LIFT UP YOUR VOICE, SING PRAISE TO GOD
Music and Liturgy

By Fransico X. Rocco
Catholic Times-Northeast Edition
March 14, 2015

A month after closing a Synod of Bishops on the family, Pope Francis will open the international conference dedicated to Catholic marriage.

The Vatican-sponsored gathering, on the “Complementarity of Man and Woman,” will take place from Monday, Nov. 17 to Wednesday, Nov. 19. It will feature more than 300 speakers representative of every ecclesial and various Christian churches, as well as clergy, religious leaders, representatives of Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism, Taoism, and Sikhism.

The conference will aim to “examine and propose anew the beauty of marriage of man and woman, in order to support and renew marriage and family life for the flourishing of human society,” according to organizers.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia and the Rev. Rick Warren, senior pastor of Saddleback Church in California, will be among the participants.

For more information on the conference and other events, visit www.vaticannews.va.

The Vatican has permitted the bishops of the United States to waive the requirement to attend Mass 40 days before and after the solemnity of Pentecost. This means that those who have a solemnity in their diocesan calendar that falls on a Sunday or a holy day of obligation and who are unable to attend Mass on that day, may transfer their obligation to the Sunday following that day.

In the Diocese of Columbus, the diocesan calendar also shows that the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God, Jan. 1; the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, Aug. 15; and the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Dec. 8, are not solemnities.

All Sundays are holy days of obligation in the United States, as is the Feast of the Nativity, Dec. 25, and the Ascension, May 21. All those other than Sundays can be transferred to Monday, May 22, or May 24, 2016.

However, those who have a solemnity that falls within the Holy Week Penitential Season, such as Easter, or on Good Friday, may choose to transfer their obligation to the nearest weekday.

The Feast of the Annunciation, March 25, does not transfer, and in those years, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception is not a holy day of obligation.

The Diocese to organize pilgrimage to World Youth Day 2016

The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry of the Diocese of Columbus announces a diocesan pilgrimage for World Youth Day 2016 in Krakow, Poland.

World Youth Day (WYD) is a worldwide celebration of young Catholics with the Holy Father. WYD is primarily for young adults, and programs will be available for children 18 and the time of the trip to attend WYD with the diocesan group. Because of the advance preparation needed and a convenient payment plan spread over 16 months, participants must sign up now. Initial registration is due by Thursday, Jan. 15. For more information, contact the St. Patrick Church office at (614) 246-9189 or visit www.cdeoeducation.org/WYD or by calling Mike Hall (方面的试点工作已将其纳入2011年6月20日制定的“中国文化与世界文化”合作项目，旨在推动中国对世界文化的传播，并增进对世界文化的了解。2016年6月20日，首批“中国文化与世界文化”合作项目启动。首批“中国文化与世界文化”合作项目启动。”)
For Boys Scouts, the Light of Christ emblem, the oldest emblem for Catho-

lic Scouting, is earned by 1st grade girls and boys. It is

given at a special ceremony called the ‘First

Rank’ ceremony. Emblem eligibility has been changed

recently to allow 1st grade girls and boys to earn the

émoi and become eligible for the first time.

The committee has de-

cided to add two more
classes to celebrate March 23rd, the feast day for the

saints and religious leaders who have been honored

by the Catholic Church.

It is estimated that one of ev-

ery 10,000 Catholic Scouts

without the emblem will be

asked to receive the emblem in

2015 as a gift from the com-

mittee.

The new home page contains three new fea-
tures, and other changes at the school.

The square tabs on the left are quick links to

newspapers for themselves and their schools, and their

parents, who have earned all four of their na-
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Catholic News Service

QUESTION & ANSWER

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positive experience.

language and subject

As I write this column,

homosexual persons with

As always, though, the

Watterson Pallbearers Society

Columbus Catholic High School has a pagan bur-er society under the patronage of St. Joseph Arimatheas, who took the body of Jesus from the cross and placed it in his own tomb. (Surely young men who are juniors and seniors at the school have been trained and commissioned to give that service. But too often we have not been compensated at a moment’s notice,” said faculty leader and theology teacher Mike Fry. The St. Joseph of Arimatheas Society has a monthly meeting to discuss issues, talk about ex-

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Nearly 170 students participated in the Columbus St. Thomas More Center’s 11th Buckeye Awakening retreat, which took place from Friday to Sunday, Oct. 18-20, at the St. Peter and Paul Retreat Center in Newark. Emberrich, one of the student participants, wrote the following about her experience: “God led me to this community at the Newman Center, and this year and the following year I have often been overwhelmed with love and happiness since I have met many now loving people, and I have decided to make the decision to become a full member of the Catholic Church in going through RCIA. It really allowed me to ‘dig deeper’ into the Catholic Church and its teachings, and I wonderful love and happiness since! I have met many new loving people, and I have decided to make the decision to become a full member of the Catholic Church in going through RCIA. It really allowed me to ‘dig deeper’ into the Catholic Church and its teachings, and I...
Music has been part of Catholic worship since the first Eucharistic celebration on the Last Supper. The Gospels of both Matthew and Mark end their accounts of that event with the phrase “After singing a hymn (probably one of the Psalms), they (Jesus and his disciples) went out to the Mount of Olives.”

However, before the Second Vatican Council issued its Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy in 1963, most Masses in the United States did not include music. The document’s emphasis on “full and active participation by all the people” in the liturgy led to major liturgical changes in the next 50 years. Today, nearly all weekend Masses include music — ranging from a cappella to various instruments, including organs, strings or other instruments, and a large choir or entire ensemble for major celebrations.

Longtime parish music directors, including Paul Thornock at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral and his counterparts at Westerville St. Paul, Columbus Holy rosary-St. John and St. Dominic churches have seen their music programs grow and change significantly over the years.

 Thornock, who came to the cathedral in 1999 from South Bend, Indiana, conducts the Cathedral Schola, which specializes in the interpretation of early music and whose 17 members receive a stipend, and the schola, or the core of the choir’s repertoire and is the principal source of the church’s 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday. Separate choirs for students in grades four to eight and nine in leading five choirs at St. Peter’s: a traditional or Gospel-style work." The groups have undergone several membership changes over the years, with some people who joined them as high school students becoming adult leaders. Patty McMenemy and Mari Radel directed New Creation for 28 years until Radel’s death last Friday, Oct. 31, and began singing with the group shortly after it was founded. “The style of the church doesn’t dictate the style of music,” Bryan said. “Moving into the new church didn’t change what our choir sings, but it allowed us to work differently. In the former church, the choir had to wear microphones, was in a small space by the altar, and was unable to present music in its heat. In the new church, the choir is in a left in the back of the church and doesn’t need amplification; even though the church is much larger. This allows a much more natural blend of voices.”

St. Paul’s music program includes an adult choir which sings at the 10:30 a.m. Mass, separate choirs for students in grades four to eight and nine which take part in Masses once a month, a contemporary ensemble with features, drummers, and keyboards, which is featured at 5 p.m. Saturday Masses, Resurrection Choir for funerals, and a cantor program. Bryan said the choir’s repertoire is eclectic, ranging from the classical, but including the occasional contemporary or Gospel-style work.

St. Paul’s is another parish with several music groups, including an adult choir, a children’s choir, and three contemporary groups — Merging Spirits, Joy in the Morning, and New Creation. The three groups support the schola, or the core of the choir’s repertoire, and began singing with the group shortly after it was founded. “Way back in 2005, we assembled a creation choir which sings much of the Liturgy of the Eucharist rather than reciting it. “Msgr. Funk sings much of the Liturgy of the Eucharist rather than reciting it. “Msgr. Funk
SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS SUPPORT SEMINARS

December 9, 2014

Bishop Ready expands Chinese student program

Chinese students attending Columbus Bishop Ready High School, with their Chinese first names in parentheses, are from Jack to Jian: Rebecca (Runmei), Sun, Mark (Tuo) Jin, Jack (Tianpeng) Zang, Tom (Yizhuo) Zhang (no relation to Steven), Steven Fu, and Rebecca (Yingzheng) Fu. In addition, Tianpeng’s parents, Mark and Steven, and Sun are juniors, Jack is a sophomore, and Rebecca is a freshman.

PHOTO CREDIT: Bishop Ready High School

Students at Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul School ended their month of Rosary devotions in October by forming a living Rosary. Photo courtesy of St. Vincent de Paul School.

### MUSIC, continued from Page 11

Music has always had a spiritual aspect to me, “Music, no matter what context it’s in,” said Huxton, who writes all the choral responses for Masses at St. Dominic and Holy Rosary-St. John. “Music is an attracting force that brings people into church, and the Word of God keeps them there. Music should be humble, respectful, humble in worship and praise the Lord. I’m grateful to be an instrument who helps this happen.”

Huxton directs. “The challenge for the student is singing in Latin, a language with which he is unfamiliar,” she said. “Recorded by stumbling blocks, the student, with Walsh-Hug- gins assistance, is willing to add another language to his repertoire. Walsh-Huggins also notes that hav-
Dedication of the Lateran Basilica (Cycle A)

Ezekiel 67:1-2, 9-12
1 Corinthians 3:9c-11, 16-17
John 2:13-22

The Extraordinary Synod on the Family which recently took place at the Vatican has issued an interim report. The final report should be done in six months and everyone has an opinion. The best opinion I have heard comes from Father Robert Baron, rector of Chicago’s Mundelein Seminary and author of several books, which became a 10-part series many of you saw on television.

I saw Father Baron speak at the Josephinum a few days before the synod convened. His address was along the lines of the efforts he was making in Pope Francis’ new role on the state of the Church in 2014. I have never seen a synod that had such a unifying focus. Francis has graciously spoken with several people after his talk, but so far there is no discussion with those who feel they aren’t committing sin with their particular views. The Church is a place of forgiveness, where only God can judge.

The matter of the thing is that while peripheral changes can be made to the faith — such as celebrating the Eucharist on the floor (at least St. Paul once did) — changing the core teachings of the faith cannot change, and has not changed. (Even 325 AD and Chalcedon 451 AD.) Even the Council of Trent (1545-1563), condemned shortly after the Protestant Reformation, only declared that the Church has believed for centuries. The Council of Nicea gave us the Nicene Creed, which we recite at Mass. Along with the Council of Chalcedon, it cemented the core beliefs we have about the human and divine nature of Jesus, the work of the Holy Spirit, the role of the Blessed Mother, and the lifelong presence of the Sacraments in our lives.

My favorite story from the Council of Nicea revolves around St. Nicholas. Yes you and the same jolly St. Nick! And Arius, the founder of the heretical movement later known as Arianism. Arius didn’t believe in the Trinity and thought Jesus was not equal to God. When he spoke at Nicea, the future St. Nick was assigned to gently grill Arius with a punch to the face. Nicholas was asked to leave. Later that night, many people attending the council dreamed that the Blessed Mother was asking why the man who denigrated her son was still at the council, while the man who honored her son was literal- ly, shown the door. Nicholas was found and brought back to the council. It is a story told to this day by the attending bishops and theologians. As you can see, synods and councils are not for the faint of heart. So don’t try to be a prophet — even if you are — because if very few people, even those who attend Mass weekly, were ever awoken by the Spirit and given the big deal? The big deal is that the mainstream media never pays attention to the spiritual information as we can about this synod and past synods and councils, but we allow the secular media to put their own spin on the particular synod.

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

Bishop Hartley Open House

The fall open house at Columbus Bishop Hartley High School, 1285 Zettler Road, will take place at 7 p.m. Nov. 3.

With outstanding academic and athletic programs, an innovative homework program, and more than 17 extracurricular activities, the school provides opportunities for every student to reach his or her full potential.

Those attending the open house can find out more about these programs and opportunities, hear from school administrators and tour the Hartley campus, and meet teachers and coaches.

Those unable to attend can take a virtual tour online, then get signed up with the admission office by calling 614-327-3421, extension 10622. In addition, informal, individual visits with Bishop Hartley educators are scheduled in on Wednesdays. Jan. 22 and 29, and Feb. 5 and 7.

The school website, www.bishop-hartley.org, includes more information about the school, the academic process and other opportunities to learn about what Hartley offers.

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**November 9, 2014**

**HAPPENINGS**

**WOMEN’S CLUB**

**ROBIN GAYDON SHOW**

Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church
1559 Roxbury Road, Columbus

Saturdays 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., many vendors, the Indian Eddie, white oak, white elephant sales.

**FAIR**

**ST. MICHAELE**

St. Michael Center (2014)
130 E. Grant Ave., Columbus

584 W. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215

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3:30 to 5 p.m., Colonial Room, Sansbury Hall, Ohio Dominican University, Columbus.

**SUNDAY**

**CATHOLIC TIMES**

November 9, 2014

**November**

**Friday, November 7**

Fund-Raising Guide. An entry into Catholic Times Reader Awards. Items not received before this deadline will be placed in the “Fund-Raising Guide.”

**Saturday, November 8, Saturday Life and Mercy Mass, followed by rosary and confessions, 11 a.m., St. Stephen Church, Lancaster.

**Sunday, November 9**

Three Bags Full Consignment Sale
3:30 to 5 p.m., Colonial Room, Sansbury Hall, Ohio Dominican University, Columbus.

**Monday, November 10**

Serra Club Life Awareness Youth Luncheon for Girls
12:15 p.m., Parish center, St. Cecilia Church, 440 Norton Road, Columbus. Serra Club of Columbus.

**Tuesday, November 11**

St. Joseph Academy Memorial Mass
7:30 p.m., Bishop Watterson High School, 99 E. Cooke Road, Columbus. Columbus Bishop Watterson High School is presenting "Man of La Mancha". Also presented on Nov. 14 and 15.

**Wednesday, November 12**

Bishop Watterson Presents 'Death of a Salesman'
7:30 p.m., Bishop Watterson High School, 99 E. Cooke Road, Columbus. Award-winning drama “Death of a Salesman.” Also presented on Nov. 14 and 15.

**Thursday, November 13**

Saturday Life and Mercy Mass, followed by rosary and confessions, 11 a.m., St. Stephen Church, Lancaster.

**Friday, November 14**

Bethesda Post-Abortion Healing Ministry
7:30 p.m., St. Paul Church, 313 S. State St., Westerville. Parish mission with Father Rod." For more information call 614-251-4722.

**Saturday, November 15**

National Thomas Merton Society, on “Merton: A Monk for our Time.” Events begin at 9 a.m. at the Westerville Public Library. Information: 614-882-2109.

**Sunday, November 16**

Serra Club Life Awareness Youth Luncheon for Girls
12:15 p.m., Parish center, St. Cecilia Church, 440 Norton Road, Columbus. Serra Club of Columbus.

**Monday, November 17**

Serra Club Life Awareness Youth Luncheon for Girls
12:15 p.m., Parish center, St. Cecilia Church, 440 Norton Road, Columbus. Serra Club of Columbus.

**Tuesday, November 18**

Serra Club of Columbus Everett Mass and Brunch for students of eighth-grade and high school age. Chair of the Catholic Women's Federation of Franklin County is keynote speaker. Information: 614-481-5522.

**Wednesday, November 19**

Bethesda Post-Abortion Healing Ministry
7:30 p.m., St. Paul Church, 313 S. State St., Westerville. Parish mission with Father Rod." For more information call 614-251-4722.

**Thursday, November 20**

St. Joseph Academy Memorial Mass
7:30 p.m., Bishop Watterson High School, 99 E. Cooke Road, Columbus. Columbus Bishop Watterson High School is presenting "Man of La Mancha". Also presented on Nov. 14 and 15.

**Friday, November 21**

Saturday Life and Mercy Mass, followed by rosary and confessions, 11 a.m., St. Stephen Church, Lancaster.

**Saturday, November 22**

National Thomas Merton Society, on “Merton: A Monk for our Time.” Events begin at 9 a.m. at the Westerville Public Library. Information: 614-882-2109.

**Sunday, November 23**

Serra Club Life Awareness Youth Luncheon for Girls
12:15 p.m., Parish center, St. Cecilia Church, 440 Norton Road, Columbus. Serra Club of Columbus.

**Monday, November 24**

Serra Club Life Awareness Youth Luncheon for Girls
12:15 p.m., Parish center, St. Cecilia Church, 440 Norton Road, Columbus. Serra Club of Columbus.

**Tuesday, November 25**

Serra Club Life Awareness Youth Luncheon for Girls
12:15 p.m., Parish center, St. Cecilia Church, 440 Norton Road, Columbus. Serra Club of Columbus.

**Wednesday, November 26**

Serra Club Life Awareness Youth Luncheon for Girls
12:15 p.m., Parish center, St. Cecilia Church, 440 Norton Road, Columbus. Serra Club of Columbus.

**Thursday, November 27**

St. Joseph Academy Memorial Mass
7:30 p.m., Bishop Watterson High School, 99 E. Cooke Road, Columbus. Columbus Bishop Watterson High School is presenting "Man of La Mancha". Also presented on Nov. 14 and 15.

**Friday, November 28**

Saturday Life and Mercy Mass, followed by rosary and confessions, 11 a.m., St. Stephen Church, Lancaster.

**Saturday, November 29**

National Thomas Merton Society, on “Merton: A Monk for our Time.” Events begin at 9 a.m. at the Westerville Public Library. Information: 614-882-2109.

**Sunday, November 30**

Serra Club Life Awareness Youth Luncheon for Girls
12:15 p.m., Parish center, St. Cecilia Church, 440 Norton Road, Columbus. Serra Club of Columbus.

**Monday, December 1**

Serra Club Life Awareness Youth Luncheon for Girls
12:15 p.m., Parish center, St. Cecilia Church, 440 Norton Road, Columbus. Serra Club of Columbus.

**Tuesday, December 2**

Serra Club Life Awareness Youth Luncheon for Girls
12:15 p.m., Parish center, St. Cecilia Church, 440 Norton Road, Columbus. Serra Club of Columbus.

**Wednesday, December 3**

Serra Club Life Awareness Youth Luncheon for Girls
12:15 p.m., Parish center, St. Cecilia Church, 440 Norton Road, Columbus. Serra Club of Columbus.

**Thursday, December 4**

St. Joseph Academy Memorial Mass
7:30 p.m., Bishop Watterson High School, 99 E. Cooke Road, Columbus. Columbus Bishop Watterson High School is presenting "Man of La Mancha". Also presented on Nov. 14 and 15.

**Friday, December 5**

Saturday Life and Mercy Mass, followed by rosary and confessions, 11 a.m., St. Stephen Church, Lancaster.

**Saturday, December 6**

National Thomas Merton Society, on “Merton: A Monk for our Time.” Events begin at 9 a.m. at the Westerville Public Library. Information: 614-882-2109.

**Sunday, December 7**

Serra Club Life Awareness Youth Luncheon for Girls
12:15 p.m., Parish center, St. Cecilia Church, 440 Norton Road, Columbus. Serra Club of Columbus.

**Monday, December 8**

Serra Club Life Awareness Youth Luncheon for Girls
12:15 p.m., Parish center, St. Cecilia Church, 440 Norton Road, Columbus. Serra Club of Columbus.

**Tuesday, December 9**

Serra Club Life Awareness Youth Luncheon for Girls
12:15 p.m., Parish center, St. Cecilia Church, 440 Norton Road, Columbus. Serra Club of Columbus.

**Wednesday, December 10**

Serra Club Life Awareness Youth Luncheon for Girls
12:15 p.m., Parish center, St. Cecilia Church, 440 Norton Road, Columbus. Serra Club of Columbus.
LITTLE WOMEN

The fall theater production at Columbus Bishop Ready High School, 707 Salisbury Road, will be the stage adaptation of the beloved Louisa May Alcott novel Little Women. The story, set in 1863, tells the story of the March family of four sisters, Marmee, Aunt March, and Father who is working as a chaplain for the Union Army. The adaptation by Marisha Chamberlain enacts volume one of the novel in Act I and the second volume in Act II. Ready seniors Justine Ferko (Amy), Marguerite Mills (Meg), Kaitlyn Montgomery (Aunt March), Katherine Rondo (Marmee), and Rylie Wahl (Jo) will be joined by sophomores Olivia Rowe (Beth) and Walter Pindell (Brooke), and juniors Michael Creagh (Old Mr. Laurence), Molly Sullivan (Hannah), Andres Walliser-Wejebe (Laurie), and Benjamin Young (Father). Fourteen additional Ready students will be in "unnamed" ensemble roles. Performance dates will be Friday, Nov. 14 at 7 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 15 at 2 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 16 at 7 p.m. Tickets are $10 for adults, $9 for those 65 and older, and $8 for students. For more information, call the school at (614) 276-5263.

Photo: Columbus Bishop Ready High School students (from left) Olivia Rowe, Kaitlyn Montgomery, and Justine Ferko (standing), and Marguerite Mills, Katherine Rondo, and Rylie Wahl (seated) prepare before heading for a rehearsal of the school’s production of “Little Women.”

Photo/Bishop Ready High School

LITTLE WOMEN

Organist Nathan Laube

Sunday, Nov. 16, 3 p.m.
St. Joseph Cathedral

Concert organist Nathan Laube was recently appointed to the faculty at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. He studied at the Musik-akademie in Stuttgart and at the Conservatoire a Renommation Regional de Toulouse as a William Fulbright grant recipient. He possesses extensive experience with historic organs in several national styles and is a prize winner in several international competitions.

Free Concert

Thursday, Nov. 20
7 p.m.
St. Peter Church

Nationally known Catholic musician ValLimar Jansen will present a free concert at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 20 at Columbus St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road. Blessed with an extraordinary voice, Jansen is a highly regarded singer, cantor, and recording artist. She is also a college professor, a leader of worship and prayer, and a workshop presenter at conferences across the United States.

Known especially for her work with Gospel, contemporary Christian, and Gospel-jazz styles, she sings a wide range of music, including spirituals and traditional, organ-based choral music. In 2005, she released her first solo collection, You Gotta Move. Other recent projects include a stirring, Gospel-style rendition of Jaime Cortez’s classic Rain Down on the Live It! two-CD compilation, and lead and background vocals on Clothed in Love, Tom Kendzia’s collection of spirituals and Gospel-style music for the liturgy. Jansen composes all her music with the help of her husband, Frank. They live in California and have three children.

To RSVP for the concert, contact slape@cdeducation.org or call (614) 276-5263.

Photo: Columbus Bishop Ready High School students (from left) Olivia Rowe, Kaitlyn Montgomery, and Justine Ferko (standing), and Marguerite Mills, Katherine Rondo, and Rylie Wahl (seated) prepare before heading for a rehearsal of the school’s production of “Little Women.”

Photo/Bishop Ready High School

ALL SAINTS/ALL SOULS DAY COMMEMORATIONS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Pope Francis blesses graves at the conclusion of Mass at the Verano cemetery in Rome on Nov. 1, the Feast of All Saints. CNS photo/Paul Haring

Musicians play a tune next to a tomb during the Day of the Dead at a cemetery in Panchimalco, on the outskirts of San Salvador, the capital of El Salvador, on Nov. 2. Catholics honor their dead on Nov. 1 and 2 by cleaning and decorating the graves with flowers and spending time next to the graves of their deceased beloved ones. CNS photo/Romeo Ranoco, Reuters

Volunteer students and a military officer place Philippine flags in front of tombstones at a military camp in Tagay, south of Manila, on Oct. 31. Thousands were expected to visit cemeteries and gather with their loved ones during the Catholic commemoration of All Saints’ Day on Nov. 1. CNS photo/Toto Cutita, Reuters
St. Paul’s Outreach celebrates 10 years of living the Gospel on college campuses

By Brad Pierron

On Thursday, Oct. 23, a grand gathering took place on the campus of The Ohio State University. Alongside Bishop Frederick Campbell, 660 men and women from the diocese came together to celebrate 10 years of great work in Columbus, accomplished through the missionary program of St. Paul’s Outreach (SPO).

St. Paul’s Outreach actively invites college students to a life of Christian discipleship. With St. Paul as their example, participants create vibrant, faith-filled environments that challenge students to deepen their relationships with Christ in the fullness of the Catholic Church.

For the last 10 years, the SPO Ohio Mission Center has been an alive, vibrant missionary group impacting countless lives on the campuses of Ohio State, Ohio Dominican, and West Virginia universities.

Mission center director Andrew Kebe expanded upon the evening’s theme, “God Has Given the Growth,” by noting the tremendous impact the ministry has made among young adults.

He said that in the last 10 years, 72 SPO Ohio alumni have spent at least one year in full-time missionary work, 21 are in religious or priestly formation, and 73 are married and starting families. He also said SPO has 306 participants in small evangelistic groups. This shows how SPO is making and will continue to make a greater impact in the diocese as the future Church is strengthened.

The banquet’s master of ceremonies, former SPO participant Deacon Tom Gardner, and two current SPO students, Brody Tejkl and Maria Ritchey, shared their personal experiences of the powerful transformation afforded to them through their involvement with St. Paul’s Outreach.

Bishop Campbell, the keynote speaker, talked about the change or growth we need to fully satisfy our longings. He spoke about this growth in terms of conversion.

He said that to fully embrace Jesus, we must have a conversion within our hearts, and he alluded to SPO’s hand in shaping such a conversion in the lives of many people. The bishop said this conversion is needed in the lives of all Catholics, and more broadly, in all Christians at one point or another. It is what allows for a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Although the last 10 years have been a great success, the bishop’s words recognize that SPO’s mission is not a completed project by any means. The Ohio State University has roughly 21,000 Catholic students, approximately 2,000 of whom are accounted for at Mass on a given weekend. Though these statistics seem disheartening, SPO sees such numbers as indicating an opportunity for the Lord to lead a great movement.

The missionaries of St. Paul’s Outreach lead the vision for growth and greater impact. One of the outreach’s goals is to continue establishing a sustainable presence on campus through the SPO household program. In the past year, SPO Ohio was able, for the first time, to purchase a house in the heart of OSU’s South Campus area on 13th Avenue. Through the generosity of mission partners, the building was purchased, and renovations were performed to make it not only a household, but a center for evangelization. At the start of the school year, 10 young men of SPO began living in the household, which is known as Antioch. This is one of five such households on the OSU campus. SPO envisions purchasing another house on South Campus for women.

Truly, God has given the growth, God is giving the growth, and God will give the growth as the missionaries and students of St. Paul’s Outreach continue to share the love of Christ on college campuses.

Photos: Student members of St. Paul’s Outreach meet with clergy, religious, and community supporter during their annual banquet in the Archie Griffin Ballroom of the Ohio Union at The Ohio State University. Photos courtesy St. Paul’s Outreach