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**YOUNG ADULT CATHOLICS
SHARE FAITH AND FRIENDSHIP**

The Editor's Notebook

Exploring what we believe

By David Garick, Editor



This week, *Catholic Times* is examining how young adults are exploring their faith. People often talk about the difficulties of adolescence as people morph from child to adult. Granted, that is a difficult time, but at least, in most cases, there are lots of support systems there. Parents are still providing guidance, schools providing structure. There is something to hold on to.

But when you reach your 20s and 30s, you are on your own. You are expected to make good decisions for yourself, be independent, be an adult. I enjoyed those years. In my glorious naivete, I was quite convinced that I knew everything there was to know on any subject. It's the kind of unwarranted self-confidence that allows one to walk briskly into a wall, expecting all obstacles to move out of one's path. I speak from experience and had the bruises to prove it.

These are tough years. We are starting out in our professions and finding out that employers just don't realize how well-educated and smart we are. As a result, there are all those jobs we would be perfect for, but we don't get hired. When a job does come, we do not move up the career ladder nearly as quickly as we think we should.

It applies to our faith, too. Even those of us who were well-schooled in our faith as children are at a loss as adults when we have to put that faith into action in our lives. In the face of pressures coming from all directions, it is easy to put religion aside and rely

on our own well-educated knowledge of the world. We don't want to be told how to live our lives. We're adults now. We've been taught to question ... which is good. That leads to knowledge. What we lack is an understanding of how to believe. Faith is not a set of rules to be obeyed. It is an understanding of God's love and his relationship with us which frees us from our own frustrations in dealing with a world that just will not cooperate.

It's often not easy for young adults to address the role of faith in their lives. But without exception, I have found that once they do, their lives begin to make more sense to them. Most important, of course, is for them to get to Mass and make that regular communion with our Lord. But to get to that point, they often need the support of peer groups, such as the ones featured in this issue of *Catholic Times*. They provide a place to raise questions, share experiences, and place faith into a context that makes sense in their very complicated lives.

As a young man, I had little time for religion. It's not that I didn't believe, it just was not a priority. With the help of many people, I came to understand that giving time to God did not take away from the other things in my life. It enriched them and gave them real meaning. And in that, I have found contentment and the beginnings of wisdom.



Count down to Christmas by counting your blessings, pope says

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

No saint was ever known for having a "funeral face," Pope Francis said; rather, the joy of knowing that one is loved by God and saved by Christ must be seen at least in a sense of peace, if not a smile.

Celebrating the third Sunday of Advent on Dec. 14, the pope paid an evening visit to Rome's St. Joseph parish, meeting with the sick, a group of Gypsies, a first Communion class, and dozens of couples whose newborn babies were baptized in the past year.

"Be joyful as you prepare for Christmas," he told them at Mass, urging as a first step that people thank God each day for the blessings they have been given.

Christmas joy has nothing to do with "the consumerism that leads to

everyone being anxious Dec. 24 because, 'Oh, I don't have this, I need that' — no, that is not God's joy," the pope said.

With Christmas "less than 15 days away — no, 13 days — let us pray. Don't forget, we pray for Christmas joy. We give thanks to God for the many things he has given us," he said.

Earlier in the day, reciting the Angelus with visitors in St. Peter's Square, the pope blessed statues of the baby Jesus that will be featured in Nativity scenes in Rome's schools, churches, and homes.

Photo: A man holds a figurine of the baby Jesus as Pope Francis leads the Angelus from the window of his studio overlooking St. Peter's Square at the Vatican. The pope blessed figurines of the baby Jesus held by people in the square.

CNS photo/Paul Haring

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Bishops from Jerusalem, Washington call for peace

By Judith Sudilovsky

Catholic News Service

The traditional message of Christmas is peace to all, but it will not be achieved fully if there is no justice first, Jerusalem Auxiliary Bishop William Shomali said in a Christmas simulcast from Bethlehem.

"The most popular saying on Christmas is 'Peace on Earth and goodwill to all men,' but there will never be full peace if justice is not implemented," he said.

About 100 Bethlehem residents gathered at the Armenian section of the Church of the Nativity to virtually join with members of the Shrine of St. Jude Catholic Church in Rockville, Maryland, on Saturday, Dec. 6 for the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation's Christmas simulcast message of peace.

Bishop Shomali talked about the ongoing situation in the Cremisan Valley on the outskirts of Beit Jalla. Israel is threatening to confiscate about 740 acres of land there and build a barrier for what it says are security concerns.

The move would separate Palestinian families from their agricultural land and separate the Salesian Sisters from the community they serve in their school. The schoolchildren would be forced to go through a military-like checkpoint to reach their schools if the wall is built. It also would separate the women religious from the Salesian community of male religious in the area and would separate both communities from their lands.

Catholic Consumerism:
Dignity of WorkBy Stephanie Rapp
Catholic Relief Services Fair Trade
Ambassador

"The economy should serve the people, not the other way around" (U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops). Sounds simple, right? Yet, when we demand lower prices for our goods and services, companies need to cut costs. They require cheap labor, which can result in exploitation and even human trafficking. God reminds us that every person has a right to dignified, meaningful, and sustainable work. "Work not only allows people to provide for themselves and their families, but more importantly, it is a vehicle for people to carry out their God-given vocations within the world" (Wilder, 1993). Fair Trade ensures that the work that producers accomplish is respected. Challenge yourself to become an educated consumer. Before buying a product due to its low price, try to find out the circumstances under which it was produced. Or stop by your local Fair Trade store to learn about the work that is occurring around the world.

People gather in Manger Square, outside the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem
CNS photo/Mussa Qawasma, Reuters

Bishop Shomali read a portion of a Dec. 5 statement by the Assembly of Catholic Ordinaries of the Holy Land, who expressed great concern about the case and called on the international community to "take immediate action and protect the integrity of the Cremisan Valley with the Palestinian side."

He noted that Israel had confiscated almost 1,000 acres from the valley in the 1970s.

"(The assembly) prays for all those in power and authority to wake up and realize the values of justice and peace, based on mutual respect and international legitimacy," he said, reading from the statement.

The simulcast ceremony was hosted in Bethlehem by Father Michael McDonagh, international adviser to the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, and in Rockville by Stephen B. Corbin, former Special Olympics senior vice president of community impact and support.

"The message of peace is not just to tell people we are peaceful and want peace," said Rateb Rabie, HCEF president, who participated in the simulcast in Rockville, where the pulpit was draped in a traditional Palestinian black-and-white keffiyeh scarf. "It is how we stand with the Christians (in the Holy Land). It is how it all started. It is to say our Christian roots are struggling and to make sure our roots are connected, and we are not uprooted from our home."

In Bethlehem, Rula Ma'ayah, Palestinian minister of tourism and antiquities, urged pilgrims and tourists to visit Bethlehem and to stay overnight, for more than the customary few hours.

"Every year we say our message is a message of peace. This year, we are adding that all we want for Christmas is justice for our children and our families. We have the

right to live with justice, to live in peace in our independent state," she said.

She noted that many Palestinians, especially Christians, have left the Holy Land because of the economic difficulties they encounter.

"I can't imagine the birthplace of Jesus without Christians," she said.

Auxiliary Bishop Barry C. Knestout of Washington, D.C., speaking in Rockville, noted that the pressure which is sometimes felt in the holiday rush of shopping and festivities overlooks the spiritual preparation for the holiday.

"Often people are not sure what they are looking for," he said. "The focus on the material things ... lacks the message of peace. What we need more than anything is peace. What we are all searching for is Jesus. He is the perfect gift for Christmas."

During the simulcast, the Shrine of St. Jude choir and the Olive Branches Choir of Bethlehem sang Christmas carols in English, Spanish, Arabic, and Aramaic.

Dina Nassar, 59, who attended the service in Bethlehem, said the joint event made her feel people were supporting her and other Palestinians.

"This is what we need -- the help and support and solidarity, and I don't mean just donations. We need solidarity and support for justice and peace," she said.

Ricardo Hanni, whose land in the Cremisan Valley is being threatened, said celebrating Advent with people in the Washington area brought him joy.

"I am very pleased that people in the United States are putting their effort to gather with people in Bethlehem for peace and justice and to find a solution," he said.

Front Page photo:
Caitlin Simmonds of Columbus speaks about her work with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps at a monthly Columbus Theology on Tap gathering for young adults.

CT photo by Tim Puet

PRACTICAL STEWARDSHIP

By Rick Jeric

Winter



Have you been praying the Advent Prayer this past week? Yes, we can and will continue to use this prayer for another few days. The line in the prayer that continues to strike me the most is “May Your Advent make our spirits alert to those in need of mercy and comfort.” The joy and the “Merry” in “Merry Christmas” are all good things. Our Lord wants us to smile, laugh, enjoy, and celebrate. But even more important is our responsibility to give to others in great need. It is somewhat easy for us to give to those we know and love. It is uncomfortable to give to strangers, but we still do so with great humility and joy at this time of year. As good and faithful stewards, we share our gifts and blessings with others. Many of us do so as a matter of practice, since we were brought up and shown how to share by the good example of our parents. Others have taken it upon themselves and learned by the example of others and by the words of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We participate in the many “giving trees” at our parish and in our workplace. There are, thankfully, many opportunities all around us. We recently had the challenge to give to the ministries for the needy at St. Joseph Cathedral and St. Lawrence Haven. Let us keep our spirits alert as we continue to give.

Do you remember what you were doing back on June 21? It was the first day of summer and the accompanying solstice. Since the weather is great and warm by then, it is typically a day to celebrate, as summer finally begins. But at the same time, I find reason for just a little bit of disappointment. From that first day of summer forward, the amount of daylight each day gets shorter. The summer solstice is one of those events that has a “twin” meaning. The summer days are among the best of the calendar year, while each day gets shorter, heading toward the winter solstice. So here we are at the 2014 winter solstice, Dec. 21. The twin meanings are that winter is officially here, and that means cold, ice, snow, and more darkness, but at the same time, from this point forward, each day will get longer, with more daylight. The symbolism is pretty clear. Christmas Day is just a few days after the winter solstice. The omnipotent light of Christ shines brighter with each passing day. I believe this is one good reason why Christmas Day was established in late December. The days get longer, and by the time Easter is here, we have warmth and more light (just don’t tell our friends in the Southern Hemisphere). Whatever symbolism we need to help us focus on the birth of our Lord and Savior in the Incarnation, the light is a great symbol. The light in Mary’s room at the Annunciation, the light of the Visitation, the light that opened Zachariah’s mouth, the light of the star of Bethlehem, and the birth of the light of the world, Jesus Christ. Do not let winter fool you. There is much symbolism to appreciate here and now.

Our practical challenge this week is to pray and focus on the symbolism and twin meanings of winter and the solstice. Christmas and its Octave are near. Dec. 21 is also the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle (the name means “twin”). It falls on a Sunday this year, so let us not forget St. Thomas and pray the simple prayer that he professed so well at Christ’s appearance after His Resurrection: “My Lord and my God.” Take some brief moments on these last few days of Advent and pray this simple witness to our Faith. Pray it when He is present in the Eucharist, in the Word, and in one another as we gather with family and friends.

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

ST. CHARLES ALUMNI HONORS

Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School presented its 2014 distinguished alumnus awards to graduates Marquis Miller, Michael Finn, and John Finn at a Mass celebrated by Father Paul Shelton, SJ, a St. Charles graduate who was ordained earlier this year and is serving a primarily Mexican-American congregation at St. Procopius Church in the Pilsen neighborhood of Chicago.

The award, established in 2005 by the St. Charles advisory board, recognizes alumni who have honored St. Charles through their outstanding volunteer activities, professional achievements, and community-organization advocacy.

Miller, a 1977 graduate of the school, was recognized for his success in business and sales, especially his work in the nonprofit industry. He is vice president for the National Minority Supplier Development Council, working to help minority businesses and their owners.

His philanthropic efforts in Chicago include advocating for children and young people, supporting the Chicago Urban League and the United Negro College Fund, and working with grandparents raising grandchildren through the GRAND Families Program of Chicago. He also serves in the field of insti-

tutional advancement with the Chicago State University Foundation and The Ohio State University.

Michael Finn, who graduated from St. Charles in 1961, was honored for his work at Gardner Inc. and more than four decades of success as president and founder of Central Power Systems and Chesapeake Realty.

He has quietly, but significantly been involved in the community through volunteering with many boards and organizations, most notably through his philanthropic efforts on behalf of Tibetan charities. In addition, he has generously supported the St. Charles Class of 1961 Endowment Fund, and the school’s Cardinal Society and its major capital campaigns.

John Finn, a 1965 graduate, was recognized for his work at Gardner Inc., including the last 27 years as president. He has been involved in the community through many private and corporate organizations, including 18 years with Cardinal Health and his philanthropic work with the Columbus Association for the Performing Arts. He has been an active supporter of St. Charles through the Cardinal Society and major capital campaigns.

WILL YOU MARROW OUR DAUGHTER?

Two Chillicothe St. Mary Church parishioners, Dr. Jun and Kathryn Jalbuena, are looking for someone who would be willing to donate stem cells for a transplant operation involving their daughter Tracy, who has two rare diseases.

Dr. Tracy Jalbuena, 43, of Camden, Maine, is an emergency room physician there and the mother of children ages 15 and 10. She has primary amyloidosis, which is an accumulation of protein deposits in organs and tissues, and multiple myeloma, a blood cancer described as a cousin of amyloidosis. Both diseases arise from bone marrow and are insidious and vicious.

Jun Jalbuena also is a physician and also has primary amyloidosis, which occurs about nine times in a million people. He said that it is not hereditary and that he has never heard of any other situation in which a parent and child both have the disease. He also said his daughter’s type of myeloma is particularly aggressive,

Tracy urgently needs a stem cell transplant, formerly known as a bone marrow transplant. This would be her second such operation. The first involved use of her own cells; this one requires donor cells.

No available donor has been found to date. One person listed in the National Marrow Registry matches Tracy, but this individual is unavailable to donate for one year.

Tracy’s parents said there is a scarcity of donors because Tracy is of Filipino and European-American ancestry, and there are not enough Filipino-American people who are aware of the need to donate lifesaving stem cells.

“There are not enough Asian donors in general to meet the needs of our diverse melting-pot culture,” they said. “A Caucasian person has a 93 percent chance of finding a match, while one of Asian or mixed Asian descent has only a 73 percent chance of successfully matching with a donor. A sibling has only a 30 percent chance of matching, and Tracy’s sibs did not.”

The Jalbuenas have written an appeal titled *Will You Marrow Our Daughter?* in which they talk about their daughter’s situation.

“Tracy’s work in her chosen field followed an extended medical school course and residency,” they said. “For just three years, Dr. J. cared for patients in Camden, Maine, and surroundings with great skill, professionalism, and compassion. Then her career was interrupted. This is when amyloidosis stepped into her life – and now myeloma, too.

“The many years of study and preparation were more than the number of years that she practiced her profession in the ER. Oh, how she loves and misses her work and has earned the respect of patients and colleagues,” the Jalbuenas said.

“Her mom and dad ... that’s us ... always knew that our firstborn child, a daughter, was matchless, one-of-a-kind. Tracy has a personality that stands out and shines brightly. Yet she seems to be in a class of her own when it comes to misfortune, too. The rarest of the rare diseases and no stem cell donor because of her uncommon ancestry.

“In our parents’ hearts, we know that a lifesaving donor can be found for our ‘matchless’ daughter. You can help. You can help Tracy, and you can help many others of any and all backgrounds by signing up to be a donor. It is easy to enroll with the National Marrow Registry.

“If you are 18 to 44 years of age, just go to bethematch.org, sign up, and receive a free cheek swab kit by mail. Parents of our generation, please, please encourage your young adult kids to sign up and be there for someone in need. Also, kindly share this message with family, friends, organizations, universities, and especially people in the Filipino-American community.

“Be a matchmaker, a marrow mate, a lifesaver by giving something so precious that only you can give – your healthy stem cells – to another who needs it.”



CANNED GOODS COLLECTION FOR FOOD PANTRY

Chillicothe Bishop Flaget School prekindergarten and fifth-grade classes worked together to collect canned items for the Chillicothe St. Peter Church St. Vincent de Paul Society, which is starting its own food pantry. The students brought the items to school on the day of their Thanksgiving feast as a reminder of those who are without food during this holiday season.

Photo courtesy Bishop Flaget School

ENCOUNTER COLUMBUS!



Are you a young person who has personally encountered Jesus Christ? If you have not, come to Encounter Columbus! If you have, then come for a renewed personal encounter with Jesus.

Encounter Columbus is a joint Eucharistic worship event for high school and college students which will take place quarterly at the Matesich Theater in Erskine Hall of Ohio Dominican University, beginning Wednesday, Jan. 21 at 6:30 p.m.

Encounter begins with prayer or praise in music led by the Encounter worship band. A master of ceremonies then welcomes the assembly and introduces the theme for the night, followed by a keynote speaker with a dynamic, inspiring message which prepares his or her listeners to encounter Christ in the Eucharist.

The keynote talk is followed by a time of adoration and worship of Jesus in the Eucharist, incorporating different forms of prayer (praying with music, praying with Scripture, praying with Gregorian chant, and praying with silence). This includes a Eucharistic procession led by Father Thomas Blau, OP, the university’s chaplain, bringing Jesus close to everyone.

During adoration and worship, the Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered at confession stations, and trained intercessory prayer teams are available. Adoration closes with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Adoration is followed by a time of small-group discussion and sharing with group leaders, so those who are part of the assembly can gain greater intellectual understanding of their encounter and not just be left in an emotional high. The evening closes at about 10 p.m. with an exhortation and call to mission by one of the priests who are present.

Ohio Dominican is located at 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. All participants are asked to park in the main parking lot on Sunbury Road and follow signs that lead to registration for Encounter.

College students should arrive between 6 and 6:30 p.m. and present a student ID. High school students must attend with a partner youth group or campus ministry and must bring a signed release form. So far, 18 groups have signed on to bring students to Encounter Columbus.

Visit www.encountercolumbus.org to learn more about upcoming Encounter Columbus Eucharistic worship nights, find a group to register with, check out speaker and event information, or contact the Encounter team about bringing a group to the event.



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CLAPPING AT MASS; IS CHRIST KING OF THE UNIVERSE?



QUESTION & ANSWER

by: FATHER KENNETH DOYLE
Catholic News Service

Q I have noticed that when the choir does a piece of music differently or performs a song especially well, someone inevitably starts to applaud and the rest of the congregation follows suit. I think that this detracts from the mood that the music has just created and interferes with the solemnity of the Mass. Is it just me, or should applause be reserved for musical performances outside of Mass? (Lilburn, Georgia)

A The church has no specific “rules” for or against applause at Mass, so we are left to reason for ourselves, according to what comports with the purpose and spirit of the liturgy. Fundamentally, I agree with your observation. Music during Mass, whether sung by the choir or by the congregation, is not a performance. It is meant to glorify God and sanctify the faithful. It is a form of prayer and should draw those present into deeper contact with the Lord.

All of which inclines me in the direction of Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger (later to become Pope Benedict XVI), who in the year 2000 wrote in *The Spirit of the Liturgy* that “whenever applause breaks out in the liturgy because of some human achievement, it is a sure sign that the essence of the liturgy has totally disappeared and been replaced by a kind of religious entertainment.”

There are moments in certain liturgical celebrations when applause is welcomed, although not explicitly called for. For example, in the ordination of a priest, there is a point at which the congregation is invited to give its approval to the candidate “according to local custom,” which in the United States usually results in applause.

Apart from such instances, it seems inappropriate during Mass to break the flow of the liturgy and spirit of prayer by clapping. Having said that, we are properly grateful to musicians and singers for adding beauty and reverence to the celebration of the Mass. Perhaps that gratitude could best be expressed once the closing hymn is completed -- either by applause or by taking the time to compliment members of the choir personally.

Q In the past, we celebrated every fall the Feast of Christ the King. But I notice that now this feast is called “Christ, King of the Universe,” and that prompts my question. The Nicene Creed says, “I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.” It seems to me that this makes God the Father the king of the universe, not Jesus Christ.

We know very little of what’s out there beyond ourselves in the entire universe. Are there other solar systems with living beings created by God? Did those planets and cultures need to be saved also, as Christ did for the earth’s inhabitants? What is the basis for expanding the title of this feast? (Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin)

A You are correct as to the current title of the feast. In 1925, as a response to growing nationalism and secularism, Pope Pius XI instituted the Feast of Christ the King. He wanted to highlight the fact that the kingdom of Jesus was one not of pomp and power, but of love and service. It was then celebrated on the last Sunday of October.

In 1969, Pope Paul VI gave the feast a new title and a new date. It is now called formally the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, and is marked on the last Sunday of the liturgical year, one week before the First Sunday of Advent.

If you read further down in the Nicene Creed, it is said of Jesus that “through him all things were made,” which I would take as a warrant for calling Christ the king of the universe itself, not just the sovereign of our small planet.

But your question raises an interesting topic: the possibility of intelligent life in other parts of the universe. On this matter, the church has no fixed position, and the current name for the feast makes no declaration.

The matter of extraterrestrial life is a scientific question, not a theological one. Nothing in the Scriptures confirms or contradicts the possibility. The part that fascinates me is whether such beings would be fallen or unfallen? Would they need redemption? Would the Son of God have visited them as he came to live with us? We don’t know. What we know is that Jesus showed us how to live and offers to us a path to heaven.

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

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Catholic by Grace The Journey to Bethlehem

By Denise Bossert

I have dipped my toes in the chaos of the Christmas-before-Advent scene. I’ve been to the mall once. I’ve landed on radio stations that play Christmas

music around the clock – and quickly popped in my Rosary CD to escape the noise. I’ve seen enough of commercialized Christmas, even though I have actively avoided it this year.

Advent is the only antidote.

But Advent only comes to those who know how to get quiet. It hides from those who have to hurry. It will never be found in the crowded places and packed spaces of shopping aisles and city crosswalks.

Advent waits to be invited to your December. It will not show up on its own. It is a polite guest. It will not crash your party.

Christmas-without-Advent is a fake. An imposter. We all know it.

The Christmas we all need, the one we long for, the one we can imagine so clearly ... it only comes to those who walk alongside Mary. In the quiet. Away from the crowds. Where Sacred Scripture comes alive and holiness is real.

It’s no mirage – this Advent journey. It’s not an optional side excursion on the way to Christmas. It’s necessary. It’s the way to Christmas. The only road to Bethlehem.

I was blessed to travel to the Holy Land twice in 2014. In fact, I am writing to you now from Bethlehem. I stood there today, at Shepherds Field, and the idea of the crowded mall seemed so silly, so completely out of step with Advent. I knelt to pray where Christ was born, and the idea of jacking up the credit card to buy a few more presents seemed almost unholy, almost contradictory.

The two don’t go together. Not when you are here. Not when you are removed from the bright lights and staged windows of Main Street America.

Today, I imagined a pregnant young woman and her beloved husband as they journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, over the rugged terrain that I have walked with my own feet, in my own Timberland boots, as my filled water bottle sloshed against my backpack, and I lifted my camera to capture the real Nazareth, the real Ein Kerem (Zechariah and Elizabeth’s home), the real Bethlehem. And I cannot think of anything but the plan of salvation that brought God into our world. The part of me that can be so easily abducted and thrown into the chaos of commercialized Christmas is gone.

But this kind of contemplation does not require an international pilgrimage – although it certainly gave me a new perspective. One can find this path –

from Nazareth to Bethlehem – by doing some deliberate things.

This pilgrimage begins with receiving God, your very own personal Annunciation moment. Christ coming to you in the Eucharist and you being sent to go forth once you have received Him. The pilgrimage is a journey with Mary from Nazareth. It happens when we take Christ with us, and we share Him with family and friends, as Mary did at Ein Kerem in the hills of Judea at the Visitation. The Lord grows within us as we feed and nourish our life in the Spirit. We do this by reading, by praying, by remembering the poor, by listening to Advent songs (and waiting for Christmas songs), by eating as a family around the table with the Advent wreath as a centerpiece, by saying a prayer for those who send us cards rather than tossing the cards mindlessly in a basket.

This pilgrimage does not require money, or imitation snow, or double-sided wrapping paper. It only requires an undivided heart. We journey with Israel to the coming Messiah. When we set our eyes on Mary and run ahead to take hold of her mantle, we remember. That is the journey that leads to Christ.

Yes, you can make this pilgrimage through the sacramental and liturgical life of the Church. But if you are able to do it, go to the Holy Land. Some day. Some way. Go.

And kneel there, where you can imagine it all, where the real Advent cannot be usurped.

Nazareth. Ein Kerem. Bethlehem. These are real places. And the Franciscans are here, waiting for you to come and experience it all for yourself. Pilgrimage. It’s part of our faith tradition, whether it is a quiet pilgrimage of the heart or a pilgrimage that takes us to the other side of the world.

We are a pilgrimage people. And we are on a mission to discover Jesus Christ and to share Him with everyone we meet.

A blessed and holy Advent to you and your family from Bethlehem of Judea.

Denise Bossert is a syndicated columnist, author, and Catholic speaker.



You are invited to
Celebrate Christmas with us at
the First Catholic Church in Columbus
HOLY CROSS CHURCH
and at the Mother Church of the Diocese
SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL

December 24, Christmas Eve Masses:

3:30 p.m. ~ Holy Cross Choir Carols
4:00 p.m. ~ Holy Cross Church
4:00 p.m. ~ Saint Joseph Cathedral
6:00 p.m. ~ Saint Joseph Cathedral
11:00 p.m. ~ Cathedral Choir Concert
12:00 Midnight ~ Saint Joseph Cathedral

December 25, Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. ~ Holy Cross Church
10:00 a.m. ~ Saint Joseph Cathedral

Holy Cross Church

204 South Fifth Street + Columbus, Ohio 43215
(at the corner of East Rich Street)
(614) 224-3416 + www.holycrosscatholic.com

Saint Joseph Cathedral

212 East Broad Street + Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 224-1295 + www.saintjosephcathedral.org

Visit us online at www.colsdioc.org

BISHOP HARTLEY INVESTS IN PREMIER COLLEGE PLANNING PROGRAM

The focus in central Ohio right now is college football, but for students at Columbus Bishop Hartley High School, it's college admission. The college application period has become more exciting and comprehensive than ever as a result of the school's investment in Naviance, a premier college planning platform.

Naviance provides an interactive, Internet-based comprehensive college readiness review for high schools, with tools to maximize every student's potential, improve the effectiveness of college admissions activities, better manage the financial aid process, and identify scholarship opportunities.

"We have an amazing college admission and scholar-

ship rate, but the process can be overwhelming for parents and students," said Lauren Gruenwald, chair of Hartley's guidance and counseling department. "We are so blessed to have Naviance this year. The program has helped 85 percent of our seniors to apply to college by Thanksgiving."

Gruenwald said many high schools don't reach that point until the end of January. With top universities and programs offering priority and early admissions, having a head start can be important. A key part of the guidance department's responsibilities is helping students be prepared not only for their time in college, but for the decision-making and admission process. Gruenwald said that the large number of



colleges which visit Hartley is a result of the work the guidance department does.

"We had nearly more than 70 colleges and universities visit our juniors and seniors," she

said. "It's an honor for these programs to come to us and want to meet our students. It speaks to the fact that Bishop Hartley students are well positioned to be successful in higher education, and they are the type of students colleges want to see on their campuses."

Hartley's 2014 graduating class built upon the school's legacy of excellence, with its 154 graduates earning a combined \$12.8 million in scholarships from colleges and universities across the nation and abroad.

Photo: Columbus Bishop Hartley High School counselor Lauren Gruenwald helps senior Kris Hill with his college applications, using the school's Naviance college planning program.

Photo/Bishop Hartley High School

Trinity Scouts Volunteer

Volunteers from Columbus Trinity Catholic School Girl Scout Troop 2418 and Boy Scout Troop 33 volunteered at Columbus St. Aloysius Church on the day before Thanksgiving to help prepare the parish's free community dinner for the next day. Emmelea McCoy-Hayes (left) and her sister Avalynn were among six Scouts who helped unload 3,000 pounds of food from the Mid-Ohio Foodbank and package it into smaller bags to be given to dinner guests. They also helped prepare sweet potatoes for the meal.

Photo courtesy Trinity Catholic School



CORPUS CHRISTI WINTERTIME RETREAT

In the midst of snow and cold, the Earth seems to remind us of the wisdom of letting the land lay fallow so it might restore itself for new life. With that idea in mind, the Corpus Christi Center of Peace, 1111 E. Stewart Ave., Columbus will sponsor a retreat with the theme "In the Midst of Winter" from 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 16 to noon Sunday, Jan. 18.

Participants will have an opportunity to take the time to create and rest in an empty space for a little while. There will be time for prayer, reflec-

tive silence, sharing, and resting in the holy stillness of God.

The weekend will be led by Sister Teresa Tuite, OP, who has used her gifts of preaching across the United States as a leader of retreats, days of prayer and reflection, and parish missions. She holds a master's degree in pastoral studies and a doctorate in ministry. Currently, she has a ministry of itinerant preaching, with a home base in Gahanna.

The cost of the retreat will be \$125, including three meals on Saturday and breakfast on Sun-

day. For commuters, it will be \$60, including Saturday lunch and supper.

Financial assistance is available for anyone who would like to attend, but faces difficult economic circumstances. The center also welcomes donations to its scholarship fund, which enables people in need of such assistance to attend.

For more information, call the center at (614) 512-3731 or email corpuschristicenterofpeace@gmail.com. Registration is available online at www.cccenterofpeace.org.



iPads for Bishop Fenwick students

Zanesville Bishop Fenwick School recently purchased 40 iPad minis for the elementary school and 40 regular iPads for the middle school. Shown using the devices are students (from left) Madison Dalton, Nicholas Sprague, and Marquiz Joseph. The iPads were purchased through donations from the Knights Foundation Legacy Fund, the Bishop Fenwick Parent Teacher Community, and the Father Luke Turon Memorial Fund. The devices are on charging trays and can be wheeled around the school and up the elevators to ensure that all students have access. Their use will enhance collaboration between students and teachers and allow a more hands-on learning experience.

Photo courtesy Bishop Fenwick School



Heaven Is For Real



Lighting the Way
Joseph Thomas

Is heaven real, or is it just a figment of our imagination? Is it something we believe, or is it something we live out in our ordinary, everyday lives? Is it something we strive for, or is it what keeps us in line? Is it right for us to fear something so wonderful? Is it right for us to think that only a select few will experience rapture? God gave us freedom not only to make mistakes, but to experience what life has to offer in this world and the next.

A child named Colton Burpo told of how he went to Heaven, met God, his grandfather, and even his sister, whom he never knew existed. His story became the book and movie *Heaven Is For Real*. How can a child recall so vividly what he saw and felt? How did he know something about which his parents had never spoken?

Capturing faith in a bottle is not something we can borrow. It is not something we can steal or own. It is something to be savored, loved, and carried with us throughout our life here on Earth.

Colton brought to us a story much like the story of Jesus. Do we believe? Do we take that leap into the

unknown? Do we have the strength to find out, or have we become so inundated with daily labors that we forget to live and remain locked into our daily lives?

This child heard the songs of angels. He saw the beauty as something so simple. "Everyone is young in Heaven," he is said to have told his dad in a conversation about his journey. We are all children of God, so it comes to reason that we would all be young in the eyes of the Lord and to each other. We share these thoughts with God, who is in every one of us.

When I hear stories from a child, they are more real and cherished to me than those of any accomplished author. There is a phrase that comes to mind—"through the eyes of babes." God speaks to us through the heart

and mind of a child—a child born into this world from, by, and for Heaven. It took a child much like Colton, on a starry night in Bethlehem, to change forever the face of our world. Looking into that child's eyes must have been a sight to behold. It took a child to see the simplicity of hope and kindness. Must we, too, see through our own eyes, the child in each of us?

To think as a child, to act as a child, to feel as a child is a rare gift God gives us all. Do not be afraid on that last day, at that last hour, for He is always with us—we are never alone.

For this moment and for the rest of my life—"Yes," I say. "Yes, Heaven is for real."

May your have a blessed Christmas and a joyous new year. May your hearts not be troubled, and may the wind be at your backs. May His peace be with you always.

Joseph Thomas is a freelance writer and active in many diocesan and church ministries.

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

Portsmouth Notre Dame Food Drive

Portsmouth Notre Dame Junior-Senior High School, which has only 148 students, collected more than 10,000 cans of food, more than 12,000 nonperishable food items, and almost \$1,000 in the school's annual Caring About Hunger drive, dividing the items equally among 18 Scioto County pantries.

As part of the activity, they spent a week researching poverty in the county, learning about the immediate and long-term effects of malnourishment, and various statistics concerning poverty in the world at large and in their own backyard. They discovered that it is not just the unemployed that are standing in line at the food pantries, but the working poor, families living on minimum wage with no benefits, single parents, veterans, and those on fixed incomes who can't afford food after their bills are paid. They came to realize that when they all come together as a community, they can make a positive impact.

Photo courtesy Notre Dame Schools



YOUNG ADULTS ARE SPREADING THE MESSAGE OF JESUS

Pope Francis says they are part of the Church's present and future

BY TIM PUET

Reporter, Catholic Times

Throughout the 21 months of his papacy, Pope Francis repeatedly has called on young Catholics to use their enthusiasm to spread the Church's message to an indifferent and sometimes hostile world.

Variations of that message were a constant theme of his visit to World Youth Day in Brazil in 2013. Most notably, he told a gathering of young people from his native Argentina, "I want you to make yourselves heard in your dioceses. I want the noise to go out. I want the Church to go out onto the streets. I want us to resist everything worldly, everything static, everything comfortable. ... Faith in God's Son, who became man and who died for me, must make a mess, must disturb us out of our complacency."

This past August, during his visit to South Korea, he said to thousands of young people from across Asia, "As young Christians, whether you are workers or students, whether you have already begun a career or have answered the call to marriage, religious life or the priesthood, you are not only a part of the future of the Church; you also are a necessary and beloved part of the Church's present."

Several young-adult groups in the Diocese of Columbus are giving Catholics in their 20s and 30s the opportunity to connect with Jesus Christ, the church, its mission, and their peers, which the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops says are the goals of young-adult ministry. Among these groups are Theology on Tap, Saint Paul's Outreach, Catholic Youth Summer



Left: A Saint Paul's Outreach One Gospel prayer gathering at The Ohio State University. Right: A hog roast at one of the SPO men's households for the start of the academic year. Photos courtesy Saint Paul's Outreach

Camp, and several parish young people's organizations.

Theology on Tap (TOT) groups exist in dioceses around the nation and are monthly gatherings which usually take place in a non-church setting such as a restaurant or a pub. They're designed to give young people of all faiths a chance to get together, hear an informed speaker talk about particular aspects of the Catholic Church's teachings, ask questions, grow in faith, and find new friends.

The program began in Chicago in 1981 and has spread throughout the United States and to at least six other nations. The Columbus TOT group usually meets on the second Thursday of each month from 7 to 9 p.m. at the El Vaquero Restaurant, 3230 Olentangy River Road, Columbus.

Holly Monnier, youth minister at Columbus Our Lady of Victory Church and activities coordinator for the group, said TOT Columbus was organized in 2012, mostly through the efforts of Kristin Reeves, a medical student at The Ohio State University at the time, who has moved elsewhere to continue her studies. She and other young people who attended Mass at the St. Thomas More Newman Center on the OSU campus were familiar with TOT activities in other dioceses and met with representatives from the Diocese of Columbus Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry to start a Columbus group.

One of the first TOT activities in Columbus was an outdoor picnic at Columbus St. Christopher Church with games, Catholic trivia, and "Stump the Priest," featuring Father Joshua Wagner, pastor of

Columbus St. Dominic and Holy Rosary-St. John churches.

Monnier said the picnic was a great success, with more than 100 people attending. It has been repeated in the two subsequent years as a kickoff to the TOT programming year, with a similar response. Father Wagner has attended two of the picnics. This past year, he was joined by Father Nicholas Droll, parochial vicar of Columbus St. Andrew Church, who was ordained in 2013.

Monnier said monthly TOT meetings are attended by 30 to 50 people. The one for November featured talks by Caitlin Simmonds of Columbus, who spoke about her work last year in San Jose, California, as a community engagement coordinator with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, and Angela Lariviere, who told of how her experience of homelessness as a young person led to creation of the Columbus-based Youth Empowerment Program, a nationally recognized organization which advocates for young people's rights, particularly in connection with homeless and at-risk youth.

Other TOT speakers have included Father Thomas Blau, OP, parochial vicar at Columbus St. Patrick Church, on seeing God through science; Father Paul Noble, diocesan vocations director; Catholic psychotherapist Laura Lewis on health and wellness; and Rachel Muha, founder of the Run the Race Club, an organization which helps youths on Columbus' West Side. The club was formed in memory of Muha's son, Brian, murdered in 1999 while a student at Franciscan University of Steubenville.

TOT's next scheduled meeting is Thursday, Jan. 8, at El Vaquero. The featured speaker will be Stephanie Rapp, Catholic Relief Services Fair Trade ambassador.

"There have been many memorable speakers at TOT, but none more than Rachel Muha," said Kristine Coplin of Columbus St. Andrew Church, another principal organizer of the local group, at the November meeting. "I don't think there was a dry eye anywhere after Rachel talked to us about her forgiveness for the two

young men who are serving life terms in prison for killing her son.

"It's hard to find a space that's not in a church, but in the secular world, where young Catholics can express their faith, meet other young Catholics, and possibly bring people they know who may want to learn more about being Catholic," Coplin said. "TOT fills that need for married and single Catholics in the 21 to 39 age group. It's not a 'singles group,' but there is certainly a social aspect to it – a combination of fellowship and continuing education."

"A lot of church activities focus on young children or on adults with families," said Peter Le, 31, of St. Christopher Church, and Kaleigh Weithman, 27, of Columbus St. Timothy Church, who were attending the meeting together. "People like us who are too old for teen groups, but aren't married, are in sort of an 'in-between' stage. It's just good to come here and be around others facing the same situation." For more information, go to www.facebook.com/groups/ColumbusTheologyOnTap.

There is at least one other Theology on Tap group in the diocese, besides the one at El Vaquero. It is affiliated with Westerville St. Paul Church and meets at the Old Bag of Nails Pub, 24 N. State St., Westerville, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

Its next meeting, on Wednesday, Jan. 28, will feature Caitlin Simmonds speaking on civil rights and human dignity. Recent topics for the group have included an Advent reflection, the *Roe v. Wade* decision, sexuality, prayer, social justice, and the Virgin Mary, said Linda Hall, youth min-



istry director at the Westerville parish.

Saint Paul's Outreach (SPO) sponsors faith-related events at specific times and locations, but also is a full-time ministry in which young Catholics evangelize their peers on college campuses and train other young people to continue their work.

The program began in Minnesota in 1985 and came to Columbus in 2004, when eight young men moved into the former convent of Columbus Holy Name Church, near the OSU campus. Today, the group has 38 young people, including 12 full-time and two part-time staff members, living in five all-men's or all-women's households – three in OSU's North Campus area and two on South Campus. SPO's Ohio outreach also extends to West Virginia University, where it has a household of five young men.

"Our mission of evangelizing involves reaching out to students – both those who are not Catholic and those who already are Catholic – bringing them the truths of the Church, and building relationships in a way that meets them where they are and presents the faith in an attractive way which makes them say 'I want to be a part of that,'" said Dominic DeMatte, development director for SPO Ohio.

"We do this through a method of ministry formation that involves four steps: reaching out to young people, calling them to holiness in their daily lives, forming them to practice that holiness through the Catholic Church, and sending them to witness to other young people and the world."

That formation occurs in a variety of ways. DeMatte said that SPO, in coopera-

Right: Angela Lariviere speaks about the Youth Empowerment Program at a monthly Columbus Theology on Tap meeting.

Below: Sunbury St. John Neumann young adult group members at an "ugly sweater" party. CT photo by Tim Puet; photo courtesy St. John Neumann



tion with the Newman Center, conducts Bible studies somewhere in the OSU area every day, at locations and sites designed to fit student schedules in a flexible, convenient way. He said about 300 students currently are involved in Bible studies or other small groups affiliated with SPO.

Thursday nights are SPO outreach nights, with a variety of formats. Twice a month, there is general discussion of how to live a Christian life in a world that is often hostile to Christianity and is strongly influenced by relativism, the idea that all beliefs are of equal value. One Thursday a month is devoted to separate men's and women's discussions. DeMatte said these evenings have gained corporate sponsorship from Perio, Inc., the Dublin-based maker of Barbasol and Pure Silk shaving products.

The other Thursday program is titled One Gospel and is devoted to music, prayer, and a talk on how the Gospels relate to modern life. DeMatte said the Thursday programs, particularly One Gospel, attract anywhere from 60 to 200 people and take place at the Ohio Union and other large campus venues.

SPO also sponsors several retreats per year. One retreat, separately held for men and women, is focused on helping students leave behind their personal wounds and gain the freedom through Christ to which they are called. A formation retreat looks at the constant battle between the two kingdoms of good and evil. DeMatte said about 60 people have attended the retreat at Mohican State Park in each of the last two years.

SPO's largest annual event is its "Fan Into Flame" retreat, described as "an in-depth look into what it means to live a life inspired by the Holy Spirit." It is scheduled for Friday, Jan. 30 to Sunday, Feb.

1 at the Heartland Conference Retreat Center in Marengo. "Between 120 and 130 students from Ohio and other nearby states have taken part in this retreat each year," DeMatte said. "It's usually a very cold weekend, made warm by the way it awakens the faith of the people who participate as it gives them an opportunity to proclaim Christ as Lord through the power of the Holy Spirit."

More information on Saint Paul's Outreach is available by going to www.spoweb.org or contacting DeMatte at dominic@spoweb.org.

Dominic DeMatte's brother Dan is co-director of Catholic Youth Summer Camp, which is primarily for students in sixth to 12th grades, but also has more than 100 young adult counselors and staff members taking part in its eight weekly sessions. Last year, more than 900 campers attended at least one session.

"Our primary outreach at CYSC is to the campers and their families, but we know that a critical secondary outreach is to the counselors and staff," Dan DeMatte said. "We are home to so many amazing young adult counselors from our diocese who leave the diocese for different universities around the country and return home in the summer looking to give back. We have noticed over the years that many of the counselors also need formation. Many college campuses are a hostile environment for young adults striving to live their Catholic faith. Returning 'home' to CYSC is a source of strength for these counselors," he said. For more on CYSC, go to its website, www.cysc.com.

Diocesan parishes with young adult programs include Sunbury St. John Neumann, Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare, and Gahanna St. Matthew.

Kate Kriegel of the St. John Neumann

young adult ministry said it is for people aged 18 to 35 and meets in small groups that are gender-specific. The men's group is studying a program titled "Signposts: How to Be a Catholic Man in the World Today." The subject for the women's group is "On the Dignity and Vocation of Women."

The ministry also has monthly Theology on Tap-style meetings open to both men and women, has coed softball teams in the spring and summer and volleyball teams in the fall in local leagues, sponsors outings involving line dancing, concerts, or movies, and gathers at homes for bonfires, pumpkin carving, or Christmas cookie baking and card making. For more information, call the parish at (740)965-1358.

Cathryn O'Connell of St. Brigid of Kildare said young adults meet there from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and currently are looking at Jeff Cavins' Biblical overview, which has been featured at several diocesan parishes.

The young adult group has accompanied the parish youth group at projects to help the homeless and at Catholic Social Services' Service Saturday, and is deciding what additional service activities it will perform this year. O'Connell said its Bible study and service projects are open to all and encourages people from other parishes to consider taking part. The parish office number is (614) 761-3734.

St. Matthew Church is sponsoring a program titled Credo, inviting people in their 20s and 30s who are seeking a deeper relationship with Christ to hear dynamic speakers, praise and worship the Lord, and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The program will take place from 7:30 to 9 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month. For more details, go to <http://stmatthewcredo.weebly.com>.

VETERANS DAY CELEBRATIONS IN DIOCESAN SCHOOLS

St. Cecilia School Honors Veterans

Maj. Tracy Richardson, a veteran of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm who spent nearly 18 years in the military, was the featured speaker for a ceremony at Columbus St. Cecilia School honoring veterans.

Students from throughout the school were involved in putting the program together. Invitations and “thank you” letters written by students were sent to veterans who were identified as having connections to the school or its students. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Student Council members played a large role in the ceremony.

Seventh-grade enrichment students, led by Carolyn Hughes, were featured in the reception afterward. They had made an iMovie of interviews conducted with veterans, and had collect-

ed military memorabilia to display in a Veterans Day museum in the parish meeting rooms.

The outpouring of donated items included medals, pictures, World War II naval uniforms, and wartime diaries. The interviews were emotional and informative, giving students a realistic, firsthand look at what life was really like for a soldier at war.

Many of the veterans in attendance had tears in their eyes as Richardson told her story of being a wartime soldier. She graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, and became a military intelligence officer with a specialty in counterintelligence, serving six-and-a-half years on active duty, including her time in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm.



She then spent 11 years in the Army Reserves, including assignments at Fort Meade, Maryland, as an operations officer and at Capital University as an ROTC instructor at Capital. She is in her fifth year as a City Council member in Marysville, where she attends Our Lady of Lourdes Church and lives with her husband and three sons.

Photo: Maj. Tracy Richardson, speaker at a program at Columbus St. Cecilia School honoring veterans (left), is shown with (from left) teacher Carolyn Hughes, student Alex Oswald, veteran Norm Lambert, and students Jack Foley, Tyler Scott, and Matthew Frye. Photo courtesy St. Cecilia School

Honoring All Those Who Serve Our Nation



Sixth-grade students at Columbus St. Mary Magdalene School presented a detailed explanation of the Pledge of Allegiance for a Veterans Day assembly, honoring all those who are serving or have served the nation in the military and developing a greater understanding of the freedoms guaranteed every day to Americans through their form of government. Photo courtesy St. Mary Magdalene School



Salute to the Military

New Philadelphia Tuscarawas Central Catholic High School hosted nearly 75 veterans for the school's annual salute to the military.

The day began with coffee and conversation, followed by a parade of veterans, who received a standing ovation from students.

Three seniors saluted the veterans by reading speeches they submitted for the annual VFW Voice of Democracy contest on the topic “Why Veterans Are Important to Our Nation’s History and Future.”

Following the program, veterans were treated to a pasta lunch served by members of the school's senior class. Several veterans were interviewed by a TCC eighth-grader. Those interviews served as the inspiration for the writing of a personal narrative, which the students later shared with those interviewed. Students also collected more than \$500 for veterans support charities.

Photo: Vietnam veteran Ralph Douglass (third from left) and students (from left) Miranda Bania, Ryan Barnabi, and John Mohn. Photo courtesy Tuscarawas Central Schools

St. Matthew Plans for Adoration Chapel

Gahanna St. Matthew Church, 807 Havens Corners Road, is building a Divine Mercy Perpetual Adoration Chapel in its basement area and plans to begin Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18.

Bishop Frederick Campbell will preside at a Mass and blessing ceremony for the chapel at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 17.

Signups for perpetual adoration have started, and hours are available at <http://www.stmatthew.net/?p=3485>. Adorers will be asked to participate in a one-night catechesis class in early February to better understand their role and the history and meaning of adoration.

During this class, adorers can register their fingerprint with a biometric scanner and gain 24-hour access to the chapel. The chapel can hold 24 people. Father Theodore Sill, pastor at St. Matthew, is asking for three adorers at all times, even in the night.

This way, should someone not show up for whatever reason, the adorer before him or her will not have to take a second hour. This also allows adorers to be able to use the restroom without fear of leaving Jesus unattended.

Perpetual adoration is a commitment to spending one hour on a weekly basis in front of the exposed Blessed Sacrament. The hour and day that an adorer picks during signup is at the discretion of the adorer, based on his or her schedule.

Some people feel there is no hour in the week that they can fully commit to, because of frequent or occasional traveling for work or unexpected situations. While an adorer should make the best effort to pick an hour he or she can honor 90 percent of the time, an hourly coordinator is assigned to help with those times an adorer cannot make it.

The adorer can pray, read a book, meditate, or finish work that had to be taken home. It is the adorer's time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Members of Knights of Columbus Council 5801 have been active in fundraising for the chapel and building it. Project manager Bryan Gebhart said that about a year-and-a-half ago, when he was elected as the council's grand knight, he asked Father Ryan Schmit, St. Matthew parochial vicar, what he would like the Knights to do this year.

Gebhart said that to his surprise, Father Schmit's response was, “I would like you to build a perpetual adoration chapel.” He said that Father Schmit reassured him the Lord was in control and would guide the building of the chapel. He also said response to the project from its start has indicated that Father Schmit was correct.

“Why should someone make a commitment for perpetual adoration?” asks a document about the chapel. “Why commit an hour of time that, in our busy society, simply is not readily available? The answer quite simply is that perpetual adoration forces the big question on us: ‘Who is Jesus Christ?’

“In this aspect, we must ask ourselves, ‘Who is Jesus to me? Is he just a historical figure, no longer with us today?’ Can we decrease our own expectations enough to allow Jesus to be the Messiah that we need rather than the one we want?”

“If you are one of so many who can reason the importance of taking a holy hour, but have not made a commitment, what is stopping you? By Baptism, we are His, and He calls each of his own. Jesus is calling. How do you respond?”



CYBERSLUMS WHERE ONLINE ABUSERS PROWL NEED PASTORAL CARE, SAY SPEAKERS

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

A new kind of ghetto needs the church's presence and people's solidarity: the “digital slum” where cyberbullying and online pornography and abuse run rampant, said speakers at a Vatican news conference.

Online harassment and abuse are “a new form of violence” against many young people and children, said Cardinal Peter Turkson, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.

Despite many national and international laws and agreements, “humanity still hasn't been able to uproot completely the different forms of violence and exploitation against children,” he said on Tuesday, Dec. 9.

Cardinal Turkson organized the news conference to highlight ongoing threats against children and young adults 25 years after the adoption of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child.

“Virtual” abuse and harassment result in real, not virtual, damage, said Father Fortunato Di Noto, an Italian priest who for the past 25 years has been leading the fight in Italy to protect children from online predators around the world.

With Pope Francis' emphasis on a church that needs to go out to the peripheries to meet those who are hurting, Father Di Noto said the “periphery” includes a kind of emotional ghetto online, where pedophiles and those addicted to pornography roam.

In the process of notifying police about online abuse, Father Di Noto said that he and his association, Meter, have inadvertently created a kind of “tent” church in the dark places of the digital world. By monitoring abuse, they encounter abusers and witness “the ambiguous suffering of humanity” in their tortured lives.

They find people who, while inflicting pain on others, are looking for affection and meaning in life or trying to decipher their own pain, he said.

“We have to make sure that these places of emotional destitution, these new digital peripheries that I would call ‘digital slums,’ can be made habitable” because places that lack all forms of compassion and human connection attract ravenous “vultures,” he said.

Father Di Noto said his work has become a kind of online ministry that offers “real accompaniment on the Internet because there are many people who are in need because they ‘live’ in this place every day.”

Education and awareness still play a major role in

preventing and eliminating “the terrible plagues” of human rights abuses that are facilitated by or carried out over the Internet, Cardinal Turkson said.

Father Di Noto said the only way to make an impact against such crime is for everyone “to get involved.”

Just as there is a Convention on the Rights of the Child, “perhaps we should create a Convention on the Responsibilities of the Adult” to remind adults of their duty to watch over and protect all children, he said.

Unfortunately many young people do not communicate with their parents or other adults about their online activity, even when they are facing some sort of abuse or harassment, he said.

Laetitia Chanut, a former victim of cyberharassment, told journalists at the news conference about the fear and isolation she experienced at the hands of an online abuser. The abuser stole her identity, photographs, and phone numbers and posted them over the Internet, claiming she was available for sexual favors.

Even though she had alerted her parents and friends, police refused to take immediate action. Her abuser's threats then escalated, eventually forcing her to isolate herself from everyone.

“My biggest mistake was not to talk about it,” she said, because she sank deeper into depression and attempted suicide, which then prompted police into action. The abuser was eventually caught, but he was given a suspended eight-month prison sentence and fined \$6,000, a sentence Chanut said she has appealed.

She urged anyone who is being victimized, threatened, or harassed online “to not feel ashamed” and to try to get immediate help.

Father Di Noto said Meter's annual school-based educational campaign this year will include giving children a 10-point guide to online safety and a plastic ruler to underline that there are rules in life that need to be followed.

It's not true that the Internet is a kind of lawless land, he said, noting that “it has very precise rules -- the rules are made by you, by how you live there.”

“The problem isn't the Internet, the problem is the human being,” and the human evil or weaknesses that the person brings to the world through whatever medium, he said.

That is why there needs to be more solidarity and community action online, with people taking responsibility for their own actions and stepping up to the wider responsibility of helping save children from online abuse, Father Di Noto said.

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Cycle B)

With the Lord's help, good things come from bad



Father
Lawrence L. Hummer

2 Samuel 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

The reading from 2 Samuel is regarded with caution by scholars. There is much more at work than a cursory glance at the text would indicate. The prophet Nathan at first readily accepts David's idea to build a "house" (Temple) for the Lord because David, after all, lives in a "house of cedar" (meaning a "house lined with cedar"). Thus, David is presented in the best possible light.

The reversal comes when the Lord reminds David of all that "I" (the Lord) have done for you. On a personal level, I took you from pasturing the flock to be commander of my people Israel. I destroyed your enemies. I will make you famous. I will fix a place for my people. I will give you rest from your enemies. AND I will build a house for you! Furthermore, I will give you an heir and your throne shall stand firm forever.

David offers a lengthy prayer of thanksgiving. The whole thing unravels shortly afterward, when the tribes enter into a civil war that will split David's family and lead to his fleeing for his life from the city of Jerusalem. Readers are encouraged to read the rest of 2 Samuel to see how bad things get. Yet, out of bad things, with the help of the Lord, can come good things, and so we turn to the Gospel.

Luke gives us the Annunciation scene, in which Mary receives the news from the angel Gabriel that she is about to become a mother ("Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son"). The angel adds that, among other things, the child will receive

Claver Auxiliary honors Woman of the Year, awards scholarships

Marjorie McFadden of Columbus St. Thomas Church, financial secretary of Columbus St. Cyprian Court 298 of the Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary, was honored as district Woman of the Year at the organization's annual district conference in Bloomington, Minnesota, in recognition of her service to the parish, the community, and the Knights.

Two members of the court's Junior Daughters group were scholarship recipients. Ayanna Knight, a member of Columbus St. Dominic Church and a 2014 graduate of Gahanna Lincoln High School, was awarded a scholarship in support of her freshman year at the University of Akron, where she is a biomedical engineering major.

the "throne of David his father" from the Lord God. Mary rightly objects, with the obvious question "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" The angel responds with the announcement that the Holy Spirit will come upon her and the power of the Most High will overshadow her.

When she is told that her relative Elizabeth is having a son as well, Mary understands this as proof of divine intervention and responds with her oft-repeated "Let it be done to me according to your word."

It is worth pointing out that Matthew and Luke wrote independent Gospels, and it is doubtful that they knew of or consulted each other in the writing of their respective Gospels. This holds true for the infancy narratives they included in their Gospels. No doubt, they drew from some common sources for the content of the Gospels, but there is no sign of a common source in the infancy narratives themselves.

We should not be surprised, let alone demand, that they do not agree in what they present. Luke has written a Gospel which mentions this unique announcement to Mary (by the angel Gabriel) that she would have a son by "the power of the Most High." Matthew uses an unnamed angel who appears to Joseph in a dream, saying he should not be afraid to take Mary for his wife because the child she carries is "through the Holy Spirit." That is as much of an agreement as we will find.

We cannot demand that Matthew use the angel Gabriel as a messenger from the Lord, because Matthew has a different tale to tell. Luke tries to show how the lives of John the Baptist and Jesus will intersect (in the wombs of their mothers, no less!) even before their public lives are revealed.

With John, the Old Testament line of prophets ends. With Jesus, the new age will begin. It will lead to the period of the Church (the period from which Luke wrote), and that Church will carry on the announcement of Jesus as Son of God and savior of the world.

Contact Father Lawrence Hummer, pastor at *Chillicothe St. Mary*, at hummerl@stmarychillicothe.com.

Ryenne Rowan, a member of St. Dominic Church and a graduate of Columbus St. Anthony School, received scholarship funds in support of her freshman year at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School.

Court 298 also received an expansion award at the Knights of Peter Claver's 99th national convention in Mobile, Alabama, in recognition of its efforts to retain, attract, and expand membership.

The Knights of Peter Claver, Inc. is the largest historically African American Catholic lay organization in the United States. The order is named after St. Peter Claver, a Spanish Jesuit priest and missionary who ministered to African slaves in the South African nation of Colombia.

The Weekday Bible Readings

MONDAY
1 Samuel 1:24-28
1 Samuel 2:1,4-7,8a-d (Ps)
Luke 1:46-56

TUESDAY
Malachi 3:1-4,23-24
Psalm 25:4-5b,8-10,14
Luke 1:57-66

WEDNESDAY (Vigil)
Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 89:4-5,16-17,27,29
Acts 13:16-17,22-25
Matthew 1:1-25

THURSDAY (Midnight)
Isaiah 9:1-6
Psalm 96:1-3,11-13
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14

FRIDAY
Acts 6:8-10:7:54-59
Psalm 31:3cd-4,6-8b,16bc,17
Matthew 10:17-22

SATURDAY
1 John 1:1-4
Psalm 97:1-2,5-6,11-12
John 20:2-8

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE WEEK OF DECEMBER 14, 2014

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

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

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

Christmas 2014; How We Did We Get Here?



THE TIDE IS TURNING
TOWARD CATHOLICISM
David Hartline

The story of Christ's birth has no need of explanation for the faithful, but, as is often the case, God gives clues to those who are skeptical. Our modern computer age has helped confirm a strange planetary conjunction that took place at the time of Jesus' birth. This is something that would have seemed extraordinary beyond the ancients' wildest dreams, especially those from the east who were not Jewish and would look to the stars to understand the destiny of nations. In the famous Star of Bethlehem, they saw the coming of Christ, something that computer science would prove to many skeptics 2,000 years later.

God is so complex and yet so simple in His approach to us. When that loving God sent His only Son to redeem the world through His birth, death, resurrection, and ascension into heaven, the Greek and Roman intellectual elites of the day were dumbfounded.

Later, St. Paul would remind them that their gods were mere statues of stone, fantasies created to make those gods seem powerful. In contrast, Jesus was born to a humble family in a stable, hardly the place where one would expect God's offspring to be born. From that stable, Jesus would go on to redeem a world that had become full of sin, oppression, and excess.

Two-thousand years ago, the Roman Empire was the mightiest empire the world had known. While the Roman Army was busy conquering the known world, the cities it left behind saw many grand achievements of art, architecture, and philosophy. Yet in those cities, one of-

ten saw outrageous excesses of sexual depravity and blood sport existing alongside the lavish lifestyle of the people in charge. The Roman Coliseum (originally called the Flavian Amphitheater) was the scene of the deaths of thousands of human beings and hundreds of thousands of animals.

Even though the people of Israel lamented the Roman Army's takeover and there were occasional uprisings, far too many citizens became enamored with this culture of excess. The rabbis tried to warn the people, but the attraction to sin was too much for some. Fast-forward 2,000 years to the Western world. Sound familiar?

Yet God's mercy knows no bounds. God kept His promises and sent the world His Son, born of a virgin, as had been foretold. Unfortunately, even today, too many Christians don't understand God's purpose in sending us the Blessed Virgin Mary. The angel greeted her with the salutation "Hail, blessed one, full of grace" (Luke 1:28), which in the original Greek translates into *kecharitomene*, the only time that phrase is used in the Bible. The next time someone asks you why Catholics

have such a reverence for Mary, you might remind the questioner that if you are full of grace, you cannot have sin. The Blessed Mother is the fulfillment of what was first mentioned in the *Protoevangelium* (Genesis 3:15.)

Jesus never referred to Mary as His mother, but as our mother. She was the woman of women, and the mother to us all. She gently prodded Jesus into performing His first miracle and was there at the crucifixion. In her heart of hearts, she knew that the Old Testament prophecy would be fulfilled. The first two years of Mary's life were not for the faint of heart. She traversed the Holy Land with Joseph and the infant Jesus. She gave birth to Jesus in an unfamiliar town's stables while answering the Roman Empire's census. She was greeted by unfamiliar visitors (shepherds and wise men), all telling of something unimaginably great. The Bible tells us that Mary treasured all of these things in her heart. These experiences must have helped her and Joseph as they fled to Egypt to avoid Herod's murderous rampage, killing innocent boys under the age of two.

We know how the story ends, but have we thanked God for saving our fallen world? In some ways, our modern world isn't much different from that of 2,000 years ago. Yet, at Christmas, we have the opportunity to thank God for giving us a Holy Family and a Son who redeemed us all.

Hartline is the author of "The Catholic Tide Continues to Turn" and a former teacher and administrator for the diocese.

Love Is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive!

By Daniel Thimons

Director, Diocesan Marriage & Family Life Office

I don't know about you, but I can easily name 100 things I "need" this Christmas. This "wish list" ranges from frivolous things like a Kindle to nobler things like restored health for a friend and peace for persecuted Christians. I often find myself approaching the Lord in prayer as a young child approaches Santa Claus at the mall, with a long list of wants and needs.

Certainly, the Lord loves us as His dear children and desires that we bring Him all of our needs in prayer. But it is important to recall that prayer is not only petition and intercession, but also takes the form of adoration, thanksgiving, and praise to God.

We recently celebrated one of our nation's greatest traditions, when families all over the United States came together on the fourth Thursday of November to give thanks to God for the abundant blessings that He has bestowed on us. As Christians, we don't have to wait until the fourth Thursday of November to give thanks to God, because every day is meant to be a "thanksgiving day." Fam-

ilies can choose to set aside a brief time each day to come together in praise and thanksgiving to God.

At this time of year, it is beautiful to contemplate the Nativity scene, whether in our Church, our home, at the Holy Family Jubilee Museum, or outside the State Auto building. I always marvel at what it must have been like for the shepherds to kneel in adoration before the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, who came to us as a little baby in a stable in Bethlehem. What wonder must have filled their hearts to see Jesus Christ, the Lord God, the One through whom the universe and all things were made, tightly wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a feeding trough for animals?

This prayer of adoration is not merely reserved for shepherds and magi who lived more than 2,000 years ago, but is a privilege which is given to each of us this day. In churches and Adoration chapels all across the Diocese of Columbus, Jesus Christ, the Lord God, comes to us in a lowly state, under the appearance of bread, but truly present, just as He was to the shepherds and magi.

This Advent, why not prepare our hearts

by bringing our family to Eucharistic Adoration? Just like the shepherds and magi, let us kneel before the Real Presence of Jesus Christ, who gives us the greatest gift of all, the Gift of Himself.

At this time of year when we are often "anxious and worried about many things," Jesus Christ reminds us that "there is need of only one thing," our hearts united to His (Luke 10:41-42). This Christmas, let us give the Christ child the gift of our presence and allow



Him to fill us with His own life. It is only in union with Christ that individuals and families are capable of truly living our mission of love and becoming fully alive! O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.



Christmas Concert

Students at Columbus Our Lady of Peace School enjoy a Christmas concert performed by members of the Columbus Bishop Watterson High School concert choir. Photo courtesy Our Lady of Peace School

Pray for our dead

- BAKER, Jerome F.** "Fred," 89, Dec. 10
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville
- BALLENTINE, Willard E.**, 91, Dec. 11
St. Paul Church, Westerville
- BLAIR, Robert W.**, 89, Dec. 7
St. Mary Church, Chillicothe
- BRANDT, Kenneth R.**, 88, Dec. 7
Holy Trinity Church, Jackson
- BROEKHOVEN, Edwin C.**, 93, Dec. 10
Christ the King Church, Columbus
- DELFINO, Anna K.**, 94, Dec. 13
Our Lady of Peace Church, Columbus
- DeRUBEIS, Antonia**, 81, Dec. 9
St. Joseph Cathedral, Columbus
- DORN, Rosemary W.**, 86, Dec. 7
Corpus Christi Church, Columbus
- GRANTONIC, N. Lee**, 86, Dec. 8
St. Cecilia Church, Columbus
- GROOM, Patricia M.**, 59, Dec. 9
Holy Spirit Church, Columbus
- GUENTHER, Laura A.**, 53, Nov. 14
Sacred Heart Church, Coshocton
- KECKSTEIN, Paul F.**, 94, Dec. 9
St. Andrew Church, Columbus
- LILJA, Mary** "Marjorie," 90, Nov. 26
Sacred Heart Church, Coshocton
- LOTT, J. Edward** "Eddy," 38, Dec. 10
St. Paul Church, Westerville
- McCLUGGAGE, Nancy A.**, 87, Dec. 5
Sacred Heart Church, Coshocton
- McGOWAN, Louise**, 82, Dec. 3
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia
- MORROW, Patricia**, 87, Dec. 3
Holy Trinity Church, Jackson
- PRICE, H. Carol**, 69, Dec. 9
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark
- TALBOT, Robert C.**, 90, Dec. 9
St. Peter Church, Columbus
- VILARDO, Danny**, 90, Dec. 9
St. Agatha Church, Columbus
- WANNER, Constance**, 87, Dec. 11
St. Andrew Church, Columbus
- ZELLI, Roberta A.**, 67, Dec. 11
St. Matthew Church, Gahanna



ST. BRENDAN MATH CLUB

Pictured are members of Hilliard St. Brendan School's Math Club. The club's goal is to enhance and enrich the school's curriculum for fourth- and fifth-grade students who enjoy math and are advanced in math skills. The club uses a combination of formal instruction and supervised free math play in an after-school program. Games the students play include Yahtzee, Equate, Cards, Head Full of Numbers, and Connect 4. Pictured are (from left): first row, Daniel Ferguson, Warren D'Souza, Victoria Regan, and Mia Aguilar; second row, Andrew Flemming, Taylor Young, and Timothy Govenor.

Photo courtesy St. Brendan School

DECEMBER

18-23, THURSDAY-TUESDAY

Simbang Gabi Celebration at Holy Cross
7:30 p.m., Holy Cross Church, 204 S. 5th St., Columbus. Simbang Gabi, a Filipino Christmas tradition, featuring celebration of Mass for nine consecutive days, beginning Dec. 15.

19, FRIDAY

Live Nativity Scene at Ada Our Lady of Lourdes
6 to 8 p.m., Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 300 E. Highland Ave., Ada. Live Nativity scene with live animals. **419-634-2626**

'On a Night Like This' at Church of the Resurrection
7:30 p.m., Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road, New Albany. "On a Night Like This" concert narrative featuring local Christian music group Living Water. **614-855-1400**

20, SATURDAY

Wilderness Outreach Advent Hike and Vigil Mass
7:30 a.m. Tar Hollow State Park, 16396 Tar Hollow Road, Laurelville. Wilderness Outreach Advent hike, with Morning Prayer, Rosary, and prayers of angelic warfare, concluding with Eucharistic Adoration and vigil Mass for Fourth Sunday of Advent with Father Brian Doerr, vice rector and director of formation, Mount St. Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg, Md. **614-679-6761**

Life and Mercy Mass in Plain City
9 a.m. Mass, St. Joseph Church, 140 West Ave., Plain City. Saturday Life and Mercy Mass, followed by rosary and confession.

Morning of Reflection at Sts. Peter and Paul Center
9 a.m. to noon, Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center, 2734

Seminary Road S.E., Newark. Advent morning of reflection with Sister Louis Mary Passeri, OP. Theme: "Jesus Said, 'When I Am Lifted Up from the Earth, I Will Draw All People to Myself.'" **740-928-4246**

Labyrinth Walk at Shepherd's Corner
7 to 8:30 p.m., Shepherd's Corner Ecology Center, 987 N. Waggoner Road, Blacklick. Labyrinth walk with Dale Sparlin of Mindful Labyrinths. Theme: "Drawing the Light to Us." Suggested donation \$5. Registration deadline Dec. 18. **614-866-4302**

21, SUNDAY

Farewell Reception for Sister Pat McMahon, OSF
After 10:45 a.m. Mass, St. Brigid of Kildare Church, 7179 Avery Road. Farewell reception for Sister Pat McMahon, OSF, before her departure for Rome to serve on her religious order's leadership council. **614-761-3734**

Blessing of St. Gerard Majella at Holy Family
After 9 and 11 a.m. Masses, Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., Columbus. Blessing of St. Gerard Majella, patron of expectant mothers, for all women who are pregnant or wish to become pregnant. **614-221-1890**

St. Padre Pio Secular Franciscans
1:30 to 5 p.m., St. John the Baptist Church, 720 Hamlet St., Columbus. Fellowship and ongoing formation followed by adoration and prayer, Liturgy of the Hours, and initial formation with visitors.

Dave Orsborn, OFS **614-282-4676**

Catholic Record Society Meeting
2 p.m., Parish hall, Our Lady of Victory Church, 1559 Roxbury Road, Columbus. Catholic Record Society quarterly meeting, with Msgr. Robert Noon speaking on "Tales of Bishop Hartley," followed by brief business meeting. **614-268-4166**

Lessons and Carols at St. Peter in Chains
4 p.m., St. Peter in Chains Church, 2167 Lick Run Lyra Road, Wheelersburg. Lessons and carols, followed by rectory open house. **740-574-5486**

Exposition at Our Lady of Mount Carmel
4 to 5 p.m., Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 5133 Walnut Road S.E., Buckeye Lake. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by prayer service. **740-928-3266**

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

'On a Night Like This' at St. Mary Magdalene
5:30 p.m., St. Mary Magdalene Church, 473 S. Roys Ave., Columbus. "On a Night Like This" concert narrative featuring local Christian music group Living Water. **614-274-1121**

Lessons and Carols at Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes
6 p.m., Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 1033 W. 5th St., Marysville. Lessons and carols in preparation for Christmas. **937-644-6020**

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

Vespers at Columbus St. Patrick
7 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Sung Vespers for Fourth Sunday of Advent. **614-224-9522**

22, MONDAY

Adoration, Prayer Service at New Philadelphia
5 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 139 3rd St N.E., New Philadelphia. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and confession, followed by prayer service. **330-343-6976**

Advent Quiet Evening at Corpus Christi
6:30 to 8 p.m., Corpus Christi Center of Peace, 1111 E. Stewart Ave., Columbus. An evening of quiet reflection as spiritual preparation for the celebration of God coming to be with us at Christmas. **614-512-3731**

Bethesda Post-Abortion Healing Ministry
6:30 p.m., support group meeting, 2744 Dover Road, Columbus (Christ the King convent, first building west of the church). **614-718-0277, 614-309-2651, 614-309-0157**

Our Lady of Peace Men's Bible Study
7 p.m., Our Lady of Peace Church, 20 E. Dominion Blvd., Columbus. Bible study of Sunday Scripture readings.

22-23, MONDAY-TUESDAY

Holy Hours at Columbus St. Patrick
7 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Holy Hours with talks by Father Joseph Alobaidi, OP, of the Dominican House of Studies in Washington on Mary (Monday) and the star of Bethlehem (Tuesday). **614-224-9522**

23, TUESDAY

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

24, WEDNESDAY

'Blue Christmas' Mass at Newman Center
8 p.m., St. Thomas More Newman Center, 64 W. Lane Ave., Columbus. "Blue Christmas" mass, a traditional Christmas Eve liturgy designed to be more quiet and reflective for people who do not feel joy during the holiday season. **614-291-4674**

Midnight Mass with Bishop at Cathedral
11 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Seasonal music with the Cathedral Choir and Brass, followed by midnight Mass celebrated by Bishop Frederick Campbell. **614-241-2526**

27, SATURDAY

Life and Mercy Mass in Plain City
9 a.m. Mass, St. Joseph Church, 140 West Ave., Plain City. Saturday Life and Mercy Mass, followed by rosary and confession.

28, SUNDAY

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

St. Catherine of Bologna Secular Franciscans
2:30 to 5 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Church, 386 Buttles Ave., Columbus. Rosary, Liturgy of the Hours, followed by general meeting, ongoing formation, and social. Elizabeth Bowen, OFS **614-276-1953**

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

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

29, MONDAY

Marian Movement for Priests Cenacle
7 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus.

Mass for priests and consecrated life. Homily: "The Fifth Glorious Mystery: The Coronation of Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth." **614-235-7435**

31, WEDNESDAY

New Year's Eve Mass at St. Therese's
7 p.m., St. Therese's Retreat Center, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus. New Year's Eve Mass sponsored by diocesan Catholic Charismatic Renewal, celebrated by Father James Coleman. Preceded by praise and worship at 6, followed by fellowship. **614-914-8556**

JANUARY

2, FRIDAY

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

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

All-Night Eucharistic Vigil at Holy Cross
Holy Cross Church, 204 S. 5th St., Columbus. 7:30 p.m. Mass; Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament; prayer until 11:30 p.m.; private prayer until 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

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

3, SATURDAY

Mary's Little Children Prayer Group
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 5225 Refugee Road, Columbus. 8:30 a.m., confessions, 9 a.m., Mass, followed by Fatima prayers and Rosary (Shepherds of Christ format); 10 a.m., meeting. **614-861-4888**

Life and Mercy Mass in Plain City
9 a.m. Mass, St. Joseph Church, 140 West Ave., Plain City. Saturday Life and Mercy Mass, followed by rosary and confession.

Lay Missionaries of Charity Day of Prayer
9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 893 Hamlet St., Columbus. Monthly day of prayer for Columbus chapter of Lay Missionaries of Charity. **614-372-5249**

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

Filipino Mass at Cathedral
7:30 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus (temporary location). Monthly Mass in the Tagalog language for members of the Filipino Catholic community. **614-224-3416**

4, SUNDAY

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

Submit obituaries to:
tpuet@colsdio.org



INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY

The children of Columbus St. Joseph Montessori School came dressed in outfits of various nations for International Children's Day. Parents of most of the school's children were on hand to support the event, and a bagpiper led the parade. The school is next to Sacred Heart Church (shown in background) in the city's Italian Village neighborhood. Photo by Michelle Daniel

**START YOUR DAY
A BETTER WAY!**

**AM 820
CATHOLIC RADIO**

All fund-raising events (festivals, bazaars, spaghetti dinners, fish fries, bake sales, pizza/sub sales, candy sales, etc.) will be placed in the "Fund-Raising Guide." An entry into the Guide will be \$18.50 for the first six lines, and \$2.65 for each additional line. For more information, call David Garick at 614-224-5195.

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



BOOK REVIEWS

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS EXPLORED

Authors explore theological, populist roots of Christmas traditions

Reviewed by **Mitch Finley**
Catholic News Service

“Joy to the World: How Christ’s Coming Changed Everything (and Still Does)” by Scott Hahn. Image (New York, 2014). 192 pages, \$23.

“Christmas: The Sacred to Santa” by Tara Moore. Reaktion Books (London, 2014). 224 pages, \$30.

In his slim volume *Joy to the World*, Scott Hahn reflects on the meaning of Christmas.

Hahn, a former Presbyterian who is one of today’s most prominent Catholic authors, is professor of theology and Scripture at Franciscan University of Steubenville and distinguished visiting professor in Biblical

theology at Mundelein Seminary in suburban Chicago.

Masterfully leaving behind the academic theologian’s technical language and tendency to ask questions the average person is likely to find boring, Hahn speaks from his own experience and to the experience of the average person. At the same time, in everyday English he shares insights from his many years of Biblical and theological study.

Joy to the World explores the personages who populate the Gospel narratives about the birth and meaning of Jesus. These include, of course, Joseph, Mary, Herod, angels, and the Magi. But Hahn also draws on insights from the letters of St. Paul and the Johannine literature. He helps the reader see that the entire New Testament, not just the infancy narratives of Matthew and Luke, is about the meaning of Christmas. Hahn also draws upon and quotes the works of other Scripture scholars, theologians, preachers, and popes, including Pope Leo XIII, Pope Benedict XVI, Pope Francis and, yes, the Rev. Billy Graham.

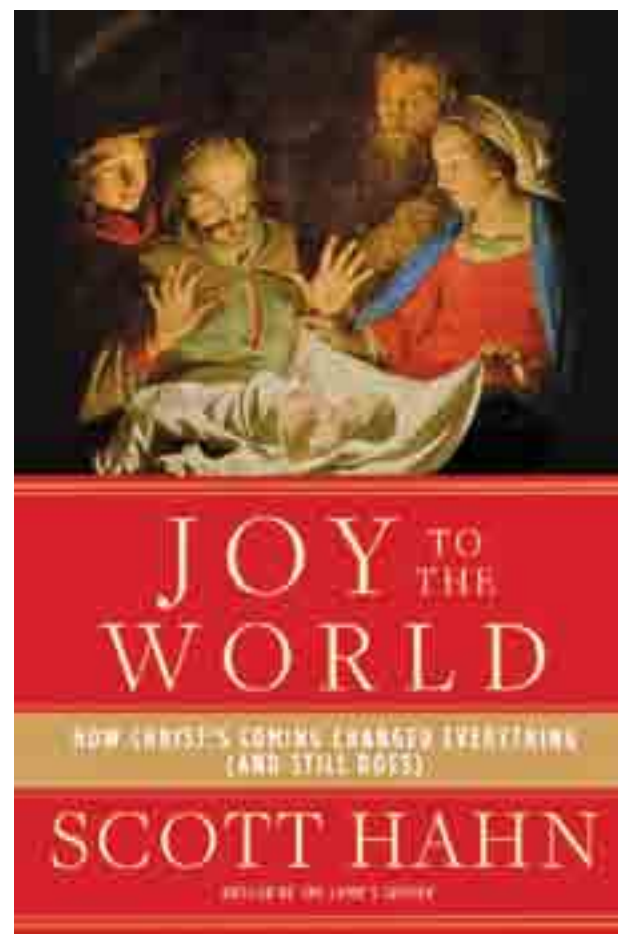
Hahn even reminds us of the original meanings of such common Christmas traditions as baking Christmas cookies (“because the Messiah has come to lead us into a land flowing with milk and honey.”); decorating a Christmas tree (“to recover the tree of paradise, which was restored by the tree of Calvary”); and giving gifts (“because God has given himself to us as a gift, wrapping his divinity in true humanity”).

Joy to the World is a fine and insightful book, one of the best to read if you want to deepen and enrich your understanding of Christmas, whose religious meaning can easily get lost in the dominant commercial culture.

Christmas has histories both sacred and secular, and you can learn a great deal about both from Tara Moore’s *Christmas: The Sacred to Santa*. Priests and deacons looking for material to liven up a Christmas homily would be wise indeed to read this book.

Moore teaches in the writing program at the York campus of Pennsylvania State University, and her academic credentials are evident in this book. Still, this isn’t a book written only for academics. Most reasonably well-educated readers will find it an informative and intriguing page-turner. If there is anything to be known about Christmas, you will find it here.

Moore writes that her book explores “how past generations have felt about Christmas, how people in the



same neighborhood might look at it in different ways, and how a simple birth in Bethlehem continues to make waves across the continents.”

Topics the author addresses include how Christmas came to be dated on Dec. 25; what the earliest Christmas celebrations looked like; how Christmas has been portrayed in art and in various cultures; historical settings in which Christmas was outlawed; and how Christmas has been celebrated by those away from home, from immigrants to astronauts.

She also discusses the commercialization of Christmas; the central characters of Christmas, from St. Nicholas to Santa Claus to a European personage named “Wild Man”; how other nations have imported, in particular, the English and German Christmas-ees; how Christmas became a public holiday; and how churches respond, and have responded, to secular understandings of Christmas.

This last discussion begins with an attention grabber, for sure: “On Christmas Eve in 1951, (French Catholic) clergymen hanged and burned an effigy of Father Christmas on the railings of Dijon cathedral. Furthermore, the priests carried out their efforts in the sight of 250 Sunday school children.”

At the risk of being redundant, read this book to learn a lot about Christmas. Then, if you want to hear a better Christmas homily than you heard last year, give your copy to a priest or deacon.

Finley is the author of more than 30 books, including “The True Meaning of Christmas” by Santa Claus with Mitch Finley (Crossroad), and “The Rosary Handbook” (The Word Among Us Press).



NEWS IN PHOTOS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



People pack into the popular Christkindlmarkt to shop and see the Christmas illuminations in Vienna’s Rathauspark on Dec. 8. Vienna is known for its outdoor Christmas markets with handcrafted Christmas ornaments. The markets are popular Advent destinations for local residents and tourists.
CNS photo/Chaz Muth



People sing during a Mass for young adults at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York on Dec. 10. The Archdiocese of New York’s Young Adult Outreach sponsors the monthly event, which also includes opportunities for confession and fellowship.
CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz



Pope Francis uses incense to venerate an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe during her feast day Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican on Dec. 12.
CNS photo/Paul Haring

Deacon Candidates Installed As Lectors



Twelve men who are studying to become permanent deacons were installed as lectors by Bishop Frederick Campbell in a Mass at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on Saturday, Dec. 13. The office of lector is the first of the ministries conferred by the bishop toward the Sacrament of Holy Orders. The 12 candidates have now reached the halfway point of their formation toward ordination to the diaconate, which is scheduled in late 2016. Besides continuing their studies, the candidates will now take part in a two-year internship at a neighboring parish. The internship is assigned by Bishop Campbell, with input from pastors and a candidate screening board.

Pictured are (from left): first row, Deacon Tom Berg Jr., diocesan chancellor; Ron Onslow, Dover St. Joseph; Steve Petrill, Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare; Jason Nguyen, Columbus Ss. Augustine & Gabriel; Mark Weiner, New Lexington St. Rose; Kevin Murrin, New Albany Church of the Resurrection; Dave Bezusko, Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes; and Deacon Frank Iannarino, director, diocesan Office of the Diaconate); second row, Greg Waybright, Reynoldsburg St. Pius X; Thomas Rowlands, Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona; Michael Kopczewski, Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help; Bishop Campbell; Paul Zemanek, Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare; David Lozowski, Coshocton Sacred Heart; and Thomas Phillips, Columbus St. Thomas.

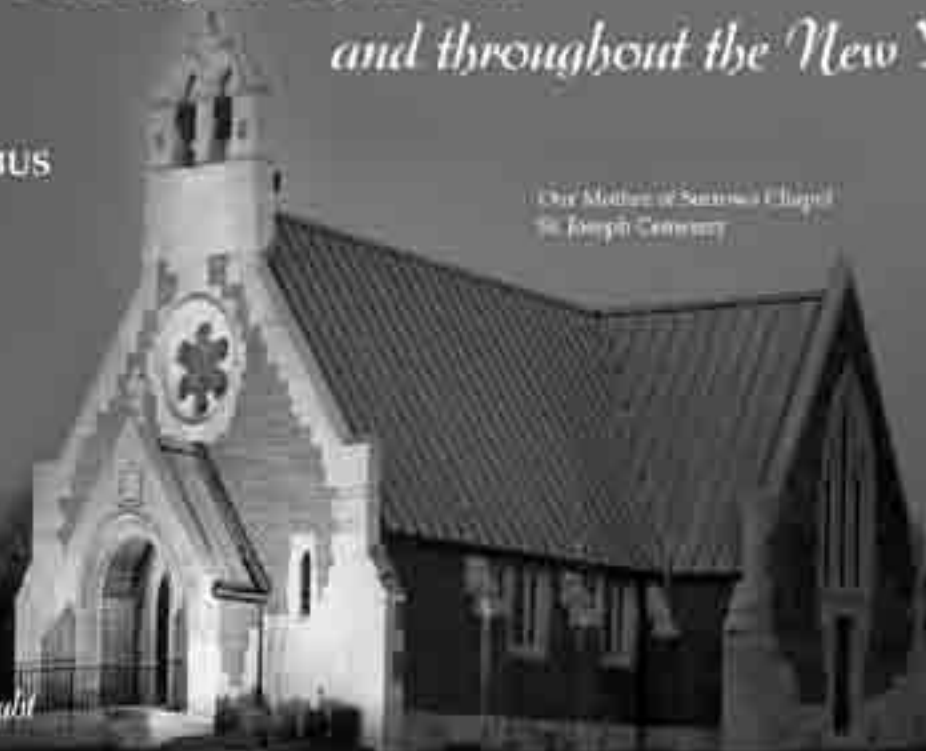
CT photo by Ken Snow

*Wishing you every Joy and Blessing at Christmas
and throughout the New Year*

THE STAFF AT
THE CATHOLIC CEMETERIES OF COLUMBUS

<i>Jon Abshire</i>	<i>Joyce Kitzmiller</i>
<i>Theresa Bayes</i>	<i>Aaron McDole</i>
<i>Tim Beaus</i>	<i>Saulee Murphy</i>
<i>Tony Burdette</i>	<i>Mark Noble</i>
<i>Bob Everts</i>	<i>Gary Scholer</i>
<i>Brian Everts</i>	<i>Robert Shirken</i>
<i>Laura Favret</i>	<i>Steve Skimmer</i>
<i>Rich Fann</i>	<i>Jim VanHorn</i>
<i>Jan Gerst</i>	<i>Chuck Weiner</i>
<i>Ed Jones</i>	<i>Gregg Wright</i>
<i>Kevin Kelley</i>	<i>William (Billy) Wright</i>

Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel
St. Joseph Cemetery



St. Joseph Cemetery
6440 S. High St./U.S. Rt. 23 S,
Lockbourne, Ohio 43137
614-491-2751

Resurrection Cemetery
9571 N. High St./U.S. Rt. 23 N,
Lewis Center, Ohio 43035
614-888-1815

Holy Cross Cemetery
11539 National Rd. S.W./U.S. Rt. 40 E.
Pataskala, Ohio 43062
740-927-4442

Mount Calvary
c/o St. Joseph Cemetery
614-491-2751

