World Marriage Day
February 10

In this issue:
2013 LENTEN FISH FRY GUIDE
USCCB FILES SUPREME COURT BRIEFS SUPPORTING DOMA, PROPOSITION 8

BY TIM PUEJ
Assistant Catholic Times

Joe Buttress’ acceptance speech took only one minute and forty-five seconds, but his words still reverberated throughout the hall on Feb. 1, at Columbus St. Patrick Church.

Buttress, 89, and his wife, Mary Buttress, were honored as the Columbus and Southern Ohio Archdiocese’s Catholic Men of the Year.

One of his colleagues there, Tony Buttress, said of Buttress: “When a man volunteers to be Joe's right hand and did the hands-on work. … (He is) a good people who live the Catholic life. … His current work with St. Lawrence is a community service to others. Joe has committed his life to living out his faith.” Heinmiller said.

Heinmiller said Buttress’ acceptance speech was “brief in a word, Bill Heinmiller, said that Buttress “makes a daily decision to be a disciple of Christ. He does it through his actions, through his deeds, through his words, through his hands. He has never sought earthly glory. He is a good man who is strong, a man who is a leader in his separations.”

Buttress’ son, Phil, followed Heinmiller to the podium and said, “As far as I can remember, volunteer serv- er, Joe Buttress, has served with great love.” Heinmiller said.

The USCCB brief states, “The People of California could reasonably conclude that a marriage be said to be implicit in the contract of order and commitment that neither liberty nor justice would exist if they were sacrificed.”

The USCCB argues that previous Supreme Court decisions “describe marriage as a fundamental right, plainly contemplate the union of one man and one woman.”

The bishops also cautioned that a decision invalidating DOMA would “have adverse consequences in other areas of law.”

"Refridged this Court and lower courts with surrd results,” Heinmiller added.

Buttress, 89, and his wife, Mary (picture with husband and Buttress), have been married for 55 years and have four children, daughters Suz Backhouse, Mary Beth Callahan, and Anne Heinmiller, and son Phil. He was born in Cambridge to Lebanese parents, was raised in a do- catholic home, and was educated in Catholic schools. He served in the Army in World War II and graduated from The Ohio State University.

Catholics the Man of the Year Honored at Luncheon

The USCCB brief adds that “While the DOMA, See Hollingsworth v Perry.pdf), the USC...
Diocesan

Did you study the second 10 recommendations on the level of the Episcopate Conferences per year? It might be more difficult to choose three to add to our list for 2013. Since these are pretty specific for bishops, it seems as though they have little or nothing to do with us. But just as important is it for us for our parishes to teach and instruct us in our faith, it is important for us to be receptive to those teachings. If we are not in the pews at Mass, if we are not reading and experiencing the material in various forms of media, and if we are not listening to God's Word, then the teaching is lost. We must pay attention to religious schools or parochial schools that we can help to organize, particularly in our own diocese. Our bishops and our clergy and religious will be making a great effort in the Year of Faith and the potential celebrations or communal opportunities to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation in which all can approach the Sacrament of Penance with greater faith and fidelity. We have an obligation to our bishops and the Diocese of Columbus to work with them.

The third recommendations regarding the Year of Faith, provided by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in Rome to help us better understand a renewal of our faith, are “As Diocesan Level.” It is hoped that each parish would have a celebration of the opening of the Year of Faith and a solemn conclusion to it, in which to “proclaim our faith in the Resign Lord in the cathedrals and churches of the whole world.” It is desirable that each diocese in the world organizes a day of study on the Catechism of the Catholic Church, particularly for priests, consecrated persons, and catechists. Each bishop should name a person to be his personal envoy to the catechumenate. Enriching, renewing, and soul-saving material on our Catholic faith is just as easy to find as it was decades ago. Be attentive to reading the Catholic Times, google your faith interests, and then ask your pastor what you can do to help. Be a part of this renewal of our faith.

WILDERNESS OUTREACH FIREWOOD SALE

The men of Wilderness Outreach will be cleaning up 40 acres of forested property at Schmeiler’s Grove, near Bremen, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 23. The property, owned by Bremen St. Mary Church and the Diocese of Columbus, was logged two years ago. There is need to remove the tops of logged trees and to dispose of trees blown over in last spring’s windstorm. The wood will be cut and stacked, and will be available for pickup on Sunday, Feb. 24, at the rear of the church. The proceeds will go to the Sacrament of the Resurrection in New Albany to be used for its mission and ministry. You are invited to participate by bringing a pickup truck or trailer, and helping with the overall operation. If you have any questions, please call Deacon Jim Rouse at jimrousecols@sbcglobal.net.

Employment Opportunity

The bishop spoke to the Scouts and their adult leaders about his own expe- rience as a Boy Scout while growing up in Flint, N.Y., saying Scouting taught him the value of cooperation, teamwork, problem-solving skills, and showed him that these talents are enjoyed most when they are shared with others.

Several outstanding Scouts, adult leaders, and Scout units received the distinction from the diocesan Committee on Scouting, which spon- sored the event.

Five young men and women were presented the Red Sash of Merit, given annually to outstanding Catholic high school students, who demonstrate leadership, accept responsibility, and are active in their troop, community, or parish.

Five adults received the Bronze Pelican emblem, which the diocesan Scouting committee presents to individuals who have put exceptional service to the Scouting program through their contributions to the spiritual development of Catholic youth.

Five past Bronze Pelican winners were honored with the St. George em-blem, a national recognition approved by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting for continuing service to Catholic Scouting.

Two awards were granted the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Medal and two others received the St. Anne Medal. Both awards are presented by the diocesan committee and the National Catholic Committee for Girl Scouts for meritorious service by adults to Catholic youth people through the Girl Scout and Camping Fire programs. The St. Anne Medal is the highest na- tional recognition given to adults for their service to the Catholic component of both organizations.

Top left: Red Sash of Merit recipients (from left): Brennan Buckholz, Delia Lingo, Katie Hopkins, Jodie Hopkins, Marko Jesenko, Steven Rogner. They were chosen based on a nomination from Brian Sze, assistant band director at Bremen High School, who works with the music director, and a recommendation by the Bishop’s Committe for the Scouting and Camp Fire programs.

Top right: Boy Scout adult award recipients (from left): Brett Bit, Brett Czesnuk, Robert Lambros, and Brian Balmages, conductor, who passed away recently. They were chosen based on nominations from several outstanding Scouts, who demonstrated exceptional service to the Scouting program through their contributions to the spiritual development of Catholic youth.

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CALCULATING THE 40 DAYS OF LENT; INFANT BAPTISM

Q I always hear about the 40 days of ‘Lent’ but the math never seems to work out. When does it start and when does it end, and how do you arrive at 40 days? (Cherry Hill, N.J.)

A As often happens, a short and simple question requires a complicated answer. Technically, the Sundays of Lent are not part of this penitential season. Since it is always a “mini-celebration” of Christ’s resurrection, a Sunday can never be a day of fasting and abstinence.

So when the church decided to set aside a season of prayer and penance in preparation for Easter – and decided to make it 40 days, to mirror Christ’s fast in the desert before his public ministry – and decided to make it 40 days, to mirror Christ’s fast in the desert before his public ministry and to explain the purpose of the penitential season, liturgically they are not a part of Lent.

Lent. In the church’s liturgical calendar, Lent ends just before Holy Saturday are clearly part of the penitential season. Since it is actually a return to something old in a new way – which is what we mean by original sin.

But here’s the complication: Although Good Friday and Holy Saturday are clearly part of the penitential season, liturgically they are not a part of Lent. In the church’s liturgical calendar, Lent ends just before Holy Saturday. I always hear about the beginning of the Easter Triduum begins.

Q A friend of ours who is a priest recently invited us to his church for a service. During the service, they had an infant baptism, and the minister made the following announcement: “Our new baby boy is now nine years old, and after inquiring about his faith, he has decided to become a Christian.”

On the way home, my friend and his family kept stressing the importance of being baptized at an age when one is mature enough to understand the basics of the faith and to make one’s own choice – unlike the Catholic practice, they pointed out, where infants are baptized while they have no capability of understanding.

I tried to explain that faith is passed on from parents to their children and that all children have potential guidance on their journey of faith – even when they’ve reached the age of nine. Is there anything else I should have said? (Greenville, S.C.)

A Most Christians belong to denominations that practice infant baptism – including Catholics, Orthodox, Anglicans, Lutherans, Methodists, Presby- terian and Reformed.

Baptists are among those who do not, joined by most Pentecostals and Jehovah’s Witnesses. These latter groups reserve baptism for those who have reached an age when they are capable of making a conscious decision to accept Jesus as their lord and savior.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church in No. 1250 states that “children also have need of the new birth in baptism to be freed from the power of darkness” and in No. 1252 that “the practice of infant baptism is an important manifestation of the church. There is even a specimen to this practice from the second century, and it is quite possible that from the beginning of the apostolic preaching, when whole ‘households’ received baptism, infants may also have been baptized.

Baptism marks the child’s en- trance into the life of the sacra- ments and signifies the desire of the parents to pass on to their child their most precious pos- session, the gift of faith. And I agree with you that their future influence on their child’s faith would last far beyond the age of nine and often into adulthood.

In the first few centuries of the church’s existence, when adult converts were entering in great numbers, the sacrament of bap- tism was thought of principally as a rite of initiation, the begin- ning of the Christian life.

Toward the end of the fourth century, St. Augustine – seek- ing to explain the presence of evil in the world – decided that evil came from us, from the original sin committed by Adam and Eve. Baptism then assumed a new importance, as removing this inherited sin, and that the understanding of baptism which most of us grew up.

Over the last half-century, there’s been some refinement to the church’s perception, and baptism and original sin are seen in a new light – which is actually a return to something old in a new way – which is what we mean by original sin.

There is no “stain” on the in- fant’s soul that defines it; the little baby – as you can tell by looking – is innocent and pure. If that baby were to die before being baptized, I feel safe in believing that God would find a way to bring the child to heaven.

But every person is born into an imperfect world, a world where sin and selfishness are, and have been real forces, and that’s a more refined view of what we mean by original sin.

That child will very much need the grace of God and the help of the Christian community to re- main steadfast and to advance in holiness.

Baptism begins that life, opens a channel of grace through the sacraments – which explains why the Catechism in No. 1250 feels compelled to point out that “he church and the parents would deny the child the price- less grace of becoming a child of God were they not to confirm baptism shortly after birth.”

Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at fatherdoyle@gmail.com or by mail at the Catholic Times, 12208 W. Broad St., Fairfax, VA 22031.
Father Jerome Rodenfels has been pastor of the Church of the Resurrection in New Albany for two separate periods, the first from 1988 to 2001, and said he was surprised when both times he was appointed to the position.

“The first time I was pastor in New Albany was as administrator for the parish in December of 1988. I was the expected pastor two years before that, but because of the renovation of Msgr. Berendt’s residence, I was instead assigned to New Albany in 1988, the parish was opened for worship in 1990, and I was there until 2001. I had some conflicts with the parishioners over the installation of the new church. Msgr. Berendt was not pleased with the way things went.”

“My return here was much easier than coming the first time, because those who had been here before knew me.”

“After the announcement was made that I was coming back, the people applied and that’s always touched me. Being with the people having good times and bad, has had the most significance I’ve had as a priest.”

“Father Rodenfels grew up in Columbus with two brothers, one of them now deceased, and a sister. Also deceased. His father was a midwife at the former Fisher body plant and his mother held various secretarial jobs in her life.”

“In 1991, we established pastoral and finance councils as the best way of getting the input of the whole parish, having the laity become more involved, and looking toward the future. The parish was being downsized after the period was added to what then was the current church and now is the parish ministry center in 1994, but I knew that wouldn’t be enough of a surprise when the appointment was made, though not as surprising as the first time. Mr. O’Meara’s appointment was when the Holy Spirit was about to be present.”

“I appreciated the trust people have put in me. I hope I’ve been able to be a good shepherd on their journeys from this life to the next, and that I’ve been able to communicate that God is with us all the time.”

“I’ve appreciated being a corner evangelist, sharing the Word of God, as a Man.”

“On other planets, life would take different forms. Freedom and intelligence, not appearance, would be important. Father O’Meara referred to the importance of story to humans and commented that “story” might not be an element of other beings’ relationship with the Divine. The relationship might be pure.”

“Father O’Meara also mentioned the 20th-century Jesuit theologian Karl Rahner’s openness to the possibility of relationship with God, the Creator of all. He said that by knowing me here for a little while you may be the very reason why you were brought to Narnia, as Aslan said to Lucy, as she was preparing to return to Earth in the book “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.”

“I also remembered a conversation between Aslan, the lion, and Lucy, as she was preparing to return to Earth in the book “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.”

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“Father O’Meara also pointed out, theological thought on extraterrestrial life is not new. He quoted the Rev. Brian Vickers (1937-1980) who wrote that “infinite worlds, more perfect than this, might be surrounding us.”

“He also pointed out that there are countless other planets and that conviction that God’s self-communication would be offered to them.”

“Reminding me of Aslan’s comment to Lucy in “The Dawn Treader,” Father O’Meara quoted a few lines from the poem “Earth” by the British poet Alec Neyell: “But in the eternities, Doubles in heaven or earth, we shall compare, Israel. A million alien Gospels, in what guise! He trod the Pleiades, the Lynx, the Bear. Or, he is prepared!” To read the incomprehensible, to scan The millions of forms God sheds across Utopia. When, in our turn, we shall show them a Man.”

“Faith in God, in the person of Jesus, can be the key to the successful journey through life. There is faith in God, in the person of Jesus, that can be the key to the successful journey through life. There is faith in God, in the person of Jesus, that can be the key to the successful journey through life.”

“True. But for 40 minutes, we enjoyed trying.”

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“FATHER GIDEON NAMED TOP COOK AMONG COLUMBUS CLERGY

Father Peter Gideon, pastor of Lancaster St. Mark’s, was the winner of the 2013 Clergy Cook Off. The Westerville native, who took the title from Westerville’s Father Bill Kiefer, who competed against the Pontifician College of this year’s winner, was a frequent guest on the popular L ControllerBase in Lakewood, Newberry was the voting for the 2013 other planets, and the conviction that God’s self-communication would be offered to them.”

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Several parishes throughout the Diocese of Columbus have active marriage enrichment ministry programs or sponsoring World Marriage Day events. In addition to World Marriage Day, which this year is Sunday, Feb. 10.

Thimons said his office again will sponsor the diocesan World Marriage Day event this year, which is scheduled for Feb. 20.

The Marriage and Family Life Office, 197 E. Gay St., Columbus, OH 43219, phone 614-222-4349, email James.A.Keyes@juno.com.

NEW INITIATIVES FOR DIOCESAN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE OFFICE

BY TIM PUET

The new director of the diocesan Marriage and Family Life Office is Thimons, who has been involved in his church and community for many years. He and his wife, Megan, have been married for 10 years and have two children, ages 5 and 3.

The Marriage and Family Life Office conducts a Pre-Cana marriage preparation program, which is a systematic building of the foundation of the family, the basic elements of marriage. The two-session program takes place on consecutive Saturdays. Dates and sites are: April 13 and 20, Columbus Immaculate Conception Church; July 20 and 27, Columbus St. Catherine Church; Oct. 19 and 26, Columbus St. Agnus Church. There is a $55 fee for couples. Engaged and married couples interested in learning about Natural Family Planning may start with attending a free information session offered by the diocesan Family Life Office, 197 E. Gay St., Columbus, OH 43219-3503.

The program starts with prayer, followed by a series of talks on various aspects of relationships and sacramental marriage. After each talk, there is time to reflect individually and as a couple on the presentations. Couples will complete worksheets designed to facilitate the group process and then discuss them with each other in private. There may be group discussions and exercises.

The Marriage and Family Life Office conducts Pre-Cana marriage programs for couples throughout the year from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays. The two-session program takes place on consecutive Saturdays. Dates and sites are: April 13 and 20, Columbus Immaculate Conception Church; July 20 and 27, Columbus St. Catherine Church; Oct. 19 and 26, Columbus St. Agnus Church. There is a $55 fee for couples. Engaged and married couples interested in learning about Natural Family Planning may start with attending a free information session offered by the diocesan Family Life Office, 197 E. Gay St., Columbus, OH 43219-3503.

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Restoring Society through Marriage and the Commandments
Director of Marriage Institute to Speak at Franciscan University

The building blocks of society are crumbling beneath contemporary ideas of commitment, culture, and community. How can the two great commandments help us repair the foundation of modern society?

On Tuesday, February 19, at 7:30 p.m., Fr. Fagan will discuss this question in his talk, “The Fundamental Tasks of Society (and Your Own Life’s Work).” His talk will be held in the Tom and Nina Gentile Gallery of the J.C. Williams Center at Franciscan University of Steubenville.

Fagan, director of the Marriage and Religion Research Institute in Washington, says marriage is the “fundamental social relationship for society, (and) all other functional relationships are dependent on it for their optimum functionality.”

“In marriage, one can find the totality of the spiritual life, the call to holiness, the way of the cross, the happiness of goodness and giving,” says Fagan. “At the same time, both the economy and the governance of society are dependent on marriage. The family, the church, the school, the market, and government all depend on it for their living well.”

A native of Ireland and a graduate of University College Dublin, Fagan has studied the impact of religion on marital stability and its influences on happiness, health, income, and educational attainment. He worked on family issues at the Free Congress Foundation and was appointed deputy assistant secretary for family and community policy at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services by President George H.W. Bush.

Fagan’s talk is part of the spring 2013 distinguished speakers series at Franciscan University and is cosponsored by the Columbus St. Andrew School advisory board.

For more information, call (614) 241-2560, send an email message to familylife@colsdioc.org or go to www.familylife.colsdioc.org.

www.colsdioc.org

Blessings to All Married Couples from The Deacons and Their Hives in the Diocese of Columbus

The love of man and woman is made holy in the Sacrament of marriage and becomes the mirror of God’s eternal love... (On the Rites of Marriage)
Cardinal Francis George of Chicago is arguably the most intellectually accomplished bishop in the history of the American Catholic Church. Read his response when the Illinois legislature began to consider changing state law to “accommodate those of the same sex who wish to ‘marry’ one another” (as the cardinal put it). Professor Dr. George gave the readers of his column in the Chicago Archdiocese newspaper a lesson in metaphysics—and, I suspect, a high-voltage intellectual jolt.

“Sexual relations between a man and a woman are naturally and necessarily different from sexual relations between same-sex partners. This truth is part of the common sens of the human race,” he wrote. “It is well known that human reproduction, has been reduced to the freedom to conceive for mutual convenience, children lose their rightful place and their rightful dignity. Citing natural law, they have a right to obtain.” The freedom to be a “family” that is nothing other than a willed arrangement for mutual convenience, children lose their rightful place and their rightful dignity. Citing natural law, they have a right to obtain.”

The marriage debate is thus about more than the definition of marriage, although that is serious. It is about the idea that children are given in the human condition, or whether willfulness and self-assertion trump reality at every point. If they do, what happens to democracies built on self-evident truths?

George Weigel is Distinquished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

Come and See” Weekend Retreat

The Dominican Sisters of Peace will conduct a retreat for single Catholic women in their Motherhouse at 2320 Airport Road from 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 15, to 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 17.

The theme of the weekend is “When Did I See You Hungry?” Participants will be invited to explore contemporary Dominican life as a sister, sharing in prayer, community, and the daily work of the contemplative charism. At the end of the weekend we will explore one’s vocational call.

For more information, contact Cathy Arnold, OP, call or text (614) 633-6160, or email carnold@dppeace.org.

Day of Prayer

The National Dominican Sisters of the African and American Family is an event sponsored by the National Black Catholic Congress. Its local observance will take place at 8 a.m. Feb. 15 in the Presentation Hall of Columbus St. Thomas Church, 2002 6th Ave. A reception will follow the program.

This special event will be presented by the diocesan Office of Black and Minority Ministries in partnership with the Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary of St. Cyrilian Court.
**HAPPENINGS**

**REGINA I. DAWSON**

**77, who died Monday, Jan. 28, was a graduate of Sprin gers College, now Ohio Dominican University. She served as choir director at Holy Family High School and Church of the Atonement, Crooksville.

**COLETTE A. BUTLER**

Funeral Mass for Colette A. Butler, 74, who died Thursday, Jan. 24, was held Friday, Feb. 1, at Columbus St. Paul Church. She was a 1953 graduate of Columbus Holy Family High School and a 1957 graduate of St. Mary of the Springs College, now Ohio Dominican University. She served as choir director at St. Agatha Church, Columbus.

**STEVEN COCHRANE**

Funeral Mass for Steven Cochran e, 74, who died Jan. 27, was held Saturday, Jan. 26, at St. Edmund Church, Columbus. He was a 1947 graduate of Central Catholic High School and a 1951 graduate of Columbus St. Peter Church. He was a bus driver and a cook for the parish.

**RIVER ROCK CAFE**

WEEKLY LENTEN FRY FRIDAYS, FEB. 15-22, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Friday-night fish fry with two side dishes, beverage and dessert included. $7-8 (no dessert or beverage). Children under 12 served free.

**Lenten Fish Fry - Carryout**

Fridays, Feb. 15-22 - 5:30-7:30 pm

**Lenten Study Group at St. Peter Church**

7 p.m., St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road, Columbus. Open house for prospective students and family members age 18 to 45 interested in exploring Dominican life. For information, call 614-251-4722.

**Kerrigan, John, 51, Jan. 25**

St. Joseph Church, Grove City, Ohio.

**Kerrigan, Leonard, 91, Jan. 25**

St. Joseph Church, Grove City, Ohio.

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Funeral Mass for Colette A. Butler, 74, who died Thursday, Jan. 24, was held Friday, Feb. 1, at Columbus St. Paul Church. She was a 1953 graduate of Columbus Holy Family High School and a 1957 graduate of St. Mary of the Springs College, now Ohio Dominican University. She served as choir director at St. Agatha Church, Columbus.

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The Columbus Bishop Hartley High School drama department will present the long-running musical “Cats” at 7:30 p.m. from Thursday, Feb. 14 to Saturday, Feb. 16, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 17. Performances will be at the Shedd Theater of the Columbus Performing Arts Center, 549 Franklin Ave.

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The concerts will be free. A goodwill donation basket will be passed to support Tajči and her mission.

People watch as a new statue of the Virgin of the Socavon is inaugurated on Santa Barbara hill outside of Oruro, Bolivia, on Feb. 1. The statue of Mary and the Christ Child measures 148 feet in height and pays homage to the local patroness invoked in the protection of mine workers.

Tajči has been a frequent visitor to the Diocese of Columbus, most recently coming to St. Patrick’s this past December. Born Tatjana Matejas in Croatia, the concert will feature contemporary Christian favorites such as “Vo Dolovoru,” Tajči’s original songs, Hebrew and Gregorian chants, and classic hymns such as “Were You There” and “O Sacred Head Surrounded.”

Two diocesan parishes will host concerts by Tajči, a European pop star who now writes and performs Christian music. She and her sister, Sanya, will be featur...
Our Lady of Perpetual Help will host its third annual Living in Love retreat on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 23 and 24. Karen Cook, parish family enrichment director, said the retreat is based on the Theology of the Body and designed by Father Charles Gallagher, SJ, who founded Worldwide Marriage Encounter.

It is open to couples of all faiths and costs $130. Couples spend the day together Saturday, which includes a “date night” dinner, and it concludes at 3 p.m. Sunday. Cook said a combined total of about 45 couples have attended in the two years the parish has sponsored the retreat.

Plain City St. Joseph will continue a parish tradition when it recognizes a Couple of the Year for World Marriage Day.

Parishioners nominate couples for the honor. The identity of the recipients is a surprise to everyone including the honorees, because the announcement of the couple chosen is made during the Mass that couple attends. It then is made to all parishioners the following weekend. Parish staff member Kelly Jacobs said the parish also will ask couples to renew their marriage vows at Masses on Feb. 9 and 10.

The marriage-building parish committee at Columbus St. Peter will sponsor a renewal of marriage vows at its 9:30 a.m. Mass on Feb. 10, followed by a reception which will include a wedding cake.

Committee member Gini Peloquin said that starting in March, it will sponsor the “Marriage Really Matters” bulletin inserts, which will be available in both English and Spanish. It also sponsored the Financial Peace University program in the fall and is doing so again.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Columbus is sponsoring a dance on Feb. 9 from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 171, 393 E. College Ave., Westerville. The cost is $6 per couple, with no tickets being sold at the door. More information is available from Fred and Joy Kerner at (614) 761-9048.

Marriage Encounter weekends, without preaching religious doctrine, present God as a focus for a successful marriage and are for couples who desire a richer, fuller life together. They encourage couples to examine their lives together while sharing their feelings, hopes, disappointments, joys, and frustrations.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter is considered the first contemporary marriage enrichment program for married couples. It began in 1962 in Spain, quickly spread to the United States, and is offered in more than 90 nations. About 600 weekends are presented annually to more than 10,000 couples in the United States.

Five Marriage Encounter programs which are presented in the Catholic faith expression and include Sunday Mass, with a priest as part of the presenting team, take place each year in the Diocese of Columbus. The weekends begin at 7 p.m. Friday and go through 4 p.m. Sunday.

Dates and times for the weekends this year are: Feb. 22-24, St. Therese’s Retreat Center, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus; April 19-21, Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center, 2734 Seminary Road S.E., Newark; July 26-28, Holiday Inn, 7007 N. High St., Worthington; Sept. 20-22, St. Therese’s Retreat Center; and Nov. 15-17, Holiday Inn, Worthington. More information is available at www.retrouvaille.org.