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# CATHOLIC TIMES

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*Merry Christmas!*







*My brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ,*

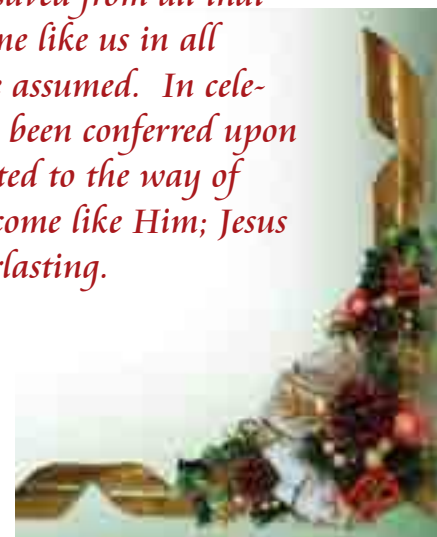
*So many speak of the "spirit" of Christmas. By this "spirit," they mean several things. The "spirit" may mean a general feeling of good will, the joy of gift-giving, the light and festive nature of the holiday that dispels the darkness of winter. It also seems to be a momentary reawakening of hope for universal peace and joy.*

*At the heart of the Christmas celebration, however, lies an astounding fact. With the birth of Jesus some two thousand years ago, the Son of God became an intimate part of human life and history. In the incarnate Lord, God revealed His extraordinary love for His creatures, wishing them to be saved from all that could offend human meaning and purpose. Jesus Christ became like us in all things except sin, and transforms all the human reality that He assumed. In celebrating the nativity of the Lord, we rejoice in the destiny that has been conferred upon those who grasp the meaning of Christmas and become ever more united to the way of*

*Christ. As the Church Fathers so often proclaimed: Jesus became like us so that we might become like Him; Jesus took on human flesh to enable us to take on divine reality. And this is life abundant and everlasting.*

*May the incarnate Lord give you and your families abiding joy and lasting peace.*

*Most Reverend Frederick F. Campbell, DD, PhD  
Bishop of Columbus*



Left: Pope Benedict XVI waves goodbye for the last time during his final public appearance from the balcony of the papal villa in Castel Gandolfo, Italy, on Feb. 28. Right: Cardinal Agostino Vallini, papal vicar for Rome, stands next to Pope Francis as the newly elected pontiff appears for the first time on the central balcony at St. Peter's Basilica on March 13. CNS photos/Paul Haring

## Year of two popes leaves indelible mark on Year of Faith

By **Cindy Wooden**  
*Catholic News Service*



The goal of the Year of Faith, which concluded on Nov. 24, has been to educate Catholics about basic church teachings, strengthen their faith, and inspire them to share it with others.

If it has succeeded, as organizers say it has, the credit ultimately lies less with its special projects and events than with the historic papal transition that occurred in its course.

"The election of Pope Francis has given new visibility to the core teachings of Jesus Christ, which ultimately is what the Year of Faith sought to achieve," Msgr. Paul Tighe, secretary of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, told Catholic News Service.

Both Pope Benedict XVI, who opened the celebration in October 2012, and Pope Francis dedicated their Year of Faith talks to explaining the creed, looking at modern cultural challenges to faith, recognizing faith as a gift, and urging Catholics to proclaim God's love and share the Gospel.

But a different pope means a different personality and a different style, even when teaching or preaching on the same themes. In addition, a new pope tends to draw more visitors to the Vatican because many Catholics are eager to meet their new shepherd.

Eight months after Pope Francis' March 13 election, the number of visitors to the Vatican continues to be higher than usual, which most observers attribute to his easy rapport with a crowd

and his touching focus on children and the sick.

By Nov. 13, more than eight million Catholics had come to Rome and officially registered as Year of Faith pilgrims at a visitors center just down the street from St. Peter's Basilica. But Father Francesco Spinelli, an official at the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization, said the real number of participants in Year of Faith events at the Vatican is far higher, "because most come without registering at all."

Pope Francis closed the Year of Faith with Mass on Nov. 24, the Feast of Christ the King. The evening before, he presided over the Rite of Acceptance, a brief ceremony in which adults who had been inquiring about the Catholic faith officially become catechumens preparing for baptism.

The pope also plans to publish an apostolic exhortation on the new evangelization, promoting what he calls a "culture of encounter" between Christ and humanity and among believers themselves. The document and the ceremony with future Catholics underline a key point of Pope Francis' teaching: Christ not only knocks on hearts to get inside, he knocks on the doors of churches asking to be let out into the world.

At his general audience on Oct. 16, the pope asked the crowd, "Are we missionaries by our words, and especially by our Christian life, by our witness? Or are we Christians closed in our hearts and in our churches: 'sacristy Christians?'"

Archbishop Jose Octavio Ruiz Arenas, secretary of the council for the new evangelization, told Catholic News Service that Pope Benedict proposed the Year of Faith "to give a strong push to the new evangelization" and to help Catholics "recognize the joy that comes from the great gift of faith" and from knowing that God loves them so much that he sent his son to save them.

Pope Francis' election during the Year of Faith can be seen as "providential," the archbishop said. "The personality of Pope Francis, his closeness, his use of language that is simple and profound, his desire to go out and meet people, has captivated people's hearts."

"The Holy Spirit knew what he was doing," Archbishop Ruiz said. "He wanted to be sure that in the Year of Faith, many people who had been far from the church would hear an invitation to respond to the Lord." From what bishops and pastors around the world are reporting, it seems to have worked, he said.

Both popes have insisted that being an authentic Christian isn't simply about one's private prayer life. It must be evident in the way a person interacts with others and with the world.

A month before he stepped down, Pope Benedict said that believing in God "makes us harbingers of values that often do not coincide with the fashion and opinion of the moment. It requires us to adopt criteria and assume forms of conduct that are not part of the common mindset."

"Christians must not be afraid to go against the current in order to live their faith, resisting the temptation to con-

form," he said.

Pope Francis, in a Year of Faith talk in April, said, "Being Christian is not just about obeying orders, but means being in Christ, thinking like him, acting like him, loving like him; it means letting him take possession of our life and change it, transform it and free it from the darkness of evil and sin."

"This is a precious service that we must give to this world of ours, which all too often no longer succeeds in raising its gaze on high, no longer succeeds in raising its gaze to God," Pope Francis said.

The two popes naturally brought distinctive styles to the Year of Faith, Archbishop Ruiz said, but it is "only a hypothesis" to think, for example, that Pope Benedict would have used the pro-life celebration in June to denounce abortion, or the family life celebration in October to denounce same-sex marriage. "Pope Benedict's magisterium wasn't concentrated just on that," Archbishop Ruiz said, adding that the retired pope designed the Year of Faith celebrations to be expressions of joy and happiness, not protests.

Msgr. Tighe said, "One of the particular achievements of Pope Benedict was showing -- with strong philosophical and theological arguments -- the legitimate claim of faith to having a place in the public square and in public debate."

"In a simpler, more directly pastoral way, Pope Francis is almost literally bringing faith to the public square, particularly in and through the media," he said. "We see especially in social media a huge desire on the part of people to share his words and deeds."

**Merry Christmas**  
*from all of us at Catholic Times!*

Alexandra   Dave   Jodie   Steve   Tim

The Times will be taking a week off for Christmas, so there will be no issue next week. We'll be back with more on Jan. 12, 2014.



**Front Page photo:**  
**ICON OF THE NATIVITY**

Mary and Joseph kneel at the crib of the infant Christ in this icon from the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. The Dec. 25 Christmas feast commemorates Christ's birth. The Christmas season begins with the Dec. 24 evening vigil and ends on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Jan. 12, 2014.

CNS photo/Debbie Hill



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## PRACTICAL STEWARDSHIP

By Rick Jeric

### Francis

Are you still able to be thankful and grateful for the many volunteers, workers, and ministers at your parish? Maybe you are one yourself. Either way, there is so much and there are so many for which to be thankful, especially when it comes to the wonder and beauty of our Christmas-season liturgies. All the dedication, care, and devotion to our respective celebrations and liturgies is to be appreciated and respected. The season may somewhat automatically put us in a very blissful and focused mindset spiritually. But the prayerful and meditative fervor that says "Christmas" is aided greatly by the atmosphere, environment, and surroundings in which we find ourselves. That includes everything from the poinsettias to the homily. The pure beauty of the Christmas Eve children's Mass, or the early morning liturgy, or the midmorning celebration is a product of tremendous effort. We all partake and participate differently. Whatever our individual focus or lack thereof, the mind-blowing mystery of the Incarnation is overcome by the pure love of our God. We all experience it in our own way. We embrace it, and we are as eternally grateful as we can possibly be. Give your sincere thanks at Christmas and throughout the season to those who deserve it.

As we celebrate Christmas once again in 2013, we thank God for the gift of His Son, for our families, and for peaceful lives. Besides "Merry Christmas" or "Happy Holidays," probably the most used greeting or wish at this time of year is "Peace on Earth." While we are thankful for all of the above, how do we feel about the parts of the world that are torn apart by religious strife and hatred, that have families divided or decimated by civil war and genocide, and that experience war as a part of everyday life? At the same time that we revel in the joy and blessings of Christmas, we bear the burden of a world that is not at peace. "Peace on Earth" is merely a wish and a nice thing to print on a card. But take heed and have hope. As Christians, we know that we cannot effect change overnight. We use the joy and blessings that we celebrate to deliberately and steadily change the world and effect peace, one relationship, one household, one parish, and one neighborhood at a time. It begins with each one of us, just as salvation began with that one little baby born among the straw, animals, and crude surroundings 2013 years ago. We may ask, "What can I do? How do I make a difference?" The answer for this Christmas lies in our challenge. Pray and meditate upon the words.

Our practical challenge this week, throughout the Christmas season, and into the new year of 2014 is to use the words of the Prayer of St. Francis. Together with the living example of Pope Francis, these words tell us precisely how we live the Gospel message, begun by the Christ Child: "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O divine Master, grant that I may not seek so much to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, it is in dying that we are born to eternal life." This is how we live as the Christ Child wishes. Merry Christmas! Peace on Earth!

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



### HANDS-ON SCIENCE AT FLAGET

Chillicothe Bishop Flaget School students participate in a hands-on science presentation from Mobile Ed Productions. This educational presentation was sponsored by the school's Parents' Club. The school and nine of its teachers recently received the Governor's Thomas Edison STEM Award for excellence in youth science opportunities for the sixth straight year.

Photo courtesy Bishop Flaget School

### "Encounter" Conference

Hundreds of Catholic young adults will equip themselves for the task of proclaiming the Gospel at a new conference next summer in St. Charles, Mo. The conference, to be titled "Encounter: Awakening a Generation," will be from Friday, May 30 to Sunday, June 1, 2014, and is being organized by Franciscan University of Steubenville's Christian Outreach Office and the Archdiocese of St. Louis Office of Young Adult Ministry.

Encounter will address young adults' hunger for meaning in their lives, said Brian Miller, director of young adult ministry for the Archdiocese of St. Louis. "It's an age group (19-29) that has the world fighting for their attention," Miller said.

Encounter is a new and innovative way to draw young adults to Christ in the sacraments and in community. "It will show them how deeply Christ longs for each one of them," Miller said.

Participants who attended a Franciscan University of Steubenville youth conference as teenagers will find notable differences at Encounter, which will address more mature spiritual themes and have small interactive breakout sessions for open discussion.

The conference will include Mass, Eucharistic adoration, talks, interactive sessions, social time, late night entertainment, and a service and mission fair that will show how young adults can serve the Church.

Conference planners expect the conference to attract 1,000 young adults from the St. Louis area, the Midwest, and beyond.

Encounter speakers include Paul George, co-founder of Adore Ministries, who passionately proclaims the love and freedom God offers to each person; Sister Miriam James Heidland, SOLT, who speaks widely on the Theology of the Body, authentic love, and healing in Jesus; Ennie Hickman, Adore Ministries missionary and host of Steubenville summer youth conferences; Father Christopher Martin, vocations director of the Archdiocese of St. Louis; and Jeremy Rivera, an award-winning speaker and writer and national marketing director of FOCUS Missionaries.

Worship will be led by Ike Ndolo, assistant music director at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Tempe, Ariz., whose missionary work has taken him to Mexico and China.

John Beaulieu, director of partnerships and engagement for the Christian Outreach Office at Franciscan, said Encounter will equip young adults with the tools they need to integrate their faith into the workplace and their relationships with family and friends. The conference will take place at the St. Charles Convention Center. For more details, go to <http://encounterstl.com> or call (314) 792-7083 or email [encounterstl@archstl.org](mailto:encounterstl@archstl.org).

### Pilgrimage to the HOLY LAND

May 12-21, 2014

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### Director of Religious Education

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Buckeye Lake, Ohio

This is a part-time position (20 hours per week) and does not offer insurance/health benefits.

Responsibilities for this position include coordination of the PSR program (Pre-K through Grade 12), Vacation Bible School Program, Sacramental preparation, Children's Liturgy of the Word, and assist with the Youth Ministry program.

Applicant must have either a Bachelor's Degree in Theology or equivalent catechist's certification. Position effective July 1, 2014. Resumé deadline is January 17, 2014. Applicants may submit their resúms to:

**Father William Ferguson/Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church**  
PO Box 45 • 5133 Walnut Rd., Buckeye Lake, Ohio 43008  
e-mail: [olmc@midohio.twcbc.com](mailto:olmc@midohio.twcbc.com)

### St. James Christmas Candy House Village

For the last 23 years, eighth-graders at Columbus St. James the Less School have created candy house villages during the Christmas season. In addition to the school display, the students created a display for the Gingerbread Fantasy sponsored by St. Stephen's Community House. This year, all the school's students are studying Dr. Seuss books, and this year's village is a Dr. Seuss Christmas village.

Each classroom chose a Dr. Seuss book as part of the year's study. The eighth-graders worked with other classes to create design ideas for the displays. Fifteen books were chosen for the village houses, which are part of a raffle that supports a scholarship. The scholarship is the eighth-grade class gift to the school and will be given to a student in kindergarten or one of the other seven grades.

The house featured in the photo is the design from *Fox in Sox*. It is pictured with students (from left) Luis Guzman, Anayeli Hernandez, and Rey David Saucedo. The student designers fashioned socks out of fruit roll-ups to trip the house, and placed a fox on the edge of a sock-shaped pond.

All of the houses were on display for Breakfast With the Grinch, a community holiday celebration at the school.

Pictured are school principal Yvonne Schwab as the Cat in the Hat and physical education teacher Darren Smith as the Grinch.

Photos courtesy  
St. James the Less School



### Watterson Alumni Basketball Event

The Columbus Bishop Watterson High School Alumni Association's 2013 Shay Basketball Tournament will take place Sunday, Dec. 29 at the school, 99 E. Cooke Road.

The tournament, which will start at noon, is open to all Watterson gradu-

ates and includes men's and women's brackets. It traditionally draws more than 100 former students to reconnect and support the school.

Online registration is available at [www.bishopwatterson.com](http://www.bishopwatterson.com). Click on "Alumni," then "Alumni Sports Tournaments."

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## The Reason for the Season

Santa recently visited Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. Here, he is at the manger with Jason Casparro, showing him the "Reason for the Season."

Photo by Mitchell Seckman

## Los Posadas at St. Andrew



Columbus St. Andrew Preschool students joined St. Andrew Elementary students to celebrate Las Posadas, a celebration which has been a tradition in Mexico for more than 400 years and marks the journey of Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem. Eighth-grade students led the school in prayer and song. Photos/St. Andrew School



## Preparing grandchildren for first Communion; Selling blessed objects



### QUESTION & ANSWER

by: FATHER KENNETH DOYLE  
Catholic News Service

**Q.** I have two grandchildren who are teenagers, but have never made their first Communion. Whenever we visit them on the mainland, I keep reminding them and their parents about the importance of attending religious education classes. Realistically, though, I believe that this is never going to happen.

I would very much like them to participate in the Eucharist, because I view it as the source of life. I have been a CCD (Confraternity of Christian Doctrine) teacher before, and I have books (age-appropriate) that I bought to teach my grandchildren about the sacraments of reconciliation and Eucharist.

If I go through these books with them and educate them on the sacraments, will that be sufficient to allow them to confess and to receive holy Communion? (A caring grandmother from Ewa Beach, Hawaii)

**A.** Yes, your experience as a religion teacher would probably be sufficient for you to prepare your grandchildren for the sacraments. (In our parish, we often assign children to an individual "tutor" when those children are older than most first communicants.)

But you should continue to encourage them to enroll with their age group in formal religious education classes. That way, they not only will hear the other things they need to know to learn and live their faith, but they also will profit from the support of their friends.

Before you begin, it would be best for you to speak with your grandchildren's parents to be sure that they are comfortable with you undertaking this worthy project. (It will help, of course,

if the children themselves agree, too!)

You should also make contact with a priest in their parish (of their own choosing) and tell him what you are doing. Later, when you feel that your grandchildren are sufficiently prepared, the priest can sit down with them and informally evaluate their readiness. If he feels comfortable, he will then arrange to hear their confessions and give them their first Communion.

**Q.** I was always taught that you could not sell items that had been blessed or you would be committing the sin of simony. But recently I read somewhere that certain blessed items could in fact be resold, but that the blessing itself does not carry forward with them. (In other words, they would have to be re-blessed after the sale.) What is the truth? (Greenwood, Ind.)

**A.** The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* defines simony in No. 2121 as "the buying or selling of spiritual things." The term takes its origin from the book of Acts, where Simon the magician wanted to buy the spiritual power he saw at work in the apostles. A blessing is a "spiritual thing" and therefore cannot be bought or sold.

Religious articles that have been blessed (statues, crosses, paintings, etc.) can, however, be resold, but only for the intrinsic value of the article itself. Any blessing is lost with the resale, and the piece would need to be blessed anew. (This removes any profit incentive which could be associated with selling the "blessing" part of the sacramental.)

People sometimes ask about papal blessings, which are sent from Rome for a suggested donation. The donation is not for the blessing, but for the cost of the parchment, as well as for its shipping and handling.

Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at [askfatherdoyle@gmail.com](mailto:askfatherdoyle@gmail.com) and 40 Hopewell St., Albany, N.Y. 12208.

[www.ctonline.org](http://www.ctonline.org)

## Immigration reform effort is being waged on multiple fronts

By Patricia Zapor

Catholic News Service

A year ago, fresh off the November general election in which Hispanic voters were widely credited with tipping the vote to President Barack Obama, advocates were abuzz about the prospects for passing a comprehensive immigration reform bill in the 113th session of Congress.

Among those whose tune about immigration reform changed with the exit poll information was House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, who told reporters a few days after the election that "it's just time to get the job done."

Twelve months later, with a Senate bill passed, but no House action on the horizon, some advocates have continued to sound optimistic notes, albeit while talking about getting reform done in the second half of the 113th congressional session, or maybe after the mid-term elections next November.

Others have sounded the death knell for any legislation after Boehner made clear he would not bring the Senate's bill to the House floor. There's been no movement for a comprehensive bill written by House Democrats, and little on Republican-sponsored bills dealing individually with border security, employer verification, and high skilled immigration.

At a glance, it looks as though the dug-in partisanship that has stymied so many other issues on the congressional agenda also may be jamming up immigration legislation.

But the reality of the immigration reform campaign is that it has become such a huge, complex effort that no simple description of all that's happening is possible.

There are coalitions working together that include groups who normally are not on the same side of many issues: labor unions and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce; high-tech employers and farmers; civil liberties activists and evangelicals.

In the past few months, reform leaders -- especially people focused on stopping deportations and those who would be affected by the DREAM Act, legislation aimed at legalizing young adults who were brought to the U.S. as children -- have become more confrontational, apparently taking cues from the



Hundreds of protesters calling for comprehensive immigration reform gather at a rally on the Washington Mall on Oct. 8. The demonstration was called "Camino Americano: March for Dignity and Respect." CNS photo/Jason Reed, Reuters

civil rights era.

Catholics have for decades been at the forefront of support for immigration reform.

Advocates for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Catholic social justice lobby Network, the leadership organizations for men and women religious, and many religious orders have long been a part of public and behind-the-scenes advocacy for comprehensive reform.

That's usually described as including a chance at legalization with a path to citizenship for the estimated 11 million immigrants in the country illegally; major redesign of family- and employment-based immigration rules; provisions for temporary workers in agriculture and other industries; and targeted measures to control the borders.

But a feature of current efforts is the coalition of evangelicals -- not among the major players in previous campaigns -- who have been targeting individual Republican members of Congress with local advertising campaigns pressing them to get on board.

Currently, the most visible faith-based work for immigration reform may be the Fast for Families. Beginning Nov. 12, a large tent on the National Mall has hosted daily advocacy in the form of prayer and fasting. Signs, photos, letters, and small shrines in the tent have told the stories of families broken apart by deportation and immigra-

tion status.

Members of Congress urging action. In late November and early December, attention also was focused on the Obama administration, with letter writing and more aggressive measures to try to slow the pace of deportations. Approximately 1,100 people a day are deported.

On Dec. 11, a group knelt and prayed the rosary outside the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement office in Philadelphia under a banner reading "Not One More Deportation."

Several times in 2013, major public actions in support of reform took place across the nation.

At the close of an October rally in Washington, those arrested for civil disobedience included icons of the civil rights campaigns of the 1960s, including Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., who worked with the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

King's daughter, the Rev. Bernice King, gave a resounding testimony to the power of prayer in pursuit of political change during an early December event at the Fast for Families tent.

Elsewhere, activists have blockaded buses full of people being deported, staged sit-ins at the offices and homes of Republican leaders, waylaid Boehner at his favorite diner, and attempted to deliver him Thanksgiving turkeys and California wine produced by immigrants, along with letters from children seeking protection from deportation for their parents.

While Boehner refused to meet with the advocates, much was being read into his hiring in early December of Rebecca Tallent. Previously, Tallent was the chief adviser on immigration to Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona, notably working closely with the staff of the late Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., to draft an earlier version of comprehensive reform legislation.

Rep. Luis Guterierrez, D-Ill., the most prominent House advocate for comprehensive reform, laid out an optimistic, but somewhat refocused idea of how reform might happen at a Dec. 5 event honoring organizations for their efforts at immigrant integration, sponsored by the Migration Policy Institute.

Guterierrez said, "It's time to change the conversation about how we go into immigration reform."





ON A FIRM FOUNDATION

By Loren Brown



## Help spread the Light of Christ at Christmastime

During this period of reflection and celebration that is Advent and Christmas, I often think about a great Christmas memory from my teenage years. A heavy snow-fall filled the air as it covered the tree branches and trail leading to a small footbridge over a stream. Every slow step through the quiet of dense woods crunched beneath our boots until we stopped to lean against the wooden rail. From a distance, we savored the rich scent of oak burning in the lodge fireplace and viewed light through the windows, revealing family members gathering for Christmas. Here we were together, two very young high school teenagers.

This very pretty girl from school had invited me to her family's gathering. I was introduced to her many aunts, uncles, and cousins for the first time, and felt naturally anxious as I politely found the right words and actions. As welcoming as everyone made the experience for me, I admit the escape to the peacefulness of the evening walk in the woods brought great comfort. The night and this pretty

girl, who someday would become my wife and wonderful mother of our children, were a gift from God to me.

It was a gift of what would be my vocation in life as a husband and father. So, as I think about that snowy night, this pretty girl, and our eventual family, I am also reminded of His gift to us in Jesus, Mary, and Joseph -- together, the Holy Family -- and our celebration of Christmas.

This Christmas, it is my hope that one day each person will come to know God's love and celebrate in the birth of His son Jesus. People often think of our work at The Catholic Foundation as providing financial support to parishes, schools, and other ministries, which it is on a basic level. However, our overarching goal is to develop more devout Catholics and create stronger parish communities. By supporting our Catholic ministries, we are helping the people within these organizations to minister to the physical and spiritual needs of others, to care for our fellow Catholics, and, yes,

even to evangelize to those outside of our Catholic community.

As we approach the new year, I ask that you join in The Catholic Foundation's goal of developing more devout Catholics and creating stronger parish communities. To do so, please prayerfully consider making a year-end contribution to The Catholic Foundation. You can designate your gift to an existing endowment supporting your favorite Catholic organization, or you can leave it up to the Foundation to determine the greatest need in our diocese. Each contribution, no matter the size, helps spread the Light of Christ so that one day everyone will share in God's love and celebrate Christmas together.

*For a child is born to us, a son is given to us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:5).*

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

## St. John's Hermitage award banquet

*St. John's Hermitage seeking nominations for priests who are examples of New Evangelization*

Several years ago, Father Stephen Virginia shared his dream of a much-needed sanctuary that would provide a place of refreshment, hospitality, contemplation, confraternity, and recreation for priests.

That dream has become the basis for the Spirit-led mission of St. John's Hermitage.

Support is now being sought to build the hermitage on 66 acres of rolling, wooded hills in northwest Scioto County which have been donated for the purpose.

The hermitage's principal fund-raising event is its Evangelization Ambassador Award banquet, at which a priest is recognized for his outstanding example of living the New Evangelization. Bishop Frederick Campbell was the first award recipient last year.

Nominations for the 2014 award are being accepted. Anyone in the diocese may nominate a priest as a possible recipient. The keynote speaker for this year's banquet will be Father Joshua Wagner, pastor of Columbus St. Dominic and Holy Rosary-St. John churches.

The celebration will take place

on Friday, Jan. 24, the Feast of St. Francis de Sales, the patron of the diocese and a truly inspiring evangelist.

Priests are overworked and under great stress today. The banquet is a way to say "thank you" to the priests of the diocese by providing a truly inspiring evening of Christian fellowship while giving special recognition to a priest who has gone the "extra mile" in his ministries.

Visit the hermitage website at [www.stjohnshermitage.org](http://www.stjohnshermitage.org) to register for the banquet, sponsor a table, or nominate a priest.



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## GEORGIA ON MY MIND



When you think about this time of year, what do you think about? Is it finding that rare gift for that special someone? Is it reflecting on the many past holidays spent with your family? How about those moments that make you stop and pause for a moment about something you did or didn't do? Many of us recall the times when we were children and couldn't wait for that day to get here so that we could open our presents. Some of us recall our relatives who had that strange look or trait we laughed or whispered quietly to each other about as they passed by. Or maybe we remember something we never received, or a relative we lost. It is these kinds of memories we hold in the silence of our hearts.

We see children's eyes open wide at all the wonders of the season—the snowfall, the parades, the sights and sounds that stir them to emotion. We remember how

we reacted and were enlightened by their innocence and their ability to see everything as if it were new. There are those of us, though, for which this season is lost. We hold much regret and anger for those who have more than we do. We are bitter to the point of alienating the ones that love us the most.

There is a way to get through a hardened heart and a way to a childlike view of the world. It is to think about how our shortcomings pale in comparison

to the hardships Joseph and Mary had before and after the birth of the baby Jesus. Imagine giving birth to your child sitting in a damp, cold, barren stable with no running water, no heat to keep the cold away, and not much acceptance for the life you have led or for you personally.

It reminds us that life is too short to dwell on the past and for us to not forget to live. I think of this little boy who had insurmountable odds of survival. I am humbled. And I remember the ones that have gone before me, who sacrificed their lives so that we would have a chance at a better one.

There is one such person, especially this year, whose passing I mourn. I remember what she did for us and for the many others whose lives were

blessed with her presence. She was unselfish, kind to a fault. I also remember fondly her talent for gardening and her 'green thumb.' She could plant a Popsicle stick and it would flower. Now where is that miracle when I need it? She would give of herself freely, and hadn't a bad word to say about anyone. She lived her life by example and was a true hero to those who were touched by her deeds or by her radiant smile and her love for those less fortunate. She was a second mother to us after our mom passed away years before. She exemplified what that little boy in a manger represented so long ago—hope, hope for a world without hunger or want.

I promised the children of this fine lady that I would write this with them in mind. This is for you and for everyone suffering a loss at this time of year. Think about the good times and of the many things you did together. You will find yourself recalling something funny, and the memories and the laughter will come. Ray Charles sang a song many decades ago that flows through my mind as I remember her and all the others who have passed on in my life. For her children, especially, this song is for you:

**I said Georgia, Georgia  
A song of you  
Comes as sweet and clear  
As moonlight through the pines**

**Other arms reach out to me  
Other eyes smile tenderly  
Still in peaceful dreams I see  
The road leads back to you**

**I said Georgia, oh Georgia  
No peace I find  
Just an old sweet song  
Keeps Georgia on my mind,**

**Just an old sweet song  
Keeps Georgia on my mind ...**

May there be many such songs. For Terry, Steve, dad, family, and for all the lonely, may this Christmas bring you much joy. May God grant us all the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, to change the things we can, and the wisdom to know the difference. Merry Christmas, everyone, and a happy New Year. May the wind be forever at your backs and may His peace be with you always.

*Joseph Thomas is a member of Gahanna St. Matthew Church. He posts his thoughts online at <http://truegiftoffaith.blogspot.com>.*



## Happy 2014 from ODU



Make visiting Ohio Dominican University one of your New Year's Resolutions. Schedule a tour at [ohiodominican.edu/Admissions\\_Visit](http://ohiodominican.edu/Admissions_Visit).

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**Left:** Pictured at the ordination of two transitional deacons for the diocese on May 3 are (from left) Father Paul Noble, diocesan vocations director; Deacon Vincent Nguyen; Bishop Frederick Campbell; Deacon Cyrus Haddad; and Msgr. Christopher Schreck, Pontifical College Josephinum rector-president.  
**Right:** Deacons (from left) Nicholas Droll, Michael Gentry, and Matthew Morris are presented to the bishop just before being ordained as diocesan priests in Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on May 25.  
 CT photos by Ken Snow

# YEAR IN REVIEW

**BY TIM PUET,** *Catholic Times Reporter*

The year 2012 for the Diocese of Columbus was highlighted by the opening of the first new Catholic high school in Columbus in more than 50 years.

Classes at Cristo Rey High School began on Aug. 5 for a freshman class of 83 students from economically disadvantaged families. They are taking part in a unique work-study program in which they usually attend classes four days a week and spend one day at a local business performing the type of entry-level work that often is the first step to success in a corporate environment.

"I am very happy with the start of our first school year at Cristo Rey Columbus High School," said school president Jim Foley. "Our staff and students have begun to create a culture of intellectual curiosity, spirituality, hard work, professionalism, and service. With the help of the Catholic community, we hope to change students' lives as we ready them for college."

The school's temporary home is the former diocesan child guidance center across from Mount Carmel West Hospital. This fall, it will move to the former Ohio State School for the Deaf building adjacent to the main branch of the Columbus

Metropolitan Library. Cristo Rey purchased the building in March from the library for \$1 million. The library had bought the 114-year-old, 88,000-square-foot building from the state for \$2.1 million earlier in the year.

A new group of freshmen will enter this fall, with two classes joining them in subsequent years until the current freshmen become seniors in 2016. By that point, it's anticipated that about 400 students will be attending the school.

Despite the opening of Cristo Rey, the number of diocesan schools remained at 11 because of the closing of Marion Catholic High School as a result of declining enrollment and financial concerns. The school served students in grades seven through 12. The seventh and eighth grades were incorporated into Marion St. Mary Elementary School at the start of the current school year. Enrollment at Marion Catholic had fallen from more than 200 students in three grades in 1979-80 to 78 in six grades in 2012-13.

Two new convents opened in Columbus this year. Three sisters from the Mexican-based Missionary Servants of the Word arrived in Columbus on Saturday, Nov. 30 to begin work with the Hispanic community on the city's east side from

a convent at Christ the King Church. Sisters from the same order have been at St. Stephen Church on the city's west side since 2009. This year, they were joined at St. Stephen by priests from the order who assumed pastoral duties at the parish, which had been staffed by diocesan priests.

Three Dominican Sisters of the Immaculate Conception established a convent at 957 E. Broad St. in early September. One of the sisters is serving as director of religious education and youth ministry at St. Patrick Church near downtown, while the others are working at Holy Family Church in Franklinton and St. Mary Church in German Village, evangelizing and performing works of mercy such as bringing the Eucharist to the sick and homebound.

Bishop Frederick Campbell dedicated additions at two parishes late in the year. He came to Worthington St. Michael Church on Nov. 30 to bless a new parish ministry center which includes an adoration chapel, offices, classrooms, and meeting areas. On Dec. 18, he dedicated an expansion project at Sunbury St. John Neumann Church which adds worship space, increasing its seating capacity from 500 to 1,100, as well as a day chapel for adoration and weekday Mass and

connectors for all four parish buildings.

Soon after the start of the current school year, the bishop dedicated a new west campus at Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, the first addition of property to the school since its founding in 1923. It includes a running track and a field surrounding the track, a fitness and weight-training facility, a bridge connecting the new campus with the rest of the school, and additional parking.

Parishioners at Cardington Sacred Hearts Church are making plans to rebuild after a fire destroyed the church early on the morning of Thanksgiving Day. No one was injured, but the church building was a total loss and has been leveled. Father John Bakle, SM, parish administrator, was in the rectory next door, but did not know about the fire until being awakened by the sirens and flashing lights of emergency vehicles.

The parish was in the midst of a renewal plan whose first phase was to have been completed with a visit by Bishop Campbell to dedicate an organ on Dec. 9. Trinity United Methodist Church in nearby Mount Gilead donated its hall for worship services on Dec. 1, the first Sunday after the fire. The parish then accepted the Cardington-Lincoln School District's offer for use of its vacant intermediate school building for weekend Masses and Parish School of Religion activities until further notice.

Joe Buttress of Columbus St. Christopher Church was honored as diocesan Catholic Man of the Year by the Catholic Men's Luncheon Club. Buttress, 89, has been a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society for more than 50 years, has worked once a week distributing food to the poor and hungry at St. Lawrence Haven for about 30 years, and has been involved with many other parish and community activities.

The Columbus Diocesan Council of Catholic Women selected Elizabeth Christy of Pickerington St. Elizabeth Seton Parish as the 2013 Catholic Woman of the Year and Madison Corcoran of Circleville St. Joseph Church as the Young Woman of the Year.

Christy is a certified nurse and midwife who has taken a strong pro-life stand in providing medical

services in the community, in the face of conflict with others in the medical profession.

Corcoran has been an altar server, PSR teacher, and member of her parish youth group, is active with the diocesan youth group, has taken an active part in Gospel Road missions, has been involved with school athletics, the 4-H Club, and the YMCA lifeguard program, and has won public speaking awards at the Ohio State Fair.

Donald Wisler retired as president and chief executive officer of Catholic Social Services after 10 years with the agency and a 39-year career in social services, the bulk of it with Catholic agencies in Indiana, Michigan and Ohio. Wisler began his retirement with a Pacific-to-Atlantic bicycle ride of nearly 3,700 miles across the northern United States and part of Canada, during which he raised nearly \$15,000. His successor is Rachel Lustig, former senior vice president of mission ministry for Catholic Charities USA in Washington.

Two other directors of diocesan offices retired: Stephanie Jenemann at the Office of Marriage and Family Life, who was succeeded by Daniel Thimons, and Deacon Martin Davies at the Office for Divine Worship, whose successor is Michelle

Lemiesz. Patrick Davis, buildings and grounds director for the diocese, died on Dec. 15.

Bishop Campbell ordained three new priests for the diocese on May 25. All are serving as parochial vicars: Father Nicholas Droll at Columbus St. Andrew, Father Michael Gentry at Powell St. Joan of Arc, and Father Matthew Morris at Worthington St. Michael.

In addition, three men with connections to Columbus St. Patrick Church were ordained to serve as priests of religious orders. Fathers Dominic Bump, OP, a member of the parish, and Father Reginald Lynch, OP, who was serving there as a deacon, were ordained as priests of the Dominican order on May 24, and Father Michael Magree, SJ, also of St. Patrick's, was ordained as a Jesuit priest on June 9. Father Lynch remained at St. Patrick's, while Father Bump is a chaplain at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore and Father Magree is serving in the same role at St. Joseph's Preparatory School in Philadelphia.

Bishop Campbell ordained Cyrus Haddad and Vincent Nguyen as transitional deacons on May 3. They are completing studies at the Pontifical College Josephinum and hope to be ordained as priests for the diocese in May.



**Above:** The former Ohio State School for the Deaf will be the home for Cristo Rey High School. **Below:** (1) Cristo Rey students leave the school's temporary location; (2, from left) DCCW president Karen Kitchell, Madison Corcoran, Elizabeth Christy, and Bishop Campbell; (3) A Thanksgiving Day fire destroyed Cardington Sacred Hearts Church. Photo courtesy Cristo Rey High School; CT photo by Jack Kustron; CT photo by Ken Snow; photo by Alissa Staley, courtesy The Morrow County Sentinel





## Health care law rollout met by frustrated public, moral objections

By Carol Zimmermann

Catholic News Service

The Affordable Care Act, signed into law in 2010, was a major topic of discussion throughout 2013, when some of its provisions began to take effect.

The federal government's troubled website frustrated the general public, and the law's final rules for implementing its contraceptive mandate applying to most religious and other employers did not satisfy the U.S. Catholic bishops, who repeatedly criticized the mandate and its narrow religious exemption, saying it erodes religious liberty rights.

When the federal government rolled out its healthcare.gov website in October, allowing people to shop for insurance coverage, the frustration with technical glitches on the site probably raised the national blood pressure levels.

On Dec. 1, the U.S. Health and Human Services Department announced that the worst of the website's problems have been fixed, but said there were still some software bugs in the system.

To help people through the maze of understanding the law and shopping for and buying health insurance, the federal government provided more than \$67 million in funds to more than 100 organizations to train navigators and counselors.

St. Louis-based Ascension Health received two of the federal grants, distributed to Via Christi Hospital in Wichita, Kan., and Providence Hospital in Mobile, Ala.

Connie Brooks, a senior director for Ascension Health, said the grants "allow us to do more of what we do," stressing that Catholic hospitals are "very much committed to and compassionate about care for the poor and access to health care. It is at the core of who we are."

Catholic Social Services in the Archdiocese of Mobile, Ala., was awarded a navigator grant of \$20,750, but ended up rejecting it.

Father Fredrick Adamson, vicar general of the Diocese of Phoenix, advised Catholics there, in a letter sent to all parishes this fall, not to be navigators for the new health care law.

The priest's letter included a link to



the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia, which urged Catholic agencies not to sponsor or assume assistance roles with the health care law "because of the implications of these actions for cooperation with evil."

The center cautioned against such help "not just because of the morally illicit drugs and procedures which will be facilitated by implementing" it, but also "because of the violation of religious liberty" in the law's contraceptive mandate.

The mandate was a major problem with the health care law for the U.S. bishops from the start, and remained one even after HHS made an accommodation for religious employers and finalized its rules.

The bishops, who have long advocated for health care reform, were against final passage of the health care measure because of its use of federal funds to pay for elective abortions and its failure to protect conscience rights for workers in the health care industry, as well as for employers who have moral objections to the law's requirement that most religious and other employers provide free health coverage of contraceptives, sterilization, and abortifacients for their workers.

The final rules issued in June to implement the mandate include an exemption for some religious employers who fit certain criteria.

For nonprofit religious organizations -- including charities, hospitals, and universities -- that do not fall under the exemption, but are morally opposed to providing the coverage, HHS

has stipulated an accommodation: The coverage will be provided separately through health insurance companies or third-party administrators who must ensure that payments for contraceptive services come from outside the objecting organization's premiums.

But the U.S. bishops and many Cath-

olic universities and institutions argue that the accommodation still does not solve their objections to being involved in providing coverage they reject for moral reasons.

Currently, more than 70 lawsuits against the mandate, filed by Catholic and other religious entities and some for-profit companies, are working their way through the courts.

The U.S. Supreme Court agreed on Nov. 26 to take up two cases that challenge the contraceptive mandate of the law for secular, for-profit businesses whose owners object to all or part of the mandate on moral grounds.

The cases involve Hobby Lobby, an Oklahoma-based, family-run arts-and-crafts chain, and Conestoga Wood Specialties, a family-run Pennsylvania company that makes cabinets.

At issue in both cases will be First Amendment arguments that a federal requirement that the owners of the companies provide insurance cover-

See LAW, Page 13

## IN MEMORIAM - DIOCESAN RELIGIOUS WHO DIED IN 2013



Father Ronald L. Arter



Father Jack G. Maynard



Deacon Joe Poland



Deacon Kas Santos



Msgr. Francis Schweitzer



Father James T. Smith

**Msgr. Francis X. Schweitzer**, 93, the senior priest of the diocese, died on Oct. 22, after 67 years in the priesthood.

He was known throughout the diocese for his work with the poor at Columbus Holy Family Church, where he became administrator in 1970 and pastor three years later. He established the area's largest soup kitchen in the former Holy Family School, and he continued to celebrate Mass every weekday at the church from his retirement in 1997 until shortly before his death. He also was pastor at Ada Our Lady of Lourdes (1955-67) and Newark Blessed Sacrament (1968-70).

**Father James T. Smith**, 75, died on Jan. 5. He had been a priest for 47 years.

He served as pastor at Columbus St. Matthias from 1991 until his death, and also was pastor at Columbus St. Christopher (1973-83) and Columbus Immaculate Conception (1983-91).

**Father Ronald L. Arter**, 79, a priest for 53 years, died on Aug. 4. He was pastor at Lancaster St. Mark from 1986 until his retirement in 2004, serving additionally as pastor at the Church of the Atonement in Crooksville (1972-76), and at Delaware St. Mary (1976-80) and Corning St. Bernard (1980-86).

**Father Jack G. Maynard**, 64, died

on Sept. 28. He had been a priest for 35 years, serving as pastor at Dresden St. Ann and Mattingly Settlement St. Ann from 2001-12 before going on a medical leave of absence. He previously was an associate pastor at eight churches in Columbus, Marion, Pickerington, Portsmouth, Lancaster, and Heath.

**Father William D. Lynn, SJ**, 90, a faculty member at the Pontifical College Josephinum for 28 years and a Jesuit priest for 58 years, died on Dec. 25, 2012. He came to the Josephinum in 1979 and taught there until his retirement in 2007. He also served as the college's dean from 1986-92 and director of the pre-theology program from 1992-2000.

**Father Louis "Luke" Turon, OP**, 92, died on Nov. 24. He was a physician, and also had been a priest for 58 years -- 44 of them in Pakistan, where he was part of a pioneering group of four Dominican friars who opened a mission there in 1956. He returned to the United States in 2000 and was assigned to Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas Church, where he remained until five months before his death.

**Father Robert V. Tobin, MM**, a native of Marion, died on April 12. He was 85 and had been a Maryknoll priest for 55 years, serving as a missionary in Mexico for 29 years and also spending time in Peru and Colombia.

**Father John J. Ogurchock, MM**, 85, a priest of the Maryknoll order for 59 years, the last 51 of them in Bolivia, died on Sept. 16. He frequently visited the Columbus area to make appeals for his mission and to visit his brother, Father James Ogurchock, a retired Columbus diocesan priest.

**Msgr. James B. Nugent**, 88, died on Nov. 16 at the Villas at St. Therese in Columbus. He was a priest of the Diocese of Steubenville for 57 years, retiring in 1996 and spending the next 17 years in the Diocese of Columbus, where he ministered at a number of parishes. He was the brother of the late Msgr. Michael Nugent, a Columbus di-

ocesan priest.

**Deacon Kasuma J. Santos Jr.**, 61, died on Nov. 2. He was ordained to the diaconate in 2008 and served at Columbus St. James the Less until being assigned to Columbus Christ the King a little more than a month before his death.

**Deacon Joseph D. Poland Jr.**, 75, died on Nov. 16. He had been in diaconal service since 1985, serving at Gahanna St. Matthew until 1993 and at Columbus Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal for the next 12 years until his retirement in 2005.

Religious sisters who died in 2013 and served in or were natives of the Diocese of Columbus, or were living in the diocese at the time of their death, were:

**Sister Geraldine Warthling, OSF**, 75, who died Jan. 2; **Sister Alvena Ryan, OP**, 89, Jan. 6; **Sister Anne Feth, SNDdeN**, 97, Jan. 12; **Sister Catherine di Ricci Sullivan, OP**, 93, Jan. 15; **Sister Julia Fala, OSF**, 89, Feb. 14; **Sister M. Francis Helene Fox, CSC**, 87, Feb. 16; **Sister Clarita Elder, OP**, 80, April 8; **Sister Michael Mary Naughton, OP**, 87, April 11; **Sister Rose Anthony Cantore, OP**, 93, April 28; **Sister Edith Fitzgerald, OP**, 93, May 23; **Sister Rebecca Costello, OP**, 81, May 28; **Sister Agnes Goode, OSF**, 84, June 22; **Sister Loretta Forquer, OP**, 92, June 25; **Sister Mary Elaine Tarcy, SNDdeN**, 88, July 29; **Sister Mary Carol Kessler, OP**, 93, Aug. 2; **Sister Christina Bruno, SNDdeN**, 94, Aug. 12; **Sister Waldia Ann Warren, OP**, 80, Aug. 18; **Sister Helen Welch, OSF**, 88, Sept. 19; **Sister Carolyn Thomas, SCN**, 77, Sept. 20; **Sister Angela Franks, SNDdeN**, 95, Sept. 23; **Sister Wilhelmina Frohnappel, OP**, 94, Oct. 6; **Sister Dolores Garner, OSF**, 92, Oct. 24; **Sister Mary Emma Muckensturm, OP**, 87, Nov. 12; **Sister Stella Spangler, OP**, 91, Nov. 26; **Sister Rita Greene, OSF**, 84, Dec. 8; and **Sister Mary Peter Sterwerf, OSF**, 83, Dec. 11.

*Merry Christmas!*

*May Christ find a generous  
and welcoming home in our hearts  
in this new year and always.*


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## Feast of the Holy Family (Cycle A)

### There is something here for all in the family



Father  
Lawrence L. Hummer

**Sirach 3:2-6,12-14**  
**Colossians 3:12-21**  
**Matthew 2:13-15,19-23**

The instruction Sirach serves up on Holy Family Sunday is an instruction which reminds Christians of our roots in Judaism. The fourth commandment is found in Exodus 20:12 and Deuteronomy 5:16. The wording is slightly different in the two.

Exodus says "Honor your father and your mother, that you may live long on the land, which the Lord your God is giving you." Deuteronomy says "Honor your father and your mother, just as the Lord your God has commanded you, that you may live long and prosper on the land which the Lord your God is giving to you."

Sirach includes "long life" in his instruction here as a reward for those who honor their parents, but Sirach suggests other benefits accrue, too. They include "atonement for sins, having prayers heard, and enjoying the gift of children."

In today's world, particularly applicable (and often painful) is the instruction to care for an aging father, even if his mind should fail. It is at once an acknowledgment that fathers do age and that their minds do fail.

For the fathers themselves, it must be a terribly painful admission of their own mortality to recognize the loss of vitality and control. For children (and others) who care for them, it is not an easy task. In many ways, it is similar to the immovable object facing the irresistible force. When the decision maker is reduced to having decisions made for him, it is sad for all. Sirach considered it a child's responsibility to care for aging parents, as did the rest of the Old Testament. Anything

### Notre Dame Chorale

The Notre Dame Chorale, the official concert choir of the University of Notre Dame, will appear at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 11, at Columbus St. Agatha Church, 1860 Northam Road.

The chorale is a mixed ensemble of more than 60 voices specializing in choral works from the Renaissance to the present. Members of the chorale come from all areas of the university and include Carmen Casillas, daughter of St. Agatha School music teacher Janice Casillas.

Led by Alexander Blachly, the program will include traditional and unusual Christmas music and a variety of choral selections, including works by English Renaissance composer William Byrd, Franz Schubert, and Claude Debussy.

This stop is one of seven the choir will make in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia to raise funds for its trip to Austria in May 2014. The concert is free, but a free-will donation will be taken at the door.

else was unthinkable.

The Gospel for this feast is Matthew's story of the flight into Egypt. It recalls that the Old Testament Joseph was also forced into Egypt against his will. It also enabled Matthew to use another "fulfillment citation" by quoting from Hosea 11:1: "Out of Egypt I called my son." Thus, by placing the Holy Family in Egypt, Matthew can now make use of another prophetic voice to show how Jesus fulfills the words of Hosea.

Matthew concludes his infancy narrative with a final allusion to such Old Testament passages as Judges 13:5,7; Judges 16:17 and elsewhere, but it is only an allusion. Unlike other "citations" from the Old Testament, there is no specific place where the Old Testament specifically mentions a "Nazorean."

The passages from Judges mention "Nazirites," which referred to designated agents of the Lord set aside for special vocations by the Lord. Samson is even called a "holy one of God" in the Greek translation of the Hebrew of Judges 16:17. Matthew would have known this and could make use of the tradition that Jesus was the Holy One of God, as well as being from Nazareth, and combine it all in the claim that he was a Nazorean.

That leaves the best for last – Paul's words to the Colossians, which encourage selfless and compassionate behavior within the Christian community and praise-filled songs of thanks to God. Because the final words are optional, many will not hear the directives about family harmony: "Wives, be subordinate to your husbands. ... Husbands, love your wives, and avoid any bitterness toward them. ... Children, obey your parents in everything. ..." It is the real reason the words are chosen for this feast of the Holy Family. At about this stage of the Christmas holiday, it's well nigh time! There is something here for all in the family, and all in the family should hear these words.

I wish joyful Christmas greetings to all who read this column! May the word of Christ continue to dwell in us richly and may the peace of Christ control our hearts.

Father Lawrence Hummer can be reached at [hummerl@stmarychillicothe.com](mailto:hummerl@stmarychillicothe.com).

### New Year's Eve Mass

The diocesan Catholic Charismatic Renewal will sponsor a New Year's Eve Mass on Tuesday, Dec. 31 at St. Therese's Retreat Center, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus.

Mass, celebrated by Father Jim Coleman, will be at 7:30 p.m., preceded by the rosary at 6 and praise and worship at 6:30. Fellowship will follow Mass, and those who are able are asked to bring an appetizer or dessert. For more information, call (614) 237-7080.

### The Weekday Bible Readings

12/30-1/4

**MONDAY**  
1 John 2:12-17  
Psalm 96:7-10  
Luke 2:36-40

**TUESDAY**  
1 John 2:18-21  
Psalm 96:1-2,11-13  
John 1:1-8

**WEDNESDAY**  
Numbers 6:22-27  
Psalm 67:2-3,5-6,8  
Galatians 4:4-7  
Luke 2:16-21

**THURSDAY**  
1 John 2:22-28  
Psalm 98:1-4  
John 1:19-28

**FRIDAY**  
1 John 2:29-3:6  
Psalm 98:1,3-6  
John 1:29-34

**SATURDAY**  
1 John 3:7-10  
Psalm 98:1,7-9  
John 1:35-42

1/6-1/11

**MONDAY**  
1 John 3:22-4:6  
Psalm 2:7-8,10-12a  
Matthew 4:12-17,23-25

**TUESDAY**  
1 John 4:7-10  
Psalm 72:1-4,7-8  
Mark 6:34-44

**WEDNESDAY**  
1 John 4:11-18  
Psalm 72:1-2,10,12-13  
Mark 6:45-52

**THURSDAY**  
1 John 4:19-5:4  
Psalm 72:1-2,14,15bc,17  
Luke 4:14-22a

**FRIDAY**  
1 John 5:5-13  
Psalm 147:12-15,19-20  
Luke 5:12-16

**SATURDAY**  
1 John 5:14-21  
Psalm 149:1-6a,9b  
John 3:22-30

### DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE WEEKS OF DEC. 29, 2013 AND JAN. 5, 2014

#### SUNDAY MASS

10:30 a.m. Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio (820 AM), Columbus, and at [www.stgabrielradio.com](http://www.stgabrielradio.com).

Mass with the Passionist Fathers at 7 a.m. on WHIZ-TV, Channel 18, Zanesville, and 7:30 a.m. on WWHO-TV (the CW), Channel 53, Columbus. Check local cable systems for WHIZ's and WWHO's cable channel listings.

Mass from Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, Birmingham, Ala., at 8 a.m. on EWTN (Time Warner Channel 385, Insight Channel 382, or WOW Channel 378)

(Encores at noon, 7 p.m., and midnight).  
Mass from Kenton Immaculate Conception Church at 10 a.m. on Time Warner Cable Channel 6 (Hardin County).  
Mass from Portsmouth St. Mary Church at noon on Time Warner Channel 24 in Scioto County.

#### DAILY MASS

8 a.m., Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Birmingham, Ala. (Encores at noon, 7 p.m. and midnight) See EWTN above; and on I-Lifetv (Channel 113 in Ada, Logan, Millersburg, Murray City and Washington C.H.; Channel 125 in Marion, Newark, Newcomerstown and New Philadelphia; and Channel 207 in Zanesville); 8 p.m., St. Gabriel Radio (820 AM), Columbus, and at [www.stgabrielradio.com](http://www.stgabrielradio.com).

We pray the Sanctoral and Seasonal Propers or Week I (after Jan. 1) of the Liturgy of the Hours

## Cardinal George: an anniversary appreciation



THE CATHOLIC  
DIFFERENCE  
George Weigel

When Francis Eugene George first sought admission to the Chicago seminary in the 1950s, Chicago Catholicism imagined itself the future of the Catholic Church in the Western world—and not without reason. A lot of the ferment in Catholic intellectual, liturgical, and pastoral life that would eventually produce the Second Vatican Council had already passed through Cook and Lake counties in the previous two decades. Thus "this confident Church" (as one historian of Chicago Catholicism dubbed it) readily imagined itself the cutting edge of the Catholic future: where Chicago was, the rest of the Church eventually would be. It was a conceit, to be sure, but it was a conceit with some institutional and pastoral foundation.

Now, just after the golden anniversary of his priestly ordination on Dec. 21, Cardinal Francis E. George, OMI, the first native Chicagoan to lead what many still regard as the flagship American diocese, is best known, in some circles at least, for proposing the possibility of a very different Catholic future. He sketched it starkly for a group of priests, to illustrate the implications of radical secularization for America: "I will die in bed, my successor will die in prison, and his successor will die as a martyr in the public square. His successor will pick up the shards of a ruined society and slowly help rebuild civilization, as the Church has done so often in human history."

There have likely been moments when my friend Cardinal George has rued the day he publicly engaged in that thought exercise. Many 21st-century Catholics are reluctant to think outside their comfort zones; the

blogosphere can distort anything. Yet the arresting way he formulated that possible future, and especially its net result, gets us to the essence of Francis Eugene George, I suggest.

By the time Francis George became its bishop in 1997, the "confident Church" of Chicago had become a shaken Church: pastoral practice was slack; practice of the faith, by such elementary measures as Sunday Mass attendance and frequency of sacramental confession, had taken a severe hit; the seminary was in various forms of distress. Cardinal George addressed these and other problems in the face of ecclesiastical resistance (both clerical and lay), an increasingly challenging public environment, and a deteriorating culture. Yet even after a difficult decade of working to restore Catholic practice in the Windy City, Cardinal George remained confident that, even if the worst should happen down the line, the Catholic Church would not only survive, but become one of the agents of society's renewal. And the cardinal's confidence rested not on the vast institutional network that buttressed the "confident Church" of his boyhood, but

on his faith in the Lord's promise that the Holy Spirit would always be with the Church, calling it to conversion and mission, to the works of charity and service.

Francis Eugene George is a man of well-honed critical intelligence. But to focus solely on the man of intellect can sometimes obscure the deeper truth that he is a man of profound faith: the cross-centered faith that supports the remarkable physical courage of this polio survivor who must bear regular pain; the faith in divine mercy that allows him to say without blush that "the most important conversations on the planet" take place in the confessional; the evangelically alert faith that has led him to support such bold initiatives as Father Robert Barron's Word on Fire media ministry and its remarkable *Catholicism* series; the ecclesial faith that made him an effective leader of the U.S. bishops, preparing the way for the work of Cardinal Timothy Dolan and many others.

He may well be the most intellectually sophisticated bishop in U.S. Catholic history; he certainly has shown keen insight into the sources of America's current crisis of public culture. Yet as he marks the 50th anniversary of the day when he became a priest of the Church, an icon of the eternal priesthood of Christ, it is as a brother in Christ whose faith-based Christian courage gives courage to others that I wish to salute him.

*George Weigel is Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C. Weigel's column is distributed by the Denver Catholic Register, the official newspaper of the Denver Archdiocese. Phone: 303-715-3215.*



Members of Columbus Bishop Ready High School's Student Council are shown with wrapped Christmas gifts they collected as part of the Salvation Army's Angel Tree Project for children ages one to 14. Each child received two gifts.  
Photo courtesy Bishop Ready High school



# Pray for our dead

**BAKER, Keith E., 55, Dec. 12**  
St. Matthew Church, Gahanna

**BESHARA, Michael A., 72, Dec. 14**  
St. Mary Church, Lancaster

**EZZO, John R. "Bud," 88, Dec. 17**  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

**JOHNSTON, Laura F., 86, Dec. 16**  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

**KOWALSKI, Barbara, 59, Dec. 13**  
Holy Family Church, Columbus

**LEAHY, Cora "Joan," 83, Dec. 12**  
St. Elizabeth Church, Columbus

**LUSIGNOLO, Deborah, 56, Dec. 18**  
St. Joan of Arc Church, Powell

**MITCHELL, Joseph A., 65, Dec. 15**  
St. Michael Church, Worthington

**MORAS, Theresa C., 92, Dec. 8**  
St. James the Less Church, Columbus

**NIJSSEN, John, 91, Dec. 15**  
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

**OSBORNE, Joanne, 86, Dec. 14**  
Holy Family Church, Columbus

**PARENT, Joyce A., 71, Dec. 12**  
Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Marysville

**ROUCH, Jeffrey D., 55, formerly of Columbus, Dec. 16**

Our Lady of Peace Church, Erie, Pa.

## Youth Rally 2014

The diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry invites all Catholic teens to a weekend of music, inspiration, making new friends, and celebration of the Catholic faith at the annual diocesan youth rally on Saturday and Sunday, March 8 and 9. Times are 9:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday and 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday in the activity center of Westerville St. Paul Church, 313 N. State St.

The rally will feature Jesse Manibusan, an inspirational speaker and Christian musician who was master of ceremonies at the recent National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis and brings an inspiring message of the love of Jesus to young people in a fun and engaging way.

Participants can attend workshops covering topics such as human dignity, teamwork, maintaining healthy rela-

tionships, the lives of the saints, and deepening your prayer life, as well as small-group discussion with Bishop Frederick Campbell. There also will be a workshop for adult leaders on how to make all teens feel welcome in the parish community.

Parents are invited to join the rally for the closing Mass on Sunday at 2:15 p.m. Ask your parish youth minister, religious education director, Catholic school teacher, or pastor for more information about registering.

Advance registration is required. Interested high school teens should register through their parish youth ministry leader.

The cost is \$65 for both days and includes lunches, a Saturday dinner, and a T-shirt. Registration forms and more information are available at youthministry.coldsdioc.org

## Mount Carmel Award

Mount Carmel New Albany Surgical Hospital has been named a 2013 Guardian of Excellence Award winner in patient satisfaction by Press Ganey Associates, Inc. This is the eighth consecutive year the hospital has won the highest award in patient satisfaction.

"This achievement demonstrates Mount Carmel's commitment to delivering high-quality, patient-centered care," said Claus von Zychlin, president and chief executive officer of the Mount Carmel Health System.

The Guardian of Excellence Award recognizes top-performing facilities that consistently achieved the 95th

percentile of performance in patient satisfaction for inpatient services on the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems.

"We are extremely proud to receive recognition for the great work our colleagues are performing," said Dick D'Enbeau, president and chief operating officer of Mount Carmel New Albany.

Press Ganey said fewer than five percent of its clients reach this threshold and consistently maintain it for the one-year reporting period. Press Ganey partners with more than 10,000 health care facilities to measure and improve the patient experience.

## Mary D'Andrea

Funeral Mass for Mary D'Andrea, 93, who died Friday, Dec. 13, was held Thursday, Dec. 19 at Columbus St. Matthias Church. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was a longtime employee of the cafeteria at St. Francis DeSales High School, was a founding member of St. Matthias Church and its Stars of Mary Club, also worked for Curtiss-

Wright Aircraft, and was a graduate of Columbus Sacred Heart High School.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Dominic and Virginia (D'Ilio) Petti; husband, Edward; brother, Frank (Betty); and sisters, Rose Petti and Laura (Mal) Black. Survivors include sons, Sonny (Rose) and Bob (Marcia); and one grandson.

## Patricia Sorenson

Funeral Mass for Patricia Sorenson, 87, who died Monday, Dec. 16, was held Saturday, Dec. 21 at Columbus Corpus Christi Church. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was a graduate of the former Columbus Holy Rosary High School and a retired employee of the for-

mer Columbus Father Wehrle High School.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Bill. Survivors include sons, Rod (Mary) and Mike (Tammy); daughters, Patrice, Mell (Jeff) Glassner, and Joanne; nine grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

## CLASSIFIED



### CLERGY WHO COOK

Sponsored by the  
Friends of the Josephinum

**January 31, 2014 --7:00 PM**

Jessing Center at the Josephinum \$40 per person

Tickets sales begin Jan. 2, 2014

Information 614-985-2234/www.pcj.edu

## DECEMBER

### 26, THURSDAY

**Franciscan Associates Community Dinner at Logan**  
5 to 6:30 p.m., St. Paul Episcopal Church, 375 E. Main St., Logan. Community dinner with all the Christmas trimmings, hosted by Franciscan Associates of St. John Church. **740-385-2549**

### 28, SATURDAY

**Life and Mercy Mass in Plain City**  
9 a.m. Mass, St. Joseph Church, 140 West Ave., Plain City. Saturday Life and Mercy Mass, followed by rosary and confession. **614-565-8654**  
**Grateful Heart Dinner at Delaware St. Mary**  
Noon to 3 p.m., Beitel Commons, St. Mary Church, 82 E. William St., Delaware. Second annual Grateful Heart Dinner, a post-Christmas event for all in the community who would like to have a meal. **740-363-4641**

### 28-29, SATURDAY-SUNDAY

**Nativity Exhibit at Jubilee Museum**  
11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Holy Family Jubilee Museum, 57 S. Grubb St., Columbus. "Mangers at

All fund-raising events (festivals, bazaars, spaghetti dinners, fish fries, bake sales, pizza/sub sales, candy sales, etc.) will be placed in the "Fund-Raising Guide." An entry into the Guide will be \$18.50 for the first six lines, and \$2.65 for each additional line. For more information, call Deacon Steve DeMers at 614-224-6530 or 800-511-0584.

### 'Happenings' submissions

Notices for items of Catholic interest must be received at least 12 days before expected publication date. We will print them as space permits. Items not received before this deadline may not be published. Listings cannot be taken by phone. Mail to: The Catholic Times Happenings, 197 East Gay St., Columbus, OH 43215 Fax to: 614-241-2518 E-mail as text to tpuet@coldsdioc.org

## H A P P E N I N G S

the Museum" exhibit of nearly 100 Nativity sets, including the largest set of Fontanini figures in the United States. Also open weekdays by appointment and Jan. 4 and 5 at Saturday and Sunday times. Closed Dec. 31 and Jan. 1. **614-461-6204**

### 29, SUNDAY

**Praise Mass at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal**  
11 a.m., Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 5225 Refugee Road, Columbus. Praise Mass with upbeat contemporary music. **614-861-1242**

**Watterson Alumni Basketball Tournament**  
Noon, Bishop Watterson High School, 99 E. Cooke Road, Columbus. Shay Basketball Tournament for school's alumni. Includes men's and women's brackets. Register at www.bishopwatterson.com.

### Prayer Group Meeting at Christ the King

5 to 7 p.m., Christ the King Church, 2777 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus (enter at daily Mass entrance). Weekly parish prayer group meets for praise, worship, ministry, and teaching. **614-886-8266**

### Spanish Mass at Columbus St. Peter

7 p.m., St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road, Columbus. Mass in Spanish. **706-761-4054**

### Evening of Faith Concert at Holy Redeemer

7 p.m., Holy Redeemer Church, 1325 Gallia St., Portsmouth. Evening of Faith concert with soloist Faith Esham, area musicians, and Holy Redeemer choirs. **740-354-2716**

### 31, TUESDAY

**Charismatic New Year's Eve Mass at St. Therese's**  
7:30 p.m., St. Therese's Retreat Center, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus. New Year's Eve Mass celebrated by Father Jim Coleman, sponsored by diocesan Catholic Charismatic Renewal, preceded by rosary at 6 and praise and worship at 6:30. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share after Mass. **614-237-7080**

## JANUARY

### 3, FRIDAY

**St. Cecilia Adoration of Blessed Sacrament**  
St. Cecilia Church, 434 Norton Road, Columbus. Begins after 8:15 a.m. Mass; continues to 5 p.m. Saturday.

### Monthly Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 5225 Refugee Road, Columbus. Begins after 9 a.m. Mass; continues through 6 p.m. Holy Hour.

**Angelic Warfare Confraternity at Columbus St. Patrick**  
7 to 9 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Monthly meeting of Angelic Warfare Confraternity, with talk on chastity-related issues followed by Holy Hour. **614-224-9522**

### All-Night Eucharistic Vigil

Holy Cross Church, 205 S. 5th St., Columbus. 7:30 p.m. Mass; Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament; prayer until 11:30 p.m.; private prayer until 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

### All-Night Exposition at Our Lady of Victory

Our Lady of Victory Church, 1559 Roxbury Road, Columbus. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8 p.m. until Mass at 8 a.m. Saturday, sponsored by church's Knights of Columbus council and Columbus Serra Club.

### 4, SATURDAY

**Mary's Little Children Prayer Group**  
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 5225 Refugee

Road, Columbus. 8:30 a.m., confessions, 9 a.m., Mass, followed by Fatima prayers and Rosary (Shepherds of Christ format); 10 a.m., meeting. **614-861-4888**

### Life and Mercy Mass in Plain City

9 a.m. Mass, St. Joseph Church, 140 West Ave., Plain City. Saturday Life and Mercy Mass, followed by rosary and confession. **614-565-8654**

### Centering Prayer Group Meeting at Corpus Christi

10:30 a.m. to noon, Corpus Christi Center of Peace, 1111 E. Stewart Ave., Columbus. Centering prayer group meeting, beginning with silent prayer, followed by Contemplative Outreach DVD and discussion. **614-512-3731**

### Filipino Mass at Holy Cross

7:30 p.m., Holy Cross Church, 204 S. 5th St., Columbus. Monthly Mass in the Tagalog language for members of the Filipino Catholic community. **614-224-3416**

### 5, SUNDAY

### Exposition at Church of the Resurrection

Our Lady of the Resurrection Chapel, Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road, New Albany. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, beginning with procession into chapel following 11 a.m. Mass and continuing to 5 p.m. **614-933-9318**

**Mass at Holy Cross to Open Cum Christo Anniversary**  
2:30 p.m., Holy Cross Church, 204 S. 5th St., Columbus. Mass to open 50th anniversary celebration of Cum Christo movement in Columbus. **614-221-1809**

### Prayer Group Meeting at Christ the King

5 to 7 p.m., Christ the King Church, 2777 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus (enter at daily Mass entrance). Weekly parish prayer group meets for praise, worship, ministry, and teaching. **614-886-8266**

### Interfaith Service at Corpus Christi

6 to 7 p.m., Corpus Christi Center of Peace, 1111 E. Stewart Ave., Columbus. Monthly interfaith prayer service sponsored by Columbus Faith Coalition Against Violence. **614-443-2828**

### Spanish Mass at Columbus St. Peter

7 p.m., St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road, Columbus. Mass in Spanish. **706-761-4054**  
**Compline at Cathedral**  
9 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Chanting of Compline. **614-241-2526**

### 6, MONDAY

### Epiphany Mass at St. Leo

7 p.m., St. Leo Church, 221 Hanford St., Columbus. Special Mass for the Feast of the Epiphany, celebrated by Father Michael Hinterschied. **614-444-8353**

### 7, TUESDAY

### Catholic War Veterans Monthly Meeting

7 p.m., Red Room, St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road, Columbus. Catholic War Veterans Post 1936 meeting. For those who served at least three months, were honorably discharged or are on active duty. **614-221-7601**

### Abortion Recovery Network Group

7 p.m., Pregnancy Decision Health Center, 665 E. Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus. Abortion recovery network group meeting for anyone interested in recovering from abortion or who has been through a recovery program and wants to stay connected. **614-444-4411**

### Prayer Group Meeting at St. Mark

7:30 p.m., St. Raymond Room, St. Mark Center, 324 Gay St., Lancaster. Light of Life Prayer Group meeting. **740-653-4919**

### 8, WEDNESDAY

### Turning Leaves and Tea Leaves

2 to 3:30 p.m., Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Drive, Columbus. Turning Leaves and Tea Leaves book club with Dominican Sisters Marialein Anzenberger and Colleen Gallagher. **614-416-1910**

### 9, THURSDAY

### Bereavement Group at Corpus Christi

6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Corpus Christi Center of Peace, 1111 E. Stewart Ave., Columbus. First meeting of eight-week bereavement group for people who have suffered the loss of a loved one, led by Sister Rosemary Loomis, OP. Maximum 10 people. Registration required. **614-512-3731**

### Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help at Holy Cross

7:30 p.m., Holy Cross Church, 204 S. 5th St., Columbus. Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help with Father Ramon Owera, CFC. **614-531-3682**

### 10-11, FRIDAY-SATURDAY

### Winter Couples Retreat at Sts. Peter and Paul Center

Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center, 2734 Seminary Road S.E., Newark. Winter retreat for couples, led by Dan and Mary Ann Kerschler. Theme: "Apples and Oranges: Two Peas in a Pod?" **740-928-4246**

### 10-12, FRIDAY-SUNDAY

### Pope Pius XII Program for Catholic Scouts

Top O' the Caves Campground, 26780 Chapel Ridge Road, South Bloomingville. Annual Pope Pius XII emblem program sponsored by diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting. Weekend of discussion and recreation focusing on how being a Catholic affects young people's daily lives and of possible vocations. Includes a priest, a married couple, and college students as counselors. For Catholic Boy Scouts in ninth grade and older who have earned Ad Altare Dei medal and for all Catholic male and female Venture Scouts. **614-882-7806**

### 11, SATURDAY

### Life and Mercy Mass in Plain City

9 a.m. Mass, St. Joseph Church, 140 West Ave., Plain City. Saturday Life and Mercy Mass, followed by rosary and confession. **614-565-8654**

### Notre Dame Chorale at St. Agatha

7:30 p.m., St. Agatha Church, 1860 Northam Road, Columbus. Performance by University of Notre Dame Chorale. Free-will donation at door. **614-488-6149**

### 12, SUNDAY

### 'Catholicism' Series at St. Pius X

1:30 p.m., St. Pius X Church, 1051 S. Wagoner Road, Reynoldsburg. "New Expressions II," Part 4 of Father Robert Barron's "Catholicism: The New Evangelization" series. **614-866-2859**

### Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic Meeting

3 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Meeting of St. Catherine of Siena chapter, Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic, with presentation on the Liturgy of the Hours by Michael Murphy, OP.

### Prayer Group Meeting at Christ the King

5 to 7 p.m., Christ the King Church, 2777 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus (enter at daily Mass entrance). Weekly parish prayer group meets for praise, worship, ministry, and teaching. **614-886-8266**

### Spanish Mass at Columbus St. Peter

7 p.m., St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road, Columbus. Mass in Spanish. **706-761-4054**



## 2013's Disasters: Some acts of God,

By Mark Pattison  
Catholic News Service

It seemed as though 2013 spawned a near-continuous spate of disasters and calamities in the United States and around the world.

Sometimes a disaster struck one area, then roared back to wreak even more damage.

A case in point: On May 20, the Oklahoma City suburb of Moore bore the brunt of an EF5 tornado, killing 24 people and injuring more than 200. Eleven days later, the western suburbs of Oklahoma City were hit by another EF5 twister. Nineteen people were killed in the storm and the flooding that followed. The dead included three storm chasers who were doing tornado research.

Or consider the Philippines.

In August, flooding killed eight people and left 300,000 homeless around Manila, the capital. Typhoon Usagi, a Category 5 storm, struck in September. A month later, an earthquake shook one region of the nation, killing dozens. In November, Super Typhoon Haiyan, another Category 5 storm, ravaged a wide swath of the Philippines south of Manila, leaving 5,959 people dead, nearly 1,800 missing, and more than 27,000 injured, according to figures compiled a month after the storm.

The insurance industry has used the



An aerial view shows homes destroyed by a massive tornado in a neighborhood in Moore, Okla., on May 21. The city of Moore was the epicenter of an EF5 tornado the previous day that decimated neighborhoods in the Oklahoma City area, leaving a 20-mile path of death and destruction.  
CNS photo/Rick Wilking, Reuters

phrase "acts of God" to describe such events. But could the acts of man, not just the hand of God, be a factor?

"The climate scientists have been looking at this for decades now, and have been looking at the subject of climate change, and have been speculating, really, that the weather, because of the increased heat on the planet

that increases moisture, would lead to some bigger weather events, and that would seem to be playing out around the globe," said Dan Misleh, executive director of the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change.

"Some scientists would say you can't peg any one event to climate change, but it seems these events are getting bigger and more intense, so there does seem to be some correlation," Misleh added. "Which isn't to say that these big weather events haven't happened in the past, but it does seem a little more frequent and a little more consistent with what the scientists are saying."

Cyclone Phailin left nearly nine million people affected along the east coast of India. Phailin hit on Oct. 12 with winds as high as 120 mph. It devastated the coastal areas of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh states. Two dozen people were killed. Nearly one million people were evacuated by the government ahead of the cyclone.

Hurricanes Ingrid and Manuel crashed into Mexico at the same time – Ingrid on the Gulf Coast and Manuel the Pacific Coast -- in late September, dumping as much as two feet of rain. Floods and mudslides in several states claimed more than 100 lives and left thousands of people homeless.

While the hurricane season in the

United States was unusually light, the tornado season extended from February to November.

More than 800 homes in Hattiesburg and other parts of southern Mississippi were destroyed or damaged by winds that reached 170 mph on Feb. 10. The National Weather Service said the EF4 tornado cut a path that was three-quarters of a mile wide. It cut right through Hattiesburg along a main street. In 2005, the region was devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

A tornado ravaged Granbury, Texas, on May 15. The deadly funnel cloud, one of several tornadoes that ripped through parts of north Texas, killed six people, injured more than 100, left seven missing, and destroyed more than 50 homes and trailers in one subdivision. The tornado that swept through Granbury with winds as high as 200 mph was part of a larger weather system generating 10 funnel clouds, thunderstorms, and large hail across north Texas.

On May 27, an EF2 tornado decimated two businesses and damaged many properties near Marysville, Kan. The next day more storms struck near Corning, Kan., producing EF3 and EF1 tornadoes. There were no fatalities, but Father John Reynolds, pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Corning, who has a background in meteorology and was watching TV images of the power the storms unleashed, had to see it firsthand to believe it. "The first thing people said was, 'Everybody survived,'" Father Reynolds said. "Which -- when you see this -- is really kind of amazing."

The town of Washington, Ill., suffered the last major tornado of the year on Nov. 17 as a twister destroyed 1,000 homes. One person was killed and more than 100 were injured. It was the most powerful tornado to hit Illinois in November since 1885.

Despite the spate of tornadoes, Catholic Charities USA's capacity was not strained, as it had been in 2011 and 2012, when Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee, and Superstorm Sandy "pretty much eclipsed anything we had ever seen" since 2005, when Hurricanes Gustav, Ike, and Katrina made landfall, said Samuel Chambers, the organization's vice president for disaster relief operations.

"Long after the national response is over, those (local) communities are

## some man-made, some a bit of both?

left with whatever resources they have available. Catholic Charities will continue to respond because we have local agencies and affiliates, as long as resources last," Chambers said.

Chambers reeled off several Southern states in harm's way of hurricanes. "Now we're discovering the Mid-Atlantic and the northern regions of the county have to be just as prepared," he said. "Whether it's relative to global warming or some unexpected chance occurrence, they have to rethink their strategies" so they can build "a more resilient community that is able to respond quicker."

From Sept. 11 to 15, rains created flooding and rivers that filled homes, tossed buildings, and swallowed infrastructure over an area of 20,000 square miles in northern Colorado. The homes of more than 16,000 families have been damaged or destroyed.

The Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in southwest France, known for its healing waters, could not cope with floods in the region that left much of the shrine complex underwater for two days in June, for the second time in eight months.

Floods earlier in June crippled parts of Germany, Austria, and the Czech Republic as the Danube, Inn, and Ilz rivers reached their highest levels since the 16th century, cutting telephones and power supplies. Two people died from the flooding, which caused millions of euros in damage.

When an overseas disaster strikes, "we need to ramp up in these areas: We need to get our crackerjack team up and run-



People attend a July 2 prayer vigil in Prescott, Ariz. for the 19 elite firefighters who died battling a wildfire outside the town of Yarnell on June 30. The men from the Granite Mountain Hotshot Crew, based in Prescott, made up a significant portion of the city's 92-employee fire department. They were trapped when winds shifted, turning the fast-moving wildfire in their direction.  
CNS photo/Rick Wilking, Reuters

ning, we need to get our fundraising going," said Sean Callahan, chief operating officer of Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops' international relief and development agency.

"In responding to the natural disasters, because of our expertise, we find that the turnaround, you can turn it around much quicker and see the positive aspects much quicker," he said. "Things are looking a lot better in the Philippines just a month after the super typhoon. In Syria, we've been there two years now, and the situation continues to devolve. You get some fatigue of donors, even though the situation continues to deteriorate and you need more and more assistance."



Burned train cars are seen in this July 8 aerial view following a derailment and explosion in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec. Most of the town's central business district and dozens of residences were destroyed on July 6 after a runaway train that was headed to a New Brunswick oil refinery derailed and exploded.  
CNS photo/Transportation Safety Board of Canada via Reuters



A vehicle is seen near the burning remains of a fertilizer plant in West, Texas, on April 18 after an explosion there the previous day. Rescue workers searched rubble for survivors of the explosion in the small town near Waco that killed as many as 15 people and injured more than 160 others.  
CNS photo/Mike Stone, Reuters

turned the walls into a blast furnace, rendering the ciborium and pyx at the shrine blackened and virtually unrecognizable. This wildfire claimed more than 27,000 acres and 65 homes.

Then there's the case of man-made disasters.

A massive explosion on April 17 followed by a fire at a fertilizer plant in the Texas town of West killed 15 people, including first responders, and injured 200. The explosion cut a six-block swath of destruction across the town of 2,800 residents.

An unattended runaway train barreled into Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, on July 6. The derailed train's tanker cars, filled with crude oil, exploded and incinerated much of the downtown. Fifty people were killed and 30 buildings were destroyed.

Just five months after a November 2012 fire at the Tazreen garment factory outside the Bangladeshi capital of Dhaka claimed 117 lives and injured more than 200, an eight-story commercial building collapsed in a Dhaka suburb on April 24. Called Rana Plaza, it was used by companies making garments for Western clothing companies and retailers.

The search for the dead ended on May 13 with a death toll of 1,129 people, with another 2,515 injured rescued from the building's wreckage.

It is considered to be the deadliest garment-factory accident in history, as well as the deadliest accidental structural failure in modern human history.



Members of International Search and Rescue, a German agency, carry a patient injured in a motorcycle crash on a stretcher into their makeshift hospital in the yard of the Metropolitan Cathedral in Palo, the Philippines, on Nov. 15. A team of 24 doctors, nurses, rescuers, and logistics experts from Duisburg, Germany, is in the Philippines to help the survivors of Super Typhoon Haiyan.  
CNS photo/Wolfgang Rattay, Reuters



# As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you...

(John 20:21)

**By Leandro M. Tapay**  
Director, Diocesan  
Missions Office

The weekend of Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 18 and 19 is a renewal weekend for membership in the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

To join the society, please use your collection envelope for Membership Sunday, which is included in your parish's January collection envelope packet.

Members of the society receive the



graces of 15,000 Masses celebrated each day by missionaries around the world for members, living or deceased. Mass also is celebrated daily for members at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

The Lord's command "Go and make disciples" is an invitation to join Him in what He is doing – saving the world. It is a call to action. Jesus

says "Let's go, we have work to do and it is urgent. Join me."

Should we just stand by, looking into



the sky while waiting for His return? No. We have a mission to do. We have to make disciples of people we encounter in our daily lives, so that when He returns, it will be to complete the work that we, His followers, have begun in His name. So that when He returns, it will be to make whole or to make complete that which we have accomplished in part. His mandate to make disciples of all nations is addressed to us. As He was sent by the Father on a mission, He is sending us to continue His saving works – even to the ends of the earth till the end of time. The mission of Christ is our mission!

Pope Francis, in his World Mission Sunday message, said that in this complex world where the horizon of the present and future seems threatened by menacing clouds, it is necessary to proclaim courageously and in every situation the Gospel of Christ. We must proclaim to our world the message of hope, of reconciliation, and of communion. We must proclaim God's closeness, His mercy, and His salvation. We must proclaim that the power of God's love is able to overcome the darkness of evil – that God's love guides us to the path of goodness.

Pope Francis talked about faith, God's precious gift to us. He said that faith opens our mind to know and to love Him. Faith, however, needs to be accepted. It needs our personal response. It needs courage to entrust ourselves to God. It needs to live out His love and be always grateful for His infinite mercy.

The pope said that faith is also a gift not reserved for a few, but offered to all. Everyone should be able to expe-

rience the joy of being loved by God – the joy of salvation. It is a gift that cannot be kept to oneself, but must be shared. If we want to keep it only for ourselves, we will become isolated, sterile, and sick Christians.

The pope said that a community is mature when it professes faith, celebrates it with joy during the liturgy, lives charity, proclaims the Word of God endlessly, and leaves one's own to take it to the peripheries, especially to those who have not yet been given the opportunity to know Christ.

Reflecting on Vatican II, the pope said the council emphasized in a special way how the missionary task, that of broadening the boundaries of faith, belongs to every baptized person and all Christian communities.

The pope invites bishops and pastors to give prominent position to the missionary dimension in their formation and pastoral programs. He said that their apostolic commitment is not complete unless it aims at bearing witness to Christ before the nations and all peoples.

Pope Francis thanks bishops and religious communities that have sent priests and religious men and women to areas that are poor in vocations, and encourages their continual generosity. "Sending missionaries is never a loss, but a gain," he writes.

The Diocese of Columbus has 12 men and women working in missions all over the world and in mission areas of the United States.

*Please be generous, Join the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.*



**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
Through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, we partake in the Church's mission to bring the message of God's Kingdom of love, mercy, and forgiveness "even to the ends of the earth."**

**The weekend of Jan. 18 and 19 is the membership drive for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. With our membership, we make a special commitment to the Church's mission "to all peoples and nations" by pledging daily prayer and financial help to the society.**

**In more than 1,150 mission dioceses worldwide, priests, religious brothers and sisters, and lay catechists rely on the prayers and financial assistance of the society's members.**

**The missionaries count on this support as they help young people search for the meaning of life, comfort refugees in their spiritual and material needs, minister to the sick, teach children, prepare adults for baptism, or bring help to the suffering in times of war and natural disasters.**

**During the membership drive, let us pray for missionaries everywhere, especially the 12 men and women from the Diocese of Columbus who are sharing Christ's Gospel message around the globe.**

**I am most grateful for your continuing generosity and support for the most important task of the Church – evangelization.**

**Sincerely yours in Christ,**

**Most Rev. Frederick F. Campbell, DD, PhD**

**Bishop of Columbus**