WORLD MARRIAGE DAY
Christian marriage is that Christ is present at all times and in every event of our lives as well. That is another lesson He wants us to learn from the marriage of Cana, a wedding.

The fact that the miracle was performed at a wedding is significant. By His attendance, Jesus places His approval on the marriage covenant and with His miracle, He begins to work toward this goal when the marriage of Cana, a wedding, is performed. Two years ago, my wife and I made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and were privileged to be able to renew our wedding vows at Cana. The church has a number of large earthen vessels of the type that Jesus would have instructed the servants to fill with water. When we enter into marriage, we are like those large earthen vessels—open to receive transformative grace. These are changed to initiate more clearly the ways of Christ. As we stand in the church, we understand far better than we could have when we were originally married how complete a transformation would take place. We just looked at each other and were swept away with the most overwhelming sense of joy. What a miracle!

Catholic Consumerism—Conventional Vs. Fair Trade
By Stephen Rapp
Catholic Relief Services Fair Trade Ambassador

In our last paragraph comparing conventional vs. fair trade, we set the tone by mentioning that on average, fair trade coffee farmers make 70% more than traditional farmers. This is a significant difference and it helps illustrate the social justice issues involved in trade relationships. For example, the fair trade coffee farmers each grow the same amount of coffee, but they are paid more because they agree to grow coffee in a sustainable way that supports the local economy, protects the environment, and enhances the quality of life for farmers and their families.

The difference between conventional and fair trade coffee is significant. Conventional coffee farmers are paid a low price per pound, regardless of the quality of their beans. As a result, they are often forced to use cheaper and less safe farming practices in order to keep up with the demand for coffee. This can lead to lower wages, poorer working conditions, and a lack of access to healthcare and education for farmers and their families. In contrast, fair trade coffee farmers are paid a fair price for their beans, which is determined by the local co-operatives that organize and sell the coffee. This allows farmers to earn a living wage and improve their standard of living.

February 8th is the Annual Catholic Times Collection

It is time to renew!

Be sure to put your Catholic Times envelope in the collection plate at Mass, or just make a contribution in a plain envelope with your name and address and the words “Catholic Times” to ensure that you continue to receive the Catholic Times for the next year.

Catholic Times Collection is the only newspaper that brings you a weekly look at Catholic life in the Diocese of Columbus.

It is time to renew!

By David Ganick, Editor

Marriage and Miracles

CONSECRATING OUR WHOLE LIVES

By Sister Margie Lavenia, CSC

Pope Francis has declared Nov. 30, 2014 to Feb. 8, 2016 as a year to celebrate the Consecrated Life.

Jesus calls all Christians to follow God and obey God’s will. Consecrated religious strive to do God’s will in conjunction with the mission of their particular community. A husband and wife give themselves to each other and to their children. Family is their primary focus. Those who commit themselves to religious give their entire lives to Christ and to the Church through the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

I believe God still calls and connects people to this radical and challenging way of life. Let us pray that the community whom God is calling will respond by professing the three vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience in a lifetime commitment.

All Christians are called to give their whole lives to Christ in a manner that is appropriate to their vocation. Consecrated religious are called to love and serve Christ and his Church through the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

All the baptized are called to love and serve Christ and his Church through the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. Consecrated religious give their entire lives to Christ and to his Church through the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

What is religious or consecrated life? In my early days, I thought a religious was chiefly about ministering to others. Now I know this is not what consecrated life is. One of the goals of the observance of the fast is to educate Catholics about religious life.

I was taught by the Sisters of the Holy Cross to grow in the love of Christ. As we stood in the church, we were swept away with the most overwhelming sense of joy to all who believe (Luke 2:10). The love of God is a gift to all who believe. It is time to renew our vows to Christ and to be consecrated with Him in all we do.

It is time to renew!

By Sister Margie Lavenia, CSC

Pope Francis has declared Nov. 30, 2014 to Feb. 8, 2016 as a year to celebrate the Consecrated Life. Consecrated religious is that Christ is present at all times and in every event of our lives as well. That is another lesson He wants us to learn from the marriage of Cana, a wedding.

The fact that the miracle was performed at a wedding is significant. By His attendance, Jesus places His approval on the marriage covenant and with His miracle, He begins to work toward this goal when the marriage of Cana, a wedding, is performed. Two years ago, my wife and I made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and were privileged to be able to renew our wedding vows at Cana. The church has a number of large earthen vessels of the type that Jesus would have instructed the servants to fill with water. When we enter into marriage, we are like those large earthen vessels—open to receive transformative grace. These are changed to initiate more clearly the ways of Christ. As we stand in the church, we understand far better than we could have when we were originally married how complete a transformation would take place. We just looked at each other and were swept away with the most overwhelming sense of joy. What a miracle!

Catholic Consumerism—Conventional Vs. Fair Trade
By Stephen Rapp
Catholic Relief Services Fair Trade Ambassador

In our last paragraph comparing conventional vs. fair trade, we set the tone by mentioning that on average, fair trade coffee farmers make 70% more than traditional farmers. This is a significant difference and it helps illustrate the social justice issues involved in trade relationships. For example, the fair trade coffee farmers each grow the same amount of coffee, but they are paid more because they agree to grow coffee in a sustainable way that supports the local economy, protects the environment, and enhances the quality of life for farmers and their families. The celebration of World Day for Consecrated Life is transferred to the faithful who support the life of consecrated persons for the whole Church.

Prayer for Consecrated Persons
God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son’s Kingdom as sisters, brothers, religious priests, consecrated virgins, and hermits, as well as members of secular institutes. Renew their knowledge and love of you, and send your Holy Spirit to help them respond generously and courageously to your call. Through this, Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

February 8, 2015 (Celebrated in Parishes Feb. 7-8)

In 1997, Pope John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for men and women in consecrated life. This celebration is dedicated to the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord on Feb. 2, 2015. This also known as Conception Day, the day on which the Virgin Mary was conceived in the womb of her mother, St. Anne, is a day to call us to consider the meaning of Consecration.

The celebration of Consecration is a celebration of the gift of consecrated persons.

February 8th is the Annual Catholic Times Collection

It is time to renew!

Be sure to put your Catholic Times envelope in the collection plate at Mass, or just make a contribution in a plain envelope with your name and address and the words “Catholic Times” to ensure that you continue to receive the Catholic Times for the next year.

Catholic Times Collection is the only newspaper that brings you a weekly look at Catholic life in the Diocese of Columbus.
Mother-in-law

By Rick Jeric

How did those sidewalk chalks feel last week? While I hope they were firm and among the anxiety that means most. And importantly the expanse of a wish for peace is so much more than the church can do.
Biblical basis for purgatory: Does pope write his speeches?

**Question & Answer** by Father Kenneth Doyle

As far as I know, the other Christian writers of the first century (and only the Catholic Church—and I’m not wording these words purgatory into the Bible or in Christ’s teachings. (I would like to be able to defend my faith with some clear references.) (Chicago, Virginia)

A speaking generically, Catholics believe in purgatory while Protestants do not. For Protestants, the idea of purgatory is a denial of Jesus’ absolute, perfect, and final. And if it had a once-and-for-all quality, and because Protestants believe are cleansed, forgiven, and declared righteous and saved, God's judgment might one day need to be perfect, so that for, to deny the sufficiency of Christ’s redemption and resurrection. The Catholic belief, on the other hand, is simply the most succinct in the Encyclical of the Catholic Church (No. 1030). “All who die in God’s grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed as ‘the pope’s speechwriter.’ But I would be surprised if they had.

The Catholic position builds on the belief of God’s grace and mercy in the coming of Christ. In the Second Book of Maccabees (12:46), written toward the end of the second century BC, we learn that Judas Maccabeus “made atonement for the dead so that they would not be blotted from 25% sin’? To have prayed for his fallen comrades (who had worn forbidden sacred amulets in sin.” To have prayed for his fallen comrades (who had worn forbidden sacred amulets in the ancient Jewish faith) for their wounds, that God would heal them.

The pope of course, would edit the talks before they are sent out and in the content and in his personal style to the phraseing. In a column of the Italian daily newspaper La Stampa has claimed to have named the newly “commander of papal speech and holy writing,” a Monsignor Paolo Luca Brusad, but I never read that the pope himself would have been prised me if they had.

The story of Pope Francis may have more to do with earning his own speeches than did previous pontiffs, because Pope Francis’ talks stick me as a more spontaneous, conversational, and unfettered.

A reference to a home, a place; a few days before Christmas in 2014 warmed cu. The cost is $25 for both days and includes lunches, dinner Saturday, and a T-shirt. Registration forms are available on the web at www.cd.educationand.org/youth. Finally, for more information, contact the diocesan Office of Religious Education.

Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at kdoyle@archdeneck.org or 604 Hopley St., Albany, NY 12208.

Dioecesan Youth Rally

Calling all teens in the Diocese of Columbus! Come join a few hundred of your closest friends at the Dioecesan Youth Rally for a weekend of music, inspiration, faith-filled joy, friends new and old, and celebrations of our Catholic faith with Bishop Frederick Campbell.

The rally will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. on March 14 and 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on March 15 at Marysville High School, 3315 State St. It will feature Chris Padgett, a nationally renowned speaker, musician, and worship leader with a contagious spirit. He has an outrageous sense of humor, loves music, and hopes you will join him for the rally.

The event also will include workshops covering a variety of topics such as human dignity, loving yourself, maintaining healthy relationships, and deepening your prayer life, as well as small-group discussion with Bishop Campbell. Parents are invited to join the closing Mass on Sun n. at 2 p.m.

Talk to your parish youth minister, religious education director, or Catholic school campus minister, or pastor for more information about registering. More information is available at www.catholiceducation.org/youth.

Advance registration is required. Interested high-school students should register through their parish youth ministry leadership. The cost is $25 for both days and includes lunches, dinner Saturday, and a T-shirt. Registration forms are available on the web at www.cd.educationand.org/youth. Finally, for more information, contact the diocesan Office of Religious Education.

Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at kdoyle@archdeneck.org or 604 Hopley St., Albany, NY 12208.

Winter is Time to Work on Scout Religious Emblems

The Christmas holidays are over and the cold weather has begun. This is the perfect time to start working on Scout Religious Emblems. This provides an ideal opportunity for Catholic Scouts and this year’s emblem is one of the many religious emblems available through Girl Scout programs, the diocesan Committee on Scouting notes. Awards for younger scouts, those in first to fifth grades, are fast to spot, as all of the girl scouts who have been one of these emblems must follow the instructions of the designated sign person the program book to recognize that a Scout is beginning the work. When the book is completed, the program sign person will go over the book with the Scout and sign the final page. The scout will turn the signature page to the St. Paul’s Cathedral, Young Adult Ministry, 1957 E. Gay St., Columbus, OH 43210, with the appropriate fee for a patch or a medal, and it will be mailed to the home address. For more information, please contact the youth ministry office or visit www.catholiceducationand.org/Scouting for details. For Girl Scouts, contact Laura Brown at 614-241-2565.

Mount Carmel Adopts Core Values Reflecting New Model of Care

Mount Carmel adopts Core Values reflecting new model of care. This takes a holistic approach to discovering ways to become a significant change. Mount Carmel Health System is leading this effort in central Ohio by helping reduce the workday the care is delivered, through its transition from a system that focused on the organization’s financial needs, to one that concentrates on keeping people healthy.

As a for-profit, Catholic healthcare provider, Mount Carmel is committed to the center of the transition. The system recently changed its mission statement to better reflect the role of the organization, and now focuses on patients under the new model of care.

Mount Carmel also has adopted a new set of core values that reflect the organization’s commitment to the health of patients and the community.

„Reverence – Honoring the sacredness and dignity of every person”

„Justice – Fostering the right relationships to promote the common good, including support and transparency of health care costs.”

„Honesty – Being faithful to what institution says it is”

„Integrity – Being faithful to universal, ethical and natural resources entrusted to its care.”

„ Compassion – Understanding and responding to the suffering of others

„Excellence – As unswerving commitment to quality and personal service.”

For nearly 130 years, we have had the honor of providing life-saving, compassionate care to the residents of central Ohio and the surrounding area. We are the community’s healthcare provider of choice.

“We are truly blessed that our patients trust Mount Carmel to be their health partner, and we look forward to working with them and their families to improve the health and well-being of people in our community.”

Mount Carmel also leverages the strength of the central Ohio health system in its reach throughout the nation in its parent company, Trinity Health, which was formed with the consolidation of Catholic Health East and the then-existing Trinity Health Systems.

Columbus’ St. Mary’s 150th Anniversary

Parishioners, alumni, friends, and community members filled the pews of Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Columbus, Ohio, on Saturday, Feb. 14, 2015, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the community. The church, which marked the beginning of the church’s 150th-anniversary celebration. After greeting the second-growth Brusad, the German, Bishop Campbell delivered a homily inviting those present to reflect on the feast. The bishop also talked about his time spent in Germany, encouraging those present to learn and live by the German greeting “Gruß Gott,” which is often translated as “hello,” but has a literal meaning of “God’s greeting (to you).” Following Mass, a reception took place in the parish school.

Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at kdoyle@archdeneck.org or 604 Hopley St., Albany, NY 12208.

Visit us at www.ctonline.org
“Learning to work and working to learn” is a phrase that encapsulates the professional work-study program at Cristo Rey Columbus High School. It’s also the key to helping the school provide a college-prep education to students with otherwise limited resources.

“Cristo Rey Columbus is based on the proposition that all students will benefit from a great Catholic college-prep education. In this era of high tuition, some families simply cannot afford it,” said Joe Foley, president of Cristo Rey Columbus. “Our professional work-study program makes that education affordable while exposing our students to professional careers.”

Flahive is diligently working to add work-study positions to accommodate the anticipated enrollment of 140 freshmen for the 2014-2015 school year. Work-study teams consist of students from all grade levels, which, beginning in the fall, will include juniors, sophomores, and freshmen. “All of us at Cristo Rey Columbus are truly excited about the opportunities we see with our students and the vital role our work-study partners play in that process,” she said. “But we need more businesses to join us to help our students achieve their goals.”

Businesses that are interested in learning more about the Cristo Rey work-study program can contact Flahive by phone at (614) 234-2222, extension 2005, or by email at cflahive@cristoreycolumbus.org.

The Cristo Rey work-study program is “one of the best investments we have,” said Judith A. Johnson, director of local businesses and organizations that include Bricker & Eckler, The Columbus Dispatch, Nationwide Children’s Hospital, and Mid-Ohio Foodbank. “It’s one of the best investments we have made,” said Steve Kennedy, managing director at Lancaster Pol- ledg.

The Cristo Rey student Gabe Aggrey of Columbus, and the Franklin County Board of Commissioners.

“Cinderella” cast members (from left): Amelia Johnson, Elizabeth Rieser, Emily Thomas (the prince), and Meghan Noonan will play the fairy godmother. Emily Thomas, who plays the fairy godmother. Emily Thomas, who plays the fairy godmother.
By Dan Thimons

10

nores to its peril.” At this juncture in

new human being. Marriage is thus

their bodies in a way that creates a

“Only a man and a woman can unite

riage, noted that this “may be the most

Conference of Catholic Bishops’ sub-

gan, Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

will review the November 2014 deci-

of openness to life.”

strain many households. While all too
evertheless, the marriage and family
tories which are destructive of fam-

situation has caused families to be sep-

he Catholic Church celebrates

and people of good will to learn and

ter. This event, featuring international-

adelphia for the eighth World Meet-

synod, Pope Francis will travel to Phil-

our troubled times.

In September, one month before the

 Pope St. John Paul II taught that “the

world depends on it!

Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine

marriage and family life throughout

resources are valuable in this regard:

family life throughout 2015. Three

is encouraged to grow in knowledge of

and family events taking place this

of Families. The significant marriage

will provide assistance and guidance

by the U.S. Conference of Catho-

Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine

 couples at a time. Dates are Feb. 20-

June 12-14, and Oct. 16-18. The fee is $225 and includes

individual parishes throughout the

parishes which include

Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare, Sun-

bury St. John Neumann, Gypsy St. Matthew, Columbus St. Andrew, and

we must make a firm commitment to

dates and places for this year’s re-

special events such as the World

In addition to making plans for

remaining of the year. There are also

Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine

Marriage Encounter Weekend

Give your relationship a boost!

By Giorgio and Marisa Bottino

Columbus Marriage Encounter

Our Marriage Encounter weekend was a great

While we always felt we had a good marriage,

and personal activities, we did not have

into account discharge, body tempera-

symptothermal method, which takes

are taught by diocesan-trained teach-

The Marriage & Family Life Office

The Marriage & Family Life Office

offers small-group classes on practic-

the church. Their training is in one of two

NFP which are based on the ovula-

Method. The Marriage & Family Life Office provides contact informa-

for practitioners (teachers) of the

I

in addition to making plans for special events such as the World Meeting of Families, the diocesan Marriage & Family Life Office offers a number of programs and events throughout the year.

The diocesan marriage preparation program, titled “The Joy-Filled Mari-

riage,” takes place one weekend a month from 6 to 9:30 p.m. at 4:30 p.m. Sanford Catholic Church.

dates and places for this year’s re-

Our Marriage Encounter weekend was a great

See PROGRAMS, Page 12
A REAWAKENING FOR HURTING COUPLES

Twenty-three years ago, we were very deep in the romance stage of our relationship. We decided to get married. We had two wonderful children. We had steady jobs. We started family vacations. We were very happy with the children’s lives and in the community. It was a fairy-tale existence.

As the years went by, the married life became routine. We had cultural differences, different friends and hobbies. We started looking for things to keep us occupied outside the home. Not because we didn’t like each other, but because we were looking for other forms of stimulation and affection.

By attending Bible study classes, in work, community, kids activities, etc., we started meeting new friends and hobbies. We became disillusioned with our life, and we started looking for something else.

We decided to stay with the people attending the “post session” this coming Friday to Sunday, Feb. 6-8, and Nov. 5-7, both at St. Therese’s Retreat Center, Newark. More information is available at www.retrouve.org.

Another Catholic-based marriage program, known as Retrouvaille, has a different focus than Marriage Encounter. It is for couples in troubled marriages and is designed to help them work through their disillusionment, learn to communicate more effectively and hopefully heal their hurt and pain and reconnect the love they had for each other.

The program is conducted in the Columbus area on three weekends each year. We offer follow-up sessions, and a chance to continue benefiting from the experience through additional gatherings with Retrouvaille couples after that. Remaining Retrouvaille weekends in Columbus this year are May 1-3 and Oct. 30-Nov. 1, both at St. Therese’s Retreat Center.

For more information, go to www.retrouve.org.

Each year in June, the Marriage & Family Life Office will host a Retreat of Hope, a weekend event for couples.

The mission of the Marriage & Family Life Office is to promote the sanctity of all human life and the life of the unborn. For more information, call (614) 223-0160.

Students’ works of mercy

Students from Landon School at Park School worked on a bulletin board proj-ect about the corporal works of mercy during a special day when they were allowed to come dressed in their pajamas. For this project, groups of students were assigned a specific, and one of the works of mercy for a presentation to the rest of the school. Pictured, representing St. Maximilian Kolbe and Holy Family Soup Kitchen, are (from left) first row, Roan Grues, Jenes Thompson, and Chase Grospic; second row, Erin Merten, Hope Borkes, Auun McGly, and Andrew Simz; third row, Gane Grinder, Brandon Lopez-Moralez, Isabella Hatton, and Cody Forrest.

Get involved with saving the life of the unborn

Reports are in both the Catholic and the secular media about the annual March for Life on Washington Jan. 22, the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision legalizing abortion nationwide, that the vast majority of the people attending the march are in school and young adults. Among the young people were foreign exchange students from Switzerland and Italy. Also with the group were three members of the Franciscan Sisters of the Incarnate Heart of Mary, who recently set up a convent at the parish. They are shown doing the “O-H-I-O” cheer, with help from the Washing- ton Monument. Members of Knights of Columbus 13792 also were with the group, along with seminarians Brett Garland.

Another Retrouvaille weekend is this coming Friday to Sunday, Feb. 6-8, and Nov. 5-7, both at St. Therese’s Retreat Center.

For more information, go to www.retrouve.org or www.helpourmarriage.com, or call (1-800) 470-3374.

March for Life Reflections

Students from Landon School at Park School worked on a bulletin board proj-ect about the corporal works of mercy during a special day when they were allowed to come dressed in their pajamas. For this project, groups of students were assigned a specific, and one of the works of mercy for a presentation to the rest of the school. Pictured, representing St. Maximilian Kolbe and Holy Family Soup Kitchen, are (from left) first row, Roan Grues, Jenes Thompson, and Chase Grospic; second row, Erin Merten, Hope Borkes, Auun McGly, and Andrew Simz; third row, Gane Grinder, Brandon Lopez-Moralez, Isabella Hatton, and Cody Forrest.

Another Retrouvaille weekend is this coming Friday to Sunday, Feb. 6-8, and Nov. 5-7, both at St. Therese’s Retreat Center.

For more information, go to www.retrouve.org or www.helpourmarriage.com, or call (1-800) 470-3374.
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle B)

The questions raised by Job afflict all of us

Job 1:7-8, 16-22

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Lenten day of reflection for singles

The New Albany Church of the Resurrection, 6500 E. Dublin-Granville Road, will host a Lenten day of reflection for single Catholics ages 30 and older.

The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21.

Lenten day of reflection for singles

By Beth Vandenheuvel

The Lenten season reminds us that children have died in America by induced abortions since 1973, the year that the Roe v. Wade decision was handed down.

Every year since, the pro-life faithful have conducted a nationwide "March for Life," often called the "National Anti-Abortion March." The women and men who volunteer tirelessly at Greater Columbus Right to Life respect the dignity of all human life. They believe that all human life is precious and should be protected.

The March for Life is a day of prayer and witness for those who believe that the church is against abortion. The event's purpose is to provide a peaceful witness to the public in an effort to prevent and reduce the number of abortions.

The March for Life is held on the day the Supreme Court of the United States hears arguments on the constitutionality of a Texas law that would have made it more difficult for women to obtain an abortion.

The event has been held every year since 1982. The annual event is the largest anti-abortion march in the world.

The pro-life movement is committed to taking a peaceful and legal approach to the issue of abortion. They believe that the church is against abortion and that all human life is precious.

The March for Life is a day of prayer and witness for those who believe that all human life is precious and should be protected. The event's purpose is to provide a peaceful witness to the public in an effort to prevent and reduce the number of abortions.

The March for Life is held on the day the Supreme Court of the United States hears arguments on the constitutionality of a Texas law that would have made it more difficult for women to obtain an abortion.

The event has been held every year since 1982. The annual event is the largest anti-abortion march in the world.

The pro-life movement is committed to taking a peaceful and legal approach to the issue of abortion. They believe that the church is against abortion and that all human life is precious.
grandchildren. Griffin; a sister, Mary Kistner; and 24
and Colleen (Ryan) Vincent; Bishop
clude his wife, Marilyn (Bailey); sons,
K. (Debbie), James (Nora), Tim
view Park to Thomas and Margaret
was at St. Martin of Tours Cemetery,
fin, 76, who died Saturday, Jan. 31
LAMB, Thomas, 65, of Grove City, Jan. 25
Holy Spirit Church, Columbus
Holy Spirit Church, Columbus
AGUEROS, Lupita G., 84, Jan. 26
TOMASZ, Frank, 78, of Columbus,
WOLFF, Norma, 75, Jan. 27
RUSSELL, Michael, 60, of Columbus,
McGEE, Carol, 81, of Columbus,
GRANDMAKER, John, 81, of Grove
KIDDER, Sarah, 77, of Grove City,
LAMB, Thomas, 65, of Grove City, Jan. 25
Holy Spirit Church, Columbus
Holy Spirit Church, Columbus
AGUEROS, Lupita G., 84, Jan. 26
TOMASZ, Frank, 78, of Columbus,
WOLFF, Norma, 75, Jan. 27
RUSSELL, Michael, 60, of Columbus,
McGEE, Carol, 81, of Columbus,
GRANDMAKER, John, 81, of Grove
KIDDER, Sarah, 77, of Grove City,
What makes urban Catholic schools successful

Reviewed by Daniel S. Mullhall, Catholic News Service


According to statistics provided by the National Catholic Educational Association, enrollment in Catholic elementary and secondary schools has dropped from a high of 5.2 million students in the early 1960s to less than two million students today. In the last 10 years, more than 1,800 Catholic schools have been closed or consolidated, most of these in urban areas.

The situation isn’t all negative, however. Forty-two new Catholic schools opened in 2013 in dioceses across the nation, some of these in urban areas. One of these was Cristo Rey Columbus High School. Catholic schools today serve a more diverse audience than they did in earlier decades, with nearly 20 percent of students being racial minorities.

The books “Putting Education to Work” and “Anointed Moments” tell the stories of Catholic schools that have been successful in serving these minority students in urban areas.

Putting Education to Work

The Cristo Rey network of schools has been successful in serving these minority students in urban areas.

More than 8,000 students collectively earn more than $40 million each year and work for 2,000 companies. Sweas writes in “Putting Education to Work.”

In writing this book, Sweas interviewed students, teachers, administrators, and board members from Cristo Rey schools in Boston, Houston, and Los Angeles. Throughout the book, Sweas uses these interviews to “delineate the attributes of leadership in Cristo Rey schools, the logistics of the corporate work-study program, and effective teaching strategies.”

The Cristo Rey network of schools is indeed successful, it must form the whole person, even those who have undergone amazing experiences of their own.

Anointed Moments is a self-published book and suffers from the lack of a strong editorial hand. Horn’s stories would benefit from strategic paring, and an editor’s questions may help Horn to tell more about how he accomplished so much in such difficult situations. Nonetheless, Horn tells here how he accomplished so much in such difficult situations. Nonetheless, Horn tells here how he accomplished so much in such difficult situations.

Both of these books are in urban areas and serve children from low-income families.

Under Horn’s leadership, both schools thrived and won national recognition for their excellence. In “Anointed Moments,” Horn recounts stories of the transformation of these schools from struggling institutions on the verge of collapse into institutions of educational excellence. Horn’s stories are spellbinding.

Under his leadership, the students of his schools have visited with Nancy and Ronald Reagan and Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter. Singer Helen Reddy has headlined a fundraising concert, and Chuck D and Ed–James Otis are regular contributors to a Distinguished Speakers series which parents and students are required to attend. Each year, the faculty takes a week’s retreat in some faraway place, and students have undergone amazing experiences of their own.

Anointed Moments is a self-published book and suffers from the lack of a strong editorial hand. Horn’s stories would benefit from strategic paring, and an editor’s questions may help Horn to tell more about how he accomplished so much in such difficult situations. Nonetheless, Horn tells here how he succeeded – only that he did.

The one thing that emerges from both books is the importance of character formation: If Catholic education is to be successful, it must form the whole student to put faith into action. Both books are worth the read.

Both books are worth the read.
Ohio Dominican University hosted its first quarterly “Encounter Columbus” on Wednesday, Jan. 21.

The event welcomed nearly 500 high school and college students to campus for an evening of music, prayer, and confession.

Dan DeMatte, a graduate of Ohio Dominican, was the keynote speaker for the evening. DeMatte is the author of “Holiness Revolution” and the director of youth ministry at Columbus St. Catharine Church.

Following the event, the students boarded buses and traveled to Washington for the March for Life. (Photos courtesy Ohio Dominican University)