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CATHOLIC TIMES

A journal of Catholic life in Ohio



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Catechetical Sunday
September 21, 2014



Teaching about
God's Gift
of Forgiveness

The Editor's Notebook

I Believe



By David Garick, Editor
 "those people who have to go to confession." A more accurate portrayal would be "those people whom Christ has redeemed."

I'm a Catholic. That means the world to me. It is a term that describes the spiritual core of my being. Being Catholic speaks to my direct and ongoing relationship with God. You are not born Catholic. You initially become Catholic through your baptism, but that is conditional on certain vows that you take at baptism, or that your parents and godparents take for you. Each day of your life, being Catholic means living those vows in an intimate relationship with Christ. It is knowing Christ, believing in Christ, and living in his church according to his teachings.

That's why we recite the Nicene Creed at Mass. These are our baptismal vows, that we believe in One God, the Father and Creator of all things; that we believe in his son, Jesus, who was born of the Virgin Mary and who died and rose again for our sins and who will come again in glory; that we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; and that we believe in the church. Being Catholic means that we believe in the teachings of the church – really believe. We stake our lives on that belief. We believe in all of them, not just the ones that we find easy to follow. And not only do we believe them deep in our souls, but we allow them to direct us in our lives. We live in accord with the teachings of the church.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops designates this Sunday every year as Catechetical Sunday, a time to reflect the central elements of our faith. This year, the bishops have asked that we give special consideration to one of the essential sacraments of the church: the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Catholics are often characterized as

None of us is without sin. It is part of being human. Sin harms us. We usually don't know it at the time. Giving in to sinful tendencies like greed, anger, envy, or lust may seem satisfying in the moment. But they hurt us. They keep us from living up to our spiritual potential and they separate us from God. Ultimately, they lead to death.

Though proper catechesis, we learn to recognize the sin in our lives, and we come to realize that Christ, through his own sacrifice of love, provides us the means to overcome sin. It is not just a duty to go and confess to a priest. It is a life-giving opportunity to meet, in a very personal way, with Christ himself, through his chosen intermediary, the priest. In this encounter, we share with Christ our realization that our human frailty has allowed sin to afflict us and impact our lives and the lives of those around us. In this sacrament, the weight of that sin is lifted from us through God's forgiveness. And more than that, we can receive the special gift of grace to strengthen us to avoid that sin in the days ahead when our flawed human nature again tempts us to do wrong.

The teachings of Christ, through his church, are a precious gift. Learning them and really understanding them are not limited to the brief training we receive as children in catechism class. It is an ongoing process of education that benefits believers throughout their lives.



NEW GROTTTO TO BE DEDICATED AT ST. THERESE'S RETREAT CENTER

A new grotto dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes will be blessed by Bishop Frederick Campbell at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 7 at St. Therese's Retreat Center, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus.

The bishop will conduct a short prayer service and solemn blessing. James O'Shea, the stonemason who has spent many hours designing and building the grotto, will sing the "Ave Maria." Light refreshments will be served afterward.

The previous grotto was demolished because of safety concerns in August 2011. Many donors to the building fund for the new grotto have waited patiently for it to be rebuilt stone by stone.

There is a new Italian statue of Our Lady of Lourdes in a niche in the grotto. To the right of the statue is a small water feature as a reminder of the grotto in Lourdes, France, where Our Lady appeared to St. Bernadette and said "I am the Immaculate Conception."

Beautiful gardens and trees surround the grotto. The 80-year-old Celtic cross from the original grotto was placed atop the new structure on Thursday, Sept. 4. The driveway in front of the grotto is now closed to cars so the area can be a park where people will be able to come, sit on the many benches at the site, and pray or simply rest.



OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT ~ Clergy Assignment

Confirming the appointment of the Prior Provincial of the Dominican Fathers and Brothers, Brother Peter Totleben, OP, as Transitional Deacon at St. Patrick Church, Columbus, effective immediately.

CATHOLIC TIMES

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Central Ohio Catholics continue support for Holy Land Christians

In 2006, a group of pilgrims from Columbus made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Being supportive of the Christians in the Holy Land was not new for them. They were members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, which dedicates itself to preserve the Christian presence in the Holy Land. Their Holy Land pilgrimage inspired them to spread the word that Christians in the Holy Land need our help. Everyone needs to hear this message. The pilgrims have founded a group known as Cradling Christianity to spread the word to all who would listen, and many have listened.

The ninth annual Cradling Christianity Mass (pictured) and fundraiser took place Thursday, Sept. 4 at Columbus

St. Charles Preparatory School's chapel and student commons area. Hundreds of people attend the event, which has raised nearly \$700,000 to provide scholarships and tuition assistance to Christian students in the Holy Land.

At a recent diocesan event, a supporter shared his amazement that hundreds of people are listed as friends of Cradling Christianity in the annual event's program. Because of those friends and surely the grace of God, Cradling Christianity has succeeded. Many central Ohio residents have made pilgrimages to the Holy Land, and others have shared their treasure to support Palestinian Christians. There is a critical need for support of our Christian brothers and sisters at this time.



Father Peter Vasko, OFM, president of the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land, who has lived in Jerusalem for 29 years, provided an update on the current situation there. He said, "The Arab-Jewish conflict has endured for hundreds of years as generations pass their hatred down, seemingly through their DNA." He then listed three main concerns of the conflict: "First, the opponent in this conflict will never go away; second, you'll never be happier in war than you are in peace; third, Jerusalem will never be yours," he said. "Until both sides accept these three realities, peace is impossible. Once accepted by both sides, peace is inevitable. Let us pray this happens soon. Continual negotiations are necessary between the two sides. Meanwhile, Christians are caught in the middle."

Msgr. Frank Lane, guest speaker for

the fundraiser, likened the persecution of Christians in Iraq and the Holy Land to the persecution of Native Americans in the Ohio territory during the colonial period of America from 1688-1782. "If one dehumanizes the enemy, then you can do anything you want without remorse," he said. "This exists in all conflicts in the world. A Catholic center must exist, thrive, and be discovered. In the book of Genesis, it is made known that we are made in the image of God, because we participate somehow in the Divine Being, God. To lose participation in God, we deny that they are human. You cannot hate a person if you understand who that person is."

Check out the Facebook page Cradling Christianity and the website www.FFHL.org for ways to help Christians in the Holy Land. You may also email figgiebrown@aol.com.

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT

Spaces are still available for a retreat for people in their 20s and 30s being sponsored this Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 20 and 21, by the diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, in cooperation with Charis Ministries. It will take place at the Ohio Retreat Center (Camp Marengo), 3480 Township Road 221, Marengo.

The retreat will last from 8:45 a.m. Saturday to 12:45 p.m. Sunday. The \$55 fee includes lunch and dinner on Saturday, breakfast on Sunday, and overnight accommodations in dorm

rooms. Private rooms may be available for additional cost.

Financial assistance is available. For more information, go to www.charisministries.org or contact Sean Robinson at (614) 241-2565 or srobinso@cducation.org.

Jesus asks his disciples. "Who do you say that I am?" and participants will reflect on what this question means today. Those taking part in the retreat will explore how Jesus lived his life, deepen their understanding of his ministry, and focus on their own spiritual journey.

DISCIPLESHIP WALK

The diocesan Office of Vocations, Face Forward, and West Jefferson Ss. Simon and Jude Church will sponsor their first annual Discipleship Walk at 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 21 in Prairie Oaks Metro Park, 3225 N.E. Plain City-

Georgesville Road, West Jefferson.

The five-kilometer course will go through the park, where diocesan seminarians will help guide walkers. Admission is free, but donations to the Holy Family Soup Kitchen will be accepted.

Help us save Iraqi Christians!

"Thousands of people, including many Christians, driven from their homes in a brutal manner; children dying of thirst and hunger in their flight; women kidnapped; people massacred; [and] violence of every kind... all this gravely offends God and humanity. Hatred is not to be carried in the name of God."

- Pope Francis on the persecution of Christians in Iraq, Aug. 10, 2014

We have watched in horror the ongoing exodus of 1.2 million people in north Iraq, half of them children, as a result of the violent persecution of Christians and other minorities by the extremist group Islamic State. They have been forced to flee and give up all of their possessions, or face a gruesome death at the hand of the invaders.

Pope Francis made an urgent appeal for humanitarian assistance to the victims of this crisis. Malteser International is on the ground, delivering immediate, life-saving aid for Christian families living in refugee camps in and around Erbil.

Malteser International is the Catholic humanitarian relief agency of the Sovereign Order of Malta. For nearly 60 years, we have been standing by those affected by poverty, disease, conflict and disaster, helping them lead a healthy life with dignity.

Malteser International and its generous institutional donors have pledged \$500,000 in matching grants to the emergency relief efforts in Iraq. That means your donation will be matched dollar for dollar and have double the impact.

Here are some examples of your dollars at work:

- With \$100, we can provide a family of five with a survival kit containing essential household and hygiene items for a family of five
- With \$200, we can provide a health center with enough medicines to treat 140 patients

Please help us provide life-saving relief to Christians and minorities in Iraq!

Give online at bit.ly/help-Iraqi-Christians or mail your check payable to Malteser International to:

Charles A. Mifsud, Regional Hospitalier
 Columbus Region, Federal Association, USA
 6305 Emerald Parkway
 Dublin, Ohio 43016

Malteser International is a 501(c)(3) charity. Donations are tax-exempt to the extent permitted by law. This message is brought to you by the Columbus region of the Order of Malta Federal Association, USA. For more information, visit: www.orderofmalta-federal.org and www.malteser-international.org



Front Page photo: Catechetical Sunday, sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, is Sept. 21. This year, the theme is "Teaching About God's Gift of Forgiveness."

Graphic courtesy U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

PRACTICAL STEWARDSHIP

By Rick Jeric

Malteser

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. This is such a simple prayer, and maybe the first one that we learn as a child. It is so simple and yet so powerful. We know it can become too commonplace, and even taken for granted. But once in a while, we bring ourselves back to the reality of the saving power of the Holy Cross itself, and we also help in its exaltation by praying and using its sign as a normal practice. We can be especially effective by our example at Mass and before and after meals. Did you make any of these adjustments this past week? I am sure that many of us do this already, but, even so, a nice reminder brings us back to a central focus on the Holy Cross. The subtle witness and example is what we mean by enhancing the activity of the Cross. It remains a very visible sign, not one that is meant to be hidden or guarded. It is up to us as active and willing parts of the Body of Christ to keep the sign alive.

Malteser International is the Catholic humanitarian relief agency of the Sovereign Order of Malta. For nearly 60 years, it has been standing by those affected by poverty, disease, conflict, and disaster, helping them to lead a healthy life with dignity. We are all aware of the current persecution of Christians in Iraq and other parts of the Middle East. As Pope Francis said last month, "Thousands of people, including many Christians, driven from their homes in a brutal manner; children dying of thirst and hunger in their flight; women kidnapped; people massacred; and violence of every kind ... all this gravely offends God and humanity. Hatred is not to be carried out in the name of God." We have watched in horror the ongoing exodus of 1.2 million people in northern Iraq, half of them children, as a result of the violent persecution of Christians and other minorities by the extremist group Islamic State. They have been forced to either flee and give up all of their possessions or face a gruesome death at the hands of the invaders. Pope Francis made an urgent appeal for humanitarian assistance to the victims of this crisis. Malteser International is on the ground delivering immediate, lifesaving aid for Christian families living in refugee camps. Malteser International and its generous institutional donors have pledged \$500,000 in matching grants to emergency relief efforts in Iraq. That means your donation will be matched dollar for dollar and have double the impact. Here are some practical examples of how your dollars will be put to work: With \$100, Malteser can provide a family of five with a survival kit containing essential household and hygiene items; with \$200, Malteser can provide a health center with medicine to treat 140 patients.

Our practical challenge this week is clear. As good stewards of the Gospel and the love of Jesus Christ, help Malteser International provide lifesaving relief to Christians and minorities in Iraq. Give online at bit.ly/help-Iraqi-Christians or mail your check, payable to Malteser International, to Charles A. Mifsud, Regional Hospitalier, Columbus Region, 6305 Emerald Parkway, Dublin OH 43016. Malteser International is a 501(c)(3) charity. Donations are tax-exempt, to the extent permitted by law. Thank you!

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



"Marriage and Family at the Forefront of Social Science" Conference

The Society of Catholic Social Scientists (SCSS) will sponsor its 22nd annual national conference on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 24 and 25, at Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

The conference will include more than 20 sessions and panels on topics including "Christian Perspectives on Economics and Policy," "Presidential Power After Obama: A Question for Catholic Concern," "Family and the New Evangelization," and "Church Teaching on Marriage and Family."

Dr. Stephen Krason, professor of political science and legal studies at Franciscan University of Steubenville, is president and co-founder of the SCSS. He said this is the first time the organization has encouraged some presentations focused on a central theme. "Although we have a variety of broad topics, we made a special call for papers in the area of marriage and family," he said. "That is the focus right now in American life—the implications of the changing attitudes toward marriage and the family."

There will be two plenary talks. Brad Wilcox will speak on "Family as a Social Justice Issue." Wilcox is director of the National Marriage Project at the University of Virginia. He has authored articles and books on marriage, parenting, fatherhood, cohabitation, family structure, and the effect of families on society.

Dr. Pat Fagan will give a talk on "Marriage and Family: The Template of Society." Fagan is senior fellow and director of the Center for Research on Marriage and Religion at the Family

Research Council, where he examines the relationships among family, marriage, religion, community, and America's social problems.

The Pope Pius XI Award for contributions toward the building of a true Catholic social science will be presented to Father James V. Schall, SJ, who recently retired as professor of government at Georgetown University. He has written 30 books, as well as many articles for *Crisis* magazine, *The Catholic Thing*, and *First Principles*. A special SCSS award will be presented to Dr. Germain Grisez, professor emeritus of Christian ethics at Mount St. Mary's.

Based at Franciscan University, the Society of Catholic Social Scientists is an organization of Catholic scholars and others in the social science fields who seek to promote awareness of the social teachings of the Church and to build up a body of distinctively Catholic social science scholarship. It attempts to challenge the secular approach to the social sciences, in which the role of faith and Catholic social teaching is hardly considered, by combining objective scholarly analysis with fidelity to the Church's magisterium.

Registration fees are \$50 for SCSS members, \$60 for non-members, and \$25 for full-time students. The optional Friday dinner is \$20. The deadline to register is Friday, Oct. 17.

More information and registration forms may be found at www.catholic-socialscientists.org. For registration questions, contact Carrie Libetti at (740) 284-5262 or email her at clibetti@franciscan.edu.

69th Annual DCCW Convention

The 69th annual convention of the Columbus Diocesan Council of Catholic Women will take place Saturday, Oct. 25 at Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 3730 Broadway.

The convention theme is "Blessed Are the Poor." Registration will begin at 8 a.m. Bishop Frederick Campbell and all other priests who would like to attend will celebrate Mass at 11 a.m.

Installation of new officers will follow the Mass.

The morning speaker will be Valerie Horton, a therapist who works with the less fortunate and will discuss how pov-

erty impacts mental health. Afternoon speakers will be Maggie Weeks and Brooke Gaberle. Weeks just returned from a trip to Haiti and will be sharing her experiences. Gaberle is a former homeless person who will tell her story.

Each parish that sends representatives to the convention will receive a parish award. The pre-convention dinner will be on Friday, Oct. 24, at the Grove City Community Club, 3397 Civic Place. There will be a social hour before dinner.

Registration materials may be found on the DCCW website, www.coldioc.org/Offices/DCCW.

Bishop Watterson HS Partners with The Catholic Foundation

It is with great pleasure and excitement that The Catholic Foundation announces that Columbus Bishop Watterson High School has joined five other Catholic high schools in selecting the Foundation as the official planned giving partner for the school. Columbus Bishop Hartley, Columbus Bishop Ready, Columbus St. Francis DeSales, Portsmouth Notre Dame, and New Philadelphia Tuscarawas Central Catholic high schools all recently partnered with the Foundation to enhance current development efforts.

This year, Bishop Watterson will celebrate 60 years of educating students in the Catholic tradition. Each year, the school asks for contributions to its Annual Eagle Fund to help sustain the Watterson tradition of exemplary Catholic education, rooted in faith and committed to excellence. Additionally, the school looks to planned gifts as a way to ensure longevity.

By definition, planned giving is a major gift that comes from the donor's financial or estate planning. Gifts could come from appreciated securities or stock, real estate, a retirement plan or even cash, but generally are made from outside of one's discretionary income. Some donors are in a position to make the gift during their lifetime, but many make it as a bequest in their will. Planned gifts can offer many benefits to the donor, including tax benefits or the

potential for returned income.

Often, a planned gift is put in an endowment fund, which allows the one-time gift to grow and provides a permanent source of funds for the intended beneficiary. Bishop Watterson and the other high schools are blessed to receive financial support from several endowment funds created by generous donors. In the coming months, the schools will implement several planned giving initiatives to support these endowments and potentially open additional endowments, at the discretion of donors.

"The Catholic Foundation currently manages Bishop Watterson's endowment funds. We are excited to again partner with the Foundation, this time to provide the planned giving options that best suit our alumni and friends and their financial goals, while working towards our goal of ensuring an excellent Catholic education for our future students," said Marian Hutson, principal at Bishop Watterson.

The Catholic Foundation will act as a resource to Bishop Watterson and the other schools, offering expertise in the areas of endowments, planned giving, and bequests. This will allow the schools' development teams to continue to focus on capital campaigns and annual giving, while enabling alumni and other donors to consider future gifts and long-term planning for the school.

"The sustainability of our Catholic

high schools rests with endowments that cover operations and tuition assistance," said Loren Brown, president and chief executive officer of The Catholic Foundation. "By offering the Foundation's expertise to our schools, we are helping to secure firm financial grounding to ensure a Catholic education is available for future generations of students."

The Catholic Foundation is honored to partner with these five schools and hopes to collaborate with other diocesan schools to offer similar programs.

"The ultimate mission of The Catholic Foundation is to provide for the long-term needs of the Diocese of Columbus," Brown said. "We look forward to working with Bishop Watterson, in addition to Bishop Hartley, Bishop Ready, Notre Dame, St. Francis DeSales, and Tuscarawas Central Catholic schools,

to help provide for their long-term needs as an organization in the diocese."

The Catholic Foundation's mission is to inspire giving and assist donors to provide for the long-term needs of the 23-county Diocese of Columbus. The Foundation fulfills its mission by seeking donors to establish funds designed to support current and future needs and by distributing earnings according to community priorities and donor intent. It is one of the oldest and largest Catholic foundations in the nation, distributing over \$65 million in the diocese since 1985. All funds are invested in alignment with Catholic beliefs and teachings, in accordance with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. For additional information about The Catholic Foundation, please visit catholic-foundation.org.

NIGERIAN YOUTH AT CONFERENCE

Six young people and two adult chaperones from the Nigerian Catholic community of Columbus St. Matthias Church were among 1,800 people who took part in a high school youth conference at Franciscan University of Steubenville in July.

The theme for the conference was "God Is," based on Isaiah 12:2: "God indeed is my savior; I am confident and unafraid."

Musician Bob Rice officially kicked off the event with the song *Not Waiting for the Afterlife*, but the young people didn't wait for the live music to start their weekend. They spilled into the aisles to line dance to *The Cupid Shuffle*, form conga lines, and act out songs from the hit film *Frozen*.

As the conference talks began, their enthusiasm transformed into quiet meditation. Many of the young people

lifted up their hands or fell on their knees in worship. Host Chris Padgett and guest speakers including David Calavitta, Matt Fradd, and Katie Hartfiel were examples of honesty and sincerity, incorporating their own difficult life experiences — divorce and forgiveness, dating and raising children, agnosticism, miscarriage, and even suicide — into their talks.

The conference also included many small-group discussions, Eucharistic adoration, and opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to attend Mass on all three days of the event. Father John Parks celebrated the Masses. Many young people fell to their knees and some cried as Father Parks walked through Finnegan Fieldhouse in procession with the Eucharist.

Orisa Nnani and Chidi Onyia served as chaperones, and Dr. Chinyere Iper coordinated the event. "All accounts relate that a positive experience was enjoyed by those attending," said Emeka Anyadoh, catechist for the Columbus Nigerian Catholic community, who was unable to attend because of a prior commitment. "May the 2015 conference see a greater number of our youth experiencing God's grace and love."



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PILGRIMAGE TO CAREY SHRINE SET FOR OCTOBER

St. Joseph Cathedral and Holy Cross Church in downtown Columbus are hosting a pilgrimage to the Basilica and



National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey on Saturday, Oct. 18.

The shrine, which is one of two Roman Catholic basilicas in Ohio, is operated by the Conventual Franciscan Friars. Starting in the second century, Catholics have given devotion to Mary as Our Lady of Consolation, one of her earliest titles of honor.

The faithful prayed to her in plague-ravaged Luxembourg in the 17th century and reported miraculous cures and healings. In 1652, Pope Innocent X encouraged devotion to Our Lady of Consolation by establishing a confraternity. The devotion spread to the United States, where the nation's first shrine to her was built in Carey. A replica statue was commissioned and arrived from Luxembourg in 1875. Cures and healings reportedly continue to take place at the shrine to the present day.

Mass at the basilica will be offered by Father Michael Lumpe, rector of St. Joseph Cathedral. Pilgrims will be taken from downtown Columbus to Carey by



deluxe motor coach, leaving the cathedral at 8 a.m. and returning by 5 p.m. The cost is \$20 per person. Lunch is available at the shrine cafeteria.

To reserve a place on the pilgrimage send a check, payable to St. Joseph Cathedral and listing "Carey Pilgrim-

age" on the note line, to St. Joseph Cathedral, Attention: Pilgrimage Trip, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus OH 43215.

Payment must be made by Saturday, Oct. 4. For more information, email Cboor@wowway.com or call (614) 405-7770.

Walsh University Hosts Ohio Hunger Dialogue

Issues of hunger in our local and global communities will be the focus of the Ohio Hunger Dialogue, which will take place at Walsh University in North Canton on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 26 and 27.

Ohio will join Kansas and North Carolina as the third state to host such a statewide meeting devoted to seeking hunger solutions. Attendees and presenters will include regional community organizations, Ohio university administrators and faculty members, and Ohio college students. Registration is required by Monday, Sept. 22 at www.walsh.edu/hungerdialogue.

The Saturday luncheon will feature former congressman Tony Hall, who represented the Dayton area in the U.S. House for more than 20 years. He later served as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Missions on Food and



Agriculture and is now the executive director emeritus of the Alliance to End Hunger, a policy and advocacy group based in Washington.

The Tony P. Hall Student Advocacy Award, recognizing a campus or campus program that is demonstrating impact and addressing hunger in innovative and effective ways in Ohio, will be presented

at the luncheon. The winner will receive \$1,000 to support travel and participation in an Advocacy Day experience with Hall in Washington. Winners will be chosen based on video contest entries.

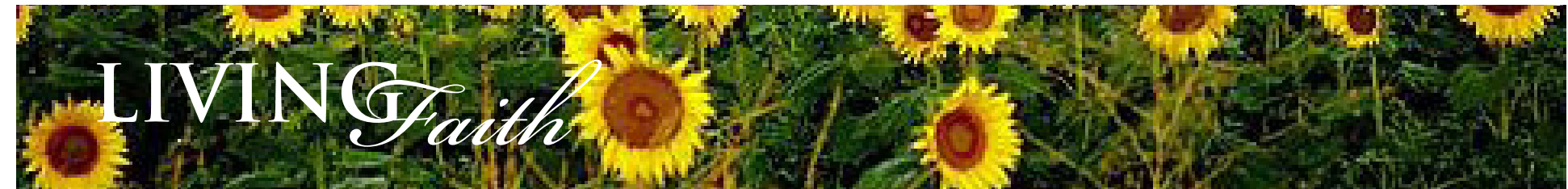
Participants also will be able to attend a farm-to-school workshop hosted by The Ohio State University Extension Service on Friday, Sept. 26 from 9 to 3 pm. The dialogue will begin that evening with an 8 p.m. screening of the film *A Place at the Table*.

ARE YOUR GIFTS Faith-Filled?

The Catholic Foundation is the only foundation in the diocese that invests your gifts in alignment with the teachings of the Catholic Church. Our portfolios follow the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops guidelines, and we carefully screen all charitable organizations that we fund to make sure they also follow Catholic values.

KEEP YOUR GIFTS IN OUR FAITH.

Prayerfully consider making your charitable gifts through The Catholic Foundation. **CALL 866-298-8893 OR VISIT WWW.CATHOLIC-FOUNDATION.ORG TODAY.**



Community, Tenderness, and the Cross

I have a friend who's leaving to spend a year living and working in the L'Arche community in Trosly, a small town in France north of Paris, so I was particularly interested in the interview with L'Arche founder Jean Vanier in a recent issue of the *National Catholic Reporter* (For those unfamiliar with L'Arche, it is an international organization that forms communities consisting of people with mental disabilities and those who live and care for them).

As I read the story, two words stood out. First was "community." Vanier sees individualism as "the greatest evil of our time," and says people enter the world of individualism to show how good they are and often that they are better than the rest. It's a proving ground.

Community, on the other hand, is "a school of love." There, we reveal our woundedness and needs and respond to the needs and woundedness of others. Community is transformational. It isn't easy, as



GRACE IN THE MOMENT
Mary van Balen

anyone living in one can attest. Community isn't always marriage, family, or religious life. It can be our parish or work community, extended family, a close circle of friends or co-workers for a common cause. Whatever form it takes, true community requires sacrifice, as well as celebration.

The other word was "tenderness." Vanier referred to a psychiatrist who, when asked for a sign of maturity, said "tenderness" and understands tenderness, not non-violence, to be the opposite of violence.

While speaking of those with disabilities who come to L'Arche, Vanier noted the importance of helping them discover their preciousness and beauty, not so much by what is done, but by "being with." Listening, treating them with respect, with tenderness -- that is where transformation happens. "What is important," Vanier said, "is relationships."

Our world is broken, and all carry pain within. Many people expressed surprise after discovering Robin Williams had been battling deep depression for years. As Vanier suggested, those types of wounds are not shared in the world of individualism, but in community.

Some people's struggles are more visible, resulting from ignorance, fear, and oppression. The poor. Women. The LGBT community. Peo-

ple of color. Homeless people, many of whom suffer from mental illness. How do we respond to them with tenderness? My experience tells me that "being with" is what opens my heart to those I might otherwise see only as "other."

Before reading this interview, I was working on a column on the mystery of last Sunday's feast, the Exultation of the Cross. As I read about L'Arche, the two themes wove themselves together: The cross present in the living of community, and tenderness leading to and flowing from embracing the cross.

Sunday's Mass collect put me off: "O God, who willed that your Only Begotten Son should undergo the Cross to save the human race ..." I've never been able to get my head around the image of a God who would demand a bloody sacrifice -- of a son, no less -- to appease Divine justice. Unfortunately, that is often the approach taken to make sense of Jesus' suffering and death. It just doesn't fit with Jesus' image of God as "Abba," "Daddy."

This intimate address to a parent exudes tenderness, not retribution. There's the father who welcomes home the prodigal son, the mother hen who gathers and protects her chicks, the shepherd who looks for lost sheep.

Then there's Jesus himself, who tells his followers, "When you see me, you see the one who sent me." Jesus ate with sinners, hung out with those on the fringes, embraced children, and preached giving oneself for others. When asked why he spent time with such people, Jesus replied, "Go and learn the meaning of the words 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.'"

Jesus spoke of God as community, Trinity, and invited us to join in. As Vanier noted, community transforms. Community with God transforms completely.

No, I can't imagine God willing Jesus to suffer. While I'm familiar with doctrines of substitutional, even penal atonement, I have to go with my prayer and my heart. The world couldn't cope with the radical love and truth of Jesus, and, rather than abandoning who he knew himself to be, Jesus embraced the cross his faithfulness brought. His death and resurrection poured the salve of unconditional love on the wounds of humanity, and calls us to do the same. Community. Tenderness. Jesus asks us to share in his cross and resurrection, opening the door to a transformative relationship with God and all God's people.

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CATECHETICAL SUNDAY 2014

Teaching about God's Gift of Forgiveness



BY TIM PUET

Reporter, Catholic Times

The ministry of catechesis – teaching in the name of the Church – holds a special place in Catholic life.

“This ministry ... has a profound dignity, which is why catechists are formally commissioned by the Church,” says the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops on its website. “It is only fitting that we set aside a day to highlight this ministry and invite the entire church community to think about our responsibility to share our faith with others.”

The bishops have set aside this coming Sunday, Sept. 21, as Catechetical Sunday, an event which has taken place across the United States on the third Sunday of September since at least the mid-1950s and has its origins in a document on catechesis issued by Pope Pius XI in 1935.

On that day, those whom the community has designated to serve to serve as catechists will be called forth in parishes across the nation to be commissioned for their ministry. “Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the

role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel,” the bishops said. “Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith.”

In the words of a suggested Catechetical Sunday commissioning service on the bishops’ website, “Enlightened by God’s Word and the teaching of the Church, catechists impart to others an initiation or a deeper formation in those realities that they themselves have learned as truths to be followed in living and to be celebrated in liturgy.”

The diocesan Office of Religious Education and Catechesis said parishes in the Diocese of Columbus that are known to be planning activities commissioning and otherwise recognizing catechists at this weekend’s Masses include Circleville St. Joseph, Columbus St. James the Less, Danville St. Luke, Delaware St. Mary, Dover St. Joseph, Heath St. Leonard, Jackson Holy Trinity, Kenton Immaculate Conception, Lancaster St. Mary, Pickerington St. Elizabeth Seton, Plain City St. Joseph, and the cluster of West Portsmouth Our Lady of Sorrows, Otway Our Lady of Lourdes, and Pond Creek Holy

Trinity.

The office’s director, Barbara Romanello-Wichtman, describes catechists’ role as “preparing the soil and planting the seeds in which a strong faith is rooted. Parents are the primary educators. By their example and their faith, they model faithful discipleship for their children.

“The community is also extremely important in modeling and supporting faith development,” she said. “The bishop is the chief catechist. The individual catechist participates in the teaching mission of the bishop. It is a privileged place. The community as a whole is also vital to faith development.”

“Teaching About God’s Gift of Forgiveness,” stressing the role of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, is the theme for this year’s Catechetical Sunday. “This year, the bishops are placing the emphasis on a specific sacrament rather than on the general theme of religious education,” Romanello-Wichtman said. “This gives us a wonderful opportunity to teach about God’s initiative of forgiving, healing, and sharing his son with us and to create a sense of joy about the sacrament and how it can transform our lives.

“It’s also appropriate because of how Pope Francis has revealed he discovered his own vocation to be a priest in the context of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. He has said he went to confession on the Feast of St. Matthew in 1953 as an ordinary 16-year-old student, had what he describes as an encounter with Jesus, and walked out of the confessional convinced God was calling him to the priesthood.”

The diocesan Office of Religious Education and Catechesis serves the catechetical and school leaders supporting the nearly 2,400 men and women in the Diocese of Columbus who minister as catechists in parochial schools, Parish School of Religion programs for young people,

Mike Hall, diocesan youth and young adult ministry director, and Sylvia Zaborowski of Buckeye Lake were among those honored by Bishop Campbell at a diocesan catechists’ meeting.

sacramental catechesis, and adult faith formation programs, including the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults.

Romanello-Wichtman said the catechists and the 1,085 teachers in diocesan elementary and high schools are responsible for educating about 35,000 children – more than 20,000 attending the diocesan schools and 15,000 in PSR – as well as adults in the RCIA process.

The diocese has certification requirements for catechists which include completion of courses on the Person as a Catechist; Scripture; Christ and the Church; Liturgy and the Sacraments; Morality; and Catechetical Methodology. The Person as a Catechist course is required for all teachers in diocesan schools. Teachers of religion in elementary schools are required to complete all six courses. High school religion teachers need 30 credit hours of religious education or theology.

Bishop Frederick Campbell expects that parish catechetical leaders who are salaried or receive a stipend should complete the certification process. The courses are not required for PSR teachers or catechists in parish religious education programs, but “we encourage and recommend that catechists take the courses to help them with the ministry in which they work,” Romanello-Wichtman said. “Once the catechists begin the courses, we hope they find them helpful and will continue to participate in the program.”

The office offers all of the certification courses during the summer at various locations. Approximately 625 people attended certification courses this past summer. Some parishes, including Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare, Reynoldsburg St. Pius X, and Marion St. Mary, are offering courses during the school year.

Every August, the office co-sponsors an orientation meeting for new school teachers with the Office of Catholic Schools. In addition, the religious education office hosts a meeting with the diocesan Divine Worship and Youth and Young Adult Ministry offices in which catechetical leaders recognize the achievements of their peers

and prepare for the coming year. Bishop Campbell is the principal speaker and presides at evening prayer.

Eight people were recognized by the bishop at this year’s meeting for their service to religious education in their parishes or for achieving some level of advanced training in religious education or theology. They are Jean Bruner, Kenton Immaculate Conception; Silvia Zaborowski, Buckeye Lake Our Lady of Mount Carmel; Laura LeCompte, Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center; Sister Joanne Fogarty, OSF, Hilliard St. Brendan; Rose Gorius, Utica Church of the Nativity; Cathry Kerns, Logan St. John; Gloria Price, Waverly St. Mary; and Mike Hall, director of the diocesan Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry.

Romanello-Wichtman’s staff includes program coordinators Martha Choroco and Sue Reihing and consultants Judi Engel and Jenny Berryhill. They are in the midst of conducting a series of five meetings throughout the diocese with catechetical leaders to discuss the programs the office is sponsoring and the materials it has available for 2014-15. A similar series of meetings will take place in the spring to review the year’s activities and prepare for 2015-16.

Last year at about this time, as part of the Year of Faith which ended last Nov. 24, the office provided support for talks given at several locations by Bishop Campbell concerning the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council. “The bishop said at the time that he didn’t think the role of the laity had been given enough attention after Vatican II, even though it had been emphasized in the council documents,” Romanello-Wichtman said.

“This year, we are asking that parishes, either individually or as deaneries, follow up on the bishop’s talks with their own examinations of the importance of the laity in the New Evangelization which was proclaimed by St. John Paul II and continued under Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis. Each pastor and pastoral council member in the diocese has re-

ceived resources and packets related to this theme.”

The office also is promoting several ongoing formation opportunities for diocesan catechists and teachers. Dr. Ellen Wedemeyer, professor of special education at St. Joseph’s University in Philadelphia, will speak on special-needs children and the resources available to them on Thursday, Oct. 16 in the morning at Columbus St. Agatha School and in the evening at Columbus St. Andrew School.

The morning meeting is for principals and catechetical leaders and the evening event is for parents, teachers, and catechists. She also will speak at an in-service day for teachers at Columbus Holy Spirit School on Friday, Oct. 17. Financial support from Knights of Columbus councils throughout the Columbus area is helping make these events possible.

Popular Catholic musician Vallimar Jansen will be at Columbus St. Peter Church on Thursday, Nov. 20 for two programs featuring creative drama and music focusing on discipleship and prayer. She will appear in the morning at a meeting of the Diocesan Association of Religious Educators (d.a.r.e.) and in the evening at a concert for the general public.

She also will visit students of Columbus Bishop Ready and Cristo Rey high schools at Ready on Nov. 20 and will talk to students at Columbus Bishop Hartley and Bishop Watterson high schools the following day. Assistance from the RCL Benziger publishing company is helping pay for this event.

The d.a.r.e. organization sponsored an event in August with Father Bob Hader of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati on “Parish Culture and Climate: How It Affects Catechesis” and is planning a retreat in the winter and a luncheon in the spring.

Long-range plans for the Religious Education and Catechesis office include a school of catechesis on Friday and Saturday, June 26 and 27, 2015, to be conducted in English and Spanish, with nationally known catechists Mary Birmingham, Nick Wagner, and Isabel Fernandez.



The office is continuing its partnership with the University of Dayton in an online initiative known as the Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation. This program, which is offered in English and Spanish, presents three- to six-week courses several times a year, each with a maximum of 15 participants, for catechists and other interested adult Catholics.

Being a partner diocese in the program means a reduced cost for the courses, which Romanello-Wichtman describes as “an excellent way for people to attain certification as catechists.” She said some people in the diocese are trained as facilitators for the program. This would allow courses to be conducted in certain areas solely for participants from the Diocese of Columbus if there is enough interest to form a group.

Since 1994, the diocese has worked with the extension program of the Institute for Ministry of Loyola University in New Orleans on fully accredited graduate education and certificate programs, both at area classroom locations and online. The religious education office has worked with 14 cohort groups, 12 of which have completed the program.

The office hopes to start another group in January 2015 for Spanish-speaking people. An information meeting for a proposed English-speaking group is scheduled at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 9 at Columbus St. Peter Church. Romanello-Wichtman said spring 2015 is the target date for starting that group.

Additional long-distance learning programs are offered through Boston College, the University of Notre Dame, and other institutions. The office has informa-

tion on those as well.

Funding to help pay for the cost of catechist education programs is available from the diocese’s Bishop Elwell Fund, which since 1981 has assisted religious educators with scholarships for courses in theology, religious studies, and religious education at academically accredited institutions.

The Office of Religious Education and Catechesis assists many diocesan parishes in adult faith formation programs, including the RCIA catechumenate process, which is a formal process through which adults and children either join or enter full communion with the Catholic Church. Parish-based programs include Scripture study, book clubs, and general discussion groups.

The office approves religion textbooks based on conformity to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and to the diocese’s religion course of study for preschool through 12th grade, and works with the offices of Black Ministry, Catholic Schools, Communications, Marriage and Family Life, Latino Ministry, Divine Worship, Social Concerns, Vocations, Youth and Young Adult Ministry, and Development and Planning on additional programs and initiatives.

Its resource center, funded mostly by the Knights of Columbus, has access to more than 4,000 books, DVDs, CDs, and videos. It may be visited at <http://catalog.cdeducation.org>. The office also publishes a weekly bulletin titled “Good News Bytes” on its website, which may be found by clicking on the “Offices” section of the diocesan website, www.coldsdioc.org.





Distributing backpacks to Columbus Holy Spirit School as part of the Ohio Dominican University Alumni Association Council's annual school supplies drive were (from left) ODU students Kole Buckley and Senay Abrah; Jan Berenson of ODU; Sister Margie Davis, OP, ODU campus minister; Ann Snider, ODU director of alumni relations and annual giving; and Debbie Pecinovsky of Holy Spirit School.

Photo courtesy Ohio Dominican University

ODU Alumni Backpack Project Collects School Supplies

More than 120 students at Columbus Holy Spirit School received essential supplies as a result of the Ohio Dominican University Alumni Association Council's annual school supplies drive in August.

In addition to the supplies that were dropped off at the school, supporters donated nearly \$500 to purchase items such as pencils, crayons, and glue sticks. Bill Rauch, a 1971 ODU graduate and an alumnus of Holy Spirit School, donated 100 new high-quality book bags.

"ODU's Alumni Association Council reflects annually on activities that fulfill ODU's mission and its commitment to serve our local community," said council chair Lucia McQuaide, former diocesan school superintendent. "The

key to learning is being ready to learn. By providing students with backpacks and other essential school supplies, the ODU community is helping to prepare them for success in the classroom and in life."

This was the third year the council sponsored a school supplies drive to benefit a Columbus Catholic school or organization. In 2012, ODU collected enough supplies to fill 100 backpacks for All Saints Academy students, and enough financial contributions to purchase a high-definition television for the school's library.

In 2013, the university collected a year's worth of school supplies for St. Stephen's Community House, as well as food to help fill the organization's pantry.

Kateri Circle Formation

A Kateri Circle is being formed in central Ohio. The formation meeting will take place at 1 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 5 in the shelter house at Lancaster St. Mark Church, at 330 Gay St.

The objectives of a Kateri Circle are to pray for St. Kateri Tekakwitha, share her story, and follow examples of her holiness; to promote conference membership among Native Americans and other cultures; to help develop at the local level the spirit of the Tekakwitha conference for all to express their beliefs in traditional Native and Roman Catholic ways; to help provide catechetical resources for the education of children in Native Catholic ways; to become knowledgeable about Native American issues and how they relate to

our moral and spiritual growth; and to support Youth Kateri Circles and keep families united in the Catholic faith.

The most recent diocesan census indicates there are about 1,150 Native American Catholics in the Diocese of Columbus. How many other Native Americans are not registered as such and are members of the Catholic Church?


This meeting is open to everyone with an interest in one or more of the above guidelines, regardless of whether they are Native Americans. Prayers to St. Kateri and any other prayers that are needed will be offered.

For more information, call Carl Lefevre at (740) 756-7008 or email animalslair@aol.com.

Catholic colleges rank as top tier Midwestern universities

U.S. News & World Report has ranked several area Catholic colleges in the top tier of universities in the Midwest. Included in that ranking were Ohio Dominican University, Franciscan University of Steubenville, Xavier University and

Mount St. Joseph University in Cincinnati, and John Carroll University in Cleveland. The magazine analyzes a number of factors in determining its annual list, including freshman retention rate, graduation rate, and student-to-faculty ratio.



Register for an open house today!

Open House

Attend an upcoming open house at Ohio Dominican University to learn more about our graduate, and adult and continuing education programs. Meet with a representative to discuss financial aid, transferring your existing credits and how ODU can help you connect your passion with a purpose.

Adult & Continuing Education
When: 6-7:30 p.m., Sept. 22
Where: Dublin campus, 6190 Shamrock Court
ohiodominican.edu/AdultContEdEvents

Graduate
When: 6-7:30 p.m., Sept. 30
Where: Griffin student center
ohiodominican.edu/Graduate_Open_House

Why ODU?

- Named top-tier Midwest university (U.S. News & World Report).
- Ranked one of the most affordable private colleges in Ohio.
- Called "Best in Business" by readers of Columbus CEO magazine.

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Strong ODU support helps student meet the challenges of autism

BY TIM PUET

Reporter, Catholic Times

When David Hanks and his parents were deciding where he should finish his college education, they had some special concerns and challenges.

Hanks, of Worthington, has Asperger's syndrome, a condition of the autism spectrum. After graduating from Worthington Kilbourne High School in 2009, he completed a yearlong program at Columbus State Community College which is designed to help autistic students with the transition to college.

When he and his mother, Karen, went on their college search in 2010, they knew he needed to find a school which would combine an atmosphere of acceptance with a solid program in his chosen major of sports management. They went to The Ohio State University and inquired about Marshall University's Asperger's-specific program, but felt both might be too large.

They finally decided on Ohio Dominican University because it combined the advantages of being small and close to home with a sports management curriculum that includes practical experience with ODU and area professional teams, all within an ethical framework on the role of sports in society.

"ODU seemed like a good choice, but we still had the usual concerns parents have when their children go to college," said Hanks' father, Chip, whose work duties limited his involvement in the college search. "One of the aspects of Asperger's is that people with that condition often find it difficult to socialize with others," he said. "David is much better at social interaction than many others with Asperger's, but still, we wondered how he would handle dealing with so many unfamiliar people in an unfamiliar place."

"After we went to David's orientation at ODU, I realized I didn't have to worry," Karen

Hanks said. "Students came up and talked to David at lunch and made him feel very comfortable. David was given a single room in a suite, with a fantastic roommate who helped introduce David to others and make him feel comfortable on the campus."

"We left campus on the day of the orientation feeling we had made a great decision about the place David would finish his college career." Chip Hanks said. That decision proved to be the right one, as Hanks thrived on campus, became one of the university's best-known students because of his work with its sports teams, and graduated with a 3.34 grade-point average.

"There was some doubt at an early age that he would be able to make it through college, but his determination and the care of many people at Ohio Dominican and Columbus State enabled him to reach that goal," Hanks' father said.

Hanks was diagnosed with Asperger's when he was three years old, his parents said.

"It's common for those with Asperger's to have ritual behaviors in which they always do things a certain way," his mother said. "We noticed he was very regimented in how his toys lined up. He also was much more sensitive than most people to things like loud noises and certain textures."

"Wearing a long-sleeved shirt and hearing presents being ripped open, which most people wouldn't think about, were sources of stress and anxiety for him. He's not a joker, everything is very black and white to him. It can be hard for him to make choices between two or more things. All of these also are signs of Asperger's."

But there also are many positive aspects to the condition. Laura Ackerman, director of disability services at Ohio Dominican, said these include the ability to focus on one thing over a long period; being able to find unique connections among facts and



ideas; willingness to be an independent thinker; having internal motivation that isn't swayed by others; attention to detail; three-dimensional thinking; ability to recognize and speak the truth; logical decision-making; and lack of pretense and of hidden agendas,

"David always could concentrate on things intensely," his mother said. "For instance, when he was young, he loved the movie *Aladdin* and used to recite scenes from it word for word. We decided it would be best for him to have the same kind of education as his peers, so he went to the Worthington schools. He got involved with athletics at Perry Middle School. He played baseball and basketball there in seventh grade and baseball in eighth grade."

"There wasn't room for him on the basketball team in the seventh grade, but he had made so many friends that they asked for him to become the team manager. That was probably the first step that led him to his desire to get involvement in sports management." The following year, he was a playing member of the eighth-grade team.

At Kilbourne High, Hanks played baseball during all of his four years there and served as an assistant to basketball coach Tom Souder. That meant he got to coach his younger brother, Brian. "I think of coach Souder as a second father," he said. "He always encouraged me to set goals and told me I had the power to reach them."

Hanks went to Columbus State at the encouragement of a family friend who had heard about that institution's Autism College Transition program, in which students combine intensive individual coaching and group discussion with going to regular classes.

The program has assisted 44 students since it began seven years ago, said ACT coordinator Matthew Wilson. "David entered in the second year, and the work he and his mom did as advocates is a very important part of ACT's success," Wilson said.

"Both of them did a lot to teach us some practical things and to point us in the right direction for the development of the program. We know it's working because about 80 percent of the students who have taken part in it and gone on to college have stayed in school after one year, with the rest going to work."

"One thing I remember in particular about David was his power point presentation on Jason McElwain, a high school basketball manager who got into his team's last game of the season, scored 20 points in four minutes, and became the subject of a book and a movie. I wasn't sure how the presentation would come across, but David's excitement about it made it work."

His arrival at Ohio Dominican coincided with the school's expansion into NCAA Division II athletics. He was video coordinator for the men's basketball team and photographer and statistician for the football team. He also was an intern with the ODU athletic office and the Columbus Clippers.

Dr. Peter Cimboric, ODU president, described Hanks as someone he will always remember. "I try to eat with the students three or four times a week and always saw David with other students," he said. "I remember he's the one student who always called me 'Mr. President' rather than by my last name. He's such a serious-

minded, likable young man you can't help but be proud of him, especially when you know the challenges he's overcome."

"It seems nearly everyone on campus knew David," said Jim Strode, director of the ODU sports management program. "He took the time to know his classmates, especially the athletes. Because of the way he concentrates on things, he knew everybody's statistics, even for those on the teams he wasn't involved with. They really appreciated that he cared that much. He shone in the classroom and was an excellent student, who always did things the right way, with passion and conscientiousness."

"David put 100 percent into his classes, not just the sports management courses he liked, but ones like theology and philosophy, where he struggled, but put his heart and soul into them. That's where his Asperger's worked to his advantage," said Ackerman, who as ODU's disability services director worked closely with him throughout his college career as he majored in sports management and minored in business administration.

"The only accommodation he had was that because of his attention to detail, he was given extended time to complete tests and took them in my office, rather than the classroom, to minimize disruption," she said.

Now that he has graduated, Hanks is a volunteer intern with working with the Columbus Crew and is looking for full-time work in sports management. He is a volunteer coach for the junior varsity golf team at Kilbourne High School and hopes to become involved with basketball again.

"I've had some great opportunities at ODU," he said. "Thanks to what I've experienced and how I've grown there, I can think clearly and speak clearly and will be able to work in my chosen field. All I need now is the opportunity."

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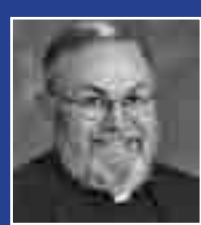
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Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle A)

Kingdom of heaven: No way to run a business



Father
Lawrence L. Hummer

Isaiah 55:6-9

Philippians 1:20c-24,27a

Matthew 20:1-16a

Isaiah reminds us of how different we are from the Lord. Using poetry (“as high as the heavens above the earth are my thoughts from your thoughts, says the Lord”), he demonstrates how vastly different we are from the Lord.

Yet the biggest difference involves the mercy which the Lord so readily dispenses to the scoundrel and the wicked. Our human reaction wants to avenge the evildoer. We are easily manipulated into demanding blood by movie directors and overzealous news reporters. In the *Dirty Harry* genre, the bad guys are painted in such evil tones that only a cad would object to Harry's antics.

But the Lord's thoughts are not our thoughts, nor are our ways the way of the Lord. We live in a world which demands that good triumph over evil. The Lord's way is far beyond our ability to understand, yet Isaiah invites us to seek the Lord and the Lord's forgiveness anyway.

The parable in Matthew is one of the longest parables found in Matthew. It is unique to his gospel, meaning he has drawn upon his own source in presenting this parable. It is magnificent because of the reactions it can generate in listeners who hear this parable, especially in capitalist countries such as ours.

Most of those reactions are negative, as in “That’s no way to run a business.” They miss the point that the parable is used to show what **the kingdom of heaven** is like, not someone's business.

That makes for all kinds of table discussions, even among family members after they get home from

Mass on Sunday. Or it should! Everyone will have a different take on the parable, but it remains a question whether we will ever plumb the parable's depths.

The workers at dawn agreed to work for a denarius, which was the common laborer's wage for a day's work (“the usual daily wage”). The ones standing around the market place at 9 a.m. agreed to work for “what is fair.” The ones at noon and at 3 p.m. made the same agreement. At 5 p.m. (literally “at the eleventh hour”), still others found standing idle also are hired.

With that, the scene is set. Only the first group agreed to work for a set price, and that was for an entire day's work. When it was time to pay, the vineyard owner told his foreman to pay the last laborers who were hired as much as the ones who had agreed to work at dawn.

And so the arguments begin. “It's not fair! We worked all day and you're paying those who only worked an hour or a few hours the same. It's not fair!”

The owner objects: “I am not cheating you. You agreed to the daily wage, did you not? I can do whatever I want with what is mine, can I not?” Then the even more puzzling line “the last will be first and the first last.”

This line also serves as an introduction to this parable, because Matthew 19:30 ends with the same verse, but in reverse order (“Many who are first will be last and the last will be first”).

People have argued for centuries about what it means. However, it is unlikely that Jesus meant anything more than that God, like the vineyard owner, is generous, especially with mercy, whether one comes to him at the beginning of the day or “at the eleventh hour.”

Finally, Paul muses whether to be with Christ through death is better than living and preaching the Gospel. He is facing death in his present circumstances (he is in jail). He prefers to be with Christ, but it is better for the Philippians if he stays alive.

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

St. Paul's Outreach Anniversary

Experience Catholic faith alive on college campuses by joining the students and missionaries of St. Paul's Outreach at their 10th anniversary banquet on Thursday, Oct. 23 at the Ohio Union, 1739 N. High St., Columbus. Hear from keynote speaker Bishop Frederick Campbell and SPO students about how God has grown the ministry through the years it has served on campus.

A cocktail hour will begin at 6 p.m., with dinner and program to follow. RSVP by Monday, Oct. 13 to Aimee Santiago at ah10@spoweb.org or (614) 209-5290.

The Weekday Bible Readings

MONDAY
Proverbs 3:27-34
Psalm 15:2-4b,5
Luke 8:16-18

TUESDAY
Proverbs 21:1-6,10-13
Psalm 119:1,27,30,34-35,44
Luke 8:19-21

WEDNESDAY
Proverbs 30:5-9
Psalm 119:29,72,89,101,104,163
Luke 9:1-6

THURSDAY
Ecclesiastes 1:2-11
Psalm 90:3-6,12-14,17bc
Luke 9:7-9

FRIDAY
Ecclesiastes 3:1-11
Psalm 144:1b,2abc,3-4
Luke 9:18-22

SATURDAY
Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:8
Psalm 90:3-6,12-14,17
Luke 9:43b-45

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE WEEK OF JANUARY 15, 2012

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. Check local cable system for WWHO's 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)

(Encore at noon, 7 p.m., and midnight).

DAILY MASS

8 a.m., Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Birmingham, Ala. (Encore 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 I, Seasonal Proper of the Liturgy of the Hours

Sports and Faith: the Ties that Bind

There's nothing like going to a high school or college football night game when there's a little nip in the air. I fondly look back at my days as a Marion Catholic High School coach of various sports and a teacher of history and religion. The lessons I learned there taught me a lot about people, life and faith.

There are a lot of correlations and lessons drawn in sports that apply to faith; they are timeless, and even mentioned in the Bible. St Paul, the world's first great Christian missionary, gives us many examples of sports and faith, which probably went over well as he traveled between the sports-minded Greek and Roman worlds.

Sports, like Christianity in general and Catholicism in particular, has rules, codes of conduct, goals, camaraderie, and outreach. Everyone has a chance, as long as they agree to be part of the team and not be self-centered. All of this was pretty self-explanatory until recently. It seems in our modern, sports-crazy world, no one advocates challenging the coach or the hierarchy of team management, but challenges are often encouraged by those in our modern secular society who want to change the Church. There's something wrong with that picture.

I have been blessed to have met some truly faithful Catholic players and coaches in the last few years, when I have been traveling, giving talks, and researching material for my books. Coaches Lou Holtz and Gerry Faust and ESPN commentator Dick Vitale have been very gracious in endorsing my writings. They certainly didn't know me from



THE TIDE IS TURNING
TOWARD CATHOLICISM
David Hartline

Adam, but when a Catholic writer was introduced to them, they were more than gracious with the time they gave me. Coach Faust especially went out of his way in not only critiquing some of work, but making calls and arranging for me to speak to certain groups across the nation. A more faithful Catholic sports figure you won't find.

The interesting thing about these folks is the gratitude they have for the faithful who have helped them on their way. The rough and tumble world of sports, especially coaching, has helped these men see the truth vs. the false reality our secular world encourages. Our “me-first” culture often mocks the Church for reminding the world that Jesus, the Apostles, and the saints preached self-sacrifice and perseverance. These aren't exactly attributes our self-absorbed modern culture favors.

Ohio State football coach Urban Meyer and Notre Dame's Brian Kelly both came up the hard way. They didn't have famous coaching family members open doors for them, they made sacrifices, and they persevered to get where they are. Both men are known to be supportive of their players, but also believe in the spiritual work of mercy

Love is our mission: The Family Fully Alive!

By Dan Thimons

The popular novel *The Giver* describes a utopian world that seems to be absent of pain and suffering. This comes at a price: the inhabitants of this world have sacrificed their individual freedom. God gives freedom to each of us, not to be used to do whatever we want, but as the capacity and responsibility to love. What Jonas, the main character in *The Giver*, discovers is that a world without freedom is ultimately a world without love.

Fourteen years prior to the publication of *The Giver*, St. John Paul II described what Jonas later experienced: “Man cannot live without love. He remains a being that is incomprehensible for himself, his life is senseless, if love is not revealed to him, if he does not encounter love, if he does not experience it and make it his own, if he does not participate intimately in it.”

God, in His infinite wisdom, or-

ained that the family built upon the marriage of man and woman is to be our first and primary school of love. It is in the family that a child first encounters love -- the love of a husband and wife for one another and for each of their children, who exist as the fruit of their love.

Sadly, this is often not the experience of children who grow up in broken homes without a father or mother present. Every family, too, has moments of “good times and bad, sickness and health.” In the midst of the pain and difficulties of life we have hope because, as St. John Paul II instructed, “We are not the sum of our weaknesses and failures; we are the



sum of the Father's love for us.” Pope Benedict XVI also reminded us, “Only when we meet the living God in Christ do we know what life is.

We are not some casual and meaningless product of evolution. Each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary.”

If families are to live out our mission of love, we must first open our hearts and homes to receive the love of Christ. At the center of family life is the weekly celebration of the Sunday Eucharist and the Lord's Day. But beyond the Sunday Eucharist, Christian family life is to be daily lived as a domestic Church where Christ reigns

that says, “Admonish the sinner.” Anyone who has seen them on the sidelines after a player has made a costly mistake knows this to be true. Sometimes the believer has to tell it like it is.

After being an assistant for a few years, coach Meyer got his head coaching start at Bowling Green. He recently recounted how he told his wife during the run-up to their first season that if he didn't win quickly, they might be out of a job. Shelley Meyer assured her husband of his talents, and the rest is history.

Brian Kelly's first head coaching job came at Grand Valley State, a Division II school where he often performed the most menial of tasks. It was there he met his wife, Paqui, who supported and believed in him when no one knew who he was. Coach Kelly eventually landed at Notre Dame, land of the Gipper and Knute Rockne. Incidentally, it was coach Rockne's players who helped him become Catholic. He noticed some of his players were slipping out in the very early morning. One day, he followed them to morning Mass and asked them if it was that important to them. They explained to him the significance of the Eucharist, and coach Rockne soon became Catholic.

When sports are done right, it can lead to the aforementioned stories. All too often, we know of the bad examples, so I thought you might like some of the better ones.

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

at the center. One practical way to remind ourselves of the centrality of Christ is by enthroning our home to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The image of the Sacred Heart serves as a reminder of Christ's immense love for us, and a call to conform our hearts ever more closely to His.

A local apostolate offers information about devotion to the Sacred Heart at www.sacredheartcolumbus.org. All are welcome to attend the Sacred Heart Congress on Saturday, Oct. 11 at Powell St. Joan of Arc Church.

Families can only find lasting peace and joy when Jesus Christ is at the center of their lives. By growing closer to Christ in the time leading up to next year's World Meeting of Families, your family can embrace your mission of love and become more fully alive.

Dan Thimons is director of the Office of Marriage and Family Life.

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St. Joseph Cathedral 2014-2015 Concert Series



Sunday, Sept. 21
Sara Seidel and Scott Hayes

Two prominent central Ohio church musicians will share a program of German Romantic organ repertoire at 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 21 in the opening event of the 2014-15 concert series at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St.

Sara Seidel holds a master of music degree from Indiana University and is director of music at St.



John's Episcopal Church in Worthington. Scott Hayes is director of music at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Granville and pursued his graduate studies at the Cleveland Institute of Music. Their program will feature works by Mendelssohn, Brahms, Rheinberger, Karg-Elert, and Reger.

BOOK REVIEW

Becoming Catholic

Reviewed by Mitch Finley
Catholic News Service

In the introduction to *Becoming Catholic*, author David Yamane writes words that may take the reader by surprise: "Since 1988, well over 2 million individuals in the United States have entered the (Catholic) church. ... (O)n average over the past 10 years, 67,298 adults annually have been baptized Catholic and 83,050 baptized Christians annually have been 'received into full communion'" with the Catholic Church in the United States.

Yamane teaches sociology at Wake Forest University, and his book isn't so much about the number of people who have become and are becoming Catholic. Rather, he studies the phenomenon of conversion to the Catholic Church and discusses in depth the process converts go through – the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. Based on years of observation and interviews with people who were becoming Catholic, he follows these people through the four stages of the RCIA. He then suggests a new perspective on what it means to choose Catholicism in the United States of America in our time.

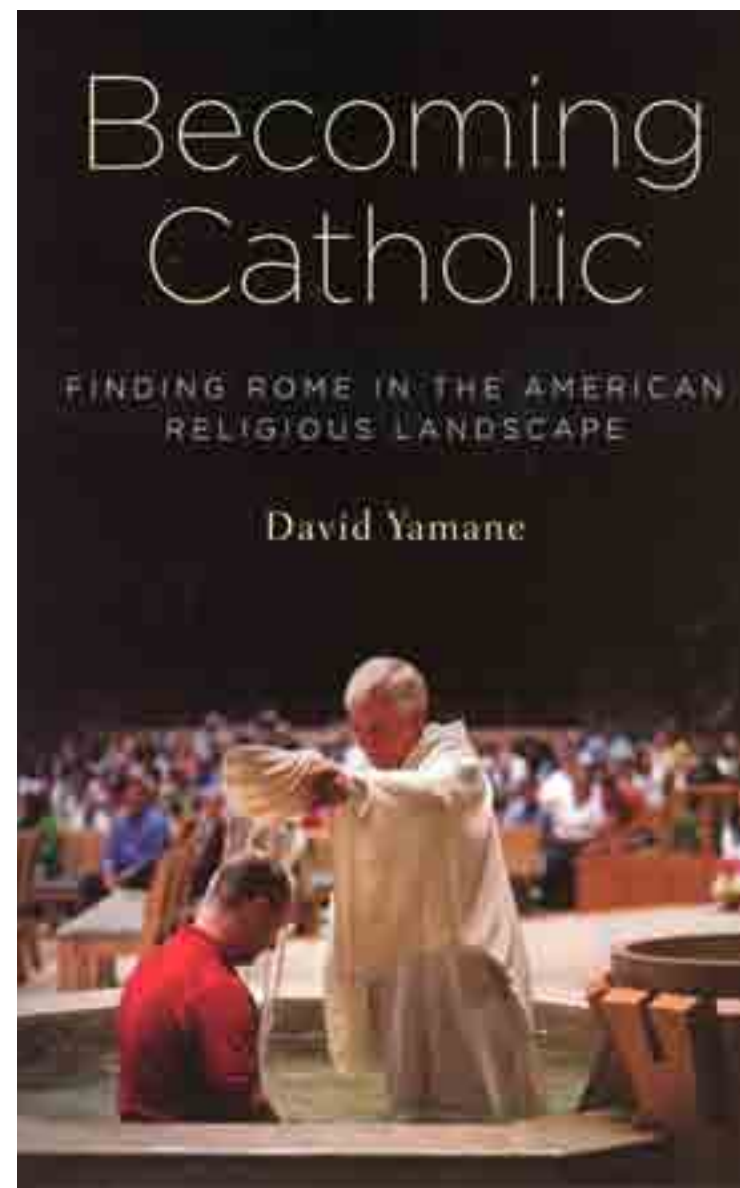
Yamane observes that "some of the most prominent Roman Catholics of the modern age have been converts," including Blessed John Henry Newman, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Dorothy Day, J.R.R. Tolkien, and Thomas Merton. In this

book, however, the author focuses on what he calls "everyday conversion"; that is, "the hundreds of thousands of individuals who became Catholic in America at the beginning of the 21st century, the formal process of initiation they went through, and what this tells us about Catholicism and religion more generally in a late-modern society like that of the United States."

Yamane found that most of the people he studied ended up becoming Catholic not because they were impressed by the Catholic intellectual tradition, or by studying the history of the church. Rather, they were led to Catholicism by what Yamane calls "mundane mechanisms like family and co-workers." Indeed, most new Catholics in America "are products of their circumstances, not religious seekers or even consumers shopping for faith."

Yamane wrote *Becoming Catholic* as a sociologist, but his style is accessible to any interested reader and might well be required reading for anyone active in a parish RCIA program. *Becoming Catholic* is informative concerning the RCIA. But any Catholic can benefit from reading, it because it encourages a renewed appreciation and sense of gratitude for being Catholic.

Finley is the author of more than 30 books on Catholic themes, including a best-seller, "The Rosary Handbook: A Guide for Newcomers, Old-Timers, and Those In Between."



NEWS IN PHOTOS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



Newly married couples kneel as Pope Francis celebrates the marriage rite for 20 couples during a Mass in St. Peter's Basilica on Sept. 14.
CNS photo/Paul Haring



Bishop David R. Choby of Nashville, Tennessee, ordains William Carmona as a deacon and a priest during a Sept. 8 Mass in an auditorium at Christus Santa Rosa Medical Center in San Antonio as Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller of San Antonio looks on. Father Carmona, gravely ill with cancer, was ordained for the Diocese of Nashville. He Carmona died two days later.
CNS photo/Rick Musacchio, Tennessee Register



Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl of Washington (right) embraces Melkite Catholic Patriarch Gregoire III Laham during an ecumenical prayer service about the plight of Middle Eastern Christians at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington on Sept. 9. Christian patriarchs from the Middle East, along with lawmakers and international human rights activists, were attending the In Defense of Christians organization's three-day summit about the persecution of Middle East minorities.
CNS photo/Tyler Orsburn

Wahle's foot helps Ohio Dominican to success in two sports

BY DOUG BEAN

Ohio Dominican University is off to a 2-0 start in the 2014 NCAA Division II football season. In a sport that is described as a game of inches, victory this season may be more a matter of a "foot,"

Make that the foot of Brent Wahle.

A preseason Division II All-American, the junior kicker from Columbus Bishop Hartley (*pictured*) is one of several players from Columbus-area Catholic schools who helped the Panthers reach the Division II playoffs in 2013 after an undefeated regular season.

And with visions of even greater success this year, Ohio Dominican has a leg up on its competition with Wahle. The Panthers opened the season ranked 10th nationally by D2Football.com and favored to win their second straight Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference South Division title.

"We have a lot of talent," Wahle said last week. "I knew we had something special last year. I think this year we'll probably be even better. We have a lot of athletes. It's going to be interesting to watch. I think we can win national championship. I think we're that good. We've got a lot of skilled people."

Wahle is as skilled as any player on the roster. Any time Wahle steps on the field for a field goal or extra point attempt, there's a good chance that he will make the kick. He has become so good at what he does that he's considered one of the best in the nation at his position.

During the summer, he received preseason All-American recognition from USA College, Beyond Sports Network, *The Sporting News*, and *Lindy's*. He also was named to the Fred Mitchell Award watch list as one of the best small college kickers in the nation and as one of Beyond Sports Network's top 20 Division II players to watch in 2014.

"It's very overwhelming," Wahle said. "I'm just glad I get a chance and opportunity to do this with these guys. It's been a lot of fun with them."

"I have to give thanks to all the players and the coaches and my snapper and



holder. They're giving me the opportunities. If it wasn't for them, I wouldn't have any of these awards."

Last year, Wahle made 21 of 25 field goal attempts and led all of Division II in makes per game. He set a GLIAC record with 19 field goals in league games, connected on kicks from 45 yards or longer five times,

hit a school-record 51-yarder, and led conference kickers in scoring with 108 points. He booted four field goals in wins over Walsh and Tiffin.

Wahle was so good last fall that he was named a BSN All-American and third-team small-college All-American by The Associated Press.

Entering his third season, Wahle already holds school records for career field goals and points. And he thinks he can be even better this year. Wahle has increased his range on field goals in practice to 55 yards. He worked on his leg flexibility during the offseason to add more distance on kickoffs.

"Brent is an exceptionally talented young man," Ohio Dominican coach Bill Conley said. "He has tremendous athleticism, leg strength, and confidence. His future as a placekicker is unlimited."

Wahle is more than a kicker, though. When he isn't playing football, the com-

puter information systems major also is an all-conference player for the men's soccer team. He led the Panthers in goals last year with seven, and was an NSCAA Midwest Region and Daktronics Midwest Region first-team selection.

Wahle's world obviously is a busy one at ODU, but he's able to balance the demands of two sports and split his time between them, with the blessing of his coaches. When practices overlap twice a week, he spends an hour with the soccer team and then heads over to football. Soccer coach Willy Merrick understands, because he played both sports at Marshall.

"They tell me if I'm sore or a little tired to take it easy," Wahle said. "I'll just run over to football after an hour at soccer (when practices overlap), and start warming up to kick. I'm already loose, which helps."

Because soccer games are normally on Fridays and Sundays, he missed only one game in his first two seasons, and anticipates only one potential conflict between football and soccer this year.

"Coach Conley is really understanding about everything," Wahle said. "He's really a great guy"

Wahle has turned out to be a diamond in the rough for Conley and the Panthers. Not heavily recruited in high school after setting a school scoring record at Hartley as an all-state kicker and playing on a state championship team in 2010, he considered walking on at a Football Bowl Subdivision (formerly known as Division I) school. But

he decided on Ohio Dominican because it was close to home and he liked the coaches.

"They also said I could play both soccer and football, and so that was a big plus. That was a big part of it," Wahle said. "I knew if I went to a D-I school, I wouldn't be able to do both."

Wahle worked out with Cincinnati Bengals kicker Mike Nugent and Ohio State freshman Sean Nuernberger for a day this summer at the Woody Hayes Athletic Center and held his own.

"It would be cool to kick at Ohio State, but I think I'm probably enjoying this more than I would at Ohio State," Wahle said. "I like the smaller school, I get to know everyone and I get to play soccer, too."

When Wahle started kicking footballs in the backyard of his parents' home in Pataskala as an eighth-grader, he never imagined he'd come this far. His career – and his kicks – was just getting off the ground then.

In grade school, Wahle focused more on soccer. His father, Bert, set up a fence that served as a backboard so his son could practice kicking a soccer ball. Later, when Wahle tried kicking a football in junior high and had some success, that same 10-foot wall served as a goal post of sorts. Wahle worked on consistently booting a football over it and then developing his accuracy.

"In eighth grade, we got two points for making extra points instead of one. My dad was one of the coaches, and was wondering whether I could try field goals and kickoffs," Wahle said. "And the first time I did it, I was decent at it and I started practicing in my backyard with my dad, and I ended up getting better at it."

The repetition paid off. By the time he was a sophomore, he noticed a difference in his leg strength. Wahle went to some football camps during high school, but he learned the art of kicking mostly on his own and with his father's support.

At the end of his senior year at Hartley, he had broken all of the school's kicking records and was named first-team All-Ohio in Division IV.

"It just kind of came naturally, I guess," Wahle said. "I didn't know I was going to end up getting this many awards. It's real nice. I'm really enjoying myself."

