



DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

# CATHOLIC TIMES

*A journal of Catholic life in Ohio*



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CONVERTS STEP FORWARD  
AT RITE OF ELECTION

The Editor's Notebook

## The Shepherd's Voice

By David Garick, Editor

*My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me.* John 10:27

Jesus the Good Shepherd stands beside us, protects us, and leads us to eternal life. It's good to be part of the flock.

This week, *Catholic Times* looks at the hundreds of men and women across the Diocese of Columbus and the millions more in the Church throughout the world who this week took a bold step forward to declare their desire to be united with Christ as part of his enduring earthly body, the Catholic Church. Their journey will culminate at the Easter Vigil, where the catechumens will be baptized into the Church and they and the candidates from other Christian traditions will be brought into full communion with the church as they receive their first Holy Communion.

That marks the end of the journey of discovery, but just the beginning of a journey with Christ to carry out the work of discipleship. These new believers did not find their way to this moment on their own. For the sheep to join the fold, they have to hear the shepherd's voice.

The voice of God does not normally come rolling out of the clouds as it did for James, John, and Peter on Mount Tabor on the day of Transfiguration. No, we hear the voice of the shepherd through the voice of his disciples. In the Book of Acts, we read of Peter's amazement when, through his words and those of the other disciples, 3,000 people in Jerusalem are converted to faith in Christ on the day of Pentecost. The disciples had become the voice of the shepherd.

That duty of discipleship continues to this day, and it is not the sole re-

sponsibility of priests, deacons, and religious. Evangelization is a responsibility that all of us bear as part of our covenant with Christ. We must gather up the lost sheep and lead them back to the fold. It is not up to us to place faith into their hearts, Jesus will do that. But we must bring the message to them and allow the power of the Gospel to bring them to salvation.

This is the New Evangelization. Pope Francis spoke of it in his apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (Joy of the Gospel): "The Joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ, joy is constantly born anew. In this Exhortation I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelization marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church's journey in years to come. Here we find the source and inspiration of all our efforts at evangelization. For if we have received the love which restores meaning to our lives, how can we fail to share that love with others?"

So let's rejoice with these new members of our Catholic community. But we must also be unafraid to reach out to those who do not yet believe, and to those who have fallen away, with the message of the Gospel. We are the best tool God has to demonstrate the power of faith. We must give voice to the shepherd so that all may be gathered together in faith and love.



For the seventh straight Lenten season, Greater Columbus Right to Life is sponsoring 40 Days for Life, an international campaign inviting the community to be a peaceful, visible, prayerful presence at an area abortion clinic.

The vigil site for the campaign is Complete Healthcare for Women, 5888 Cleveland Ave., Columbus. Vigil hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. Parking is available at nearby St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church. The campaign began on Ash Wednesday, March 5, and continues through Palm Sunday, April 13.

The program provides an example of the church's teaching that some demons can be driven out only through prayer and fasting. Indeed, we know it has been incredibly effective in our community and around the world in helping turn hearts to life. To date, 45 vigil sites have closed, with an abortion clinic in England being the most recent example.

"Pro-life activist and former abortion clinic worker Abby Johnson recently noted that one speaker at a 2009 Planned Parenthood national conference said the no-show rate for abortions rose to 75 percent when individuals were praying outside," said Beth Vanderkooi, executive director of Greater Columbus Right to Life, the local sponsor of 40 Days for Life. "This statistic probably cannot be verified, but reflects what we see in our community and what we regularly hear from abortion-vulnerable women and their partners.

"It is notable that the greatest reduction in central Ohio's recent abortion

statistics was from 2007 to 2008, the first year of 40 Days for Life locally, when abortions declined by more than 20 percent. While it is not possible to attribute all the credit for this blessing to 40 Days for Life, we have every reason to believe that the prayers in the first year of the vigil had a great impact.

"Many volunteers speak of the spiritual growth and deepening relationship with God that they experience as a result of their participation. Most share similar stories – a bit of trepidation at the prospect of praying at a clinic, a bit of nervousness when they first get there, followed by a deep feeling of peace and love. How could it be otherwise? Prayer is our opportunity to grow closer to God, and in Him, there is no fear.

"Even without taking into account the above benefits of joining the vigil, your presence is incalculably valuable, and here is why. There are many circumstances that propel a woman toward an abortion clinic, but there is just one reason she is there: to end the life of her unborn child. Her doctor may do many things throughout the day, but there is one primary purpose he will serve inside the procedure room: to end the life of an unborn child.

"When you have the courage and the confidence to stand outside the clinic and pray, as hard as it may be, you are there for a very different reason: to thank God for the life of that child, to show the world that he or she was worthy of life and love, and to pray for an end to this terrible injustice."

**To learn more about 40 Days for Life, go to [www.gcrtl.org](http://www.gcrtl.org).**

## Pope Francis in first year challenged church to revitalize its roots in Christ

By Carol Glatz and Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

In just one year, Pope Francis has made a powerful impact on the Catholic Church worldwide, a number of cardinals have said.

Members of the College of Cardinals gathered in Rome for a series of meetings in late February, and several spoke to Catholic News Service about the Argentine pope's budding legacy.

Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl of Washington: "It's been an extraordinary year. He's been able to help people see the face of Christ visible in his church."

"It's been an extraordinary gift and a challenge for the rest of us."

Cardinal Vincent Nichols of Westminster, England: "Pope Francis brings astonishing gifts to the role of Holy Father."

"He's given everyone a huge thrust of enthusiasm and joy of being Catholic, a profound challenge that our lives must be radically centered on Christ.



He's calling for a radical renewal in the church, starting with the roots."

"He goes to the heart of why the church exists: that we are missionary disciples. We're called into company



Left: Pope Francis at Ash Wednesday Mass. Above: The pope greets people as he arrives for his general audience in St. Peter's Square on Nov. 13. CNS photos/Paul Haring

with the Lord and called to go out" and share the Good News.

Cardinal Luis Tagle of Manila, the Philippines: "For me, it's a deeply personal joy. His first year in a way articulated

many of the things that I believed in."

For example, the cardinal said, the church needs to be "more humble, a church that listens, a church that doesn't pretend to have all the answers, a church that can be as confused as other people in the disorder of their lives, a church that is reduced to silence -- the silence of someone who contemplates, not the silence of someone who is angry."

"Many people appreciate that, but in some circles of the church, they do not. They interpret your compassionate, silent, listening stance as a kowtowing to the world and some sort of neglect of your prophetic ministry. But the prophetic ministry is much wider than being angry," he said.

"Constantly shouting, shouting, shouting, I don't think is the proper way to solve problems and support a movement toward integrity," he said.

"I'm very happy that the Holy Father's return to a more evangelical, Gospel style of being and style of leading makes us, in a way, self-critical of what we have inherited and (helps) to purify those things in the light of the Gospel."

Cardinal Oswald Gracias of Mumbai, India: The papacy of Pope Francis "has made a difference for the whole church, the church in India, for example; the church in Asia. We have lots of outreach to the poor, but he's made us rethink that and to examine it qualitatively, not just quantitatively, to give priority to the personal touch. He's reminded us of that, but also our own

## Pope Francis' top 10 most quotable quotes of the year

By Carol Glatz  
Catholic News Service

In his formal documents, many speeches, and unscripted morning homilies during the past year, Pope Francis has given the church a bounty of memorable sound bites.

Here's a look at what could be the top 10 most quotable quotes:

- "Brothers and sisters, good evening. You all know that the duty of the conclave was to give a bishop to Rome. It seems that my brother cardinals have gone almost to the ends of the earth to get him ... but here we are." (First words as pope, March 13, 2013)
- "The Lord never tires of forgiving. It is we who tire of asking for forgiveness." (First Angelus as pope, March 17, 2013)
- "This is precisely the reason for the dissatisfaction of some, who end up sad -- sad priests -- in some sense becoming collectors of antiques or novelties instead of being shepherds living with 'the odor of the sheep.' This I ask you: Be shepherds, with the 'odor of the sheep,' make it real, as shepherds among your flock, fishers of men." (Christ Mass, March 28, 2013)
- "Ask yourselves this question: 'How

often is Jesus inside and knocking at the door to be let out, to come out? And we do not let him out because of our own need for security, because so often we are locked into ephemeral structures that serve solely to make us slaves and not free children of God.'" (Pentecost vigil, May 18, 2013)

• "Men and women are sacrificed to the idols of profit and consumption: it is the 'culture of waste.' If a computer breaks, it is a tragedy, but poverty, the needs and dramas of so many people, end up being considered normal. ... When the stock market drops 10 points in some cities, it constitutes a tragedy. Someone who dies is not news, but lowering income by 10 points is a tragedy! In this way, people are thrown aside as if they were trash." (General audience, June 5, 2013)

• "Faith is not a light which scatters all our darkness, but a lamp which guides our steps in the night and suffices for the journey. To those who suffer, God does not provide arguments which explain everything; rather, his response is that of an accompanying presence, a history of goodness which touches every story of suffering and opens up a ray of light." ("Lumen Fidei," June 29, 2013)

• "If someone is gay and is searching for the Lord and has good will, then who am I to judge him? ... The problem is not having this tendency: no, we must be brothers and sisters to one another. The problem is in making a lobby of this tendency: a lobby of misers, a lobby of politicians, a lobby of masons, so many lobbies." (News conference during flight from Brazil to Rome, July 28, 2013)

• "An evangelizer must never look like someone who has just come back from a funeral." ("Evangelii Gaudium," Nov. 24, 2013)

• "The perfect family doesn't exist, nor is there a perfect husband or a perfect wife, and let's not talk about the perfect mother-in-law! It's just us sinners. ... A healthy family life requires frequent use of three phrases: 'May I?' 'Thank you,' and 'I'm sorry.' ... Never, never, never end the day without making peace." (Meeting with engaged couples, Feb. 14, 2014)

• "Gossip can also kill, because it kills the reputation of the person! It is so terrible to gossip! At first it may seem like a nice thing, even amusing, like enjoying a candy. But in the end, it fills the heart with bitterness and even poisons us." (Angelus, Feb. 16, 2014)



Front Page photo: A baptized Christian preparing to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church presents his baptismal record at the diocesan Rite of Election on Sunday, March 16.

CT photo by Ken Snow



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## PRACTICAL STEWARDSHIP

By Rick Jeric

### Idiot

Did you pray Psalm 51 each day this past week? It is such a great, reflective prayer. I may keep praying it each day throughout Lent. It reminds me, as I acknowledge my own sinfulness, of the salvation we are promised from God's infinite mercy. As our sins are wiped out, we immediately seek strength to sin no more. We plead for renewal by way of a steadfast spirit and a clean heart. We can never again be without God's presence or His Holy Spirit. Finally, our love and joy cannot be contained as we proclaim the Lord's praise. This is the "short form" of Lent. We confess our sins and seek reconciliation, we receive a renewed and strengthened spirit, and then we live the life of a good and faithful Christian steward of the Gospel. We are off to a good start this Lent. Let us keep it going by praying more each day, by fasting extra days, and by quietly giving alms to those who are in greatest need.

A couple of weeks ago, one of those annoying "idiot" lights went off on the dash in my car. The light itself is not so bad, but the incessant tone is what makes it very annoying. Of course, it would not stop, and I wanted to get rid of it as quickly as possible. The first thought I had was to pull the small fuse that controls those lights and sounds, and that would be the end of it. The second thought I had was that maybe there really was a problem. And with my 16-year-old daughter and my wife using my car sometimes, I thought better of that solution. The idiot light told me that there was a problem with my oil pressure. That is a lot better than blood pressure, but I still decided to take the car in to my favorite auto maintenance facility. Of course, and as you may have guessed, the oil pressure was fine. The lousy sensor was bad. Three hours and \$200 later, it was replaced.

Throughout these days of Lent, how often do we have an idiot light go off? Sometimes it is blinding and deafening. Other times, it is much more subtle, but we know it is there. These are the idiot lights of our heart, soul, and spirituality. The blinding light flashes directly on our continuous addictions and sinful actions that we just cannot seem to eradicate. The deafening tone of our selfish, prideful, and egotistic voice embarrasses us when we use it against those we love. Then there are those dim lights and softer sounds that keep us from holiness and have the potential to be more sinful and destructive. We are the idiots when we choose to ignore the warning lights and tones. We are the idiots when our first reaction is to be clever and pull the fuse, hoping it will just go away. We are truly idiots if we do not embrace the power and love of the sacrament of reconciliation, especially during Lent.

Our practical challenge this week is to react with urgency and a sense of determination to the idiot lights that keep nagging us and warning us. Do not pull the fuse for a temporary sense of security. Get to the nearest repair and maintenance facility as soon as possible. You know the place – the confessional. Jesus Christ is waiting for us there with arms open wide in the person of the priest. Let us be well prepared for that eternal light that shines so bright at the Easter Vigil in a few short weeks.

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



## CRISTO REY HIGH SCHOOL ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIP HONORING MSGR. SCHWEITZER

Cristo Rey Columbus High School has announced the creation of its first scholarship fund, named in honor of its benefactor, Msgr. Francis X. Schweitzer.

Msgr. Schweitzer served as pastor at Columbus Holy Family Church, located near the school's current campus, for 24 years, and continued to say daily Mass at the church until shortly before his death in 2013. His ministry focused on education, as well as services for veterans, the poor, and the homeless.

"The education of children was of utmost importance to Msgr. Schweitzer," said his nephew, Edward Flahive. "He realized the significance of its role in breaking the cycle of poverty."

In establishing the scholarship fund, Jim Foley, president of Cristo Rey Columbus High School, said Msgr. Schweitzer was an inspiring example of the church's mission to feed the hungry and serve the poor, and acknowledged his lifelong dedication to those who needed a helping hand.

"We are grateful for this generous gift that will help Cristo Rey Columbus in its own mission to serve those in need

by providing a quality Catholic college preparatory education to families that could not otherwise afford it," Foley said.

Cristo Rey High School, which is in its first year of operation, is a Catholic, college-preparatory high school with a professional work-study program empowering young men and women of all faiths, from economically challenged families, to graduate from college and achieve a lifetime of success.

The school targets underserved youth in central Ohio. Its first freshman class, which is scheduled to graduate in 2018, began attending classes this year at a temporary location in the Franklinton neighborhood of Columbus. Next year, a second class will be added and the school will move to a permanent site in the former Ohio School for the Deaf building adjacent to the main branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library. Two more classes will follow in subsequent years as Cristo Rey becomes a full four-year high school.

For more information about the school, visit [www.cristoreycolumbus.org](http://www.cristoreycolumbus.org).

Visit us online at [www.ctonline.org](http://www.ctonline.org)



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### ALL SAINTS ACADEMY '100' CELEBRATION

Columbus All Saints Academy had a celebration to mark the 100th day of school. Students from Kimberly Thomas' first-grade class are shown with portrayals of what they think they will look like when they are 100 years old. They also were asked to write about what they think they will do, wear, and say when they reach that milestone. In addition, they participated in a "Write the Room" activity to look for 100 words they know.

Photo courtesy Kimberly Thomas

### Father-Son Mass and Breakfast at St. Charles

Registration is under way for the 2014 Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School father-son Mass and breakfast on Saturday, March 29. This annual gathering drew more than 300 alumni fathers and sons, uncles, and grandfathers last year. Current students, incoming freshmen, and any other interested sixth-through eighth-graders are encouraged to attend, along with their fathers, grandfathers, and uncles.

The event will begin at 9:30 a.m., with Mass celebrated in the Mother of Mercy Chapel, followed by a buffet breakfast in the Robert C. Walter Student Commons. The guest speaker will be Paul Reiner, a St. Charles father and 1964 Columbus Aquinas College High School graduate.

The breakfast is free, but reservations are required. For more information, contact Louis J. Fabro in the school's alumni and development office at [lfabro@cdeducation.org](mailto:lfabro@cdeducation.org).

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### Sister and Brother Finish at Top



Brother and sister Justin and Audrey Brackenridge battled to the finish at Delaware St. Mary School's annual science fair, with Audrey (center), an eighth-grader, taking first place from her seventh-grade brother. Also pictured is Sophie Snyder, a fifth-grader, who came in third.

Photo courtesy St. Mary School

### SERVICE SATURDAY

Catholic Social Services is sponsoring its semi-annual Service Saturday program on May 17. Volunteers will help older adults and disabled individuals in Franklin County who need help with small home repairs, painting, yardwork, or other special projects.

Volunteers will gather at 8:30 a.m. at Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona Church, 1600 N. Hague Ave. Coffee, doughnuts, and box lunches will be available, and there will be a short orientation and training session. Supplies will be made available at the work sites.

Anyone who knows of someone aged 60 or older or a disabled person of any age who lives in Franklin County and could benefit from the assistance provided by the volunteers is asked to contact Peggy Sirbaugh at (614) 857-1251 or [psirbaugh@colscs.org](mailto:psirbaugh@colscs.org) by Friday, April 11, with the following information: name, address including ZIP code, telephone number, and project idea. Make sure you discuss the event with the individual before making the referral. A maximum of 30 worksites can be accepted.

Anyone interested in volunteering may call Sirbaugh. She will have information on where to gather for the day. The deadline for volunteering is Monday, April 28. All interested volunteers under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Those unable to volunteer who are interested in helping the program by purchasing supplies may send donations to Stephanie Jursek at Catholic Social Services, 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215.

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## SIGN OF CROSS PASSING CHURCH



**QUESTION & ANSWER**  
by: **FATHER KENNETH DOYLE**  
*Catholic News Service*

**Q.** I have some questions regarding a practice I observed as a child (in the 1970s). While they were passing in front of a church (either walking or in a car), I used to notice some people making the sign of the cross. I'm not sure whether this was just a personal custom or one endorsed by the church. Are you familiar with this practice, and, if so, how did it originate? Is it an appropriate sign of reverence? (Des Moines, Iowa)

**A.** Yes, I am familiar with this practice. I'm not sure whether it was taught to me by my mother or by the nuns in school. Ever since I was a child, whenever I pass a Catholic church, I make the sign of the cross with my thumb on my forehead, as a priest does to a child at baptism.

I do this as a sign of reverence for Jesus, present in the tabernacle. I'm not aware of any official "endorsement" of this practice by the church, but such a gesture of faith is a long-standing custom -- particularly in Ireland, but also in Italy and the Philippines.

I know that some people when passing a church make the complete sign of the cross, employing the entire hand on the forehead, breast,

and both shoulders, but more often, it seems, just the thumb is used.

Interestingly, that simple cross on the forehead seems to have been the original sign used to indicate a Christian's belief in the redemptive death and resurrection of Jesus, before it developed into the wider gesture.

The theologian Tertullian, in the year 211 AD, in a work titled *The Chaplet*, wrote: "In all our actions, when we come in or go out, when we dress, when we wash, at our meals, before resting to sleep, we make on our forehead the sign of the cross. These practices are not commended to us by a formal law of Scripture, but tradition teaches them, custom confirms them and faith observes them."

I also am aware of gentlemen tipping their hats when passing a church and of people making the sign of the cross when passing a cemetery (as a "quick prayer" for those buried there) or when an ambulance or fire engine goes by (asking God for a favorable outcome to that emergency).

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



### St. Rose 3rd-grader a "sure shot" at hoops

Joe Stenson, a third-grader at New Lexington St. Rose School, will be competing in the Great Lakes Region 4 event of the national Hoop Shoot contest sponsored by the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. He hit 22 of 25 free throws, then made four of five in a shootout at the Elks Hoop Shoot in Columbus. He will be competing against champions from Indiana and Michigan at the Region 4 finals in Angola, Ind.

Photo courtesy St. Rose School

## ODU Grant for Project-Based Learning

A project by Ohio Dominican University professors to study and improve project-based learning methods and practices has received significant support from the Ohio Board of Regents. The board selected ODU to receive a \$90,000 "improving teacher quality" grant for a project on "Preparing Students for the 21st Century: Implementing Common Core Mathematics Standards Through Project-Based Learning." ODU professors will partner with mathematics teachers in the Crooksville Exempted Village School District in Perry County to study, identify, and implement enhanced project-based learning practices.

The grant's principal investigators are Dr. Ron Zielke, ODU associate professor of mathematics and education; Dr. Marlissa Stauffer, assistant professor of education; and Dr. Lisa Douglass, former assistant professor of education at ODU.

"This grant allows us to take this sustained professional development opportunity to rural districts where funds for professional development are minimal

and the scores on state mathematics exams are often below average," Stauffer said. "It also allows us to pay an outside evaluator to examine teacher learning through pre- and post-assessments, which helps us improve our courses to better meet the needs of teachers."

Additionally, the grant allows teachers to enhance their knowledge by working with professors through grant-funded graduate education courses focused on mathematics education. Teachers also will receive more than 75 contact hours with professors to focus on practices they can implement immediately in their classrooms.

"Project-based learning allows teachers to develop one project that utilizes a multitude of standards at the same time, not only within mathematics, but across other disciplines," Zielke said. "Project-based learning helps ensure students develop problem-solving, reasoning, and other critical 21st century skills."

The project costs a little more than \$100,000. The regents' award is for \$90,070. The rest comes from nongovernmental sources.

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## ODU announces creation of Conway Scholarship

Ohio Dominican University has announced the creation of the Conway Endowed Family Business Scholarship Fund to support and encourage growth and succession of family businesses in central Ohio.

Starting in the fall of 2015, ODU will award the Conway scholarship to one first-year student every four years, as long as the student meets requirements of the scholarship. These requirements include being a member of a family who owns a business or wishes to start a family business, maintaining a 3.0 grade-point average, exhibiting a record of charitable work or community involvement, and demonstrating financial need as determined by the university. The scholarship may be renewed annually for a total of four years.

The Conway scholarship is made possible by a gift to ODU from the Conway Family Lead Annuity Trust. Jim Conway is the former owner of the Marion Steel Co. He and his wife, Linda, and sons, Steve and Scott, have been supporters of the Conway Center for Family Business, which was founded in 1998 to provide educational programs and resources for

family-owned businesses in central Ohio. "We hope our gift will empower the next generation of family business leaders with the skills and education they need to grow their family's business and transition it to the next generation," Jim Conway said. "We welcome this opportunity to share the success of our family business so we may ease the burden of rising educational costs for students with similar passions and career goals."

The Conway scholarship is the second family business-inspired scholarship to be offered at ODU. It joins the Maish Family Business Endowed Scholarship, which ODU offers to students who meet similar requirements and also is renewable for a total of four years.

The Maish scholarship is made possible by gifts and ongoing support from Tom and Judy Maish, who founded Contract Sweepers and Equipment, Inc. in Columbus and sold the company in 2004.

"When we established the Maish Scholarship, our goal was to provide assistance that offers students the opportunity to attain knowledge and skills to help them continue their family's leg-

acy," Tom Maish said. "We have been extremely impressed with the students who have received our scholarship, and we hope others will follow suit so they also can experience the profound impact of their gift."

"The ODU community is exceedingly blessed and grateful to have supporters such as the Conway and Maish families, who provide generous financial resources to students who aspire to use their talents and gifts to serve the local and global community," said Dr. Peter Cimboric, university president. "The success of family businesses has a direct and undeniable impact on the strength of our economy. These scholarships offer motivated students a means to pursue and realize their dream of family business ownership and successful entrepreneurship."

The Conway Center for Family Business is central Ohio's resource for edu-

cational programs, resources, and networking opportunities to support the growth and success of family-owned businesses. The center celebrates the successes of family-owned businesses at its annual awards program and offers peer group opportunities for next-generation leaders, family business leaders, and women who own family businesses. The organization includes more than 150 family-owned businesses that collectively employ more than 10,000 people in central Ohio.

The Conway Center has been a partner with ODU since 2000. In 2004, it moved onto ODU's main campus. As a partner, the center offers a variety of valuable resources to family businesses, including nine educational programs on the ODU campus annually. It also conducts four of its seven peer groups on campus and employs interns from ODU's work-study program.

## WINNING TWINS



Twins Matt and Megan Neary of Columbus Bishop Watterson High School have been named National Merit Scholarship finalists. They are among more than 15,000 finalists in the running for 8,300 merit scholarships. The winners will be announced in April, May, and July. Matt plans to major in math and theoretical computer science in college, is also a candidate for the United States Presidential Scholars program, and earned the highest possible composite score of 36 on the ACT college preparatory test. Megan plans to major in biology and English at The Ohio State University.

Photo courtesy Bishop Watterson High School



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## TRIBUTE TO FATHER SCHWENKER

St. Patrick's Day 2014 marks the tenth anniversary of the death of Columbus native son Father Robert Schwenker, OMI. For those who knew him, Father Bob was a saint, singularly intent upon evangelizing the most abandoned.

Raised by a mother who professed no faith and a stepfather estranged from the Church, Bob attended Columbus St. Catharine School because his mother's friends sent their children there. When several of the school's eighth-grade boys chose to attend St. Charles Prep, Bob followed.

Just after St. Patrick's Day 1989, from the Oblate provincial house in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Father Bob recalled that childhood community: "I thought of you on St. Patrick's Day and how all the Irish on the East Side took me under their wing," he wrote to his friend Jack Murphy. "I thought of how many St. Patrick's Day parades I marched in long before I was baptized, and with a name like Schwenker to boot!"

But it was more than the parades that attracted the young Bob Schwenker to the Catholic Church. As he said years later, seeing the faith of his friends, he was determined to have what they had. In 1952, during his sophomore year in high school, Bob made the decision to be baptized, receive his first Communion, and be confirmed into the faith of the Catholic Church.

If evangelization is at the heart of Catholic school education – and it is – then Bob's conversion is a tribute to that core value.

After Notre Dame and a stint in the armed forces, Bob surprised many people when he put aside aspirations for medical school and joined the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. While the seminary weathered the turbulent reforms of the 1960s, Bob found stability in the Gospel value of poverty. He took to heart the Oblates' motto: "You sent me to evangelize the poor; the poor have been evangelized." That motto would guide him in the most important decisions of his priestly life.

The newly ordained Father Bob influenced a gen-

### ODU appoints Brinkman director of undergraduate admission

Ohio Dominican University has appointed Kevin Brinkman as its director of undergraduate admission. Brinkman is responsible for planning, coordinating, and implementing strategic student recruitment efforts for ODU's undergraduate programs at the local and national levels.

Brinkman brings nearly a decade of successful higher-education recruitment experience to ODU. Most recently, he was associate director of undergraduate admission at Millikin University in Decatur, Ill. He also served as athletic recruitment coordinator and assistant dean of undergraduate admission at Bellarmine University in Louisville, Ky.



eration of youth at Holy Angels Church in Buffalo, N.Y., where he was known as "Bullet Bob" for his speed on the basketball court. He would inspire others as vocations director for the Oblates' Eastern Province, where he ran summer apostolates, including one stint in the South Bronx.

Father Bob went on to serve as a missionary in Ceiba, Puerto Rico; in the desperately poor southern coastal villages of Haiti; among the sugar cane workers on the border between Haiti and the Dominican Republic; amid illegal drug cultivation in the mountains of Oaxaca, Mexico; among the neglected population of Afro-American former slaves on the northern coast of Colombia; and in the violent slums of the displaced persons of Cartagena and Bogota, Colombia.

It was in the southernmost periphery of Bogota where Father Bob met his death. There was some suspicion of murder, but most probably, he was the victim of a hit-and-run as he was jogging in the early morning hours of March 16, 2004. Carrying no ID, he was admitted to a clinic as John Doe. There he remained for 26 hours with massive injuries, unable to communicate. He gave up his spirit at around 8 a.m. on St. Patrick's Day, March 17. Having spent his missionary life bringing the Gospel to the most abandoned, Father Bob died alone as one of the most abandoned.

On this ten-year commemoration of his death, tribute should be given not just to the unsung saint who Father Bob Schwenker was – one of the many forgotten Christians throughout history who have led an exemplary life of faith and witness far beyond the mean – but also to the role that the Church of Columbus played in his development. The Holy Cross Sisters of St. Catharine School planted the seeds of faith in young Bob Schwenker, the diocesan priests and high school classmates of St. Charles nourished the seedling, and the Oblates – who until recently staffed West Jefferson Ss. Simon and Jude Church, where Father Bob often would stay on his visits to Columbus – allowed the tree of faith to

bloom and bear fruit one hundredfold.

May Father Bob Schwenker rest in peace, and may the Diocese of Columbus be proud of the faith it fostered in its native son.

*Dan Stollenwerk, author of this tribute, worked with Father Bob in the 1980s in the Bronx. He is the author of Path to Poverty: From the Bronx to Bogota in Memory of Father Robert Schwenker.*

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## The Peace of Christ, A Treasure to Share

By Nancy Grilli

During our vacation in sunny Florida this winter, my sister Kris and her husband came to stay with us for a few days. Since I like to patronize the local businesses and also bring a little remembrance home whenever I travel, we decided to check out the local Saturday art fair. The art turned out to be handmade craft items of every imaginable description, displayed in booths along a tangle of pathways in the park. Although buyers seemed scarce, gawkers were plentiful and the fair was packed with people. We found ourselves weaving through the throngs of tourists and locals who had come to stroll along the lanes. We often lost each other in the milling crowd and would have to wait or catch up as needed. A band played, a vocalist sang,

and a man on stilts entertained those willing to pause a minute.

In the midst of the throng, Kris noticed a young woman – perhaps in her 30s – who was accompanied by her mother. The young woman was physically and mentally impaired, and the crush of people and the noise of the scene were overwhelming for her. She had bright plastic beads around her neck, and in her excitement, her left arm flailed about, but her right fist tightly clutched the beads to her chest. Kris stopped to engage her in conversation, and our little entourage came to a halt. The young woman had no language, and yet Kris continued to chat with her about her beads, her dress, and the fair. The girl was soon in rapt attention, while the noise and confusion of her environment seemed to slip beyond her notice.

The mother was calm and soft-spoken, smiling as she watched the conversation unfold. She told us that she thought the art fair would be a good outing, but she could now see they would have to leave because it resulted in sensory overload for the daughter. As we were leaving, Kris touched the girl gently on the shoulder, but she recoiled immediately. Again, it was too much. Then, as if sensing the safety in my sister's touch, the young woman responded and touched Kris back. Later, Kris confided to me, "As we were walking away that day, the mother told me 'Thank you' in such a sincere way that it touched me."

The world offers me so much. It's a moving mass of people and things. Beauty and light, color and sounds are everywhere. In my search for happiness, I am drawn to the baubles – clutching

them with one hand and grabbing out for more with the other. I go to the shore, hoping it will refresh me. I buy clothes and sandals from stores that are stuffed with merchandise. I check out the inventory in the tourist shops, searching for a remembrance – a piece of pottery or perhaps a silver starfish on a chain.

During this trip, I found my remembrance in a most surprising place. It was nothing I purchased, but, rather, it was something I watched – an outpouring of Jesus through a sister who was drawn to a little one. The morning after the art fair I read in my meditation book the words of Meister Eckhart: "You may call God love. You may call God goodness. But the best name for God is compassion."

*Nancy Grilli is a parishioner at Groveport St Mary Church.*

## The Hand That Extends Itself to You Is A Pierced Hand

By Leandro M. Tapay

Diocesan Missions Director

A comedian once said "If broken hearts were commercials, we would all be on TV."

At one time or another, all of us will experience the fog of a broken heart. This fog respects no hour or no person. When this fog encircles us, our vision is blocked. Words of help and words of hope become empty phrases.

Have you ever been betrayed by a friend? Then you know what I mean. Those who are abandoned by their parents, or dumped by a spouse, or have buried someone they loved – they all know the fog of a broken heart.

If you are in it now, or whenever you are in it, know that you are not alone. Think back over the last two or three months. How many broken hearts did you encounter? How many wounded spirits did you witness, or

how many tragedies have you heard or read about?

The fog of a broken heart blinds our vision and destroys our dreams. Forget the hopes of reaching the world, or any plans of changing society, or aspirations of moving mountains. "Forget all that," the broken heart says. "Just help me make it through the night."

Jesus' agony in the garden is perhaps the foggiest night in history.

Have you seen a classic portrait of Christ in the garden of Gethsemane, in which Jesus is kneeling beside a big rock, wearing a snow-white robe, with His hands peacefully folded in prayer, a look of serenity on His face, a halo over His head, and a spotlight from heaven illuminating His golden-brown hair?

Now I am not an artist, but I can tell you one thing – whoever painted that picture did not use the Gospel of Mark

as a pattern.

"Horror and dismay came over Him," "My heart is ready to break with grief," "He went a little forward and threw Himself to the ground (Mark 14: 32-42)." Mark used these phrases to describe that painful night.

Does this look to you like a picture of a saintly Jesus resting in the palm of God? Not to me! Mark used black paint to describe this scene. Jesus is agonizing, straining, and struggling. We see Jesus as a man of sorrow, as a man struggling with fear, as a man wrestling with commitments and yearning for relief. We see Jesus in the fog of a broken heart.

What a portrait! Jesus is cloaked not in sainthood, but in humanity. This is how St. Paul puts it: "In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety

(Hebrews 5:7)."

Whenever you find yourself in the fog of a broken heart, or whenever you find yourself thinking that no one understands, re-read the 14th chapter of Mark. Or whenever self-pity convinces you that no one cares, think of what Jesus went through in the Garden of Gethsemane. Whenever you wonder if God really perceives the pain that prevails on this dusty planet, listen to Jesus pleading among the twisted trees in the garden.

Seeing God suffer should do wonders for our own suffering. God was never more human than in His agony in the garden. God has never been nearer to us than when He hurt. The Incarnation has never been so fulfilled as when Jesus was in agony.

If you watch closely, you will recognize that the hand that extends itself to lead you out from the fog of a broken heart is a pierced hand.

Story by **TIM PUET**, *Catholic Times Reporter*

Photos by **KEN SNOW**



# 2014 RITE OF ELECTION

What leads a person to decide to join the Catholic Church? For Lauren Westbrook, Shetland ponies played a role. Bad radio reception put Carol Binger on the road to a life-changing decision. For Betty Zimmerman, “it was just time.”

Westbrook, Binger, and Zimmerman are three of the 670 people who attended the diocesan Office of Divine Worship’s Rite of Election ceremonies to publicly declare their intention to become Catholics at the Easter Vigil.

Westbrook, 28, has two genetic disorders – Trisomy 9 and Turner’s syndrome – and says she knows of no one else with both conditions. Trisomy 9 is caused by having an extra chromosome in some cells. Turner’s syndrome is a condition in which all or part of one of the sex chromosomes is absent or has other abnormalities. Either disorder may result in any of a number of developmental problems. Many people with one or

the other condition die of complications by age 5, but Westbrook is 28 and in good health.

Two years ago, Westbrook was introduced to Gina Switzer, who has two Shetland ponies at her home in Worthington and uses them to provide therapy for people with special needs. Switzer is a member of Columbus St. Patrick Church and a liturgical artist whose work can be found throughout the Columbus area.

Westbrook said that when her father died last February at age 53 of pulmonary fibrosis, “I felt a little lost, and Gina invited me to come to church with her to pray for him. When I did, I felt so much better. My sadness began to disappear as I came to realize that God is good and that my father is in a good place and not suffering any more.

“I kept coming to church with Gina and she invited me to RCIA class, and now I feel even better,” she

said. “When I go to church, I can feel God’s presence, and everything seems different. I have stomach aches that sometimes can be bad, but in church, they go away. I’m really excited for the Easter vigil, when Gina will be my sponsor. I wish my dad were here to see it, but I know he will be watching because he’s with Jesus.”

Switzer said that “in the absence of her earthly father, Lauren is learning who her real Father is. Lauren is a very strong young woman who will be a real force once she receives the fullness of the faith.” She said Westbrook has charmed many people at St. Patrick’s with her enthusiastic personality and has developed a special devotion to Blessed Margaret of Castello, a disabled, dwarfed Dominican sister whose shrine is in the downtown Columbus church.

As Westbrook prepares to join the church, her mother, who had been an inactive Catholic, is revitalizing her

own faith. “The best advice I could give Lauren’s mother in her grief was to reunite herself with Christ and his church,” Switzer said. “So I invited her to come back, and she has,” attending Mass daily.

Binger said her interest in the Catholic Church came “purely by accident.” “I live in Lancaster and work in Worthington for Home Health Connections. I’m up at 2 a.m. so I can get to work by 4,” she said. “Around 3 a.m. one morning, I was trying to pick up Red Eye Radio, a late-night radio program for truckers I usually listen to. But there was a lot of interference and the only clear signal I could find was St. Gabriel Catholic Radio” at 820 AM in Columbus.

“I’m not sure what program it was, probably *Catholic Answers* (a lay apostolate providing responses to people’s questions about the Catholic Church). I began listening and the explanations of what the church

teaches just made a lot of sense. The speakers were quoting Scripture just like any good Protestant preacher might do, and I knew they spoke the truth,” she said.

“I’m 71 and I’ve been married to a Catholic for 48 years. My husband knew better than to try to convert me. I used to think of myself as a born-again, non-denominational Christian who couldn’t be bowled over easily. I’d go to Mass, but that didn’t have an impact. It was the discussions I heard on the EWTN network. They were very scripturally sound. After a while, I found myself talking back to callers and answering some of their questions even before the guys on *Catholic Answers* did.”

Binger is taking RCIA classes at Lancaster St. Bernadette Church. She’s now a regular listener of St. Gabriel Radio and said some of her favorite programs are *Right Here, Right Now* with nationally known Catholic speaker and author Pat-

rick Madrid of Granville, *Women of Grace*, and *The Son Rise Morning Show*.

“It’s also great to go to RCIA classes and hear from Father (Thomas) Kessler (St. Bernadette pastor), because you can tell he knows his Scriptures and how they explain Catholic teachings,” she said.

Zimmerman, 83, has been familiar with the Catholic Church all her life – “all my girlfriends when I was growing up in Oklahoma were Catholic,” she said – but said she never joined a church or was baptized, even though she regularly attended Lutheran services with her late husband. The couple moved frequently because he was in the military, eventually settling in Fresno, Calif., where Zimmerman lived until moving to Pickerington to be near her son and his wife.

“My daughter-in-law attends Seton Parish and I live near there,” she said. “She began taking me to church, and after a while, I felt it was just time to join. The faith is right for me. I believe in all the things I have learned and found that most of what the church teaches is what I’ve believed all along. I just feel comfortable here, and the people have been very welcoming.”

Rite of Election ceremonies take place each year on the First Sunday of Lent. For the past several years in the Diocese of Columbus, there have been two identical services at the same site to allow adequate room for the number of people taking part.

This year, 239 catechumens and 331 candidates, along with their chosen godparents or sponsors, were in attendance at the ceremonies on Sunday, March 9 at Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. Catechumens, including Westbrook and Zimmerman, are people who have



Catechumens, candidates, their godparents and sponsors, as well as family members and friends, filled the pews of Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, plus additional space in an adjacent hall with closed-circuit TV, for the diocesan Rite of Election.

not been baptized. Binger and her fellow candidates are those who have been baptized in another Christian denomination.

Catechumens publicly indicated their desire to join the church by signing the Book of the Elect, giving them the title “members of the elect.” Candidates participated in the Call to Continuing Conversion that was part of the ceremony and signed the book.

In his homily at both Rite of Election services, Bishop Frederick Campbell said to the catechumens and candidates that in becoming Catholics, they will be fulfilling a desire God gives to each of us, but which cannot be satisfied by the things of this world.

“That desire is a gift given to us that we may direct our lives, hopes, and attitudes toward the one person that satisfies it -- Jesus Christ,” he said.

“You are preparing to receive Jesus Christ in a very deep and human way through the sacraments,” the bishop said. “As Our Lord promised when his earthly time came to an end, ‘Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.’

“Jesus took the natural substances of bread and wine and transformed

them into his body and blood, so he might be present with us always.

“This is what you are preparing to receive, and touched by that presence, you will never be the same.”

The bishop told those in attendance that the term “the elect” has nothing to do with achieving a certain status. “Remember,” he said “this word means ‘the chosen (in Greek).’ God is reaching out and choosing us. We desire to see the face of God at the same time he is looking for us.

“Sometimes he whispers. Sometimes he speaks quite loudly. He waits for us to look on him and be saved, touched by his presence so that nothing can frighten us, even death. Remember your election. God chooses you. And pray for the grace to be worthy of so profound a dignity.”

The celebration of the Rite of Election has two parts: sending and receiving. Catechumens are sent by the parish. This is a public pronouncement that they are ready to enter a covenant relationship through participation in the sacramental life of the Church. This pronouncement is done through their presentation to the bishop. This is the first of many sendings they will receive through-

out their faith journey.

Those who are sent can then be received. The bishop of a diocese attends the Rite of Election, accepts the parish community’s judgment, receives the catechumens, and invites them to enter their names in the Book of the Elect. The announcement of the church’s decision to call catechumens to the Sacraments of Initiation -- Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist -- falls to him.

Those who already have been baptized are asked to present a record of their baptism to the bishop. Through their presentation of their prior experience of the first of the Sacraments of Initiation, they publicly embrace the Catholic Church and demonstrate their commitment to a process of growth in faith and solidarity with the Catholic community.

In addition to those taking part in the Rite of Election services, there are baptized Catholics in the diocese who are taking part in RCIA classes this year because they have not received the other two Sacraments of Initiation. They will take part in a service at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on Sunday, March 31 at which they will receive those sacraments from Bishop Campbell.



Left: A candidate who has been baptized in another Christian denomination and is preparing to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil presents a record of her baptism to Deacon Jeffrey Fortkamp during the diocesan Rite of Election at Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. Right: A catechumen, someone who has not been baptized, signs the Book of the Elect to express his desire for baptism.

## LIVING WAX MUSEUM



Third-graders at Hilliard St. Brendan School portrayed historical figures in a "living wax museum." Pictured are Elijah Cyre-Elias as James Madison and Teresa VanVranken as Blessed Teresa of Calcutta. The process leading to the portrayal started by having students explore biography books selected from the school library by teachers. Each student was given a chance to browse the books, then chose three possible subjects and described the reasons for the choices in writing. Teachers read the descriptions and selected one of the three for the student to portray. The student then started researching that person and created a brochure with three paragraphs about the highlights of his or her life. The unit concluded with the student dressing as the person and giving that description at a program to which parents and other students were invited.

Photo courtesy St. Brendan School

## Bid O'Luck Dinner Auction

Lancaster Fisher Catholic High School's 32nd annual Bid O'Luck dinner auction will take place Saturday, April 26 at the school, 1803 Granville Pike. The theme will be "It's a Wonderful Life ... Because of Fisher Catholic." Donations are being accepted for inclusion in the live and silent auctions. Contact Milea Quaintance at (740) 654-

689-3288 to donate goods or services. Dinner will be catered by the culinary arts program at Hocking College, and there will be a raffle for a \$10,000 cash prize. Tickets are available at \$75 for the dinner and \$100 for the raffle by contacting Kellie Shonk at (740) 654-1231.

## OHIO STATEHOUSE VISIT



Fourth graders from Columbus Immaculate Conception School recently took a tour of the Ohio Statehouse, sitting in the members' seats in the chamber of the House of Representatives, visiting the governor's ceremonial office, and meeting their state representative, John Patrick Carney.

Photo courtesy Immaculate Conception School

## St. Catharine Wins Diocesan Girls Tournament



The Columbus St. Catharine School fifth-grade girls basketball team defeated Columbus St. Andrew to win its division of the Diocesan Recreation Association basketball tournament. The team finished 5-5 in the regular season and swept three postseason games. Team members are (from left): coach Kay Lonas, Katie Heuser, Annie Hofherr, Emily Moore, Maggie Agra, Emily Casto, Alyssa Carfagna, Emma Bergman, Annamarie Wills, coach Tanya Schweitzer, and Kami Kortokrax.

Photo courtesy St. Catharine School

## School Principal as Playwright

By Jim Silcott

Principal, Columbus Trinity Elementary School

When it comes time for spring musicals, many Catholic elementary and secondary schools rely on familiar classics. At Columbus Trinity Catholic Elementary School, the seventh and eighth graders, directed by teachers Sara Boyle, Sarah Downey, and Lori McCollough, for the third year in a row will be doing a show never before seen on the Broadway stage – because it is written by me, the school's principal.

The world premiere of *Heaven Is for Real and So Is Cincinnati* will take place at Trinity at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 13. I wrote the play with our seventh and eighth graders in mind. The script and music are tailored to the students, and the message of this comedy with a twist of emotion is geared to showcase the talents of the students at Trinity and highlight the mission of the school.

This is the 15th play I have written for schools. I started in 1987, writing a play for Columbus St. Timothy School called *Comedy Tonight*. Later, as principal at St. Timothy, I wrote three more plays for the middle school there. As a drama teacher and assistant principal at Columbus Bishop Watterson High School from 2000-2005,

I wrote nine more plays for the classes I taught, dealing with everything from the Beatles coming to New York to a class of rowdy students in an all-girls high school.

In my first year as principal at Trinity Catholic, I reprised one of my Watterson plays, *Camp Creeps*, a reenactment of scary stories told around a campfire. Last year, I told a tale of pirates on the open sea in *The Pirates of Pizzazz*. This year in *Heaven Is for Real and So Is Cincinnati*, there are angels and senior citizens, baseball players and soldiers, big dance numbers, and lots of singing.

I write my plays specifically for middle school and high school students. The length is always less than an hour and I try to write a play that works with specific students in mind. The major advantage is that the plays are royalty-free and, because they are world premieres, no one ever knows how they are going to turn out! The directors are also free to adapt the script as they see fit, with no interference from the author!

I have been writing for pleasure all my life and enjoy it immensely. It is a nice change of pace from being a principal, and, while I will never win a Tony award, I get a big kick out of seeing my imagination come to life on the stage.

Come see us in May. Admission is free!

## Tuscarawas Essay Winners

Three New Philadelphia Tuscarawas Central Catholic High School students won awards in the Voice of Democracy competition sponsored by Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1445. Each received a cash prize and a \$25 gift card.

Margaret Mary Nguyen was the first-place finisher and was awarded \$100 and a jacket embroidered with the Voice of Democracy logo. Anna Thompson was the runner-up and Elizabeth Thomakos earned an honorable mention. All are seniors at the school. The winning entries have been forwarded for judging at the district level.

The Voice of Democracy competition is a nationwide VFW program for students in grades nine through 12. They are judged for originality, content, and delivery of an audio essay. This year's



theme was "Why I'm Optimistic About the Nation's Future."

Photo: VFW Post 1445 Voice of Democracy contest winners from New Philadelphia Tuscarawas Central Catholic High School are (from left): Elizabeth Thomakos, honorable mention; Anna Thompson, runner-up; and Margaret Mary Nguyen, first place.

Photo courtesy TCCHS

## Program on Ethical Wills

The Martin de Porres Center's Institute for Maturing Spirituality announces its fifth series of webcast programs, beginning Thursday, April 3 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. with a program titled "Ethical Wills: a Legacy of Values," presented by Andrew Siegel.

The purpose of an ethical will is to preserve one's legacy, innermost thoughts, regrets, and life experiences, and to pass them on to future generations or simply from one friend to another. While not a legal document, an ethical will is a record of what its author has come to value most throughout life. These documents have been seen to increase the quality of life for those who draft them and those who read them. This presentation will address the importance of ethical wills for people of all ages, their relevance to family, friends, and co-workers, and steps in creating one's own ethical will.

Siegel has been working with older adults for seven years. He interned in the palliative care department of the George Wash-

ington University Hospital, and most recently has worked with the Evercare Hospice organization. Siegel's passion is bridging the gap between generations and enhancing the lives of elders.

The goal of the Institute for Maturing Spirituality is to provide quality programming in spirituality and holistic health for older adults. This webcast, the first in a series of four, is available by subscription to parishes, senior residences, and health care centers. A limited number of subscriptions are available to parishes in the Diocese of Columbus through a grant from the Columbus Foundation. Contact the Martin de Porres Center for more information on scholarships for parishes.

The public is welcome to attend live presentations at the center, located at 2330 Airport Drive, Columbus, for a freewill offering. Register for this presentation by Wednesday, April 2 by calling the center at (614) 416-1910 or register online at [www.martindeporres-center.net](http://www.martindeporres-center.net).

The Center for Dominican Studies Presents

### St. Catherine of Siena Lecture

"What We Have Seen, Heard and Touched with Our Hands," based on 1 John 1:1

Ohio Dominican University's Center for Dominican Studies welcomes Father Brian Pierce, O.P. April 2 as our St. Catherine of Siena Lecture keynote speaker.

Father Pierce is an author, missionary and preacher who has spent many years ministering among the poor and indigenous people in several Latin American countries. Hear his experiences of seeing God in the faces of the poor, and in the suffering of men and women living with HIV/AIDS.

**Annual St. Catherine of Siena Lecture**

3:30 p.m., April 2, 2014  
Ohio Dominican University  
Sansbury Hall, Colonial Room  
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Admission is free but registration is requested. To reserve your seat, please call 614-251-4722 or email [ambrosim@ohiodominican.edu](mailto:ambrosim@ohiodominican.edu).

## Second Sunday of Lent (Cycle A)

## Transfiguration account stops us in our tracks



Father  
Lawrence L. Hummer

Genesis 12:1-4a  
2 Timothy 1:8b-10  
Matthew 17:1-9

The Genesis reading begins the “historical” (as opposed to the “prehistorical”) part of the book of Genesis with the call of Abram. All the material before Abram is generally considered “prehistorical,” despite what “creationists” want to do with the content of Genesis 1-12. All of the legends and folklore and family lore found in the “pre-Abramic” period give way, with Abram, to known historical people and places, even if that cannot always be said about the content of Genesis 12-50 specifically.

Before Abram (Abraham), the Lord God had dealt with people in general ways as people continually rebelled against God. With Abraham, the Lord specifies a particular people (Abraham and his descendants) who will enter into a unique relationship with the Lord in what came to be called a covenant. The relationship began with the promise of “a land that I will show you.”

The Lord promises them that they will become “a great nation” whom the Lord will bless, and who in turn will become a blessing for “all the communities of the earth,” which is actually reading into the text an organizational structure that may not be there. The Genesis text actually speaks of the “families of the earth.” Given that “families” generally have organizational structure to some extent, “communities” may work, but is subject to discussion.

The Gospel for the Second Sunday of Lent is always the Transfiguration (literally, a change of appearance). Going to a high mountain was, in biblical thought, get-

ting closer to God. The higher one went, so they thought, the closer they could get to God, who dwelt “above the firmament.”

This year’s version is from Matthew. Matthew follows Mark’s version of the event much more than Luke does. Matthew only varies from Mark in minor details. Matthew says Jesus’ face “shone like the sun and his clothes became white like light.” Mark had said “his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them,” and does not mention his face at all. Matthew has Peter address Jesus as “Lord” when Peter speaks at the end. Mark has Peter address him as “Rabbi.”

Matthew makes Peter’s suggestion conditional: “If you wish, I will make three tents for you.” Mark’s Peter says “Let us make three tents for you. . . . He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified.” Matthew makes no mention of terror.

Matthew’s voice from the cloud says the same thing that the voice had said at the Baptism of Jesus: “This is my beloved son in whom I am well-pleased,” but he adds “Listen to him,” in agreement with Mark. After this, Matthew adds that they were “very much afraid.” This makes it pretty clear that these three disciples recognize that the voice was God’s. By recognizing that they are in the divine presence, they naturally bow down as unworthy. Jesus comes to them and “touches” them, using the word that Jesus will use to describe his own resurrection: “Rise! Do not be afraid (or stop being afraid).”

What happened in the end, we do not know. We can speak of and have seen how faces of people change in sickness or before death. A pregnant woman at times is said to have a radiant glow on her face. Yet we are stopped in our tracks at this account of the transfiguration of Jesus, and are left to ponder the glory of the Lord, in company with the great heroes of Israel, Moses and Elijah, representing the Law and the Prophets, which Jesus came to fulfill.

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

## PRAYER FOR IMMIGRATION REFORM

A Mass and prayer service for immigration reform will take place Monday, March 24, at Parroquia Santa Cruz, 143 E. Patterson Ave., Columbus. The service will begin at 7 p.m. with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and recital of the rosary, followed by Mass.

All are welcome to stand in solidarity at this time with our immigrant brothers and sisters as they strive for a better life. The nation’s bishops remind us that now is the time for the nation to enact comprehensive immigration reform laws.

For more information, contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at (614) 241-2540 or the Catholic Latino Ministry at (614) 262-7992. For more information about Catholic teaching on immigration, visit [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org).

## The Weekday Bible Readings

MONDAY  
Daniel 9:4b-10  
Psalm 79:8-9,11,13  
Luke 6:36-38

TUESDAY  
Isaiah 1:10,16-20  
Psalm 50:8-9,16bc-17,21,23  
Matthew 23:1-12

WEDNESDAY  
2 Samuel 7:4-5a,12-14a,16  
Psalm 89:2-5,27,29  
Romans 4:13,16-18,22  
Matthew 1:16,18-21,24a or Luke 2:41-51a

THURSDAY  
Jeremiah 17:5-10  
Psalm 1:1-4,6  
Luke 16:19-31

FRIDAY  
Genesis 37:3-4,12-13a,17b-28a  
Psalm 105:16-21  
Matthew 21:33-43,45-46

SATURDAY  
Micah 7:14-15,18-20  
Psalm 103:1-4,9-12  
Luke 15:1-3,11-32

## DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE WEEK OF MARCH 16, 2014

**SUNDAY MASS**  
10:30 a.m. Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio (820 AM), Columbus, and at [www.stgabrielradio.com](http://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)  
(Encores at noon, 7 p.m., and midnight).  
Mass from Kenton Immaculate Conception Church at 10 a.m. on Time Warner Cable Channel 6 (Hardin County).  
Mass from Portsmouth St. Mary Church at noon on Time Warner Channel 24 in Scioto County.

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

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

## Ash Wednesday in Rome



THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE  
George Weigel

Half an hour before sunrise on Ash Wednesday, hundreds of English-speakers from all over Rome began walking to the ancient basilica of St. Sabina on the Aventine Hill. They started from student residences, from embassies to Italy and the Holy See, and from the Vatican. The focal point for all this activity is the Pontifical North American College: more than 250 seminarians, student-priests, priest-faculty, and staff, having walked from the Janiculum Hill to the Aventine, formed the largest single contingent at St. Sabina on Ash Wednesday.

That is as it should be. For St. Sabina is the first “station” in the Roman station church pilgrimage of Lent, a tradition dating back to the middle centuries of the first Christian millennium. And the station church pilgrimage, which extends throughout Lent and involves 40 churches, has become, today, a predominantly Anglophone—indeed, a predominantly American—phenomenon, having been revived for the third millennium by the North American College.

I got a sense of just how American this venerable custom has become when I spent all of Lent 2011 in Rome, making the station church pilgrimage in full with my son Stephen and my friend Elizabeth Lev, as we prepared our book on this unique spiritual, historical, and aesthetic journey, *Roman Pilgrimage: The Station Churches* (Basic Books).

On the Thursday after Ash Wednesday 2011, at 7 a.m., perhaps 250 English-speakers crowded into the small basilica of St. George in Velabro for the second Mass of Lent. Forty-five minutes later, a brave group of Germans came to honor the station church

tradition by celebrating a beautifully chanted Mass together; there were seven of them. The next day, the same large English-speaking congregation climbed the Caelian Hill at dawn, to the station church of Sts. John and Paul. Stephen and I came back to the basilica later that afternoon to do some more photography and accidentally found ourselves in the midst of the station Mass sponsored by the Vicariate of Rome, the local diocese: there were about 12 concelebrants, and perhaps another dozen people.

All of which explained the answer I got when I asked my friend Hanna Suchocka, the Polish ambassador to the Vatican, why she regularly attended the 7 a.m. English-language station church Mass rather than the more convenient 5:30 p.m. Vicariate of Rome Mass at the station church of the day. “Because I found a living Church here [i.e., at the American-sponsored Mass]” was her response.

St. Sabina is a splendid place to begin the station church pilgrimage. As Liz Lev puts it in *Roman Pilgrimage*: “The Basilica of St. Sabina crystallized Roman Christianity’s vision of the perfect church” with its remarkable “synergy of light, space, and decora-

tion.” St. Sabina is also home to the oldest known depiction of the crucifixion, on the cypress doors of its porch: an image caught beautifully in one of Stephen’s *Roman Pilgrimage* photographs and a reminder that Lent is a journey with the Lord “up to Jerusalem,” where Jesus will meet his messianic destiny in the Paschal Mystery.

Liz’s, Stephen’s, and my intention in *Roman Pilgrimage* was to put readers “inside” the station church pilgrimage experience. Liz’s brilliant descriptions of each church’s architecture and decoration give the reader a sense of “being there” and understanding what, in fact, is “there.” Stephen’s striking photographs are not modeled on high-end architectural magazines, where places lack people; the photos in *Roman Pilgrimage*, either in the hardback or the e-book (where all the photos are in color and can be “zoomed” out by tapping on them), literally put you “inside” the station basilica of the day, with the “living Church” of which Hanna Suchocka spoke. My meditations on the daily Mass and Divine Office texts suggest something of what that “living Church” is pondering, day by day, as it walks through Rome while, imaginatively, walking up to Calvary and the Empty Tomb.

Americans in Rome have revived an ancient Catholic tradition that had lain dormant for centuries. That’s the happy fact to which *Roman Pilgrimage: The Station Churches* bears witness; that’s an experience readers can now share.

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

## LANCASTER ST. MARY CHAMPIONS



The Lancaster St. Mary School seventh-grade boys basketball team finished the season with a 14-0 record, capping the year by winning the Mid-State League seventh-grade championship. Team members are (from left): first row, Andrew Edwards, Luke Maynard, Collin McCrady, Carter Brady, Mason Ortiz, and Dylan Piko; second row, Mark Brady, coach; Max Shaw, Lucas Gauwerke, Mitchell Zombek, Daniel Turner, and Andrew Faulkner.

Photo courtesy St. Mary School

## ST. ANDREW LENTEN PRAYERS



Columbus St. Andrew School second- and third-grade students took part in a Lenten prayer service. The students read from the Gospel according to Mark and led the school in prayers and songs.

Photo courtesy St. Andrew School

**Correction** - The times listed in the fish fry section of the March 9 Catholic Times for the fish fry at Pickerington St. Elizabeth Seton Parish were incorrect. The correct times are 5:30 to 7 p.m. In the same issue, an incorrect day of the week was listed for Stations of the Cross at Columbus St. Leo Church. Stations are at 3 p.m. Wednesday from March 12 through April 16. In addition, the list of Lenten devotions in that issue also should include Stations of the Cross, Eucharistic Adoration, and Benediction each Friday of Lent, except Good Friday, at 6 p.m. at Mattingly Settlement St. Mary Church.







# ANNUAL HONOR CHOIR CONCERT

**Seventh Annual Diocesan Honor Choir Concert**  
Wednesday, March 26 • 6:30 p.m.  
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

The seventh annual concert of the Diocese of Columbus Catholic Schools Honor Choir will take place at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 26, in the New Albany Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road. The honor choir program invites students from all of diocesan schools to participate in a one-day choir event directed by clinician Sheila Cafmeyer and guest composer Craig Courtney.

More than 300 singers from 17 schools will perform, representing diocesan grade schools, high schools, and Ohio Dominican University. Students will rehearse and perform as two ensembles – a grade school choir and a high school choir. The combined

choirs will perform Courtney's *I Will Rise*. More than 300 works by Courtney (pictured) have been performed worldwide. He brings a wealth of experience, energy, and passion for music to share with young singers. A native of Indiana and a graduate of the University of Cincinnati, he came to Columbus after spending six years teaching and studying in Salzburg, Austria. He is the staff composer and editor at Beckenhorst Press and works at Capital University, where he accompanies the chapel choir, teaches choral arranging, and directs the men's ensemble, the Chordsmen.

In addition to performances by the two honor choirs, individual selections will be performed at the concert by featured ensembles including Hilliard St. Brendan School's liturgical choir, Columbus Bishop

Watterson High School's women's choir, Columbus Bishop Hartley High School's concert choir, and the Ohio Dominican University chorus.

This event was developed by diocesan music teachers as an effort to give their singers an opportunity to perform challenging music in a large ensemble setting. Singers prepare the music under the guidance of their music teachers and assemble for one afternoon rehearsal and evening performance.

Sacred music of all styles, from Renaissance to classical and Gospel to contemporary, will be performed during this celebration of song to demonstrate our Catholic heritage through music.

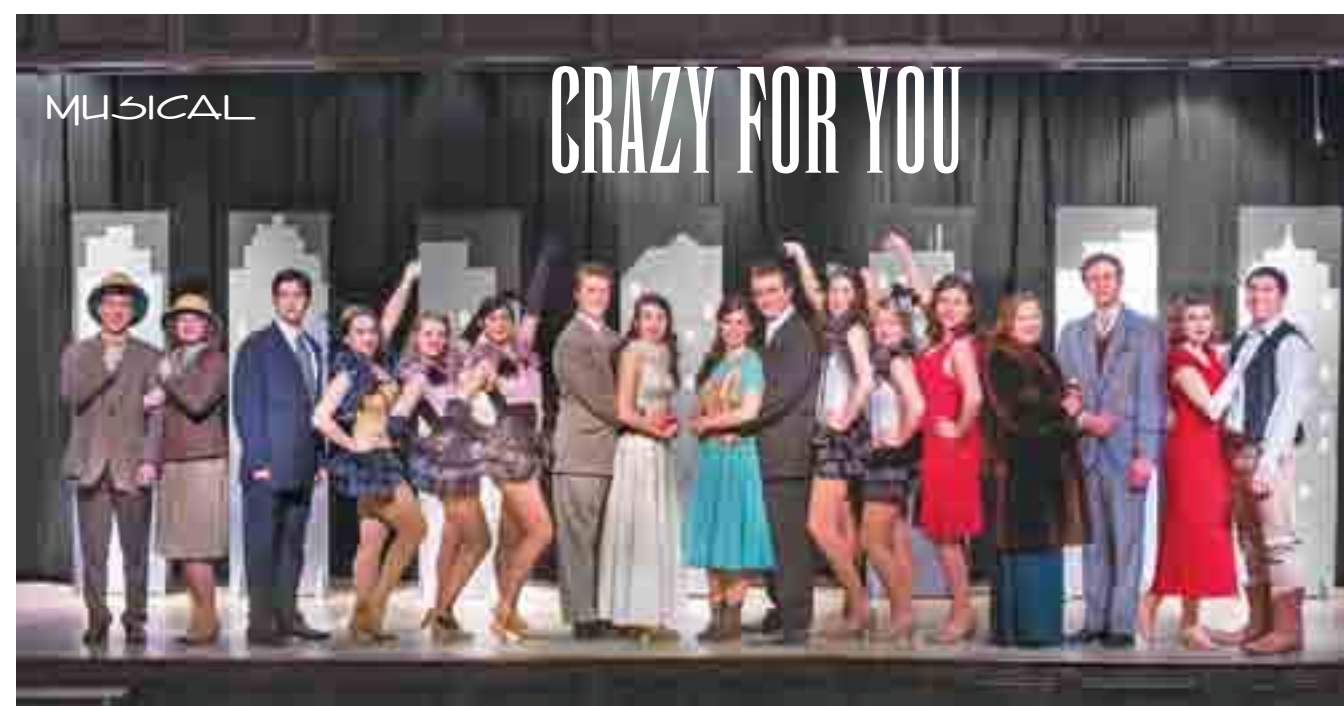
A free-will offering will be collected for the Holy Family Soup Kitchen in appreciation for the service it provides.

Columbus Bishop Watterson High School's spring musical, *Crazy for You*, is the story of New Yorker Bobby Child (played on alternating nights by Aidan Roach or Andy Simmons) who is sent to a small town in Nevada to close down the local theater. When he arrives, he falls in love with Polly (Belle Brown or Alexis Eldredge), the theater owner's daughter. He decides to put on a show to raise money for the theater so it can be saved. Does it work? Come to the show to find out!

In other principal roles, Jacob Erney will play Bela Zangler, Chas Parise is Lank Hawkins, Griffin Maxwell is Everette Baker, Dominic Rippey is Eugene Fodor, Abby Andrews is Irene Roth, Marisa Phelps is Patricia Fodor, Amelia Johnson is Tess, Meghan Noonan is Patsy, Maddie Cumbo is Mitzi, Hailey Mattes is Mrs. Lottie Child/Mother, Sarah Bender is Perkins, and Liz Turnbull is Mother's Director.

Performances will take place Thursday, March 13, and Friday and Saturday, March 14, 15, 21, and 22 at 7 p.m. at the school, 99 E. Cooke Road.

Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$8 for students and seniors, and \$4 for children 12 and younger. For reservations, email Abby Teeters at [abteeter@cducation.org](mailto:abteeter@cducation.org).



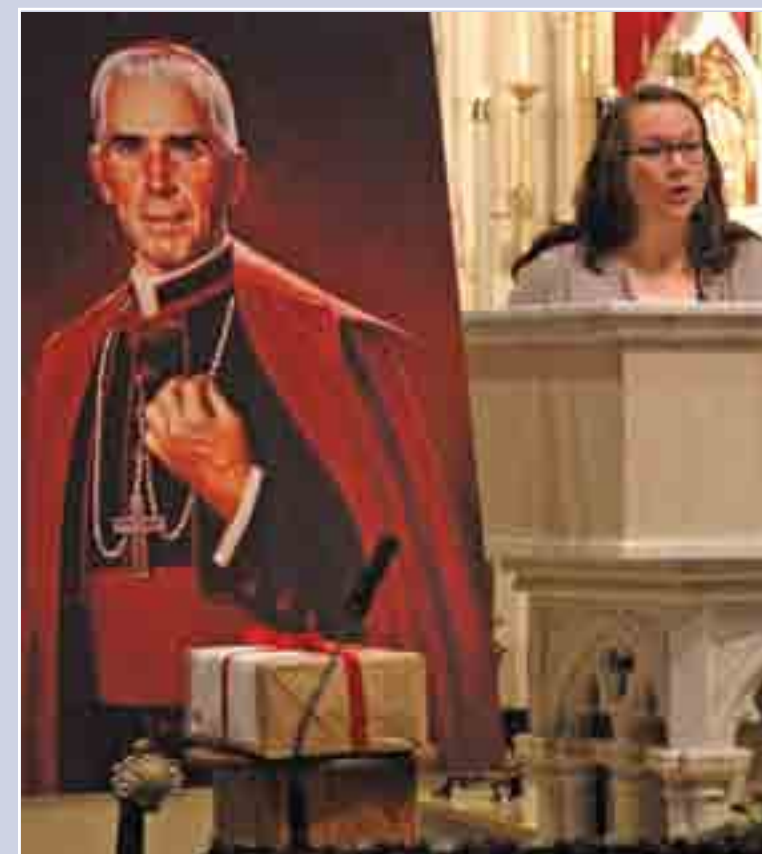
## NEWS IN PHOTOS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



Mother Plagia Sayyaf of Mar Thecla monastery in Maaloula, Syria (left), one of at least 12 other abducted nuns who was freed after three months, attends a prayer service at the Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross in Damascus on March 10. Islamist rebels claimed responsibility for the abduction of the nuns in December from Syria's ancient town of Maaloula. CNS photo/Khaled al-Hariri, Reuters



An Orthodox clergyman prays next to armed servicemen near Russian army vehicles outside a Ukrainian border guard post in Ukraine's Crimean region. The head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church said Ukrainians must be prepared "to sacrifice our lives in order to protect the sovereign, free, independent, and unified state." CNS photo/Baz Ratner, Reuters



With evidence of her son's alleged miraculous healing boxed and sealed in front of a portrait of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, Bonnie Engstrom gives a reading at a 2011 Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Peoria, Ill. Bishop Daniel R. Jenky of Peoria, president of the Archbishop Fulton Sheen Foundation, said early on March 6 he received word that the seven-member board of medical experts who advise the Vatican Congregation for Saints' Causes has unanimously approved a miracle attributed to Archbishop Sheen's intercession. CNS photo/Tom Dermody, The Catholic Post



**Pope Francis blesses a man in a wheelchair as he greets the sick and disabled during his general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican on March 5.** CNS photo/Paul Haring



**Pope Francis speaks during an audience with members of the Roman Curia in Clementine Hall at the Vatican.** CNS photo/Claudio Peri, pool via Reuters

## POPE, continued from Page 3

simplicity of life and approach. He's holding us back to basics, to make us the church that Jesus wants."

The cardinal said that when Pope Francis was asked what he was bringing to the church that was new, the pope said, "All I want for the church is Jesus Christ."

"I'm happy that the whole world has reacted positively. This is a challenge for any new pope. Somehow Pope Francis has touched the right chord," Cardinal Gracias said.

"I hope that all of us can work together and give him support to do what he wants to do to make the church more vibrant once again. I really feel he has made the church once again the voice of the poor, the moral voice in the world, and people are listening to him. I hope people will not just listen, but also follow what he says."

Cardinal Wilfrid Napier of Durban, South Africa: "He's given the faith, the Catholic way of life such a different color, a different tone, a different spirit."

"I would say the essence of Pope Francis was 'If I look at who I am, I can see all that is wrong with me, and it is only because of God's grace that I am not that wrong person that I was potentially going to be, so who I am now is because of God's grace. It's those two poles: the sinner that I am and God's grace that is transforming me.'"

"He is not what he is because of the



position he's been given, but because of a relationship with God and relationship with Jesus. That is what's making him a different person."

"Of course, for me as a Franciscan, it's even doubly challenging, because here's a Jesuit living the Franciscan way of life better than I am. It's quite something. It's quite a lovely challenge I think that you can share with the pope this idea of living like St. Francis" of Assisi.

## Some things most people don't know about Pope Francis

**By Carol Glatz**  
*Catholic News Service*

When Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran walked onto the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica, telling the crowds in Latin, "I announce to you a great joy. We have a pope!" not many people recognized the name of then-Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Now, one year since his March 13, 2013, election, there are still many things most people do not know about the 265th successor of Peter.

Here are a few things people should know about Pope Francis. He:

**1.** Has a way with birds: Pope Francis expertly handled a white dove and a green parrot during different general audiences in St. Peter's Square.

According to the pope's sister, Maria Elena Bergoglio, the future pope had a parrot when he was in the seminary. And because he loved to play jokes, she said, "I wouldn't put it past him that he taught the little beast a swear word or two instead of how to pray."

**2.** Has colorful work experience on his resume: In addition to having worked sweeping floors in a factory and running tests in a chemical laboratory as a teenager, the pope also used to work as a bouncer. Later,

when he was no longer kicking troublemakers out of clubs, he taught high school literature and psychology, which, he said, helped him discover the secret to bringing people back to church.

**3.** Was a Jesuit Oskar Schindler: When then-Father Bergoglio was head of the Jesuit province in Argentina, he ran a clandestine network that sheltered or shuttled to safety people whose lives were in danger during the nation's murderous military-backed dictatorship.

According to witnesses, the future pope never let on to anyone what he was doing, and those who were helping him find rides or temporary housing for "guests" never realized they had been part of his secret strategy until years later.

**4.** Is a homebody with missionary zeal: Even though he has traveled extensively, the future pope considers himself "a homebody" who easily gets homesick. However, he wanted to join the Society of Jesus because of its image as being "on the frontlines" for the church and its work in mission lands.

He wanted to serve as a missionary in Japan, but he said his superiors wouldn't let him because they were concerned about his past health problems.