



DIocese OF COLUMBUS

CATHOLIC TIMES

A journal of Catholic life in Ohio



DECEMBER 8, 2013
THE SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT
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The Feast of the Immaculate Conception

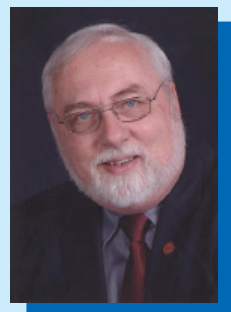


Patronal feast of the U.S. ~ December 9

The Editor's Notebook

Simple Obedience

By David Garick, Editor



With the Feast of the Immaculate Conception taking place this week, *Catholic Times* is taking a look at the special place Mary plays in our faith. It is fitting to do that in the midst of our Advent preparations for Christmas. After all, for the Incarnation to take place, Mary had to assent to her role in that process. "Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38). Having been born without the handicap of Original Sin, Mary was clearly more inclined to live a holy life. But she still had free will. She still had it in her power to say, "No, I'm not going to have a child now. No way!" That's how the world would tell us to react. But that's not what happened. Mary simply said "Yes" to the Lord.

Mary continues to confront us to this day as an example of obedience. Her message runs totally counter to what our society tells us. The world says you are supreme. You decide what you will do and what will happen with your body. Can we overcome the message of the world and obey the will of God? It's easy to say, "Well, Mary was born without sin. She could do that. I'm not that strong." Mary has shown us otherwise. Opening our hearts to God fills our lives with God's grace. Willingness to do God's will endows us with the strength to accomplish the task he places before us.

If the example of Mary's own life is not enough, consider another event we celebrate this coming week in which Mary's example of simple obedience led others to do the same.

On Thursday, Dec. 12, we celebrate the incredible story of Juan Diego. A simple Mexican peasant, he encountered Our Lady of Guadalupe, and she told him to have the bishop in Mexico City build a chapel for her. Do you think he really wanted to go tell a bishop what to do? But he did. Not once, but several times, until the bishop saw the miracle of Our Lady, and a tradition was born that has enriched the lives of millions of the faithful by bringing them closer to Jesus through her. It only happened because of Juan Diego's simple obedience.

As you will read on the next page of this newspaper, our Catholic brothers and sisters in Cardington are facing the aftermath of the destruction of their church building in a devastating Thanksgiving Day fire. But this parish, named and dedicated to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, is drawing strength from those very hearts. They are committing themselves to carrying out God's will in Morrow County and in the world. They are already moving forward to rebuild their church and, at the first Mass after the fire, stepped forward with a significant special offering to aid their suffering brothers and sisters in the Philippines.

We are all called to simple obedience. As we prepare to celebrate the coming of Our Lord at Christmas, let us remember that all the gifts of faith and eternal life come from simply saying "Yes" to Christ.

SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT



ANNUAL COLLECTION HELPS RETIRED RELIGIOUS

The annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection will take place Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 7 and 8, in the Diocese of Columbus. Now in its 26th year, the collection is coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) in Washington and benefits more than 34,000 senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious-order priests.

Last year, the Diocese of Columbus contributed \$144,870 to this collection. Women and men religious who serve or have served in the diocese but whose communities are based elsewhere may benefit from the annual appeal.

Catholic bishops of the United States initiated the collection in 1988 to address the significant lack of retirement funding among U.S. religious communities. Proceeds are distributed to eligible communities to help underwrite retirement and health-care expenses. Since the collection began, Catholics have contributed \$698 million. More than 93 percent of donations directly support senior religious and their communities.

Communities use these funds to bolster retirement savings and to subsidize such day-to-day expenses as prescription medications and nursing care. The NRRO also allocated nearly \$3.6 million to as-

sist religious communities with the greatest needs and to promote ongoing education in retirement and elder-care delivery.

Despite the generosity to the collection, several religious communities struggle to provide adequate care. In the past, Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests—known collectively as women and men religious—served for small stipends that did not include retirement benefits. Their sacrifices now leave their religious communities without adequate savings for retirement.

The rising cost of care compounds funding difficulties. Last year, the average annual cost of care for senior religious was more than \$38,000 per person, while skilled care averaged more than \$57,000. The total cost of care for senior women and men religious was more than \$1.1 billion in 2012 alone.

At the same time, the number of religious needing care is on the rise. In 2012, 61 percent of the religious communities providing data to the NRRO had a median age of 75 or older. Accompanying the higher median age is a decrease in the number of religious able to serve in compensated ministry. By 2023, the NRRO projects that retired religious will outnumber wage-earning religious by four to one.

CARDINGTON CHURCH PLANS FOR FUTURE AFTER FIRE

BY TIM PUET

Reporter, Catholic Times

Cardington Sacred Hearts Church was destroyed by a fire early Thanksgiving Day, but "what happened won't hold us down," said Father John Bakle, SM, parish administrator. "We will continue parish life and go on with most of the programs we had planned for the holiday season."

These include the parish's collection for the food pantry in Mount Gilead, its gathering of items for Christmas baskets, and an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 14, from 7 to 10 a.m. and sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 14671.

A site for those activities has yet to be determined. Father Bakle said Tuesday morning that the Cardington-Lincoln Local School District has offered the church the temporary use of the district's closed intermediate school building. He said he would be looking at the building later in the day to see how it could be adapted to the parish's needs and would then discuss the offer with school officials.

The building was completed for the 2012-13 school year for use by fourth- to sixth-grade students. It was in use for only one year before being closed because of a significant drop in student enrollment resulting from the closing and subsequent sale of the former General Motors stamping plant in Ontario, just outside of Mansfield.

Trinity United Methodist Church in Mount Gilead has offered its facilities for use by the Sacred Hearts congregation as a temporary worship site. Father Bakle said that for the time being, Masses will be celebrated at 4:30 p.m. Saturday and 9:30 a.m. Sunday in Trinity Hall. A site for Parish School of Religion classes hasn't been determined.

Bishop Frederick Campbell came to Cardington on Sunday, Dec. 1, three days after the fire, to celebrate the parish's first Mass in the Methodist hall. "The bishop told us the diocese wants to get started with the planning process today," Father Bakle said.

The bishop had been scheduled to visit Cardington on Monday, Dec. 9, to bless a digital organ which the parish had just purchased from the Graves Piano and Organ Co. of Columbus, where the instrument had served as a showroom

demonstration model for about two years. Father Bakle said that the organ had been installed less than two weeks ago and that the parish had been able to pay for it in cash because it has no debt.

The organ and nearly all the rest of the church's contents, including interior furnishings and liturgical items such as vestments, chalices, and hymnals, were destroyed by the fire. About the only items saved were the tabernacle and a set of bells.

The cause of the fire has not been determined. Spokesman Michael Duchesne of the state fire marshal's office said Tuesday that after going through the remains of the 40-year-old building, investigators from the office said it's unlikely a cause can be found because of the extent of the destruction. He also said that there was no sign the fire was set intentionally and that the person who first called in the fire said the flames were coming from the building's electrical room.

The church was located on U.S. 42 between Cardington and the Morrow County seat of Mount Gilead and was the county's only Catholic church. It stood out in the flat north central Ohio landscape because of its contemporary design and because it was surrounded by farmland, including what Father Bakle estimated is about 15 acres owned by the Diocese of Columbus.

Diocesan finance director Bill Davis said he and other diocesan officials will meet with Father Bakle later this month to begin the process leading to building of a new church at the same site.

Davis said the diocese's insurance on the church building will cover its full reconstruction cost. The diocese is self-insured, and Davis said most of the money to pay for rebuilding of the church will come from the self-insurance program. If the reconstruction cost is beyond the building's coverage limit, the Catholic Mutual Group, a self-insurance organization which serves most of the nation's dioceses and more than 200 religious orders or institutions, will cover the rest.

The fire did not affect the church's offices and rectory, which are about 100 yards from the destroyed building.

Father Bakle said he was unaware of the fire until about 20 minutes after it was first spotted at around 4 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 28 by a newspaper de-



A view of the fire which destroyed Cardington Sacred Hearts Church on Thursday, Nov. 28. The state fire marshal's office said the cause has not been determined.

Photo by Alissa Staley, courtesy of The Morrow County Sentinel, Mount Gilead

livery carrier for *The Columbus Dispatch*. "The sound of sirens awoke me, and when they didn't disappear into the distance, I figured something must be happening on the church property," he said. "Then I saw flashing red lights. Immediately looking out my bedroom window, I saw not just a small fire across the way, but a complete conflagration" to which nine trucks from six fire departments ultimately responded.

"At about 7 a.m., they reported to me that there was nothing, either structure or contents, that could be salvaged, at least in a usable condition, and that the structure and contents would probably be a total loss," Father Bakle said. "During the rest of the morning, many people stopped by to voice their concerns and promise their prayers. The fire professionals did a magnificent job and had the fire pretty well contained around 10 a.m. Most of the fire trucks and equipment had left by 1 p.m., but we had to call them back at about 2:30 because of a flareup."

The church was built primarily of wood. Father Bakle said that meant there was always great concern about the potential for fire. "We were very careful to have plenty of fire extinguishers in place because of the thought that something might happen," he said. "I never imagined the whole place would go up in flames."

He said that in the winter of 2011, the church had difficulty with its three connected oil-burning furnaces. Two

of them blew up, but didn't catch fire, resulting in the replacement of all three with more efficient models which had been serviced less than two months ago.

In a letter to parishioners, Father Bakle said that though the church building is gone, it provided "lots of happy memories of all kinds of events in our lives and those of our parents and children. We can keep those memories alive by maintaining our faith and hope and courageously moving into our future as a parish and rebuilding what they originally built for us."

Sacred Hearts Church has a membership of about 750 individuals from 200 families. It traces its beginnings to the founding of Cardington St. Joseph Church in 1868. The Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary came to the parish in 1948 and established a second Morrow County church, Mount Gilead St. Matthew, in that year. When the two parishes merged in 1971, the congregation, also known as the Picpus Fathers, departed from the county. The name of the merged parish honors that order of priests for its service.

Father Bakle, a member of the Marianist order, has been administrator at Sacred Hearts since July 2008.

The church has set up a fund to help with expenses as it begins the process of recovering from the fire.

Donations may be sent to: Sacred Hearts Church Rebuilding Fund, 4680 U.S. Route 42, Cardington OH 43315-9512.



Front Page:

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the patronal feast of the United States, will be celebrated Monday, Dec. 9 this year because the regular feast day of Dec. 8 is a Sunday. It is not a holy day of obligation this year.

Illustration courtesy U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

CATHOLIC TIMES

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PRACTICAL STEWARDSHIP

By Rick Jeric

Rejection



Did you enjoy saying “Thx” to those who deserve it most this past week? The texting abbreviations might be a good way to get our attention, but hopefully, we were able to thank those special people in person, or at least live over the telephone. Our holidays have become much too busy, with too many distractions, if we do not allow that to happen. A good and faithful steward lives a life filled with gratitude. Our lives are gifts, and we give back with loving time, talent, and treasure each day of our lives. Thanksgiving seems to be a “sacred” holiday that demands time with family, thanking God above all else for our tremendous bounty, and then thanking those around us who make our lives worthwhile and special. May we always keep the word “special” attached to our loved ones, and not so much to a particular deal or sale on Black Friday.

A good number of years ago, practically in a prior life, I was teaching a group of eighth-grade students preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation. It was just about this time of year, and we were discussing the Immaculate Conception. Among the important and practical issues was the fact that the Immaculate Conception refers to Mary being conceived without sin, rather than Mary’s conception of Jesus. We also discussed the importance of our holy days of obligation. Aside from those items, one very insightful and thoughtful young lady in the class asked the following question: “If Mary was conceived without sin, and sinned no more, then how could she have said anything but ‘Yes’ to the angel at the Annunciation? She could never have even considered rejection of the message, right?” I can assure you that a deep theological discussion did not happen as a result of her question. After all, this was eighth grade, and I am certainly not qualified to go that deeply into serious discussion. But a good discussion did follow, and I was really moved by how deep and serious these students were, given their advanced age of 14 or so. They were satisfied with the overriding fact that Mary is our shining example of what it means to say “Yes” without hesitation or concern for consequences. They determined that she was perfect because of her love and dedication to God, rather than that love being an accidental or predetermined result of perfection. That was a great class, and I will always remember those good students. What about us? I submit for our contemplation the following question: “If we receive the real Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, our God, in the Eucharist each Sunday, and daily if we can, then how could we ever say anything but ‘Yes’ to Him? How could we ever consider rejection?” We are sinners, and we suffer the lasting effects of original sin. This complete circle of forgiveness is the mystery of the Incarnation, Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Our Lord. The very same God comes to us physically and actually in the Eucharist. The challenge is clear: let us use this Advent to rediscover the saving gift of the Eucharist.

Our practical challenge this week is to make a simple, private promise. Recommit your life to the real presence of the Body and Blood of our Lord in the Eucharist. Prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight the path. We must receive Him at Mass on Sunday. We should go out of our way to do the same during the week, any chance we have. Priorities? To help us prepare, get out your Bible or computer, and read the Gospel of John, chapter 6, beginning with verse 22. This is the discourse on the Bread of Life. Read, meditate, and prepare well. Crave the Eucharist. As an extra challenge, go to Mass on Monday, Dec. 9, and thank Mary the Immaculate Conception for her “Yes.” The solemnity is moved to Monday this year.

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

MEDICAL PRACTICE MANAGEMENT MASTER’S PROGRAM AT ODU

The higher learning commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools has approved Ohio Dominican University’s new graduate program in medical practice management, which will be launched in January of 2014.

ODU’s master of science in medical practice management program will be taught by faculty with vast, diverse professional experience in health services. The program’s courses will take place one night a week to offer working adults an opportunity to achieve their degree around their schedule. Additionally, students will gain relevant experience through ODU’s strong network of health professionals and organizations in the greater Columbus region.

“ODU’s medical practice manage-

ment program is specifically designed to provide students with the skills and competencies necessary for long-term success in managerial and executive-level positions in medical practices and other health service organizations,” said Dr. Theresa Holleran, vice president for academic affairs. “Graduates will possess knowledge of health care law, regulations and economics, as well as leadership, analytical and decision-making skills that will help them successfully manage a medical practice in today’s rapidly changing health care climate.”

The health care management field is one of the fastest growing industries in the United States. Additionally, *Yahoo! Education* selected medical and health services management as the top growing health care career for 2013.

‘OCTOBER BABY’ SCREENING

Stallions for Life, the pro-life club of Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School, in partnership with Ohio Right to Life, will present a screening of the film *October Baby* at 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15 in the little theater of the school, 4212 Karl Road. Doors open at 4:30.

October Baby is an inspiring pro-life movie about how every life is beautiful. The screening is free, although donations will be accepted. Pizza, popcorn,

and drinks will be provided. Baked goods will be available for purchase, with the proceeds benefiting the club.

More information on *October Baby* may be found at <http://www.octoberbaby.com/synopsis>. Note that this is a PG-13 movie, as it deals with the mature theme of abortion.

Anyone wishing to attend is asked to contact Mackenzie Kraker by Wednesday, Dec. 11 at kraker.1@desales.co or (614) 783-4711.

DAY OF RENEWAL

The Columbus Catholic Charismatic Renewal is sponsoring a day of renewal at Columbus St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon Woods Blvd., on Thursday, Dec. 12. The theme will be “The New Evangelization.”

The day will begin with registration at 9 a.m., The Sacrament of Reconcili-

ation will be available at 9:30, along with praise and worship until Mass at 10:15, followed by a talk by Deacon Jerry Butts of Columbus Corpus Christi Church on missionary zeal, and concluding with a potluck luncheon.

For more information, call (614) 237-7080.

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Correction - Some of the information printed in the Dec. 1 Catholic Times about Adoration and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at Marion St. Mary Church was incorrect. Adoration takes place every Friday, from the end of the 8:30 a.m. Mass to 9 a.m. Saturday, and the church has a Holy Hour with Exposition and confessions every Tuesday from 5 to 6 p.m.

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FOOD DONATION CHALLENGE



The Student Council of Somerset Holy Trinity School challenged all classes to bring in food items for the Somerset food pantry. Each classroom exceeded its goal, and more than 500 items will be donated.

ODU, UF PRESIDENTIAL WAGER BENEFITS MID-OHIO FOODBANK

Ohio Dominican University and The University of Findlay have teamed up to donate 2,278 pounds of food and 10 turkeys to the Mid-Ohio Foodbank this holiday season, fulfilling a wager made between the universities’ presidents on the outcome of their Oct. 17 nationally televised football game on the CBS Sports Network. ODU won the game 41-21.

Dr. Peter Cimbolic, Ohio Dominican president, presented the winnings to Greg Winslow, vice president for development at the Mid-Ohio Foodbank.

The presentation is included in a light-hearted video co-produced by the schools that features both presidents participating in settling the bet.

Cimbolic and Findlay’s president, Dr. Katherine Fell, made a pregame wager that the losing school would agree to donate 10 turkeys to the winning school’s local food bank, which also would

receive all food donations collected at the game, which was played at Ohio Dominican. The wager also stipulated that the losing university’s president would wear the winning school’s football jersey in a YouTube video.

“This is a wonderful and meaningful way to conclude an exciting moment for both of our outstanding universities, and a great opportunity to serve those who

are most in need,” Cimbolic said. “This wager ensures that regardless of the outcome of the game, everyone is a winner.”

The donation includes food collected during October by students involved in ODU’s campus ministry. ODU’s food services partner, Sodexo, matched the contribution of 1,139 pounds of food, to double the universities’ total gift.

COUPLES RETREAT

Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center, 2734 Seminary Road S.E., Newark, will host a winter retreat on Friday and Saturday, Jan. 10 and 11, for couples who wish to explore ways to strengthen their relationship with each other and with God.

It will be facilitated by Dan and Mary Ann Kerscher and titled “Apples and Oranges? Two Peas In A Pod?” Participants are asked

to arrive by 7:30 p.m. Friday and will depart Saturday after a candlelight dinner at 5 p.m. The cost is \$120 per couple, including an overnight stay, breakfast, lunch, and the Saturday dinner.

For more details or to register, visit the center’s website at www.stspeterpaulretreatcenter.com, send an email message to info@stspeterandpaulretreatcenter.org, or call (740) 928-4246.

Bishop Ready Honors New Hall of Fame Members and Service Award Winner

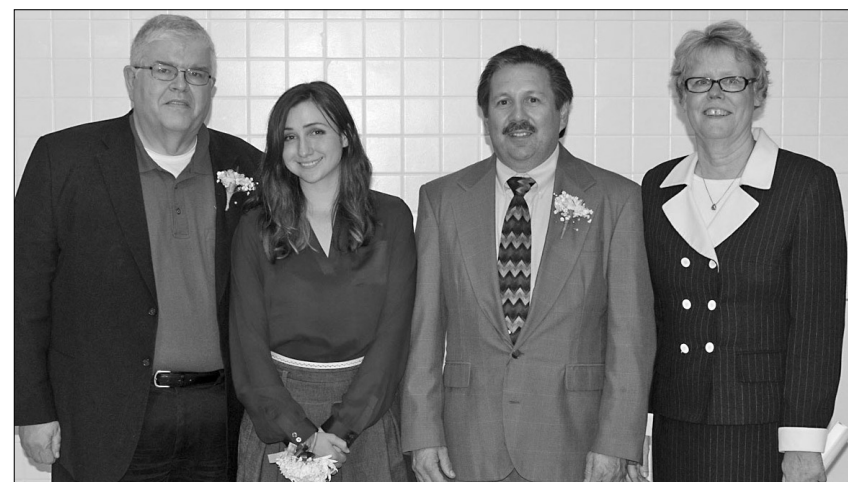
Mary McAllister and Michael Llaneza, who recently were elected to the Columbus Bishop Ready High School Hall of Fame, were honored at an assembly at the school, as was Father Leo Connolly, who received the Silver Knight Service Award.

McAllister, a member of Ready's Class of 2008, is a Joyce scholar who graduated *summa cum laude* from the University of Notre Dame in 2012 and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. She has spent the last year as a volunteer at Amate House in Chicago, tutoring students at St. Mary of the Lake Elementary School, where most of the students are African refugees. This fall, she began her first year at The Ohio State University's medical school.

Llaneza, a 1974 Ready graduate, is the

owner-operator of Lanz Printing in Columbus. He has devoted hours to support of his alma mater. Whether it's meeting a "rush" deadline or attending Ready events, he has always been a proud alumnus and readily acknowledges the positive effect the school continues to have on his life.

Father Connolly, pastor of Columbus St. Cecilia Church, is a faithful Ready supporter who, in the words of principal Celene Seamen, "never is too busy, always has the time, and provides a wealth of spiritual knowledge and a generous spirit" in his dealings with Ready. "I can always count on Father to come through, whether it's as a celebrant or concelebrant at our liturgies, for confession for our students, or as a sounding board when I need an objective opinion," she said.



Honorees at a recent assembly at Columbus Bishop Ready High School were (from left): Father Leo Connolly, Mary McAllister, and Michael Llaneza, with the school's principal, Celene A. Seamen. Photo courtesy Bishop Ready High School

ST. ROSE STUDENTS GREET NEWBORNS IN PERRY COUNTY

New Lexington St. Rose School is making an effort to recognize newborns in the Perry County Consortium. Whenever word is received about a newborn, the school will send a pink St. Rose of Lima bear and card recognizing the event.

Teacher Jonathan Medaugh is coordinating the activity, with the help of Ruth Fondale in the consortium office and Teresa Medaugh in the school office. Financial support for the project is being provided by the Home and School Association, whose president is Jessica Muncy. Parents of newborns are urged to call the consortium office.

Pictured with the first batch of bears is sixth-grader Dalton Proctor. Photo courtesy St. Rose School



OUR LADY OF VICTORY ADVENT AFTERNOON CONCERT

The choir will offer music from many traditions: a beautiful 16th century Advent anthem, rhythmic African and Spanish songs, a lovely arrangement of Silent Night.

Sunday, December 15 at 3:00 p.m.

1559 Roxbury Rd. Columbus 43212

Free-will offering

For information, call Carol Ann: 614-348-8822

ST. BRENDAN HISTORY TRIP



Hilliard St. Brendan School eighth-grade students are shown at one of the monuments on the Gettysburg battlefield as part of a trip to Gettysburg and the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Seton in Emmitsburg, Md. The trip provided links to the school's religion, language arts, and social studies curriculum. Students and parents raised funds to support the trip at Lenten fish fries. Photo courtesy St. Brendan School



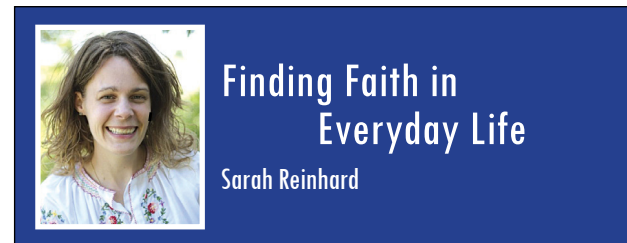
THIS CHRISTMAS, GIVE THE GIFT OF YOURSELF

It was just recently that I realized something about myself: I like old people.

I think it all began back when I was about six. Or maybe I was seven. Regardless of my age, I remember distinctly liking my great-grandmother. For one thing, she made waffles that did not go in the toaster. For another, she was always happy to see me.

In the last few months, I've found myself around a number of people whose ages trump mine by a minimum of 40 years. I've had a chance to share these wonderful experiences with some of the young people in my life, and it's been a gift.

It's been a gift for the young people (myself included, though I'm not such a spring chicken), because they need to see that respecting life extends all the way to the end. The natural end. The end that God gives us,



which isn't always pretty, or comfortable, or exciting.

It's been a gift for the older folks (myself included, though I'm not really all that old), because they're lonely. They need to see the energy and the hope that these young people embody. They need to be inspired and reminded why they worked so hard, why they sacrificed so much, why they keep on going.

It's been a gift for the people who have heard about

it (including you, dear reader, though you may not know it), because we need the reminder to love.

As we enter the hap-happiest time of the year, many around us suffer. They suffer from loss and loneliness, from heartache and sorrow, from despair and grief. They suffer in ways invisible to our eyes but resounding to our hearts.

This Christmas, whether it's the nursing home down the road or a relative's apartment, I challenge you to give the time that, in our society, is worth far more: your time. In doing so, you will find your heart home to a gift far greater than that which you give.

Sarah Reinhard is the author of *Welcome Baby Jesus: Advent and Christmas Reflections for Families, and camps out online at SnoringScholar.com.*

Bishop Watterson Signees



Four Columbus Bishop Watterson High School students recently announced their intent to play sports in college. They are (from left): first row: Madeline Grubbe, swimming, Toledo; Lauren Ghidotti, tennis, Xavier; second row, Scott Carter, baseball, Adrian; Lauren Frilling, volleyball, Xavier. Photo courtesy Bishop Watterson High School



First-Grade Thanksgiving at St. Andrew School

Columbus St. Andrew School first-grade students participated in a Thanksgiving program. They learned about the Pilgrims and Native Americans and celebrated afterward at a Thanksgiving feast with their parents.

Photo courtesy St. Andrew School

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: LOGICAL, YET A MYSTERY

BY TIM PUET

Reporter, Catholic Times

The Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary is logical on the one hand, yet mysterious on the other, says Msgr. Eugene Morris of the Pontifical College Josephinum.

“On the one hand, it makes perfect sense in light of our belief that God loves us so much that he wants to set us free from sin, reconcile us to him, and rebirth us through the gift of his son Jesus, the second person of the blessed trinity, born with divine and human nature, son of god and son of Mary.

“At the same time, it is a mystery why out of everyone in human history, God gave this young girl from the Holy Land of 2,000 years ago her unique role in the economy of salvation – the unduplicated privilege of being without sin from the moment she was conceived, so she could serve as the vessel to fulfill the plan God had for all of creation.

“He had to being about her conception in such a way that if a child of hers was to be the son of God, she had to be blameless. She is the mother of God, though she was not born like God, because God chose her for this role, and she accepted. You may ask ‘Why her?’ but why not her?”

The Catholic Church is celebrating the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on Monday, Dec. 9 this year because the traditional feast date of Dec. 8 is on a Sunday.

Usually, the feast is a holy day of obligation in this country because the bishops of the United States placed the nation under the protection of the immaculately conceived Mary as its patroness in 1846.

This year is an exception to the requirement that U.S. Catholics attend Mass for the feast, but many churches will be celebrating special Masses on Monday to mark it.

The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception refers to the belief that Mary was conceived and born without being tainted by the original sin of Adam. It was a widespread belief among Catholics from the early days of the Church, but was not made a part of official Catholic teaching until 1854, when Pope Pius IX issued a document proclaiming the doctrine to

be infallible.

It is not to be confused with the virgin birth, which refers to the belief that even after conceiving and bearing Jesus, Mary remained a virgin.

“The Church has always held that Mary, in advance, received the fullness of grace which Christ gained for us on the cross,” said Msgr. Morris, director of sacred liturgy for the college of liberal arts and the school of theology at the Josephinum. “All of us, even Mary, benefit from her son in this way, but she received that benefit in advance.

“How is this possible? Because the Church understands that while the salvation of the human race through Christ happened in time and space, it is not bound by time and space. So it is possible that in God’s providence in bringing about our salvation, he allows the merits of his son to be applied to Our Lady, so he can fulfill the task given to her for our salvation.”

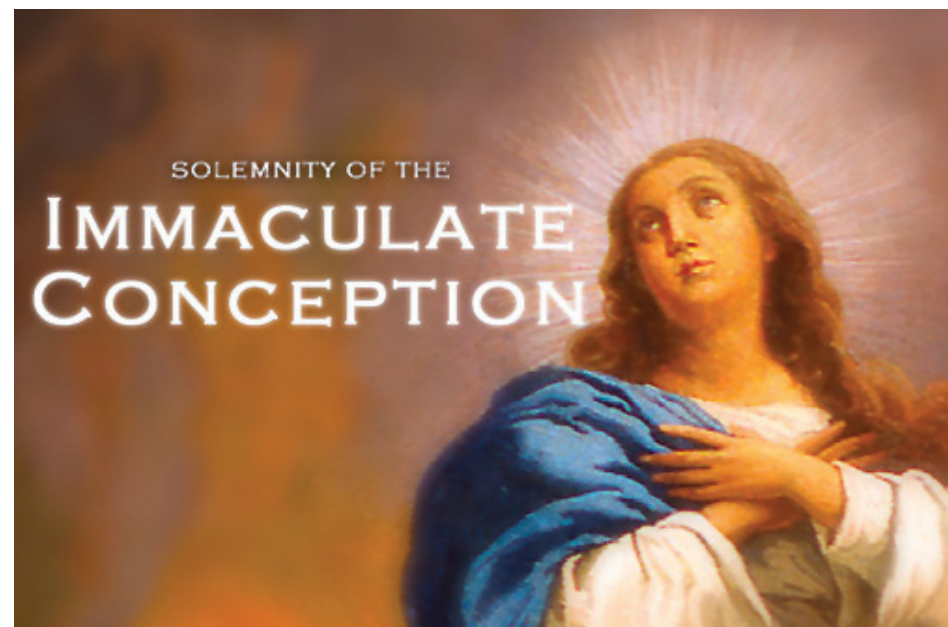
Msgr. Morris noted that Mary’s role in salvation is clear from the beginning of the Bible, where, in the third chapter of the book of Genesis, though not mentioned by name, she is considered to be the woman whose offspring, Jesus, will “crush (or “strike at”, depending on the translation) the head” of Satan, depicted in this case as the serpent in the garden of Eden.

“As soon as we sinned, the Father made it clear how he was to bring about the restoration of creation, and what Mary’s role in that restoration was to be,” Msgr. Morris said. “This was part of the story of Adam and Eve, who were our first parents in sin.

“Jesus is the new Adam and Mary the new Eve, and they are our first parents in grace. Both sets of parents are involved, in a sense, in God’s ultimate desire for his creation. One other thing to note is that, at least for a time, both sets of parents were sinless. It’s hard for us now to picture Adam and Eve as sinless, but that’s how they began.

“When talking about the Immaculate Conception, keep in mind that the ultimate answer as to why God has done this and is doing this is because he loves us. The privilege he gave Mary was not so much for her as it is for us, as well as for her.”

It took a relatively long time for the



doctrine of the Immaculate Conception to become dogma because, unlike the virgin birth, it is not explicitly stated in Scripture. Many early church fathers and doctors, while considering Mary the holiest of saints, had difficulty seeing her as sinless.

“This is one of those Church teachings that arose more from the piety of the faithful than from the insights of brilliant theologians,” the website www.americancatholic.org says in its “Saint of the Day” feature for Dec. 8.

A feast known as the Conception of Mary began to be celebrated in the seventh century in the Eastern Church. The Western Church adopted it one century later, and it received its name of the Immaculate Conception in the 11th century. It is celebrated nine months before the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin on Sept. 8, just as Christmas is nine months after the Feast of the Annunciation on March 25.

Pius IX was highly devoted to the Blessed Virgin and felt God was leading him to issue *Ineffabilis Deus*, his document about the Immaculate Conception. But before he did, he asked the world’s bishops whether he should do so, and 90 percent responded affirmatively. He then prayed at great length and fasted before proclaiming the doctrine on Dec. 8, 1854.

Four years later, Mary put what might be said to be her personal stamp of approval on the proclamation when she appeared to St. Bernadette at Lourdes and said “I am the Immaculate Con-

ception.”

The Scripture readings for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception include the Genesis description of the consequences of the sin of Adam and Eve, and Luke’s Gospel account of Mary’s acceptance of her role as the mother of Jesus. These combine to emphasize Mary as the new Eve who said “Yes” to God, while the first Eve said “No.”

Mary has been honored in the United States from the earliest days of European colonization.

In 1643, the king of Spain issued a proclamation placing the Spanish colonies in North and South America under the protection of the Blessed Virgin. Her patronage also was implicit in the voyages of Christopher Columbus, who named his flagship the Santa Maria.

The largest Catholic church in the United States is the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. Its cornerstone was laid in 1920, but it took nearly 40 years to finish because of the Depression and World War II.

The basilica is one of thousands of churches across America dedicated to Mary. The Diocese of Columbus has 10 churches and four schools with the name “St. Mary,” three churches and two schools named “Immaculate Conception,” plus several other churches and schools dedicated to the Blessed Virgin under one of her many titles.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CELEBRATIONS

Parishes throughout the Diocese of Columbus will be celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe with Masses and other events on either the feast day itself or other days between Sunday, Dec. 8, and Sunday, Dec. 15. The feast day is Thursday, Dec. 12, marking the anniversary of the third and final apparition of the Blessed Virgin to St. Juan Diego near Mexico City in 1531.

Some parish programs will include the “Happy Birthday” serenades to Mary that are known as mananitas. The schedule for activities throughout the diocese is as follows:

Parroquia Santa Cruz, Columbus – Procession from the Holiday Inn, 7007 N. High St., Worthington, traveling 3.7 miles down High Street to Columbus Our Lady of Peace Church, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dec. 8, with *mananitas* at 1:15, Mass at 1:20 and refreshments at 2:15 at Our Lady of Peace. The parish regularly meets at Columbus Holy Name Church, where *mananitas* will be sung at 11 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11. On the Dec. 12 feast day, there will be recital of the rosary, followed by Mass, at 7 p.m. and a fiesta after Mass.

Columbus Christ the King – Mananitas, 6 a.m. Dec. 8, followed by breakfast at 7. Rosary procession starts at 11:30 a.m. that day at PNC Bank, 2295 E. Livingston Ave., traveling to church for 12:30 p.m. Mass, followed by fiesta at 2 p.m. in All Saints Academy gym. The feast itself will be celebrated on Dec. 12 with the rosary and songs at 6 p.m., followed by Mass at 7.

Columbus St. James the Less – Music, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, followed by Mass, procession after Mass, and reception.

Columbus St. Peter – Rosary, 10 p.m. Dec. 11, followed by refreshments, and *mananitas* at midnight. Mass, 7 p.m. Dec. 12.

Columbus St. Stephen – Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe daily at 7 p.m. through Dec. 11. Procession starts at 9:30 a.m. Dec. 8 from upper parking lot of church to Westland Mall and back, followed by Mass. *Mananitas*, 10 p.m. Dec. 11, followed by Vigil Mass in Spanish at 11. *Mananitas*, 5 a.m. Dec. 12. Masses, 5:30 a.m. (Spanish), 8 a.m. (English) and 7 p.m. (Spanish), Dec. 12. *Posadas*, which recreate Mary and Joseph’s search for a place to stay in Bethlehem, will take place at 7 p.m. daily from Monday, Dec. 16 to Monday, Dec. 23.

Columbus St. Thomas – Bilingual day of reflection with Father Thomas Florek, SJ; theme: “Guadalupe: Crossing Borders, Uniting Brothers and Sisters,” Saturday, Dec. 7, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Procession from back entrance of Mann’s Trailer Park and Sixth Avenue to church, 10:30 a.m. Dec. 8, followed by bilingual Mass at 11:30, and fiesta in parish center.

Delaware St. Mary – Mass, 5:30 p.m. Dec. 12, followed by potluck dinner in school commons.

Dover St. Joseph – Procession, 4:45 a.m. Dec. 12, followed by *mananitas* at 5, Mass at 6, and traditional

breakfast.

Kenton Immaculate Conception – Confessions, 6:30 p.m. Dec. 12, followed by bilingual Mass at 7 and potluck in gym with *mariachi* band performing. Joint celebration with Ada Our Lady of Lourdes.

Marion St. Mary – Mananitas, 5 a.m. Dec. 12. Masses, 6 a.m. (Spanish) and 8:30 a.m. (English) Dec. 12. Procession featuring traditional dancers and *mariachi* music, 12:45 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15, followed by Mass in Spanish at 1 and potluck fiesta in Moira Hall..

Newark St. Francis de Sales – Mass in Spanish, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11, followed by fiesta in Johnson Hall from 7:30 to 9:30.

West Portsmouth Our Lady of Sorrows – Mananitas, 11 p.m. Dec. 11, followed by a light meal of bread and hot chocolate.

Westerville St. Paul – Mass, 6 p.m. Dec. 12, followed by reception.

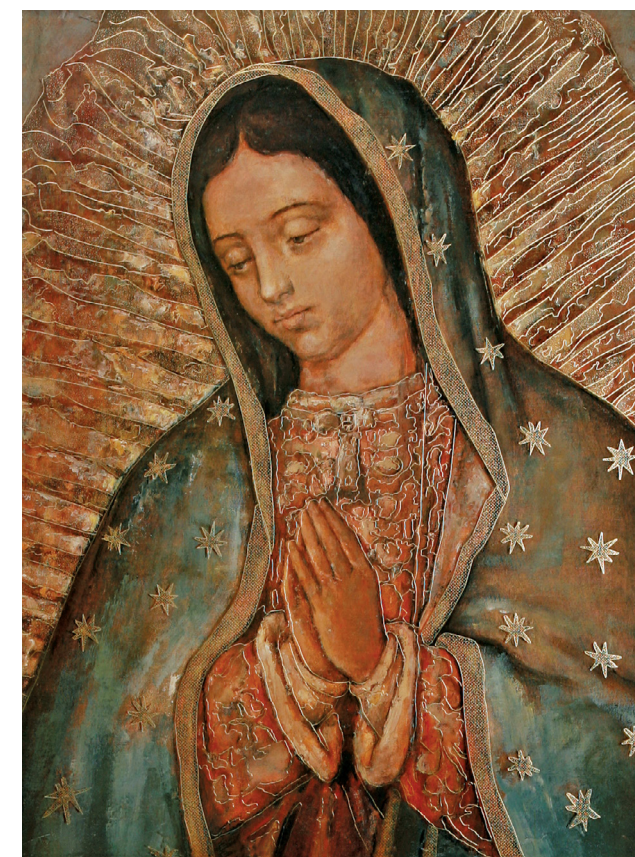
The story of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas, begins with a 57-year-old Aztec peasant who had been given the name Juan Diego upon being baptized. On his way to Mass on Dec. 9, 1531, he was walking by a hill northwest of Mexico City which had been the site of an Aztec temple. All at once, he heard beautiful music and saw a radiant cloud from which a young Native American woman dressed like an Aztec princess spoke to him in his own language.

“My dear little son, I love you,” she said. “I desire you to know who I am. I am the ever-virgin Mary, mother of the true God who gives life and maintains its existence. He created all things, He is in all places. He is Lord of heaven and earth. I desire a church in this place, where your people may experience my compassion. All those who sincerely ask my help in their work and in their sorrows will know my Mother’s heart in this place. Here I will see their tears. I will console them and they will be at peace. So run now ... and tell the bishop (of Mexico City) all that you have seen and heard.”

Juan Diego did so, but the bishop’s advisers kept him waiting for hours. The bishop himself told Juan Diego he would consider the request, but appeared skeptical. Juan Diego went back to the hill and found Mary waiting for him. He told her he felt unworthy to bear her message, and she responded, “My little son, there are many I could send. But you are the one I have chosen.”

The next day, Dec. 10, Juan Diego went back to the bishop, who asked for a sign that it was indeed Mary. She then told him, “My little son, am I not your Mother? Do not fear. The bishop shall have his sign. Come back to this place tomorrow. Only peace, my little son.”

Juan Diego did not come back the following day because his uncle had become seriously ill. On Dec. 12, he left his uncle’s side to find a priest. He had to pass by the hill, and on doing so, he found Mary again waiting for him. She told him: “Do not be distressed, my littlest son. Am I not here with you who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protec-



tion? Your uncle will not die at this time. There is no reason for you to engage a priest, for his health is restored at this moment. He is quite well. Go to the top of the hill and cut the flowers that are growing there. Bring them then to me.”

The flowers to which she was referring were roses, which should not have been blooming at that time of year. He gathered them in his cloak, or *tilma*, a poncho-like cape made of cactus fiber. She said, “My little son, this is the sign I am sending to the bishop. Tell him that with this sign I request his greatest efforts to complete the church I desire in this place. Show these flowers to no one else but the bishop. You are my trusted ambassador. This time, the bishop will believe all you tell him.”

Juan Diego went to the bishop, spread out his cloak, and the roses fell to the floor. At this point, the two men discovered the cloak was imprinted with an image of Mary as Juan Diego had seen her on the hill. The bishop and his advisers then fell to their knees.

Juan Diego returned the next day to his uncle and found him completely cured. His uncle told him he had been visited by a young woman, surrounded by a soft light, who said she had just sent Juan Diego to the bishop with a picture of herself. She told his uncle, “Call me and call my image *Santa Maria de Guadalupe*.”

It’s believed the word *Guadalupe* is a mistranslation of local dialect. The word Mary probably used was *Coatlallope*, which means “one who treads on snakes” – a reference to the description in Genesis 3:15 of a woman who will destroy the snake representing Satan by striking at his heel. The representation of a snake being crushed by the woman is part of the Guadalupe image.

A relic of the image, which has been touched to the original, can be seen at Plain City St. Joseph Church.

Wolper, Emens to address ODU winter graduates at 100th commencement

Beatrice Wolper and Richard Emens, co-founders of the Conway Center for Family Business, will address Ohio Dominican University graduates and receive honorary degrees at ODU's 100th commencement exercises on Saturday, Dec. 14 at 11 a.m.



the YWCA Women of Achievement award; and the Women in Business Advocate award from the U.S. Small Business Association.

Approximately 200 students will have degrees conferred upon them as they are joined by hundreds of family and friends in Alumni Hall.

This will be the first time a husband and wife have jointly addressed ODU graduates at commencement.

Wolper and Emens serve on the Conway Center's advisory board and Emens is its executive director.

The not-for-profit center, located on the ODU campus, is the only organization in central Ohio that provides education resources, including succession planning, for family business leaders.

Wolper is president of the Columbus law firm of Emens & Wolper, focusing on family-owned business, women business owners, estate planning, and wealth transfer, and serves as outside general counsel to privately held businesses.

She serves as Ohio president for the International Women's Forum and is involved with Insight Bank, the Capital Club, and the legal advisory boards of the Columbus Foundation and Central Ohio Planned Giving.

She has served on committees of the boards for the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce, COSI, Women's Business Board, Greater Columbus Arts Council, Mount Carmel College of Nursing, Greater Columbus News Bureau, and Small Business Council.

She has won many awards, including Women Who Make a Difference from the International Women's Forum; Entrepreneur of the Year from Ernst & Young's Columbus region;

Sky Radio Network selected her as one of America's most influential women in 2006. She is listed in the corporate law section of *Best Lawyers in America*.

Wolper received a bachelor's degree from the University of Cincinnati, and a juris doctorate from Northern Kentucky University.

Emens is a partner of Emens & Wolper, practicing in the areas of business planning, oil and gas law, and natural resources law.

He is a member of the bar associations of Ohio and Michigan and has served as trustee and president of the Energy and Mineral Law Foundation.

He also was chair of the Ohio State Bar Association's oil and gas committee, trustee of the Ohio Oil and Gas Association, attorney member of the Ohio Oil and Gas Commission, and a drafter of Ohio's oil and gas conservation law.

He served as chair of the Ball State University Foundation, where he founded the Emens Scholars program, and also served as chairman of Franklin University's board of trustees.

Emens is in *Best Lawyers in America* in the categories of oil and gas law, natural resources law, and corporate law.

He writes frequently on oil, gas, and mineral issues and has spoken to more than 8,000 Ohio landowners about oil and gas leases and pipeline easements.

He received a bachelor's degree *summa cum laude* from DePauw University and a juris doctorate from the University of Michigan Law School.

ST. CATHARINE FIFTH-GRADE GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TEAM WINS DIOCESAN CHAMPIONSHIP



The Columbus St. Catharine School fifth-grade girls volleyball team completed an undefeated season with a victory over Hilliard St. Brendan in the Diocesan Recreation Association championship game. This is the second year in a row the team has gone undefeated. Pictured are (from left): Alyssa Carfagna, Gabriela Bott, Olivia Zeltman, Megan Diehl, Colleen Sweeney, Emily Schweitzer, Baille Breckenridge, Katie Heuser, Caitlin Abel, and Sami Jolley. Not pictured is teammate Megan Lampke. The team has been coached for the past two years by Tom Diehl, Tanya Schweitzer, and Erin Heuser.

Photo courtesy St. Catharine School

LECTURER URGES STUDENTS TO THINK GLOBALLY

About 70 percent of the nation's college students cannot find Iran, Iraq, Israel, or Indonesia on a map, and this lack of knowledge hampers America's ability to respond in a global environment, said Dr. Allan Goodman, president of the International Institute of Education, at Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School's annual Borromeo lecture.

Goodman said foreign language learning is at the lowest level in U.S. history and noted that last year, Harvard graduated more students with a degree in film studies than majored in Arabic nationwide. He spoke to more than 800 students, faculty, and community members in the school's Robert C. Walter Student Commons on Friday, Nov. 22.

He cited a report by the Council on Foreign Relations that concluded, "America's failure to learn strategic languages, coupled with a lack of formal instruction about the history and cultures of the rest of the world, limits U.S. citizens' global awareness, cross-cultural competence, and ability to assess situations and respond appropriately in an increasingly interconnected world."

Goodman encouraged the students of

St. Charles to get their passports and consider studying abroad.

"While in college, 90 percent of your counterparts will not study abroad," he said. "If you choose the path less taken, it will change your lives. ... It will certainly change those whom you encounter – and, in the process, make the world we share a less dangerous place."

Goodman is the sixth president of the IIE, the leading not-for-profit organization for international educational exchange. It administers the Fulbright program sponsored by the State Department, as well as more than 250 corporate, government, and privately sponsored programs. The institute also rescues scholars threatened by war, terrorism, and repression.

The lecture series was established in 2000 through the initiative of St. Charles alumnus Robert Dilenschneider, author and founder of The Dilenschneider Group, a strategic communications firm. It is named for the school's patron, St. Charles Borromeo.

Previous speakers have included Michael Novak, former U.S. ambassador; Cardinal Avery Dulles, SJ; Joel Klein, former chancellor of New York City



Pictured during the annual Borromeo lecture program at Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School are (from left) St. Charles graduate Robert Dilenschneider, founder of the lecture series; Dr. Allan Goodman, who presented this year's lecture; and St. Charles principal James Lower. Goodman is holding a copy of a recently released book edited by Dilenschneider titled "Values for a New Generation- Great Thinkers Discuss What Really Matters in Life," featuring comments and life experiences from lecture presenters of the last decade.

Photo courtesy St. Charles Preparatory School

schools; William McGurn, vice president of News Corp.; and Archbishop

Celestino Migliore, former apostolic nuncio to the United Nations.

LOCAL KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCILS RECEIVE TOP INTERNATIONAL AWARD

Twelve Knights of Columbus councils in the Diocese of Columbus have earned the distinction of Star Council, one of the organization's top awards, for the 2012-2013 fraternal year.

They are Delaware Council 1056 (Todd Ames, grand knight); Kenton

Council 1597, (Bradford Lauter); St. James Council 2299, Logan (Thomas Walsh); Father Andrew Hohman Council 5253, Reynoldsburg (Stephen McClellan); Miraculous Medal Council 11188, Columbus (Robin De Santos); St. Elizabeth Council 11193, Columbus

(Oliver Collins); Father Sheldon Kelly Council 11224, West Jefferson (Mark Taylor); St. Andrew Council 11275, Columbus (Daniel Dowler); St. Michael Council 11445, Worthington (Brett Gissel); St. Margaret of Cortona Council 12939, Columbus (Sean Fitzgerald); Our Lady of Peace Council 14282, Columbus (Robert Brehm); and St. Mark Council 15447, Lancaster (Ronald Klausung).




be a reminder and an inspiration to the members of your council to continue to promote the ideals of Columbianism for the good of the Church, your community, and the order."

The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic lay organization. It provides members and their families with volunteer opportunities in service to the Church, their communities, families, and young people. With more than 1.8 million members in more than 14,000 councils around the world, the Knights of Columbus annually donates more than \$167 million and 70 million hours of service to charitable causes.

Visit www.kofc.org for information.

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Second Sunday of Advent (Cycle A)

A vision that goes far beyond one historical era



Father
Lawrence L. Hummer

Isaiah 11:1-10
Romans 15:4-9
Matthew 3:1-12

I once passed an exam at the Pontifical Biblical Institute for Father Alonso-Schoeckel after staring all night at a potted cactus. I realized after hours of staring at that cactus that it represented precisely what he'd been teaching that semester in a course on "Inspiration and Inerrancy in the Scriptures." It had to do with imprints from the previous page (or leaf) being recognized on succeeding leaves. I guess you had to be there to appreciate it.

Many scholars argue that the "stump" imagery is a sign that the line of David's successors had already died out, but they miss what may be more obvious. Isaiah stared at a stump and came up with one of the most inspired images of the entire book, as he sees a shoot from the stump of Jesse unfolding. Jesse had been the father of David, who became Israel's greatest king and the standard against whom all other kings were measured. Granted his many sins, he still represented the greatest period of growth and stability in Israel's history. But David had been dead for centuries by the time Isaiah prophesied, and Isaiah had begun to look to the future for someone who would come from Jesse's line and would do justice in the land.

The spirit of the Lord had been given to David when he was anointed by Samuel (1 Samuel 16:13). Israel longed for another leader who would enjoy that same inspiration. Some, like Hezekiah and Ahaz, had shown promise, but Isaiah looked to the future for someone who would embody all the gifts he lists and who would be able to resist the policies of ill-informed advisers.

Wilderness Outreach

Wilderness Outreach is sponsoring its annual 20-mile Advent hike from Lake Logan to Ash Cave on Saturday, Dec. 14. It will begin with Morning Prayer at 7 a.m. and conclude by 5 p.m.

Participants are asked to bring a pack with water, snacks, lunches, a small prayer book, and a rosary. Those who choose may hike either the first 10 miles from Lake Logan to the Hocking Hills rappelling area or the last 10 miles from that area to Ash Cave, which the hikers expect to reach around midday.

Since this is a one-way hike, logistics must be worked out ahead of time. For details, contact John Bradford at (614) 679-6761 or john@wildernessoutreach.net.

The vision of such a leader is compared to the ideal picture of creation itself, when all was peace and harmony. That makes the hope difficult, but not impossible to attain. In that idealized future, even the nations would come to Israel's king, reflecting more the thinking of Second Isaiah. One sees additions like this scattered throughout Isaiah which are attributed to the final editor of Isaiah, as a reminder throughout Isaiah that the whole vision cannot be limited to one historical period or person. Thus, Isaiah's vision was broader than his own time and place, according to the later editor, who scatters elements of later prophets into the original Isaiah's work.

Gradually, this ideal vision of peace in the animal world came to be identified with the time of the Messiah and the peace that the Messiah would bring to the many enemies of Israel and to Israel herself. Israel still awaits this prophecy's fulfillment. Christians look to its fulfillment in Jesus.

Matthew relates the preaching of John the Baptist in the Judean desert. John quotes Isaiah 40:3, which probably became his theme throughout his preaching ministry, however long it lasted. On that question we cannot be sure, but the Baptist movement was widespread enough that people as far away as Ephesus had heard of John (see Acts 19:3) when Paul asked them if they had "received the holy Spirit."

John's preaching included the call for "repentance" and the nearness of "the kingdom of heaven." Matthew uses the expression "kingdom of heaven" rather than "kingdom of God" (as in Mark and Luke), according to some commentators, to avoid using "God."

The Pharisees and Sadducees are cast in a bad light by John, as they will be later by Jesus. They are represented as being on the wrong side of the Gospel from the outset. John wants proof of their repentance, rather than the claims they make. Claiming Abraham as father is not enough. Rather, produce good fruit.

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

Health Care Enrollment Assistance

Certified application counselors from the Universal Health Care Assistance Network of Ohio will help people enroll in the new health insurance marketplace on Wednesday, Dec. 11 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Corpus Christi Center for Peace, 1111 E. Stewart Ave., Columbus.

If you would like help at the computer to enroll, call (614) 512-3731 for an appointment. Expect enrollment to take an hour to an hour-and-a-half. If you primarily want information, you do not need to RSVP. If you need assistance in Spanish, please indicate this when calling. The deadline to enroll is Monday, Dec. 23 for coverage to begin Jan. 1.

The Weekday Bible Readings

MONDAY
Genesis 3:9-15,20
Psalm 98:1-4
Ephesians 1:3-6,11-12
Luke 1:26-38

TUESDAY
Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 96:1-3,10-13
Matthew 18:12-14

WEDNESDAY
Isaiah 40:25-31
Psalm 103:1-4,8,10
Matthew 11:28-30

THURSDAY
Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelation 11:19a,12:1-6a,10ab
Judith 13:18bc,19 (Ps)
Luke 1:26-38 or 1:39-47

FRIDAY
Isaiah 48:17-19
Psalm 1:1-4,6
Matthew 11:16-19

SATURDAY
Sirach 48:1-4,9-11
Psalm 80:2-3,15-16,18-19
Matthew 17:9a,10-13

DIOCESEAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE WEEK OF DECEMBER 8, 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 II, Seasonal Proper of the Liturgy of the Hours

Are We Satisfied or Dissatisfied This Advent?

Built inside each of us are feelings of satisfaction and dissatisfaction which are part of our God-given conscience. Shortly before the birth of Jesus 2,000 years ago, the world was a mess and most everyone knew it. In Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East, where all roads led to Rome, the greatest empire the world had ever seen, everyone knew the world was in a sorry state. Fast forward 2,000 years and, even though most of the world is now literate and many people can travel and even use the Internet, the world is still hurting.

There is a hope for something better. Yet in the Western world, we all too often put our hopes and dreams in things that have no everlasting value. We know better, but we do it anyway. In our own nation, the metropolitan areas of New York and Los Angeles have the greatest percentage of counselors, therapists, and psychiatrists, and yet there still aren't enough. Why? We are like Charlie Brown and the football, forever thinking Lucy is finally going to let us kick it. We fall for the speeches of politicians, salesmen, and spiritual gurus, but not for the Son of God.

However, Jesus is always there, urging us to listen and take heed to his words. Every Christmas, the story of his humble birth gives us a chance to reconsider our path and get back to the innocence of Christmas that we experienced in our youth. Perhaps if we experience that kind of Christmas, we will reignite the faith we had as children.



THE TIDE IS TURNING
TOWARD CATHOLICISM
David Hartline

I was thinking about this while doing some research on the writings of Pope Francis. The pope is a hot commodity on the Internet, and he has certainly stirred some real emotions with his words. However, compared to the recent news that Amazon and other delivery services might someday offer us delivery via drones – well, let's just say the Holy Father was way down the list in order of importance for those people who were caught up with thoughts of drones delivering packages. As if we couldn't just wait another day for that package, a drone has to give it to us today!

In all honesty, I probably spent way too much time in my youth anticipating great sporting events and rock concerts. I have fond memories of them to this day. However, I would like to think that even then, I had at least some perspective on what was really important, and faith was always in the mix. However, our world today seems to run from faith.

Why, instead of embracing the truth, do too many of us run away from the truth, thinking that the whims of the world will bring happiness? If that's all there is,

it only brings on more sadness and loneliness, which is why so many of the wealthy in the aforementioned cities need professional help. Sadly, all of this can even cause the faithful to lose hope, seeing so many people they know who appear lost, like a sheep without a shepherd. Yet isn't that what Advent and Christmas are all about – a better way?

You might recall that in a previous column, I wrote about a talk I recently gave in Canada, and how despite the culture of secularism that pervades in Canada, one family stands tall, shining a beacon of hope for all to see. After my talk, a young man spoke to me and said he was troubled by the words of a college colleague who wondered why his mother didn't abort his very young brother – a child whose birth was greatly unexpected by his parents. I told the young man that those who trumpet abortion, promiscuity, etc. may appear to be confident, but most who believe in such things live unhappy lives.

They are the ones most in need of the Christ child, for all of their rebellion against the truth has only led to more misery and loneliness. We may be the only hope they have not to fall further into darkness. Christ came to bring all into the light. During this Advent, let that light begin with all of us.

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

ODU TO LAUNCH NEW MASTER OF ARTS IN LIBERAL STUDIES – ENGLISH TRACK

Ohio Dominican University will launch its new accelerated master of arts in liberal studies (MALS) – English track on Jan. 13, 2014. The program will offer English teachers an opportunity to earn their master's degree, strengthen their professional skill set, and earn qualifications to teach English college courses for dual enrollment credit at their high schools.

The 33-credit-hour MALS-English track will be offered online and on campus. It will allow students with varying schedules and work demands an opportunity to achieve their degree in as few as 18 months.

"This program offers teachers an opportunity to gain a master's degree in their content area and to offer their students the unique advantage of getting a jump start on their college career before they graduate from high school," said John Naughton, ODU's director of graduate admissions.

January classes are forming now. For more information on ODU's MALS-English track, call (614) 251-4615, email graduateadmissions@ohiodominican.edu, or visit www.ohiodominican.edu/MALS.



Hundreds of people gathered at the family center of Columbus St. Aloysius Church from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day to enjoy a free holiday meal, prepared and served by more than 60 dedicated volunteers. Among those taking part was Bishop Frederick Campbell, who greeted many of those in attendance and provided a healing presence. The dinner is a tradition which dates back to 1974, with its principal financial support coming from the St. Vincent de Paul Conference of Columbus St. Mary Magdalene Church. This year, between 200 and 300 meals were served at the center, and an additional 150 were delivered to the homebound through Catholic Social Services. In addition, turkey sandwiches and meals to go were provided, as well as bags of dry goods and fresh produce donated by the Mid-Ohio Foodbank. Father Richard Pendolphi greeted guests as doors opened and led all in prayer before the meal.

Photo courtesy Sandy Bonneville



CONCERT

Advent and Christmas

The Cathedral Choir and soloists will be joined by the Cathedral Chamber Orchestra for a program of works for Advent and Christmas, including Felix Mendelssohn's rarely performed *Vom Himmel hoch*, at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15 in Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St. The audience also will have the opportunity to sing the great carols of the season with orchestra and organs.



CONCERT

Christine's Christmas



Christine's Christmas transforms tragedy into a celebration of life and love.

Ten years ago, Christine Wilson died, along with four other students, in a tragic fire near The Ohio State

University's campus. Since then, her family has honored her memory with an annual concert, "Christine's Christmas," to raise funds to help children through the Christine Wilson Foundation.

The foundation's mission is to reach out and help children in central Ohio. It provides two annual \$2,500 scholarships to incoming Columbus Bishop Watterson High School freshmen. It also provides support for the Christine Wilson Burn Center at Nationwide Children's Hospital and aids in other efforts to assist families of children dealing with recovery from burns.

Overall, the foundation has benefited 15 central Ohio organizations, including the Christ Child Society, Bishop Watterson, and Hilliard St. Brendan School, providing more than \$550,000.

This year's concert will be at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14 in the Capitol Theater at the Riffe Center, 77 S. High St. The featured performer will be pianist Mark King. Christine once was the baby-sitter to the Kings' three children. He will be joined by master of ceremonies Chuck Strickler, vocalist Willie Grove, and the Chamber Music Connection Orchestra.

For tickets and information, call the foundation at (614) 355-0888 or visit www.NationwideChildrens.org/ChristinesChristmas.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM

In document, Pope lays out his vision for an evangelical church

By Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

In his first extensive piece of writing as pope, Pope Francis lays out a vision of the Catholic Church dedicated to evangelization in a positive key, with a focus on society's poorest and most vulnerable, including the aged and unborn.

Evangelii Gaudium ("The Joy of the Gospel"), released by the Vatican Nov. 26, is an apostolic exhortation, one of the most authoritative categories of papal document. (Pope Francis' first encyclical, *Lumen Fidei*, published in July, was mostly the work of his predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI.)

The pope wrote the new document in response to the October 2012 Synod of Bishops on the new evangelization, but declined to work from a draft provided by synod officials.

Pope Francis' voice is unmistakable in the 50,000-word document's relatively relaxed style -- he writes that an "evangelizer must never look like someone who has just come back from a funeral!" -- and its emphasis on some of his signature themes, including the dangers of economic globalization and "spiritual worldliness."

The church's message "has to concentrate on the essentials, on what is most beautiful, most grand, most appealing and at the same time most necessary," he writes. "In this basic core, what shines forth is the beauty of the saving love of God made manifest in Jesus Christ who died and rose from the dead."

Inspired by Jesus' poverty and concern for the dispossessed during his earthly ministry, Pope Francis calls for a "church which is poor and for the poor."

The poor "have much to teach us," he writes. "We are called to find Christ in them, to lend our voices to their causes, but also to be their friends, to listen to them, to speak for them and to embrace the mysterious wisdom which God wishes to share with us through them."

Charity is more than mere handouts,

"it means working to eliminate the structural causes of poverty and to promote the integral development of the poor," the pope writes. "This means education, access to health care, and above all employment, for it is through free creative, participatory and mutually supportive labor that human beings express and enhance the dignity of their lives."

Yet he adds that the "worst discrimination which the poor suffer is the lack of spiritual care. ... They need God and we must not fail to offer them his friendship, his blessing, his word, the celebration of the sacraments and a journey of growth and maturity in the faith."

Pope Francis reiterates his earlier criticisms of "ideologies that defend the absolute autonomy of the marketplace and financial speculation," which he blames for the current financial crisis and attributes to an "idolatry of money."

He emphasizes that the church's concern for the vulnerable extends to "unborn children, the most defenseless and innocent among us," whose defense is "closely linked to the defense of each and every other human right."

"A human being is always sacred and inviolable, in any situation and at every stage of development," the pope writes, in his strongest statement to date on the subject of abortion. "Once this conviction disappears, so do solid and lasting foundations for the defense of human rights, which would always be subject to the passing whims of the powers that be."

The pope writes that evangelization entails peacemaking, among other ways through ecumenical and interreligious dialogue. He "humbly" calls on Muslim majority countries to



Pope Francis makes a point as he leads his general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican on Nov. 20. In his first extensive piece of writing as pope, Pope Francis lays out a vision of the Catholic Church dedicated to evangelization, with a focus on society's poorest and most vulnerable, including the aged and unborn. CNS photo/Paul Haring

with power in general," nor "understood as domination," and he allows for the "possible role of women in decision-making in different areas of the church's life."

As he has done in a number of his homilies and public statements, the pope stresses the importance of mercy, particularly with regard to the church's moral teaching. While lamenting "moral relativism" that paints the church's teaching on sexuality as unjustly discriminatory, he also warns against overemphasizing certain teachings out of the context of more essential Christian truths.

In words very close to those he used in an oft-quoted interview with a Jesuit journalist in August, Pope Francis writes that "pastoral ministry in a missionary style is not obsessed with the disjointed transmission of a multitude of doctrines to be insistently imposed," lest they distract from the Gospel's primary invitation to "respond to the God of love who saves us."

Returning to a theme of earlier statements, the pope also warns against "spiritual worldliness, which hides behind the appearance of piety and even love for the church, (but) consists in seeking not the Lord's glory but human glory and personal well-being," either through embrace of a "purely subjective faith" or a "narcissistic and authoritarian elitism" that overemphasizes certain rules or a "particular Catholic style from the past."

Despite his censures and warnings, the pope ends on a hopeful note true to his well-attested devotion to Mary, whom he invokes as the mother of evangelization and "wellspring of happiness for God's little ones."

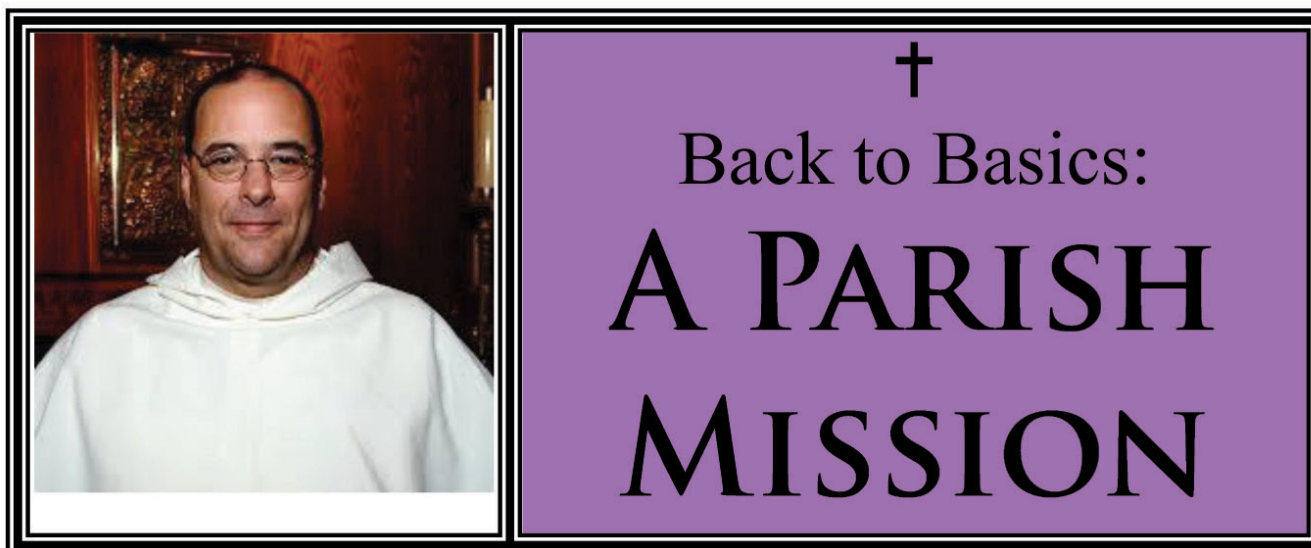
grant religious freedom to Christians, and enjoins Catholics to "avoid hateful generalizations" based on "disconcerting episodes of violent fundamentalism," since "authentic Islam and the proper reading of the Quran are opposed to every form of violence."

Pope Francis characteristically directs some of his strongest criticism at his fellow clergy, among other reasons, for what he describes as largely inadequate preaching.

The faithful and "their ordained ministers suffer because of homilies: the laity from having to listen to them and the clergy from having to preach them!" he writes.

The pope devotes several pages to suggestions for better homilies, based on careful study of the Scriptures and respect for the principle of brevity.

Pope Francis reaffirms church teaching that only men can be priests, but notes that their "sacramental power" must not be "too closely identified



at

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584 W. Broad Street • Columbus, Ohio

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Father Jordan Turano, OP, a priest of the Order of Preachers (commonly called Dominicans) will guide us on a journey to God. *Getting Back to Basics* is designed to assist in our quest for happiness and the desire to be loved. Join us for our Parish Mission and start getting back to basics!

7:00 p.m. each evening

Monday, Dec. 9th - God & Relationship
 Tuesday, Dec. 10th - God & Suffering
 Wednesday, Dec 11th - God & Reconciliation
 Thursday, Dec. 12th - Evangelization:
 Where do we go from here?

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday talks will be followed with the opportunity for Confession. Confessions will continue until last one is heard.