DIVINE MERCY

JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU

DIVINE MERCY
The Editor’s Notebook  

The Editor’s Notebook

The Quality of Mercy

I have this way of getting into hot water with my wife. I can’t seem to go more than a few days without doing something stupid or not doing something that I should. It’s not that my wife is particularly uptight about the whole thing, but with the best of intentions, I keep screwing things up and my wife always forgives me, stamping my relationship with my Fill-in-the-Blank.

It’s that way with my God, too. My intentions are always good. But I know that I constantly am falling short of doing the things that He would have me do. Faith has just passed away with all of the emphasis on Christ’s Incarnation in most of our churches.

That He would go through all of the pain and suffering of His passion to redeem us from our sin is just overallwful. I don’t deserve it. That’s why it is good that we will be called out to Easter with Divine Mercy Sunday. It is a time to take great comfort in the knowledge that Christ’s great mercy is so great that we can always find forgiveness in Him. This week, Pope Francis will go to the Holy Door at St. Peter’s Basilica’s formal announcement that 2016 will be an Extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy.

How do we avoid all of this from becoming a lost time during our faith lives? A quick first, ask for mercy. Sometimes our pride gets in the way and we don’t want to admit that we are doing anything wrong. At other times, we know that we have done wrong but we just want to “get over it” and move on to it because we are afraid. We need to remember that Christ is our Advocate and ask for His mercy – not because we deserve it, but because we need it, it really needs it.

Pope Francis is a man full of mercy. When Our Lord appeared to St. Faustina and inspired her to create the Divine Mercy image, she was given the words “Jesus, I trust in you.” We need to try to be as humble as she was and forgive us for the sins until the end of time. That assurance fills the burden that is there on our souls.

Finally, we need to trust in mercy. It is a time to bring the parallel of the unworthy servant who was given a great debt by his master, only to turn around and show no mercy on a fellow servant who was given a small debt. We need to show mercy on the mercy Christ has for us to those who suffer in this world.

Statement of the ‘pontiff’s’ word, the document itself, so that thereby we may experience the Divine Mercy devotion, with the prayers and intentions of many.”

The Pope went on to say that we need to focus on the mercy that Christ is offering us. That we have to put aside our own desire to control things and let God do the work.

So, how can we avoid all of this from becoming a lost time during our faith lives? A quick first, ask for mercy. Sometimes our pride gets in the way and we don’t want to admit that we are doing anything wrong. At other times, we know that we have done wrong but we just want to “get over it” and move on to it because we are afraid. We need to remember that Christ is our Advocate and ask for His mercy – not because we deserve it, but because we need it, it really needs it.
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General absolution; Movies, morality, and sin

QUESTION & ANSWER

By Father Kenneth Doyle

Canadian Church News

The preferred candidate should be a high school senior who has good grades, extracurricular activities, and community service. The candidate should also have a strong commitment to the Catholic faith and a desire to serve others. The deadline for applications is March 1, 2023.

The purpose of the religious alliance against seduction is to protect and promote the well-being of Catholic women and girls. The alliance raises awareness about the dangers of seduction and encourages proactive steps to prevent it. They provide resources, training, and support to individuals and organizations who are working to prevent seduction and protect vulnerable populations.

The Religious Alliance Against Seduction recently held a conference on the topic of seduction and its impact on individuals and society. The conference included keynote speakers, panel discussions, and workshops on strategies for prevention and response. The alliance plans to continue raising awareness and mobilizing resources to address the issue of seduction.

Choosing life

On Thursday, May 12, 2022, the Kentucky Catholic Conference held its annual legislative day at the Capitol. Representatives from across the state gathered to advocate for pro-life legislation and to learn more about the issues facing the pro-life movement.

The legislative day included speeches from pro-life advocates, prayer services, and opportunities for participants to meet with their legislators. The conference ended with a rally to pray for the protection of innocent human life.

The Kentucky Catholic Conference advocates for pro-life legislation and works to educate the public about the issues facing the pro-life movement. They are committed to promoting the sanctity of human life and the protection of the unborn.

OAKLAND NURSERY

Nursing & Therapy Services

Design your landscape. Patios, pools, walkways, retaining walls, lawn sprinkler systems.

Pray the Rosary

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Gomez teaches seventh-grade reli-
gion and eighth-grade math. She has 30 years of teaching experience. She teaches English Language Learners and advises the school's green team, which has a majority-Latino enrollment.

"It is especially true for the students we have at St. James. These children lead by the mission. The significance and value of the classroom experience for my religious

GRACE IN THE MOMENT

April 12, 2015                         Catholic Times

Easter Message of Hope

By Sister Margie Lavonis, CSC

What the world really needs is
to hear the good news: Easter is

The front pages of newspapers
are filled with reports of great
tide, protest, and change. They seem
to be the only stories of the day. Is

Firstly, the young girl was not able to afford tuition and was not going to return. Colleen Gomez, the school's principal, said she offered to pay the tuition. The Gomez family had just gone through a rough financial period, so this act really spoke to them.

Now, it is time for the children to believe that God gave me my own personal security officer, and I hope the children who tell them that Jesus is real and they believe that Jesus is real.
Humility is key to understanding Easter, sharing its joy pope says

By Cindy Wooden

Catholic News Service

To enter Christ’s empty tomb like the disciples and see that he has risen, Christians today also must “bend down,” Pope Francis said in his Easter message.

“Love has triumphed over hatred. Life has conquered death. Light has dispelled the darkness,” he told tens of thousands of rain-drenched pilgrims at St. Peter’s Square on April 5.

Rain fell hard throughout most of the outdoor Mass. While most people had umbrellas, their flimsy plastic ponchos were no match for the wind and downpour. The ciborium used to distribute Communion to the crowd was covered with plastic wrap and only partially pulled back when the faithful approached.

Still, they stood for the Mass and for the pope’s solemn Easter blessing arvi et orbis (to the city and the world).

For the pope, this act of veneration did not give a homily during the morning Mass but his Easter message before the blessing picked up a theme he had begun at the Easter Vigil the night before: The mystery of Easter cannot be fully understood -- and the Christian faith cannot be lived fully -- without humility.

“By his death and resurrection, Jesus shows everyone the way to life and happiness: this way is humility, which involves humiliation,” Pope Francis said. “This is the path which leads to glory. Only those who humble themselves can go toward the ‘things that are above,’ toward God.”

To enter into the mystery of God’s love, he said, “we need to ‘bend down,’ to abase ourselves. Only those who abase themselves understand the glorification of Jesus and are able to follow him on his way.”

Obviously, he said, that often involves being countercultural. Instead of putting ourselves first, he said, Christians, by the grace of Christ, dead and risen, are the seeds of another humanity in which we seek to live in service to one another, not to be arrogant, but rather respectful and ready to help.

“This is not weakness, but true strength,” the pope said. “Those who bear within them God’s power, his love, and his justice, do not need to employ violence; they speak and act with the pow -er of truth, beauty, and love.”

As is traditional for the arvi et orbis message, Pope Francis offered prayers for an end to war and violence in specific nations, mentioning by name Syria, Iraq, the Holy Land, Libya, Niger, South Sudan, Congo, Yemen, and Ukraine.

In better news, the pope said, “we, by witness to the merciful Lord, the framework recently agreed to” in order to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon. The pope prayed that it would be “a definitive step to-ward a more secure and fraternal world.”

As he had at every Holy Week service, the pope offered special prayers for peaceloving Christians, asking that “Jesus, the victor over death,” would ease their suffering.

Pope Francis’ Easter celebrations began in the dark of a rainy night on April 4 in the atrium of St. Peter’s Basilica. Hot embers fledged until the Easter fire and, with it, the paschal candle were lit. As a deacon carried the can -dle into the church, Pope Francis followed with a large taper.

Although only the pope and the dr acon had candles, the basilica was aglow with smart -phone and tablet displays as people tried to get photos. As the pope neared the front of the basilica, the congregation -- mostly priests, bishops, cardinals, and ambassa -dors close to the altar -- was more disciplined, and the im- pact of scattered lit candles grew.

While the pope was busy with the Easter liturgies, he sent Archbishop Konrad Krajewski, the papal almoner, to the city’s train stations, shelters, and streets with Easter cards for the homeless. He handed out about 300 envelopes, each of which included an undisclosed amount of money.

During the Easter vigil Mass, Pope Francis baptized, confirmed, and gave first Communion to 10 people, who ranged in age from 13 to 64. Four were Italian, three were Albanian, and one each came from Cambodia, Kenya, and Portugal.

Pope Francis rubbed the chrism oil over all their foreheads and, during the conclusion, tenderly gave each one a kiss on the cheek.

The youngest of the new Catholics -- Champa Buceti, a 13-year-old Cambodian, and Francisco Comenge, a 28-year-old Italian -- brought up the gifts at the offertory.

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“It is good for us on this vigil night to reflect on the experi-ence of the women” who went to Jesus’ tomb Easter morning to anoint his body, he said. Enter -ing the tomb is to “enter into the mystery which God has accom -plished with his vigil of love.”

“We cannot live Easter with -out entering into the mystery. It is not something intellec -tual, something we only know or read about,” he said. “It is more, much more.”

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Entering the mystery means being able “to wonder, to con -template, the ability to listen in the silence and to hear the tiny whisper amid great silence by which God speaks to us.”

To enter the tomb and enter the mystery takes courage, the pope said. It “demands that we not be afraid of reality, that we not be locked into ourselves, that we not flee from what we fail to un -derstand, that we not close our eyes to problems or deny them,

that we not dismiss our ques -tions. The faithful attended Easter Mass celebrated by Pope Francis in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican on April 5. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)
WALKING STATIONS OF THE CROSS

More than 400 Catholics from across the diocese walked through downtown Columbus for the annual Good Friday Catholic Times.

The many faces of faith and justice were the focus of the walk, which began with an opening prayer led by Bishop Frederick Campbell. Participants stopped at 14 locations to pray and reflect on Jesus' Passion and his love. On Good Friday, photos were taken from Columbus Our Lady of Peace Church on the 10th anniversary with a reflection on justice at the Ohio Supreme Court building.

DIVINE MERCY, continued from Page 3

Mourn St. Vincent de Paul – 2 to 3:30 p.m., Benediction, prayers, hymns, Chaplet.

New Philadelphia Sacred Heart – 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., Exposition, Rosary, Chaplet, Benediction, Reconciliation.

Ohio State University – 11:30 a.m., Mass; 1:30 p.m., Adoration, logistics; 3:30 p.m., Rosary, Chaplet, Benediction, Reconciliation.

Newark Blessed Sacrament – 2 to 3:30 p.m., Exposition, Chaplet, Benediction, Reconciliation; 5:30 p.m., Mass. Rosary will be followed by Benediction and prayers.

Sandusky St. John Neumann – 12:15 to 3:30 p.m., Holy Hour and sung Chaplet. Prayers throughout the celebration.

Youngstown Mill Creek – 2 to 3:30 p.m., Exposition, Chaplet, Benediction, Reconciliation.

Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas – 12:15 to 3:30 p.m., Exposition, Rosary, Chaplet, Benediction, Reconciliation.

Divine Mercy image and Chaplet; 3:30 to 5 p.m., Rosary, talk on Divine Mercy; 3 to 3:30 p.m., Adoration; 5:30 p.m., Mass. Rosary will be followed by Benediction.

New Philadelphia Sacred Heart – 1 to 3 p.m., Adoration; 2 to 2:30 p.m., Reconciliation; 3:30 p.m., Benediction.

Catholic News Service contributed to this story.

By Dan Thimons

Director, Diocesan Marriage & Family Life Office

“There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear” (1 John 4:18). On the evening of the Resurrection, Jesus’ disciples had behind locked doors of fear. They had witnessed the crucifixion of their Master just a few days earlier and were nightly terrified that they were next. But in Jesus’ appearance to them that evening and through the Gift of the Holy Spirit, the disciples became fourteen fearless witnesses to the ends of the earth. The Apostles were so filled with the love of Christ that they were compelled to share that love with the world. As baptized members of the Church, we realize that faith is never simply a private matter between me and Jesus, but must always be a matter of faith witnessing to the love of Christ in the world.

Just as Christ’s love for each of us is never simply a private matter, so too, the love of a man and a woman in marriage is never simply a private matter. That is why the Catholic wedding ceremony requires the presence of a priest or a deacon and at least two witnesses. Those who stand as witnesses at a Catholic wedding are called upon to bear witness as the angels and saints, the souls in purgatory, and the Church herself. Through the vows, the two become one, and in this great mystery that impacts not merely the bride and groom, but the entire body of Christ.

During the wedding ceremony, the bride and groom pledge their enduring love to one another in a bond that is both faithful and fruitful. Their vow of permanence, faithfulness, and openness to life impacts not only their own lives, but countless other people in the present and the future. Every time a husband and wife unite in the conjugal act, they are expressing and renewing their wedding vows. The promise of faithful living has married the marriage bond established by God in a way that is always open to the possibility of new life.

This teaching may seem difficult to our modern culture, which is often characterized by fear. What sacrifice might a new child require? Will there be additional difficulties and challenges to our family? To our financial situation? Our health? Jesus Christ called us to count the cost to cast out fear from these concerns and to love one another as He loves us: freely, totally, faithfully, and fruitfully.

Perhaps some of us have not lived our marriage in a way that is always open to new life. Christ in the Eucharist invites us to accept His mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to begin to experience the peace, joy, and freedom found in entrusting our fertility to Him. The Second Vatican Council reminds us “that children are really the supreme gift of marriage and contribute substantially to the welfare of future parents.” Do not be afraid of the sacrifice that children require. Wherever there is sacrifice, there is always the joy of the Resurrection!

For couples who have serious reasons to postpone children, Natural Family Planning is both highly effective and faithful to the wedding vows. A couple which practices Natural Family Planning does not do anything but simply preserve, and therefore simply preserves and respects the beauty of God’s design for the woman’s body.

To learn more about Natural Family Planning, visit http://familyplanning.org/catholic.html. By casting out fear and entrusting our fertility to the Lord, we can more perfectly live out our lived mission of love and become more fully alive!

Love Is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive

By Dan Thimons

Director, Diocesan Marriage & Family Life Office

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That suggests that John had in mind the formation of Hebrew into Greek, dating to the third century BC.

In some ways, Pope Francis gets almost giddy when he meets them in a group is to commission to God, is a real cause to be giddy. Mercy transcends God's mercy beginning on Dec. 8. He has also granted a new title to Jesus as “the face of divine mercy.”

Nothing falls outside God's creative and redeeming purposes, which include our being created male and female, the procreation of male and female, and the perpetuation of marriage, which is a sign of God's own covenant fidelity. God is a communion of loving Persons; thus, married love, Pope St. John Paul II taught, is an icon of the interior life of the Holy Trinity. God keeps his promises; thus the promise keeps the one who gives it. But there is some way in which the promise that divine providence keep its own by its own.

In light of all this, the Christian idea of charity comes into clear focus. In the Catholic view of things, charity is not a dry string of propositions, and charity is not a matter of loving with integrity, loving rather than using, “loving” another for himself or herself.

George Weigel is Distinguished Senior Fellow of The Catholic University of America; the official newspapers of the Archdiocese of Washington are the "Catholic Digest."
The fourth-grade class taught by Tim Schnurr at Columbus St. Anthony School created its own wax museum of famous Ohioans. Each class member chose a subject.

Five Columbus St. Franics DeSales High School students have reached the finalist level in various programs administered by the National Merit Scholarship Corp. [Items left]: Katie Arey, Stephanie Bauman, Hannah Conley, and Alex Ezell. The students are among Ohio's 1,000 outstanding high school seniors. They were finalists in the National Hispanic Recognition Program, which recognizes outstanding Hispanic American students; the National Merit Talent Search (which awards 500 scholarships to the highest achieving African American students in the nation); Bailey Cadena and Antwan Wilson, finalists in the National Student Achievement Scholarship competition, which awards 800 scholarships to the highest achieving African American students in the nation; and Kayla McCallan, a finalist in the National Hispanic Recognition Program, which recognizes outstanding Hispanic American students.

H A P P E N I N G S

CLASSIFIED

St. Mary (Marion) School Dinner/Dance Saturday, April 11, 5:30 p.m. St. Mary Church, Marion. Food, drinks, live music by Jeff and Lynda, silent auction and more. Tickets $47.50 for table of 4, $23.75 for individual. Info: (740) 638-6842. All proceeds benefit St. Mary School. 8 p.m. event, $50 per couple.

St. Catherine Church, Columbus. Sponsorship levels available. Info: 614-472-1072.

St. Peter Church, Columbus. Info: 614-768-2221.

St. Christopher Church, Columbus.

St. Mary Church, Marion.

St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville.

St. Joseph Church, Pickerington.

St. Paul Church, Columbus.
The Gospel choir of Columbus St. Dominic Church, directed by Vernon Hinton, will present its annual concert at 5 p.m. Sunday, April 19, in the church, 453 N. 20th St., Columbus. Featured will be Betty Hill, guest vocalist; Justin Thomas, percussionist; Chris Walker, church youth pianist; Andrea Knox, church youth pianist; Dwight Bailey, guest bassist and Clifford Marsh, guest saxophonist.

For more information, call (614) 252-5926.

FOOTLOOSE: The Musical

Ohio Dominican University's student theater group, the Panther Players, will perform Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Footloose: The Musical" later this month at the Matesich Theater, located in Erskine Hall on ODU's main campus, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus.

General admission is $8. Children younger than five will be admitted free. Admission is also free for students who show their university ID. Free parking is available in the Gold Lot west of Sunbury Road.

Footloose: The Musical will be presented at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 17 and 18, and at 5 p.m. Saturday, April 25.

The play is the story of Ren, who moves with his mother from Chicago to a small farming town. Ren is prepared for the inevitable adjustment period at his new high school. What he isn't prepared for are the rigorous local laws, including a ban on dancing instituted by the local preacher, who is determined to exercise the control over the town's youth that he cannot command in his own home.

When the preacher's rebellious daughter sets her sights on Ren, her rough-neck boyfriend tries to sabotage Ren's reputation. Many of the local residents are eager to believe the worst about the new kid in town. The heartfelt story that emerges is that of a father longing for the son he lost and of a young man aching for the father who walked out on him.

Based on the 1984 film of the same name, Footloose celebrates the wisdom of listening to young people and guiding them with a warm heart and an open mind.

Mark Willis will be featured as Ren. Other cast members include Patrick Ferguson, Hannah Frank, Shyloe Mayle, Ryleigh Kirby, Reade Green, Elizabeth Maloof, Alliane Gingras, Alexis Haynes, Clayton Hilldebrand, Andy White, and Emily Schneiders.

Carrie Ghiloni will be the director, assisted by crew members Brianne Stepn, Cristina DiNucci, Timothy Kincaid, Andrea Haller, and Bernadette Gallant.

In the chorus will be Whitley Wade, Paul Andy Schaffner, Hunter Rohn, Shakira Kabreck, Jansen Hartline, Cassidy Dretick, and Luke Carothers. The Panther Players is a student organization which enables participants to enhance their communication and acting skills. Students have the opportunity to act, direct, and build set designs for various productions.
CHAPLET A SOURCE OF HABITUAL GRACE

By Father Patrick Toner

Everyone knows the story of St. Faustina and the Divine Mercy image. The idea is not new. God has been advertising His mercy for ages. In the Old Testament, we hear about God’s Hesed, His mercy down to the thousandth generation. In the parables of Jesus, we hear descriptions of mercy freely given. What we ask for – “for the sake of His sorrowful passion, have mercy on us and the whole world” – is exactly what God wants to give us.

The Church has drawn upon many images to speak to our hearts about Images have a special way of reaching deep within us. God has shown His mercy by sending His Son so we might understand how great His mercy truly is. When seen against the many aspects of the Passion of the Lord: “by the merits of this sorrowful journey, to assist my soul on its journey to eternity,” “by all your suffering in carrying Your cross, to help me carry mine,” “by the merits of this first fall, save me from falling into mortal sin,” and so on, concluding with “Grant that I may love You always; then do with me as You will.”

Divine Mercy Sunday is the Sunday after Easter so we recognize in the resurrected Christ the fruits of His suffering and death. His Passion shows us His mercy, that we may have eternal life. Father Toner is pastor of Plain City St. Joseph Church, where a copy of the Divine Mercy image, as well as a relic image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, are displayed for devotion 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

How to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy

The Chaplet is said using a rosary

Begin by making the Sign of the Cross while holding a crucifix.
Pray one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and the Apostles’ Creed.

On the large beads, recite:
Leader: “Eternal Father, I offer Thee the body and blood, soul and divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.”
Response: “In atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.”

On the small beads, recite:
Leader: “For the sake of His sorrowful passion.”
Response: “Have mercy on us and on the whole world.”

In conclusion, say three times:
Leader: “Holy God, holy mighty one, holy immortal one.”
Response: “Have mercy on us and on the whole world.”

End with the Sign of the Cross.