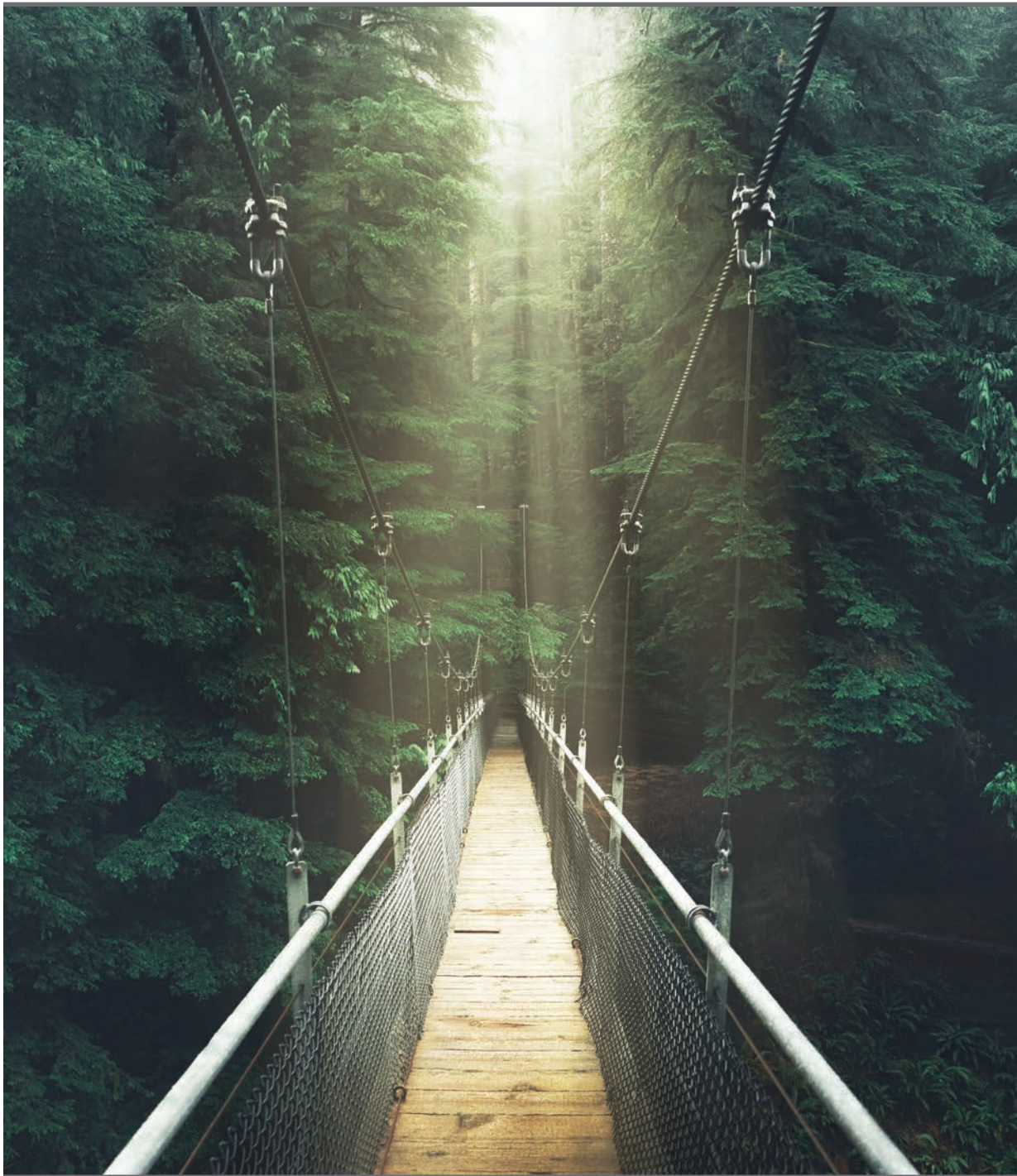


The CATHOLIC TIMES

THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS' INFORMATION SOURCE

APRIL 23, 2023 • THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER • VOLUME 72:9



Diocese's annual appeal has new name, added focus

The Appeal 2023, formerly known as the Bishop's Annual Appeal, is prepared for launch during the first week-end of May with updated goals from the past but with a major focus on the mission of evangelization in the diocese.

The name was changed this year to emphasize that this is THE ultimate campaign for the diocese to fund its ministries, programs and services.

There's also a new theme, "Forward with Jesus," to reflect Bishop Earl Fernandes' objectives for the diocese.

"The reason it's so important to call it The Appeal is because we are exposed to so many appeals, but this one is our Bishop's focus because it speaks to the Catholic presence in our parishes and it clearly states that this is supporting the ministries and services that the diocese is providing," said Andrea Pannell, the vice president of stewardship for The Catholic Foundation, which is heading up The Appeal.

New images for The Appeal feature a bridge with a light at the end of it that reflects where the diocese is going under the leadership of a new bishop.

"That's exciting for us, especially his vision about where we're going and that we're crossing from one era of the diocese to a new era," said Loren Brown, president and CEO of The Catholic Foundation. "Isn't that what this bridge is about when you look at it?"

"And so, we want to make sure that people look at the poster in the vestibules and gathering spaces to see something new and fresh and say, 'I want to get behind that. I want to walk that bridge, too, with our bishop.'"

A new logo of a cross is intended to symbolize bringing together different parts of the diocese with the various ministries within those regions and parishes, apostolates and schools.

"There's a message within that logo as well that we are one body as a diocese made up of all these different components, and that this appeal supports all of those," Brown said.

The Appeal consists of four pillars: evangelization, vocations, education and social concerns. Of those, 35% of the \$7 million overall goal goes to evangelization (\$2.5

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE



NURSERY MAKEOVER

Staff members and parishioners at Gahanna St. Matthew the Apostle Church renovated the nursery that was once filled with secular toys and books to make the space authentically Catholic, Page 13



ROME PILGRIMAGE

Nineteen Ohio State students, accompanied by Father Adam Streitenberger of the St. Thomas More Newman Center and four FOCUS missionaries, went to Rome during spring break, Page 12

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million). The rest of the money is divided almost equally among vocations (\$1.593 million), education and tuition assistance (\$1.568 million) and a number of social programs (\$1.3 million).

“Part of making this The Appeal is to provide clarity with what everyone is supporting,” Brown said. “There’s an obligation to support people who have basic needs or educational needs or social needs.

“The beauty of it is that you do have an opportunity to provide support and be a part of something that you can’t do just in one parish or that you can’t do on your own. The overarching Catholic presence in this diocese is what is incredibly appreciated and important.”

Evangelization includes outreach and formation on college campuses, ministering to individuals’ and communities’ spiritual needs, marriage preparation, hospital chaplaincy and ethnic ministries.

The diocese’s evangelization efforts are already bearing fruit with Ohio State University students who attend the Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center in the form of converts and potential vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

“I believe wholeheartedly that some of what is happening at OSU and among our younger people are due to what we are doing in social media through the diocese’s communications office,” Pannell said.

“Providing videos and the bishop’s messages that were not there before –

The Appeal is helping to support those things, and the Catholic presence is growing among our younger people.”

The vocations pillar encompasses priest, deacon and seminarian education and formation. Funds for Catholic education provide financial aid for families and also the education and advocacy of Catholic social teaching.

Social concerns funding benefits outreach, advocacy and education efforts through programs such as the Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs (J.O.I.N.), Backdoor Ministry, St. Francis Evangelization Center, respect life, urban plunge-style retreats and prison ministries.

“We sat down with the directors (of diocesan programs), and we met with priests to find out what services they need that The Appeal will be able to fund,” Pannell said. “Those things were considered when we worked on the goal.

“There is a greater emphasis on evangelization because that wasn’t really singled out or identified in the past. And with the shift and focus of the diocese in line with what the bishop is saying to look at vocations and evangelization as primary, The Appeal reflects that. And we understand that there still are people and services that need funding.”

While the diocese is in the midst of its Real Presence Real Future initiative that will change the dynamics of parishes and schools in some areas, Bishop Fernandes is placing particular importance on evangelization and vocations to build up the Catholic community to avoid

being in the same position again where tough decisions must be made.

“We wanted to be able to look forward and to be able to provide an appeal that would take us into the future and beyond,” Pannell said. “And so, (Real Presence Real Future) wasn’t really a factor (in setting goals) because the people here are so generous, and they also know that the ministries, programs and services that are being supported by The Appeal for people in great need.

The Appeal provides predictable income for the diocese and also benefits churches. As in the past, parishes exceeding their financial goal will receive 100% of all excess funds.

“When I look at other dioceses, some don’t even have an appeal, and they just assess parishes (a specified amount),” Brown said. “The beauty of the Diocese of Columbus appeal is that the people of the diocese get to participate in helping their brothers and sisters around the diocese with great needs and not something that is buried in the assessment of the parish that they never know what it’s used for.

“It’s actually a beautiful process for people to really support others at any means that they can. So that’s why it’s important that The Appeal is out there. This is the appeal the diocese relies on every year, and there aren’t any other secondary ones. This is it.”

The method for calculating parish goals has been altered to consider an equitable share of the determined diocesan goal proportionate to a parish’s

three-year average offertory. Parish census is no longer a determining factor.

“We wanted to make sure that the formulas were simpler, and we took out that census factor because that was really challenging, especially with the growing communities that we have with ethnic diversity,” Pannell said.

For Catholics in the pews, the manner in which to participate remains mostly the same as previous years.

Pledge card envelopes will be available at parishes beginning the first weekend of May and can be placed in the offertory once completed. Payment can be made with a check or electronic funds transfer.

Other options include mailing the pledge card to The Appeal, 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215 with checks made payable to The Diocese of Columbus or by visiting www.columbuscatholicgiving.org/appeal to offer a pledge.

Contributions can be spread over 10 months, from June 2023 to March 2024, or made in other increments or a one-time payment.

“Every dollar that everyone can participate in giving to The Appeal really adds up,” Pannell said. “Every parishioner should feel good about being able to participate in the cause of this appeal and what it’s supporting.”

So far, The Appeal has been well received in meetings with priests, parishes, benefactors and diocesan offices.

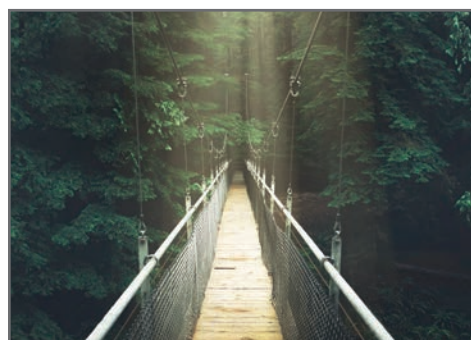
“Bishop Fernandes, as did (his prede-

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Governor visits St. Catharine School



Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine joined Columbus St. Catharine School students on Thursday, April 13 for the Pledge of Allegiance and morning prayer. Two eighth-grade students greeted the governor with a message and thanked him for his service to the state and his support for Catholic education. “Governor DeWine, on behalf of the community of Saint Catharine School, we welcome you to our school during this joyful week of Easter, and we thank you for all that you have done to support us as we grow up and learn in our faith-based school.” The ceremony closed with the following prayer for Gov. DeWine: “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Lord Jesus Christ, You are our risen and glorified Lord. We ask You to bless Governor DeWine today and all days. Strengthen in Him Your Holy Spirit’s gifts of right judgment, fortitude, wisdom, knowledge, understanding, fear of the Lord, and piety. Continue to pour Your grace out on him as he continues to work to help the families and children of Ohio. Bless his family and all the men and women who work beside him each and every day. Let Governor DeWine’s work always bring You glory Lord. We ask all of this Lord with the certainty of Your unending love for us all, and we praise You and thank You. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen” Photos courtesy St. Catharine School



Front Page photo:

The Appeal 2023

“Forward with Jesus” is the focal point of The Appeal 2023 that begins the first weekend in May and provides funding to support ministries throughout the diocese.

Image courtesy The Catholic Foundation

The
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TIMES

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Ordinations set for May

Bishop Earl Fernandes will ordain four diocesan seminarians to the diaconate at a Mass on Friday, May 5 at 7 p.m. at Westerville St. Paul Church, 313 N. State St.

Three weeks later, Bishop Fernandes will ordain Deacon Peter Klaver Kasasa Kiviiri to the priesthood on Saturday, May 27 at 10 a.m. at St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., in downtown Columbus.

Both ordination Masses are open to anyone who would like to attend. A light reception will follow the diaconate ordination in the Klinger Center at St. Paul.

The four deacon candidates are Tyler Carter and Michael Haemmerle of Columbus St. Patrick Church, David Johnstone of Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes Church and Jason Fox of Powell St. Joan of Arc Church.

Carter, Haemmerle and Johnstone are currently studying at the Pontifical College Josephinum, and Fox is at the Pope

St. John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, Massachusetts.

After the four seminarians are ordained as deacons, they will spend a final year in studies before their anticipated ordination to the priesthood in 2024.

Deacon Kiviiri, a native of Uganda who moved to Columbus in 2010 and is a member of St. Joseph Cathedral, is completing his studies at the Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary. He will be the first candidate that Bishop Fernandes ordains to the priesthood since he became the shepherd of the Columbus diocese on May 31, 2022.

The diocese had no ordinations to the priesthood in 2022, two in 2021 and four each in 2020 and 2019.

For more information on vocations, visit www.columbuscatholic.org/vocations.

APPEAL, continued from Page 2

cessor) Bishop (Robert) Brennan, talks about the future and reaching the next generation, welcoming those who have fallen away, healing those who may have something that has caused them to fall away and walk back with them," Brown said.

"He's not looking at this as who we are

today, and we're excited at The Catholic Foundation to help him be successful."

More information is available at ColumbusCatholicGiving.org. Questions may be directed to Pannell at (614) 674-1772 or apannell@catholic-foundation.org.



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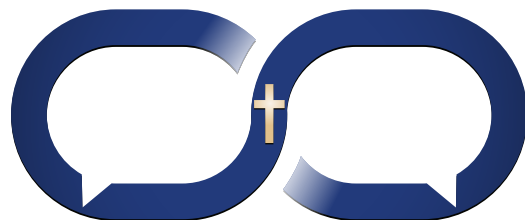
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LOCATION (May 20):

St. Catharine Monsignor Sorohan Parish Center
500 S. Gould Rd. | Columbus, OH 43209

TIME: 9:00am - 12:30pm
(Optional Mass at 8:30am)

CONTENT:

Light Breakfast
Speakers

- Dr. Marlon De La Torre
- Fr. Dan Dury

Small Group Discussions



For more information, visit www.CatholicMensMinistry.com



Catholic Diocese of Columbus

DECREE OF SUPPRESSION

of the Parish of Corpus Christi Church, Columbus, Ohio
and the Parish of St. Ladislus Church, Columbus, Ohio
and Changing the Parish of St. Mary, Mother of God Church, Columbus, Ohio

Whereas, demographic changes in the general population and among the Catholic faithful of the neighborhood, including but not limited to decline in registered parishioners, decline in mass attendance, decline in offertory revenue, and the shortage of priests, have drastically affected the viability of the parishes in that region; and

Whereas, a plan has been carefully developed by the clergy and faithful of St. Mary Church, Corpus Christi Church, and St. Ladislus Church recommending the suppression of Corpus Christi Parish and St. Ladislus Parish and the aggregation of the suppressed parishes with the parish of St. Mary, Mother of God Church, Columbus; and

Whereas, the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Columbus at a meeting held on April 4, 2023, reviewed the plan in detail and unanimously approved the proposal to suppress Corpus Christi Parish and St. Ladislus Parish and to make changes to St. Mary Parish to join the territory, parishioners, assets and liabilities of Corpus Christi Parish and St. Ladislus Parish to that of St. Mary Parish; and

Whereas, having heard the Presbyteral Council in accordance with Canon 515.2;

Therefore, I, Earl K. Fernandes, Bishop of Columbus, hereby decree the following

1. The Parish of Corpus Christi and the Parish of St. Ladislus, Columbus, Ohio, are suppressed effective July 1, 2023;
2. Simultaneously with the suppression of Corpus Christi Parish and St. Ladislus Parish, the territory, parishioners, property, assets and liabilities of these parishes will be joined to those of St. Mary, Mother of God Parish by aggregation into a single juridic person, care of which is entrusted to the pastor of St. Mary, Mother of God Parish. The boundaries of the new parish are as follows:
 - a. Northern Boundary: From the intersection of Griggs Avenue and Harmon Avenue on an air line to a point in the Scioto River directly east of this intersection; the south side of Mound Street from the Scioto River on the west to Short Street on the East; the south side of Fulton Street from Short Street on the west to Front Street on the east; the south side of Livingston Avenue from Front Street on the west to Parsons Avenue on the east.
 - b. Eastern boundary: Alum Creek from a point directly east of Columbus Street on the north to Williams Road on the south.
 - c. Southern boundary: The north side of Lisle Avenue from the Norfolk & Western Railroad extending west and crossing the C & O Railroad where Lisle Avenue becomes Obetz Road; then the north side of Obetz Road to the Scioto River on the west.
 - d. Western boundary: The Scioto River from Mound Street on the north to a point directly east of Griggs Avenue on the south; the east side of Harmon Avenue from Griggs Avenue on the north to Stimmel Road on the south.
3. The care of Corpus Christi Church and St. Ladislus Church and the other properties of the former Corpus Christi Parish and St. Ladislus Parish, whether sacred or profane, will become the responsibility of St. Mary Parish, until further decisions are made and approved through the appropriate canonical processes regarding the disposition of these buildings and properties.
4. This decree shall be promulgated by publication in *The Catholic Times* and disseminated in the affected parishes via the parish bulletin and other means of communication as deemed appropriate by Pastor of the affected communities.

Given at the Chancery Office, 198 E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio this 5th day of April, 2023.

+ Earl K. Fernandes

Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes
Bishop of Columbus

Notary



Catholic Diocese of Columbus

DECREE OF SUPPRESSION

of the Parish of Holy Cross, Columbus, Ohio
and Changing the Parish of St. Joseph Cathedral, Columbus, Ohio

Whereas, demographic changes in the general population and among the Catholic faithful of the neighborhood, including but not limited to decline in registered parishioners, decline in mass attendance, decline in offertory revenue, and the shortage of priests, have drastically affected the viability of the parishes in that region; and

Whereas, a plan has been carefully developed by the clergy and faithful of Holy Cross and St. Joseph recommending the suppression of Holy Cross Parish and the aggregation of the suppressed parish with the parish of St. Joseph Cathedral, Columbus; and

Whereas, the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Columbus at a meeting held on April 4, 2023, reviewed the plan in detail and unanimously approved the proposal to suppress Holy Cross Parish and to make changes to St. Joseph Cathedral Parish to join the territory, parishioners, assets and liabilities of Holy Cross Parish to that of St. Joseph Cathedral Parish; and

Whereas, having heard the Presbyteral Council in accordance with Canon 515.2;

Therefore, I, Earl K. Fernandes, Bishop of Columbus, hereby decree the following

1. The Parish of Holy Cross, Columbus, Ohio, is suppressed effective July 1, 2023;
2. Simultaneously with the suppression of Holy Cross Parish, the territory, parishioners, property, assets and liabilities of these parishes will be joined to those of St. Joseph Cathedral Parish by aggregation into a single juridic person, care of which is entrusted to the pastor of St. Joseph Cathedral Parish (i.e. Rector). The boundaries of the new parish are as follows:
 - a. Northern boundary: The south side of Spring Street from Neil Avenue on the west to St. Clair Avenue on the east; the south side of Long Street from St. Clair Avenue on the west to Taylor Avenue on the east; Long Street (including both sides of the street) from Taylor Avenue on the west to Alum Creek on the east.
 - b. Eastern boundary: The west side of St. Clair Avenue from Spring Street on the north to Long Street on the south; Alum Creek from Long Street on the north to Broad Street on the south; Franklin Park West from Broad Street on the north to Fair Avenue on the south; the west side of Miller Avenue from Fair Avenue on the north to Bryden Road on the south. The west side of Carpenter Street from Bryden Road on the south.
 - c. Southern boundary: The north side of Mound Street from the Scioto River on the west to Short Street on the east; the north side of Fulton Street from Short Street on the west to Front Street on the east; the north side of Livingston Avenue from Front Street on the west to Parsons Avenue, on the east; the north side of Fulton Street from Parsons Avenue on the west to 18th Street on the east.
 - d. Western boundary: The east side of Neil Avenue from Spring Street on the north to the Scioto River on the south; the Scioto River from Dennison Avenue on the north to Mound Street on the south.
3. The care of Holy Cross Church and the other properties of the former Holy Cross Parish, whether sacred or profane, will become the responsibility of St. Joseph Cathedral Parish, until further decisions are made and approved through the appropriate canonical processes regarding the disposition of these buildings and properties.
4. This decree shall be promulgated by publication in the *Catholic Times* and disseminated in the affected parishes via the parish bulletin and other means of communication as deemed appropriate by Pastor of the affected communities.

Given at the Chancery Office, 198 E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio this 5th day of April, 2023.

+ Earl K. Fernandes

Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes
Bishop of Columbus

Notary

Seeking peace in our hearts, bodies, minds

In our crazy, busy, distracted world, our hearts are crying out for peace – peace in our hearts, our bodies and our minds.

People often exercise to calm the body and mind. Movement and physical activity have a proven physiological calming effect on the body. I enjoy moderately vigorous activity a few times a week, but other times, a peaceful walk, bike ride, gentle stretching or SoulCore (rosary prayer with movement) brings me peace.

Exercise is great to calm the body, but my favorite way to seek peace is by praying. My parish's Adoration chapel is the most peaceful place for me, but I've learned to turn my armchair, couch, bed, backyard, screened porch and car into places of prayerful peace.

It might sound simple, but I've found that the more I pray, the more I'm at peace. The peace of Christ is absolutely the best gift I can give myself because if I'm at peace, then I can bring Christ's peace to others in the form of kindness, gentleness, silence, acceptance, joy, love, encouragement and hope.

In John 16:33, Jesus said, "I have told you this so that you might have peace in me. In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world."

Having peace doesn't mean there isn't strife. Because we are in the world, and we have original sin, strife is part of our lives. However, we can learn to guard that

HOLY AND HEALTHY | Lori Crock

Lori Crock is a SoulCore Rosary prayer and exercise leader and a St. Brendan parishioner. Lori is online at holyanhealthy catholic.com, where she shares her passion for faith and fitness.



place within us where Jesus lives, and we can go there any time amid the busyness of life.

Perhaps that was what St. Paul was referring to when he said, "Pray without ceasing." I'm learning to go there to receive the peace of Jesus in my heart more often. Do you do that as well?

Peace is mentioned often in Scripture. Our Father must have known that peace would be something that we would struggle with and need guidance on. Thankfully, Father God gives us inspired words from many people in Scripture including the prophets, the disciples and, of course, Jesus.

St. Paul encourages the people of Corinth in 2 Corinthians 13:11, "Finally, brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you."

Awhile back, a friend of mine experienced an adverse reaction to a medication that caused her to experience

great fear, anxiety and an inability to sleep. She was working with her doctors to find a solution, but, in the meantime, she had no peace in her body, mind or soul.

One day I took her to my parish Adoration chapel. She experienced the peace of Christ for a short time in the stillness of the chapel, thank you, Jesus. Tears of gratitude flowed, and she cried out to Jesus for more moments of peace amid her trial.

From Psalm 4:9: "In peace I will lie down and fall asleep, for you alone, Lord, make me secure."

When my husband had COVID recently, I was careful to keep peace in my body, soul and mind in hopes that I would not get sick as I was scheduled to present at a Catholic women's retreat a few days later.

I practiced good self-care, which included more prayer time and spiritual reading, more sleep, healthful eating, moderate but consistent exercise, good hydration and a reduced schedule of activities. Praise God that I stayed healthy and attended the retreat. This was a powerful reminder to me to seek more peace in my daily routine.

May we seek the peace of Christ more often in our everyday lives to become more holy and healthy. From John 14:27: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid."

The beauty of now, and the gratitude it brings

I have a beautiful young friend who is eagerly awaiting the arrival of her baby. "Just a few more weeks till he arrives!" she says excitedly.

I smile remembering fondly that time of expectant joy – the wonder of what will be, the hope of what tomorrow will bring. There are a few moments given to us in life where we can sit back and see how we have grown and how God has been working in our lives. This is one of them.

I remember carrying my first son, so many changes and so very many emotions. I remember singing on my way to teach every morning, "Samuel or Abigail." I had made up a whole song. I'd rub my growing belly and read stories out loud when I got home, already forming myself into the mother I truly wanted to be.

As I listened to this friend share her expectant joy, I spoke softly and said, "Live in this moment, friend. This will be the only time it will be just you and him. He can't speak back. He can't run away. You can just pour and pour into him with all the love in your heart, and he will feel it. You two are bonded together, and if you appreciate these moments, they will support you later in life."

In a similar fashion, I am now watching my children grow up. My last dear child is entering middle school, and Sarah baby is not so much a baby anymore, as she informs me often. With four out of the house in the fall and only four older kids at home, it is easy to spend time wondering what life will be like soon.

But there is a beauty in the now. A realization that this moment is a gift: watching her crochet, sitting on her bed listening to a story, listening to my boys chat as they lie in their hammocks on the front porch on a beautiful spring afternoon. The busyness and mess of preparing a big dinner will one day not be here, and those sounds will be echoes on my heart, and I want to record them so I can play them back. I want them to know I was invested.

My husband and I realize that life is changing as each child grows. We both have little bucket lists and little moments we ponder as we take a walk together or

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.



share in whispers as we snuggle into bed. Simple things like, there will be a day we will be a one pizza family! Imagine just a \$12 bill for dinner out!

Larger thoughts come as we ponder how empty this house will seem when they are all grown. It's easy to think about the next thing to come, but not if it causes us to lose the appreciation of what is before our very eyes. And so, we choose to live in each moment given.

There is a temptation to always be looking forward to the next best thing. Our culture is a "But wait, there's more!" culture. But what if the more is in the now? What if the more requires us to appreciate what is being given to truly activate the more in the moment?

Have you ever sat with someone, perhaps a spouse, in the middle of a moment and just smiled at each other over the heads of your children with a look that says, "This here? This is a blessing." Or even shared a chuckle together wondering where this child of yours came up with a particularly zany idea.

Living in those moments and truly appreciating them activates gratitude, and gratitude draws us closer to the heart of Jesus.

I'm watching my father grow older over FaceTime. His memory is slipping, and over our many calls throughout the day, (because he forgets he has called), we share moments. Often the call will begin

with him shouting at Alexa to turn the volume down on his music, or he will pass his phone to some of his friends in his assisted living home and share how he is proud of me.

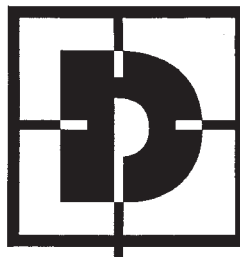
It's easy to roll my eyes or sigh, but the beauty is found in sitting back and leaning into the moment. "Yes, Mrs. Smith, it is a beautiful day here." "Yes, Mrs. Young, I do have eight children." "Yes, I know my dad is so proud of me."

My Father is then passed back the phone with admiring friends and a full heart. This is easily done, and there is much to be grateful for. He desires to be included in my life, and I am grateful for that.

I love the quote by St. Augustine where he reflects on our nature to worry or look for the next thing to come. He says, "Let our lives be good, and the times are good. We make our times; such as we are, such are the times."

So let us live in the beauty of now, the gift of what has been given, looking for the good, and it will present itself to us. For our eyes will reflect what our hearts know to be true.

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Tests of our faith can make it stronger

“If the certainty of faith were dependent upon scientific-historical verification alone, it would always remain open to revision.” — Pope Benedict XVI, *Jesus of Nazareth: Holy Week*

In my most recent column I closed with a quote from St. Thomas how sin impedes faith. Before I go further on that, I will circle back to the virtue of faith. Why? Because this is how, according to St. Thomas, we come to “know” what is referred to as “Real Presence.”

Faith will no doubt mean many things to many people. *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC) is the surest way for people to be on the same page. I will quote a few paragraphs.

CCC 143 says, “By faith, man completely submits his intellect and his will to God. With his whole being man gives his assent to God the revealer. Sacred Scripture calls this human response to God, the author of revelation, “the obedience of faith.”

Consider how sin and concupiscence affect our intellect and thus impede our faith.

CCC 148: “The Virgin Mary most perfectly embodies the obedience of faith.”

Some might be tempted to say she was born “full of grace” and didn’t have sin and concupiscence like we do to drag her down. Guess what: So was Adam and Eve and look what happened.

I could quote more. Sometimes our best way to understand what faith is is by the example of others.

In Exodus we read a number of occasions of Pharaoh’s heart hardening. The “heart” is where our “will” resides.

Sometimes Pharaoh is hardening his own heart. This may be attributed to plain obstinance or stubbornness, denying the reality of events. Other times we read how God hardened Pharaoh’s heart.

Commentators have used an analogy to explain this. Think of God’s grace as being a hot sun. Our heart (our will) has two choices. We can either have a heart of clay that hardens in the heat, which is a lack of faith in God. Or, we can have a heart of butter that melts as our will responds in faith to God.

Second, we read in John 2:23-25, “Now when he (Je-

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.



sus) was in Jerusalem at the Passover feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs (miracles) which he did; but Jesus did not trust himself to them, because he knew all men and needed no one to bear witness of man; for he himself knew what was in man.”

Strange? They believed in Jesus; Jesus didn’t believe them. CCC 473 says, “The Son in his human knowledge also showed the divine penetration he had into the secret thoughts of human hearts.” Translation: He really knows our heart; we are weak and can easily deceive ourselves.

Now I invite you to read John Chapter 9, the “Healing of the Blind Man.” In here you can see faith growing in an individual.

First, note that the man never asks for anything, let alone to be healed. It would be natural to think an expression of faith would be necessary for healing (see Matthew 13:53-58). We don’t know what was in the blind man’s heart, but we should be joyful with the graces God pours out for no obvious reason.

We don’t know when or how he gets to the pool. Perhaps helped by others? Do we help others get to the pool?

After the healing, he appears to others to be a “different” man; people don’t recognize him. We should be different after encountering our Lord.

Unlike the invalid in John Chapter 5, the blind man knows who cured him — Jesus. Note how the blind man responds to queries on who cured him, referring to Jesus as “the man,” just an “ordinary Joe.”

This event would naturally cause a stir among the people, so the Pharisees investigate the healing, and they don’t quite know what to make of it.

The Pharisees ask the man (we never hear his name) what he thinks of Jesus, and he responds, “He is a prophet.”

So, after a period of time and testing, his faith increases, from Jesus being “a (mere) man” to now “a prophet.”

From the text, that answer doesn’t go over well with the interrogators. They don’t believe him. They call him in a second time, telling the man that Jesus is a sinner and to give God the praise.

The man, of course, couldn’t know if Jesus was a sinner, but he does know that he was blind and now can see. In his dialogue with the Pharisees, you can sense he’s being tested and doesn’t care for it. He thinks the evidence (sign) speaks for itself.

The exchange gets heated. The man, again using his intellect (expressing faith?), says, “We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing (verses 31-33).”

The man gets “cast out.” Consider Luke 6:22, “Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, on account of the Son of man!” Are you willing to be “cast out” for your faith?

Verses 35-38: “Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, ‘Do you believe in the Son of man?’ He answered, ‘And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?’ Jesus said to him, ‘You have seen him, and it is he who speaks to you.’ He said, ‘Lord, I believe,’ and he worshiped him.”

We see the blind man’s faith journey going from knowing who healed him (Jesus), identifying Jesus as “the man” to “prophet” to “from God” to “God.” He experienced pressure and persecution, yet he both persevered and increased in faith. He was open to God’s grace.

“Count it all joy, my brethren, when you meet various trials, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” — James 1:2-4

Dissenters still trying to deny the existence of absolute moral truths

As the estimable Larry Chapp recently put it on his blog, *Gaudium et Spes* 22, “the deepest, most important, most contentious, most divisive, and most destructive debates [after Vatican II] surrounded moral theology, especially after *Humanae Vitae* and the massive dissent from it that followed.” Dr. Chapp also notes that you had to have lived through those debates to grasp, today, their volatility. For the dissenting theologians (and the bishops who tacitly or overtly supported them) were gobsmacked by Pope Paul VI’s re-affirmation of the Church’s longstanding ban on artificial means of contraception — and even more so by the moral reasoning by which he reached his decision.

For the “birth control debate” during and after Vatican II was never just about the morally acceptable means of exercising the moral responsibility to regulate fertility. It was also about the theological guild’s determination to enshrine the theory known as “proportionalism” as the Church’s official moral theology. Dr. Chapp again:

“... [P]roportionalism... taught that there can be no absolute moral norms since moral actions are largely determined ... by the concrete circumstances in the life of the person committing the act ... [which were] almost always ... fraught with the ambiguity of ‘difficult and mitigating’ circumstances. It is a bit of a caricature, but

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

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



for the sake of a useful shorthand ... proportionalism is a subspecies (in Catholic drag) of situation ethics.”

How did otherwise intelligent people come to the absurd conclusion that there are no absolute moral norms that might not bend before “difficult and mitigating” circumstances? (What about murder, rape and torturing children?) That’s a long story, involving the Sage of Königsberg, Immanuel Kant, and the Edinburgh philosopher David Hume. Suffice it to say that what many regarded as Kant’s destruction of metaphysics (i.e., the idea that there are deep truths built into the world and into us that we can know by reason) and Hume’s demolition of the claim that we can reason our way from a fact (e.g., there are innocent human beings) to a moral truth or value (e.g. innocent human life is inviolable) played starring roles in this drama. And, as always, ideas had consequences.

The Catholic debate over proportionalism ought to have been settled by two of John Paul II’s encyclicals. In 1993, *Veritatis Splendor* (The Splendor of Truth) rejected proportionalism as a legitimate Catholic method of

doing moral theology by authoritatively teaching that there are, in fact, intrinsically evil acts that are absolutely forbidden morally. Two years later, *Evangelium Vitae* (The Gospel of Life) illustrated that point by authoritatively teaching that the willful taking of innocent human life, abortion and euthanasia are always gravely evil, irrespective of difficult and complicating circumstances.

But the theologians’ guild never conceded defeat and is now promoting proportionalism in, of all places, Roman universities.

Thus in May 2022, Father Julio Martinez, SJ, gave a lecture at the Pontifical Gregorian University (a hotbed of proportionalist thinking during the post-conciliar debates); there, he charged that *Veritatis Splendor* had tied knots (his phrase) in Catholic moral theology, completing a process of knot-tying that had begun with *Humanae Vitae*, which did not “discern and consider the circumstances [of] ... marriage and family life ... in an accurate way.” Father Martinez also complained that *Veritatis Splendor* was ill advised in insisting that the Church’s magisterium has the responsibility of “teaching morals in a very precise and clear way.” The good news was that Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* had “introduced discernment” (formerly

LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS

Newark parish hosts grieving workshop in May

A Grieving with Great Hope Workshop will be held Friday, May 19 and Saturday, May 20 in partnership with Good Mourning Ministry at Newark St. Francis de Sales Church.

Friday's session runs from 7 to 9 p.m., and Saturday's workshop begins at 9:30 a.m. and ends at 4 p.m.

Grieving with Great Hope is a grief support program and a healing ministry developed by John and Sandy O'Shaughnessy, the co-founders of Good Mourning Ministry, a national Catholic bereavement apostolate.

John O'Shaughnessy is a certified grief counselor and author of five books. Sandy O'Shaughnessy is a director of religious education with a master's degree in pastoral ministry (bereavement emphasis).

"This (workshop) teaches that grief is a natural reaction to loss, and mourning is our intentional response," workshop developer and leader John O'Shaughnessy said. "Mourning is what we do with the pain we feel."

St. Francis de Sales has hosted multi-week Grieving with Great Hope workshops in the past but is bringing the single weekend workshop format to the diocese with the hope of serving even more people suffering with grief.

The weekend workshop will be a condensed version of a five-week workshop where participants share their own stories in a safe and validating environment.

Cost for the weekend workshop, which includes all materials and a box lunch, is \$20. Register at www.stfrancis-parish.net/grieving.

Columbus Catholic Renewal sponsors Mass, Adoration, talk

Columbus Catholic Renewal is spon-

WEIGEL, continued from Page 6

a method of spiritual direction) into the Church's approach to the ethics of human love in "the concrete circumstances of marriage and family life," which is "a really new thing in moral theology."

Whether or not that is what *Amoris Laetitia* did (or intended to do), Father Martinez was endorsing proportionalism as a superior method of moral reasoning that would "untie the knots" created by *Humanae Vitae* and *Veritatis Splendor* — irrespective of the latter's authoritative rejection of proportionalism's bottom-line claim that there are no absolute moral norms because there are no intrinsically evil acts.

Cue George Orwell: "One has to belong to the intelligentsia to believe things like that: no ordinary man could be such a fool."

Proportionalism's return has had effects beyond the theologians' guild. It has played an influential role in the German apostasy and in the commentary of various bishops on LGBT issues. The great Do-

minican moral theologian Servais Pinckers once wrote that moral theology is "the meeting place of the Church's theory and practice, thought and life." So these are not just games intellectuals play.

Which is why this degradation of moral theology, and its effects, will not go unremarked in the next papal conclave.

Whitsett earned a graduate certificate in spiritual theology and a spiritual director certification from the Avila Institute. She is a member of the Communion of Catholic Spiritual Directors in the Diocese of Columbus. She serves as speaker, small group leader and prayer minister at several parishes. Her passion is to teach about prayer and accompany souls into deeper intimacy with the Trinity.

For more information, go to www.crcolumbus.org or call Patrick Shroyer at (614) 980-3021.

Father Tomson to speak to men's luncheon club in May

Father Ty Tomson, pastor of Lancaster St. Bernadette and Bremen St. Mary churches, will speak on the traditional Latin Mass at the Catholic Men's Luncheon Club meeting following the 11:45 a.m. Mass on Friday, May 5 in Patrick Hall of Columbus St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave.

Free parking will be available in the Columbus State Community College Grant Avenue parking lot (25-S), across the street from the church. No reservations are necessary. A \$12 donation for the lunch and meeting is suggested.

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The club's next meeting will be on Friday, June 2, when Father Adam Streitenberger, vicar for evangelization, will speak about the Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center.

Contact Jim Gernetzke at jimgernetzke@noslumine.com to sponsor a future luncheon.

Ohio Dominican to hold commencement on May 6

Ohio Dominican University's 115th commencement ceremony for approximately 200 graduates will take place at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 6, outdoors for the first time in more than a decade on the oval in front of Erskine Hall, the university's main academic building.

A Baccalaureate Mass will precede commencement at 9 a.m. in Christ the King Chapel, located on the first floor of Sansbury Hall.

For more information, visit www.ohiodominican.edu/Commencement.

Dominican Sisters reach agreement to protect land

The Columbus-based Dominican Sisters of Peace have donated the development rights of the 605-acre St. Catharine

Farm in Washington County, Kentucky to a protective easement held by the Bluegrass Land Conservancy, which has pledged to keep it as unspoiled land.

The farm has been cared for by Dominican sisters since 1822, when the first congregation of Dominican women religious in the United States was founded on the site. The growth of residential and commercial building in the area moved the sisters to look for a way to permanently protect the farm.

The easement will preserve the historic view of the farm and protect its large stands of old-growth trees while allowing the sisters to continue to use the land and undertake limited development compatible with a working farm. It also will protect the site of the original St. Catharine convent and school, which burned to the ground in 1904.

The congregation's ecology center in Columbus, Shepherd's Corner, is completing the creation of a 1-acre wetlands area that will be used for recreation and educational purposes. The land donation and the wetlands area are part of the congregation's commitment to treasure and reverence the earth in accordance with Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* (*On the Care of Our Common Home*).

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www.emmausroadscholarship.org

20 join Church at Newman Center's Easter Vigil

By **Hannah Heil**
Catholic Times Reporter

The Easter Vigil Mass at the Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center was one of celebration.

The Newman Center, located near

Ohio State University's campus, welcomed 20 new members into the Catholic Church on Holy Saturday, April 8. The number is double that of the catechumens and candidates who became Catholic there last year.

"At the Mass, I could really sense the

excitement of those coming into the Church and the whole Buckeye Catholic community," said Father Adam Streitenberger, executive director of the Newman Center. "I've celebrated the Easter Vigil many times, but the enthusiasm and joy of the singing and celebration

was so much more than I've witnessed. "I can't wait until next year – we already have five signed up for classes."

Liam Brake, a sophomore at Ohio State, was among those who came into


See NEWMAN CENTER, Page 15



Father Adam Streitenberger incenses the paschal candle during the Easter Vigil at the St. Thomas More Newman Center located next to the Ohio State University campus in Columbus.



Father Adam Streitenberger, executive director at the St. Thomas More Newman Center, baptizes a candidate during the Easter Vigil Mass on April 8.




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Father Adam Streitenberger confers the Sacrament of Confirmation with the Chrism Oil on Holy Saturday at the St. Thomas More Newman Center.

Bishop washes inmates' feet on Holy Thursday

Inside an austere chapel at the Madison Correctional Institution, Bishop Earl Fernandes knelt on Holy Thursday morning to wash the feet of inmates serving time for their crimes on Holy Thursday morning.

The bishop returned to the prison in rural Madison County that he'd visited two weeks earlier to show the Church's solidarity with these men and to offer them a ray of Easter hope during their confinement.

In a homily during the morning prayer service on April 6, Bishop Fernandes referred often to the 13th chapter of St. John's Gospel. He reminded the men that sin can be crippling, "but on no merit of our own, God bends down to offer love into our mortal souls, to heal us and make us whole. ...

"Sometimes, being in here (in prison), you might say, 'A big stone is keeping me here,'" the bishop said. "But think about Easter Sunday and how Jesus rolled back the stone of His tomb ... and remember His words, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. As the Father sends me, so I send you. ...

"Today, we remember how Jesus bent down in humility and washed His disciples' feet. And so, as your bishop, I am washing your feet as a reminder that God's love never fails, to remind us that there is a love stronger than death, so that one day we might be fit for His service."

Inmate Scott Cracraft, one of the men whose feet were washed by the bishop, found the experience "very moving."

"It's a blessing to be at this institution which allows us to participate in the Mass and in services such as today's Morning Prayer," he said.

Bishop Fernandes' willingness to celebrate Holy Thursday with the washing of the inmates' feet was humbling, he said, and gave him great hope that one day he can be a witness for Jesus and a light to others who have lost their way in the world.

Cracraft said that his faith keeps him strong inside the prison walls and focused on Jesus as the Light of the World.

As an inmate searching for spiritual fulfillment, Cracraft had begun studying the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* in Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults classes in October 2021 through the encouragement of a longtime Catholic friend who was once incarcerated.

On Feb. 21, 2023, Cracraft came into full communion with the Church when he was confirmed as a Catholic by Father Joseph Eddy, O.deM., a Mercedarian order priest who serves as the chaplain at Madison Correctional and is in residence at Columbus Holy Family Church.

"Father Eddy has been a real blessing," Cracraft said, both to him and to the other men who are practicing Catholics or those drawn to the Catholic faith.

Inmate Joseph Garcia chose not to



Bishop Earl Fernandes washes the feet of an inmate making the sign of the cross while Deacon Dan Hann assists on Holy Thursday morning at Madison Correctional Institution. *CT photos by Ken Snow*



Bishop Earl Fernandes washes the feet of Scott Cracraft on Holy Thursday.

have his feet washed but said it was inspiring to see the bishop washing the feet of his fellow inmates.

"Things like this, where a bishop comes to celebrate Holy Thursday or Mass (which he did two weeks ago), is something I never thought I'd see within these walls," Garcia said. "Even when I was in the service (U.S. Air Force), I didn't experience anything like what we had today. ...

"What's most meaningful to me is the fellowship we experience here in the Catholic community and in the Mass itself. It's changed the way I see things — what having faith really means."



Joseph Garcia (left) participates with his fellow inmates in morning prayer.



Bishop Earl Fernandes speaks to the inmates during his homily.



Bishop Earl Fernandes leads the Holy Thursday prayer service.

New Catholics at St. John Neumann display diversity

Across the diocese, children and adults of all ages and from various cultural backgrounds were received into the Catholic Church as new members during Easter Vigil Masses.

All of them have their own unique stories to tell about their journey into the Catholic Church.

During the Holy Saturday Mass on April 8 at Sunbury St. John Neumann Church, that diversity was on display in a small but profound way.

Among the individuals receiving the sacraments for the first time were Tommy Lee Diamond, an 18-year-old high school senior from Utica, and 16-year-old Queen Swen, who was born in Ghana and raised in Liberia before her family emigrated from west Africa to the United States when she was age 8.

Both received the sacraments of bap-

See JOHN NEUMANN, Page 16



Father Dan Dury, pastor at Sunbury St. John Neumann Church, lights the paschal candle at the Easter Vigil with Deacon Carl Calcara's help.



Deacon Carl Calcara carries the paschal candle on Holy Saturday at Sunbury St. John Neumann Church from the sanctuary to the baptismal font. Behind him are Josie and Marley Powell, ages 8 and 5, and their father, Aaron Powell. All three were baptized during the Easter Vigil Mass. *CT photos by Ken Snow*



Members of the congregation at St. John Neumann Church on Holy Saturday hold candles in the dark nave, symbolizing the darkness before the light of dawn on Easter morning.



Father Dan Dury baptizes Queen Swen at the Easter Vigil Mass at St. John Neumann Church.

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Eight-year-old Josie Powell receives Holy Communion from Father Dan Dury for the first time as her father, Aaron Powell (right), watches during the Easter Vigil Mass.



Father Dan Dury confers the sacrament of confirmation on Tommy Diamond with the sacred chrism oil.

Bishop celebrates liturgies during Holy Week

Bishop Earl Fernandes led his first Chrism Mass during Holy Week as the shepherd of the Diocese of Columbus on Tuesday, April 4 at Westerville St. Paul Church.

Bishop Fernandes was joined at the Chrism Mass by two of his predecessors, Bishop Emeritus James Griffin and Bishop Emeritus Frederick Campbell; the priests of the diocese, who renewed their vows of ordination at the Mass; and was assisted by deacons and seminarians.

In addition to blessing the Holy Oils,

the bishop celebrated Mass and presented Msgr. James Walter, a priest of the diocese for 61 years, a decree naming him a monsignor.

Bishop Fernandes also celebrated the liturgies for Holy Thursday on April 6, Good Friday in the afternoon and Tenebrae in the evening on April 7, the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday, April 8 and an Easter Sunday Mass on April 9 at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral for the first time as the diocese's bishop.

The Easter Sunday Mass was televised live by WCMH-TV (Channel 4).



After the homily at the Chrism Mass, the bishop asks the priests of the diocese to stand and renew their vows of ordination.



Bishop Earl Fernandes celebrates the Chrism Mass.



Bishop Emeritus James Griffin (left) and Bishop Emeritus Frederick Campbell join the procession at the Chrism Mass.

Bishop Earl Fernandes (center) presents Msgr. James Walter (left) a decree announcing the honorary title of monsignor as Bishop Emeritus Frederick Campbell enjoys the moment.



Bishop Earl Fernandes recites the Prayer of Consecration over the chrim oil during the diocese's annual Chrism Mass on Tuesday, April 4 at Westerville St. Paul Church. At left is Father Paul Keller, OP. Holding the book is seminarian John Haemmerle. *CT photos by Ken Snow*



Bishop Earl Fernandes breathes on the chrim oil in the vessels. At his side is Father Paul Keller, OP.



Bishop Earl Fernandes stirs the balsam and oil. He is assisted by Father Paul Keller, OP (left) and seminarian John Haemmerle.

Students inspired by pilgrimage to Rome with FOCUS Missions

By Kenny Davy

“Pilgrimages evoke our earthly journey toward heaven and are traditionally very special occasions for renewal in prayer. For pilgrims seeking living water, shrines are special places for living the forms of Christian prayer ‘in Church.’”—*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2691

Since 2004, more than 14,000 college students, alumni, chaplains and missionaries with FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) have encountered Christ and shared the Gospel while on FOCUS mission trips.

During the current mission season (winter 2022-summer 2023), more than 100 trips will give approximately 1,800 people the opportunity to serve others throughout the world, including a pilgrimage to World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon, Portugal.

For each trip, FOCUS partners with a local religious order, apostolate or organization that understands the community's greatest needs. Some teams serve the homeless and renovate community infrastructure, while others teach children or provide patient care services at medical clinics. (Visit focusmissions.org for details.)

During the recent spring break, students from Ohio State University took a weeklong pilgrimage to Rome, visiting St. Peter's and other basilicas to encounter the foundations of their faith and to serve others. Also on the pilgrimage were Father Adam Streitenberger, executive director of the Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center; Nicole Simental, interim director of music at the Newman Center; four FOCUS missionaries; and 19 students.

“Pilgrimage is a great opportunity for students to set aside a time to allow the Lord space to work,” said Anne Grado-ville, a second-year FOCUS missionary at Ohio State.

“Life on campus is often extremely busy, and pilgrimage provides a time for the students to grow in their relationship with the Lord and one another by journeying through some of the most important places in the history of the Church. I have continually seen the Lord change students' lives through pilgrimages.”

Students saw the beauty of the Catholic Church when visiting the four major basilicas in Rome – St. Peter, St. Paul Outside the Walls, St. Mary Major and the Archbasilica of St. John Lateran – and other basilicas in the city. They also visited tombs of saints.

They learned about religious life from the Bridgettine sisters and seminarians from the Pontifical North American College and by volunteering with the Missionaries of Charity. In addition, the students spent an hour in prayer each

day and received Him in the Eucharist at daily Mass.

“Rome and the tombs of (Sts.) Peter and Paul are epicenters of our Catholic life,” Father Streitenberger said. “Millions have made a pilgrimage to these sights over the centuries of Church history.

“To join them in a penitential and sacrificial journey that is a pilgrimage is a great Lenten opportunity and a life-altering event. I was impressed with how seriously the students approached their pilgrimage. I found it a great blessing and highlight of my priesthood to join them in their journey to Rome.”

When asked to describe their faith before the trip and during the pilgrimage and what they intended to do afterward, the students said:

- “My faith was a roller coaster before the trip. While I regularly attended Mass and had a decent prayer life, ... I wasn't striving for true intimacy with Christ and wasn't taking hold of the faith aspect of my life. I'd say that faith was something that I wanted others to think I had, while deep down, it was something that I was scratching the surface at,” said Joe Dobrzynski, a senior at Ohio State.

“The trip made me look at how I can grow in my relationship with Christ. Through all the experiences on the trip and the beauty of the churches we visited, I was able to reflect on the experiences of the saints of the Church and say to myself, ‘I'm called to be a saint, and why shouldn't I put Christ as the center of my life?’ Now, I'm trying to implement many of the routines established on our trip.

“For example, I aim to pray the rosary,

See **STUDENTS**, Page 17



Students go up the steps of the Scala Sancta (The Holy Stairs) that Jesus climbed during His trial with Pontius Pilate. The Scala Sancta may only be ascended on the knees while spending time in prayer on each step. *Photo courtesy Austin Klarsch*



Ohio State University students, missionaries and Father Adam Streitenberger, executive director at the St. Thomas More Newman Center, pose for a group picture in front of St. Peter's Basilica. *Photo courtesy Austin Klarsch*



Students and missionaries pray in front of the sacred relic of the Holy Crib at the Basilica of St. Mary Major. *Photo courtesy Jennifer Meier*



(From left) Hannah Taukus, Matthew Ayers, Nicole Simental and Mackenzie Hoog pray at St. Paul's tomb at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls in Rome. *Photo courtesy Jennifer Meier*

St. Matthew Church nursery reflects Catholic faith

Hannah Heil

The Catholic Times Reporter

In the nursery at Gahanna St. Matthew the Apostle Church, children can find toys that resemble the monstrance, chalice and other sacred objects used in Mass.

Staff members and parishioners at St. Matthew renovated the nursery that was once filled with secular toys and books to make the space authentically Catholic.

Katie Ryzenga, baptism coordinator and director of post-baptismal catechesis at St. Matthew, said parishioners, parents and staff worked together to create a Catholic space for children.

"We met here, several of us over several weeks, just going through things, giving things away and sorting out," she said. "I had some teenagers help me scrub everything we were keeping. It was a several-month process of just figuring out how we wanted it."

Julianne Burkholder, who is a parishioner with two young children and helped coordinate the nursery, said the goal was for the nursery to reflect the church.

"I think Katie envisioned a space like the Mass, like a prayer space," she said. "We have a book corner, a nice place for the kids to sit, and ... this Mass area where kids can touch and feel what they see in Mass."

All of the toys and décor for the nursery are Catholic-based. In Montessori, Ryzenga said, toys, or objects, are referred to as "works."

"We had several bookshelves of Barney, and we decided we're only going to have religious stuff down here; they can read Barney anytime," she said. "(We want) anything they come in contact with to be religious, so it was a process where we started discerning."

The nursery is divided into two rooms – the St. Monica room, which was traditionally used for infants, and the St. Martin room, which was used for older children. Both rooms in the nursery can now be used by children of any age.

Laura Navarro, parishioner at St. Matthew, did all of the artwork for the nursery. She painted angel wings and images of St. Martha above the toy kitchen and St. Joseph above the toy work bench station, as well as a 'Let the children come to Me' display on the main wall that reflects Christ's words in Matthew 19:14.

Navarro also created an image of a rosary with beads made from vinyl sticker cut-outs that is displayed on the wall in the St. Martin room.

"(Laura) just said, 'We need to make this place more Catholic. What can we do?' because there were teddy bear pictures on the wall," Ryzenga recalled. "I want every time children come to church for them to have an encounter with faith. I search everywhere for little statues they can touch, and we have little saint peg dolls and stuffed ones."



The nursery at Gahanna St. Matthew Church has a distinctive look and feel for the children after a renovation of the space. Photos courtesy St. Matthew the Apostle Church



Children play with a Mass set at the St. Matthew nursery.

With paintings of saints on the walls, Catholic books on shelves and a table turned into an altar, Ryzenga said, the nursery gives children a home.

"We want kids to have a place that they feel is their home at the church, and we want parents to have a place they could come," Ryzenga said. "In baptism prep, we're giving them resources and encouraging them to bring their children to Mass. Now, we have a place we can say, 'Go, bring them, and play in the nursery.'"

There are child-size vestments for different liturgical seasons that children can fit in and use to dress up.

Burkholder's son, who is 4 years old, enjoys using the vestments and playing at the table decorated as an altar.

"When my son is in here, he will be like the priest and say, 'We're starting Mass now,' and (children) will line up or kneel," she said.

The nursery was formerly used only on Sundays.

"We had the nursery open during the



Laura Navarro lends her artistic talent to the designs on the walls in the nursery at Gahanna St. Matthew Church.

10 a.m. Mass, and kids could come down and play, but that was about it," said Ryzenga said. "No attention had been paid to the nursery, so we wanted to help these families."

The nursery is now open for families to use the space with their children when the church is open.

"We keep this unlocked, and they can come in and play in the nursery," she said.

She said the space has been great for bringing families together during the time between baptism and religious education.

"It's kind of all part of one big vision we have for supporting these young families," Ryzenga said. "We're blessed to have a ton of young families with lots of baptisms, and so we want something to invite them to immediately, not, 'When your child is ready for school, we'll see you again.'"

St. Matthew parish offers a "First Steps in Faith" program for families with children younger than under age 5. Ryzenga said the

group meets at the church one Sunday a month for an activity and a lesson. The program also offers resources for parents.

"One of the goals of the 'First Steps in Faith' program and what we're trying to do is help these families meet each other," she said. "When I work with people on baptism prep, they'll say (they) don't know anyone in the parish."

Ryzenga said she wants the parish's young families to spend time at the church regularly and know the church is there for them.

"I feel like, if they don't meet, it's so hard in a big parish, especially to meet people and make connections," she said of how the nursery is a place that can bring parishioners together.

"When I meet for baptism preparation with a family and they have older kids, or sometimes there's people who come in to work on their marriage or RCIA, and they have to come to a meeting, we can say, 'Bring the kids, ... and we can meet in here,' so the kids can play, and we can talk. That has been an unexpected benefit."

St. Matthew has seen several groups of parents form who meet and bring their children to play in the nursery.

"We have a mom's group that has a scheduled play group time once a month," Ryzenga said. "It's on one Thursday a month and one Saturday a month, so working parents can come, too."

Perpetual Adoration is offered in the church. A group of parents meet weekly to pray before the Blessed Sacrament and bring their children to play in the nursery.

"It's called 'Pray and Play Holy Hour,'" Ryzenga said. "Some of the moms were saying they never get to go to Adoration on their own and (wondered) how they can teach their child, so we do once a month on Monday morning. We meet in here, and we say a little prayer and do a mini lesson about Adoration every time."

"Then, all of the moms and babies and kids go to Adoration together for like five minutes. We sing a song and say a prayer, and then we bring the kids back here, and I have helpers to stay with the kids, and the moms can go to Adoration for the rest of the hour, and they get some quiet time, and the kids play here."

The nursery continues to have volunteers care for young children during the 10 a.m. Mass on Sunday. Once children reach kindergarten, they are encouraged to attend Mass with their families.

"On Sundays, we just started that (age) 5 and under could be in here, but there's other times, like when there's evening programs, that people bring their kids," Burkholder said. "We don't have an age restriction for those kinds of things."

Ryzenga said 2- and 3-year-old children are the main age group in the nursery during Mass time.

"We really want to encourage families to go to Mass, but then they can come play," she said. "We also use these rooms

See ST. MATTHEW, Page 16

Third Sunday of Easter Year A

Risen Lord gives us purpose

Acts 2:14, 22-33
Psalm 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11
1 Peter 1:17-21
Luke 24:13-35

The pattern of our lives is expressed in the very structure of the Mass: welcome, the word, the sacramental encounter and the mission. This is seen in the earliest experiences of the followers of Jesus, as we can observe in the Emmaus Road experience.

Luke is very clear in his use of liturgical language that he wants us to realize that what Jesus did in His earthly life and especially at the Last Supper continues to happen in the life of the Church.

The two disciples welcome Jesus as a stranger into their midst. In the discussion, they share their lives with Him, "all that has happened." By His interpretation of the Scriptures, He shares His life with them.

The breaking of the bread at the meal evokes the Eucharist, especially when the host of the meal disappears from their sight. They rediscover their mission to be with the other disciples in Jerusalem. When they return, they find that word of the Resurrection is already proclaimed and is beginning to be believed.

Our lives have meaning. God is intensely interested in us and in the way we understand what we experience. The Easter mystery helps us to learn how to recognize and acknowledge meaning that comes from God, the true purpose of our life on this earth. God sent His Son to share our life so that we might share divine life.

The Acts of the Apostles presents the proclamation made by Peter on Pentecost.

Fourth Sunday of Easter Year A

Following the Good Shepherd guarantees us life

Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6
1 Peter 2:20b-25
John 10:1-10

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is known as Good Shepherd Sunday. We are invited to acknowledge Jesus as our Shepherd. John's Gospel presents the shepherd as the gate through whom the sheep have to pass.

This image comes from the custom of having stone walls around a sheepfold that have open passageways that the shepherd blocks until it is safe for the sheep to go out. Many different flocks could be kept in such areas, with each shepherd responsible for allowing his own sheep to depart.

Jesus calls Himself the gate and describes the way His sheep acknowledge Him, hear His voice and follow where He leads. The relationship shared between shepherd and sheep is the guarantee

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.



cost. He speaks with a boldness that was missing when Jesus endured His Passion, as we know, because he and the other disciples have received the Holy Spirit.

He describes the historical reality of both the life of the people of God and their response to Jesus. His emphasis is not on what they did to Jesus, but rather on what God accomplished through those circumstances.

"But God raised him up, releasing him from the throes of death, because it was impossible for him to be held by it." The Author of Life could not be held down by death.

Peter's invitation is to see the Resurrection from God's point of view and to allow it to have an impact on our choices. With the Responsorial Psalm, we can cry out, "Lord, you will show us the path of life."

The First Letter of Peter comes from a perspective that reveals a deepened understanding of all that has happened. "He was known before the foundation of the world but revealed in the final time for you, who through him believe in God who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God."

The struggles and trials of the disciples in the years after Pentecost serve to draw together life's experiences and the promise that flows from the Resurrection of Jesus.

As the Easter season unfolds, we are invited to discover more and more the

of safety and care for the needs of the sheep. "The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want."

The relationship between Jesus and His sheep has one purpose, expressed by Jesus Himself: "I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly." This relationship calls for a personal response from every member of the flock.

The Acts of the Apostles shows us how this response was made by the first hearers of the Apostolic proclamation. They are cut to the quick by Peter's historical account of what happened to Jesus, and they ask, "What are we to do, my brothers?"

Peter explains how each believer is called to respond: "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is made to you and to your children and to all those far off, whomever the Lord our God will

The Weekday Bible Readings

4/24-4/29	THURSDAY	5/1-5/6	THURSDAY
MONDAY Acts 6:8-15 Psalm 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30 John 6:22-29	Acts 8:26-40 Psalm 66:8-9, 16-17, 20 John 6:44-51	MONDAY Acts 11:1-18 Psalm 42:2-3; 43:3-4 John 10:11-18	Acts 13:13-25 Psalm 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27 John 13:16-20
TUESDAY 1 Peter 5:5b-14 Psalm 89:2-3, 6, 7, 16-17 Mark 16:15-20	FRIDAY Acts 9:1-20 Psalm 117:1-2 John 6:44-51	TUESDAY Acts 11:19-26 Psalm 87:1-7 John 10:22-30	FRIDAY Acts 13:26-33 Psalm 2:6-11 John 14:1-6
WEDNESDAY Acts 8:1b-8 Psalm 66:1-3a, 4-7a John 6:35-40	SATURDAY Acts 9:31-42 Psalm 116:12-17 John 6:60-69	WEDNESDAY 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 Psalm 19:2-5 John 14:6-14	SATURDAY Acts 13:44-52 Psalm 98:1-4 John 14:7-14

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION Mass Schedule: Weeks of April 23 and April 30, 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: Mattingly 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 THE SEASONAL PROPSERS FOR WEEKS III AND IV OF THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

power of the Resurrection. The witness of the Church finds its source in faith that Jesus has been raised. Like Peter and the other disciples, we learn to persevere in the face of rejection because we have the example of Jesus.

The sacramental life of the Church molds us into believers who are aware of our own purpose and whose hearts are burning as He makes Himself known to us in the breaking of the bread.

In the United States, our bishops have called us to work for a Eucharistic Revival, to renew our faith in the Eucharist so that we can live it more fully. Faith in Jesus risen, hope in the power of the Spirit Who frees us to recognize His Presence, and love of God for the gift He has poured out on us through the risen Lord are ours to live and to share.

May we grow in grace and rejoice in this gift.

Shepherd. One child who was reflecting on the image of the Good Shepherd came to a sudden insight that gave her and her catechists endless delight: "Jesus is the Shepherd! The Good Shepherd is Jesus!" She had discovered the mystery of her relationship to Jesus.

When we reflect on the love of the Shepherd for us and on the guidance and food for the journey that He gives, we become new ourselves. May we believe in the Shepherd, and may we listen to His voice. May others see our delight and join us in the sheepfold.

On this World Day of Prayer for Vocations, look around your family and your parish. Are there some who might need your encouragement and guidance to discover the Shepherd for themselves? What are you doing to ensure that the Shepherd has followers?

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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.

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TO LEAVE A GOOD EXAMPLE

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PRAYER TO THE VIRGIN

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of heaven, blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in necessity. Oh, star of the sea, help me and show me herein, you are my Heaven and Earth. I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to secure me in this necessity. There are none who can withstand your powers. Oh, show me herein you are my Mother. Oh, Mary conceived without sin, pray for us, who have recourse to thee. (Repeat three times) Oh, Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hand. (Repeat three times) Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads that I can obtain my goals. You gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me, and in all instances in my life, you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. | MF

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NEWMAN CENTER, continued from Page 8

the Church this year.

“It was nothing like I had experienced before,” he said of the Mass. “It was a great experience, and ... receiving the Body and Blood, and the full divinity of Christ, was for sure the best part of the Easter Vigil for me.”

Brake, who attended Catholic school for six years but was not baptized, said his decision to get involved with Buckeye Catholic, the Catholic student ministry at Ohio State, in college brought him into the Church.

“I got involved in the Newman Center this past year,” he said. “It really changed things for me, and that’s what led me to the Church and to become Catholic.”

Pat McNulty, assistant director of the Newman Center, said he believes the presence at Ohio State of Catholic organizations such as St. Paul’s Outreach (SPO) and the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) played a role in many of the students’ conversions.

“I give a lot of credit to the missionary organizations SPO and FOCUS for their work with students here on campus,” he said. “They have really formed practicing Catholic students to be on mission for Christ on campus.”

“Almost everyone joining the Church this year did so because they had a personal relationship with a Catholic who wasn’t afraid to share their faith with them.”

“Now, the students who entered the Church want to do the same. A handful of them have already signed up to help lead our RCIA program next year and walk with new students who want to join the Church. We have already received multiple inquiries into next year’s program.”

Brake said he got involved with SPO at the beginning of his sophomore year, and organization members connected him with the Buckeye Catholic community. The outreach program offered men’s nights and Bible studies.

Brake recalled his first experience with SPO.

“You could tell they lived differently, like there wasn’t alcohol there,” he said. “People were getting to know each other, and there was just a different vibe, for sure, compared to what I was expecting.”

Sylvia Goldsmith, a junior at Ohio State, also entered the Church at the Easter Vigil. She said she wanted to be-

come Catholic and knew the Newman Center was the right place for her.

“Once I found out that Buckeye Catholic had a student internal organization also, I knew it was going to be the right fit because I still wanted those traditional ties but to do a lot of it with people that were around my age.

“And then, when I met with Pat (McNulty), and he was great and immediately had a student organization with the process and ready to get me going with it, it just made sense for me to stay there. It was too easy.”

Goldsmith transferred to Ohio State after two years at a different college. She said Buckeye Catholic connected her with FOCUS, which was instrumental in her journey to becoming Catholic.

“The missionaries are fantastic; they are the best,” she said. “My (RCIA) sponsor was one of the FOCUS missionaries, actually. By meeting one of them, you end up around all of them, and it’s so incredible.”

Goldsmith said she appreciated the friendship and knowledge that the FOCUS missionaries shared with her.

“They are so much fun,” she said. “I like all of them, and I will take my time out of my day to talk to them, or just be around them, because they are so great, they are so nice, and they have so much knowledge, which is really incredible.”

Audrey Kilgallon, a sophomore at Capital University, came into the Catholic Church this year at the Newman Center. She plans to stay involved by assisting with RCIA instruction.

“Next year I’m going to be joining the development team and help out with the RCIA,” she said. “I’ll be helping with that group, and I got inspired from going through RCIA this past year. I’m really excited to keep that discussion going and hearing people and growing in my faith.”

Kilgallon said weekly discussions at the Newman Center’s Thursday night RCIA classes made her desire to help lead next year.

“Ultimately, I think it came down to the joy I got from the discussion,” she said. “I love talking about Christ and what it means to love Him and follow Him – to learn and discuss.”

“I almost joined the (development) team for myself, to continue that joy in my heart, but I also joined the team to try to give that joy to other people.”

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BORING SR., Donald R., 74, April 7
St. Rose of Lima, New Lexington

BURCSU, Nettie (Bucchicchio), 106, March 31
St. Matthias Church, Columbus

CONSIDINE, Thomas J., 88, April 1
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church,
Columbus

FINNERAN, Alicia D. (Cleary), 91, Jan. 26
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

FLANIGAN, James, 79, April 2
St. Joan of Arc Church, Dublin

FOX, Loretta Marie, 83, April 4
St. Patrick Church, London

GILLIGAN, James E. "Grover" Jr., 62, April 4
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

HALL, Norma J. (Busto), 84, April 4
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove
City

HARNETTY, Barbara Elaine (Eckard), 81,
March 29
St. Patrick Church, Junction City

JANDER, Ramon P., 93, April 11
St. Anthony Church, Columbus

JONES, Minnie, 83, April 9
Sacred Heart Church, Coshocton

KREUZ, John A., 89, April 3
Resurrection Cemetery Chapel, Lewis
Center

KROCKER, John J., 69, March 24
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

MANRING, Arlayne P. (Bickerdt), 91, March 29
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

NIHISER, Joachim William, 45, March 23
St. John Church, Logan

O'REILLY, Mary A., 57, March 31
St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

OTTO, James C., 85, April 12
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

PALLONE, James "Jed," 77, April 1
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

POLK, Hunter Matthew, 24, April 3
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

RICE, Marlys June "Marty," 89, March 27
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

ROMANO, Albert, 88, April 8
St. Peter Church, Columbus

SICILIANO, Phyllis (Prebani), 94, April 2
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

SCOTT, Michael G., 79, April 10
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

SNIDER, Rosalie Rita (Wilson), 92, April 9
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

STEFANIK, Regina, 81, March 17
Dominican Sisters of Peace Chapel,
Columbus

WOOD, Terry, 76, March 29
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

JOHN NEUMANN, *cont. from Page 10*

tism, First Holy Communion and confirmation during the Mass celebrated by Father Dan Dury, the parish pastor.

Swen's family had been Catholic but had become members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon) while living in Africa.

In the years since coming to America, Swen said she felt drawn back to the Catholic faith and chose to be baptized (there was no record of her being baptized as a Catholic in Africa) and confirmed at the Easter Vigil Mass.

Diamond, a senior at Northridge High School, went to a Church of Christ pre-

school and attended a Baptist church as he grew older but had never been a member of a religious denomination until his girlfriend introduced him to the Catholic Church.

He began participating in various youth group activities and attending Mass before deciding to begin religious instruction last fall at St. John Neumann to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church.

During the baptismal rite at the Easter Vigil, Diamond and the others to be baptized each stepped down into the baptismal tank while wearing a protective garment

over their clothes before Father Dury poured holy water over their heads.

"Right before the Mass started, I was very nervous. I started shaking," Diamond said. "But once we got around the baptismal pool, all that went away. And when I entered the pool, I felt overjoyed to be in there."

Receiving communion after being confirmed "was really special for me because it was something I really wanted to be a part of for a long time – to be able to take communion," he said. "And being able to receive it from Father (Dury) was even better."

Tyler Berger, Diamond's sponsor, said,

"I'm honored to be his sponsor and am so proud of him – to see him go through this whole process with the youth group and the OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults) team."

Diamond's parents, Aimee and Terry, are not Catholic but they were "110 percent" supportive of their son entering the Church.

"Since he was younger, I've always known that he's a child of God, just in everything he does," Amy said. "He's really just been looking for someplace that was 'home,' and now he's found it. And I'm proud of him."

ST. MATTHEW, *cont. from Page 13*

for child care during our Bible studies or evening programs. We offer child care in the nursery, so we have a whole group of volunteers that sign up each month for that."

Items in the nursery are rotated, and new items are brought in to reflect the liturgical season. Easter books and an interactive Stations of the Cross map are currently available to children.

"It's their home here at church," Ryzenga said. "They like the same toys every time. When I tried to rotate some things, it's really funny because they will say, 'Where's the boat? Where's Noah's Ark?' So, it's good. You want them to be familiar."

St. Matthew has seen families drop in the church to use the nursery.

"I hear more and more families that are just ... stopping in," Burkholder said. "That was another goal of ours – this is a space that we can be in throughout the week. You don't have to come to programs; you can come in the evenings or whenever."

"I think just because they are surrounded by what they are seeing (in Mass) and touching and doing that the kids like coming here."

Ryzenga said parents enjoy the space as well.

"Some moms will tell me that they'll come to daily Mass once a week, or when they can, and then (their children) get to play in the nursery afterward."

"Sometimes I'll see a few families in here, and they'll just say, 'Hey, let's meet at the nursery,' so it gives them a place they can come ... hang out and play and be together."



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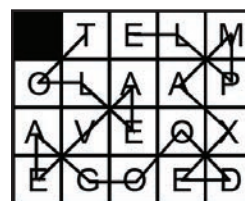


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**WORDS OF
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Missionaries will soon speak at diocesan parishes

By Sister Zephрина Mary, FIH

In the Diocese of Columbus, the annual Missionary Cooperation Plan (MCP) will soon provide missionaries to speak at parishes from May to September. These missionaries come from across the world, especially Africa and Asia.

On behalf of Bishop Earl K. Fernandes, I thank you in advance for your financial support for the missions. They provide a cross-cultural exchange of faith and the universality of the missionary spirit.

Missionaries bring the message and love of Jesus to people everywhere. Faithfulness to Christ and being in communion with the Church are essential elements in missionaries' lives.

A missionary has been called to go out to the world with an open heart to encounter different people, cultures and languages for the purpose of being a servant of God. Jesus commanded his disciples: "Go into the whole world and preach the Gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15)

When missionaries are welcomed and loved by the people they serve, they become part of the culture and are no longer seen as foreigners. St. Teresa of Calcutta was a great missionary and evangelist of the 20th century. Her powerful and genuine words, "I see the face of Jesus in the poor, and I do it for Him," echo her deep love for God and those she served.

Her legacy is carried on by thousands



A community of priests, sisters, brothers and lay cooperators established by the Sons of the Immaculate Conception religious order work with people and children in India. Photo courtesy diocesan Office of Missions

of missionaries who serve the poor unconditionally by being the hands and feet of Jesus, especially in rural areas.

How many opportunities have you missed to be a witness for Christ?

One of the prime responsibilities of parents is to pass on their faith to their children. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "Through the grace of the sacrament of marriage, parents receive the responsibility and privilege of evangelizing their children. Parents should initiate their children at an early age into the mysteries of the faith, of which they are the 'first heralds' for their children. They should associate them from their tenderest years with the life of the Church." (CCC 2225)

Let us encounter Christ with love and

trust in His mercy, even if we fall. We can be a people of hope, empowered by the Holy Spirit as we pursue the Church's mission to all nations.

Through my current ministry, I am privileged to get to know hundreds of missionaries throughout the world and the needs of their missions. They reach out to me through letters, phone calls and personal meetings.

Many kind-hearted brothers and sisters as well as pastors and parishioners support us through Mass stipends, the purchase of religious/liturgical items and parish collections to meet the needs of the missionaries. Such sharing with love and compassion becomes a blessing for the giver and the receiver.

This year, 25 mission representatives

are coming to our parishes for this purpose. They mostly are religious men/women, diocesan priests and a few from lay organizations. According to an old saying, "You can count the seeds in an apple, but you can't count how many apples are in a seed." Missionary efforts have tremendous positive effects on people's lives.

We, the baptized members of the Church, must personally encounter the Lord each day to receive counsel for our life journey. This helps us to identify Jesus in everyone we contact and to share our love with them.

When we are personally engaged and open to God's spirit in bringing the Gospel to our home, workplace or community, we are missionaries of Jesus Christ. Let us spread the light of Christ as our pope exhorts: "May Mary, who kept the light of her Son in her heart even in the darkness of Calvary, accompany us always on the way of love." (Pope Francis, Angelus, March 5, 2023)

The MCP gives parishioners an opportunity to learn about missions at home and abroad as well as the chance to assist mission organizations financially as they spread the Gospel.

Let us joyfully welcome the missionaries who bring hope and compassion to the poor and needy through their hearts and hands. God's love is unfailing, unconditional and unending, and it is eternal!

St. Mary, Queen of the Missions, pray for us!

Sister Zephрина Mary, FIH, is director of the diocesan Office of Missions

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Angelus and Divine Mercy Chaplet daily as well as cut off the bad habits that push me away from Christ. I'd say that these strategies and growing closer with my brothers and sisters from the trip will allow me to live out the faith and become the saint that Christ calls me to be."

"I got involved with the Newman Center at Ohio State during my freshman year of college, which helped my faith grow tremendously," said Cassie Mavis, a sophomore at Ohio State. "Through this, I learned the importance of prayer, the sacraments and being involved in a faith-filled community.

"Our pilgrimage to Rome helped me see the beauty of the Church that Jesus created and how universal our Catholic faith is. Seeing how our faith has been passed down through the generations was incredible. The time we spent in prayer allowed God to give me strength and grace in many personal areas that I had been struggling with. During our pilgrimage, we lived out the faith through prayer, the sacraments and community.

"My favorite part of the experience was being surrounded by a group of students who were passionate about grow-

ing closer to the Lord. Their witness helped me grow in my dedication to my faith and has inspired me to continue walking on the path to holiness."

"Before this pilgrimage, I was pretty active in my faith. I was committed to daily prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament, attended daily Mass and was part of a couple of small groups," said Hunter Kesler, a senior at Ohio State. "While I was active, I became comfortable with what I was doing and where I was spiritually.

"During the pilgrimage, I got to visit and pray at several tombs of great saints of the Catholic Church, with a few notable ones being St. Peter, St. Paul and St. John Paul II. Being so close to these giants of the faith who gave everything to the Lord, even unto death, stirred within me a greater desire to surrender myself to the Father and be like Jesus, freely giving everything I have to those around me.

"Receiving the desire for even greater surrender to God has caused me to dive deeper into prayer. It has given me the confidence to break out of the comfortable routine I built to enter a period of

discernment to learn how Jesus is particularly calling me to give myself to His Church. Additionally, I had a great experience of the community during the pilgrimage, and I learned how much I can learn about Jesus, His Church and even myself through sharing life with others."

"Before the trip, my faith was self-reliant," said Mackenzie Hoog, a junior at Ohio State. "I would say that I trusted God and what He had planned for me, but ultimately, I often would try and take control into my own hands. As I visited all the different chapels, churches and basilicas, I realized the beauty in relinquishing our grip over controlling our lives and giving it all to God.

"I read about the saints and notable people of the faith and how God uniquely shared in their lives and provided for them in His plan that was more bountiful than their original one. As time passed over the trip, I saw more clearly what God was calling me to do. Trust in Him and His good plan.

"Since the trip, I have begun to see a change in my small ways. I now see things a little clearer – especially my priorities. After spending precious time

with the Lord so often during the trip, I desire to find more quiet times with Him and further our relationship. I cannot wait to see how this deepens along with my trust in His plan for me."

Going on a pilgrimage gives us time to learn about the foundations of the faith and the lives of the saints. Through this experience, we can look inward and ask ourselves, "How is the Lord working in my life?"

To take it one step further, I asked how the Lord works in my heart. As we think and walk along the pilgrimage journey, there is more than just going on a trip. The Lord reveals that we are on this trip for a reason, and that reason is Him.

Allow yourself to leave the noise of daily life and enter into the silence to listen to what the Lord is doing inside of you. If you have the opportunity to go on a pilgrimage, take it! That one "yes" can take you on a journey you will never forget, and it's a great way to share how the Lord continues to work in our lives.

Kenny Davy is a Catholic Campaign for Human Development intern in the diocesan Office for Social Concerns.

DeSales junior earns top ACT score

By Elizabeth Pardi

Brandon Heil, a junior at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School, received a top score on the ACT exam he took in October.

The ACT is a standardized test taken by high school students in the U.S. for college admissions offices to use to determine college readiness. It comprises four subject areas: English, math, reading comprehension and scientific reading.

Only about a quarter of one percent of students who take the ACT earn what is considered a top score. This is achieved when the average score from all four sections – each of which is scored on a scale of one through 36 – comes out to 36.

Janet Godwin, the CEO of ACT, called earning a top score on the test “a remarkable achievement,” saying that it provides colleges and universities “ample evidence of (a student’s) readiness for the academic rigors that lie ahead.”

Heil had taken the ACT twice before, scoring high both times but not as well as he did in October. He attributes his top score to the many practice tests he took as well as an ACT preparation course he took his sophomore year at DeSales.

“This course was incredibly helpful to me,” he said. “Taking the practice tests allowed me to see examples of what I would be seeing on the test, and it allowed me to learn how to manage my time while taking the test.”

Time management was crucial for Heil

during the test’s math portion, which he said he found to be the most difficult.

“When (previously) taking the math section ... I always felt really confident until I got to the last 10 or 15 questions, when the problems got more difficult and the pressure of the clock ticking down really started to set it,” Heil said. “In order to work on this, with my last ACT I focused on pacing myself through the math section and not spending too much time on any specific problem.”

The reading section of the test proved to be the easiest for Heil.

“I have loved reading since I was a kid, and I have always had a knack for being able to analyze what I am reading,” the 16-year-old said. “I received a perfect score on the reading section each time that I took the ACT, and it was always what I felt the least amount of stress over. I just thought of the reading section as if I was reading a book for my own enjoyment.”

Heil’s parents, Doug and Karen, said their son has been an avid reader since childhood. “He has always been a fast reader,” Doug said. “When he ... first started with chapter books, he would quickly read a book and, if he liked it, he would read it again. If he didn’t have a new book to read, he would just pick a favorite off the shelf and read it again! He (especially) loved books in series.”

“We loved that he loved to read so much when he was younger,” Karen said, “but sometimes we would have to limit his reading time because he could sit for hours with a good book! We hated



Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School junior Brandon Heil helps with the kickoff for the school’s 48-hour giving rally “ALL in for SFD.” Photo courtesy St. Francis DeSales High School

to stop him, but we knew he needed to move around, do chores or spend some time with the family.”

Heil, who has an older brother and two younger sisters, hopes to attend the University of Notre Dame in Indiana. Karen believes that this school will allow her son to “continue being formed in a holistic way where faith is at the forefront.” Heil plans to pursue a career in the medical field, specifically as a surgeon.

Molly Barrett, Heil’s teacher at DeSales for both his anatomy and physiology class as well as his AP biology class, said he has a notable interest in human

anatomy. “Brandon asks outstanding questions, and he loves to figure out why the immune system responds a specific way,” she said. “(He) has the patience, perseverance and focus to excel (and) ... is such a positive and enthusiastic young man.”

Throughout his high school career, Heil has participated in a plethora of sports and activities, including cross country and tennis, for which he served as team captain, as well as youth ministry, National Honor Society and Business Club. He will graduate in 2024 from DeSales.

Mother’s Day good time to support Mommies Matter

“The loveliest masterpiece of the heart of God is the heart of a mother.” - St. Therese of Lisieux

Mother’s Day is a special holiday for Mommies Matter to celebrate the organization’s mommies and the gift of motherhood. As the group journeys with its single mothers throughout the year, they witness first-hand their resilience, hope and faith when it comes to choosing life and embracing the struggles that come with single parenthood.

Motherhood is a gift, and the organization’s single mothers need the love and support of a community as they strive to live out their God-given vocation as mothers. One of the mommies shared the impact that the community of Mommies Matter had on her:

“In many ways, this program has saved my daughter’s life as well as my own. As a new mom that is still in college, I knew that I would have to deal with a lot of stress throughout my pregnancy and the stress that comes with being a new, single mom. I had really wanted to lean towards getting an abortion. I can honestly say that I know that I made the right decision to have my daughter.



Mommies Matter volunteers help provide financial, emotional and spiritual support for mothers in need. Photos courtesy Mommies Matter

“She’s worth all the hardships I faced then and am facing now. I know I can get through it because of what I’ve gotten through already, and those are the things that Mommies Matter has helped me realize and understand. I am so grateful for everything that Mommies Matter has done for me.”

This Mother’s Day, Mommies Matter

invites you to join them in celebrating motherhood. You are invited to donate to Mommies Matter between May 7-14 to celebrate the special mother in your life, whether it be your mother, wife, daughter or friend. Your support enables Mommies Matter to provide the financial, emotional and spiritual support that single, pregnant mommies need.

When you become a monthly donor of \$9 or more, the special mother in your life will receive a Mommies Matter Mother’s Day Gift Box. For a one-time donation of \$40 or more, she will receive a Mommies Matter tumbler.

For more information, visit www.mommiesmatter.org/mothers-day

'Almost, Maine' coming to St. Charles stage



The St. Charles Preparatory School Drama Department's spring production, *Almost, Maine* by John Cariani, will be presented at 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, April 27-29 and at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 30 in the St. Charles Campus Theatre, 2010 E. Broad St. Cast members include (foreground from left) JD Myaard and Annie O'Connor; (back row from left) Liz Murrin, Grant Dine, Connor McCarthy, Raphael Bott, Katie Graff, Petrona Gale and James Graff. *Almost, Maine* has been performed by more than 5,000 theater companies in the United States and more than 100 internationally, making it one of the most frequently produced plays of the past decade. Adult tickets are \$15 each and student tickets cost \$10 each. Reservations may be placed by visiting the St. Charles website homepage at www.scprep.org and using the Buy Tickets button. Tickets will not be sold at the door. Photo courtesy St. Charles Preparatory School

Watterson seniors commit to play college sports



Nine Columbus Bishop Watterson High School seniors committed last week to colleges where they will continue their athletic and academic careers. They include (front row from left) Rachel Spencer, Wittenberg University, soccer; Olive O'Dorisio, Kenyon College, diving; Hannah Brady, track and field, Ashland University; (back row from left) Maggie Johnson, volleyball, Ursuline College; Deacon Pinson, Eastern Kentucky University, golf; Ryan Rudzinski, football, Ohio State; Tyler Lieu, football, Capital University; Charlie Bernotas, John Carroll University, baseball; and Callie Kasun, Jacksonville University, volleyball. Photo courtesy Bishop Watterson High School

IN GRATITUDE

Hail, Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou amongst women
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.

AMEN.

Pregnancy Decision Health Centers
invites you to an

Estate Planning Seminar

Join us for an evening of fellowship and education in
the basics of Estate and Funeral Planning

MAY 1 | MON 6:30 PM

MAY 9 | TUES 6:30 PM

OR

PDHC
665 E. Dublin Granville Road
Columbus, Ohio 43229
4th Floor Conference Room

The Catholic Foundation
257 E. Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Lang Conference Room

PRESENTATIONS BY:

Robert E. Ryan of Egan-Ryan Funeral Service
James M. Vonau, Esq. of Decker Vonau & Carr, LLC

Appetizers and refreshments will be served
This is a non-fundraising event



Kindly RSVP by April 24th to Kate Hamrick:
614.888.8774 ext. 6117
kateh@pdhc.org



In partnership with

St. Francis de Sales, Newark

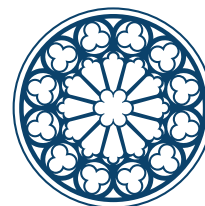


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