic Educational Association) to which people can commit their time and talent.

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Novak and Simon have provided a good overview for the layperson “just wondering” about doing more with his or her lay spiritual commitment, about living it on a deeper level.

While not everyone who seeks that deeper level will be starting at the same place, this book provides enough building blocks for those just starting this process. Once they have begun, the project, sacraments, and readings the authors recommend, along with the guidance of a qualified spiritual director, will take them the rest of the way.

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