ADVENT
PREPARING THE WAY OF THE LORD
For another kind of preparation that is Advent, followed quickly by the celebration of Thanksgiving, the increasing costs of Catholic educations, and the work that is to be done to prepare the world for the coming of the Messiah. This is a commission to all of us for work that is to be done to prepare the world we live in for the Word of God. The message was repeated by John the Baptist, as he will be remembered in the Sunday Gospel readings during Advent. He was telling the people of his day of the work that lay ahead of them: spreading the Good News to a world in desperate need of hearing it. As that foldship of followers grew, so did their mission. They prepared the world for the suffering Jesus that God had to offer. They fed the hungry, comforted the sick, and raised the spirits of the discouraged with the message that God so loved the world that he sent his only Son to save us from our sins and to give us eternal life. It was a big job then, and it is still a big job today. Advent is a time of the year to remind us of that great commission, to reconnect ourselves to the task assigned to us as we prepare to do the way of the Lord.

Yes, there are busy times. But don’t let the celebration get ahead of the message the holiday celebration is intended to proclaim: Christ is coming! Open your hearts to receive him!

On this weekend that follows our national celebration of Thanksgiving, let us show our gratitude for the good things we enjoy by supporting those who are suffering in the Philippines and southeast Asia. Special collections will be taken in all parishes in the Diocese of Columbus. Donations may also be sent to the diocesan office at 108 E. Broad St., Columbus OH 43215, with “Philippines” in the memo line.

Special Collections for the Victims of Typhoon Haiyan

December 1, 2013

The Catholic Church has a long-standing history of responding to disasters and working to meet the needs of affected communities worldwide. In 2013, the Catholic Church responded to the devastation caused by Typhoon Haiyan, which struck the Philippines on November 8, 2013. The typhoon, one of the strongest ever recorded, killed thousands and left millions homeless.

The Catholic Church’s response to Typhoon Haiyan included providing emergency relief, such as food, water, and shelter, as well as longer-term assistance to help communities recover and rebuild. The Church also worked to support education, health care, and other essential services to help those affected by the disaster.

The Church’s efforts were coordinated with local authorities and other humanitarian organizations to ensure that aid reached those who needed it most. The Church’s response was praised for its speed, scale, and effectiveness, and it is considered one of the Church’s most successful responses to a natural disaster.

In addition to its direct relief efforts, the Catholic Church also raised funds through special collections in Catholic parishes and schools to support its disaster relief work. These collections helped to provide additional resources to support affected communities.

Today, the Church continues to provide ongoing support to those affected by Typhoon Haiyan. This includes ongoing relief efforts, as well as efforts to help communities rebuild and recover. The Church’s response to Typhoon Haiyan is an example of the Church’s commitment to responding to disasters and working to meet the needs of those in need around the world.
Did you notice and pay particular attention to the immediate world around you this past week? It is sometimes very easy to focus on issues, problems, and challenges that are the same as those experienced by everyone in the same globe that has seemingly shrunk so quickly in the past 30 years. It is always important for us to be keenly aware of and responsive to the needs of the poor and vulnerable among us, share our resources with the Church throughout the world, but most importantly, the Church should be all in need of us in our Faith or status in life. We respond so generously to our brothers and sisters in Jesus – to those who are human suffering such as the typhoon in the Philippines. But in addition, when we look at the many issues challenging our morals, values, and family living, we must look at other aspects of our lives. Change exists in our families, our parishes, and our neighborhoods first. How can we expect others to change when we are not in our own homes, faiths, family living, and sinfulness? Let us notice, let us serve, and let us love.

To any of us who have ever used text messaging, we know that “Thx” is a nice abbreviation for “Thanks.” After all, it saves three characters and 50 percent of a whole word, not to mention one half-second of time. I imagine myself as a texer but I use it quite often each day. I especially enjoy the quick and easy communication with my wife and children, particularly my two sons, who are in other cities. I do take advantage of the print media for a change. Don’t worry, we do have real conversations over the phone and by way of Skype, but texting is a great way to stay in touch. I have learned only too well, on a couple of occasions, to be sure that we remain as one. You are the gift I cherish and appreciate the most. I will take advantage of the print media for a change. I especially enjoy the quick and easy communication with my wife and children, particularly my two sons, who are in other cities. I do take advantage of the print media for a change. Don’t worry, we do have real conversations over the phone and by way of Skype, but texting is a great way to stay in touch. I have learned only too well, on a couple of occasions, to be sure that we remain as one. You are the gift I cherish and appreciate the most. I will take advantage of the print media for a change.

Catholic Men’s Luncheon club Meeting

Father Michael Gentry, parochial vicar of St. Vincent de Paul Church, will tell his vocation story at the Friday, Dec. 6 meeting of the Catholic Men’s Luncheon Club at Columbus’ Pistolesi’s Restaurant, 200 N. Grant Ave. The meeting will take place following the Friday liturgy at 11:45 a.m. Mass and will conclude by 1 p.m. No reservations are necessary, but a $10 donation to cover the cost of lunch is requested. Father Gentry earned his bachelor’s degree in economics in 1986, a master’s degree in theology, and a doctorate in philosophy in 1993. He graduated in 2001 from Benedictine College of Haydenville, Mass., and was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Frederick Campbell of West Palm Beach in May 2001. The Catholic Men’s Luncheon club meets one Tuesday of each month excluding January, July, and August. For more information go to www.ColumbusMen.com.

Our practical challenge this week is to say Thx. Use the preceding paragraph as a guide. If you do not take gratitude for granted, Graciously accept the others from, but go out of your way to sincerely thank those who are generous in life, who do their work the best, who also that you try to be a good witness to others. Tell them in person, use the phone, Skype, e-mail, or text them. Do it with love, care, and appreciation. Hey ThxGirl!

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

PRACTICAL STEWARDSHIP

By Rick Jeric

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Bishops’ meetings and poverty: Wait for baptism?

Q. I notice that the Catholic bishops of the United States are holding their annual meeting at the Marriott Hotel at Baltimore. My husband and I have been going to an expensive site for the past two years. Is there any reason for this?

A. Yes, there is. The intention of the council fathers to utilize the people's language was based (as the Vatican fathers were) on the belief that the laity, in order to understand the mystery itself, should divest themselves of worldliness and live the faith. To this end, there is a desire to have the people take the initiative in understanding Christ's presence in the liturgy. The Catholic Church's love for the people is evident in the liturgy, and it is important for the people to understand the symbols and traditions of the Church. The use of the Marriott is a practical decision, as the hotel offers a comfortable and accessible location for the meeting. The decision to use the Marriott was made by the council fathers to ensure that the people could effectively participate in the liturgical assembly.

Catholic Bishops Revive Newark Catholic 21

Ready bolted to a 27-17 lead in the first half and Newcvark Catholic built on the lead in the second to hold off the Silver Knights.

Luke Ceneviva's seven catches for 71 yards included

Bishops' meetings and poverty: Let us pray:

Q. Does the church believe in baptism or do they want us to pray for our children instead?

A. The Church believes in baptism as the Sacrament of Initiation into the Church. It is a theological mystery that unifies the faithful in Christ. However, the Church also understands that baptism is a grace that is freely received and that it is the beginning of a journey in faith. The Church encourages parents to pray and to be present during the baptismal celebration, as prayer is an essential part of the baptismal process. Parents should also be present to support their children as they begin their journey in faith. The Church believes that prayer is an essential part of the baptismal process.

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Luke Ceneviva's seven catches for 71 yards included
Guilt has gotten a lot of bad press recently. We live in an age where guilt is practically something bad, something to get past with the help of a shrink. Particularly since we have been taught that religion and morality do nothing more than make people feel guilty. Nowhere is this more true than in marriage therapy in New Bedford, Mass., seems to subscribe to this view. “Through centuries,” he writes, “religious education has associated sex with guilt. What she ended up doing, in this situation, is not even close to the way she had created for herself. As a result of her effort, she struggled with feelings of guilt on our part. Every instance of erotic satisfaction, sexual activity, for instance, is an act of will, a kind of choice. Every time we act, we make a decision. Thus, when we do good things to others, we do good things for ourselves. We are not just being kind to others; we are also being kind to ourselves. Jesus identifies Himself with the least. Jesus lives in the same way that we live, by the same means. When we see Jesus, we see ourselves. The person who sees Christ is the one who sees the forgotten, the ignored, and the sick. If you want to see Jesus, you have to take care of those who truly want to find Him – that’s God’s promise. “Anything you did for even one of the least of my people here, you did for me” (Matthew 25:34-35).

Instead of an expression of the divine, sex is suspect – what is wrong and sinful rather than what is sacred. writes, “religious education has associated sex with guilt. What she ended up doing, in this situation, is not even close to the way she had created for herself. As a result of her effort, she struggled with feelings of guilt on our part. Every instance of erotic satisfaction, sexual activity, for instance, is an act of will, a kind of choice. Every time we act, we make a decision. Thus, when we do good things to others, we do good things for ourselves. We are not just being kind to others; we are also being kind to ourselves. Jesus identifies Himself with the least. Jesus lives in the same way that we live, by the same means. When we see Jesus, we see ourselves. The person who sees Christ is the one who sees the forgotten, the ignored, and the sick. If you want to see Jesus, you have to take care of those who truly want to find Him – that’s God’s promise. “Anything you did for even one of the least of my people here, you did for me” (Matthew 25:34-35).
Parishes Announce Advent Activities

Columbus Holy Spirit and St. Philip – Parish Morning of reflection with Sister Louisa Mary Passeri, OP, celebration of Mass in honor of the Immaculate Conception, and lunch, Monday, Dec. 9, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; St. Therese’s Retreat Center, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus, Holy Spirit will support annual Whitehall Kids Christmas campaign sponsored by Pride of Whitehall organization, mayor’s office, and Whitehall schools, with pararians filling lists with names of 24 children and their families picking up the gifts.

Columbus St. Andrew – Giving Tree will support needy families served by the Bishop Bressler Retreat and a Columbus parish, Appalachian poor served by the Missionaries of Charity, and infants and children served by the Christ Child Society; Knights of Columbus collect money to purchase food for gift baskets taken to the Our Lady of Guadalupe Food Pantry; St. Vincent de Paul Society sends blankets to about 60 homebound people and nursing home residents, sending cards to pararians filling homes that don’t allow visits.

Columbus St. Catharine – Eucharistic Adoration, Monday, Dec. 9, 9 a.m. to 6:45 p.m. in addition to weekly Thursday evening Holy Hour and first Friday adoration, confessions, Monday, Dec. 9, following 7 p.m. Mass.

Columbus St. Elizabeth – Christmas concert, Wednesday, Dec. 4, 7 p.m.; Evening Prayer, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, and Benediction, Sunday, Dec. 8, 5:30 to 7 p.m.; Anointing of the Sick at conclusion of all Masses, Saturday, Sunday and Dec. 14 and 15; Giving Tree for St. Vincent Family Centers and Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs goes up this week, with return of wrapped gifts on Monday, Dec. 9.

Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral – Lunch and cards with cathedral choir and chamber orchestra, Sunday, Dec. 15, 5 p.m.; Giving Tree provides items for residents of Bradywine Place nursing home in the care of Third Generation.

Columbus St. Leo – Parish with Sister Mary Jo Wagner, pastor, Columbus St. Dominic and Martin de Porres Center, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus; pararians collect toys and clothes for local children, collects toys and clothes for local children and blankets for Martin de Porres Center, helping to keep children and elders of St. Vincent de Paul Society warm in winter.

Columbus St. Martin – Parish with Sis- ter Mary Jo Wagner, pastor, Columbus St. Dominic and Martin de Porres Center, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus; pararians collect toys and clothes for local children and blankets for Martin de Porres Center, helping to keep children and elders of St. Vincent de Paul Society warm in winter.

Columbus St. Martin of Tours – Parish with Sis- ter Mary Jo Wagner, pastor, Columbus St. Dominic and Martin de Porres Center, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus; pararians collect toys and clothes for local children and blankets for Martin de Porres Center, helping to keep children and elders of St. Vincent de Paul Society warm in winter.

Columbus Holy Cross – Simbang Gabi, a Filipino Christmas tradition, featuring celebration of Mass since nine consecutive days, Sunday, Dec. 15 to Monday, Dec. 23, 7:30 p.m.

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was a freshman in Conley’s first year and could appreciate the moment as much as anyone on the roster.”

“I think it was when Grand Valley came over last year,” first-year kicker Brent Wahle said. “I probably had one of the biggest smiles I’ve ever had when I saw our name up there.”

Conley credits Conley’s leadership for building a winner:

“You can’t buy into the program and what he had there, it was just really a magical season,” Conley said. “I think that motivates us to want to go out and play our hardest every day. We know that there’s been great teams that have gone before us.”

Ohio Dominican started to turn the corner in 2012, winning just two games and finishing second in the C-LIAC AC. This year the Panthers are off to a 7-3 record with four games left on the season where last season left off and kept going, and are in the running for the school’s first conference title.

“Whatever our role is, we know we have the ability to build a winner,” he said. “We’ve got some pretty talented kids that’s for sure.”

What would you do with extra cash?

Enjoy Up To 3 Months of No Payments and Receive a $50 Gas Card!

- Refinance Your Current Auto Loan &
- Closing. You may have the option of delaying your first payment for up to 90 days. Minimum loan balance is $5,000.
- Auto loans currently held by Education First Credit Union are not eligible. Auto loans are subject to credit approval. Terms:
- What would you do with extra cash?
- Enjoy Up To 3 Months of No Payments and Receive a $50 Gas Card!

Celebrate Christmas with Ohio Dominican

Join the Ohio Dominican University community for our annual Christmas Carol, Carol and Lessons, Wednesday, Dec. 4. The evening will begin with Carol and Lessons, followed by the Children’s Choir and a reading from the Christmas tree. Children can visit Santa, watch Santa, perform, and get their own picture with Santa. Free and open to the public. For more information please call 614-444-2598 for instructions on how to enter.

Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona – Exposition: First Sundays, from end of 12:15 p.m. Mass until 8 p.m. prayer service on Feast Sunday.

Columbus Holy Name – During day in chapel, followed by Vespers and Mass on the last Sunday of the month.

Columbus St. Mary Magdelone – Exposition: 24 hours, seven days a week during the Sacred Triduum, and during the Sacred Triduum, in the church's Eucharistic Chapel.


Columbus St. Peter – Exposition: First Fridays, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; all other Fridays, 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturdays, 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Columbus St. Francis of Assisi – Exposition: First Sundays, from after 8 a.m. Mass until 8 p.m. prayer service on Feast Sunday.

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OSU professor to talk on bioethics from Catholic perspective

The next event in The Catholic Foundation's conversations series will feature Dr. Vincent Pompeii speaking on the bioethics perspective concerning the use of adult non-embryonic stem-cell therapies in cardiovascular disease. Pompeii is the director of interventional cardiovascular medicine at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. His talk will focus on the use of adult non-embryonic stem-cell therapies in cardiovascular disease. He is also the founder and chief medical officer of Artesys, Inc., a company that develops treatments for cardiovascular and cardiac disease.

On Nov. 22, 1966, the seventh grade at Baltimore's Cathedral School was in gym class when we got word that President Kennedy had been shot. A half-hour later, while we were climbing the stairs back to TB's classroom, Sister Dolores's voice came over the public address system, announcing that the president was dead. Walking into TB's classroom and I saw something that shook us as much as the news we'd just heard: our tough-luck home-room teacher, a young School Sister of Notre Dame, was sobbing, her head buried in her arms on her desk.

The days of public meaning that followed—solemnity shunted only by the assassination of the press, or the on-campus TV, would be lost on an impression so great and the unprecedented, so effective the subsequent myth-making, that a half-dozen or so years later, as a college student beginning to feel the effects of late-60s skepticism, I was nonetheless offended when it was first reported that the later president had been a “fanatic guru” (as in RFK’s father put it).

Still, the magnetic appeal of the man (or the myth, or both) was such that when I first went to Dallas, I didn’t know that at least two women gynecologists in the room (and I don’t mean that whatever is left will not be taken later. Simply means that the Son of Man will come when we are not expecting it. Nobody can predict it. So we are all told to be alert at all times.

In practical terms, this means we need to be ready to meet death (our encounter with the Son of Man) whenever it comes, by living lives worthy of our calling. None knows the day, so we are told to be prepared always. Being prepared in this way means being attuned to the teachings of Jesus so that we are not caught off guard by the one day he shall come (the day of Jesus). Such are the things we are asked to ponder in this holy season.

Father Lawrence Hummer, pastor at Chillicothe's St. Mary, can be reached at hummerl@stmarychillicothe.com.
A Cookie walk sponsored by Reyn- 
oldsville Palace, 400 E. Main St., 
 Norwich, will be on Saturday, Dec. 
 14, to benefit Joseph’s Coat. 
 Participants will be able to buy an 
 item for 10 cents, and they will be able to purchase the necessities of daily 
 living. Those interested can contact 
 Josh Wagner, pastor of Columbus St. Dominic and Holy 
 Redeemer, by calling 614-565-8654.
Sacred Mysteries: A Celtic Christmas

By Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

People gather in St. Peter’s Square on Friday evening for Pope Francis’ reflection on the relics of St. Peter

Pope Francis closed the Year of Faith by calling on people to keep Christ at the center of their lives, especially in times of trouble.

“When Jesus is at the center, light shines in even the darkest moments of our lives. He gives us hope,” he said in his homily on Sunday, Nov. 24, the Feast of Christ the King.

The following Tuesday, the pope called on people to keep Christ at the center of their lives, especially in times of trouble.

Pope Francis said Jesus responded to the man with forgiveness, the Lord does not let such a petition go unheard,” Pope Francis said. In response, “the Lord always grants forgiveness, ‘not condemnation.”

Pope Francis began his homily by thanking retired Patriarch Illiarexil alongside Jesus, as well as the Eastern Catholic churches, who were in Rome for a meeting, and extended those greetings to all Christians living in the Holy Land, Syria, and the East.

People need to say, “Jesus, remember me because I want to be good. I have the desire to become good, but I don’t have the strength. I can’t, I’m a sinner,” the pope said. In response, “the Lord always grants more than what he has asked.”

On Sunday, the pope said, “This is the work of God in our hearts, who gives us the grace to live according to his will.”

St. Peter had been “identified in a way which we can never have been displayed in public.”

The pope then greeted patriarchs and archbishops of the Eastern Catholic churches, who were in Rome for a meeting, and extended those greetings to all Christians living in the Holy Land, Syria, and the East.

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About 260 young people and 90 adults from all over the Diocese of Columbus gathered Thursday, Nov. 21, at West Jefferson Ss. Simon and Jude Church for a morning Mass before continuing their pilgrimage aboard seven buses to the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis. On their arrival in Indiana’s capital city later that day, they joined about 24,000 other youths at Lucas Oil Stadium and the Indiana Convention Center for three days of talks, workshops, prayer, and service projects linked by the theme “Signed. Sealed. Delivered” and giving them ample opportunities for spiritual growth. Concelebrants for the Mass were Father William A. Metzger, pastor of the host parish; Father Charles Klinger, pastor of Westerville St. Paul Church; and Father David Sizemore, pastor of Sunbury St. John Neumann Church. Fathers Klinger and Sizemore traveled with the Columbus contingent to Indianapolis. In his homily, Father Klinger told the young people that they would be encountering Jesus in many ways through their interactions with others, through the messages they would hear from conference speakers, and ultimately through the closing Mass of the conference on Saturday, Nov. 23. He urged them to “look forward to this visitation” and be open to finding Jesus in all their activities of the weekend.

The conference, which takes place every two years, began regionally in 1983 and nationally in 1991 and was hosted by Columbus in 2007. This year’s event included 154 delegations from 44 states, including Alaska and Hawaii. Participants included 325 priests, 35 bishops, and several hundred other religious. Among its highlights was the packing of 100,000 meals to be sent to west Africa. A story on local participants’ activities at the conference will be featured in the Dec. 15 Catholic Times.

Bus trips to the annual March for Life in Washington in January again will be sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 11187 of Pickerington St. Elizabeth Seton Parish and by Danville St. Luke Church.

The bus from Pickerington will leave early Tuesday, Jan. 21, returning late Wednesday, Jan. 22, or in the early-morning hours of the following day.

Participants will travel directly to the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception for the Vigil Mass for Life on Tuesday, then go to the Embassy Suites in Washington for the night.

After the complimentary hotel breakfast Wednesday, young people in the group, along with anyone who would like to accompany them, will head for the youth rally and Mass for Life at the Verizon Center. Those who do not go to the rally may attend one of several morning pro-life functions.

The entire group will attend the March for Life’s noon rally on the Mall, followed by the actual march to the U.S. Supreme Court building, then board the bus for the trip home. The cost is $170 per person, based on double occupancy. Contact Edd Chinnock at echinnock@aol.com or (740) 927-5099 for registration forms or more information, or see the Seton Parish website, www.setonparish.com. The registration deadline is Sunday, Dec. 15.

The trip from Danville will be for four days and three nights. The cost is $320 for a double room and $280 each for three or more persons in a room. This covers the ride on a 47-passenger bus, three nights at the Hampton Inn in Alexandria, Va., and a tour of Washington guided by John Durbin of Danville.

The bus will depart Danville at 7:30 a.m. Monday, Jan. 20. The following day, the group will tour the nation’s capital and attend a 6 p.m. Mass at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

After the tour and march on Wednesday, the group will stay one more night before leaving Washington at 9 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 23, returning to Danville in the early evening.

A $50 deposit is due by Tuesday, Dec. 10. Final payment is due by Friday, Jan. 10. Make checks payable to St. Luke Parish. For more information, contact the church office at (740) 599-6362 or Bobbie Thomas at (740) 398-9710 or (740) 427-4044.

Three Columbus Bishop Hartley High School athletes have signed letters of intent to play college sports next year. Pictured are (from left): Sidney Melton, softball, Louisville; Mike Winters, Hartley principal; Sam Montgomery, baseball, Lake Erie; and Mariah Rock, softball, Walsh.

Photo courtesy Bishop Hartley High School