YOUNG ADULT CATHOLICS SHARE FAITH AND FRIENDSHIP
The Editor’s Notebook

pressures coming from all directions, how well-educated and smart we are. I was quite convinced of this until...}

As a young man, I had little time for exploring faith. It was a vague... and would separate both communities from their lands. It also would separate the women religious from their agricultural land and separate the Salesian Sisters of the Holy Family from their property...
Catholic Times                      December 21, 2014

St. Charles Alumni Honors

Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School presented 2013-2014 St. Charles alumni awards to graduates Marquis Miller, Michael Finn, and John Finn at a Mass celebrated by Father Paul Steci

By Jerci

PRACTICAL STEWARDSHIP

November is a great time to be charitable. 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 uncommonly easy to give to strangers. 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 uncommonly easy to give to strangers. Even more important is our responsibility to give to strangers. Even more important is our responsibility to give to strangers.

Do you remember what you were doing back on June 21? It was the first day of summer and the accompanying weather. As the sun sets, 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 this first day of summer forward, the amount of daylight each day gets shorter. The summer solstice is one of those times where we are able to celebrate a day of longer daylight. But summer days are among the last of the calendar year, while each day gets shorter toward the winter solstice. So as we are at the 20.4 winter solstice, Dec. 21. The twin meanings of this winter solstice are: first, that the light of the sun begins its southward journey, increasing the length and brightness of our days, and second, that it is a marker of the shortest day of the year. This is most commonly known as the Winter Solstice. The Winter Solstice is a time of celebration and reflection, as the days begin to lengthen and the sun begins its slow journey northward.

Our practical challenge this week is to pray and focus on the symbol - light. We were brought up and shown how to share by the good example of others and by the words of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are called to be touchstones of light, particularly in our darkest moments. We are called to be touchstones of light, particularly in our darkest moments.

Our Family Serving Yours... Now for 5 Generations,

CANNED GOODS COLLECTION FOR FOOD PANTRY

Catholic Bishop Flaget School prekindergarten and fifth-grade classes worked together to collect canned items for the Catholic St. Peter Church St. Vincent de Paul Society, which is collecting canned items for their food pantry in time for the upcoming Thanksgiving feast as a reminder of those who are without food during this holiday season.

ST. CHARLES ALUMNI HONORS

Two Chillicothe St. Mary Church graduates, Dr. Maxine Jambuna and Ja’bona, are looking for someone who would be willing to donate stem cells from his or her bone marrow to

WILL YOU MARROW OUR DAUGHTER?

The Jalbuenas have written an open letter to Dr. Maxine Jambuna and Ja’bona, Churchill Marrow Donor” in which they talk about their daughter’s situation.

We have been praying the Advent Prayer this past week. Yes, we can and will continue to give.

Young people, supporting the Chicago Urban League and the United Negro College Fund, and working with grand- parents raising grandchildren through the GRAND Families Program of Chi-

tional 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 service as president and founder of Central Power Systems and Chesapeake Realty.

Our Lord and Savior in the Incarnation, the light is a great symbol. The twin meanings are that winter is officially here, and that means cold, ice, snow, and much. Christmas Day is just a few days after the winter solstice. The days get longer, and by the time Easter is here, we have our spirits alert to those

Do you remember what you were doing back on June 21? It was the first day of summer and the accompanying weather. As the sun sets, 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 this first day of summer forward, the amount of daylight each day gets shorter. The summer solstice is one of those times where we are able to celebrate a day of longer daylight. But summer days are among the last of the calendar year, while each day gets shorter toward the winter solstice. So as we are at the 20.4 winter solstice, Dec. 21. The twin meanings of this winter solstice are: first, that the light of the sun begins its southward journey, increasing the length and brightness of our days, and second, that it is a marker of the shortest day of the year. This is most commonly known as the Winter Solstice. The Winter Solstice is a time of celebration and reflection, as the days begin to lengthen and the sun begins its slow journey northward.

Our practical challenge this week is to pray and focus on the symbol - light. We were brought up and shown how to share by the good example of others and by the words of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are called to be touchstones of light, particularly in our darkest moments. We are called to be touchstones of light, particularly in our darkest moments.

Our Family Serving Yours... Now for 5 Generations,

CANNED GOODS COLLECTION FOR FOOD PANTRY

Catholic Bishop Flaget School prekindergarten and fifth-grade classes worked together to collect canned items for the Catholic St. Peter Church St. Vincent de Paul Society, which is collecting canned items for their food pantry in time for the upcoming Thanksgiving feast as a reminder of those who are without food during this holiday season.

ST. CHARLES ALUMNI HONORS

Two Chillicothe St. Mary Church graduates, Dr. Maxine Jambuna and Ja’bona, are looking for someone who would be willing to donate stem cells from his or her bone marrow to

WILL YOU MARROW OUR DAUGHTER?

The Jalbuenas have written an open letter to Dr. Maxine Jambuna and Ja’bona, Churchill Marrow Donor” in which they talk about their daughter’s situation.

We have been praying the Advent Prayer this past week. Yes, we can and will continue to give.

Young people, supporting the Chicago Urban League and the United Negro College Fund, and working with grand- parents raising grandchildren through the GRAND Families Program of Chi-

tional 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 service as president and founder of Central Power Systems and Chesapeake Realty.

Our Lord and Savior in the Incarnation, the light is a great symbol. The twin meanings are that winter is officially here, and that means cold, ice, snow, and much. Christmas Day is just a few days after the winter solstice. The days get longer, and by the time Easter is here, we have our spirits alert to those

Do you remember what you were doing back on June 21? It was the first day of summer and the accompanying weather. As the sun sets, 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 this first day of summer forward, the amount of daylight each day gets shorter. The summer solstice is one of those times where we are able to celebrate a day of longer daylight. But summer days are among the last of the calendar year, while each day gets shorter toward the winter solstice. So as we are at the 20.4 winter solstice, Dec. 21. The twin meanings of this winter solstice are: first, that the light of the sun begins its southward journey, increasing the length and brightness of our days, and second, that it is a marker of the shortest day of the year. This is most commonly known as the Winter Solstice. The Winter Solstice is a time of celebration and reflection, as the days begin to lengthen and the sun begins its slow journey northward.

Our practical challenge this week is to pray and focus on the symbol - light. We were brought up and shown how to share by the good example of others and by the words of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are called to be touchstones of light, particularly in our darkest moments. We are called to be touchstones of light, particularly in our darkest moments.

Our Family Serving Yours... Now for 5 Generations,

CANNED GOODS COLLECTION FOR FOOD PANTRY

Catholic Bishop Flaget School prekindergarten and fifth-grade classes worked together to collect canned items for the Catholic St. Peter Church St. Vincent de Paul Society, which is collecting canned items for their food pantry in time for the upcoming Thanksgiving feast as a reminder of those who are without food during this holiday season.

ST. CHARLES ALUMNI HONORS

Two Chillicothe St. Mary Church graduates, Dr. Maxine Jambuna and Ja’bona, are looking for someone who would be willing to donate stem cells from his or her bone marrow to

WILL YOU MARROW OUR DAUGHTER?

The Jalbuenas have written an open letter to Dr. Maxine Jambuna and Ja’bona, Churchill Marrow Donor” in which they talk about their daughter’s situation.

We have been praying the Advent Prayer this past week. Yes, we can and will continue to give.

Young people, supporting the Chicago Urban League and the United Negro College Fund, and working with grand- parents raising grandchildren through the GRAND Families Program of Chi-
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 your 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.

A: You are correct. It is the current title of the feast that is confusing. In 1925, as a response to emerging notions of nationalism and secularism, Pope Pius XI initiated the Feast of Christ the King. He wanted to highlight the fact that the kingdom of Jesus is not just a source of pomp and power, but of love and service. It was then celebrated on the last Sunday of October. In 1969, Pope Paul VI expanded the feast to call it the “Feast of Christ the King of the Universe,” and it is marked on the last Sunday of November, 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 would take us a long way in terms of understanding the kingdom of the universe itself, not just the sovereigns over 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.

This pilgrim life is a scientific question, not a theological one. Nothing in the knowledge of science or technology contradicts the possibility of life within the vastness of the universe. The fact that fascinates me is whether such a thing is true, whether we are the only inhabitants of this universe or if there is the potential for life to exist elsewhere. It is a fascinating topic, and one that we should continue to explore.

You are invited to celebrate Christmas with us at the First Catholic Church in Columbus HOly Cross Church and at the Mother of Mary Church SAINt JosEPH CATHEDRAL December 24, Christmas Eve Masses: 6:00 p.m. ~ Holy Cross Church 7:00 p.m. ~ Saint Joseph Cathedral 8:00 p.m. ~ Holy Cross Church 10:00 p.m. ~ Saint Joseph Cathedral December 25, Christmas Day Mass: 10:00 a.m. ~ Holy Cross Church 10:00 a.m. ~ Saint Joseph Cathedral Catholic by Grace The Journey to Bethlehem
The focus in central Ohio now right now is college football, but for students at Columbus Bishop Hartley High School, it’s college admission. The col- lege application period has be- come more exciting and com- prehensive than ever as a result of the school’s investment in Naviance, a premier college planning platform.

Naviance provides an inte- grated, Internet-based com- prehensive college readiness review for high schools, with tools to maximize every stu- dent’s potential, improve the effectiveness of college admis- sions activities, better manage the financial aid process, and identify scholarship opportuni- ties.

“We have an amazing col- lege admission and scholar- ship department, but the process can be overwhelming for parents and students,” said Lauren Gruenwald, chair of Hartley’s guidance and counseling dis- trict. “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 ad- missions, having a head start can be important. A key part of the guidance department’s responsibilities is helping stu- dents be prepared not only for their time in college, but also in the decision-making and ad- mission process. Gruenwald said that the large number of colleges which visit Hartley is a result of the work the guid- ance department does.

“Had we nearly more than 70 visits from the top the guide- ance department does. says “It’s an honor for these programs to come to us and want to meet our students and this is the fact that Bishop Hartley students are well posi- tioned to be successful in high- er 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 com- bined $2.8 million in scholar- ships from colleges and uni- versities across the nation and abroad.

Photo: Columbus Bishop Hartley High School counselor Lauren Gruenwald helps senior Erin Hill forget her stress and recall something vividly what she saw and felt. How did she 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 labor that we forget to live and remain locked into our daily lives?

This child heard the songs of angels. He saw the face of our world. Looking into that child’s eyes must move us to change for the good of the world. Cornwall is his journey. We are all children of God, and 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 cherish them to as few of any accomplished author. There is a phrase that comes to mind – “through the eyes of babies.” 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, a true story, to the heart and the face of our world. Looking into that child’s eyes must move us to change for the good of the world. Cornwall is his journey. We are all children of God, and in the eyes of the Lord and to each other. We share these thoughts with God, who is in every one of us.

For this moment and for the rest of my life – “Yes,” and I say. “Yes, Heaven is for real.” 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, that last day, that last day, for He is always with us – we are never alone.

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 church and community ministries. He is a member of St. Matthew Church. He posts his thoughts online at http:// trinitychristianlife.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, divid- ing the items equally among 18 Scioto County pantries. As a community, they spent a week researching poverty in the county, learn- ing about the long-term effects of unemployment, and victims, the food pantries 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

Heaven Is For Real

Lighting the Way

Joseph Thomas
Young Adults Are Spreading the Message

Pope Francis says they are the 'Church's present and future'
VETERANS DAY CELEBRATIONS IN DIOCesan SCHOOLS

St. Marcus Parish 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. Mary Magdalene School honoring veterans. Students voted through a class in the school’s annual salute to the military. Students were seated near a large display of military memorabilia to display in the church’s main hall.

The outpouring of donated items included medals, pictures, World War II uniforms, and wartime diaries. The interviews were emotional and included sharing what life was really like for a soldier.

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 an Army intelligence officer with a specialty in counterintelligence. She is in her second half of a 20-year active duty, including time in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

The ceremony was conducted with veterans, and had collect -

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

St. Could you please provide a summary of the key events and activities mentioned in the text? The text describes a ceremony at Columbus St. Mary Magdalene School honoring veterans, with Maj. Tracy Richardson as the featured speaker. The ceremony included interviews with veterans and displays of military memorabilia. Many of the veterans in attendance had tears in their eyes as Richardson shared her story of being a wartime soldier. The ceremony also included emotional interviews and displays of military memorabilia to create a museum in the parish meeting rooms.

Salute to the Military

New Philadelphia Tuscawaras Central Catho-
ic 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 tour of those who received a standing ovation from students.

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

Following the ceremony, the 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 $600 for veterans support charities.

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 defending the nation’s freedom.

VETERANS DAY CELEBRATIONS IN DIOCesan SCHOOLS

St. Marcus Parish 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. Mary Magdalene School honoring veterans. Students voted through a class in the school’s annual salute to the military. Students were seated near a large display of military memorabilia to display in the church’s main hall.

The outpouring of donated items included medals, pictures, World War II uniforms, and wartime diaries. The interviews were emotional and included sharing what life was really like for a soldier.

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 an Army intelligence officer with a specialty in counterintelligence. She is in her second half of a 20-year active duty, including time in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

The ceremony was conducted with veterans, and had collect-
ed military memorabilia to display in a Veterans Day museum in the parish meeting rooms.

St. Could you please provide a summary of the key events and activities mentioned in the text? The text describes a ceremony at Columbus St. Mary Magdalene School honoring veterans, with Maj. Tracy Richardson as the featured speaker. The ceremony included interviews with veterans and displays of military memorabilia. Many of the veterans in attendance had tears in their eyes as Richardson shared her story of being a wartime soldier. The ceremony also included emotional interviews and displays of military memorabilia to create a museum in the parish meeting rooms.

Salute to the Military

New Philadelphia Tuscawaras Central Catho-
ic 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 tour of those who received a standing ovation from students.

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

Following the ceremony, the 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 $600 for veterans support charities.

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 defending the nation’s freedom.
The story of Christ’s birth has no need of explanation for the faithful, but, as is often the case, God gives clues to the curious. In the nativity narratives, Mary has helped confirm a strange planetary conjunction that took place at the time of Jesus’ birth. This is something that the ancient world would have understood as a celestial sign which marked the birth of a new king. Those who were not Jewish and would look to the stars to find a sign that one day would bring salvation would see in the nativity of Jesus Christ the birth of the long-awaited Messiah. The wise men 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, saw the new star which they, hoping that it would prove some wizardry of the magi, mistook for a herald of kings.

David's inspiration for building a home for God was based on St. Solomon's temple, the most magnificent temple of its time in the Western world. Scholars have also pointed to the fact that Solomon, like David, was a man of war who was involved in building, and David, like Solomon, believed in the value of a centralized religious facility. It is interesting to note that while the temple was complete, it was not dedicated until Solomon was an old man and thus was unable to see the completion of his lifelong project. It is also interesting to note that while David's temple was incomplete, the Lord provided the resources for Solomon to complete the building of the temple.

The reversal comes when the Lord reminds David of all that he has done for you. On a per-sonal level, this would indicate that the prophet has not forgotten the good things that he has done for you. On a communal level, this would indicate that the prophet has not forgotten the good things that he has done for the community.

With the Lord’s help, good things come from bad situations. In the case of David, the story of his life is a story of triumph over Adversity. David was a boy who became a man, a man who became a king, and a king who became a prophet. The story of David’s life is a story of the Lord’s grace and mercy, and it is a story of the Lord’s promise to his people.

As Christians, we don’t have to wait until Christmas to give thanks to God, because every day is Christmas. This is something that Mary and Joseph surely understood, and it is something that we should understand as well. When we approach the Lord in prayer as a young child, we are not only children of God, but we are also children of Mary. When we approach the Lord in prayer as a young child, we are not only children of God, but we are also children of Mary. When we approach the Lord in prayer as a young child, we are not only children of God, but we are also children of Mary.

The story of Christ’s birth has no need of explanation for the faithful, but, as is often the case, God gives clues to the curious. In the nativity narratives, Mary has helped confirm a strange planetary conjunction that took place at the time of Jesus’ birth. This is something that the ancient world would have understood as a celestial sign which marked the birth of a new king. Those who were not Jewish and would look to the stars to find a sign that one day would bring salvation would see in the nativity of Jesus Christ the birth of the long-awaited Messiah. The wise men 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, saw the new star which they, hoping that it would prove some wizardry of the magi, mistook for a herald of kings.
The children of Columbus St. Joseph Montessori School came dressed in outfits for various nations for International Children’s Day. Parents of most of the school’s students play include Yahtzee, Equate, Cards, Head Full of Numbers, and Connect Four. Games to enhance and enrich the school’s curriculum for fourth- and fifth-grade students. Picture are members of Hilliard St. Brendan School’s Math Club. The club’s goal is pictured by Michelle Daniel.
CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS EXPLORED

Authors explore theological, populist roots of Christmas traditions

Reviewed by Mitch Finley
Catholic News Service


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 building from 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 personas 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 live 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 continent.”

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 celebrated; and how Christmas has been celebrated by those away from home, from immigrants to astronauts. She also discusses the commercialization of Christmas; the central character 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, 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 1911, (French Catholic) clergymen hanged and burned an effigy of Father Christmas on the railings of Dixon 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 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 (Covenant), and “The Rosary Handbook” (The Word Among Us Press).
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 Bezuoka, 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