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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL BRINGS
SIMPLE FAITH TO CHILDREN'S LIVES

The Editor's Notebook

The Faith of Children

By David Garick, Editor



"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." That is the Great Commission, the instruction our Risen Lord gave to his disciples on a mountain-top in Galilee.

Central to that mission is teaching. After all, that is what Jesus was all about. Yes, he performed some miracles during his ministry, but the core of what he did in his interactions with humanity was to teach us. It begins with the children, as is noted in the 10th chapter of Mark's gospel: "And people were bringing children to him that he might touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this he became indignant and said to them, 'Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it.' Then he embraced them and blessed them, placing his hands on them."

As Catholics, we place important emphasis on religious education in our schools and religious education programs in our parishes. We also need to be focusing on religious education in our families. Mothers and fathers have, after all, the primary responsibility to share the faith with their children. Vacation Bible schools such as those featured in this week's edition of *Catholic Times* are an important tool to help parents with this obligation.

Children ordinarily enjoy listening to their parents read to them and tell

them stories. Reading stories from Sacred Scripture combines both these simple activities. Just as children learn their family histories through stories told by their parents, they learn about the Catholic faith as their parents introduce them to the person of Jesus and the beauty of the word of God and tell them the story of Mary, the Mother of God, as well as stories of the lives of the saints.

What we are talking about here is not complex theology. That is not what Jesus talked about. He did not give detailed lectures, with footnotes and examinations. He relaxed with people and told them parables that illustrated a simple teaching: God created you out of love and this is how you should live your life to share in that love.

Through vacation Bible school, through Catholic education, and especially through strong parenting, what we are doing is teaching young people how to live. This is so crucial today as competing value systems bombard us in the secular media and social situations to marginalize religion. From the earliest days of life, our children must learn that religion is not some side issue that happens for an hour on Sunday morning. Being a Christian is how we live every day of our life, and the Bible stories we teach show us how we are to apply our faith in everything we do.

Perhaps we adults need to also spend some time in vacation Bible school and reconnect with the simple teachings of Jesus that help us to live in accord with the will of God, and not with the popular culture that threatens to overwhelm us.

BISHOP CAMPBELL PLACES PRIEST ON ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE

As part of a diocesan investigation of an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor, Bishop Frederick Campbell placed a diocesan priest, Father Ronald J. Atwood, 69, on administrative leave, effective Tuesday, July 16.

This action and announcement are made in accordance with the Catholic Church's *Charter and Norms for the Protection of Children and Young People* and the diocese's published *Policies for Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Minors and Response to Allegations Thereof*.

An accusation of sexual abuse of a minor, allegedly occurring during Father Atwood's tenure at Columbus Bishop Ready High School and Columbus St. Stephen the Martyr and St. Peter churches, from 1976-79, was reported to the Chancery Office on Monday, July 15. The allegation was promptly reported to Franklin County Children Services.

On July 16, Father Atwood was formally notified by Bishop Campbell of the allegation, his being placed on leave, and the steps the Church would follow as a result of the allegation.

A meeting of the Diocesan Board of Review for the Protection of Children will be convened to determine if the allegation is credible and warrants further investigation. A finding of credibility is not proof of guilt, but the Diocese of Columbus will execute the judicial and administrative options necessary to conclude its inquiry.

If the allegation is found credible, in-

formation will be forthcoming regarding outreach efforts to be conducted in those places where Father Atwood served, in order to determine if other persons wish to come forward and seek help.

Priests on administrative leave are prohibited from the public exercise of their priestly ministry. They cannot publicly celebrate sacraments, wear clerical attire, be housed at any parish or on diocesan property, or identify themselves as a member of the clergy.

Father Atwood has been a priest of the Diocese of Columbus since 1969. His assignments have included: assistant pastor, Columbus St. Aloysius Church (1969-72); teacher, Bishop Ready High School (1969-77); associate pastor, St. Stephen the Martyr Church (1977-78); associate pastor, St. Peter Church (1978-82); pastor, Church of the Ascension, Johnstown (1982-91); pastor, Columbus St. Thomas Church (1991-2003); associate pastor, Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral (2003-04); and pastor, Columbus St. Francis of Assisi Church (2004-13).

The Diocese of Columbus encourages anyone who may have experienced sexual abuse by clergy or others associated with the Church to contact the diocesan victim assistance coordinator at (614) 224-2251, (1-866) 448-0217, or helpisavailable@colsdio.org, and to notify civil authorities. Forms for reporting abuse are available in Catholic parish and school offices and may be accessed from the diocesan website, www.colsdio.org.



OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT Clergy Assignment

Father Antonio Carvalho, to Administrator, St. John the Baptist Church and Sacred Heart Church, Columbus, continuing as Administrator, Holy Name Church and Parroquia Santa Cruz, Columbus, and pastoral care to Brazilian Catholics in the Diocese of Columbus, effective Sept. 17.

Father Donald Franks, to Pastor, St. Ann Church, Dresden and St. Mary Church, Mattingly Settlement, and Catholic Chaplain for Muskingum College, effective July 30.

Father Fritzner Valcin, to Administrator pro-tem, St. Francis of Assisi Church, Columbus, continuing in pastoral care of Haitian Catholics in the Diocese of Columbus, effective July 17.

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LET US HELP KEEP FAITH ALIVE IN LATIN AMERICA

By Leandro M. Tapay
Diocesan Missions Director

Latin America is home to nearly half of the world's 1.2 billion Catholics. But lately, the Vatican has been anxious about the dramatic decline of Catholicism across the region in the last decade. What used to be known as the "continent of hope" has now become the "continent of concern."

The situation in Brazil and Mexico, the world's two largest Catholic nations, gives us an alarming picture of what is happening in that region of the world. According to Brazil's 2010 census, 65 percent of the population is Catholic, compared with 90 percent in 1970.

Similarly, between 2000 and 2010, the percentage of Mexicans who identified themselves as Catholics dropped from 88 percent to 83 percent, the largest decline recorded to date.

In Chile, Honduras, Belize, Argentina, and Peru, the percentage of

Catholics also has dropped 10 to 25 percent during the last three decades, prompting Bishop Pedro Luiz Stringhini of Sao Paulo to lament, "We no longer say Latin America has a Catholic soul."

If this trend persists, by 2023, about 50 percent of Latin America will be Catholic, down from approximately 70 percent today. Such a decline would offset any gains the Church might make in its new continents of hope – Africa and Asia.

As the Catholic population is declining in Latin America, it's also becoming the home to what has been termed a "marketplace of faiths" – Protestantism, Pentecostalism, Buddhism, New Age mysticism and African animism, among others.

Another problem the Church faces in Latin America is poverty. The diet of many Latin Americans is critically lacking important nutrients. In some areas, half the people suffer from some form of deficiency. Forty

percent of all deaths occur among children less than five years old, generally from lack of safe water, proper sanitary conditions, or appropriate diet. Forty-five percent of those aged 15 or older are illiterate.

The Church in Latin America is faced with many tasks. While the Church is busy proclaiming the Good News, it also faces the task of helping the poor, promoting development, and defending human rights.

As the Church in Latin America builds local churches, schools and health care centers, and provides pastoral needs of the people, especially in remote villages, it is giving people hope in God's Kingdom and a hope of a just and a humane society.

Our prayers and offerings are needed now more than ever. Monies from the collection for the Church in Latin



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has designated one collection a year in every U.S. diocese to help the Church in Mexico, Central

and South America, and the Caribbean. The collection is a tangible demonstration of solidarity of the Church across the hemisphere. In the Diocese of Columbus, the collection will be taken on the weekend of Aug. 3 and 4.

The proceeds of the collection gathered across our nation will be distributed to dioceses, parishes, religious congregations, seminaries, and other Catholic institutions throughout Latin America and the Caribbean to help in the formation of priests, religious brothers and sisters, catechists, and lay ministers, as well as other evangelization programs.

The funds enable our fellow Catholics in Latin America and the Caribbean – who are rich in faith, but often lack material resources – to participate more fully as disciples and to respond to their call to mission.

I invite you to give generously to the appeal and to ask the Lord to continue to bless our efforts to bring the Good News to all. I am most grateful for your loving response to God's call to build His Kingdom on Earth.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Rev. Frederick F. Campbell, DD, PhD
Bishop of Columbus

America on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 3 and 4, will be given as collaborative grants for pastoral programs initiated by local bishops. The funds will be used to educate priests, religious, and lay pastoral leaders, to assist missionaries and pastoral workers, to train catechists and youth ministers, and to strengthen the Church's work among the poor.

The Catholic Church has been seen as an effective sign of faith, hope, and love in the world. As disciples of Our Lord Jesus Christ, let us support the efforts of the Church in Latin America. Please give generously and join in prayer for the intercession of the Patroness of the Americas, Our Lady of Guadalupe, whose message of love and compassion reminds us that we are all one in Christ.



Front Page photo:

Emily Franz (shown in foreground) and other students and young volunteers sing with enthusiasm on the final day of Vacation Bible School at the Church of the Resurrection in New Albany.

CT photo by Tim Puet

PRACTICAL STEWARDSHIP

By Rick Jeric

None

Have you seriously considered your children during the past two weeks? Your children can be your own, they can be your students, they can be friends, they can be a part of your parish, or they can be part of your community. It is a fact that they will be the ones who have to live with the decisions we make today. Think about some of the things we have inherited from prior generations, especially the "Greatest Generation" of the World War II era. As one example, we have much prosperity and have borne fruit for which to be thankful. What have we done with it? To be sure, we have done some wonderful things, but we also have wasted and squandered some opportunities. Overall, I would say that the good has surpassed the bad. The question for today is "Are we on the right track to continue the good?" I remain very fearful that we have slipped a bit too much down that "slippery slope." What are we to do to right ourselves and claw our way back to the top, shining forth as that lamp or light of morality, love, and virtue? A good portion of the answer lies in our willingness to confront the "slide" and fight for the solid, steady footing that keeps us in the footsteps of Jesus.

As I mentioned a few weeks ago, I want to take a couple of issues to relate some very poignant reflections by R. R. Reno, editor of First Things, a journal of religion in public life. A good friend shared some of Reno's writing in a recent issue of Imprimis with me. I believe it is well worth communicating, and I will quote and paraphrase accordingly. Reno has written recently on religious liberty, and this is a topic that demands our attention and our strong will and action. Religious liberty is challenged each day in the United States and around the world. The secular society in which we live is doing its best to reduce the autonomy of religious institutions and limit the influence of faith. Christianity is viewed as anti-gay, anti-science, anti-women, and anti-progress. Our society is succeeding in its quest to limit the influence of Christians in all aspects of public life. As Reno puts it, "We are in the midst of climate change — one that is getting colder and colder toward religion." Unfortunately, as the actual religious character of our society changes, so do our assumptions regarding religious freedom. Are we to assume that fewer people even care about religion, let alone religious freedom? In the 1950s, three percent of Americans checked the "None" box when asked to indicate their religious affiliation for the U.S. census. In the decade following the year 2000, that number has risen to 20 percent.

Our practical challenge over the next two weeks is to give some real, serious, and prayerful consideration to how we are to address the issues surrounding religious liberty and freedom. Are we content to simply react to what we read and hear, holding a wet finger up to see which way the wind is blowing? I challenge each of us to be proactive and to prepare our hearts, our minds, and especially our lips to stand up strong for religious freedom. Yes, each of us as individuals and stewards of God's grace will be held accountable for our actions — or lack thereof.

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



WATTERSON ALUMNI VOLLEYBALL

Alumni and friends will gather on Sunday, Aug. 11, at Columbus Bishop Watterson High School to participate in the second annual O'Connor-Gleich Volleyball Tournament, named for longtime Watterson volleyball coaches Ginny O'Connor and Chuck Gleich. Proceeds from this event will help the Watterson alumni association support its scholarship program for current Watterson students.

The tournament will feature brackets for women and men, with the option for alumni to register to play in a coeducational bracket as well. Current Watter-

son volleyball team members will be volunteering to run the scoreboards and serve as line judges and officials.

For questions or more information, contact tournament director Chuck Gleich at (614) 419-2139 or cgleich@columbus.rr.com.

The cost for this event is \$30 per player, and includes a tournament T-shirt. To make a reservation, go to www.bishop-watterson.com and click on "Community," then "Alumni Sports Tournaments." For additional questions, contact Scott Manahan at (614) 545-2139 or bwalumni@cducation.org.

RETREAT FOR MARRIED COUPLES

The diocesan office of Marriage and Family Life will sponsor a one-day retreat for married couples from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 14, at Columbus St. Agatha Church, 1860 Northam Road.

The theme will be "Spicing Up Married Life, Nourishing Our Faith."

The retreat will include Mass with

Bishop Frederick Campbell and presentations by Father Leo Patalinghug, host of EWTN's cooking show *Savoring Our Faith* and author of *Grace Before Meals* and *Spicing Up Married Life*.

The cost is \$75 per couple. Register online at www.familylife.colodioc.org. For more information call (614) 241-2560.

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SCIOTO COUNTY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

All seven parishes in the Scioto County Deanery came together for their annual Vacation Bible School from June 24 to 28. Attendance averaged between 90 and 100 children each evening, with more than 50 volunteers representing the parishes. Priests from the parishes and seminarian Joe Szablewski were present each day. The school's theme was "Kingdom Rock: Where Kids Stand Strong for God," with children learning that "standing strong" means having the courage to do the right thing.

Photo courtesy Julie Van Hoose



YEAR OF FAITH SILENT RETREAT FOR WOMEN

The Year of Faith proclaimed by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI ends Sunday, Nov. 24.

There is still time to join in what Pope Benedict described as "an authentic and renewed conversion to the Lord" by coming to a silent retreat for women, sponsored by the Catholic Laywomen's Retreat League, from Friday to Sunday, Oct. 4 to 6, at St. Therese's Retreat Center, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus.

Father Jewel Aytona, CPM, a member of the Masters of Mercy from Auburn, Ky., will be the retreat master.

His theme will be "God, the Father of Mercies."

The fee is \$125, which includes a private room for two nights and six meals. Assistance is available for those who need financial help.

This traditional Catholic retreat will feature Mass on Saturday and Sunday, all-night Eucharistic adoration on Saturday, and opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Quiet times for private prayer and meditation also are built into the schedule, adding to the depth of the experience.

The league particularly invites women who have never made a silent retreat to "come away and rest for a while" in the beautiful setting of St. Therese's Retreat Center. Let the center's caring staff cook for you and let the Lord fill you with his presence.

Registration will be from 5:30 to 6 p.m. October 4. For more information or to register, send an email message to retreatleague@gmail.com or call Sharon Gehrlach, retreat league secretary, at (614) 882-1946.

The registration deadline is Monday, Aug. 12.

MOUNT CARMEL URGENT CARE

Mount Carmel Health System has become the sole owner of an urgent care facility at the intersection of McNaughten Road and

East Broad Street in Columbus.

In addition to new management, the facility, formerly known as East Broad Adult Urgent

Care, has a new name: Mount Carmel Urgent Care.

"We are excited to bring new management to this facility," said

Janet Beck, executive director of ambulatory services for the Mount Carmel system. "Mount Carmel Urgent Care is a quality resource when patients are unable to see their physician or do not have a primary care doctor."

The facility has extended its hours and is accepting more insurance plans to better meet the needs of the community. It is open to treat non-life-threatening medical issues from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekends.

For more information on Mount Carmel Health System, visit www.mountcarmelhealth.com.

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Praying to family members; Rules for liturgical ministers



QUESTION & ANSWER
by: FATHER KENNETH DOYLE
Catholic News Service

Q. Sometimes when I pray, I ask for the intercession of certain well-known saints. But at other times, I pray instead to departed people whom I have known, loved and respected -- my grandmother, for example, or my aunt.

On occasion, I even ask for the help of someone who wasn't a Catholic or whom I didn't know personally. (Today, for example, I found myself praying to a famous author whom I never met, but who once wrote something which affected me deeply and which relates to a struggle I'm now experiencing.) I don't consider any of this wrong, but I'm wondering what your thoughts are about it. (Superior, Wis.)

A. I think that what you are doing is reasonable, appropriate, and, I'm sure, productive. Some might be inclined to say that the "safest" course is to pray only to those saints who have been officially canonized, since by canonization the church declares with the fullness of its authority that a person is in heaven and worthy of veneration.

But there are plenty of people whom we have known personally and who we sense instinctively must be with God because they lived lives that were decent and faith-filled.

To me it makes sense to ask them to intervene on our behalf, especially since we have already experienced their concern for us. (I pray often to my mother, particularly when faced with a difficult decision or challenge.) Interestingly, you felt it necessary to apologize for praying "even" to non-Catholics. I think you

should keep doing that. If only Catholics are with God, then heaven is a far smaller place than I envision.

The practice of asking the saints to intercede on our behalf dates to the earliest years of Christianity and is shared by Catholics, Orthodox, and some Anglicans. In Revelation 5:8, John depicts those in heaven as bringing our needs before God under the form of "gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the holy ones."

Q. Sometimes I'm confused about my church. Recently, as chairperson of parish ministries and acting on orders from my pastor, I had to tell a young woman who is in an invalid marriage that she could not serve as a lector or eucharistic minister. (She was devastated and felt rejected by her church.)

However, in this very same parish, an unwed mother is often the cantor at Mass, and now another unwed mother serves as our parish's religious education coordinator. I don't understand why we welcome these last two people and reject the first woman. (City and state withheld)

A. Those who assist at Mass as liturgical ministers must be Catholics in good standing. The guidelines of the Archdiocese of Hartford, Conn., which are fairly typical, require that extraordinary ministers of holy Communion must "be practicing Catholics, distinguished in their Christian life, faith and morals; be at least 19 years old; have received the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and

Eucharist; demonstrate a deep reverence for and devotion to the Eucharist; be an active registered member of a parish in the archdiocese; (and) if married, the marriage must be a valid Catholic marriage."

Lectors and extraordinary ministers of holy Communion serve in visible leadership positions in a parish. The woman you first describe is in a continuing marital relationship that is not approved by the church. Her service as a minister could easily be taken by parishioners to mean that "rules don't matter."

I view the two unwed mothers differently. Certainly they made moral mistakes in the past in conceiving their children out of wedlock. But it would seem that they have put that behind them, hopefully gone to confession, have chosen bravely to bear and to raise their children as single parents, and are actively involved in serving the parish. I have nothing but admiration for them.

What bothers me, however, is that your pastor would put the burden on you to deliver the news to the first woman that she could not serve.

It is unwise and unfair. This is a very delicate pastoral situation that he should clearly handle. It should be wrapped in the larger message of gratitude for the woman's willingness, with strong encouragement for her to continue to come to Mass, even though at the moment she cannot take Communion.

The pastor should raise with her the possibility of having her marriage blessed in the church (reviewing the annulment process, if she or her husband were previously married) so that she can participate fully in the church's sacraments and ministries.

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

Open auditions set for St. Joseph Cathedral Choir



Auditions for the Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral Choir's 2013-2014 season will begin on Friday, July 26. There are three openings for section leaders, as well as openings in all sections for volunteers.

Singers should be excellent sight readers and able to commit to the choir's rigorous schedule.

Auditions are held by appointment. Contact Paul Thornock at (614) 241-2526, extension 2302, or email pthornock@columbus.rr.com

For more information about the cathedral's mMusic program, visit www.cathedralmusic.org.

The St. Joseph Cathedral Choir is composed of approximately 30 professional and volunteer singers from the Columbus area and beyond.

It provides music for the cathedral's 10:30 a.m. Mass each Sunday from September through June.

The choir also maintains a rigorous schedule of pontifical celebrations, diocesan liturgies, and concerts.

It has twice performed for the Conference of Roman Catholic Cathedral Musicians. Its reputation for musical excellence has earned it invitations for concerts at the cathedrals of Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Toledo, and the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at the University of Notre Dame.

The choir also has been featured on the nationally syndicated radio program *With Heart and Voice*.

While Renaissance polyphony forms the core of its repertoire, the choir also has received accolades for its performances of romantic and 20th-century pieces.

The choir's repertoire of works by Byrd, Palestrina, and Tallis is balanced by the music of Herbert Howells, Maurice Durufle, Frank Martin, and Pierre Villette.

In reviewing its 2004 performance of Frank Martin's *Messe, The Columbus Dispatch* hailed the choir for its "purity of tone, careful attention to intonation and dynamics, and sensitivity to the text."

Sacred Music magazine applauded the choir for its "envious blend, balance, and faultless intonation."

Members of the Cathedral Schola are drawn from the Cathedral Choir and specialize in the interpretation of early music. The Cathedral Schola also maintains a rigorous schedule of liturgical performances at the cathedral and throughout the Diocese of Columbus.

Catholic support for immigration reform called a 'moral imperative'

By Catholic News Service

Catholics need to put aside "any partisan differences" they have on the immigration issue and come together to pray for the welfare of their brother and sister immigrants and for Congress to pass much-hoped-for comprehensive immigration reform, said Bishop David M. O'Connell of Trenton, N.J.

Immigration reform in the United States is "a moral imperative" that goes beyond politics, the bishop said in a pastoral statement he issued for the Trenton Diocese's Justice for Immigrants Sunday, observed July 14.

"Whatever we as Catholics can do to foster the hopes and dreams of those who see our country as their potential home is an imperative of the Gospel and of the Catholic social teaching based upon it, not of our political persuasion," Bishop O'Connell said.

"Prayer is a powerful prerogative and something that all of us can do. I believe that with all my heart and soul," he added.

The bishop designated Justice for Immigrants Sunday as a day in which Catholics at all parishes in the diocese prayed for concrete action "on fair immigration policies."

Special prayer petitions were read, homilies were delivered and materials were distributed to inform the Catholic community of the U.S. bishops' support for comprehensive reform as outlined in their 2003 pastoral letter titled "Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope."

The principles enunciated in that letter -- among them a path to citizenship for the undocumented, provisions to keep families together, and various types of worker visas -- were echoed in a recent pastoral statement on

immigration from the Catholic bishops of New Jersey, advocating the reform of "a badly broken system in our country."

"That something significant and substantial needs to be done is hardly arguable," Bishop O'Connell said. "How best to accomplish that goal continues to be a source of debate, even division within our nation.

"Sadly, people are quick to paint the issues involved with political and partisan brushes, thereby adding to the polarization and the delay in resolution."

Comprehensive immigration reform "is not Washington's problem," he continued. "It is a concern for all citizens of our country as well as those who hope to be, much as it was for our ancestors who arrived here with hopes for and dreams of a better life, 'under God, with liberty and justice for all.'"

A NEW COURSE: ST. BRENDAN'S UNVEILS NEW PUBLIC IMAGE AT PARISH FESTIVAL

After a months-long branding and marketing process, Hilliard St. Brendan Church is ready to unveil a new public image to the community at its parish festival, which will take place from 6 p.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday, Aug. 9 and 10, on the parish grounds at 4475 Dublin Road.

The contemporary marketing approach is designed to provide a fresh feel and renewed interest into this growing parish. Its goal is to welcome people wherever they are on their voyage of faith and encourage them to know, share, and live their faith.

"We have a very special church community that demonstrates their faith every day. Far too often, people attempt to take on the struggles of life alone.

"Through these marketing efforts, we hope to reach more people, letting them know there is a loving church family that can walk with them through their faith voyage," said Father Bob Penhallurick, pastor.

"The marketing approach is new, but the faith foundation it's built upon spans centuries. This is who the Catholic Church is. We're just working to tell the story better," said parish marketing and communications director Jason Jourdan.

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CATHOLIC RADIO**

Hobby Lobby wins injunction against HHS mandate

A federal judge in Oklahoma City granted a temporary injunction to the arts and crafts chain Hobby Lobby on July 19, saying it would not have to comply with the federal health care law mandating that employers provide coverage of contraceptives in their health insurance plans.

U.S. District Judge Joe Heaton issued the preliminary injunction and gave the federal government until Oct. 1 to consider an appeal.

The Christian owners of Oklahoma-based Hobby Lobby have specifically argued that providing emergency contraceptive coverage to their employees, as required by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, violates their religious freedom.

The injunction comes several weeks after a federal appellate court ruled that Hobby Lobby can exercise religion under the First Amendment and is likely to win its case against the mandate.

“The tide has turned against the HHS mandate,” said Kyle Duncan, general counsel for the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty and lead attorney for Hobby Lobby, in a July 19 statement.

A press release from the Becket

Fund called the decision a major victory, not only for Hobby Lobby but also for all for-profit businesses.

There are 63 separate lawsuits challenging the HHS mandate.

In September, Hobby Lobby sued the U.S. government over the requirement that employers cover emergency contraceptives such as the morning-after pill or Plan B, which are considered abortifacients. The family-owned company has no moral objection to HHS’ requirement that it cover “preventive contraceptives” and will continue to cover those for employees.

Hobby Lobby and other companies that have sued over the mandate cite the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993, which prohibits the federal government from imposing a “substantial burden” on a person’s exercise of religion unless there is a “compelling governmental interest” and the measure is the least restrictive method of achieving that interest.

Final rules for implementing the HHS contraceptive mandate, part of the Affordable Care Act, do not exempt secular for-profit companies from complying, even if their owners are morally opposed to it.

Theology on Tap Columbus

Theology on Tap Columbus will kick off its 2013-14 program year with a potluck from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 8, in the cafeteria at Columbus St. Christopher Church, 1420 Grandview Ave. The gathering will include a “stump the priest” session with a special guest priest, as well as a chance for participants to test their knowledge of Catholic trivia and to learn the topics for the year’s remaining Theology on Tap monthly events, which are designed primarily for Catholics in their 20s and 30s.

The cost is \$5 per person. Those attending are asked to bring identification. The main dish and drinks, including beer, wine, pop, and water, will be provided. Participants are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share, and to post on the Facebook invitation they may have received or

to reply to Holly Monnier at cbustheologyontap@gmail.com or (614) 390-8653, listing what they will be bringing and their preference for either pulled pork or a veggie burger as an entrée.

Theology on Tap is an outreach to and collaboration with young adult Catholics in pursuit of spiritual growth. It is a method of invitation, based on a spirit of hospitality, which creates a space for people in their 20s and 30s to explore how faith in Christ can speak to their circumstances.

Since its creation in the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1981, it has proven to be a successful vehicle for reaching young adults interested in learning more about their faith, coming together to share community, and feeling welcomed and valued in the Catholic Church.



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Lighting the Way
Joseph Thomas

They say that when the air is cold, the body is the warmest place to be. Perhaps in our limited understanding of our makeup, we judge this to be a purely mechanical act, but I am one of many people of faith who believes it is an act of spirituality. There is definitely someone or something attending to us on a daily basis. Whether you are one who seeks truth through evidence or one who seeks knowledge through truth, you cannot be denied explanation. The fountain of life remains contained, subordinate, and willful to the stream until it is ignited by thought, deed, word, or unexplainable action.

Our history is stained by the blood of others. Amazingly, it is this same blood flowing through our veins that is the very means by which we receive redemption. How ironic it is to see people killing one another, only to try and save them with the same blood that flows within them. We are a society bent on both the destructive nature of the soul and its healing power.

There cannot be light without dark, life without death, but there it is, flowing inside each of us. A sacrifice of love, pure love, not angry passion, was His way of reaching each of us. Residing in us all is the life-giving blood of His compassion and the saving power of His grace. Why, then, do we try to explain

its meaning? We all try and attach some cosmic relevance to its creation, but never seem to arrive at a result we can be satisfied with. We are constantly left with more questions than answers. Perhaps that is the way Jesus wants it.

By always trying to strive to be better stewards of our bodies, we are constantly growing, evolving into what He would like us to be. There is no destination without a journey, and the blood that flows through our veins can tell an amazing story. This chapter in our life can be a short one, but without the risk, the adventure, and the living there can be no meeting with Him in eternity. To be complete is to make us whole, to make us want to accomplish great things before our time on this earthly plain is done. Every Sunday across the world, we consume His very essence and living nature. It mixes with our own, flowing together, making up a communal society in which we all hold the same serum. Shouldn't

this make us a part of each other?

Warmth of this divine blood signifies a love relationship with God. By bringing Him into our hearts, we allow ourselves to be subject to His will. Emotions such as empathy, righteousness, grace, and faith seem to become more a part of our lives. This is no coincidence, since it is Jesus Himself that is present in this unique sharing. As families, we give our hearts, minds, and love to each other through simple acts of kindness, and come closer to His design for every one of us. Remember, we are all made up of the same essential things, just mixed together differently and presented in a greater light.

Cherish your life here and pass on that love to another who needs it more than you. I am reminded by something the great Father Frederick Faber once said: “The Precious Blood is a flowing fountain of spiritual gifts that will never run dry.” So weep not, for tears shed from divine grace can become a raging river – a river of love, a river of sanctity, a river of everlasting life.

May His blood flow through each of us and bless us. May the wind be forever at your back, and may His peace be with you always.

Joseph Thomas is a freelance writer and a member of Gahanna St. Matthew Church.

The Lord Is My Shepherd

By Diana Marie Winkler

My brother Neno gave me a picture a friend had taken while in Italy. The picture is of sheep being herded along a country road. He gave the picture to me because I use the title “The Shepherd’s Daughter” for my writing and evangelizing. Later, while looking more intently at the picture, I felt it “spoke” to me.

At the forefront of the picture is a dog to lead the way, and I’m sure, when necessary, to go after a straying sheep. I thought of how the Lord does the same for us, but also how He will put people in our lives to walk along with us on our journey, to be an instrument for Him, keeping us on His path.

The sheep moving along together reminded me of family and friends forming a bond to be companions to one another. In the background of the picture is a silhouette of the shepherd keeping watch over the

sheep. If we were there, I’m sure we would hear him talking, moving them forward with his voice. This made me think of the conversations and prayers the Lord and I share as I go about my day. Just as sheep recognize the distinct voice of their shepherd, so too is it with us when we are in relationship with Him.

We are able to recognize His voice through His Word, other people, or even “a tiny whispering sound” (1 Kings 19:12). His voice can be heard in the trilling of birds awakening to a new day, through the eyes of a toddler looking in wonderment at squirrels scampering from tree to tree, even in the silence of meditative prayer.

The picture has special meaning to me, not only because my brother thought of me, but also because it’s a reminder of my Shepherd’s love.

Diana Marie Winkler is a member of Columbus Immaculate Conception Church.



Photo by Gil Balden



Top left: Banners at the New Albany Church of the Resurrection's Vacation Bible School help carry out its "Kingdom Rock" theme. Top center: Students at Columbus Our Lady of Victory Church's VBS in an exercise in the sanctuary re-enacting the burial of Jesus.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOLS



Top right: Ben Bohman portrays Jesus carrying his cross during the Church of the Resurrection's VBS. Bottom right: A scene from Columbus St. Mary Magdalene Church's "daycation Bible school." CT photos by Tim Puet/bottom right photo courtesy St. Mary Magdalene Church

BY TIM PUET

Reporter, Catholic Times

Religious education doesn't stop when the school year ends.

For most of the last two months, young people have been mixing summertime fun with lessons from Scripture and Catholic history at vacation Bible schools throughout the Diocese of Columbus. Through stories, skits, games, crafts, and other activities, they have been learning how their faith has an impact on all aspects of their lives, in a style that's much more informal than that of a parochial school or Parish

School of Religion classroom.

The programs take place on weekday mornings or afternoons, depending on the parish, and last four or five days. "You can just see the difference in the children as the week goes on," Michelle Fishpaw, religious education director at Columbus Our Lady of Victory Church, said on the final day of this year's VBS in her parish. "The first-timers come in wondering what this is all about. By the end of the week, they're talking about seeing God in all kinds of things."

Most vacation Bible schools are designed for children from preschool age

through sixth grade, with older students and adults serving as aides and leaders. "Besides seeing what VBS does for the boys and girls taking part, I've loved watching how it impacts the teens," Fishpaw said.

"You can see how with some of them, their confidence grows as they lead and see the kids are responding to them. I'm sure it helps some of the leaders become more confident about themselves. This is my first time running a VBS, and I've also gotten more excited as the week went on."

The program at Our Lady of Victory had 57 students and 35 aides taking part in morning sessions from Monday to Thursday, June 24 to 27, with an evening ice cream social on the final day. A highlight of that day was a visit by the Knights of Columbus, who displayed the plumed hats and other regalia worn by fourth-degree Knights and allowed children to try them on.

Depending on the size of the parish, VBS programs attract between 50 and 250 children each year. One of the largest in the diocese takes place at the Church of the

Resurrection in New Albany, where 220 students – 130 in the morning and 90 in the evening – took part in two identical sessions in late June.

"It's been that way for the past dozen years or so," said parish religious education director Joan Lucius. "We had one session the first two years and it just got too big, because the parish was growing and the kids who came invited their friends of all faiths."

Lucius and Peggy Kehres were co-directors of the school this year, assisted by about 150 volunteers for the two sessions. "We couldn't do something this big with-

out help from so many people," Lucius said. "The entire parish staff pitches in all week. Volunteers come in and form a lot of friendships and keep coming back."

"For the kids, it's just a fun way to meet other kids and learn about Jesus and the church in a fun environment. Once they get past sixth grade, lots of them become volunteers, and some keep coming as adults. I've heard some of the adults say they don't want to leave when the week ends because it's such a great chance to get closer to their kids and to be a little bit of a kid themselves."

Lucius said key volunteers for the week

included coordinator Julie Greer and parish bookkeeper Chris Roberts, who designed the stage setting for the program, which had the theme of "Kingdom Rock: Where Kids Stand Strong for God."

The closing session for the morning program had all the children and adults dancing to finger-snapping, hand-clapping music led with great enthusiasm by Jackie Guisinger, who as the day's overall program leader wore a queenly crown and robe which fit the castle-style set. Jessica Greer played the same role in the evening.

The session was lively for the most part, but turned serious for a few moments as two young adults – Ben Bohman as Jesus and Jennifer DiGiovanni as a woman of Jerusalem – briefly depicted Christ's crucifixion and resurrection.

The "Kingdom Rock" program was put together this year by *Our Sunday Visitor* for parishes throughout the nation. In the Diocese of Columbus, parishes using it included Resurrection, Our Lady of Victory, Delaware St. Mary, Logan St. John, Sunbury St. John Neumann, Westerville St. Paul, and parishes in the Scioto County Deanery, who conducted a joint VBS.

Each day's program included a Bible memory buddy – an animal character connected to the day's theme – as well as a Bible point, a Bible story, a key verse, a Catholic identity component, and a saint of the day.



On the first day, Bible memory buddy Truman the bulldog was used to make the point that God's love helps us stand strong. The Bible story was the 23rd Psalm, the verse was "I love you, O Lord, my strength" (Psalm 18:1), the Catholic identity segment talked about holy oils, and the saint of the day was St. Patrick. Other saints highlighted during the week were St. Joseph, St. Margaret of Scotland, the Virgin Mary, and St. Jerome. Other daily Bible buddies were Duke the horse, Swift the falcon, Valiant the Lion, and Victoria the fox. At Resurrection, they

were augmented by a Brutus Buckeye-style mascot, Chadder the Chipmunk.

A VBS program titled "SonWest Round-up: A Rip-Roaring Good Time With Jesus," from Liguori Publications, was used this year in the diocese by parishes including Columbus St. Christopher, Holy Spirit, and Our Lady of Peace, Buckeye Lake Our Lady of Mount Carmel, and New Philadelphia Sacred Heart. Other parishes use a variety of other national programs from various suppliers, with the

See BIBLE SCHOOL, Page 12



Bottom left: Our Lady of Victory VBS participants play medieval-style tournament games as part of the "Kingdom Rock" theme. Bottom right: The re-enactment of Jesus' burial at Our Lady of Victory ends with prayer in the church.



BIBLE SCHOOL, continued from Page 11



Left: Tossing water balloons is part of the fun at Columbus St. Christopher's Vacation Bible School. Right: Participants in the VBS at the Church of the Resurrection.



programs changing from year to year, while some parishes have devised their own VBS activities.

SonWest's daily themes and activities include stories of the lives of Moses and Jesus, plus a weeklong narrative featuring the classic Western plot of a town (named Dirt Clod) being menaced by a villain (Dirty Daryl), until a hero (Sheriff Otis Leroy Sunday) comes along to save the day.

"This was a fun week because the Western theme and the materials provided with the SonWest program gave us all sorts of ideas to work with," said Chris Ross, VBS and religious education director at St. Christopher. For instance, on the final day of the program, students were making paper lanterns which served as symbols both of the way people had to get around at night in the old West and of Jesus as the light of the world.

The VBS at St. Christopher had about 35 people attending, many of them from the Run the Race Club, which provides free after-school and Saturday programs for children from low-income families on the west side of Columbus. "This was great for both the kids from our parish and the Run the Race kids, because it enabled all of them to get a broader view of life and of what the Catholic Church is," Ross said.

"A format like this allows some things to stick with kids in a way they never

could when taught in a regular classroom setting, and it's developing bonds within the church family and with the broader community through Run the Race."

Most students attending VBS programs at Catholic parishes are Catholic themselves, but the programs are for all faiths. It's only in the last two decades or so that VBS activities have become widespread in Catholic churches, partly because of an increase in the number of full-time religious education staff members in parishes during that time, and partly through requests from parents whose children knew of or had attended VBS programs conducted by other denominations.

The first vacation Bible schools in Protestant churches go back to the 1890s. Standard Publishing, a nondenominational company whose clients are mostly Protestant churches, has been providing VBS material every year since 1922.

Some small communities have a joint VBS in which all the town's Christian churches take part. That's the case at Zoar in Tuscarawas County, where Holy Trinity Catholic Church joins with one Lutheran and two United Church of Christ congregations and a church that is independent of any denomination.

"Each year, we alternate which church hosts it," said Holy Trinity VBS coordinator Susan Labish. "It's been awesome working with all the different churches and learning about their faith and getting to know their pastors." A different pastor leads opening and closing prayers on each of the five nights.

This year's VBS theme was "Everywhere FunFair, where God's world comes together," highlighting a different nation each night - Mexico, Japan, Australia, the United Kingdom, and Zimbabwe.

Most VBS programs are weeklong events, but Columbus St. Mary Magdalene conducts a week's worth of activities on one Saturday in a daylong "daycation Bible school," said parish religious education director Cindy Oddi. She said the parish has done this for the past four years, with about 30 children attending this year's event in mid-July.

"In our parish, a lot of the children spend most of the day at child care, and to have their parents try to take them to another organized program is a bit overwhelming, so we use this format," she said.

"The day starts at 10:30 a.m. and ends with the 4 p.m. Saturday Mass, with a snack break included, and a dinner after Mass. This gives us time to 'connect all the dots' you'd have with a weeklong session, ends as a family gathering with everyone at Mass, and gives families a chance to get together afterward and, in many cases, to meet other parish families they don't know. For us, this program works really well."

VBS programs are completed for the year in most cases throughout the diocese. However, Plain City St. Joseph Church will have its VBS this coming Sunday to Thursday, July 28 to Aug. 1, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., while Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona Church's VBS will be from Monday to Friday, Aug. 5 to 9, from 9 a.m. to noon.

"ILLUMINATED IN CHRIST"

Chillicothe St. Peter Church conducted its Vacation Bible School from Sunday, July 7 to Thursday, July 11. "Illuminated in Christ" was the theme of the program, which looked at the sacraments through the luminous mysteries of the rosary and included stories, crafts, and games. During the week, the children brought in monetary donations and food for the parish St. Vincent de Paul Society. Teachers included seminarian Daniel Swartz (pictured) and Ohio Dominican University student Andrea Haller. During the final evening, the children visited Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration and were instructed by Father Bill Hahn on how to pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament.



Photo courtesy St. Peter Church



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"Cradling Christianity" Event

Catholics of the Diocese of Columbus who have made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land are standing up for their Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land by hosting the annual Cradling Christianity Mass and dinner on Thursday, Sept. 5 at Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, 2010 E. Broad St.

A special silent auction will feature treasures from the Holy Land, including rare olive-wood items, glassware, pottery, icons, and jewelry. All money raised will be presented to the Franciscan Foundation to help Christians liv-

ing in the Holy Land find education, employment, and housing.

The evening will begin with Mass at 5:30 p.m., followed by the auction and dinner. This year's guest speaker will be Bishop Frank Dewane of Venice, Fla., a former representative of the Holy See to the United Nations. Also on hand will be Father Peter Vasko, president of the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land.

For reservations or more information about Cradling Christianity, contact Monica Brown at (614) 459-5676 or email figgybrown@aol.com.

Part-Time Parish Secretary Position

A part-time secretary is needed for Christ the King Church, a growing parish on the east side of Columbus. The candidate must be fluent in both Spanish and English and have exceptional organization and communication skills. Hourly pay will be determined by experience. Hours are flexible. If interested, contact Father David Schalk at 614.237.0401

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Father Lawrence L. Hummer

July 28
Genesis 18:20-32
Colossians 2:12-14
Luke 11:1-13

The “bargaining” between Abraham and the Lord is a classic piece of theological reflection on how prayer might be explained. Abraham begins tentatively, but confidently, in reminding the Lord that there is more to consider than the sin present in Sodom (and Gomorrah). There is a question of righteousness. Abraham asks where the righteousness of the Lord is if the innocent are swept away with the guilty.

In typically Semitic fashion, Abraham starts with an arbitrary number of 50 innocent men, asking if the Lord will destroy the city if 50 righteous ones can be found. The Lord promises to spare the city if 50 righteous can be found. The simplicity and poetic touch of asking the fate of “five less than fifty” shows that this is not simply storytelling. It is poetry in motion!

Abraham gets bolder as his plea continues for only 30 or 20 or only 10 righteous people in the city. When he reaches 10, he stops. The Lord promises not to destroy the city if only 10 righteous ones can be found there. The righteousness of the few would spare the many, until Abraham stops asking the Lord at the number 10. Later rabbis taught that if 10 religious people could not be found in a city, a person should move. The rabbis also set 10 (men) as the minimal number (minyan) needed for public worship to begin.

Some preachers love to jump all over divine wrath as an explanation for every destructive act of nature that occurs at any time. One lesson we can derive from this encounter between Abraham and the Lord is simply that at some

point, their conversation ended in silence. That silence is called for every time somebody wants to start spouting off about God’s will. Not even Abraham knew the mind of God, and at some point, he ended his plea in silence, which remains golden.

The Gospel begins with Jesus at prayer, followed by one of his disciples asking him to teach them to pray, as John (the Baptist) taught his disciples. We do not know what John taught his disciples, but we certainly know what Jesus taught in answer to his disciples’ request – the time-honored “Lord’s Prayer” with Luke’s unique version. Space prevents a thorough analysis here, but readers would do well to compare this version with Matthew’s (Matthew 6:9-13).

In both cases, Jesus “teaches” (as compared with “commands”) the disciples to pray in this fashion. We are taught to pray as Jesus himself did, by calling God “Father.” The second part of the prayer makes clear through use of the first person plural that the prayer is used by a community (“Give us . . . forgive us . . . do not subject us . . .”). Matthew clarifies this early, by beginning the prayer with “Our” Father.

Many commentators are struck by the “noble simplicity” of addressing God as Father, in contrast with often-complicated liturgical utterances in some Jewish liturgical prayers. Many collect prayers are similar. The Jewish Prayer of Eighteen Benedictions begins: “Lord, God of Abraham, God of Isaac, God of Jacob! God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth! Our Shield and the Shield of our fathers!” Compare that with the collect for the 19th Sunday of Ordinary Time: “Almighty, ever-living God, whom, taught by the Holy Spirit, we dare to call our Father. . . .” Then look at today’s Gospel again: “Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come.”

The parables on prayer which follow emphasize the need to keep asking in prayer. Abraham ended his appeal at ten. Jesus insists that we keep on praying. Persistence has its own reward.

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

The Weekday Bible Readings

<p>7/29-8/3</p> <p>MONDAY Exodus 32:15-24,30-34 Psalm 106:19-23 John 11:19-27 or Luke 10:38-42</p> <p>TUESDAY Exodus 33:7-11,34:5b-9,28 Psalm 103:6-13 Matthew 13:36-43</p> <p>WEDNESDAY Exodus 34:29-35 Psalm 99:5-7,9 Matthew 13:44-46</p> <p>THURSDAY Exodus 40:16-21,34-38 Psalm 84:3-6,8-11 Matthew 13:47-53</p> <p>FRIDAY Leviticus 23:1,4-11,15-16,27,34b-37 Psalm 81:3-6,10-11 Matthew 13:54-58</p> <p>SATURDAY Leviticus 25:1-8-17 Psalm 67:2-3,5,7-8 Matthew 14:1-12</p>	<p>8/5-8/10</p> <p>MONDAY Numbers 11:4b-15 Psalm 81:12-17 Matthew 14:13-21</p> <p>TUESDAY Daniel 7:9-10,13-14 Psalm 97:1-2,5-6,9 2 Peter 1:16-19 Luke 9:28b-36</p> <p>WEDNESDAY Numbers 13:1-2,25-14:1,26-29a,34-35 Psalm 106:6-7,13-14,21-23 Matthew 15:21-28</p> <p>THURSDAY Numbers 20:1-13 Psalm 95:1-2,6-9 Matthew 16:13-23</p> <p>FRIDAY Deuteronomy 4:32-40 Psalm 77:12-16,21 Matthew 16:24-28</p> <p>SATURDAY 2 Corinthians 9:6-10 Psalm 112:1-2,5-9 John 12:24-26</p>
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DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE WEEKS OF JULY 28 AND AUG. 4, 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 a.m. on WHIZ-TV, Channel 18, Zanesville, and 7:30 a.m. on WWHO-TV (the CW), Channel 53, Columbus. Check local cable systems for WHIZ’s and WWHO’s cable channel listings.
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 Weeks I and II, Seasonal Proper of the Liturgy of the Hours

The failures of U.S. international religious freedom policy

Dr. Thomas Farr of Georgetown’s Berkley Center is one of the true good guys on the Washington scene. His June 13 testimony before the national security subcommittee of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform was a thoughtful, sobering reflection on the failures of U.S. international religious-freedom policy.

Farr speaks with authority, for he was the first director of the State Department’s Office of International Religious Freedom from 1999-2003, and has been deeply engaged in the battle for religious freedom around the world ever since. He has done so both from conviction – this is the right thing to do – and from prudential policy judgment: religious freedom advances the cause of peace, for nations that violate the first freedom internally are, in the main, nations “whose internal stability, economic policies, and foreign policies are of substantial concern to the United States.”

So if the promotion of religious freedom abroad (like its defense at home) is both the right play and the smart play, why does the United States do it so badly?

Why, to cite Farr’s testimony, is it “difficult to name a single country in the world over the past 15 years where American religious freedom policy has helped to reduce religious persecution or to increase religious freedom in any substantial or sustained way?” Why is the opposite



THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE
George Weigel

true: that “in most of the countries where the United States has in recent years poured blood, treasure, and diplomatic resources (such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Egypt, China, Saudi Arabia, and Russia), levels of religious freedom are declining and religious persecution is rising?”

Farr suggests several structural reasons why.

First, the U.S. approach to international religious freedom is largely rhetorical: annual reports are issued, speeches are made, lists of egregious persecutors are published. None of this, however, has much effect on the persecutors.

That, in turn, suggests another structural reason why the effort to promote religious freedom internationally, mandated by Congress, hasn’t worked: it hasn’t been thought through strategically. Or as Farr put it, forbearing to mince words, no president or secretary of state has made a concerted, sustained effort to “integrate the advancement of religious freedom into the foreign policy of the United States” since the International Religious Freedom Act was passed in 1998.

Because of that, most professionals in the U.S. Foreign Service don’t take religious freedom seriously as a foreign policy

concern; indeed, Farr testified, “our diplomats are not being trained to know what religious freedom is and why it is important, let alone how to advance it.” And if the superiors in the White House and at Foggy Bottom don’t insist that strategic policy planning include religious freedom issues, the “deep-seated skepticism in our foreign-policy establishment that religious freedom is in fact important for individuals and societies” (a skepticism that reinforces the faux-realist view that religious freedom is not “real foreign policy”) will remain the default position in the foreign service.

Which leads us to another, related structural problem. The Office of International Religious Freedom was established in the State Department by congressional mandate; State’s permanent bureaucracy, like other permanent bureaucracies, is exceptionally skillful at hermetically sealing off anything it regards as an alien body from the serious policy-planning action. Thus the office and the U.S. special ambassador for international religious freedom (a post also mandated by Congress) have often been isolated within State, underfunded, and cut off from access to the secretary of state and other officials with real policy-making authority.

As Farr concludes after surveying this dismal landscape, “It is hardly surprising that American diplomats and foreign governments do not see religious freedom as a priority for U.S. foreign policy. It is not surprising that religious freedom programs play little or no role in U.S. strategies to stabilize key struggling democracies such as Iraq or Pakistan, encourage economic growth on places like Egypt or Nigeria, or undermine the religion-related terrorism that is still being incubated in many nations of the broader Middle East.”

Religious freedom is right. Religious freedom works. But promoting it remains marginal to U.S. foreign policy. Not good; not smart, either.

George Weigel is Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

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Pray for our dead

ANDREONI, Benny B., 89, July 14
St. John the Baptist Church, Columbus

ANTOL, Alexander, 92, July 9
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

ARNOLD, Richard A., 90, July 18
St. Mary Church, Delaware

BAKER, Barbara F., 75, June 1
St. Timothy Church, Columbus

BRAUN, Charlotte J., 88, July 17
Holy Spirit Church, Columbus

BUENING, Dorothy, 90, May 29
St. Christopher Church, Columbus

CONLEY, Kenneth E., 53, June 21
Holy Redeemer Church, Portsmouth

DENNING, Katherine "Maxine," 94, June 9
Holy Redeemer Church, Portsmouth

EGGER, Marjorie, 89, formerly of Columbus, July 8
St. Paul Church, Danville, Ill.

EISEL, Thomas L., 74, July 16
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

ENIS, Charles A. "Pete," 76, July 9
Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus

FENLON, Stephanie L., 75, July 10
St. Patrick Church, Columbus

FIGLESTHALER, Laura D., 42, June 30
Holy Trinity Church, Jackson

FIORE, Dorothy L., 83, June 28
St. Rose Church, New Lexington

GILBERT, William G., 87, July 15
St. Leonard Church, Heath

GILCHRIST, Brian F., 48, July 14
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

GILLESPIE-SMITH, Katherine A., 68, July 12
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

GORDON, William M., 8 days, July 14
St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

GRILLI, Dolores L., 83, July 18
St. Mary Magdalene Church, Columbus

HALL, Charles M., 52, July 14
St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

HESTON, Thomas F., 65, July 8
St. Agnes Church, Columbus

HIGGINS, John B., 86, July 9
St. Patrick Church, Columbus

LAMB, C. James, 82, July 16
St. Elizabeth Church, Columbus

LEERS, Lorraine A., 81, July 15
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

LEONARD, Kenneth L., 77, July 13
St. Timothy Church, Columbus

LOCH, Edward D., 79, July 20
St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Pickerington

McENTIRE, Vivian, 79, July 17
St. Mary Church, Marion

MEYER, Mary K., 67, July 12
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

MILLER, Charles W., 97, July 12
St. Mary Church, Marion

MORAN, James E., 82, July 14
St. Paul Church, Westerville

MORIARTY, Eugene A., 84, July 22
St. Mathias Church, Columbus

MORRILL, Alice, 102, July 5
Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus

MUSSIO, John A., 88, July 19
St. Catharine Church, Columbus

NADER, Yvonne M., 72, July 6
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

NOPPENBERGER, Althea, 88, July 12
St. Anthony Church, Columbus

OSBORNE, Herb, 56, July 13
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

OSHINSKI, Charles J., 95, July 9
St. Peter Church, Columbus

REED, Rita C., 72, July 13
St. Mary Church, Marion

RENTLER, Donna M., 86, July 8
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

ROONEY, Anna, 36, July 5
St. Peter Church, Chillicothe

RUSH, Patricia R., 66, July 13
St. Mary Church, Marion

RUSSELL, Richard A., 34, July 9
St. Elizabeth Church, Columbus

SCHLESINGER, Joseph A., 52, of Columbus, July 4
Incarnation Church, Louisville, Ky.

SERRA, Elvira M., July 6
Our Lady of Peace Church, Columbus

SHARSHAL, Mary E., 96, July 12
Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus

SHREDL, Adam E., 33, July 10
St. Paul Church, Westerville

SIGRIST, Lois E., 72, July 19
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

SIMON, Henry E., 85, July 14
Church of the Ascension, Johnstown

SMITH, Robert G., 82, formerly of Columbus, July 2
Blessed Sacrament Church, Andover, N.Y.

SPOGNARDI, Tullio C., 88, July 7
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

TAGUE, Beverlee A., 78, July 19
St. Agatha Church, Columbus

Dr. Francis V. Dono

Funeral Mass for Dr. Francis V. Dono, who died Sunday, July 14, was held Thursday, July 18, at Columbus St. Andrew Church.

He was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., to the late Vincent and Mary Dono. He was a graduate of Manhattan College in Riverdale, N.Y., and received his doctor of osteopathic medicine degree in 1958 from the College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery in Des Moines, Iowa.

He completed residency programs in obstetrics and gynecology in 1961 and surgery in 1964 at Doctors Hospital in Columbus and was a member of the hospital's staff until his retirement in 2012. He was appointed as the hospital's chief medical officer and executive vice president for medical affairs in 1989 and later served six years as medical director for patient safety and quality and ambulatory services. He also served in teaching and clinical roles in

Kathleen Kirwin

Funeral Mass for Kathleen Kirwin, 90, who died Wednesday, July 3, was held Saturday, July 13, at Columbus St. Philip Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Joseph and Catherine Engle; husband, Thomas; brother, John; and sis-

TURNER, Rita S., 66, June 24
Holy Redeemer Church, Portsmouth

VERI, Donald D., 87, July 12
St. John the Baptist Church, Columbus

WILLIAMS, Bradford D., 56, July 21
St. Thomas More Newman Center, Columbus

WILSON, Charles B., 70, July 11
St. Paul Church, Westerville

WOYTEK, Mary L., of Grove City, 82, July 7
St. Mary Magdalene Church, Willowick

the obstetrics and gynecology department of the Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine at Ohio University.

He served on the Pontifical College Josephinum's board of trustees until April of this year. In 2010, he and his wife were the first recipients of the college's Pope Leo XIII Good Shepherd award for assistance to the development of young priests. He also was a Knight of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, a member of the Equestrian Order of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre, a board member of the Women's Care Center of Columbus, a member of the Serra Club, the Catholic Medical Association, and many osteopathic medical organizations, and a volunteer with the Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs.

Survivors include his wife, Marilyn; son, Francis (Leanna); and daughter, Mari Kay.

ters, Mary and Ann.

Survivors include son, Daniel (Kerry); daughters, Kathleen (Robert) Carlson, Nancy (Daniel) Farslow), and Patricia; brother, Father Richard Engle, priest in residence at Zaleski St. Sylvester Church; and two grandchildren.

H A P P E N I N G S

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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@colsdio.org

ST. PIUS X FESTIVAL
1051 Waggoner Road, Reynoldsburg
August 2 (6-11 PM) & August 3 (5-11 PM)
Adult Games to 1 AM, NO Bingo this year New! Sit down dinner & dessert by Culver's
Food by Los Jalapeños, Winking Lizzard, Sterling Fun Food, KofC 5253
Live Music both Nights * Silent Auction
Midway Games for all Ages * Rides
5K Run on Saturday, August 3 at 9 AM
Visit our Website or Find us on Facebook:
http://www.spxreynoldsburg.com/festival/

2ND ANNUAL OLMC CRAFT AND VENDOR SHOW
SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 2013
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church
5133 Walnut Rd. SE • Buckeye Lake
Tables available for vendors or crafters at \$25 per table (elec avail 1st come/served basis) call 614.325.0015 or ghguray@yahoo.com for more information or to reserve a table

ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA CHURCH
1600 N. Hague Ave., Columbus
ANNUAL PARISH FESTIVAL
Friday & Saturday, July 26 & 27
(Sunday - patron saints procession after 10:30 Festival Mass)
Entertainment: Fri - The Eddie Pollina Band ~ 7-11 pm
Sat - Ray Massa's Eurohythms ~ 8-midnight
New car raffle; silent auction; amusement rides; children & teen games; adult games of chance; beer garden; GREAT food!
For more information, call 614-279-1690

PARISH FESTIVAL
ST. BRENDAN THE NAVIGATOR
4475 Dublin Rd., Hilliard
August 9 & 10, 6 PM to midnight
FAMILY FUN HOURS: SATURDAY, 3-6 PM
• Live Entertainment & Adult Games of Chance
• Kid's Games, Midway & Rides for Every Age
• Silent Auction & \$13,333 Raffle (\$10,000 after taxes)
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23RD ANNUAL FESTIVAL
ST. ELIZABETH CHURCH
6077 Sharon Woods Blvd
Aug 16 & 17, Fri 6-midnite; and Sat 5-midnite
Car Show on Fri; DJ & Karaoke by SoundTaxi both nights; Great food, silent auction, kids games, adult games of chance, and other fun things for all ages.
Come join us for a great time!

St. Bernard - Corning ANNUAL PICNIC
425 Adams Street, Corning
Aug, 10th 5:00 p.m. to ????
Baked Steak Dinner \$8.00
Hot Dog Stand, Drinks
Adult and Children's Games
Chinese Auction and More
(740) 347-4700 for more info - Hope to See You There!!!!

ST. MARY'S GERMAN VILLAGE PARISH FESTIVAL & HOMECOMING
684 S. Third Street, Columbus
August 9 & 10 ~ 5:30 - midnight
(after Saturday Mass at 4:00 pm)
Great food, Games of Chance, Rides for kids, Bier Garten, \$3,000 Grand Raffle, Live Music

JULY

25, THURSDAY
Bible Study at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal
6:30 p.m., Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 5225 Refugee Road, Columbus. "Grown-Up Summer School" Bible study of the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. Also on Aug. 1 with study of the Book of Exodus. 'Courage' Support Group Meeting
7:30 p.m., A Catholic organization providing support for individuals with same-sex attractions.
Mary Louise 614-436-8676

27, 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. Also on Aug. 3. 614-565-8654
Memorial Mass for Children at Resurrection Cemetery
1 p.m., Chapel, Resurrection Cemetery, 9571 N. High St., Lewis Center. Memorial Mass for all unborn babies buried in cemetery's Garden of the Holy Innocents, and any other babies whose parents want to honor their lives, sponsored by Back in His Arms Again ministry. 614-906-3115; 614-800-8888

28, 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

NFP Information Session at Delaware St. Mary
1:30 to 3 p.m., St. Mary Church, 82 E. William St., Delaware. Information session for Natural Family Planning. Register at nfpstmarydelaware@gmail.com.

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

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. Also on Aug. 4. 614-886-8266
Spanish Mass at Columbus St. Peter
7 p.m., St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road, Columbus. Mass in Spanish. Also on Aug. 4. 706-761-4054
Holy Family Hidden Treasures Banquet
7 to 9 p.m., Renaissance Columbus Hotel, 50 N. 3rd St., Columbus. Fourth annual Columbus Holy Family Church Hidden Treasures Banquet, celebrating 35th anniversary of parish's soup kitchen and 15th anniversary of its Jubilee Museum. Speaker: Father Kevin Lutz, museum director. Silent auction begins at 5:30. 614-221-4323

30, TUESDAY
Prayer Group Meeting at St. Mark
7:30 p.m., St. Raymond Room, St. Mark Center, 324 Gay St., Lancaster. Light of Life Prayer Group meeting. Also on Aug. 6. 740-653-4919

AUGUST

1, THURSDAY
Ohio Dominican Black & Gold Club Dinner
6:15 p.m., Alumni Hall, Ohio Dominican University, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. Fourth annual Black & Gold Club dinner to benefit ODU athletics, with live and silent auctions and raffle. Speaker: Chris Spielman, ESPN football analyst and former Ohio State and NFL star.

2, 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.
St. John Chrysostom First Friday Sale Canceled
St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church in Columbus has canceled its first Friday sale of pirogi, stuffed cabbage, noodles, and baked goods for this month. The next sale will be Friday, Sept. 6.
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.



SACRED MUSIC CD

MATER EUCHARISTIAE



New Path for Dominican Sisters of Mary Leads to Record Deal

They follow in the 13th-century footsteps of St. Dominic while very much engaging the modern world. They teach in schools all over the United States, including Worthington St. Michael School. They have been the featured guests on *The Oprah Winfrey Show* more than once and have been seen on Fox News and CNN discussing aspects of the Catholic faith and their vocation to live a religious life. Most recently, they made it to the finals of the Game Show Network's highly rated *American Bible Challenge*.

And now the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist will be known as recording artists as they release their first album with the Decca

record label and De Montfort Music. This debut release of sacred music recorded live from the sisters' chapel in Ann Arbor, Mich., reflects the Dominican spirituality they share so freely with the popular culture.

"We are thrilled that the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist recorded this enchanting collection of music," said Kevin Fitzgibbons, co-founder of De Montfort Music. "To be able to release music reflective of their community is a true privilege. This recording will transport the listener to the gorgeous acoustics in their chapel and will inspire the pervasive joy of their community through their music."

The sisters' album, titled *Mater Eucharistiae*, to be released Tuesday, Aug. 13,

features songs in English and Latin and includes ancient chants, polyphony, and original compositions. Some pieces are accompanied by the organ, trumpet, and chimes, while others are sung a capella.

Sister Joseph Andrew, OP, vicarress general of the Dominican Sisters of Mary, said, "Music has always been part of the daily life of our religious community. It is a most important medium through which we seek to express our deep love of The Lord. Through our arrangement of this music, we hope to make available the sharing of our prayer life so that others may, by it, be drawn into their own deeper love of God. This recording has also provided an opportunity for us to make accessible a few original pieces written and arranged by the sisters in

hopes of furthering our unique Dominican spirit through the gift of song."

The album's producer, Blanton Alspaugh, won a Grammy award for 2013 as classical producer of the year. "The Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist are a fervent group who sing beautifully," he said. "It was richly rewarding to work with a choir that works so well together and who share an obvious love for music. We were honored to be invited to help the sisters with this recording and are thrilled to share it now with everyone who hears it."

Beginning Aug. 13, EWTN will present a 30-minute special on the sisters, including a behind-the-scenes look at the making of their debut recording.

Our Lady of Victory School Reunion at Parish Festival, Saturday, Aug. 10

The lazy days of summer are coming to an end and school days will begin again soon. Remember those early days of grade school and high school? Gathering brand-new school supplies, sharpening your pencils, hemming your uniform skirt or pants, and pressing your crisp white shirts, all in preparation for the first day back at school.

The years rolled by. You moved ahead with your life and lost track of some of your closest school friends. But you never forgot those fond memories of your early school years at Columbus Our Lady of Victory School.

There will be a chance to relive those days at the second annual Our Lady of Victory School reunion on Saturday, Aug. 10, the last night of the Our Lady of Victory parish festival. All alumni of the school will receive a commemorative button as a remembrance and a way of identifying other alumni as they browse the festival grounds.

The school, located next to the Our Lady of Victory convent and behind the church, operated from 1931 to 1979. It was razed in 2004 to make room for a new parish life center, which opened in 2005. Just before the school was demolished, alumni gathered for a "last dance." That event, organized by John Montenegro and a team of enthusiastic volunteers, drew 270 former students, showing that their family, parish, and school attachments ran deep.

Alumni gathered again at last year's festival for an all-class reunion, at which they shared stories and photos from their school years and rekindled long-lost friendships. Lucia Delewese McQuaide, diocesan school superintendent, was one of the graduates, attending the reunion with her cousins and classmates



Margherita Dallas Hennon, Margherita Oddi Beacom, Jo Marie Delewese Wilson, and Margherita Tiberi Filichia.

"As a 1961 Our Lady of Victory graduate, over the years when schools have closed, I could relate to how people felt," she said. "The idea of having an annual school reunion in conjunction with the parish festival is great. By going to the gathering, I can keep the wonderful memories I have of my grade-school days alive."

Margherita Finelli met classmates Betty Young, Mary Zuber-Ferrell, and Andrea Cenci Guttliep at last year's reunion. "Mary brought photos of our safety patrol group from the fifth grade (1968)," Finelli said. "Our photos were featured in *The Columbus Dispatch* back then. We had so much fun reliving our safety

patrol days, identifying other classmates, and recalling who had a crush on whom. Although I see his parents often, I had not seen classmate Steve Vargo in years. It was great catching up with him, Mike Young, and Mark McPherson and recalling our days as the Victory Vikings."

Our Lady of Victory graduate Camille Cenci said, "It was a wonderful opportunity to see people I had not seen in 40 years. There was a bond between us created by a set of common memories. There were the Eberly kids, the Vargo kids, and my school chum Casey Flannigan. I felt like I was back in school."

Last year's reunion took place in the old cafeteria, where everyone fondly recalled Mrs. Oddi and Mrs. Tiberi dishing up homemade lunches – not frozen meals. Their daughters, Margherita Oddi Beacom and Margherita Tiberi Filichia, had fun recalling how much their moms enjoyed talking with all the children as they passed through the cafeteria line.

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2013 IN RIO GETS UNDER WAY

A young man holds up a U.S. flag in the Cathedral of St. Sebastian in Rio de Janeiro on July 21, ahead of the opening of World Youth Day. CNS photo/Ueslei Marcelino, Reuters



Pope Francis kisses a baby after arriving in Rio de Janeiro on July 22. The pope is making his first trip outside Italy to attend World Youth Day, the international Catholic youth gathering. CNS photo/Ana Carolina Fernandes, Reuters



People gather around the World Youth Day cross during a visit to the Vidigal slum in Rio de Janeiro on July 15. Young people from around the globe will join Pope Francis for the celebration in Rio from July 23-28. CNS photo/Pilar Olivares, Reuters



Young people sing and dance before the arrival of the World Youth Day cross and icon at the Vidigal slum in Rio de Janeiro on July 15. CNS photo/Pilar Olivares, Reuters



Youths carry the World Youth Day cross as they visit Rio de Janeiro's famous icon of Christ the Redeemer on July 12 as Brazilian Catholics gear up for the international event with Pope Francis. More than 320,000 pilgrims from around the world have registered for the event. CNS photo/Ricardo Moraes, Reuters

CROWDS IN RIO SWARM POPE, WHO WANTED TO BE 'CLOSE TO THE PEOPLE'

By Francis X. Rocca

Catholic News Service

Hundreds of thousands of cheering people welcomed Pope Francis to Brazil on July 22 as he made the first international trip of his pontificate to his native region of Latin America.

The papal plane touched down at Rio's international airport at 3:43 p.m. local time. The pope emerged 18 minutes later to cheers from a relatively small group which included a children's choir.

After exchanging greetings with Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff and other dignitaries for 15 minutes, the pope entered a compact Brazilian-made Fiat Idea for the ride downtown, accompanied by security vehicles and helicopters overhead.

At some points, the motorcade was separated from ordinary rush-hour commuters by nothing more than a median strip. As the pope's car drew closer to the center, he passed increasingly large groups of people standing, cheering, and waving. About 20 minutes into the ride, clusters of people began pressing against the vehicle, reaching out to touch the pope, and had to be pushed away by the security detail. At one point, the press of crowds brought the vehicle briefly to a standstill, and the pope emerged to kiss a baby.

Apparently attempting to avoid the crowds, the motorcade turned into a stretch of ordinary traffic. Shortly thereafter, the papal car found itself repeatedly stuck between vehicles and crowds. Security officers could be seen



vigorously pushing back bystanders who reached out to touch the pope.

The 13.2-mile ride took 44 minutes.

At the city's cathedral, the pope boarded an open popemobile. Joined by Rio's Archbishop Orani Tempesta, he made a 25-minute circuit of downtown streets. Crowds contained behind police barriers cheered and waved as confetti rained down on the pope, who occasionally stopped to

kiss a baby or small child.

Brazilian Fernando Samapio said he brought his three children -- Miguel, 6, Gabriel, 8, and Pedro, 10 -- to see Pope Francis, and he said he also would take them to World Youth Day events at Copacabana beach. The family also is housing pilgrims from Croatia, France, and Mexico.

Samapio said Pope Francis "wants to renew the church, and I like him because of his humility and concern for the poor."

Mercedes Maunier, 18, and Emilia Ruiz, 19, of La Plata, Argentina, said they were headed toward the cathedral for the 6 p.m. Mass for Argentines.

"I am very proud to be Argentine at this moment, but I think the pope will help youngsters from the entire world," said Maunier.

Wanda Araujo, 83, called the visit "a blessing for all of us."

"We were in need of a 'people pope,'" she said. "Europeans don't really know what is like living in Latin America."

Just days before the trip, Pope Francis made the decision to circulate through downtown Rio de Janeiro so, as Archbishop Tempesta said, the pope could be "close to the people." The decision exemplified the spontaneity that already has become a trademark quality of Pope Francis' young pontificate.

According to his original itinerary, the pope would have proceeded directly from the airport to a welcome ceremony in the Guanabara Palace, the office of the governor of the state of Rio de Janeiro, about 12 miles away.

Instead, following the popemobile ride, he rode in the Fiat to a military airfield and boarded a helicopter that took him across the city to his meeting with Rousseff and other officials at the governor's palace of Rio de Janeiro state. It was before 6 p.m., and lights already were shining in the twilight of the Southern Hemisphere's winter.

The government has provided heightened security for the papal visit, with more than 28,000 police officers assigned to the week of events, which culminate in the celebrations of World Youth Day.

As the pope toured the city, Brazilian television reported that on the morning of July 21, police found a homemade bomb inside a bathroom at the sanctuary of Our Lady of Aparecida, which the pope was scheduled to visit July 24.

Photo: Pope Francis waves from his popemobile after arriving in Rio de Janeiro on July 22. The pope is making his first trip outside Italy to attend World Youth Day, the international Catholic youth gathering.

CNS photo/Stefano Rellandini, Reuters

DIOCESAN PILGRIMS TO WYD

Among the 2.5 million people attending World Youth Day celebrations in Rio de Janeiro are at least 12 pilgrims from the Diocese of Columbus.

Most are part of a group from the Perry County Consortium of Catholic Parishes which includes six young people from the consortium and is being led by Father James Cszasz, pastor of the four churches in the consortium.

The group also includes Father Dan Dury, pastor of Columbus St. Catharine Church; Father Jonathan Wilson, pastor of Newark Blessed Sacrament Church; and

seminarians Anthony Davis and Sean Dooley.

Also in Brazil for the event is Maria Damo, a sophomore at Xavier University in Cincinnati, who is a member of Worthington St. Michael Church. She is part of a contingent from St. Michael Church in Flint, Mich. Arrangements for her to join the group were made with the assistance of Mike Hall, director of the diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

A report from area World Youth Day participants will be featured in the Aug. 11 *Catholic Times*.