

The CATHOLIC TIMES

THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS' INFORMATION SOURCE
MARCH 12, 2023 • 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT • VOLUME 72:6

RITE OF ELECTION

PAGES 12-15



INSIDE THIS ISSUE



MEN'S CONFERENCE

The 26th edition of the Columbus Catholic Men's Conference at the state fairgrounds featured inspiring talks, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, confessions and Mass, Page 3



SACRAMENTS 101

A new monthly column from Father Paul Keller, OP, interim director of the Office of Divine Liturgy, debuts in this issue with an explanation of why Bishop Earl Fernandes reinstated the worship office in the diocese, Page 5

Ohio bishops call for mobilization against abortion ballot initiative

Ohio's Catholic bishops released a statement on Tuesday, Feb. 28 in response to a ballot initiative in the works from abortion supporters that would provide constitutional protections in the state for taking the life of unborn children in the womb during all nine months of pregnancy.

The bishops' statement came a week after the proposed Right to Reproductive Freedom with Protections for Health and Safety Amendment was announced by several groups of abortion advocates and formally submitted to Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost, who approved the ballot initiative's language on March 2.

The amendment would need approximately 415,000 signatures to be placed on the November 2023 ballot in Ohio. Voters then would decide whether wide-ranging abortion protections will be enshrined into Ohio's constitution.

The proposed amendment's language includes giving women the "right" to "contraception, fertility treatment, continuing one's own pregnancy, miscarriage care and abortion" and says the state "shall not, directly or indirectly, burden, penalize, prohibit, interfere with or discriminate against" abortion-minded women.

"As Catholics, we are committed to protecting the sanctity of human life no matter the circumstances or stage of development," the bishops said in a statement issued from the Catholic Conference of Ohio. "We live this out by, among other things, accompanying the poor and needy, refugees and immigrants, prisoners on death row, young mothers, and children.

"In Ohio, the dignity of life in its earliest stages is threatened by groups pro-

posing an amendment to Ohio's Constitution for the November 2023 ballot that would enshrine and expand abortion at the expense of protections for preborn children and women.

"The Church must not be silent and cannot remain on the sidelines when confronted with such a clear threat to human life. This proposal demands a response, and we strongly encourage Catholics and all people of good will in Ohio to work against including the proposed amendment for the November ballot and, if it appears on the ballot, vote against the amendment to prevent countless deaths of preborn, innocent children."

The Catholic Conference of Ohio plans to collaborate with statewide organizations and encourages diocesan respect life offices to seek volunteers to help coordinate campaigns at all parishes to oppose the amendment.

"Our commitment to protecting and promoting life includes providing resources and accompanying women during and after pregnancy through our numerous social service agencies, schools, and parishes," the bishops said in the statement. "This commitment also includes rejecting abortion expansion, which only perpetuates a throw-away culture that does not value human life.

"We, the Catholic Bishops of Ohio, stand with you, our faithful, in our commitment in the name of the Lord of Life, to each human person from conception to natural death."

The bishops also asked the faithful to fast and pray the following prayer:

"God our loving Father, grant wisdom to those who govern us, compassion and courage to those who work to defend

human life, and safety and care to every human being. For you alone who formed us in our mothers' wombs, and who call us home to heaven, are God, for ever and ever. Amen."

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine had signed the state's heartbeat law in 2019 to prevent abortions once a fetal heartbeat is detected at about six weeks' gestation, but the law had been blocked by a U.S. district judge until the U.S. Supreme Court's Dobbs decision in June reversed the federal "right" to abortion that had been in effect since the Roe v. Wade decision in 1973.

However, the American Civil Liberties Union and Planned Parenthood filed a lawsuit with the Ohio Supreme Court after the Dobbs decision, and Judge Christian Jenkins of Hamilton County Common Pleas Court granted a restraining order that remains in effect, allowing abortions to continue up to 22 weeks' gestation in Ohio.

State and local right to life groups say the wording of the ballot initiative from the abortion rights group is even more severe than anticipated.

"We look forward to exposing the dangers of this extreme amendment being pushed on Ohio by the abortion industry," Ohio Right to Life chief executive officer Peter Range said after the attorney general approved the abortion amendment ballot language. "If passed, it would cancel parental rights and measures in place to protect young girls; basic health and safety protections for women would be wiped out; and it would make Ohio home to painful late-term abortions right up until birth."

In an earlier statement, Ohio Right to Life director of communications Elizabeth Marbach said, "The language of

this ballot initiative is extremely vague, making it even more dangerous than we originally believed it would be. They believe that they can rewrite our state Constitution to eliminate all protections for the unborn, including abortions after the point at which babies feel pain – endangering the health and well-being of both women and children."

Beth Vanderkooi, executive director of Greater Columbus Right to Life, encourages all advocates for life to take this threat seriously and heed the bishops' call to immediate action.

"This amendment contains exceptionally broad and extreme language, and if passed its proponents have promised that abortion in Ohio will be available without governmental interference," she said.

"This means stripping away basic health and safety guidelines, eliminating prohibitions on painful, cruel abortions of healthy babies late in pregnancy, removing informed consent protections and repealing parental consent laws that protect minors. This is too extreme for Ohio.

"We are calling on each of you to help us build a three-part response. First, let's commit to prayer and fasting as individuals and within our churches. Second, we are going to need all hands on deck in our effort to stop their signature-gathering process and, if necessary, to get out the vote to oppose this deeply disturbing proposal.

"Third, we need financial support. This extreme abortion amendment is backed by millionaires and billionaires. We can only hope to respond if you do. Please go online at gctrl.org/stop today to learn how we can defeat this together."

Bishop grants dispensation for feast of St. Patrick

Bishop Earl Fernandes has granted to the faithful of the Diocese of Columbus and any visitors or travelers who might be physically present within the territory of this diocese a dispensation from the Lenten obligation of abstinence from meat for the feast of St. Patrick on Friday, March 17.

The dispensation is granted to members who undertake one of the following

works:

- Makes a pilgrimage or visit to any church in the Diocese of Columbus named in honor of St. Patrick (Columbus, London, Junction City).
- Assists at Mass at any church, chapel or oratory on March 17.
- Prays the "Breastplate of St. Patrick" attributed to St. Patrick.
- Engages in some pious devotion

such as the rosary, the Stations of the Cross or Eucharistic Adoration.

- Performs an act of comparable penance (such as abstinence from meat) on some other occasion during the Third Week of Lent.

The obligation to abstain from meat on the Fridays of Lent is an important element of the Catholic Church's observance of the penitential nature of the

holy season. This year, March 17, the Friday of the Third Week of Lent, corresponds with St. Patrick's Day, traditionally an occasion for joy-filled celebrations in the diocese, especially among those of Irish heritage.

Bishop Fernandes took into consideration both past practice and present circumstances in allowing the dispensation.



Front Page photo:

Rite of Election

Sydney Anderson kneels in prayer at the diocese's Rite of Election on Feb. 26 at Westerville St. Paul Church. She will be coming into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil Mass at Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul Church. Putting a hand on her shoulder is her sponsor, Elizabeth Bratton.

CT photo by Ken Snow

**CATHOLIC
TIMES**

Copyright © 2023. All rights reserved. Catholic Times (USPS 967-000) (ISSN 745-6050) is the official newspaper of the Catholic Diocese of Columbus, Ohio. It is published every other week throughout the year. Subscription rate: \$17 per year, or call and make arrangements with your parish. Periodical Postage Paid at Columbus OH 43218.

Bishop Earl K. Fernandes: President & Publisher

Doug Bean: Editor (dbean@columbuscatholic.org)

Hannah Heil: Reporter (hheil@columbuscatholic.org)

Emma Noel: Layout/Design (enoel@columbuscatholic.org)

Mailing Address: 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215

Editorial/Advertising: (614) 224-5195

Subscriptions: (614) 224-6530

(subscriptions@columbuscatholic.org)

Postmaster: Send address changes to
Catholic Times 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215.
Please allow two to four weeks for change of address.



Catholic evangelist John Sablan delivers an animated presentation at the Columbus Catholic Men's Conference on Saturday, Feb. 25.



Deacon Charlie Echeverry speaks to the men in the afternoon.

CT photos by Ken Snow



Jake Dillman (left) and son John hold up images of the Immaculate Heart of Mary for a blessing at the conference.

Get down to business, men's conference attendees told

Bishop Earl Fernandes set the tone for the 26th annual Columbus Catholic Men's Conference when he encouraged those in attendance to become spiritual entrepreneurs.

The conference, held Saturday, Feb. 25 in Kasich Hall at the state fairgrounds, was attended by more than 2,000 men from throughout the diocese and elsewhere who listened to an opening talk by Bishop Fernandes in his first visit to the conference as shepherd of the Diocese of Columbus and featured talks by Catholic evangelists John Sablan and Deacon Charlie Echeverry.

The day's activities included Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and confessions heard by 42 priests from the diocese, including five for Spanish speakers.

Short presentations were given by Peter Range of Ohio Right to Life on an upcoming pro-abortion ballot initiative in the state and by Father Jonathan Wilson, pastor at Westerville St. Paul Church and the spiritual director for the local Catholic Men's Ministry who encouraged the men to consecrate their homes to the Immaculate Heart of Mary as a complement to Enthronement to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Matt Palmer, a member of the local Catholic Men's Ministry board of directors, served as the master of ceremonies and also sat with Bishop Fernandes on the stage for a brief discussion between the two during which the bishop revealed that he has driven nearly 20,000 miles throughout the diocese in the nine months he's been here and that one of seven persons attending Mass now in the diocese is a Spanish speaker.

At the start of the conference, Bishop Fernandes laid out his plans for his evangelization goals and hopes for the diocese to expand rather than contract as is now the case with the parish mergers and closings that will take place as part of the Real Presence Real Future



Trevor Ambrose, a member of Sunbury St. John Neumann Church, prays during Adoration. He attended the conference with his dad and brother.



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament brought the men to their knees at the Columbus Catholic Men's Conference.

CT photos by Ken Snow



Bishop Earl Fernandes encourages the men during his talk to promote vocations in their families to the priesthood and religious life..

initiative.

Doing that, he said, requires an understanding of spiritual entrepreneurship, similar to how a person in business grows a company, as explained to him in a conversation after he became bishop with Don DePerro, president and CEO of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce.

"First, an entrepreneur is a man of vision," Bishop Fernandes told the audience. "Am I going to be a leader or a manager? A leader is one who sets the vision."

Applying that concept to the Catholic faith, the bishop asked the men, "Do I set the vision for my family? If you had a mission statement for your family, what should it be?"

"As men, we're called to be spiritual

leaders."

The next attribute for an entrepreneur is focus, and the bishop mentioned that Lent is a special time for focusing.

"We're constantly being distracted," he said. "A true entrepreneur is self-aware" of the things that are a distraction and prevent a person from bringing his gifts and talents to others.

Next, he mentioned that an entrepreneur could be considered a salesman who's responsible for helping others buy into his vision. And, the bishop said, the entrepreneur needs to be a person of integrity.

"Are you willing to sacrifice for others?" the bishop asked. "Are you prepared to lay down your life for your wife and kids? This is what God is calling us

to do – to be a spiritual entrepreneur."

Bishop Fernandes then described how the Blessed Virgin Mary could be considered a spiritual entrepreneur.

"Mary had a vision, and her vision was God's vision," he said. "Mary is focused. She shared a mission to be the mother of the Redeemer.

"Mary is a servant leader. She gave up her life for God's greater plan."

To help the Diocese of Columbus grow in faith and numbers, Bishop Fernandes told the men that they are called to be saints and that "I have every confidence you can fulfill your destiny in God."

But he added that men need to be willing and encouraged to step forward to

See MEN'S, Page 4

MEN'S, *continued from Page 3*

answer a call to the priesthood before he announced that the diocese has approximately 15 candidates for possible entry to the seminary next fall.

"I'm more concerned about mission than maintenance," Bishop Fernandes said.

Sablan followed Bishop Fernandes' sit-down conversation with Palmer and picked up on some of the bishop's themes while describing his own spiritual journey that led to his World Ablaze apostolate, which is focused on evangelization and discipleship.

He launched into his energetic presentation by showing pictures of individuals who receive significant attention in social and mainstream media but fail to embody Christ-like qualities.

"We have a man problem today," Sablan said, before detailing his own journey that led him away from his faith for years until he was on the brink of losing what was most important to him – his family.

Born in Guam, Sablan recounted his early years of suffering physical, mental and emotional abuse that included being sexually molested by a family member at age 10. His father was an alcoholic, and Sablan got involved with a bad crowd, leading to his arrest at age 12.

In high school, Sablan had by now fallen far away from the Catholic faith but met his future wife, who also endured childhood trauma. They married at an early age and went on to start a family and enjoy the trappings of worldly success with nice cars and a dream house.

"But my wife said one day, 'I feel dead inside,'" Sablan recalled. "She knew that she was missing something. She had everything else figured out except for the spiritual piece."

So, the couple started church hopping, eventually landing at Sablan's previous Catholic parish. His wife said she felt the presence of Jesus in the church, later discovering it was the true presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament that drew her in.

"But I was wounded," Sablan said. "I was playing the hokeypokey with God. I was putting one foot in while my wife was catching fire for the faith."

He said he experienced demons from his past trauma that kept him from embracing Christ and led to the couple's separation. They were on the verge of divorce when he began spending time in Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. Then a friend asked him to attend a men's conference, where he became emotional and went to confession to pour out his sins.

"The priest walks around from behind the screen and said, 'Praise God for the remorse you feel in your heart,'" Sablan said.

The priest asked if he could pray a deliverance prayer over Sablan, and he took out a large crucifix and began to



The large crowd stands and applauds a speaker during the Columbus Catholic Men's Conference in Kasich Hall at the state fairgrounds. *CT photos by Ken Snow*



Bishop Earl Fernandes holds the Blessed Sacrament before the monstrance during Adoration at the Columbus Catholic Men's Conference.

pray in Latin before he "douses me with holy water. It wasn't just a little sprinkle."

Sablan immediately went to the Adoration Chapel, lay prostrate before the Blessed Sacrament, "and for the first time as a grown man I felt held as a son and I felt loved by the Father."

He began to heal his relationship with his wife and children, and "God started to use the gifts that I had for His glory and for the salvation of souls."

Sablan, who is now a grandfather, works in cybersecurity when he's not engaging in his evangelization ministry.

"I tell people I keep people from stealing your data by day, and by night I keep people from stealing your soul," he joked.

He stressed that roles are important in the family – that husbands and wives each have a unique part to play in the family.

"Be the bishop of your own home," he encouraged the conference-goers. "The domestic church is the solution to all of the world's problems."

He recommended that men be guided by the cross to teach, govern and sanctify, and he asked them to be faithful to

what God's calling each person to do.

"Are you a prayerful man?" he asked. "Do you hear what God is telling you?"

He ended his talk with a call to action.

"It is good that we're here," he said, "and I'm grateful for the opportunity to be around a bunch of Catholic men who seek a greater relationship with our Lord, who seek to learn more about their faith and seek to live out their call to biblical manhood."

"But, brothers, it can't stop here. If what you take today fizzles out in a week, you missed the point."

"The Church, and therefore the world, is in trouble today. Not just with our youth, but with the family as a whole. And when we reclaim our birthright in the Christian patriarchy that we were called to, to be holy men of God, we're only focused on growing in virtue and dying for all those that God entrusted to us, we can change the world, we can change the Church."

Sablan's talk was followed by a Eucharistic procession with Bishop Fernandes carrying the monstrance and about 20 minutes of Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament with many of the men kneeling on the floor.

Father Kyle Tennant, parochial vicar at Columbus St. Cecilia Church, offered guidance on the sacrament of reconciliation before a number of men took advantage of the opportunity for confession.

Deacon Echeverry's afternoon presentation resembled Sablan's story in many ways. Both men were away from the faith before returning with vigor to the Church through encounters with the Lord that came after each had reached a low point in his life.

Echeverry was a successful entertainment executive who described how he was stricken with insomnia for nine months, sleeping once or twice a week for a few hours before "in my weakness God's power was made manifest," and he realized he had to change his ways and live for the Lord.

He attributed turning his life toward God as providence, which his wife told him should be the theme of his talk in Columbus.

"Providence is the ordering of all events in the universe so the end for which they were created might be realized," he said.

Echeverry and his wife didn't just become lukewarm in the faith; they embraced it and became involved in a variety of ministries in southern California.

In addition to his work as a deacon, Echeverry was with Catholic Answers, one of the world's largest evangelization and apologetics ministries, and has served as a board member for the Catholic Association for Latino Leadership, the Tepeyac Leadership Initiative founded by Bishop Thomas Olmstead, and Sent Ventures, a platform focused on entrepreneurs of faith.

In addition, Echeverry is chairman of SOFESA, a non-profit founded by his wife that accompanies and serves homeless families in southern California; and he is the founder and CEO of the Black/Brown Collective, a Los Angeles-based strategic advisory and impact studio.

Elaborating on his theme, Echeverry described providence as foresight and pre-vision and said men experience it first as sons and then as fathers.

After offering three lessons each in sonship and fatherhood, he warned men of three pitfalls that could trap them: machismo, man-cave mentality (selfishness) and worshipping lesser gods.

As an antidote to those potential traps, Echeverry suggested cultivating three practices: remain in the moment; make your desk an altar; and cultivate a servant's heart like the Virgin Mary did.

"Live your vocation with boldness," he proclaimed.

Father Wilson followed Echeverry with a brief message to the assembly.

"This conference rises and falls on the decisions you make," he said. "You'll

Office of Divine Worship assists bishop in diocese's 'prayer life'

A concerned Catholic asks: What is the Office of Divine Worship, and why is it needed in the Diocese of Columbus?

Response: Dear Concerned Catholic, thank you for that excellent question to kick off what I hope will be a regular Q&A column in *The Catholic Times* called "Sacraments 101."

Several months ago, Bishop Earl Fernandes reinstated the Office of Divine Worship (ODW) after Bishop Robert Brennan had reorganized Chancery staff and temporarily suspended the work of the ODW.

Virtually every diocese in the world has someone who assists the bishop in his work as the principal leader of the worship of God. As director of the ODW, I report to the bishop and assist him as he wishes with the "prayer life" of the diocese in accordance with official Church teaching.

In a diocese of our size there are many times that the bishop offers Masses in various parishes, administers the sacrament of confirmation, gives episcopal blessings, and is present to all the people of his diocese. Each one of those events, whether it is a Mass or some other event, needs planning in terms of the various ministers (such as deacons and altar servers) who assist the bishop as well as those who oversee music preparation and other aspects of the bishop's visit.

Often, with Bishop Fernandes, several of these events are held on any given day. It is the work of the director of the ODW to review the plans for the bishop's visits and coordinate the details that go into making his visits to his parishioners a fruitful experience

SACRAMENTS 101 | Father Paul Jerome Keller, OP, S.T.D.

Father Paul Jerome Keller, O.P., S.T.D., interim director of the diocese's Office of Divine Worship, is a priest of the Dominican Province of St. Joseph. His doctorate is from Rome in sacramental theology. He currently assists at Columbus St. Patrick Church.



for all involved.

There was, for instance, much planning for the Masses and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at the recent Women's and Men's Catholic Conferences in Columbus, which were attended by thousands of people.

The director of Divine Worship also assists the bishop by giving him counsel about theological and sacramental matters as well as to the priests and laity of the diocese. For instance, someone might write to ask why it is that we say "amen" after receiving Holy Communion, or why the words of the absolution formula changed this month, or whether it is permitted for a priest to administer the sacrament of confirmation rather than the bishop.

There are not enough hours in the day for the bishop to respond to these inquiries, and so he asks the ODW to send responses to these important questions.

Directives are sent frequently from the Holy See in the name of the Holy Father that must be implemented in each diocese. When these directives deal with the Mass or sacraments, the ODW has the responsibility to help the bishop see to the careful following of these decrees. Additionally, the director of the ODW must

continually study the Church's teachings and give presentations on them.

When an unusual event occurs that requires special care, then the ODW springs into action. For instance, when Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI died at the end of 2022, priests needed instruction on appropriate actions to be taken, such as offering a Requiem Mass for the pope or the tolling of bells to honor his death.

The ODW tries to anticipate the needs of the bishop, priests and laity on these occasions so that all may participate in the worship due to God.

When the priests of Columbus gather next June at a multi-day conference, the ODW will help to ensure that all is in place for the Masses and the prayers of the Divine Office (Liturgy of the Hours). Again, an event of this magnitude requires hours of planning and execution.

These are just some of the responsibilities that fall to the ODW. It is my hope to take on yet one more task: writing for *The Catholic Times* on a regular basis, answering questions that the people of our diocese send to me. Of course, because our diocese is so large, I will need to choose topics most on the minds of our faithful readers.

I am grateful to Bishop Fernandes for inviting me to help him with his most important work: leading all of us in the Columbus diocese in fitting worship that gives the greatest honor and glory to God we can offer.

May God abundantly bless you and all the priests and deacons of Columbus and send us even more priestly and religious vocations.

Young women giving themselves away for nothing

As internet pornography continues to make inroads into the daily lives of millions, greater numbers of young women are making the decision to participate in its production, with some even seeing it as a "path of empowerment" for themselves. They may hear about the "success stories" of porn stars, one of whom declared during a media interview a few years back that her breast implants were the best investment she had ever made, making her a multi-millionaire.

Young women today can indeed be tempted to "play the pornography card," but as girls become women, parents and society face the important task of conveying to them that when they immodestly display their feminine attributes and participate in pornography, they end up objectifying themselves, trivializing their sexuality and harming their interpersonal relationships.

In a recent interview, Pamela Anderson Lee, the former Baywatch actress, revealed how her Playboy photo spreads and pornographic videos impacted her sons and left them in tears after being teased at school about her sex tape with their father and her ex-husband Tommy Lee.

She explained, "I wasn't thinking when I was in Playboy that I was going to have kids soon and they were going to grow up and it was going to be embarrassing for them ..."

"I remember one day after school Dylan came to me in tears and he was like, 'Mom, why did you do that tape?' ... But I always thought I'd tell them, age-appropriate — but I never got the chance — they always found out before I could really talk to them about it."

Her other son Brandon described it this way: "When I was a kid, I thought everyone knew things about me and my family that they never should've known. Everyone had this dirty little secret about my family."

The powerful misappropriation of a woman's sexuality through involvement in pornography can wreak

MAKING SENSE OUT OF BIOETHICS | Father Tad Pacholczyk

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, 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.



havoc on multiple fronts.

Another front where chaos can arise as sexual mores shift is in the very delicate interpersonal area of sexual attraction that is ordered to connecting young women to young men through a stable marital commitment.

Many young women, for example, feel pressured to sleep with and cohabit with dates and boyfriends to try to win them over and perhaps one day marry them. It should come as little surprise that these kinds of relational mistakes on the part of a young woman often lead a young man to ask the proverbial question: Why buy the cow when you can get the milk for free? The unique influence or leverage that a young woman has with a potential future husband is squandered away.

A woman who is not sexually available before marriage is perceived and approached differently by men: They have to put in the effort to woo and win her, and later she is a "catch" and a "treasure" as she becomes a man's "better half."

In contemporary hook-up culture, meanwhile, young women give themselves away for nothing, and men don't have to woo anyone or bother with the complexities of interpersonal relationships or real-life intimacy skills.

As men are drawn into the addictive world of por-

nography, they similarly devalue women by reducing their gifts to a single highly sexualized dimension. This disrupts healthy patterns of attraction and courtship that are meant to lead to male-female friendship, bonding and marriage.

As Fred Rabinowitz, a psychologist and professor at the University of Redlands who studies masculinity has noted, young men today "are watching a lot of social media, they're watching a lot of porn, and I think they're getting a lot of their needs met without having to go out. And I think that's starting to be a habit."

Parents face a real challenge in trying to convey to their sons and daughters that their sexuality is a gift to be treasured, not squandered. At times, they may need to be very direct in how they share their values with their children.

A friend once shared with me that as a teen, she and her mom were watching a movie at the local theater when a mostly unclad woman doing a pole dance unexpectedly flashed up on the screen. Her mom, a woman of fortitude, hardly missed a beat as she gently leaned over to her daughter to whisper just three words: "I'll kill you ... !" The moment left an indelible impression, and nearly 50 years later, my friend still appreciates her mother's humorous but direct and loving approach in conveying the importance of modesty for a young woman's maturing sexuality.

The remarkable gifts of a woman — her "feminine genius" as Pope John Paul II used to refer to it — including the gift of her sexual nature and her interpersonal acumen, need to be esteemed and safeguarded. Over the course of civilization, these gifts have built up the family, protected children, supported men through the bond of marriage, and more broadly strengthened the life of society itself. We need great courage and resolve today to protect and advance these precious gifts.

Ballot initiatives, constitutional amendments: Isn't this just politics?

Sometimes during Lent, we have a tendency to reduce our vision to one that is exclusively otherworldly focused. We know that the purpose of Lent is to turn back to God and to orient our lives and our priorities to knowing, loving and serving Him. We can lose sight of the fact that we are embodied spirits destined to accomplish those tasks in the material world, in the here and now. We can have a deep suspicion of activities or branches of knowledge that seem to have little or no connection to our communion with God. And sometimes that suspicion comes from the fact that we have lost the connection between the earthly and the transcendent, between Godly ordered creation and the Creator.

This is especially true with respect to politics. We can perceive it as unseemly, admittedly because of the way it has been practiced by some. But the Greeks (Aristotle and Plato) understood that the human person was made for a common life. They understood that the ultimate end of all human activity was the good, or better stated, the supreme good. They understood that the good of the human person must be the end of the science of politics, and that political goodness in common would lead to happiness. This line of thinking flowed into Catholic thought through Augustine and Aquinas and is incorporated into Catholic social doctrine. In recent times, Pope Benedict XVI in *Deus Caritas Est* reminds us that “the just ordering of society and the State is a central responsibility of politics, and that jus-

FAITH IN ACTION | Mark Huddy

Mark Huddy is the Episcopal Moderator for Catholic Charities and the Office for Social Concerns in the Diocese of Columbus.



stice must be the aim and intrinsic criterion of all politics.” The Church’s role is to help purify reason from special and personal interests and help contribute to the acknowledgment and attainment of what is just.

Let’s fast forward to the here and now and to the proposed Ohio constitutional amendment that will likely appear on the November 2023 ballot. The proposed ballot language says, “Every individual has a right to make and carry out one’s own reproductive decisions, including but not limited to decisions on contraception; fertility treatment; continuing one’s own pregnancy; miscarriage care; and abortion,” and also requires that the State shall not, directly or indirectly, burden, penalize, prohibit, interfere with, or discriminate against either an individual’s voluntary exercise of this right or a person who assists in the exercise of that right. There is a nod in the ballot language to the possibility of reasonable legislatively passed abortion prohibitions after fetal viability so long as the life or health of the mother is not threatened. If passed, this Constitutional Amendment will overturn current Ohio restrictions on abortion and prohibit the enactment of

new ones that are inconsistent with the new constitutional language.

The Church with her deep understanding of an authentic human anthropology, her expertise in the moral life and her commitment to the sacredness and dignity of every human person from conception to natural death is solidly in opposition to the proposed ballot initiative. However, as an institution, the Church does not have a vote ... only her members do! This ballot initiative does not promote our good in common, and will not lead to happiness. This ballot initiative does not create a more just society. This ballot initiative gives protected license to choose death. Please begin now to fast and pray for its defeat. The Ohio bishops urge us on with this prayer: God our loving Father, grant wisdom to those who govern us, compassion and courage to those who work to defend human life, and safety and care to every human being. For you alone who formed us in our mothers' wombs, and who call us home to heaven, are God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Decide also today to choose life and vote for the defeat of this ballot initiative in November. As Pope Benedict XVI said in *Deus Caritas Est*, “The direct duty to work for a just ordering of society ... is proper to the lay faithful.” This is our mission. Let us not think that it is not worthy of our full attention.

We cannot fashion the crosses we carry

Life isn't made of pretty paper and pretty ribbons wrapped perfectly and tied with a bow. The depth of life is found when we root ourselves in Christ.

This year, as I prepared for Lent, I asked Jesus to show me what He wanted me to give up. What sacrifice could I make that would be great enough to form me closer to Him? How could I show my devotion to Him more clearly?

Nothing. Radio silence.

All I could see was how hard my days felt already. But I was determined to offer more. I had my list, and much on the list was good to sacrifice during Lent but it felt like I was still “doing” and not giving. “What if I am the more?” He kept asking in my prayer. “I am the more.”

Venerable Fulton Sheen once said, “We would all like to make our own crosses, but since the Lord did not make His own, neither do we make ours.”

I like things neatly packaged, but life isn't made of pretty paper and pretty ribbons wrapped perfectly and tied with a bow. The depth of life is found when we root ourselves in Christ.

Sometimes we enter Lent not knowing what our sacrifice will be. Sometimes just entering is all we have to give. It's a “yes” to where the Lord is leading.

Many saints were formed when, in challenging times, they simply trusted the Lord enough to go where He was calling even when they did not understand.

As Catholics, we use the word “pilgrimage” to describe a trip with a particular spiritual focus that will

ALL THAT WE HAVE

MaryBeth Eberhard

MaryBeth Eberhard writes about marriage, life experiences of a large family and special needs. She attends Sunbury St. John Neumann Church.



lead to a closer encounter with God. There are obvious ones such as to Rome or Jerusalem. I have yet to go there, but I have made smaller trips to local shrines and through them have drawn closer to Jesus.

A pilgrimage is a trip where you step away to dig deeper, to find where you belong and where your roots are. A pilgrimage is a step toward something or someone. It's a “yes, God” moment. I will go if you lead me.

I would venture to say that life is our greatest pilgrimage. We are in Lent, and Lent is all about offerings and sacrifice.

A pilgrimage is an offering where we set out to grow closer to the God who created us. It's a desert experience with some radiant sunrises and sunsets mixed through the days.

What does a desert feel like? It is hot. It is long. It can feel lonely. Chick-fil-A is closed, and it is not even Sunday. Life can feel this way. Often. But as Christians we must trust that God is working even when we don't see it.

We've all had desert experiences. Some are more visible than others, right? My husband and I raise our children to say we all have a disability; some we see,

and some we do not. The same goes for our crosses. Some you see, and some you do not. But they are there, nonetheless. Here is what I've noticed:

In those desert experiences, I am the closest I can be to Jesus. Our desert experiences render us dependent upon Jesus. We are so empty. We have no control. We turn to the Father and cry out for help. And Our Father in heaven never leaves us orphans. He picks us up and carries us.

Some of us might have already entered our Lent that way. We have already begun that pilgrimage. This Lent, I am taking stock of the crosses I carry and really leaning into them.

How can they form me closer to the heart of Jesus? Can I sit with them instead of burying them or resenting them? Can I actually get to a place where I am thankful for the crosses, where I want to pick them up and walk forward?

I am taking time to look around and see who God has placed with me to help me carry them, for there's a Simon of Cyrene present in everyone's life in some form.

God does not leave us orphans. He gives us enough manna for today, and that manna can be in the form of an encouraging word, a meal to our door, a text with a prayer or a smile from the nurse who comes in to help when we have no words.

Lord, during this Lenten pilgrimage, help us to walk boldly toward your kingdom and offer our crosses for your greater glory.

MEN'S, continued from Page 4

look back on this day and say, ‘My life changed because I made a decision (to serve God and His Church).’ If this doesn't result in a decision, it was a colossal waste of time.”

Before the conference-ending Mass, Todd Treon of the Catholic Men's Ministry announced several initiatives to “continue the conversation” before the

next Columbus Catholic Men's Conference on Feb. 24, 2024.

He said the men's ministry is adding resources to build, form and live as “soldiers for Our Lord” in service to Bishop Fernandes and to become pillars for supporting vocations and evangelization in the diocese.

Quarterly half-day men's conferences

are planned, with the first two scheduled for May 20 and Aug. 26, and weekend retreats at the Damascus Catholic Mission Campus in Knox County slated for April 21-23 and Nov. 3-5.

Concluding this year's conference was a Mass with Bishop Fernandes as the principal celebrant that included priests and deacons from the diocese. The men's

schola from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, directed by Dr. Richard Fitzgerald, provided the music for the Mass. Music during the program and Adoration had been led by the local Neumann Project group.

This year's host parish was Westerville St. Paul, which brought more than 200 men to the conference to assist.

Living on every word of Scripture to battle temptation

By Sister John Paul Maher, OP

It's amazing to consider that Jesus quoted Scripture. As the Eternal Word of the Father, Jesus drew upon the word of God in His combat with the devil. How are we drawing upon the divine word this Lent?

In the Gospel passage from Matthew 4:1-11, we read the account of Jesus' temptation in the desert, which inspires the 40-day season of Lent. Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert for spiritual combat, and His response silenced the foe by letting Scripture speak for itself.

After the first challenge, Jesus replied to the tempter, saying, "It is written: 'One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.'" (Matthew 4:4)

Jesus' response proclaims the power of the word, spoken by God. It is a revelation, and one could say, a self-revelation.

The depth of this mystery is profound, as we ponder Jesus countering the deceitful one with the life-giving power of the word of God.

We recall the creation account in Genesis, in which God spoke, and life came to be. We reflect on the prologue of John's Gospel, in which all things came to be through the word.

The Psalmist writes, "By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all their host by the breath of his mouth. ... For he spoke, and it came to be; he com-

manded, and it stood forth." (Psalm 33 (32):6, 9)

Scripture has a multitude of references to the power of God's word, as in the prophet Isaiah's declaration "so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it." (Isaiah 55:11)

This passage can remind us of Jesus' fidelity in carrying out the Father's will. Jesus is the faithful, beloved Son, fulfilling all of Scripture and accomplishing God's eternal plan for our salvation.

This Lent, we can ask ourselves, how are we living from "every word that comes forth from the mouth of God?" What does it mean to live from the word of God?

One answer to this can be found in Our Lady, as the best example of one who lived from the word of God. Mary's "let it be done unto me according to thy word" is a model for our own prayer and Lenten combat. (Luke 1:38)

At the Annunciation, Mary was presented with a choice to accept God's word. (Luke 1:46-55) She chose to believe the words of the messenger of God. She let the power of God's word overshadow her. She consented to conform her life to the Word made Flesh. As a result, her life became a Magnificat, a hymn of praise, and all of us are offered eternal life with the Blessed Trinity.

When we receive the word of God in our hearts and act on it with our own loving "yes" in return to the Lord, we join Mary in magnifying the Lord. When we use our freedom to choose God's will, and let His word

take root in us, we have life to the full. (John 10:10)

When we are faced with doubt, temptation or trial, we can turn, like Our Lady, to our heavenly Father, and pray with the words of Christ, confirming "thy will be done." (Matthew 6:10)

If we find ourselves in a seemingly insurmountable situation, we can listen to Mary's words to the servants at Cana, to "do whatever he tells you." (John 2:5) Mary encourages us, by her own words and deeds, to listen to her Son. When we put our trust in Jesus, He stands by our side, accompanying us, ready to lead us in the way of peace.

This Lent, when we are facing temptations, especially those which would attack our efforts at prayer, fasting and almsgiving, let us turn to Jesus.

We can incorporate a daily reading or listening to Scripture to help fill our minds and hearts with the ways and wisdom of God. We can make new efforts to prepare well for Holy Mass, with prayer and silence, so we are disposed to listen to the word of God.

In the spiritual life, strength for combat can be found in the grace of the sacraments and sacred Scripture. No matter where the Spirit leads us, through deserts or fruitful valleys, we can rely on the word of God to give us life.

Sister John Paul Maher, OP, is principal of Worthington St. Michael School and a member of the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist.

AWOL doctors at the Catholic field hospital

Pope Francis's image of the Church as a "field hospital," tending the wounded on today's social and cultural battlefields, resonates with Catholics across the globe. The image evokes a Church living the Lord's command in Matthew 25 to serve the least of his brethren, and examples of that abound.

The Church tends to the wounds of those abandoned on the Verduns and Iwo Jimas of the sexual revolution. That's what Catholics do when they staff and financially support crisis pregnancy centers, whose primary clients are suffering women abandoned by irresponsible men. Project Rachel, a parish-based program that serves women and men suffering from post-abortion trauma, is a wonderful example of the Church as field hospital.

The Church tends to the wounds of those struggling to make it in a rapidly changing economy, offering both material assistance and training in the skills that will empower those left behind to enter the networks of production and exchange where wealth is created and distributed.

The Church tends to the wounds of those addicted to the poisons of the day — opioids and other drugs, cheap booze and cheaper online sex — and helps them discover the path to genuine freedom.

And of course, the Church tends the deepest wounds of our brothers and sisters by offering them the healing medicine of the Gospel and friendship with the Lord Jesus Christ, the Divine Physician.

Cautions have been raised about the field hospital image because, misused, it can suggest that the Church merely binds wounds rather than offering a cure for what caused those wounds in the first place. Those cautions were not misplaced. Now, however, an even more serious danger has arisen. Thanks to the use — some would say, "hijacking" — of the worldwide "synodal process" to advance agendas incongruent with Catholic faith and practice, the pastoral challenge of grounding synodality in truth has morphed into a genuine threat to the Church's unity and the proclamation of the Gospel in full.

Or to adopt an image from a friend: The Catholic Church

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

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



today is a field hospital and some of the triage doctors, rather than curing the wounded, are insisting that the hospital no longer tell people that landmines will kill you.

The imagery shouldn't need much unpacking.

The triage doctors are the bishops, who have taken a solemn oath to teach what is spiritually life-giving and lead their people away from what is spiritually death-dealing, truths known by revelation and reason. Yet some bishops have suggested that the Church is (and has been) teaching falsely about human love, sexual identity, the dispositions necessary to receive holy communion worthily, or the imperative of being a eucharistically coherent Church — a Church of sinners who seek absolution from grave sin before receiving the body and blood of the Lord. And that is analogous to triage doctors in a military field hospital neglecting the wounded while debating whether blithely stepping on a landmine, exposing yourself recklessly to incoming fire, or refusing protective gear in combat are bad for you.

The AWOL triage doctors in the Catholic field hospital have done a service, though. For they have demonstrated that the bottom-line issue in the Church today is the reality of divine revelation and its binding authority over time. Has God revealed truths about what makes for righteous living, happiness, and, ultimately, beatitude? If so, do those truths bind us today as they did when they were first revealed and recorded in Scripture or the Tradi-

tion of the Church? When Cardinal Mario Grech, general secretary of the Synod of Bishops, said last September that he envisions a "different Church" emerging from the global synodal process, just what did he mean?

How different? A Church that is comfortable with a unitarian idea of God? A Church with five sacraments instead of seven? Exaggerations, you say? Alright, how about a Church that rejects the biblical idea of the human person? If doctrinal and moral truths affirmed as such in the Catechism of the Catholic Church are open to debate and "synodal discernment" (as suggested with admirable candor, if not theological acumen, by Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich, SJ, Synod-2023's Relator General, and Cardinal Robert McElroy of San Diego), where does the ratchet of "discernment" stop? How does it stop? And why do the proposals emanating from that "discernment" uniformly parallel the failed Catholic Lite agenda of the past 50 years?

Some bishops, including the great majority of the German episcopate, may wish to be triage doctors debating the lethality of landmines. The living parts of the world Church think that a grave abdication of a healer's responsibility to the wounded.

Compliments of



DEE PRINTING, INC.

4999 Transamerica Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43228

777-8700

the Murnane Family

Specializing in Catholic Church Sunday bulletins and
Serving Columbus Diocese and others since 1974

Stations of the Cross reflect inmate's internal struggles

By Michele Williams

Editor's note: The following meditations on the Stations of the Cross were originally published in April 2020 after the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns began. The meditations proved to be popular with readers, and so they are being reprinted with several revisions. The hope is that these reflections will help readers enter more deeply into the sufferings of Christ while remembering to pray especially for the incarcerated and anyone struggling.

First Station: Jesus is condemned to death

No matter what the sentence when the judge declares it, life as you know it is gone. Whether it is two years, five to 25 years or 15 to life, it feels like death. Your ears ring, your vision gets blurry and your gut churns fire throughout your body. The voices of accusation and words of shame swirl in your mind. The brave face you wore cracks, and reality hits you like a wrecking ball. You are going to prison.

Second Station: Jesus carries his cross

I am quite strong-willed, but the weights of responsibility, unforgiveness and remorse make for a mighty heavy cross. Some days, it just crushes me, and the burden is too much to bear. Other days, Jesus Himself reminds me that He is here and gives me strength. My actions built this cross, and there is no going back, only forward, one step at a time. It is mine to carry however long it takes to get to the end.

Third Station: Jesus falls the first time

My first fall was when I lost my job in prison as business office clerk. I'd worked there a year and a half – my first job out of prison admissions – and what a blessing it had been! It was a gift straight from God to reassure me of His presence here. I processed the accounts payable, and the staff made me feel like a real person instead of an inmate in their office. Then a change in administration brought the end of inmate clerks in sensitive areas. I was reassigned to clerk in the food warehouse, which was in the basement of the kitchen, complete with rats.

Fourth Station: Jesus meets his mother

The first time my parents visited me was June 1994. I had been in admissions for four weeks and was overwhelmed with what prison life was going to be like. At the table in the visiting hall, Dad sat on my left and held my hand; Mom sat on my right and held my other hand. A Diet Pepsi sat in front of me, slowly sweating and warming in the summer heat. I couldn't drink it because I wouldn't let go

of either parent to pick up the can. I was flat-out terrified.

Fifth Station: Simon of Cyrene helps to carry the cross

Incarceration is relentless and emotionally exhausting even for the most determined. My family helps carry this cross by unconditionally loving, honestly sharing and, more often than they realize, being stronger than me. They have carried the stigma of "my daughter/sister/niece/aunt is in prison" for years with courage and grace. They got pulled into this mess when no one saw it coming but have never given up. They still let me rest my head on their shoulder and draw from their strength when I am weak.

Sixth Station: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

The Veronicas in my life have visited, accepted phone calls, exchanged letters and emails. They have supported me from far and near. They have wiped my tears and reassured me they're with me for the long haul and I am not alone. It is not easy to maintain relationships from here because of the very restrictive nature of prison. But they accept the restrictions and rules to continually show their support and love. God bless all my Veronicas.

Seventh Station: Jesus falls the second time

Being transferred back to the Ohio Reformatory for Women from Franklin Medical Center in 2017 was my second fall. I felt like I wasn't needed or useful anymore and was deeply depressed at being back where I started. Everything was the same, yet radically different, and the changes left me bewildered for months. I was at a complete loss and didn't know what to do next. By God's mercy, my old friends were still here, so they welcomed me with open arms and helped me find my footing.

Eighth Station: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

These are fellow survivors of domestic violence I've met and connected with over the years. We went from victim to survivor to inmate. We share the tragedy, shame and guilt together. We also share the heartbreak of lives, futures and families torn apart. We understand one another better than people in America ever will because of the experiences we endured before ending up in prison.

Ninth Station: Jesus falls the third time

My fourth parole hearing in December 2021 was my third fall. The hope and belief for freedom were real and contagious! I was more prepared for this hearing than I'd ever been and had an army of supporters behind me. That made the denial all the more incomprehensible and devastating. Not only did I hurt for me, but I hurt for everyone else who believed it would happen this time. I fell inexplicably short

again and wanted to stay sprawled in the dirt forever. However, just as Jesus did, I got up again and carried on.

Tenth Station: Jesus is stripped of his garments

Every woman goes through the same degrading intake process in admissions. Your dignity and self-worth sink to a new low as your clothes and belongings are taken away. You are issued a uniform and a number. Your identity is forever changed, and you belong to the state. God seems far, far away.

Eleventh Station: Jesus is nailed to the cross

I picture all the hopes and dreams I had for a different life. These are in Jesus' hands as they are nailed to the cross. Each one pierced through and ruined, never to come to pass. I am held captive to a life I never planned, so now what? Surrendering to God's plan often seems impossible, but I must trust it. There is no other way for me.

Twelfth Station: Jesus dies on the cross

This is the ultimate act of forgiveness and love, without which I wouldn't want to live. Jesus loved even me enough to die on the cross. He loves every man and woman in prison and forgives us even when society won't. Forgiving and loving ourselves is another matter, and the internal battle rages on.

Thirteenth Station: Jesus is taken down from the cross

From the courtroom to the county jail to prison itself the process took a week, but I remember none of it. I was still traumatized and devastated by the tragic, terrible events that had taken place. I was so numb I felt like the walking dead. My heart may as well have stopped beating because I didn't feel it anymore. I was all alone, abandoned by God, my mind reeling and my faith in shreds.

Fourteenth Station: Jesus is laid in the tomb

My entire incarceration is like being in the tomb. Jesus knew He was getting out in three days. I don't know when I will. He promised new life, so I'm putting my trust in that promise, no matter how long it takes. This time is all about waiting and transforming myself into a better version, one worthy of being in the world again. But it is also a time of working on my relationship with Jesus and getting to know, love and serve Him better every day.

Easter Sunday: Jesus rises from the dead

This will be the day I am released from prison. Everything, including my life, will be new, and I will be ready to experience it all! First stop: church, to give thanks for the miracle and gift of freedom for me and my family.

Michele Williams is an inmate at the Ohio Reformatory for Women in Marysville.

'Right worship' to God; 'justice' to neighbor

AQUINAS CORNER | Richard Arnold

Richard Arnold, a parishioner at Chillicothe St. Mary, holds an MA in Catechetics and Evangelization from Franciscan University of Steubenville and is a husband and a father to two children.



might." – Deuteronomy 6:4-5

We express this love of God in a participatory manner when we love our neighbor, when we care for the environment, when we participate in our society to make it better, etc. We best express justice to God in our praise and worship through the holy sacrifice of the Mass.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* has much to say on/about the Mass. I wish to highlight from paragraph 1329: "The Eucharistic assembly (*synaxis*), because the Eucharist is celebrated amid the assembly of the faithful, the visible expression of the Church."

St. Thomas writes, "The chief purpose of the whole external worship is that man may give (internal) worship to God ... (M)en who worship Him are corporeal beings, and for their sake there was need for a special tabernacle or temple to be set up for the worship of God."

Priest: "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." People: "It is right and just." – *Preface Dialogue to the Eucharistic Prayers*.

"It is truly right and just, our duty and salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks ..." – *Eucharistic Prayer 2*

"It is truly right to give you thanks, truly just to give you glory ..." – *Eucharistic Prayer 4*

We have heard these words so many times that they probably go in one ear and out the other. In this article, I would like to circle back to the virtue of justice.

Recall that justice is one of the four cardinal virtues defined as the constant and firm will to give their due to God and to neighbor.

"Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." – Mark 12:17

Cries of justice fly about every day in our news, and it's sometimes easy to figure out what injustice was done. But what does it mean to "give their due to God," or what is due to God? We know that God needs nothing but desires everything.

Everything? There are various expressions, but the Shema says it best: "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your

Why is this important? We need to go back to the book of Exodus. In his book *The Great Story of Israel*, Bishop Robert Barron speaks to the relationship of God and Israel.

He writes, "(A) principal preoccupation of the author of Exodus is the delineation of those practices and beliefs by which the people Israel defines itself, or better, is defined by the God who liberates them. Law, covenant, right worship, sacrifice, ritual, sacred meal, etc. are all explored in the course of the narrative."

Bishop Barron speaks of "right worship" 11 times in his book. Why? He writes, "How and where God is to be rightly worshipped, (is) a preoccupation of the Bible from the very beginning."

What is "right worship" in the Church? "Right worship" was important from the earliest days of the Church. *The Didache*, also called *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles*, is one of the oldest Church documents. The document deals with, among other things, Church practice and presents instruction and initiation into the Church.

Also, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* in paragraph 1345 quotes St. Justin Martyr who wrote to the pagan em-

Eritrean priest connects Church's 'two lungs'

By Tim Puet

For *The Catholic Times*

In his 1995 encyclical *Ut Unum Sint (That All May Be One)*, Pope St. John Paul II said, "The Church must breathe with her two lungs," referring to its Western and Eastern rites.

Father Weldit Tesfazghi, who arrived at Hilliard St. Brendan the Navigator Church as an associate pastor on Jan. 30, says his role in his new assignment is to serve as a connection between those two separate but connected branches of the Church.

"Pope John Paul's description is a metaphor for the unity of the Church," he said. "He speaks of the mutual interdependence and healthy tension that should exist between the East and West so that the Church as a whole can fully benefit and her mission can become more effective.

"As a priest who can celebrate Mass in both the Latin rite of the Western Church and the Ge'ez rite of the Eastern Church, I can serve as a symbol of the unity John Paul describes."

Father Tesfazghi, or Father Weldit as he is familiarly known, is a native of Eritrea in eastern Africa and has been a priest of the Archeparchy of Asmara, Eritrea, since his ordination there in 2009.

At St. Brendan Church, he is performing the usual sacramental duties of a parochial vicar such as celebrating Mass, administering the sacraments, talking to students at the parish school and visiting the sick.

He also is serving as chaplain to the central Ohio Ge'ez Rite Catholic community, which he said consists of about 350 people and meets daily for evening prayer and Sunday for the Divine Liturgy in Ge'ez (pronounced ghee-EZZ) at Columbus St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church.

Ge'ez is an ancient Ethiopian and Eritrean language now used almost exclusively for liturgical purposes.

Father Tesfazghi, 40, has two older brothers and an older sister. Their mother is deceased, and their father lives in their hometown of Zagr, an Eritrean community of about 3,000 families, most of whom are members of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church. He said he is the only priest to come from the community.

Eritrea was an Italian colony from 1880 until Italy was defeated by the United States and its allies in World War II. It borders Ethiopia and was part of that nation for three decades, most of which were spent fighting for its independence, which it regained in a United Nations-supervised vote in 1993.

About 5 percent of Eritrea's 3.6 million people are Catholics, and they are served by about 500 priests. The nation's government officially recognizes

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

Answering God's Call profiles the life of a priest, deacon or professed religious sister in the Diocese of Columbus.



Father Weldit Tesfazghi

four religions, including Catholicism. Most Eritreans are either Sunni Muslims or members of the Tewahedo Orthodox Church, with numbers relatively similar for both. About 2 percent are Lutherans, the only official Protestant denomination.

The nation also has many communities of women religious, most notably the Daughters of St. Anne, Daughters of Charity and Ursuline Sisters, who ran hospitals, clinics and children's homes in Eritrea until the government seized those institutions in 2019.

The Human Rights Watch organization describes Eritrea as a dictatorship under the one-man rule of President Isaias Afwerki and said his government "has taken no steps to end widespread forced labor and conscription policies," which include forcing its troops to fight in Ethiopia's Tigray region against residents of the area who are seeking independence.

"The country has undergone notoriously gruesome human rights violations," said *The Pilot*, the newspaper of the Archdiocese of Boston. "Human rights groups have accused the government of committing crimes such as enslavement, imprisonment, enforced disappearances, torture, persecution, rape and murder."

Father Tesfazghi's first three assignments were at parishes in his homeland, but he has been in effect a priest in exile for seven years, being assigned elsewhere both to help his fellow Eritreans who were forced to become refugees and to ensure his own protection.

Archbishop Menghsteab Tesfamariam assigned him in 2016 to work in Egypt with Eritrean refugees in conjunction with the Comboni missionary order. In 2019, he began attending the English and Cultural Studies program at Sacred Heart Seminary in Franklin, Wisconsin.

He was able to do so through the assistance of seminary board member Fesahaye Mebrahtu, the director of Black Catholic and ethnic ministries for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, an Eritrean who has helped priests from that nation

come to the United States.

During his time in Wisconsin, Father Tesfazghi occasionally visited the Holy Savior Eritrean Catholic community at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte, North Carolina for feast days and special occasions.

He later lived with the Franciscan Brothers of Peace at the Queen of Peace Friary in St. Paul, Minnesota until coming to the Diocese of Columbus in response to a request by Bishop Earl Fernandes to Archbishop Tesfamariam for a priest to serve Eritrean Catholics in central Ohio.

"One of the things I had to get used to in America is that the people are so much more involved in the liturgy, serving as lectors and extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist," Father Tesfazghi said.

"That was a little difficult to accept at first, but one of the priests in Wisconsin reminded me that no matter who you may receive the Eucharist from, it's the priest's role to consecrate. Having lay people distribute the Eucharist is a significant way of showing their importance to the Church's mission.

"While I was concelebrating my first school Mass at St. Brendan, I saw children as lectors for the first time and thought how wonderful it was to involve

them in that way.

"One thing that's more of a challenge to a priest in America than in Africa is to explain the Church's stand on moral issues," he said. "So many people don't believe in the Church that it's hard to talk to them about why the Church takes the position it does on certain matters.

"I can't go back to Eritrea because of the situation there. The bishop of one of the nation's four eparchies (dioceses) was imprisoned for almost three months because he spoke against the government's seizure of Church institutions.

"I, too, have preached many times against the policy of the government. I'd like nothing more than to return there, and it's my hope that the government will change or will be more accommodating to the Catholic Church," Father Tesfazghi said.

"In my short time at Hilliard, Father Bob Penhallurick, the pastor, and Father Frank Brown, the parochial vicar, have been a great source of happiness to me, providing a connection to God and His people.

"And the people of Hilliard have been so wonderful I can't find words to express their kindness. They are such peaceful, friendly people with a deep spirituality, especially the parish staff. They have touched my heart."



THE
CATHOLIC
FOUNDATION

Experience Christ-Centered Giving

Discover the ways you can support your parish, school, or favorite ministry



Donor Advised Funds

Endowments

Planned Giving

Memorial & Honor Funds

Charitable Gift Annuities/Trust



Your giving journey starts here

Contact Scott Hartman at 614-443-8893 or shartman@catholic-foundation.org to start a conversation

Thank You,

2023 CONFERENCE SPONSORS & DONORS!

We are grateful to those Sponsors and Donors who give us their time, treasure and talents to bring men and women to Christ - **God Bless You!**

Our Blessed Mother (\$20,000 +)

St. Gabriel Catholic Radio AM820 Anonymous

St. Faustina (\$5,000 - 9,999)

Bob-Boyd Auto Family Kimball Midwest/McCurdy
Church Of The Resurrection Kris & Bruce Fraser
Cole & Michele Ellis Kurtz Brothers Central Ohio/
David and Michele Bianconi Brookside Materials
Joseph Group/Palmer Family Rick and Kathy Gummer
Kevin & Anita Schroeder Anonymous

St. Francis of Assisi (\$1,000 - 2,499)

Christ the King Catholic Church Mike & Denise Wible
Decker Vonau & Carr, LLC Meyers Wealth Management
FastSigns of Westerville Mount Carmel Foundation
Fr. John S Hannan Council 5297 Niemeyer/Gatterdam Families
Gilles Smith Purdum Insurance
Agency LLC PW Partners, LLC
Immaculate Conception Church Rev Local, LLC
Joe & Kathy Urquhart St. Brendan Church
Lisa & John Schechter Ted & Ellen Amland
Marty Luxeder -
APPS Paramedical Services Burgess & Niple - Tom Mignery
Rosemary & Stephen Pasternak The Brunton Family
Bailey Cavalieri LLC St. Michael Knights of
Columbus Council 11445

St. Vincent DePaul (\$250 - 499)

Blessed Sacrament Church - Newark Knights of Columbus Council 11208 Seton Parish
Catholic Social Services, Inc. -
Diocese of Columbus Metz, Bailey & McLoughlin-
Attorneys at Law SPO
Sacred Heart Enthronement Network Ohio Dominican University St. Edward the Confessor
Jim & Molly Nester Paul & Theresa Mascia St. John Paul II Early Childhood
Josephine & Eric V. Yang Peggy & Bill Keller Education Center
Lancaster Knights of Pugh's Designer Jewelers St. Patrick Church /Dominican Friars
Columbus Council 1016 St. Peter Knights of Columbus Jesuit Spiritual Center
St. Brigid Knights of Columbus Council 1126 St. Joseph Cathedral
Council 10863 Chris & Kiera Karas Premier Produce
Anonymous Penske Trucks of Columbus

Teri Gilmore - Gilmore Group,
Red One Realty
Therapy Advantage Group, LLC
Tricord Wealth Advisors - Joseph
Finneran CFP
G & J Pepsi
Sysco Foods
Teresa Kenney, Keller Williams
Consultants Realty
Knights of Columbus Council 11311
St. Pius X Knights of Columbus

St. Joseph (\$10,000 - 19,999)

The Catholic Foundation Joe & Lori Hamrock
David & Lisa Karam John & Linda Mackesy

St. John Paul II (\$2,500 - 4,999)

Bill & Sheila Riat Family Louise & John Hummel
Jim & Susan Hackbarth Panera Bread
Jones-Schlater Flooring, LLC St. Paul the Apostle Parish
Kitty & Jim Soldano St. Joan of Arc Parish

St. Theresa of Calcutta (\$500 - 999)

Able Printing Co. St. Brigid of Kildare Church
Anonymous St. Catharine of Siena Parish
Franciscan Media St. Catharine of Siena Knights
Gioffre Construction, Inc. of Columbus Council 11354
Onda LaBuhn Law Firm St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Knights
Kathleen & John Hodges of Columbus Council 11187
Layton Services St. John Neumann, Sunbury
Lee Colley Knights of Columbus Council
Mike & Judi Lisi St. Matthew the Apostle
Mike & Karen Szolosi Catholic Parish
St. Andrew Knights of St. Matthew Knights of
Columbus Council 11275 Columbus Council 1508
New Albany Knights of The Columbus Diocese Chapter
Columbus Council 10941 of the Knights of Columbus
Tom Lindsey Thomas & Amy Merry
Knights of Columbus Council Megan & Jeff Walker
5776 Weseterville In Memory of Timothy V.
Luckhaupt



COLUMBUS CATHOLIC
WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

www.columbuscatholicwomen.com

Save
the Dates **2024**
FEBRUARY 17
FEBRUARY 24



Catholic Men's Ministry

Centered on Christ • Called to be Saints • Inspired by St. Joseph

www.CatholicMensMinistry.com

Ash Wednesday Mass at OSU: 'Jesus is actually on campus'

By Hannah Heil
Catholic Times Reporter

With nearly 700 students present, Bishop Earl Fernandes celebrated Ash Wednesday Mass at Ohio State University.

The Mass was held Feb. 22 in the Ohio Union as part of Buckeye Catholic outreach. "The (Columbus St. Thomas More) Newman Center has been holding Mass at the Ohio Union for a few years now, but it is an effort to bring Mass to campus and encourage students to attend and learn more about Buckeye Catholic, as this is the most attended Mass of the year," said Sarah Lightle, communications associate at the Newman Center.

Buckeye Catholic, headquartered at the Newman Center near Ohio State, is a diocesan-led mission for the evangelization of young adults.

Students said they enjoyed having Buckeye Catholic on campus to celebrate Mass.

"I think having Mass on campus is so

cool – like Jesus is actually on campus," said Megan Gifford, a sophomore at Ohio State. "That is amazing."

During the Mass, Bishop Fernandes spoke of Lent as the beginning of a campaign of Christian service.

"We are beginning a 40-day campaign – a pilgrimage, a journey," he said.

The bishop connected the Christian campaign to Luke Chapter 15, in which Jesus tells the story of the shepherd who leaves the 99 sheep to find the lost one, and the prodigal son who returns to his father.

"Our 40 days of Lent can be spent on pilgrimage to our Father's house," he said.

The bishop said that the pilgrimage requires leaving a land of sin and desolation and journeying toward the Father's house, where there is a sense of belonging.

"We are armed with the weapons of self-restraint in the spiritual battle," Bishop Fernandes said.

The bishop spoke of prayer, fasting and almsgiving as the weapons of spiritual warfare.

Fasting, he said, is more than abstaining from food. It is a self-restraint of speech and can include being more patient with others' faults.

"We can satiate the belly but still be hungry. We need a different type of nourishment," Bishop Fernandes said.

The bishop said that almsgiving involves acting on the spiritual and corporal works of mercy and being mercy-minded. Prayer, he said, is speaking to God as a friend and being alone with the Father.

"God speaks to us in a whisper," Bishop Fernandes said, emphasizing the importance of spending time in silence to hear the Father's voice.

Some students said that they plan to put Bishop Fernandes' call to prayer into action.

"I'm really focusing on praying every day – personal prayer," Gifford said. "A relationship is something where you have to stay in communication with each other. To have a relationship with God, you have to stay in communication with Him and talk to Him and listen to what He has to say. Prayer is the way to do that."

The bishop encouraged students

to use the weapons of self-restraint – prayer, fasting and almsgiving – in the spiritual battle against evil.

"This is the acceptable time; this is the day of salvation," he said, recalling the words of St. Paul in the Mass' second reading from 2 Corinthians. "Jesus embraces us with mercy if we would but believe in Him."

Students present at the Mass said they enjoyed having the bishop on campus.

"It's the love that not only he has as a man, but also him being an in-person representation of God," said Gabbie Phillips, a Columbus State Community College student who came to the Ohio Union for the Mass. "It's God's love funneling through him. You can't listen to his homilies and not feel so much love."

She said that she is open to letting God lead her during Lent.

"I really feel on my heart that I want to let Him lead me wherever He wants to lead me," Phillips said. "I am going to be giving more time to Him. I am going to be fasting a lot. I just want Him to take over."

"That's my goal for this Lenten season."



Bishop Earl Fernandes makes the sign of the cross with ashes on the forehead of a student who attended the Ash Wednesday Mass on Feb. 22 in the Ohio Union at Ohio State University.

CT photos by Ken Snow



Ohio State University students Ben Romie (upper left photo) and Sophia Elias (upper right) kneel in prayer. Bishop Earl Fernandes (below) blesses the ashes.

A crowd of nearly 700 students jammed into a room at the Ohio Union on the Ohio State University campus for an Ash Wednesday Mass on Feb. 22.

Bishop offers words of encouragement at Rite of Election

An estimated 150 people preparing to receive the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and the Eucharist at Easter Vigil Masses throughout the diocese participated in the Rite of Election on Sunday, Feb. 26 at Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church.

The catechumens, a title that comes from the Greek word for “being instructed,” were joined at the ceremony by their sponsors and supporters. The Rite of Election takes place each year on the first Sunday of Lent with the local bishop or auxiliary bishop as the presider.

Catechumens are unbaptized adults who have received instruction at parishes for the past year to prepare for reception of the sacraments as members of the Catholic Church. The catechumens pre-signed the Book of the Elect.

The term “elect” refers to a discernment process with God inviting the catechumens into a fuller life of the sacraments.

Two parts of the rite include a sending and a receiving.

The sending refers to the catechumens being sent by their parishes to the Rite of Election to make a public pronouncement that they are ready to enter into a relationship with God through their participation in the life of the Church.

The receiving is done when the catechumens announced their names, and a local bishop or auxiliary bishop invites them to enter their name (done in advance this year) into the Book of the Elect.

After the catechumens were received, Bishop Earl Fernandes, for the first time as the bishop of the Diocese of Columbus, signed the Book of the Elect and the catechumens went forward as Members of the Elect.

The new bishop greeted the catechumens in his homily, making references to the Scripture readings and Gospel proclaimed at the ceremony.

He mentioned that the Gospel reading of Jesus’ temptation by the devil in the desert came immediately after the passage in St. Matthew referring to Jesus’ own baptism in the Jordan River by John the Baptist.

“Jesus was declared at his baptism as the Son of God, and through baptism you become adopted sons and daughters of God,” Bishop Fernandes said.

The bishop made several references to the season of Lent and how Jesus resisted temptations of the devil through God’s word, and He brings man out of the slavery of sin through His suffering and death.

“You who will be baptized will be baptized into the life of the one true God Who alone is worthy of worship and adoration,” Bishop Fernandes said.

He later added, “Through sharing in His death and resurrection, you who will be baptized, sharing in His life, will have the possibility of eternal life. For the gift is not like the transgression (of Adam). It far surpasses it.”

And, he said, “through baptism we become children of a loving and merciful Father.”

“The whole church of the Diocese of Columbus now journeys with you toward the joy of Easter,” the bishop concluded in his homily. “Be assured of our love and our prayers as you journey toward becoming sons and daughters of God, equipped with the word of God, the virtues of faith, hope and charity and especially of humility, trusting in God’s merciful love for you.”



Jose Perez Velazquez states his name as his sponsor. Sister Maria Soledad of the Leaven of the Immaculate Heart of Mary order, places a hand on his shoulder during the Rite of Election on Sunday, Feb. 26 at Westerville St. Paul Church. He will be entering the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil Mass at Portsmouth Holy Redeemer Church.



Catechumen Tommy Lee Diamond states his name as sponsor Tyler Berger places a hand on his shoulder. Diamond, an 18-year-old senior at Northridge High School, will become Catholic at the Easter Vigil on April 8 at Sunbury St. John Neumann Church. Diamond said he had never been a member of a religious denomination before he was introduced to the Catholic Church by his girlfriend, who brought him to St. John Neumann. He started attending Mass and participating in various youth group activities while discussing the faith with youth ministers before deciding to begin taking RCIA classes last fall.



Bishop Earl Fernandes signs the Book of the Elect as Deacon Joe Ciaciura (left) and seminarian Jake Asuncion watch.



Catechumens stand during the Rite of Election. *CT photos by Ken Snow*

Funeral director inspired by attending Catholic Masses

By Hannah Heil
Catholic Times Reporter

Christ often spoke of death bringing new life. This might be especially true for Tyler Brown, a funeral director at Summers Funeral Home in Washington Court House.

He is preparing to enter into the Catholic Church at Easter.

Brown was raised as a Protestant, but his work in the funeral business led him to spend time in various churches, one being a Catholic church.

"Because of my profession as a funeral director, I am blessed with the opportunity to have such great relationships with all the churches where I live," he said. "However, the one I was least familiar with was the Catholic church."

Brown's time spent in Washington Court House St. Colman of Cloyne Church for funeral Masses raised questions for him about the Catholic faith.

"I wondered why they prayed the rosary, and why to Mary, and why they did this at funerals," he said. "I wanted to know why things were done in a certain, ceremonious way each time. So, to say the least, my curiosity led me to reach out to some Catholic friends and eventually to the parish to meet with Father."

As his curiosity about Catholic tradi-



Tyler Brown

tions grew, Brown began exploring Catholic prayers and turning to Catholic media outlets for information.

"I got to participate in the Divine Office with Bishop Reed on CatholicTV," he said. "I had to watch it first thing in the morning, evening, and every night before I went to bed. It was just something I needed, wanted and couldn't wait to do."

An unexpected family situation happening then led Tyler to increasingly turn to God in prayer.

"My family was going through a situa-

tion where I kind of felt lost," he said. "I started to pray more, and at the same time there was my curiosity, and they started to come together at the right time."

The consolation that Brown experienced through watching and praying the Divine Office led him to begin watching the televised daily Mass.

"It brought me joy, comfort and most of all strength to get by another day," he said. "It wasn't long until I started watching the daily Mass on CatholicTV."

Brown began attending Mass at St. Colman outside of being present for Requiem Masses.

"I had been in Mass during funerals, but I was working," he said. "I wanted to know what it was like to be at an actual Mass and sit there in the pew, so I started going."

Brown said that a spiritual fire ignited inside him, and he experienced a closeness to God that he did not know before.

"I had never had an ignition under me the way that the Church made me feel," he said. "It lit a spark under me. I wanted to go to Mass; I wanted to pray my liturgy; I wanted to pray my rosary. I couldn't get enough, and that spark is still there with me today. I had never had that before."

Having regularly worked with St. Colman professionally, Brown felt comfortable approaching the church staff.

"I really liked Father (Cyrus) Haddad

when he came here at the funeral home," Brown said. "I felt that he was somebody I could talk to. I had known the church secretary for a long time. There was no reason for me to be nervous about asking dumb questions. It feels like home now."

Brown said that he came to recognize Catholicism as the true faith once he began attending Mass regularly and taking RCIA instructions at St. Colman.

"In RCIA, I learned that the Church was created by the Apostles 2,000 years ago, and this is our Church that is here today," he said.

Brown said that he is fascinated by the unbroken line of succession dating back to the time Jesus appointed St. Peter as the first pope.

"The pope, the priests and the bishops – that they can all be traced back to the Apostles – that really sticks out to me," he said. "It truly is the Church that Jesus built, and for some reason that has stuck out in my heart."

As he prepares to become a member of the Church at Easter, Brown said that deciding to convert has been transformative for him.

"It has been the best decision I have ever made," he said. "I cannot imagine if I had not done this. From where I was to where I am today, it is just amazing."

College sparked faith journey for future veterinarian

By Tim Puet
For The Catholic Times

Annabeth Rumble, who is taking RCIA classes at Columbus St. Christopher Church, said her choice of college ultimately led her to join the Catholic Church.

Rumble, 25, who will be receiving her doctorate in veterinary medicine in April from Ohio State University (OSU), grew up on a horse-breeding farm in Fairfield, Kentucky.

Fairfield is a few miles from Bardstown, Kentucky, one of the nation's first centers of Catholicism (the Diocese of Columbus originally was part of the former Diocese of Bardstown, which was created in 1808). But she knew little of Catholicism or any religion during her childhood because her family was what she described as "pretty staunchly atheist."

When it came time to go to college, she wanted to attend a small school and chose Walsh University in North Canton, a Catholic institution formerly operated by the Brothers of Christian Instruction.

"I've always wanted to be a veterinarian because I grew up with animals as part of my daily life," she said. "Walsh has a pre-veterinary program, and it appealed to me because it would give me the knowledge base I wanted at a school with about 3,000 students that was the size I wanted.

"When I visited the school, I felt a very calming presence, like walking into someone's home, and the combination of programs and atmosphere convinced me to go there.

"I took a couple of theology courses there, and they opened my mind to the idea that God does exist. Those courses made me hungry to go deeper into theology. The brothers talked about the rational foundations for belief in God and in the Catholic Church and just kept opening my mind."

After graduating from Walsh, Rumble went to OSU to complete her veterinary studies. She said she was close to becoming Catholic when she came to central Ohio but hadn't quite reached that point.

"When I got to Columbus, because of my background with horses, I joined the Rocky Fork Headley Hunt Club, which does fox hunting on its land in Gahanna on weekends throughout the year. It's actually fox chasing, because we never kill the foxes but just enjoy the opportunity to ride horses in open country," she said.

Among the club's traditions is an annual blessing of its foxhounds that invokes the intercession of St. Hubert, the patron of hunters. St. Hubert lived in Belgium in the seventh and eighth centuries and was an avid hunter who became even more of an outdoorsman after the death of his wife.

He had little use for religion until, as legend holds, he had a vision of a crucifix

glowing between the antlers of a stag he was about to shoot. From that point, he turned his life toward God, eventually becoming the first bishop of Liege, Belgium.

"During one of the hunts, I began thinking how much my story was like that of St. Hubert," Rumble said. "I also was a person who didn't think much about faith until God began leading me."

"What happened to me wasn't as dramatic as St. Hubert's vision, but just as he found Christ in the middle of the forest, I decided while riding through a pond in the middle of nowhere that God was calling me to become a Catholic.

"I'm taking RCIA classes at St. Christopher's because it's close to the OSU campus. I'm grateful to my sponsor, Mary Rose Finneran, for the way she is guiding me through learning about the Church and calming my anxieties.

"I was scared because I thought people would see me at Mass and know I'm not Catholic, but it hasn't been like that at all. In church I feel very peaceful, like I'm where I should be.

"Because of my background, it bothered me that the Church teaches that animals don't have souls and won't be with you in heaven. But one of the instructors said that just because they're not in heaven, that doesn't mean they won't be a part of me in some way in the afterlife, since God will provide whatever it is that brings you happiness. That satisfied me.

"The Church's teaching about purga-

tory also was a big stretch, but as I read more about it, it made sense. It also was important to learn that an inverted, or upside-down, cross, is significant to the Church because it's how St. Peter died. I used to think of it as an occult symbol, and some people use it that way, but it was a relief to see it has a real meaning to Catholics," Rumble said.

After graduation, Rumble will be moving to suburban New Orleans and working for MedVet, a nationwide emergency and specialty veterinary care organization that has an office in Worthington, where she has been an intern. She said she's looking forward to becoming active at a parish in her new home area, which has a rich Catholic history.

David Schneider, who also is taking RCIA classes at St. Christopher Church, said his path to the Catholic Church began with a chance encounter with his next-door neighbor.

"I'm from Columbus and had a chance to come back home to work after spending seven years in (the) Kansas City (area) doing work that was satisfying professionally and in a financial sense but left me without a sense of community," he said.

"One day, my neighbor invited me to join him at an event sponsored by (St. Christopher) parish's young Professionals group," which has met regularly for the

Deaf catechumen learns about Catholicism via Zoom

By Hannah Heil
Catholic Times Reporter

Amanda Nicklis is among the catechumens who will enter the Catholic Church at Easter.

Nicklis, who has never been baptized, lost her ability to hear as an infant.

She began attending Mass at Hilliard St. Brendan the Navigator Church more than a year ago because sign language is offered at the 10:45 a.m. Mass a few times per month.

"She is deaf and started attending one of our Sunday Masses because we have a woman (Janet Donnell) who volunteers to sign at it," said Father Frank Brown, parochial vicar at St. Brendan.

Nicklis said she enjoyed having Donnell present to sign at Mass.

"The interpreter is amazing, and it helps me to understand what is 'God' and 'faith,'" she said. "I can't miss out ... for the Mass every Sunday."

Nicklis said that she came to find Catholicism as the true faith through attending Mass at St. Brendan and through her RCIA instruction.

"I want to become Catholic because the faith is pure truth," she said. "It helps us powerfully by prayer."

Nicklis' father is Catholic, and her mother attended a Christian church. Nicklis said now that she is an adult, she can choose which faith she would like to be baptized into.

"At the Catholic church I could see how true the Catholic religion is, and how important Jesus is, and the Eucharist," she said. "Now that I am grown up, I decided to become Catholic."

Nicklis' journey to the Catholic Church began online in August 2022 through watching a series of videos for RCIA instructions. She said that the experience did not prove to be fruitful for her.

"Well, I'm deaf, and I joined RCIA online, but it didn't help me grow in faith," she said.

Father Brown contacted Kathy Hodges at New Albany Church of the Resurrection. Hodges volunteers there as leader of the Deaf Ministry.

"I wasn't sure what to do with her catechesis at first because, unfortunately, not much is provided to facilitate that," Father Brown said. "Thankfully, though, I was able to connect with someone who not only is able to sign but actually taught RCIA, so they meet privately."

Hodges reached out to her friend Father Michael Depcik when she heard about Nicklis' situation. Father Depcik, OSFS, is the director of Deaf Ministry in the Archdiocese of Detroit. He is one of

fewer than a dozen deaf priests worldwide.

"I met Father Mike Depcik at the (Church of the Resurrection) deaf conference last year," Hodges said. "Because of Amanda's work schedule, she was unable to participate in RCIA classes. I contacted Father Depcik and asked, 'What is your suggestion?' It is best to come from a deaf person."

Father Depcik arranged for Nicklis to take one-on-one RCIA instruction remotely from Daniel Gibb, a deaf instructor and member of St. John's Deaf Center, part of the Archdiocese of Detroit's Catholic Deaf Community.

Gibb uses PowerPoints for RCIA instructions, DVDs produced by the National Catholic Office for the Deaf and some material provided by Father Depcik. He also teaches RCIA classes for the deaf on Sundays at St. John's Deaf Center in Detroit.

"Father Mike has RCIA provided on Zoom to teach me and grow in faith," she said. "(There is) so much learning about the Catholic (faith). That's something I don't know about. I am really motivated to learn more about the Catholic (faith), plus sign language for Catholic words."

Nicklis said learning about Catholicism via Zoom has been a great experience for her this time. She said that she "loves" the RCIA instruction with Gibb, and it has given her great "satisfaction."

"I am just fascinated by the preaching," she said. "It has made such an emphasis on me. I love learning the Gospels and knowing that I can trust in Jesus. I cannot wait to become Catholic."

Nicklis has met weekly with Gibb for RCIA class since October 2022. Hodges said she is also present on the Zoom calls to provide support.

"Because of Amanda's situation, we were creative in this way," Hodges said. "It is an enriched environment where she can learn about the Catholic faith."

Nicklis said that she has learned infor-



Amanda Nicklis

mation and miraculous stories that have strengthened her faith.

"I have realized the wonderful truth that the saints do not detract from God's glory or compete with Him for honor, but rather they magnify his grace and increase his glory," she said. "Also, I read an article about the scapular. A man in the war wore the scapular ... all men died, but the man who used the scapular is alive. Long story, but how amazing."

Nicklis said that she is looking forward to receiving the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist come Easter.

"I can get the Eucharist after RCIA is completed and continue attending Mass every Sunday, which is very important for our God."

Nicklis can read and write. She answered questions from The Catholic Times regarding her conversion story by email and in a Zoom call with Hodges there to interpret. Her quotations in this story are taken from those emails and Hodges' interpretation.

St. Margaret of Cortona
1600 N. Hague Ave. • 614+279+1690

Fried Ocean Perch or Baked Cod, with French Fries, Baked Potato or Sweet Potato, Macaroni & Cheese, Cole Slaw, Applesauce, Roll & Butter, and homemade Desserts. Free coffee!

FRIDAYS DURING LENT
FEBRUARY 24 - MARCH 31 | 4:30 - 7:30 PM

- \$15.00 Adults
- \$14.50 Seniors
- \$7.00 Children (10 & under)
- Free (3 & under)
- Pop, Beer, Seconds, and Carryouts available

MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGE
staying at the Pilgrim house of
Visionary Marija Pavlovic' Lunetti!
JUNE 12-22 2023
\$2,795 from Cincinnati price includes airfare,
transfer, hotel and 2 daily meals.

Daily apparitions and
private talks with Marija.

Contact
lpifher@hotmail.com
or 513-377-6780

OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH
1559 Roxbury Road, Marble Cliff 43212
(Parish Life Center)

FISH FRY DINNERS
Fridays, 2/24 through 3/31, 4:30-7 pm
Fresh Ocean Perch (fried)
Baked Potatoes, French Fries or Rice
Salad or Cole Slaw, Complimentary Beverages, Dessert included
\$15 Adults, \$7 Kids | Carryouts available

www.BESTFISHFRY.com
Baked or Hand Battered Fish & Cole Slaw, Mac n' Cheese,
Green Beans, *Fries ^{only}

WALK IN | **Pre-Order**
Dining Room OR **TO GO Online**
ALL YOU CARE TO EAT | for faster pickup

Fridays Feb. 24th - Mar. 31

5-7pm | **ST. JOAN OF ARC** | Powell
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 10765

COLLEGE, continued from Page 13

past nine years for social activities and service programs.

"I liked the people I met there and began hanging out with them more and more. Being with them made me feel like I was part of a community and made me begin thinking more about matters of faith," Schneider said.

"I grew up in New Albany with a family which was active in the Lutheran Church, but in Kansas City I had focused fully on my career and wasn't a regular churchgoer.

"The group talked often about the influence of the Holy Spirit, and after a while I began to feel as though it was no accident that I was being drawn to this specific place and these people - that it was the Holy Spirit at work through them.

"One day I asked, 'What if I were to tell you I wanted to be a Catholic?' As it turned out, an RCIA class was starting the next day, and I joined it."

Schneider, who is in his mid-30s, said he was familiar with much of Catholic teaching and the basics of Catholic liturgy because Lutheran services are structured much the same way.

"One of the things I was mistaken about was the Catholic practice of praying to the saints," he said. "I thought, 'Why don't you just pray directly to God?' not realizing that praying to the saints is actually praying for them to intercede with God because they are in heaven.

"I thought sainthood was some sort of

honorary title and didn't know it was a declaration that someone is in heaven and can intercede with God on our behalf.

"Confession also is a difficult concept because I always felt you should confess straight to God. I'm still getting my head wrapped around the concept of talking to a man about my sins and how he has been given the authority to forgive me, but I know the priest is acting in the person of Christ and that Jesus gave the Apostles and their successors the power to forgive sins when he first appeared in the Upper Room after His resurrection.

"I haven't received the sacrament of reconciliation yet, so I still have some questions that won't be answered until

my first confession."

Schneider is vice president of account management analytics for Rellevate, affiliated with Sutton Bank of Attica, Ohio. Rellevate is an employer-based, direct-to-consumer digital financial services company that allows workers to perform many traditional banking activities through their employer for the first time.

Schneider works from his home but frequently travels to consult with companies such as Subway, Dunkin' Donuts and Crocs shoes, which are part of the Rellevate system, and businesses that are installing it.

He received bachelor's and master's degrees in economics, statistical analy-

sis and marketing from Heidelberg University in Tiffin. He spent four years in Kansas City with the VMLY&R marketing and communications firm, working with companies such as Wendy's, PepsiCo and Kellogg's, then was with Kansas City-based Hallmark for three years as a product manager.

"I was involved with all the Hallmark cards you see for events such as Valentine's Day, Christmas, Mother's Day and Father's Day, overseeing the entire process from creation to distribution," he said.

"It was a great job but left me unfulfilled. It took coming home to Columbus and finding a spiritual home in the Catholic Church to fill the hole I felt inside."

LENTEN FISH FRY
ST. PATRICK CHURCH
 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus

FEB. 24, MARCH 3, 10, 24, 31
5 P.M. TO 7 P.M.

\$12 per adult
\$10 per students and seniors
 Family charge cannot exceed \$40
 Carryout available
STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT 7 P.M.

FISH FRY
FRIDAY

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
 St Jude Council - 5801



ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 8TH GRADERS ATTENDING A CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

www.kofc5801.Org

ST. MATTHEW THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC PARISH
 807 Havens Corners Road, Gahanna, Ohio 43230
Every Friday from February 24th - March 31st | 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm

SOCIAL DINING WITH LIVE ENTERTAINMENT in the HUTTA GYM
Featuring Homemade Sides & Desserts

SOCIAL DINING MENU (ALL YOU CAN EAT)

| | |
|--|---|
| 3 - Pieces of Cod (Baked or Deep Fried) French Fries or Baked Potato Arkansas Green Beans or Mac and Cheese Coleslaw and Dessert Lemonade, Punch, and Coffee | PRICE - \$15.00 / PERSON Family of 3 - \$42.00 / Family of 4 - \$56.00 Family of 5 - \$70.00 / Family of 6 - \$84.00 Senior (65 & above) - \$14.00 |
|--|---|

DRIVE THRU MENU (NOT ALL YOU CAN EAT)
PLACE YOUR ORDER GO TO THE PAC ENTRANCE

3 - Pieces of Cod (Baked or Deep Fried)
 French Fries | Coleslaw
PRICE - \$10.00

Cash, Check, and Credit/Debit Card.
Credit/Debit Card subject to a \$1.00 expense charge per transaction.



RUNOHIO

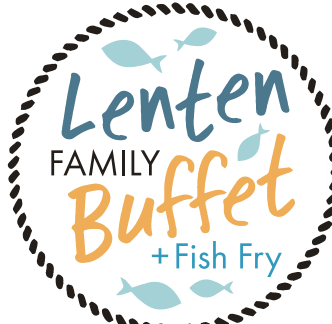
SERVING RUNNERS FOR 35 YEARS!

SUBSCRIBE TODAY to Take Advantage of the \$8 "Club Price"

runsignup.com/runohio

Ohio's source for running | www.runohio.com

Matt McGowan - runohio@ee.net



LUNCH

11am to 1:30pm

Drive-thru & carry-out:

3-piece fish, fries, coleslaw
OR Veggie Lo Mein | \$14

DINNER

4:30pm to 7:30pm

Dine-in & carry-out:


Adult dine-in | \$16
 Senior dine-in | \$14
 Kids (4-10) dine-in | \$10

Drive-thru:

3-piece fish, fries, coleslaw
OR Veggie Lo Mein | \$14

February 24


March 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31



CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

6300 E. Dublin-Granville Rd.
 New Albany, OH 43054
 614-855-1400

For more information, to pre-order drive-thru meals and to view the full menu use the QR code or visit: www.cotrna.org



Online Catholic university bolsters educator's faith, knowledge

By **Hannah Heil**
Catholic Times Reporter

After several years of volunteering as a Parish School of Religion (PSR) classroom aide and teacher, Becky Rubal received a call.

Rubal said that the Holy Spirit prompted her to pursue earning a master's degree.

Rubal served as a PSR teacher, classroom aide, Early Childhood PSR coordinator and currently as PSR coordinator at Columbus St. Peter Church during her 20 years there as a parishioner.

Her love of learning about the Catholic faith and desire to contribute to religious education led to what she describes as the Holy Spirit prompting her to pursue a master's degree in theology.

Rubal answered the call by enrolling in Catholic Distance University (CDU).

Established in 1983, CDU is the first and only exclusively online Catholic university in the United States. It offers continuing education certificate programs, as well as undergraduate and graduate degree and certificate programs.

"I chose Catholic Distance University because it was accredited, it offered a specialization in educational ministry, and it was one of the more affordable distance learning options," Rubal said.

The university, which brands itself as a

pioneer in Catholic distance education, is the only online university recommended by The Cardinal Newman Society.

The Cardinal Newman Society provides resources to help Catholic educators and leaders uphold the important mission of faithful Catholic education, according to its website. The Society also recognizes select Catholic colleges for their commitment to a faithful education.

According to the "CDU Quick Facts" brochure, "the university educates teachers and learners worldwide in Catholic theology, the liberal arts, and faith development for the growth of faith, ecclesial service, and leadership for the new evangelization."

"Many of my classes were taught by instructors well-known in Catholic media, such as Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio, Dr. Chris Padgett and Deacon Omar Gutierrez," Rubal said. "It was such a blessing to be able to take courses remotely at my own pace."

Rubal, who earned her degree at the end of 2022, began taking courses toward a Master of Arts in Theology and Educational Ministry in fall 2019. She completed one online course per term while then working part time as an information specialist.

She recognized a need for solid catechesis, or religious instruction, when considering the possible outcome of such education.

"When surveys indicate that many Catholics don't believe in the Real Presence in the Eucharist, or that they're unaware of the principles of Catholic social teaching, that's undoubtedly a failure of catechesis," Rubal said.

Rubal herself experienced what she describes as a faulty catechetical education.

"I'm a cradle Catholic who suffered from poor catechesis despite going to a Catholic elementary school. As a young adult, I discovered that I knew very little about scripture or church teaching, and I ended up being very lukewarm," Rubal said.

As a PSR coordinator, Rubal said that earning her master's in theology and educational ministry has been beneficial in evaluating catechetical materials and lesson planning.

CDU students are taught that prayer is a fundamental component of catechesis.

"We're taught that one of the fundamental tasks of catechesis is to teach the faithful how to pray and that catechesis should be 'permeated by a climate of prayer,'" Rubal said.

According to the General Directory for Catechesis, "when catechesis is permeated by a climate of prayer, the assimilation of the entire Christian life reaches its summit" (no. 85).

Knowledge of sacred Scripture is another fundamental task of catechesis. Rubal plans to incorporate more of the

Bible into her lesson plans for the coming year.

"By emphasizing prayer and the knowledge of Scripture, our students will not only be led to understand the truths of the faith, but more importantly, to also develop a personal relationship with Christ," Rubal said.

CDU made sure that its own students, while in their pursuit of a degree, were educated in this climate of prayer.

"Students (at CDU) were asked to complete a Personal and Spiritual Integration Assessment to help evaluate our spiritual development in nine different areas: self-entrustment to Christ, dialogue with the Word, praying in faith, Godly relationships, witnessing to others, worshipping in spirit and truth, growing in virtue and character development, participation in Christ's mission, and practicing God's presence," Rubal said.

Students were asked to develop a plan for their spiritual growth, which could help them strengthen areas of weakness. Faculty members would follow up with students once or twice a year by calling and checking on their progress.

"Spiritual formation is just as critical as catechetical formation," Rubal said. "Instructors also can benefit greatly by working on their own spiritual growth and developing a closer relationship with Christ."

LILIES to DECORATE your CHOICE of THREE CEMETERY CHAPELS

If you would like to donate a potted Easter lily to decorate one of the chapels listed below in memory of a special loved one, please return this coupon with a donation of \$15 to the Catholic cemetery of your choice.

Your Name: _____

In Memory of: _____

YOU MAY PICK UP YOUR LILIES THE WEEK OF APRIL 16TH IF YOU WISH TO KEEP THEM.

ST. JOSEPH CEMETERY
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel
6440 S. High St./U.S. Rt. 23 S.
Lockbourne, Ohio 43137

RESURRECTION CEMETERY
Chapel Mausoleum
9571 N. High St./U.S. Rt. 23 N.
Lewis Center, Ohio 43035

HOLY CROSS CEMETERY
Chapel Mausoleum
11539 National Rd. S.W./U.S. Rt. 40 E.
Pataskala, Ohio 43062



Q&A MEETING

March 30, 2023 | at 7:00pm

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION
PARISH in the Ascension Hall

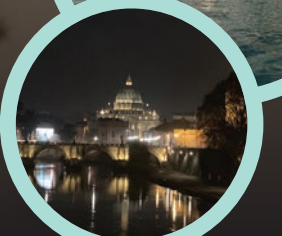
join
FR. STEPHEN SMITH'S
ITALIAN PILGRIMAGE

10 DAYS & NIGHTS
October 16th - 27th 2023

SORRENTO
4 nights in Luxurious Mountain-Top Accommodations.

ASSISI
2 nights in the Medieval Town of Assisi & home to St. Francis & St. Clare.

THE ETERNAL CITY OF ROME!!!
4 Nights Overlooking the Borgo Neighborhood at our hotel with its relaxing Roof-Top Terrace within a 10-minute walk to St. Peter's Square.



LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS

Reconciliation Monday is April 3 throughout diocese

Priests will be available to hear confessions in nearly every parish of the diocese from 4 to 7 p.m. Monday, April 3, the diocese's third annual Reconciliation Monday.

This special time for the sacrament of reconciliation is part of the diocese's Real Presence Real Future campaign and is in addition to the other times made available for the sacrament throughout the year and in the season of Lent.

The first Reconciliation Monday took place on March 29, 2021 as diocesan parishes were recovering from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which prevented all public worship in Ohio for a time. It continued last year on April 11. This year's event, like the previous two, takes place on the Monday after Palm Sunday.

St. James celebrates 75th anniversary

Columbus St. James the Less Church, 1652 Oakland Park Ave., will celebrate its 75th anniversary at a Mass on Saturday, March 11 at 4:30 p.m. featuring some of the parish's former priests, followed by a reception in the school gymnasium from 6 to 10 p.m.

Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be available at the event, which will include a reading from the book *God's Silent Soldier* by parishioner Elisa D. Fitzmartin. Self-guided tours of some of the classrooms also will be available.

Tickets for the event are \$75 per person. They may be ordered at <https://www.osvhub.com/st.../forms/75-anniversary-dinner>

Record Society to present talk on Catholicism in Perry County

Peter Thomas and William Noll will speak about the Catholic faith in Somerset and Perry County from its earliest days to the present at the quarterly meeting of the Catholic Record Society at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 26 in the Lang Room at The Catholic Foundation, 257 E. Broad St., Columbus.

Doors will open at 1:30 p.m. with the presentation to begin at 2, followed by a society business meeting to elect officers.

Somerset is known as "the cradle of Catholicism in Ohio" because the first Mass in the state was celebrated there in 1808 by Father (later Bishop) Edward Fenwick, OP, and the original Somerset St. Joseph Church, built 10 years later, was the state's first Catholic church.

Thomas is a direct descendant of Jacob Dittoe, in whose cabin the first Mass was celebrated. He is caretaker of the First Mass Memorial site. Noll is the principal of Somerset Holy Trinity School and is the owner and operator of W.C. Noll Family Farms, located on his ancestors' land near New Lexington. He is a parishioner of St. Joseph Church,

which his family has attended for more than six generations.

Catholic University professor to speak at Josephinum

Dr. Chad C. Pecknold, associate professor of systematic theology at Catholic University of America, will deliver the annual Cardinal Pio Laghi Chair lecture at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 29 in the Jessing Center of the Pontifical College Josephinum, 7625 N. High St., Columbus.

His subject will be "To Make Disciples of All Nations: Rethinking the Catholic Mission in America." The event is free, and reservations are not required.

The Cardinal Laghi Chair was inaugurated at the Josephinum in 1992 in honor of Cardinal Pio Laghi, who at the time was prefect of the Congregation for Catholic Education.

American cardinals and presidents of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops promoted the funding of this chair in recognition of Cardinal Laghi's dedicated service to the Catholic Church in the United States.

For more information on the lecture, go to www.pcj.edu or call (614) 985-2274

Dominican sisters sponsor 'Come and See' event

The Dominican Sisters of Peace will host a "Come and See" event for single Catholic women between the ages of 18 and 45 from Friday to Sunday, March 17 to 19 at their motherhouse, 2320 Airport Drive, Columbus.

The sisters have eight women in formation to become religious sisters. The group includes scientists, communications professionals, medical professionals and a former prison guard. Participants in the event will meet these women and learn more about their journey and choice, as well as spending time with other sisters in prayer, study, meals, conversation and recreation.

The program is free, and lodging and meals will be provided. It will begin at 4 p.m. Friday and conclude after Mass and lunch at 1 p.m. Sunday. To register, visit the congregation's website at oppeace.org, or contact Sister June Fitzgerald, OP, at (570) 336-3991 or jfitzgerald@oppeace.org.

Retreat house announces four seasonal events

The St. Martin de Porres Family Retreat House in the Hocking Hills will host a series of four seasonal retreats featuring author Cecile Smith and her method of becoming closer to God through nature.

Smith is from Columbus, and she and her book *Connecting With God in the Garden: An Inspirational Journal for*

All Seasons were featured in a *Catholic Times* story in 2022.

Dates for the retreats are May 5-7, Aug. 27-29, Oct. 6-8 and Dec. 1-3. All begin on Friday and end on Sunday.

Participants may spend the day or the night at the retreat house, and there is no requirement to attend all the events, which are described as immersive work/study programs. Space is limited.

The retreat house is a four-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath home that sleeps 10 to 15 adults and has a full kitchen, game room, laundry room, patio, fire ring and private prayer room. It was donated to the Pio Project, a nonprofit organization formed by Rebecca Gjostein of Columbus, and is designed for families who would like to spend time in a space with a religious atmosphere and surrounded by beautiful scenery.

It is located at 22997 Goosecreek Road in South Bloomingville. For more information, call (614) 406-3507 or go to www.mdeporres.com.

Bishop Fernandes named to Franciscan advisory board

Bishop Earl Fernandes has been selected as one of five members of Franciscan University of Steubenville's new episcopal advisory board.

The board will draw upon its members' experience, wisdom and insights as the university plans for the future and responds to record-breaking enrollment and a growing demand for its evangelization and renewal initiatives.

Other board members are Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone, archbishop of San Francisco; Bishops Frank Caggiano of Bridgeport, Connecticut and An-

drew Cozzens of Crookston, Minnesota; and Bishop Joseph L. Coffey, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese for Military Services, USA.

Members of the board have committed to a five-year term that includes an annual meeting and one visit per term to the university campus to address the students, faculty and staff.

In his acceptance letter, Bishop Fernandes wrote that he looks forward to strengthening his diocese's relationship with Franciscan: "Many members of the faithful have benefited as students from the quality and faithful Catholic education offered at Franciscan University, and many of our youth have grown tremendously in their faith through the summer offerings there."

INTERIOR PAINTING

Give those rooms a new look. Great prices especially for senior citizens.

Years of experience!

CALL RICHARD LIBERTORE

614-488-8842

Beautifully Handcrafted Memorials
From *Our Family* to *Yours*

MARY LOU (LaBOUNTY) 1935 - 2012
WILKINSON
ZHANG

MODLICH Monument Company

614-276-1439 modlich-monument.com

You are cordially invited to our
Reverse Raffle
Sts. Peter & Paul School
POT OF GOLD PARTY
\$10,000 in cash prizes
given away in one night!

Tickets: \$50 each for one drawing entry and admission for two adults.
Purchase at www.stspeterandpaulwellston.com/potofgold

Saturday
March 18, 2023
Doors Open: 6PM
*Must be 21+ to enter

229 S New York Ave
Wellston, Ohio
740-384-6354

Third Sunday of Lent Year A

Only God can quench our thirst

Exodus 17:3-7
Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9
Romans 5:1-2, 5-8
John 4:5-42

Grumbles and complaints are often a mask for something deeper. Everything depends on the real circumstances of the one who is expressing dissatisfaction.

We often tell children that God gave us two ears and one mouth so we are meant to listen twice as much as we speak. When we listen and pay close attention to the real need that is being expressed in a grumble or a complaint – whether our own or another’s – we might discover that we can “go deeper” into the true nature of things.

In Samaria, Jesus is hungry and thirsty. The disciples are sent to find a way to satisfy the grumbles of the stomach. The thirst remains, and Jesus is next to the place where thirst can be quenched – Jacob’s well – if only a bucket were handy.

A woman with a bucket comes along, and Jesus crosses over into an encounter that is unexpected and that satisfies the deepest hungers and thirsts of His heart and hers.

The people of Israel in the desert recall their time of slavery in Egypt as a time of plenty, compared with what they experience in a moment of thirst. Their complaint is taken out against their leader, who does what he should. He takes it to God, but he also takes it personally, crying out: “What shall I do with this people? A little more and they will stone me!”

Fourth Sunday of Lent Year A

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Father Timothy Hayes

Father Timothy M. Hayes is pastor of Chillicothe St. Mary and St. Peter; and Waverly, St. Mary, Queen of the Missions.



Moses serves in a priestly role, as a bridge between God and His people, standing before God on the people’s behalf. He strikes the rock with his staff, and water pours out.

The same staff held back the waters at the crossing of the Sea of Reeds, a dramatic moment in their Exodus. The thirst of the people is satisfied, but there is a deeper meaning. “Strike at the Rock and Wisdom shall pour, water and living flame.”

When Jesus speaks to the woman of Samaria, His true thirst is to be understood and accepted as He reveals Himself. The disciples have missed it. The woman, whose life has made her vulnerable and yet who is perceptive in a way that the disciples are not, is the first to hear the truth that Jesus is Himself the One Whose coming is expected.

“Jesus said to her, ‘I am He, the One speaking with you.’” She becomes a missionary, leaving behind her bucket and her thirst and filling the hungers of the Lord’s own heart.

As we continue the journey of Lent, we are invited to become more aware of our own hungers and thirsts, the deepest longings of our hearts. The Responsorial Psalm reminds us to listen deeply to the voice of God speaking to us through our

ness, sight and blindness. Jesus heals a man blind from birth who had one place at the doors of the temple as a beggar and now has a new place as one who can see as God sees, as well as having been cured of blindness. God’s plan for him opens a new world to him, even as it reveals the blindness of all around him.

Those who claim to see are unwilling to accept the gift of salvation because they are not able to move beyond their own way of seeing. Sin remains because the healing from sin is not accepted.

The miracle Jesus performed on this occasion was in stages, inviting action and response on the part of the one being healed. “He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, ‘Go wash in the Pool of Siloam’ – which means Sent –. So he went and washed, and came back able to see.”

The journey to Siloam from the Temple Mount would have been easy for the man blind from birth. He knew where everything was. He had only to walk

The Weekday Bible Readings

| 3/13-3/18 | THURSDAY | 3/20-3/25 | John 5:17-30 |
|---|--|--|---|
| MONDAY 2 Kings 5:1-15ab Psalm 42:2,3,43:3-4 Luke 4:24-30 | Jeremiah 7:23-28 Psalm 95:1-2,6-9 Luke 11:14-23 | MONDAY 2 Samuel 7:4-5a,12-14a,16 Psalm 89:2-5,27,29 Romans 4:13,16-18,22 Matthew 1:16,18-21,24a or Luke 2:41-51a | THURSDAY Exodus 32:7-14 Psalm 106:19-23 John 5:31-47 |
| TUESDAY Daniel 3:25,34-43 Psalm 25:4-9 Matthew 18:21-35 | FRIDAY Hosea 14:2-10 Psalm 81:6c-11b,14,17 Mark 12:28-34 | TUESDAY Ezekiel 47:1-9,12 Psalm 46:2-3,5-6,8-9 John 5:1-16 | FRIDAY Wisdom 2:1a,12-22 Psalm 34:17-21,23 John 7:1-2,10,25-30 |
| WEDNESDAY Deuteronomy 4:1,5-9 Psalm 147:12-13,15-16,19-20 Matthew 5:17-19 | SATURDAY Hosea 6:1-6 Psalm 51:3-4,18-21ab Luke 18:9-14 | WEDNESDAY Isaiah 49:8-15 Psalm 145:8-9,13c-14,17-18 | SATURDAY Isaiah 7:10-14;18:10 Psalm 40:7-12 Hebrews 10:4-10 Luke 1:26-38 |

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION

Mass Schedule: Weeks of March 12 and March 19, 2023

SUNDAY MASS

10:30 a.m. Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com and diocesan website, www.columbuscatholic.org.

10:30 a.m. Mass from Portsmouth St. Mary Church on St. Gabriel Radio (FM 88.3), Portsmouth.

Mass with the Passionist Fathers at 7:30 a.m. on WWHO-TV (the CW), Channel 53, Columbus and 10:30 a.m. on WHIZ-TV, Channel 18, Zanesville. Mass from St. Francis de Sales Seminary, Milwaukee, at 10 a.m. on WWHO-TV. Check local cable system for cable channel listing.

Mass from Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, Birmingham, Ala., at 8 a.m. on EWTN (Spectrum Channel 385,

Insight Channel 382, or Breezeline Channel 378). (Encores at noon, 7 p.m., and midnight).

Mass from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee at 6:30 a.m. on ION TV (AT&T U-verse Channel 195, Dish Network Channel 250, or DirecTV Channel 305).

Mass from Massillon St. Mary Church at 10:30 a.m. on WILB radio (AM 1060, FM 94.5 and 89.5), Canton, heard in Tuscarawas, Holmes, and Coshocton counties.

DAILY MASS

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

p.m., St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com. 12:05 p.m. weekdays, 8 a.m. Saturdays, Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com and diocesan website, www.columbuscatholic.org. (Saturdays on radio only).

Videos of Masses are available at any time on the internet at these and many other parish websites: Meetingly Settlement St. Mary (www.stannstmary.org); Columbus St. Patrick (www.stpatrickcolumbus.org); Delaware St. Mary (www.delawarestmary.org); Sunbury St. John Neumann (www.saintjohnsunbury.org); and Columbus Immaculate Conception (www.iccols.org). Check your parish website for additional information.

WE PRAY WEEKS III AND IV OF THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

experience: “If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts.”

When we do this, we come to understand the meaning of our grumbings and complaints and learn to cooperate more fully with God’s grace to discover the relationship that will satisfy. Knowing Who God is, we come to know who we are.

Who is crying out a complaint that masks a need for something more from you? Have you opened your heart to the deeper need, or are you “stuck” in your own complaint? How is God inviting you to listen to the cry of His people? What is the true cry of your own heart?

Strike at the rock!

Jesus can open our eyes to sin, free us from it

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a
Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

“Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart.” The heart of each human being has a precious treasure that only God sees. The plan God has for each of us flows from that deep reality.

Samuel the prophet learns that God’s plans flow from what is in the heart rather than from external appearances. To see as God sees is wisdom. When we are engaged in the politics of our age, we can easily get caught up in externals.

The anointing of God is not on the one who wins by personal power or by a show of strength. “Winners” can be left behind when they grasp prizes that have nothing to do with God’s plan. They can miss the truth right in front of them.

We are invited on this Fourth Sunday of Lent to contemplate light and dark-

ness, sight and blindness. Jesus heals a man blind from birth who had one place at the doors of the temple as a beggar and now has a new place as one who can see as God sees, as well as having been cured of blindness. God’s plan for him opens a new world to him, even as it reveals the blindness of all around him.

Those who claim to see are unwilling to accept the gift of salvation because they are not able to move beyond their own way of seeing. Sin remains because the healing from sin is not accepted.

The miracle Jesus performed on this occasion was in stages, inviting action and response on the part of the one being healed. “He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, ‘Go wash in the Pool of Siloam’ – which means Sent –. So he went and washed, and came back able to see.”

The journey to Siloam from the Temple Mount would have been easy for the man blind from birth. He knew where everything was. He had only to walk

down and seek the smell of water at the Pool of Siloam, the water source for Jerusalem. He did not have to rely on anyone else to take him there.

The return journey to the area of the temple might have been more complicated because he had never seen anything before. Even though he now had sight, he likely had to rely on his other senses to get there.

When he was blind, relationships were simple. He was a beggar, and anyone with a voice that could be heard could be asked for charity. Now that he can see, relationships become more complex.

His neighbors hardly recognize him. The man once blind who now can see was hardly noticed by the religious authorities before, but now he is questioned at length. His parents all but disown him for fear, saying, “Ask him, he is of age; he can speak for himself.” Little by little, he begins to realize Who Jesus is: “He is a prophet.”

When Jesus encounters the man again, having sought him out after he was re-

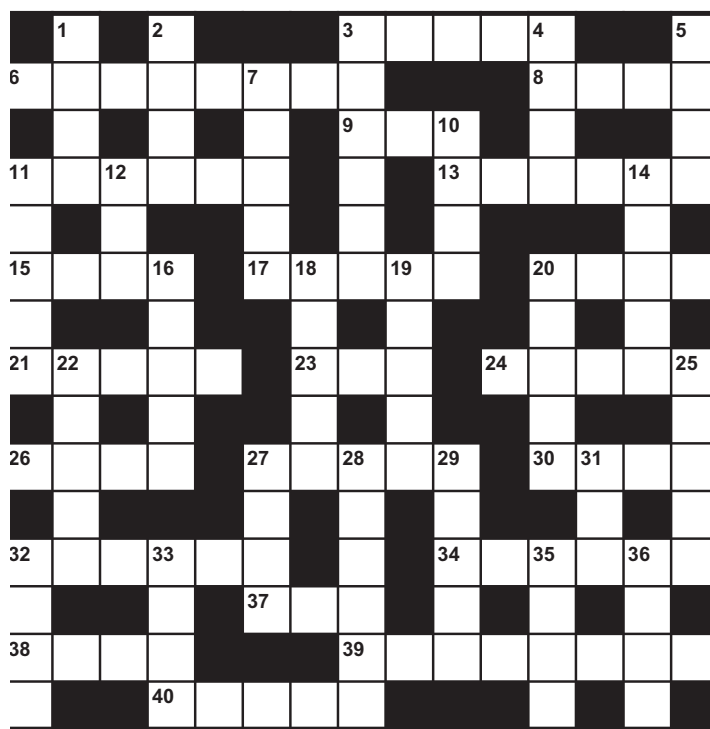
jected by others, He reveals Himself as the Son of Man: “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” The man responds, “I do believe, Lord,” and he worshipped him.”

Insight into the presence of God in Jesus leads the man to true understanding and frees him not only from his own physical blindness but also from the blindness of those around him who refuse to see.

Lent calls us to open our eyes to see the world through God’s way of seeing. Darkness is overcome by the enlightenment that Jesus offers. To become free of sin, we must see how we are caught up in it. If we choose to remain blind, our sin remains.

The experience of the Lord’s presence among us can open our eyes to see one another differently. “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.”

“Do you believe in the Son of Man?”



www.wordgamesforcatholics.com

CATHOLIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 3 Where King Saul consulted a medium 1 Samuel
- 6 Pertaining to Scripture
- 8 "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews" (abbr.)
- 9 Start of the Christian era
- 11 Papal ambassador
- 13 Morality
- 15 Good ___
- 17 The Sacred ___ of Jesus
- 20 NT epistle
- 21 Sacred music
- 23 "...be ___ and your no..." (Jas 5:12)
- 24 ___ in terris
- 26 Ezekiel scattered this to the wind
- 27 This was rolled in front of Jesus' tomb
- 30 Agape ___
- 32 Archdiocese and capital of Canada
- 34 The Israelites settled here in Egypt
- 37 Nephew of Abraham
- 38 Evil king of Israel
- 39 One of the young men cast into the furnace
- 40 Top monk

DOWN

- 1 God, in Paris
- 2 Catholic actor Guinness

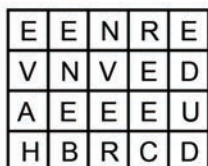
- 3 Old Testament prophet who was the successor of Elijah
- 4 "...the ___ he has sent away empty" (Lk 1:53)
- 5 Lies
- 7 Man of the ___
- 10 Bk. of the Pentateuch
- 11 A non-coveting commandment
- 12 ___ Testament
- 14 Mary, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, is patron saint of this South American country
- 16 The Lord, in Madrid (with "El")
- 18 Joseph was sold into slavery here
- 19 "He is ___!"
- 20 Song of David
- 22 What you do not use in unleavened bread
- 25 Italian archdiocese with the Ambrosian rite
- 27 The ___ of Confession
- 28 It's after "nihil"
- 29 John's symbol
- 31 NT epistle
- 32 Second son of Judah
- 33 Jesus' name for the Father
- 35 ___ of Songs
- 36 "Tantum ___"

Words of Wisdom

by Pat Battaglia, aka Dr. Fun

Draw a path from letter to letter to spell the words given in capital letters that completes the wisdom statement. Move one square at a time, up, down, right, left or diagonally until all letters are used once. Ignore any black squares.

The wages of sin ...



HAVE NEVER BEEN REDUCED

WORSHIP, continued from Page 8

peror Antoninus Pius around the year 155, explaining what Christians did at the Mass. You would probably find it very familiar even occurring 2,000 years ago.

Today, the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* promulgates "right worship."

One of the "controversies" today is over the Tridentine (Latin) Mass. More than a few people wish "right worship" would revert to the Tridentine Mass or at least return to "Ad orientem" (toward the East). Perhaps there are lessons to be learned there. Perhaps more catechesis needs to be dedicated to what constitutes "right worship."

Justice to neighbor. Naturally, there is a balance. For there to be justice to God there needs to be justice to neighbor. Isaiah highlights this necessity in Chapter 58. Also, Jesus chastises the Pharisees who were "famous" for their "right worship" but just as "infamous" for their

lack of justice to their neighbor in Matthew 23. "Right worship" is not only about the things we do, but also about how we go about doing them. Justice is not an either/or but a both/and; it is both to God and to neighbor.

FOR LENT FOR LIFE

This Lent, commit to our global human family through daily prayer, weekly fasting and almsgiving. Order your CRS Rice Bowls today.

crsricebowl.org

Local Diocesan Contact
Erin Cordle
socmailto:erinc@columbuscatholic.org
614-241-2540



POSITION AVAILABLE | MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN | PONTIFICAL COLLEGE JOSEPHINUM

The Pontifical College Josephinum, a Roman Catholic Seminary located in Columbus, Ohio, needs a full-time maintenance technician. Responsibilities include:

We require a background in HVAC controls, computer literacy and a minimum of three years of experience in working in a maintenance environment in the above technical areas.

Please respond with a resume, letter of interest and salary history by **March 24, 2023** to:

The Pontifical College Josephinum, 7625 N. High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43235, Attention: Director of Plant Maintenance.

- Performing routine building maintenance tasks in one or more fields of carpentry, electrical work, heating, ventilation, air conditioning and plumbing.
- To inspect buildings and other structures to determine

functional systems and detect malfunctions and needed repair.

- Painting, minor masonry repair, snow removal and general cleaning.

Alternatively, you can email the information to: gshots@pcj.edu

The Pontifical College Josephinum is an EEO Employer

LANDSCAPING

OAKLAND NURSERY
VOTED BEST IN THE U.S.

Now is the best time to plan and design your landscape, patios, pools, walk-ways, retaining walls, and sprinkler systems.

614-268-3834



- PLUMBING
- HEATING
- COOLING

614-299-7700
MUETZEL.COM



GEORGE J. IGEL & CO., INC.
2040 ALUM CREEK DRIVE . COLUMBUS, OHIO
614.445.8421 . www.buildwithigel.com

SITE DEVELOPMENT . EARTHWORK . UTILITIES
CONCRETE . STABILIZATION . EARTH RETENTION
ROLLER COMPACTED CONCRETE . ASPHALT PAVING

JOHN N. SCHILLING INC.

Since 1894

- Air Conditioning
- Heating
- Roofing
- Sheet Metal Work

1488 Bliss St. • 614.252.4915
[WWW.JOHNSCHILLINGINC.COM](http://www.johnschillinginc.com)

SHERIDAN FUNERAL HOME

740-653-4633

222 S. COLUMBUS STREET
LANCASTER, OHIO 43130
WWW.SHERIDANFUNERALHOME.NET

Sister Cathleen Ryan, OP

Funeral Mass for Sister Cathleen Ryan, OP, 94, who died Thursday, Feb. 23 at the Mohun Health Care Center in Columbus, was celebrated Saturday, March 4 at the Motherhouse of the Dominican Sisters of Peace. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was born on Jan. 24, 1929 in New York City to the late Edwin and Catherine Ryan. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in secondary education in 1958 from the College of St. Mary of the Springs (now Ohio Dominican University), a Master of Science degree in secre-

tarial science in 1963 from Hunter College in New York City and a Master of Arts degree in theology in 1977 from St. John's University in New York City.

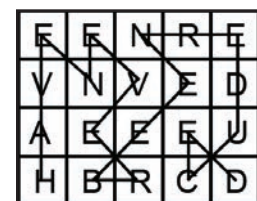
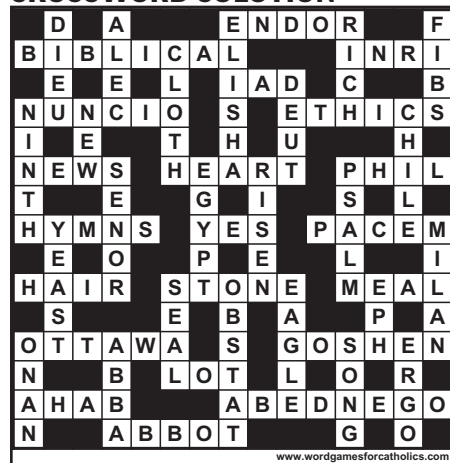
She entered the congregation of the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs (now the Dominican Sisters of Peace) in 1954 and professed her vows on July 9, 1956, taking the name Sister Mary Campion.

In the Diocese of Columbus, she was a teacher at Columbus St. Thomas School (1958-1960) and Newark Catholic High School (1969-1971) and treasurer of St. Mary of the Springs College (1964-67). She also was a teacher and a religious education director at parishes in New York state and pastoral associate at parishes in Connecticut.

She entered the Motherhouse in 2014 and had been a resident of the Mohun center since 2017.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Paul. She is survived by brothers Msgr. George Ryan of the Diocese of Brooklyn and William Ryan.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION



WORDS OF WISDOM SOLUTION

Turn Your Tax Dollars into Scholarships for Our Catholic Schools...

...and help make an authentic Catholic education affordable and accessible for all!

Thanks to a law passed in late 2021, as an Ohio taxpayer, when you make a donation to the **Emmaus Road Scholarship Fund**, you receive a dollar-for-dollar credit* on your state income tax liability while creating much-needed scholarship dollars for **Our Catholic Schools** in the Diocese of Columbus.

Visit our web site or scan the QR code to learn more!

*Ohio tax credit is limited up to \$750 per person, or \$1,500 if married filing jointly. Consult your tax advisor for guidance. The Emmaus Road Scholarship Fund is a certified scholarship granting organization in the state of Ohio.



PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

BROWN, Thomas M., 65, Feb. 27
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

COLEMAN, Dr. Deborah (Dye), 76, Feb. 17
Christ the King Church, Columbus

CONROY, Charles "Chic," 76, Feb. 10
St. Thomas Church, Columbus

DAILEY, Virginia L. (Dixon), 80, Feb. 18
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

DeSANTIS, Nicholas C. II, 72, Feb. 26
St. Timothy Church, Columbus

DOSSMAN, Arthur J., 91, March 1
St. Joseph Church, Circleville

FONDALE, Carl Ed, 76, Feb. 2
St. Patrick Church, Junction City

GALLO, Robert N., 96, Feb. 23
St. Brendan Church, Hilliard

GIRBERT, Louise A. "Lois" (Rader), 81, Feb. 19
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

GROOM, Joseph P. Jr., 71, March 1
St. John XXIII Church, Canal Winchester

JEFFRIES, Josephine R. (Adolph), 96, Feb. 11
St. Stephen Church, Columbus

KEISTER, Harold E. "Gene," 92, Feb. 21
St. Rose of Lima, New Lexington

LOOMIS, Theresa F., 74, Feb. 23
St. Catharine Church, Columbus

MAGALSKI, Frank W., 82, Feb. 15
St. Peter Church, Columbus
McKENZIE, Winifred J., 99, Feb. 24
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

PANICO, Marion V. "Mitzi," (Russell), 93, Feb. 12
St. Joan of Arc Church, Powell

PRESLER, Theresa R. (Columbro), 99, formerly of Columbus, Feb. 19
Our Lady of Victory Church, Tallmadge

PRESSEY, John Benedict, 86, Feb. 17
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

RONAN, Joan Marie, 81, Feb. 18
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

SALAHUB, Michael J. Sr., 101, Feb. 19
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

SHORT, Sara Frances, 88, Feb. 20
St. Joseph Church, Circleville

SNIDER, Donald Joseph "Don," 96, Feb. 18
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

SPICER, Chastine (Lowery), 92, Feb. 4
St. Bernard Church, Corning

VALVANO, Anne (LaVista), 92, Feb. 28
St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

WEAR, Suzanne "Bear" (Bockelman), 60, Feb. 17
St. Agatha Church, Columbus

WOODWARD, Sara Jane, 95, Feb. 11
St. John Church, Logan

Lawrence H. McCauley

Funeral Mass for Lawrence H. McCauley, 100, who died Tuesday, Feb. 21, was celebrated Saturday, Feb. 25 at Columbus St. Agatha Church. Burial was at Resurrection Cemetery, Lewis Center.

He was born on Sept. 4, 1922 in Lancaster to John and Stella McCauley. He graduated from Lancaster St. Mary High School in 1941, joined the U.S. Army in 1942 and served in Europe until 1945, taking part in the D-Day invasion of Omaha Beach in 1944. He earned one Silver Star and five Bronze Stars among other medals, and in 2020 was made a member of the French Legion of Honor for his service.

He graduated from Ohio University in 1949 and from the Rutgers University graduate school of banking in 1975. He retired at age 65 from National City Bank (formerly Ohio National Bank) and became an active assistant at the Sugarbush Corp. in Columbus before his second retirement in 2014.

He was a past president of the dioc-

esan Catholic Men's Luncheon Club, the Catholic Laymen's Retreat League and the St. Agatha Church Men's Club, past commander of American Legion Post 82, past state treasurer and Buckeye Boys State banking chairman for the Legion, a life member of Knights of Columbus Council 1016, Catholic War Veterans Post 1936 and VFW Post 2374, an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist at Riverside Methodist Hospital in Columbus, and a founder and first treasurer of the Columbus Bishop Watterson High School Athletic Association, which named him to the school's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1988.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife Mary Ann; brothers James, John, Paul and Frank; and sisters Mary Wagon seller and Rose Boch. Survivors include sons Edward, John, Daniel, Dennis, James and Thomas; daughters Kathryn Ubbing and Mary Ruth Ann Connor; 15 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Woman, 93, impacts many through charity, travels

By Hannah Heil
Catholic Times Reporter

When a broken leg forced Theres Whitfield to move into a retirement home, she couldn't have expected the result.

Whitfield said during her time there, she observed some women knitting, and she decided to join them.

The pastime led to an act of charity.

Whitfield has since moved back into her Columbus home, and for six years she has knitted hats. She sells them and donates the proceeds to the Columbus Holy Family Soup Kitchen.

"I started to knit (hats), and then I said, ... 'I will sell them and donate every penny to something.' Then the soup kitchen came to my mind," Whitfield said.

The Columbus St. Andrew Church parishioner, who celebrated her 93rd birthday in February, said she sells 100 hats a year for \$10 apiece.

"When I go to the doctor's office, wherever, I knit. People ask, 'What are you doing?' And then I'll tell them about the hats," Whitfield said. "Whatever I do, whatever I sell, I don't keep a penny."

She knits the "European way," which does not require looking at the needle and yarn. This draws attention from on-lookers who wonder how she can knit so quickly without looking at her work, Whitfield said.

She also knits "scrubbies," which are small, abrasive dishwashing cloths used for cleaning pots and pans that she sells for \$5 each.

Her charity is made possible by the support of family and friends, who sell some of the knitted items. Whitfield is especially grateful, she said, for their help in reaching her goal every year.

Whitfield might be known for her charity, donating \$1,000 to the soup kitchen each year, but she also has a story of trial and triumph that might be less widely known.

Whitfield grew up in a family of eight in Zeiningen, Switzerland, during World War II.

"It was tough because it was during the war," she said.

Whitfield's family lived on a farm located by the Rhine River that overlooked Germany.

"She tells stories of how everything was rationed, and there was hardship. She lived through a stressful time," said her godson, Robert Echenrode.

In 1953, at the age of 23, she left home with her aunt to immigrate to the United States. Whitfield intended to stay in America for a brief period to learn English.

"I always say I'm a slow learner," she said. "That's the reason I'm still here."

Whitfield took a job as a server at the Lazarus bakery counter, located on the first floor of the former downtown



Columbus store on South High Street. Lazarus management thought working as a server would help her to learn English, Whitfield said.

She went on to become manager of the bakery and, eventually, head of the bakery department for all Lazarus stores.

As head of the bakery, Whitfield was in charge of creating and testing items for the Lazarus restaurants.

Her work was noticed by Charles Lazarus, the last member of the Lazarus family to lead the chain of department stores. He was president of the chain and eventually became chairman of the board and chief executive officer.

"Theres was a hard worker and on a first-name basis with Charles Lazarus. He got her citizenship to go back to Switzerland and visit her family," said Whitfield's second cousin, Molly Wood.

American citizenship was required at the time for Whitfield to travel back to Switzerland for her brother's wedding. She made such an impression on Charles Lazarus that he used his connections to make sure she received citizenship, Wood said.

Over time, Whitfield's use of more flavorful baking ingredients was not approved by the corporation that took over Lazarus.

"They decided that you don't use butter in the bakery, or you don't use pure whipping cream, or Swiss chocolate," she said. "That's what they had decided, and that's what made me feel like I want to do what I want to do."

After 28 years at Lazarus, Whitfield left to start her own bakery.

"I always said there are some people who will pay for it if you make it right.



Theres Whitfield, a Columbus St. Andrew Church parishioner, knits some of the hats that she sells and then donates the proceeds to Columbus Holy Family Soup Kitchen. At left, she is joined by neighbor Joel Korte. CT photos by Ken Snow

So, I said goodbye to Lazarus and opened my own shop," she said.

Whitfield opened the Suisse Shop Bakery in 1983 on Busch Boulevard in north Columbus. It was located across from The Continent, a popular shopping destination at the time.

Whitfield ran the bakery for 10 years before selling to retire.

"If you make it good, people will find you no matter where you're at. ... I believed in making it the best," she said.

The Suisse Shop Bakery, which relocated to Polaris Parkway in Westerville, is currently in its 40th year.

Whitfield said she still enjoys baking. She grows raspberries in her backyard to make jelly and sweets.

Whitfield is also an avid traveler.

"I have been on 23 cruises around the Caribbean, Alaska, Hawaii – you name it. My sister in Switzerland and one of her daughters and I hooked up together after I retired. We would take a cruise for a week every year. If we finished one, we signed up for the next one," she said.

Whitfield said she took a trip through Rome; Barcelona, Spain; and the Mediterranean a couple of years ago. And she recently returned from a cruise with her nieces and nephews to the Caribbean.

In 2020, while she was returning from a cruise to Hawaii celebrating her 90th birthday, the passengers on the ship were forced to quarantine due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Whitfield was sent to Fort Benning, a U.S. Army post in Georgia, to quarantine for three weeks.

"I always claim she has nine lives," Wood said. "She hasn't used them up yet."

Between the people she has encountered on her cruises and the family she has in Switzerland and scattered throughout the United States, Whitfield has international influence.

She has impacted the life of Echenrode, who lives more than 2,000 miles away in Portland, Oregon.

"Half of my travels have been influenced by her," he said. "She has given me the gifts of exploring and experimenting with food, and the love of culture and travel."

She has also impacted those living near to her.

"I met Theres when I moved next to her to be near my mother who was 92 and in poor health. She ultimately passed, and to my surprise, Theres just sort of filled the role," said neighbor Joel Korte.

From the hats she makes to the travels she takes, Whitfield's influence is extensive.

"She is a Catholic ambassador to the upbringing of many successful Catholic parents and children," Echenrode said. "She casts a net over half the world."

Visiting Angels
LIVING ASSISTANCE SERVICES

**Call today
Start today**

no minimums!

1 Hr. up to 24 Hr. Care

We send you the Best Home Caregivers

Rates as low as \$16.46 per hour!

"We Do Things Your Way"

614-80-ANGEL (614-802-6435)

Call or text for more info. www.v-angels.com

St. Charles leads diocesan schools in state swim meet

Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, led by the third-place showing of freshman Austin Carpenter in the 100-yard breaststroke, finished 12th in the Division I boys state swimming and diving championships on Saturday, Feb. 25 at C.T. Branin Natatorium in Canton.

The Cardinals racked up 82.5 points in the meet, which was won by perennial power Cincinnati St. Xavier with 287 points.

Carpenter also took seventh in the 50 freestyle in 20.89 seconds and swam on the fifth-place 200-yard medley relay team with Wyatt Julian, Andrew Zarick and Jack Keller and on the 13th-place 400 freestyle relay

team with Julian, Jake Lloyd and Brad King. St. Charles' 200 freestyle relay team of Zarick, Lloyd, King and Keller finished 10th and Julian tied for 12th in the 100 backstroke in 51.45 seconds.

In Division II boys, Columbus Bishop Watterson claimed 26th with 28 points and Columbus St. Francis DeSales was 55th with five points.

Watterson sophomore Jacob Rider took fourth in the 100 backstroke in 51.78 seconds and sixth in the 200 freestyle with a time of 1:43.68. DeSales freshman Luke DeFrancisco was 12th in the 200 individual medley in 1:59.07.

Watterson scored 11 points to take 37th in the Division I girls competition. Senior Grace Rider led the Eagles with an eighth-place finish in the 100 breaststroke in 1:04.64.

In Division II girls, Newark Catholic totaled 18 points to finish 29th and Columbus Bishop Hartley was 39th with eight points.

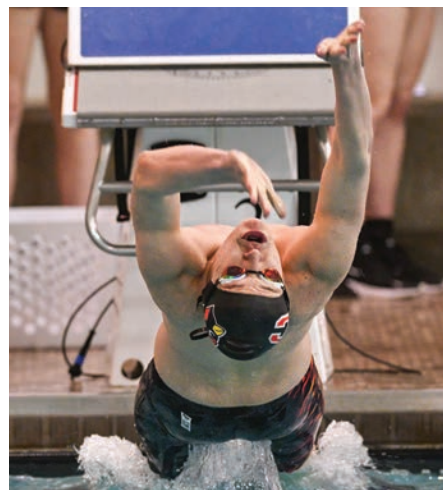
Newark Catholic sophomore Isabella Pribonic placed sixth in the 100 breaststroke with a time of 1:06.08. Hartley's 200 freestyle relay consisting of Alie Gunsorek, Maya Keane, Skylar Richards and Grace Goodwin took 13th.



Bishop Watterson senior Grace Rider swims the 100-yard breaststroke.



St. Charles' Andrew Zarick starts the third leg of the Division I 200 medley relay.



St. Charles sophomore Wyatt Julian begins the 100-yard backstroke in the Division I boys state final.



Bishop Watterson's Jacob Rider starts the 100-yard backstroke in the Division II boys state meet in Canton.

Photos courtesy John Hulkenberg

2022-23 Central Catholic League Wrestling

TEAM CHAMPION:
St. Francis DeSales

ALL-LEAGUE First team

- 106 - Neal Krysty, Bishop Watterson;
- 113 - Greyson Conyers, Watterson
- 120 - Joe Curry, Watterson
- 126 - Aiden King, Bishop Hartley
- 132 - James Lindsay, Watterson
- 138 - David McClelland, DeSales
- 144 - Mitchell Younger, Watterson
- 150 - Zach Lopez, DeSales
- 157 - Owen Eagen, DeSales
- 165 - Andrew Barford, DeSales
- 175 - Dylan Newsome, Hartley
- 190 - Eyan Jackson, Hartley
- 215 - Max Shulaw, DeSales
- 285 - Isaac Asiedu, Hartley

Second team

- 106 - Braden Schrein, DeSales
- 113 - Ashten Wilkinson, St. Charles
- 120 - Austin Purdue, St. Charles
- 126 - Thomas Fickle, St. Charles
- 132 - Isaac Robinson, St. Charles
- 138 - Cooper Rathburn, Hartley
- 144 - Aiden Rush, DeSales
- 150 - Ryan Schnarr, Bishop Ready
- 157 - Preston Tirey, Ready
- 165 - Jay Zang, Hartley
- 175 - Lincoln Shulaw, DeSales
- 190 - Marshall Froehlich, DeSales
- 215 - Jackson Homan, St. Charles
- 285 - Raesean Betton, DeSales

2022-23 Central Catholic League Boys Basketball

FINAL STANDINGS
(after the regular season)

| Varsity | CCL | Overall |
|---------------------|-----|---------|
| Bishop Ready | 8-0 | 22-0 |
| St. Charles | 4-4 | 11-11 |
| Bishop Watterson | 3-5 | 13-9 |
| Bishop Hartley | 3-5 | 12-9 |
| St. Francis DeSales | 2-6 | 14-8 |

| Junior varsity | CCL | Overall |
|---------------------|-----|---------|
| Bishop Hartley | 5-3 | 13-7 |
| Bishop Watterson | 4-4 | 17-4 |
| St. Francis DeSales | 4-4 | 13-7 |
| St. Charles | 4-4 | 9-12 |
| Bishop Ready | 3-5 | 9-9 |

| Freshmen | CCL | Overall |
|---------------------|-----|---------|
| Bishop Watterson | 8-0 | 21-0 |
| Bishop Hartley | 6-2 | 14-2 |
| St. Francis DeSales | 4-4 | 17-4 |
| St. Charles | 1-7 | 9-11 |
| Bishop Ready | 1-7 | 8-13 |

All-CCL

First team

Chase Walker, St. Charles; Luke Ruth, Kaleb Schaffer, Charles Russell, Ready; Cole Rhett, Watterson; PJ Noles, DeSales

Second team

Jaden Calloway, Pharez Nicholas, Hartley; Michael Walker, DeSales; Zach Auletta, St. Charles; Ryan Rudzinski, Watterson; Kayden Shaffer, Ready

2022-23 Central Catholic League Girls Basketball

FINAL STANDINGS
(after the regular season)

| Varsity | CCL | Overall |
|---------------------|-----|---------|
| St. Francis DeSales | 6-0 | 18-4 |
| Bishop Watterson | 4-2 | 11-10 |
| Bishop Hartley | 2-4 | 7-15 |
| Bishop Ready | 0-6 | 11-11 |

| Junior varsity | CCL | Overall |
|---------------------|-----|---------|
| Bishop Watterson | 4-0 | 14-2 |
| St. Francis DeSales | 2-2 | 11-9 |
| Bishop Hartley | 0-4 | 1-4 |
| Bishop Ready | N/A | N/A |

| Freshmen | CCL | Overall |
|---------------------|-----|---------|
| Bishop Watterson | 4-0 | 9-9 |
| St. Francis DeSales | 2-2 | 9-12 |
| Bishop Hartley | 0-4 | 0-10 |
| Bishop Ready | N/A | N/A |

All-CCL

First team

Celina Davis, Jordyn Miller, Bridget Womber, DeSales; Sophie Ziel, Alexandria Mosholder, Watterson; Kiki McElrath, Hartley; Hope Orders, Ready

Second team

Kenyetietta Quinn, Jessica Salyer, DeSales; Sydney Spears, Mia Gill, Watterson; Aniyah Thorne, Morgan Donnelly, Hartley; Lia Wahl, Ready

2022-23 Central Catholic League Bowling

BOYS

Champions

Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, Columbus Bishop Ready

ALL-LEAGUE

First team

Caden Lester, Columbus St. Francis DeSales; Nick Maliwesky, Columbus Bishop Watterson; Stuart Hankinson, St. Charles; Adam Schwab, Philip Ryan, Brayden Roof, Bishop Ready

Second team

Tyler Roof, Louis Roque, Bishop Ready; Nick Gillian, Darren Thomas, DeSales; Pervonne Vera, Aidan Potts, St. Charles

GIRLS

Champion

Columbus Bishop Hartley

ALL-LEAGUE

First team

Mercedes Bassitt, DeSales; Jennifer Pond, Cece Muraco, Ready; Melissa Montgomery, Watterson; Reese Beaty, Sienna Phoung, Hartley

Second team

Alexis Reynolds, DeSales; Chloe Best, Cassidy Smith, Rebecca LeMay, Emery Minnich, Hartley; Zoe Zeyen, Watterson

Notre Dame girls win matchup of diocesan teams in regional

In a thrilling battle between two diocesan Catholic high school girls basketball teams, Portsmouth Notre Dame's Katie Strickland made a reverse layup in the final second after grabbing a tipped shot and the Titans came away with a 46-44 victory over Lancaster Fisher Catholic in a Division IV regional semifinal on Thursday, March 2 at Pickerington North High School.

Notre Dame (24-3) advanced to the regional final against Berlin Hiland on Saturday, March 4 at Pickerington North, where the Titans lost their bid for the program's first state tournament appearance, falling 53-43 to the Hawks.

Thursday's loss ended an outstanding season for Fisher Catholic (21-5), which had won nine consecutive games and its first district title since 2008.

Ellie Bruce led the Irish with 14 points, six rebounds and four assists. Voni Bethel added 12 points on four 3-pointers, Averie Bruce had 12 points and Ava Albert led the team in assists with five.

With the clock winding down in the final seconds, Notre Dame's Ella Kirby launched a 3-point shot that was tipped and fell short of the basket into the waiting arms of Strickland, who was in the

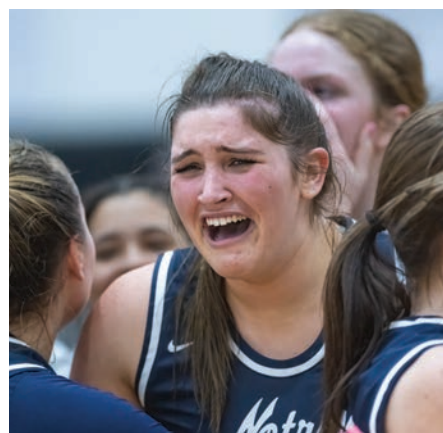
right place at the right time.

Strickland came off the baseline underneath the hoop and put up a spinning reverse layup that banked off the glass and in as the buzzer sounded, sending the Notre Dame players running onto the court in celebration.

Notre Dame received contributions from multiple players. Gracie Ashley led the Titans in scoring with 17 points and grabbed eight rebounds. Teammates Annie Dettwiller added 12 pounds, five assists and three steals. Strickland finished with eight points and eight rebounds, and Kirby had nine points and five rebounds.

Fisher Catholic trailed by 10 points in the final four minutes of the game before mounting a comeback that included a 3-pointers from Albert and Bethel, including one to tie the score at 42 with less than two minutes to play.

A basket from Dettwiller put Notre Dame back in front and then Fisher Catholic's Averie Bruce sank two free throws with 20 seconds left to knot the score again, setting up Strickland's buzzer beater that bounced on the rim twice before falling through to give the Titans their second victory this season over the Irish.



Portsmouth Notre Dame's Katie Strickland is emotional after making the winning shot in the final second.



Fisher Catholic's Ellie Bruce (22) and Portsmouth Notre Dame's Annie Dettwiller (11) battle for the ball.



Notre Dame's Gracie Ashley (34) blocks a shot by Fisher Catholic's Jayda Dixon.



Fisher Catholic's Voni Bethel looks to pass. Photos courtesy John Hulkenberg



ST. PIUS X SCHOOL

A TRADITION OF CATHOLIC ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

1061 WAGGONER RD., REYNOLDSBURG, OH 43068

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT US AT (614) 866-6050 OR STPIUSX@CDEDUCATION.ORG

Where Teachers make Learning Irresistible



www.spxelementary.com

PRESCHOOL-8TH GRADE



Music at St. Mary presents

Palm Sunday Concert

with the Camarata Orchestra
Conductor, Luis Biava



St. Mary
Concert Series
German Village
Mark Voris, Founder/Artistic Director

April 2, 2023 at 4pm

St. Mary Catholic Church, German Village

Tickets on sale now! \$25.00

to purchase go to www.musicatstmary.com

Concert Pianist - **Suzanne Newcomb** playing
"Mozart Piano Concerto in A major"
Vocalist - **Theresa Cincione** singing Handel's
great Arias and more

