



DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

# CATHOLIC TIMES

*A journal of Catholic life in Ohio*



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ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR CHURCH  
SERVES LATINO COMMUNITY

The Editor's Notebook

Wishes and Hopes

By David Garick, Editor



How's that Christmas list coming? From the time I was a small child, this time of Advent was a time of anticipation, of getting my Christmas list to Santa in hopes that he would bring me my heart's desires, to be left beneath the Christmas tree.

I guess my wishes have changed quite a bit over the years. I no longer expect a whole array of toys under the tree ... although I still enjoy the occasional high-tech "big boy" toy at Christmastime. My wishes these days are not quite so material.

Advent is a good time to talk about wishes and hopes. *Wishes* are flights of fancy; they teach us what might be possible, and they help us be playful with the unattainable. It's good to have wishes. Without them, life would be too grim and too rational. *Hopes* are based on reasonable foundations; they are expectations of what we might become, of what we expect to be. Hope is essential. Without it, we would not even try to fulfill our potential. We would be inclined to avoid reality. We would be overwhelmed by the prospect of death.

At Mass, the Scripture readings during Advent lean heavily on the accounts of John the Baptist. He was indeed a man of hope. He could easily have been a man of wishes. He had a great charisma, a wonderful way with people. He could have dreamed of great success for himself. But instead, he built his life on hope ... hope for something far greater and yet far more real than anything he could have imagined for himself. When the people asked who he was, John told them he was nothing but a voice crying out

in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord." John did not base his life on wishes and what might have been, but on hope and confidence in God.

We are often tempted to base our lives on wishes, on what might have been. We may fantasize about being rich or successful, of reaching greatness for ourselves. We wonder what life would be like if things had been different in our relationships, our careers, our families. But these things are not likely to happen. They are not part of reality. What we really need is hope. Hope allows us to accept the reality of the life we have been given and the courage to live that life to the fulfillment promised to us in Christ.

The Jesus whose nativity we await during this season grants us not the fulfillment of our wishes and fantasies, but something much greater -- the realization of our hopes in the midst of our very real lives. Through the miracle of His nativity and earth-shattering revelation of His death and resurrection, Christ, the very God who created all of heaven and earth, grants us real hope through His presence in our lives and His promise to be with throughout all eternity.

In these days of wishes and dream and fantasies, we can be playful and imaginative. But these are also days of hope, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. We have no assurance that God will fulfill our wishes. But He will fulfill our hopes. This is the promise and joy of Christmas.



Spend time in silence and service before Christmas, pope suggests

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

In the heart of Rome's high-end shopping district, amid the sparkle of Christmas lights and shiny baubles in the windows of famous designers, Pope Francis prayed that people would spend time in silence and in service as they prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth.

Celebrating the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on Dec. 8, Pope Francis prayed for Mary's intercession so that, "in us, your children, grace also will prevail over pride, and we can become merciful, like our heavenly Father is merciful."

Before laying a basket of cream-colored roses at the foot of a statue of the Immaculate Conception near Rome's Spanish Steps, Pope Francis recited a special prayer he composed for the occasion.

The feast is a major holiday in Rome. On a Monday when brilliant blue skies replaced days of gray skies and rain, thousands of people lined the streets near the Spanish Steps to catch a glimpse of the pope and pray



with him for Mary's assistance.

Pope Francis said Mary's being conceived without sin should give all Christians hope and strength "in the daily battle that we must conduct against the threats of evil," because her immaculate conception is proof that evil does not have power over love.

"In this struggle, we are not alone, we are not orphans," he said, because Jesus gave his mother to be our mother.

"Today, we invoke her maternal protection on us, our families, this city, and the world," the pope said, praying that God would "free humanity from every spiritual and material slavery."

"In this time that leads up to the feast of Jesus' birth, teach us how to go against the current," Pope Francis prayed to Mary. He asked her to teach people how to be unencumbered, "to give ourselves, to listen, to be silent, to not focus on ourselves, but to leave space for the beauty of God, the source of true joy."

ST. CHARLES GRADUATE ALEX COCCIA SELECTED AS RHODES SCHOLAR

Alex Coccia, a Columbus native and a 2014 University of Notre Dame graduate, has been selected as a Rhodes scholar for 2015. Rhodes scholarships have been awarded annually since 1902 and provide all expenses for two or three years of study at Oxford University in England.

Coccia, a 2010 graduate of Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School and a member of Columbus Immaculate Conception Church, is one of 32 Rhodes scholars from the United States. He is the first St. Charles graduate to receive the honor, and is Notre Dame's 15th Rhodes scholar and first since 2001. Diocesan school officials believe Jessica Hanzlik, a 2004 graduate of Columbus Bishop Hartley High School and a 2008 graduate of The Ohio State University, is the only other Rhodes scholar to have graduated in recent years from any Catholic high school in the diocese.

"I still can't believe, not just that I'm a Rhodes scholar, but that I'm the first from St. Charles," Coccia said. "It's an incredible honor, and I'm humbled."

The trust which administers the scholarship describes it as "the oldest and best-known award for international study, and arguably the most famous academic award available to American college graduates."

About 1,600 American students applied for the scholarships, with 877 of them endorsed by 305 different col-

leges and universities. Selection committees in each of 16 districts across the United States then invited the strongest applicants to appear before them for interviews. Coccia's district includes colleges in Indiana, Kentucky, and Virginia.

"It's quite a process," Coccia said. "First, you have to receive an endorsement from the university. Once you obtain that, then you have to write a 1,000-word essay explaining what you want to study at Oxford and why you want to go there, list the activities you've been involved in for the past two years, and obtain five to eight letters of recommendation."

"I applied last year and reached the interview stage, but didn't receive a scholarship. Having gone through that experience, I was anxious to try again, because I felt a lot more confident about the academic trajectory I decided on for this year and knew what to expect. It turned out I was the only 2014 district finalist who was interviewed last year."

Coccia attended Notre Dame with the help of a Glenna Joyce scholarship, awarded annually to outstanding central Ohio students, which covers the full cost of a four-year education at either Notre Dame or The Ohio State University. At Notre Dame, he majored in Africana studies and peace studies. For his senior year, he was elected student body president, becoming the first Notre Dame athlete to receive that hon-



or. He was a four-year member of the school's varsity fencing team, which won the national championship in 2011.

Coccia's time at St. Charles and Notre Dame has been marked by a strong commitment to human rights and social justice. At St. Charles, he was a founder of Cardinals for Life, a school organization which advocates for life at all stages. At Notre Dame, he worked on a number of issues to address needs for inclusion and diversity and to promote the passions of all students, including those who feel marginalized.

He pursued an agenda which included student mental health treatment and "One Is Too Many," a campaign aimed at preventing sexual assault.

"My courses in Africana studies and peace studies helped me focus on the whole idea of inclusion, of creating a learning environment and a social environment where all people feel welcome and their contributions are valued," Coccia said. "One class which had a particular impact on me was a theater class this year which was based on a documentary looking at the many ways people are marginalized and focusing on how to make their stories told."

He spent the summer in 2011 in Uganda, where he taught fencing to schoolchildren. In 2012 and 2013, his summer breaks took him to Rwanda, where he did research on genocide for his senior thesis and for his future career in politics and human-rights law. His concern about African issues dates back to at least 2006, when he led his eighth-

grade class at Immaculate Conception School in raising funds to help the Red Cross provide aid to Darfur

Last spring in Columbus, he received St. Vincent Family Center's Msgr. Lawrence Corcoran Award for young leaders. His many other honors include membership in the Phi Beta Kappa academic honor society and Notre Dame's Peter Yarrow Award for peace studies, Glynn Award for academic excellence and leadership, and Father A. Leonard Collins, CSC, Award for advancing the interests of students.

Nearly 8,000 Rhodes scholarships have been awarded since 1902. This year's scholarship class includes 83 people from around the world, including the 32 Americans. Applicants are chosen on the basis of the criteria set down in the will of Cecil Rhodes, co-founder of the De Beers diamond mining and selling company.

Rhodes scholars are selected not only for academic achievement, but for their character, commitment to others and to the common good, and their potential for leadership. One of the scholarship qualifications listed in Rhodes' will is "energy to use one talents to the full, as exemplified by fondness for and success in sports." That means Rhodes scholars usually are athletes. Some notable past recipients of the honor include former President Bill Clinton, former Ohio Gov. Richard Celeste, former U.S. senator and basketball star Bill Bradley, and current national security adviser Susan Rice.

Coccia plans to study comparative social policy at Oxford and is serving as a Truman-Albright fellow in the U.S. Health and Human Services Department in Washington. "What I'm doing now involves human services policy and is a mix between research and policy consulting," he said. "Some of the things I'm involved in include domestic violence prevention, making it easier for people to enroll in the federal health-care plan, climate change, and social service delivery."

"I know I want to be involved in policy making, either in Washington or Ohio," Coccia said. "I'm looking forward to the next two years in Oxford as a way of expanding the scope of my experiences and learning new perspectives on things from a very diverse set of people."



Front Page photo:

The sanctuary of Columbus St. Stephen the Martyr Church, which was renovated in 2011. The church is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

CT photo by Tim Puet



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Catholic Consumerism: Option for the Poor

By Stephanie Rapp  
Catholic Relief Services Fair Trade Ambassador

A key theme throughout scripture is God's love for the poor. Jesus emphasized this, and even identified himself with the poor when he stated, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40). Caring for the poor is caring for Jesus, and this is not an option. In fact, it's the opposite; we are called to be the option for the poor! There are many ways to do this and buying and promoting Fair Trade is one of them. Fair Trade enables families to provide for their family and aids in lifting whole communities out of poverty! This week, watch "CRS General Awareness Video" online to find out how Catholic Relief Services is helping the poor and if you have time, volunteer at a homeless shelter or food pantry.

# PRACTICAL STEWARDSHIP

By Rick Jeric

## United



Did you write a check last week to help those in great need within the local Church, the Diocese of Columbus, the Body of Christ? The Back Door Ministry of St. Joseph Cathedral cares for many homeless and needy people each day. St. Lawrence Haven at Columbus Holy Cross Church does the same. Both are worthy of our generous support, and both are ways in which we can quietly and humbly show our good and faithful stewardship in action. Can we see the face of Jesus Christ in those strangers who are struggling to survive day to day? Can we be the hands, feet, and heart of Jesus Christ directly to our brothers and sisters in need? Yes, of course we can. I looked out the window just now as I wrote this, and I saw a large sign from United Way that has “Live United” at the top. That is a nice slogan for a huge organization that raises hundreds of millions of dollars in this nation and beyond annually. As Catholic Christians, we do not ever have to think about that unity. By virtue of our Baptism, we are forever united in the life of the Body of Christ. Let us continue to prove that unity by humbly giving generously and showing our tangible support. When this column is published, I will have sent a check to both ministries, or I will be embarrassed. Once again, please be generous and send your check made to “St. Joseph Cathedral” to 212 E. Broad St., Columbus OH 43215 and write “Back Door Ministry” in the memo. You can also send a check made to “St. Lawrence Haven” to Holy Cross Church, 204 S. Fifth St., Columbus OH 43215.

Advent continues to move forward, and the anticipation grows with our prayerful and active preparation. We prepare for the birth of our Savior, we recall the necessity of these events that keep us in awe when we ponder them, and we prepare for His second coming as we grow and mature in spirituality. Advent is a wonderful time of rejoicing in what we know is coming. We know the story, and we know our need as sinners for these annual liturgical seasons and celebrations. Thankfully, we are sinners with Hope. Hope in the birth of Jesus Christ and Hope in His Passion, death, and Resurrection resulting in our Redemption. The coming Christmas Octave is eight days of joyful celebration. Let us take advantage of the 24 days of Advent and prepare well. We are a pilgrim people of great Hope. This is our season and time of year to shine.

Our practical challenge this week is to pray for the coming of Our Lord, and to be united in that prayer. The following Advent prayer is published and shared by the Pontifical College Josephinum: “With tender comfort and transforming power You come into our midst, O God of mercy and might. Make ready a way in the wilderness, clear a straight path in our hearts made rough by sin and form us into a repentant people. Keep our hearts watchful in holiness and responsive in mercy to all we encounter, especially Your poor. Bring to perfection the good You have begun in us. May Your Advent make our spirits alert to those in need of mercy and comfort. We ask this through Him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near: Your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.” Pray this prayer each day in Advent. Let us be united in the joy, love, and adoration of our Savior.

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

# Multicultural Leadership Award

**Kelli Scott, chief diversity officer for Mount Carmel Health, received the Ohio Diversity Council's multicultural leadership award at its seventh annual conference in Columbus. She is pictured with Dennis Kennedy, founder of the National Diversity Council. The award recognizes individuals of color who have made a difference through their achievements and exemplify the ability to excel in their field. In her role as chief diversity officer, Scott is responsible for maintaining a progressive framework for fostering inclusive practices in patient care, customer service, talent engagement, and business and community engagement. “A diverse workforce is important for Mount Carmel's patients, our organization and the communities we serve,” she said. “It's important that we are embedding diversity and inclusion within our culture through everyday decision-making, practices, and communication. Diversity is truly a team effort; I'm just here to make sure we never lose momentum.” Before joining Mount Carmel in 2013, Scott was with the Aultman Health Foundation in Canton.**



Photo courtesy Mount Carmel Health

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# Annual Retirement Fund Collection Benefits 35,000 Sisters, Brothers, Priests in Religious Orders

The 27th national collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious will take place in most U.S. Catholic parishes on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 13 and 14. The annual parish-based appeal is coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) and benefits more than 35,000 senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.

The 2013 appeal raised nearly \$28.4 million, enabling the NRRO to distribute \$23 million in financial assistance to 424 religious communities. Additional funding is allocated for communities with the greatest needs and for retirement planning and educational resources.

Catholic bishops in the United States initiated the collection in 1988 to address the significant lack of retirement funding among U.S. religious communities. Proceeds are distributed to eligible communities to help underwrite such day-to-day needs as prescription medications and nursing care. Since the collection began, Catholics have contributed \$726 million. More than 93 percent of

donations directly support senior religious and their communities.

Despite the overwhelming generosity to this fund, many religious communities continue to lack resources sufficient to support retirement and eldercare. Of 590 communities submitting data to the NRRO in 2013, fewer than eight percent were fully funded for retirement.

The financial crisis is rooted in low salaries and changing demographics. Traditionally, Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests—known collectively as women and men religious—worked for small stipends that furnished only the basics of daily living. As a result, many communities lack adequate retirement savings. At the same time, elderly religious are living longer and now outnumber younger, wage-earning religious. Sixty-eight percent of religious in communities providing data to the NRRO are past age 70, and the income of those engaged in compensated ministry cannot keep pace with the growing cost of eldercare. In 2013 alone, the total cost of care

for senior women and men religious was more than \$1.2 billion.

In recent years, the NRRO has expanded efforts to help religious communities address the root causes of the retirement-funding shortage. For many, a major obstacle to financial stability is the struggle to maintain outdated congregational properties while providing quality eldercare. In 2013, the NRRO received a \$2.5 million grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, payable over three years. A substantial portion of this award is being dedicated to the creation of educational programming and resources related to effective property planning and management.

“Despite the troubling statistics, many religious communities have made great strides in addressing their funding deficits, and contributions to the Retirement Fund for Religious have bolstered this progress,” said Sister Janice Bader, CPPS, the NRRO’s executive director. “Religious are humbled by the generous donations to this fund and determined to make the most out of every dollar.”

## MORNING OF REFLECTION

An Advent morning of reflection with Sister Louis Mary Passeri, OP, will take place Saturday, Dec. 20, from 9 a.m. to noon at Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center, 2734 Seminary Road S.E., Newark.

The theme is “Jesus Said, ‘When I Am Lifted Up from the Earth, I Will Draw All People to Myself.’” Jesus proved his love for us by giving his life for us. Come and pray, listen, reflect, and share with others as a response to his love.

The cost is \$15 and includes a continental breakfast. For more information, call (740) 928-4246 or visit the center’s website, [www.stspeterpaulretreatcenter.com](http://www.stspeterpaulretreatcenter.com).

## NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS

The annual New Year’s Eve Mass sponsored by the diocesan Catholic Charismatic Renewal will take place at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31 at St. Therese’s Retreat Center, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus.

The Mass, celebrated by Father James Coleman, will be preceded by praise and worship at 6 p.m. and followed by fellowship at 8 p.m..

For more information, call (614) 914-8556.

## CHANGE IN TV MASS BROADCAST TIME AT WHIZ-TV

Beginning Dec. 14, the broadcast time of the Diocese of Columbus’ televised Sunday Mass on WHIZ-TV, Zanesville, will be moving from 7-7:30 a.m. to 10:30-11 a.m.

The diocesan Communications Office has sponsored weekly telecasts of the Sunday Mass throughout the diocese since the 1950s, providing Mass to those who may be unable to participate with their parish communities.

Area cable viewers should check their local systems for WHIZ’s cable channel listing.

## Scattering relative's cremains; Disposing of wedding ring



### QUESTION & ANSWER

by: FATHER KENNETH DOYLE  
Catholic News Service

Q. I understand that, as Catholics, if we choose to be cremated our cremains are to be treated with dignity and must be buried or entombed. My husband and I have two family members who have asked us to arrange to have their ashes "scattered." One is a Catholic, one is not. Does our duty to follow church teaching on this matter override the wishes of our family members (even of the non-Catholic one)? I am uncomfortable with one day having to carry out their request, but I'm unsure as to how to respond. (Staunton, Virginia)

A. You are correct on the church's teaching. Although the Vatican in 1963 lifted the ban on cremation, the church specifies that cremated remains are to be treated with the same reverence as the body of a deceased person. This means that the cremains are to be placed in a worthy vessel, and, following the religious services, to be buried or entombed in consecrated ground.

They are not, for example, to be kept on a mantelpiece or scattered in the deceased's favorite park. Your duty as faithful Catholics overrides the desire of your family members. I see no philosophical justification for distinguishing between the Catholic relative and the non-Catholic. The church's reverence for the remains of each of them is equal. (My guess is that you would also buy yourself some extra family trouble if you distinguished.)

I think this is a "teachable opportunity" for you. You should tell each of the two that, as a faithful Catholic, you would feel (in your words) "uncomfortable" carrying out their wishes and then go on to explain to them the reason for the church's guidelines (i.e., reverence for the cremated remains).

Q. What is the proper way of disposing of a wedding ring that is no longer wanted? Many years ago, I was married in a Catholic church, and our rings were blessed as a part of the wedding ceremony. Some years later, I was divorced, and the marriage was annulled by the Catholic Church. Since that time, my wedding ring has sat in my jewelry box, as I have never been sure what to do with it. Several years after the annulment, I married another woman in a Catholic ceremony, and that union remains to this day. At this point, I want to clean out my jewelry box and get rid of the ring from my first wedding. What options do I have? (City of origin withheld)

A. Surprisingly, church law on disposing of blessed objects is not very specific. Number 1171 of the *Code of Canon Law* simply says that "sacred objects, which are designated for divine worship by dedication or blessing, are to be treated reverently" and are not to be used in inappropriate or profane ways.

Church custom over the years has extended that reverence to all articles blessed for devotion, even if not used in a liturgical context. The general practice when disposing of blessed articles such as rosaries, statues, or medals has been to burn them or to bury them. However, if an article has been substantially damaged and can no longer be used for the religious purpose intended, it is commonly thought to have lost its blessing.

Since your ring was blessed as a sign of the lasting love between you and your first wife, I would argue that it no longer serves its original religious purpose. (The priest at a wedding ceremony prays that "these rings be a symbol of true faith in each other and always remind them of their love.") My view is that you are free to do what you want with the ring -- perhaps donate it to a charity.

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



### Diocesan Pilgrimage

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 pilgrims must be at least 18 at 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. JMJ Catholic Youth Travel is the diocesan travel agent for WYD 2016.

The cost is \$3,650 per person and includes roundtrip airfare from Columbus to Krakow, university dorm lodging in Krakow, the WYD fee, meals during WYD, and tours before and after the WYD events to a few sites connected to the life of St. John Paul II and to other historical and sacred places. The 10-day pilgrimage will depart Columbus on July 24, 2016 and return on Aug. 3. The cost does not include passport, gratuities, and one meal per day pre- and post-WYD events.

More information is available at [www.cdeducation.org/WYD](http://www.cdeducation.org/WYD) or by calling Mike Hall or Sean Robinson at (614) 241-2565. There is limited time to sign up, so do it now. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

### YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY POSITION

St. Brigid of Kildare Parish is seeking a full-time coordinator of High School Youth and Young Adult Ministry to organize, implement and enrich the existing ministry for high school aged youth of the parish.

The coordinator will be responsible for directing the parish pastoral ministry to youth, based on *Renewing the Vision: a Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry*, developing the leadership of our *Core Team*, and facilitating the management of our *Bridge Team*, our peer leadership board.

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in a related field or certifications in Youth Ministry, knowledge of the Catholic faith and an understanding of youth. Master's degree preferred. Salary and benefits are commensurate with experience. View the full job description at [www.stbrigidofkildare.org](http://www.stbrigidofkildare.org).

Please submit qualifications by February 20, 2015 to:

St. Brigid of Kildare at 7179 Avery Road, Dublin, Ohio 43017,  
Attn: High School Youth and Young Adult Ministry Search Committee

### DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POSITION

St. Brigid of Kildare Parish is seeking a full-time director of Religious Education to manage the planning, implementation and evaluation of the Religious Education program. The director will be responsible for planning, organizing and scheduling classes, choosing textbooks, preparing the budget, serving on appropriate parish committees, and overseeing the general management of the program. The director also coordinates a parish-based, family-oriented sacramental preparation program for students aged preschool through grade eight.

Qualifications include a Bachelor's degree in a related field, knowledge of Catholic faith and sacramental preparation. Master's degree preferred. Salary and benefits are commensurate with experience. View the full job description at [www.stbrigidofkildare.org](http://www.stbrigidofkildare.org).

Please submit qualifications by February 20, 2015 to:

St. Brigid of Kildare at 7179 Avery Road, Dublin, Ohio 43017,  
Attn: Director of Religious Education Search Committee

## ODU Retention Fund

Dr. Adolph V. Lombardi Jr. and his wife, Anne, have pledged \$250,000 to establish a fund dedicated to supporting Ohio Dominican University students who are facing financial challenges, so they can remain in college.

The Ohio Dominican Academic Retention Fund is available to ODU students who are in good academic standing and positively contribute to the campus community. Candidates must be facing economic hardships that could prevent them from re-enrolling in the university. The scholarship provides as many as five students each with an additional \$1,500 to \$3,000 annually to help pay for fees, textbooks, and other educational materials.

"Ohio Dominican has some of the brightest and most enthusiastic students in the world, and they deserve to have every opportunity to use their God-given gifts and talents to earn a degree so they can positively influence the lives of others," Lombardi said. "Anne works closely with ODU students every day and understands the challenges they face. Together, we want to make a statement through this gift that will motivate and inspire others to make a significant contribution that will ensure ODU's students can receive financial support when they need it most."

"One of the most common reasons that students leave school is the need for more resources to cover their expenses," said Dr. Peter Cimbalic, ODU president. "At ODU, we've made tremendous strides in recruiting higher-achieving students who can excel academically, but economic hardships can keep even the most motivated students from achieving their dreams of earning a degree. We are deeply grateful to the Lombardi family for its generous contribution that will give financially challenged students an opportunity to remain in school and complete their Ohio Dominican degree. It is a gift that will benefit many ODU students for years to come."

The Ohio Dominican Academic Retention Fund has adopted a goal to grow to more than \$1 million in principal from members of the ODU community. To contribute to the fund, visit [www.ohiodominican.edu/SupportODU](http://www.ohiodominican.edu/SupportODU).

Dr. Lombardi is an orthopedic surgeon and the President of Joint Implant Surgeons, Inc., which operates five clinics throughout Ohio. He has been an examiner for the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery since 1997 and is a designer of the Maxim knee system and the Vanguard knee system, which are used internationally. He has published more than 100 research articles in peer-reviewed medical journals. Anne Lombardi is a licensed professional clinical counselor and a board-certified professional counselor. She is associate director of counseling services at ODU.

### Answering God's Call

## BEING A PRIEST IS AN EVERY DAY CHOICE



### Fr. Thomas Petry

by Tim Puet

Father Thomas Petry says his decision to become a priest wasn't a one-time thing.

"It's a choice I make every day, a call to service that demands a constant affirmative response," he said. "While saying Mass, I often think that God called me to the priesthood, but I still have to accept that call and need to continue answering 'Yes' to God on an ongoing basis."

Father Petry, 62, grew up attending Portsmouth St. Mary Church, graduated from Portsmouth Notre Dame High School in 1970 and the University of Cincinnati in 1974, and obtained his master's degree in divinity from the Pontifical College Josephinum. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 4 of that year by Bishop Edward Herrmann in his home parish.

"The first person I remember asking me whether I might be interested in being a priest was Msgr. Ken Grimes, who was principal at Notre Dame when I was there," Father Petry said. "At that point in my life, I was more interested in becoming a high school math teacher."

"I majored in math at UC, but by the time I left there, I had decided to study for the priesthood. In my senior year, I received a letter from the federal VISTA program accepting my application to be a math tutor, and on the same day, the diocese gave me the OK to attend the Josephinum. That was the last bit of discernment I needed."

Father Petry said Father Dacian Batt, a Franciscan priest at the UC Newman Center, was a significant influence on his decision. "He was the happiest person I'd ever met. Students loved to gather for him after Mass for rap sessions -- a phrase which had a different meaning than it does today," he said. "He never said anything directly about the priesthood, but I got a real sense of service."

"I also remember that around the end of my sophomore year, there was an ad in a news magazine asking 'Have you ever thought of being a priest?' and that got me seriously thinking about the possibility."

Following Father Petry's ordination, he served for two years apiece as associate pastor at Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul and Marion St. Mary, then was an associate at Columbus St. Peter for five years.

"What I remember most about my first assignments was having pastors who were much older, with significantly different backgrounds, and figuring out how to work together," he said. "Another surprising thing was that there was so much diversity in all parishes, in the sense that there were always disagreements of various types, and how those differences were resolved in a positive way."

"St. Peter's was a particularly memorable place. Msgr. (David) Sorohan was pastor and Msgr. (Stephan) Moloney was the other associate. Both are great priests who shared their experiences with me and whose acceptance and love was greatly comforting then and continues to be."

Father Petry said he was asked to apply for the pastorate at St. Dominic's in 1987 by priests who were serving in nearby parishes. "I was concerned about this being my first pastorate and it being an inner-city parish, and took those concerns to Msgr. Sorohan," he said. "I'll never forget what he told me: 'Parishioners are just people. All you have to do is love them.'"

He said his 12 years at St. Dominic's were his most memorable

experience as a priest. "Every day I learned more about myself and the church," he said. "That included dealing with racism and prejudice in society, the church, and myself. It's something we all have to deal with. It's systemic in our culture."

"I also learned the charism of hospitality, even when some were not always hospitable in return, at St. Dominic's, and the parishioners learned to trust me as a priest and pastor."

While at St. Dominic's, Father Petry was diagnosed with clinical depression. "It's something I don't mind talking about," he said. "Discussing my experience has been a blessing to me and to many others who have come forward and said they've benefited from what I've told them. It's also helped me identify with the sufferings of Christ in a deeper way."

"A particular healing encounter was the key to dealing with my depression. One Sunday, I was unable to sleep and called three people -- a religious sister who was a psychiatric nurse at Ohio State, a psychologist friend, and an allergist I knew from one of my former parishes -- and related my feelings to them."

"Those conversations were a gift from God. The responses of those three people allowed me to start recognizing my problem and realizing I was not alone. Healing starts with knowing you have a problem and talking about it to people who can help."

After leaving St. Dominic's, Father Petry spent a sabbatical period studying at Ohio State in 1999 and 2000. He was in pastoral ministry at the Church of the Resurrection in New Albany for 16 months in 2000 and 2001 because of the illness of that church's pastor, his former principal Msgr. Grimes, then became pastor at Ss. Augustine & Gabriel in July 2001.

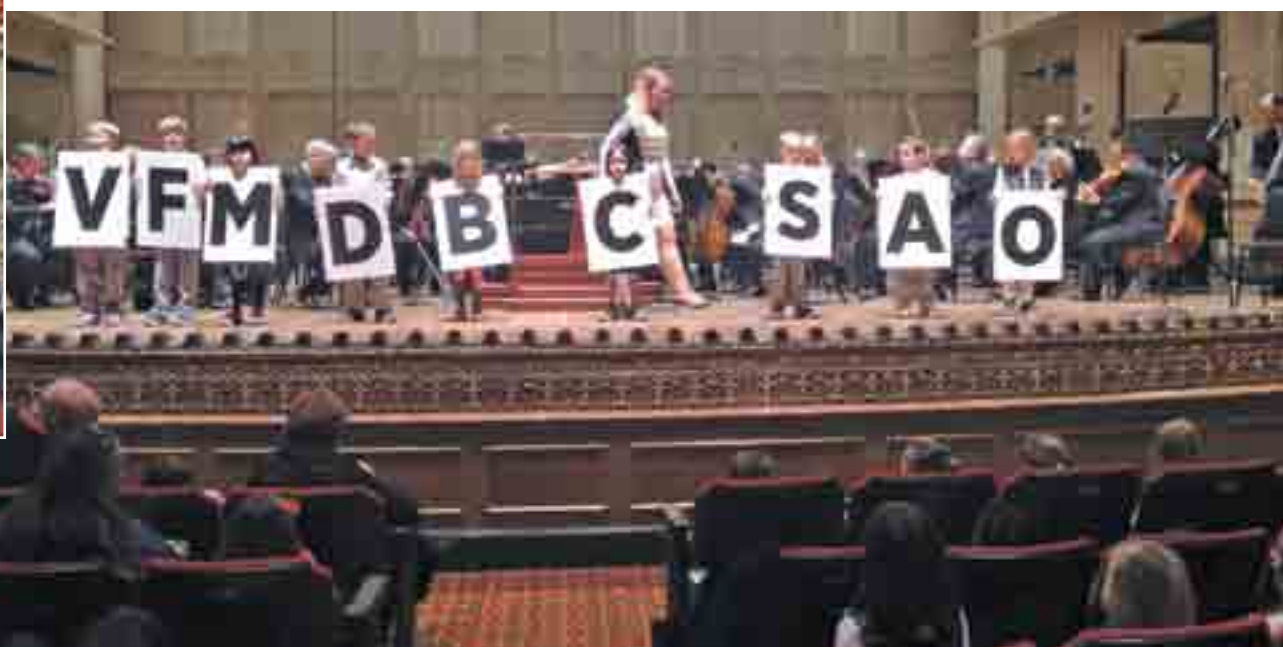
"That was another inner-city parish with great diversity that makes it a beautiful place," he said. "The active Vietnamese community there was very helpful. I felt a great sense of ownership and cooperation there. Both there and at St. Dominic's, I was shocked to discover the people had assumed I was sent there to close the parishes. That wasn't the case, and it's great to see both parishes continue to do well."

He became priest moderator at St. Anthony's in January 2008 while continuing to serve as pastor at Ss. Augustine & Gabriel. He was assigned full-time to St. Anthony's six months later.

"St. Anthony's is another very diverse parish, with parishioners from several African nations," he said. "We have a Mass for people from Ghana three times a month, plus occasional Masses for people from other African nations. Other parishioners come from Cameroon, Nigeria, and the Congo. We have dynamic St. Vincent de Paul societies both in the parish and in our grade school, and we've revived our annual corn roast to make it more of an all-parish endeavor than it's been."

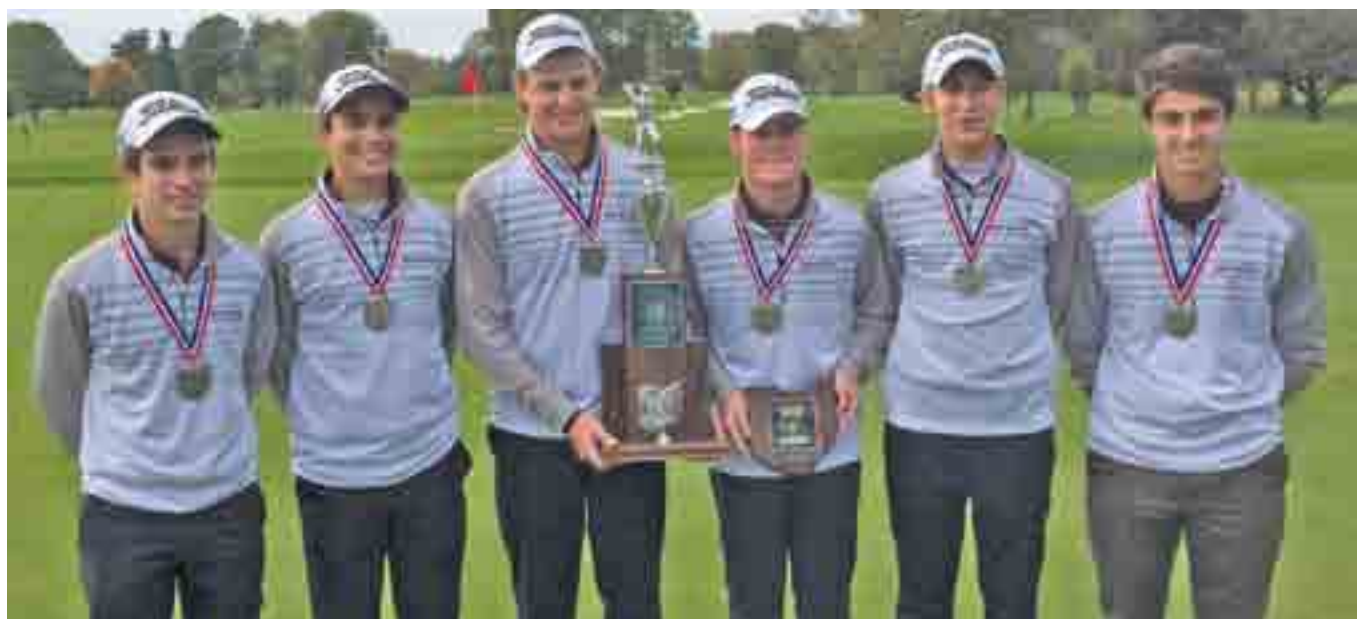
Father Petry has been dealing with Fuchs' dystrophy, an eye disease involving deterioration of the cornea, for several years. He has undergone two cataract surgeries, two lens implants, and two cornea transplants. "Today, I am looking at the world through the eyes of two deceased people" who donated their corneas, he said. "I'm never alone. I always have two people with me, to whom I'll always be grateful. Through them, I pray that I'm seeing people as Jesus would have me see them."

## ST. BRIGID STUDENTS IN COLUMBUS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERT



Hilliard St. Brendan School students in kindergarten and first and second grades had the opportunity to attend and participate in the Columbus Symphony Orchestra's "S Is for Symphony" concert. Some children were invited onto the stage of the Ohio Theater to help hold signs and get an up-close view of the orchestra. They are (from left) Aidan Balas, Federreco Shuenemann, Audrey Gervais, Ethan Bell, Lily Schneider, Amber Regan, teacher Vera Allen, Devin Miller, Scott VanVranken, and Grace Beining. Students also had the opportunity after the concert to meet maestro Peter Stafford Wilson and take a picture with him. They are (from left) Spencer Johnson, Aidan Balas, Federreco Shuenemann, Grace Beining, Scott Van Vranken, and Audrey Gervais.

Photos courtesy St. Brendan School



## BISHOP WATTERSON GOLF RUNNERS-UP

Columbus Bishop Watterson High School finished second in this year's state boys Division II golf tournament at The Ohio State University's Scarlet Course. Team members are (from left) Peter Hackett, Nick DiCello, Nick Naderhoff, David Shepherd, Phillip Campisi, and Brian Sapp. Shepherd finished ninth in the individual scoring totals. The coach is Olin Melaragno. Watterson and Chagrin Falls finished with identical team scores of 654. The Eagles were awarded second place based on comparative scores of the fifth-ranked scorers on the two teams, which was the tiebreaker. Canton Central Catholic won the state championship.

Photo courtesy Bishop Watterson High School

## St. Francis DeSales Blessing Ceremony

Benefactors, students, staff members, and community leaders attended a blessing ceremony on Nov. 20 for the renovated main entrance at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School. Father Charles Klinger (left), pastor of Westerville St. Paul Church, and Father Jerome Rodenfels, pastor of the New Albany Church of the Resurrection, performed the blessing.

Photos courtesy St. Francis DeSales High School



## Quieting Down to Listen



### GRACE IN THE MOMENT

Mary van Balen

The gospel from the first Sunday of Advent showed Jesus instructing his followers to be alert. Warning against the possibility of dozing and being asleep when the lord of the house arrives, Jesus had one word for them: "Watch."

When I taught writing to elementary students and later to adults, my advice was to "be wide awake." They kept a writer's notebook -- a place to hold thoughts, interesting articles, and favorite poems, anything that spoke to their hearts or passed through their lives. Sometimes, what they jotted down ended up in an essay or launched them into a theme that developed into something longer. Most didn't. The process of noticing and of being present to the moment was the important result. They developed "writerly habits."

Prayer and writing have a lot in common. Jesus wasn't instructing his followers to be writers, but to be "wide awake" for God's presence. Jesus wants us to develop a "pray-ers habit." "I am with you always," Jesus says at the end of Matthew's Gospel, "even to the end of time." The struggle for us is being still enough, inside and out, to become aware of and respond to that presence. Some people in the audience for Mark's Gospel were preoccupied with the future. They wanted to know when the end was coming, when Jesus would return. Jesus told them that wasn't for them to know. Instead, they were to live in the present, alert to the "now."

That's what Advent is saying to me this year: Don't spend the time I have in one place while my mind and heart are somewhere else. Don't fill my mind with mental "chatter" that drowns out what the moment is saying. Easier said than done. I can't tell you how many mornings I get up with the intention of spending 20 minutes in quiet prayer, simply trying to be present to God-with-Us, but instead end up rushing out of the house on my way to work without having sat still for a moment.

Stuff happens. I've thrown in a load of laundry, fretted over finding some other job, responded to emails, and perused the *New York Times* headlines. I gulp down my cup of tea and can't remember if I had Constant Comment or Lady Grey. A pity, since the aroma and taste of each is worth appreciating.

Even while driving to work, I'm thinking about what I'll do when I finish my shift. Never mind that the sky is clear and bright or that a friendly driver slowed down so I could make my turn. No matter that I have been given another day to live and breathe and love.

Yesterday, I read through Advent's Mass readings. Lots of them are concerned with justice and compassion -- God's and ours. God hears the cry of the poor, promises rest to those who are tired, takes care of sending rain and sun for crops, cares about the lost sheep, the littlest one, cures blindness, lameness, and broken hearts. God wants to love us all, but I'm afraid I'm often too busy to notice.

I think when Zechariah was struck speechless, it was to make him be quiet long enough to become a better listener ... to pay attention and to see God at work in ways he didn't expect.

Mary said "Yes" after hearing the angel's invitation. Joseph heard Wisdom in his dreams and took his pregnant fiance into his home, despite appearances.

You have to be listening to hear the "angels" of the moment or God talking in your dreams. You have to be paying attention to recognize God in the poor and suffering in this world. You have to be still to hear Divine Love and share it with others.

Advent is a time to recall that the God who created us, who came to us in Jesus, and who will come again is, most importantly, here in all of us this moment. God is concerned about the least among us. About justice and compassion. About what's in our heart. Advent is a call to be still and be amazed that the most Holy Mystery wants to spend gracious time with us.

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## Students at Immaculate Conception Mass

During a mini-pilgrimage to Lancaster, students from New Lexington St. Rose School joined students from Lancaster St. Bernadette School to celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on Monday, Dec. 8. Father John Reade led the two schools in an afternoon prayer service and highlighted the connection between the feast and the visions of Mary which St. Bernadette experienced at the grotto of Lourdes.



## NEW CLUB AT BISHOP READY

A new club at Columbus Bishop Ready High School, the Castle Crew, opened its charter membership drive at the school's November open house, with 51 students from 12 elementary schools signing up as charter members.

The Castle Crew program is designed for students in grades four through six, giving them opportunities to participate in activities at Bishop Ready. Current membership consists of 27 girls and 24 boys.

Castle Crew members will have access to various events throughout the year that encompass the mission statement and Catholic traditions of faith, academics, stewardship, spirit, athletics, and extracurricular activities that the school exemplifies. Membership, which carries a \$25 fee, provides discounts to various academic, athletic, and extracurricular events and camps and provides each member with a Castle Crew T-shirt, lanyard, and photo ID card.



Developed and directed by Dan DeCrane, who also coaches boys' basketball and teaches social studies at Ready, the Castle Crew has several events scheduled for the rest of the current academic year, including a leadership seminar and spiritual retreat.

For more information on the Castle Crew, a schedule of events, and a registration form, visit the Ready website at [www.brhs.org](http://www.brhs.org) and choose "Castle Crew" from the menu bar, or call DeCrane at (614) 276-5263, extension 231.

# ST. STEPHEN CHURCH IS CENTER OF LATINO LIFE

BY TIM PUET

Reporter, Catholic Times

Fifty years ago, St. Stephen the Martyr School was opened on the west side of Columbus to serve a growing neighborhood. Masses were being celebrated temporarily in the school basement until a church could be built on the parish site at 4131 Clime Road.

The new church was needed because Masses had become crowded at neighboring St. Cecilia, St. Aloysius, St. Agnes, and St. Mary Magdalene churches. Jobs were plentiful at the General Motors and Westinghouse appliance plants nearby. Shoppers and tourists (including the writer of this story) came to the Great

Western Plaza on West Broad Street to marvel at its "Walk of Wonders," which included reproductions of the Eiffel Tower, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, the Taj Mahal, Niagara Falls, and other landmarks.

It was a time of change in the Catholic Church. The celebration of Mass in English, as authorized by the Second Vatican Council, was just starting in that year. Buried deeply in the pages of the *Catholic Times* Christmas issue was a story about the diocese's first Mass in Spanish, celebrated on Sunday, Dec. 20, 1964, at Columbus Holy Cross Church.

Fast-forward 50 years. The two large industries on the West Side are gone, with the GM plant replaced by something no one in 1964 would have

imagined could one day be allowed in Ohio — a casino. Great Western still exists, but it's much smaller, with the wonder walk now just a fond memory for baby boomers.

Amid those changes, St. Stephen's is still there and is thriving, with about 300 families registered and 700 to 1,000 people coming to one of the five weekend Masses. But it's a much different parish than it was 50 years ago, mostly because what had been a small Latino community in 1964 has grown substantially, especially in the last 15 years, making its impact felt in parishes throughout the diocese, especially at St. Stephen's.

Father Saul Garcia, MSP, the parish's pastor, said 70 to 75 percent of its members are of Hispanic origin. Three of its five weekend Masses are in Spanish and are celebrated by Father Garcia and Father Eduardo Velazquez, MSP, parochial vicar.

Both priests are members of the Missionary Servants of the Word, a Mexican-based order of priests and sisters. Bishop Frederick Campbell invited the priests to Columbus last year to assume pastoral duties at St. Stephen's so the parish could better serve its Latino community. They joined religious sisters from the same order who have been evangelizing and teaching in the parish since 2009, also at the bishop's invitation.

"St. Stephen's is the kind of parish

where you have to think like a missionary and go out into the community and work with the Latino population," said Father Thomas Buffer, pastor of Marion St. Mary Church, who was pastor at St. Stephen's from 2006 until the arrival of the Mexican priests. Father Buffer was instrumental in bringing the sisters to Columbus, first to conduct a 10-day retreat in 2008 and then to establish a convent in a converted residence across from the church.

"The sisters have been a tremendous asset since they arrived at St. Stephen's because their order's mission is to do house-to-house evangelization and train lay leaders, which is just what the parish needed," he said. Their success at St. Stephen's led to the establishment of a second convent for the order in Columbus at Christ the King Church, another parish with a large Latino population.

"St. Stephen's has been blessed again by having priests from the same order joining the sisters there," Father Buffer said. "Bishop Campbell, like many other bishops in the United States, has been looking for additional priests to work in Latino parishes and to help staff parishes elsewhere in the diocese and has made inquiries among several religious orders. Since their sisters have become so well-established, it was wonderful to have the Missionary Servants come back with a positive response about having priests at St. Stephen's as well."

Sisters Maria Elena Garcia, Karina Hernandez, and Laura Mosqueda of the Missionary Servants are stationed at St. Stephen's. On Sunday mornings, they conduct classes on the Sacraments for adults who are not baptized Catholics or who are baptized, but have been inactive in the church. They also host evening Bible studies Monday through Friday, assist with the parish's *El Camino* program for high-school students on Saturday, and do house-to-house evangelization and many other activities daily.

**St. Stephen parishioners in a Good Friday procession through the parish neighborhood on the West Side of Columbus.** (Photos of Father Garcia with parishioners and of PSR class by Tim Puet; others courtesy St. Stephen Church)

"One thing we have become much more involved in since we came here has been prison ministry," said Sister Maria Elena, the only one of the three sisters currently at St. Stephen's who has been there since 2009. "We visit prisons in Chillicothe and Lancaster regularly and are hoping to add a third. We recently completed a mission where we were at 13 different homes in 13 nights. Our recent work also has included retreats both in English and in Spanish and Pre-Cana classes for engaged couples."

The Pre-Cana classes in September were in preparation for a *Bodas Comunitarias* (community wedding) in September in which seven couples had their marriage vows blessed by the Church. This was the second such event at St. Stephen's. An earlier event drew 12 couples, and others will take place as needed.

"We deal with many people who have been baptized, had their first Communion, or are unmarried but living together, and haven't been to church in years," Sister Maria said. "They may be afraid to come to church, or it's just difficult for them to get to church because of their jobs. We welcome them all. We always carry a Bible so we can share God's Word and prove that anyone who tells them Catholics don't believe in the Bible is wrong."

The parish school was closed in 1993, but the combined church-school building is busier than it's



Left photo: Fathers Eduardo Velazquez and Saul Garcia, and Sisters Karina Hernandez, Maria Elena Garcia, and Laura Mosqueda. Right photo: Connie Nightwine's PSR class.



ever been. During the day, its classrooms are used by the Educational Academy for Boys and Girls, a charter school. At night, it hosts Parish School of Religion classes for about 360 students — fourth through eighth grades on Mondays, first through third grades on Wednesdays, and sixth and seventh grades on Tuesdays and Fridays, plus the *El Camino* classes on Saturday afternoons.

"The *El Camino* classes are different than most religious education for high-school students because in many cases, you're dealing with young people who have received little or no instruction about what it means to be Catholic," she said. "The classes take place year-round and include much more basic Bible study and teaching about the Mass and the Sacraments than you'd have in most youth PSR activities."

"We spread things out because it's the only way we could fit everyone in the space we have," said parish PSR director Theresa Daugherty. "This isn't the biggest group we've ever had, but it's close. We had 400 a couple of years ago. It's really gratifying to see that many young people coming on weeknights because it shows how much their parents are committed to their faith and want the children to be involved."

The parish's biggest annual event is its annual festival in August, which features food from the many ethnic traditions that have been part of the parish over the years. Parishioners Yvette Reategui and Polly Policaro said it made nearly \$15,000 this year, increasing its profit by about \$5,000 because Sunday afternoon was added to its traditional Friday and Saturday night schedule. Other

popular parish events include fish fries in Lent, a *Cinco de Mayo* fundraising dinner, and a harvest bonfire in October.

The parish has a women's club of about 20 active members which meets once a month, said member Jane Ranalli. The club supplies items for the altar, conducts various fundraisers, prepares bereavement lunches, presents an annual scholarship, and has an annual quilt raffle. Earlier this month, it sponsored a Christmas potluck and auction and collected hats, gloves, and scarves for a community project.

On the second and fourth Mondays of each month, the parish hosts the Mount Carmel Medical Outreach coach, which provides free medical assistance from 4 to 6 p.m. for anyone without health insurance. The parish also frequently is the site for *quinceañeras*, the celebrations of a young woman's 15th birthday which are a tradition in the nations of Central and South America.

Four St. Stephen's parishioners are in formation for the priesthood with two different priestly orders. Efrain Correa and William Martinez are at the seminary of the Missionary Servants of the Word in Mexico, while Cecilio Hernandez and William Pacheco are studying with the Institute of the Incarnate Word in Chillum, Maryland.

The parish's Masses are at 4 (English) and 6:30 p.m. (Spanish) Saturdays, 8 (Spanish) and 10 a.m. (English), and noon (Spanish) Sundays; 8:30 a.m. (English) Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays, and 7 p.m.

(Spanish) Wednesdays. Other spiritual activities in the parish include Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on the first Friday of each month, 8 p.m. Saturday to 7 a.m. Sunday on the first Saturday, and 6 to 9 p.m. on other Fridays; a Holy Hour at 6 p.m. Wednesdays; a charismatic prayer group meeting at 4 p.m. Sundays; and a prayer line.

This is a special time of year for St. Stephen's and other parishes with large Latino populations because Friday, Dec. 12, is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the patroness of the Americas. A Mass and procession in her honor took place this past Sunday, Dec. 7 (see next page for photos).

There will be a Vigil Mass in Spanish for the feast at 10:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, followed by the serenades known as *mananitas* at 11:30. On the feast day itself, *mananitas* will be sung at 5 a.m., with Masses at 5:30 (Spanish) and 8:30 a.m. (English) and 7 p.m. (Spanish).

*Posadas*, which recreate Mary and Joseph's search for a place to stay in Bethlehem, will take place at 7 p.m. daily from Tuesday, Dec. 16 to Tuesday, Dec. 23.

Beginning in the Advent season and continuing into February, the sisters will organize eight visits to prisons throughout the state. They will join the prisoners in the Mass for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, followed by a meal prepared by parishioners. This is the sisters' way of allowing Christ's love, and the love of His Mother, Mary, to reach imprisoned people in need of His grace.



Above: St. Stephen parishioners (from left) Yvette Reategui, Theresa Daugherty, Polly Policaro, Connie Nightwine, and Jane Ranalli with Father Saul Garcia. Below: Sisters from the Missionary Servants of the Word at an *El Camino* youth catechesis class.



# HONORING OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE



Parishioners from Columbus St. Stephen the Martyr Church took part in a two-hour procession through the parish's neighborhood on the West Side of Columbus on Sunday, Dec. 7 in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe, whose feast day is Thursday, Dec. 12. Leading the procession was Father Saul Garcia, MSP, the parish's pastor (in white in the photo above). The procession included music from a mariachi band, plus several riders who were on horseback and wearing traditional Mexican vaquero (cowboy) attire. Several other events related to the feast day will take place at the parish on Thursday and Friday, Dec. 11 and 12. See Page 11 for details. The schedule for other Our Lady of Guadalupe celebrations around the Diocese of Columbus was listed in the Dec. 7 Catholic Times. CT photos by Jack Kustron



## Merry Christmas from ODU



Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. — Isaiah 7:14

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### Students make mascot from milk cartons

Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help School students are shown with a tiger, the school mascot, they made by assembling 1,016 milk cartons, with a thin layer of tissue paper and masking tape to form the body. The tiger is the school's entry in the Made By Milk construction contest sponsored by Evergreen Packaging, a Memphis, Tennessee-based maker of milk cartons. The students are hoping to win a \$5,000 first prize, which they would use to buy the school a dishwasher and reusable plastic cafeteria trays. Five types of adhesives were used to help put the tiger together. A thin layer of recycled orange, white, black, brown, and pink paper covers the tiger's body, the claws are recycled Sharpie marker caps, the eyes are two green recycled bottle caps, recycled Elmer's Glue twist tops are used for the teeth and eyes, and the whiskers and eyebrows are made of cut-up milk carton strips. Photo courtesy Our Lady of Perpetual Help School

### Canned goods for the needy

Columbus St. Anthony School students collected 550 cans of food for the pantry of the parish's St. Vincent de Paul Society for the holidays. Students are shown with some of the items. Photo courtesy St. Anthony School



### Voting at Our Lady of Bethlehem



Kindergarten students at Columbus Our Lady of Bethlehem School had a chance to vote for one of three "issues" during a unit on Election Day. Their choice was between having less homework, having longer recess, and getting to bring a favorite stuffed animal to school. The stuffed animals won. Photo courtesy Our Lady of Bethlehem School

### Sandwiches for the needy

Eighth-grade students at Reynoldsburg St. Pius X School make sandwiches for the St. Vincent de Paul Society's St. Lawrence Haven, which distributes sack lunches to the needy five days a week at the former Holy Cross School in downtown Columbus. Every month, the St. Vincent de Paul Society pays for supplies and the students make 300 sandwiches. Photo courtesy St. Pius X School



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## Third Sunday of Advent (Cycle B)

## Tidings of joy from Isaiah, John, and Paul



Father  
Lawrence L. Hummer

**Isaiah 61:1-2a,10-11**  
**1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**  
**John 1:6-8,19-28**

The Isaiah reading is well known to readers of Luke's Gospel, where the passage is quoted at length by Jesus when he opens his public ministry at a synagogue in Nazareth (Luke 4:18-19). Scholars debate who the speaker is, although it is probably the prophet himself. He speaks a healing word to a broken people, who have suffered greatly during the Babylonian Exile (586-538 BC). Isaiah announces that he speaks under the power of the spirit of the Lord God.

The prophet brings tidings of joy, helping to set the tone for this third Sunday of Advent, whose theme is joy. The news comes to "the poor of the land" (Hebrew *anawim*). This is an unexpected bonus for those who are accustomed to receiving only bad news, born of their poverty itself. Everything the prophet announces is in some way a release from present misery, granted to the poor of the land. The devastation of the land after the Babylonian Exile began was extreme, and with leaders marched off *en masse* as part of the spoils of war, the people of the land found themselves in dire straits. Now the prophet announces vindication "by our God."

The prophet then rejoices at what the Lord is doing and will do: "My God is the joy of my soul." The prophet realizes how much of a change is at hand. He mixes a few metaphors in his ecstasy over this change. His new clothing (a robe of salvation and a mantle of justice) makes him look like a bridegroom adorned with a crown (one translation I saw read "adorned with a turban") or like a bride

bedecked with her jewels. Or he is like the earth, which produces its plants, or the way a garden springs up its growth. Just so will the Lord bring forth justice and praise before all the nations.

The Gospel is from the opening chapter of John. As we would expect, John the Baptist precedes Jesus, and John's Gospel focuses on this central figure in the unfolding mystery of salvation that comes with Christ. John (the Baptist) is clearly established as the one who would testify to the light. That "light" (the Word) has already been identified as "the light of the human race," and as "the light which shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

We never discover how John came to know Jesus, or about Jesus, but he recognizes Jesus when he comes to John, who will then call him "the Lamb of God." The mention of John in the Prologue of this Gospel (John 1:1-18) is because he is listed as a witness to the light. The content of John's testimony then follows in verses 19-28.

John first denies being the Christ (or "anointed one"), a title which had already been mentioned in verse 17 ("... while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ"). John then denies being either Elijah or "the Prophet." Finally, he says, "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord." This is a rewording of Isaiah 40:3.

Then John points to the one who is coming after him, whose sandal strap he is unworthy to untie. That never really answers the question of why he baptizes, but, like so many other questions raised in the Gospels, this one leaves the reader wanting more, and becomes an invitation to look deeper.

Finally, Paul's words to the Thessalonians highlight the theme of this Sunday of Advent and of the Gospel itself (for those who have read Pope Francis' latest encyclical, *The Joy of the Gospel*): "Rejoice always!"

**Father Lawrence Hummer, pastor at Chillicothe St. Mary, can be reached at hummerl@stmary-chillicothe.com.**

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## The Weekday Bible Readings

**MONDAY**  
Numbers 24:2-7,15-17a  
Psalm 25:4-5ab,6,7bc,8-9  
Matthew 21:23-27

**TUESDAY**  
Zephaniah 3:1-2,9-13  
Psalm 34:2-3,6-7,17-18,19,23  
Matthew 21:28-32

**WEDNESDAY**  
Genesis 49:2,8-10  
Psalm 72:3-4,7-8,17  
Matthew 1:1-17

**THURSDAY**  
Jeremiah 23:5-8  
Psalm 72:1-2,12-13,18-19  
Matthew 1:18-25

**FRIDAY**  
Judges 13:2-7,24-25a  
Psalm 71:3-4a,5-6b,16-17  
Luke 1:5-25

**SATURDAY**  
Isaiah 7:10-14  
Psalm 24:1-4b,5-6  
Luke 1:26-38

**DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND  
TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE  
WEEK OF DECEMBER 14, 2014**

**SUNDAY MASS**

10:30 a.m. Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio (820 AM), Columbus, and at [www.stgabrielradio.com](http://www.stgabrielradio.com).

Mass with the Passionist Fathers at 7:30 a.m. on WWHO-TV (the CW), Channel 53, Columbus, 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).

**DAILY MASS**

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

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

## Kowtowing to Moscow = Bad Ecumenism



THE CATHOLIC  
DIFFERENCE  
George Weigel

In his tireless work for Christian unity, St. John Paul II often expressed the hope that Christianity in its third millennium might "breathe again" with its "two lungs": West and East, Latin and Byzantine. It was a noble aspiration. And when he first visited Orthodoxy's ecumenical patriarchate of Constantinople in 1979, perhaps the successor of Peter imagined that his heartfelt desire to celebrate the Eucharist with the successor of Andrew would be realized in his lifetime.

It wasn't to be, but not for lack of trying on John Paul's part. Contentions within Orthodoxy, Russian Orthodox resentments (and worse) over John Paul's pivotal role in the Revolution of 1989, and a deeply engrained sense among some Orthodox Christians that not being in full communion with the bishop of Rome is a defining element in Orthodox identity – all these conspired to frustrate John Paul's desire that the East/West fracture formalized at the beginning of the second millennium (in 1054), could be healed by the Great Jubilee of 2000, so that Rome and Constantinople might undertake the new evangelization in the third millennium, together.

Those frustrations have been compounded in the post-John Paul II era by the increasingly aggressive actions of the Russian Orthodox patriarchate of Moscow, within the Orthodox community of churches and on the global stage. Not to put too fine a point on it, Moscow, which has long imagined itself the "third Rome," seems less interested in unity within the family of Orthodoxy, and between East and West, than with asserting itself against the "second Rome," Constantinople, and with supporting Russian foreign policy. Those obstacles to a Church "breathing again with both its lungs" are

not going to be resolved by kowtowing to the patriarchate of Moscow and tacitly accepting its dubious "narrative" about the history of Christianity among the eastern Slavs – a distortion that, by privileging Moscow and subordinating Kyiv, buttresses the revanchist aggression of Vladimir Putin's Russia – not coincidentally, one assumes.

Herewith, then, what seems a self-evident ecumenical axiom: For so long as the leaders of Russian Orthodoxy aspire to hegemony within Orthodoxy, claim to be the sole legitimate heirs of the baptism of Rus in 988, and act as agents of Russian state power in world politics, for just that long will Russian Orthodoxy be a serious obstacle to a more unified Orthodox world and to reconciliation and full communion between Catholicism and Orthodoxy.

Yet what seems so clear to others is somehow not self-evident in the halls of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. In a recent interview with Vatican Radio, the pontifical council's president, Cardinal Kurt Koch, said that "the changes in 1989 (that is, the collapse of communism in central and eastern Europe) were not advantageous for ecumenical relations" because "the Eastern Catholic churches banned by Stalin re-emerged" from underground – and that

made life difficult for Roman ecumenists, given Russian Orthodox phobias about "Uniate churches" such as the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, which is Byzantine in liturgy and polity but in full communion with Rome.

What is going on here? No local Church in modern times suffered more for its fidelity to Rome than the Greek Catholic Church in Ukraine, the world's largest underground religious community between 1946 and 1989. Was Cardinal Koch suggesting that it would have been better for "ecumenical relations" if the communist crackup in 1989 hadn't occurred and if the Soviet Union had remained intact? It's bad enough to be subjected to ex-KGB officer Vladimir Putin's laments about the Soviet crackup being the greatest geopolitical disaster of the 20th century. It's even worse when the Catholic Church's top ecumenical officer expresses what seem, at first blush, to be ominously parallel sentiments.

Now I don't really think that Cardinal Koch wishes the Berlin Wall, or the Soviet Union, back. But his unfortunate formulation, which reflected certain institutionalized notions in the Roman Curia, confirmed that the Vatican's ecumenical default positions badly need resetting. And that reset must begin with a clear-eyed view of recent Russian Orthodox prevarications and aggressions. Nothing will be gained, ecumenically speaking, from further kowtowing to the self-styled "third Rome."

**George Weigel is Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C. Weigel's column is distributed by the Denver Catholic Register, the official newspaper of the Archdiocese of Denver. Phone: 303-715-3215.**

## Principal Appreciation Day at St. Bernadette

Catholic schools across the nation celebrated National Day of Appreciation for Catholic School Principals on Thursday, Nov. 20. Lancaster St. Bernadette School students, parents, and staff honored their principal, Pam Eltringham, for her 40 years of dedicated service to the school.

She was presented with a spiritual bouquet – a collection of prayers or devotional acts done on behalf of someone, or for them and their intentions.

The prayer promises were compiled in a scrapbook, and the students made flowers for a bulletin board to represent their pledges.

The faculty and staff also purchased three



new books about saints and donated them to the school library in Eltringham's honor.

**Pictured at the spiritual bouquet bulletin board are third-graders (from left) Lexi Utz, Mitchell Ortiz, Jacob Taylor, and Samantha Kuyoth.**

Photo courtesy St. Bernadette School

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**SECRETARY FOR PORTSMOUTH PARISHES**

Holy Redeemer/St. Mary Churches in Portsmouth have a job opening for part-time to full-time parish secretary with hourly/salaried wage and benefits.

Responsibilities include: preparation of weekly bulletin, reception and clerical duties, support for pastor and other parish employees, data entry and/or manual entry of parish records, volunteer coordination, and other administrative duties as assigned.

Please submit letter of interest and resume by January 2, 2015 to:

**Brad Tindall, Facilities Manager**  
**Holy Redeemer Church, 1325 Gallia St., Portsmouth, OH 45662**  
**By e-mail to: [brad@holyredeemerportsmouth.org](mailto:brad@holyredeemerportsmouth.org)**



## Pray for our dead

**ASMO, Dante J., 88, Nov. 28**  
St. John the Baptist Church, Columbus

**BENNETT, Robert T., 75, Dec. 6**  
Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus

**BLAINE, Jerome M., 93, Dec. 2**  
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

**BRUSADIN, Richard P., 75, Dec. 6**  
Our Lady of Peace Church, Columbus

**COLE, Carolyn "Boo," 54, Oct. 21**  
Holy Redeemer Church, Portsmouth

**CONROY, Virginia R., 89, Nov. 30**  
St. Matthias Church, Columbus

**CORIELL, Harold "Ed," 86, Nov. 25**  
Holy Redeemer Church, Portsmouth

**COYLE, Steven R., 57, Nov. 30**  
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Zanesville

**CUSTER, John E., 72, Dec. 3**  
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

**DAVIS, Debbie, 62, Nov. 29**  
Our Lady of Victory Church, Columbus

**DONAHOE, Mary H. "Pinky," 91, of Columbus, Dec. 4**

St. Mary Church, Urbana

**DOTSON, Matthew K., 16, Dec. 2**  
St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

**ELK, Judith K., 73, Nov. 25**  
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

**GIAMMARCO, Lucy B., 81, Dec. 2**  
St. Matthias Church, Columbus

**GRABOVICH, Bettylou E., 90, Dec. 2**  
Holy Spirit Church, Columbus

**GRIGSBY, Jeffrey D., 45, Dec. 5**  
St. Leonard Church, Heath

**HARGIS, Linda S., 71, Dec. 3**  
St. Mary, Mother of God Church, Columbus

**HENRY, Charles J., 70, Dec. 4**  
St. Timothy Church, Columbus

**HOWARD, Jess E., 94, Dec. 4**  
St. Matthew Church, Gahanna

**HUSTON, Diana M., 63, Nov. 22**  
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

**JACHIMOWICZ, Bozena "Irene," 88, Dec. 1**  
St. Mary Church, Marion

**JOHNSON, Barbara J., 54, Dec. 3**  
St. Leo Church, Columbus

**JURCYK, Air Force Lt. Col. (Ret.) John "Ted," 91, Dec. 5**

St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Pickerington

**MATEJKA, Mary L., 96, Nov. 28**  
St. Mary Church, Marion

**ORTLIEB, Thomas R., 69, Nov. 30**  
St. Paul Church, Westerville

**PADRO, Raquel T., 25, Nov. 29**  
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

**RANDOLPH, Richard J., 83, formerly of Columbus, Dec. 2**

St. Margaret Church, Narberth, Pa.

**RAYMOND, Norma I., 89, Nov. 14**  
St. Timothy Church, Columbus

**RICO, Mary C., 90, Dec. 6**  
St. Joan of Arc Church, Powell

**RIDGWAY, Natalie D., 31, Nov. 29**  
St. Agatha Church, Columbus

**RIMER, Virginia K., 70, Nov. 25**  
Immaculate Conception Church, Dennison

**SCHMIDT, Joseph B., 92, of Columbus, Dec. 5**  
St. John the Baptist Church, Newburgh, Ind.

**SHEETS, John "Jack," 88, Nov. 22**  
St. Mary Church, Portsmouth

**TRUSSELL, Donald E., 84, Nov. 23**  
St. Vincent de Paul Church, Mount Vernon

**WILLIARD, Dr. Thomas B., 87, Dec. 2**  
St. Catharine Church, Columbus

**ZANGARDI, Mary T., 88, Dec. 3**  
St. Paul Church, Westerville

## Knights assist Christian refugees in Iraq, Syria

By Catholic News Service

The Knights of Columbus announced that its Christian Refugee Relief Fund has donated \$2.2 million to help displaced Iraqi and Syrian Christians and other religious minorities who continue to face violent persecution "and the very real prospect of extinction."

"This is a concrete response to the unfolding humanitarian crisis in Iraq and to the urgent appeals from the region, as well as Pope Francis' request for material assistance for those affected by this persecution," said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson.

The funds will help provide permanent housing for the increasing number of displaced families in Iraq, according to a news release.

Specifically, it said, the Knights' donation of \$2 million will pay for construction of new homes on property owned by the Chaldean Catholic Archdiocese of Irbil in the Kurdish-controlled region of northern Iraq.

The Knights' Supreme Council, which has its headquarters in New Ha-

ven, Connecticut, began the fund in August with \$1 million and has since raised an additional \$1.7 million from individuals and local Knights councils, for a total of \$2.7 million.

The donations were "accompanied by fervent prayers for all those suffering in the land of the holy apostles," Anderson said.

Houses will be built for Iraqi Christians who were driven from their homes in Mosul and the surrounding area and who have been living in emergency shelters and random locations far from home.

"With winter setting in, already grave conditions are expected to only worsen as these families are going without proper shelter, which is so fundamental to living their lives," said Anderson. "These new homes are signs of hope that will allow this community to begin to blossom once again."

The Knights' Christian Refugee Relief Fund also has made a separate donation of \$200,000 in general aid to the Melkite Catholic Archdiocese of Aleppo, Syria.

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## DECEMBER

### 11, THURSDAY

**Delaware St. Mary Advent by Candlelight Program**  
6 to 8 p.m., Snyder-Rodman Funeral Home, 1510 W. William St., Delaware. Advent by Candlelight program for women, sponsored by Delaware St. Mary Church women's organization. Features Father Michael Watson and others discussing their Holy Land pilgrimage, with seasonal music by Ken and Annette Schwartz. Dinner provided; bring appetizer or dessert. **740-363-4641**

**Mass and Talk by Bishop Griffin at Circleville**  
7 p.m., St. Joseph Church, 134 W. Mound St., Circleville. Mass and talk by Bishop Emeritus James Griffin on "Advent: Waiting for Joseph, Mary, and Jesus." **740-477-2549**

### Theology on Tap Meeting

7 to 9 p.m., El Vaquero Restaurant, 3230 Olentangy River Road, Columbus. Meeting of Theology on Tap discussion and social group for young Catholics. Topic: "Seeing God Through the Lens of Science" with Father Thomas Blau, OP, parochial vicar of Columbus St. Patrick Church. RSVP to cbustheologyontap@gmail.com or Columbus Theology on Tap Facebook page.

All fund-raising events (festivals, bazaars, spaghetti dinners, fish fries, bake sales, pizza/sub sales, candy sales, etc.) will be placed in the "Fund-Raising Guide." An entry into the Guide will be \$18.50 for the first six lines, and \$2.65 for each additional line. For more information, call David Garick at 614-224-5195.

### 'Happenings' submissions

Notices for items of Catholic interest must be received at least 12 days before expected publication date. We will print them as space permits. Items not received before this deadline may not be published. Listings cannot be taken by phone. Mail to: The Catholic Times Happenings, 197 East Gay St., Columbus, OH 43215 Fax to: 614-241-2518 E-mail as text to tpuet@colodioc.org

## H A P P E N I N G S

**Holy Hour of Reparation at Columbus Sacred Heart**  
7 to 8 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 893 Hamlet St., Columbus. Eucharistic Holy Hour following Holy Hour of Reparation prayer format, concluding with Benediction and social period. Prayers for intention of deepened holiness and an increase in the virtue of fortitude for bishops and priests. **614-372-5249**

### 12, FRIDAY

**Church Tour in Portsmouth**  
6 to 8 p.m., Scioto County Courthouse, 602 7th St., Portsmouth. Annual holiday tour of churches in Boneyfiddle historic district, including St. Mary Church. Tours every half-hour. **740-354-4551**  
**'On a Night Like This' at Wellston Ss. Peter and Paul**  
7 p.m., Ss. Peter and Paul Church, 227 S. New York Ave., Wellston. "On a Night Like This" concert narrative featuring local Christian music group Living Water. **740-384-2359**

### 13, SATURDAY

**Life and Mercy Mass in Plain City**  
9 a.m. Mass, St. Joseph Church, 140 West Ave., Plain City. Saturday Life and Mercy Mass, followed by rosary and confession.

**Ohio Dominican Fall Commencement**  
11 a.m., Ohio Dominican University, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. University's fall commencement, with Bishop Frederick Campbell delivering the commencement address and receiving an honorary doctorate. **614-251-4595**

**Anointing of the Sick at St. Pius X**  
Following 5 p.m. Mass, St. Pius X Church, 1051 S. Waggoner Road, Reynoldsburg. Communal Anointing of the Sick. **614-866-2859**

**Family Festival at St. Joan of Arc**  
6:30 to 8:30 p.m., St. Joan of Arc Church, 10700 Liberty Road, Powell. Annual parish family festival, featuring games, making homemade gifts, service opportunities, and visit from Santa. **614-761-0905**

### 14, SUNDAY

**Anointing of the Sick at St. Pius X**  
Following 8:30 a.m. Mass, St. Pius X Church, 1051 S. Waggoner Road, Reynoldsburg. Communal Anointing of the Sick. **614-866-2859**

**St. Christopher Adult Religious Education**  
10 to 11:15 a.m., Library, Trinity Catholic School, 1440 Grandview Ave., Columbus. Catholic Times editor David Garick speaks about the Order of the Holy Sepulchre.

**Kateri Prayer Circle at St. Mark**  
1 p.m., Aranda Center, St. Mark Church, 324 Gay St., Lancaster. Kateri Prayer Circle meeting to honor St. Kateri Tekakwitha and promote Native Catholic spirituality. **740-756-7008**

**Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic Meeting**  
1:30 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Meeting of St. Catherine of Siena chapter, Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic, featuring presentation on the sacraments at 3 p.m.

**'Signs' of Christmas Concert at de Porres Center**  
2 p.m., Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Drive, Columbus. Christmas concert in American Sign Language with "Signs" of Christmas organization. Suggested donation \$10. **614-416-1910**

**St. Leonard Christmas Concert**  
2 p.m., St. Leonard Church, 57 Dorsey Mill Road, Heath.

Christmas concert featuring all parish choirs, parishioner John Sheets' strings students, and the Leonardi Hand-chime choir. **740-522-5270**

**Reception for Holy Family Museum Art Exhibition**  
2 to 4 p.m., Holy Family Jubilee Museum, 57 S. Grubb St., Columbus. Opening reception for museum's inaugural biennial exhibition of contemporary sacred art. Theme: "Cain and Abel, Am I My Brother's Keeper?" **614-221-4323**

**Lessons and Carols at Cathedral**  
3 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Lessons and carols with cathedral choir, brass, and chamber orchestra. Suggested donation \$10. **614-241-2526**

**St. Anthony Christmas Concert**  
3 p.m., St. Anthony Church, 1300 Urban Drive, Columbus. Christmas concert featuring choirs from Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School and St. Anthony Middle School. **614-885-4857**

**Our Lady of Victory Advent Concert**  
3 p.m., Our Lady of Victory Church, 1559 Roxbury Road, Columbus. Advent afternoon concert featuring music of many cultural traditions. **614-488-2428**

**St. Dominic Christmas Concert**  
4 p.m., St. Dominic Church, 453 N. 20th St., Columbus. Joint Christmas concert with choirs of Columbus St. Andrew Presbyterian Church and St. Dominic. **614-252-5926**

**Advent Lessons and Carols at Newark St. Francis**  
4 p.m., St. Francis de Sales Church, 40 Granville St., Newark. Concert of Advent lessons and carols. **740-345-9874**

**Prayer Group Meeting at Christ the King**  
5 to 7 p.m., Christ the King Church, 2777 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus (enter at daily Mass entrance). Weekly parish prayer group meets for praise, worship, ministry, and teaching. **614-886-8266**

**Silent Night in Sugar Grove**  
6 p.m., St. Joseph Church, 306 Elm St., Sugar Grove. "Silent Night in Sugar Grove" Christmas programs, beginning at St. Joseph's and continuing at Sugar Grove United Methodist and St. Matthew Lutheran churches. **740-746-8302**

**Advent Lessons and Carols at Columbus St. Patrick**  
7 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Concert of Advent lessons and carols. **614-224-9522**

**Spanish Mass at Columbus St. Peter**  
7 p.m., St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road, Columbus. Mass in Spanish. **706-761-4054**

**Christmas Cantata at St. Mark**  
7 p.m., St. Mark Church, 324 Gay St., Lancaster. Seventh annual Christmas cantata, "The Mystery and the Majesty." **740-653-1229**

**15, MONDAY**  
**Deadline for St. Elizabeth Seton March for Life Signup**  
Deadline for signup for Pickerington St. Elizabeth Seton Parish trip to March for Life in Washington on Jan. 21 and 22. Cost includes bus ride, one-night hotel stay and hotel breakfast. **740-927-5099**

**Adoration, Prayer Service at New Philadelphia**  
5 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 139 3rd St N.E., New Philadelphia. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and confession, followed by prayer service. **330-343-6976**

**Advent Quiet Evening at Corpus Christi**  
6:30 to 8 p.m., Corpus Christi Center of Peace, 1111 E. Stewart Ave., Columbus. An evening of quiet reflection as spiritual preparation for the celebration of God coming to be with us at Christmas. **614-512-3731**

**Marian Movement for Priests Cenacle**  
7 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Mass for Catholic family life. Homily: "The Fourth Glorious Mystery: The Assumption of Mary." **614-235-7435**

**15-23, MONDAY-TUESDAY**  
**Simbang Gabi Celebration at Holy Cross**  
7:30 p.m., Holy Cross Church, 204 S. 5th St., Columbus. Simbang Gabi, a Filipino Christmas tradition, featuring celebration of Mass for nine consecutive days.

### 16, TUESDAY

**Rosary for Life at St. Joan of Arc**  
Following 6:15 p.m. Mass, St. Joan of Arc Church, 10700 Liberty Road, Powell. Recital of Rosary for Life, sponsored by church's respect life committee.

**'On a Night Like This' at Holy Spirit**  
7 p.m., Holy Spirit Church, 4383 E. Broad St., Columbus. "On a Night Like This" concert narrative featuring local Christian music group Living Water. **614-861-1521**

**'Concert of Hope' at St. Christopher**  
7:30 p.m., St. Christopher Church, 1420 Grandview Ave., Columbus. "A Christmas Concert of Hope" featuring the parish choir, the Hilliard Darby High School Renaissance choir, and a chamber orchestra, with a grand finale of Vivaldi's "Gloria." Benefit offering for Columbus Free Clinic. **614-486-0457**

**Prayer Group Meeting at St. Mark**  
7:30 p.m., St. Raymond of Life, St. Mark Center, 324 Gay St., Lancaster. Light of Life Prayer group meeting. **740-653-4919**

**19, FRIDAY**  
**Live Nativity Scene at Ada Our Lady of Lourdes**  
6 to 8 p.m., Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 300 E. Highland Ave., Ada. Live Nativity scene with live animals. **419-634-2626**

**'On a Night Like This' at Church of the Resurrection**  
7:30 p.m., Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville road, New Albany. "On a Night Like This" concert narrative featuring local Christian music group Living Water. **740-855-1400**

**20, SATURDAY**  
**Wilderness Outreach Advent Hike and Vigil Mass**  
7:30 a.m. Tar Hollow State Park, 16396 Tar Hollow Road, Laurelville. Wilderness Outreach Advent hike, with Morning Prayer, Rosary, and prayers of angelic warfare, concluding with Eucharistic Adoration and vigil Mass for Fourth Sunday of Advent with Father Brian Doerr, vice rector and director of formation, Mount St. Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg, Md. **614-679-6761**

**Life and Mercy Mass in Plain City**  
9 a.m. Mass, St. Joseph Church, 140 West Ave., Plain City. Saturday Life and Mercy Mass, followed by rosary and confession.

**Morning of Reflection at Sts. Peter and Paul Center**  
9 a.m. to noon, Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center, 2734 Seminary Road S.E., Newark. Advent morning of reflection with Sister Louis Mary Passeri, OP. Theme: "Jesus Said, 'When I Am Lifted Up from the Earth, I Will Draw All People to Myself.'" **740-928-4246**

**Labyrinth Walk at Shepherd's Corner**  
7 to 8:30 p.m., Shepherd's Corner Ecology Center, 987 N. Waggoner Road, Blacklick. Labyrinth walk with Dale Sparlin of Mindful Labyrinths. Theme: "Drawing the Light to Us." Suggested donation \$5. Registration deadline Dec. 18. **614-866-4302**

## Submit Obituaries

There is no charge for obituaries. To have an obituary printed in the **Catholic Times**, please send it to:

**tpuet@colodioc.org**

**Obituaries cannot be taken by phone.** Obituaries will be edited for length/clarity/style and printed as space permits.

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## BOOK REVIEW

# EXPLORING THE LIVES OF EARLY CHURCH FATHERS AND MOTHERS

Reviewed by **Rachelle Linner**  
Catholic News Service

**“When the Church Was Young: Voices of the Early Fathers,”**  
by Marcellino D’Ambrosio.

**“Accidental Theologians: Four Women Who Shaped Christianity,”**  
by Elizabeth A. Dreyer.

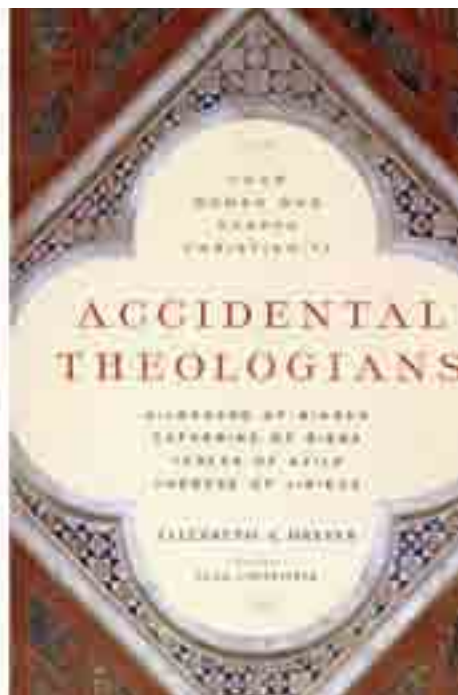
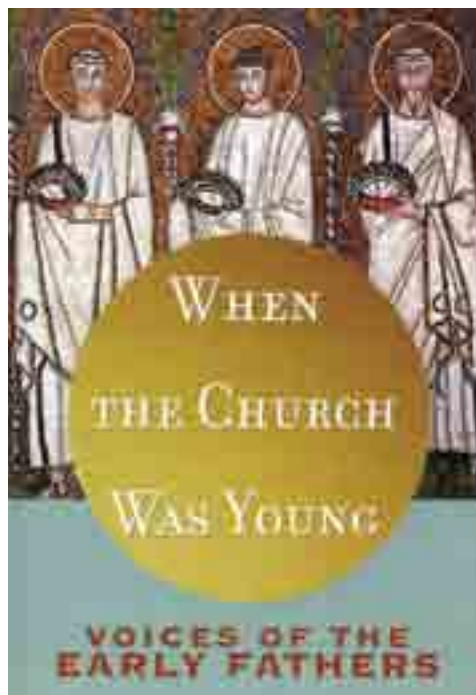
These two books, about very different figures in church history, share certain characteristics.

The authors have impressive academic and professional accomplishments, but write in a manner that is accessible to the general reader. Both books provide excellent introductions to the writings and the theological and historical context of significant Christian thinkers.

They suggest ways for how we can appropriate the insights (D’Ambrosio) and methods (Dreyer) of doing theology. And both books model respect and gratitude for tradition.

Dreyer studies four women doctors of the church -- Sts. Hildegard of Bingen, Catherine of Siena, Teresa of Avila, and Therese of Lisieux. “Without formal theological education, these four women relied more heavily on the promptings of the Holy Spirit, their innate intelligence, and their individual and communal experience,” she writes.

Although they lived in radically different times, Dreyer finds striking similarities in the theological themes of these four women. They offer us an incarnational, prophetic spirituality that has deep resonance with our contemporary Christian anthropology. In exploring their teachings on sin, suffering, and self-knowledge, she suggests ways we can channel our own theological reflection.



*Accidental Theologians* is a work that can be studied, but it also glitters with insight and quotes that make it suitable spiritual reading: “Catherine loves to repeat that God is madly in love, even drunk, with love for creation. ... Her language about the intimate closeness of God is as extreme as that about God’s awesome otherness.”

And there is Teresa’s growth in understanding her sinfulness: “Teresa seems to have discovered her sinfulness as a direct consequence of God’s love for her. Her experience of unmerited, gratuitous love opened her eyes to the ways she devalued, manipulated and diminished herself and others. She became attuned to the subtle ways in which her desire for goodness and reform could be tainted by selfishness.”

These women left a legacy that is particularly valuable today, when the work of theology -- particularly by

women theologians -- is called into question by some members of the hierarchy. “Their incredibly strong wills and perseverance in spite of difficulty are based on their theology of God as magnanimous lover and giver of grace, and on their positive Christian anthropology,” Dreyer writes.

*When the Church Was Young* is an engaging introduction to the early church fathers. D’Ambrosio has an extraordinary command of the history he writes about, the period from 100 to 800 AD.

He defines the church fathers as “those great Christian writers who passed on and clarified the teaching of the apostles. ... The era of the church fathers begins where the original eyewitnesses leave off and carries us through the period of the first ... great universal or ecumenical councils that hammered out the two most central issues in the Christian faith -- how one God could be conceived of as three

distinct persons and how Jesus could be both God and man.”

In D’Ambrosio’s skilled hands, we watch the development of doctrine, not through abstract thought, but in the heat of theological, political, and regional conflicts. Orthodoxy was defined against the excesses of heresy, but so was a theology of liturgy, structures of authority, and the selection of what to include in the scriptural canon. The early Church fathers were passionate men, not a few prone to anger and impatience. But under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, they crafted a theology and church polity of wise moderation.

Throughout the book, D’Ambrosio offers us compelling excerpts from the writings of the fathers, but nothing approaches the poignancy of the narratives of those gifted with the grace of martyrdom: “It cannot be something one presumptuously volunteers for, since it is impossible to accomplish by the power of natural zeal.”

These writings are part of the shared patrimony of both Eastern and Western Christianity, and D’Ambrosio’s book is appropriate for this time, when ecumenical relationships are characterized by respect rather than enmity.

Above all, it is a hopeful reminder that ours is not the only century to face theological conflict and division or the opposition of society.

Moreover, we can address these challenges with the gift of tradition -- the lives, witness, and teachings of the holy men and women we meet in these two books.

**Linner, a freelance writer and reviewer, has a master’s degree in theology from the Weston Jesuit School of Theology in Cambridge, Massachusetts.**



Father Michael G. Whyte, pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in West Simsbury, Connecticut, sits beside parishioner Margaret Domashinski in the parish rectory 10 weeks after surgery on Sept. 9 in which she donated a kidney to Father Whyte to save his life.  
CNS photo/Jack Sheedy

## NEWS IN PHOTOS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



The Vatican Christmas tree is positioned in St. Peter’s Square on Dec. 4. The tree is an 82-foot white fir from the Calabria region in southern Italy.  
CNS photo/Paul Haring



A woman wades thru floodwater next to a damaged church on Samar Island, the Philippines, on Dec. 8. Typhoon Hagupit weakened into a tropical storm after leaving at least 21 people dead and forcing more than a million people into shelters.  
CNS photo/Francis R. Malasig, EPA



A man walks on a street while strong winds and heavy rain from Typhoon Hagupit batter Atimonan, the Philippines, on Dec. 8. CNS photo/Romeo Ranoco, Reuters



St. Christopher Parish

presents

# Vivaldi's

G L O R I A

## A Christmas Concert of Hope

Tuesday, December 16, 2014 ♦ 7:30 pm

St. Christopher Catholic Church

1420 Grandview Avenue ♦ Grandview Heights, Ohio 43212

A 52 voice choir combining St. Christopher Parish  
and Hilliard Darby High School Renaissance  
choirs accompanied by a 22 piece chamber orchestra

**Conductors**

**Mr. Mark Voris**

Director of Music - St. Christopher Parish

- and -

**Dr. Michael Martin**

Hilliard Darby High School Choral Director

The concert will be a beautiful selection of  
Advent and Christmas music with poems and readings  
and the grand finale of Vivaldi's *Gloria*.

A freewill offering will be taken up to benefit  
The Columbus Free Clinic.

Violin image: [www.carrotmusic.net](http://www.carrotmusic.net)

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