Merry Christmas!
My brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ,

As the Church Fathers so often proclaimed: Jesus became like us so that we might become like Him; Jesus is the divine likeness of the Lord, Jan. 12, 2014.

My brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ,

Bishop of Columbus

CNS photo/Debbie Hill

Catholic News Service

By Cindy Wooden

The pope also plans to publish an apostolic exhortation on the new evangelization, promoting what he calls a "cultural encounter" between Christ and humanity, and among believers themselves. The document and the ceremony with faithful Catholics outline 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 in to the world.

A month before he stepped down, Pope Benedict said that believing in God “makes us harbinger of values that often do not coincide with the fashions and opinion of the moment. It requires us to adopt criteria and assume forms of conduct that are not of the common mind.”

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

Catholic News Service

By Cindy Wooden

Bishop of Columbus

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

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

"[Christmas] is a time we reflect on the wonder and beauty of our Christ- maus events, our Advent services and devotion to our re- spectative celebrations and liturgies to be appreciated and respected. The same season may also cause us to put us in a very blissful and focused mindset spiritually. But the proper and meditative fervor that "Christmas" is associated with. This comes to the Church, the atmosphere, environment, and surroundings in which we find ourselves. That includes everything from the decorations in the home to the lights and the joyous beauty of the Christmas Eve children’s Mass, or the early morning liturgy or the Midnight Mass at the age of 19-29 that has the world fighting for their atten- tion.” Miller said.

Hundred 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 “En- counter: Awakening a Generation,” will be from Friday, May 30 to Sunday, June 1, 2014, and is being organized by Franciscan University of Steuben- ville’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 Father Christopher Martin, vocations director of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, and Jeremy Rivers, an award-winning writer and national marketing director of FOCUS Missionaries. Worldship will be led by Ike Ndolo, as- sistant national director at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Tampa, Aria, who will give the keynote session on the topic of love and freedom God offers to each one of them,” Miller said.

Our practical challenge this week, throughout the Christmas season, and into the new year will be the message of the Prophet of St. Francis. Together with the kingly example of Pope Francis, these words will be as precisely how we live the Gospel message, began by the Church. Let us call upon people of the world to share. Let us call upon people of the world to share the joy and blessings that we cel - ebrate to deliberately and slowly 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 baby born among the straw, animals, and crude surroundings in which we find ourselves. That includes everything from the decorations in the home to the lights and the joyous beauty of the Christmas Eve children’s Mass, or the early morning liturgy or the Midnight Mass and surroundings in which we find ourselves. That includes everything from the decorations in the home to the lights and the joyous beauty of the Christmas

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 benefits. The position requires 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 Minis- try Program.

Applicants must have at least 2 years of Church Ministry experience. The position includes men’s and women’s basketball. It traditionally draws more than 100 former students to reconnect and support the school.

Online registration is available at www.bishopwatterson.com. Click on “Alumni,” then “Alumni Sports Tour- naments.”

What would you do with extra cash?

Pilgrimage to the HOLY LAND
May 12-21, 2014
Custom tour with Fr. Jim Simmons
Paxtang, St. Denis Church, Venerable, OH

n your current auto loan & get the best rates possible. No application necessary. All rates are subject to credit approval and conditions may change at any time and without advance notice. We will award you with a $50 gas card at the loan closing. For new customers, the loan must be for a name change only. For existing customers, the loan must be refinanced. For new customers, the loan must be for a name change only. For existing customers, the loan must be refinanced.

To place your order, call (866) 678-4484. Online at www.schiller.org. Click “Alumni.”

St. James Christmas Candy House Village
For the last 23 years, eighth-graders at Colum- bus St. James the Less School has created candy house villages during the Christmas season in ad- dition to the school display, the students created a display for the Heavenly Fantasy sponsored by St. James’s Community House. This year, all of the school’s students are studying Dr. Susan 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. The display houses are all made of part of which a support that a scholar- ship, the school’s gift to the school and will be given to a student in kin- dergarten or one of seven grade levels.

All of the houses were on display at the school the week before Christmas, and the Community held a bazaar for the houses.

Picture courtesy of St. James the Less School

Watterson Alumni Basketball Event
The Columbus Bishop Watterson High School Alumni Association’s 2013 Stax Basketball Tournament will take place Saturday, Dec. 21 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. Click on “Alumni”, then “Alumni Sports Tour- naments.”
Preparing grandchildren for first Communion; Selling blessed objects

Q I have two grandchildren who are teenagers, but have never
made their first Communion. Whenever
cross them on the mainline, I keep
remembering them and their parents about
the importance of attending ad
liturgic classes. Realistically,
thought, I believe that this is never
going to happen. I would very much like them to partic-
icipate in the Eucharist, because I view it
as the source of life. I have a CCD (Confraternity of Christian
teachers) teacher before, and I have books
equipropriate) that I thought to teach
my grandchildren about the sacraments of
reconciliation and Eucharist. If I go through these books with them and
delicate them on the sacraments, will that be sufficient to allow them to
confess and to receive Holy Commu-
nion? (Acquiring grandmother from Ewa,
Beach, Hawaii)

A Yes, your experience as a re-
ligious educator 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 chil-
dren are older than most first commu-
nickents.) But you should continue to encour-
ge them to enroll with their age group in
formal religious education classes.
This is an opportunity that many parents
do not take advantage of. There are
two or three things you need to learn and
live their faith, but they also will
profit from the support of their
friends. Before you begin, you may be bet-
ner for you to speak with your grand-
children’s parents to be sure that they are aware of, and supportive of, the
plan. It will help, of course,

A I was always taught that you
could not sell items that have been
blessed, nor can you sell for
cash the sin of simony. But recently I read
something in the 60s about the
possibilities could in fact be resisted, but that
the blessing itself does not carry forward with them.
(On other words, they would
not be able to give the blessing a second
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.” This term takes its origin from the Book of Acts, where Simon the
thought the magic power be used at work in the ap-
ophies. A blessing is a “spiritual thing”
which is “officially sold or bought” by religious articles that have been
dedicated to them (priests, religious, etc.) can, however, be resold, but only
for the intrinsic value of the article it-
selves. Any blessing is lost with the re-
sale, 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
sacrament.) A glance, it looks as though the
diocese is doing this with blessing,
many other issues on the congressional
agenda also may be jumproping up
immigration legislation.

But the reality of the immigration re-
form efforts is that it has been
such a huge, complex effort that no simple “grand
comprehensive reform.”

But a feature of current efforts is the
“Fast for Families” campaign. On Dec. 5, 2013, a large tent on the National Mall
across the nation. Catholic parishes,
colleges, and whole dioceses have
began sit-ins at the offices and
republican-sponsored bills dealing
form of a comprehensive immigration reform. The advocates, much was being read
in this election year, about how far immigration reform
will go. One thing is certain: The
election will have a huge impact on your
and others who are seeking
deporation from the patriots. While
Bush has refused to meet with the
advocates, much was being read
in this election year, about how far immigration reform
will go. One thing is certain: The

tent-based pressure on the Senate. For the past two
years, the advocates have
hardly disappointed. They have
a day or two or three, and
their narratives have been
inevitably bad. Last year, after
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that children themselves agree, too?)

Q You should also make contact with
a priest in their parish (of their own
choosing) and tell him what you are
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grandchildren are sufficiently
incarnate, the priest can sit down with them
and individually evaluate their readiness. If
he feels comfortable, he will then ar-
range to hear their confessions and give them
the Eucharist in the future.

Immigration reform is being worked on during several fronts.

December 29, 2013
Catholic Times

By Patricia Zapor

Catholic News Service

At a young age, fresh off the November general election in which Hispanic vot-
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the Eucharist in the future.
During this period of reflection and celebration that is Advent and Christmas, I often think about a dream that has become the basis for our family. That dream has become the basis for our family’s annual tradition of gathering for Christmas. Here we were together, two very young high school teenagers.

This very pretty girl from Ohio 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 at home. I admit the escape and the right words and actions. As well as coming as everyone made the effort to come to know God’s love and 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 parishes, schools, and other 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.

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 luck or trait we laughed at and 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 are children, eyes wide open to the wonder of the season—the snowfall, the parades, the sights and sounds that stir them to emotion. We remember how 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. Is it 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 reflecting about my Aunt Mary, and Joseph,—together, the source of the work and our celebration of Christmas.

This Christmas, it is my hope that we can all come to know God’s love and 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 parishes, schools, and other 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 reflect on what The Catholic Foundation has achieved, 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 giving contribution to The Catholic Foundation. You can designate your gift to an existing endowed fund or to our favorite Catholic organization, or you can help the Foundation to determine the greatest need in our diocese. Each contribution makes a difference, and 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 on your shoulder dominion runs. They’ll hear your Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:5). Born is the president and CEO of The Catholic Foundation and a parishioner at Guardian St. Ed- ward the Confessor Church.

St. John’s Hermitage award banquet

St. John’s Hermitage evening, nomination for priests who are examples of New Evangelization. Several years ago, Father Stephen Shuster shared with his refreshment, hospitality, contemplation, consecration, and Revival for priests. That dream has been the basis for the Spritual mission of St. John’s Hermitage. Support is 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 fundraising event is its St. Evangelization award banquet, at which a priest is recognized for putting this new Evangelization. Bishop Frederick Campbell was the first awardee. Nominations for the 2014 award are being accepted.

The road leads back to you

A song of you

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 short coming came in comparison to the hardships Joseph and Mary had before and after the birth of the baby Jesus. Imagine giving birth to your child amidst a drip, cold, barren existence with no running water, no heat to keep the cold away and not much acceptance for the life you have left 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 against him and his life. And I remember the way that he had gone before me, who sacrificed their lives so that we would have a chance at a better one. But I think of a very special person, especially this time of year, my mom. 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 her talent for any crafting project could of become a Popsicle stick and it would flower. Now where is the Popsicle stick I had when she gave of herself freely, and hadn’t a bad word to say about anyone. She lived by her example and was a true force to be reckoned with by her radiant smile and her love for those less fortunate, for herself freely, and hadn’t a bad word to say about anyone. She lived by her example and was a true force to be reckoned with by her radiant smile and her love for those less fortunate, for

Joseph Thomas is a member of Gahanna St. Matthew Church. He posts his thoughts online at http://truegiftoffaith.blogspot.com.
Y E A R  R E V I E W

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. Chosen 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 a week 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 are incorporated into Marion St. Mary Elementary School 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 St. Mary had fallen from more than 200 students in three grades in 1979-80 to 78 in six grades in 2012-13. Two new concepts opened in Columbus this year: Three sisters from the Mexican-based Missionary Sisters of the Word arrived in Columbus on Sept. 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 served parishes in the area, including St. Francis de Sales, St. Simon the Zealot and St. Luke. The parish was in the midst of a renewal plan to renovate the church and create much-needed parking. 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 of Hispanic Ministry for Catholic Charities USA.

Bishop Frederick Campbell dedicated additions at two parishes late in the year. He came homebound. The parish was in the midst of a renewal plan to renovate the church and create much-needed parking. 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 of Hispanic Ministry for Catholic Charities USA.

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Merry Christmas!

May Christ find a generous and welcoming home in your heart this new year and always.

Dominican Sisters of Peace

Dom. Patricia L. Adams

May James T. Smith

Dom. Francis X. Schneider, 93, the senior priest of the diocese, died on Sept. 28. He had been a priest for 47 years. He was born in 1926. He was ordained a priest on Jan. 10, 1969. He served parishes in Columbus, Dayton, and Cincinnati. He was named a Domestic Prelate of Piacenza by John Paul II on Jan. 8, 1983. He was named a Domestic Prelate of the Diocese of Columbus by John Paul II on April 21, 1993. He retired from active ministry in 2004.

Dom. Mary E. Rosemary, 83, died on Oct. 11. She was born in 1935. She was ordained a priest on March 29, 1963. She served parishes in Columbus, Dayton, and Cincinnati. She was named a Domestic Prelate of Piacenza by John Paul II on Jan. 8, 1983. She was named a Domestic Prelate of the Diocese of Columbus by John Paul II on April 21, 1993. She retired from active ministry in 2004.

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Feast of the Holy Family (Cycle A)

There is something here for all in the family.

Father Lawrence L. Hummer

Stirch 3:2-6,12-14

Colossians 3:12-21

Matthew 21:15-19,23

The instruction Stirch serves up on Holy Family Sun- day is a matter of which the Catholic Church has the most

The fourth commandment is found in Exodus 20:12 and Deuteronomy 5:16. The wording is

The wording is different to that of Exodus 20:13; hence the variation in the two commandments.

Exodus says “Honour your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which God is giving you.” Deuteronomy says “Honour your father and your mother, and you shall be blessed; for this is the commandment which the Lord your God has given you.”

Stirch includes the long life ofPromise in his instruction here as an allusion to such Old Testament passages as Judges 13:5-7; Judges 16:17 and elsewhere, but it is only an

Unlike other “citations” from the Old Testament, there is no specific place where the Old Testa-

A Semitic allusion from Judg. mention Jacob’s

This Semitic allusion referred to the Lord in his story of the

That phrase is to be found in Psalm 21:3; the wording is identical to that of the Lord’s promise to David.

The Lord’s promise to David is found in II Samuel 7:16: “And the Lord has given you

This was the promise to David in II Samuel 7:16, and it still is the promise to all Christians today.

This promise of a lasting dynasty has far-reaching implications for Christian faith and life.

The promise of a lasting kingdom is still good news today, for Christians are part of an eternal kingdom.

The promise of a lasting kingdom is still good news today, for Christians are part of an eternal kingdom.

New Year’s Eve Mass

The liturgical celebration of New Year’s Eve mass will begin at 7:00 p.m., pre-

This celebration is one of the most popular of the year, and it is a time of reflection and

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The celebration is open to all, and all are invited to join in the festivities.

New Year’s Eve Mass

The liturgical celebration of New Year’s Eve mass will begin at 7:00 p.m., pre-

This celebration is one of the most popular of the year, and it is a time of reflection and

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The celebration is open to all, and all are invited to join in the festivities.

Whose Christmas is it anyway?

When Francis Eugene George first offered a bib-

Whoever is in charge of the celebration of Christmas is the one who will decide how

The celebration of Christmas is a time for families to come together and share in the

This is the time of the year when families come together to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Christmas is a time of joy and celebration for all. It is a time to share with family and

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Cardinal George: an anniversary appreciation

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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 lifelong member of the catechists at St. Francis de Sales High School, a founding member of St. Matthias Church and its stars of Mary Club, also worked for Curtis-Wright Airflows, and was a gradu- ate of Columbus Sacred Heart High School. She was preceded in death by her parents, Dominic and Virginia (D’Ill) Pietti; husband, Ed; brother, Frank; (ferry), and sisters, Rose Pietti andLaura McDermott; in-laws, sons (Rose) and Bob (Macie); and one grandchild.

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

She was a graduate of the former Columbus Father Wehrle High School. She was preceded in death by her husband, Bill. Survivors include sons, Anton (Joan) and Mike (Tammy); daughters, Patricia, Mill (Jeff) Glass and Jennifer (Joe) Leipziger; grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mount Carmel New Albany Surgi- cal Hospital has been named a 2013 Guardian of Excellence Award winner in patient satisfaction by Press Ganey Associates, Inc. This is the eighth consec- utive year the hospital has won the highest award in patient satisfaction.”This achievement demonstrates Mount Carmel’s commitment to de- livering high-quality, patient-centered care,” said Carol Zychlinski, 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 the recognition for the great work our col- league are performing,” said Dick Stump, president and chief operating officer of Mount Carmel New Albany. Press Ganey said fewer than five per- cent of its clients reach this threshold and the achievement continues it for the one-year reporting period. Press Ganey partner with more than 10,000 health care facilities to measure and improve the patient experience.

Mount Carmel Camden Award

HAPPENINGS

SUNDEY

9:15 am Mass at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Parish, 5207 Redstone Road, Columbus. Originally founded by the Missionaries of Charity, this parish was named in honor of the mother of Jesus. A Mass in honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal will be celebrated by Rev. Fr. Michael Santeramo, Pastor. A dinner at 5pm will be sponsored by the parish council.

6:30 pm Mass at St. Joseph Church, 1840 West 28th Ave., Columbus.

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some man-made, some a bit of both?

People attended a July 3 prayer vigil in Prescott, Ariz., for the 19 elite firefighters who died battling a wildfire outside the town of Yarnell on June 28. The men from the Granite Mountain Hotshots, based in Prescott, made a significant portion of the city's tourism and fire department. They were trapped when winds shifted, turning the fast-moving wildfire in their direction.

A vehicle is seen near the burning remains of a fertilizer plant in West, Texas, on April 18, 2013, after a fast-moving wildfire in their direction.

In response to the natural disasters, because of our expertise, we find that the emergency, you can turn it around much quicker and see the positive as a smaller Wildfires earlier in June elsewhere, turned the walls into a blast furnace, resulting in the eviction of the entire neighborhood and virtually unrecognizable. This wildfire claimed more than 27,000 acres and 15 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 more than 200. The explosion cut a north-south swath of destruction across the town of 2,800 residents.

An unmanned runway train barrelled into Lac-Megantic, 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 2010 fire at a garment factory outside the Bangladeshi capital of Dhaka claimed 112 lives and injured more than 2,515, another fire in June 2012 at a Tazreen garment factory in Bangladesh killed 112 people, with another, 2,515 injured rescued from the burning building.

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

buried cars are seen in this July 3 aerial view following a derailment and explosion in Lac-Megantic, Quebec. At least 39 people are confirmed dead and 63 have been confirmed injured, according to local authorities. Gov. Bobby Jindal was in the town on Sunday, where the explosion in the small town near New Orleans that killed more than 11 people and injured more than 160 others.

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**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 experience 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.*

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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