



DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

CATHOLIC TIMES

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FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT
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CHRIST CALLS US
TO SERVE THE POOR

The Editor's Notebook

What we give. What we get.

By David Garick, Editor



Christmas is almost upon us. The Advent season of preparation is about to yield its harvest of joy. There is much cause for joy at Christmas. Certainly, it is a time of wonderful memories of Christmas past. It is a time of sharing Christmas with gifts given and received in the present in the warmth of family and friends. It is a time to dream of carrying the spirit of Christmas into our lives as we head into the new year. Naturally, we must always keep hold of the true meaning of Christmas, the wonderful miracle of God actually coming to us in human form to free us from sin and lead us to eternal life with Him in heaven.

He came down to earth Himself in the person of Jesus Christ to show us how to live – to be our model.

So how did He go about His everyday life? He devoted Himself to service to others. In His first miracle, at the urging of Mary, He provided the wine that was needed by the newlywed couple at Cana. As He traveled across the Holy Land, He aided people in their affliction. He brought sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, and good health to the infirm. He even restored His friend Lazarus to life to ease the pain of His followers.

When He spoke to the crowds, He not only fed their souls with His word, but He fed their bodies through the multiplication of the loaves and fishes. When the time for His final sacrifice arrived, He had a last supper with His apostles. Again He fed them, not just with bread and wine, but with His own Body and Blood. And He washed their feet. Not only did He do these things Himself, but He also sent out His disciples to do the same things in His name. His earthly life was not one of a divine conqueror striding across His domain. Christ came to serve even the most

mEEK and lowly.

A year ago, during Advent, I had the privilege of making a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. I walked the streets of Bethlehem and, along with the sacred memorials constructed over the place of Christ's birth, I also saw the effect of poverty in that little town. Everywhere I went, people desperate for food, clothing, and shelter begged pilgrims for money in exchange for small trinkets, beads, and holy cards. Bethlehem was a town filled with poverty when Our Lord was born there, and it still is today. That poverty exists here as well. It may not be as visible. But all around us are people who are in dire need.

Christ showed us how to help them, and no organization in the history of the human race has done more to serve people in need than the church He founded – the Catholic Church. In this issue of *Catholic Times*, you will read of how you and other Catholics are working to meet those needs during these trying times. The need continues in generation after generation. But Christ's great gift to us is the ability to share in His capacity to show mercy to those in need.

"Follow me!" That is Christ's command to us. Or, as St. Paul puts it: be imitators of Christ. I often think about that command. Try as I might, I don't think I am much of an imitation of Christ. Not even a cheap knock-off version. But I know this: I am a much better person when I keep that as a goal. When I keep my focus on serving as the Lord did, I feel much closer to the people I serve, and I feel closer to Christ.

Have a very merry Christmas, filled with blessings and love.

FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT



CATHOLIC LEADERS REPEATED CALL TO CONGRESS TO HELP POOR THROUGHOUT 2013

By Dennis Sadowski
Catholic News Service

Fallout from the partial government shutdown in October and another looming round of automatic spending cuts in January kept congressional leaders busy at year's end to finalize a budget deal. Republicans and Democrats could live with.

Through a tumultuous 2013, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and other Catholic advocates, including Catholic Charities USA, continued to press for a budget that does not adversely affect poor people.

It's a message that Catholic leaders have consistently delivered in recent years under the banner of a "circle of protection" as concerns over growing federal debt led to proposals that discretionary spending on nonmilitary programs be cut in the face of the nation's growing debt.

Their concern centers on programs such as poverty-focused international assistance, affordable housing and community development, education, Head Start, workforce development, and emergency unemployment compensation.

The USCCB helped form the

Circle of Protection coalition in 2011 to make sure budget policies protect programs serving poor, vulnerable, and elderly people.

On Dec. 10, congressional leaders announced a budget deal aimed at averting another government shutdown and stopping a second round of automatic budget cuts set to begin in mid-January. The two-year deal, announced by Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., and Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., chairs of the Senate and House budget committees, respectively, would cap spending at slightly more than \$1 trillion in each of the next two years -- a slight increase.

The House passed the package two days later. The Senate was scheduled to vote on it Dec. 17.

The deal signaled at least a temporary truce on the budget between Democrats and Republicans. Both houses of Congress managed to pass the Budget Control Act in 2011, which implemented a round of across-the-board cuts in military and nonmilitary programs early in 2013. However, serious disagreements remained, leading to a 16-day partial government shutdown in October.

See **HELP**, Page 3

Bishop Campbell Accepts 12 Men as Candidates for Diaconate



Twelve men from the Diocese of Columbus have embarked on a course of study and formation to become permanent deacons. Bishop Frederick Campbell formally accepted their candidacy in a ceremony at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on Saturday, Dec. 14.

Pictured are (from left): Front row, Deacon Frank Iannarino (director, diocesan Office of the Diaconate), Stephen Pettrill (Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare), Ronald Onslow (Dover St. Joseph), Kevin Murrin (New Albany Church of the Resurrection), David Lozowski (Coshacton Sacred Heart), Mark Weiner (New Lexington St. Rose), Jason Nguyen (Columbus Ss. Augustine & Gabriel), Deacon Dean Racine (chairman, diocesan Diaconal Council);

Back row, Deacon Tom Berg Jr. (Cancellor, Diocese of Columbus), Thomas Rowland (Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona), Charles Gregory Waybright (Reynoldsburg St. Pius X), Michael Koczewski (Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help), Bishop Campbell, Paul Zemanek (Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare), Thomas Phillips (Columbus St. Thomas), David Bezusko (Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes), Father Mike Lumpe (diocesan vicar for priests).

CT photo by Ken Snow

HELP, continued from Page 2

Under the agreement, \$63 billion in a second round of across-the-board cuts in military and nonmilitary programs set for mid-January would be eliminated. The proposed budget also would reduce the deficit by a modest \$23 billion by continuing the 2 percent reduction in payments to Medicare providers through 2023.

The budget deal now will allow Congress to focus on the growth in entitlement and health care that have been the major drivers of the country's growing debt.

Representatives affiliated with the Tea Party had opposed any deal that increases government spending, leaving House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, to rally moderate Republicans to join Democrats in supporting a budget bill. Passage in the Democratic-controlled Senate was expected.

The final budget bill measure does not extend unemployment benefits for the long-term unemployed that were set to expire beginning Dec. 28. Democrats wanted to extend benefits to give

federally paid payments to jobless people after their 26 weeks of state benefits expire.

Republicans in the House were not opposed to extending the benefits, but said they had no plans to pursue legislation on their own. The Associated Press reported that House Democrats "suppressed" their disappointment those benefits were not being extended so the measure could move on to the Senate for a vote and President Barack Obama's expected signature.

Father Larry Snyder, Catholic Charities USA president, has been among the Catholic advocates calling for the extension of unemployment benefits in the face of a slow economic recovery.

In a Dec. 13 statement, Miami Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski, the new chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' committee on domestic justice and human development, commended Ryan and Murray for embracing civil dialogue and setting aside partisanship in

crafting a modest replacement to sequestration.

"Millions of working families across the country and around the world struggle to survive and achieve stability. While this agreement is an important first step to accomplishing that, more needs to be done," the archbishop said. "Congress and the administration still face serious and consequential decisions regarding appropriations for fiscal year 2014."

Archbishop Wenski reiterated Catholic leaders' call for a "circle of protection" around the vulnerable.

He urged "wise bipartisan leadership in targeting this limited sequestration relief by drawing a circle of protection around programs that protect poor and vulnerable people at home and abroad, advance the common good, and promote human life and dignity."

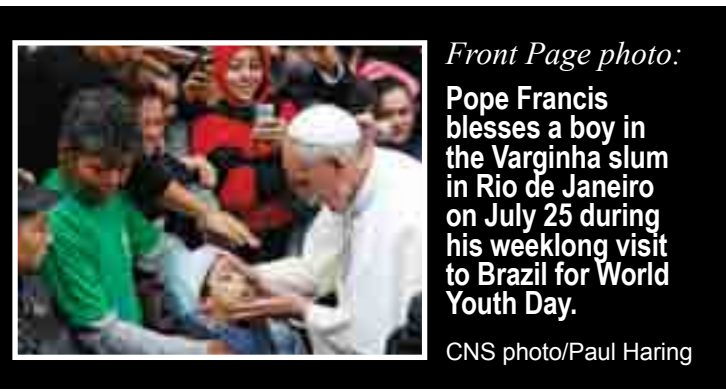
"Targeted properly, this funding can also provide some certainty to charitable and social service organizations planning their budgets, and hopefully create more jobs with

decent wages," he added.

In November, the chairmen of two USCCB committees reiterated the central message of the Circle of Protection in letters to the leadership of the congressional budget committees, Bishop Stephen E. Blaire of Stockton, Calif., then chairman of the bishops' committee on domestic justice and human development, and Bishop Richard E. Pates of Des Moines, Iowa, chairman of the committee on international justice and peace.

Their core message: Every budget decision in Congress "should be assessed by whether it threatens human life and dignity" at home and abroad. The letter continued, saying that the "central moral measure of any budget proposal is how it affects 'the least of these.'"

"Government and other institutions have a shared responsibility to promote the common good of all, especially ordinary workers and families who struggle to live in dignity in difficult economic times," the letter added.



Front Page photo: Pope Francis blesses a boy in the Varginha slum in Rio de Janeiro on July 25 during his weeklong visit to Brazil for World Youth Day.

CNS photo/Paul Haring

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PRACTICAL STEWARDSHIP

By Rick Jeric

Preparedness

Did you prayerfully consider the differences in acting like a “bouncer” versus a humble and welcoming Christian? For each of us, it remains important to be responsible and accountable, even when it comes to participation in the Mass. Even beyond that, we have a greater responsibility to participate in the life of our parish. Have we thought about that lately? We should come to Mass early and be well-prepared when the Liturgy begins. We should do our best to dress well, as we are in God’s house. I try to remind myself that if I can get up at 5:30 each morning, shave, shower, and put on a suit for work, then the least I can do is the same for my one hour per week spent in prayer and worship. We should never leave Mass early, except for an emergency. That is just rude. After Mass, share your joy and love, as we are sent to live and proclaim the mission of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Embrace your fellow parishioners and do not worry about which doughnut you will get. Keep in mind that all these things are important for us to worry about for ourselves. Do not worry about others. Welcome them, love them, and embrace them as fellow members of the Body of Christ.

Preparedness and preparation. How do so many things happen, and we rarely consider how much time, talent, and treasure were needed as resources? Assuming that we all agree that the Mass is the pinnacle of our week or day and the greatest act of worship that we have, then we might understand why Mass attendance is so much greater at Christmas. It is difficult to understand why we are satisfied with 30 percent or so participation the rest of the year. Knowing how well prepared everything will be at our respective churches and parishes, I want to take some time (and space) to consider all the good, dedicated people behind the scenes who make our liturgical celebrations happen. The beauty of our churches, including vestments, flowers, lights, decorations, creches, and music adds to the joy, prayer, and celebration. None of this happens by accident, nor is it simple. We appreciate our bishops, pastors, parochial vicars, deacons, and religious who are our liturgical leaders. We thank the committees in our parishes that help plan the liturgies, making them well-coordinated and spiritual. We thank the parish secretaries and staff who have the responsibility to administer all the details to the right people. Many thanks go to the selfless volunteers who clean, polish, situate, and decorate the trees, wreaths, lights, banners, poinsettias, and creches. We thank the cantors, choirs, musicians, sacristans, lectors, extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, and altar servers who dedicate so much practice and participation. And let us not forget those who have to clean it up and change it for ordinary time in less than three weeks. We thank all of you, from our bishops and pastors to our volunteers. We take you for granted much too often. May we follow your example of good and faithful stewardship for our parishes.

Our practical challenge this week is to be visibly and vocally thankful and grateful at our respective parishes on Christmas Eve and Day, and throughout the Christmas season. As you kneel before Mass, simply say an extra prayer of thanksgiving for all those who have done so much in preparation. Whomever you see, vocally thank them for their preparedness. Tell them how much you noticed, and how much you appreciate their work. Finally, put a little more in that Christmas envelope. Give and share in the Christmas spirit by supporting your parish a little more now and in 2014.

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



Operation Cookie Storm



Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare School’s annual “Operation Cookie Storm” took place on Saturday, Dec. 7, in the school cafeteria. Seventh- and eighth- graders baked 176 dozen cookies and, with the help of many other students and parishioners, sent nearly 1,000 bags filled with cookies, cards, and ornaments to servicemen and women stationed in the United States and abroad. Photo courtesy St. Brigid of Kildare School

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Seventh Annual Bosco Bash

The seventh annual Bosco Bash sponsored by the diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry will take place Saturday, Feb. 1 at the activity center of Westerville St. Paul Church, 313 N. State St.

The afternoon and evening event for sixth-, seventh-, and eighth- graders is named for St. John Bosco, the patron saint of youth and founder of the Salesian religious community, and will be planned and directed by parish youth ministers and the youth ministry office.

It will include fun, food, games, Mass, music by the Station 14 prayer and worship band, and featured speaker Mike Patin, who was the main presenter at the 2013 diocesan youth rally.

Patin has an entertaining approach to presenting the Gospel in a way that teens understand. He can move audience members from laughter to tears as they realize that Jesus is working deeply in their hearts. The Bosco Bash theme for 2014 is “Glory Revealed,” reminding us that God is at work in our lives in very powerful ways, and all we need to do is open our hearts to his loving welcome.

Advance registration is required. Interested youths should register through their parish youth ministry leader. The cost is \$20 for registration, dinner, and a T-shirt. Registration forms are available at youthministry.coldsdioc.org



DeSales High School InvenTeam

Members of the Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School InvenTeam gave a presentation on their proposed automatic page turner for students with physical limitations to adult representatives of organizations sponsoring their work. They will showcase a prototype of the device in June during EurekaFest at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Team members pictured are (from left): first row, Charlie Mitchell, Jennifer Vu, Mackenzie Kraker, Bailey Cadena, Emily Piatt, and Samantha Vincent; second row, MIT representative Justin Lai, Jessie Hamilton, Danny Barren, Ali Baird, moderators Jim Savinell and Jill Pina, and Ben Dumm. Photo courtesy St. Francis DeSales High School

Wishing you every Joy and Blessing at Christmas and throughout the New Year

THE STAFF AT THE CATHOLIC CEMETERIES OF COLUMBUS

Tom Ashire	Joyce Kitzmiller
Theresa Bayes	Aaron McDole
Tim Boggs	Sander Murphy
Tom Burdette	Mark Heble
Bob Everts	Gary Scholer
Brian Everts	Robert Sharkey
Laura Fawcett	Steve Skanner
Rich Finn	Jim VanHorn
Jan Gerst	Chuck Weiner
Ed Jones	Gregg Wright
Kevin Kellen	William (Billy) Wright

Dear Mother of Sorrows (Patron of St. Joseph Cemetery)

St. Joseph Cemetery 6440 S. High St./U.S. Rt. 23 S. Lockbourne, Ohio 43137 614-491-2751	Resurrection Cemetery 9571 N. High St./U.S. Rt. 23 N. Lewis Center, Ohio 43035 614-886-1805	Holy Cross Cemetery 11539 National Rd. S.W./U.S. Rt. 40 E. Palaskala, Ohio 43062 740-927-4442	Mount Calvary c/o St. Joseph Cemetery 614-491-2751
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LET US PRAY

by: MICHELLE LEMIESZ

Director, Office for Divine Worship

Scripture lies at the heart of our liturgy

Sacred Scripture is the lifeblood of the Church, for it is the voice of her Lord. In these ageless words, God has revealed and continues to reveal Himself to His people. These holy words have always been a part of and animated the life of the Church. Initially, Scripture was shared orally through the Apostles and down from generation to generation. As time progressed, the evangelists wrote these stories down, thus ensuring their perpetuity.

The early Church fathers saw Scripture as an encounter with God. St. Jerome (342-419 AD) wrote: "You are reading? No. Your betrothed is talking to you. It is your betrothed, that is, Christ, who is united with you. He tears you away from the solitude of the desert and brings you into his home, saying to you, 'Enter into the joy of your Master.'" While this attitude was prevalent among the great spiritual masters, in time the reading and study of Scripture became relegated to the monastics, clergy, and religious because of illiteracy among the people.

It was the Protestant Reformation, with its battle cry of "Sola Scriptura" (Scripture only), and the consequent translation of the Bible into English by John Wycliffe in the late 14th century that led to the misunderstanding and perception that the Catholic Church valued tradition more than Scripture as the foundation for its teachings. While the reformers' intent (making the Bible readable to the everyday person in the English language) was laudable, their translation of the text was not. It was filled with errors, so much so that not only did Church leaders condemn it, but so did King Henry VIII (prior to his rift with Rome after being refused an annulment)!

For centuries before the Second Vatican Council, the Church had a one-year cycle of epistle and Gospel passages in the Mass, with minimal, if any preaching. The texts read were usually brief and contained none of the Old Testament books or prophets. Father Paul Turner, former president of the North American Academy of Liturgy and a prolific writer in the field of liturgical studies, recently remarked that the greatest accomplishment of the liturgical reform resulting from the council was development of the three-year lectionary which cycles throughout the Gospels.

In the proclamation of Scripture, "[Christ] is present in his word, since it is he himself who speaks when the holy Scriptures are read in the Church" (Sacrosanctum Concilium, 7). The Liturgy of the Word affords us the opportunity to hear Christ speaking to us at this time and in this place; Christ Himself first feeds us through His Word, sharing His thoughts and His desire for us; then, in the Liturgy of the Eucharist, he gives us His very Body and Blood. The Church "unceasingly receives and offers to the faithful the bread of life from the table both of God's word and of Christ's body" (SC, 21).

Liturgical scholar Father Bruce Morrill, SJ, from Boston College, has noted, "The council fathers took the 'intimate connection' (SC, 35) between word and sacrament to a deeper theological and pastorally more nourishing level by raising the role of the proclaimed word in Scripture to a balanced relationship (rather than supporting role) with the Eucharistic rite." Indeed, happy are we who are called to this supper!

Next: Music and the Liturgy

The pope's ring; What is the Divine Office?



QUESTION & ANSWER

by: FATHER KENNETH DOYLE
Catholic News Service

Q. Why do Catholics kiss the pope's ring? Did our Lord walk around with such a ring? I don't know whether our new Pope Francis has had a ring designed for himself. It seems that he is trying to live the simple apostolic life. (For that, he is making news both in Catholic and in secular circles, and it seems that he was sent just at the right time.) (James-town, Ky.)

A. For centuries, popes have worn a ring called the fisherman's ring. It shows an image of Peter, the first pope, marking Peter's original occupation and Christ's invitation to the first apostles to become "fishers of men."

Until 1842, the ring was used to stamp official papal decrees in wax as a sign of their authenticity, a fact reflected in the present-day symbolic destruction of a pope's ring at his death or resignation.

Characteristic of Pope Francis' preference for modesty, the new pope's ring is actually not one newly designed at his election. The wax model for it was created decades ago for Pope Paul VI.

Though a ring itself was never produced at that time, Paul VI's priest-secretary kept the wax model, and sometime later it was cast in gold-plated silver. When he was shown the "leftover" ring, Pope Francis chose it as his own.

Bishops, too, wear a ring that is presented to them in their ordination ceremony as a symbol of their "fidelity to and nuptial bond with the church."

When people kiss a bishop's ring (a practice seen less frequently these days and often replaced by a simple handshake), they are expressing their respect for the bishop's role and responsibility in guiding the church.

Q. I am an 82-year-old woman who lives alone. I would like very much to have a deeper relationship with God.

I pray and meditate on the rosary and, although I have several booklets with devotional prayers in them, those prayers seem to be very short and not enough to

satisfy me. I have heard of the Liturgy of the Hours and the Divine Office, but I am not familiar with them.

Do they require that certain prayers be recited at particular hours in the day? (I still have to run errands, go grocery shopping, etc., and wonder whether I could keep to a specific regulated schedule.) (Albany, N.Y.)

A. The Liturgy of the Hours, the Divine Office and the breviary all refer to the same thing -- namely, an official set of prayers that is required to be recited by members of the Catholic clergy and monastic communities.

Consisting of psalms, hymns, and readings, they are part of the public prayer life of the church and are offered at various times to sanctify the day. The Divine Office has a long history in the church. The earliest Christians tended to continue the Jewish practice of reciting prayers at certain hours of the day and night.

With the reform of Pope Paul VI following the Second Vatican Council, the Liturgy of the Hours consists of morning prayer, daytime prayer (divided into mid-morning, midday or midafternoon), evening prayer, and night prayer.

Monastic communities gather in their chapel at certain times throughout the day, while secular clergy tend to pray the office individually, fitting it at their own convenience into their other pastoral responsibilities.

I admire your desire for a deeper prayer life and encourage your efforts. I believe, though, that to take on the entire Divine Office might become too burdensome for you. What many of the laity have found helpful instead, and what I would recommend, is a publication called *Magnificat* (you can request it via this toll-free telephone number: 1-866-273-5215).

You are mailed a monthly booklet, which, for each day, includes morning prayer, evening prayer, and the Mass texts for that day, together with some brief additional devotional readings.

The entire text can be read and prayed in about 20 minutes, and it can be done at any point in the day, depending on your schedule.

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

Delaware St. Mary Grateful Heart Dinner

An unshaven man with tattered clothing walked into a hotel every day, sheepishly asked for a cup of coffee, and was told to help himself. This went on through the winter.

One day as he came in, the desk clerk noticed the man's hands were so cold his fingers were blue. The clerk offered him a pair of gloves. The man gratefully took them, but asked for a note to carry. He was afraid the police would see him with the gloves and think they were stolen.

After a few months, the man stopped coming in. There was unspoken concern

for what might have become of him. Then one spring day, a clean-cut man came into the hotel. Upon closer examination, the desk clerk recognized him as the homeless man from the winter.

After they exchanged pleasantries, the clerk asked, "What happened?" The man replied, "The people at the St. Vincent de Paul Society from St. Mary Church helped me get an apartment. Once I got the apartment and had an address, I got a job!"

This true story did not happen in the inner city of Columbus or in Cleveland, but in Delaware, Ohio, the county seat of

what is thought to be the wealthiest county in Ohio. The homeless are here. The needy are here.

Inspired by the help this man received, hotel management contacted the St. Vincent de Paul Society and asked if the two organizations could work together on a dinner for the homeless and needy of the county. This happened three weeks before Christmas last year. St. Vincent de Paul Society members were determined to make this happen.

After some emails and phone calls, the society received permission for the event. More emails and phone calls then went out to all the parish organizations at St. Mary's. And so began the inaugural Grateful Heart Dinner, a collaboration of the church and the Best Western Plus Hotel in Delaware.

The Knights of Columbus staffed the kitchen, the youth group took over the decorating, and other volunteers set up tables and prepared gift bags. The atmosphere was one of anticipation of a

great feast that was about to begin.

A large crowd came, and the guests were happy to eat the food and enjoy the friendship. The joy on the faces of the cooks, the servers, and the guests made it clear that all had been touched by something special and God's presence was clearly there. As the volunteers cleaned up at the end of the event, they decided they couldn't wait to do this again.

As a result, the second annual Grateful Heart Dinner, again a collaboration of the parish and the hotel, will take place from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 28, at Beitel Commons in Delaware St. Mary Church, 82 E. William St.

While many organizations provide Thanksgiving and Christmas meals, this event comes as the excitement of the holiday season begins to wind down. For many people, once the gifts are open, Christmas is over, but through giving to others, the spirit of Christmas continues to glow and takes on new meaning.

Father Nimocks receives Bronze Pelican Award

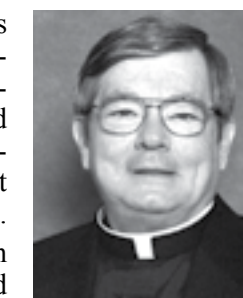
Father Michael Nimocks received the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting's Bronze Pelican award following a Mass he celebrated on Sunday, Dec. 1 at Columbus St. Philip Church.

Father Nimocks, a diocesan priest for 17 years, retired from parish ministry in 2012 after nine years as pastor at Marion St. Mary Church and serves as a weekend assistant at several parishes.

The belated honor came 26 years after he was presented with Catholic Scouting's St. George Award, which usually goes to someone who already has received the Bronze Pelican. The two are the highest honors a diocese may present to adults who have made outstanding contributions to the spiritual development of Catholic youth in Scouting.

The award recognizes the pelican as a symbol of Christ, because a mother pelican is willing to sacrifice for its children to the extent of letting them drink her blood.

Father Nimocks received his St. George Award in 1987 for his work as diocesan Scout chaplain and staff adviser for the diocesan Scout committee. He held these positions from



1984 to 1992, while he was a deacon. During that time, he gave leadership to planning of the annual diocesan Scout retreat and Scout Day With the Bishop.

He also directed development of the Santa Maria religious activity and emblem program, which originally commemorated the 500th anniversary of Christianity coming with Christopher Columbus in 1492 from the Old World to the New World. The program continued annually aboard the Santa Maria replica on the Scioto River in downtown Columbus, until the boat was moved recently because of riverfront development work.

Father Nimocks also gave his leadership to training seminars at several National Catholic Committee on Scouting conferences. As pastor in Marion, he was a strong supporter of the parish's Cub Scout Pack 50 and Boy Scout Troop 50 and hosted the annual diocesan St. Tarcisius religious activity for six years. During that period, Troop 50 was presented the Bishop's Troop award as the diocese's outstanding parish-sponsored Scout troop in four out of five years.

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'WAVE OF PRAYER' TO END WORLD HUNGER SWEEPS OVER NATION'S CAPITAL

By Dennis Sadowski
Catholic News Service

The global "wave of prayer" to eradicate hunger reached the U.S. Capitol, with participants in an interfaith prayer service asking God to guide all people to better see and understand the needs of people living in poverty.

During the noontime service on Tuesday, Dec. 10, many of the prayers focused on government decisionmakers who have targeted various federal food programs, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, for decreased government spending.

"We really need to pray that God will lead members of Congress, our nation's leaders, and the people of this nation to make decisions on this and other issues that will help get us to the end of hunger," said the Rev. David Beckmann, a Lutheran minister and president of the Christian anti-hunger organization Bread for the World.

The wave of prayer was one of hundreds of services that cascaded around the world at noon local time under an initiative of Caritas Internationalis, the Vatican-based federation of Catholic charities. The effort is aimed at prayer and action to relieve hunger around the world through May 2015.

Nearly 50 people crowded into a first-floor meeting room in the Capitol's House wing to recite a prayer developed by Caritas Internationalis. They were joined by three members of Congress: Rep. Rosa DeLauro, D-Conn., Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass., and Rep. David Price, D-N.C.

Several participants offered prayers of thanksgiving for the inspirational words of Pope Francis, who repeatedly has invited the world to reach out and care for people in need in developed and undeveloped nations.

"Let's pray not just as a symbol, but believing that our prayers have power," said the Rev. Jim Wallis, president of Sojourners, who joined the service while in the sixth day of a water-only fast as part of the Fast for Families tent community outside the Capitol on the National Mall. The organization is utilizing prayer, public witness, and fasting in pursuit of comprehensive immigration reform.

The hungry are "part of our family," he prayed. "We lift them up now. We intercede for them and we pray that somehow their stories would reach this place."

"We pray that you help ... us understand that this isn't just politics, it isn't just policy, it isn't about who wins and loses. It's about particular mothers, particular fathers, particular children. It's names we know. So we lift up those names in this place," he said.

Those offering prayers also remembered the plight of undocumented immigrants the world

over, American children who go to school hungry, and the people living in tent camps in war-ravaged Syria and in Haiti, nearly four years after a devastating earthquake.

Sister Marge Clark, BVM, a domestic-issues lobbyist for Network, the Catholic social justice lobby, prayed that low-wage workers receive just compensation for their labor and for their employers to "be struck with a sense of justice."

"May they receive in justice the resources to feed themselves and their families," prayed the member of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The Rev. Gary Cook, a staff member of Bread for the World, asked God for forgiveness as he "confessed our complicity" in decisions that cause hunger in others. "Help us rearrange our priorities so that all may eat," he prayed.

Afterward, McGovern, who is Catholic and co-chairs the hunger caucus in Congress, told Catholic News Service that hunger in the U.S. could end if elected representatives felt it was prudent to do so.

"Hunger is a political condition," he said. "We can solve this problem. All we need is the political will."

He said support for federally funded food and nutrition programs has waned because "critics of these programs create a distortion" by portraying enrollees as criminals or as unwilling to work.

"When you see the face of hunger, it changes you," he said, explaining that he regularly visits hunger centers in his Massachusetts district and has visited poverty-stricken communities worldwide. "When you see a hungry child, it breaks your heart and you can't get it out of your mind. I do think when people see things firsthand they get enlightened."

Across town at the Catholic University of America, the message was much the same as church leaders called on God to inspire government and business leaders to help end global hunger during a prayer service.

Cardinal Donald Wuerl of Washington, a university trustee, led students in prayer at Caldwell Chapel, asking God for assistance in sharing "food with all members in this global family."

"Through your wisdom, inspire leaders of government and of business, as well as all the world's citizens, to find just and charitable solutions to end hunger by assuring that all people enjoy the right to food," Cardinal Wuerl prayed.

Cardinal Sean O'Malley of Boston, Archbishop Joseph Kurtz of Louisville, Ky., president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and university president John Garvey joined the prayer service.



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GEORGE BAILEY AND ST. JOSEPH

By Jake Tawney

Some years ago, Father Peter John Cameron penned a brilliant article in the publication "Magnificat" comparing George Bailey to St. Joseph. For the life of me, I cannot locate the original piece, either in print or online. I have done my best to reproduce Father Cameron's ideas from memory. All credit is his and his alone.

No other movie is associated with the pre-Christmas ramp-up like Frank Capra's *It's a Wonderful Life*. The timelessness of the film is due in large part to its wholesome and Christian values, something often missing in contemporary cinema. Often overlooked, however, is the striking resemblance the main character, George Bailey, has to St. Joseph.

The first parallel is a general heroism. To save the Christ child from Herod's massacre of the Holy Innocents, St. Joseph took his family out of harm's way. As a young boy, George Bailey suffers an ear injury when rescuing his brother, Harry, from drowning. Later in the film, George suffers a beating from his employer rather than

deliver the wrong medicine that had inadvertently been filled with poison. Much like St. Joseph's, George's heroism is a quiet type. It is his brother who plays the part of "town hero," rather than George.

Perhaps the most obvious parallel is that St. Joseph and George Bailey are both in love with a woman named Mary. George is a man filled with plans, hopes, and dreams. He tells Mary, "I know what I'm going to do tomorrow and the next day, and the next year, and the year after that." But things do not work out the way George plans. He never fills his suitcase, never travels the globe, and never makes it out of Bedford Falls. It is reasonable to think that Joseph experienced something similar. Engaged to Mary, he finds her pregnant with a child who is not his. Certainly, Joseph's situation is far from ideal in the life of any Jewish man. George Bailey's desperate plea, "I wish I had never been born," very well could have been on the lips of St. Joseph as he wrestled with his own situation. After all, Joseph's initial reaction was to "divorce Mary quietly."

At the height of personal crisis, both Joseph and George are visited by an angel. In both cases, the angel reveals the crucial role in the "big picture" played by each man. It is a role that can only be fulfilled by abandoning personal ambitions. Clarence, the angel sent to George Bailey, says, "Each man's life touches so many other lives. And when he isn't around, he leaves an awful hole." Not only is this a perfect description of God's providence, it also helps us understand the essential role that Joseph played in salvation history. What would have happened had Joseph decided to divorce Mary in spite of the angel's plea? The "hole" left would have had cosmic consequences.

In the revelation given to George, he comes to realize not only the direct impact he has on his friends and family, but also the "butterfly effect." Critical decisions made by people in George's life could only have been made because of George's influence. Likewise, while Mary's fiat came before Joseph's, we cannot overlook the fact that his decision to take her into his home surely impacted the behavior of the Blessed

Mother and the earthly life of Jesus.

Beyond the parallels with George Bailey, St. Joseph makes an actual appearance in Capra's film. The movie opens with a prayer, "I owe everything to George Bailey. Help him, dear Father. Joseph, Jesus, and Mary. Help my friend Mr. Bailey." The usual order of intercession is, "Jesus, Mary, and Joseph." The script seems to give added emphasis to the intercession of St. Joseph. The plea is effective — it is Joseph who approaches God. God responds, "Trouble, Joseph?" Joseph tells God of George Bailey, and because of his intercession, the angel Clarence is sent to earth to save Mr. Bailey. The scene gives a beautiful witness to the Catholic teaching on intercessory prayer.

After reading Father Cameron's article, I can no longer watch *It's a Wonderful Life* without thinking about St. Joseph. The most-watched Christmas movie of all time provides a nice Advent preparation.

St. Joseph, pray for us.

Jake Tawney is a member of Delaware St. Mary Church.

Interfaith Service

As is true in many cities, Columbus experiences daily violence in its streets. In response, the Columbus Faith Coalition Against Violence has been formed by a group of religious leaders to pray for an end to violence in the city and for those who have been affected by it.

Recognizing that the foundation of true peace is the commitment of each individual to non-violence in his or her thinking, life, and actions, the coalition sponsors a monthly hour of prayer and meditation, open to all and aimed at deepening the personal commitment of those attending to achieve this framework of thinking and living.

The coalition's January prayer service will take place from 6 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 5 in the Corpus Christi Center of Peace, 1111 E. Stewart Ave., Columbus. For additional information, contact vshaulop@gmail.com.



Veterans Day Celebration

Students of Lancaster St. Bernadette School learned how to fold the flag and what each fold means at a Veterans Day assembly. The event began with a prayer, the pledge of allegiance, and the national anthem, and included lunch with veterans and a talk by Master Sgt. Jeffrey Lazar, a 13-year veteran of the Air Force who has served in Operation Enduring Freedom and the global war on terrorism and is the father of a St. Bernadette first-grade student. Photo courtesy St. Bernadette



CHRISTMAS INSPIRES GIVING TO THOSE IN NEED

BY TIM PUET

Reporter, Catholic Times

Pope Francis, on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, prayed that people would never be indifferent to the cries of the poor, the suffering of the sick, the loneliness of the elderly, and the fragility of children. He has delivered and lived that message, which is based on 2,000 years of Catholic social teaching, throughout his nine months in the papacy, in a way that has earned the admiration of both the religious and the secular worlds and recently resulted in his selection as *Time* magazine's person of the year.

It's a message that's followed by social service agencies and individual parishes throughout the Diocese of Columbus every day, particularly at Christmas time, when people are inspired to give to those in need by the example of God's gift of his son to the world for the redemption of sins.

Here is a look at what several of those agencies and parishes are doing this Christmas to provide for the needs of others:

St. Stephen's Community House in Columbus anticipates providing complete holiday dinners to more than 4,000 families this year on

Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 21 and 22, through its Christmas Care-Unions Share program, which has been in existence for more than 60 years with the support of the Central Ohio Labor Council and area schools, businesses, and individuals. More than 2,300 families had registered for the program as of Dec. 10.

In the past, the center had spent about \$35,000 annually to distribute toys as part of the program. This year, the distribution will not take place because of a \$131,000 budget shortfall. However, the center will refer families to other programs where toys are available and will provide transportation to toy distribution sites when necessary.

St. Stephen's development director Renea Williams said earlier reports in other media about the change left some people thinking the food distribution would be canceled. "That's not going to happen," she said. "Food still will be available here, and we are making sure that families will be receiving toys, although they will have to go elsewhere for them. Instead of using our limited resources for toys this year, we used them to ensure families would receive food for the holidays as a way of being good financial stewards."

Catholic Social Services has been providing aid to families in need through the Giving Tree program conducted by its Portsmouth office. Patty Welch of CSS said that in the past, the program has given gifts to more than 1,400 children aged 16 and younger. It also distributes Christmas food baskets to more than 2,800 families.

Welch and her counterparts at other diocesan social service agencies said those numbers are

expected to be higher this year because of cuts in food stamp benefits. This year, CSS collected Wal-Mart gift cards to purchase children's gifts. The agency can use the cards throughout the year for assistance.

CSS in Columbus operates the Our Lady of Guadalupe Center, which serves the Hispanic community by providing emergency food assistance and guidance in acquiring basic needs. In addition, Catholic Social Services is always looking for all types of household items, from toilet tissue to television sets, for its Pathways to Hope and HOME Choice programs.

Pathways works with women and children fleeing domestic violence by moving them into permanent housing and providing intensive case management for up to two years. HOME Choice helps people in nursing homes or other long-term care facilities return to their own homes. For more information on both programs and their needs, go to www.colssc.org and click on the "Christmas Wish List" link.

During December, the **Bishop Griffin Center** at Columbus Christ the King Church is giving all its clients an extra bagful containing meats, desserts, and other items purchased from the Mid-Ohio Foodbank and specifically themed for a holiday meal, in addition to the items they normally would obtain from the center's choice pantry. In addition, center director Lisa Reis said the center's free store has set up a Christmas gift room allowing parents to obtain toys or gifts.

The **Holy Family Soup Kitchen** in Columbus will be celebrating Christmas early with a holiday dinner on Friday, Dec. 20, then will close for its annual holiday break until Monday, Jan. 6. Kitchen director Sharon Wing said the center's clients will receive a list of sites where meals will be available during the Christmas break. "They'll have ample resources to take care of their needs during that time because everybody wants to do something nice during the holidays," she said.

Wing estimates that 400 to 450 people will attend the dinner. She also said the center is passing out 30 holiday baskets to its food pantry clients each day from Dec. 16-20. By early December, she had given parishes names of about 300 families needing help and referred 125 children to the Firefighters for Kids toy program, with many additional referrals to both anticipated.

The diocesan **St. Vincent de Paul Society's** Saturday food distribution program to home-

Left: Sunbury St. John Neumann Church youths with items for the parish Giving Tree. Right: Columbus St. Andrew School sixth-grader Hailey Kertz with shoeboxes which were sent to Operation Christmas Child. Photos courtesy St. John Neumann and St. Andrew churches

bound individuals in parts of Columbus is presenting more than 300 people with an extra bag of holiday items in addition to what they normally would receive on Dec. 14 and 21.

Heather Swiger of the St. Vincent de Paul clothing center in Columbus said it would be distributing coats, blankets, hats, and gloves from 10 a.m. to noon Friday, Dec. 20 and Monday, Dec. 23, with a one-time distribution of gifts for children on Saturday morning, Dec. 21.

The **Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs (JOIN)**, located adjacent to the St. Vincent center, doesn't sponsor a specific Christmas program, but provided food, clothing, and toys to about 300 families at this time last year, said director Ruth Beckman. She said that on the days before Christmas, the JOIN office most likely will be open from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Dec. 20, 23, and 24 and 1 to 2 p.m. Dec. 20 and 23.

"We don't have much here right now, but we'll do what we can," she said in mid-December. "People always seem to come through with things at the last minute." She said the items JOIN needs most continue to be cleaning products, personal items, gift cards, and money to help people with rent payments.

St. Vincent Family Center in Columbus conducts an Adopt-A-Family program each year. This year, it was able to give holiday presents to 700 at-risk children it serves. Coats also were provided to 400 children through donations from three parishes. Families received the items throughout December, with most being distributed on Monday, Dec. 16, said development director Anne Ransone.

Employees in the diocesan office building set

up a Giving Tree to support area homeless veterans and the clients of the Veterans Administration clinic in Columbus. Erin Cordle of the diocesan Office for Social Concerns said the clinic serves 1,500 to 1,700 veterans daily, but is restricted in what it can provide.

For instance, it can't buy coffee or snacks for the clinic hospitality room and can't give homeless veterans underwear, socks, or T-shirts. These are among the items listed on Giving Tree ornaments. Cordle said Columbus Bishop Hartley High School freshmen made about 100 prayer shawls for veterans at the clinic.

Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral decorated its Giving Tree with scrolls requesting gifts for residents of the Bryden Place nursing home and ornaments for JOIN which offered suggestions for gift card donations.

Columbus St. Andrew School sixth-grade students collected 21 boxes filled with toys, school supplies, hygiene items, and accessories, and added personal notes to them. They will be sent to Operation Christmas Child, which will sort them and ship them to needy children in other nations.

High school students from St. Andrew and Columbus Immaculate Conception will take part in a three-day mission trip to the Run the Race Club on Columbus' west side this Friday to Sunday, Dec. 20-22. They will be doing bedroom makeovers for needy children, giving them a bed, a mattress, and warm bedding, as well as painting and decorating their bedrooms and giving families a Christmas dinner. The RCIA class at St. Andrew will help sponsor dinner at the Columbus Open Shelter on Tuesday, Dec. 17.

Sunbury St. John Neumann Church set up a Giving Tree for the neighborhood outreach of Columbus Holy Rosary-St. John Church, serving 200 individuals in more than 40 families.

The youth ministry at **Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church** hosted an annual program for the Run the Race Club on Sunday, Dec. 15, sharing a meal and a visit from Santa, as well as a chance to shop in Santa's gift shop. The parish Giving Tree collected about 1,200 items for nine organizations.

The St. Martin de Porres Outreach Center at **Plain City St. Joseph Church** conducted a Giving Tree program focused on practical gifts and hoped to duplicate last year's collection of more than 4,000 gifts and more than \$2,500 in gift cards, benefiting several charities. The parish also adopted about a dozen families, while the Knights of Columbus purchased children's coats and parish youth groups filled shoeboxes with items to be sent abroad.

Chillicothe St. Peter Church collected 124 shoeboxes filled with gifts for children in a Ugandan orphanage, plus 11 gifts for the or-



Above: The Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs (JOIN), though not mainly a food pantry, stocks emergency items such as infant formula and a limited amount of food. Below: Household items gathered for distribution at the St. Martin de Porres Center in Plain City St. Joseph Church. CT file photo by Ken Snow; photo courtesy St. Joseph Church



phanage pastor and caretakers. The parish Giving Tree benefited 174 people from the Ross County Children Services and Help Me Grow programs and from adult care facilities. One Knights of Columbus council in the parish delivered flowers and handknit gloves to homebound people, while another K of C council donated food vouchers to the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Columbus Our Lady of Victory Church religious education students and Knights of Columbus raised more than \$700 for the diocesan Missions Office and collected donations for people in the Philippines.

Dover St. Joseph Church had a Giving Tree benefiting the local Share-A-Christmas and Birthright programs and planned to have its weekly soup kitchen open on Christmas Day.

Granville St. Edward Church had about 400 tags on its Giving Tree for children and adults,

including homeless men at St. Vincent Haven in Newark. The parish's RCIA and its women's group put together "baskets of love" for Catholic Social Services in Licking County.

Marion St. Mary Church helped 125 families with Christmas food baskets through its St. Vincent de Paul Society, and aided six nursing home residents, as well as needy families and children from the local Clearing House, through its Giving Tree.

Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas Church began a season of giving with parishioners bringing food gifts to the Thanksgiving Day Mass, followed by arrival of a Giving Tree on the first Sunday of Advent. The Rosary-Altar Society provided poinsettias to the homebound.

Buckeye Lake Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church's Giving Tree helped 45 families and 117 children.





Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone exemplifies the spiritual outdoor cathedrals in evidence throughout the national parks in the American West.

By Aaron Leventhal

It is still possible to experience unspoiled wilderness in America. For your next vacation, consider forgoing a chaotic and often expensive trip to a city destination for the exquisite natural beauty and tranquility found in the national parks of the American West.

This past September, my wife, Beth, and I flew from Columbus to Kalispell, Mont., near the Canadian border, rented a car, and for nine days explored Glacier, Yellowstone, and the Grand Tetons.

Our 1,000-mile journey took us through the rugged Rocky Mountains, where we saw immense canyons, thermal geysers, pristine lakes, waterfalls, rushing rivers, colorful wildflowers, and an abundance of wildlife from bison and bears to bighorn sheep and wild eagles. It was a spiritual experience never to be forgotten.

We dined on delicious fresh lake trout, beef, and bison, as well as fresh local fruits and vegetables. We hiked well-marked mountain trails, took a guided float trip down the Snake River, played golf, and had the option of dozens of other popular outdoor pastimes including biking, boating, kayaking, horseback riding, and fishing. In the winter, downhill and cross country skiing, snowboarding, and snowmobiling reign supreme.

More than three million tourists descend on these national parks annually. Avoid the crowds by visiting from mid-May to mid-June, or after Labor Day un-

National Parks

GLACIER, YELLOWSTONE, AND GRAND TETONS NATIONAL PARKS:
A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE AWAITS THE ADVENTUROUS

til early October, when the autumn foliage is in full bloom.

Lodging at the parks is under the authority of the National Park Service and managed by Xanterra Parks and Resorts. Most of the historic lodges are in wooded surroundings and have a rustic Old West ambiance. Comfortable common areas often have overstuffed couches, chairs, and massive stone fireplaces. The lodges are on the pricey side, but provide value with their scenic charm, central locations, and excellent dining rooms. Book early, since lodge accommodations usually are sold out by April.

Glacier National Park, established in 1910, is noted for its extraordinary mountain scenery and was home to the Blackfoot Indians for more than a millennium. We stayed at Lake McDonald Lodge on the eastern shores of Lake McDonald (406-892-2525). Scenic boat cruises depart daily from the lodge dock, and Glacier's famed, historic red buses take visitors on four-hour scenic interpretive tours along Going to the Sun Road, a 50-mile paved highway designated a national historic landmark. The beautifully restored 1930s vehicles have rollback canvas tops, giving all 17 passengers excellent views of the spectacular mountain scenery along winding, steep passes.

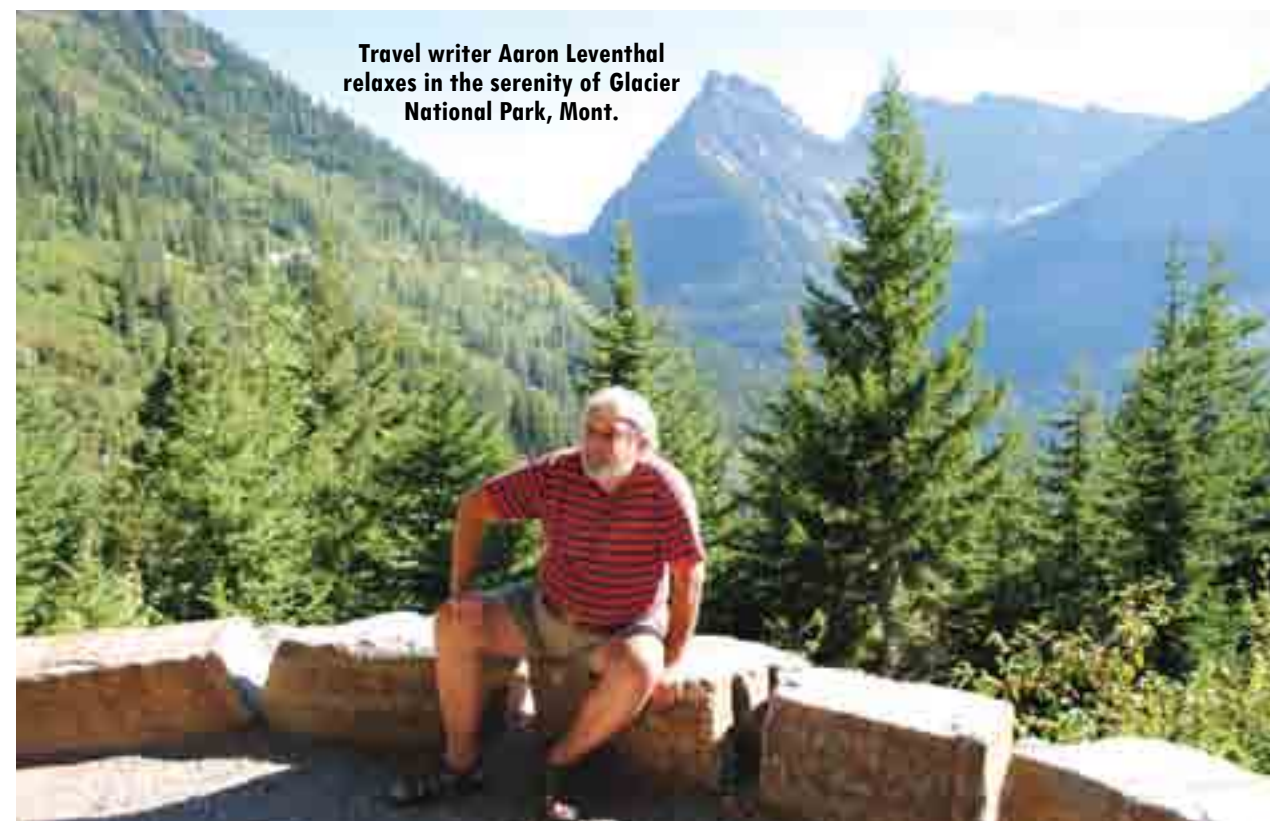
We particularly enjoyed our short hike at Trail of the

Cedars, where towering 200-foot trees have flourished for more than 1,000 years. Glacier is linked to the Canadian Watson Lakes National Park and is officially known as the International Peace Park World Heritage Site, with more than 1,200 species of plants highlighting the biological diversity of the region.

Recommendations for dining in and near the park include the historic 1891 Belton Tap Room, Two Sisters Cafe, the Isaac Walton Inn, and Russell's Fireside Dining Room at Lake McDonald Lodge.

After three days in Glacier, we left for a 500-mile drive through absolutely gorgeous natural scenic landscape to Yellowstone National Park. We made a brief stop in Missoula, Mont., for lunch at the Catalyst Cafe, a popular local hangout. The historic town center is enlivened by art galleries, boutiques, restaurants, and cafes, and we met residents who had been drawn here from across the nation by the area's clean water and air and abundance of outdoor activities such as skiing, biking, and hiking.

Yellowstone National Park, in the northwestern corner of Wyoming, has the distinction of being the first national park in the world. The park is gigantic, with more than two million acres, so plan to stay a minimum of three days to just scratch the surface of this American icon.



Travel writer Aaron Leventhal relaxes in the serenity of Glacier National Park, Mont.

Half the world's geothermal features and two-thirds of the world's geysers are concentrated in Yellowstone. The most popular and famous geyser in the park is Old Faithful, erupting approximately every 90 minutes to heights of as much as 180 feet. A short hike up Observation Point Trail provides a panoramic view of the geyser basin. Nearby Mammoth Hot Springs and Mystic Falls Trail are worthy of exploration.

Don't miss the breathtaking sights of Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, with a 1,400-foot trail to the roaring river below. There are more than 1,000 miles of hiking trails throughout the park, and other popular outdoor activities include fishing, boating, sightseeing, and wildlife viewing. The early morning hours and late afternoon provide the best chance to see bison and elk herds, bighorn sheep, moose, black bears, and an occasional grizzly.

Stay at the historic Old Faithful Inn (866-439-7375). Built in the early 1900s with local timber and stone, it is steps away from the famed geyser, and the American fare in its dining room is excellent. The inn also offers complimentary guided tours for a glimpse of the experiences of early explorers.

We stayed for a night in Cody, Wyo., about a 90-minute drive east of the park. This vibrant Western town is home to the Buffalo Bill Historical Center, a Smithsonian affiliate. Through innovative technology, video, and fine art, the museum documents the life and times of the legendary buffalo hunter William F. Cody, who attained worldwide celebrity status with his touring Wild West show. We stayed at the charming, historic Chamberlin Inn (888-587-0202), just around the corner from Sheridan Avenue, the town's main street with half a dozen blocks of souvenir shops, art and antiques galleries, restaurants, and cafes. Dining recommendations include Peter's Cafe and Bakery, Wyoming's Rib and Chop House, and Shiki Japanese Restaurant.

Heading back through Yellowstone, a 200-mile drive took us southwest to the Grand Tetons National Park in Wyoming. Established by Congress in 1929, the park offers more than 96,000 acres of majestic mountain ranges, valleys, rivers, lakes, and abundant plant and wildlife.

Our Columbus friends Rick and Peggy Kaplan, who have a second home in Jackson Hole, provided us with an



Scenic boat tour on Jenny Lake in the Grand Tetons National Park Photos by Beth Ervin Leventhal

excellent orientation prior to our departure. Exploring the park and the culture and dining in Jackson Hole turned out to be the highlight of our trip.

We stayed at The Hostel (307-733-4515) in Teton Village, just outside the park. If you can accept Spartan accommodations, this rustic 1960s inn, with exceptional mountain views, is a great bargain alongside some of the swankiest ski resorts in the nation. A short stroll from The Hostel to the Mangy Moose Restaurant and Saloon provides a great night of dining and live music. The aerial tram in Teton Village offers sensational views from a 13,000-foot mountain summit.

Barker-Ewing Float Trips (800-365-1800) follow a scenic course down the Snake River through 10 miles of spectacular wilderness. For three hours, Grant Bishop expertly steered our large rubber raft through rushing rapids past dense woodlands and green valleys dominated by the towering Tetons as he explained the ecosystem and pointed out wildlife and natural features.

Jenny Lake Boat Co. (307-733-9227) offers hour-long scenic boat trips several times daily. Our guide Kyle shared the area's history and personal stories as our boat passed some of the most beautiful scenery on Planet Earth. We learned how glaciers from the surrounding young, peaked mountains carved out the lush valley about 12,000 years ago. Inside the park, Jenny Lake Lodge (800-628-9988) is the ultimate, but expensive, mountain resort.

The most popular of dozens of hiking

trails include Colter Bay's Lakeshore Trail (two miles) along Jackson Lake, Hidden Falls and Inspiration Point Trail (1.8 to 5.8 miles) at Jenny Lake, and the challenging Signal Mountain Summit Trail (eight miles) for incredible mountain vistas.

The National Museum of Wildlife Art (800-313-9553) proved to be our favorite cultural experience. This exquisite architectural gem is on a hillside overlooking the National Elk Refuge, and the internationally acclaimed collection of more than 5,000 works includes art by masters such as John J. Audubon, Charlie Russell, and Georgia O'Keeffe. Its Rising Sage Cafe is a charming setting for lunch.

We found Jackson to be a hip, vibrant resort community. In fact, *Ski* magazine recently named it the No. 1 ski resort in the nation. Third Thursday is an art enthusiast's dream, with more than 25 galleries, many near Jackson's Downtown Square, holding receptions and openings from 5 to 8 p.m. We especially enjoyed the collections at the Brookover, Tayloe Piggett, Grand Teton, and Rare galleries.

For dining, we highly recommend the Bunnery for sumptuous breakfasts; Bubba's Bar-B-Q for beef brisket and ribs; Lotus Cafe, popular for organic, gluten-free and vegan specialties; and Nami's Cucina Italiana for memorable, authentic dishes from 20 regions.

Columbus-based travel writer Aaron Leventhal occasionally organizes and leads small group trips. Check it out at LeventhalTravel.com.

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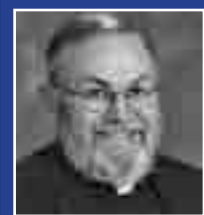
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Fourth Sunday of Advent (Cycle A)

Two signs containing divine communications



Father Lawrence L. Hummer

Isaiah 7:10-14
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-24

The Isaiah reading comes to us from the eighth century BC. In 735 BC, Syria (also called Aram biblically) and the Northern Kingdom, Israel (sometimes called Ephraim), joined an alliance to try to resist the growing threat of Assyria (modern-day Iraq, more or less). The kingdom of Judah under King Ahaz refused to join with Syria and Israel's alliance, which then turned against Judah.

The prophet Isaiah supported King Ahaz in his resistance to the alliance and encouraged Ahaz to stand firm. The greater common enemy was Assyria, and many in Judah were shocked that Ahaz refused to join with the northern kingdom of Israel in the alliance with Syria.

One could almost glance at today's alignments in the Middle East and just as easily understand the positions pro and con for modern Israel to go this way or that. History has never been easy to understand in the Middle East, and things are as complicated today (but not necessarily more so) as they were in 735 BC.

Ahaz was worried about the attempt by Israel and Syria to war against him, but Isaiah said to stay the course. Do not give in. Resist them because the Lord is with Judah in this struggle. This is all background for Sunday's section in which the Lord speaks again to Ahaz through Isaiah.

"Ask for a sign from the Lord your God; let it be deep as the netherworld or high as the sky!" The invitation to ask for a sign is offered to bolster Ahaz, who seems to be wavering on whether to continue the resistance to Syria/Israel's alliance. Ahaz refuses to ask for a sign: "I will not tempt the Lord." Isaiah grows impatient, accusing him of wearying not only the people, but God.

Isaiah says, "You will get a sign anyway. Behold, the young woman will bear a son, and you shall name him 'Emmanuel.'" In Hebrew, the name is "Immanuel." "Emmanuel" comes from the Greek translation of the Hebrew. The name becomes a reminder of the reality — namely, that God is with us. Indeed, God will always be with us, as promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob forever.

In Matthew's Gospel, we see a number of other Old Testament devices employed by Matthew in connection with the birth of Jesus. Unique to Matthew is the problem Joseph, her husband, weighs after Mary is found to be pregnant. He is a "righteous" man (knowing the child is not his), but "unwilling to expose her to shame." The law called for him to divorce her (Deuteronomy 22:20-21). Joseph was torn by what the law required and by whatever unknown motivations drove him. Many pious attempts have tried to fill in what Matthew never says.

Like his Old Testament counterpart, Joseph was the recipient of dreams, here courtesy of an angel of the Lord. Joseph is identified as "son of David." Joseph is told that Mary's pregnancy is through the Holy Spirit and that he should not be afraid to take her into his home as his wife. In the Old Testament, dreams often contained divine communications. This is regarded in the same way.

Matthew then uses a "fulfillment citation" by quoting Isaiah 7:14, in which the Greek word "virgin" is used for the "young woman" in the Hebrew text. This

means that Matthew probably used the Greek translation of the Old Testament (called the *Septuagint*). This text of Isaiah helped Matthew establish here at the outset of the birth of the Messiah that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Prophets (and the Law), as Jesus himself will later claim (Matthew 5:17).

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

Director of Religious Education

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Buckeye Lake, Ohio

This is a part-time position (20 hours per week) and does not offer insurance/health benefits.

Responsibilities for this position include coordination of the PSR program (Pre-K through Grade 12), Vacation Bible School Program, Sacramental preparation, Children's Liturgy of the Word, and assist with the Youth Ministry program.

Applicant must have either a Bachelor's Degree in Theology or equivalent catechist's certification. Position effective July 1, 2014. Resumé deadline is January 17, 2014. Applicants may submit their resúmes to:

Father William Ferguson/Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church
 PO Box 45 • 5133 Walnut Rd., Buckeye Lake, Ohio 43008
 e-mail: olmc@midohio.twcbc.com

The Weekday Bible Readings

MONDAY
 Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24
 Psalm 25:4bc-5ab, 8-10, 14
 Luke 1:57-66

TUESDAY (Vigil)
 Isaiah 62:1-5
 Psalm 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29
 Acts 13:16-17, 22-25
 Matthew 1:1-25

WEDNESDAY (Midnight)
 Isaiah 9:1-6
 Psalm 96:1-3, 11-13
 Titus 2:11-14
 Luke 2:1-14

THURSDAY
 Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59
 Psalm 31:3d-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc-17
 Matthew 10:17-22

FRIDAY
 1 John 1:1-4
 Psalm 97:1-2, 5, 6, 11-12
 John 20:1a, 2-8

SATURDAY
 1 John 1:5-2:2
 Psalm 124:2-5, 7c-8
 Matthew 2:13-18

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE WEEK OF DECEMBER 22, 2013

SUNDAY MASS
 10:30 a.m. Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio (820 AM), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com. Mass with the Passionist Fathers at 7:30 a.m. on WWHO-TV (the CW), Channel 53, Columbus. Check local cable system for WWHO's cable channel listing.
 Mass from Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, Birmingham, Ala., at 8 a.m. on EWTN (Time Warner Channel 385, Insight Channel 382, or WOW Channel 378) (Encores at noon, 7 p.m., and midnight).
 Mass from Kenton Immaculate Conception Church at 10 a.m. on Time Warner Cable Channel 6 (Hardin County).
 Mass from Portsmouth St. Mary Church at noon on Time Warner Channel 24 in Scioto County.

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

We pray Week IV (Sun-Tues) and Sanctoral and Seasonal Propers of the Liturgy of the Hours

What Can We Do to Help Those of Little Faith Believe in Christmas?

It seems that every year, Christmas seems to lose some of its meaning in a modern world obsessed with shopping sales and endless store hours that often have little to do with the true meaning of Christmas. However, this only means we have more of an opportunity to show those around us, especially those who see little of the spiritual side of Christmas, the season's true meaning. Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega (the beginning and the end). He holds all that is true, which is hard to see for a world that all too often doesn't believe there are ultimate truths.

This alone might jog the mind or conscience of those who can't fathom such a thing. Too many times, we look at ourselves and think "How can little old me rattle the conscience of my know-it-all nephew, niece, daughter, son, aunt, uncle, husband, wife, etc.?" We don't have to be theologians or Bible thumpers. We simply have to approach the subject with honesty, charity, and the truth. In many instances, disbelief, even militant disbelief, is a facade for emptiness and a longing for something deeper.

I have met many folks in person and through emails who have told me that someone along the way really rattled their conscience with a statement, book, website, or column that made them think about the true meaning of life, and, ultimately, about Christmas. Their return to the Church was accomplished by



THE TIDE IS TURNING TOWARD CATHOLICISM David Hartline

people who by and large never knew the good works they had accomplished. The overwhelming majority of times it wasn't some theologian, but rather the simple direction of someone the disbeliever respected and trusted.

We only need look at the historical events of Christmas to understand. For example, until very recently in the modern age, even many theologians had a hard time with the existence of the Star of Bethlehem. Then, as if on cue, and right out of the Bible story itself, something miraculous happened -- computer technology. Astrological computer programs could look into the ancient nighttime sky. Sure enough, around the birth of Christ, a conjunction of planets occurred which was so rare it surely would have viewed with great astonishment in the Middle East.

The Zoroastrian people who lived in present-day Iran and Iraq would have seen this conjunction as a

once-in-a millennium event. Magi would certainly have set out to greet this majestic child. Imagine their utter shock when they found him in a manger. You can't make this stuff up, and yet that is exactly what many people thought, even some in the religious world. It is as if Jesus was proving one of his sayings about hiding truth from the high and mighty and letting it be revealed and believed by the lowly (Matthew 11:25-30).

Who knows what other truths might soon be revealed, or revealed again, to a world so caught up in its own intellect and ego and yet spending little time in humility to understand God's ways and truths? Sadly, we all know folks, maybe even close family and friends, who scoff at the Church's teachings and subtly question our intellect for living a life of faith.

This Christmas season, let us go about preaching and teaching the Way of Christ, using whatever means we have at our disposal. If all else fails, we can use the exhortation of St. Francis of Assisi: "Preach the Gospel at all times and use words if absolutely necessary."

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

Girl Scout Carolers



Junior Girl Scouts of Troop 2381, all fourth-grade students from Columbus Trinity Elementary School, sang Christmas songs to residents of First Community Village in Columbus earlier this month. Pictured are (from left) Bella Gournou, Nicole Bond, Nora Hackman, Olivia Huey, Abigail O'Toole, and Abby Iannitto. Photo courtesy Nick Iannitto



HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

Mass Schedule

The Nativity of Our Lord

Christmas Vigil	5:00 PM & 7:00 PM— English Mass 12:00 Midnight— English Mass 12:00 Midnight— Tridentine Latin Mass <i>Sacred Heart Church 893 Hamlet St., Columbus</i>
Christmas Day	9:00 AM Missa in Die—Latin 11:00 AM Mass—English

Feast of Mary, Mother of God

Tuesday, December 31
 Vigil: 5:00 PM—English Mass

Wednesday, January 1, 2014

9:00 AM	Latin Mass
11:00AM	English Mass

584 West Broad Street All Welcome! Lighted Parking & Security

Pray for our dead

ALLISON, Patricia A., 65, Dec. 4
St. Patrick Church, Junction City

BARRETT, Nancy L., 79, Dec. 11
St. Mary Church, Groveport

COREY, Paul A., 87, Dec. 11
St. Peter Church, Columbus

ERDY, Helen E., 88, Dec. 13
Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus

FERGUSON, Cheryl, 62, Dec. 9
St. Philip Church, Columbus

GAYNARD, John C., 65, Dec. 11
St. Patrick Church, London

GUGEL, Raymond C., 85, formerly of Columbus, Dec. 12
Our Lady of Grace Church, Noblesville, Ind.

HOLSINGER, Perry L., 91, Dec. 9
St. Catharine Church, Columbus

McCANN, Richard P., 89, Dec. 11
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

McCARREN, RoseMarie, 86, Dec. 6
St. Elizabeth Church, Columbus

MIKOLAJCIK, Dr. Emil "Mike," 87, Dec. 11
St. Timothy Church, Columbus

MITCHELL, James R., 77, Dec. 8
St. Stephen Church, Columbus

NAU, Virginia, Dec. 9
St. Mary Church, Columbus

PANZONE, Violet M., 89, Dec. 10
Our Lady of Peace Church, Columbus

PENCE, Mary P., 93, Dec. 12
St. Aloysius Church, Columbus

RALSTON, Dorothea L., 88, Dec. 9
Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus

SCHERER, George E., 85, Nov. 15
St. Monica Church, New Boston

Sister Mary Peter Sterwerf, OSF

Funeral Mass for Sister Mary Peter Sterwerf, OSF, 83, who died Wednesday, Dec. 11, was held Monday, Dec. 16 at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Francis in Oldenburg, Ind. Burial was in the sisters' cemetery.

She was born Feb. 7, 1930 in Hamilton to Joseph and Freda (Fallert) Sterwerf.

She joined the Franciscan order on Sept. 5, 1948, and made her final vows on Aug. 12, 1954.

She spent two separate periods totaling 32 years at Chillicothe St. Peter School and Church. From 1986 until her return to the Motherhouse in 2011, she was the parish's pastoral assistant, developing programs to evangelize to the elderly, the homebound, and

the hospitalized, and providing needy children and nursing home residents with Christmas gifts.

She was director of the Parish School of Religion, treasurer of the parish St. Vincent de Paul Society, served on the local Habitat for Humanity board, spent 15 years as secretary for the Ross County Ministerial Association, and was a hospital and hospice chaplain. Earlier, she was a teacher and principal for 36 years at Chillicothe and in schools in Ohio, Indiana, and Missouri.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Father Walter Sterwerf, Ralph, Russell, and Harold; and sisters, Ruth Hoelle and Janet Abbott.

of buildings. He became superintendent on June 1, 2005. He also was a member of the Knights of Columbus.

He was preceded in death by his father, Edward. Survivors include his mother, Anna Marie; wife, Pamela; daughter, Erin (Jonathan) Bailey; brothers, Edward (Rosalie), Michael, Terrance (Lisa), James (Jodie), and Daniel (Tamara); and sisters, Cathy (Robert) Johnson and Maureen (Chris) Lubic.

Sister Rita Greene, OSF

Funeral Mass for Sister Rita Greene, OSF, 94, who died Sunday, Dec. 8, was held Friday, Dec. 13 at the Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, Ill. Burial was at Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, Ill.

She was born in Columbus to Michael and Helen (Scheiblich) Greene, was a member of Columbus Holy Rosary Church, attended Columbus St. John the Evangelist School and Columbus Rosary High School, graduated from St. Francis Academy in Joliet, and earned a bachelor of arts degree at the College of St. Francis in Joliet and a master of fine arts degree from the Catholic University of America. She did postgraduate work at the Art Institute of Chicago, Siena Heights College in Adrian, Mich., and the University of Florence in Italy.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Michael, James, Jerome, and Joseph; and sisters, Helen Terrill, Lydia Greene, and Luella Trumball. She is survived by a sister, Patricia (William) Sorenson.

St. Francis of Mary Immaculate for 77 years. She taught at schools in Illinois from 1940-54 and was part of the art department at the College of St. Francis from 1954-76. She started the art department at Bishop Baumgartner School in Guam in 1976, then came back to the United States in 1979, teaching art at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Romeoville and becoming coordinator of the art program at the Franciscan Learning Center in Joliet. In 1981, she returned to Guam, where she taught art and served as media center director at Father Dueñas High School in Agana until 2002.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Michael, James, Jerome, and Joseph; and sisters, Helen Terrill, Lydia Greene, and Luella Trumball. She is survived by a sister, Patricia (William) Sorenson.



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DECEMBER

19, THURSDAY

Advent Quiet Morning at Corpus Christi Center of Peace 9:15 to 10:30 a.m., Corpus Christi Center of Peace, 1111 E. Stewart Ave., Columbus. Advent quiet morning, featuring reflections on "Preparing for Christmas" by Father Richard Rohr. **614-512-3731**

19-23, THURSDAY-MONDAY

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 beginning Dec. 15. This year's celebration features various Fatima groups from the diocese presenting different programs each night. The Dec. 23 program will be followed by a potluck at the former Salesian Center, 80 S. 6th St.

21, 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

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 Deacon Steve DeMers at 614-224-6530 or 800-511-0584.

'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

confession. **614-565-8654**
Winter Solstice Labyrinth Walk at Shepherd's Corner 7 to 8:30 p.m., Shepherd's Corner Ecology Center, 987 N. Waggoner Road, Blacklick. Labyrinth walk to celebrate winter solstice, facilitated by yoga instructor Joy Lawrence. Registration deadline Dec. 19. **614-866-4302**

21-22, SATURDAY-SUNDAY

Nativity Exhibit at Jubilee Museum 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Holy Family Jubilee Museum, 57 S. Grubb St., Columbus. "Mangers at the Museum" exhibit of nearly 100 Nativity sets, including the largest set of Fontanini figures in the United States. Also open Dec. 25 at noon, weekdays by appointment and Dec. 28 and 29 and Jan. 4 and 5 at Saturday and Sunday times. Closed Dec. 24 and 31 and Jan. 1. **614-461-6204**

22, SUNDAY

St. Catherine of Bologna Secular Franciscans 2:30 to 5 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Church, 386 Buttles Ave., Columbus. Rosary, Liturgy of the Hours, followed by general meeting, ongoing formation, and social. Elizabeth Bowen, OFS **614-276-1953**
Lessons and Carols at New Philadelphia Sacred Heart 3 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 139 3rd St. N.E., New Philadelphia. Advent service of lessons and carols. **330-343-6976**
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**
Lessons and Carols at Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes 6 p.m., Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 1033 W. 5th St., Marysville. Lessons and carols service for Fourth Sunday of Advent. **937-644-6020**

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

23, MONDAY

Bethesda Post-Abortion Healing Ministry 6:30 p.m., support group meeting, 2744 Dover Road, Columbus (Christ the King convent, first building west of the church). **614-718-0277, 614-309-2651, 614-309-0157**
Our Lady of Peace Men's Bible Study 7 p.m., Our Lady of Peace Church, 20 E. Dominion Blvd., Columbus. Bible study of Sunday Scripture readings. **614-459-2766**

24, TUESDAY

'Blue Christmas' Mass at Newman Center 8 p.m., St. Thomas More Newman Center, 64 W. Lane Ave., Columbus. "Blue Christmas" mass, a traditional Christmas Eve liturgy designed to be more quiet and reflective for people who do not feel joy during the holiday season. **614-291-4674**

Midnight Mass with Bishop at Cathedral 11 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Seasonal music with the Cathedral Choir and Brass, followed by midnight Mass celebrated by Bishop Frederick Campbell. **614-241-2526**

26, THURSDAY

Franciscan Associates Community Dinner at Logan 5 to 6:30 p.m., St. Paul Episcopal Church, 375 E. Main St., Logan. Community dinner with all the Christmas trimmings, hosted by Franciscan Associates of St. John Church. **740-385-2549**

H A P P E N I N G S

'Courage' Support Group Meeting

7:30 p.m., A Catholic organization providing support for individuals with same-sex attractions. Mary Louise **614-436-8676**

28, 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. **614-565-8654**
Grateful Heart Dinner at Delaware St. Mary Noon to 3 p.m., Beitel Commons, St. Mary Church, 82 E. William St., Delaware. Second annual Grateful Heart Dinner, a post-Christmas event for all in the community who would like to have a meal. **740-363-4641**

29, SUNDAY

Praise Mass at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal 11 a.m., Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 5225 Refugee Road, Columbus. Praise Mass with upbeat contemporary music. **614-861-1242**
Watterson Alumni Basketball Tournament Noon, Bishop Watterson High School, 99 E. Cooke Road, Columbus. Shay Basketball Tournament for school's alumni. Includes men's and women's brackets. Register at www.bishopwatterson.com.
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**
Spanish Mass at Columbus St. Peter 7 p.m., St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road, Columbus. Mass in Spanish. **706-761-4054**
Evening of Faith Concert at Holy Redeemer 7 p.m., Holy Redeemer Church, 1325 Gallia St., Portsmouth. Evening of Faith concert with soloist Faith Esham, area musicians, and Holy Redeemer choirs. **740-354-2716**

JANUARY

3, FRIDAY

St. Cecilia Adoration of Blessed Sacrament St. Cecilia Church, 434 Norton Road, Columbus. Begins after 8:15 a.m. Mass; continues to 5 p.m. Saturday.
Monthly Adoration of Blessed Sacrament Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 5225 Refugee Road, Columbus. Begins after 9 a.m. Mass; continues through 6 p.m. Holy Hour.
Angelic Warfare Confraternity at Columbus St. Patrick 7 to 9 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Monthly meeting of Angelic Warfare Confraternity, with talk on chastity-related issues followed by Holy Hour. **614-224-9522**

All-Night Eucharistic Vigil Holy Cross Church, 205 S. 5th St., Columbus. 7:30 p.m. Mass; Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament; prayer until 11:30 p.m.; private prayer until 7:30 p.m. Saturday.
All-Night Exposition at Our Lady of Victory Our Lady of Victory Church, 1559 Roxbury Road, Columbus. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8 p.m. until Mass at 8 a.m. Saturday, sponsored by church's Knights of Columbus council and Columbus Serra Club.

4, SATURDAY

Mary's Little Children Prayer Group Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 5225 Refugee Road, Columbus. 8:30 a.m., confessions, 9 a.m., Mass, followed by Fatima prayers and Rosary (Shepherds of Christ format); 10 a.m., meeting. **614-861-4888**

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. **614-565-8654**

Centering Prayer Group Meeting at Corpus Christi 10:30 a.m. to noon, Corpus Christi Center of Peace, 1111 E. Stewart Ave., Columbus. Centering prayer group meeting, beginning with silent prayer, followed by Contemplative Outreach DVD and discussion. **614-512-3731**

Filipino Mass at Holy Cross

7:30 p.m., Holy Cross Church, 204 S. 5th St., Columbus. Monthly Mass in the Tagalog language for members of the Filipino Catholic community. **614-224-3416**

5, SUNDAY

Exposition at Church of the Resurrection Our Lady of the Resurrection Chapel, Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road, New Albany. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, beginning with procession into chapel following 11 a.m. Mass and continuing to 5 p.m. **614-933-9318**

Mass at Holy Cross to Open Cum Christo Anniversary 2:30 p.m., Holy Cross Church, 204 S. 5th St., Columbus. Mass to open 50th anniversary celebration of Cum Christo movement in Columbus. **614-221-1809**

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**

Interfaith Service at Corpus Christi 6 to 7 p.m., Corpus Christi Center of Peace, 1111 E. Stewart Ave., Columbus. Monthly interfaith prayer service sponsored by Columbus Faith Coalition Against Violence. **614-443-2828**

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

Compline at Cathedral 9 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Chanting of Compline. **614-241-2526**

6, MONDAY

Epiphany Mass at St. Leo 7 p.m., St. Leo Church, 221 Hanford St., Columbus. Special Mass for the Feast of the Epiphany, celebrated by Father Michael Hinterschied. **614-444-8353**

7, TUESDAY

Catholic War Veterans Monthly Meeting 7 p.m., Red Room, St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road, Columbus. Catholic War Veterans Post 1936 meeting. For those who served at least three months, were honorably discharged or are on active duty. **614-221-7601**

Abortion Recovery Network Group 7 p.m., Pregnancy Decision Health Center, 665 E. Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus. Abortion recovery network group meeting for anyone interested in recovering from abortion or who has been through a recovery program and wants to stay connected. **614-444-4411**



MANGERS AT THE MUSEUM

The Jubilee Museum and Catholic Cultural Center continues the tradition of displaying its many Nativity sets for others to enjoy. Recent acquisitions include a bronze set of the Holy Family from France, a beautiful Patterino nativity from Italy, and an English set of illuminated and initialed plates that spell out "Christ-

mas." Weekend hours are Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. Visitors may come to see the Nativity displays, take a tour of the museum, or both. For weekday tours, please email or call for available hours. Contact Linda Hamilton at jubileemuseum1@gmail.com or call (614) 221-4323, extension 211.



THE NUTCRACKER

Twenty-three young people from diocesan parishes performed in Ballet Met's annual Christmas production of *The Nutcracker* at the Ohio Theater this month.

They are (from left): first row, Ally Fries, daughter of Jody and Tom Fries (Columbus St. Agatha), Matt Rees, son of Jeff and Michele Rees (Columbus Holy Spirit), Isabelle Lapierre, daughter of James and Maria Lapierre (St. Agatha), and Claire O'Brien, daughter of Tom and Amy O'Brien (Columbus Our Lady of Victory); second row, Hannah Dilley, daughter of Greg and Julie Dilley (Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help), Kate Fields, daughter of John and Kim Fields (Columbus Immaculate Conception), Anna Grillo, daughter of Tim and Mary Grillo (Our Lady of Victory), Lauren Jasen, daughter of Michael and Patty Jasen (Our Lady of Victory), and Emma Smith, daughter of Kevin and Mary Smith (Our Lady of Perpetual Help); third row, Lily Rosati Yoos, daughter of Robert and Christine Rosati Yoos (Columbus Our Lady of Peace), Clara Grillo, daughter of Tim and Mary Grillo (Our Lady of Victory), Kristin M. Bricker, daughter of John and Tilde Bricker (Columbus St. Patrick), Katie Alexander, daughter of Thomas and Arlene Alexander (St. Agatha), Elizabeth Hudelson, daughter of Betsy and Dave Hudelson (St. Patrick), and Ashley Forche, daughter of Rob and Alison Forche (Reynoldsburg St. Pius X); fourth row, Michaela Adkins, daughter of Mark and Sally Adkins (St. Patrick), Sidney Flynn, daughter of Michael Flynn and Diane Hoenig (Sunbury St. John Neumann), Carly Griffith, daughter



of Kevin and Julie Griffith (St. Agatha), Lucy Horner, daughter of Bruce Horner and Kathleen Tully (St. Patrick), Addie Wolfe, daughter of Jim and Linda Wolfe (Columbus St. Christopher), Flora Carey, daughter of Erika Carey and Chris Carey (Immaculate Conception), Kathryn O'Sullivan, daughter of Mike and Michelle

O'Sullivan (Columbus St. Andrew), and Morgan Sheehan, daughter of Barbara and Dan Sheehan (Powell St. Joan of Arc); not pictured, Claire Sinard, daughter of James and Susannah Sinard (St. Joan of Arc), and Lydia Wolf, daughter of Julia Wolf (St. Pius X).

Photo by Ballet Met

NEWS IN PHOTOS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



The Vatican Christmas tree glows after a lighting ceremony in St. Peter's Square on Dec. 13. CNS photo/Paul Haring



Children in St. Peter's Square hold up figurines of the baby Jesus as Pope Francis leads the Angelus at the Vatican on Dec. 15. Children observed an annual tradition by bringing their Nativity figurines for the pope to bless. CNS photo/Tony Gentile, Reuters



Displaced people take shelter inside a Catholic church in Bangui, Central African Republic, on Dec. 11. Recent interreligious violence has caused thousands of people to take refuge in Bangui's churches and parish buildings. The fighting has left hundreds of people dead. CNS photo/Sam Phelps, Reuters



BISHOP HARTLEY STATE FINALISTS

Columbus Bishop Hartley finished second in the state Division V football playoffs, losing 24-7 to Coldwater in the championship game on Saturday, Dec. 7 in Massillon. The Hawks finished with a 13-2 record, with both losses coming to Coldwater. For the team's seniors, the game ended a four-year run which included a state championship in 2010 and appearances in the regional finals the following year and the state semifinals in 2012. Team members are (from left): first row, Jacob Mercier, Jared Brandewie, Shawn Smith-Davis, Austin Kirkbride, Max Steele, Kalil Morris; second row, Eric Glenn, Sean Ransom, Les Moxley, Sal Reedus, Logan Rahe, Nick Boeiru, Alonzo Saxton, Lane Spelmen, Zach Muetzel, Eric Kulas, Colin Barringer; third row, Zach Bowman, John Kurth, Aaron Hannah, Ernesto Pantoja, Race Sharrett, Tayron Washington, Kyle Taylor, Keith Key, Jack Zang, Patrick Heinmiller; fourth row: Reese Melton, Jacob Grimm, Jalen Austin, Vincent Carracker, Levi Barton, John Tate, Sean Gilmore, Cameron Macioce, Danny Rose, Ben Reis, Cavell Bennett, Mateo Saxton; fifth row, Rich Jones, Quri Hickman, Rian Anderson, Austin Rawlins, Ben Hawk, Carl Belt, Kahil Dickerson, Ross Wirthman, Ryan Reed, Jake Hanson, Jared Crowell, Tyler Sweeney, John Lorms; sixth row, Stephen Harms, Alex Moran, Chase Ford, Cody Kirkbride, Jake Ruby, Thomas Carney, Michael Poole, Blaine Barringer, Nick Onega, Aaron Williams, Kwesi Aneki, Lorenz Dacons; seventh row, Joshua Duffy-Cooper, Jack Pickford, Carlos Hernandez, Jack Baughman, Jaden Manley, Christian Iulianelli, Guenael Mirville, Jacob Lane, Joseph Martin, Mark DeSantis, Drake Williams, Gene Martin, Thomas Casimir; eighth row, Andrew Heinmiller, Josiah Rawls, Logan Harris, Travis Marx, Jonathan Serrano, Mark Bayless; ninth row, Cameron Morris, Jayden Davis, Angelo Evans, Mason Sawyer, Benjamin Burchfield, Payton Underwood, Eloise Brandewie, Jocelyn Heuser, Brooke Burchfield; tenth row, Randy Wooten, Woody Underwood, Mike Evans, head coach Brad Burchfield, Chuck Wooten, Derrek Downard, Chris Sawyer, Kevin Petrella.

Photo courtesy Bishop Hartley High School

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Claver Ladies Auxiliary honored



Columbus St. Cyprian Court 298 of the Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary has been honored as 2013 Court of the Year for the Northern District, which consists of courts in states from the Northeast coast to the upper Midwest. The award was presented at the 2013 district conference in New Jersey. Pictured with it is Marjorie McFadden, the court's financial secretary. The court also received an expansion award at the 98th national convention of the Knights of Peter Claver in Philadelphia for its efforts to retain, attract, and expand membership. The Knights of Peter Claver is the largest historically African-American lay organization in the United States. It is named for St. Peter Claver, a Spanish Jesuit priest and missionary who ministered to African slaves in Colombia. The order exists in more than 50 dioceses in the United States and has one unit in Colombia.

Photo courtesy St. Cyprian Court 298