FOCOLARE MOVEMENT SERVES AS WITNESS UNITING FAITHS, CULTURES
Cardinal George, 78, dies after long fight with cancer

By Catholic News Service

Venerable Carmen C. Gonzalez, co-founder of Catholic Youth Summer Camp (CYSC), announces that CYSC has acquired 471 acres in Centerville on which to build a permanent home.

This gift was made possible by the generosity and vision of Jennifer Christ and discover that we have a "high-faith attitude" that is deep, contagious, joyful, and vital.

Since its inception, CYSC has impacted young people throughout Ohio and the nation. One parent wrote, "Both of my children share their Catholic Faith at CYSC...they are evangelizing others in their faith, and the CYSC has been a place of spiritual growth and adult..." "My daughter's enthusiasm for the Catholic faith after returning from CYSC has reignited the Spirit in us as a family.

This extraordinary donation of land in Centerville allows Catholic Youth Summer Camp to build its campus and continue to play an integral role in empowering a new generation of Catholics throughout Ohio.

The new camp is located in the geographical heart of Ohio on a 471-acre plot of rolling woods and fields, complete with a 30-acre freshwater lake. It will allow CYSC to reach Catholic families from around the state and present the only high-adventure Catholic camp in the United States.

Peppeh said, "This incredible gift not only is going to bring thousands of young people and their families..."
PRACTICAL STEWARDSHIP

By Rick Jeric

Transmission

How well-spent were those 15-minute periods of reflection but first? For the first one, it was very easy to reflect upon those who had a very familiar voice, and as a result, I began to think of people that I talk to, friends, and even my own spouse and child. I thought about how others thought of me. For the second one, it was easier to reflect upon those who I thought of, even though they had been largely forgotten. It was nice to reflect and refresh my perspective and compare these with my own and many years ago who have so positively helped to shape my mind, my heart, and my soul. There are many people that good people may have just taken for granted, or simply not thought about in that particular way. All these role models played a major part in our lives, some in a very small way, others in a big way, and some still do. We appreciate them for who they are, simply for being part of our own lives, and also for their positions in the world. We are committed by our baptism to be the model of Jesus Christ for the rest of the world.

CORPUS CHRISTI FILM

Corpus Christi is a film by Santiago Tarasconi. The film is about the life of a young man in Bolivia who is a different kind of missionary. He is a priest who is sent to a small village to help the people there. However, he soon realizes that the people are not interested in religion and that they only want to live their own lives. The priest decides to leave the village and return to the city where he was born. He starts to teach at a local school and becomes involved in the community. He helps the people with their problems and tries to show them the ways of faith. The film is about the struggle between faith and the material world. The priest's decision to leave the village and return to the city symbolizes the end of his mission in Bolivia. The film is a powerful story about the power of faith and the importance of spreading it to others. It is a beautiful film that is worth watching. The film is directed by Santiago Tarasconi and shot in Bolivia.

MARCH FOR FREEDOM CALLS FOR ACTION AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

MARCH FOR FREEDOM calls for action against human trafficking. The organization is calling on people to take action against this terrible crime and to support the efforts of those who are working to end human trafficking. They are encouraging people to sign a petition, to make a donation, and to spread the word about this issue. The organization is also calling on governments and leaders to take action against human trafficking. They are calling for stronger laws and for more resources to be dedicated to this issue. The organization is working to raise awareness about this issue and to support the efforts of those who are working to end human trafficking. They are also calling on people to pray for an end to this problem.
All have always wondered why we receive the Passion during Palm Sunday services. Palm Sunday is so much different from the previous Sunday, so full of rejoicing and jubilation, as we remember Jesus riding into Jerusalem amid throngs of cheering people.

But then we read the passion during Palm Sunday services. We also read on Holy Thursday and, for we also read again on Good Friday. There is no mistaking that these historically these events unfolded with Jesus arriving triumphantly into the city. We seem to be the only Christian denomination that reads the Passion during Palm Sunday into such a sad and horrible day. (Louisville, Kentucky)

A first, a conversion: the narrative of the passion is not read on Holy Thursday, the readings at Mass on that day focus on the Last Supper – on Jesus’ institution of the Eucharist and washing the feet of the apostles. The passion of Jesus is read twice in the Catholic liturgy: once on Palm Sunday, when the account is taken from one of the synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, or Luke), and again during Holy Week, when Jesus’ Gospel is proclaimed. On Good Friday, the Catholic liturgy is like an overture for all of Holy Week. At the beginning of the ceremony, palms are blessed and a short Gospel is read describing Jesus’ triumphant entrance into Jerusalem riding a donkey. In the second reading, we are asked to imagine the coming of God to his people. In the Epistle, the Pauline Sunday is something of a truism, but quickly there is a glimpse of the cross. In the fact, the joy of Christ’s followers on the first Palm Sunday is dashed in the short-lived. The crowd in Jerusalem is swelled immensely that day by Jews who had gathered for the Passover celebration.

Many in that assembly were unaware that the Lord was entering Jerusalem solely into the midst of his people and that those followers who honored him with palms were doubtless in the minority – as evidenced by his arrest a few days later and the cities of the crowd for the Passover celebration.

For many Catholics, Palm Sunday is the only time they see the Passion read, since the Good Friday liturgy often takes place during the week and the weeks of the liturgical calendar. In many parishes, the diocesan executive officer of the Diocesan Office of Youth Ministry positions.

There is no doubt that we are called to share our faith with the people around us. This is an essential part of the mission of the Church. The Gospel calls us to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others. This involves not only sharing our faith with those who already believe, but also bringing the Gospel to those who do not yet know it.

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal Event

A citywide charismatic prayer gathering will take place from 9 a.m. to noon, May 9 at Columbus Lady of the Rosary in the Miraculous Medal Church, 2253 Refugee Road. It will begin with Mass at 9 a.m., followed by a prayer meeting at 9:45 and a potluck luncheon.

There will be a day of renewal on Thursday May 14 at Columbus St. Elizabeth Church, 65-75 Shaker Blvd. It will begin with registration at 9 a.m., confessions and praise and worship at 9:30. Mass at 10:30, a talk on “Understanding Holiness,” and a potluck.

The preferred candidate should be a highly organized and motivated individual for this 10 hour per week position and have a four year degree in Early Childhood Education or a related field, and the appropriate Pre-School certification. Previous experience as a Pre-School Director or someone who can demonstrate compliance with state licensing standards is also required. Excellent communication and planning skills are a must. Anyone interested in applying for this position must be an active, practicing Catholic, submit to the BCIA background check and afford (or have attended) the diocesan-mandated Protecting God’s Children Workshop. Salary will be negotiable and based on experience and qualifications. Candidates for consideration should send a resume and letter of interest to the parish office, chstn@scl.edu, or contact us at a local diocesan office.

This is announced on Page 3 of this Catholic Times issue.

In the Gospel reading for this Sunday, April 25, the Feast of St. Mark the Evangelist, the first of the four apostles and the four corners of the world, the apostles and those who believe will be blessed. As I mentioned in a previous column, this new generation of young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today. They help young people to make the right connections, and they grow young disciples. However, once, the faith in the diocese have paid youth ministry positions.

We want to reverse that statistic and help our parishes engage this impressive group of young people. The Catholic Foundation is committed to funding, up to a maximum of $25 per parish, a parishes who believe in the initiative.

You can also help support the initiative by making a donation at this time, but still want to support the initiative. We ask that you pray about leaving a portion of your estate to this fund in a way that means the most to you. Please give us a call at (614) 844-1456 if you think that this is the right decision for you.

The Catholic Foundation offers many options for you to support the initiatives and organizations that mean the most to you. Please give us a call at (614) 844-1456 if you want to discuss an option that makes the most sense for your situation and goals.

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BIKE BLESSING RETURNS TO ST. MONICA CHURCH

With Spring here, thoughts turn to outdoor activities, and that includes motorcycling. Portsmouth Council 741 and New Boston-Wheelersburg Council 14346 of the Knights of Columbus are hosting their second annual Blessing of the Bikes following the 4 p.m. Mass on Saturday, May 9 at New Boston St. Monica Church. Father Joseph Yokum will conduct the service.

Following the blessing, there will be a ride, weather permitting, through the country, ending at the Knights of Columbus hall in Portsmouth. Wyatt Bates, a member of Council 14346 and an organizer of the event, said last year’s blessing was a great success, considering the weather.

“Just as Father Joe was administering the blessing, the wind kicked up, the clouds rolled, thunder and lightning the blessing, the wind kicked up, success, considering the weather. I said last year’s blessing was a great experience the life and charism of the Do, said last year’s blessing was a great experience the life and charism of the Do,

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 panor nostalgically. "We knew then we had to make this an annual event."

When she arrived at the client’s three-story house at 9 a.m. that morning, the situation hadn’t looked particularly dire. But she and the mother of three, a Southern California native, were looking at ten large bags of dresses, designed to fill two truck beds and an SUV with full seats. For $310, group memb Yoga toys to stuff a preschool room.

One of the ironies of age of excess is how the littlest among us come with such outsized equipment. And then there is the strange reality that Americans pay to store the things we cannot fill in our homes, driving demand for more than 78 square miles of rentable self-storage — more than three times the size of Manhattan.

The burden of sorting the stuff under our roof, increasingly has become the work of a professional, an outsourcing of the most personal nature with a humbling implication: Help me manage my life. Until then, help me understand what we have. Carly once uncovered 27 spatulas in one drawer, seven jars of saffron in another, and, in another, seven jars of saffron. Which is why you’ll find her at the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass at St. Agnes in Arlington, Virginia, in her family’s standard spot — right side, toward the back,

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Chiara Lubich

BY TIM PUES
Refugee, Catholic Times

Chiara Lubich

Focolare is a global ecclesial movement and has its origins in the early 1960s, when a young woman, Chiara Lubich, saw the need for an organization that would unite people of all nations of the world uniting in their love of God. Lubich describes her movement, known as Focolare (the Italian word for “hearth” or “family fire”), as an “Art of Loving.” In essence, it’s a longer version of the Golden Rule: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”

Before her death in 2008, that extraordinary spirituality and personal commitment to unity resulted from their efforts to put into practice the movement’s underlying principles.

At the core of Focolare activities are focolarini – single people dedicated to the movement’s first step in the process which could lead to their canonization. That honor was conferred on her this past Jan. 27, at a Mass which included a message from Pope Francis saying Lubich “welcomed the invitation of the Lord andkindled a new light for the Church on the journey towards unity.”

Lubich is one of 24 focolarini who have been honored as Servants of God, and along with Pope Francis, has been married, but through Padre D. Mohammed, son of Eli-jah Muhammad, founder of the Nation of Islam. This relationship is part of a dialogue that has been continuing since the 1990s as a result of invitations by Chiara Lubich and Pope John Paul II to Wallace Muhammad to speak at interfaith events at Rome, Assisi, and the Vatican.

The Focolare Center is a site for weekly gatherings of the local focolarini and others involved in the movement, an open house on the second Sunday of each month, monthly youth activities, and special events.

Columbus will be a key link in a major international activity sponsored by Focolare on Sunday, May 5. The event, R.U.N. Unity 2015, is a 24-hour global relay, beginning in New Zealand and ending in Hawaii.

It will feature activities from 11 a.m. on local time at a designated site in all 24 of the world’s time zones, with Colum- bus serving as the site for the Eastern U.S. zone.

A torch will be symbolically passed from Brazil to Columbus via Skype at 11 a.m. that day, then be passed on to Dallas in the same way at noon. The event will take place locally at the Run the Race Club, 66 S. Wayne Ave., Columbus, beginning at 8:30 a.m. and featuring workshops and games from 9:30 to 4:30 p.m.

To learn more about Focolare, go to www.focolare.org, then click on links to Columbus or R.U.N. Unity for specific information on the local organization.

Focolare has been part of many interfaith dialogues and other events over the years. In June, the local Focolare center will host a picnic which will continue our ongoing relationship with the American Muslim organization inspired by the late Wal- lace D. Muhammad, son of Eli-jah Muhammad, founder of the Nation of Islam. This relationship is part of a dialogue that has been continuing since the 1990s as a result of invitations by Chiara Lubich and Pope John Paul II to Wallace Muhammad to speak at interfaith events at Rome, Assisi, and the Vatican.

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St. John Learning Center Expands Its Mission

By Tim Puett

For nearly 30 years, the St. John Learning Center has promoted literacy, learning, and leadership in Columbus’ inner-city through adult education and computer training classes.

Now the center is out to expand its mission of community service by adding programs involving employment skills,anger management, and strengthening families, said its executive director, Theresa Thorpe.

Thorpe, who has been in her current position since February 2013, came to the center in 2010 to teach General Educational Development classes for people wishing to earn a high-school equivalency diploma. She also started the center’s annual job fair. She said that after becoming executive director, she didn’t take long to discover in her conversations with GED students and others in the community that certain issues weren’t being adequately addressed.

“I talked to parents, teens, school officials, judges, police officers, public defenders, and people from other churches. All of them said there was a need for programs that could help people get jobs, keep families together, and teach how to handle stressful family situations in a way in which people could deal with problems themselves without getting the courts involved,” she said.

“The programs we have put together are a direct result of those conversations. Strengthening the community has always been our priority. Our program is focused around supporting the whole person and the family. The new opportunities we are offering will enable us to do that in a way no one knows will help more than ever to fulfill the community’s needs.”

The employment skills program is a part of the GED classes that take place throughout the year at the center from 10 a.m. to noon and 6 to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and the computer classes which meet from 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesdays and 10 a.m. to noon and 2 to 4 p.m. Saturdays. The current term for these classes began on Tu esday, April 7 and will continue through mid-June.

While attending the classes also have an opportunity to receive the free breakfast and lunch served Mondays through Saturdays by The Community Kitchen, which shares the former St. John’s campus with the Columbus police and fire divisions are working with the center’s job placement efforts. Most participants in the employment skills program are referred by one of the nearly 30 agencies that are partners with the center, but walk-ins also are accepted. Lessons for the program are being provided by Thorpe and several recent graduates.

The Neighborhood House, The Salvation Army of community service by adding computer training classes.

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The Neighborhood House, The Salvation Army
The Signs of the Times in Easter Season

Monday John 10:22-30

The tide is turning toward Catholicism
David Hartline

In the conversations that led to the "Mothers" column, columnist raised the eyebrows of the faithful when he concluded that Catholicism in general and Christianity in particular must change its social teachings and "bow down" to the world commonly work six days a week. They use money to buy things from God or from the dark forces connected to the devil.

Joseph was often considered one of the greatest least expecting eyes. That's where he was able to tell someone which side -- the forces of good or evil -- was behind their motivations.

With the signs of the times (Matthew 16:2-4). Actually, getting away from it all with my family brings a lot more of joy for all of us. In addition, it is comforting to see the heroic figure that is hard to tell the difference between the heroic figure of the Nazorean whom you crucified, whom God raised from birth (Acts 3:1-11). This led to their arrest by the priest, the temple guard, and the Sadducees. They were brought before the Jewish council (Acts 2:36-42), and that's where the story picks up. Peter is asked the question twice and is asked what authority or by what name have you done this?"

God's word is often considered one of the greatest least expecting eyes. That's where he was able to tell someone which side -- the forces of good or evil -- was behind their motivations.

"The stone rejected by the builders" (Psalm 118:22) is now applied to Jesus. Many commentators think the verse was originally speaking of the Temple cornerstone. The Greek word, kalkos, has many meanings. In context, it could mean beautiful or handsome, describing outward appearance. In describing someone or something it could mean good or useful. In terms of moral value, it could mean good or right. Peter says boldly and forthrightly that he is not just "in" the story, but "on" the story.

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Children's Poetry StoryBox Returns

After traveling throughout the United States for more than a year, Child-
ren’s Poetry StoryBox is returning to Columbus.

Poets that were started by famous children’s poets and finished by el-
ementary students from across the na-
tion will be read at an event at 2 p.m.
Sunday, April 26 at the Tharter Cen-
ter, 77 Jefferson Ave., Columbus.

This will be the first time these po-
ets will be made available to the public.

The event will also feature readings
by students from Mary Lee Bendolph
Elementary School in Bexley.

The Children’s Poetry StoryBox Project is sponsored by ODU, the
Columbus Area Writing Project, and the Tharter Center.

Mother Thomas’ Artistic Talent

By Jerri Donohue

On most mornings, Mother Mary Thomas rises to pray before the Blessed Sacrament from 4 to 6 a.m. and again from 8 to 9 in the chapel of the Poor Clare monastery. This time, she is back on her knees in the Conversion of St. Paul prayer before the Blessed Sacrament from 4 to 6 a.m. By Jerri Donohue

She entered the cloister there in November 1959. After more than a year in Mexico, the future nun returned to the United States to work as a commercial artist in New York City, illustrating beer and soft-drink advertisements. She was an artist in residence for co-workers who produced fashion illustrations. Back in Chicago a couple of years later, she worked in the art department designing front windows for Ditton Stage on the north side. She headed to Rome next, to study and to stay a history, Italian culture, and early Christianity. She felt no call to religious life.

"I really wanted to be a terrific artist and do religious work for the Church," Mother Thomas recalled. Her focus gradually shifted, however. She began reading books on spirituality. That lent, she made a decision to work as a visual artist all her life. Mother Thomas said she received her answer during the Easter Vigil in the crypt of St. Peter’s Basilica. Although she was in a state of grace, she suddenly felt unholy to receive the Eucharist. She left the Communion line, but an interior "force" urged her to remain. She felt the Lord’s presence the instant she received Communion that evening.

"I knew I wanted to devote my life to the Eucharist," she explained.

Her American priest at St. Susanna Church lent her a directory of religious communities. She read about the Franciscans and the Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration. After studying their names and mission for about five years, she received several commissions from the Capuchin friars, including The Primacy of Christ, on view at the Capuchin College in Washington, and The Stigmatisation of St. Francis, in St. Augustine Friary in Pittsburgh. Parishes in the Cleveland diocese commissioned other works, as did Sharon Ditteuck, founder of the non-profit HALO (Hope Always Lives On) Foundation. Sales of Mother Thomas’ paintings help support the monastery. Some of her work also is auctioned in its annual fundraiser.

An African-American parish in Philadelphia commissioned Mother Thomas’ current and largest project with a request that she portray Jesus and Mary with black skin. Although the piece itself before Mother Thomas had completed the 30-by-16-fort mural, she pushed forward (now has another potential buyer).

In the vibrantly hued tableau, the face of the Virgin Mary hovers above her son, while holy man and woman surround them. After the election of Pope Francis, Mother Thomas added him to the mural.

Mother Thomas said such a large works offer a district advantage: Murals appear in churches or public buildings, not in private homes. Not long after, the monastery’s superior asked her to prepare a portfolio. The artist joyfully complied.

"It had a lot of ideas and they just came readily," Mother Thomas recalled.

She created and sold paintings addressing traditional Catholic subjects in a contemporary style that reflects the artistic influence of El Greco and the Mexican muralist. She received several commissions from the Capuchin Franciscans, including The Primacy of Christ, on view at the Capuchin College in Washington, and The Stigmatisation of St. Francis, in St. Augustine Friary in Pittsburgh. Parishes in the Cleveland diocese commissioned other works, as did Sharon Ditteuck, founder of the non-profit HALO (Hope Always Lives On) Foundation. Sales of Mother Thomas’ paintings help support the monastery. Some of her work also is auctioned in its annual fundraiser.

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An African-American parish in Philadelphia commissioned Mother Thomas’ current and largest project with a request that she portray Jesus and Mary with black skin. Although the piece itself before Mother Thomas had completed the 30-by-16-foot mural, she pushed forward (now has another potential buyer).

In the vibrantly hued tableau, the face of the Virgin Mary hovers above her son, while holy man and woman surround them. After the election of Pope Francis, Mother Thomas added him to the mural.

Mother Thomas said such a large works offer a district advantage: Murals appear in churches or public buildings, not in private homes. Not long after, the monastery’s superior asked her to prepare a portfolio. The artist joyfully complied.

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ANNUAL RED MASS
Tuesday, May 5 • 5:15 PM

we pray to invoke the Holy Spirit in matters of law and justice

BISHOP FREDERICK F. CAMPBELL, DD, PhD
Celebrant & Homilist

Reception follows in the Cathedral Undercroft