The churches in Otway, Pond Creek and West Portsmouth have an impact on nearly everyone in their communities.

WESTERN SCIOTO PARISHES SHARE SIGNIFICANT OUTREACH
Peace and Vacation

I have just returned from a week of vacation. I feel refreshed and at peace. My wife and I spent our time exploring the winding back roads of Kentucky, from the banks of the Ohio River, through lovely little hamlets, mossy valleys, and lush hillides, surrounded by just the sounds of nature. It was a cleansing time.

We all get caught up in the pressures of modern life. The constant schedules, phone calls, emails, deadlines, demands that pile up on top of us. Yes, work is good, it is important. We need to earn a living and make productive use of the talents and gifts God gives us. But just as God gave Adam and Eve responsibilities for the care of the Garden of Eden through hard work, they were living in a beautiful garden created by a loving God. We are to embrace our duties with a loving heart and allow our actions to be washed over with the beauty of the things and the people God has created for us to share, we draw closer to God himself, and we find peace. That's why vacations are so important.

In the words of St. Paul: “Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things... Then the peace of God will be with you” (Philippians 4:6-9).

Peace and Vacation

Pope Francis holds pastoral staff in Nu Guazu Parish in Asuncion, Paraguay.

Pope Francis holds his pastoral staff as he arrives to celebrate Mass in Nu Guazu Parish in Asuncion, Paraguay, on July 12. This marked the conclusion of a weeklong tour of South America. The Holy Father was greeted by cheering throngs throughout his journey, which began in Es -

When we step away from our daily toil, it is good to go back to Eden, just as the prophet Elijah went before the mountain of God but did not find God in the frenzy of that world. God was not in the wind, or the earthquake or the fire. Rather, God was present in the peace of a still, small consuming fire. It is there in the eyes of an innocent fawn in the deep forest or a group of wild turkeys gathered in a peaceful glen. Most of all, we find that peace in God’s greatest earthly gift to us – it is in the eyes of the people he has placed in our lives: the parents who gave us life and direction, the spouse who is our life partner and cherished companion, the children and grandchildren who learn from them, the friends who share their love with us and tend to our needs. When we step away from the de -

SML: Then the God of peace will be with you, and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Then the peace of God will be with you... (Philippians 4:6-9).”

The The Editor's Notebook

and lush hillsides, surrounded by lovely little hamlets, misty valleys, and at peace. My wife and I spent a lovely roar of the ocean’s surf on a

St. Peter Church 45th Anniversary Celebration Mass

Members of St. Peter Church gathered on Sunday, June 28 for a Mass commemorating the 45th anniversary of the founding of the parish on Smokey Row Road in western Columbus. The Mass was celebrated on the day before the Feast of St. Peter and Paul on June 29. The congregation included 30 founding members of the parish who began attending Mass in 1970 with Father William J. McEvans, its first pastor. The parish’s Masses were celebrated in the auditorium of Perry Middle School on Swosser Road through June 1971, then were moved to the St. Turibius Chapel at the Pontifical College Josephinum and remained there until the church building was completed in 1978. Aaron Copland’s Fanfare for the Common Man, with timpani, drums, trumpet, and French horn, sounded as fourth-degree members of the parish Knights of Columbus council ascended the front steps of the church, with the current pastor, Father Mark Summers, and former pastor, Father Justin Reis, in procession to the altar, where they celebrated Mass, assisted by Deacon Joe Scherer and St. Peter parish committees as a means of raising funds for Father Young’s parish. Parishioners and friends.

A traditional picnic lunch was served, includ- ing homemade desserts donated by parish members. Picnic participants were entertained by music, children’s games, bingo, and a photo booth – all enjoyed by the young and the young at heart.

The celebration opened on Thursday, June 25, with 45 hours of Eucharistic Adoration in the church, under the altar. By the time Adoration concluded with Benediction on Saturday morning, June 27, more than 250 worshipers had taken time to pray and contemplate in the presence of the Body of Christ, displayed in the historic monstrance once used by the original Columbus St. Peter Church on New York Avenue. This monstrance, a spectacular piece of parish history, was on loan from the Jubilee Museum and Catholic Cultural Center, where it is part of an extensive collection of items from the original Mass was followed by a family re-union and parish picnic attended by 400 parishioners and friends. A traditional picnic lunch was served, including homemade desserts donated by parish members. Picnic participants were entertained by music, children’s games, bingo, and a photo booth – all enjoyed by the young and the young at heart. Parish committees donated 10 gift baskets and assorted toys which were raffled off, with proceeds going to support West Portaweez Our Lady of Sorrows, Otway Our Lady of Lourdes, and Pond Creek Holy Trinity churches, where Father David K. Young is pastor. Father Young served as a deacon at St. Peter before being ordained a priest. The presentation of gift baskets by St. Peter parish committees as a means of raising funds for Father Young’s par-ishes has become a St. Peter tradition. St. Peter Church is on summer schedule!

We will return to our regular weekly publication schedule in September.
Four priests and one religious brother who have completed their retirement of the Precious Blood and have ties to the Diocese of Columbus are celebrating milestone anniversaries.

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of their ordination to the priesthood are Father Patrick Patterson, CPpS, and Father Kenneth Schroeder, CPpS. Both were assigned to Columbus, Ohio in 1968. He worked in parishes in Chile during 1968. He worked in parishes in Chile 1968-1971. He was assigned to the Diocese of Columbus in 1971.

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Parents’ sins visited on children?; Convalidating a marriage

Q Is the sins of the fathers visited on the children? Is that saying an adage, a Catholic teaching or God’s own word? Thirteen years ago, two relatives of mine received an equal and large bequest. An oral directive from the deceased had provided that each beneficiary should make a contribution of $500 to a local church. The two beneficiaries contributed to the Catholic Church, and the other relative beneficiary, who was non-Catholic, contributed to a non-Catholic church.

A Certain passages in Scripture – taken in isolation – can give the impression that the adage you quote. One, in Exodus 20:5, says, “The Lord our God is a consuming fire.” But the context of that passage is God’s deliverance of the Israelites from slavery. Ezekiel 18:20 could not be more clear: “Only the one who sins shall die. The son shall not be charged with the guilt of his father, nor shall the father be charged with the guilt of his son.” My concern is that they have opted not to get married. By no means.

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Local man ordained to the priesthood

Father Charles Shonk, Off. formerly of Columbus, was ordained to the priesthood for the Dominican order on May 22 at St. Dominic Church in Washington.

The ordaining bishop was Archbishop Charles J. Brown, apostolic nuncio to Ireland. Also ordained by Archbishop Brown at the same ceremony were seven other new Dominican priests: Fathers Thomas More Garrett, John Maria Devaney, Boniface Endrulk, Gabriel Terretta, Innocent Smith, Vincent Ferrer John Iliyan, and Philip Neri John Harac.

Father Shonk has been assigned to temporary ministry at Tanzanian St. Thomas Aquinas Church through Aug. 31. He is the son of Richard and Susan Shonk of Columbus. He is a member of St. Gertrude of New York Church and former student of St. Agnes Parish in Columbus.

He is the nephew of Sister Marie Shonk, DPhil, pastor of Reynoldsville St. Pius X Church.

He studied philosophy and classical languages at Denison University in Granville. Before entering the Dominican order, in 2009 in St. Gertrude Priory in Manhattan, Father Shonk worked as a teacher at St. Agnes Boys School in Manhattan. He made his first profession of vows at the priory in 2010, then was assigned to the Dominican House of Studies in Washington to pursue studies for the priesthood. He made his lifelong profession of vows in 2013.

During his years of formation, Father Shonk has been engaged in various ministries, including visiting the sick at the Washington Hospital Center and serving the poor in the community with the Missionaries of Charity.

He was ordained to the diaconate in March 2012 at the formation of a deacon at St. John the Beloved Parish in McLean, Va.

The Order of Preachers, commonly known as the Dominicans, was founded in the 13th century by St. Dominic de Guzman. The Order is dedicated to spreading the Word of God for the salvation of souls. The Dominican way of life consists of the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, and includes theological and philosophical study as the basis for preaching. Dominican friar live in community, gathering each day for a common prayer. There are more than 6,000 Dominican priors and frrars worldwide.

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Small Parishes with Huge Impact on Communities

BY TIM PFEU

Western Scioto County’s three parishes are among the smallest in size in the Diocese of Columbus, with a combined total of about 200 families, but their influence in the communities they serve is enormous.

West Portsmouth Our Lady of Sorrows and Otway Our Lady of Lourdes churches both operate thrift stores which serve thousands of people yearly. Pond Creek Holy Trinity Church’s hall has become the site for many community and church events which draw people within a radius of about 30 miles from small towns in Scioto, Pike, and Adams counties.

The three churches are connected by a winding 17-mile stretch of Ohio Route 73, from Otway in the north to West Portsmouth in the south. They have served by one priest since 1985, when Father John Stattmiller, who had been at Otway to fill their material needs from people in the local community and has served an estimated 3,000 to 4,000 people.

Thrift stores are needed in the communities the three parishes serve because of the county’s continuing economic difficulties. Nearly one-fourth of the county’s population lives below the federal poverty level, and its most recent unemployment rate was the third-highest in the state.

“It’s a region where people are used to making do with what’s available and going from there, so thrift stores can play a key role,” Father Young said. “People come here to fill their material needs, also an expression of a sense of community, of sharing each other’s concerns.”

“Some days the store is just packed, and it becomes a place that people can go to in a time of need and that’s a real care for people who live here,” Parrish said. “You know what’s available, if you don’t have it, they can get it here. It’s a real community center, a place where we can reach out to people.”

The store in Otway is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday and Saturday. Molly Chandler is the co-manager, and Denise Au, Ruth Moore, and Mary Kay Flemmo, who has been with the store since it opened almost 25 years ago, are the other volunteers. The Barn Again thrift shop benefits from annual clothing drives conducted by Tom Loar of Columbus, who served western Scioto County as a lay missionary for seven-and-a-half years.

The western Scioto County parishes are among the poorest parishes in the Diocese of Columbus, but Father Stattmiller started the Born Again thrift store in 1979 in Otway, across Route 73 from Our Lady of Sorrows parish. They had been part of the parish of Our Lady of Sorrows which was one of several earlier outreach programs which had been operated before the parish was formed.

The Pond Creek parish also had a similar store at one time. In the past, Born Again and New to You have served a 3,000 to 4,000 people. Father Young said that about 1,500 people have come to her store on occasion and that New to Your’s customer base is larger.

All items available in both stores have been donated by individuals and are priced on a dollar-as-needed basis. Small items, such as soil, are priced at 25 cents for shirts and pants and $1 for winter coats, while furniture and larger items are much lower, and Father Young said that, in general, they give the things they need for free.”

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“Young people from various locations come to western Scioto County for a week to perform household repairs for homeless residents unable to do the work themselves. The youth use Holy Trinity Hall as their base and work with the western Scioto County parishes during the year. During the Christmas season, the western parishes join the other four parishes in the county, the Portsmouth office of Catholic Social Services, and Parkstonton St. Elizabeth Seton Parish for an annual Giving Tree program involving young volunteers, children and teens, and distribution of holiday food baskets to families. In addition, the West Portsmouth parish distributes food on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month, with the assistance of Catholic Social Services and the county’s St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Youth groups from Columbus Christ the King Parish and Westmont Catholic High School in Dubuque, Iowa, have visited the parish and gathered contributions from Christ the King helped my 82-year-old mom last year,” said Brash. “They scraped old paint from some windows and doors, replaced a roof, covered a door in a shed, and rebuilt the walls and

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Mount Carmel Medical Group includes more than 200 primary care and specialty providers in over 40 office locations throughout central Ohio, so you can be sure to receive the patient-centered care you expect, in a location that’s convenient. Find your nearest location at mountcarmelmedicalgroup.com or contact HealthCare at 614-234-2222 to be connected with a primary care or specialty physician.
Summer Vacation and Inviting Others to Church

Highly devout people will openly claim to be apatheists. As more and more people feel the need to talk about their faith, don’t believe what the Catholic Church — or any church — teaches, and therefore, don’t become a Christian, ask yourself the same arrogant message that the apatheists espouse. How can we counter this belief system? The only way we can do this is to get people to think about what they are really doing to themselves and to society. The false idea that good deeds and heavenly rewards are to be had for all who do good will never be true for thousands of years. They haven’t come to that realization, and don’t want to face the fact that the same theologian who adm...
**St. Mary Magdalene Church, Columbus**

**Holy Spirit Church, Columbus**

KIENLE, Donald, 77, June 27

**St. Paul Church, Westerville**

**St. Paul Church, Westerville**

HENSEL, Mary C., 78, June 28

**St. Michael Church, Worthington**

FAVRET, Barbara A., 87, June 27

**St. Joseph Church, Circleville**

CROSWELL, Faith D., 93, July 4

**St. Mary Church, Marion**

BRINKMAN, Allan A., 70, July 3

**St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg**

TANTARELLI, Victor V., 56, June 26

STABER, Ruth E., 91, June 26

**St. Mary’s Dominican College in New Orleans; the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Zibilich) and earned degrees from St. Michael’s College in St. Michael, Vermont, and Alma College in Alma, Michigan; Sister Mary Francine Zibilich, OP (from 1963-67, a master of arts degree in mathematics from Rosary Hill College (now Manhattan College). She is a member of the Vincentian Family of St. Paul the Apostle, a Vincentian Sister. She was a member of the diocesan Catholic Interfaith Council, a Vincentian Sister. She was a member of the St. Paul’s School of Business, in Columbus. In 1973-79, she was a master of arts degree in mathematics from Rosehill College (now Manhattan College in New York, New York). In 1967, she was a master of arts degree in computer science from the State University of New York at Buffalo.
A magazine article discussed the life of Sister Mary Damien, OP, a Dominican who worked with cancer patients at Ohio State University. She died in 2003, leaving behind a legacy of service. She was interested in the rosary and had her chaplet made in her honor. The conference featured daily Masses, rosary processions, and talks on the rosary. The event was held in Columbus and sponsored by the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs. The conference also featured talks on the rosary's importance and its role in daily life. The conference organizers noted the event's popularity and its importance in the community. The conference concluded with a final Mass on Sunday morning, followed by a farewell ceremony.
Seminarians bike across the diocese again with a message of vocations

By Chris Yakkel, Seminarian

The seventh annual Seek Holiness Bike Tour is now in the history books! On Sunday, May 17, after finishing finals week at the Pontifical College Josephinum, seminarians of the Diocese of Columbus loaded up their bikes and made their way to Logan, where the tour began on the following day. Sixteen seminarians, including those who were biking and their support staff, participated in the tour.

When we arrived in Logan, we were blessed to be able to speak with the St. John Church youth group. It was a great way to spend our first night together as a team, and got the guys excited for the week ahead. My brother seminarians would agree with me in saying that this bike tour is always a highlight of the summer break.

It is great being able to visit schools and to see excited young people asking questions and wanting to hear what seminarians have to say about anything from why we ride bikes to what made us first think about becoming a priest. Let’s not forget the cool wristbands and T-shirts that get passed out! What makes it even better is that the seminarians have as much fun, if not more, as the students do during this annual event.

As I took some time to reflect on this most recent tour, I came up with five reasons why this bike tour is such an enjoyable experience.

Building the brotherhood

We hear it said in Psalm 133:1: “Behold how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity.” The bike tour provides the Columbus seminarians a wonderful opportunity to spend some good quality time together. Although most of us see each other almost every day at the Josephinum, different class schedules and various other responsibilities often make it difficult to spend as much time together as we would like. As a result, we cherish any chance we have to hang out, especially as a group. So the fact that we get to pray, talk, ride bikes, evangelize, and watch movies together is a sure recipe for a good time. We know that the life journey of a Christian is a great one, but also a difficult one. It’s not a journey we’re supposed to make on our own. We need community to build us up along the way. This is especially true for priests and priests-to-be. Having this time to spend in brotherhood, getting to know each other better, and praying together are a few of the many great gifts that come from this tour.

Meeting our supporters

While we’re on the topic of community, the tour provides us the blessing of running into many of our prayer warriors from across the diocese. I often tell people that the best gift I can receive as a seminarian is their prayer support. It’s true! The overwhelming prayer support we receive from people is very encouraging as we continue to discern God’s will for our lives. It’s always a big motivational boost whenever we run into people throughout the tour who assure us of their prayers (especially for those of us who may have just finished a particularly rough exam week). Having the support of not only our brother seminarians, but also of Catholics from across the diocese is a winning combination.

Evangelization and encouraging vocations

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16). One of the best parts of the tour is obviously the opportunity we have to visit so many youth across the diocese. This year, we were able to visit 10 different schools and hundreds of young people. At each school, we took time to explain the three major vocations as well, as the universal call to holiness by which all Christians are called. This was great for two reasons. First, we were able to share the joy of gospel. This call to holiness is something we are all called to, and we were able to invite students to embrace that call more fully in their own lives. We hope that the joy they encountered in us at the assemblies throughout the week pointed them to the One who is the source of all that joy. Being in a relationship with God has a powerful impact on each of the seminarians, and we wanted to be sure to share the message that this relationship with God is not just reserved for seminarians. It’s for all people. Second, we were able to encourage vocations. I think it was powerful for the young people to see normal, joyful, prayerful men who simply want to do the Lord’s will. A number of boys at the schools seemed genuinely interested in a priestly vocation, which was very encouraging to see. We also talked about religious life and marriage, and interest in vocations in general seemed on the rise as we left the schools.

Exploring the diocese

The tour is set up in a way that seminarians visit all of the diocese’s Catholic schools over a five-year period. Many of us are familiar with a specific part of the diocese where we grew up or from which we were assigned. However, very few of us have seen every part of the diocese. This tour gives the seminarians a chance to visit parts of the diocese they normally wouldn’t get to see. It is good for seminarians to see other parts of the diocese and to meet people they may be serving one day as priests. Likewise, it provides the people of the diocese a chance to get to know some of their future priests.

Staying fit for ministry

As I’ve already mentioned, this tour takes place every year right after our final exam week. What better way to relax and relieve some stress than to bike a hundred miles through the most beautiful diocese in the nation! It’s great for our own mental, physical, and emotional well-being. St. Paul writes in his first letter to the Corinthians, “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). We need to take care of our bodies, especially as future priests, so that we are healthy and have the energy we need to best serve God’s people.

On behalf of the Columbus seminarians, thank you for your constant and faithful support.

Check out #SeekHoliness #SemBikeTour on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram for more highlights from the 2015 Seek Holiness Bike Tour.

God bless you!