



DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

# CATHOLIC TIMES

*A journal of Catholic life in Ohio*



NOVEMBER 15, 2015  
THE 33<sup>RD</sup> WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME  
VOLUME 65:7  
[WWW.CTONLINE.ORG](http://WWW.CTONLINE.ORG)



**ST. MATTHIAS CHURCH  
SERVES A DIVERSE COMMUNITY**

The Editor's Notebook

# Indian Summer

By David Garick, Editor



The past few weeks have provided some really beautiful weather. Indian Summer was here in all its glory. Clear blue skies spread over absolutely brilliant trees and bushes blazing in red, gold, and purple. Temperatures approaching 70 degrees mandated a few final outings in short-sleeved shirts that had been on the way to their winter storage. The wonderful natural incense of burning leaves ... I know you are not supposed to burn leaves any more, but out in the country where I live, most folks still do... and those rising curls of smoke and the scent that defined autumn during my childhood remains a powerful connection in my mind to this part of the cycle of the seasons.

Indian Summer is defined as a period of unseasonably warm days after the first frost of autumn. Our first frost occurred a month ago, and we have enjoyed these clear, warm days ever since.

In Europe, Indian Summer is called St. Martin's Summer. The name derives from St. Martin of Tours, whose feast day we celebrated this week (Nov. 11). The legend is that when his body was moved from its original burial place to the shrine erected for him in Tours, flowers bloomed along the riverbanks as his body passed by that November day.

In fact, from the fourth century until the late Middle Ages, this week was something of a fall Mardi Gras. These brief, warm days were a time of great feasting that preceded a 40-day fast that began the day after St. Martin's Day. That fast evolved into what we now observe as Advent.

These autumn days tell us of the changes that lie ahead. The cold winds of winter may not be with us yet, but we can sense them on the horizon. I guess the thing about Indian Summer is that, while we know full well the cold, gray time that lies ahead, God gives us these wonderful days as a reminder of the comforting warmth we enjoyed through the spring and summer. He adds the harvest of all we accomplished during those productive days. He splashes everything with color to add an exclamation point to the beauty of the world he created for us. This gives us reason to remember God's blessing and to be grateful. But it also allows us to move ahead in hope in the face of the dark, cold days of winter, the difficult struggles of economic losses, the challenges that bear down on the spirit and lead to depression, and the dangers that threaten us from all sides.

A God who can make a day such as this can come down from heaven and be with us on our journey through this world, and, through his unfathomable love, can lead us to an even more beautiful world with him for all eternity.

That's what you can see in an Indian Summer day ... a wonderful memory and an overwhelmingly beautiful promise. As Emily Dickinson wrote:

*Oh, sacrament of summer days,  
Oh, last communion in the haze,  
Permit a child to join,  
Thy sacred emblems to partake,  
Thy consecrated bread to break,  
Taste thine immortal wine!*

## Supreme Court will hear appeals in Catholic, other groups' mandate cases

The U.S. Supreme Court said on Friday, Nov. 6 that it will hear seven pending appeals in lawsuits brought by several Catholic and other faith-based entities against the Obama administration's contraceptive mandate.

The court will hear appeals from groups in Colorado, Maryland, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas, and the District of Columbia.

Among the plaintiffs are the Little Sisters of the Poor, the Archdiocese of Washington, Priests for Life, Southern Nazarene University, Texas Baptist University, and several Pennsylvania Catholic institutions.

Under the federal Affordable Care Act, most employers, including religious ones, are required to cover employees' artificial birth control, sterilization, and abortifacients, even if employers are morally opposed to such coverage.

In all the cases to be argued before the high court in March, appellate courts in various jurisdictions sided with the Obama administration. The rulings said the religious entities' freedom of religion was not burdened by having to comply with the mandate, as they have argued, because the federal government has in place an accommodation for a third party to provide the contested coverage.

The religious groups object to that notification, saying they still would be complicit in supporting practices they oppose. While their appeals worked their way to the high court, the government has not been able to force the groups to comply with the mandate or face daily "fines for noncompliance. "Charitable minis-

tries across the nation simply want to provide life-affirming health care for their employees, without fear of massive government penalties," said Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori, chairman of the U.S. bishops' ad hoc committee for religious liberty.

He called on Catholics to pray that "this basic freedom" that no one in this nation has to violate their religious convictions "will prevail. This freedom is not only common sense, it is what the law requires," the archbishop said. The Archdiocese of Washington said it "is heartened to learn that the U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to review the D.C. Circuit's flawed ruling in our challenge to the HHS (Health and Human Services) mandate, together with the other challenges pending before the court."

"A particular concern for the archdiocese is the government's treatment of Catholic educational and charitable ministries as if they are somehow less religious than houses of worship, and therefore less deserving of the right to operate in accord with the church's teachings," it said. "The archdiocese is hopeful that the court will vindicate our religious freedom and the freedom of Catholic ministries also seeking to practice their faith freely, as guaranteed under the law.

Only those religious employers that meet narrow criteria set by the Obama administration are exempt from the mandate. Houses of worship are exempt, for example, but most Catholic and other religious employers are not.

See CASES, Page 6

## Turkson hopes encyclical will influence U.N. climate conference

BY TIM PUET

Reporter, Catholic Times

Cardinal Peter Turkson concluded a three-day visit to Columbus by telling 1,200 people of his hope that the papal encyclical for which he was the lead consultant will have a significant impact on the coming United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris.

"The world is turning its gaze toward Paris" for the event, which begins Monday, Nov. 30 and continues through Friday, Dec. 11, said the Ghanaian cardinal, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace. "It is the hope and desire of the Holy See that the guidance of (the encyclical) *Laudato Si'* will provide the moral fiber" to enable leaders of the 196 nations taking part in the conference to come to the hard decisions they need to make.

The conference's stated goal is to achieve a new international agreement on the climate, applicable to all nations, with the aim of keeping the earth's average temperature below two degrees Celsius (35.6 degrees Fahrenheit), widely seen as the benchmark for avoiding catastrophic global warming.

"I am hoping the world's leaders in Paris will come away with concrete gestures and actions" related to climate change, Cardinal Turkson said. The coming meeting is the 21st such gathering of partners to a U.N. convention on climate change which was adopted in 1992. The cardinal noted that the first 20 meetings have resulted in little progress, but said he felt people are slowly beginning to realize the threat posed by global warming and the need to take better care of the environment.

"Government leaders are preparing to take action, and now business leaders have accepted an invitation from Pope Francis" to come to the Vatican for a dialogue on the environment in December, Cardinal Turkson said. In addition, he said several national bishops' conferences have committed themselves to encouraging their nations' leaders to take decisive steps on climate change at the meeting and at home.

"Catholic social teaching demands a sense of justice in which we respect the demands of relationships in which we exist, including a respect for the demands of our relationship with Mother Earth," he said.

The cardinal's comments came on Monday, Nov. 2, in a talk which drew a capacity crowd to The Ohio State University's Mershon Auditorium. It was part of a series of events OSU is conducting relating to sustainability of the planet's resources.

Cardinal Turkson repeated several of the points he had made at his other Columbus stops about how the encyclical is at its heart a document on how we show our love for God by the way we treat the people and the resources God has made.

*"... we all should be concerned about the kind of world we leave for those who come after us."*

Pope Francis had the encyclical in mind since the beginning of his papacy, Cardinal Turkson said, noting that the former Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio was deeply affected by the words of a Brazilian cardinal who, moments after he accepted the results of the conclave which elected him, said to the new pope, "Do not forget the poor."

The talk was part of an hourlong program which also included an informal "fireside chat" with Dr. Michael Drake, Ohio State president, and Dr. Bruce McPheron, dean of OSU's college of food, agricultural and environmental sciences.

In response to a student's question on how individuals can help control climate change, Cardinal Turkson made "one suggestion the Holy Father mentioned which I know won't be too pop-

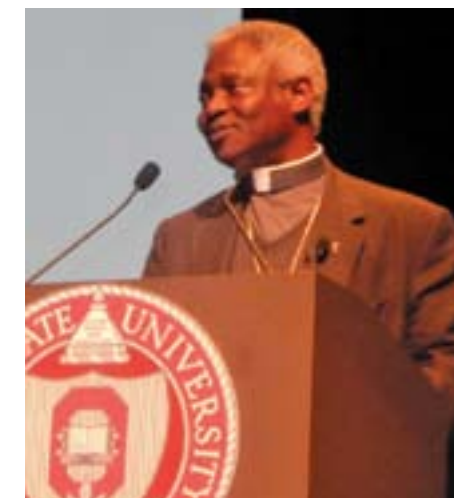
ular here in the United States – turn off your air conditioners," then mentioned other actions such as turning off lights when not in use and paying attention to what's in the food we buy. "Every small gesture that reduces carbon in the atmosphere can help," he said. "They don't have to be big initiatives."

Drake recalled that when he was in college, there was great concern about Paul Ehrlich's book *The Population Bomb*, which predicted food shortages and mass starvation in the late 20th century. "The result was that as we watched the population grow, we also saw a greater focus on science and technology, allowing food production to grow with much greater effectiveness," he said.

"We made progress, but not without cost. We have to think about the effects of our progress. We saw that big progress led to big solutions, but also saw the collateral damage this can do, making us recognize we all have to be vigilant on a daily basis" about what we do to the environment. He also noted that Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, leader of the Eastern Orthodox Church, shares the pope's and the cardinal's ecological concerns and often has described our treatment of the environment as sinful.

Cardinal Turkson's Columbus visit began on Saturday, Oct. 31, at a forum at the Martin de Porres Center with about 150 invited guests representing Ohio's political, business, scientific, and spiritual communities. It continued on Sunday, Nov. 1 as he celebrated a Mass sponsored by central Ohio's Ghanaian community at St. Anthony Church.

Much of his final day in the city was



spent with young people. He talked to high school students from throughout the diocese at St. Francis DeSales High School, then visited OSU to see the university's EcoCAR project, in which students are re-engineering a 2016 Camaro into a performance hybrid, and to view ice core samples from the world's highest, most remote ice fields at the Byrd Polar Research Center.

"I saw students displaying creativity, innovation, and skills in responding to some of the difficult challenges facing society," he said. "I don't think there's any reason to doubt the competence and willingness of young people to embrace those challenges. We can be very hopeful about their efforts."

At a news conference before the talk, Cardinal Turkson said, "Age doesn't matter. The pope's appeal should have particular interest for young people, but we all should be concerned about the kind of world we leave for those who come after us. Some students desire a new toy or a new product every day, and discipline in controlling their tastes and desires will be of great help."

Responding to a question from the auditorium audience asking how his own experience might have affected his environmental consciousness, Cardinal Turkson said he was raised in a manganese mining town in southern Ghana, with the town's young people using the area around the mine as a playground.

"I grew up with environmental degradation," he said. "I remember how the forest and the topsoil were taken away, and all that was left were gaping holes that we were told it wasn't cost-effective to fill. I can't say this is what led me to my present position, but it's what I grew up in."



From left: Dr. Michael Drake, president of The Ohio State University; Cardinal Peter Turkson; and Dr. Bruce McPheron, OSU agriculture college dean, at a "fireside chat." CT photos by Tim Puet

Front page photo:  
The Columbus St. Matthias church and school building. The parish has served residents of the city's Northland area since 1956.  
CT file photo by Ken Snow

**CATHOLIC TIMES**

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Catholic Times (USPS 967-000) (ISSN 745-6050) is the official newspaper of the Catholic Diocese of Columbus, Ohio. It is published weekly 45 times per year with exception of every other week in June, July and August and the week following Christmas. Subscription rate: \$25 per year, or call and make arrangements with your parish. Postage Paid at Columbus, OH 43218

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Subscriptions (614) 224-6530 FAX (614) 241-2573  
(subscriptions@colsdio.org)

Postmaster: Send address changes to Catholic Times, 197 E. Gay St., Columbus, Ohio 43215. Please allow two to four weeks for change of address.

## PRACTICAL STEWARDSHIP

By Rick Jeric

### Miss America

Did you take a brief look at how you handle yourself publicly this past week? No need to become self-conscious, but more conscious of ourselves. That goes for both our inner and outer selves. The example we set is incredibly important, especially for the most impressionable among us – our youth. Our manners and etiquette as human beings are a big part of who we are and how we impact people. We want to be perceived and thought of as people who have a message, and we base it on the Gospel of Jesus Christ and His presence in the Eucharist. If we are to evangelize as Catholic Christians, we must exude respect, joy, and love. A negative attitude, focused on our own selfish needs and wants, is not a good place to start. Again, think about our parents, our teachers, and our veterans. We are products of our environment, including those who taught us. But it is always our challenge and responsibility to be receptive, to listen, and to grow. We do so with the Gospel, the Eucharist, and one another. We cannot journey alone.

Here she comes, Miss America! I had never met a winner of the Miss America pageant until last month, when I attended the International Catholic Stewardship Council's annual conference. I have referred to this event often over the years. It is an excellent and inspirational conference each year. One of this year's keynote speakers was Miss America 2001, Angela Perez Baraquio Grey. I was very curious to see and hear her presentation for a variety of reasons. Of course, I had some preconceived notions of what it would be. I was very pleasantly surprised by a very rich, spiritual, and inspirational presentation about her Catholic faith and its impact on her life. Angela was part of a large family with nine brothers and sisters. She was raised in Hawaii by her parents, both Filipino immigrants. All the children sang in the parish choir and served Mass regularly. Their faith always came first. A dramatic and emotional loss in the state basketball championship in high school helped form Angela and teach her not only to win with grace, but to lose with grace. She achieved her dream of a college degree and taught in a Catholic parish school. While she had won a few local beauty pageants when she was younger, she entered the Miss America pageant on a dare by some of her students, and was at the maximum entry age of 24. When she won, as the first Miss America of Asian descent, she committed to keeping her faith as a top priority as she spent the next year traveling around the nation and world. She even rearranged her schedule on Sundays to be sure she always attended Mass. One of her greatest challenges has been dealing with the suicide of one of her brothers. Through it all, Angela is a remarkable witness to her faith and love in Jesus Christ. She is married, with four beautiful children, and is the principal of a Catholic school in California.

Our practical challenge this week is to consider our greatest accomplishment, other than our spouse and children. Whatever it is that makes us "tick," think about how we handle it, what we do with it, and how it impacts the rest of our life. Does our faith remain a top priority, or is it something separate from our livelihood and peak accomplishments? Let us pray for the grace to win and lose with grace, and also to champion our "greatness" with faith-filled grace.

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



## ST. CHARLES CELEBRATES HONOREES

Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School graduates Dan Sullivan and Msgr. William Dunn received the school's highest honors on Wednesday, Nov. 4 at the school's annual Mass for the feast of its patron, St. Charles Borromeo. An all-school Mass was celebrated by Bishop Frederick Campbell and celebrated by alumni and guest priests.

Sullivan, a 1983 St. Charles graduate, was presented the Principal's Award for Leadership and Service. He was honored particularly for his help setting up a talk by businessman and investor Peter Lynch which benefited the school's



service to the Diocese of Columbus and its people as a priest, pastor, spiritual leader, and role model. He has served the school as a member of the faculty (1968-76) and dean of students, a member of the school advisory board (1996-2003), and as annual fund chairman (1988-89).

Photo courtesy St. Charles Preparatory School

## HEALING MASS AND SERVICE

A Mass of healing and a healing service will take place at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 16 at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St. Father Paul Noble will celebrate the Mass and provide the homily.

Following the Mass, a healing service will take place, beginning with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and veneration of relics of the True Cross. Each person present will have the opportunity to speak individually with

one of several priests who will be available to discuss particular situations and offer prayers of healing. The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick also will be available. The service will conclude with Benediction.

All persons who seek healing from physical illnesses and infirmities are invited, as are family members, caregivers, and medical professionals. For questions, call the cathedral at (614) 224-1295.

## Associate Director of Campus Ministry and University Chaplain

Ohio Dominican University seeks a Roman Catholic priest to serve a community of 3,000 students, faculty and staff from various faith traditions, cultures and life experiences.

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Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Inquiries can be emailed to [hr@ohiodominican.edu](mailto:hr@ohiodominican.edu), or by contacting 614-251-4560.

## WHO IS ST. PEREGRINE?

You may have read recently that Pope Francis prayed to St. Peregrine. Just who is St. Peregrine, you might have asked?

Peregrine was born in Forli, Italy, around 1265. At that time, Forli was part of the Papal States. Peregrine and his family were very active in the anti-papal party. When Peregrine was 18, St. Philip Benizi arrived in Forli to preach reconciliation. Peregrine was part of the crowd that heckled and harassed Philip. At one point, Peregrine struck Philip. Philip did not erupt in violence against Peregrine. Instead, he forgave Peregrine.

The encounter with Philip changed Peregrine. He eventually joined the Servants of Mary in Siena, Italy. When Per-

egrine returned to Forli, he focused on helping the sick, the poor, and those on the fringes of society. He imposed many penances on himself because of his previous life. One of the penances was that he had to stand as much as he could.

The constant standing led to varicose veins. This led to an open sore on his leg and, eventually, cancer. The night before Peregrine's leg was to be amputated, he prayed before an image of the crucified Christ. When he woke up the next morning, his leg was healed. Peregrine lived another 20 years and died on May 1, 1345 at age 80.

Peregrine was canonized on Dec. 27, 1726. He is the patron saint of those suffering from cancer.

## PRAYER TO ST. PEREGRINE

**Oh great St. Peregrine, you who have been called "The Mighty" and "The Wonder-Worker" because of the numerous miracles which you have obtained from God for those who have had recourse to you.**

**For so many years you bore in your own flesh this cancerous disease that destroys the very fiber of our being, and had recourse to the source of all grace when the power of man could do no more.**

**You were favored with the vision of Jesus coming down from His cross to heal your affliction.**

**We seek your merciful aid, St. Peregrine, especially for those afflicted or threatened by cancer or by any incurable diseases. Please, help us quickly to find a cure for cancer and a remedy for all our human infirmities of soul, mind, and body.**

Amen.



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## NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR PRAYERS

The call for entries has been announced for the 2016 "Try Prayer! It Works!" contest. In this national competition sponsored by Family Rosary, children participate in an inspiring faith experience as they express their belief through art, poetry, and prose.

The "Try Prayer! It Works!" contest is open to students in kindergarten through 12th grade. The national competition attracts more than 1,000 finalist entries from approximately 22,000 participants nationwide. Children and teens from Catholic schools, parishes, home schools, and other Catholic organizations use their talent to convey their beliefs.

This year's theme – "Who Is My Mother? Who Are My Brothers and Sisters?" – is about doing God's will. By listening to the Father and understanding his wishes for us, we join the family of Heaven.

In Matthew 12:46-50, Jesus is told that his mother and brothers are waiting to speak to Him. Jesus asks, "Who is My mother and who are My brothers?" He then holds out His hand toward His disciples and says, "Behold My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of My Father who is in Heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother."

"By doing God's will, we are welcomed into the family of Jesus and His holy mother Mary," said Father Willy Raymond, CSC, president of Holy Cross Family Ministries. "That's why we must listen ever so closely. It is difficult to hear God speak when we are distracted by so many things: texting, email, commercials, friends, activities. It is important to set aside quiet time for prayer and meditation so we can connect with God and learn of his desires for us."

The "Try Prayer! It Works!" contest asks entrants to use creativity to depict their faith. Children in grades kindergarten to 12 enrolled



This artwork by Remy Lambert of St. Peter Chanel School in Paulina, Louisiana, tied for first in the first-grade category of the 2015 "Try Prayer! It Works!" contest

in a Catholic school, religious education program, parish, home school, or other organization are eligible to participate. For details or to download an application, go to [www.FamilyRosary.org/TryPrayer](http://www.FamilyRosary.org/TryPrayer). All entries must be postmarked by Feb. 1, 2016. For more information, call Holy Cross Family Ministries at (1-800) 299-PRAY (7729).

Family Rosary was founded in 1942 by Servant of God Patrick Peyton, also known as the "Rosary priest," to help families pray together. Father Peyton and the ministry are known for two powerful and memorable sayings: "the family that prays together stays together" and "a world at prayer is a world at peace." Father Peyton was one of the most influential American Catholic priests of the 20th century, using the entertainment industry to further his mission of family Rosary prayer in honor of Mary and her Son Jesus.

In the spirit of its founder, Servant of God Patrick Peyton, CSC, Holy Cross Family Ministries serves Jesus Christ and His church by promoting and supporting the spiritual wellbeing of the family. Faithful to Mary, the mother of God, the Family Rosary, a member ministry, encourages family prayer, especially the Rosary.

**For more information, call (1-800) 299-PRAY (7729) or visit [www.FamilyRosary.org](http://www.FamilyRosary.org).**

**Holy Cross Family Ministries is sponsored by the Congregation of the Holy Cross: [www.HolyCrossUSA.org](http://www.HolyCrossUSA.org).**

## Abbreviating the Gospel; Indulgences during Holy Year



### QUESTION & ANSWER

by: FATHER KENNETH DOYLE  
Catholic News Service

Q. Are priests allowed to edit the scriptural readings at Mass? Recently, our priest, when reading a Gospel about marriage, cut off the verses that say “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

I can understand that the priest might feel uncomfortable, thinking that this passage could offend some of those who hear it, but aren't priests supposed to read the Scriptures as they are? Sometimes we need to hear direct teaching, even if it offends us. (Indiana)

A. Priests are sometimes given the option, in the official guidelines of the church, to use shorter forms of the liturgical readings. But the priest in question was not empowered to do what he did. Generally, when a choice is offered, it is meant to keep the congregation's interest by shortening what would otherwise be an overly long passage -- not to avoid verses that might be controversial or challenging.

A. Pope Francis has declared an extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy that begins on Dec. 8, 2015, and closes on Nov. 20, 2016. A holy year is also known as a jubilee year.

Among the privileges granted to the faithful during this Holy Year of Mercy is the opportunity to gain a plenary indulgence, which is the remission of all the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt already has been forgiven. This indulgence also can be

Christ, so wives should be subordinate to their husbands in everything.” The reason is that Paul made that observation in a much different cultural context that, thankfully, no longer applies.

By contrast, the earlier passage you mention in Mark's Gospel (about divorce) reflects Jesus' statement of an enduring theological truth.

Q. I understand that during the upcoming papal-declared year, we can seek plenary indulgences for the deceased, and, if so, how do I accomplish this? (Hull, Massachusetts)

A. Pope Francis has declared an extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy that begins on Dec. 8, 2015, and closes on Nov. 20, 2016. A holy year is also known as a jubilee year.

Among the privileges granted to the faithful during this Holy Year of Mercy is the opportunity to gain a plenary indulgence, which is the remission of all the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt already has been forgiven. This indulgence also can be

applied to the deceased -- to whom, in the words of Pope Francis, “we are bound ... by the witness of faith and charity that they have left us.”

In the past, indulgences during a holy year normally required a pilgrimage to Rome and a visit to one of the papal basilicas, but for the upcoming Holy Year of Mercy, the pope has determined that a visit to a diocesan cathedral or designated local church will suffice, together with the reception of the sacrament of penance and Communion, as well as a profession of faith and prayers for the intention of the pope.

(Pope Francis has taken care to extend the privilege to those who are precluded from visiting one of the designated churches, e.g., those who are homebound or incarcerated.)

A unique element this time is that the pope also has granted the jubilee indulgence to those who perform the traditional spiritual and corporal works of mercy (sheltering the homeless, for example, or comforting the sorrowful.)

As to your question about “multiple” beneficiaries, the jubilee indulgence may be obtained only once a day. (A single sacramental confession suffices for several plenary indulgences, but receiving Communion and praying for the intentions of the pope are required for each indulgence.)

**Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at [askfatherdoyle@gmail.com](mailto:askfatherdoyle@gmail.com) and 40 Hopewell St., Albany NY 12208.**



### ST. ANDREW SAINTS

Third-grade students at Columbus St. Andrew School celebrated All Saints Day by researching a saint of their choosing and dressing as their subject. Each student made a presentation to the school, parents, relatives, and parish members after an all-school Mass. Pictured are (from left) Belle Studer (St. Margaret Mary), Ava Harrigan (St. Teresa of Avila), and Maria Fusco (St. Mary Magdalene). Photo courtesy St. Andrew School

### Catholic Man of Year Nominations

The Catholic Men's Luncheon Club is accepting nominations for the diocese's 2016 Catholic Man of the Year award. Since 1957, the award program has recognized one layman who, through his daily actions, words, and prayers, exemplifies the “good and faithful servant.”

Bishop Frederick Campbell will

**CASES, continued from Page 2**

Non-exempt religious employers can opt out of providing the coverage using what the administration calls an accommodation, or “work-around.”

They must notify Health and Human Services in writing of their religious objections. Then, HHS or the Labor Department in turn tells insurers and third-party administrators that they must cover the services at no charge to employees.

In a telephone news conference, a spokesman for the Becket Fund, whose lawyers represent the Little Sisters of the Poor, said the Obama administration had “strenuously argued” that the high court not take the Little Sisters of the Poor case.

The government “argued hard

and the court granted it anyway,” said Mark Rienzi, Becket's senior counsel. “So the government will have to explain why they fought hard to make the Little Sisters cover contraceptives.”

Josh Earnest, White House press secretary, was quoting as saying the Obama administration is certain “the policy that we have in place balances the need for millions of Americans to have access to birth control while also protecting the right of religious freedom that is protected in our Constitution.”

Robert Muise of the American Freedom Law Center, which represents Priests for Life, called it “great news” that the organization's appeal will be heard along with the others.



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### FROM THE DESK OF DR. JOSEPH BRETTNACHER DIOCESAN SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



On Saturday, Oct. 28, I had the opportunity to attend the dialogue on *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment, at the Martin de Porres Center. I also attended Cardinal Peter Turkson's visit to Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School on Monday, Nov. 2.

Both events were a worthwhile experience. It was great to dialogue about the care for our common home that is the encyclical's theme. At DeSales, I issued a challenge to those in attendance to consider how they as individuals, students, teachers, and citizens could act in some small ways to shape the future of our planet. The challenge follows:

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis issued a new dialogue about how we are shaping our planet.

I wish to echo Pope Francis' call and issue a challenge for those who are present to act and shape the future of our planet. We can do this as individuals, in our schools, and globally.

As Individuals, we can care for God's creation and the poor and vulnerable.

- I challenge youth and adults to pray for creation, especially the poor and vulnerable. Furthermore, pray in gratitude for the many gifts of God's creation.

- Take the St. Francis pledge to pray, learn, assess, act, and advocate.

- Be unique, overcome consumerism and individualism, develop a different lifestyle, bring about changes in yourself so you can change society by:

- Volunteering your time to work in a soup kitchen, because many people cannot afford the cost of food.
- Visiting the elderly, who often are alone and discarded because they no longer serve our needs.
- Volunteering your time to baby-sit for a poor family who cannot afford a sitter because of low wages.
- Using your God-given gifts and talents to help others.

- Be environmentally and economically responsible: Reduce, reuse, and recycle. Use technology appropriately to respect the human person.

I have a special challenge for our schools: Answer the call.

- As a school, pray for the care of creation and the protection of the poor and vulnerable.

- Develop plans to educate students about environmental responsibility and encourage act-

ing in ways that directly and significantly affect the world around us.

- Create a creation care team that enables you as a committed Catholic school to do your part to help solve the problem of the environmental crisis together.

- Become a green school, form a team, have a vision, conduct an energy audit, develop an action plan, set goals to reduce energy consumption, evaluate progress, and integrate concern about climate change into the curriculum.

- Students, talk to your administrators about how they have reduced, reused, and recycled to save money, energy, and natural resources and how you can help the school to do more.

I know some schools in the diocese already are doing this. Plant a tree or garden. If possible, donate a portion of the produce to a local soup kitchen or food pantry. Demonstrate integral ecology in action.

All of us can think globally and act locally in the following ways:

- Be in solidarity with others around the world affected by changes in the climate. Visit Catholic Relief Services' Care for Creation resources for ideas.

- See others as members of the human family. Be part of the dialogue. Start a conversation about care for our common home.

- Be an advocate for Catholic principles and priorities in discussions and decisions as they relate to the environment, especially as they impact the poor and vulnerable.

- Advocate for cleaner energy, waste reduction, green building designs, production and purchase of healthier food, and safer chemicals.

- A lack of housing is a grave problem in many parts of the world, including our nation, so help to raise money or volunteer at places such as Habitat for Humanity.

- Clean water is a basic human right and saves lives, so make a global impact by raising money to build a drinking well in a developing nation. There are Catholic schools in our diocese who have participated in this great work.

In closing, as Blessed Mother Teresa said, “We can do no great things, only small things with great love.” By caring for God's creation and protecting the poor and vulnerable, you will have accomplished many small things with great love. Thank you!

# DIOCESAN ALL SAINTS DAY CELEBRATIONS

## COLUMBUS ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL

Columbus St. Anthony School students and staff dressed up in costumes to celebrate All Saints Day and Halloween. A movie was shown in the gym and students participated in classroom parties, games, and group-building activities. The students also researched the lives of their teacher's favorite saint. The information gathered on each saint was shared at a school wide assembly. School staff members in costume are (from left), standing, Renata Thompson, Kathy McBride, Kelly Buzenski, Gina Greer, Claire Hatem, and Steve Kelly; kneeling, Amy Kish.

Photos courtesy St. Anthony School



## LOGAN ST. JOHN SCHOOL



Students at Logan St. John School celebrated All Saints Day by dressing as their favorite saint and telling three important facts about him or her. Pictured are (from left): above, James Bartolovich (St. Augustine), Breanna Sams (St. Cecilia), Mia Gedeon (St. Maria Goretti), Callie Mohny (St. Philomena), and Parry Boyle (St. Cecilia); right, Lydia Martin (St. Elizabeth Seton), Sophie Shaw (St. Madeleine Sophie Barat), Maya North (St. Maria Goretti), and Josie Rimkus (St. Ann).

Photos courtesy St. John School



## Coming Home



### Lighting the Way

J. P. Leo Thomas

In our everyday lives, there are struggles and joys. How we deal with those situations depends on our strength of courage, our character of spirit, and our wisdom of experience.

There have been many times where I have doubted my decisions and myself, but I am heartened because Someone has been with me along the way. Jesus comes to us in our moments of need, in the birth of a baby or in the death of a loved one. He is our guide throughout life and resides within each of us.

For some, their battles against humanity paint a much different picture. They shy away from their faith and get lost in the shuffle of everyday life. They believe there is no hope, no charity found especially for them. But a growing number of young Christian men and women on college campuses today have begun a movement to proclaim their faith. They are committed followers of Christ. They provide a Catholic refuge and a home away from home for those whose faith is lacking.

Saint Paul's Outreach is filled with many of these wonderful people. They are a beacon of light to generations of students who struggle with everyday life choices. They strive to be centers of love and evangelization in an ever more secular society.

We all need the helping hand that comes by just sitting and talking with people or inviting them to sit around the dinner table and share their experiences and concerns. Often, through this sharing, we begin to break down the barriers that hold people from truly living out their dreams. We begin to realize just how much alike we are, and that we are never alone.

Through prayer and friendship, SPO provides this kind of assistance, which is relevant to young Catholics today. It offers ways of enlightening the soul and enriching a life that can be enjoyable methods of getting together and just celebrating our faith. A simple handshake, a tailgate party, a meeting over a cup of coffee, discussing a good book, a Bible study -- all are ways being used by SPO participants to reach out to their fellow college students.

We have all become concerned with today's throw-away culture and our need to become instantly

gratified. Life presents many blinders to us which try and lure us out of our witness to Christ Jesus and His power of grace, truth, and faith. By reaching just one soul, we can turn the tide back to Him. We have Christ as our shield and warrior throughout our lives on Earth.

The prayers, resources, and advocacy given and shown to Saint Paul's Outreach give its students and missionaries courage and confidence to continue laboring for Christ. Through your support, the organization is able to respond to Pope Francis' call to go to the fringes and reach out to those who are lost.

The pope tells us that "the doors of the church are wide open, so that all those who are touched by grace can find the certainty of forgiveness." May Saint Paul's Outreach continue to open the doors to the hearts of those who need it most and to Christ, our Lord and redeemer.

For more information on how to contact your local (Ohio Dominican or Ohio State) Saint Paul's Outreach chapter, go to [www.spoweb.org/ohio](http://www.spoweb.org/ohio) or get in touch with the mission leader at Ohio Mission Center, 161 E. Patterson Ave., Columbus OH 43202.

*J.P. Leo Thomas is a parishioner at Gahanna St. Matthew Church.*

## Organ Donation: An Act of Charity

By Phil Petrosky

Each year in November, National Donor Sabbath is celebrated as a time for religious communities to show support for organ, eye, and tissue donation, to respond to myths of non-support, and to encourage the faithful to become registered donors. This year's National Donor Sabbath weekend will be from Friday, Nov. 13 to Sunday, Nov. 15.

In our Catholic faith, organ, eye, and tissue donation is viewed as an act of charity and has been supported for decades by our popes. In 1956, Pope Pius XII declared, "A person may will to dispose of his body and to destine it to ends that are useful, morally irreproachable and even noble, among them the desire to aid the sick and suffering. ... This decision should not be condemned but positively justified."

In August 2000, Pope St. John Paul II told attendees at the International Congress on Transplants in Rome, "Transplants are a great step forward in science's service of man, and not a few people today owe their lives to an organ transplant. Increasingly, the technique of transplants has proven to be a valid means of attaining the primary goal of all medicine—the service

of human life. ... There is a need to instill in people's hearts, especially in the hearts of the young, a genuine and deep appreciation of the need for brotherly love, a love that can find expression in the decision to become an organ donor."

More recently, Pope Benedict XVI, a card-carrying organ donor, said, "To donate one's organs is an act of love that is morally licit, so long as it is free and spontaneous." And just a year ago this past October, Pope Francis described the act of organ donation as a "testimony of love for our neighbor."

The need for our own personal act of charity, our willingness to give the gift of life, grows greater each year. Today, across the United States, there are more than 123,000 people on waiting lists for organs. In Ohio, 3,342 people—more than 675 in central Ohio—are waiting for an organ transplant at any time, and hundreds more await tissue transplants. Once every 48 hours, an Ohioan dies waiting. In the last 10 years, more than 2,000 Ohioans have died waiting for a transplant.

As a single donor, you potentially can save the lives of eight people and enhance the lives of as many as 50 more by donating vital organs (heart,

two lungs, two kidneys, liver, pancreas, and small bowel) and tissue (corneas, bone, fascia, skin, veins, and heart valves). In 2014, 325 Ohioans shared the gift of life through organ donation at the time of their death. Through their unselfish generosity, 1,074 people received a second chance at life through transplantation. Twelve central Ohio recipients who celebrated transplant anniversaries in October have lived a combined 104 years, free of debilitating illness and life-supporting machines, through the charitable act of organ donation.

My wife, who received a lifesaving kidney transplant nearly 13 years ago, and I are registered organ, eye, and tissue donors. We learned and are amazed that while 95 percent of Americans support organ donation, only 55 percent of Ohioans are registered. We ask *Catholic Times* readers who have not registered to perform a much-needed act of charity and join us on the Ohio Donor Registry, during this National Donor Sabbath Weekend, at the Lifeline of Ohio website: [www.lifelineofohio.org](http://www.lifelineofohio.org).

*Phil Petrosky is a member of Columbus St. Catharine Church.*

# ST. MATTHIAS CHURCH ADAPTS TO CHANGES

## PEOPLE FROM MANY CULTURES ATTEND PARISH IN COLUMBUS' NORTHLAND AREA

BY TIM PUET

Reporter, Catholic Times

There's a new sound in the air in the Northland area of Columbus – the sound of church bells from an electronic carillon installed in September at St. Matthias Church.

The bells toll the hours, play hymns, let people know when Masses are about to start, and are a regular reminder of the parish's constant presence in an area which has undergone frequent change in the six decades of the parish's existence and continues to evolve.

Bishop Michael Ready established the parish, located at 1582 Ferris Road, in 1956 on what until then had been 21 acres of farmland. The surrounding rural area wasn't destined to stay that way for much longer because of housing construction in northeast Columbus and Franklin County.

The parish began with 210 families, with its first Mass celebrated on July 8, 1956 by founding pastor Father Ralph Dermody at Clinton Junior High School. A barn on the parish property was used for daily Mass and devotions until a combined school and church building was dedicated in 1958. That building has served the parish ever since, with a parish center added in 1997 as part of a renovation of the entire complex.

As more houses were built in the parish area, commerce followed. By 1964, central Ohio's first enclosed shopping center, Northland Mall, opened at Morse and Karl roads, a short distance from the church, and the Morse Road corridor became the area's leading shopping destination. The parish built a convent and rectory, with enrollment at the school reaching its peak of 929 in 1963-64.

The area around Morse Road became known as the Northland neighborhood because of the mall, which remained a top shopping destination for the next three decades. By the end of the 1990s, the parish had 1,100 families, although enrollment in the school

had declined to about 300.

By that time, the area surrounding St. Matthias had become fully developed. Central Ohio's population continued to grow, and development was taking place in other once-rural areas located farther from downtown Columbus than Northland.

Newer, larger shopping areas – Tuttle Crossing in 1997, Easton, just five miles from Northland, in 1999, and Polaris in 2001 – replaced Northland as the region's shopping destinations of choice. Northland ultimately closed in 2002 and was demolished in 2004.

The Northland neighborhood's population became smaller, but a rebirth has begun to take place. The mall has been replaced by buildings housing other stores, government agencies, and a performing arts center.

Today, the commercial buildings along Morse Road are being filled by a multitude of small shops, serving customers of varied ethnic backgrounds who have come to Columbus during the past two decades, settling in homes that became available in the Northland area as the original occupants moved to newer neighborhoods.

That diversity has been an important part of St. Matthias for the last decade. The parish, which currently has about 800 families, is the site for two ethnic Masses every Sunday and a third once a month. A Mass for the Haitian community in both the Creole dialect and French is celebrated every Sunday at 1:30 p.m. The church has Masses in Portuguese for Brazilians at 7 p.m. every Sunday, and in the Ibo language of Nigeria at 3 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month. Weekend Masses in English are at 5 p.m. Saturday and 9 and 11 a.m. Sunday, with coffee and doughnuts available between Masses throughout the school year, except in Lent.

"We lost people as the neighborhood changed, but we've gained a lot of them back," said parishioner Tom Mulligan. "Having the ethnic Masses played a big part in that.

People also recognize that this is a parish where people really care for each other, and that makes a big difference. Father (James T.) Smith (the parish's pastor from 1991 until his death in early 2013) was known for how he cared for people, and that has continued under Father (Raymond) Larussa," the current pastor.

Mulligan and other parishioners who gathered after a recent weekday morning Mass to talk to the *Catholic Times* said they feel a closeness which makes St. Matthias more like a small-town parish than one in a large urban community.

"I can't emphasize enough the sense of family I've always felt here," said Rudy Brown, a longtime parish volunteer. Added parishioner Jan MacKay, "I've been to other parishes that aren't far from here, and people there don't come up to talk to you if they don't recognize you. We don't seem to have that problem here with newcomers." "And when you don't show up, people notice. They worry and they'll ask me to see what's wrong," said longtime parish secretary Winnie Durbin.

"One thing that's been a part of this parish is great preaching," said parishioner James Slayton. "Father Smith was known for his sermons. He contributed to a national publication on homilies, and many of his best were collected in a book a group of parishioners published after he died. Father Larussa continues in that tradition. He does an excellent job breaking down the Scriptures, making them easy to understand and relating them to people's own experiences."

"Having so many cultures here makes for a good mix," said Sister Marie Shields, SNDdeN, pastoral associate at the parish for 24 years. "The Nigerians came here in 2005 asking for permission to have a regular Mass because they had a priest available, and Father Smith agreed. The Brazilians and the Haitians learned about this, also had their own priests, and came here the following year. Having them here has

been a wonderful way to show the church's universal nature.

"Father Larussa is a strong supporter of the Masses and has added his own touch since he came here, with a special Mass for all the ethnic groups on Pentecost Sunday, the day the Apostles first began preaching to all nations," she said.

The Pentecost Mass takes place outdoors under a tent, includes Scripture readers from different cultures, and is followed by a picnic. Mulligan said 21 different cultures were represented at last year's Mass. During the Pentecost season, red banners are placed around the church grounds, representing the tongues of fire which descended on the Apostles at the first Pentecost, as a symbol to the neighborhood of the parish's unity in diversity.

The ethnic Masses are celebrated by three priests stationed in the diocese – Father Hillary Ike for the Nigerians, Father Sylvester Onyeachonam for the Haitian community and Father Antonio Carvalho for the Brazilians.

"The Nigerian Mass is very important to me and the Nigerian community overall," said Emeka Anyadoh, who with his wife, Doris, are among the pioneers who organized the Mass at St. Matthias. "To receive the Mass in my own language and fellowship with other native Nigerians is both uplifting and spiritually edifying. This particular service means everything to me, and I am very appreciative of it."

"Being able to attend a Mass celebrated in Creole and French is extremely important to us for a couple of reasons," said Haitian Mass coordinator Nedy Melidor. "For the eldest in our community who can't understand English, it's a link to home and something that keeps them coming to church. As for the little ones who were born here, they don't get much of a chance to speak Creole, and this gives their parents a chance to educate them in the language of their ancestors and connect them with their origins."

St. Matthias School has 254 students whose parents are from many lands, including Haiti, Brazil, the Philippines, Vietnam, Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Mexico, and Nepal, said Dan Kinley, who has been its principal for 23 years and is in his 25th year with Columbus diocesan schools and 37th as an educator.

"This wide range of diversity is such a joy to see, especially how children accept each other," he said. "No matter where their parents come from, they are all God's children. We are very blessed."

"Our students continue to do various ongoing service learning projects, such as making cards monthly for our homebound parishioners, packing lunches for the homeless on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 a.m., taking part in the annual Rice Bowl Lenten collection and the annual canned food drive with (St. Francis) DeSales (High School) in November. They recently joined the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur in their clean water project. Our students continue to think of others, both locally and worldwide."

The school also is a participant in the Battle of the Books program, the diocesan school art show, and accelerated reading, writing, and math programs.

St. Matthias and DeSales are located adjacent to each other and cooperate in many activities, creating a campus of Catholic education from kindergarten to 12th grade. St. Matthias eighth-graders take part in the marching band and math classes at DeSales. The church hosts the high school's annual freshman retreat and the close of the Kairos retreat for seniors, and is where DeSales athletic teams gather for Sunday Masses.

The schools share a parking lot, with the St. Matthias Athletic Association using parking revenue to help pay for St. Matthias School's extensive athletic program.

The Parish School of Religion has about 75 students, from preschool to eighth grade. They have participated in service activities including the



St. Matthias Church hosts ethnic Masses for members of the central Ohio Haitian (above) and Nigerian (below) Catholic communities. CT file photos by Jack Kustron



Sisters of Notre Dame's water purification project, and collecting clothes and making items for the homeless. During a recent trip to the Lynd Fruit Farm, PSR students filled 27 leaf bags with apples they picked for the homeless.

The parish was one of the first in the area to introduce Friday Lenten fish fries in the 1960s. MacKay said about 600 dinners, not counting carryouts, are served each week, with some regulars driving a half-hour each week from distant parishes.

Another big parish event is its annual garage sale in late July. Mulligan's wife, Mary Kay, is chairwoman. She said the sale has occurred for at least the past 20 years and raises \$10,000 to \$11,000 annually.

"We fill the gymnasium," she said. "One thing that's different about our sale is that we don't have clothes, but we've got everything else in the way of knickknacks, with everything

washed and cleaned, and electronic items tested. People might wonder about some of the items they see, but we don't do junk. One year, we even had a kitchen sink."

For a number of years, the parish has donated 10 percent of its Sunday collection to various church and charitable service organizations. Some of the recipients have been the Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs, the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, the Salvation Army, and the Helping Hands free clinic. One year, the money went to build a small orphanage in Haiti.

The parish also takes part in a number of other community outreach efforts. On the second Wednesday of each month, parishioners send a group to Faith on Eighth, an organization that takes and serves food to about 75 men at Faith Mission. Be-

See CHURCH, Page 12



Photos, top to bottom: A scene from a Mass for Brazilians at Columbus St. Matthias Church; adults and children work together at the parish school to pack sandwiches for the homeless; the combined church and school building which has served the parish since 1958. CT file photo by Jack Kustron; photo courtesy St. Matthias Church; CT photo by Tim Puet

**CHURCH**, continued from Page 11

fore the 8:30 a.m. Mass on the fourth Tuesday of every month, the parish prepares lunches for 200 homeless people.

The parish also makes donations throughout the year to the St. Francis Center at McArthur in Vinton County, providing food for Thanksgiving, toys and clothing for children and teens at Christmastime, and clothes for Easter. It also has a food cupboard filled with nonperishable foods, which is available to anyone with no questions asked during parish office hours.

Gift certificates to local stores benefit the parish. Certificates for Giant Eagle are available after Sunday Mass and during the week at the school and parish offices. The parish makes money on each certificate sold. Kroger has an online gift certificate program which works in a similar way. MacKay said it distributes \$700 to \$800 to the parish every three months.

The parish has two music ministries: a contemporary music group which sings at the 11 a.m. Mass on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, and cantors, who lead singing while accompanied by an organist or pianist. It also has a choir available for funerals, and provides funeral lunches at no cost to bereaved families.

The parish women's group, the Merry Widows, meets from 3 to 5 p.m. on the second Monday of each month. It sponsors an annual Lenten Holy Hour and recently visited St. Therese's Retreat Center in Columbus and the Basilica of the Assumption in Carey. For some time, it has collected manufacturer's coupons for an organization in Florida which sends the coupons overseas, where they are used in military commissaries by soldiers' wives. MacKay said the group has collected about \$700,000 in coupons over the years.

Assumption Council 3727 of the Knights of Columbus has been part of the parish throughout its history, performing charitable and fraternal activities for the church and community. One longstanding parish tra-



dition sponsored by the Knights is an ice cream social on the Sunday before school starts.



Earlier this month, loved ones who died in the last year and were part of families in the parish were remembered at Mass for All Saints Day, Sunday, Nov. 1. As their names were prayed, a family member or the whole family came to the altar to light a candle.

Advent begins at the end of this month, on Sunday, Nov. 29. This will be marked by a parish tradition of planting grass seeds in a box during a prayer service at a school assembly, then placing it in front of the pulpit for Advent and Christmas. The box is kept under a grow light, with the greening of the grass serving as a sign of spiritual growth and providing a pleasant place for Jesus to come.

**Photos, clockwise from upper left: Fish fry greeter Joe Borghese and Sister Marie Shields, SNDdeN; students pack sandwiches for the homeless; Sister Marie and school principal Dan Kinley; the crowd at a Friday Lenten fish fry.** Photos courtesy St. Matthias Church



  
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**Researcher finds something deep, life-changing within nuns' cloister**

**By Elizabeth Eisenstadt Evans**  
*Catholic News Service*

When independent filmmaker and artist Abbie Reese inaugurated her collaboration with the Poor Clare Colettine nuns at the Corpus Christi Monastery in Rockford, Illinois, she had a professional goal: nurturing a collaborative relationship that would serve as a backdrop to a young woman's transition from secular life into an alternative community.

Ten years down the road, Reese admits that the time she has spent with the nuns, who practice a form of strict enclosure relatively rare in contemporary culture, has affected her in a way that goes well beyond scholarly objectivity and curiosity.

A relationship that began a decade ago as a long-term project has, over time, evolved into a project she described as broader and more profound.

Reese was fresh off a yearlong volunteer stint as a media liaison in the communications department for a huge hospital ship, another form of enclosed community, when she began her oral history collaboration with the nuns, whom she first approached in 2005.

In the introduction to her 2014 book *Dedicated to God: An Oral History of Cloistered Nuns*, Reese writes that the call to leave the secular world and embrace a cloistered existence -- these nuns rarely leave the monastery -- was, for many, quite unexpected: "It defied their God-given temperaments. It violated dreams. It dashed plans for marriage and children. It meant their world would shrink, temporally, to a 14-acre campus so that their minds could dwell on God," she said.

As her relationships with the nuns deepened, they began to open up not only the physical space they inhabited, but their own vocational stories. "Looking back, I think they wanted to see if I could respect their faith and honor their tradition while within their space," Reese said.

While at first she would dress in the street clothes she normally wore, she eventually found herself dressing with deliberate modesty. "They only see the hands and faces of other (women), so to see more skin on somebody else is quite distracting. ... I would not wear makeup, and would take off my dangly



earrings before going in," she said.

She makes it clear that the nuns didn't impose their expectations on her. Nor did her growing knowledge of monastery life impel her to discover a hitherto unknown call, she added.

"It's clear your calling is to tell stories," one of the nuns told her.

Given that the nuns only speak to each other when strictly necessary, even the act of interviewing one of them was eye-opening, said Reese. "Sister Nicolette (a pseudonym), who was really worldly before she entered, fluent in four languages and grew up in Europe, would get hoarse in half an hour. It takes an emotional toll to communicate like that. She was so deliberate in the words she chose, so thoughtful and contemplative," she said.

"I experienced the monastic pace through them. It is incredibly compelling," Reese said in a telephone interview with the *National Catholic Reporter's* Global Sisters Report. She added that while she spent nights in the guest quarters and visited the enclosure on occasion as the project evolved, she never spent a night inside the nuns' residence.

In her book, Reese describes the way nuns order their days, in a rhythm that moves between manual labor and prayer, with a particular and sustained focus on veneration of the Eucharist. A few are deputized to answer the phone, a link to the personal and global sorrows and crises outside their walls.

When they aren't gathered for the Divine Office seven times a day -- including at midnight -- or engaged in private prayer, the nuns can be found working in the garden, baking altar breads to be packaged and mailed to different congregations, or fixing furniture in their workshop. Though they depend chiefly on donations to run their household, they also have a gift shop in which they sell hand-sewn Communion veils, as well as cards and rosaries.

As do other cloistered communities,



**In this 2010 photo, Poor Clare Colettine nuns walk back to their Corpus Christi Monastery in Rockford, Illinois, after a funeral service for an elderly sister.** CNS photo/Abbie Reese

the nuns at Corpus Christi seem to have great confidence in the efficacy of their calling: healing the world through the power of intercessory prayer.

"They intervene in the course of history, believing that their prayers and penances for strangers and family can alter outcomes," writes Reese. "At the ceremony when a nun makes final, permanent vows, she hugs her family for one final time. This sacrifice serves a purpose: The material world is not the end, and their sufferings and martyrdoms allow God's will to become manifest in the world."

These final hugs happen six years after a sister enters as a postulant. "It's a really emotional ceremony," said Reese. "Their mothers don't want to let go."

Thereafter, nuns will only see their families seated behind a grille, and they are allowed only four visits per year. Reese said some of the older nuns told her that after they departed for the monastery, their mothers would continue to set a place at the dinner table for them: "The separation was so extreme that it was like a death."

Nonetheless, she said, the community continues to attract vocations. At the moment, there are approximately 22 nuns in Rockford, some of whom had transferred from active orders. One, she said, had served in the military.

Like other religious communities, these Corpus Christi nuns -- theirs is a Franciscan order (Clare was a friend and follower of St. Francis) -- have pets. Though the nuns told Reese that the dogs are there to protect them,

"God sent them a cat. They found it in the dumpster one day."

"People keep asking me why I spent 10 years on the project" said Reese, a non-Catholic raised by two veterans of the 1960s' Jesus movement. "These are really fun women. That's part of the reason it was so enjoyable for so long."

But they also are very open about the cost of shutting the door on the secular world. "When a young woman enters, she isn't immediately expected to wake up every night (for prayer). It's something they are gradually assimilated into," Reese said.

As Reese spent more and more time getting to know the Corpus Christi community, her interest in telling the story in greater depth grew.

"The whole reason I wanted to do this project was to follow young women through the process of transitioning from one identity to another," said Reese. In addition to her focus on the Illinois community, she is pursuing a separate project with funding from the Harvard University Schlesinger Library on the History of Women. For the past 10 years, she has been interviewing young women around the country who are considering religious life.

Currently she is in the process of editing *Chosen (Custody of the Eyes)*, a film that follows 20-something painter and blogger "Heather." In both the book and the movie, the nuns chose to use aliases. "Heather," whom Reese met in 2005, ended up joining the

## Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle B)

### The Old Testament's only reference to eternal life



Father  
Lawrence L. Hummer

**Daniel 12:1-3;  
Hebrews 10:11-14,18;  
Mark 13:24-32**

Daniel (in Hebrew, "My judge is God") was written in the apocalyptic style and probably dates to around 150 BC. Apocalyptic style made use of angels, visions, symbolic numbers, and cataclysmic events, among other things, as it described prophetic-like scenes. It was meant to bolster the spirits of Jews who suffered under Antiochus IV during a persecution that lasted from 167-164 BC. Many of the heroes of I & II Maccabees are probably "those who lead the many to justice," especially Mattathias (see I Maccabees 2).

The name "Michael" in Hebrew means, literally, "One who is like God." I have known many "Michaels" over the years, and it seems each has possessed some small bit of the divine qualities which the name bears. "Gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in kindness and fidelity" are their adjectives, whether their surnames end in "ty" or "ski" or "le" or "er" or "on." Each one reflects one or more of these attributes used to describe the Lord in Exodus 34 and elsewhere.

The Michael to whom Daniel refers in the first reading is Israel's heavenly hero and guardian (an angel), who helps those who are "written in the book" to escape from the tribulation. That book refers to the book of life, or the registry of all those who will enjoy victory at the end of the struggle. It was believed that God kept a ledger of who would live and who would suffer eternal death when Israel would be rewarded for remaining faithful until the end. Even the dead who were

included would rise (or "awaken") – some to live forever, some "to everlasting horror and disgrace." This is the only place in the Old Testament where the expression "eternal life" occurs. It occurs in other Old Testament apocryphal works and frequently in the New Testament, but only here in the Old Testament itself.

The Gospel is part of the "apocalyptic discourse" which calls the disciples to remember that an end time eventually will come. Generally, the New Testament expected the end in the very near future. The language does not lend itself to a literal interpretation, simply because the cosmology does not work. Unless one wants to imagine a set of clouds whirling through the universe as stars go whizzing by, we wind up in an incomprehensible mishmash of images which fail to satisfy. Even the description of the gathering of the elect "from the end of the earth to the end of the sky" fails, inasmuch as the earth is round and has no end, nor does the sky. Granted, that was not known in the first century.

The fig tree's fruit shows that summer is near. Likewise, such events occur when the Son of Man is near. Yet, he (probably Mark) adds that "this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place." The only reference Mark could have had was to the people of his own generation. We still await the end, and only the Father knows when and how it will be. Yet we all know that our own death will bring its own set of signs and its own experience of the glory of God.

Hebrews contrasts the idea of a priest offering daily sacrifice for sin, which never works, with the one sacrifice of Christ offered once, after which he took his seat forever at the right hand of God (an allusion to Psalm 110:1). The final verse notes, "Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer offering for sin." The word *these* refers to "sins." Thus, Christ's death has brought about the forgiveness of sins, which, once forgiven, no longer exist.

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



Pray

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### The Weekday Bible Readings

**MONDAY**  
1 Maccabees 1:10-15,41-43,54-57,62-63  
Psalm 119:53,61,134,150,155,158  
Luke 18:35-43

**TUESDAY**  
2 Maccabees 6:18-31  
Psalm 3:2-7  
Luke 19:1-10

**WEDNESDAY**  
2 Maccabees 7:1,20-31  
Psalm 17:1bcd,5-6,8b,15  
Luke 19:11-28

**THURSDAY**  
1 Maccabees 2:15-29  
Psalm 50:1b-2,5-6,14-15  
Luke 19:45-48

**FRIDAY**  
1 Maccabees 4:36-37,52-59  
1 Chronicles 29:10bcd,11-12 (Ps)  
Luke 19:45-48

**SATURDAY**  
1 Maccabees 6:1-13  
Psalm 9:2-4,6,16,19  
Luke 20:27-40

**DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND  
TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE  
WEEK OF NOVEMBER 15, 2015**

**SUNDAY MASS**  
10:30 a.m. Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), 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, and 10:30 a.m. on WHIZ-TV, Channel 18, Zanesville. Check local cable system for 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 the Archdiocese of Milwaukee at 6:30 a.m. on ION TV (AT&T U-verse Channel 195, Dish Network Channel 250, or DirecTV Channel 305).

**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 (AM 820), Columbus, and at [www.stgabrielradio.com](http://www.stgabrielradio.com).

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

## November -- A Month of Many Contrasts in the Church's Calendar

Climatologically, we began this month with mild weather, which isn't that unusual for the beginning of November. Yet we almost always end the month with a cold snap, or at least the beginnings of one.

While I was growing up, my dad frequently reminded me that in 1950, it was around 80 degrees on Nov. 1, while the end of the month saw large amounts of snow in most of Ohio, as evidenced by the famous Ohio State-Michigan "Snow Bowl" game. Being a big sports and weather fan, this always stuck in my head. Contrasts have a habit of doing that.

In the Church's calendar, we begin the month celebrating All Saints and All Souls Day, and we end the month with the Feast of Christ the King, followed by the beginning of Advent. It is a month of changes. All Saints Day began in Rome sometime after 325 AD, when the Roman emperor began allowing Christians to display images of their saints in the Pantheon. These were men and women who were familiar to Romans. This was in marked contrast to the images of the Roman gods, who were just a myth. The saints' images allowed the citizens to connect with men and women like themselves.

Sociologists around the world, including some who do not look favorably on religion, often have commented that Catholicism and Orthodox Christianity have an amazing array of contrasts. These



**THE TIDE IS TURNING  
TOWARD CATHOLICISM**  
David Hartline

help the faithful relate to what they believe, while at the same time enabling them to see the mystical in the signs and symbols of our faith. Take Holy Mass, for example; we hear the readings talk about both the practical and the mystical. At the consecration, bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. The practical helps us to understand, while the mystical keeps us going when times are tough.

The former spiritual leader of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, Archbishop Edwin O'Brien, once said, "A man will give his life for a mystery, but not a question mark." This is why even many skeptics such as Albert Einstein became fascinated with the Eucharist. He thought the guiding principles of the Eucharistic mystery had something to do with his theory of relativity. He would often ask priests he met to refer him to any new books on the Eucharist so he could add them to his impressive collection.

In the Orthodox Church, the altar is viewed as a glimpse into heaven through its many doors that come open during the Divine Liturgy. The Byzan-

tine Rite of the Catholic Church has similar rituals. You might want to attend Mass at St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church in Columbus to see for yourself.

All this talk about contrasts would be nothing but a long-winded academic lecture if we didn't act upon it. This month, as Advent and Christmas nears, we will hear more about men and women like ourselves who need our help in and out of the Church locally, nationally, and internationally.

Unlike some charities, our local agencies such as the Holy Family Soup Kitchen and the St. Vincent de Paul Society, as well as Catholic Charities nationally and Catholic Relief Services worldwide, have very little overhead. The aid goes directly to those who need it, with a minimal amount spent for administrative costs. We need to reflect on this, as Advent and Christmas will soon be upon us.

What better way to end November, when we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King, followed by Advent, than to take stock of the contrasts in our own lives. Let's figure out how to learn from the best of our contrasts so we can discard that which serves no purpose. All of us, those near us, and even those not so near to us will be the better for it.

*Hartline is the author of "The Tide is Turning Toward Catholicism," founder of the [Catholicreport.org](http://Catholicreport.org) and a former teacher and administrator for the diocese.*

## World Meeting of Families: Going Forward

**By Dan Thimons**  
*Director, Diocesan Office of  
Marriage & Family Life*

Pope St. John Paul II began the World Meeting of Families in 1994 because he recognized that "the future of the world and of the church passes through the family." The eighth World Meeting of Families was the first on U.S. soil and the largest ever, with more than 20,000 people attending the four-day conference and 800,000 at the closing Mass with Pope Francis. More than 500 people from our diocese traveled to Philadelphia for the week-end festivities. More than 20 families from our diocese attended the entire conference, thanks especially to the generosity of The Catholic Foundation, which provided scholarships enabling 14 families from every part of the diocese to take part.



Those who made the trip to Philadelphia certainly can testify to the overflowing abundance of joy and hope from this gathering. For me, the best way to describe it was as a family reunion. It became very tangible to me that the Church is a family of families. Many people described it as Catholic Disneyland, with bishops, priests, and sisters everywhere, and faithful from around the world singing hymns in the streets.

What was striking to me is that we went hoping to receive a new insight, a new program, something that we could stuff in our backpacks and

bring back to central Ohio. Certainly, the keynote speeches were insightful, the 700 vendors were full of wonderful, new and exciting programs, and our backpacks were stuffed with materials.

Yet the greatest part of the week was not found in the addresses or the materials, but in an intense outpouring of the Holy Spirit, as thousands of families from every part of the world were gathered together, united as one family, under the Vicar of Christ on earth. It was a taste of a new and heavenly Philadelphia, a reality that couldn't be captured by the cameras or the news reports.

Everyone that I talked to who came back from the meeting described it as "incredible," "life-changing," "unbelievable," or "the most amazing pilgrimage of our lives."

We all went with an understanding of the great crisis in marriage and

family life. We were weighed down by the demands and difficulties of family life, hoping for a new insight or program. We went like the disciples who worked hard all night and caught nothing. We had run out of wine. We had only five measly loaves and two fish. Ultimately, what we received was not a new program, but a Person, Jesus Christ.

The World Meeting of Families was a moment of great hope that transformation is possible, a moment of an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Church, bestowing on us the grace to heal families and in turn heal the Church and the world.

I hope to take these next few weeks to reflect with you on some thoughts from the meeting and to propose a plan for moving forward. How do we bring the joy and the hope experienced in Philadelphia and heal and renew family life in central Ohio?





focus on **ART**

THEATER

# Good 'N Plenty

The drama department of Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, 2010 E. Broad St., will present Jeffrey Hatcher's comedy *Good 'N' Plenty* at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Nov. 19, 20, and 21 and 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 22.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. For reservations, call the school at (614) 252-6714.

In *Good 'N' Plenty*, Wintersville High School's new social studies instructor, Richard Miller, uses *Good & Plenty* candy as "contraband" in a "drug game" for his students in 1976 and, as the saying goes, comedy ensues.

Drug abuse among teens was no laughing matter back then, and it's still relevant today, but Hatcher uses that scenario as a backdrop for a humorous look at the American judicial system.

*Good 'N' Plenty* is a comedy in which

a civics lesson goes bad as instructor Miller tries to teach his students about the system and they end up experiencing the real thing.

"It's an interesting point that Hatcher chose to set the play in 1976, the country's bicentennial year," St. Charles drama director Doug Montgomery said. The play was written in 2000.

"And it's also an interesting approach to understanding the constitution. The teacher, Miller, is intending to teach the constitution in a more provocative way, but it backfires," Montgomery said.

Hatcher's play is full of comic characters as he draws an evening of laughs from a social problem. However, he also manages to make a point about the Constitution as a living document. Montgomery said the show's energy comes from the characters.



"The students in the class and the teachers in the school are, to say the least, a bit wacky, but that's where the comedy comes in," he said.

For example, there's a Bulgarian exchange student who learns English by studying American pop song lyrics and a young man who collects paper products as research.

"It's all very funny," Montgomery said. "It will be an entertaining show and, if you look close enough, it has a message, but not one that will hit you over the head."

Aside from the political and social messages, the cast represents stu-

dents and faculty working together to educate, learn, and make a difference. "Perhaps it can be all summed up by the last few lines of the play spoken by Miller, who says, referring to the Constitution: 'We write it and rewrite it. We try to get it perfect.'"

**Photo: Cast members of "Good 'N' Plenty" include (from left), seated: Nathan Kuhr, Julia Mazurek (Dublin Jerome), Ada Cleary (Columbus School for Girls), Ben Negatu, Campbell Smith, and Molly Gallagher (Dublin Jerome); standing, Rayquon Brown, Ellie Wade (CSG), Tim Clayton, Natalie Belford (Grove City), Nick Martin, Marcus Galeano, Joseph Roe, Isaac Murrin, and Camron Alten-Dunkle.**

Photo by Jennifer Zmuda

OPERA

# Amusement Park Mayhem

Twenty-six sixth graders at Columbus Our Lady of Peace School formed a production company called Crayons in the Box Opera.

The company wrote and produced an original 30-minute opera titled *Amusement Park Mayhem*, which was presented to the public earlier this week.

Students auditioned for jobs in the company, including costumes and makeup, electricians, set design, carpenters, writers, composers, performers, stage manager, assistant stage manager, production manager, and public relations.

Our Lady of Peace School has been selected for the past several years by the Metropolitan Opera Guild's education department to participate in its Creating Original Opera program, in cooperation with the Our Lady of Peace Home and School Association.



Photo: The writers of "Amusement Park Mayhem" are (from left) Samantha Maynard, Bronwyn Lewis, Evan Campbell, and Alex Zayen.

Photo courtesy Our Lady of Peace School

THEATER

# Fools

Ohio Dominican University's student theater group, the Panther Players, will perform Neil Simon's "Fools" on select dates from Friday, Nov. 13 to Saturday, Nov. 21. The performances will take place in the Matesich Theater in Erskine Hall on ODU's main campus, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. In "Fools," Leon Steponovich Tolchinsky lands his first teaching job in Kulyenchikov, Ukraine during the 19th century. He soon learns that there is a curse on the village that makes everyone foolish. Not only must he leave within 24 hours or become cursed himself, but he's also fallen in love with one of his students.

General admission is \$8. Children younger than five will be admitted free. Admission is also free for students who show their ODU identification. Free parking is available in the Gold Lot, west of Sunbury Road.

## NEWS IN PHOTOS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



Benedictine Father Florian is greeted by children after returning to Illeret, Kenya, from a trip to Nairobi. The Bavarian prince gave up his inheritance to become a Benedictine monk. CNS/Christena Dowsett

Sister Mary Grace, a member of the Little Sisters of the Poor, venerates a relic of her order's foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan, at Our Lady of the Island Shrine in Manorville, New York, in 2012. The U.S. Supreme Court said on Nov. 6 that it will hear seven pending appeals in lawsuits brought by the Little Sisters and several other Catholic and faith-based entities against the Obama administration's contraceptive mandate.

CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz, Long Island Catholic



Lisbeth Svendsen, a volunteer from Norway, gets a hug from Nabil Minas as she hugs his wife and daughter on a beach near Molyvos, on the Greek island of Lesbos, on Oct. 30. The Syrian refugees were on a boat that traveled to Lesbos from Turkey, provided by Turkish traffickers to whom the refugees paid huge sums. When Minas disembarked from the boat, he fell on his face and kissed the ground. A Christian, he crossed himself and covered his face with his hands, weeping with joy.

CNS photo/Paul Jeffrey

## Lectors and Acolytes Installed at Josephinum



The installation of seminarians in the offices of lectors and acolyte took place at the Pontifical College Josephinum on Sunday, Nov. 1, the Feast of All Saints. Bishop Daniel Thomas of Toledo was the principal celebrant. Seminarians installed as lectors typically are first-year theologians and are commissioned to proclaim the Word of God in the liturgical assembly and to catechize the faithful. Acolytes, traditionally second-year theologians, are entrusted with the duties of attending to the altar, assisting the deacon and priest at Mass, and distributing holy Communion as an extraordinary minister. The 10 seminarians from the Diocese of Columbus who were among those installed are pictured. They are (from left): Brett Garland, acolyte; Chris Yakkell, lector; Paul Brandimarti, lector; Bryant Haren, lector; Chris Tuttle, acolyte; Msgr. Christopher Schreck, Josephinum rector/president; Bishop Thomas; Robert Johnson, acolyte; Max Hall, acolyte; Kyle Tennant, lector; Todd Lehigh, acolyte; and Thomas Herge, acolyte.

Photo by seminarian Josh Altonji

### CLOISTERS, *continued from Page 13*

Rockford community of Poor Clare Colettines, becoming “Sister Amata.”

But when Reese sets foot in the monastery, which is set back from a busy road, and catches a whiff of the incense, the way she experiences the passing of time itself changes, she said. “As I interacted with those women, who have embraced a different, ancient rule, I understood it in a different and much deeper way.”

Asked why women who so rarely interact with the culture that laps at their door chose to open up their lives to her, Reese said, “In part they see the benefit of people knowing that this life still exists, that young women are still called.”

While she was collecting information, she shared the transcripts with

the nuns she interviewed.

And when the book was finished, she gave them a copy which, the mother abbess told her, they passed from one nun to another. As the nuns have read the book, they have told Reese they’ve been learning about themselves.

Reese’s project has another future benefit: providing the nuns who function as administrators with biographical details about their companions, with whom they often shared the rigor of a daily routine without the small intimacies of secular friendships. “When a nun died,” she said, “often they didn’t know what to put in the monastery record.”

*Eisenstadt Evans is a columnist for Lancaster (Pennsylvania) Newspapers Inc. and a freelance writer.*



In this undated photo, a Poor Clare Colettine nun who is the novice mistress works with a novice in the wood shop at the order’s Corpus Christi Monastery in Rockford, Illinois. CNS photo/Abbie Reese