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Open the Door of Faith



CATECHETICAL SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 15, 2013

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

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The Editor's Notebook

He left a light on for us

By David Garick, Editor



When the night is dark and lonely, when the weight of the world seems to press down upon us until we can barely move, when hope seems elusive and despair chokes the very life from us, suddenly before us there shines a light from the window that is home. Home ... a place of safety and comfort, a place where past, present, and future coexist in the glow of love and hope.

For two millennia, the Catholic Church has been home to a weary people seeking comfort and hope. Scripture tells us of the many people that Christ encountered during his earthly ministry who felt hopeless until this man, Jesus of Nazareth, entered their lives and they saw the light of God's love. Over the centuries, the Church has continued to share that love as the eternal body of Christ on earth, bringing his message to people looking to find the way home.

That light is manifested in evangelization. The resurrected Jesus told his disciples, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." Ever since that day, the faithful have been working to evangelize through the teachings of Christ and his holy Church. Today, that effort is being re-energized through the New Evangelization. This involves instructing our children in the faith, preparing converts to fully understand the faith they are embracing, and helping adults to more fully appreciate the real teachings of the church. When you come to truly understand what it means to say, "I am a Catholic," you are able to fully enjoy the comfort of knowing that you are safe at home.

Our faith is so rich and full it can take a lifetime to really comprehend. But that's OK. That is why we do not celebrate Mass just once for all time. We keep coming back to Mass and to fellowship in the Church to allow it to continue to nourish us and to help us grow in faith and understanding of Christ's unending love.

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." I am reminded of that every time I enter a darkened church and see the light burning beside the tabernacle housing the Body of Christ. The light is on in the window. No matter how dark and dangerous the night, I am home.

might like the way a particular minister preaches. They may want to go to the church where their friends go or where they like the social programs. And when any of those things change, they may go "church shopping" again because the roots of their faith go no deeper than those superficial characteristics. But that's not what it means to be a Catholic.

When a person enters the Catholic faith, he or she accepts teachings that do not change with the tides of popular culture. We are commanded to live in this world, but not be of this world. As St. Paul wrote, "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, in order to prove by you what is good and pleasing and the perfect will of God."

Church is not a place you go to; it is an eternal family you become part of. It is not just a collection of people you see on Sunday mornings, but a multitude of believers, living and dead, around the world and across all time that are unified in the great sacrificial act of Christ who came to live among us, to share our pain and sorrow, and to overcome death itself, not for his own sake, but for ours.

There is a lot you need to understand when you become Catholic. On the surface, you would think that it is a simple thing to just decide that this is where you want to go to church. For many people, choosing a church is no more complicated than picking out a favorite restaurant. They



PRAYING FOR PEACE IN SYRIA
POPE CALLS SELFISHNESS THE CAUSE OF WAR

By Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

Leading a crowd in prayer for peace in Syria, Pope Francis said that war is ultimately caused by selfishness, which can be overcome only through expressions of fraternity and never with violence.

"Leave behind the self-interest that hardens your heart, overcome the indifference that makes your heart insensitive towards others, conquer your deadly reasoning, and open yourself to dialogue and reconciliation," the pope said on Sept. 7 before an estimated 100,000 people in St. Peter's Square.

The pope had called the prayer vigil less than a week earlier, as the central event of a worldwide day of fasting and prayer for peace in Syria, the Middle East, and the world.

The Vatican said the vigil was an unprecedented papal gesture for peace, by virtue of its scale and prominence of location. It took place the same day that U.S. Secretary of State John

Kerry met with European leaders to make President Barack Obama's case for a military strike on the government of Syria's President Bashar Assad, as punishment for the alleged use of chemical weapons in the ongoing civil war there.

The pope's homily, which took up about 15 minutes of the four-hour liturgy, did not refer to contemporary events, but spoke in biblical terms about the nature of war, whose origins he traced to the fall of Adam and the first murder, by Cain of his brother Abel.

Answering Cain's famous question to God -- "Am I my brother's keeper?" -- the pope replied, "Yes, you are your brother's keeper! To be human means to care for one another."

"We bring about the rebirth of Cain in every act of violence and in every war," the pope said. "All of us!"

War's ultimate source, Pope Francis said, is the original sin of disobedience.

See SYRIA, Page 5

BISHOP TO DEDICATE ST. CHARLES WEST CAMPUS

Bishop Frederick Campbell will dedicate the new Robert D. Walter West Campus of Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, 2010 E. Broad St., at 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 15.

The 5.2-acre site at the corner of Long Street and Nelson Road was purchased from Dealers Lumber Co. in December of 2010. The expansion is the first addition of property to the school since it was founded in 1923.

The project includes the school's first-ever running track; the Dominic and Kathleen Cavello Field (synthetic turf) surrounding the track; a 75-space on-site parking lot; a fitness and weight-training facility known as the Savko Athletic Complex; the additional 45-space Horvath Parking Lot on the west bank of Alum Creek; and a 180-foot pedestrian bridge spanning Alum Creek, providing more convenient access between the main campus and the new West Campus facilities.

Nick Savko and Sons, Inc. served as site developer, with major assistance from Corna Kokosing Construction.

The new practice field will allow the football and soccer teams in the fall and the baseball and lacrosse teams in the spring to have separate practice sites rather than to share the school's stadium. The field has been in use since June for practices and some freshman and junior varsity games.

Work has been completed for some time on the pedestrian bridge and the Horvath Parking Lot. Students and guests of the school have been using both since last November. Recently, a decorative metal archway was added over the brick pillars and walkway leading from the campus theater parking lot to the bridge.

On the new campus itself, workers applied the final surface to the track, spraying it with two layers of red polyurethane coating at the end of June. Striping for the 400-meter track, which has six running lanes, was applied afterward. Sand for the long-jump pit is in place. A garage will hold track and field equipment and maintenance equipment.

The 13,000-square-foot fitness and weight training area includes 20 weight stations, six stationary bicycles, two treadmills, four rowers, two elliptical machines, and a 10-yard-wide by 30-yard-long artificial turf surface on



top of a thin rubber base. On the building's south side is an office for the athletic director, a coaches' office, and a trainer's room. On the north side are two sets of locker rooms with dressing areas, lockers, and showers.

Oakland Nursery has added landscaping all over the campus, especially in front of the weight training and fitness facility. The nursery's craftsmen have put plantings in place and built a multi-tiered cut stone wall.

"The Robert D. Walter West Campus has been a beautiful addition to our school and enhances our ability to develop the mind, body, and spirit of each young man who attends St. Charles," said Jim Lower, the school's principal. "We are so appreciative of the many people who have supported this project from its inception."

The \$5 million addition was funded entirely by private donations.



ST. JOSEPH CATHEDRAL
OPEN HOUSE AND TOUR

Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus, this year is celebrating the 135th anniversary of its dedication and consecration on Oct. 20, 1878, by Columbus' first bishop, Sylvester Rosecrans, who died the following day and is buried in the cathedral undercroft.

The anniversary events will include an open house and escorted tour at 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 27. This will be an opportunity to learn more details of the cathedral's treasures, including its Gothic revival architecture, magnificent stained glass, and a visit to its collection of 22 relics of saints and the beautiful undercroft and crypt containing the tombs of bishops.

The tour is free, but anyone wishing to attend is asked to email melton@columbus.rr.com or call (614) 405-7770.



Front Page photo:
Catechetical Sunday, sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, is Sept. 15. This year, its theme is "Open the Door of Faith."

Photo courtesy U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

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PRACTICAL STEWARDSHIP

By Rick Jeric

Transition

How did you measure up last week? We never seem to perfectly measure up to God's standards, or even our own. That is part of the paradox with which we are all challenged. We strive for perfection and holiness, but we know we are sinful and will fail again and again. We sincerely profess our love for God, we promise to sin no more, we beg for forgiveness, and before we know it, we succumb to temptation. We partake of the living Body and Blood of Jesus Christ at least weekly and sometimes daily, but we also need the forgiveness and grace of the sacrament of Penance. Part of the same paradox requires that we not only demand more of ourselves, but exude love, patience, forgiveness, and generosity when we measure others. Just as the cook or the baker adds a little extra spice or ingredient "for good measure," so should we try to add a little extra to the life of the Body of Christ every day of our lives.

Catholics in the United States always seem to be in transition. The world changes, and has done so very rapidly in the past 30 years. As a part of this world, we change along with it. As Catholics, the change or transition thereof may not always be so easy or so clear. While much has changed in the American Catholic Church, much has also stayed the same. I offer some interesting statistics for our consideration. Depending upon where you are currently with your own faith, some issues may surprise you, some may disturb you, some may bring you comfort, and some may simply strengthen indifference. In any event, it is vitally important for us to learn, to meditate, to ponder, and to act accordingly. The future of our Catholic Faith depends on us today, and how we have impacted our children and grandchildren for tomorrow. The latest issue of the CARA Report (Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate) has published statistics and commentary regarding a book containing 25 years worth of studies titled "American Catholicism in Transition," by William D'Antonio, Michele Dillon, and Mary Gautier. To share just a taste of the findings, here are results of pre-Vatican II Catholics (generally age 50-plus) who were asked if they consider the following items "very important." The group was questioned in 2005 and again in 2011.

	2005	2011
Belief in Jesus' Resurrection	85%	82%
The sacraments, such as the Eucharist	82%	70%
Church's teachings about Mary	79%	73%
Helping the poor	84%	69%
Having a regular prayer life	54%	52%
Participating in devotions (Eucharistic Adoration, Rosary)	50%	36%
Catholic Church teachings opposing same-sex marriage	47%	45%
Church activities directed toward social justice	47%	32%
Catholic Church's teachings that oppose abortion	44%	52%
Teaching authority of the Vatican	42%	29%
Catholic Church teachings that oppose the death penalty	35%	29%
A celibate male clergy	29%	16%

Our practical challenge this week is to ask ourselves these same questions. Pray, and ask God how you can have an impact. Rather than wonder how 100 percent of Catholics cannot consider some of these issues as very important, let us ponder how we might live our lives each day and model the importance of living as a Catholic in 2013. We will explore more of this study next week.

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



BIRTHRIGHT'S ANNUAL LUNCHEON

Birthright of Columbus will celebrate its 41th anniversary of nurturing women and babies during its annual luncheon at noon Saturday, Sept. 21, in the Clintonville Women's Club, 3951 N. High St., Columbus. The event will include a style show by Christopher and Banks, a silent auction, and a raffle for a handmade Ohio State quilt. (Pictured with the quilt are siblings Taylor and Thomas Mayhan.) Tickets are \$30. The reservation deadline is Friday, Sept. 15. For information or tickets, call Marge Kilanowicz at (614) 888-0917 or Mary Jo Mayhan at (614) 235-7465.

In 1968 Louise Summerhill of Toronto, Ontario, founded Birthright International, the world's first pro-life pregnancy help center. As legalized abortion in Canada and the United States became more likely, Summerhill recognized the need to help women in crisis pregnancies with positive support and life-affirming alternatives.

Today, there are more than 450 Birthright centers in North America. Each center is chartered separately under Birthright International, but all Birthright centers follow the philosophy that "It is the right of every woman to give birth and the right of every child to be born." Each center is responsible for its own nonprofit funding, management, and training of volunteers.

Birthright of Columbus was founded in 1972. Today, it operates two centers where trained volunteers answer



questions and concerns from callers or visitors who are worried about their pregnancies and babies. Birthright provides compassionate care for individual needs, exercises charity, and, most importantly, maintains a confidential, non-judgmental attitude at all times. The Columbus Birthright centers are at 41 N. Skidmore St. (across from Holy Family Church) and 4768 North High St., which also is the location of Birthright's In Review thrift shop.

Shortly after Birthright was founded, Summerhill described the organization by saying, "The essence of Birthright is love. We should not underestimate the power of love. We do not need professional training in order to listen, to understand, to love. True compassion recognizes no boundaries, nor lays down any conditions when one listens to another with their heart."

If you are interested in learning more about Birthright or volunteering for the organization, call the Skidmore office at (614) 221-0844 or the north office at (614) 263-2514.

40 Days for Life vigil

This fall's 40 Days for Life vigil begins on Wednesday, Sept. 25 at a new location – the Founder's Center at 1243 E. Broad St. in Columbus, the first and oldest abortion clinic in Ohio. Vigil participants will be there from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. every day. Over the course of the campaign, that amounts to 600 hours of prayer, running concurrently with Respect Life Month.

The clinic is an unassuming building, with no sign out front announcing what goes on inside. The most recent state statistics say 1,300 abortions take place there annually. Every day, thousands of commuters heading to and from downtown on Broad Street pass by – many of them unaware of what goes on inside the building six days a week.

The 40 Days for Life vigil is a national communitywide campaign of fasting, prayer, outreach, and constant vigil at an local abortion provider. In the central Ohio area, it has been sponsored by Greater Columbus Right to Life since 2007. The concept, while simple, goes to the core of the abortion crisis – the darkness that has led

so many people to believe that abortion is good for women, good for families, and good for the community.

Until this year, the vigil has taken place at another abortion clinic, Complete Healthcare for Women, on Cleveland Avenue in northwest Columbus. Beth Vanderkooi, executive director of Greater Columbus Right to Life, explained the reason for the change as follows:

"We've been at Cleveland Avenue for a few years now, and we are not turning our back on that commitment. Now that we are doing two 40 Days for Life campaigns every year, it makes sense to diversify a bit.

"Founder's is symbolic for a number of reasons: it was the first clinic in the state, affiliated locations (through the Capital Care Network) are shutting down throughout Ohio and Indiana, and the active sidewalk ministry we've developed is already transforming the community. We are changing hearts and minds and lives with one of the most transforming powers known to man: prayer. We think this campaign will have an impact like no other."

Vanderkooi recognizes that the change may be a bit intimidating. "The response to our change in locations has been overwhelmingly enthusiastic, but tinged with some concern about the safety of the location," she said. "Change is always hard, and the reality is that abortion clinics gravitate toward communities with high poverty rates and violence.

"We don't think that this location is dangerous. Our sidewalk counselors are there frequently and have had positive experiences with the community, but we specifically picked vigil hours that start at the morning rush hour and end at evening rush hour. It will be daylight for most of the campaign. We continue to emphasize praying in pairs or small groups.

"There is no inherent danger, but people need to take the same precautions that they should take any time they are praying outside any clinic."

People who wish to become involved with 40 Days for Life are asked to check with their parish Respect Life coordinator or the 40 Days for Life website (www.gcrtl.org/40-days-for-life) to see

if the parish has adopted a day. Volunteers at Greater Columbus Right to Life can help a parish get started. Those who cannot pray with a parish may sign up as individuals, committing to as many or as few hours as they would like.

"If you've never before prayed at an abortion clinic, it is normal to feel a little nervous or unsure," Vanderkooi said. "Prayer is powerful spiritual nourishment for you and a strong weapon against the evil of abortion, but you will not be alone.

"This year, the theme for Respect Life month is 'Open Your Hearts to Life!' There will be opportunities to get involved throughout the diocese, and we encourage you to take advantage of many of those," she added. We think that '40 Days' specifically embodies that concept in a way that will change your heart and your life, and we invite you to join us for this campaign."

More information on the campaign is available through Greater Columbus Right to Life. Go online to www.gcrtl.org or contact the organization at (614) 445-8508.

ODU spirituality series lectures

Ohio Dominican University's Center for Dominican Studies will sponsor four lectures as part of its spirituality series during the 2013-14 academic year.

The free lectures, on four Thursdays in September and October, will be offered in the Colonial Room at Sansbury Hall on ODU's main campus, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. Persons wishing to attend may register at (614) 251-4722 or at ambrosim@ohiodominican.edu.

Lectures will be from 3:30 to 5 p.m. The schedule is as follows: Sept. 26, "Spiritual but Not Religious: What's the Meaning?" with Alison Benders, ODU theology professor; Oct. 10, "Spirituality Only on Sunday: Is That All There Is?" with Sister Louis Mary Passeri, OP; Oct. 17, "Dominican Spirituality: How Is It Unique?" with Jay Jackson, ODU adjunct professor of theology; and Oct. 24, "Spirituality in the Marketplace: Is it Pos-

sible?" with Julie Hart, ODU sociology professor, Ann Hall, English professor, and Jonathan Beshears, ODU senior accounting and finance major.

The lectures will be based on ODU's 2013-14 academic theme: "Transforming Lives Through Peace and Justice."

"In this series, presenters will explore aspects of spirituality in our contemporary world, offering ways to nurture the human spirit in a fast-paced, production-oriented, media-saturated, and often unjust society," said Sister Mattie Sterner, OP, Center for Dominican Studies director.

The Center for Dominican Studies serves as a resource for those interested in learning more about Dominican education, the Dominican charism, the history of the university, and its mission and values. To fulfill its mission, the center sponsors and hosts a variety of programs and services.

SYRIA, continued from Page 2

"When man thinks only of himself, his own interests, and places himself in the center, when he permits himself to be captivated by the idols of dominion and power, when he puts himself in God's place, then all relationships are broken and everything is ruined," the pope said. "Then the door opens to violence, indifference, and conflict."

The pope concluded on a hopeful note, asking the crowd, "Can we get out of this spiral of sorrow and death? Can we learn once again to walk and live in the ways of peace?"

"Yes, it is possible for everyone!" he said, drawing applause. He then invoked the image of Christ's redemptive sacrifice as the ultimate symbol of peace.

"How I wish that all men and women of good will would look to the cross, if only for a moment," he said. "There, we can see God's reply: violence is not answered with violence, death is not answered with the language of death. In the silence of the cross, the uproar of weapons ceases and the language of reconciliation, forgiveness, dialogue, and peace is spoken."

The pope's homily was followed by a period of eucharistic adoration, including several stretches when all present stood or knelt in silence, without any musical accompaniment.

At other times, as during the praying of the rosary in the first half of the vigil, prayers and

readings alternated with choir music or performances on the harp and other string instruments.

During the adoration, people representing five different nations or regions with direct or indirect links to the Syrian conflict -- Egypt, the Holy Land, Russia, the United States and Syria itself -- brought up incense to burn in a brazier beside the altar.

The ancient icon of Mary known as *Salus Populi Romani* (health of the Roman people), which had been transported for the occasion from Rome's Basilica of St. Mary Major, stood on an easel beside the altar. The icon has special importance for Pope Francis, who went to pray before it on the first morning of his pontificate in March.

The atmosphere in the square was solemn, with none of the festivity of a Sunday Angelus or Wednesday public audience. Security guards confiscated flags, though some Syrian flags could be seen on the periphery of the square.

Many in the congregation clapped and cheered when Pope Francis came out of the basilica at 7 p.m., but soon fell silent when they noticed his serious demeanor and failure to wave or smile.

At the end of the liturgy, just before 11 p.m., after the pope had returned to the basilica, the crowd applauded again. Pope Francis came out to offer a few final words, thanking the congregation for its company and asking it to continue praying for peace.



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Greeting before Mass; Human aspects of Jesus and Mary



QUESTION & ANSWER

by: FATHER KENNETH DOYLE
Catholic News Service

Q. We are all familiar with some of the liturgical excesses that came about after Vatican II. When the revised *Roman Missal* was introduced (in 2011), I seem to remember that the American bishops discussed the need for all U.S. parishes to adhere strictly to the new liturgy.

According to one article that I read, the bishops addressed the practice of inviting members of the congregation to greet those around them before the Mass begins -- their feeling being that this detracted from the sign of peace, which the liturgy places just before Communion. Sadly, though, this action continues in many parishes. What is your take on it? (Walnut Creek, Calif.)

A. I am not familiar with the article you reference, nor am I aware of any position taken by the bishops that would discourage parishioners from greeting one another before Mass begins. On the contrary, the closest reference I could find (from the *Introduction to the Order of Mass*, a pastoral resource issued in 2003 by the U.S. bishops' committee on the liturgy) speaks favorably of Mass attendees being "made welcome by representatives of the community and acknowledged informally by their neighbors."

Such a greeting is discretionary, of course, and not a stipulated part of the ritual. I have seen it used particularly in vacation

areas, to create a sense of community when those at Mass come from various distances and directions. In a normal parish setting, informal greeting and "catching up" is often done in the gathering areas of the church as people are arriving.

Such a practice should never replace the sign of peace, which has a different meaning. Its purpose is not to extend a greeting of welcome, even less to chat with friends, but to offer an expression of charity as a reminder just prior to Communion of the love of Christ that unites the eucharistic assembly.

Q. We have all been told that Jesus and Mary were like us in all things but sin. I take that to mean that they felt all the emotions that humans naturally experience. But I heard a nun say on television that Jesus was not afraid to die. I don't believe that. I think he was terrified. (Didn't he sweat drops of blood from the anticipation of what was to take place?) Likewise, the early 18th-century St. Louis de Montfort said in one of his books that Mary suffered no pain in childbirth. Why not? Was she human or not? (Carrolltown, Pa.)

A. Your question is particularly insightful in that it raises two questions that have no definitive answers. First, as to whether Jesus was afraid to die. Some would

argue that Luke 22:42-44 clinches it in the affirmative. Jesus says during the agony in the garden: "Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me," and we are told that "he was in such agony and he prayed so fervently that his sweat became like drops of blood falling to the ground."

But is stress the same as fear? When he appeared before the Sanhedrin and before Pilate, Jesus seemed remarkably calm -- so much so that Mark observes in 15:5 that "Pilate was amazed." So who can presume to say what was going through Christ's mind?

As for Mary and the pains of childbirth, our answer must be similarly cautious. In Genesis 3:16, pain during childbirth is proclaimed as one of the consequences of original sin. Since the dogmatic teaching of the church has always held that Mary was free from original sin, the early church fathers concluded that she must have borne Christ without any pain -- and the catechism of the 16th-century Council of Trent reached the same conclusion.

Notably, though, the current *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, while clearly defining the Immaculate Conception and the virgin birth, is silent on the details of that birth -- including the question of Mary's pain. (And don't we attest to Mary's emotional suffering in witnessing her son's Passion when we mark the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows?)

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



Mark Gnatowski Jr. in all-state choir

Columbus Bishop Ready High School junior Mark Gnatowski Jr. will perform as part of the all-state choir at the Professional Music Educators Conference in Columbus from Feb. 5-8. He is pictured in the center with Celene Seamen, Ready principal, and Craig Lewis, the school's band director. Gnatowski was selected from approximately 900 applicants. He has been taking voice lessons for nine years and has attended the junior festival sponsored by the National Federation of Music Clubs at The Ohio State University since he was eight years old.

Academically, he has earned first honors in every quarter through his freshman and sophomore years. He is a member of the school's cross country team, the Beta Club, the "In the Know" team, and the liturgical choir. He has sung the role of Jesus in "Godspell," and performed and sung in "You Can't Take It With You" and "The Music Man" in school productions. He also is a member of Boy Scout Troop 859 and is a volunteer cantor at Hilliard St. Brendan and Columbus St. Aloysius churches.

Photo courtesy Bishop Ready High School

Corpus Christi retreat

Sister Louis Mary Passeri, OP, will lead a weekend retreat with the theme "Can You Hear Me Now?" or "How Can Prayer Change Our Lives?" at the Corpus Christi Center of Peace, 1111 Stewart Ave., Columbus. The retreat will begin at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 25, and continue through noon Sunday, Oct. 27.

We've all wondered at some time in our lives if our prayers are really being heard by God. It can be a frustrating, disheartening, and even frightening experience. Now imagine God wondering how long

it will take to be heard by us. The weekend will examine prayer from both perspectives, through the experiences of the retreat's participants and the readings for the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

The cost of \$100 includes overnight accommodations and four meals -- three on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday. The fee for those not staying overnight is \$50, including lunch and supper on Saturday.

For more information, call (614) 512-3731 or email corpuschristicenterofpeace@gmail.com.

www.ctonline.org

Franciscan University friar runs 53 miles in Wild Idaho Ultramarathon

A Franciscan University of Steubenville friar said that while running an ultramarathon last month in Idaho, he kept pressing onward because he had a bigger goal in mind than just finishing the race.

"When the going got tough, I remembered I was running for the students who are too poor to come to Franciscan University," said Father Gregory Plow, TOR. "Most people don't finish their first ultramarathon. But I finished under the (19-hour) limit and hit all my checkpoints."

He completed the grueling 53.4-mile Wild Idaho Ultramarathon through the Boise National Forest on Saturday, Aug. 3 in 18 hours 7 minutes. Twenty-two runners started the race. Father Plow was the last of 17 to finish it.

Besides the distance, the Wild Idaho Ultramarathon boasts hot, unpredictable temperatures, elevations as high as 7,700 feet, and a cumulative elevation gain of 16,000 feet.

"I got a chance to see both the sunrise and the sunset. Both times, I was summiting mountains. It was amazing," he said.

Father Plow used the run to raise money for the Spirit of St. Francis Scholarship, a new full-tuition scholarship for incoming Franciscan University freshmen who are academically qualified, but financially constrained.

"A lot of people were very generous, but we still need support for the scholarship. I do not want to have 'run this race in vain,' as St. Paul says, so I hope people will give to these students who need financial support to come to Franciscan," he said.

Father Plow offered up the first 48 miles of the ultramarathon for each of Franciscan's 48 student faith households. Miles 49 to 52 were offered for future recipients of the Spirit of St. Francis Scholarship, and the final length of the course was dedicated solely to God in thanksgiving.

On the back of his jersey, Father Plow wore a decal promoting the national Life Runners organization, whose members pray, raise money, and run for pro-life causes.

Father Plow, the chaplain of Franciscan University's cross country team and coordinator of the faith households, began running to stay fit while studying for the priesthood. He has completed 12 marathons.

To contribute to the Spirit of St. Francis Scholarship, contact the Franciscan University development office at (1-800) 783-6447 or go to <https://giving.franciscan.edu/funds/Spirit-Of-St-Francis>.



Sacred Heart Congress 2013

Columbus is preparing for its second annual Sacred Heart Congress. The event, sponsored by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart and the Columbus Catholic Women's Ministry and Catholic Men's Ministry, will take place at St. Andrew Church, 1899 McCoy Road, on Saturday, Oct. 12. The theme for this year's congress is "The Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in Your Home -- Building a Civilization of Love."

Activities are scheduled from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., with Mass at 9 a.m. Speakers include Msgr. Frank Lane, spiritual director at the Athenaeum of Ohio and Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Cincinnati; Sister Margaret Mary, OSF, of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration campus ministry at the University of Notre Dame; Msgr. Eugene Morris, director of sacred liturgy at the Pontifical College Josephinum; and, Father Stash Dailey, administrator of Columbus Holy Family Church.



Registration is not required, but an RSVP is appreciated to www.sacredheartcolumbus.org

Franciscan University to hold memorial ceremony for aborted children

Saturday, Sept. 14, is the 25th anniversary of the burial of hundreds of abortion victims in Milwaukee. On this date, Franciscan University of Steubenville will join other pro-life groups nationwide for the first-ever National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children.

Father Dan Patee, TOR, theology department chair of the university, will celebrate Mass at 10 a.m. in Christ the King Chapel. A commemorative ceremony will follow at the nearby Tomb of the Unborn Child, where the remains of seven aborted infants are buried.

Students for Life will lead a recitation of the rosary at the tomb, praying specifically for the unborn children buried there. A group of Franciscan students will then drive to a Pittsburgh abortion clinic to pray for an end to abortion.



The Mass and the memorial ceremony are co-sponsored by the Diocese of Steubenville.

The National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children is organized by Citizens for a Pro-Life Society, Priests for Life, and the Pro-Life Action League. Thirty-five of the 39 burial sites for unborn children in the United States have planned prayer vigils for Sept. 14.

Father Frank Pavone, director of Priests for Life, said that the gravesite ceremonies will "speak to the hearts and minds of many people about both the humanity of the babies and the violence of the abortion that killed them."

On the photo: The Tomb of the Unborn Child at Franciscan University of Steubenville, where the remains of seven aborted infants are buried.

Photo courtesy Franciscan University

Answering God's Call

GOD'S INVITATION COULDN'T BE DISMISSED



Father Pat Toner

by Tim Puet

Father Pat Toner says that although he was a reluctant listener when he first heard it, God's invitation to the priesthood became so strong it ultimately couldn't be dismissed.

It was a call the current pastor of Plain City St. Joseph Church began to hear during a retreat at St. Theres's Retreat Center in Columbus in the late 1960s. He had just gotten back from serving in Germany and Vietnam in military intelligence and was attending The Ohio State University to finish his bachelor's degree, with the intention of doing more intelligence work for the federal government.

"I had gotten involved in church work, teaching fifth-grade CCD at Columbus St. Agnes," he said. "Father Al Krupp of the Pontifical College Josephinum was the director of the retreat and gave all of us an assignment to just take a walk around the grounds and write a litany of thanksgiving to God. I realized I had a lot of things to be thankful for and ended by saying to God, 'If I can ever do anything for you, just ask.' Who knew he'd answer by calling me to be a priest?"

"God may have been speaking to me, but at first I was sure I got it wrong. Then things began to happen that I couldn't ignore. The first inkling came in a 'Bible roulette' game I played with my Baptist friends, and the passage I received was about serving the Lord," he said.

"Then I went to the Cathedral Book Shop to order the book Father Krupp had used – 'Great God, Here I Am' by Leslie Brandt. They didn't have it, and I thought 'OK, God. If you're calling me, I want to get a copy of the book in three days.' I'd hardly finished that thought when the store manager said the book had just come in. 'Wow, that's a coincidence,' I thought.

"So then I said to God, 'If you're really calling me, say it in a way I can't ignore.' A few days later, I went to a girlfriend's house for a date, and she told me she and Father (now Msgr.) Romano Ciotola (now pastor at Columbus Our Lady of Victory) had been talking about me, and both had agreed I'd make a good priest. At that point, I think I realized God really was trying to tell me something," he said.

Father Toner then called Father Krupp, who recommended that he attend Pope John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, Mass., which specializes in serving men who discover their vocation to the priesthood while serving in other careers.

When the time came for his ordination, he had several options and wasn't sure whether to return to Columbus, where he had lived from the age of four after his parents moved from the Pittsburgh area. He said he decided to come back after Father Charles Jackson, diocesan vocations director at the time, convinced him of the need for priests in the Diocese of Columbus.

He was ordained on May 24, 1975, at St. Agnes by Bishop Edward Herrmann. His first assignment was at Marion St. Mary, where he was associate pastor for three years before coming to Columbus St. Agatha in July 1978 as an associate and a part-time teacher at Columbus Bishop Watterson High School.

"I could have stayed a fourth year at Marion, but requested a transfer to a larger parish because I was interested in being a pastor some day," Father Toner said. "I had no idea that 'some day' would come as soon as it did." He was appointed

pastor at Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes on Nov. 2, 1978, less than four months after his arrival at St. Agatha's.

"The pastor at Marysville had become ill, so there was an unexpected vacancy," he said. "I didn't apply for the position, but one day I got a call to see Bishop Herrmann, and he said the diocesan personnel board had recommended my appointment as pastor there.

"I accepted, then put in a call to Msgr. Bill Maroon, who was on the board and had told me earlier that I needed more seasoning before becoming a pastor. He told me I was chosen because the last few pastors at Marysville were older men, and the board felt that parish needed someone younger who would energize things, so they thought of me.

"Once I settled in, I knew I was where I was supposed to be," Father Toner said. "Everything was new and exciting, and it was great to be able to take a vision, share it, and have others get excited about it. I couldn't have asked for a better place for my first pastorate." He stayed in Marysville until being appointed co-director of diocesan youth ministry in 1982. He was in residence at Columbus St. Ladislav for a year, then served as pastor at Sunbury St. John Neumann from 1983-85.

"Msgr. George Schlegel, who had been associate pastor with me at Marion, had built the parish at Sunbury as a mission of Westerville St. Paul's, and I was the first resident pastor there," he said. "In those days, it was still a rural area. People couldn't have imagined the growth that's taken place there in the last 15 years or so."

The former Army intelligence specialist asked for and received permission in 1986 to become a chaplain in the Air Force because of a continuing need for chaplains in the armed forces. For the next six years, he was stationed at air bases in Arizona and Panama and at Andrews Air Force Base near Washington. Various deployments resulted in his celebrating Mass at the South Pole, in a C-130 transport at 40,000 feet, in Alaska, and in the back of a cargo plane in Saudi Arabia. His assignments included service in Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield.

"I prefer on-on-one ministry to programs and administrative things, and that's the most important part of being a chaplain – the willingness to be in touch with people on an individual basis and to go where you're needed, wherever that is," he said. "I've always tried to be that kind of a minister, and serving as chaplain has a lot to do with that."

Father Toner, 69, said he could have served longer as a chaplain. However, he had seen other chaplains who had left the military and felt a sense of alienation when they returned to their dioceses, and he didn't want that to happen to him. He returned to Columbus in 1992 as associate pastor at Our Lady of Peace, then was pastor of Portsmouth St. Mary for three years and had assignments at Newark St. Francis de Sales and Zoar Holy Trinity before coming in 1997 to Plain City, where he's been ever since.

"I came to a parish that already knew how to pray well," he said. "My predecessors had done a very good job, and I don't mind saying I exploit the gifts that people bring to the parish. We have been blessed with very talented and generous people. Because of that, I've had 16 very happy years here."

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Pray the rosary



Reminiscing

Scents, aromas, and pictures (still or moving) can influence our memory and make it as vivid and as real as it can ever be. I was sitting at home one evening and a sudden gust of melancholy overtook me. My parents and my experiences with them came flooding back in my mind. I thought of the days when they first met and how they wanted to share a life together. I thought of all the vacations we took together and of the conversations we had when they were older. I also thought of the end times when they were most vulnerable and I remember their strength, their faith, and their smiles.

It is amazing to me that something as simple as a reminder can stir us to tears or to laughter. The environment permeates with the pulse of our spirit. It is as alive as we are present in this world. It affects us in ways we cannot humanly imagine.

It is not God's plan for us to dwell on the past and forget to live. But for me, at least, when these thoughts come to me, I seem to be, for a moment, paralyzed. Then, as if someone was calling my name, I awaken and am back in the world. Temporary or not, this kind of memory can influence how we cope with good times and with the trials He places before us in our everyday lives. It molds us, shapes us, and moves us to compassionate impulses.

Blessed Pope John Paul II once said, "It is Jesus who stirs in you the desire to do something great with your lives, the will to follow an ideal, the refusal to allow yourselves to be ground down by mediocrity, the

courage to commit yourselves humbly and patiently to improving yourselves and society, making the world more human and more fraternal."

For it is our spirit, our parent's spirit, His spirit that we can use to be better stewards and kinder to our fellow human beings. By remembering something wonderful, we are stirred to positive action, and by remembering a tragedy, we are guided to wisdom and learn how to manage our emotions.

Perhaps by just listening when things are at their calmest, we can hear Him speaking to us. He is leading us to a life of prayer, a more content life, a more fulfilled life, a more spiritual life, and a life worth remembering.

For our loved ones who are deceased, for all the soldiers protecting us, for all those needing His help, we will think of them fondly, saying a prayer and recalling those wonderful memories that were shared. An excerpt from a song the Little River Band wrote more than three decades ago sums up what I keep in my mind:

That's the way it began, we were hand-in-hand, Glenn Miller's band was better than before

We yelled and screamed for more

And the Porter tunes made us dance across the room

It ended all too soon

On the way back home, I promised you'd never be alone

Hurry, don't be late, I can hardly wait

Finding the way

and lower gorges, the rock caves became more and more dangerous. With night descending, we had to literally crawl on our hands and knees so as not to step off an unseen ledge. Mother led the rosary and we all prayed the responses. My sister Susie then recited the *Memorare*, which she had just learned at St. Joe's Academy from the good sisters.

Soon after finishing our rosary, we came upon a cleared area that was high on a ridge. I remember Mother telling Dad to lift me up on his shoulders, since I was the lightest, and to let me relay what I could see. He lifted me up and I stood there – now over nine feet tall – and I spotted a ranger lookout station off across the woods. Using that as our lodestar, we hiked off in that direction, often stopping so Dad could again lift me up to make sure we were still headed toward safety.

The distant memory helped me realize I have no map or flashlight to offer this young mother as she makes her way through the darkness, even though I once stood frozen with indecision on the ledge where she stands. I have moved far down the path where she now searches for footing.



Lighting the Way

Joseph Thomas

I said to myself, when we're old

We'll go dancing in the dark, walking through the park and reminiscing ...

Friday night it was late, I was walking you home

We got down to the gate and I was dreaming of the night

Would it turn out right?

Now as the years roll on, each time we hear our favorite song

The memories come along

Older times we're missing, spending the hours reminiscing

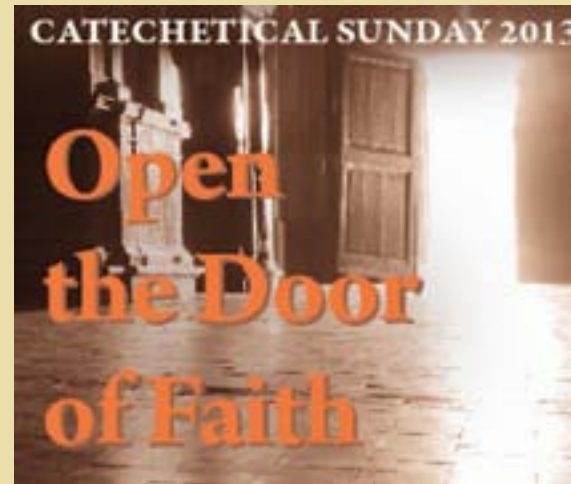
Hurry, don't be late, I can hardly wait

I said to myself, when we're old

We'll go dancing in the dark, walking through the park and reminiscing ...

May we all have fond memories of our loved ones and may their spirit guide us and hold us forever. May the wind be at our backs and may His peace be with you always.

Joseph Thomas is a freelance writer and active in many diocesan and church ministries. He is a member of Gahanna St. Matthew Church. He posts his thoughts online at <http://truegiftoffaith.blogspot.com>.



Catholics will be called to reflect on how they can spread the Gospel as they honor those who teach the Catholic faith in parishes, schools, and homes on Catechetical Sunday 2013. The event is scheduled for the weekend of Sunday, Sept. 15, and will focus on the theme "Open the Door of Faith."

The committee on evangelization and catechesis of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, chaired by Bishop David Ricken of Green Bay, Wis., has prepared a variety of materials to assist catechists and Catholic school teachers to better understand and enter into the Year of Faith, including a revisit of the teachings of the Second Vatican Council. The resources will assist parishes in celebrating Catechetical Sunday not only in September, but throughout the 2013-2014 school year.

The theme "Open the Door of Faith" is taken from the Vatican's guiding document on the Year of Faith, "Porta Fidei." This year's materials, available in English and Spanish, are directed to all Catholics to help them reach out and evangelize others. They include resources for clergy, family resources, prayer cards, posters, and teaching aids including "The Catechism: A Symphony of Faith" by Petroc Willey and "Reexamining the Word of the Second Vatican Council (Hermeneutics of Reform)" by Alan Schreck. Resources for free downloading are available at: www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechesis/catechetical-sunday/year-of-faith/index.cfm

Catechetical Sunday, which is observed on the third Sunday in September, is a celebration of catechists and all teachers of the Catholic faith. Many parishes commission those who serve in catechetical ministry on this day. The U.S. bishops have provided resources for Catechetical Sunday since 1971. More information is available at: www.usccb.org/catecheticalsunday.

The Year of Faith began on Oct. 11, 2012, and concludes on Nov. 24 of this year. More information is available online at www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/new-evangelization/year-of-faith/

2,200 CATECHISTS SERVE DIOCESE

BY TIM PUET

Reporter, Catholic Times

The diocesan Office of Religious Education and Catechesis serves the catechetical and school leaders who lead the more than 2,200 men and women in the Diocese of Columbus who minister as catechists in parochial schools, Parish School of Religion programs for young people, sacramental catechesis, and adult faith formation programs, including the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults.

Its director, Dr. Barbara Romanello-Wichtman said the catechists are responsible for educating about 32,500 children – approximately 16,000 attending parochial schools and 16,500 in PSR – as well as adults in the RCIA process.

Romanello-Wichtman added that all adults, especially catechists and school teachers, have six principal tasks, as listed by the USCCB: promoting knowledge of the faith; liturgical education; moral formation; teaching to pray; education for community life; and missionary initiation. All of these tasks have the goal of developing one's relationship with Jesus Christ. This relationship is at the heart of the national framework for religious education at the high school level which the USCCB adopted a few years ago and which is being used in all of the diocesan high schools.

The diocese has certification requirements for catechists which include completion of courses on the Person as a Catechist; Scripture; Christ and the Church; Liturgy and the Sacraments; Morality; and Catechetical Methodology. The Person as a Catechist course is required for all teachers in diocesan schools. Teachers of religion in elementary schools are required to complete all six courses. High school religion teachers need 30 credit hours of religious education or theology.

Bishop Frederick Campbell expects that parish catechetical leaders who are salaried or receive a stipend should complete the certification process. The courses are not required for PSR teachers or catechists in parish religious education programs, but "we do encourage and recommend that the catechists take the courses to help them with the ministry in which they work," Romanello-Wichtman said. "Once the catechists begin the courses, we hope they find them helpful and will continue to participate in the program."

The office offers all of the certification courses during the summer at various locations. Approximately 550 people attended

certification courses this past summer. Some parishes, including Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare, Logan St. John, and Marion St. Mary are offering courses during the school year.

Every August, the office co-sponsors an orientation meeting for new school teachers with the Office of Catholic Schools (pictured at right). In addition, the two offices co-host a kick-off meeting with Bishop Campbell and the Offices of Divine Worship and Youth Ministry, in which catechetical leaders recognize the achievements of their peers and prepare for the coming year.

Seven people were honored at this year's catechists' meeting for achieving some level of advanced training in religious education or theology. They are Maria Berryhill, London St. Patrick; Michelle Fishpaw, Columbus Our Lady of Victory; Kathy Henry, Worthington St. Michael; Laura Sams, Powell St. Joan of Arc; Austin Schafer, Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center; Barbara Serrano, Pickerington St. Elizabeth Seton; and Deacon Patrick Wilson, Newark Blessed Sacrament. Recognized for their years of service or their retirement from religious education were Judy Cafmeyer, Reynoldsburg St. Pius X; Suzie Emsweller, Columbus St. Andrew; Bernadine Hess, London St. Patrick; and Shirley Lower, Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul.

In November, the office will be providing support for talks to be given by Bishop Campbell on the Second Vatican Council, which took place 50 years ago. Dates for those talks will be Nov. 4, 6, 18, and 20, with sites to be announced. The office will have resources and follow-up materials available at the talks for parishes and deaneries.

The bishop's talks will be part of the ongoing diocesan celebration of the Year of Faith which began on Oct. 11, 2012, the 50th anniversary of the opening of Vatican II, and concludes this coming Nov. 24, the Feast of Christ the King.

In his apostolic letter introducing the Year of Faith, written in 2011 before he became pope emeritus, Pope Benedict XVI described the event as the time for a renewal of a relationship with Jesus and for reopening the "door of faith," which was first opened at Baptism. "To enter through that door is to set out on a journey that lasts a lifetime," the letter said, adding that now is a good opportunity to "open it again" and renew one's relationship with Christ and his church.

The office also promotes several ongoing formation opportunities for diocesan catechists and teachers. This year, these include the Ohio Catholic Educators Association convention on Oct. 7 and 8; a conference on the church and digital media at Colum-

bus St. Andrew Church's Bryce Eck Center on Nov. 12; a catechist training event with Sister Janet Schaeffler, OP, at Gahanna St. Matthew Church on Nov. 13; a statewide seminar with religious education and catechesis staff members from the state's other five dioceses and one Byzantine Catholic eparchy on March 27 and 28; and a ministry development day when parish ministers and religious education directors will discuss the sacrament of Confirmation.

The office and the Diocesan Association of Religious Educators (d.a.r.e.), which is open to all catechetical leaders, will be co-sponsors of the Nov. 12 conference on digital media. Other upcoming d.a.r.e. events, all in 2014, include a winter retreat on the New Evangelization with Father Bob Hater of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati on Jan. 16; a meeting with Dan Mulhall of the RCL Benzinger publishing company on catechesis with diverse cultures on March 20; and a luncheon on May 8 with Ruah Woods, who has a Cincinnati-based ministry based on Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body.

The office is also in partnership with the University of Dayton in offering an online initiative called the Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation. This program, which is offered in English and Spanish, presents three- to six-week courses several times a year, each with a maximum of 15 participants, for catechists and other interested adult Catholics.

There has been an increase in participation in this opportunity in the past year. Sister Patricia McMahon, OSF, is coordinating this initiative for adult faith formation at St. Brigid of Kildare. There will be training for facilitators in the diocese in October and November.

Since 1994, the diocese has worked with the extension program of the Institute for Ministry of Loyola University in New Orleans on fully accredited graduate education and certificate programs, both at area classroom locations and online. The religious education office has worked with 13 cohort groups, 11 of which have completed the program. These groups have met in Scioto, Delaware and Knox counties. The office hopes to start another group in January 2014.

Additional long-distance learning programs are offered through Boston College, the University of Notre Dame, and other institutions. The office has information on those as well.



DIOCESAN RELIGION CURRICULUM REVISION IS UNDER WAY

BY TIM PUET

Reporter, Catholic Times

This is a significant year for religious educators throughout the Diocese of Columbus, for they are working on revising the diocesan religion course of study for elementary and secondary schools. The religion curriculum, like those for other subjects, is re-examined every seven years. The most recent revision was completed in 2006.

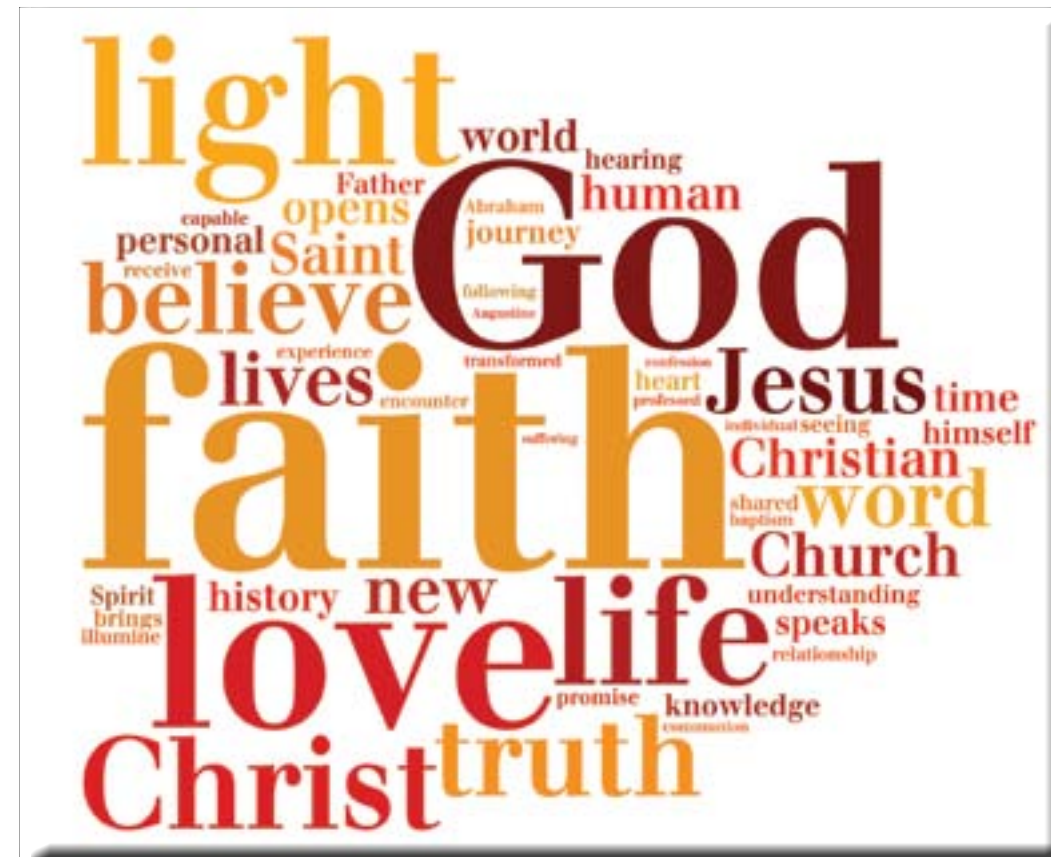
Work on this year's revision, which will include diocesan parochial schools and Parish School of Religion classes, started in the fall of 2012, with the goal of having it in place by the start of the 2014-15 school year, said Judi Engel of the diocesan Office of Religious Education and Catechesis.

Groups of three to five religious educators at different grade levels have finished their final drafts of the proposed new course of study and are sending the drafts to the religious education office, in anticipation of having a final document completed by January. School administrators and parish catechetical leaders then will have time to look at textbooks before full implementation in September 2014.

Engel said the curriculum revisions by about 15 teachers and catechists are based on the Six Dimensions of Catechesis listed by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in its *National Directory for Catechesis*, published in 2005.

The bishops said religious education courses should promote knowledge of the faith; promote meaningful participation in liturgical worship and the sacramental life of the church; integrate moral formation into a Christian way of life; teach Christians how to pray with Christ, in Christ, and in communion with the church; initiate the Christian into the life of the local church community and foster active participation in the mission of the church; and promote a missionary spirit that prepares Christians to witness.

"It seems to be working well," Engel said. "We've received plenty of positive feedback from teachers, saying that once they got used to the change, they enjoyed having a unifying theme and were able to find many creative ways to implement it."



See OFFICE, Page 12

Families Host Pilgrim Virgin Statue

A Pilgrim Virgin statue of Our Lady of Fatima which has been visiting the homes of Columbus Holy Family Church members since January will remain in the church, 584 W. Broad St., throughout October. Home visits will resume in November.

The statue arrived at the church and was blessed on Oct. 7, 2012, the Feast of the Holy Rosary. It originally was to spend a week in parishioners' homes, but most of the hosting families felt a week was not enough, so that time was extended to two weeks.

The families report receiving many graces from the visits, especially a sense of peace while the statue stayed in their homes. Several difficult family situations were said to be resolved during those times.

Some hosting families have requested a return visit. When the statue is transferred, each family receives literature about Our Lady of Fatima, a copy of the 1957 film *The Miracle of Our Lady of Fatima*, and a copy of Father Robert Fox's interview with Sister Lucia dos Santos, OCD, the last survivor among the three Portuguese children

to whom the Virgin Mary appeared at Fatima in 1917.

The parish Confraternity of Christian Mothers and Ladies Guild obtained the statue and desire that more people understand Our Lady of Fatima's peace plan, which consists of praying the rosary daily, especially in family groups; daily sacrifice for the conversion of sinners; attending Mass on five consecutive first Saturdays; wearing the brown scapular; making visits to the Blessed Sacrament; and making an act of consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

When arriving and leaving hosting families, the custodians of the statue take part in a procession with it to and from the home. The prayers of St. Louis De Montfort and the rosary are said on Our Lady's arrival, and St. Louis De Montfort's prayers are said at her farewell. White gloves are used when handling the statue. The brown scapular that travels with it is a third-class relic touched to the blood and glove of St. Padre Pio.

Anyone wishing to know more about the Pilgrim Virgin may contact Mary Thompson at (614) 221-1890.



Annual Serra life awareness luncheon

Boys in eighth through 12th grades are invited to hear Father John Rozembajgier of the Pontifical College Josephinum faculty speak on Tuesday, Oct. 1, at the annual life awareness youth luncheon sponsored by the Serra Club of North Columbus. The event will take place at the Josephinum's Jessing Center from 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.



Father Rozembajgier (pictured), speaking on the topic "Thirsting for Christ," will give the students guidance on how they can achieve the personal vocation goal set by God when he created each one of them. Father Rozembajgier is athletic director at the college, as well as being a lecturer in its college of liberal arts, dean of seminary life, and director of pastoral and apostolic formation.

He was ordained in 2004 for the Diocese of Metuchen, N.J., and holds a licentiate in sacred theology with a specialization in spirituality, as well as a licentiate in canon law, from the Pontifical Gregorian University. He joined the

Josephinum faculty in 2011.

Serra North members consider themselves cheerleaders for vocations, as they are dedicated to help students in their discernment of the vocation to which God calls them. No game can be won without good coaching, discipline, and knowing where the goal is. The club's youth luncheons help students discover the direction in which they must go in the game of life to reach the goal of knowledge of their personal call from God.

Parochial school students may register for the luncheon through their school. Home-schooled and public school students may reserve by calling Rosemary Finneran at (614) 436-6758. Students, faculty, and parents attending will be guests of the Serra Club. A tour of the Josephinum will be offered after the event.

For more information about membership in the Serra Club and its support of vocations to the priesthood and consecrated religious life, call Jan Schwartz at (614) 775-9409.

OFFICE, continued from Page 11

The office assists many diocesan parishes in adult faith formation programs, including the RCIA process, which is a formal process through which adults and children either join or enter full communion with the Catholic Church. Parish-based programs include Scripture study, book clubs, and discussion groups.

The religious education office approves religion textbooks based on conformity to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and to the diocese's religion course of study for preschool through 12th grade, and works with the offices of Black Ministry, Catholic Schools, Com-

munications, Marriage and Family Life, Latino Ministry, Divine Worship, Social Concerns, Vocations, Youth and Young Adult Ministry, and Development and Planning on additional programs and initiatives.

Its resource center, funded mostly by the Knights of Columbus, has access to more than 4,000 books, DVDs, CDs, and videos. It may be visited at <http://catalog.cdeducation.org>. The office also publishes a weekly bulletin titled "Good News Bytes" on its website, which may be found by clicking on the "Offices" section of the diocesan website, www.colsdioc.org.



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HEALTH CARE GROUPS CREATE NEW CARE MODEL

Four of Ohio's leading health care organizations – the Mount Carmel Health System of Columbus, Catholic Health Partners of Cincinnati, the Summa Health System of Akron, and University Hospitals of Cleveland – have collaborated to create Health Innovations Ohio (HIO). This independent organization is building a new, fully integrated and aligned model of care to achieve superior quality, health, and value for Ohioans.

"Health Innovations Ohio will transform health care across the state by fostering value-based care and payment reform throughout our health systems, which, taken together, reach more than 22 percent of Ohio's health care market," said Jim Reber, HIO president and chief executive officer.

Initially, HIO is focusing its work in three areas: Medicare Advantage, Medicaid managed care, and population health management for HIO sponsoring systems' employees and

their dependents.

Expanding statewide access to the HIO-affiliated Medicare Advantage programs as of January 2013 was one of HIO's first collaborative successes. MediGold, offered through Mount Carmel, and SummaCare, offered through Summa Health, are now also available in northern and southwest Ohio through providers and facilities affiliated with Catholic Health Partners and University Hospitals.

Each of these highly rated plans focuses on providing exceptional service and value to Ohio seniors who need affordable health insurance.

HIO's four member organizations also envision bringing the benefits of aligned, coordinated care to Medicaid managed care members by working with Medicaid managed care contractors and aligning incentives through pay-for-performance and shared-savings contracts.

The four provide health care cover-

age for more workers and their family members than any employer in the state. Adopting best-practice population health management programs and incentives in their own workplaces, HIO founders are helping their more than 70,000 employees attain better health, while lowering their health-care costs.

HIO's founders came together officially in mid-2012, when no such statewide provider networks existed nationwide, and first turned their attention to defining the organization's structure and strategic agenda.

"Health Innovations Ohio was born of a belief by the leaders of the four founding organizations that health care reform brings an opportunity to make real changes that lead to better care for our communities," said Reber. "Through the course of normal dialogue, it became clear that these four systems shared a common goal to make health care better, which led to discussions about the poten-

tial of working together."

Today, HIO members lead Ohio in piloting and establishing new models of integrated care to reduce fragmentation and deliver improved quality, patient experience, and cost. They have launched more than 60 patient-centered medical home sites, recognized by the National Committee for Quality Assurance. They also have created accountable care organizations to manage the health of a variety of populations, enrolling nearly 200,000 traditional Medicare beneficiaries, pediatric Medicaid recipients, and HIO member employees.

Health Innovations Ohio welcomes inquiries from other healthcare providers, government officials, policymakers, community and business leaders, and payers.

More information is available from Reber at (419) 226-9100 or JReber@health-partners.org and at <http://www.HealthInnovationsOhio.com>.

EVENTS AT MARTIN DE PORRES CENTER

"WOMEN IN ISLAM"

In keeping with the Martin de Porres Center's objective to bring people of different faith traditions into dialogue with one another, Dr. Nimet Alpay and Dr. Gulcin Ozer of the Turkish American Society of Ohio will speak on "Women in Islam" from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 24.

After explaining the basic pillars of Islam and the main principles of its belief system, the presenters will address conventional as well as controversial issues regarding women in Muslim cultures across the world. A brief question-and-answer session will follow.

Alpay came to the U.S. from Turkey in 1996 to pursue a doctorate in mathematics from Michigan State University. While continuing her academic career in Michigan, she was selected a finalist in the Woman of the Year event in greater Lansing for her devotion to improving dialogue and understanding in the community. In August 2010, she and her family moved to Columbus, where she works as the lead faculty member for mathematics and statistics at Franklin University.

Ozer, also born and raised in Turkey,

received her doctorate in bioinformatics from The Ohio State University, where she is a research scientist. Since the summer of 2003, she and her family have lived in Columbus, where she is active in organizing the Turkish American Society's ladies' coffee nights and in planning the Niagara Foundation's annual women's conference.

To register by Monday, Sept. 23, call the Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Drive, Columbus, at (614) 416-1910 or register online at www.martindeporrescenter.net. Suggested donation is \$10.

"MATURING SPIRITUALITY PROGRAM SERIES"

The Martin de Porres Center's Institute for Maturing Spirituality will offer its first of four fall programs from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 25, with Dominican Sister of Peace Teresa Tuite, OP, presenting "Contemplation: A Long Loving Look."

In the Book of Genesis, we read about the call of Abraham: "The Lord has said to Abram, 'Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.'" In faith, Abram and his wife,

Sarai, accepted the call and set out. It was a great leap of faith because they had to "let go" in order to "let come." Leaving what we know to journey into the unknown always requires a willingness to take risks. In many ways, this is what is happening as we age. We are making (sometimes willingly, sometimes unwillingly) significant shifts in the way of life we have known as we journey into the unknown. As we explore what this journey might mean for us, we will peer through the lens of

contemplation, often defined as "a long loving look at what is." During this program, participants will explore the meaning of contemplation and have an opportunity to practice it.

The program will be webcast to subscribers, but all are welcome to be a part of the live audience.

To register by Tuesday, Sept. 24, call the center at (614) 416-1910 or register online at www.martindeporrescenter.org. A free-will donation will be taken at the program.

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle C)

A parable of two sons and a dysfunctional family



Father
Lawrence L. Hummer

Exodus 32:7-11,13-14
1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15:1-12

There is clearly a thematic connection between the wayward and “stiff-necked” people, whom Moses had led out of slavery into freedom, and the younger son of the Gospel who leaves his family and eventually everything he took from his family because he too was “wayward and stiff-necked.”

In the case of Exodus, Moses plays his role of intermediary between the people and the Lord to the hilt. The Exodus author had no problem placing Moses in the role of having to remind the Lord of why the divine wrath should not be raised against “your people.” They are descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel (Jacob), who first received the promise of numerous offspring from the Lord.

Moses’ pleading is successful. The Lord decides not to punish the people for making a molten calf and worshipping it. Moses will have more to say to the people when he descends the mountain, but, unlike the Lord, who relented from punishing them, Moses will ultimately destroy 3,000 of the unrepentant ones.

The parable of the Prodigal Son (or better, of the Forgiving Father) shows a rebellious son who wants not only his freedom, but his inheritance as well. This story is unique to Luke’s Gospel, which is surprising, given its universal appeal. It had to have come from Luke’s unique source. Had it been available to Mark and Mat-

thew, it is inexplicable why the other evangelists would not have included the story in their gospels.

The parable is preceded by the parable of the lost sheep and the lost coin. The lost sheep parable is also found in Matthew’s Gospel, but the lost coin and the “lost” son are unique to Luke. All three parables are told to Pharisees and Scribes, who grumble that Jesus has been eating with “tax collectors and sinners.”

All three parables note the joy of the one who finds what was lost and compares it to the joy in heaven over a sinner who repents. In the last parable, the joy revolves around the son who “was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and has been found.”

As an illustration of what God is like, the forgiving father poses a dramatic contrast with the image of God in the first reading. Clearly, the father is the real focus of the parable which begins with “A man had two sons.”

It is also clear from the telling of the tale that neither son was praiseworthy. The younger one splits the family harmony, wastes away his inheritance, and winds up hitting bottom. The older boy thought it was necessary to be a slave to his father (“All these years I have served you”). But the verb “served” here really waters down the meaning of “slaved for.”

This adds to our understanding of the parable. The younger son at least knew that he could return to his father, even if he had lost his status as son, or so he thought. The older son never knew what it meant to be a son and regarded himself as little better than a slave to his father. But the father in the parable only wanted both of them to be his sons. The messy family dynamics make the story come alive. Today, we’d probably say they were a seriously dysfunctional family. Yet as a lesson about the nature of God as a loving Father, the story has no equal. It remains a classic.

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

Watterson Auction

Columbus Bishop Watterson High School will host its Eagle auction on Saturday, Oct. 12. The annual event for all Watterson parents, alumni, friends, and supporters will include music, dancing, food, and live and silent auction bidding. The theme is “We Are Watterson.” The auction will be in the south addition of the school, located at 99 E. Cooke Road.

Auction items will include a tailgate package for the Nov. 23 Ohio State-Indiana football game and a box for 12 at a Columbus Blue Jackets game, in addition to the traditional homeroom baskets and other packages.

Registration may be completed online at www.bishopwatterson.com.

Joseph’s Coat Spaghetti Dinner

A spaghetti dinner and silent auction for the Joseph’s Coat ministry will take place from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 5 at Reynoldsburg St. Pius X School, 1051 Waggoner Road. The dinner is being sponsored by the Mount Carmel Foundation. Joseph’s Coat, a joint mission of St. Pius X and Messiah Lutheran and Parkview Presbyterian churches of Reynoldsburg, helps people in need by providing free clothing, furniture, and household items. Adult tickets are \$8. Children 12 and under are \$5. For more information, contact info@josephscoatofohio.org.

DeSales Dance Camp

The Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School dance team is sponsoring its annual dance and majorette camp for girls in kindergarten through eighth grade from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 12, at the school, 4212 Karl Road. Registration deadline is Wednesday, Oct. 1. For information, call Terisa Sites at (614) 267-7808. Registration forms are at www.dsband.org.

The Weekday Bible Readings

MONDAY
1 Timothy 2:1-8
Psalm 28:2,7-9
Luke 7:1-10

TUESDAY
1 Timothy 3:1-13
Psalm 101:1-3,5-6
Luke 7:11-17

WEDNESDAY
1 Timothy 3:14-16
Psalm 111:1-6
Luke 7:31-35

THURSDAY
1 Timothy 4:12-16
Psalm 111:7-10
Luke 7:36-50

FRIDAY
1 Timothy 6:2c-12
Psalm 49:6-10,17-20
Luke 8:1-3

SATURDAY
Ephesians 4:1-7,11-13
Psalm 19:2-5
Matthew 9:9-13

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2013

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

Mass with the Passionist Fathers at 7 a.m. on WHIZ-TV, Channel 18, Zanesville, and 7:30 a.m. on WWHO-TV (the CW), Channel 53, Columbus. Check local cable systems for WHIZ’s and WWHO’s cable channel listings.

Mass from Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, Birmingham, Ala., at 8 a.m. on EWTN (Time Warner Channel 385, Insight Channel 382, or WOW Channel 378) (Encores at noon, 7 p.m., and midnight).

Mass from Kenton Immaculate Conception Church at 10 a.m. on Time Warner Cable Channel 6 (Hardin County).

Mass from Portsmouth St. Mary Church at noon on Time Warner Channel 24 in Scioto County.

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

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

Jesus: Eminent Psychiatrist

Recently, Pope Francis said that while self-help is a good concept and we certainly need qualified therapists, counselors, and psychiatrists, our world has seemingly become obsessed with self. The Bible and Sacred Tradition (the writings of saints and religious scholars) are chock-full of sage advice for what ails the mind. In addition, as Pope Francis lamented, if we poured ourselves into helping others, we might get a clearer picture of what ails us.

In a sense, Jesus was the most eminent of psychiatrists. In his teachings and parables, he addressed so many psychological problems – obsession, projection, unhealthy fears, dangerous risk taking, repression, etc. It is all there in the Bible. Yet our modern world increasingly ignores what Jesus and his personally selected apostles said about love and the meaning of life itself.

Oddly, our modern world seems to want to change everything Jesus, his apostles, and the Church that he entrusted to us has taught about life, love, family, marriage, and wealth. In a sense, our world is engaging in one of the most basic of psychological traps – the age-old problem of denial. With all of our intellect, we have let ourselves become victims of the most basic human problems, which, of course, stem from pride. Sadly, we are under the delusion that we know better than Jesus, his apostles, and the Church. As Pope Francis has indicated, the solution is very simple: turn back to the words of Christ, his apostles, and the Church he entrusted to us.



THE TIDE IS TURNING
TOWARD CATHOLICISM
David Hartline

However, the question remains: Why do so many not follow the advice of the Son of God and follow the advice of those like Dr. Sigmund Freud, who was labeled even by other eminent psychiatrists such as Dr. Carl Jung as being “sex-obsessed”? The answer to that question probably lies somewhere with the fall of man in the Garden of Eden. We must remember that the reason Adam and Eve ate the apple was because the devil had seduced them into thinking that they would be like God.

Sadly, human history is full of individuals, ranging from Nimrod in the Old Testament (he thought he could build a tower to heaven and get in through his clever engineering skills) to a plethora of modern-day men and women, who seemingly think they are smarter than God. Some even act like three-year-olds with temper tantrums, pretending God doesn’t exist. Pride certainly does come before the fall.

Yet this sort of thinking is never tolerated in the workplace, the field of play in sports, or the stage in the theatrical world. If it is exhibited, the person

in question is often labeled as someone who isn’t a team player. It is rather remarkable that we tolerate those who try and change our faith when we would not tolerate it in any other area.

What happens when we go down the path of sin and rebellion? We end up looking stupid. There is a reason for the old saying “sin makes you stupid.” There certainly are plenty of examples of this in the world today. We need only look at the field of politics to understand this concept. The sad fact is that at one time, politicians had the good sense to step down from their posts when caught looking silly and stupid through sinful actions. That no longer seems to be the case.

We are not to judge people who sin, but we are to hold them accountable. Unfortunately, when we are ignorant of Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition, we aren’t even aware of what sin is in the first place. We also become confused by the term “to judge.” The term really means to judge someone’s soul. In the time of our ancestors, it meant to tell someone that their soul was going to hell. However, we think it is wrong even to ask someone to behave. What a tangled web we weave when we have all kinds of blind guides, rather than the eminent psychiatrist, Jesus, leading us.

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

DeSales Reunions

Four Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School classes are planning reunions in the next few weeks. Dates and times are as follows:

Class of 1978 – Saturday, Sept. 21, 7 p.m. to 1 a.m., Holiday Inn, 7007 N. High St., Worthington. Tickets, \$35, payable to Anthony Patton, 284 Blenheim Road, Columbus 43214.

Class of 1983 – Saturday, Sept. 28, 6 to 10 p.m., Hilton Garden Inn, 500 Metro Place North, Dublin. Contact sasmith888@wowway.com.

Class of 1988 – Saturday, Oct. 12, 6 p.m. to midnight, Brazenhead, 1027 W. 5th Ave., Columbus. Contact barber@desales.co.

Class of 1993 – Saturday, Oct. 12, 7 p.m., Gordy’s, 6150 S. Sunbury Road, Westerville. Contact tstewart003@insight.rr.com or call (614) 313-7135.

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URBAN MEYER AND OSU STAFF OFFER TIPS FOR DIOCESAN FOOTBALL COACHES

During the summer, head coach Urban Meyer and other members of the Ohio State coaching staff presented a free clinic for Diocesan Recreation Association football coaches.

Meyer began the clinic by talking about recent statistics that show national participation in youth football is down more than two million players. He talked about the importance of quality coaching and teaching safer techniques – in particular, safer tackling.

Coach Luke Fickell then went over his philosophy on safer tackling and demonstrated the methods the OSU staff use to teach the Buckeyes to tackle.



He also gave every coach a DVD detailing the training. Each position coach then spent 15 to 20 minutes talking about specific techniques.

Photo by Scott Kasun

Pray for our Dead

- ALTHOFF, Carolyn, 91, Sept. 3**
Christ the King Church, Columbus
- ARGRIESTI, Joseph L., 89, Sept. 7**
Our Lady of Victory Church, Columbus
- AVILEZ, Jose A., 44, Aug. 30**
St. Mary Church, Columbus
- BARR, Dennis, 72, Aug. 24**
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia
- BOBOT, Catherine G., 75, Sept. 7**
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark
- BONVECHIO, Pauline, 96, Aug. 31**
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia
- BURROWS, Carrie "Janie," 48, Aug. 31**
St. Andrew Church, Columbus
- BUTLER, Elda C., 82, Sept. 3**
Our Lady of Victory Church, Columbus
- CHESLOCK, Helen, 82, Aug. 22**
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia
- COATES, Carl W., 42, Sept. 3**
St. Christopher Church, Columbus
- COLETTA, Alba J., 93, Sept. 3**
St. Timothy Church, Columbus
- COURTNEY, Patricia, 88, Sept. 4**
St. Mary Church, Marion
- DUDAS, Lillian "Bill," 87, Sept. 5**
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Zanesville
- FISCHER, Barbara M., 81, Sept. 6**
St. Elizabeth Church, Columbus
- FRANCIA, Mary E., 89, Sept. 6**
St. Anthony Church, Columbus
- GALLILEI, Anthony V., 85, Sept. 9**
Sacred Heart Church, Columbus
- HANNIGAN, Jean P., 53, Sept. 1**
St. Michael Church, Worthington
- JASPERS, Norma J., 87, Sept. 7**
St. Anthony Church, Columbus
- KINIETZ, Donn R., 85, Sept. 5**
St. Michael Church, Worthington
- KNAPP, Mary L., 69, Aug. 31**
St. Matthew Church, Gahanna
- LOMBARDI, Rob, 55, Aug. 23**
St. Andrew Church, Columbus
- LOWRY, Robert H., 89, Sept. 7**
Pope John XXIII Church, Canal Winchester
- QUILLIN, Dr. Alston "Rolly" M., 82, Sept. 7**
St. Paul Church, Westerville
- RALEY, Ruthann M., 83, Sept. 4**
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany
- SCHAEFER, Henry W., 81, Sept. 6**
St. Matthew Church, Gahanna
- SCHNEIDER, Adam M., 29, Sept. 7**
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg
- SIMMONS, Mary M., 91, Sept. 5**
St. Mary Church, Marion
- SKEEN, Richard C., 71, Sept. 2**
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City
- TANNER, Bernard F., 81, Sept. 2**
Christ the King Church, Columbus
- TARANTELLI, Gloria L., 74, Sept. 1**
St. Christopher Church, Columbus
- WENTZEL, Robert L., 83, Sept. 7**
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City
- YOAKAM, Robert E., Sept. 8**
St. Mary Church, Delaware

Submit obituaries to: tpuet@colsdio.org
Obituaries cannot be taken by phone.
Obituaries will be edited for length/clarity/style and printed as space permits.

St. Andrew Parent Series

The Columbus St. Andrew School advisory board will present a discussion on "The Five Keys to College Success" from 7 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 25, at the Bryce Eck Center, 3880 Reed Road, as the first talk in its annual parent speaker series.

The speaker, Jim Galvin, owner of The Tutoring Club in Powell, will

speak how about parents of children as young as kindergarten age can start to ensure their child is ready for college admission and a successful college experience.

For more information, contact Beth Kelly at emk@columbus.rr.com or (614) 205-9430.

Diocesan Pro-Life Events

In addition to the start of the 40 Days for Life for campaign on Wednesday, Sept. 25 (see Page 5), other pro-life activities are scheduled in coming weeks in Pickerington, Columbus, and Zanesville.

PICKlife will sponsor a rally which will include a prayer service and speakers from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 28 on the lawn at 692 Hill Road North.

PICKlife is a grass-roots organization with the goal of unifying the Pickerington community to protect and defend innocent human life from conception to natural death. It conducts prayer vigils from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. every Monday, 2:30 to 6 p.m. every Tuesday, and 10 a.m. to noon every Saturday at the corner of McLeod Parc and Hill Road, next to the Pickerington office of Complete Healthcare for Women, a clinic which performs abortions at another location outside of Pickerington. More information is available at its website, www.pick-life.com.

A pro-life youth training conference featuring Bryan Kemper of Stand

True Ministries will take place from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 29, at the Run the Race Club, 880 S. Wayne Ave., Columbus. Kemper will talk about how to start a pro-life club at a school or church, and other speakers will tell of how they have been touched by abortion.

Crusaders for Life will sponsor the event, in cooperation with Greater Columbus Right to Life, the Run the Race Club, and the Brian Muha Memorial Foundation. Doors will open at noon and lunch will be provided. Admission is free, but the sponsors will be collecting diapers and selling T-shirts to support their efforts. For more information, go to www.gctrl.org/voices.

The 12th annual life chain in Zanesville, part of a national prayer chain to raise public awareness and to lift concerns to God about abortion, will take place along Maple Avenue from 2:15 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 6. Parking and signs will be available at Dr. Kevin Colopy's office, 2501 Maple Ave.

Call 740-454-7529 for more information.

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Commission Ecclesia Dei
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Free admission. For information: 614-985-2497.**

SEPTEMBER

12, THURSDAY
DivorceCare for Kids Support Group at St. Matthew
6:30 to 8 p.m., Spirit Room, St. Matthew Church, 807 Havens Corners Road, Gahanna. First meeting of 12-week DivorceCare for Kids support group to help children ages five to 12 heal from the pain caused by a separation or divorce. Contact mmelaragno_sopccc@um.att.com or jwright.sopccc@gmail.com.

All fund-raising events (festivals, bazaars, spaghetti dinners, fish fries, bake sales, pizza/sub sales, candy sales, etc.) will be placed in the "Fund-Raising Guide." An entry into the Guide will be \$18.50 for the first six lines, and \$2.65 for each additional line. For more information, call Deacon Steve DeMers at 614-224-6530 or 800-511-0584.

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

HAPPENINGS

Single and Parenting Support Group at St. Matthew
6:30 to 8 p.m., Counseling center, St. Matthew Church, 807 Havens Corners Road, Gahanna. First meeting of 12-week Single and Parenting support group offering answers to important questions single parents face every day. 614-442-7650, extension 3

PDHC Annual Fundraising Banquet in Columbus
6:30 to 9 p.m., Villa Milano, 1630 Schrock Road, Columbus. Pregnancy Decision Health Centers annual fundraising banquet, featuring Peggy Hartshorn, president of Heartbeat International. 614-888-8744

Theology on Tap Meeting
7 to 9 p.m., El Vaquero Restaurant, 3230 Olentangy River Road, Columbus. Monthly meeting of Theology on Tap discussion and social group for Catholics 21 and older. Speaker: Jake Tawney of liturgy website Roma Locuta Est on "Virtue: Changing the Way We Think About Moral Questions." 614-390-8653

Discussion with Wil Haygood at Ohio Dominican
7 p.m., Matesich Theater, Ohio Dominican University, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. Discussion on the writing process with former ODU student Wil Haygood, author of book "The Butler," and Steve Reiss, his former editor at The Washington Post, followed by book signing and reception. Reserved seating at www.ohiodominican.edu/HaygoodEvent.

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help at Holy Cross
7:30 p.m., Holy Cross Church, 204 S. 5th St., Columbus. Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help with Father Ramon Owerla, CFIC. 614-531-3682

13, FRIDAY
Catholic Social Services Breakfast with the Bishop
7:30 to 9:15 a.m., Regency Ballroom, Hyatt Regency Hotel, 350 N. High St., Columbus. Catholic Social Services annual Breakfast with the Bishop, with talks by Bishop Frederick Campbell and Matt Swaim of St. Gabriel Radio's Son Rise Morning Show on "Technology and Its Effect on Faith and Today's Society." 614-221-5891

PDHC Annual Fundraising Banquet in Lancaster
6:30 to 9 p.m., Fairfield Christian Church, 1965 N. Columbus St., Lancaster. Pregnancy Decision Health Centers annual fundraising banquet, featuring Peggy Hartshorn, president of Heartbeat International. 614-888-8744

13-15, FRIDAY-SUNDAY
Engaged Encounter Weekend
St. Therese's Retreat Center, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus. Engaged Encounter marriage preparation weekend for all couples who are engaged or considering marriage. Register at www.engaged.org.

14, SATURDAY
Columbus Courage Chapter Day of Recollection
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Five Porticos, Christ the King Church, 2777 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus. Annual day of recollection sponsored by Columbus chapter of Courage, a Catholic organization which helps those with a same-sex attraction live chaste lives. Presenter: Msgr. Eugene Morris, director of sacred liturgy, Pontifical College Josephinum. Topic: "Chaste Living Through the Sacramental Graces." 614-372-5249

Life and Mercy Mass in Plain City
9 a.m. Mass, St. Joseph Church, 140 West Ave., Plain City. Saturday Life and Mercy Mass, followed by rosary and confession. 614-565-8654

Retreat for Married Couples at St. Agatha
9 a.m. to 4 p.m., St. Agatha Church, 1860 Northam Road,

Columbus. Retreat for married couples, sponsored by diocesan Marriage and Family Life Office, with Bishop Frederick Campbell celebrating Mass, and presentations by Father Leo Patalinghug, host of EWTN cooking show "Savoring Our Faith." 614-241-2560

Serra Club Brunch for Religious Sisters
11:30 a.m., Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Drive, Columbus. Serra clubs of the diocese host brunch for religious sisters.

14-15, SATURDAY-SUNDAY
Founders of Faith Program at Somerset St. Joseph
St. Joseph Church, 5757 State Route 383 N.E., Somerset. Annual Founders of Faith program, sponsored by diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting, examining the early days of the Catholic Church in Ohio. For anyone 11 and older and registered in Boy or Girl Scouting or Camp Fire. Includes Sunday Mass. 614-882-7806

15, SUNDAY
Blessing of St. Gerard Majella at Holy Family
Following 9 and 11 a.m. Masses, Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., Columbus. Blessing of St. Gerard Majella, patron of expectant mothers, for all women who are pregnant or wish to become pregnant. 614-221-1890

Praise Mass at Seton Parish
11:15 a.m., St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, 600 Hill Road N., Pickerington. Praise Mass with contemporary music by parish's small musical groups. 614-833-0482

Rosary High School 60th Anniversary Reunion
1 p.m., Jessing Center, Pontifical College Josephinum, 7625 N. High St., Columbus. Columbus Rosary High School Class of 1953 60th anniversary reunion. 740-929-2942

St. Padre Pio Secular Franciscans
1:30 to 5 p.m., St. Matthew Church, 807 Havens Corners Road, Gahanna. Fellowship and ongoing formation followed by adoration and prayer, Liturgy of the Hours, and initial formation with visitors. Meet downstairs. Dave Orsborn, OFS 614-282-4676

Bishop Campbell Dedicates St. Charles West Campus
4 p.m., St. Charles Preparatory School, 2010 W. Broad St., Columbus. Blessing and dedication ceremony for school's Robert D. Walter West Campus, with Bishop Frederick Campbell. 614-252-6714

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

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

DivorceCare Support Group at St. Matthew
7 to 9 p.m., St. Cecilia Room, St. Matthew Church, 807 Havens Corners Road, Gahanna. First meeting of 12-week DivorceCare support group for anyone dealing with the aftermath of divorce. 614-269-7098 or 614-575-1507

16, MONDAY
GriefShare Support Group at St. Matthew
7 to 8:30 p.m., St. Cecilia Room, St. Matthew Church, 807 Havens Corners Road, Gahanna. First meeting of 12-week GriefShare bereavement support group. Contact mary0613@hotmail.com.

17, TUESDAY
Rosary for Life at St. Joan of Arc
Following 6:15 p.m. Mass, St. Joan of Arc Church, 10700

Liberty Road, Powell. Recital of Rosary for Life, sponsored by church's respect life committee.

Prayer Group Meeting at St. Mark
7:30 p.m., St. Raymond Room, St. Mark Center, 324 Gay St., Lancaster. Light of Life Prayer Group meeting.

18, WEDNESDAY
Josephinum Priests, Poets and Philosophers Series
7 p.m., Jessing Center, Pontifical College Josephinum, 7625 N. High St., Columbus. Lecture with Shawn Carney, co-founder, 40 Days for Life. Topic: "What Else Is There?" First event in college's 2013-14 Priests, Poets and Philosophers series. 614-885-5585

Shepherd's Corner 'Reconnect with Earth' Study Group
7 to 8:30 p.m., Shepherd's Corner, 987 N. Waggoner Road, Blacklick. Meeting of "Reconnect with Earth" study group, exploring how values and beliefs affect the way we treat the earth. 614-866-4302

20-22, FRIDAY-SUNDAY
Marriage Encounter Weekend
St. Therese's Retreat Center, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus. Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend, for couples interested in making good marriages better. 740-746-9003

21, SATURDAY
Life and Mercy Mass in Plain City
9 a.m. Mass, St. Joseph Church, 140 West Ave., Plain City. Saturday Life and Mercy Mass, followed by rosary and confession. 614-565-8654

Birthright of Columbus Fundraising Luncheon
Noon, Clintonville Women's Club, 3951 N. High St., Columbus. Annual fundraising luncheon sponsored by Birthright of Columbus, including Christopher and Banks style show, silent auction, and raffle of handmade Ohio State quilt. 614-888-0917 or 614-235-7465

DeSales 35th Anniversary Reunion
7 p.m., Holiday Inn, 7007 N. High St., Worthington. Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School Class of 1978 35th anniversary reunion. 614-267-7808, extension 142

22, SUNDAY
Columbus St. Peter Pastoral Installation Mass
9:30 a.m., St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road, Columbus. Bishop Frederick Campbell celebrates Mass installing Father Mark Summers as pastor. 614-889-2221

Watterson Athletic Hall of Fame Induction
1 p.m., Bishop Watterson High School, 99 E. Cooke Road, Columbus. Brunch and induction ceremony honoring inaugural class of school's athletic hall of fame, preceded by 11:30 Mass at Our Lady of Peace Church, 20 E. Dominion Blvd. 614-268-8671, extension 329

St. Catherine of Bologna Secular Franciscans
2:30 to 5 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Church, 386 Buttles Ave., Columbus. Rosary, Liturgy of the Hours, followed by general meeting, ongoing formation, and social. Elizabeth Bowen, OFS 614-276-1953

Cathedral Organ Concert
3 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Organ concert featuring cathedral music director Paul Thornock and Mark Rudoff, professor of cello and chamber music at The Ohio State University. 614-241-2526

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



Cathedral Concert

Works by Rheinberger, Reger, and others will be featured during a concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 22, in Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St. The cathedral's music director, Paul Thornock (*right*), will be joined by Mark Rudoff, professor of cello and chamber music at The Ohio State University's school of music.



Artist combines faith, imagery, biblical messages for his religious art

By Elizabeth Fazzini
Catholic News Service

Christopher Ruane remembers drawing and coloring pictures of Christ and listening to his father, Michael Ruane, reading him stories from the Bible.

Today, these visuals and biblical messages from his childhood are fused with his strong faith, respect for traditional art, and astute sensitivity to the culture around him as he creates a unique type of religious art using photography.

"I don't just photograph people. I photograph every single element in the picture," he said.

Although all of Ruane's pieces are rooted in Scripture, his work is a departure from the more recognizable, traditional religious art.

He presents biblical stories and messages with a modern interpretation, using strikingly vivid colors and visuals that range

from surreal to starkly realistic.

"My work is supposed to illicit a powerful response and make you think about Christ and contemplate who you are in your faith," he said in an interview with *The Catholic Accent*, newspaper of the Diocese of Greensburg, Pa.

Using Photoshop, he engages in a labor-intensive process of bringing together each photographed element to create a cohesive image that communicates a Christlike message.

"The images have the clarity of traditional fine art photography with the heart, soul, and freedom of painting," Ruane said.

A lifelong Catholic, Ruane, his wife, Stefanie, and their 2-month-old son, Isaac, are parishioners of Mother of Sorrows Parish in Murrysville, Pa.

Ruane, 32, earned a bachelor of fine arts degree in 2004 from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, where he double-majored in



photography and graphic design and minored in art history.

Last fall, his piece "Good Samaritan" (*shown above*), which was inspired by the Trayvon Martin shooting, won first place at the fourth annual Nationwide Juried Catholic Arts Exhibition at St. Vincent College in Latrobe, Pa. It explores the powerful message of loving one's neighbor, showing love where one would expect animosity, Ruane said.

Brother Nathan Cochran, OSB, director of the St. Vincent College Gallery and curator of the art collections at the Benedictine college and monastery, said he was pleased that Ruane submitted work for the competition because "it was exactly the type of art that I hope emerges out of the Catholic art competition — good artists producing good work that is recognizably biblical, yet updated to our times," he said.

Brother Nathan said that throughout time, artists have in-

terpreted Jesus and the Bible in

contemporary terms, striving to make Scripture and the stories of the saints alive for their own particular time.

"They are not trying to replicate Bible times and Bible books. They're trying to replicate what the message is," he said. "This was true in the Renaissance and Baroque periods, which we frequently see as the high point of church art."

Ruane said that, like faith, one has to look at his art, explore it, and find it.

An example of that is his work "Doubting Thomas" (*shown at left*), in which the apostle Thomas is depicted as a young boy in front of a TV in a Christian home.

"In my depiction, I have Thomas guiding his own hand into the wounds, taking responsibility for his own faith," Ruane said. "In our modern time, no one is going to grab your hand and make you believe in faith. You have to be responsible for your own faith

and guide your own hand."

Greg Petrucci, director of evangelization for the Diocese of Greensburg, said Ruane's work speaks to the current culture. "That's what we're being asked to do with the new evangelization," he said, "to bring the Gospel and our witness of Christ to the current culture."

Petrucci said Ruane is clearly open to what God is doing in his life, which is reflected in his work that he "puts out there" in public venues such as galleries and arts festivals.

"That's kind of a key to what evangelization is really about," he said.

Petrucci said evangelization needs to be intimately connected to people.

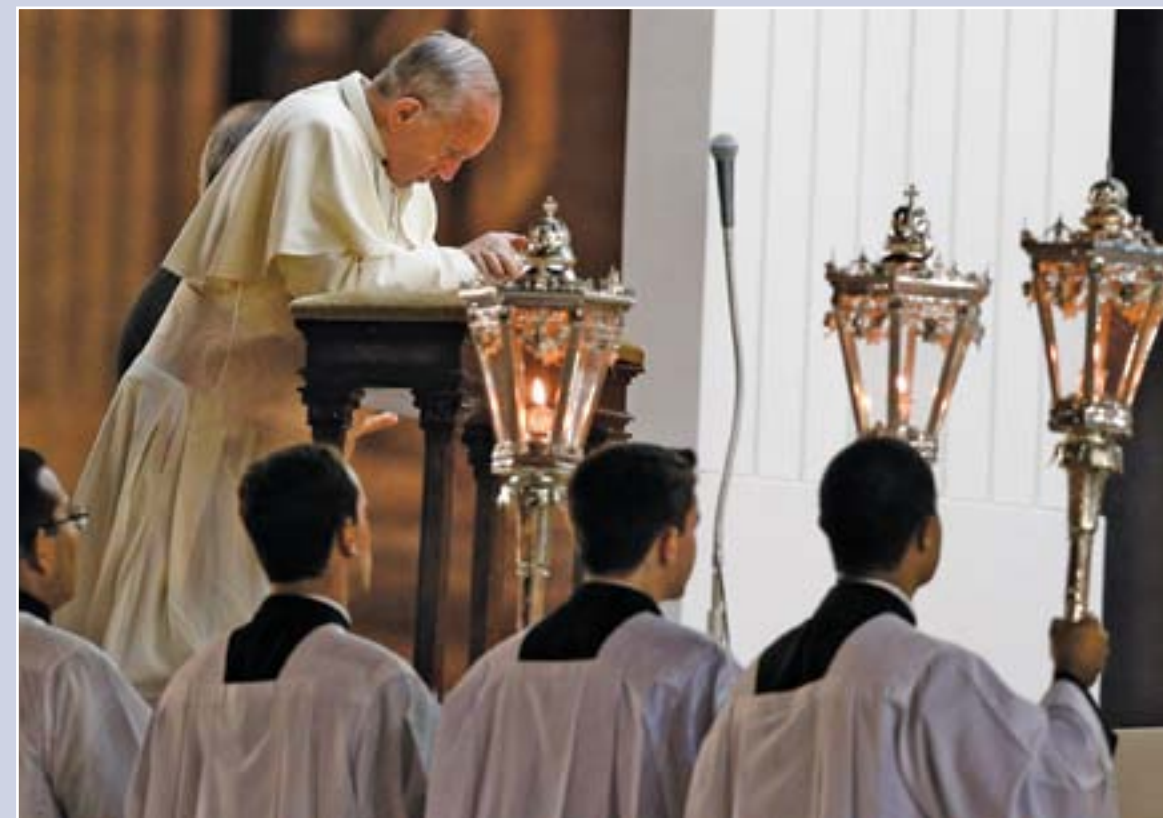
"We're sharing Christ, but we're sharing Christ out of ourselves and our own experience. When we talk about it from the perspective of what has this done in my life, than it becomes what we're called to do — witness," he said. "His work is his witness."

And because Ruane's art is so contemporary, it could appeal to someone who ordinarily might not show any interest in religious imagery or religion, Petrucci said.

"That's a big part of what we're called to do as evangelizers — to provide people with a way into an experience of God," he said.

Fazzini is assistant editor of *The Catholic Accent*, newspaper of the Diocese of Greensburg.

PRAYERS FOR PEACE IN SYRIA



Pope Francis leads a vigil to pray for peace in Syria on Sept. 7 in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican.
CNS photo/Paul Haring



Syrian women light candles before attending a prayer service at the Melkite Catholic patriarchate in Damascus, Syria, on Sept. 7. People worldwide heeded Pope Francis' call for a day of prayer and fasting for peace in Syria, even as fighting continued and U.S. President Barack Obama pushed for support of U.S. military action in Syria.
CNS photo/Khaled al Hariri, Reuters



A crowd fills St. Peter's Square at the Vatican as Pope Francis leads a vigil to pray for peace in Syria on Sept. 7.
CNS photo/Paul Haring

Christian, Muslim leaders examine challenges of Arab Christians

By Dale Gavlak

Catholic News Service

For decades, Arab Christians have been fleeing the Holy Land and the rest of the Middle East in droves, mainly because of violence.

About 450,000 Christians are believed to be among the 2 million people who in the past two-and-a-half years have fled the civil war in Syria, an ancient land of historic churches, where St. Paul encountered Christ on the road to Damascus.

About 70 high-ranking Arab church leaders, together with their Western counterparts, and Muslim clerics gathered in Amman on Sept. 3 and 4 for a meeting aimed at tackling “the challenges of Arab Christians.”

The Christian and Muslim leaders aimed to find a way to end the sectarian strife threatening their people and nations.

“We must confront extremist trends,” Archbishop Fouad Twal, Latin patriarch of Jerusalem, told the gathering. He said it was the duty of religious leaders and their communities to work jointly “to get the new generation to accept ‘the other,’” in order to “isolate these trends.”

Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, retired archbishop of Washington, challenged Christians in the Middle East to try to hold fast to their ancient homelands, maintain their historic presence, and not flee to the West.

“They have to be brave enough to say



Lebanese and Syrian Christian Maronites pray for peace in Syria at the Basilica of Our Lady of Lebanon in Harissa on Sept. 7. CNS photo/Hasan Shaaban, Reuters

“You are driving us out. If this continues, you will make it impossible,” he said.

Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, led a minute of silent prayer for Christians who had died and for their families. He also paid tribute to Muslims who “denounce the acts committed by some of their mistaken co-religionists against Christians.” He urged Arab Christians to continue to live “not alongside each other, but with each other.”

Iraq again is facing some of the deadliest sectarian violence in five years. Things had somewhat calmed in the aftermath of the 2003 U.S.-led inva-

sion that toppled dictator Saddam Hussein. But in July, more than 1,000 Iraqis were killed and more than 2,300 were wounded.

Archbishop Jean Sleiman, the Latin rite bishop of Baghdad, said most of the deadly attacks now taking place in Iraq involved Sunni and Shiite Muslims against each other.

Church officials say Christians in Iraq numbered about 1.5 million before the 2003 war, representing a little more than five percent of the nation’s population. Some people say the number of Christians now remaining in Iraq is half that figure.

Following the invasion, violence against Christians rose, with reports of

kidnappings, torture, church bombings, and killings. Some Christians were pressured to convert to Islam under threat of death or expulsion, and women were ordered to wear Islamic dress.

Syrian Christians fear sharing a similar fate.

Chaldean Catholic Patriarch Louis Sako of Baghdad agreed that emigration has grown.

Christians “don’t trust the future and think they are marginalized. They are looking for a better future outside the country,” the patriarch added. He said he believes that 600,000 Christians have left Iraq in the past decade.

On a recent visit to northern Iraq, Patriarch Sako encouraged the Catholic faithful in 40 villages to remain.

“But they need help from the church, Christian politicians, and abroad,” he said, citing projects to build schools and health clinics as examples of such assistance.

“The situations in Syria, Egypt, and Lebanon are also getting worse. Christians are feeling threatened,” Patriarch Sako added, saying that many Christians feel they are “second-class citizens.”

Franciscan Father Pierbattista Pizzaballa, *custos* of the Holy Land, said problems faced by Christians in the Middle East were “not new.” He urged Christians to bolster dialogue with moderate Muslims.

“The church is able and has to do this. We have to avoid risks to be nostalgic of the past or to ask for protection. We, as Christians, are part of this society, and we also have to be part of the changes in the society,” Father Pizzaballa said.

He said Christians in the Middle East were seeking human rights, equal citizenship, freedom of worship, and freedom of conscience while struggling for their place in Arab society and before government authorities.

“It’s not always a war of religion, but that of power,” he said.

Father Pizzaballa said it was important for Christians to work alongside Muslims to determine the future shape of their societies and nations in the midst of seismic political change rocking the region.

“We have to build, little by little, a new model of societies in the Middle East. The changes are very dramatic, very fast, and we have to be there,” he said.



COLUMBUS CATHOLICS SUPPORT HOLY LAND CHRISTIANS

Columbus Catholics gathered last week at St. Charles Preparatory School for the annual Cradling Christianity Mass and dinner. They did so to pray in solidarity with the Christians who are suffering because of the ongoing conflicts in the Holy Land and to raise money to aid our brothers and sisters there who are enduring violence, poverty, and oppression. In the past eight years, Columbus Catholics have raised more than half a million dollars to aid the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land (FFHL) in providing jobs, housing, and education for the marginalized Christians in the Holy Land.

Speaking at the event were Bishop Frank Dewane of Venice, Fla. (left), a member of the FFHL board; and Father Peter Vasko, president of the FFHL, who has served in the Holy Land for 29 years.



“Back in the 1950’s, Christians represented 25 percent of the population of the Holy Land. Today, Christians account for less than two percent of the total population of that area. The direct descendants of the first disciples are suffering in the land Christ loved so much. Catholics offer support through gestures of creative solidarity, not only by giving from our surplus, but through direct action in support of their cause.” Bishop Dewane

“As much as we need to get rid of a ruthless dictator who uses chemical weapons on his people, I ask you: What is the alternative? Arming rebel forces? These are comprised of nine groups, seven of which are tied to al-Qaida. These people hate you and hate America. We should be focusing on defending the United States of America and not being the policemen of the world. Folks, it is a powder keg and all we can do at this present time is pray.” Father Vasko

CT photos by Ken Snow