We Are Strangers
No Longer:
Our Journey of Hope Continues
National Migration Week 2013
Tenth Anniversary of the United States & Mexican Bishops’ Joint Pastoral Letter
**The Editor's Notebook**

This week, Catholic Times takes a look at a door. You know the door I’m referring to. It’s inscribed at the base of the Statue of Liberty: “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!” It is inscribed at the base of the Statue of Liberty: “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”

**FATHER JAMES T. SMITH**

**PASSED AWAY ON JANUARY 5, 2013**

Funeral Mass for Father James T. Smith, 75, who died Saturday, Jan. 5, was held Wednesday, Jan. 9, at Columbus’ Matthias Church. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

He was born May 25, 1934, in Zanesville to Clarence Smith and Clara Burkhart.

He attended Lodovico View and St. Nicholas elementary schools in Zanesville, graduated from Zanesville Rosecrans High School in 1952, attended the University of Dayton, and received his LL.B. from the Catholic University of America in 1955.

He served in the armed forces during the Korean War.

He lived in Zanesville, Good Hope and Columbus.

Funeral Mass was celebrated by Father James A. Breslin, pastor of Columbus’ St. John Neumann Church.

**The Columbus Catholic Women’s Conference**

The Columbus Catholic Women’s Conference will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 16, in the Lausche Building at the State Fairgrounds. The theme will be “My Heart: Reflections on the Year of Faith,” and Father Leo Palaganas will be one of the featured speakers.

In his presentation, “A Pilot of the Apostles of the Precious Blood of Jesus, an international confraternity,” Father Leo will address the conference theme and discuss its significance for the Church.

父親 Leo’s unique background as a champion athlete, television personality, author, and non-profit organization executive has provided him with unique experiences and insights that he will bring to the conference. As an athlete, he has faced the challenge of overcoming injury and adversity in a demanding arena. As a television personality, he has shared his message of inspiration and hope with millions of viewers around the world.

Father Leo’s presentation is expected to be inspiring and informative for all who attend. He will share insights into the Year of Faith and offer practical advice for living a faith-filled life.

Tickets are available online at www.columbuscatholicwomen.com or by calling 614-398-CCWC (2292). Through the blog, he provides a meal with a meaningful message that helps strengthen families around the world with lessons of love, faith, and learning.
Our Lady of Perpetual Help students win radio choir competition

The second and third-grade choir of Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help, directed by Kim Nowak, won this year’s elementary division of the “Christmas idol” contest sponsored by WSNY-FM, the radio station where Miller has been music director for a number of parishes in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York, and has taught at Youngstown State University’s Dana School of Music and at York College.

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In the second session, Bill Miller, music director at Columbus St. Fran- cis of Assisi Church, will present “Musical Resources for the Lector- ary Readings.” Topics will include lectionary scripture, the liturgy, and cantillation antiphons which come from the Roman breviary, and modern readings, de- veloping the theme of the readings to choose, and selecting the music which helps to assemble the music to accompany the theme. Miller has been music direc- tor for a number of parishes in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York, and has taught at Youngstown State University’s Dana School of Music and at York College. Miller will have regis- tration at 9 a.m. and sessions beginning at 9:30, and will finish by noon. The registration fee is $20. To register, call the Office for Divine Wor- ship at (614) 221-4611 or email lit- mailbox@catholic.org.

FOCUS and Goold grants awarded

The Catholic Foundation recently awarded $178,784 in FOCUS grants to parochial schools, and $33,700 in Goold grants to social service agencies throughout the 23-county Diocese of Columbus. Additionally, the Foundation awarded 72 FOCUS grants, for a total of $281,123, in this grant cycle.

For the cycle, the Foundation re- ceived 135 applications requesting $400,000. After reviewing all applications, the Foundation’s grants commit- tee awarded grants to those with the greatest need for this cycle. In 2007, the Foundation’s board of trustees expanded and formalized its responsive grant-making process to make the distribution of its FOCUS grants, for a total of $281,123, in this grant cycle.

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The tradition of unrestricted grant making by The Catholic Foundation began in 1989 with an anonymous do- nor who wanted to help parishes with their general purpose funds. In 2007, the Foundation’s board of trustees expanded and formalized its responsive grant-making process to make the distribution of its FOCUS grants, for a total of $281,123, in this grant cycle.

To find out how you can help fund FOCUS grants, contact The Catholic Foundation at www.catholic-foun- dation.org or call (614) 443-8893.

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MONDAY–FRIDAY 4 pm – 5 pm
"THE FASTEST HOUR IN CATHOLIC RADIO!

Compliments of

By dropping your Catholic Times envelope into the collection plate on any Friday time you guarantee yourself the next 48 weekly issues of Catholic Times for the special Parish Rate of only $3. If you don’t have a Parish, we will be happy to contribute your Catholic Times to the parish you worship in! The Catholic Times Tax Deductible.
Father Michael Nimocks sits called to help others

Father Michael Nimocks describes his call to serve others.

He was strongly influenced by his father's involvement in the priesthood and his mother's patriotism.

Father Nimocks felt called to serve others, even before he entered the seminary.

He was particularly moved by his experience as a volunteer in Haiti after the earthquake.

Father Nimocks' call to serve others continued throughout his life, from his work with the poor in Ohio to his involvement in the Haiti earthquake.

He encourages others to listen to their own callings and to be open to serving others in their own ways.
Catholic News Service

By Patricia Zapor

The Catholic Church’s observance of National Migration Week from Jan. 6 to 12 this year at a time when the outlook seems promising for improving migrants’ legal situations in the United States.

The annual observance of Migration Week this year focuses on encouraging Congress to approve comprehensive immigration reform and marking the 100th anniversary of a joint pastoral letter of U.S. and Mexican bishops, “Strangers No Longer: Together on a Journey Toward Justice.”

The January 2003 letter said migration policies had created two classes in the United States, and called for changes in law and policy in the U.S. and Mexico. The bishops promised to do more to educate Catholics about the social justice issues involved in migration and to do more to address migrants’ needs.

The 35-page letter said the government’s national migrant policies, including making it easier to legally migrate to the United States, better protecting the civil rights of migrants in both nations, and addressing the root causes of migration—poverty and economic development options in Mexico and Central America.

It discussed the theological roots of the church’s support for immigrants and laid out steps to be taken by church and public authorities. It noted that “miscarriages and xenophobic and racist attitudes in both the United States and Mexico contribute to an environment in which marginalized (people) are discriminated against and abused.”

The letter urged both governments to “abandon the type of law enforcement strategy that give rise to smuggling operations and migrant deaths” and to review due-process rights. It encouraged a broad legal education program for the millions of people who are the United States without authorization.

Besides renewing attention to “Strangers No Longer,” the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops urged people to mark Migration Week by participating in a postcard campaign, calling on Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform that addresses five goals:

—Provide a path to citizenship for undocumented people.
—Preserve family unity as a cornerstone of the immigration system.
—Provide legal paths for low-skilled immigrant workers to come and work in the United States.
—Restore due-process protections to immigration enforcement policies.
—Address the root causes of migration caused by persecution and economic desperation.

This year could offer one of the strongest chances of moving immigrants closer to the 100th anniversary of the Bishops of Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants at a vigil in Chicago’s Holy Name Cathedral. CNS photo/Courtesy, Catholic New World

isolation through Congress. Strong voter turnout by Hispanics who supported President Barack Obama and other Latinos has prompted Republican and Democratic leaders to say the time is ripe for immigration reforms.

In an appearance on “Meet the Press” on Dec. 31, Obama cited it among a handful of agenda items for the next year.

“I’ve said that fixing our broken immigration system is a top priority,” Obama said. “I will introduce legislation in the first year to get that done. I will not talk about it long enough. We know how we can fix it. We will do it in a comprehensive way that the American people support. That’s what we’ll get done.”

Last summer, the administration launched an effort to ease the situa- tion for some of the millions of undocumented immigrants by offering a chance to apply for deferred deportation. The “deferred action” program allowed adults who came to the U.S. before they turned 16. They had to meet a “Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals” program, which has been a costly mistake whenever people have been denied their full rights.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, and Catholics for a Fair Immigration Reform observed in the American desert,” he said. “Part of the reason we cannot escape from immigration reform is that we have a strong sense of the injustice and the pain of those who, in the exercise of their religious teachings, want to advocate for comprehensive reform with more options for families and those already living and working in the United States.

The archbishop said that offers un- documented individuals legal status without a path to citizenship.

“We will argue against the creation of a permanent underclass in this country, where certain parts of our people do not have the rights that others do,” Archbishop Gregory said to applause.

He addressed the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Catholic Legal Immigration Network’s conference this week on “Migration Policy and Advocacy in 2013 and Beyond: New Challenges and New Opportunities.”

In his keynote, Archbishop Gregory drew a contrast to America’s native sons, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., and said that American society has been a costly mistake whenever people have been denied their full rights.

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But even as announcing the program last summer, Obama called it a temporary, stop-gap measure to address one piece of the problem administratively while Congress works on a permanent solution.

All Norrani, executive director of the National Immigration Law Center, said in a Jan. 3 statement, as members of Congress were sworn in, that the “new, more powerful Hispanic communities in the U.S. will definitely bring immigration reform to the forefront of the political process.” That awareness “has been a costly mistake whenever people have been denied their full rights.

Federal courts intervened to prevent enforcement of these laws, “we must continue our vigilance and we are vigilant against legislation which denounces human beings and interferes with religious freedom.”

The Catholic perspective on immigrants is rooted in the theological truth that all human beings are made in the image of God and retain that dignity, regardless of their circumstances. In the Old Testament, God commanded his people to welcome the alien and stranger, and in the New Testament to love one’s neighbor as oneself in the face of the stranger. Archbishop Gregory said.

“arrests, they are driven by the current policies and of- fers an opportunity for family reunification. But, he said, the system needs to ensure that families re- main intact that the immigrants move faster, he said, adding that reform that should not replace a system of laws with a system with a “places vis-a- vis on a person’s race over a person’s family ties.”

Recently, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a so-called “guest worker” bill that sets a number of visas for foreign-born workers who earned advanced graduate degrees in the U.S. for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The program is ready for action on immigration reform. The conference attendees talked about glimmers of hope for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program in Atlanta. The three-day conference, sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, occurs every year and focuses on the church’s migration policy agenda in 2013 and beyond. (UPI photo/Michael Alexander, Georgia Bulletin)

Pat Chivers, director of communications for the Archdiocese of Atlanta, said she hopes immigration reform becomes one of the priorities of the incoming Congress and the Obama administration.

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fired said, "There are couples who have been living together or had civil marriages. Working with the sisters they are encouraged to have marriages blessed by the church."

In addition, there has been steady attendance growth in the Bible studies and youth activities conducted by the sisters, in the number of people who come to Mass every Sunday. Every week, you see new faces," she said. The parish has Masses in Spanish at 8 a.m. and noon on Sunday, and English at 4 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. Sunday. Parish secretary Yvonne Riepe said 200 to 300 people attend the 8 a.m. Mass each week, while noon Mass draws about 800, filling the church's recently renovated sanctuary.

"We’ve also had a number of marriage ceremonies, some involving multiple couples at once, as a result of the sisters’ presence," Father Buffer said.

Two years ago, four prisoners at Lancaster received their first Communion and were confirmed. In December, another three received Communion and Confirmation after completing their studies in the faith. The prisoners in Chillicothe work hard at their preparation, but we hope some will finish their studies this year.

In both places, we have big Bible study groups of about 30 men. This prison ministry is one area where we do see some big of an impact we’d have."

The sisters also have extended their ministry to the Four Valley Behavioral Healthcare facility near St. Stephen’s, where they visit mentally ill patients on request.

The sisters generally are accompanied on their visits to prisons and private homes, and on the weekend, they are especially busy days, as they include meetings of the rosary and the Liturgy of the Hours.

"Some of our people have become CERS members. They help out at Masses, serve as ministers and lectors, and find ways of using whatever talents they have to benefit the parish," Sister Maria said. She said CERS members provide a living example of a favorite phrase of Father Luis Butera, founder of the Missionary Servants of the Word:

"Who has met God cannot remain silent."

The lay evangelizers have been or are being trained with the help of Father Butera’s book “The Proc- eed of Christ,” a three-year, nine-part study of the Bible.

The sisters also are aided in their door-to-door work by seminarians from the Pontifical Col- lege Josephinum, who assist them on Tuesday evenings.

On Sundays, in addition to attending Mass at St. Stephen’s, they conduct Bible studies after Mass, visit the sick, the homebound and people requesting help with family problems, and sometimes go to other parishes in the diocese and nearby areas with large Latino communities to talk about their work.

Sister Maria Garcia, MSP, now in Manchester, N.H.

Sister Reyna Huerta, MSP, now in Manchester.

Sister Francisca Valle, MSP, is now stationed in Kenya. The other three are Sister Maria, Sister Vianey Salinas, MSP now in the Bronx, and Sister Reyna Huerta, MSP, now in Manchester.

Sister Mohamed Romero, MSP, a later addition to the Columbus group, recently moved to Columbus City to take another position with the sisters. She was replaced in December by Sister Karina Hernandez Gomez, MSP, who said she is just beginning to learn her way around Columbus and to learn the English language.

"In my short time here, I find the people of St. Stephen’s to be filled with hospitality, very warm and welcome," Sister Karina said in Spanish, with the other sisters translating. "This parish has so many activities going on every day that there’s something interesting to do and somewhere that our presence is helping."

"It’s been an honor to be here," Sister Maria said. "There are so many stories we can tell of people whose lives have changed and whose faith has grown. As they have changed, we have changed. People are very excited about the faith."

Many have thanked us for our consecration and work. We are grateful to hear that, but we know that our Lord is only giving us the instruments, performing his work. God has been very good to us."
My Dear Friends in Christ,

I am pleased to present to you the financial reports of the Diocese of Columbus for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012. As Bishop, I have a responsibility to provide all Catholics in the Diocese of Columbus with an annual view of our financial position and activity. I am pleased to inform you that our independent accounting firm has completed their procedures on our reports and have issued unaudited financial statements.

2012 was a year of mixed financial blessings. The stock and overall investment environment struggled throughout the year, particularly in the first and fourth quarters. For both our investment and endowment accounts, we experienced a much lower return than the prior fiscal year. This on-going struggle also resulted in a significant increase in our pension liability.

On a positive note, both our High Schools and Parishes, recorded positive results for the year. In this difficult economic environment, it is humbling to see the generous stewardship of the faithful, giving their time, talent and treasure, for the benefit of others. I continue to pray for those who have been negatively impacted by the economy, and for those who so selflessly serve them.

As we look to the future, we can continue the good works of the Church with the assistance of those in the community, like yourselves, who patronize the talents required to meet the challenges that will present themselves.

I am grateful for the generosity of all those who support the work of the Church and I greatly appreciate as well the many volunteers and committee members, both in the parish and diocesan levels, who assist in this work.

With every best with a warm, Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Frederick F. Campbell, D.D., Ph.D.
Bishop of Columbus

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Most Reverend Frederick F. Campbell, D.D., Ph.D.
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CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS - DIOCESAN ORGANIZATION
Combined Statements of Financial Position
June 30, 2012 and 2011

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>As of 6/30/2012</th>
<th>As of 6/30/2011</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents</td>
<td>$10,837,191</td>
<td>$8,376,725</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts Receivable, net</td>
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<td>Pledges Receivable, net</td>
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<td>Inventory</td>
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<td>Prepaid Expenses</td>
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<td>Loans and advances receivable, net</td>
<td>27,857,251</td>
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<td>Investment - custodial</td>
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<td>Property and equipment, net</td>
<td>24,728,049</td>
<td>25,191,851</td>
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<td>Beneficial Interest in perpetual trusts</td>
<td>32,919,687</td>
<td>34,563,813</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>73,344,001</td>
<td>64,065,218</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>$174,839,587</td>
<td>$170,277,160</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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|                             |                 |                 |
| **LIABILITIES**             |                 |                 |
| Accounts Payable            | $657,105        | $913,060        |
| Agency Funds                | 43,972          | 28,774          |
| Deposits Payable            | 58,742,426      | 51,901,265      |
| Net periodic pension cost   | 6,759,794       | 8,089,869       |
| Operating Expenses          | 16,381,540      | 11,249,743      |
| Other revenue               | 42,627,700      | 41,74,623       |
| Deferred Revenue            | 33,317          | 19,756          |
| Retired Priests Accrued Costs | 12,474,362   | 9,683,225       |
| Liability for Pension Benefits | 70,579,712    | 29,590,283      |
| Self Insurance Reserve      | 1,868,000       | 1,573,000       |
| Amount Due - Custodial      | 23,561          | 29,348          |
| **TOTAL LIABILITIES**       | 145,791,005     | 130,822,875     |

The financial statements entitled Catholic Diocese of Columbus – Diocesan Organization, represent the combined financial position and activity for the Chancery, the Diocesan Offices and funds managed at a diocesan level (i.e. Parish Aid, Self Insurance and V ina Trust Funds). The information presented was extracted from audited financial statements. These statements do not include the financial position or activity of our parishes, or agencies that are governed by their own boards, or agencies which reports their financial information separately to their communities.

The financial statements for the Diocesan Organization are audited by the independent CPA firm of Schneider Downs & Co., Inc. The audit was conducted according to auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012 and June 30, 2011, the auditors provided us with an unqualified opinion. The final negative impact on Net Assets occurred due to the limited investment return on our endowments and our internally managed investments. For the year ended June 30, 2012, investment returns on endowments and internally managed investments was $1,7 million less than for the year ended June 30, 2011. The final negative impact on Net Assets was an overall increase in Operating Expenses. The majority of this increase was due to the adjustment for post retirement benefits mentioned above.

The other factor was a significant downward adjustment in our Insurance Reserves in 2011, that did not re-occur in 2012.

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS - DIOCESAN ORGANIZATION
Combined Statements of Activities
For the years ended June 30, 2012 and 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Year Ended 6/30/2012</th>
<th>Year Ended 6/30/2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>REVENUES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bishop’s Annual Appeal, net</td>
<td>$5,339,254</td>
<td>$5,277,824</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment income, net</td>
<td>2,901,010</td>
<td>3,394,520</td>
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<td>Realized/unrealized gains (los) on investments</td>
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<td>3,847,241</td>
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<tr>
<td>Change in FMV of Beneficial Interests</td>
<td>(227,017)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operating revenue</td>
<td>2,708,403</td>
<td>2,509,862</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diocesan Assessment</td>
<td>3,267,902</td>
<td>3,137,882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other revenue</td>
<td>67,914</td>
<td>693,405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>1,078,232</td>
<td>1,673,246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Revenues, Gifts, Grants and Support</td>
<td>15,270,177</td>
<td>25,777,032</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|                             |                      |
| **EXPENSES**                |                      |
| Operating Expenses          | 16,381,540           | 11,249,743           |
| Net periodic pension cost   | 6,799,704            | 8,089,869            |
| Diocesan support            | 3,416,966            | 3,740,754            |
| Interest                    | 588,485              | 522,232              |
| Total Expenses              | 27,146,855           | 21,612,298           |
| Change in Net Assets prior to pension-related changes other than periodic pension cost | (11,376,600) | 2,184,840 |
| Pension-related changes other than periodic pension cost | (24,529,085) | 20,851,178 |

|                             |                      |
| **TOTAL LIABILITIES**       |                      |

|                             |                      |
| **NET ASSETS**              |                      |
| Beginning of year           | $65,454,285          |
| End of year                 | $65,454,285          |
The financial statements entitled Catholic Diocese of Columbus – High Schools, represent the combined financial position and activity for the 11 Diocesan high schools.

The financial statements for the High Schools are reviewed by the independent CPA firm of Schneider Downs & Co., Inc. The review was conducted according to Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Financially, the year was challenging for our high schools. Overall, enrollment decreased 0.5% from the prior year. This decrease was an improvement over 2011 where enrollment decreased 2.5% from 2010. Our enrollment decreased 0.5% from the prior year. This decrease was an improvement over 2011 where enrollment decreased 2.5% from 2010. This decrease was an improvement over 2011 where enrollment decreased 2.5% from 2010. This decrease was an improvement over 2011 where enrollment decreased 2.5% from 2010.

Even with these challenges, our net assets for the high schools increased 2.2 million dollars. Tuition income increased 3.3%, offsetting a 0.2% increase in salaries and a 3.5% increase in benefit costs. Also contributing to a decrease in our performance compared to 2011, was a significant increase in salaries and a 3.5% increase in benefit costs. Overall, our performance compared to 2011, was a significant increase in salaries and a 3.5% increase in benefit costs.

From an expense standpoint, parish salaries and benefits rose 2.7%, while school salaries and benefits rose 2.6%. Parish operating expenses declined 1%, while capital expenditures decreased 71.2%. Debt Principal payments shows a decrease primarily due to a move towards balance sheet accounting for loans, versus accounting for them through the extraordinary activities and activities (loans are recorded as income).

For the fiscal year, Offertory rose 2.5% as compared to the prior year. Fund drive income decreased 22.5% due to a number of major fundraising efforts coming to an end. School income rose 3.3%. Other Parish Income decreased significantly due to lower volume of construction loans made to the parishes from the Parish Aid Fund (under cash accounting, loans are recorded as income).

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The Weekday Bible Readings

**MondAy**
Psalm 97:1,2,6,9,7

**TuesDey**
Hebrews 2:1-3
Psalm 2:8,9,5,6

**WesDeY**
Hebrews 2:4-18
Psalm 31:12,19

**TuDeY**
Isaiah 37:1-16
Psalm 82:7,6,3,4-8

**FRIDeY**
Mark 1:29-39
Psalm 34:6,5-8,2-6

**SAtUrDeY**
Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11
Psalm 1:6,7

**SUNDaY**
Matthew 15:28-34
Psalm 78:34,36-6,8-4-6

**MARcH 1:10**
Mark 1:10
Psalm 3:3-4-6

**WEEK OF JANUARY 13, 2013**

**The CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE**
George Weigel

The Marriage Debate I: Confusions about “Equality” and “Discrimination”

A growing suburban parish of 3,300 families, St. John of Arc Parish, is seeking a Parish Business Manager who serves in support of the Pastor and as a staff resource, ensuring that parish needs in various areas are met efficiently. The position directly manages and directs these efforts with technical and legal assistance from the Parish business office.

The ideal candidate for this position is knowledgeable of MS Office (Word, Excel, Access and Outlook), capable of multitasking and working independently to meet deadlines. Excellent oral and written communication and human relation skills when dealing with co-workers, parishioners, or Diocese staff are essential. A Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration or Accounting and experience in parish business operations or with non-profit organizations is highly desirable.

This is an hourly full-time position that does not include sick leave or vacation. A competitive hourly wage is offered. Please submit a letter of application, resume, and contact information for three professional references to the Parish Office at: 12160 Sunbury Road, Columbus, Ohio 43229.

**Read the Bible**

Read the Bible and Christian Revelation, addressing questions of faith will give a talk titled “Vast Universe: Extraterrestrialology and Metaphysics” at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 24, 2013, in the O’Connor Center of Science in the 2200 Building of the university. Ides has written six scholarly books and dozens of articles on the topics of the Bible, the New Testament and the Church's understanding of the Bible. She also has written two books on the former student, Shari Girgis and Ryan Ander - son—argue persuasively, and convincingly, that America can’t arrive at a serious answer to this question—Should government redefine marriage to include same-sex unions?—without a genuine public good.”

In 21st-century post - modern culture, this is a hard argument to make based on the nature of anything. Try this, though. When the New York Times’ resident apologist Reid quotes From the Willard of Entertainment Weekly columnist Mark Harris, aren’t you jarred? Doesn’t something seem, not just unfamiliar, but frightening? Does it make you want to run away? People beneath the same - sex marriage debate are the people who are already married. In other words, governments, whether au tocratic, aristocratic, monarchical, or demonstrative, have always discriminated—or, at least, have always seen that state’s constitution as containing a “right” to same - sex “marriage.”

...[p]arents can’t marry their children. Children can’t marry. Certain age can’t marry. Of relationships from partnerships?—by appearing to equality. Parents can’t be married to their children. Being a man and a woman, both because that’s what relationship policy, including marriage, domestic and the promotion of family life, and recognition of dis - crimination is the genuine public good? In 21st - century post - modern culture, this is a hard argument to make based on the nature of anything. Try this, though. When the New York Times’ resident apologist Reid quotes...
Mary V. Bresnen 81, of St. James the Less Church, Columbus. She died Wednesday, Dec. 26, at 6:13 a.m. at the Hospice of Central Ohio, Dublin. A funeral mass was held Friday, Jan. 4, at St. James the Less Church, Columbus. Interment was in St. Joseph Cemetery in Westerville. Arrangements were handled by Stone-Mashburn-Richardson Funeral Home, Dublin.

Gilda Ifaila 72, of St. Francis Xavier Church, Columbus, died Thursday, Jan. 3, 2013. A funeral service was held Saturday, Jan. 5, at St. Francis Xavier Church. Burial was in the church’s cemetery. Arrangements were handled by St. John’s Cemetery, Columbus.

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Writers recount their own faith stories in new books

"From Willow Creek to Sacred Heart: Rekindling My Love for Catholicism" by Chris Haw

"Fearing the Stigmata: Humorously Holy Stories" by Matt Weber

**BOOK REVIEWS**

Chris Haw’s “From Willow Creek to Sacred Heart” and Matt Weber’s “Fearing the Stigmata” add their own twist to the genre.

Haw was a Baptist, becoming an evangelical Protestant with his family, and eventually returned to the Catholic Church. But as he did in those earlier works, Haw interweaves an “apologia,” a defense of the church through his personal experience.

The Willow Creek of the title is Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, Ill., which the Haw family joined when Chris was a teenager. Haw and his family drifted away from Catholicism by the time he was in school and the family moved to the Chicago area.

A sprawling, “ZIP-code-sized” megachurch in the suburbs of Chicago, Willow Creek attracts thousands each weekend to its lively, rock-concert-like services. Haw, who loved punk rock before he came to Willow Creek, was hesitant initially to embrace the easy going, celebratory worship of the community.

The events of 9/11 had a personal impact on Haw, as his father was an American Airlines pilot who flew regularly into the Boston and New York airports, but was at home that day. Haw’s opposition to the ensuing invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq increasingly alienated him from his friends at Willow Creek, who fervently supported the American presence in the Middle East.

In 2001, Haw went to Belo Horizonte with the Creation Care Study Program, which encouraged holistic thinking on the relationship between our beliefs in God and the growing global ecological crisis. He returned to the United States, his concerns about homelessness, ecology, and social justice led him to move to Camden, N.J., one of the most polluted and crime-ridden cities in America.

He attended a community church, but occasionally worshipped at Sacred Heart, a Catholic church across the street from the house he was rehabbing. He fell into its extended Good Friday liturgy, realizing that the rituals Willow Creek eschewed, claiming they were based on pagan roots, held a strong attraction for him.

The second half of “From Willow Creek to Sacred Heart” is a series of defenses against the charges made by evangelical churches against Catholicism: the dividing of Christianity into denominations, the upholding of traditional, the position of priest and laity, and the Catholic perspective on the material and sensual as good and not evil.

While Haw offers nothing theological that is revolutionary, his renewed love for the Catholic Church seems earnest and thoughtful, without being blind to the wrongs committed by the church. It is a perspective I think, that many lifelong Catholics will find counts the common view of new Catholics as radicals uncharacteristically embracing the church.

Weber, the author of “Fearing the Stigmata,” is definitely not a new Catholic. Raised in an Irish Catholic family in the Boston area, Weber was educated exclusively in Catholic schools until he went to Harvard. By the time he was an undergraduate, he was already an experienced television journalist and commentator, contributing videos on a weekly basis to Catholic TV and seen by more than 10 million viewers internationally.

“Fearing the Stigmata” is a collection of short autobiographical sketches that Weber calls “humorously holy stories.” Whether a reader finds Weber funny or not is up for debate, but no one can question Weber’s unbridled love of Catholicism. There is not a saint or sinner or religious order Weber doesn’t adore.

Reading “Fearing the Stigmata” is like being transported to another time, namely the 1950s, as the changes brought by the Second Vatican Council don’t seem to have made any impression on Weber’s church.

It comes as a shock to realize that Weber is only 27 and not in his 60s. Weber’s church is full of fun and joy; families are close and never dysfunctional. It is a view of Catholicism that makes it hard to understand why anyone complains about it, but alone leaves it.

Yearly graduated from the Ecumenical Institute at St. Mary’s Seminary and University in Baltimore, with a certificate of advanced study in theology.
DEFE

LIFE EVENTS SET FOR COLUMBUS AND WASHINGTON

The annual diocesan Respect Life Mass and the Rally for Life immediately following will take place on Tuesday, Jan. 22, in downtown Columbus. Both those events usually occur on the same day as the March for Life in Washington, but this year, the rally in the nation’s capital won’t take place until Friday, Jan. 25, allowing people to take part in both.

The programs in Columbus and Washington will mark the 40th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court’s Roe v. Wade decision on Jan. 22, 1973, that legalized abortion. The Washington march usually takes place on Jan. 22, preceded by several related events on Jan. 21. But this year, President Obama’s inauguration will take place on Jan. 21 (moved back one day because the usual Inauguration Day, Jan. 20, is a Sunday), so March for Life organizers decided to delay their activities.

Bishop Frederick Campbell will be the principal celebrant for the Respect Life Mass at 10:30 a.m. Jan. 22 in St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St. The diocese will join with dioceses from around the nation in observing a day of prayer for the legal protection of unborn children.

The Mass will be followed at noon by the Rally for Life, sponsored by Greater Columbus Right to Life, on the west plaza of the Ohio Statehouse. Speakers will include Beth Vanderkooi, new executive director of the sponsoring organization, Mike Keebaugh, its president; a representative from Ohio Right to Life, who will talk about pro-life efforts in the Ohio Legislature; and others.

This is an outdoor rally, so come dressed for the weather. People are welcomed and encouraged to bring handheld signs showing their support of life from conception until natural death. Signs on sticks, poles, or stakes are prohibited. Parking may be available in the underground garage in the Statehouse. There also may be some street meter parking available nearby, and the Columbus Commons (former City Center) indoor garage also should have spaces available.

For more information, contact Greater Columbus Right to Life at (614) 445-8508.

The Washington event continues to grow. The rally at noon Jan. 25 on the National Mall, followed by a march to the U.S. Supreme Court building, will be preceded on Jan. 24 by a Mass and prayer vigil at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and a youth rally in the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Simultaneous youth rallies will take place the morning of the 25th in sports arenas at the University of Maryland and downtown.

At least two diocesan parishes – Danville St. Luke and Pickerington St. Elizabeth Seton – plan to charter buses to Washington. The bus from Pickerington is full, but in early January, several seats needed to be filled to ensure the trip from Danville would take place.

The cost of the four-day, three-night trip from Danville is $320 for a double room and $280 each for three persons in a room. This covers the ride on a 47-passenger bus, three nights at the Hampton Inn in Alexandria, Va., and a tour of Washington guided by John Durbin of Danville.

The bus will depart Danville at 7:30 a.m. Jan. 23. The following day, the group will tour the nation’s capital and attend the 6 p.m. Mass at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The bus will leave Washington the morning after the march, returning to Danville in the early evening. For more information, contact the church office at (740) 599-6362 or Bobbie Thomas at (740) 398-9710.

BOY SCOUTS RETREAT FOR AD ALTARE DEI EMBLEM

Eighteen Boy Scouts took part in a weekend retreat at Camp Lazarus near Delaware and completed most requirements for the Ad Altare Dei religious emblem. Pictured are (from left): front row, Father David Schalk, Chuck Lamb of the diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting, and Scouts Connor Sheehan, Nathan Sears, Jared George, Jacob Thompson, Keith Boggs, Brendan Ralston, and Theo Madrid; back row, Patrick Tolloti, Spencer Sterling, Anthony Hayes, Clayton Anderson, Joshua Hoy, James Dow, Evan Jones, Christopher Obert, Shane Allan, Mac Brown, and Michael Molchan. The Ad Altare Dei program was started in 1926 and is the oldest of several religious emblems which may be earned by Scouts of various faiths. Participants must have completed sixth grade and not turned 18. The retreat included Masses celebrated by Father Joseph Klee and Father Schalk. Participants in the award program also must attend the diocesan Catholic Scout Camporee in May. In addition, many took a tour of the Pontifical College Josephinum.

Photo by Rebecca Miller