



DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

CATHOLIC TIMES

A journal of Catholic life in Ohio



SEPTEMBER 13, 2015
THE 24TH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME
VOLUME 64:42
WWW.CTONLINE.ORG



CATHOLIC COLLEGES ISSUE

The Editor's Notebook

College and Faith

By David Garick, Editor

Classes are getting underway at colleges and universities around Ohio and across the nation. It is an exciting time for students as they begin that great transition to adulthood and their careers. College is not just a time of football games, parties and exploring freedom, although that is part of it. It is also not just a glorified trade school preparing students for a specific job.

College is a time of developing young people into more complete adults with a rich awareness of the world they are inheriting and preparing them for a meaningful role in that world. No college better prepares students for that transition than our Catholic colleges.

Students find that Catholic colleges and universities offer a strong foundation for growing in faith. Catholic colleges and universities provide environments that foster faith development for students coming from all faith traditions as well as the Catholic tradition. Catholic students can choose from numerous opportunities for fellowship and worship through organizations, regular mass offerings, and retreats. Students with no faith tradition will find a welcoming and accepting community.

This richness of perspectives on Catholic college campuses contributes to a powerful learning environment. It also develops graduates who can speak respectfully and knowledgably with people from faiths different than their own. Because of this continuing conversation about faith and ethics, they will be ready to reflect on modern society from a values-oriented perspective. A values-oriented education is what distinguishes Catholic colleges and universities from many of the other options available to

them. And that is what shapes today's students into tomorrow's leaders – ethical decision makers, committed individuals, and fully prepared respondents meeting society's increasing challenges.

Pope Francis wrote about the importance of Catholic higher education in the face of a society that has moved away from religion in his encyclical *Evangelii Gaudium*. "The process of secularization tends to reduce the faith and the Church to the sphere of the private and personal. Furthermore, by completely rejecting the transcendent, it has produced a growing deterioration of ethics, a weakening of the sense of personal and collective sin, and a steady increase in relativism. In response, we need to provide an education which teaches critical thinking and encourages the development of mature moral values. Universities are outstanding environments for articulating and developing this evangelizing commitment in an interdisciplinary and integrated way. Catholic schools, which always strive to join their work of education with the explicit proclamation of the Gospel, are a most valuable resource for the evangelization of culture, even in those countries and cities where hostile situations challenge us to greater creativity in our search for suitable methods."

It is back to school time. There is a lot to learn. But along with all of those facts, and theories, skills, and experiences, the thing that binds it all together and makes things work for a better world, is the Truth of God and the faith that makes us whole.



Statement on Planned Parenthood's Selling of Fetal Tissues

Most. Rev. Frederick F. Campbell
Bishop of Columbus

The release of recent videos of Planned Parenthood officials discussing the selling of fetal tissues obtained from abortions has shocked Catholics and all persons of good will. Their casual indifference, while discussing this commoditization of human life, is appalling to any thoughtful person.

Pope Francis has brought the world's attention to the evils of our emerging "throwaway culture," which trades compassion and justice for expediency and convenience. The Catholic Church has long stood as the champion of human life, from conception until natural death. This case makes clear the wisdom of this teaching; the actions of Planned Parenthood reveal the unavoidable result in discounting the fundamental value of life. It is actions such as these that prompt the Holy Father to call for a rejection of our culture's technological and intellectual detachment, and be mindful of the words of Christ in Matthew: "He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these' least ones, you did not do for me.'"

There are currently legislative efforts in Ohio to increase the penalty for this practice, as well as deny public funding for organizations that provide elective abortions. We encourage all to contact their state representative in support of this legislation through the Catholic Conference of Ohio's website at www.ohiocathconf.org.

Lastly, we urge all to support and utilize those services which support the dignity of life and our teaching: Catholic hospitals which provide women's health screenings; pro-life pregnancy centers that provide life-affirming counseling and assistance; and Catholic Social Services' Project Rachel and Bethesda Healing Ministry, which offer care and comfort to those who have experienced firsthand the pain of abortion in their lives.

It is my sincere wish that all Catholics, as well as people of good will throughout our diocese, give careful consideration to the ultimate consequences of these practices – and consider how they lead us away from Christ and diminish the humanity of each of us.

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT
Clergy Assignments

Father Jeffrey Coning, to Pastor of Immaculate Conception Church, Dennison, continuing as Pastor of Holy Trinity Church, Zoar, and Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia, effective Aug. 18.

Father Dennis Stevenson to Adjutant Judicial Vicar, Diocesan Tribunal, effective Aug. 28.

Confirming the appointment of the Prior Provincial of the Dominican Fathers and Brothers, Father Christopher Saliga, OP, to Parochial Vicar, St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Zanesville, effective immediately.

For Year of Mercy, pope extends possibilities for absolution

Articles by By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service



In an extraordinary gesture for the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis has extended to priests worldwide the authority to absolve women for the sin of abortion and has decreed the full validity during the year of the sacrament of confession celebrated by priests of the traditionalist Society of St. Pius X.

"This jubilee Year of Mercy excludes no one," the pope wrote in a letter to Archbishop Rino Fisichella, president of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of New Evangelization, the office organizing events for the holy year, which opens on Dec. 8.

Pope Francis said one of the most serious problems facing people today is a "widespread and insensitive mentality" toward the sacredness of human life.

"The tragedy of abortion is experienced by some with a superficial awareness, as if not realizing the extreme harm that such an act entails," while many other women believe "they have no other option" but to have an abortion, the pope wrote in the letter, released Tuesday, Sept. 1 by the Vatican.

The pressures exerted on many women to abort lead to "an existential and moral ordeal," Pope Francis said. "I have met so many women who bear in their heart the scar of this agonizing and painful decision."

When such a woman has repented and seeks absolution in the sacrament of

confession, he said, "the forgiveness of God cannot be denied."

Although church law generally requires a priest to have special permission from his bishop to grant absolution to a person who has procured or helped another to procure an abortion, the pope said he decided "to concede to all priests for the jubilee year the discretion to absolve of the sin of abortion those who have procured it and who, with contrite heart, seek forgiveness for it."

Pope Francis urged priests to welcome to the sacrament women who had an abortion, explain "the gravity of the sin committed" and indicate to them. "a path of authentic conversion by which to obtain the true and generous forgiveness of the Father who renews all with his presence."

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, told reporters the pope's letter "highlights the wideness of God's mercy" and is "not in any way minimizing the gravity of the sin" of abortion.

In his letter, Pope Francis also granted another exception to church rules out of concern for "those faithful who for various reasons choose to attend churches officiated by priests" belonging to the traditionalist Society of St Pius X. Although the society no longer is considered to be in schism and the excommunication of its bishops was lifted in 2009, questions remain over whether the sacraments they celebrate are valid and licit.

The pope's decision was "taken with the faithful in mind" and is limited to the holy year, which runs through Nov. 20, 2016, Father Lombardi said.

The spokesman also confirmed that the Vatican's contacts with leaders of the Society of St. Pius X have continued. Pope Francis wrote in his letter that he hoped "in the near future solutions may be found to recover full communion with the priests and superiors of the fraternity."

Pope Francis' letter also explained expanded opportunities for obtaining the indulgences that are a normal part of the celebration of a holy year. An indulgence is the remission of the temporal punishment a person is due because of his or her sins. In a holy year, it is offered to pilgrims who cross the thresh-

old of the Holy Door at the Vatican or in their local diocese, confess their sins, receive the Eucharist, and pray for the pope's intentions.

The celebration of God's mercy, the pope said, is "linked, first and foremost, to the sacrament of reconciliation and to the celebration of the holy Eucharist with a reflection on mercy. It will be necessary to accompany these celebrations with the profession of faith and with prayer for me and for the intentions that I bear in my heart for the good of the church and of the entire world."

Those who are confined to their homes can obtain the indulgence by offering up their sickness and suffering, he said.

Pope Francis also included special consideration for people who are incarcerated, touching on the Old Testament tradition of a jubilee year as a time for granting prisoners amnesty.

Those who, "despite deserving punishment, have become conscious of the injustice they committed," may receive the indulgence with prayers and the reception of the sacraments in their prison chapel, he wrote.

"May the gesture of directing their thought and prayer to the Father each time they cross the threshold of their cell signify for them their passage through the Holy Door, because the mercy of God is able to transform hearts, and is also able to transform bars into an experience of freedom," he wrote.

Pope simplifies annulment process, asks that it be free of charge

While a juridical process is necessary for making accurate judgments, the Catholic Church's marriage annulment process must be quicker, cheaper and much more of a pastoral ministry, Pope Francis said.

Rewriting a section of the Latin-rite Code of Canon Law and of the Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches, Pope Francis said he was not "promoting the nullity of marriages, but the quickness of the processes, as well as a correct simplicity" of the procedures so that Catholic couples are not "oppressed by the shadow of doubt" for prolonged periods.

The Vatican released Sept. 8 the texts of two papal documents, "Mitis Iudex Dominus Iesus" ("The Lord Jesus, the

Gentle Judge") for the Latin-rite church and "Mitis et misericors Iesus," ("The Meek and Merciful Jesus") for the Eastern Catholic churches.

The changes, including the option of a brief process without the obligatory automatic appeal, go into effect Dec. 8, the opening day of the Year of Mercy.

Pope Francis said the changes in the annulment process were motivated by "concern for the salvation of souls," and particularly "charity and mercy" toward those who feel alienated from the church because of their marriage situations and the perceived complexity of the church's annulment process.

The changes made by Pope Francis, particularly the responsibility and trust placed in local bishops, are the most

substantial changes in the church's marriage law since the pontificate of Pope Benedict XIV in the mid-1700s, Msgr. Pinto said. Even with the 1917 and 1983 new Codes of Canon Law, the process for recognizing the nullity of a marriage remained "substantially unchanged," he said.

"Putting the poor at the center is what distinguishes the reform of Pope Francis from those made by Pope Pius X and Pope Benedict XIV," Msgr. Pinto said.

In fact, Pope Francis ordered that the "gratuity of the procedure be assured so that, in a matter so closely tied to the salvation of souls, the church -- by demonstrating to the faithful that she is a generous mother -- may demonstrate the gratuitous love of Christ, which

saves us all."

Msgr. Alejandro Bunge, secretary of the commission and a member of the Roman Rota, said the new processes are motivated by recognition of the church as a "field hospital," as Pope Francis has described it. "For those who have special injuries -- a marriage null from the beginning -- we will have intensive care" in the form of more rapid annulment procedures.

While many marriage cases will continue to require time in order to arrive at the truth, he said, the longer procedure will be reserved to those cases in which it is not obvious that the marriage was null from the beginning and in which the couple does not agree that a real marriage never existed.



Front Page photo: Students gather for classes at the Mount Carmel College of Nursing in Columbus in front of Eric Grohe's 50-foot mural titled "Dedication."

CT photo by Ken Snow



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Catholic Times (USPS 967-000) (ISSN 745-6050) is the official newspaper of the Catholic Diocese of Columbus, Ohio. It is published weekly 45 times per year with exception of every other week in June, July and August and the week following Christmas. Subscription rate: \$25 per year, or call and make arrangements with your parish.
Postage Paid at Columbus, OH 43218

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Postmaster: Send address changes to Catholic Times, 197 E. Gay St., Columbus, Ohio 43215. Please allow two to four weeks for change of address.

PRACTICAL STEWARDSHIP

By Rick Jeric

Stressed

Did you enjoy your Labor Day weekend? That extra day off feels especially good when the reason is to rest. Work is important, and most of us cannot sustain a living without it. We work hard to support our families and communities, and one extra day off per year is very worthwhile, especially when we spend it with our families, loved ones, and co-workers. Of course, God comes first, and the grace we pray together before our picnic and party meals takes on special significance. I hope that many of us were able to extend the spiritual weekend by even one more day by attending Mass on Tuesday, the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Thanking God for the special gift of Mary takes no work at all, just a little extra effort. We only have Jesus thanks to the "Yes" of Mary, and her own labor. And the rosary we prayed in thanksgiving for Sts. Joachim and Anne was a special one. The grace we need to make us holy and get to Heaven is readily available. We must be receptive. The saints can help us, along with our regular reception of our God in the Eucharist.

The incredible number of times I have heard the word "stressed" recently is stressful. Our language and changes in colloquial habits are forever interesting. It just seems fashionable to talk about how stressed we all are. Let me cite some recent examples. What else can our children be but stressed to begin another academic year? How stressed were some people – both shareholders and employees – when the stock market went on one of its infamous roller-coaster rides recently? We have all heard how stressed the Ohio State football team and coaches must be from the pressure of being a unanimous number-one pick at the start of this season. I hear the same radio ad much too often regarding the guy who took a particular hormone treatment and now feels "less stressed out." Finally, I had to endure a television news report about an overcrowded dog shelter that was causing its inhabitants to be incredibly stressed. Really? If those dogs could actually know what real stress is, well, that is another story for another time. Imagine being stressed by being a teacher in a poor, inner-city school where challenges like violence are common. Imagine being stressed by the joy and comfort of living under a bridge in decent weather, knowing that winter is just a few months away. Imagine being stressed by supporting your family at minimum wage, having no access to a college education, let alone a sports scholarship. Imagine being stressed by having no access whatsoever to drugs – for both good and bad uses. Imagine being stressed by the quick murder at the hands of a Planned Parenthood butcher, harvesting body parts for both sport and profit. I wonder if we really know what it means to be stressed.

Our practical challenge this week is to do whatever we can to keep ourselves from being stressed by things that are not really important. In addition, let us refrain from being a source of stress for our spouse, family, friends, co-workers, etc. I have no doubt that being stressed is very real for all of us, even our animal friends. Instead of waiting to react, let us be proactive and pray that we can be a source of calm and comfort. The world could use a strong dose of that kind of love right about now.

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



Sister Mary Patricia Gallagher, OP, 50th Jubilee

Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church and School, 3730 Broadway, will celebrate the 50th anniversary of final profession of vows by Sr. Mary Patricia Gallagher, OP, on Saturday, Sept. 19, with a 5 p.m. Mass followed by a reception in the parish life center.

Sister Mary Pat made her final commitment in August 1965, witnessed by Columbus Bishop John Carberry at the Pontifical College Josephinum, and surrounded by sisters, friends, and family. She taught for many years at Our Lady

of Perpetual Help and at Columbus St. Stephen, London St. Patrick, Lancaster St. Mary, and Coshocton Sacred Heart schools.

Her next assignment takes her to the Dominican Sisters of Peace in New Haven, Connecticut, living in the order's "Welcoming Community" Convent, where young women will live while they discern their vocation to Dominican life.

For more information on the anniversary event, contact Marti Hurd at (614) 875-3322.

Healing Mass

The diocesan Catholic Charismatic Renewal will sponsor a healing Mass at 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 20, at Columbus Christ the King Catholic Church, 2777 Livingston Ave., celebrated by Father Dean Mathewson, with Father Jim Coleman as concelebrant.

It will be preceded by the rosary at 2:30 and praise and worship at 3:00 p.m. Trained prayer teams will be available from 3 to 4 for those desiring personal

prayer for healing of spiritual, emotional, or physical needs. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be offered during Mass for those with serious illnesses. Mass will be followed by a fellowship dinner. Those attending are asked to bring a side dish, if possible.

For more information, call (614) 500-8115 or send an email message to info@ccrcolumbus.org

Saint Paul the Apostle Parish DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Saint Paul the Apostle Parish, a 4,000 family Catholic community in Westerville, Ohio (Columbus) is in search of a Development Director. This is a full time salaried position with an excellent benefit package reporting directly to the pastor.

The Development Director is responsible for creating a comprehensive development plan for the parish and school. This individual is accountable for the design and execution of all fundraising and expansion programs including; stewardship, capital campaigns, land use, special gifts, planned giving, identification of new funding sources, and the completion of projects currently in progress.

This individual is also responsible for the creation and implementation of a social media strategy to optimize parish exposure including; marketing, parish website operation, community involvement, evaluation of market trends, and application of new approaches based on those trends.

The qualified individual will have a minimum of a baccalaureate degree, five years of parish and school development experience, and possess strong communication skills; a working knowledge of building construction and graphic design is a plus. This position requires specific knowledge of the Catholic Church and its procedures. This individual must be a practicing Catholic in good standing.

Compensation is open and commensurate with experience.

For more information, please contact; Deacon Dean Racine, Director of Parish Administration at (614) 882-2109. Résumés may be sent with a cover letter by e-mail to deanr@stpacc.org.

XAVIER UNIVERSITY



Xavier University is an iconic Cincinnati institution that's been around for almost two centuries, but there's no ivy growing under its feet. Like the point that comes together in the center of its "X" logo, it provides a perfect balance of classic and cutting-edge education.

It's a school where challenging academics are enriched by a strong community of support, where state-of-the-art buildings stand side-by-side with beautiful, historic structures, and where enduring Jesuit Catholic values are expressed through 21st-century means.

Several publications have taken notice of the school's strong points. *U.S. News and World Report* has selected it as one of the Top 10 Midwest master's-level colleges for 20 straight years, ranking it fifth in that category for 2015.

Xavier also has been chosen as one of "America's Top Colleges" (*Forbes* magazine); one of the "Best 380 Colleges in America" (*The Princeton Review*); one of the "Best Colleges for Veterans" (*U.S. News & World Report*); one of the "100 Best Values" in private universities (*Kiplinger's Personal Finance*); one of the nation's best part-time master of business administration programs and best graduate schools for health

care management (*U.S. News & World Report*); and one of the "Best Business Schools" (*The Princeton Review*, for 11 straight years).

Xavier's approach sets it apart – its focus on the whole person and on developing intelligent minds and compassionate spirits. As a Jesuit institution, it takes its cue from a religious order which has been educating people since the 1500s.

It carries on long-standing Jesuit traditions not only through excellent academics, but also through community service, religious inclusion, and a fo-

cus on sustainability that permeates the classrooms and the campus. Xavier wants to give students the tools they need to live a life that truly matters.

Its freshman retention rate of 84 percent is among the best in the nation, and its six-year graduation rate of 76 percent is the best in the Midwest, according to *U.S. News & World Report*. More than 200 companies recruit on campus annually, contributing to 91 percent of Xavier graduates being employed, volunteering, or in graduate school within six months of graduation. In addition, its 80-percent

medical school acceptance rate is nearly double the national average.

This energy for success is palpable, not just in students but throughout the Xavier community. Alumni return often for basketball games and mingle with current students. They become mentors to guide a young student toward graduation and beyond. The entire campus welcomes new students and helps them move into their dorm rooms. Jesuit priests live in the halls and are hosts for dinners. It's not just a sense of community; it's a true community.

THOMAS MORE COLLEGE

Thomas More College is a small liberal-arts college with a big reputation.

The college was ranked number-one for return on investment in the Cincinnati-northern Kentucky metropolitan area by a 2015 PayScale report. In addition, *Money* magazine ranks Thomas More as one of its best college buys in higher education, and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching praises the college as a "selective liberal arts college."

Founded in 1921 by the Benedictine Sisters as Villa Madonna College, Thomas More serves about 1,600 students from across the nation and around the world on its campus in Crestview Hills, Kentucky, about 10 minutes from downtown Cincinnati.

TMC offers more than 40 majors with a 13-to-1 student-faculty ratio. Students also have more than 45 student clubs and organizations to choose from, as well as 21 intercollegiate athletic teams.



Whether you plan to earn an advanced degree at another university, go on to medical school or law school, or pursue your career upon graduation, a degree from Thomas More prepares you well for your next challenge in life.

The value of a Thomas More education can be measured by the extraordinary achievements of the school's graduates. Leading employers seek out Thomas More graduates, many of whom receive job offers prior to graduation.

The Thomas More campus is friendly and comfortable, creating a peaceful community committed to nurturing the whole person. It is situated on 100 acres of beautiful rolling hills, with the scenic Ohio River nearby. Student activities are as diverse as the student body itself.

Scholarships are available. One hundred percent of Thomas More students receive financial aid. Go to www.thomasmore.edu for more information and to schedule a personalized campus visit.

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Communion from priest only?; Meeting for black clergy and religious



QUESTION & ANSWER
by: FATHER KENNETH DOYLE
Catholic News Service

It has been 30 years since I last saw this happen, but at Sunday Mass yesterday, a couple and their two children got up from a pew in front of me just as Communion was about to be distributed and walked around our section of pews in order to get in line to receive from the priest instead of from a lay Eucharistic minister. I am fighting being judgmental, but I can't believe that this still happens. How might a priest deal with this? How might those who witness it best react? (St. Paul, Minnesota)

It is, of course, the same Eucharist -- whether received from a priest or from a lay minister -- and, like you, I am a bit surprised when someone feels compelled to make a choice. You may have not seen it for 30 years, but my experience is more current. Until a few weeks ago, a man in our parish consistently refused to take the consecrated host from a layperson. (I say until a few weeks ago because the man has since passed away.)

When the distribution of Communion began, he would remain in the back of the church. At the end, when I would go up to give Communion to those unable to negotiate the aisle (our floor is sloped downward toward the altar), he would walk over to me, fall to his knees and take the host in his mouth.

I respected his choice and never made an effort to change his behavior. In the scope of things, I felt that his preference was a small issue. For me, it came under the heading of the "big tent" that embraces a wide variety of Catholics. (For safety reasons, I did, some years ago, speak to him about his habit of walking down the Communion aisle and suddenly dropping to his knees when he reached

the priest, leaving the people behind him hard-pressed not to fall in a pile on top of him!)

I raised my children to respect all people, to understand differences in nationalities, races, and family traits and to know that God created everyone. But this week's issue of our Catholic newspaper raises a serious question for me. I opened it to find two pages dedicated to a joint conference of national black sisters, national black clergy, national black deacons, and national black seminarians.

My question is this: If the conference had referred to national white sisters, white clergy, white deacons, etc., don't you think it would have incited a frenzy? Please help me to understand how one is acceptable to the church and society while the other is not. (Charleston, South Carolina)

Black clergy and religious -- rather logically, I would think -- have combined their efforts to deal with issues of special concern to black people in the church and in society. This coordination first began in 1968 during the civil rights movement, when our nation was beginning to give greater attention to the sin of racism.

The primary focus currently seems to be evangelization -- how to give the Catholic Church greater relevance with African-Americans, in part through the joy and enthusiasm of liturgical celebration. Attention also is given to societal issues that impact black people in particular. The 2015 joint conference of the National Black Sisters Conference, the National Association of Black Catholic Deacons, the National Black Catholic Seminarians Association, and the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus in Charleston, South Carolina, for example, called for the abolition of the death penalty and referenced studies that show race and poverty are often determining factors in our criminal justice system.

Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at askfatherdoyle@gmail.com and 40 Hopewell St., Albany NY 12208.

Dan DeMatte to speak at Seton Parish



Are you living a mediocre life? Are you a better vision of yourself today than you were yesterday or last year?

Join Dan DeMatte, nationally known author and speaker and lifelong resident of the Diocese of Columbus, for Holiness Revolution, a transformative event that will inspire you to live a life of passion and purpose and encourage you to become the best version of yourself.

DeMatte will speak at Pickerington St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, 600 Hill Road N., at 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26.

Tickets are \$20 each and include a paperback copy of *The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic* by Matthew Kelly and an inspirational journal, which have a combined retail value of \$24.

For more information, call the parish office at (614) 833-0482.

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MOUNT ST. JOSEPH UNIVERSITY



Mount St. Joseph University welcomes the new school year with more freshmen and new programs.

Nearly 330 first-year students, one of the largest freshman classes in the school's recent history, began classes at Mount St. Joseph University in Cincinnati on Monday, Aug. 24. Two-thirds of them will be living on campus, said Bill Minor, vice president of enrollment.

"This is an 18 percent increase from last year's class of freshmen," Minor said. "Our residence hall is nearly filled and our freshmen are an exciting, talented group of incoming students. We're looking forward to a great year."

The school year brings new changes to the Mount. As the search for a new president takes place, the university has unveiled new additions to the campus and its programs. This summer, the Health Sciences Center expanded into a building less than one mile from campus, adding more than 7,500 additional square feet of space to accommodate graduate students in areas such as physical therapy and graduate nursing.

The college also has been approved to develop the curriculum for a physician assistant program. In other areas,

undergraduate students can now major specifically in financial economics, management, marketing, and mathematics/financial economics. These additions allow for a more broad-based background of business specialties.

Student organizations will have their own office space and a conference area this year with creation of the Student Leadership and Involvement Center in the Harrington Center. The Archbishop Alter Library is undergoing renovations to accommodate the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence.

Greek life is coming to the Mount for the first time with the arrival of the international fraternity Delta Tau Delta.



Other sororities and fraternities have been invited to come to the college.

Mount St. Joseph University is an undergraduate and graduate Catholic

university that provides an interdisciplinary liberal-arts and professional curriculum emphasizing values, service, and social responsibility.

WALSH UNIVERSITY

In an effort to continue providing degree programs in the latest in-demand fields, Walsh University in North Canton has introduced 14 new undergraduate major programs during the past two years, including eight this fall.

This year's new majors are in digital media, computer science digital applications, computer science networking, computer science programming, finance, professional writing, art history, and music. Each new major includes substantial experiential learning and

internship opportunities to optimize student success after graduation.

Walsh also has established a new division of fine and performing arts, which will house the new art history and music majors, as well as the university's museum studies program, one of the only programs of its kind in the Midwest.

The university's newest building, the St. John Paul II Center for Science Innovation, opened in the spring and serves as home for expanded science and health care programs. Annexed to

the Timken Natural Sciences Center, the building was designed for students to easily navigate between the existing facility and the new state-of-the-art laboratories.

The center features multiple learning and research labs, including exercise science, human anatomy, advanced chemistry, occupational therapy, and physics.

Each lab is equipped with the latest in technology, including Anatomage virtual dissection tables that display 3-D images of human anatomy with stunning detail in a multitude of layers, views, and perspectives.

A new interactive simulation classroom for the Byers School of Nursing has been added to the Aultman Health Science Center for this fall. This hands-on facility will allow nursing students to extend learning beyond textbooks to real-



life situations.

Walsh, the University of Dayton, and Xavier University, are the only three Catholic colleges in Ohio to be recognized as colleges of distinction by the rating site CollegesofDistinction.com, which features schools dedicated to a teaching-centered undergraduate education. Across the nation, 74 Catholic schools were selected for this honor because they offer environments that are conducive to spiritual growth while preparing students for the future.

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OHIO DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY

Less than a year after graduating, Ohio Dominican University's entire inaugural class of physician assistants (PAs) is employed in the medical field and serving patients across the region and the United States. Approximately 87 percent of graduates are practicing full-time in Ohio. The rest are working in cities such as Chicago, Charlotte, and Salt Lake City.

ODU awarded master's degrees to the inaugural graduating class of its master of science in physician assistant studies program (pictured) last December. Class members took the Physician Assistant National Certification Board exam in January, posting a 98 percent first-time passage rate. The class now has a 100 percent pass rate.



Ohio Dominican launched its PA program – the first in central Ohio – in July 2012. Nationwide Children's Hospital, OhioHealth, Mount Carmel Health, and The Ohio State University support the program with lecturers and clinical opportunities for PA students. Approximately 33 percent of ODU's physician assistant graduates work in emergency medicine, 27 percent in surgery, 16 percent in primary care, 16 percent in internal medicine, and eight percent in dermatology, pediatrics, or behavioral and mental health.

ODU also has overhauled its online and on-campus offerings to better meet the needs of busy adult learners. This fall, the university's adult and continuing education program launched majors in insurance and risk management and cross-disciplinary studies, plus minors

in computer science, marketing, and management.

ODU also introduced an adult student version of its four-plus-one MBA program, giving adult learners an opportunity to save time and money by earning their master of business administration degree in just one additional year of study. In addition, it recently converted to a three-credit-hour standard for adult courses, giving it the ability to accept more transfer credits than it was able to in the past.

ODU offers a variety of courses for adult learners in both online and on-campus classes, including a bachelor's degree in business administration. The university's nine-week project management boot camp also continues to grow in popularity. It prepares students to

take both the project management professional and certified associate in project management certification exams. Its next series of adult classes begins Monday, Sept. 21.

In addition to its Sunbury Road campus, ODU also has a new Dublin location near State Route 161 and U.S. 33,

at 6805 Bobcat Way. This location is easily accessible to those who live or work in Columbus' northwest suburbs.

For more information on the physician assistant studies program, visit ohiodominican.edu/PA. For more on adult student programs, visit ohiodominican.edu/adult or call (614) 251-7400.



Continue Your Faith Journey at ODU

Register for our Sept. 26 undergraduate Open House today at ohiodominican.edu/OpenHouse.



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Panther Stadium at Ohio Dominican University received new artificial turf this summer, thanks to a \$540,000 estate gift from longtime supporter Frank Damian of Columbus. The playing surface has been named Frank Damian Field in his honor.

Photo courtesy Ohio Dominican University



Encountering the Other

A few days ago, while driving to work, I heard a story on NPR about the thousands of immigrants arriving on the small Greek island of Lesbos, refugees fleeing war and oppression in Syria, looking for a place to live. They risked a dangerous journey leaving everything behind and set off toward an unknown future. Husbands and wives, parents and children, friends and relatives, all willing to trust their lives to people and places they do not know.

Listening to reporters interviewing newly arrived refugees, I marveled at the joy in their voices. Thrilled to have survived the journey and to be standing on solid ground in a place free of war and the atrocities that accompany it, they spoke with such hope, such faith in God, or if not in God, in fellow human beings.



GRACE IN THE MOMENT
Mary van Balen

I wanted to rejoice with them, but concern tempered my delight as I wondered what the road ahead would bring for them: Mounds of paperwork and bureaucracy from governments hesitant to welcome so many people needing work and aid. Hostility and resistance from those who will feel threatened by their presence, by their "otherness." Soon, frustration will replace the

euphoria of the refugees' first taste of freedom from constant fear and suffering.

Tragedy already darkens Syrian refugees' arrival. The United Nations refugee agency reports that over 2,500 people have died this year trying to make the dangerous ocean crossing.

Driving home from work that same day, I heard an inspiring story of Icelanders who had formed a Facebook group, "Syria is Calling," and is pressuring their government to take in more than the 50 refugees it had offered to accept—a lot more, 5,000. While the large number of people the group is proposing to welcome is impressive, it was the outpouring of individuals' willingness to help that stirred my heart.

People offered to open up extra bedrooms in their homes and provide food, money, and house wares to help new arrivals settle in. This personal response is more demanding than putting a check in the mail, which is my plan. It means living with people who have different beliefs and values. In some cases, like sharing one's home with strangers or welcoming them into your city, such action means daily encountering the "other" with openness and reverence for their personhood. It means, in the midst of serious complexities, maintaining the belief that we are more alike than different.

This post from "Syria is Calling" eloquently proclaims this truth: "Refugees are our future spouses, best friends, our next soul mate, the drummer in our children's band, our next colleague, Miss Iceland 2022, the carpenter who finally fixes our bathroom, the chef in the cafeteria, the fireman, the hacker and the television host. People who we'll never be able to say to: 'Your life is worth less than mine.'"

These words challenge all of us around the globe to examine our own attitude toward the "other," not only the Syrian refugees, but the marginalized people who live in our own cities and neighborhoods.

The Letter of Saint James, included in this Sunday's readings, speaks forcefully about the responsibility of Christians to put their faith into action: "If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well,' but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead."

Fear of those who are not like us is no excuse; it is a human failing that must be confronted and transformed by love, a process that can take a lifetime. It is a process that requires encounter.

But suffering and injustice can't wait for lifetimes. Our faith, our humanity, requires action before we are comfortable. We must respond with love despite our fear, and incrementally, our hearts will change. As Jesus said, love will cast out fear. We are all other to someone. Encounter will transform us: those in position to give and those who receive, privileged with voice and marginalized with none.

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MOUNT CARMEL COLLEGE OF NURSING

BY TIM PUET, CATHOLIC TIMES/PHOTOS BY KEN SNOW

As the nation's health care system continues to evolve, the demand for well-prepared nurses becomes greater. Mount Carmel College of Nursing is responding to that need in a variety of ways, adding a new doctoral track this year while continuing the graduate and undergraduate programs that have seen its enrollment grow steadily in the 25 years it has been a degree-granting college.

Its president, Dr. Christine Wynd, who in July began her second year leading the college, said she would like Mount Carmel to become "the Catholic college of choice for anyone who wants to pursue a nursing career."

Its new doctor of nursing practice (DNP) program is a significant step toward that goal. The DNP is the highest-level degree for the nursing profession. "A PhD, the doctoral degree most people are familiar with, is primarily focused on research," Wynd said. "The DNP is an alternative to the PhD, with the difference that it is centered on practice."

"It's a two- to three-year program preparing advanced-practice clinical nursing specialists or nurse practitioners to take their practice to a higher level in systems where they can develop policies and suggest methods of intervention and change."

Wynd said six students are enrolled in the DNP program, which began on Aug.



Dr. Christine Wynd, in her second year as college president.

we're pleased with the results of the marketing program we had for the program in the spring." The college received approval to offer the program in December 2014 from the Ohio Board of Nursing.

The program includes online courses, enabling students to mix course work with their job and family responsibilities. They will complete 35 semester hours online and a DNP project in a health care setting. In their final semester, they will come to Mount Carmel for a public presentation of their project.

Course subjects for the DNP degree include biostatistics, epidemiology, translating evidence into practice, outcome

17. "Since it's for nurses who are already have master's-level degrees, it's not designed to be a large program," she said. "We had a maximum enrollment goal of eight students for the first year, so

measurement and analysis, and fiscal management of projects.

"One of the program's principal goals involves giving participants a chance to work with organizations and professional teams on policy development." Wynd said. "Nurses working to earn a DNP are not researchers, but through developing their DNP projects, they will learn how to find champions to help them pursue their work and how to use political action to benefit patient care.

"Ultimately, they could be helping write significant policies and sitting at the highest tables of federal health care planning. As they come to us with already advanced skills, we will be giving them added value through the DNP degree."

The college has been affiliated with Mount Carmel Health, the only Catholic health care system in the Columbus area, since 1903, when it was founded by the Sisters of the Holy Cross at the original Mount Carmel Hospital in the Franklinton neighborhood on the city's west side. It has continued at that location as the Mount Carmel system has expanded throughout Franklin County and into Fairfield and Delaware counties.

For most of its history, it was known as a nursing school rather than a college because its academic offerings were limited to nurses' training courses. That changed in 1990, when it began granting college degrees. It added a graduate program in 2003. It is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

From small beginnings, it has maintained steady growth. It began as a college with 36 students 25 years ago. In 2010, that number had reached about 820. This year, enrollment stood at 1,073 for all programs when classes began last month.

This includes 162 students studying for master's degrees, and 71 in the school's satellite campus at Fairfield Medical Center in Lancaster, which has been offering bachelor's-degree programs since 2008.

Students in Dr. Kim Loscko's anatomy and physiology (top left, bottom right) and Olivia Hickey's human growth and development classes.

Mount Carmel is the state's largest hospital-based nursing college and is second statewide only to Kent State University in total nursing enrollment.

Most Mount Carmel students are from central Ohio, but construction of two resident apartment facilities adjacent to the college has allowed more people from elsewhere to attend. The apartments house a total of 144 students. The percentage of male students at the college is about 10 percent and minority enrollment is about 13 percent – figures that have been consistent during the last few years.

The school awards the bachelor of science degree in nursing (BSN) upon completion of one of four tracks: a traditional four-year course of studies; an online RN-BSN completion program for those who already are registered nurses, which has about 200 students; a 13-month sec-

ond-degree accelerated program, only offered at the Columbus campus; and an advanced placement program.

Track options for the master's degree program include adult health; online nursing education; nursing administration; and nurse practitioner options in family practice and adult gerontology acute care. The nurse practitioner field is another rapidly growing segment of the nursing profession. Nurse practitioners have duties similar to those of primary-care physicians, allowing them to serve as a patient's chief health care provider and to see patients of all ages.

Mount Carmel has partnerships for nursing education with the Trinity Health System, a national network which includes Mount Carmel Health, and with Ohio University-Lancaster, Columbus



Dr. Theresa Skybo, associate professor of nursing.

State Community College, The Ohio State University, Ohio Dominican University, Wilmington College, and Lake Erie College.

The institution grew to its current prominence under the leadership of Dr. Ann Schiele, who came to the hospital at Franklinton as a nurse in 1961, then began teaching at the nursing school in 1965. She remained there for the next 49 years, was chosen as its president and dean when the school became a college in 1990, and served in that position until her retirement in 2014, when Wynd, who had been dean of the nursing school at Ursuline College in suburban Cleveland, succeeded her.

"Ann and I had known each other for years when she told me she planned to retire," Wynd said. "She had begun talk-

ing a few years earlier about what a great position her job would be for her successor. I wasn't ready to leave Ursuline, but Ann talked me into coming down to Columbus and talking with the leaders at Mount Carmel to see what I could do.

When the opportunity came, it was easy to make the move because my time at Ursuline had prepared me well.

"Mount Carmel has offered a wonderful foundation for nursing education since 1903," she said. "Ann moved it to a higher level, and I want to continue enhancing its scholarly and research programs. We have attracted a high caliber of students, and offering a DNP program allows us to go to the next level. The DNP program emphasizes clinical scholarship, and I expect its graduates to publish papers and go after funding which will result from their work."

Wynd is hoping the college can open an office for nursing research, in cooperation with Mount Carmel Health and Trinity Health. It would be led by Dr. Darrell Spurlock Jr., the college's director of scholarship and institutional effectiveness, who has done extensive research in nursing-related topics such as how emergency-room staffing levels affect the timeliness of pain medication. Wynd said he would be joined in such an office by a staff which would include a grant writer, a statistician, and others.

"Nursing research has become much more sophisticated as a result of formation 30 years ago of the National Institute of Nursing Research, which is part of the National Institutes of Health," she said. "The institute focuses on acute-care programs. We would look more at the



primary-care level. Giving nurses more opportunities to do research and use the evidence they gain from that research is bound to result in higher-quality, safer patient care.

"Changes resulting from the federal Affordable Care Act emphasize the need for all forms of nursing – RNs, advanced-degree nurses, nurse practitioners, and DNPs – to cover all the bases in health care. If there is a physician shortage, there is even more of a shortage of nurse practitioners. NPs are really positioned well, because they can deliver care that's different from, yet overlaps with what MDs do. NPs also are less costly than physicians, but I expect their salaries to grow as people realize their importance."

The work of the national research institute and others has led to changes in the way nursing courses are being taught, said Dr. Theresa Skybo, associate professor of nursing, who has been at the college for the past eight years and has been involved in nursing education at Mount Carmel and Ohio State since 1996.

"Today, what we're teaching is based much more than it used to be on what's known as evidence-based practice," she said. "This combines the practitioner's individual expertise and the best available evidence with a patient's own values and expectations.

"What this means is we're treating people based on what's best for their own unique situation, as opposed to 'doing things the way they've always been done.' This makes it more likely a course of treatment will have the best result."

See MT. CARMEL, Page 12



MT. CARMEL, continued from Page 11

Skybo said this willingness to challenge accepted practice is reflected in the current generation of students. “They seem to be more creative, more willing to work together than they were a few years ago,” she said. “They’re more invested in their education, both in financial terms and in terms of involvement. There’s a recognition that nursing is more of a profession than a discipline or series of rules. Teaching also has changed. It’s a lot more active, with much less ‘standing up and doing a lecture.’”

One of those students is Samira Hashi, a sophomore from Columbus who wants to be a trauma nurse practitioner. “I decided to come to Mount Carmel because of its reputation,” she said. “I noticed that the nurses who graduate from here are so well-prepared, and found in researching schools that their scores on the state Nursing Board tests were the best among any of the schools I was interested in.

“I always knew I wanted to be in health care. Mount Carmel’s holistic view of health care – taking care of the whole person, body, mind, and spirit—exemplified what I want to take part in. Trauma care is fast-paced; you’ve got to think on your feet. It’s something I can see myself doing for the rest of my life.”

Hashi said she’s been particularly affected by anatomy and physiology classes taught by faculty member Dr. Kim Loscko. “I thought those would be boring classes, but she went way beyond the way the body works,” Hashi said. “The way she makes the body

come alive makes me feel I’ve learned way more in a year than I ever could have imagined. She’s also made me realize how important a positive attitude is in communicating with patients and peers, and has inspired me to always keep going and give my best.”

Josh Getzinger, taking part in Mount Carmel’s accelerated program for students already with a college degree, is switching his focus from legal briefs to patient charts. “I graduated from Ohio State and worked in a bankruptcy law office for a few years, but realized I didn’t feel fulfilled by that type of work,” he said. “A co-worker was an emergency medical technician, and he helped me realize that a career in health care would make me feel more fully realized in terms of my emotional and intellectual capacity.

“An acquaintance who is a physician assistant helped me compare the degree transition programs at local colleges. She felt Mount Carmel provided the best experience for students, and at 13 months, it also was the fastest. I started here in January and it’s been a great experience.

“You learn to be an effective nurse, and you get to work both with real patients and in a lab with an ‘electronic patient’ where you can simulate a lot of things. It makes you realize you have so much to learn, and the door of inquiry is always open. To me, that’s exciting,” he said.

“Having gone to OSU, though for a different reason, I recognize the difference that smaller classes make here.



Teacher Olivia Hickey talks to Mount Carmel students about how individual development affects approaches to health care.

They allow professors to give you more individual attention. There’s not the sheer volume of people that forces the instructor’s time to be diluted. It also was important this is a Catholic program, because of the philosophy of care for the whole person which results from that.”

Skybo also said being Catholic makes a difference. “I’ve taught both here and at OSU, and I know some students and

a lot of faculty come here because our Catholic atmosphere allows us to better care for each other and take a family approach to what we do,” she said.

“Catholic spirituality is something you see everywhere here, in external and internal ways. That’s very important. I’ve had many students say they’re grateful that here they can pray and talk about God, while elsewhere, that’s not allowed.”



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Four of the approximately 100 freshmen taking Dr. Kim Loscko’s introductory anatomy and physiology class this semester.

FRANCISCAN UNIVERSITY OF STEUBENVILLE

Franciscan University of Steubenville is getting the Year of Mercy declared by Pope Francis off to an early start by adopting it as the theme for the academic year. The pope in April proclaimed that what officially is known as an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy will take place from Dec. 8 of this year to Nov. 20, 2016.



“Mercy brings conversion,” Father Sean O. Sheridan, TOR, president of the university, said at a faculty and staff meeting announcing Franciscan’s plans for the year. He said students will encounter a wide range of events designed to bolster the pope’s call to “see the face of mercy” in others.

The first Year of Mercy event on campus will be a talk on “The Blessed Virgin as the Mother of Mercy” on Thursday, Sept. 10 by well-known Catholic author and speaker Father Michael Gaitley, MIC, director of the Association of Marian Helpers.

The academic year began on Saturday, Aug. 22, with four new faculty and staff members taking an oath of fidelity to the teaching authority of the Church, as administered by Bishop Jeffrey Monforton of Steubenville. “In my words

and in my actions, I shall always reserve communion with the Catholic Church,” the four declared.

Those who took the oath were Dr. Alexander Plato, philosophy professor; Kimberly Sponseller, executive director of marketing and communications; Brother Jason Wooleyhan, TOR, pastoral associate for evangelization; and Father John Shanahan, TOR, pastoral counselor. Pictured are (from left) Plato, Bishop Monforton, Sponseller, Father Sheridan, Brother Wooleyhan, and Father Shanahan.



New theology faculty members, priests, and other appropriate personnel at the university have publicly promised to remain faithful to the teaching authority of the Church since 1989, when the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith issued a decree for Catholic colleges and universities. Franciscan was the first U.S. Catholic university to respond to the decree. In 2013, new Franciscan philosophy faculty took the oath for the first time.

Earlier this year, the university’s athletic director, Chris Ledyard, was enshrined in the Sports Faith Hall of Fame in Chicago for his dedication

to sports and the Catholic Church. He was among 12 outstanding Catholic athletes, coaches, and teams to be honored. Other inductees included basketball legend Bob Cousy, 1953 Heisman Trophy winner John Lattner, and speed skater Bonnie Blair.

The university also announced that its online master of arts in catechetics and evangelization degree has deepened its

reach into Europe, with the School of the Annunciation (SOTA)—the United Kingdom’s only higher-education institution dedicated to the new evangelization – enrolling European students in Franciscan’s program. Most courses will be online, coupled with a short residential summer program at Buckfast Abbey, a medieval monastery located in the Devonshire countryside, south of London.

JOHN CARROLL UNIVERSITY

John Carroll University, located in the Cleveland suburb of University Heights, and the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine (OU-HCOM) have established a new partnership to help talented Ohio high school seniors reserve an assured seat in medical school.

Each year, as many as 10 John Carroll students from Ohio will be able to gain early admission to OU-HCOM, the state’s only osteopathic medical school, which is recognized nationally for its

excellence in preparing primary care physicians.

Students in this program will first pursue an undergraduate program at John Carroll for four years. On completing studies at JCU, they will transition to a reserved seat in OU-HCOM’s medical school. Students must fulfill all program requirements and meet certain academic standards. OU-HCOM waives its Medical College Admissions Test requirement for students in the early acceptance program.

JCU pre-health students can conduct advanced research with faculty and gain valuable internship experience at world-class health care institutions in Cleveland. Students in the early acceptance program also have opportunities to connect with current OU-HCOM students and activities, providing insight into life as a medical student.

John Carroll also has a four-year professional development program which



is dedicated to preparing its Boler School of Business students for their future careers.

Beginning in the freshman year, the program follows a professional readiness timeline, providing students with step-by-step career building experiences in professional branding, resume writing, behavior-based interviewing,

professional networking, navigating LinkedIn, business etiquette, and negotiating an offer, as well as an executive mentor program and a professional speaker series.

The professional development program allows students to build and polish professional skills throughout their four years at JCU.



Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle B)

The Messiah's identity finally becomes clear



Father
Lawrence L. Hummer

Isaiah 50:5-9a

James 2:14-18

Mark 8:27-35

The Isaiah reading is the third of four “Servant Songs” found in Isaiah 40-54. These chapters have been called *Deutero-Isaiah* because they contain material which developed during and after the Babylonian exile (586 BC) and long after the historical Isaiah had prophesied.

The servant songs spoke about an unnamed and unknown servant of the Lord who would faithfully carry out the will of the Lord in all things. For this reason, some scholars identified the servant with an idealized image of a personified Israel in a post-exilic period in the future. Others thought this servant would be the long-awaited Messiah of the Lord, who would restore Israel’s good fortune and place in the world. Still others thought it was the author of Isaiah 40-54 himself.

Even if the identity of this servant was unknown, what is absolutely clear is that the evangelists all had an awareness of this servant when they wrote the gospels, and they framed their portrait of Jesus in terms of the servant from these songs.

Sunday’s Gospel has been called “the hinge” of Mark. Everything before this in Mark has been written with an eye toward this confession by Peter of Jesus as the Messiah. The rest of the Gospel flows from this confession. The Messiah’s identity finally becomes clear to Peter, as the speaker for the group of disciples – that Jesus is the Messiah (in Greek, *the Christ*). It is now no longer up to demoniacs or those who were ill or non-members of the group to identify Jesus. Now, his own have finally discovered it.

The confession comes in response to the question

Jesus poses to the disciples: “Who do people say I am?” They answer, “John the Baptist, Elijah or one of the prophets.” Then Jesus asks them directly, “Who do **you** (second-person plural) say I am?” Peter alone speaks for the group in noting that “You are the Christ.” It is not possible to say what Peter meant by his answer, but it certainly suggests that he and the rest of the disciples believed at the very least that Jesus was God’s agent who had come to restore Israel to its place at the head of the nations.

Jesus then orders them not to tell anyone about him. This is another example of a stylistic device Mark uses to keep the narrative developing until the arrest, trial, and persecution of Jesus, culminating in his death on the cross. Immediately upon his death, the Roman centurion says unequivocally, “Truly this man was the Son of God.” At that point, there is no longer cause for secrecy because all has been revealed.

Once Peter makes his confession, Jesus spells out the implications of his identity as the Christ and as Son of Man. He “must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and rise after three days.” Obviously, when Peter takes him aside and tries to talk Jesus out of this kind of talk, he demonstrates that his confession is limited to his own expectations of greatness for the Messiah he awaited; however, that could be said for practically all the disciples.

Jesus calls Peter “Satan” as he explains that Peter is thinking as humans do, not as God does. He illustrates the point with the demand that “anyone who wishes to follow me must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it.” That instruction is still valid.

Father Lawrence Hummer, pastor at Chillicothe St. Mary Church, can be reached at hummerl@stmarychillicothe.com.

Marysville Youth Concert

Two contemporary Christian bands will be featured in a concert that will help kick off the 2015-16 program year for youth ministries throughout the diocese.

The concert, featuring City of Bright and Carry the Cost, will be at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 20 in the Catholic Community Center of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 1033 W. 5th St.

Special guest performers will be HE not m.e., featuring Marysville High School students Micayla Kesterson and Ethan Pugh, and Voices of Reason, with Our Lady of Lourdes parishioners Emma Klaus and Ava Lopez, plus other Bunsold Middle School students.

Admission is free to the family-friendly event, which is open to all but targeted particularly toward youth groups.

The Weekday Bible Readings

MONDAY
Numbers 21:4b-9
Psalm 78:1b-2,34-38
Philippians 2:6-11
John 3:13-17

TUESDAY
1 Timothy 3:1-13
Psalm 101:1b-3b,5-6
John 19:25-27 or Luke 2:33-35

WEDNESDAY
1 Timothy 3:14-16
Psalm 111:1-6
Luke 7:31-35

THURSDAY
1 Timothy 4:12-16
Psalm 111:7-10
Luke 7:36-50

FRIDAY
1 Timothy 6:2c-12
Psalm 49:6-10,17-20
Luke 8:1-3

SATURDAY
1 Timothy 6:13-16
Psalm 100:1b-5
Luke 8:4-15

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2015

SUNDAY MASS
10:30 a.m. Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com.
Mass with the Passionist Fathers at 7:30 a.m. on WWHO-TV (the CW), Channel 53, Columbus, and 10:30 a.m. on WHIZ-TV, Channel 18, Zanesville. Check local cable system for cable channel listing.
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 the Archdiocese of Milwaukee at 6:30 a.m. on ION TV (AT&T U-verse Channel 195, Dish Network Channel 250, or DirecTV Channel 305).

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 (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com.

We pray Week IV, Seasonal Proper of the Liturgy of the Hours

The perils of “preferred peers”



THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE
George Weigel

On Catholic campuses that aspire to Top 10 or Top 20 status in publicity sweepstakes such as the *U.S. News and World Report* college rankings, one sometimes hears the phrase “preferred peers.” Translated into plain English from faux-sociologese, that means the schools to which they would like to be compared (and be ranked with). At the University of Notre Dame, for example, administrators use the term “preferred peers” to refer to universities such as Duke, Stanford, and Princeton, suggesting that these are the benchmarks by which Notre Dame measures its own aspirations to excellence.

By the current standards of American higher learning, Duke, Stanford, and Princeton are indeed excellent schools. But is their excellence the excellence to which a Catholic institution of higher education should aspire? Are they the benchmarks by which a Catholic university with dreams of glory should measure itself?

I doubt it. Boasting vast endowments, many very fine teachers, and excellent programs in some fields, Duke, Stanford, and Princeton nonetheless participate in the intellectual incoherence that is the chief hallmark of 21st-century American higher education. None of the three has a serious, demanding core curriculum, in which students absorb the intellectual patrimony of the West and are thus equipped to meet and engage other cultures. Duke has an excellent divinity school and a glorious chapel, but it would be a stretch to say that serious theology and an appreciation of human beings as innately worshipping creatures are hallmarks of a Duke undergraduate education. Princeton has the great professor Robert P. George, but its

philosophy department is adept at turning out graduates who doubt that there is anything properly describable as “the truth.” As for Stanford, its response to the decadence of campus life today has been to institute a monitored regime of political correctness that would be laughable if it were not sinister.

Aspirations to excellence should be applauded in any field. The real question is “What do you mean by excellence?” And as I survey the higher altitudes of American higher education in the first decades of the 21st century, at least as measured by *U.S. News and World Report*, I don’t see a lot that Blessed John Henry Newman, author of *The Idea of a University*, would recognize as “excellence.”

I see extremely bright students, often ill-served by ideologically distorted teaching. I see extraordinary wealth used for endless fundraising. I see lots of scientific and technological innovation, usually untethered from any serious consideration of whether something new is good or bad, ennobling or dehumanizing. At the undergraduate level, I see a curricular smorgasbord that not even the brightest 18-year old could reasonably be expected to navigate, so as to graduate as

a well-rounded, well-educated young adult. The high-priced-spread schools may be excellent by their own guild standards (for those vaunted rankings depend heavily on peer reviews, one academic hand scratching another academic back). But would Newman accept those standards or find these schools excellent? My hunch is he’d find them deeply confused, no matter how wealthy.

Catholic higher education in the United States is, in my experience, the best Catholic higher education in the world. But it could be better. And the notion that it will become better by aspiring to be like today’s Ivies (or Ivy wannabes like Duke and Stanford) strikes me as a hangover from the vertigo of the immediate post-Vatican II years. Then, a lot of Catholic educators, seeking to let some fresh air blow through the windows of their classrooms, imagined that refreshing breezes would be imitating schools like Harvard, Cornell, and California-Berkeley (which in those days was widely regarded as not only the nation’s greatest public university, but its greatest university, period). The problem was that Harvard, Cornell, and Berkeley were on the cusp of losing their minds and deconstructing their souls.

Rather than aiming to be like the “preferred peers,” why shouldn’t a proudly Catholic university like Notre Dame set a new standard of true excellence, based on and measured by the Catholic tradition of integrated learning and integral human formation?

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PONTIFICAL COLLEGE JOSEPHINUM



The coming year will be highlighted by a variety of special events, including Fall Tour Day on Saturday, Oct. 17 and the Clergy Who Cook program in January.

The Josephinum’s annual lecture series begins on Thursday, Sept. 17 with “Growing Threats to Pro-Life Americans’ Rights of Conscience,” presented by Richard M. Doerflinger of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ secretariat of pro-life activities. The series also will feature Dr. John Grabowski, Father Jared Wicks, SJ, Dr. Thomas Madden, and Dr. Robert George. A complete schedule of lectures and events may be found at www.pcj.edu.

Photo: At the opening Mass of the new academic year, Bishop Frederick Campbell, assisted by Deacon Jeremiah Guappone, incenses the altar in the St. Turibius Chapel at the Pontifical College Josephinum.

Photo by Carolyn Dinovo

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ARTRNKJD | AD-10-14-1107 | 470944PM-0314 | 11/2014

THE UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

The University of Dayton rededicated the spiritual and geographical focal point of its mission – the iconic Chapel of the Immaculate Conception – after a 14-month, \$12-million renovation.

The privately funded renovation addressed space, design aesthetics, and seating to accommodate the full range of the Catholic Church’s liturgical activities and to enhance prayer, said Father James Fitz, SM, the university’s vice president for mission and rector.

Father Fitz said the chapel renovation committee remained faithful to the chapel’s historical dimensions, while providing universal accessibility and meeting other building code requirements.

Among the renovated chapel’s features are a restored dome; refurbished and accessible front doors; a baptismal font fashioned from woodcuts of Mary and the four evangelists which were preserved from the chapel’s former wooden pulpit; a new altar, lectern, presider’s chair, processional crucifix, cantor stand, and Easter candle stand; a Eucharistic reservation chapel for private prayer and adoration; a reconciliation room that accommodates face-to-face or anonymous confessions; curved, solid walnut wooden pews and kneelers which bring the assembly together more closely in community (the main floor and balcony seat 376 people); a state-of-the-art digital organ; restored stained glass windows; new devotional spaces for private prayer; new restrooms; a wed-



ding preparation space; meeting room, sacristy, storage and office spaces; and up-to-date information technology and WiFi connections.

An estimated 8,300 full-time undergraduates, including about 2,150 first-year students, began classes on Wednesday, Aug. 26, topping last year’s record enrollment of 7,918. About 60 percent of the student body is from outside Ohio. More than 55 nations are represented on campus. Overall, a record 12 percent of undergraduates are from another country.



LOURDES UNIVERSITY

Lourdes University, located in the Toledo suburb of Sylvania, has enhanced its academic, student life, and athletics programs, provided more study abroad and internship opportunities, and established home fields and soon a home court for its athletic teams.

Academic enhancements include creation of a new bachelor’s degree in public health, and a collaboration between Lourdes and Saint Louis University which allows students to pursue a master of social work degree at Lourdes.

In addition, the master of organizational leadership degree is being offered onsite at the Toledo Jeep plant, and a new scholarship has been established for educators employed in Toledo diocesan schools who pursue a master of education degree in educational leadership at Lourdes.

The university’s new athletic complex allows the Lourdes Gray Wolves men’s and women’s lacrosse and soccer teams to have a home field.

The soccer teams are beginning their inaugural season this fall and are mem-

bers of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics and the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference.

Ground has been broken on the new Russell J. Ebeid Recreation Center, which will open in the fall of 2016. The facility will feature cardio, yoga, free weight, aerobics and spinning rooms; locker rooms; and classrooms.

The athletic components will include indoor competition-level basketball and volleyball courts, home and visiting locker rooms, a training room, the Gray Wolves suite, a ticket office, concession area, two-story atrium with mezzanine level, a spirit wall, and coaches’ offices.

Rooted in the Catholic Franciscan tradition, Lourdes offers baccalaureate degrees in more than 30 academic majors, as well as graduate degrees in business, education, nursing, organizational leadership, and theology.

Community outreach programs include the Appold Planetarium, the Center for Science Education and the Environment, and lifelong learning.



Named a “Best in the Midwest” college by the Princeton Review, Lourdes University is a nationally accredited veteran- and transfer-friendly institution, offering a variety of scholarships.

Explore the possibilities online at www.lourdes.edu or by phone at (419) 885-3211.

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NEWS IN PHOTOS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

A 225-foot mural featuring an image of Pope Francis nears completion in New York City Sept. 1. The artwork was commissioned by DeSales Media Group, the communications and technology arm of the Diocese of Brooklyn, N.Y. CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz



Migrants, hoping to cross into Hungary, walk along a railway track near the village of Horgos in Serbia, towards the border it shares with Hungary. CNS photo/Marko Djurica, Reuters



Members of Sacred Heart Church in McAllen, Texas, participate in a virtual town hall meeting with Pope Francis via satellite link from the Vatican Aug. 31. The meeting also included Catholics from Chicago and Los Angeles and was arranged and hosted by ABC News. CNS photo/courtesy of ABC News

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