

# The CATHOLIC TIMES

THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS' INFORMATION SOURCE  
AUGUST 13, 2023 • NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • VOLUME 72:17



## SUMMER FESTIVALS: FAITH, FUN

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A central Ohio tradition - the life-size Nativity that was part of Christmas Corner at State Auto for decades - was donated to the diocese's Museum of Catholic Art and History and will be displayed starting this fall at St. Joseph Cathedral, Page 2



#### HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Ten diocesan high school teams are gearing up for the start of the 2023 football season on Friday, Aug. 18, Page 10

## State Auto's historic Nativity moving to cathedral

A beloved Christmas tradition in Columbus is moving a few blocks up the street.

The historic life-size Nativity display at what became known as State Auto's Christmas Corner, 518 E. Broad St. in downtown Columbus, is relocating to the lawn of St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., it was announced Tuesday, Aug. 1.

The donation of the Nativity, which includes 80 pieces depicting the events surrounding the birth of Jesus Christ, to the diocese's Museum of Catholic Art and History will include an additional \$250,000 from the insurer to assist in preserving the tradition for years to come.

"This is a joyous moment for our Catholic museum," Bishop Earl Fernandes said. "Receiving this beautiful Christian artwork that is so historic and meaningful to the Columbus community is a genuine honor, and we rejoice at the opportunity to preserve this display and bring it to the people of central Ohio for generations to come."

"Such a momentous display of a vital part of the chronicle of God's love for all people, when He humbled Himself to share in our humanity so we can share in His divinity, visibly invites us into a deeper relationship with our Lord."

The Christmas exhibit spanned almost a century, bringing visitors and central



One of the scenes in the life-size Nativity that will be relocated from State Auto to St. Joseph Cathedral in downtown Columbus is the Blessed Virgin Mary traveling on a donkey to Bethlehem.



A manger scene is one of the highlights of the Nativity display.

CT file photos by Ken Snow

Ohio residents of all backgrounds downtown by the thousands during the holiday season to drive past or stop with their families.

State Auto Insurance founder Bob Pein started Christmas Corner as a display of evergreens and lights in 1931 in what he described as his way of giving back to the community.

In 1962, the Nativity was added to what Pein called a "Christmas card to the community." Choirs from across central Ohio have enhanced the atmosphere through

the years with performances of seasonal music.

"As a long-standing member of the central Ohio community, we're proud that Christmas Corner and the life-size Nativity scene have been a storied part of the city's holiday traditions," said Kyle Anderson, a State Auto spokesperson.

"Over the past several months, we've been working closely with the Diocese of Columbus' Museum of Catholic Art and History on this transition and are thrilled to see the Nativity scene continue at its new downtown location in their caring hands."

Preparations for the 2023 Christmas season will begin immediately. Further details on the display will be released soon by the diocese and the museum.

"Receiving this remarkable Nativity scene fits perfectly into the mission of our Catholic museum," museum director Shawn Kenney said. "One of our goals is to make our Catholic museum everyone's Catholic museum, so we look forward to bringing this beloved Columbus tradition to the community every year."

In addition to the outdoor Nativity coming to the cathedral later this year, the Museum of Catholic Art and History, which is located nearby at 275 E. Broad St. on the first floor of The Catholic Foundation building, offers an annual display of nearly 500 Nativity scenes from throughout the world during the Advent and Christmas seasons.

"This also beautifully complements our very popular Nativity display, and we look forward to welcoming the people from all around Columbus to the Nativity scene's new home in front of St. Joseph Cathedral," Kenney said.

The museum, originally founded by Columbus Holy Family Church as the Jubilee Museum and Catholic Cultural Center in 1998, opened at its current location on Nov. 9, 2021.

In preparation for the Jubilee year of 2000, Pope John Paul II requested that dioceses across the world dedicate space to preserving the historical heritage of the Church and their dioceses. In response to the Holy Father's request, the museum was started as a parish project for Holy Family and was housed in the former parish school on South Grubb Street, west of downtown.

The museum began as a modest collection that filled four rooms of the old school but grew to fill more than 20 rooms and included three fully functioning pipe organs, more than 60 oil paintings from 1600 to the present, several significant collections of stained glass and vestments from the 1700s, including sets of French damask given by several of the royal families of Europe to the Holy Land.

For more information about the Museum of Catholic Art and History, which is open year-round, visit [www.catholic-museum.org](http://www.catholic-museum.org) or [catholicmuseumcolumbus](https://www.facebook.com/catholicmuseumcolumbus) on Facebook.

### Bishop, seminarians visit Fatima



Bishop Earl Fernandes (front row, center), diocesan seminarians and Father William Hahn (front row, third from left), the diocese's vocations director, visit the Our Lady of Fatima shrine as part of a pilgrimage to Portugal for World Youth Day during the first week of August. Photo courtesy diocesan Office for Vocations



### Front Page photo: SUMMER FESTIVALS

Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona Church's summer festival is a longstanding tradition that brings parishioners, families, friends and supporters together to enjoy fellowship and an annual procession with statues of five saints, including the parish's patroness. Photo courtesy Larry Pishitelli

## The CATHOLIC TIMES

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

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Postmaster: Send address changes to  
**Catholic Times** 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215.  
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# Diocesan woman becomes consecrated virgin

By Hannah Heil  
Catholic Times Reporter

Diane LeMay, garbed in a white dress, walked down the aisle at New Albany Church of the Resurrection on July 26. The groom who awaited her at the end of the aisle was Jesus Christ.

That day, LeMay professed vows before the congregation and was consecrated as a virgin. Similar to vows recited in the sacrament of matrimony or holy orders for the priesthood, LeMay made a lifelong vow to God. Hers was a vow of perpetual virginity, committing herself entirely to the Lord as a bride of Christ.

"I've always felt open to the Lord, and now I'm His," she said. "He's going to direct me like a spouse would direct me, and I will trust that."

Bishop Earl Fernandes served as the celebrant of the liturgy. Father Paul Keller, director of divine worship for the Diocese of Columbus, served as the master of ceremonies. The Mass was concelebrated by priests of the diocese including Father Denis Kigozi, pastor of Church of the Resurrection.

The Rite of Consecration of a Virgin is a sacramental. Sacramentals are sacred signs that bear resemblance to the sacraments, in that they signify effects of a spiritual nature, which are obtained through the intercession of the Church, according to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

The Rite of Consecration of a Virgin is one of the oldest sacramentals in the Catholic Church. Sts. Agatha, Agnes, Cecilia and Lucy are among the saints in the early Church who are recognized as consecrated virgins.

The rite was restored in 1970 by Pope Paul VI as a result of the Second Vatican Council. The pope recognized the order of virgins as a form of consecrated life.

Women who are consecrated as virgins living in the world support themselves by earning a living and are responsible for praying for their diocese and the clergy.

"The primary responsibility for consecrated virgins is prayer and prayer for the diocese, prayer for religious, prayer for the priests, the pope – all of the called, all of the people God has chosen to lead the Church – and to pray for the body of Christ, to pray for the Church and her role in people's lives, the way that she leads us to salvation," LeMay said.

Consecrated virgins are a living image of the Church's love for her Spouse, Jesus.

"I don't belong to the world," LeMay said. "And so, my role as 'bride of Christ' is to – like any other spouse would talk about their spouse to other people – part of my role is to evangelize what Jesus means to me, what He's done in my life. I'm no different than anybody else.

"I'm fully committed to the Lord. There's nobody else I love, but as far as the Liturgy of the Hours, going to daily Mass, going to frequent confession, all of those things, I have already integrated.



Diocesan seminarian Christopher Dixon lights a lamp held by Diane LeMay.

Photos courtesy Abigail Pitones



Diane LeMay prostrates herself before the altar at New Albany Church of the Resurrection.

So, the day-to-day life with the Lord isn't going to change, but my ministries will change as the Lord directs me."

Consecrated virgins imitate the Blessed Virgin Mary, the spouse of the Holy Spirit, in that they follow her model of giving her "yes" to God.

"As a consecrated virgin, Mary is our model," LeMay said. "She is our patroness of the vocation."

As a consecrated virgin in the Diocese of Columbus, LeMay will continue to meet with Bishop Fernandes, who serves as her guide.

"They call for at least once a year with the bishop to discern where there might be a need that he sees that I may not see or not know of that I can help in the diocese with, but I'll be dedicated to the diocese," she said. "As far as where my ministry will be, it will be in the Diocese of Columbus."

LeMay's path to consecrated virginity was spent, for many years, discerning her

vocation and included significant moments of forgiveness and surrender to the Lord before finding it.

LeMay was raised in a Catholic family and grew up in Lancaster. She was baptized as an infant and attended Catholic schools from elementary through high school. LeMay thought she might be called to consecrated religious life, she said, as she was greatly influenced by the Dominican order, with many of her grade-school teachers being Dominican sisters.

"I knew that I wanted to be a doctor, but I had a feeling that I was being called to live a religious life," LeMay said.

After earning a bachelor's degree and graduating from Ohio State University, LeMay attended medical school at Wright State University and had a 26-year career in medicine.

"I left medicine because I had to discern this call," she said. "It never left me. I have always been immersed in the faith,

immersed with life-sustaining Holy Eucharist, and I knew I had to discern it. The field of medicine was too chaotic and too busy to really give the time to the Lord that I knew it would take for discernment."

In 2014, LeMay left her work as a pediatrician. She returned to school and earned a master's degree in theology from Ohio Dominican University. She began teaching the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults classes and began training to become a spiritual director, which she completed two years ago. She was also involved with prison ministry.

In the midst of discerning her vocation, LeMay said, she had two significant experiences of surrender to God, the latter occurring in 2017 while participating in the Escape from Alcatraz Triathlon. For the triathlon, LeMay had to swim from Alcatraz Island to the San Francisco Bay. She almost drowned while being caught in a riptide during practice.

"I thought I was dying, I really did," she said. "I sort of fell asleep or became unconscious, and I heard a voice, and it was the voice of a man on a wakeboard. He was on a white wakeboard, and he was coming toward me, and he had a kilt on, and I thought to myself, 'Am I meeting Jesus because this is insane.'

"I didn't know where I was or what was happening to me, but he was a man that does this. He goes and saves people that are drowning in the San Francisco Bay, and I really did give myself to the Lord that night. That was real – that was really real – and I never took it back."

After her near-death experience, LeMay began doing spiritual exercises to more seriously discern her vocation. However, before she found her vocation as a consecrated virgin, LeMay learned the power of forgiveness.

"I thought I was still discerning becoming a sister – a religious sister – and so, being so close to the Dominicans, that was the place that I was discerning whether or not that was truly my call," LeMay said. "I started to spend time with the Dominicans. I spent some time in Connecticut at their House of Welcome, and I realized that I wasn't created to live in community.

"I've lived alone all my life, and I felt like I could adapt if that's what the Lord was asking of me, and He would give me the graces to do that, but I wasn't real sure, and so, God knows I need a 'shazam' moment."

LeMay's "shazam" moment came in the form of her older brother, who LeMay said she did not know well because of a significant age difference, and he had estranged himself from her family. LeMay's brother had a drug addiction when he was young, and she had memories of the pain that came from living with an addict.

In 2017, LeMay's brother suffered a stroke, which left him unable to speak or process anything. Around that time, LeMay, who is active in prison ministry, met with a man who was on death row.

# Black Catholics gather for national congress

By Charlene Brown

When you're Black and Catholic, it's easy to feel like an island when you're among white Catholics. Someone might assume you're Baptist, that you don't know what to do at any given liturgy or simply ignore your presence at Mass or parish activities.

But one trip to the National Black Catholic Congress (NBCC) offers plenty of reassurance that you are not "a unicorn," as one Black Catholic friend put it, and that your charisms are valued.

Forty-seven Black Catholics from the Diocese of Columbus were among the 3,000 who celebrated their faith and one another at NBCC XIII, July 19-23 at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center near Washington, D.C. Its theme was "Write the Vision: A Prophetic Call to Thrive," based on Habakkuk 2:2-4.

The sheer number of Black Catholics gathered in one place made a deep impression on many.

Thai'Shann Fain of Columbus Holy Rosary and St. John Church said, "I was awestruck! I enjoyed it immensely."

For Tina Moody of Columbus St. Dominic Church, the experience was an affirmation. "I came away with a renewed sense of being a Catholic. I felt like everybody in that room looked like me and prayed like me, and I just felt love in that room. It was a beautiful experience. Acceptance is what I felt there."

Devin Cousins, who attended along with his wife, Heather, kept notes on his experiences. He wrote, "We were free to praise the Lord with like-minded people that looked like us and share some of the same stories as us, and we were one in the spirit of our living God. The spiritual feeling of NBCC is one I'll never forget."

For Constance Ellis, who travelled from Oakland, California to join the Columbus group, "it was something I didn't know I



A group from the diocese attended the National Black Catholic Congress last month in Washington, D.C.  
Photo courtesy Andrea Pannell

needed," she said. "It was an experience. It was Kairos," in other words, something that happens in God's appointed time.

The National Black Catholic Congress was founded by journalist Daniel Rudd and fellow Black Catholic leaders, who felt the need to address bigotry within the Church and help Black Catholics thrive in spite of obstacles.

The first gathering was held in Washington, D.C. in 1889. It died out after the fifth Congress in 1894 but was revived in 1987. Since then, Congresses have been held every five years, with NBCC XIII delayed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The congress is open to anyone and regularly draws Catholics of different races. But its main purpose, according to the NBCC website, is to "enrich the Church by evangelizing African Americans within and outside the Church" and to "enhance the physical and spiritual wellbeing of African Americans as full members of the Church and society."

For Edie LeDay of St. Dominic, NBCC

XIII succeeded. "I know that I am blessed to be a Black Catholic woman who by the grace of God was able to participate in one of the most amazing spiritual journeys of my lifetime. It renewed my soul."

Latoscia Williams of Holy Rosary and St. John traveled with her sister Thai'Shann. She said she grew up Catholic and went to Catholic schools but was never taught about Black saints, for example.

She found it encouraging to see African Americans providing this kind of information at the congress. "It was us teaching those classes. It was us teaching about the saints! I knew there were a couple (of Black saints), but not as many as there are."

NBCC included daily morning prayer and opportunities for reconciliation, as well as Eucharistic liturgies for the entire group on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

In between were workshops on various topics, from "5 Ways to Evangelize Using Parishioner Testimonies" presented by Father Steven Bell, CSP, who formerly served at the Columbus St. Thomas More

Newman Center; "Synodality, Black Catholic Spirituality and the Racial Divide," a session on the six Black Americans being considered for sainthood; and another about the African American inculturation of Catholic sacred music by priest and composer Father Clarence Rivers, led by Emily Strand of Columbus.

The first and only African American cardinal, Cardinal Wilton Gregory, archbishop of Washington D.C., was the main celebrant and homilist at the opening Eucharistic liturgy on Friday at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, the largest church in North America. The historic weight of his position was not lost on congress participants, who greeted him like a rock star, even at Mass.

Juana Hostin of St. Dominic, who organized the trip along with her husband, Michael Hostin, called the experience spiritually uplifting.

"The Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception was moving," she said, "from the seemingly mile-long processional of black clergy to the homily by Cardinal Wilton Gregory, to the splendor of the gold-inlaid mosaic tiles of Jesus and the saints surrounding us," she said.

"My spirit was lifted a lot during that time," said fellow parishioner Jeanne Braxton. "You feel close to the Eucharist because of everything that is going on. You're overwhelmed by the amount of Black Catholics, the amount of Black priests, and seeing the non-Black priests come and help you celebrate, and they were supporting us. We don't see that in Columbus."

Several African American bishops served as celebrants and homilists at the other liturgies. And dozens of African American priests, brothers and sisters ministered to and spoke with congress attendees. Among them was Father Ramon Oweru, pastor of both of Columbus' pre-

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"I knew when I left meeting Tony Apanovitch, who was on death row, that I was being called to forgive my brother, and I had held him in a prison for all of these years of my life – my brother – in a prison in my heart that he wasn't guilty of anymore," she said.

"He was a nurse; he was a medic. He lived a respectful life, and I didn't really know that. And so, God gave me my brother, gave me the graces to forgive him and bring him into my home, and he lived with me until he died two years ago, and that was the barrier. He was the barrier that prevented me from joining the Dominican Sisters of Peace."

LeMay said having her brother as a dependent prevented her from joining the Dominican community, which she thought, at the time, God might be calling her to.

"I was so angry at God," she said. "It was like, 'Here I am, Lord. I'm ready to

give myself to You, and now I've got a dependent? Now I've got my brother living here? What's going on?'"

LeMay spoke with her spiritual director and several priests about her situation. She was then introduced to the vocation of consecrated virginity living in the world.

"When I read the Rite of Consecration, it was like reading my life," she said. "It was a feeling of, 'I'm home. This is it. There's nothing more. This is it.'"

LeMay petitioned Bishop Robert Brennan to become a consecrated virgin. The then-bishop of Columbus accepted her petition, and LeMay began the formation process for her vocation.

"I had also been involved with the United States Association of Consecrated Virgins, and they were instrumental in educating me about the vocation," she said.

"I attended three information conferences over three years with them, and in

the past three years, I've attended their annual convocation and have gotten to meet women who are consecrated virgins in their dioceses throughout the country and now throughout the world. And so, that really solidified to me that, no, that's really it. I have no doubt by seeing people integrated in their lives."

LeMay worked with several individuals for her formation: Father Stash Dailey, the vicar for religious in the Diocese of Columbus; Katherine Murphy, her spiritual director; and Molly McCarrick, a consecrated virgin in the diocese.

"Right before Bishop Brennan left, he assigned Molly McCarrick to be my mentor to meet with me, and we met sometimes weekly, sometimes every other week during the past year-and-a-half to two years, really studied the Rite of Consecration," LeMay said.

"Her sharing stories of how she's inte-

grated this in her life has helped me understand how it would integrate into my life, and so I really began living the life of a consecrated virgin when I first petitioned Bishop Brennan."

Now that she is a consecrated virgin, and her vocation might look different than others, LeMay said it is important people know that there is not a vocation better than the other.

"We're all doing the work of God," she said. "We work together, and for some people, community life is not what they're called to, and I'm an example of that, but yet there's something more that you want. ..."

"We have different ministries we're called to, and I think that's what people need to remember. ... There's something for everyone out there. If the Lord is calling you to something, don't put it off."

# Priests are bound to secrecy by seal of confessional

**Dear Father: I went to confession to a priest, and he gave me great advice. However, I couldn't understand everything he said. So, after he finished hearing confessions, I approached him privately and asked him to explain what he had said to me in the confessional. He refused to discuss the matter and said something about the seal of the confessional. Why wouldn't he speak to me, especially when I was asking for clarification in a private setting? – A.J.**

Dear A.J.: What the priest was referring to is the secrecy that all priests are bound to observe regarding what goes on in the confessional. According to the Canon Law of the Church (No. 983), “the sacramental seal (of penance) is inviolable ... it is absolutely wrong for a confessor (i.e., the priest) in any way to betray the penitent (you), for any reason whatsoever, whether by word or in any other fashion.”

Pope Francis, in an address he gave in 2019, emphasized the secrecy of the confessional: “Reconciliation itself is a benefit that the wisdom of the Church has always safeguarded with all her moral and legal might, with the sacramental seal.

“Although it is not always understood by the modern mentality, it is indispensable for the sanctity of the sacrament and for the freedom of the conscience of the penitent, who must be certain, at any time, that the sacramental conversation will remain within the secrecy of the confessional, between one's own conscience that opens to grace, and God, with the necessary mediation of the priest.

“The sacramental seal is indispensable, and no human power has jurisdiction over it, nor lay any claim to it.”

Another canon (No. 984) insists that “the confessor is wholly forbidden to use knowledge acquired in confession to the detriment of the penitent, even when all

## SACRAMENTS 101

Father Paul Jerome Keller, OP, S.T.D.

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danger of disclosure is excluded.”

The inviolability of the confessional seal is rigorously emphasized in seminary training. Priests would rather err on the side of caution and not speak about anything they have learned in the confessional than even be thought to betray a penitent.

The reason that priests so greatly protect the seal is that it belongs only to God to know the conscience of a person. The priest is acting in the person of Christ, who instituted the sacrament of penance and gave the Apostles and their successors and helpers the authority to forgive sins in the sacrament.

I have been in the same situation you describe, having been approached by a penitent to speak further about something said in the confessional. I, too, refused to have such a conversation. But I open the door to discussion in this way:

If I have time on the spot, I ask the person to describe his/her concern about the particular sin and whatever that person understood or did not understand about my counsel. That way, I am not bringing up any sin that the person didn't want to speak about, especially if there were different kinds of sins, some of which could make the person feel a new sense of shame.

If I don't have time, I ask the person to make an appointment to see me about the matter.

Moreover, it is possible that more than one person wants to go further into a matter from the confession-

al, because the parish where I help has long lines for confession. Many people would like spiritual direction about their confessions.

If I were to speak about some sin that I thought that this person had confessed, but he/she did not (because the voice sounded like someone I heard in the confessional), I would be acting contrary to the canons I quoted above. Confusion is removed when the penitent who is seeking clarification actually mentions the sin or problem that he/she confessed as well as the presumed counsel I gave.

Some have erroneously said that a penitent can release a priest from the seal of the confessional, but this is completely false. Quoting Pope St. John Paul II, the Apostolic Penitentiary (the office in Rome that handles matters of mercy and forgiveness of sins) wrote in 2019:

“The absolute prohibition imposed by the sacramental seal is such as to prevent the priest from speaking of the content of the confession to the penitent himself, outside of the sacrament, without the ‘explicit (and all the more so if not requested) permission’ of the penitent.

“The seal therefore lies beyond the reach of the volition of the penitent who, once the sacrament has been celebrated, does not have the power to relieve the confessor of the obligation to secrecy, because this duty comes directly from God.”

A Catholic priest would rather die a martyr than betray even the smallest of venial sins. And some have!

**Clarification concerning my previous column on weddings in parks:** A reader noted that some could get the idea that couples, at least one of whom is Catholic, have sought permission to be married outside a Catholic church. In point of fact, a Catholic who has not been practicing the faith probably would not consider the necessity to seek permission for a non-church wedding. As a result, the marriage would not be valid.

# Sharing vulnerably leads to trust with our children

I'm sending three kids off to college this year. The last of the four “biggs” is heading to study economics and Spanish and, we hope, God willing, change the world for the better.

Four will be out of the house, leaving the four “smalls,” who are no longer small. As my world changes, so does my parenting. For I have been changed by my experiences raising each one of them, and I continue to be formed each day by the surprises that come with being their mother. Praise God for that formation! He knows how much I need to grow.

As they head out, I've been tempted in many of our late-night chats to reiterate the life goals I have for them. “Save your money. Don't eat your paycheck. Balance work and play. Be thoughtful in whom you choose to make friends. Choose a truly good girl/boy to fall in love with. Stay close to Jesus. Oh, please, stay close to Jesus.”

My heart cries out these warnings, but Jesus has taught me the art of pausing before I speak. In this pause, I reflect on my youth at the age of 17-21. Did I adhere to these goals? How much easier would my life have been if I did?

But is there not so much learning in owning and fixing our mistakes? Is God not always with us, working, whispering, leading? I am at the age of 47, with a beautiful, blessed marriage, raising eight children, some very dear beautiful friends to journey with and navigating the journey of life with the Lord as my guide.

But again, it wasn't always this way. Perhaps I need to remember the lessons that got me here. Perhaps it

## ALL THAT WE HAVE

MaryBeth Eberhard

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



matters how I share these lessons I have learned and these hopes for their lives.

As parents, we want our children to avoid the mistakes we made. That makes sense. And yet, would we be where we are if we had not walked some of those treacherous paths? I am pondering how to share these lessons I learned to teach and guide without droning on or making them sound like mandates because, ultimately, I want to be a person whom they continue to trust and seek out for guidance.

The other night, I shared some of those long-ago stories with my “biggs” as we shared drinks on the front porch watching the sun set well into the darkness. They listened and laughed alongside me, and then I pressed in a bit more.

I love sharing God moments subtly. They know. Those seeds have been planted. I say things like, “What I have learned now is that those choices made me feel lost or less, broken and hurt. In navigating those moments and healing from them, I know I was created for love, joy, giving, serving, and that life does not have to feel so combative or scary.

“I wish growing up I had parents who guided me through those moments. Your father and I are here for

you. You will make your own choices. Many different than ours. Some of you already have and have learned hard lessons from them, and yet, here we sit, together, and I am so thankful for that.

“Know that we will continue to be here for you, to support and listen when you make the wrong choices and to celebrate and rejoice in the good ones. You are not alone. God is always with you. We will always love you. Nothing can change that. There will be times we don't agree, but you will always have our love.”

I reflect on the talk I gave five years earlier when my mothering world was tipped upside down and I felt that my children's actions reflected my parenting and our family values. I cried. I shouted. All this while telling them, “Of course, I love you!” I chuckle ironically at how that must have been received. But mercy is real for all of us and thank God for it.

Through the sacraments, a strong dose of prayer and friends who speak truth and love me like family, I can reflect, pause and share with my children more vulnerably, more authentically, and they see my growth.

Am I willing to suffer a bit of embarrassment, chagrin and show ownership of my choices so that they can see my humanity and how God has been so steadfast? Will they see that life is indeed a journey and that we can choose to make it easier or harder as we travel?

I pray so. It is what I now have to offer them, and I give it humbly and fervently. Sharing our story matters. In sharing it, we allow our children to connect with us and build new relationship ties.

# From Westerplatte to Lisbon ... and everywhere else

Westerplatte, a narrow peninsula framing the Bay of Gdańsk, was the scene of one of the first battles of World War II in Europe. On Sept. 1, 1939, the German battleship *Schleswig-Holstein* opened fire on the small Polish garrison at Westerplatte, expecting that the vastly outnumbered and outgunned Poles would run up a white flag. That was a misimpression. The Poles — mostly youngsters with no combat experience — not only resisted the offshore bombardment but repelled amphibious assaults by German marines, taking serious casualties as a result. Finally, on Sept. 7, the Polish garrison surrendered; but they had so impressed the aggressors that the German commander allowed the Polish officer leading the Westerplatte garrison to keep his ceremonial sword.

Celebrating a Liturgy of the Word with a vast throng of young Poles at Westerplatte during his 1987 pastoral pilgrimage to his native land, John Paul II, speaking slowly and forcefully in his beautiful, sonorous Polish, invoked the memory of the Westerplatte generation while laying down a memorable challenge:

"Here in this place, at Westerplatte, in September 1939, a group of young Poles, soldiers under the command of Major Henryk Sucharski, resisted with noble obstinacy, engaging in an unequal struggle against the invader. A heroic struggle.

They remained in the nation's memory as an eloquent symbol.

It is necessary for this symbol to continue to speak, for it to be a challenge ... to new generations ...

Each of you, young friends, will also find your own 'Westerplatte.' A dimension of the tasks he must assume and fulfill. A just cause, for which one cannot but fight.

Embryonic stem cells have held out a certain appeal and promise because they are remarkably flexible. Researchers can make various cell types out of them, whether nerve cells or pancreatic islet cells, and these could, in theory, be used to treat diseases like Parkinson's or diabetes. These morally-problematic cells, obtained by destroying human embryos, are, however, limited in their degree of flexibility, lacking the ability to "rewind" and make an entire embryo.

Until now.

Recent reports suggest it may now be possible to generate "synthetic embryos" from embryonic stem cells through various manipulations, including genetic reprogramming steps and mixing various cell types together, without the need for sperm and egg. Researchers claim that synthetic embryos could be used to help them unlock the mysteries of very early human development, and address early pregnancy loss.

When a researcher from Cambridge University and another in Israel recently announced that they had been able to produce such an "embryo model," a longstanding "line in the biological sand" appears to have been crossed, along with some important ethical lines as well.

At least two notable ethical concerns arise in the wake of this new technology: First, the use of unethically-derived cell types in biomedical research, especially human embryonic stem cells, still remains a major concern. Second, if scientists are able to successfully produce a living human embryo by this technology, this would clearly raise additional serious ethical objections.

New human beings are entitled to the respect of entering the world only through the marital embrace. Any time we create living human embryos by other approaches, whether by cloning, by IVF, by synthetic embryo construction, or by other novel methods, we cross a key moral line.

The big question hanging over this research is: Are these so-called "synthetic embryos" really living hu-

## THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

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Some duty, some obligation, from which one cannot shrink, from which it is not possible to desert. Finally — a certain order of truths and values that one must 'maintain' and 'defend': within oneself and beyond oneself ...

At such a moment (and such moments are many, they are not just a few exceptions) ... remember ... [that] Christ is passing by and he says, 'Follow me.' Do not forsake him."

Many, many times over the past two decades I have been asked to explain John Paul II's unique magnetism for the young — especially when, in his last years, he looked nothing like the "John Paul Superstar" of Time magazine's October 15, 1979, cover story, the 59-year-old pope who had just rocked Madison Square Garden. My answer has always been twofold.

First, John Paul was transparently honest. He could speak as he did at Westerplatte in 1987 because those to whom he spoke knew that he was not asking them to take any risk he had not taken; he was not asking them to bear any burden that he had not borne; he was not asking them to show a courage that he had not shown. That transparency made him a compelling figure, not only on Poland's Baltic coast in 1987 but at World Youth Days from Buenos Aires in 1987 to Toronto in 2002.

## What about synthetic embryos?

### MAKING SENSE OUT OF BIOETHICS | Father Tad Pacholczyk

*Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, PhD, earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did postdoctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Massachusetts, and serves as director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See [www.ncbcenter.org](http://www.ncbcenter.org).*



man embryos? If they are, we have walked right into the ethical landmine of creating human beings solely to be exploited for research or experimental purposes. If they are not, can that line be crossed through additional steps to make them authentic human embryos?

Scientists are likely to continue to improve their techniques so as to generate better embryo stand-ins, enabling them to study in ever greater detail the way that early human development unfolds.

As the Director of the Anscombe Bioethics Centre, David Albert Jones, sums it up: "A synthetic embryo is not a 'model' of an embryo, it is an attempt to make an embryo. If this attempt is successful, scientifically, then it will be wrong ethically, but if it is not successful scientifically then it will not be able to tell us much about normal human development."

The Cambridge lab concluded that the structures were not real embryos. Alfonso Martinez Arias, a developmental biologist at Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona, Spain agreed, describing them as "masses of cells separated into compartments, but no embryo-like organization." He suggested the cell manipulation "confuses what [the] cells do" so that a real embryo is not produced.

The research team at the Weizmann Institute in Israel, however, produced extremely realistic synthetic embryo models that grew for up to two weeks. They exhibited characteristics quite similar to regular embryos, as de-

Second, John Paul II did not pander to the young. For young adults in the contemporary West culture, it's all pander, all the time: in education, in popular entertainment, in advertising, even in religion. The implicit message of this pandering is that a life without sacrifice, discipline, or courage is possible. But what kind of life is that? John Paul, who had more pastoral contact with young adults than any pope in modern history, knew that young people wanted something more than ease: he understood from experience that deep within the young heart is a yearning for meaning, for nobility, for greatness.

So rather than pandering, John Paul challenged. In a virtual infinity of variations on one great theme, he said to young people in every imaginable cultural situation, "Never settle for less than the spiritual and moral grandeur that the grace of God makes possible in your life. You will fail. But never surrender. Get up, dust yourself off, seek reconciliation and penance. But never, ever lower the bar of expectation. Christ is with you, and he will never forsake you. Don't forsake him."

The campus ministries flourishing throughout the world today are those that follow that model and challenge rather than pander. The young adult ministries that are successfully taking up the task of being Catholics permanently in mission are those that offer Catholicism in full rather than Catholic Lite. As World Youth Day-2023 unfolded this month in Lisbon, I hope a similar challenge to conversion, courage and evangelical mission rings out. For the message of Westerplatte is a message for everyone gathered in Portugal's capital, and indeed for Catholics throughout the world.

developmental biologist Jesse Veenvliet of the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics pointed out: "The similarity to the natural embryo is remarkable, almost uncanny." If it walks like a duck and quacks like a duck then, as they say, might it really be a duck?

Some claim that if synthetic embryos were implanted, they would fail to initiate a pregnancy, and this proves they aren't real embryos. But women's pregnancies sometimes fail through miscarriages not because their child was "not an embryo," but because their child was affected by a genetic or developmental defect.

Could these newly-produced synthetic embryos be real embryos that have a defect thanks to the various laboratory manipulations they have undergone? It seems unsafe to start from the assumption that they are "synthetic" and hence "not-truly-embryos," given the challenging task of distinguishing a "non-embryo" from an "embryo with a defect."

By employing terms like "embryo structures," "synthetic embryos," "stem cell embryo models," or even "stembrs," researchers may be seeking to go around ethics by relying on euphemism.

Even though sperm and egg are not directly employed to make synthetic embryos, this also does not rule out the possibility that these entities could be genuine embryos. In human cloning, for example, no sperm is needed to make real cloned human embryos. Dolly the sheep arose from a real sheep embryo, even though no sperm was involved. Over time scientists are coming up with more technologically advanced ways of creating organisms, including human organisms, apart from the usual approach that relies directly on sperm and egg.

Ethically speaking, a great deal is at stake in these kinds of synthetic embryo experiments that threaten to manipulate and destroy human life. These developmental studies ought to be carried out by studying animal models, carefully avoiding the use of human embryonic stem cells and the production of human embryos.

# St. Margaret festival continues traditions for 101 years

By Hannah Heil  
Catholic Times Reporter

When the Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona parish festival was established in 1922, it was intended to celebrate family, community and faith. Those are the same reasons the festival continues to be celebrated 101 years later.

This year, the event took place Friday and Saturday evening, July 28-29.

The festival offered live music with a performance from the Reaganomics on Friday evening. Games included instant bingo, blackjack, big wheel bets and tickets for a \$10,000 raffle drawing.

On Saturday evening, the festival included a family night, which was held from 5-9 p.m. and offered children's games, face painting and a bounce house.

"It's a great money-maker for the parish, and it's a great community-building thing," said Jennifer Gramlich, who joined St. Margaret parish 23 years ago and has been volunteering at the festival every year since. "It's always nice to come here because you get to see people that you don't always get to see."

"Former members of the parish will come back, ... so it's always a nice time to get together with people and get to hang out and have a good time."

Reuniting with former parishioners was one reason Chris Cain and his wife, Daphne, came back to the festival this year.

"It's like a family reunion," he said.

The couple were parishioners at St. Margaret for 14 years. They have since moved and now attend Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help, but they continue to return to the festival at their former parish.

Chris said the festival is an opportunity to "sit and talk to find out what other folks are doing and why they're doing it and maybe something you're missing out on."

"It's all the community, a sense of community, and getting to see people," said Brian Brown, who has been a parishioner at St. Margaret for about 20 years and volunteers at the festival.



Jo Marie Wilson (left) and Lilly Badurina are two of the many volunteers who make the St. Margaret of Cortona Church festival a success each year.

"Typically, folks go to the same Mass, like we go to 10:30 Mass.

"We don't see people from 4 o'clock or the 8:30, so it's a chance to bring everybody together and have fun and celebrate, and even if you're working, you're doing service for the church. ... I'm a PSR (Parish School of Religion) teacher, so typically, I enlist my students to help out a little bit and my kids, too."

Father Jeff Rimelspach, the pastor of St. Margaret, said many parishioners volunteer for the festival, and it is a good way to unite the parish.

"The importance is that the parishioners get together and socialize and have a fun experience together," he said. "It's different than being at church; it's different from any specific clubs because all the clubs and organizations all work together for the festival. So, they're able to do this as a large group, and we do get a lot of volunteers for a medium-size parish."

Cheryl Steward, who attended the festival for the first time this year, has neighbors who are parishioners at St.



Andrew Scott (third from left), a parishioner at Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona Church, is joined by fellow pizza-making volunteers at the parish's annual festival.

Margaret. She came for the festivities after she saw a sign advertising the festival in her neighbors' yard. Steward said she enjoyed the variety of activities offered.

"We've done the instant bingo, we got in on the \$10,000 drawing, we're getting ready to do the big wheel and we've ate some food," Steward said.

The St. Margaret festival is well known for its Italian sausage. Nearly 700 pounds of hot and mild sausage were made for this year's event. The church's homemade pizza is also a favorite.

"We are well known for our pizza," Father Rimelspach said. "We do make the dough from scratch, and we heat it up over in one of the rooms. We heat it up so the yeast expands, ... and the sausage that we serve is ground from the pig, and we grind it right here. We put it in the casing, we wrap it, we cut it, and so, it's all homemade."

The pizza recipe belongs to one of the 13 families who founded the original St. Margaret of Cortona church. The families received permission from Bishop James Hartley to build the church in



St. Margaret of Cortona Church's new sign announces the parish festival.

Photos courtesy Larry Pishitelli

1921, and the first Mass was celebrated there the following year.

"The original families came from Italy," said Andrew Scott, whose mother

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The St. Margaret of Cortona parish festival includes fun activities and games for young people and refreshments and food of various types for all ages. The festival is a tradition at the Columbus parish that has spanned more than 100 years.



A sand art station is one of the activities for young people at the St. Margaret of Cortona festival. The two-day event, held on Friday, July 28 and Saturday, July 29, is one of a number of parish festivals held around the diocese each summer that brings together parish and community members.

# Quo Vadis retreat helps young men discern vocation

By Hannah Heil  
Catholic Times Reporter

More than 30 students attended the Quo Vadis retreat for young men entering grades nine-12 that was held July 23-26 at the Pontifical College Josephinum.

Quo Vadis, which is Latin for “where are you going,” is an opportunity for young men to discern God’s will in their life and equips them with the tools to do so. The retreat, which was first held in the Diocese of Columbus in 2018, is offered each summer.

This year, Quo Vadis concluded with a Mass for attendees and their families celebrated by Bishop Earl Fernandes at the Josephinum.

Founded on pillars of prayer, discernment and brotherhood, the retreat offers time for personal reflection and interaction with seminarians and priests. It includes praying the Liturgy of the Hours, a rosary walk and Eucharistic Adoration.

The retreat also offers sports and activities for fellowship, including glow-in-the-dark capture the flag, dodgeball, kickball and constructing balloon towers.

Quo Vadis is named for an interaction, according to tradition, that took place between Jesus and St. Peter in the first century. St. Peter was fleeing Rome at the outbreak of persecution of Christians and is said to have met Jesus, who was heading into Rome to face persecution.

Peter asked Him, “Quo Vadis, Domine?” (Where are You going, Lord?) To which Jesus responded, “I am going to Rome to be crucified,” and disappeared. Peter turned back into the city to embrace martyrdom.

In the same way, the Quo Vadis retreat is an opportunity for young men to encounter Jesus and spend time discerning how the Lord is calling them.

“It’s an opportunity to meet other guys who are thinking about the priesthood, to spend time in prayer and to spend time in fraternity with seminarians,” said John Haemmerle, a seminarian for the diocese studying at the Josephinum.

“We play a lot of sports, make a daily Holy Hour, pray the Liturgy of the Hours and hear talks from some of our priests about their priesthood and their experiences with discernment. So, it’s really a good retreat, not just if you’re thinking about the priesthood, but for any young man who wants to discern God’s plan for him.”

Leonard Berglund, who will begin his first year of seminary for the diocese this fall, said Quo Vadis offers a balance between taking discernment seriously and embracing the joy of the Catholic faith.

“It puts you in that mindset of, ‘Hey, we’re going to take this seriously,’ but then it also has that fun element,” he said. “We’re also going to joke around;

we’re going to have a good time; we’re going to play. And so, it’s those two things working together, showing us that the faith should be serious but also joyful.”

Levi Starinsky, 15, who will be a sophomore at New Albany High School, said he enjoyed spending time in prayer and fellowship during the retreat.

“It was really fun being able to connect with brothers who are interested in the priesthood,” he said. “Overall, the experience was great because having Holy Hour every day and being able to see and be in Adoration every day and being able to pray was really nice and comforting, and I had a lot of joy doing it.”

Starinsky said he also enjoyed spending time with priests and seminarians and hearing their vocation stories.

“They’re such fun guys, and they’re really dedicated to the faith, and being able to connect with them and ask them questions, it was really great,” he said. “It helps you get a sense of what it would be like (as a priest).”

Starinsky said the seminarians’ vocation stories taught him the importance of “putting all your faith in God and letting Him do what He wants to do.”

Parker Grove, who will begin his second year of seminary at the Josephinum, shared his conversion story with the high school students.

“There’s been a series of really good talks,” he said. “I gave my conversion story. I talked about how, when I grew up, I used to be a communist; I was very anti-Catholic. I went through this radical conversion. I brought my mom into the faith. I was able to share that and how I got into seminary, and that got a good reception.”

Many students were also introduced to praying the Liturgy of the Hours, Grove said, and daily prayer was helpful for those attending.

“When we have small-group discussion, we ask the group, ‘What do you



The Quo Vadis retreat and concluding Mass was attended by high school students.



Bishop Earl Fernandes joins seminarians and young men at the Quo Vadis retreat.



Bishop Earl Fernandes addresses the Quo Vadis Mass attendees during his homily at the Pontifical College Josephinum.

Photos courtesy  
Abigail Pitones

think would be helpful?’ And I think they all have the right answer. They said Adoration was a big part of it, listening in silence to what the Lord is trying to say to (them) and reflecting.

“Also, having parents who are supportive of vocations, and if they think

you have that call, they let you know.”

Haemmerle said Quo Vadis can give young men a more concrete understanding of the priesthood.

“I think a lot of guys have drawn close to the Lord through prayer and experienced new insights into the priesthood – things that they didn’t know about the priesthood – because a lot of people don’t know many priests,” he said.

“Learning about the priesthood is a good first step in discernment because then it’s less abstract.”

For Dominik Eppler, 14, who will be a freshman at Columbus Bishop Hartley High School, Quo Vadis was an opportunity to begin discerning his vocation.

“I’d rather start early on discernment than later and thinking about what God wants me to do,” he said.

Eppler said he “enjoyed the mix of group activities and prayer time, and small group was nice to be able to share opinions and what we feel God was saying. ... I really enjoyed the Holy Hour. It was nice being able to just rest in God’s presence.”

Eppler said he wants to continue at-

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QUO VADIS, continued from Page 8



Father William Hahn, diocesan vocations director, prays at Mass during the retreat.

“I met a lot of people – a lot of good people, that is – and had a lot of fun,” he said. “I think (Quo Vadis) will help a lot because I figured out the right people to ask about my vocation, how to pray about my vocation.”

Benedictus Ayi Adjanoh, a seminarian for the diocese, said seminarians and priests can help direct young men in discernment.

“As young men, we need to ask ourselves a lot of questions. We want to know what God wants us to do; we want to receive the will of God, and sometimes, we don’t know what to do. So, here, it is like we are directors,” he said of how the seminarians can help guide young men.

“It’s like the call of Samuel in the Bible. Samuel was guided ... when God was calling him. He heard the voice, but he didn’t know who was calling him, so there’s someone there (Eli) to direct him. So, it’s kind of like the seminarians; we are here to help the people ... for them to move in what God wants them to do.”

Berglund agreed that discernment is a journey extending beyond Quo Vadis.

“It’s not something you do once, and you’re done,” he said. “It’s something that you do every day. You wake up, and you say, ‘I am going to do the Lord’s will, and I am going to discern what that is each and every day.’ So, I really hope that they take that away from this retreat.”

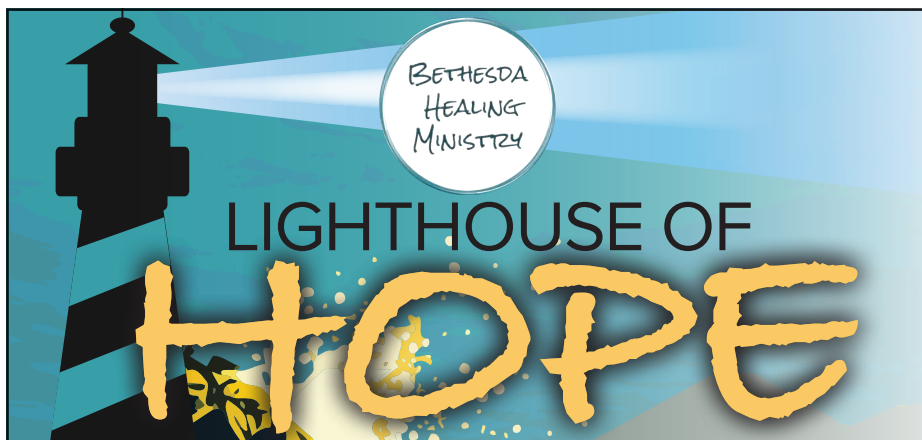
tending Quo Vadis.

“I want to do this every year so that I can always keep hearing God’s voice and keep trying to listen to what He wants me to do, and then, not make any decisions yet, but be on that path to try and make a good decision,” he said.

Kenny Kight, 17, who will be a senior at Columbus Bishop Ready High School, said he met people at Quo Vadis who he can turn to for guidance.



Participants in the Quo Vadis vocations retreat spend time in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in St. Turibius Chapel at the Pontifical College Josephinum. Photos courtesy Abigail Pitones



**Fundraiser for Bethesda Healing Ministry at St. Andrew Parish**



Photo courtesy of The Catholic Times

**Saturday, August 26, 2023**

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**Packet pickup:** 7:30am

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**Swag:** All participants receive bread and a bottle of wine, or bread and a jar of Trappist Monastery jam.

**Family rate:** Save \$5 per person when registering at least 3 participants at one time.

# All CCL head coaches return; Ready enters new league

By Tim Puet

For The Catholic Times

All four head coaches of Central Catholic League (CCL) teams – Brian Kennedy of Columbus Bishop Watterson, Ryan Wiggins of Columbus St. Francis DeSales, Brad Burchfield of Columbus Bishop Hartley and Deke Hocker of Columbus St. Charles – will return to the sidelines for another year when the high school football season opens Friday, Aug. 18.

Columbus Bishop Ready will have a new coach – T.J. Burbridge – and will be playing in a new league.

All five schools remain in the same Ohio High School Athletic Association enrollment classifications as last year – DeSales and St. Charles in Division II, Watterson in Division III and Hartley and Ready in Division IV.

Here is a brief look at each of the five teams:

## BISHOP WATTERSON

The Eagles will be trying to at least duplicate the 2022 season, their most successful in recent years, when they finished 12-2, losing only to Tiffin Columbian by a field goal in the regular season and Bloom-Carroll by five points in the regional finals of the state playoffs.

Coach Kennedy said a strong defense will be led by senior linebacker Dominic Purcell and senior safety Elliott Baur. Purcell will be attending the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland next fall, and Kennedy said Baur, a preseason high school All-American in lacrosse, is likely to attend an NCAA Division I school to play that sport. Purcell and Baur were teammates on the Eagles' 2023 lacrosse team, also regional finalists.

"Whatever superlatives you want to use are appropriate for Purcell," Kennedy said. "He's smart, a great leader with great football instincts – the total package." He was a first-team All-Ohio player last year, when he had 102 tackles, three sacks, 18 tackles for loss and four interceptions.

The coach described Baur as "someone who stands 5-foot-11 and weighs 180 but plays as though he's 6-2 and 220. He makes the big plays and is a high-energy guy. He's willing to play on the scout team (imitating the Eagles' next opponent) on defense when needed, which shows the type of team-first player he is."

"Our quarterback, A.J. McAninch, is a senior who won a two-way battle for the job in the second half of last season and got better with every game. He completed 16 of 21 passes against Bloom-Carroll to keep us in the game. His best sport is actually baseball, where he's a Division I prospect and had two brothers who played in the division."

The Eagles lost seven starters on offense and six on defense. "The biggest holes we need to fill are on the offensive and defensive lines, where we have only one starter coming back on each," Kennedy said.

For the second straight year, Watterson will be playing all its home games at Ohio

Dominican University. The Eagles will have the standard five home and five away games, but in a rare schedule quirk, all five home games are on consecutive Fridays in September, bracketed by two away games in August and three in October.

Opponents for the first three home games are traditional northern Ohio powers: Parma Padua, Tiffin Columbian and Chardon.

"Thanks to the expansion of the playoffs last year, we're likely to be a playoff team most years, and you need to play schools like this to be ready for late October and November football," Kennedy said. "You've got to be battle-tested, and we're excited to face these challenges."

## ST. FRANCIS DESALES

The Stallions hope to continue the momentum of the second half of last season, when they got off to a 2-3 start but won four of their last five regular-season games, then defeated Dover in double overtime in the playoffs before losing 13-7 to Uniontown Lake.

Two defensive All-Ohioans from that team return – first-team tackle Cameron Gwinn, who will be playing at Boston College next fall, and third-team linebacker Max Shulaw, who will be going to the University of Virginia on a wrestling scholarship.

"Gwinn at 6-2 and 260 is fast off the ball and a hard guy to block," Coach Wiggins said. "He just makes things hard on opposing offensive guards and centers and is a two-way player who plays a lot of football for us."

"Shulaw is a throwback to the old days – strong, tough and smart. He's been tremendous for us in all three years he has played, leading us in tackles in the 2020 state championship game as a freshman and getting better each year. He missed a few games last year because of hand surgery but was back for our late surge."

Shulaw finished with a 51-0 wrestling record in the 2022-23 season, pinning his way through the state tournament and winning the 215-pound championship after finishing second in the classification in 2022 and fourth in 195 in 2021.

His brother Lincoln, a junior lineman, was runner-up at 175 pounds last season, losing in an all-CCL championship match to Dylan Newsome of Hartley. They follow the tradition of current Wisconsin and former Cincinnati and Ohio State football coach Luke Fickell, a three-time state wrestling champion at DeSales.

"Senior Avery Garlock will be the featured running back, with junior PJ Noles at quarterback, possibly sharing time with RJ Day, a freshman with a lot of promise," Wiggins said. Senior center Jake Velazquez, the last of three football-playing brothers, will be among the leaders on offense.

Other returning players on offense who started or saw considerable playing time last year are seniors Raesean Betton, Nick Vance, Jakob Preece, Michael Walker and

Jack Elgin. Defensive standouts include senior Elijah Charles and juniors Ty Neubert – whom Wiggins said was "probably the first freshman starter in my 17 years of coaching here" – Dane Crabtree, Andrew Barford, Adam Faulkner and Davis Anderson and sophomore Kingston Johnson.

"We start with four tough games, at home against Dresden Tri-Valley and Hamilton Badin and away against Stow Walsh Jesuit and Linsly of Wheeling, West Virginia. We also play Dover, whom we ended up playing twice last year. That's a tough road but one we're used to and one you have to go down if you expect to get anywhere in the playoffs," he said.

## BISHOP HARTLEY

Like DeSales, the Hawks had the kind of season they're not used to in 2022, going 4-6 in the regular season, then defeating New Lexington in the playoffs before losing to Steubenville.

"It was a down year for us, but good or bad, we don't talk much about the previous year when we start training. Every year's a brand-new year," said Coach Burchfield, who in 16 years coaching the Hawks has made the playoffs 15 times.

"We've got a solid group of 20 seniors who meshed last year, along with 14 juniors. Those guys gained a lot of experience last year. Overall, this will be a bigger, stronger unit than the one we had last year."

Hartley's defense will be led by two players who were second-team All-Ohio selections in 2022 – 6-1, 285-pound lineman Donovan Davis, who will be attending Davidson next year, and 6-4, 215-pound junior linebacker Denim Cook.

Burchfield said the offense probably will revolve around sophomore running back Robert Lathon, who has gained notice on some national recruiting sites and already has received offers from Kentucky, Akron, Ball State, Campbell and Liberty.

"He's something special," the coach said. "He's a player with uncanny vision – a strong runner, hard to bring down. He showed his potential last year with 192 yards against Cleveland Villa Angela-St. Joseph, 173 against New Lexington and 161 against DeSales, all on the road. He's going to be bigger, stronger and better this year and could be quite a player by the time he graduates."

At 235 pounds, senior fullback Rory Ralston gives the Hawks an option that will keep defenses from focusing too much on Lathon.

Replacing three-year starter Peyton Underwood at quarterback will be sophomore Matt Galich. "Matt got some good experience last year as a backup and, like Peyton, could start for three years," Burchfield said.

The Hawks were road warriors last year, playing their first eight regular-season games and both playoff contests away from home, with jaunts to Lima, Cincinnati, Cleveland and Steubenville included.

Only their final two regular-season



Avery Garlock

Max Shulaw



Abrem Igwebuikwe

Colin Greenhalge



Kasen Abbott

Tylar Mix

games were played at home at Jack Ryan Field. Five home games had been scheduled, but three teams backed out, and it was a scramble to fill those slots.

"We had to pay our dues with that road schedule last year, but that's what can happen with only three league games and the reputation CCL schools have. By the same token, when one CCL team looks good, we all look good, and the league usually has a couple of teams with deep playoff runs," Burchfield said.

"This year, it's much better, with six home games and four on the road. The Lima, Cincinnati and Cleveland teams we played come here this year. Our only trip outside central Ohio is to Dayton Chaminade-Julienne on Sept. 1."

## ST. CHARLES

The Cardinals finished 4-6 last year, two spots out of the playoffs, and Coach Hocker said that has his squad excited for the coming season, with 84 players turning out for the opening of practice, more than half of them freshmen.

"That's led to some spirited competition in the early stages of camp," he said. "There's a core group of 13 seniors and juniors and 15 sophomores who we'll be using most of the time, but some of the freshmen are bound to see playing time."

"Among our returning players, we're

See FOOTBALL, Page 12

# Small-school teams set for football openers

By Tim Puet

For The Catholic Times

Newark Catholic is moving up to Division VI while Zanesville Bishop Rosecrans, Lancaster Fisher Catholic, Portsmouth Notre Dame and New Philadelphia Tuscarawas Central Catholic remain in Division VII, the division for schools with Ohio's smallest enrollments, for this year's high school football season.

Newark Catholic was moved to Division VI for the first time since 2018 by the Ohio High School Athletic Association's competitive balance rules. Former Green Wave player Josh Hendershot replaces Ryan Aiello as coach as Newark Catholic attempts to extend its state record for playoff appearances to 40 since the playoffs began in 1972.

Former Florida State and NFL player James "Buster" Davis takes over for Bob Ashley at the Notre Dame helm, while Chris Zemba at Rosecrans, Luke Thimmes at Fisher and Casey Cummings at Tuscarawas Central return for another year.

Here is a look at how the coming season shapes up for the diocese's five small high schools:

## NEWARK CATHOLIC

"When I heard coach Aiello was leaving (to spend more time with his family), I was really interested in applying for the job," said coach Hendershot, who played college football at Toledo, returned to the Green Wave as an assistant coach, then was a graduate assistant at Toledo in 2017 and 2018 and the University of Michigan under Jim Harbaugh in 2019. He spent the past three seasons at the University of Dayton, serving as offensive coordinator in 2022.

"I was at a crossroads of my career at the end of last season, trying to decide whether I should stay in college or take a high school job," he said. "The opening here made the decision easy because Newark Catholic is the one high school where I knew I'd take a job if it were offered."

Aiello finished with a 44-19 record in five years at Newark Catholic, with seven of those losses coming in his first year. The nine-time state champions and 16-time state finalists finished in the Division VII final four in each of his last three seasons at Newark Catholic, losing to Warren John F. Kennedy last year and Maria Stein Marion Local in 2021 in the state championship game and JFK in the 2020 state semifinals.

"Expectations are high here, and I love that burden because I know it well, having played here from 2006 to 2009 and being on a state championship team in 2007," Hendershot said. "It's always been a school with good, tough, hard-working players who readily buy into the team mentality. When you set the bar high, it results in some great life lessons."

"Working in some outstanding college

programs these last few years gave me a chance to learn some things about structuring a program and improving player conditioning, plus some new formations and variations on what we already do. I'm anxious to bring those things I learned to the school where I grew up."

Returning at quarterback for the Green Wave is junior Miller Hutchison, who as a sophomore was selected as a third-team all-Ohio player and completed 74 of 115 pass attempts for 1,236 yards and 13 touchdowns in the regular season.

Newark Catholic's other all-Ohioans for 2022 were graduated seniors Mason Hackett (118 carries, 1,090 yards, 20 TDs), first-team running back, and second-team members Grant Moore (25 catches, 535 yards, nine TDs), wide receiver/tight end, and Kyle Wright, offensive line.

Besides Hutchison, other key players among this season's 23 returning lettermen include seniors Nate Willis, Tristan Musgrave, Matt Spearman, Brady Yehle, Drew McKenzie, Kelly Wendt and Owen Helms and juniors Mike Hess, Joseph Couzins, Theo Talbott and Cooper Fink.

## PORTSMOUTH NOTRE DAME

The Titans will have a new face on the sidelines as coach Davis takes over from coach Ashley, who coached Notre Dame to an 82-89 record over two stints totaling 18 seasons. The team finished with a 6-6 record last year that included a playoff victory over Franklin Furnace Green and a loss to Newark Catholic. Davis was chosen as the team's new coach after a national search by Notre Dame principal J.D. McKenzie

"I'm eager to be involved with Ohio football because of the state's reputation," Davis said. "It's my first time coaching in the state, but I'm not unfamiliar with it because Ohio State recruited me and I worked in Florida as an assistant for John Maronto, who was head coach at Massillon from 1985 to 1987."

Maronto told Davis about the opening at Notre Dame.

"We had several applicants for the coaching job, interviewed four or five, and Buster stood out because of his personality and his record as a player, and we share the same moral compass," McKenzie said.

"Our first interview was on Zoom, and though he seemed like a great candidate, I didn't think he would be serious about the job. But then he mentioned his Ohio links, came here for a second interview, and (athletic director) Bob Boldman and I were blown away."

Davis has been getting to know his new team for the past two months. "I'm especially excited about a couple of seniors – Cody Metzler at tight end and Jordan Davis at linebacker. Cody's a good kid with good hands and will be a mismatch for a lot of safeties. Jordan's strong, and the way he plays, it's obvious

he has a lot of experience.

"Another talented senior is Jake Edwards at center, who's gotten stronger by dropping some weight."

Sophomore Ethan Kingrey will be the quarterback. "He's phenomenal for someone that age and goes through his reads like someone much older," Davis said. Offensive players who can be receivers or running backs are sophomores Bryce McGraw and Luke Cassidy and junior Myles Phillips. Junior defensive end Brodie Coleman also was cited by Davis as a key player.

Davis, a 5-foot-9, 250-pound linebacker in his playing days, was described as "the face of the Seminoles' defense from 2004 to 2006" by a Florida State fan website. He was chosen as a first-team All-American by the American Football Coaches Association in 2006 and went on to an NFL career with Arizona, Detroit, Indianapolis and Houston.

He has been a head coach at two high schools in Florida and one in Georgia and a college assistant at Glenville (W.Va.) State, Willamette and Southern Oregon. Last year, he was defensive coordinator for Strong Rock Christian School in suburban Atlanta.

"Portsmouth's a smaller town, and the vibe here is a little different than in Atlanta and Florida, but the football is just as intense," he said. "We'll be up for the challenge."

## LANCASTER FISHER CATHOLIC

Coach Thimmes said he knew the 2022 season would be a long one for the Irish when three of the team's four linebackers were declared out for the year before the first game was played. Things got no better from there, with Fisher finishing winless for the year.

"I've never had a situation like that in 20 years of coaching here," mostly as an assistant, said Thimmes, in his third year as head coach. "The bright spot in all this is that we have 19 lettermen coming back on a roster of 25 players. All that experience makes us bound to improve."

Despite the team's record, wide receiver Hyde O'Rielly was impressive enough to make the Ohio Prep Sports Writers Association's Division VII All-Ohio first team in 2022 as a sophomore.

"It's going to be great having him back for two more years," Thimmes said. "He's got good size at 6-foot-3 and great hands that give him a big catching radius. He's very good at running routes and spent most of the summer trying to perfect that aspect of his game. He also is willing to play anywhere on defense, so we had him at safety and linebacker last year. He has the talent to make an NCAA Division I team."

"We're also hoping for a big year from Simon Messerly, a wide receiver on offense who also started at cornerback on defense as a freshman and was hurt for most of the last two seasons. He's



Tristan Musgrave



Nate Willis



Miller Hutchison



Carson Norris



Casey Green



Jameson Sedlock

switched to linebacker this year, and we're really anticipating that he will shine."

Fisher had another All-Ohioan in 2022 – JJ Viau, who made the second all-state unit as a kicker. He's now at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York. Thimmes said that, as far as he knows, Viau didn't go out for football there.

Junior Grant Keefer is at quarterback. "He and Hyde were a strong passer-receiver team last year, and we're looking forward to what they can do for the next two years," the coach said.

Thimmes said last year's difficulties didn't discourage him. "I graduated from Fisher in 1997, went to Muskingum for college, then came back here as an assistant coach," he said. "Records mean little. It's the kids without a doubt that keep me coming back. I bleed green and white."

## ZANESVILLE BISHOP ROSECRANS

"I'm really ready for this year," coach Zemba said. "We have a roster of 36 players, the most I've ever had and the most for the school in 10 or 11 years."

It's a far cry from 2019, when the Bishops had to play eight-player football because they had only 13 players. Zemba took over as coach in 2020, and the

See **SMALL SCHOOL**, Page 13

# 2023 high school football schedules for diocesan schools

## BISHOP HARTLEY

8-18 Sunbury Big Walnut
8-25 at Bloom-Carroll
9-1 at Dayton Chaminade-Julienne
9-8 Cincinnati McNicholas
9-15 Lima Central Catholic
9-22 at Bishop Watterson
9-29 Cleveland Villa Angela-St. Joseph
10-6 St. Francis DeSales
10-13 at KIPP Columbus
10-20 St. Charles
2022 record: 5-7 overall, 1-2 conference
<b>CONFERENCE:</b> Central Catholic League
<b>COACH:</b> Brad Burchfield (152-42 in 15 seasons at Bishop Hartley and 183-67 overall)

## BISHOP READY

8-18 Newark Catholic
8-25 Cincinnati Hills Christian
9-1 Columbus Whetstone
9-9 at Lima Central Catholic
9-15 at St. Francis DeSales
9-22 KIPP Columbus
9-29 at Whitehall-Yearling
10-6 at Buckeye Valley
10-13 Bexley
10-20 at Columbus Academy
2022 record: 8-4 overall
<b>CONFERENCE:</b> Central Buckeye League
<b>COACH:</b> T.J. Burbridge (first season at Bishop Ready and overall)

## BISHOP WATTERSON

8-18 at Columbus Whetstone
8-25 at Dublin Scioto
9-1 Parma Padua
9-8 Tiffin Columbian
9-15 Chardon
9-22 Bishop Hartley
9-29 KIPP Columbus
10-6 at St. Charles
10-13 at Harrison
10-20 at St. Francis DeSales
2022 record: 12-2 overall, 3-0 conference
<b>CONFERENCE:</b> Central Catholic League
<b>COACH:</b> Brian Kennedy (35-28 in six seasons at Bishop Watterson and overall)

## ST. CHARLES

8-18 at Chillicothe
8-25 at Columbus Beechcroft
9-1 at Columbus Independence
9-8 Whitehall-Yearling
9-14 at Columbus Academy
9-22 St. Francis DeSales
9-29 Buckeye Valley
10-6 Bishop Watterson
10-13 at Cleveland Lutheran East
10-20 at Bishop Hartley
2022 record: 4-6 overall, 0-3 conference
<b>CONFERENCE:</b> Central Catholic League
<b>COACH:</b> Deke Hocker (16-30 in five seasons at St. Charles and overall)

## ST. FRANCIS DESALES

8-18 Dresden Tri-Valley
8-25 Hamilton Badin
9-1 at Stow Walsh Jesuit
9-8 at Wheeling (W.Va.) Linsly
9-15 Bishop Ready
9-22 at Columbus St. Charles
9-29 Dover
10-6 at Martins Ferry
10-13 Cincinnati Northwest
10-20 Bishop Watterson
2022 record: 7-5 overall, 2-1 conference
<b>CONFERENCE:</b> Central Catholic League
<b>COACH:</b> Ryan Wiggins (139-60 in 16 seasons at St. Francis DeSales and 143-66 overall)

## BISHOP ROSECRANS

8-18 Portsmouth East
8-25 at Reedsville Eastern
9-2 at Steubenville Catholic
9-8 at Berne Union
9-15 Grove City Christian
9-23 at Fisher Catholic
9-29 Fairfield Christian
10-6 Grandview Heights
10-13 at Hemlock Miller
10-20 Millersport
2022 record: 3-8 overall, 2-4 conference
<b>CONFERENCE:</b> Mid-State League Cardinal
<b>COACH:</b> Chris Zemba (18-24 in three seasons at Bishop Rosecrans and overall)

## FISHER CATHOLIC

8-18 at Crooksville
8-26 at Tuscarawas Central Catholic
9-2 Portsmouth Notre Dame
9-8 at Martins Ferry
9-15 at Fairfield Christian
9-23 Bishop Rosecrans
9-29 at Hemlock Miller
10-6 Millersport
10-14 Berne Union
10-20 at Grove City Christian
2022 record: 0-10 overall, 0-6 conference
<b>CONFERENCE:</b> Mid-State League Cardinal
<b>COACH:</b> Luke Thimmes (9-21 in three seasons at Fisher Catholic and overall)

## NEWARK CATHOLIC

8-18 at Bishop Ready
8-25 at Nelsonville-York
9-1 Columbus Academy
9-9 Mogadore
9-15 Licking Heights
9-22 at Utica
9-30 Johnstown-Monroe
10-6 at Hebron Lakewood
10-13 Heath
10-20 at Johnstown Northridge
2022 record: 11-2 overall, 5-0 conference, Ohio Division VII runner-up)
<b>CONFERENCE:</b> Licking County League Cardinal
<b>COACH:</b> Josh Hendershot (first season at Newark Catholic and overall)

## FOOTBALL, continued from Page 10

expecting solid years from seniors Colin Greenhalge at running back and line-backer and Abrem Igwebuike on the offensive and defensive lines. Both made the All-CCL team last year, and Colin was All-Central District as well. They put in a lot of work in the off-season and are setting an example for the rest of the team.”

Ryan Mooney, who won a four-way battle for the position as a sophomore, will be returning at quarterback and will be throwing mostly to senior Will Bratt, who Hocker said had close to 90 catches last year. Senior Aidan Fox will be doing most of the running and some receiving.

“We’ll be running multiple offensive sets, and, without saying too much, we’ll try to be as balanced as possible between running and passing. Defensively, we’ll be running mostly a 4-3 and sometimes a 4-2-5 formation,” Hocker said.

“We start with three road games and, as coaches say all the time, right now we’re

just focusing on our opener at Chillicothe. With the schedule we play in the CCL, it’s best not to look too far ahead.”

### BISHOP READY

The Silver Knights, playing all their home games at Fortress Obetz for the fourth year, officially will be members of the revived Central Buckeye League after playing most of their games last year against Mid-State League members, several of whom have switched to the new affiliation.

The Knights left the CCL after the 2021 season because of the difference in enrollment between them and the other four league members and enjoyed immediate success last year, finishing 6-3 in the regular season, ending it on a four-game winning streak and continuing with playoff victories at Columbus Marion-Frank-

See FOOTBALL, Page 13

## PORTSMOUTH NOTRE DAME

8-18 at Manchester
8-25 Berne Union
9-2 at Fisher Catholic
9-8 Reedsville Eastern
9-15 Williamsburg
9-23 South Gallia
9-29 at Franklin Furnace Green
10-6 Beaver Eastern
10-13 at Symmes Valley
10-20 at Portsmouth East
2022 record: 6-6 overall, 3-2 conference
<b>CONFERENCE:</b> Southern Ohio Conference Division I
<b>COACH:</b> Buster Davis (first season at Notre Dame; was head coach for four years at high schools in Georgia and Florida)

## TUSCARAWAS CENTRAL CATHOLIC

8-19 at Conotton Valley
8-26 Fisher Catholic
9-1 Lowellville
9-8 Windham
9-15 West Lafayette Ridgewood
9-22 at Buckeye Trail
9-30 Newcomerstown
10-6 at East Canton
10-13 at Malvern
10-21 Strasburg-Franklin
2022 record: 2-8 overall, 0-5 conference
<b>CONFERENCE:</b> Inter-Valley Conference North
<b>COACH:</b> Casey Cummings (44-63 in 11 seasons at Tuscarawas Central Catholic and overall)

**SMALL SCHOOL, continued from Page 11**

number of players has increased each season – from 17 to 23 to 31 to 36.

“Brendan Bernath is returning at quarterback for the fourth straight year, and he’s certainly earned the position,” Zemba said. “He put in the time at QB in his freshman season when no one else wanted the position, and he’s grown as a leader ever since. His brother Nick is a sophomore running back.”

A trio of Burkhart brothers are returning – seniors Mike at tight end and Maddux on the offensive and defensive lines and sophomore Max, also a two-way lineman.

“I’ve coached Mike and Maddux since first grade, and here they are as seniors,” Zemba said. “It won’t feel right without them next year.”

The Bees – senior captain Gavin and sophomore Gage – provide another set of brothers. “Gavin Bee at outside linebacker is a tremendous leader on and off the field,” Zemba said.

Other seniors on the team are Xander Daniels, Eden Lynch, Mike Dady and Evan Backus. “It’s the first time playing for Backus, but he’s a very intelligent

and positive player who’s an enjoyable kid to coach,” Zemba said.

In each of the past two years, the expanded playoffs have enabled Rosecrans to reach the postseason, where the Bishops lost to Newark Catholic last year and to Sugar Grove Berne Union in 2021. “With the numbers we have, it’s a reasonable goal to finish at .500 or better and win a playoff game this year,” Zemba said.

“We’ve created an enjoyable program that’s about more than just football,” the coach said when asked about his team’s roster growth. “Last year, we got up at 4 a.m., went to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery and were back home early the next morning.

“This year on Sunday, Aug. 13, we’re doing the same thing, with a 4 a.m. departure; Mass at 7 at St. Vincent College in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, where the Steelers train; a visit to the Flight 93 memorial in rural western Pennsylvania; and an afternoon at Kennywood amusement park near Pittsburgh.

*See SMALL SCHOOL, Page 16*

**FOOTBALL, continued from Page 12**

lin and St. Clairsville before losing to Gnadenhutten Indian Valley.

Michael Schaefer left with a 13-10 record after two years as head coach to become an assistant at Upper Arlington, where he previously was on the coaching staff for 15 years and where his son is a sophomore. Coach Burbridge, his successor, coached Ready’s receivers and defensive backs for the past four years.

Burbridge, a 2007 graduate of Columbus Centennial High School, played for Wilmington College and will be a head coach for the first time after serving as an assistant at Centennial, Columbus Linden-McKinley, St. Charles, Upper Arlington and Ready.

“My plan is to continue what coach Schaefer did in using football as a way of impacting young lives and promoting excellence on and off the field,” he said. “Offensively, we’ll be running mostly a spread offense and a 3-4 defense, pretty much as we have since I’ve been here.

“The kids have done well with it these last four years, making the playoffs for the last three, so there’s no reason to change. In the end, it’s all about blocking and tackling.

“This team will be a little younger than we’ve had in past years, with 13 seniors returning. But they have a ton of experience, with most of them having played quite a bit in the last two years, so we’ll be all right.”

Burbridge said he has potential Division I prospects in juniors Kasen Abbott, a third-team All-Ohioan at linebacker last year, and running back Kentrell Rinehart. Other key offensive players are senior lineman Tylar Mix and junior running back Anthony Campbell.

Junior Jacob Cheatham and sophomore

Jayrece Dixon were in a two-way battle at quarterback in the early part of training camp. Senior JD Catena at safety is another key defender and was honorable mention All-Ohio last year.



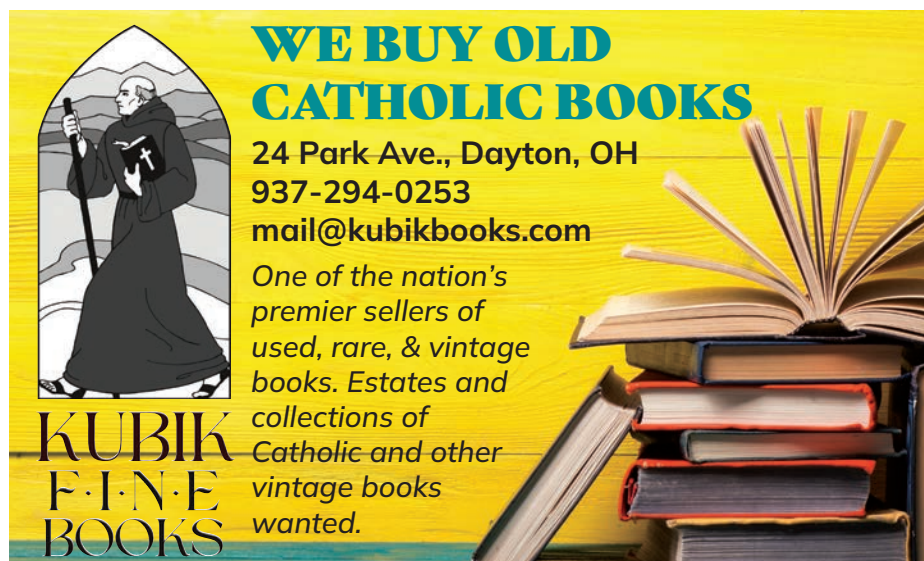
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19th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

# God wants us to persevere

1 Kings 19:9a, 11–13a  
Psalm 85:9, 10, 11–12, 13–14  
Romans 9:1–5  
Matthew 14:22–33

Jesus says to Peter, who is walking toward Him on the water: “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”

At first reading, this might seem to be a mere rebuke for having such small faith. However, it could be taken in a more encouraging way. After all, for just a moment, Peter did walk on water. If only he had kept his eyes fixed on Jesus, instead of becoming fearful due to the raging storm, he could have reached his goal.

Jesus’ words can be taken as a charge to not allow doubt to sway him the next time. Peter is heading in the right direction in the development of his faith.

When we have our eyes fixed on the right goal, we can persevere in our journey no matter what the obstacles are, and no matter how many times we might fail. The invitation that Christianity offers is not an invitation to success in every effort, but rather to perseverance in striving to reach the goal.

As Peter’s story unfolds in the Gospels and as the traditions surrounding his life following the Resurrection of Jesus, we see a man who fails, misunderstands and gets it wrong many times. Nonetheless, he perseveres. The “final tale” of his life is the legend of the Quo Vadis.

When persecution came to Rome, the Christian community prevailed upon Peter to leave for his safety. On the Appian Way, he encountered the Lord Who was heading into Rome. Peter said to Him: “Domine, quo vadis?” That is, “Lord, where are You going?”

The Lord responded that He was go-

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Isaiah 56:1, 6–7  
Psalm 67:2–3, 5, 6, 8  
Romans 11:13–15, 29–32  
Matthew 15:21–28

“O God, let all the nations praise you!” The acclamation from the Responsorial Psalm is a prayer of hope and a call to action. We ask God to accomplish His purpose to bring all the nations, all peoples of every culture to a living relationship of praise. When all the nations are gathered into this unity of prayer and purpose, the will of God for humanity is established.

At the same time, if we have hearts ready to understand it, we are called to be part of the action of gathering. Others will come to praise the Lord when they see us thriving in our own relationship with God and when they hear us inviting them to share our joy. The cry of the heart that overflows with delight in God Himself leads to a greater understanding of Who God Is and what He offers.

The vision Isaiah presents of God’s jus-

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Father Timothy Hayes

Rev. Timothy M. Hayes is the pastor of Granville St. Edward the Confessor Church.



ing to Jerusalem to be crucified again. Peter came to his senses once more, and this time, he did not fail the test. He was crucified – upside down at his request because he felt unworthy to imitate the Lord’s death – and he thus joined the witness of the martyrs.

When the Lord looks at us, He sees not just our journey in time, but also the fullness of our journey with Him into eternity. He beckons us to move beyond fear and to put our trust in Him. As we experience the stormy waters of our lives, we are invited to learn from Peter’s failure and to keep our eyes fixed on the Lord. “Lord, save me!” is a good prayer to add to our “toolbox” in our effort to put our faith into practice.

Elijah’s encounter with the Lord in the “tiny whispering sound” rather than the “strong and heavy wind” that “was rending the mountains and crushing rocks before the Lord,” or the earthquake or the fire that preceded the manifestation of the Lord’s Presence, is a reminder to us that at times God’s voice is hidden behind the storms of our lives.

God is God. Our human nature finds God when we empty our hearts of our own expectations and demands. Elijah waits at the mouth of the cave to hear what God wants from him. As the story continues, the simple message to Elijah is, in essence, “Get back to work” and “Pass on the ministry entrusted to you.”

tice and salvation is the unity of the nations where the life of God’s people is the common practice of all humanity.

“The foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, ministering to him, loving the name of the Lord, and becoming his servants – all who keep the sabbath free from profanation and hold to my covenant, them I will bring to my holy mountain and make joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be acceptable on my altar, for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.”

God’s plan has always been to redeem all of humanity. How God’s plan unfolds is the drama of salvation history. In the Gospel, we see Jesus marveling at the reception being given to Him and His power to heal and save by the Syro-Phoenician woman. He gives an exclamation of surprise and delight in her: “O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.”

His mission was “only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” He would leave to

## THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

<p>8/14-8/19 <b>MONDAY</b> Deuteronomy 10:12-22 Psalm 147:12-15,19-20 Matthew 17:22-27</p> <p><b>TUESDAY</b> Revelation 11:19a;12:1-6a;10ab Psalm 45:10-12,16 1 Corinthians 15:20-27 Luke 1:39-56</p> <p><b>WEDNESDAY</b> Deuteronomy 34:1-12 Matthew 66:1-3a,5,8,16-17 Matthew 18:15-20</p>	<p><b>THURSDAY</b> Joshua 3:7-10a,11,13-17 Psalm 114:1-6 Matthew 18:21-19:1</p> <p><b>FRIDAY</b> Joshua 24:1-13 Psalm 136:1-3,16-18,21-22,24 Matthew 19:3-12</p> <p><b>SATURDAY</b> Joshua 24:14-29 Psalm 16:1-2,5,7-8,11 Matthew 19:13-15</p>	<p>8/21-8/26 <b>MONDAY</b> Judges 2:11-19 Psalm 106:34-37,39-40,43ab,44 Matthew 19:16-22</p> <p><b>TUESDAY</b> Judges 6:11-24a Psalm 85:9,11-14 Matthew 19:23-30</p> <p><b>WEDNESDAY</b> Judges 9:6-15 Psalm 21:2-7 Matthew 20:1-16</p>	<p><b>THURSDAY</b> Revelation 21:9b-14 Psalm 145:10,13,17-18 John 1:45-51</p> <p><b>FRIDAY</b> Ruth 1:1,3-6,14b-16,22 Psalm 146:5-10 Matthew 22:32-40</p> <p><b>SATURDAY</b> Ruth 2:1,3,8-11;4:13-17 Psalm 128:1-5 Matthew 23:1-12</p>
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## DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION

Mass Schedule: Weeks of Aug. 13 and Aug. 20, 2023

<p><b>SUNDAY MASS</b> 10:30 a.m. Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com and diocesan website, www.columbuscatholic.org.</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Mass from Portsmouth St. Mary Church on St. Gabriel Radio (FM 88.3), Portsmouth.</p> <p>Mass with the Passionist Fathers at 7:30 a.m. on WWHO-TV (the CW), Channel 53, Columbus and 10:30 a.m. on WHIZ-TV, Channel 18, Zanesville. Mass from St. Francis de Sales Seminary, Milwaukee, at 10 a.m. on WWHO-TV. Check local cable system for cable channel listing.</p> <p>Mass from Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, Birmingham, Ala., at 8 a.m. on EWTN (Spectrum Channel 385, Insight Channel 382, or Breezeline Channel 378).</p>	<p>(Encores at noon, 7 p.m., and midnight).</p> <p>Mass from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee at 6:30 a.m. on ION TV (AT&amp;T U-verse Channel 195, Dish Network Channel 250, or DirecTV Channel 305).</p> <p>Mass from Massillon St. Mary Church at 10:30 a.m. on WILB radio (AM 1060, FM 94.5 and 89.5), Canton, heard in Tuscarawas, Holmes, and Coshocton counties.</p> <p><b>DAILY MASS</b> 8 a.m., Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Birmingham, Ala. (Encores at noon, 7 p.m. and midnight). See EWTN above; and on I-Lifetv (Channel 113, Ada, Logan, Millersburg, Murray City, Washington C.H.; Channel 125, Marion, Newark, Newcomerstown and New Philadelphia; Channel 207, Zanesville); 8 p.m., St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com.</p>	<p>12:05 p.m. weekdays, 8 a.m. Saturdays, Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com and diocesan website, www.columbuscatholic.org. (Saturdays on radio only).</p> <p>Videos of Masses are available at any time on the internet at these and many other parish websites: Mattingly Settlement St. Mary (www.stannstmary.org); Columbus St. Patrick (www.stpatrickcolumbus.org); Delaware St. Mary (www.delawarestmary.org); Sunbury St. John Neumann (www.saintjohnsunbury.org); and Columbus Immaculate Conception (www.iccols.org). Check your parish website for additional information.</p> <p><b>WE PRAY THE SEASONAL PROPSERS FOR WEEKS III AND IV OF THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS</b></p>
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Such an invitation is also being addressed to us.

Paul shares with the Romans the cry of his heart that the message of the Gospel be heard and accepted by his own people. He expresses his anguish that such a response is not apparent, longing for their salvation even more than his own. When Paul joins the Christian community in Rome, he, like Peter, ends up pouring out his life for those to whom he has been

sent.

Even now, we see the fruits of the faith witnessed by Peter and Paul as the world continues to follow Pope Francis in his journeys from Rome to **bring comfort and invitation to all. The whole world is invited to hear the Gospel and to respond. We pray with the psalmist: “Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.”**

## Spreading the faith is our mission, too

His disciples and to His Church the extension of this mission to the world. Yet, in response to faith that is clear and direct, He begins the unfolding of this plan with the healing of the woman’s daughter.

Many tend to see faith as something that is private and personal, not to be shared beyond a few intimates. The Scriptures present another perspective. Faith is the doorway to the truth that must be accepted so that salvation may be ours. It calls down the healing power of God to address our deepest longings and needs.

Although at times it might seem to be something beyond us, if we have the faith witnessed by the Syro-Phoenician woman, we can be sure of the Lord’s response. She loved her daughter, and she could acknowledge Jesus as Lord and Son of David.

She did not argue with Him about His mission. Instead, she pointed out that an abundance is available. She was content with “leftovers” and “scraps that fall from the table” because she saw that it was the gift of salvation for all.

When the world is drawing lines and highlighting divisions, we are called to acknowledge that whatever appearances might be, God’s will is for all to share in the riches He offers. We must rise above the polarization of our times. The temptation is for us to ignore the cries of those who are not with us. Our call, rather, is to seek them out and work with the Church and God’s Spirit to bring about the salvation of the world.

The disciples who observed His action of healing the woman’s daughter in response to her plea and her perseverance in faith were the ones sent out to the world. Each one took the mission of salvation to others, some to those among the lost sheep of the house of Israel and many to the Gentiles.

The gradual unfolding of salvation continues in our day. Can you hear the Lord’s invitation to you to persevere in faith? To whom are you being sent to make salvation known?

**FESTIVAL, continued from Page 7**

was a member of the Castorano family, a founding family of the parish. “The women came up with a recipe, and they kept the recipe until this day. We still use the same cheese, the same sauce, the same dough. We’ve been making it the same way for generations.”

“We make it exactly the same way as they do,” said Nikki Modlich, who has been volunteering at the festival for decades. “It’s a process. They used to make them on smaller pans. We use larger, but the recipe is the same. People come from everywhere to get it, so it’s very good.”

“I took this over from (Andrew’s) mom like 35 years ago, and now my girls work with me. It’s a lot of the families, like my son, so it’s very much a family oriented passion. We all chip in.”

Jo Marie Wilson, a lifelong member of the parish who has volunteered at the festival for more than 70 years, is a daughter of the Delewese family, another founding family.

“They started the festival to pay off the original church,” she said.

St. Margaret of Cortona Church, now located on North Hague Avenue, was originally built about a half-mile away on Trabue Road in the San Margherita

neighborhood. The festival was the parish’s major fundraising event of the year.

Many of the men in the original families that formed the parish settled on or near Trabue Road and were employed at the limestone quarry across the street.

“Traditionally, it was the last full weekend of July because that was payday for the quarry workers,” Wilson said of the festival.

“The men that worked at the quarry down here would bring their paychecks home at the end of the month, and I think they found out that was probably the best time to have the festival,” Scott said. “They had a little extra spending money for the festival.”

In 1967, the then-bishop of Columbus, John Carberry, gave permission for construction of the new church on Hague Avenue. The old church on Trabue Road had run out of space for the growing community, but it continued to be used for daily Mass until it was torn down in 1987.

On the Sunday following the festival, St. Margaret continues a tradition that the church’s original families brought to the parish from Italy.

“We have a procession that concludes

the festival on Sunday morning, where we have the patronal saints of our parish – there are five of them – and along with the festival every year, we take them in procession,” Father Rimelspach said.

“The different families that come from the different towns of Italy that had those saints as their patronal saints, those families are responsible for the people to carry the statues. So, that’s also been a very long tradition. We go around the neighborhood with these statues.”

The patron saints of the parish are St. Anne, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Joseph,

St. Lucy and St. Margaret of Cortona.

The procession originally moved down Trabue Road from the first church building, but few parishioners live along that route today. For the first time this year, the procession took place in Cortona Woods, a housing subdivision neighboring the church.

Traditionally, parishioners who lived along the procession route would come out of their homes and pin money on the statue as a donation. It was a time for family reunions and extended family gatherings.

**CATHOLIC WORD SEARCH**

**CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

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**Words of Wisdom**

by Pat Battaglia, aka Dr. Fun

Draw a path from letter to letter to spell the words given in capital letters that completes the wisdom statement.

Move one square at a time, up, down, right, left or diagonally until all letters are used once. Ignore any black squares.

**Prayer does not need proof ...**

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## PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

**BARREN, Michael J., 65, July 18**  
St. Peter Church, Columbus

**BAUER, Virginia L. "Lynn" (McDonald), 74, July 23**  
St. Joan of Arc Church, Powell

**BECHTEL, Richard J., 98, July 11**  
Our Lady of Peace Church, Columbus

**BLISSENBACH, Dr. Kenneth W., 81, July 20**  
St. Michael Church, Worthington

**BLUBAUGH, Beatrice Ann, 79, July 6**  
St. Luke Church, Danville

**BOYDEN, John C., 71, July 23**  
St. Patrick Church, Junction City

**BRAUN, Marilyn M. (Overman), 92, July 28**  
St. Brendan Church, Hilliard

**CAPUANO, Saverio V. "Buddy" Jr., 83, July 24**  
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

**CROWLEY, Sandy, 81, Aug. 4**  
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

**FEREGA, Maureen (Schaffner), 76, July 29**  
St. Michael Church, Worthington

**FISHER, Jane (Feely), 93, July 24**  
St. Agatha Church, Columbus

**GILLIGAN, Robert M. 75, July 27**  
St. Patrick Church, Junction City

**GOETZ, Dolores L., 87, July 17,**  
St. Michael Church, Worthington

**GRIGGS, Joshua Alexander, 48, July 12**  
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

**HERRON, Dean R., 95, Aug. 1**  
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

**KAVALIEROS, Connie L. (Schumacher), 76, of Westerville, July 18**  
St. Sylvester Church, Woodsfield

**LEWIS, Suzanne C., 76, July 19**  
Ss. Augustine & Gabriel Church, Columbus

**MAZIAR, Janis M., 72, July 25**  
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

**MEYER, Kelly J., 53, June 24**  
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

**MOTTO, Deborah A., 74, July 25**  
St. Francis of Assisi Church, Columbus

**PAGE, Sally M. (Bingmer) 86, formerly of Columbus, July 20**  
St. Barnabas Church, Northfield

**PIZZUTI, Cesidio "Chez," 59, July 25**  
St. Michael Church, Worthington

**POLICARO, James P., 82, July 24**  
St. Mary Magdalene Church, Columbus

**QUINN, Jack, 88, July 24**  
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

**SAMPLES, Margaret, 95, June 28**  
St. Luke Church, Danville

**SANDIDGE, Steven J., 74, July 9**  
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

**SCHIRTZINGER, David R., 59, July 30**  
St. Agatha Church, Columbus

**VACHERESSE, William M., 87, July 11**  
Holy Family Church, Columbus

### Sister Margaret Scullin, OP

Funeral Mass for Sister Margaret Scullin, OP, 97, who died Friday, July 28, was celebrated Thursday, Aug. 10 at the Motherhouse of the Dominican Sisters of Peace. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was born on June 21, 1926 in Philadelphia to Hugh and Margaret (McKenna) Scullin.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English in 1961 from Rosemont College in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania and certificates in various subjects from Assumption College in Worcester, Massachusetts; Trinity College in Washington; the University of Notre Dame and the Religious Studies Institute in Baltimore.

She entered the congregation of the

Dominican Congregation of St. Catherine de' Ricci (now the Dominican Sisters of Peace) in 1951 and professed her vows on Feb. 13, 1954.

She spent most of her years as a sister in various retreat and hospitality ministries in Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey. She retired to a life of prayer and community service in 2014, living in the sisters' Motherhouse in Oxford, Michigan until 2018, the Columbus Motherhouse from 2018 to 2020 and the Mohun Health Care Center from then until her death.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers Hugh and John; and sisters Marie Mallon and Therese.

### Sister Jeanne Marie Suerth, SNDdeN

Funeral Mass for Sister Jeanne Marie Suerth, 89, who died Monday, July 24, was celebrated Friday, Aug. 4 at the Mount Notre Dame Chapel in Reading, Ohio. Burial was at the cemetery of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur in Reading.

She was born on July 11, 1934 in Chicago to the late Joseph and Mary (Miller) Suerth.

She received a Bachelor of Science degree in education from Our Lady of Cincinnati College in 1968 and a Master of Science degree in education from the University of Dayton in 1972.

She entered the congregation of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur on

Sept. 8, 1953 and made her first profession of vows on March 10, 1956, taking the name Sister Jeanne Patricia, and her final profession on Aug. 13, 1961.

She was a teacher in Columbus at St. Augustine School (1956-1962), Notre Dame School (1979-1982) and Pope John XXIII School (1982-1983). She also taught at schools in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and Illinois and served as a chaplain, medical driver and maintenance manager and in parish and community ministry in the Cincinnati and Chicago areas.

She retired in 2008 and lived at the Mount Notre Dame Health Center from then until her death.

#### SMALL SCHOOL, continued from Page 13

"These trips provide great team bonding and a history lesson. The trip to Arlington to see the impressive ceremony there was all about the sacrifices the military have made for us. Going to the Flight 93 site recalls my own memories

of 9/11, but for the players, it's history. None of them were born when the people on that plane gave their lives by being willing to have it go down in a field on Sept. 11, 2001 so the terrorists on board wouldn't crash it into the White

House or the U.S. Capitol."

#### TUSCARAWAS CENTRAL CATHOLIC

Coach Cummings has only 17 players but is anticipating a competitive season in his 12th year at the helm of the Saints.

"I think this is the smallest number I've had to start a season, but it's nothing unusual," he said. "In 2018, we were down to 16 by the time the season ended but made it to the playoffs against Cuyahoga Heights.

"This year's team may lack numbers, but we have eight seniors, all of whom have played a lot and will be our back-

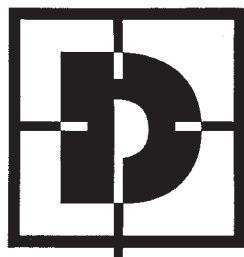
bone. We also have a lot of size. Lineman Jameson Sedlock is a 300-pounder with three years' experience as a starter. He's a co-captain with Casey Green, who's at 320.

"Warren Tienarend is a junior at 245. Those three will be the backbone of a strong line. Receiver Zane Norris at 6-4, and tackle Charlie Montan at 6-3 are other top players.

"Our other co-captains are Kenton Renicker and Carson Norris. Kenton is moving from wide receiver to quarterback, and Carson at 6-2 and 220 will be the H-back and the key to our offense. Kenton's small but dynamic. There will be a lot of pressure on him, but I think he's going to be up to it.

"With the numbers we have, of course the big key is avoiding injury. All you can do is wait and see. If we stay healthy, we'll be OK and will be able to see how high we can fly. There's no reason to feel sorry for us."

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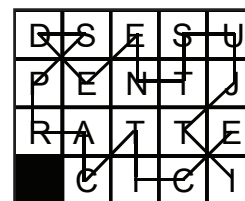
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## LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS

## New Christian musical looking for cast members

Auditions for a new, original rock musical titled "ACTs" and based on the Acts of the Apostles will take place at 9 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 19 in the Heritage Center, 117 S. Fountain Ave., Springfield. Those auditioning are asked to bring a pre-selected song and monologue.

"ACTs" is written by Clark County Probate Judge Richard Carey, who has been choir director of Springfield St. Teresa Church for 38 years and is a member of the Christian rock band This Day.

Its debut is scheduled for Wednesday to Friday, Nov. 16 to 18 at the John Legend Center in Springfield.

"This high-octane musical reintroduces this generation to the Apostles of old – all very ordinary men who together accomplished something extraordinary. It is a story about hope and redemption, about second chances," Carey said.

"ACTs' celebrates especially our walk with the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a joy-filled celebration of God's mercy and love and most certainly will inspire and give hope," said Father John MacQuarrie, pastor of the Springfield Family of Parishes.

For more information, and to hear the music for the show, go to [www.actsmusical.com](http://www.actsmusical.com).

### Author will present retreat in Hocking Hills

Area Christian author Cecile Smith will present the second of four seasonal retreats at the St. Martin de Porres Family Retreat House in southeastern Ohio's Hocking Hills from 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 27 to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 29. The house's address is 22997 Goosecreek Road, South Bloomingville.

The retreat is for women ages 18 and older, as well as girls 13 to 17 accompanied by an older woman. It will combine gardening and landscaping of the retreat house grounds with the method of prayer presented in Smith's book *Connecting with God in the Garden*, which includes silent reading and reflection, conversation and journaling. There also will be a nature outing with picnicking, swimming and boating at Lake Hope.

The cost for the full retreat is \$115 per person for double-occupancy rooms, or

\$165 for a private room. The cost for one day is \$75, and boating will be available for \$15. Meals are included, as well as a signed copy of Smith's *Inspirational Journal for All Seasons* with study materials.

The retreat is limited to 12 overnight participants. To register, go to [www.CecileSmith.com/contact](http://www.CecileSmith.com/contact) or [Seeds\\_of\\_Grace@yahoo.com](mailto:Seeds_of_Grace@yahoo.com).

### CCR is sponsoring monthly book study

Columbus Catholic Renewal (CCR) will sponsor a study of the book *The Fulfillment of All Desire* by Ralph Martin from 9:30 to 10 a.m. on the fourth Saturday of each month, beginning Aug. 26 at Columbus Our Lady of the Miraculous Medical Church, 5225 Refugee Road.

The study, to be conducted by Deacon Tom Maedke of the Diocese of Steubenville, also will be available via Zoom. Registration is free. The book focuses on the teachings of seven doctors of the Church.

CCR also will sponsor a Healing Mass celebrated by Bishop Earl Fernandes at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 13 at Sunbury St.

John Neumann Church, 9633 East State Route 37.

### Proposed abortion amendment to be discussed at luncheon

Columbus attorney Don Brey and Dr. Michael Parker, former president of the national Catholic Medical Association, will speak to the Catholic Men's Luncheon Club on Friday, Sept. 1, about the proposed Ohio constitutional amendment that would expand abortion access in the state if approved by vote.

The meeting will be at Patrick Hall of Columbus St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., following the church's 11:45 a.m. Mass. Reservations aren't necessary. A \$12 donation for the lunch and meeting is suggested.

John Bradford of Wilderness Outreach will speak at the club's next meeting on Friday, Oct. 6. For more information, or to find out about sponsoring a future luncheon, contact Jim Gernetzke at [jimgernetzke@noslumine.com](mailto:jimgernetzke@noslumine.com).

### CONGRESS, continued from Page 4

dominantly Black parishes, St. Dominic and Holy Rosary and St. John.

"I immediately decided to attend as soon as I heard about it," he said. "I didn't think twice, just said I am going. Especially during praise in the morning, I just felt the unity of African American people there."

Father Owera, who is Filipino, said he felt right at home. "In the name of Jesus, people come together irrespective of race, color, language or culture. With Jesus everything is possible if we just open our minds and hearts to His love."

Still, Latoscia Williams says she's at a crossroads regarding the Church. For her and others, many issues remain, including the lack of teaching about the contributions of Black Catholics; the scarcity of African American priests amid a general drop in religious vocations; and why Church leaders too often do not actively address social issues that affect African Americans and other people of color.

In addition, Williams is among those concerned about the closing of their parishes. Holy Rosary and St. John is one of 15 to be closed in the Columbus diocese.

"I want someone to relate to what's going on in our community. I guarantee there are other preachers out here talking about that and on top of it for the community," she said. "When you have a Black church it's your job to get to know that community."

Yet the congress can help fortify those dealing with these concerns. Williams' sister, Thai'Shann, said NBCC XIII helped her faith.

"It enriched and strengthened it, especially with the closing of Holy Rosary-St. John. This made me feel I can step



Members of the group from the Diocese of Columbus listen to speakers at the National Black Catholic Conference in Washington, D.C. Photo courtesy Andrea Pannell

out, and God is going to be there with me wherever I go. Church is a building; God is in me."

Bishop Jacques Fabre-Jeune of Charleston, South Carolina dramatically lifted up the youth in attendance and the need to allow them to contribute. Bishop Jacques Fabre-Jeune wrapped a youth in an actual chain; it symbolized being captive or enslaved. He reminded the youth that no one can chain their minds or spirit. Then, to applause and cheers, he called for the young people who felt they might have a vocation to come forward and commit to that vocation; about a dozen did.

Michael Hostin, who's been to the congress before, said he always appreciates

the chance to interact with the leaders you meet there.

"They've been through the same walk we have," he said. "Those bishops and priests and the cardinal know what it is to be Black. I'm sure they've had obstacles, but they're able to provide that wisdom you can't get from other people."

Hostin, a former Boy Scout, was among those who took to heart retired Bishop John Ricard's story about camping as a youth and learning the importance of keeping a fire going at all times. "Don't let the fire go out on your watch," Ricard said, urging conference attendees to keep the fire of their faith burning brightly at home.

Hostin said, "We are doing that fire

watch; it's our responsibility not to let that fire go out."

After the congress, members of the National Association of Black Catholic Administrators (NABCA) also met in Washington, D.C. on July 24 and 25.

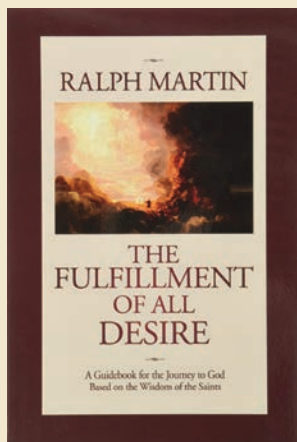
NABCA was established in 1976 to support directors and administrators of diocesan Black Catholic Ministry Offices (BCM). It's their job to help their dioceses meet the needs of local Black Catholics. They normally meet in September of each year but move the meeting to July whenever the National Black Catholic Congress is held.

Twenty-five members representing more than 20 dioceses and four affiliates attended this year's gathering. The group discussed their concerns about dioceses across the country closing BCM offices, and official silence on issues important to the Black apostolate. Vocations, faith formation and evangelization initiatives that appeal to Black Catholics were among the priorities at this gathering.

Andrea Pannell of The Catholic Foundation represented Columbus in NABCA. She serves on its evangelization committee and helped create a forum for Black Catholic Professionals, which was announced at NBCC XIII. She said her work with NABCA is a gift from the Lord, and her faith and fervor are renewed each time they gather.

*Charlene Brown is a longtime member of Columbus St. Dominic Church and travelled to NBCC XIII on the bus with the Columbus group. She is also a journalist and co-host of "Columbus Neighborhoods" on WOSU-TV.*

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*Immaculate Conception festival*



The parish festival at Columbus Immaculate Conception Church attracted a crowd during the final weekend of July. The annual festival brings parishioners, guests and others from the Clintonville area together to enjoy games, food and music. *Photo courtesy Immaculate Conception*

*Rosary rally in Cincinnati*



Bishop Joseph Strickland of Tyler, Texas, and Catholic actor Jim Caviezel participate in a rosary rally that drew an estimated 3,000-4,000 people to Cincinnati on Sunday, Aug. 6, two days before a special election in Ohio on Issue 1 that proposed increasing voter approval to pass an amendment to the state constitution from 50% to 60%. *Photo courtesy Greater Columbus Right to Life*



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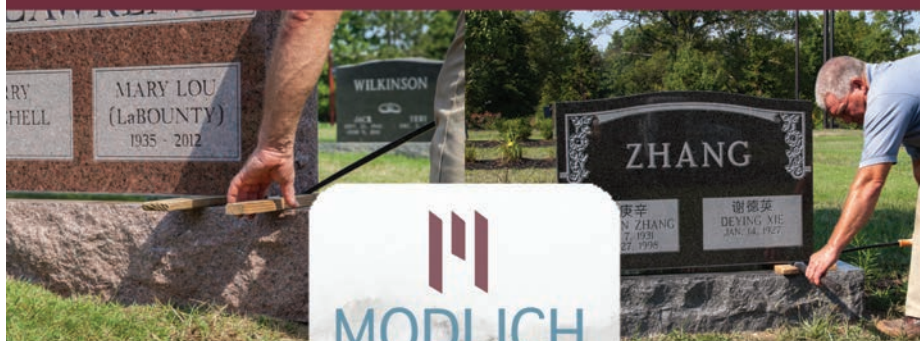


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 from G.K. Chesterton

**Friday, November 3, 2023**

**6:00 PM to 9:00 PM**

**JESSING CENTER** | The Pontifical College Josephinum  
 7625 North High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43235

For sponsorships, tickets or more information please contact  
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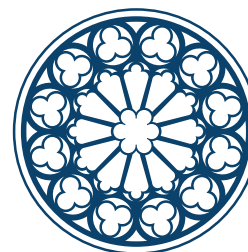
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## An Evening With ...



Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow

*Founder & CEO of Mary's Meals*

**Join us**  
**September 28, 2023**  
**6 p.m.**

**St. Charles**  
 PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Scottish native Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow is the founder and CEO of Mary's Meals - a global hunger charity that provides a daily meal in school for more than 2.4 million of the world's poorest children. Mary's Meals brings children to the classroom to gain an education that provides a ladder out of poverty.

**Reserve Your Table Today!**



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