



DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

CATHOLIC TIMES

A journal of Catholic life in Ohio



JANUARY 25, 2015
THE 3RD WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME
VOLUME 64:16
WWW.CTONLINE.ORG



**ST. CHARLES PREPARATORY:
A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE**

The Editor's Notebook

Do you have a call waiting?

By David Garick, Editor



There are a lot of people trying to get my attention. I get calls all the time. They even come in when I can't answer them. They pile up in my voice mailbox while I am sleeping, or eating, or driving, or in meetings, or on the phone with someone else. Some of them are important. Some of them are annoying telemarketers or just plain wrong numbers. It does not end there. The same thing happens with electronic messages, email, text messages, and other digital missives. I am constantly clearing out my inbox of messages with more information than I can possibly digest. We all are besieged with this constant cacophony that calls for our attention. We can't respond to them all. It is easy for something important to get lost in the shuffle. Sometimes, the most important call of all does not have the loudest, most compelling ringtone.

During these early weeks of Ordinary Time in the church calendar, our scripture readings are related to the beginnings of Christ's ministry on earth. It started with the Old Testament reading about Samuel last week, as the young boy hears his name being called but does not at first realize that the call is coming from God. One he understands that, he answers the call to become one of God's great prophets.

We also hear of John the Baptist's cry to the people of his generation to repent and be baptized because the chosen one of God is coming. John's call to repentance ultimately cost him his head, but he is exalted in heaven because he heard God's call and answered.

Jesus himself heard the call of God when he came up out of the water at his baptism in the Jordan River. That was his call to begin his ministry of calling

all people to repentance and devotion to God and to their neighbors and promising eternal life through his death and glorious resurrection.

You and I have also been called directly and individually by our baptism to be a son or daughter of God and follower of Jesus our Lord. More than half the world has not heard about God's plan for salvation in Christ. They have not yet been called individually, as you and I have.

The crucial question for us is whether we have really heard his call, and, if so, how do we respond? We don't necessarily have to follow in the footsteps of many early Christians into martyrdom. Some of us may have been called by God to serve him in religious life through ordination or consecrated life. Most of us are called to carry the Gospel to the ends of the earth through the whole of our lives as a testament to all mankind of God's will for all of us. People are at the heart of our lives: incidental people in stores and on the street, constant people in our work, essential people in our family and circle of friends. And Jesus wants us to understand that what we do to them, we do to him.

When we turn away from sin and our worldly desire to focus all of our attention on ourselves and instead express our lives in love to the people around us, we not only give love directly to Jesus, but we also reveal Jesus to those who we meet and with whom we interact. In this way, we, too, answer the call to be prophets, disciples, and evangelists.

God is calling. Don't leave him on hold.



Sean Dooley ordained as transitional deacon

Bishop Frederick F. Campbell ordained Sean Michael Dooley to the diaconate on Saturday, Jan. 17, during a Mass at the Pontifical College Josephinum.

Concelebrating with Bishop Campbell were Msgr. Christopher Schreck, rector/president of the Josephinum; Father Paul Noble, vocations director for the Diocese of Columbus; Father Martin Ralko, pastor of Zanesville St. Nicholas Church; and Father James Csaszar, pastor of the Perry County Consortium of Catholic Parishes.

In the Mass, Bishop Campbell laid hands on Dooley and presented him with the Book of Gospels, symbolic of his new responsibility to preach the Gospel of Christ.

This is the final step in prepara-

tion for a young man in his journey to the priesthood. Dooley is expected to be ordained as a priest in May, along with five other transitional deacons who were ordained in 2014.

He is a member of St. Nicholas Church, attended St. Nicholas Grade School, and graduated from Zanesville Bishop Rosecrans High School. In 2010, he graduated from the Josephinum's liberal arts college with a bachelor's degree in history.

Sean's parents, Kevin and Suzanne, operate a diner in Zanesville and coordinate the Parish School of Religion for St. Nicholas Church.

He has two younger brothers, Patrick and Dennis, who live in the Zanesville area.

CT photo by Ken Snow

Pope says Catholics must practice "responsible parenthood"

By Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

Pope Francis stressed that, despite church doctrine against contraception, Catholics fail to practice "responsible parenthood" when they have too many children.

He also denounced the teaching of "gender theory" in schools, likening it to indoctrination of children by the Nazis and fascists.

The pope made his remarks on Monday, Jan. 19 in an hourlong news conference with reporters accompanying him back to Rome from a weeklong trip to Asia.

Pope Francis reaffirmed his rejection of population-control programs as an example of ideological colonization and his praise of Blessed Paul VI for defending Catholic teaching against contraception.

But "this does not mean a Christian must make children one after another," the pope said, citing the case of a woman who became pregnant an eighth time after giving birth to seven children via cesarean section.

"Does she want to leave seven orphans?" he said. "This is tempting God."

"Some people think -- excuse me for saying this -- that to be good Catholics, we have to be like rabbits," Pope Francis said, yet church teaching provides for "many licit ways" to limit reproduction.

Elaborating on comments he made in Manila on Jan. 16 about "ideological colonization that tries to



destroy the family," the pope offered a 20-year-old example of an unnamed government official, apparently in his native Argentina, who was offered a loan to build schools for poor children on the condition she assign students a textbook on "gender theory."

Catholic leaders often use the term "gender theory" to refer to ideas that question or deny the God-given nature of sex differences and the complementarity of man and woman as the basis of the family.

Pope Francis said African bishops attending the October 2014 Synod on the Family had complained of similar restrictions on funding for projects in their nations.

"Why do I say ideological colonization? Because

they use a people's need as an opportunity to come in and impose their will on children. But this is nothing new. The dictatorships of the last century did the same thing; they came in with their doctrine. Think of the Balilla. Think of the Hitler Youth," the pope said.

The Balilla was a youth organization instituted by Italy's fascist dictator, Benito Mussolini.

One reporter asked the pope to explain his controversial Jan. 15 statement, prompted by the recent killings by Islamist terrorists at a Paris newspaper, that freedom of expression should be limited by respect for religion and that mockery of faith can be expected to provoke violence.

"In theory, we can say what the Gospel says, that we should turn the other cheek. In theory, we can say that we have freedom of expression," he said. "But in practice, let's stop a bit, because we are human and we risk provoking others. For this reason, freedom must be accompanied by prudence. That's what I wanted to say."

While addressing the weightiest topics, the pope once again displayed his disarmingly frank and informal way of speaking. During extended remarks on the evil of government corruption, he recalled being solicited for a bribe by Argentine officials.

"At that moment, I thought about what I would do: either I insult them and give them a kick where the sun doesn't shine or I play the fool," Pope Francis said. "I played the fool."

Pope says he will canonize Blessed Junipero Serra in Washington

By Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

Pope Francis said his September trip to the U.S. will take him to Philadelphia, New York, and Washington -- where he intends to canonize Blessed Junipero Serra -- but probably no other stops.

Pope Francis made his remarks on Monday, Jan. 19 in an hourlong news conference with reporters accompanying him back to Rome from a weeklong trip to Asia.

Four days after announcing he would canonize Serra in the U.S. in September, the pope said he wished he could do so in California, the 18th-century Franciscan's mission field, but would not have time to travel there.

The pope said he planned instead to perform the canonization ceremony at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, saying Washington would be a fitting location because a statue of Serra stands in the U.S. Capitol.

The pope also confirmed that he would visit the United Nations in New York.

He had already announced his participation in the late-September World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia.

Asked about widespread speculation that he would visit the U.S.-Mexico border on the same trip, Pope Francis said, "entering the United States by crossing the border from Mexico would be a beautiful thing, as a sign of brotherhood and of help to the immigrants." But he said making such a visit would raise expectations that he would visit Mexico's shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and he joked that "war could break out" if he failed to do so.

"There will be time to go to Mexico later on," he said.

Catholic News Agency reported on a proposed schedule that U.S. and U.N. church leaders have submitted to the Vatican. That schedule, which has not yet been approved, would have the pope arriving in Washington on the evening of Sept. 22; visiting the White House and celebrating Mass at the shrine on Sept. 23; addressing a joint session of Congress on Sept. 24; and traveling to New York to address the

U.N. General Assembly on Sept. 25.

As previously announced, he would spend Sept. 26 and 27 in Philadelphia for the World Meeting of Families.

However, sources familiar with the trip planning have noted that plans submitted to the Vatican are not always approved, and Pope Francis' comments about the canonization of Serra indicated not all plans are finalized.

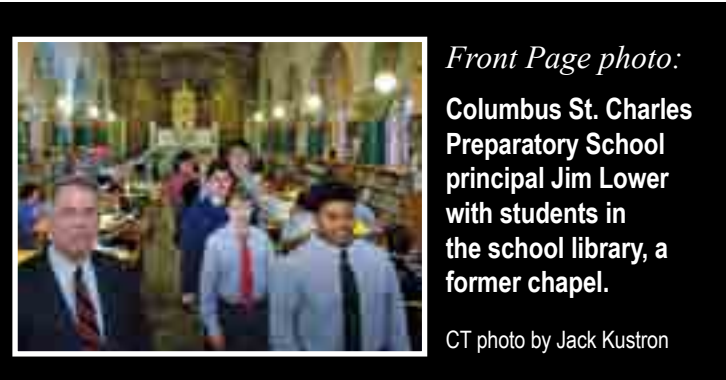
His Jan. 15 announcement on the plane from Sri Lanka to the Philippines surprised even the people who have been promoting Serra's sainthood cause. The CNA interview with Archbishop Bernardito Auza, Vatican nuncio to the U.N., said the Mass at the shrine "would be primarily for bishops, consecrated and



religious men and women, seminarians, and representatives from humanitarian and Catholic charitable organizations," while Pope Francis said that is when he would canonize Serra.

Pope Francis would be the first pope to address a joint session of Congress.

The pope said he hoped to visit three Latin American nations in 2015 -- Bolivia, Ecuador, and Paraguay -- and three more -- Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay -- the following year. He said he planned to visit two African countries -- the Central African Republic and Uganda -- in late 2015. He emphasized that all of those trips were still in the "hypothetical" planning stages.



Front Page photo: Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School principal Jim Lower with students in the school library, a former chapel.

CT photo by Jack Kustron

CATHOLIC TIMES

Copyright © 2015. All rights reserved.
Catholic Times (USPS 967-000) (ISSN 745-6050) is the official newspaper of the Catholic Diocese of Columbus, Ohio. It is published weekly 45 times per year with exception of every other week in June, July and August and the week following Christmas. Subscription rate: \$25 per year, or call and make arrangements with your parish.
Postage Paid at Columbus, OH 43218

Bishop Frederick F. Campbell, D.D., Ph.D. ~ President & Publisher
David Garick ~ Editor (dgarick@coldsdioc.org)
Tim Puet ~ Reporter (tpuet@coldsdioc.org)
Alexandra Keves ~ Graphic Design Manager (akeves@coldsdioc.org)

Mailing Address: 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215
Editorial/Advertising: (614) 224-5195 FAX (614) 241-2518
Subscriptions (614) 224-6530 FAX (614) 241-2573
(subscriptions@coldsdioc.org)

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

PRACTICAL STEWARDSHIP

By Rick Jeric

Lives

Did you begin our twofold challenge this past week? I say "begin" because it involves two things we can easily do daily, weekly, and for a long time. At the very least, let us be sure to pray for the World Meeting of Families on a daily basis through September. That gathering in Philadelphia has the potential to make a very practical and spiritual impact on our Church and in our world. If we simply look at the hatred and violence in our world today, and become immediately disgusted by how much of it is done under the guise of religion, we can see how important a strong family can be. It starts with each one of us. That is why we reflect upon our own lives. It is so easy to point a finger, but we start by looking in the mirror. Let us pray and reflect.

To continue our items for the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia, we have: 6) All Love Bears Fruit. "Not everyone is called to marriage. But every life is meant to be fertile. Every life has the power and the need to nurture new life – if not through bearing and raising children, then through other vital forms of self-giving. The Church is an extended family of different vocations, each distinct but each supporting the others." 7) Light in a Dark World. "At its best, the family is a school of love, justice, compassion, forgiveness, mutual respect, patience, and humility in the midst of a world darkened by selfishness and conflict. In these ways, the family teaches what it means to be human. However, temptations and intellectual/philosophical mistakes can threaten healthy family life. The Church resists these things for the sake of protecting the family." 8) A Home for the Wounded Heart. "Many people face painful situations resulting from poverty, disability, illness and addictions, unemployment, and loneliness. But divorce and same-sex attraction powerfully impact the life of the family. Christian families should be sources of mercy, safety, friendship, and support for those struggling with these issues." 9) Mother, Teacher, Family: The Nature and Role of the Church. "The Church is the bride of Christ, a 'she,' not an 'it'. In the words of St. John XXIII, she is our mother and teacher, our comforter and guide, our family of faith. Even when her people and leaders sin, we still need the Church's wisdom, Sacraments, support, and proclamation of the truth, because she is the body of Jesus Himself in the world; the family of God's people." 10) Choosing Life. "God made us for a reason. His love is our mission. This mission enables us to find our true identity. If we choose to embrace this mission, we will have a new perspective on many issues, not just the family. To live the mission of the domestic church means that Catholic families will sometimes live as minorities, with different values than their surrounding culture. Our mission of love will require courage and fortitude. Jesus is calling, and we can respond, choosing lives of faith, hope, charity, joy, service, and mission."

Our practical challenge this week is to focus on Number 10. We recognized an awful anniversary on Jan. 22 of Roe v. Wade. Let us pray for life at all levels this week, especially at Mass, and make the extra effort to visit our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament during the week. We as individuals, our families, and the whole world will benefit from this extra prayer.

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



WORLD MARRIAGE DAY

Mark and Elizabeth Ficocelli, members of Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church and parents of four sons, will be the featured speakers at the diocesan World Marriage Day celebration on Sunday, Feb. 8, in the Colonial Room of Sansbury Hall at Ohio Dominican University, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus.

The talk on "Let Us Pray: The Gift of Couple Spirituality Within Marriage" will take place from 2 to 3 p.m., followed by a Holy Hour in the university chapel from 3 to 4 and light refreshments afterward.

The Ficocellis, who have been married for 29 years, come from families of two completely different faith experiences and will share their not-



so-easy journey of working toward true couple spirituality. Elizabeth is a nationally known author and speaker, host of *Answering the Call* on St. Gabriel Catholic Radio in Columbus, and occasional guest host on EWTN radio.

There is no charge for the event. Participants are asked to RSVP by Monday, Feb. 2 at familylife.colsdioc.org or (614) 241-2560.

The event is being sponsored by the diocesan Marriage & Family Life Office, Office of the Diaconate, and Office of Black Catholic Ministries, the Ohio Dominican campus ministry office, and the Columbus Worldwide Marriage Encounter, Engaged Emcounter, and Retrouvaille chapters.

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON HOSTS 'FAITH FEST'

The University of Dayton's campus ministry and student development offices are bringing together student bands and Rend Collective, a Christian band from Northern Ireland, for a contemporary celebration of faith and community.

"Faith Fest" is open to the public. Doors will open 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 31, at the University of Dayton Rec-Plex on Evanston Avenue. Tickets for the general public are \$15 and are available at <http://tickets.udayton.edu>

and at the door.

Rend Collective is a folk-inspired band that produced critically acclaimed worship songs in its 2010 album *Organic Family Hymnal*, and a 2012 project, *Homemade Worship for Handmade People*. Its newest album, *The Art of Celebration*, is set for release this spring.

Free parking is available in C lot on Evanston Avenue, off Irving Avenue. For more information, visit <https://www.udayton.edu/ministry>.

Visit us at www.ctonline.org

Your family's trusted PT, in Bexley since 2003.

1st Choice Physical Therapy

614.586.1305
Jonathan Hartstein, PT
Dr. Jessica Iams, PT, DPT
Physician referral not required

Our treatment techniques address the underlying causes of your discomfort—an individualized approach that achieves long-term results for:

- Injuries
- pain relief
- rehabilitation
- strengthening
- mobility & flexibility
- wellness training

2736 E. Main St., Bexley, OH 43209 • www.1stChoicePT.us

'BIGGEST HUMAN RIGHTS RALLY' RETURNS FOR MARCH FOR LIFE

Catholic News Service

"The biggest human rights rally in the world," as one regular participant described it, will return to the nation's capital at the annual March for Life on Thursday, Jan. 22.

The 42nd rally on the National Mall and march to the U.S. Supreme Court marks the anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 ruling in the case of *Roe v. Wade*. The ruling invalidated state and federal restrictions on abortions, legalizing abortion virtually on demand.

The Diocese of Columbus is marking the anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision on Jan. 22 with a morning Mass celebrated by Bishop Frederick Campbell in St. Joseph Cathedral in observance of the day of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through abortion, and of prayer for full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life. The Mass will be followed at noon by a pro-life rally, sponsored by Greater Columbus Right to Life, in the Statehouse atrium.

Danville St. Luke Church continued its tradition of taking a busload of participants to the March for Life in Washington. Other parishes from the Columbus diocese taking groups to the event included Columbus Holy Spirit, Columbus St. Catharine, Columbus St. Patrick, Dover St. Joseph, Newark Blessed Sacrament, Pickerington St. Elizabeth

Seton, Powell St. Joan of Arc, and Sunbury St. John Neumann.

The March for Life consistently draws many pro-life groups from college campuses each year. Katie Daniels, a sophomore at Boston College and presi-

dent of the school's pro-life club, called the march "the highlight of our year," saying she expected about 30 students when their bus left campus the night before the march.

"It's a great way to (be) a witness to

life outside our campus on a national scale, and it's something we look forward to very much as a club, to kind of participate in this broader national dialogue about what it means to be pro-life," Daniels said.

CORPUS CHRISTI CENTER OF PEACE FEBRUARY EVENTS

through group and individual examples and provide private time for prayer with Scripture. The cost is \$25 per person.

The retreat, "Yarncraft As an Opportunity for Prayer: A Weekend Retreat for Knitters, Crocheters, and Other Needleworkers," led by Sister Valerie Shaul, OP, will begin at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 27 and last through noon Sunday, March 1.

The cost of \$125 for the weekend includes overnight accommodations, three meals on Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday. For commuters, it is \$60, including lunch and supper on Saturday. Funds are available for those who may need financial assistance. People also may contribute to a scholarship

fund to help others attend.

The center will be the site for February's Columbus Faith Coalition Against Violence prayer service for peace in the home, at 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 8. This event takes place on a rotating monthly basis in churches throughout the city.

The center also will host its monthly centering prayer group at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 7, and its Women to Women Listening Circle at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 12.

For more information on any of these activities, call the center at (614) 512-3731, register online at www.cccenterofpeace.org, or email corpuschristi-centerofpeace@gmail.com.

YOUNG CATHOLIC PROFESSIONALS

A gathering hosted by a new group for young Catholic professionals being organized by The Catholic Foundation will take place Thursday, Feb. 5 at the Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center, 64 W. Lane Ave.

Light hors'doeuvres will be served, and Stu Wilson-Smith, a seminarian who is studying to be a Paulist priest and is interning at the center, will speak about what it means to be a Catholic young adult in today's world. A social hour at the Little Bar next to the center will follow the presentation.

Wilson-Smith met the Paulists in To-

ronto in the winter of 2008. A graduate of the University of Toronto, he grew up in the Canadian province of New Brunswick and spent his late teens and early 20s writing songs, working at music stores and restaurants, and living and traveling in Ireland and Africa. He blogs at [Stu On This](http://StuOnThis.com).

The Foundation is looking for young Catholic professionals interested in getting together on a regular basis for socializing, networking, and other activities and sharing their love for the Catholic faith. For more information, contact Craig Heppner at (614) 443-8893.

www.ctonline.org

ProximoTravel

Prices starting at \$2,699 ~ with Airfare Included in this price
Prices are ALL-INCLUSIVE w/Airfare from anywhere in the continental USA

Several trips to different destinations: the Holy Land; Italy; France; Portugal; & Spain; Poland; Medjugorje, Lourdes, & Fatima; Ireland & Scotland; Austria; Germany; & Switzerland; Greece & Turkey; Camino de Santiago; Viking Cruises; Budapest; Prague; etc.

We also specialize in custom trips for Bishops, Priests, and Deacons.

www.proximotravel.com Call us 24/7 440-457-7033 | 855-842-8001
anthony@proximotravel.com
carmela@proximotravel.com
Carmela Manago
Executive Director

Administrative Coordinator Position

The Catholic Foundation

The Catholic Foundation is seeking a dynamic individual to provide support to Foundation staff. This position requires a well-organized individual, with excellent written and oral communication skills. Tasks vary greatly from day to day and could include the following: welcoming all guests, providing general office support (sorting mail, filing, preparing meeting minutes and confirming attendance, scheduling appointments, maintaining corporate calendar, handwritten and typed correspondence, maintaining office supplies, etc), financial support such as payables and bank deposits, meeting preparation and setup, and other departmental support as needed. Ability to work as a team and to assist others is crucial.

Potential candidates must be proficient with Microsoft Office and possess an understanding of Catholic stewardship and philanthropy.

This position is full-time, hourly and includes a comprehensive benefits package. Minimum of an Associate's Degree in business or related field, and 2 years office experience. Completion of the VIRTUS "Protecting God's Children" course and a background screening are required.

For a complete job description or to apply, please visit

www.catholic-foundation.org

CONVENIENT MASS ON HOLY DAYS; “BORN AGAIN” AND THE RAPTURE



QUESTION & ANSWER

by: FATHER KENNETH DOYLE
Catholic News Service

Recently, on Dec. 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (which is always a holy day of obligation) occurred on a Monday. Our church, a large suburban parish with three priests in residence, scheduled Masses for the feast only on Monday. (On Sunday evening, there was the regularly scheduled Mass at 6 p.m., but that was not a feast-day Mass and only “counted” for Sunday.)

The times for the holy day Masses (7:30 a.m. and noon) were very inconvenient, if not impossible, for adults with jobs or for students in public schools.

It seems inconsistent to me to require Mass attendance, but then to schedule the only Masses at times when most parishioners will not be able to attend. I happen to work in a downtown area with several convenient churches, but everyone is not as fortunate.

EWTN provides more flexible alternatives, but watching the Mass on television (when that is the only option) is not the same as being there in person (especially since one is unable to receive the Eucharist). (Philadelphia)

Your concern is valid. As you indicate, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (the patronal feast of the United States) is a holy day of obligation, with Mass attendance remaining mandatory even when the feast occurs on a Monday or a Saturday.

When the feast day falls on a Monday, having a vigil Mass the night before is problematic in many parishes, either because there is a regularly scheduled Sunday Mass in the evening or because the only priest has already celebrated a full schedule of Masses for the weekend.

One solution is to have a feast-day Mass on Monday evening as well as on Monday morning. In our parish, we had three Masses for the feast: the regularly scheduled weekday Mass at 8:15 a.m., a school Mass (to which all were invited) at 9 a.m., and an additional Mass at 5:30 p.m. on Monday.

As you suggest, as long as Mass is obligatory on feast days, we must do our best to accommodate parishioners' schedules. The last thing we need to do is to trouble people's consciences by making it impossible to attend.

My husband of 40 years has been “born again.” He says that this is the only way to get to heaven when “the rapture” happens and that the rest of us will be left behind for seven years of terror. He thinks Jesus is going to come any day now, and so he refuses to make needed repairs to our 30-year-old mobile home. (He also says that our niece should not plan for college next fall.)

Last night, he brought this up to our parish priest, who said that he does not believe in the rapture and that, as long as we are ready to meet God by living a good life, we will be saved. What is your own take on this? (Frustrated near Green Bay, Wisconsin)

The Catholic view links being “reborn” to the sacrament of baptism. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* in No. 1265 says that “baptism not only purifies from all sins, but also makes the neophyte ‘a new creature,’ an adopted son of God.”

Evangelical Christianity links being “born again” to an adult “conversion experience” in which a person consciously accepts Jesus as his or her personal savior.

As for “rapture,” many evangelical Christians, particularly fundamentalists, link it to the end times (the return of Jesus), when they believe those who are right with God will be silently and secretly taken up into heaven and those who are living in sin will remain on earth for a period of tribulation and chaos.

Catholic theology does not support this type of event and views the theory as a misinterpretation of Paul's words in 1 Thessalonians 4:17. The Catholic Church does not believe that being “born again” is the only route to salvation.

The Second Vatican Council asserted in *Lumen Gentium* (No. 16) that “those also can attain to salvation who through no fault of their own do not know the Gospel of Christ or his church, yet sincerely seek God and moved by grace strive by their deeds to do his will as it is known to them through the dictates of conscience.”

I agree with your pastor. Since no one knows when Christ is going to return (and the odds are that your life on earth will end long before that), why not play it safe? Try to live by the Gospel and you won't have to worry when you meet the Lord, whenever that occurs. (Meanwhile, I think I'd get my mobile home fixed.)

Questions may be sent to **Father Kenneth Doyle** at askfatherdoyle@gmail.com and **40 Hopewell St., Albany, N.Y. 12208.**

ODU Launches Master of Arts in English

Ohio Dominican University's new master of arts in English program has received full accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission and the Ohio Board of Regents, paving the way for an immediate launch.

The 33-credit-hour program will be offered entirely online, which makes it a convenient option for learners, no matter their schedule or location.

“We're excited about the many benefits our new English master's program will offer students across Ohio and around the world,” said Dr. Theresa Holleran, ODU vice president for academic affairs. “Whether students want to enhance their professional credentials, teach college-level English courses in high school, pursue their passion for creative writing, or aspire to achieve an advanced degree, this program offers them the resources they need to achieve their personal and professional goals.”

ODU is one of five institutions of higher education that have partnered with Battelle

for Kids and the Ohio Appalachian Collaborative to help 26 rural Ohio school districts increase student access to advanced learning opportunities. Battelle for Kids provided funding to ODU to develop courses in the master of arts in English degree program.

Battelle for Kids also provided tuition scholarships to help seventh- through 12th-grade teachers earn their master's degree in English. Ohio requires teachers who desire to teach dual-enrollment college courses in high school to have a master's degree in the specific content area or a master's degree in another field, in addition to 18 graduate credit hours in the content area.

Applications are being accepted now for spring and summer classes.

Students who are interested in learning more about ODU's master of arts in English program may visit www.ohiodominican.edu/MAEnglish or contact ODU's graduate admissions office at (614) 251-4615 or grad@ohiodominican.edu.

Young Adult Retreat

The diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry and Charis Ministries will sponsor a retreat for young adults on Saturday and Sunday, March 28 and 29, at the Procter Center, 11235 State Route 38 S.E., London.

In a world of constant change, this will be a retreat about moving forward, facing

turning points, and being sustained by faith during transition. The retreat, led by a team of men and women in their 20s and 30s, will cost \$65 per person, which includes meals, overnight accommodations, and supplies. Financial assistance is available.

For more information, email srobinso@cducation.org.

Marion St. Mary Theology on Tap

Marion St. Mary Church recently formed a Theology on Tap group for young adults, which meets on the second Tuesday of each month. Its next meeting will take place Tuesday, Feb. 10 at the El Campesino restaurant, 1834 Marion-Waldo Road.

The speakers will be Mark and MaryJo Starrs, St. Mary parishioners and Natural Fam-

ily Planning educators. Their topic will be “NFP: The Best Thing for Your Marriage.” Theology on Tap is aimed at Catholics ages 21 to 40 and seeks to engage them in parish life and the sacraments, providing a casual environment for fellowship and to share and discuss topics of faith. For more information, contact Lori Stevenson at (740) 387-6225.

ABLE
www.able-roof.com
(614) 444-7663 **444-ROOF**
FREE ROOF INSPECTION!
Do you qualify for a new roof paid for by insurance?

Freedom Home Health
Nursing & Therapy Services
in the comfort of YOUR home
Working together for your independence!
we're here, call 614-336-8870
FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED • MEDICARE & MEDICAID CERTIFIED

IGEL
GEORGE J. IGEL & CO., INC.
2040 ALUM CREEK DRIVE • COLUMBUS, OHIO
614.445.8421 • www.igelco.com
SITE DEVELOPMENT • EARTHWORK • UTILITIES • CONCRETE
STABILIZATION • EARTH RETENTION • ROLLER COMPACTED CONCRETE

QUIKRETE
CEMENT & CONCRETE PRODUCTS™
For project information visit www.quikrete.com

JOHN N. SCHILLING INC.
Since 1894
Air Conditioning - Heating 1488 Bliss St.
Roofing - Sheet Metal Work 614.252.4915

SHERIDAN FUNERAL HOME
740-653-4633
222 S. COLUMBUS ST., LANCASTER

LANDSCAPING **PLUMBING**
OAKLAND NURSERY VOTED BEST IN THE U.S.
Now is the best time to plan and design your landscape. Patios, pools, walk-ways, retaining walls, lawn sprinkler systems 268-3834
MUETZEL
Since 1967
Plumbing, Drains & Boilers
614-299-7700

GET A GRIP ON YOUR RETIREMENT
Make the move to an Advantage Plus single premium deferred annuity. Rollover your current IRA, 401(k), 403(b), CD, Profit Sharing Plan or pension and **earn up to 4.25%** guaranteed first-year interest*, based on your annuity's opening balance.
*Under current tax law, direct rollovers to an Advantage Plus have no tax consequences or reporting. Interest rates quoted above are guaranteed for one full year for initial contribution made prior to 3-31-15. In subsequent years, rates may change quarterly, but will never fall below 1% guaranteed minimum rate listed in the contract. Interest rates reflect a special first-year bonus. Existing annuity balances of \$50,000 - \$99,999 receive a 3.50% interest rate. Existing balances of \$100,000+ receive a 3.75% interest rate. For more information and current rates, contact the home office direct at 800-552-0145/TTY 800-617-4176. 15-01-0198 P2027
CONTACT COF AGENT Paul Vitartas, FIC (614) 314-7463
pvitartas@catholicforester.org
CATHOLIC ORDER OF FORESTERS
Home Office: PO Box 2012, Naperville, IL 60566-7012
Toll-free: 800-552-0145 1 www.catholicforester.org



By Loren Brown



ON A FIRM FOUNDATION

Foundation assists men's and women's conferences

Jesus said to them, “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Then they abandoned their nets and followed him.

Mark 1:17-18

You'll hear this familiar verse in Sunday's Gospel reading, and it is very much appropriate for this time of year. Many of us use the start of the New Year as an opportunity to start fresh in different areas of our lives. For some, that might mean a resolution to eat healthier or spend more time with family. Others might use the New Year to renew their commitment to the faith and Church, particularly as we approach Lent.

Our diocese is blessed with many resources and outlets to grow our faith for those who seek it. In last month's column, I talked about the opportunity for our pastors to receive grants from The Catholic Foundation to attend the Amazing Parish conference with their teams. I'm pleased to say that 21 pastors, representing 27 parishes and 10 deaneries, will attend the conference in April. This will benefit thousands of the Catholic faithful, as the pastors bring back and implement new ideas and strategies.

While this is truly an amazing op-

portunity for our Pastors, we are also blessed with a pair of sensational conferences here in our own backyard. The Columbus Catholic Men's and Women's Conferences offer our faithful the chance to deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ and strengthen their commitment to be a disciple of Christ. With the men's conference in its 18th year, and the women's in its 8th year, these annual events have impacted tens of thousands of people over the years. Last year was a record-breaking year for attendance, and this year looks to top that!

I am pleased to say that once again, The Catholic Foundation will help sponsor these events. Additionally, for the second year in a row, the Foundation will offer grants for bus reimbursement for parishes outside Interstate 270 (interested parishes should contact the conferences directly for reimbursement information). This year, we also awarded a Focus grant to the women's conference to assist with scholarships for women who would otherwise be unable to attend because of financial limitations. Between busing and scholarships, it is our combined hope that financial barriers will not prevent anyone from attending the conference.

KNOX COUNTY CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY HELPING THE NEEDY

The Knox County chapter of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, located at Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul Church, celebrated its second anniversary at the church on Sunday, Jan. 18.

The chapter, which has 12 active and 13 associate members, disbursed nearly \$49,000 to 532 people in Knox County during its second year of operation.

The funds are allocated to qualified families and individuals on the basis of need after home visits by chapter members and approval by a chapter commit-

tee which is assigned to determine how the money will be spent.

Generally, it is allocated to pay only for rent or utilities, but it sometimes may be used for one-time expenditures, such as emergency vehicle or housing repairs. Recipients need not be members of St. Vincent de Paul Church.

The mission of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is to bring concrete aid and comfort to the needy and the suffering of the community. Officers of the Knox County chapter include Tony Spiegel,

If you haven't already signed up to attend the conference, I encourage you to do so. The women's conference will take place in just a few weeks on Feb. 21, followed by the men's conference on Feb. 28. Both events are held at the Voinovich Center of the state fairgrounds and include a lineup of dynamic and inspiring speakers. Having attended the past few conferences, I can attest to the quality of the program and the renewed relationship with Christ that you leave with. These conferences truly form us into better fishers of men. I hope to see you there!

Do you want to help our parishes and ministries become better fishers of men? Consider a contribution to our Support for Catholic Education Fund, which provides aid to Catholic schools and parish programs for religious education in the Diocese of Columbus which demonstrate need. Furthermore, ask us about how you can include faith formation efforts as a beneficiary in your will. Call (614) 443-8893 for more information.

Brown is the president and CEO of The Catholic Foundation and a parishioner at Granville St. Edward Church.

president; Brian Robinson, treasurer; Karlen Dembinski, secretary; and Deacon Tim Birie, spiritual adviser.

The St. Vincent de Paul chapter in Mount Vernon is part of the society's Diocese of Columbus council, which in turn is a part of the national council, based in St. Louis, and is affiliated with the international council in Paris.

For more information, contact Deacon Tim Birie at the Pope Francis Center, 301 E. High St., Mount Vernon OH 43050, or call (740) 392-4711, extension 2.

2015 COLUMBUS CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE WILL BE LARGEST EVER

On Saturday, Feb. 21, the Columbus Catholic Women's Conference will host the largest Catholic women's conference in the United States at the Voinovich Center on the state fairgrounds from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



This year's theme is "At the Foot of the Cross." Speakers will be Dr. Edward Sri, Colleen Carroll Campbell, and Emily Wilson.

Sri is a nationally known Catholic speaker who appears regularly on EWTN and is the author of several well-loved Catholic books. Wilson is a young, energetic Catholic musician and speaker who travels the world

sharing her faith through witness and worship, and Campbell is an author, print and broadcast journalist, and former presidential speech writer.

The conference begins at 7:45 a.m. with the Rosary. It will include Mass with Bishop Frederick Campbell presiding, confessions, adoration, lunch, Catholic vendors and lay ministry booths, adoration, and music.

Campbell's newest book is the award-winning *My Sisters the Saints: A Spiritual Memoir* (Image/Random House, 2012bio2-2013).

It has been praised as "a beautiful and

inspiring story" by best-selling novelist Mary Higgins Clark, "provocative ... charming and instructive" by *Kirkus Reviews*, and "touching ... thoughtful and gracious" by *Booklist*. *My Sisters the Saints* won a 2013 Christopher Award and a 2013 Association of Catholic Publishers Excellence in Publishing Award.

The book tells the story of Campbell's

15-year quest to understand the meaning of her life and identity in light of her Christian faith and contemporary feminism.

It interweaves Carroll's personal story with the stories of six women saints who guided her on her way.

Visit www.columbuscatholicwomen.com to register and for more about the conference.

Director of RCIA/RCIC

(Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults/Children)

A growing and dynamic parish community is looking for a faith-filled person who is passionate about Jesus Christ and his Church and zealous for leading people to Christ.

This person would guide the ministry of forming individuals in faith as they journey toward full initiation into the Catholic Church and transformation in the life of the Holy Spirit as a Christian disciple.

While not necessary, a college degree is preferable, ideally in theology or a related field. PC and AV skills, ability to honor and maintain confidentiality, well-organized, self-motivated, manage tasks and work independently with a minimal of supervision, team-player, effectively communicate with staff and volunteers, pastoral in nature and good with people.

This is a part-time position that mainly meets on Sunday mornings and periodically some weekday evenings. Salary commensurate with experience. Please send resume by the end of January to Fr. David Sizemore:

fatherdave.saintjohn@gmail.com

For more information, go to the parish website at: www.saintjohnsunbury.org

Catholic Consumerism: Conventional Vs. Fair Trade

By Stephanie Rapp/Catholic Relief Services Fair Trade Ambassador

Conventional trade and Fair Trade differ in many ways. First, the most important concern in the free-market system is often making a profit. Making the most money leads companies to seek out the most cost-effective labor and services, which, in turn, may move production overseas, where labor laws are weaker than in the United States. "This usually means wages are meager, working conditions are substandard, rights are curtailed and opportunities for people to improve their lives through work are limited" (Catholic Relief Services). On the other hand, Fair Trade balances the concern for profit with concern for people and our planet. It does this by build-

ing long-term relationships with the producers of goods and by cutting out middle men in the supply chain. That way, more of the end value of products can be shifted to the communities where they were created. The producers then get more of the profit, and consumers (like ourselves) can know where our money is going. We as Catholics can feel good about what we are supporting through our purchases, which is important for us who want to live out the Gospel in our lives.



CREATIVE WRITING AT OLB



Columbus Our Lady of Bethlehem School students look at and read a book titled "The Pumpkin and the Twin Turkeys" which the class published in early January. Each student wrote and illustrated a page for the book. Families had the opportunity to purchase copies, and a copy was placed in a library of the school, which serves preschool and kindergarten students exclusively. This creative writing activity really helped students with composition and comprehension.

Photo courtesy Our Lady of Bethlehem School

Please join us for a special
Bethesda Healing Ministry Event:

JOY COMES IN THE Morning

Thursday, Feb. 12
5:30 PM
at St. Charles Preparatory School

RESERVE YOUR SEAT TODAY!
Online: www.bethesdahealing.org
Phone: Diana Davis at 614-309-1737

Donation is complimentary -
a payment offering will be gratefully accepted.

Dinner & Inspiration!

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
Sister Ann Shields, S.G.L.
OF RENEWAL MINISTRIES

HONORARY CHAIR
The Most Reverend Frederick F. Campbell
BISHOP OF COLUMBUS

MASTER OF CEREMONIES
Reverend Walter R. Dawy
MONSIEUR COLLEGE, JOSEPHINUM

THE EVENING WILL INCLUDE A PRESENTATION OF
*The Father William Lyne, S.J.
Memorial Award for Adult Reading*

WITH MORE INFORMATION
CALL: 614-309-1737



An epic love story atop the family tree

It had an echo of Nicholas Sparks to it, but it was real life, and the story went viral: an Ohio couple married for 73 years died just 28 hours apart.

Reporters across the globe culled bits of Hollywood drama from the marriage, chronicling a young Joseph Auer surviving the horrors of D-Day and missing the birth of his second child. He and his wife, Helen, endured financial hardship as they raised 10 children.

When Helen passed away in their Cincinnati condo on a quiet Wednesday evening last October, 100-year-old Joe kissed his wife and whispered, "Mama, call me home."

She honored his request promptly.

But the part that wasn't reported, the part that the Catholic reader might have sniffed out based on the names, the location or the family size, was the Catholic faith that undergirded Helen and Joe's union. It was like oatmeal, giving them sustenance. It was like a full daily planner, lending them purpose. It was like stardust, offering them hope.

Helen and Joe combatted stresses – a night job, farm chores, miscarriages, never-ending diaper wringing, Catholic-school tuition – with Mass, weekly confession, and nightly rosary. All the kids knew of Helen's devotion to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, whom she petitioned fiercely when her firstborn contracted spinal meningitis as a boy.

"They always put God first," said Mary Jo Reiners, the Auers' fifth child. "That's one of the things I'll



Twenty Something
Christina Capecci

take away from their marriage."

They weren't particularly demonstrative, but the kids never doubted their parents' commitment. It was visible in the little ways they cared for each other and the tender nicknames they used: he called her "Helen Baby" and she called him "Daddy."

Their legacy includes 16 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild. A second great-great-grandchild is due this month.

Reflecting on what it means to inherit and honor that legacy is a weighty matter, said Joe Bianco Jr., a 35-year-old mortgage loan officer and the firstborn of Joe and Helen's sixth child, Jeanne.

"I'm trying to instill the same values," said Joe Jr., a father of three.

But sometimes the gulf between his grandparents' way of life, with its simplicity and nobility, and his 21st-century grind feels unbridgeable. His grandpa risked his life in World War II; Joe Jr. is waging iPad wars among the kids in the living room.

He remembers his grandpa reading *The Cincinnati Enquirer* with a magnifying glass and referring to the TV as "the idiot box."

These days, Joe Jr. finds himself repeating the parental mandates he grew up with: work hard, finish your meal, say "Please," go to church. His kids attend a Catholic school and attend Mass as a family every week. He and his wife, Missy, were married in the same church as his parents and his late grandparents. He hopes the sacrament and setting can have the same effect on his 12-year marriage as it did on their 73-year one.

Their back-to-back deaths deepens his trust in God. "It just proves that God truly has a plan for all of us," Joe Jr. said. "He had it all mapped out."

His big-picture thoughts about honoring his grandparents are tinged with New Year's resolve. He says his goal for 2015 is to power off the iPhone and spend more time with his family. He may still have to log 55-hour workweeks, but once he's home, he wants to be available to play with his 11-year-old son or read *Pete the Cat* to his 4-year-old daughter.

"My kids are growing up quickly," he said. "Maybe I've already missed some things, but I don't want to miss any more."

Christina Capecci is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota, and editor of SisterStory.org, the official website of National Catholic Sisters Week.

MARTIN DE PORRES CENTER HOSTS ART EXHIBIT

The Martin de Porres Center, a ministry of the Dominican Sisters of Peace, is hosting an exhibit of works by Sister Bernadine Egleston, OP, and Sister Jan Schlichting, OP. The exhibit will be on display through Tuesday, March 24.

Known for her wood carvings, including the altar at St. Catharine Motherhouse in St. Catharine, Kentucky, Sister Bernadine exhibits several

pieces she designed using colored pencils, displaying a gentle, fluid style.

In contrast, Sister Jan's amazingly detailed word collages are striking in their vibrant colors and intricate designs. Each piece is modeled on a quote from Scripture or a spiritual writer. Please call (614) 416-1910 to make an appointment to visit the gallery.

BACK IN HIS ARMS AGAIN BENEFIT

The annual benefit evening for the Back in His Arms Again Ministry, which provides comfort and support for families experiencing the loss of a child, will take place Feb. 7 in Marian Hall of Columbus Immaculate Conception Church, 336 E. North Broadway. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

The meal is complimentary. Donations to the ministry will be extended. To reserve indi-

vidual or group seating, go to www.eventbrite.com and search for the event name "Back in His Arms Again." If you are unable to attend but wish to donate, send contributions to Back in His Arms Again, Box 1553, Westerville OH 43096.

In case of inclement weather, postponement of the event will be announced on the website www.backinhisarmsagain.com.

Adult Faith Formation Director

A growing and dynamic parish community is looking for a faith-filled person who is passionate about helping Catholics become disciples of Jesus Christ and teaching them to become disciple-makers through adult faith formation at St. John Neumann Catholic Church, Sunbury, Ohio.

This person should have a college degree, ideally in theology or a related field, or willing to work toward a degree in theology sponsored by the parish. PC and AV skills, ability to honor and maintain confidentiality, well-organized, self-motivated, manage tasks and work independently with minimal supervision, team-player, effectively communicate with staff and volunteers, pastoral in nature and good with people.

This is a part-time position that requires some evenings and weekends. Salary commensurate with experience. Please send resume by the end of January to Fr. David Sizemore:

fatherdave.saintjohn@gmail.com

For more information, go to the parish website at: www.saintjohnsunbury.org

ST. CHARLES PREPARATORY SCHOOL:

DISTINCTIVE LEADERSHIP IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION



SCHOOL FOUNDED BY BISHOP HARTLEY HAS 92-YEAR TRADITION OF CLASSICAL TRAINING

BY TIM PUET

Reporter, *Catholic Times*

When Bishop James Hartley founded Columbus St. Charles Borromeo College-Seminary in 1923, he said its goal was “to give students a complete, thorough, and sound classical training” – a mission it continues to fulfill more than 90 years later.

The school describes itself as “central Ohio’s distinctive leader in Catholic education,” and the slogan fits in many ways. It’s the only all-boys Catholic high school in the Diocese of Columbus, and the only one that requires two years of Latin for all students.

It traditionally has the largest number of National Merit Scholarship honorees among diocesan high schools – seven semifinalists and nine commended scholars for 2015, plus three scholars in the National Hispanic Recognition Program and two outstanding participants in the National Achievement Scholarship program for minority students. Recently, Alex Coccia of the school’s class of 2010 became its first graduate to be chosen a Rhodes scholar.

A recent study by Gerber Analytics ranked St. Charles first among all Ohio high schools in overall performance

on the Ohio Graduation Test for high-school students. The school’s Class of 2014 had 19 members earn Eagle Scout rank, the highest honor in Boy Scouting.

St. Charles principal Jim Lower says the school’s success is based on “a three-headed model: Our faculty members are teachers who truly understand their subject material and hold all students to a high standard; our parents support our school and how it holds their sons to a high standard; our students are motivated and work very hard to meet the expectations that are set.”

Scott Pharion, academic dean, adds one more key component: “the camaraderie, a real feeling of family and a code of honor among students.” The students themselves point to this sense of unity as something setting the school apart. “You do get a real feeling of brotherhood here,” said Patrick Mackessy, a senior at St. Charles whose father, brother, and uncles all are graduates of the school. “I come from a St. Charles family, and you get the sense that the whole school considers itself a family, especially since it has really active alumni groups that have functions all year round.

“You know from the school’s reputation that it’s going to be a challenge, and it is tough, especially the junior year. The teachers push you to push yourself, but they’re also ready to give you help. So are your classmates, if you need it, because everyone wants to help each other gets through.”

The school’s unofficial motto might be “My Brother’s Keeper” – a phrase used by several students and teachers when describing the school’s atmosphere. My Brother’s Keeper also is the name of a student service organization formed last year to support academic enrichment for the school’s minority students.

Top: Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School art teacher Phillip Smith instructs student John Thompson.

Left: Students at lunch in the school’s Robert C. Walter Student Commons.

Right: Jackson Cox, who serves as an “office runner,” studies as he awaits his next assignment to carry messages. CT photos by Jack Kustron

The school is strongly service-oriented, requiring students to perform a minimum of 48 service hours in their first three years of school, including 24 in their junior year, as part of the graduation track. “Helping the community through service projects is something you get involved in right away,” said senior class member Armond Phillips. “It’s all about the feeling that you don’t want to leave anyone behind, both within the community and among your fellow students.”

Phillips, a minority student, said he is involved with My Brother’s Keeper because he wants others to experience the same things he has at St. Charles. “I first heard about the school from Steven Miller, a 1977 graduate, who goes to my church,” he said. “He felt I could do well here. I wasn’t so sure, but I came here and I liked it and found I wanted to be academically challenged.

“In a few months, I’m going to be one of the first males in my family to graduate from high school, and I plan to study business at Ohio State. Now I want to tell my story to eighth-graders thinking of coming here next year and to help them the way people helped me.”

The school has an enrollment of 611 boys in grades nine through 12, a figure that has remained about the same for several years “We do not have a



Left: Dr. Sarah Vandermeer teaches an advanced placement physics class at St. Charles Preparatory School. Right: Students pass portraits of the bishops of the Diocese of Columbus in the school hallway. Visible are portraits of the diocese’s first two bishops, Sylvester H. Rosecrans (left) and John A. Watterson. Bishop James Hartley founded the school in 1923.



goal for total enrollment,” Pharion said. “Our target freshman enrollment is 180, and student retention is nearly 80 percent over four years.” “We would like to always have between 605 and 640 students,” said Lower. “We feel confident that our program will continue to attract young men who desire a life-changing experience for their high school days.”

Bishop Hartley founded the school mainly to train future priests, but also to provide a classical education for all boys who were accepted, because he recognized there wouldn’t be enough aspirants to the priesthood to make the school a viable institution. More than 5,000 young men, including hundreds of priests, have graduated from the school since then.

Classes took place from 1923-25 in Columbus Sacred Heart School. Late in 1923, the diocese acquired the Kelly farm at East Broad Street and Alum Creek in Bexley, three miles from downtown Columbus on what then was the area’s urban fringe, for the 26-plus acre campus that has been the school’s home since 1925. A college program began in 1927. From then until 1965, a student could attend St. Charles for four years of high school and four of college, with the college primarily for aspirants to the priesthood.

The institution became exclusively a seminary prep school in 1965. By 1968, enrollment had dropped to 65, down from 350 in 1961 when the transition was announced. St. Charles suspended the college program in 1969 and became a college preparatory high school for all enrollees, and has been so ever since.

The Latin requirement and its status as an all-male school are part of the school’s heritage as a seminary, and teachers and students say they don’t see any reason to do away with either.

“Single-gender education allows for a less socially competitive environment and places the emphasis on learning or classroom activities,” helping create “a camaraderie that cannot be measured but is on the mind of every student,” Pharion said. From a student perspective, Phillips said, “Girls are good, but they can be distracting, and with our academic work load, we’ve got enough to deal with.” Mackessy added, “There’s less drama in an all-male environment,

and it’s not like we’re shut away from contact with girls. It’s just during school hours.”

The school sponsors a fall homecoming dance and a junior-senior prom for students and their dates every year. The three annual productions by the school’s drama department, often including a central Ohio premiere, include girls who audition from schools all over central Ohio, and the St. Charles swimming pool is shared with the boys and girls teams from Columbus Bishop Hartley and Columbus Bishop Watterson. The Columbus School for Girls is just east of St. Charles on Broad Street, and the two cooperate on a band concert and several other activities. “If you come to campus from 8:20 to 3:05 p.m., you won’t see any girls, but come 3:05, somehow that all changes and it looks like any other school,” Lower said.

The Latin classes reflect both tradition and the school’s commitment to academic excellence. “We believe that our Latin curriculum provides our students with an excellent way to learn English and grammar, that Latin is a foundation language for other foreign languages, and that our students develop other learning skills, such as the ability to analyze, recognize patterns, and transfer that understanding, by studying Latin,” Lower said.

Phillips said he was pleasantly surprised by his Latin classes. “They didn’t turn out to be as hard as I thought,” he said, “especially once I realized so many English words come from Latin. But af-

ter two years, I was ready to move on.” “I think most of us will say we learned a lot in Latin class, but were happy to learn other languages after two years,” added St. Charles junior Lewis Nerone. The school offers a full four years of Latin, plus two years each of French, Italian, and Spanish.

Students from all economic levels are able to attend the school with the help of dozens of funds and endowments set up by alumni, parents, and friends. St. Charles awarded \$1.5 million in financial and academic scholarships for the 2014-15 school year, with 33 percent of students receiving some form of financial assistance. Tuition for this school year in most cases is \$9,390 for one student and \$18,080 for two. If a family has more than two sons attending at the same time, the third (and fourth) attend free of charge. Tuition for each non-Catholic student not subsidized by a parish is an additional \$330.

“Our benefactors, alumni, and past parents continue to support our efforts to make sure that no young man is denied the opportunity of a St. Charles education due to financial reasons,” as Bishop Hartley pledged when he founded the school, Lower said. “Our student body defies the label that this is a ‘rich kid’s school,’” said Pharion. “The tuition is not outrageously higher than the area’s other Catholic high schools, and is half of that for Columbus Academy and the Columbus School for Girls. For what it

See **ST. CHARLES**, Page 12

ST. CHARLES, *continued from Page 11*

offers, and compared to similar schools statewide and nationwide, St. Charles is a bargain financially.”

The school’s Catholic heritage is most strongly recognized every year on Nov. 4, the feast day of the school’s patron, St. Charles Borromeo. Bishop Frederick Campbell celebrates an all-school Mass on that day, when the school also hands out its Borromeo Medals and Principal’s Award for achievement and service to the school. Later in November, distinguished alumni are recognized for their outstanding volunteer activities, career and professional achievements, and community-organization advocacy.

Freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors each attend all-class Masses together—rotated between classes each Wednesday of the month. During these liturgies, the rest of the school goes into a silent study hall, from which any students are invited to attend Mass.

All-school Masses also take place on holy days of obligation and the opening of school. Freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors have class Masses once a month, and there are Lenten and Advent penance services, as well as weekly Stations of the Cross during Lent. The freshmen and sophomore classes have annual in-school retreats, the junior class takes part in the diocese’s annual Urban Plunge program, and the seniors have a two-day retreat near Mohican State Park.

In addition, many students in recent years have taken part in summer mission programs in Central America, said

religion teacher Mike Warner. “We started in 2010 with nine students,” he said. “Since then, more than 100 have joined them,” he said. Last summer, students from St. Charles and Waterson combined on a mission sending nine young men and nine young women to Guatemala and El Salvador, and about 30 St. Charles students went on two separate missions to Nicaragua. Warner said the students raised about \$2,000 each to cover expenses.

“The best thing about these trips was the relationships the students began to build with their peers in Central America, which have continued,” Warner said. “This gave new meaning to the idea of being your brother’s and sister’s keeper.”

Some other St. Charles students spent parts of their summers working with researchers at Nationwide Children’s Hospital and The Ohio State University. David Breckenridge, a guidance counselor at St. Charles and longtime OSU employee, serves as St. Charles’ liaison between OSU and other colleges, and for the past three years has placed St. Charles juniors-to-be with researchers at OSU laboratories. Last year, 23 students, the largest number to date, took part in the program. Chemistry teacher Penny Bostic placed three students last year and has sent 20 students altogether to a similar program at Nationwide Children’s Hospital.

“The students work with some of the world’s best researchers,” Breckenridge said. “Sometimes they assist the researchers, and occasionally they get to do independent research.” “At Chil-



St. Charles students (from left) Daniel Irby, Colin Southworth, and David Aslaner with children from the Fransisco Coll School in Guatemala City. Photo courtesy Mike Warner, St. Charles Prep

dren’s, the students develop a project, research a disease or vaccine, and give a formal presentation of what they’ve done,” said Bostic. “They don’t get paid or receive college credit, but the experience is invaluable and allows them to understand whether they might want to do this work as adults.”

Nearly 75 percent of St. Charles students take part in extracurricular activities and groups, some of which have gained regional or national recognition. The *In the Know* team won the championship of the academic quiz program by that name on WOSU-TV, and the engineering team had five of its eight groups place in the top 10 in the state and four in the top 10 in the nation by division.

The CardinalBots robotics team continued an outstanding three-year record of success by qualifying for the robotics world championships for the second time, finishing 32nd in its field of 100 teams. It’s now in the midst of building a robot to perform a specific task, announced in January, of stacking blocks atop each other to a specified height in a specified time. “Once the task is announced, you work about 18 hours a week on it,” said Nerone, a team member. “It’s like a part-time job. But it’s great if you’re into engineering, because you can do things you’d never get to do in a traditional class.”

The school also maintains a strong athletic program, fielding teams in 15 sports. Since 2009, the Cardinals have won state titles in swimming, volleyball, golf, and water polo. This fall, the

water polo team won its fourth state championship in five years and the golf team finished second in the state in its division.

The school’s main classroom building has been a landmark on the city’s east side for 90 years. Until a few years ago, there were few changes to the campus. But the last decade has seen a building boom which began with construction of the \$5.5 million Robert C. Walter Student Commons and a Student Services and Fine Arts Center. This 27,000-square-foot addition, completed for the 2006-07 school year, replaced a courtyard.

St. Charles expanded its footprint in 2010 by purchasing property across from the main campus. The 6.2-acre West Campus includes the Savko Athletic Complex, comprising a six-lane running track, the Dominic and Kathleen Cavello Field (with artificial turf), and parking; a 13,000-square-foot training and fitness facility; and the Horvath Parking Lot. A pedestrian bridge over Alum Creek connects it with the main campus. The full project cost about \$5.1 million. In the fall, the school completed work to repurpose the Jack Ryan Training and Fitness Facility into new locker room space, a trainer’s area, conference rooms, and coaches’ offices.

From modest beginnings with about \$31,000 each in the 1980s, the school’s annual fund raised nearly \$1.4 million in the 2013-14 academic year and its endowment stands at nearly \$14 million, enabling those funds to help many more students attend the school.

Father Daniel Millisor’s homily at the funeral Mass for Msgr. James L.T. Ruef at Columbus St. Catharine Church on Monday, Jan. 19:

“Thank you for your presence here this morning and for your prayers to commend to the Lord our brother and friend, Msgr. James Le’Roy Tonkinson Ruef, the incomparable.

“When Father Lumpe called me last Monday evening with the news of Jim’s passing, I was in shock, and sobbed for the sudden loss of my dear friend. The next day at the bishop’s lunch table, which Jim enlivened regularly, we all expressed our shock and sadness. Indeed, the Son of Man came like a thief in the night, at an unexpected hour. Grieving at the death of a loved one is a natural part of the human condition and is essential to our moving on with our lives.

“And move on we must, for we are believers in the Father who has loved us into life. We are empowered by the Holy Spirit, gifted with faith in Jesus, whom we have met in the waters of baptism, where we were buried with him, and rose with him to a new life of grace. We know our baptism not only as a moment of sacramental celebration, but also as the beginning of a journey, an unfolding of the power and grace of God throughout every moment, every stage and season of our lives.

“Jesus himself made that journey. Somewhere back there in time, Jesus left home and walked the 90 miles to the region south of Jerusalem where John was baptizing. Let us imagine that moment. He had no disciples yet, no public reputation. If any shepherds from 30 years ago recalled his birth, there is no record that they were present at this moment. If any rabbis or lawyers who met him in the temple when we was 12 still recalled that day, they have left no indication; that was 18 years ago.

“As John the Evangelist says, ‘He was in the world, and the world did not know him.’ As John the Baptizer said, ‘There is one among you who is powerful, and he is coming, and he must increase.’

“So in this time of expectation, Jesus, who had no need of repentance, stepped into the water with everyone else, and God chose him, elected him, singled him out, opened the heavens above him, and the last black hole at the end of the universe discovered a larynx and spoke those words of generative love: ‘This is my beloved son, in whom I am well-pleased.’

“The revelation that God announced at this moment in history was not a detailed

scheme of theology, nor a new set of 10 commandments. The revelation was the person of Jesus, the beloved son of the Father.

“The Gospel stories are preserved and arranged so that by listening to them now, centuries later, we too can come under the influence of this Jesus, in what he says and does, and in who he is. And the Church’s sacramental life is celebrated so that in every age and place, we humans can encounter Jesus, and come to know who we are in him, and find and serve him in one another.

“At each of our baptisms, we, too, were chosen, elected, singled out, called by God his beloved son, his beloved daughter. We were empowered by God’s Spirit, and entered into the journey of discipleship to extend the mission of Jesus and his Church, the mission of salvation, to make Good News happen in this world.

“This was the journey our brother Jim traveled in the 75 years of his earthly existence, through the different careers and seasons of his life. He made Good News happen in this world.

“To his parents, William and Anna Marie, and his brother, Lee, and sister-in-law, Mary, he brought much joy, devotion, and pride in his many accomplishments. There is Good News in never forgetting your roots. Jim loved to tell tales of his growing up in Springfield, and his care for his mother in her later years was tender and resolute.

”To the Ohio Northern University community, to which Jim remained closely connected throughout his life, he brought so much talent, loyalty, and not a little mischief. When Jim went to Northern in 1957, it was to study pharmacy, but he quickly discovered his passion for the theater, and shared the Good News of laughter and tears, depth and meaning in his performing art on the stage.

“Indeed, for Jim, all the world was a stage, as he carried his flair for the dramatic into all his relationships. Jim’s Sig Pi brothers to this day talk about his leading them on a bar crawl in Ada, which, having lived there for 10 years, I can tell you doesn’t take that long, though it was long enough for Jim to run into several of the women he was dating at the time.

“To his practice of law, both as a civil lawyer in private practice and in the attorney general’s office, and as a canon lawyer in service of the Church, Jim brought integrity and a brilliant legal mind. Devoted to justice and the rule of law, Jim also insisted on the Good News of compassion and understanding. On so many

occasions, he reminded us, his associate judges, and the Tribunal staff that our application of the law was in service of real people who were hurting.

“To his close friends and many acquaintances, Jim brought so much care and wisdom, fun and adventure, tenderness and fidelity. In our over three decades of friendship and travel together, Jim always brought me – as his did with so many – the Good News of knowing that I was loved thoroughly, generously, and well.

“But it was to his service as a priest that Jim brought his most unflinching devotion. Jim cherished the priesthood as his greatest gift, and he lived it with a passionate, servant heart. His service as a priest was the convergence, really, of all his talents and careers, as he shared the Good News of God’s love and mercy, the grace, nourishment, and healing of the sacraments, the hope of the kingdom of heaven to come, the great gift of faith.

“The word ‘faith’ is sometimes understood as accepting something you cannot understand. People often say ‘Such and such can’t be explained, you simply have to believe it, you must have faith.’ However, when Jesus talks about faith, he means first of all and last of all to trust unreservedly that you are loved, so that you can abandon every false way of obtaining love.

Jim lived to the fullest his deepest identity and dignity as the beloved son of God, as a son and brother, as an actor and lawyer, as a teacher and priest, as a faithful steward of the mysteries of God’s love, as a dear friend.

“I think it likely that Jim died on Sunday, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. His last contact was with Father Dury early that morning, when he called to beg his forgiveness for not being able to celebrate the 11:15 Mass, since he wasn’t feeling well. But he had prepared his homily (Jim was prepared), and it touched me deeply when I read it.

“The refrain throughout his message was ‘Let my Spirit go!’ And he ended his homily in these words: ‘At the Eucharist, the Spirit is invoked to bring about the presence of Jesus, who found life by giving himself in death. In turn, the Eucharist urges the worshiping community to release that same Spirit by its self-giving. In the Eucharist, and in all of life’s invitations to love, the only adequate stance is: Let my Spirit go!’

“The mystery of God’s love is not that he takes our pains and sorrows away, but that

See MSGR. RUEF, Page 14



Students (from left) Michael Anderson, Corin Salyer (partially visible), Benjamin Mooney, Allen Smith, and Jax Geist in an introduction to physics and chemistry class.

THE RIGHT DOCTORS, RIGHT HERE. **BECAUSE OF YOU**

Mount Carmel Medical Group includes more than 200 primary care and specialty providers in over 40 office locations throughout central Ohio, so you can be sure to receive the patient-centered care you expect, in a location that’s convenient.

Find your nearest location at mountcarmelmedicalgroup.com or contact HealthCall at 614-234-2222 to be connected with a primary care or specialty physician.

MOUNT CARMEL
Medical Group

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle B)

Mark tells his version of the first disciples' call



Father
Lawrence L. Hummer

Jonah 3:1-5,10

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

Readers will recall that last week's Gospel was from John, which detailed the call of Andrew and an unnamed disciple. They actually sought out Jesus after John the Baptist had pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God. The two then followed him, and later, Andrew went to tell his brother, Simon Peter, that they had found the Messiah.

Today, we read Mark's version of the call of the first disciples, which begins with the brothers Simon and Andrew and then the brothers James and John. There is no reported discovery that Jesus is the Messiah (recall John's Gospel from last week) in Mark, even though Mark has already gone to great lengths to identify Jesus as the Son of God.

The scene begins only after John has been arrested, so that center stage belongs to Jesus from here on. He takes up the Baptist's preaching -- with certain modifications. Vincent Taylor, the great English scholar (1887-1968), calls verse 14 "a summary statement" separating this verse from the previous description of Jesus' 40 days in the desert (*Commentary on Mark*, p.164). One might also see a break with the past altogether.

What had gone before in the Old Testament had paved the way for this proclamation of the "Gospel of God," which is a rare expression, found only here in the Gospels and several times in Paul. It means the good news from God, **not** the good news about God.

"The good news of God" includes the fact that Jesus comes only after "the time (Greek, *kairos*) has been fulfilled." Note the *Lectionary's* "This is the time of

fulfillment." This translation chooses to overlook the perfect tense of the Greek verb meaning "to be fulfilled, or completed." Mark's point is that the past was but a prelude to what is happening now. The translators have placed the emphasis on the present. The distinction I draw here is in trying to determine what Mark said (and meant), as compared with what the translators imply. The dispute is over the use of the perfect tense in Greek, which means a completed action in the past, the effects of which continue in the present. Usually, those effects are implied, but the translation here has chosen to make the implication the actual meaning. Please pardon the digression.

On the other hand, "the kingdom of God is at hand" in the following verse does the same thing. The verb is a perfect tense of a verb meaning "has come near." The kingdom is so close one could almost touch it, or see it, but it remains tantalizingly close. It is not yet here (granted there are some commentators who think Mark meant the kingdom had indeed arrived). That's why the final sentence ("Repent and believe in the gospel") is included, both as a challenge and as the cause for the nearness of the kingdom. The kingdom requires repentance and faith on the part of those who hear the proclamation.

Many commentators (Father Fitzmyer among them) have called the immediate "calling" of the four brothers to be Jesus' followers "implausible," inasmuch as there is no reason for the brothers to suddenly drop everything they were doing to follow some itinerant preacher. Luke has prepared the ground for this call (although Luke does not mention Andrew among the first called) by listing an exorcism and some healings and some of his teaching. This would help explain why they might begin to follow him. The way Mark writes the scene makes the disciples act like robots from the time they are called.

We should remember that Mark does not generally specify the passage of time. That means that the disciples may have waited days or months or longer before they decided to follow Jesus around. The reader must decide. There is no clear-cut answer.

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

MSGR. RUEF, continued from P. 13

he wants to share them with us. So we trust unreservedly that God, who loved Jim into life, was never closer to him than in the last moments of his life, and we trust that the God who has loved each of us into life, and who sustains us at every moment with his love, is close to us now as we mourn the loss of Jim in his earthly existence, even as we pray for Jim now in his journey home to the Father.

"Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon him. Let his spirit go, O Lord. And empower each of us, your beloved sons and daughters, to let our spirits go in love and service, to make Good News happen in this world."

The Weekday Bible Readings

MONDAY
2 Timothy 1:1-8 or Titus 1:1-5
Psalm 96:1-3,7-8a,10
Mark 3:22-30

TUESDAY
Hebrews 10:1-10
Psalm 40:2,4ab,7-8a,10-11
Mark 3:31-35

WEDNESDAY
Hebrews 10:11-18
Psalm 110:1-4
Mark 4:1-20

THURSDAY
Hebrews 10:19-25
Psalm 24:1-4b,5-6
Mark 4:21-25

FRIDAY
Hebrews 10:32-39
Psalm 37:3-6,23-24,39-40
Mark 4:26-34

SATURDAY
Hebrews 11:1-2,8-19
Luke 1:69-75 (Ps)
Mark 4:35-41

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE WEEK OF JANUARY 25, 2015

SUNDAY MASS

10:30 a.m. Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio (820 AM), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com.
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. Check local cable system for cable channel listing.
Mass from Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, Birmingham, Ala., at 8 a.m. on EWTN (Time Warner Channel 385, Insight Channel 382, or WOW Channel 378) (Encores at noon, 7 p.m., and midnight).

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 in Ada, Logan, Millersburg, Murray City and Washington C.H.; Channel 125 in Marion, Newark, Newcomerstown and New Philadelphia; and Channel 207 in Zanesville); 8 p.m., St. Gabriel Radio (820 AM), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com.

We pray Week III, Seasonal Proper of the Liturgy of the Hours

Catholic Culture, Catholic Schools



THE TIDE IS TURNING
TOWARD CATHOLICISM
David Hartline

There was a time, within the memory of some who are reading this, when Catholics didn't have access to the best jobs, schools, and neighborhoods. Catholics were relegated to menial jobs and their faith was mocked, not just by the few, but by the many. However, our Catholic culture and our Catholic schools helped us rise above all of it. We weren't taught to hold a grudge, feel embittered, or play the victim. We were taught to be different and succeed, and so we did.

Where once the uneducated made fun of Catholics and belittled our beliefs, now all too often it is the highly educated who mock not only our faith, but any traditional oriented religious beliefs. Our Catholic schools have always been a bulwark against the ignorant, no matter how lofty their degree.

The problem, as Pope Francis and Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI have pointed out, is that we have become part of the world. Jesus told us that we must be in the world and shine light on the world, but not be of this world. I think about all of this every time I hear an ignorant Catholic make fun of the Church's core beliefs. The only way we counter this is through our unique Catholic culture and Catholic schools.

I remember wondering, as a kid in Marion, how those old ladies and old men knew so much about their Catholic faith, even though many of them had little formal education. I had the same feelings when I first went to my wife's hometown in west-

ern Pennsylvania and found the same thing. We are vastly more educated now than we were 40, 50, or 100 years ago, and yet so many younger Catholics know so little about their faith. How can you practice your faith and provide those around you with spiritual and corporal works of mercy if you don't know what you are doing?

Think of it this way: Everyone across the nation marveled at Ohio State's game plan in its last three football games. Against all odds and starting a third-string quarterback, the Buckeyes won the national championship. Sadly, too many Catholics today have no game plan. We are living according to our secular society's game plan, a sure recipe for a crushing defeat. Our Catholic culture and our Catholic schools give us a game plan against an world that increasingly doesn't want to know about the true message of Christ.

All too often the chattering classes (as G.K. Chesterton dubbed them) think religion and faith is for the ignorant. Yet, much of the basis of our western world comes down to the thoughts of St. Augustine

and St. Thomas Aquinas. In graduate school, I had an atheist professor for my political theory class, yet we spent a great deal of time studying St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas, among others such as Plato, Aristotle, Locke, Jefferson, Nietzsche, Marx, and Freud because as the professor said, "these are the people who shaped western thought."

As I indicated in a previous column, I realize Catholic schools aren't cheap; my wife and I pay local school taxes in addition to Catholic school tuition. However, Catholic education is a great investment for our children's future, both spiritually and academically. I have never known a Catholic school in this diocese to turn someone down strictly because of finances. They will help you.

Some people say that Catholic schools aren't what they once were because the religious curriculum has been watered down. From my personal experience, it is a great deal stronger than it was 30 or 40 years ago. There has been a great resurgence on Catholic identity in our schools in the last 20 years. We are going to need it, as increasingly our Catholic culture and belief systems come under attack by a world that all too often tells us that much of what we cherish just isn't relevant in 2015. We can't say that Jesus didn't warn us such a time would come. The question is what are we going to do about it.

Hartline is the author of "The Catholic Tide Continues to Turn" and a former teacher and administrator for the diocese.

Love Is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive!



thew 22: 37, 39) As Pope Benedict XVI stated during his visit to the United States, "the Gospel teaches us that true freedom, the freedom of the children of God, is found only in the self-surrender which is part of the mystery of love. Only by losing ourselves, the Lord tells us, do we truly find ourselves (Luke 17:33)." In other words, we are not called to run from commitment, but to make an intentional decision to daily give of ourselves in love to God and neighbor.

This is demonstrated most beautifully by the example of the many martyrs throughout the history of the Church. They loved Christ even more than their earthly life and won the eternal crown of victory. "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church" because by their witness, they demonstrate to all of us the real cost and honor of following Christ.

We may have encountered young people who are afraid of entering marriage

frightening to a culture that values a lack of commitment. Everyone longs for happiness and joy, yet Christ reveals that true happiness and joy is found only through giving of ourselves in love.

The Christian home is meant to be a school of love. From a young age, parents are called to instill in their children the value of service and self-sacrifice, first by serving the good of the home and then by serving the poor, the suffering, and the vulnerable in society. It is through the loving example of parents, as well as regular opportunities for silence and prayer, that children will more easily hear the voice of Christ calling "Come, follow me" and be ready to make the commitment to embrace a call to marriage, the priesthood, or religious life. We must remember that God calls all members of His family, whether married, single, priest, or religious, to daily live out the mission of sacrificial love and become more fully alive!

Part-time position

CLEANING/MAINTENANCE

Bishop Ready High School is seeking a part-time employee capable of cleaning and performing light maintenance work during the day.

All interested persons should contact
Will George at 614-374-1748



Pope Francis celebrates Mass at Rizal Park in Manila, the Philippines, on Jan. 18. CNS photos/Paul Haring

Philippine trip highlights pope's tenacity, attention to details

By Cindy Wooden / Catholic News Service

New situations are opportunities to learn new things, even about the 78-year-old Pope Francis.

After two days of watching the pope tenaciously keep his appointments in the Philippines despite pouring rain on Jan. 17-18, one lesson is that the papal wardrobe needs to be expanded to include rain gear.

A white umbrella – the usual Vatican response to a drizzle – is not adequate. And canceling or moving an event indoors – the usual Vatican response to a heavy rain – is not acceptable to Pope Francis if his appointment is with thousands or even millions of predominantly poor people.

Then again, the clear yellow plastic poncho he



Pope Francis celebrates Mass adjacent to the airport in Tacloban, the Philippines, on Jan. 17.

donned over his chasuble for Mass on Jan. 17 in Tacloban and again on Jan. 18 for his ride in a converted jeepney popemobile in Manila made him “one of the people,” which they liked. On social media, he was dubbed “ponchifex,” a play on the formal Twitter title “pontifex.”

Pope Francis, the grandson of Italian immigrants, takes a typically Italian approach to weather: it requires protection. On sunny days in St. Peter’s Square, he urges – sometimes with an almost-scolding look – parents to put hats on their children. On cold days, he wears a long white overcoat and asks parents of the underdressed where their children’s coats are. When a guard passes a baby to him on a cold day, he often adjusts the child’s coat or scarf to ensure proper bundling.

Much more importantly, Bishop Mylo Vergara of Pasig, head of the media committee for Pope Francis’ visit, said the wet and stormy weather – which included the approach of a category-two tropical storm in Tacloban – taught people how seriously Pope Francis takes his promises to the poor and suffering.

Because the pilots flying him to Tacloban, the area devastated by Typhoon Haiyan in 2013, insisted that he leave the area before 1 p.m., instead of the originally scheduled 5 p.m., he left Manila an hour early to get there. “He abbreviated everything, but he did all the events,” the bishop said.

“The pope is a pope of surprises, but God also surprised him,” the bishop said. The rain did not dampen the spirits of the people, and the pope did not let them down.

The Philippines trip also showed the energy the pope draws from crowds at mega events, while simulta-

neously being able to zoom in on micro details and bring the crowd with him.

About 30,000 exuberant youths congregated in the rain on Jan. 18 at the University of Santo Tomas. The pope gathered them and drew them into prayers for a 27-year-old Catholic Relief Services worker, Kristel Padasas, who died the day before after an accident at the Tacloban Mass site.

Two other elements at the youth gathering did not escape the pope’s eye for detail: first, the fact that of the four youths chosen to address him, only one was

Continued on next page



Pope Francis greets Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle of Manila, the Philippines, at the sign of peace while celebrating Mass at the city’s Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Jan. 16.

female – a situation he said should be rectified the next time a pope visits.

And second: tears. People get emotional when a pope is around. Many are overcome with tears after even the most fleeting moment with the pope. But the tears shed by 12-year-old Glyzelle Palomar were different. The pope honored the tears of the girl rescued from the streets and then helped the 30,000 youths present reflect on the role of tears in response to her suffering and the suffering of so many innocents.

“Certain realities in life can only be seen through eyes cleansed by tears,” the pope told them. And the only worthy response to questions about why God allows suffering is tears of compassion, he said.

Another thing people learned about Pope Francis – something Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle of Manila said tipped him off – was that if the pope insists on having nearby Msgr. Mark Miles, a native of Gibraltar who works in the Secretariat of State, that means he will set aside his prepared text and speak from the heart, in Spanish. Msgr. Miles translates the pope’s words into English.

A smaller detail that the pope attended to is connected to his respect for popular piety, a respect born and nurtured in his



Pope Francis embraces Glyzelle Palomar, 12, after the former street child spoke during a meeting with young people at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila, the Philippines, on Jan. 18. Also pictured is Jun Chura, 14, who also spoke.



Above and right: Pope Francis leads a meeting with families in the Mall of Asia Arena in Pasay City, the Philippines, on Jan. 16.

native Argentina. He shares the common people’s tangible Marian devotion, which leads him to tenderly touch or kiss images of her, but also reflects a sense that Mary is “mama,” as he said at Santo Tomas, and

one can grab on to her skirt when the going gets rough.

He blessed the statues of the Holy Child Jesus people carried with them to Mass in Manila on Jan. 18, the Holy Child feast day in the Philippines. The pope was given a copy of the statue, which ended up being his backseat driver as he toured the crowds in the popemobile after Mass.

But he took care with an even smaller detail. After Communion, large tapers and tiny tea lights – whatever people brought with them – were lit as Pope Francis told the crowd, “Keep the flame of faith alive in your hearts. Walk always as children of the light. This is



the mission of every Christian: ‘*lumina pandere*,’ to spread the light and to tell the world of God’s love.”

After a song, altar servers took the pope’s taper from him, and he was handed his crozier for the final blessing. But the pope saw all the people still holding their candles, so he asked his master of ceremonies to give back his candle.

“With his crozier in one hand, he used the candle (in the other hand) to bless the community, symbolizing the fire, the light of God,” Cardinal Tagle said. “The Holy Father is attentive to little details. He notices a child, he notices something like this; he sees the significance of a candle having been lit and he incorporates it into the whole ritual, which is a gift.”

Father Richard Metzger's homily at the funeral Mass for Father John L. Metzger at Junction City St. Patrick Church on Friday, Jan. 16:

"One of the things that we become aware of—especially, I guess, after a few years—is that things change. Sometimes they change more rapidly than we are ready for, and sometimes they are more serious changes than we thought they were going to be. And I daresay that that was somewhat true for John.

"We know that things changed a bit for him when he had his fall, because he enjoyed walking. One of the things that he was very faithful about was getting his walk in, so at least he was in good health, and was able to walk a lot better than I think I could.

"With the fall, he had to change some of that, and then after he had healed somewhat, he was hoping that he could go again, but it was quite limited, and it became more and more limited, to where finally he could hardly walk at all. And also, he was suffering from memory loss.

"John, of course, was always quite organized. You could almost set your clock by what he was going to do and where he would be. I had heard that he had memory loss and was having some difficulty that way, so I took the opportunity to stop by when he had his daily visit to the restaurant—Fiore's in New Lex—knowing that he'd probably be there because he's always there, it was the time of day for him to be there.

"I talked to him about how he was doing and he mentioned he had serious memory loss. He told me it all began on the First Sunday of Advent—which isn't all that bad liturgically, by the way. He said it was worse and worse and he didn't think it was improving at all. I said 'Maybe you can see the doctor and things will be better,' and he said 'Oh, no. I hope not.' I said 'Why is that?' and he said 'I don't want to go through this again.'

"I think he recognized, better than I did, that this was not going to heal, that this was not going to change. And then later on, while he was in Mother McCrory Manor, I thought it was time to visit with him again.

"I don't know if you have any familiarity with John's visits, but when John would come to visit us down in Junction City and the hill, it was as if he had a program. I think he prepared a visit more than I prepared this homily. He had everything organized, and when he would stop by, his talk would go on for two or three hours.

"We sort of took turns. One guy would

be in and get worn down, and somebody else would replace him. I have to say brother Bill (*the late Father William J. Metzger*) was the champion. He had more patience than the rest of us in doing that. But after however many hours, his homily, or his speeches, or his readiness to communicate was over with. Then you could actually really communicate and have a conversation.

"One time, the nephews decided John was going to take them on an outing, and they decided that they were going to see how long they could continue to talk before John could talk. I never did hear the results of that, but I'm sure it was a plan that was foiled quite early.

"John was in Mother McCrory, so I decided I'd better get out and visit with him. I don't know whether you know this, but he and I were in the seminary together seven years in the same class, six years we taught together at DeSales, and we were on the same assignment for four years at Zanesville. When I went to McCrory Manor, I said 'Here I am, John. Do you know who I am?' 'Yeah, I think so,' 'You remember anything about Zanesville?' 'Was I assigned there?' 'Yeah, you were there.'

"I went through a big, long list—some really good stories, I might add. 'Well, no.' But the biggest surprise was when I mentioned 'How about Rubeck?' (*the late Msgr. Hubert Rubeck, former associate pastor at Zanesville St. Nicholas with Father Metzger*). He laughed, and he didn't just know, but he gave a couple comments that assured me he remembered Rubeck. So some people are more memorable than others. I wasn't one of them, by the way.

"With that in mind, I recognized that this wonderful gift of memory was not improving. His prayer was answered. It could not get better, it was only worse.

"Lastly in reference to this, I remember that the family had the great privilege—Mark (*Father Metzger's nephew*) especially got that responsibility—of trying to talk him into signing so that he could have a procedure done in the hospital. They talked and talked, I don't know how many hours, and John would ask 'What's that? What's this?' and then he made the wise statement 'A man in as bad a shape as I am mentally should not sign any serious medical documents.' He was actually right about that. He had something going for him there.

"We Metzgers know something about

loss. The diocesan priesthood knows something about loss. Those things are a part of our life—not a part that we necessarily enjoy, but it is a part of our life and it is a lesson for us that things do change, and things that we thought would last forever go as well—memory, ability to walk, and so on. But what we are supposed to concentrate on today are some of the things that don't go away, some of the things that do endure, some of the things that do last.

"You might have noticed that John, when he was laid out here, had his alb on. The alb, of course, is supposed to remind us—it is our baptismal robe—that when he was baptized, that was something that lasted, that's something that endured, that's something that he was able to take with him.

"He also had his stole on, which would be a sign of celebrating the sacraments and celebrating the Gospel and the Scriptures, and those things endure, those things we can hang our hat on, they will be around. And there are many other things that we should reflect upon as well that will endure and help us.

"You might have noticed in the first reading, it's from quite late in the Old Testament (*the Book of Maccabees*), where they believe in the resurrection of the dead and to pray for the dying. That's something that does endure. We even say in the Creed 'the communion of saints'—that we are still in communion with them. I think it's quite significant, as we prayed last night, we recognized that all the things that bind us together in life do not unravel with death. That's what we come to celebrate.

"You also might have noticed in the Gospel reading from John, that it reminds us again that Christ laid down his life for us. That's something that endures, and we will celebrate with the separation of his body and blood on the altar shortly, sharing that with one another—that Christ died for us and he lives in us, that the love of God continues to live in us. Of course, that is another one of those things that endures and gives us something special.

"You will notice that John (*the Evangelist*) in the Gospel often talks about the love of God. He was thrilled that we have a God who loves us. He was thrilled that we were able to share in God's love, that we have the love and life of God in us. That's something that we are assured a faithful Christian, which John (*Father*

Metzger) was, will take with him into the kingdom.

"The other thing that we should reflect upon for a moment is that here in the Gospel, it's almost as if Jesus is writing his last will and testament. If you've had the privilege and the responsibility, which we have lately, of listening to a last will and testament, there's a special reverence there, and you listen carefully to see how it's going to turn out and what's being said. When Jesus gives us his last will and testament, we should really perk up our ears quite well, and I'm sure that the reason John (*Father Metzger*) chose this Gospel is quite significant.

"Jesus prays to the Father and says, 'These people, my disciples, are your gift to me.' To reflect upon the fact that we are a gift that has been given to Jesus through the Father—what a gift!—that, of course, is quite significant, and a gift, of course, is something that's always special and hopefully appreciated—and in this situation, it is.

"Jesus prays that we will be with him. Oftentimes, we appreciate having other people pray for us, but when you think also that Jesus is praying for us, that is something to appreciate and reflect upon, and is something that lasts, something that goes with us into the kingdom. He prays that we will not only know the Father, but that we will also come to the Father. We've got a pretty good person praying for us, encouraging us to make it to the top.

"There are other things that you will notice in the reading—of taking care for the downtrodden, and John, of course, did that quite well. John did not have many things in this world that were important to him. Jim (*Father James Csaszar, pastor of the Perry County Consortium of Catholic Parishes*) said when he moved him, it was probably the easiest move ever, just a few things.

"He was very much into appreciating those spiritual things that you can take with you. The other things that you can't take with you became less and less important to him. And there are other gifts that we can work on that will help us to the kingdom—generosity, humble spirit, a spirit of non-confrontation, a spirit of love and reverence for the poor. These are gifts that will serve John well and will serve us well in the kingdom. They will endure."