

The CATHOLIC TIMES

THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS' INFORMATION SOURCE

SEPTEMBER 10, 2023 • TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • VOLUME 72:19



JUBILEE OF ANNIVERSARIES

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HOPE IS HERE

Diocesan school administrators and teachers gathered on Monday, Aug. 21 for a Hope is Here evangelization conference at Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School to kick off the new academic year, Page 3



FORMATION CHANGES

Father William Hahn, the diocese's director of vocations, explains the changes in seminary formation being implemented this year, Page 15

LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS

Catholic Social Services names new president

Catholic Social Services (CSS) announced Friday, Sept. 1, that Kelley Henderson will serve as the agency's next president and CEO.

Henderson's first day with CSS will be Oct. 2. He replaces Rachel Lustig, who left in May to become the president and CEO of Lutheran Social Services in Columbus.

Henderson begins his role after serving as the executive director of Catholic Charities of West Tennessee, which he helped to grow more than 90 percent during the past three years. He also previously served as the CEO of Action Ministries.

"It is an honor to join the CSS team at this exciting point in their 77-year history," Henderson said. "Many organizations quickly become known for what they do, but I believe they are remembered for who they are in the communities where they made an impression."

Henderson will lead CSS in its mission to help poor and vulnerable seniors and families through implementing CSS's strategic plan, which seeks to enhance services for low-income seniors, strengthen the community's workforce and expand services to the Hispanic community.

CSS is an anti-poverty agency that provides case management, mental healthcare and emergency assistance to more than 13,000 working-poor families and low-income seniors each year in the 23-county Diocese of Columbus, central and southern Ohio.

"Traveling across the 23 counties of the Diocese of Columbus I have seen great need," Bishop Earl Fernandes said. "Catholic Social Services is a robust part of the response to those needs. Kelley Henderson has done extensive work with Catholic charities and brings with him experience that will further energize that response."

Notre Dame Club to hear about university's goals

Father Robert Dowd, CSC, vice president and associate provost for interdisciplinary initiatives at the University of Notre Dame, will present the annual Hesburgh Lecture of the Notre Dame



Kelley Henderson has been hired as the new president and CEO of Catholic Social Services.

Photo courtesy Catholic Social Services

Club of Columbus on Sunday, Sept. 10. His topic: "Higher Education at a Crossroads and Notre Dame's 21st Century Goals."

The talk will begin at 2 p.m. at Cristo Rey Columbus High School, 400 E. Town St. Light refreshments will be served.

"Many observers have noted that higher education in the United States is in crisis," Father Dowd said. "Data suggest that Americans are significantly less trusting of and confident in colleges and universities today than in previous decades. This lecture will reflect on the nature of this crisis, consider various ways institutions of higher education may regain trust and confidence, and discuss how Notre Dame, animated by its distinctive Catholic mission, is seeking to address society's most pressing needs."

Parking will be available in the Cristo Rey lot on a first-come, first-served basis. Free parking also will be available along Town Street.

In addition, guests can use the parking garage of the Columbus Metropolitan Main Library, accessed via Grant Avenue and Library Park North.

Holy Family alumni plan Sept. 9 homecoming

The Columbus Holy Family Alumni

Association will have its annual homecoming on Saturday, Sept. 9. A 4 p.m. alumni vigil Mass will be celebrated at Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., followed by refreshments in the church undercroft.

Festivities will include a raffle. The church and the undercroft are accessible via an elevator at the east entrance of the church.

For details, contact Genny (Welker) Temple at vttemple@gmail.com or (614) 539-4815.

Birthingright of Columbus luncheon scheduled for Sept. 23

Birthingright of Columbus, a pregnancy support service, will host its annual fundraising luncheon at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 23 at Mozart's Café, 4784 N. High St., Columbus. All the money raised will help the pregnant women and others contact Birthingright for free, confidential services.

Tickets are \$50 for adults and \$15 for children. The program will include a raffle with prizes of a handmade afghan, a handmade quilt, a 32-inch flat-screen TV and a \$50 Kohl's gift card. Raffle tickets are \$2 each or three for \$5. There will also be a silent auction of craft items.

Birthingright is located in the old Great Western shopping center at 3445 Great Western Blvd. off of Wilson Road in Columbus. It provides a loving, respectful, non-judgmental space for expectant mothers and offers pregnancy tests, maternity clothes, baby items and referrals for other needs.

For information, call Mary Jo Mayhan at (614) 235-7465. Send checks for lunch reservations and/or raffle tickets, payable to Birthingright of Columbus, by Friday, Sept. 15 to Sue Wilson, 5548 Parkshire Place, Columbus, OH 43229.

Girls invited to attend 'Saturday with the Sisters'

The Dominican Sisters of the Immaculate Conception Province invite girls in grades eight to 12 to a "Saturday with the Sisters" program from 8 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 23, in their convent at 2575 E. Livingston Ave.

The event is being sponsored by the Serra clubs of Columbus and North Columbus.

The day will include breakfast, Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, lunch and a talk, "All About Angels," by Father Thomas Blau, OP.

Admission is free, but donations will be accepted to pay for food. Register at saturdaywithsisters@gmail.com.

Serra Club sets dates for vocations lunches

The Serra Club of North Columbus will sponsor its annual vocations lunches for young men and young women in the Jessing Center of the Pontifical College Josephinum, 7625 N. High St., Columbus.

The young women's lunch will be from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 3, and the event for young men will be at the same time on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

The guest speaker for the young women's event will be Sister Elfie del Rosario, FMA, national vocations director for the Salesian Sisters and Daughters of Mary Help of Christians. Several communities of religious sisters will be promoting their orders and explaining their charisms at the event. Details of the young men's program will be announced.

Students interested in attending are asked to make reservations through their Catholic high school or, if they attend a public school, through their parish religious education director or youth minister.

Indulgence granted visitors to Theatine churches

To celebrate the 500th anniversary of the foundation of the Order of Clerics Regular (the Theatines), the Holy See has granted a plenary indulgence to the faithful who visit churches entrusted to the pastoral care of the Theatines from Sept. 14 of this year to the same date in 2024.

In the Diocese of Columbus, those churches are Columbus Christ the King

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Front Page photo:

JUBILEE OF ANNIVERSARIES

Couples celebrating 74 years of marriage to 25 years are being recognized this year for their commitment to the Sacrament of Matrimony as part of the annual Jubilee of Anniversaries. *iStock photo*

**CATHOLIC
TIMES**

Copyright © 2023. All rights reserved. Catholic Times (USPS 967-000) (ISSN 745-6050) is the official newspaper of the Catholic Diocese of Columbus, Ohio. It is published every other week throughout the year. Subscription rate: \$17 per year, or call and make arrangements with your parish. Periodical Postage Paid at Columbus OH 43218.

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Postmaster: Send address changes to
Catholic Times 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215.
Please allow two to four weeks for change of address.

Conference aimed to spark evangelization in diocesan schools

By Hannah Heil
Catholic Times Reporter

Amid preparations for a new school year, 1,400 educators in the Diocese of Columbus paused to gather for the first diocesan Catholic Schools Evangelization Conference on Aug. 21.

The event, with the theme “Hope is Here,” was an opportunity for rest and spiritual rejuvenation for teachers and principals of the diocese’s 39 Catholic elementary and 11 Catholic high schools.

“It is truly a day for prayer,” Dr. Adam Dufault, diocesan school superintendent, said in his opening remarks.

He encouraged educators to turn off cellphones and set aside to-do lists.

“I invite you today to give yourself the gift of presence.”

The evangelization conference, held at Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, was the first time since 2019 that all diocesan educators met together, Dufault said, and the gathering had been “in the works” for two years.

An evangelization plan for the diocese first took shape under Bishop Robert Brennan. The plan included a model of

evangelization for diocesan parishes and schools. The Catholic Schools evangelization conference was the “kickoff event” for the effort in schools, Dufault said.

“Evangelization always starts with an encounter, and we’ve said, years ago, we want to have some kind of encounter event for teachers, so that we bring them all together in one place, and they’re all shaped and inspired by the same thing.”

The diocese partnered with Franciscan University of Steubenville and organized a team to plan the conference.

“Ultimately, the message for our teachers is that we love them, and we’re grateful to them for everything that they do, so much so that we want to make sure they’re taken care of.

“If our teachers are tasked with forming our students in their faith, we need to take care of them, as well, and set that example for them.”

The conference began with praying the Liturgy of the Hours. Live praise and worship music was provided by Damascus Worship from Damascus Catholic Mission Campus in Centerburg, Ohio.

There was also the celebration of Mass, a Eucharistic Holy Hour and an opportunity to receive the sacrament of



Father Dave Pivonka, TOR, president of Franciscan University of Steubenville, speaks to teachers and administrators at the Hope is Here conference on Aug. 21 at St. Charles Preparatory School.



Katie McGrady presents one of the keynote addresses at the Hope is Here conference for diocesan school administrators and teachers. Photos courtesy Abigail Pitones



Teachers and administrators from diocesan schools attend the Hope is Here conference at St. Charles Preparatory School on Aug. 21 at the start of the new academic year.

reconciliation.

Katie Prejean McGrady, a speaker, award-winning author and columnist from Lake Charles, Louisiana, served as conference emcee. She hosts three podcasts and The Katie McGrady Show radio program on The Catholic Channel.

McGrady said the “Hope is Here” conference was a day for educators to “hit the reset button” and invest in their spiritual life.

Father David Pivonka, a member of the Franciscan Third Order Regular (TOR) and president of Franciscan University, offered a keynote address titled “Hope in Him.”

He was ordained a priest in 1996 and has served as university president since 2019. Father Pivonka has written seven books and hosted video series for TOR’s evangelistic outreach.

He recalled St. Paul’s words on hope in his Letter to the Romans. St. Paul wrote that “affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint.” (Romans 5:3-5)

Father Pivonka noted that it is “interesting” St. Paul began by writing about affliction. He said people often focus on the cross, on their suffering and think they suffer because Jesus suffered, but it is the “other way around,” and “Jesus suffered because we suffer.”

Father Pivonka also reflected on St. Paul’s message that hope is tested amid affliction, and it does not disappoint.

“Either Paul was wrong, or we don’t understand what hope is,” he said.

Father Pivonka encouraged the audience to ask themselves, “Why doesn’t hope disappoint?” He said the answer is, “Because the love of God has been poured

out into our hearts.” (Romans 5:5)

“I suppose some of you are thinking, ‘That’s it?’”

Father Pivonka said people have grown cold to hearing “God loves you,” but if they truly understood the love of God, nothing else matters.

He said it is common to hope for a cure to sickness, and he referred to his mother, who has suffered from multiple sclerosis for years. He said he can want or wish that her disease be cured, but he cannot put his hope in it.

Rather, Father Pivonka said, it is necessary to put hope into that which will not disappoint and is guaranteed – the love of God.

He reminded the audience that Jesus appeared to the Apostles and first disciples and said, “Peace be with you.”

Amid disappointment, sin, brokenness and affliction, Father Pivonka said, hope does not disappoint.

“In the midst of the struggle you’re experiencing, Jesus enters, and He says, ‘Peace be with you.’”

In a recorded video played at the conference, Bishop Earl Fernandes offered encouragement and consolation to the conference attendees.

He reminded educators that, just as Jesus accompanied His disciples on their journey to Emmaus, Jesus accompanies each of them on their journey, too.

“Even in our darkest moments, He is with us – our true hope,” the bishop said.

He encouraged educators to walk with Christ and bring that same hope to their students.

During his homily at Mass, Father Pivonka recounted the Gospel story of the

Central Ohio churches hold joint Eucharistic procession

Hundreds of parishioners from Powell St. Joan of Arc and Columbus St. Peter churches came together on Sunday, Aug. 27 for a 2.5-mile Eucharistic procession that began with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and concluded with Benediction.

Similar processions have taken place across the diocese, including one in June at St. Peter in northwest Columbus, as part of the three-year National Eucharistic Revival, which was initiated by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2021 to restore belief in the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

The joint effort between the two parishes began with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Joan of Arc before the monstrance was carried down Smoky Row Road under a canopy while accompanied by torch bearers from the

Knights of Columbus, whose members also passed out water along the route.

Priests from the parishes alternated holding the monstrance, and diocesan seminarians as well as altar servers assisted by carrying candles, a crucifix and a thurible that contained incense.

Hispanic ministry members decorated a trailer that traveled in front of the procession with a sound system and music ministers. In addition, the Hispanic group was responsible for security and safety along with Columbus police.

During the procession, the rosary, other litanies and songs were prayed and sung in English and Spanish.

The two-hour procession concluded with Benediction at St. Peter Church and social time afterward that was coordinated by the St. Joan of Arc Church bereavement ministry and the St. Peter

parish life group.

“Your public witness to the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist will long serve as a testimony to the faith of our Catholic community in northwest

Columbus,” said Father David Schalk, the parishes’ pastor.

“Our pilgrimage has not ended. It has only just begun!”



The Eucharistic procession reaches its final destination at Columbus St. Peter Church before wrapping up with Benediction.



Father David Arroyo, CR, carries the monstrance during the Eucharistic procession between Powell St. Joan of Arc and Columbus St. Peter churches. Photos courtesy Holly Monnier



Columbus St. Peter Church’s Hispanic ministry provides a trailer carrying a sound system and singers leading the 2 ½-mile Eucharistic procession that started at Powell St. Joan of Arc Church on Sunday, Aug. 27.



Hundreds of parishioners participate in a Eucharistic procession between Powell St. Joan of Arc and Columbus St. Peter churches on Sunday, Aug. 27.

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There's more to say about saying 'Amen' at Holy Communion

In my most recent column, I began my response to F.E.'s question, "What's up with this priest?" The questioner had written that a priest had told someone in the communion line that the person had to say "amen" before receiving the Host and that the priest seemed to give a lecture on this at the end of Mass.

I promised to say more in today's column on the topic of the "amen" at Mass. For anyone who missed the previous column, it can be found in the Aug. 27 issue or online at www.catholictimescolumbus.org.

To recap, I had explained that the Fathers of the Church, especially St. Augustine in the fourth and fifth centuries, taught about the importance of the "amen." I said that we are asserting our belief in the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist; that we are saying "yes" to Jesus, Who desires union with us; and that we are assenting to being transformed by the Eucharist.

We are divinized, I had written, and we are made one with the Church, the mystical Body of Christ.

As I pointed out, "amen" means "I believe" or "so be it." While we now use the English translation for most of the Mass, it would not be appropriate to speak the seemingly English equivalent of "amen" at any of the prayers at Mass or at the reception of Holy Communion. Part of the reason is that, as with so many words and concepts from foreign languages, translations often fail to communicate the deeper significance of words.

For example, to say that I believe something could mean that I accept it as true, but it can also mean I'm only somewhat certain. Think of the driver of a car telling the police officer who stopped her for speeding that she believed that she was driving the speed limit;

SACRAMENTS 101

Father Paul Jerome Keller, OP, S.T.D.

Father Paul Jerome Keller, O.P., S.T.D., director of the diocese's Office of Divine Worship, is a priest of the Dominican Province of St. Joseph. His doctorate is from Rome in sacramental theology. He currently assists at Columbus St. Patrick Church.



in fact, the officer tells her, she was exceeding it significantly. Belief and reality in this case are at odds with each other.

Perhaps the person who says "I believe" rather than "amen" doesn't mean to suggest mere probability when the priest says "the Body of Christ." The response "amen" helps us to avoid any semblance of doubt about Christ's Real Presence in the Eucharist.

We also avoid the embarrassing situation of thinking we know what the word means but getting it wrong. For example, I've heard, too many times to be counted, the silly response "thank you" in the communion line.

If I were distributing mere pieces of bread, perhaps a "thank you" would be in order. This response, however, seems to ignore that one has just received the Divine Presence of Christ Himself, of God Himself. Of course, we should be grateful for the gift, but so much more is conveyed in the "amen."

Our "amen" is a ratification of what the priest says about the Host he is giving us, as the Catechism of the Catholic Church (2856) teaches. Elsewhere in the Catechism (1062), we learn that the Hebrew word "amen" means much more than our English translations.

Although "amen" comes from the root word "believe," "this root word expresses solidity, trustworthi-

ness, faithfulness. ... Amen may express both God's faithfulness towards us and our trust in Him."

St. John the Evangelist teaches that Jesus is the "Amen, the faithful and true witness" (Revelation 3:14), and St. Paul tells us to utter our "amen" through Christ, to the glory of God (2 Corinthians 1:20).

Our Lord frequently uses the word in a doublet ("Amen, amen, I say to you") to emphasize the importance of what He is saying. Some Bible translations use "verily, verily." Synonyms for "verily" include "definitely," "certainly," "undoubtedly," "in reality."

When we say "amen" at the end of prayers at Mass (and privately, too), especially at the "Great Amen" in response to the Doxology at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer, and at Holy Communion, we mean all the things that the word signifies.

We are stating in one word that we are at peace with God and that we are not aware of anything that would prevent us from receiving Christ such as mortal sin. We are also stating that we are at peace with the Church, that is, we are seeking to forgive others who have offended us and that we desire to be one with all other Christians.

Furthermore, we are saying that we "believe and profess all that the Holy Catholic Church believes, teaches and proclaims to be revealed by God."

Saying "amen" is our recognition of Who it is we receive at Holy Communion. We are acknowledging our Good Shepherd, Who desires to feed us (Psalm 23). We are opening the door of our heart to Christ, Who stands knocking, so that He may come in to us and eat with us and we with Him (Revelation 3:20).

Amen! Come, Lord Jesus (Revelation 22:20)!

Childlike humility, faith needed to embrace Real Presence

"To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith, no explanation is possible." — St. Thomas Aquinas

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC) 1324 states, "The Eucharist is the 'source and summit of the Christian life. ... For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself, our Pasch.'"

St. Thomas Aquinas in his masterpiece, *Summa Theologiae*, in the section labeled as the Holy Eucharist, answers 11 questions devoting more than 50 articles with three or more objections with answers to each. More than 150 separate arguments on the Eucharist! On the question of Real Presence, he devotes eight articles, again arguing against three to four objections each.

We have God's Word, which is and always has been enough.

We have Eucharistic miracles (God's work).

One might be tempted to ask what more can be said regarding Real Presence. It seems the proper path is to examine what more must be done to reverse the trend of the lack of belief in Real Presence.

"At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, 'Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?' And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them, and said, 'Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child, he is the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven.'" (Matthew 18:1-4)

Perhaps we need to (re)visit becoming like children. What does that mean? It means to cultivate an inner humility and faith (trust) in God (cf. CCC 526).

All of us having been children, we know (hindsight

AQUINAS CORNER | Richard Arnold

Richard Arnold, a parishioner at Chillicothe St. Mary, holds an MA in Catechetics and Evangelization from Franciscan University of Steubenville and is a husband and a father to two children.



being 20/20) for our good we had to trust in our parents, or even older siblings, to begin to grasp and understand what was true and good.

We are, and always will be, God's children. We need to exhibit that childlike faith (trust) in God. Unlike our parents, or we as parents, God gets it right all the time.

When we talk about or explain our Catholic faith, we probably should begin with the childlike. What does that mean?

Just as a math teacher would want their students to master addition and subtraction before moving on to multiplication and division, we wouldn't want to "hit" people with Real Presence right away. Real Presence takes time and patience to properly lay out. To achieve greater knowledge and understanding requires an initial foundation of knowledge and understanding.

Another aspect of being childlike is that we must take the necessary steps, we must work,

knowing there aren't shortcuts to a fruitful faith life. Everyone's cross is going to be different, but you must take it up.

What do I mean? You must live a sacramental life. Mass as often as you can make it. Regular confession and reconciliation. You need to establish a holy habit with daily Scripture reading and prayer. If you need confirmation, get it. An annulment? As difficult as it is, great peace accompanies it. I know.

It bears repeating from Joseph Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI), in *Gospel, Catechesis, Catechism*, "Faith is not maintained automatically. It is not a 'finished business' that we can simply take for granted. The life of faith has to be constantly renewed."

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Leadership conference speakers reached those behind bars

By Michele Williams

Lead where you are. That was the theme of the 2023 Global Leadership Summit (GLS), held in South Barrington, Illinois, in early August. How would I know such a thing? Thanks to the internet and the Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW), I was one of 50 inmates who attended the summit online.

I was selected due to my leadership roles in the Church – as music director and a Stephen Minister. This was my first online experience; I've never shopped online, scanned a QR code or even been on Facebook, so I was very excited about the opportunity.

The GLS was a two-day conference where some of the country's biggest and brightest leaders in business, religion and communities shared their expertise and their faith. The purpose was to inspire and equip other leaders to build lives of purpose, passion and positive impact.

The most succinct way I can describe it would be a Christian business leadership and faith conference. I'd never heard of anything like this, yet I knew I needed to be there. It was as if Jesus was inviting me to sit down, be still and listen to these people because He was talking and working through them.

On the morning of the first day, we received notebooks that were the same as those given to the audience in the conference center. It surprised me and made us feel intentionally included; we were intended to be part of this.

There was a page of interesting directions that set the tone for beginning our summit journey: "Take a deep breath and set aside the weight of leadership. Be open; you may learn the most from someone very different from you. Reflect on ideas that challenge you – the ones you agree with and the ones you don't; they both hold value. Tell yourself the truth, the hard and honest truth; it's the only way to get better. Identify who is on the journey with you; don't go it alone."

These were so simple, yet so profound, that I wrote them on Post-it notes and stuck them to the walls of my cell as daily reminders.

As I was thumbing through the rest of the notebook, I recognized only one name out of the 20 presenters. Incarceration has unfortunately kept me out of the business and leadership world for three decades. Nonetheless, my interest was piqued with every bio I read: pastors from national churches, authors, professors, CEOs from major corporations. I couldn't wait to hear from them.

What were they going to teach us about becoming better leaders? How could I apply the lessons to prison life and beyond? I was open and ready to absorb everything, especially after a moving opening prayer by the Global Leadership Network president who thanked God first, then asked Him to bless the day's speakers, messages and attendees, both in person and online throughout the world.

The first speaker was Craig Groeschel, founder and senior pastor of Life.Church, which was instrumental in providing free tools to churches implementing virtual services during COVID. His topic was trust. In the world today, people don't naturally trust; they need evidence. Leaders build trust by being transparent and honest, with regard to their successes and failures, in both their professional and personal lives.

He said, "People may be impressed with your strengths, but they connect by your weaknesses." When leaders take a risk and share their truth, trust grows. Jesus was the ultimate leader, and His followers still trust Him today.

His other major point was how important empathy is in leadership. People won't care about your mission if you don't care about your people. His philosophy – "You matter. I notice" – really resonated with me. Many times, I have felt like I don't matter one bit, I'm just a numbered inmate, lost in the sea of blue uniforms. So, I make an effort toward the people I live, work, run and worship with to let them know they matter, and I notice!

Another speaker, Dallas Jenkins, created and directs the TV series *The Chosen* (my favorite!), which is about the life of Jesus and His disciples. Jenkins shared his most enlightening moment – his movie directorial debut with Warner Bros.

He'd made what they all thought was going to be a heartwarming, feel-good blockbuster. According to the focus groups and prereleases, it was a sure thing. Shockingly, it was a box office disaster, and the other companies who'd lined up for future movies backed out quickly.

He was devastated, confused and felt utterly responsible for such a failure. A friend told him, "It's not your job to feed the 5,000. It's your job to provide the loaves and fish. God will do the rest." That changed his life and perspective completely. He kept it in mind as he began creating *The Chosen*, which is now a global phenomenon and is the largest crowd-funded media project of all time.

Listening to his story, told with such humility and gratitude, affected me deeply. God did something in-

credible though his failure; He used it as a stepping stone to better leadership and service. It let me know God can do something with my failure as long as I keep trying my best to provide the loaves and fish and trust Him with the miracle.

My favorite speaker emerged on the afternoon of the second day. Jamie Kern Lima created a cosmetics company (IT Cosmetics) in her living room and grew it into a huge luxury brand. Eventually she sold it to L'Oreal for \$1 billion and became CEO of the brand. She is very active in prison and shelter ministry and leadership programs.

What she spoke about was the difference between self-confidence and self-worth. I had thought they were the same but learned they're not. Self-confidence is about keeping promises to ourselves, sticking to plans, achieving goals. It has externally motivated beginnings and endings such as getting a promotion or a raise, losing 10 pounds, publishing a successful book.

Self-worth is a deep knowing of being acceptable, lovable and enough, exactly as we are, exactly as God made us, no matter what we've done, not done or where we are. When I came to prison, I had no self-confidence or self-worth. They had been eclipsed by guilt, shame, PTSD, depression, fear and confusion. It took years to develop self-confidence and even longer to believe I had self-worth.

She also talked about changing our relationship with rejection. She offered this advice: View rejection as God's way of saying, "I just hid your value from them because they are not assigned to your destiny."

Inherently part of incarceration is rejection, and, at first, it stings, then becomes a dull ache. Some people from my former life have since rejected our relationship, and, in a few cases, my entire existence. It hurt me deeply. However, looking back over the arc of time, I see that those who are supposed to be part of my future have remained steadfast and hopeful, and I thank God for them.

I could summarize all 20 speakers, but suffice it to say, each one had a different, incredible, God-given message of courage, wisdom, leadership and inspiration. They stoked the fires of motivation and faith, and I felt empowered and better equipped to lead where I am for as long as I am here.

Then one day, I'll carry those lessons out of prison and into my community where I will create a positive and meaningful impact.

Michele Williams is an inmate at the Ohio Reformatory for Women.

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young man who asked Jesus what he must do to gain eternal life. (Matthew 19:16-22)

The man's question could be the most "important question asked in history," he said.

The young man was the asking the question for himself, what he must give up to inherit eternal life, Father Pivonka said, and it is different for each person.

For some, Father Pivonka said, it is fear – fear of what might happen to a friendship or a relationship by choosing to follow Christ. For others, he said, it is their past, a feeling that they could never follow Jesus because of what they have done.

Father Pivonka asked each educator to

determine what separates them from Jesus and surrender it. He said each person must answer the question for himself.

"The invitation is to surrender whatever it is that keeps you from Jesus," he said.

In the afternoon, McGrady offered a keynote address, "He is Enough, and So am I."

"The most important thing you can do as a Catholic educator is to know the heart of Jesus and share that with your students," she said.

McGrady asked the educators to consider the impact on students if educators contemplated the mystery of God's perfect love.

Every person wants to be seen, known and loved, she said, but many convince themselves that God loves them only

"because, or when, or if." Rather, "God loves me for who I am," McGrady said.

She encouraged the educators to see each student as a beloved child of God, noting that Catholic schools are "where students are able to encounter the love of Jesus in a profound way."

McGrady encouraged educators to bring their worries and concerns to Jesus and ask Him for a spirit of gratitude. She recalled one of her high school teachers, a deacon, who, she said, took time to see, know and love her for who she was.

"That was a man who loved Jesus so much that it changed our town, our school, our life," she said.

Going forward, Dufault said, the next steps in evangelization will happen at

the school level.

He said the plan is for each diocesan Catholic school to be "a place where people are teaching and living their faith together and (schools) that are faith communities."

Dufault said he hopes that the conference inspires a culture of prayer and shared ministry in each diocesan school, and he looks forward to seeing the impact from the conference.

"Wherever those seeds fall, they were planted, ... and we'll see what takes root, what grows in each of our schools.

"We needed to be re-inspired. We needed to be reinvigorated. We needed to be reminded of why we do what we do and have that hope to carry us forward."

What is your family's mission as you 'serve the Lord'?

"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

We've heard this so often, perhaps inscribed on plaques we hang in our homes, but what do we really mean when we say it?

For Joshua in Scripture, these words were bold and declarative. He was throwing down the gauntlet in a loving but firm challenge to the Israelites. Having launched four young people into the academic and working world recently, I am pondering how to live this out fully in my vocation as wife and mother. How can I guide my family to claim this as part of our identity?

Thanks to the Beatles, we are reminded that "all we need is love," but experience tells me there is more to walking fully into the woman or man God has called us to be. We must realize that raising our families is a mission.

"Mission" is a strong word. It means to go out into the world (outside our comfortable family home) and spread the love and joy of being in a relationship with Jesus Christ. We must turn to the Lord and ask Him to help us identify the unique gifts He has given us, both individually and as a family. What is the unique mission for our family, our "domestic Church"? Then we need to go out and live it fully.

What unique gifts have been given to your family, and how do you use them? Social media has its negatives, but I love reading people's stories and seeing them on mission. For example, the friends who sponsor blood drives because their lives have been impact-

ALL THAT WE HAVE

MaryBeth Eberhard

MaryBeth Eberhard writes about marriage, life experiences of a large family and special needs. She attends Sunbury St. John Neumann Church.



ed by the need for this resource, or the family whose kids you see playing sports but when in the stands with other parents, they are supportive, encouraging and building community.

How do you bring Jesus into those conversations? How do you share your story? You might not call it mission, but that is what you are doing – living out the gifts you have been given. Families just need the mental switch flipped on to recognize who we have been created to be is now a realization of what we are called to do.

Imagine how much focus and clarity could be brought to our lives if everything we did each day was with that focus. It puts purpose into our words, actions and thoughts.

My family's mission is simply to welcome. We try to welcome in the stranger and call them friend, whether in our home, at the grocery store, on the street corner or in the doctor's office. Knowing that is who we are gives us an identity and a purpose, and over the years we have thrived and been blessed in living it.

As my family does a reset examining who God is calling us to be and how we can use those gifts more fully, I realize that love is the foundation of that. However, be-

ing intentional in living out virtues within our mission is the actual structure we are building. It is the offering we give to the Lord.

With lenses attuned to our mission, we speak charitably to others and extend mercy often. Compassion is paramount, and we humbly allow ourselves to be the vessels in the situations God places us. This model of life is a life lived fully, arms wide open, for Jesus.

Reflecting back on that passage from Joshua, I am struck by the certainty and boldness in Joshua's voice. "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." In a time of temptation to worship false Gods and return to old ways of living, Joshua's declaration to the Israelites is a bold flag stuck into the ground placing his family on mission.

In his papal letter to us, *Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis leads like Joshua by sharing how God has called him into living a life on mission. He says, "I am a mission on this earth; that is the reason why I am here in this world. We have to regard ourselves as sealed, even branded, by this mission of bringing light, blessing, enlivening, raising, healing and freeing."

Take a moment this season, as many begin anew with school, to reflect on the gifts your family has. Look at each family member and perhaps ask them what they think their gifts are. Point out the ones you see in them. Elevate the life your family is living by elevating it to the level of being on mission. What are ways you can go out and live love on mission?

LOCAL NEWS, continued from Page 2

and St. Thomas the Apostle and Dover St. Joseph.

During this privileged year, the faithful are invited to perform an extra sacrifice that shows their desire to deepen their conversion of life as an indication of taking a step on the path to holiness.

In practice, this means going to a church served by the Theatines to receive the sacrament of reconciliation, celebrate the Eucharist and pray for the intentions of the pope and invoke the intercession of St. Cajetan, who founded the order on Sept. 14, 1524.

As part of the yearlong event, every Theatine community will celebrate an inauguration Mass and offer other opportunities for people to know more about the order's charism.

Marysville church presents series of concerts, lectures

Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 1033 W. 5th St., will resume its Music on the Hill concert series this month.

The season will feature guest artists from the diocese and across the nation. Highlights include a Bachtobefest, Handel's Messiah and a performance by the Ohio State University choirs.

The concerts are free thanks to donations of sponsors, including season sponsor Dr. Teresa Caulin-Glaser, in memory of her husband, Dr. Walter Glaser.

All the concerts will be on Sundays at 3 p.m. except for the Messiah presentation, which will be at 5 p.m. The schedule:

Sept. 17, Sound the Horn!; Oct. 15, Bachtobefest; Nov. 19, lecture and viewing of Mozart's Requiem; Dec. 17, Handel's Messiah; Jan. 21, piano recital; Feb. 11, Love Notes, featuring faculty and students of RED School of Music in Marysville; March 3, Ohio State choirs; April 21, lecture and viewing of Bach's Easter Oratorio; May 26, organ recital; June 23, Storytime.

For more information, go to <https://olol.cc/index.php/programs/music-on-the-hill> or the Facebook page Music on the Hill Marysville.

St. Michael Church adds weekday Masses, Holy Hour

Worthington St. Michael Church, 5750 N. High St., will add 8:15 a.m. Masses on Wednesdays and Thursdays to its schedule, effective Wednesday, Sept. 6. This means there will be 8:15 a.m. Masses in the church every day except Saturday, in addition to a 6:30 a.m. Mass Monday through Friday.

Also starting Sept. 6, the parish will have a weekly Holy Hour on Wednesday evenings, with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 6:30 p.m., followed by confessions, with Benediction at 7:30.

For more information, visit the parish website, www.saintmichael-cd.org.

Nominations open to women for St. Teresa of Calcutta Award

Nominations are currently being accepted in the diocese for the St. Teresa of Calcutta Award.

The award, which was formerly known as the Catholic Woman of the Year Award, is returning for the first time since 2019.

The award recognizes a woman with strong faith, engaged and involved in parish communities and whose devotion and dedication is in the tradition and spirit of St. Teresa of Calcutta.

The Columbus Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) is collaborating with Columbus Catholic Women's Conference and the Daughters of Isabella on the award.

Nominations will be accepted until Sept. 30. Forms can be found on the Diocese of Columbus website, www.columbuscatholic.org/diocesan-council-of-catholic-women/TeresaNom.

The award ceremony will be on Nov. 5 with Bishop Earl Fernandes at Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.

For more information, questions can be directed to DCCW at dccw@columbuscatholic.org.

Dominican sisters relaunch associate formation team

The Dominican Sisters of Peace are relaunching their central Ohio associate formation team, PeaceCRAFT (the Columbus Region Associate Formation Team), for people who have an interest in becoming Dominican associates.

The team will provide encounters with Dominican spirituality and experiences of prayer, community, study and ministry in collaboration with current

groups of Columbus-area associates.

Dominican associates serve as companions to the Dominican Sisters of Peace. They are Christian women and men, married and single, clergy members and laypersons who were drawn to and then called to live out the sisters' mission to praise, bless and preach.

Associates do not take vows, but rather make a commitment to be partners with vowed members and to share the Dominican mission and charism in their lives, families, churches, neighborhoods, workplaces and cities.

Associates participate in the life of the congregation in many ways. They are engaged in all walks of life and try to live their daily lives intentionally as Dominicans. They preach the Good News and build peace through the voices of their work, art and lives, following the example of St. Catherine of Siena, who said, "Preach the truth as if you had a million voices. It is silence that kills the world."

For more information, contact info@oppeace.org.

Healing Mass to be held at St. John Neumann

A Healing Mass sponsored by Columbus Catholic Renewal will be celebrated by Bishop Earl Fernandes at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 13 at Sunbury St. John Neumann Church.

Anointing of the Sick will be provided. The evening will begin with a Rosary at 5 p.m., followed by praise and worship with Dr. Steve Kebe at 5:30 p.m.

God's strength helps us cope with our weaknesses

My previous column discussed the joy of laughter and my love of it. I also mentioned a knee replacement. Good news: That went so well that I decided to have the other one done at the end of June!

Again, all is well, as I am learning to walk with two straight legs. (I still can walk more like a drunken sailor or those first steps, but I am stable and progressing well. Thanks for the prayers.) The challenges of this year have forced me to be more aware of strengths and weaknesses. This column is about finding strength in weakness.

God's strength is made perfect in weakness. In 2 Corinthians 12:8-9, Paul asked Jesus to remove a thorn. Instead of removing the thorn, Jesus pointed Paul to Himself. "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

We often want to distance ourselves from our weaknesses. However, in our attempt to be self-sufficient, we prevent ourselves from witnessing God's power in our lives. God gives us the grace to withstand instead of removing the hardship.

When we experience challenging times, it's good to look to Christ's teachings. One of the joys of my knee adventures is that I stayed at the Mother Angeline McCrory Manor in Columbus. There I had 24-hour access to the chapel. What would be more beneficial is lifting

FAITH IN ACTION | Erin Cordle

Erin Cordle is associate director of the diocesan Office for Social Concerns.



our eyes to our Triune God and receiving Him in daily communion. Conversations with the sisters were bonuses!

God does not get weak as we do, and He never gets weary. His thoughts are so much higher than ours; we can search and never come to the end of His understanding. He gives power to us who are fainting; He gives strength to us who lack power.

When we are weak, He is strong. We are all frail and needy. However, we serve a God Who is not dependent on our abilities. He is the Creator and Sustainer of all things. When we trust in Him, He generously provides all that we need.

I believe that God gives us what we need, not what we want. That is the main reason that I quit praying for myself. Thank God I know many of you pray for me! My father would say you cannot fail if you learn something. He also said that God gives you challenges and gives us opportunities to learn.

Through Christ, we can do all things! God doesn't ask

us to do anything that He will not empower us to do by His Spirit.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7)

One thing we lose sight of when we are experiencing challenging moments is God's love. If you find yourself in a difficult time, and all you see is your lack of strength and inability to keep walking, God is calling you into His power. This just might be your opportunity to see His might on display in your life.

We are all frail and needy; however, we serve a God Who is all powerful. He is the Creator and Sustainer of all things, and He graciously and generously provides all that we need. We should boast about our weaknesses, for when we are weak, He is strong.

Because God's "power is made perfect in weakness," we can have hope when we can't meet our needs on our own.

God, I want my life to display Your power, even in weakness. Help me to depend more on You each day and to feel Your strength when I struggle.

\$3 million gift for tuition is largest in ODU history

Ohio Dominican University (ODU) has received a \$3 million challenge gift from an anonymous donor, the largest gift in its 112-year history, to support scholarships for students.

"We know an ODU education changes lives and lifts families," said university President Connie Gallaher. "Gifts like this help to equip us with critical financial resources that allow us to impact our students in profound and lasting ways."

"On behalf of the ODU community, we are grateful for the transformative support of this donor and belief they have in the mission and students of Ohio Dominican University."

The donor structured \$1 million of the gift to serve as a 2-to-1 challenge, inviting other members of the ODU and central Ohio communities to participate in the challenge.

The donor has agreed to match \$2 for every \$1 donated to ODU until the \$1 million level is reached.

During the 2022-23 academic year, 100 percent of ODU's full-time undergraduate students received financial aid. Each year, the university provides approx-

imately \$14 million in aid to help make an ODU education affordable for all students, regardless of economic status.

To participate in the challenge or to learn more, visit give.ohiodominican.edu.

University hosts preview day on campus for future students

Ohio Dominican University invites future students to a preview day from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 25 in the Bishop Griffin Student Center, 1215 Sunbury Road, Columbus.

Students and their families can tour campus, explore majors, discuss financial aid, have a free meal, learn about student clubs and honors programs, meet with professors and talk with ODU students.

To register for preview day, visit ohiodominican.edu/Preview. Students unable to attend preview day can schedule a campus visit at ohiodominican.edu/Visit or by calling ODU's undergraduate admissions office at (614) 251-4500.

PRESENCE, continued from Page 5

I'd like to close this column and my Eucharistic series with a story from Flannery O'Connor, recounted to a friend (edited for brevity). O'Connor was a famous author whose writings often reflected her Catholic faith.

"I was taken by some friends to dinner. One of them departed the Church at the age of 15 and is a Big Intellectual. I hadn't opened my mouth once, there being nothing for me in such company to say. Having me there was like having a dog present who had been trained to say a few words.

"Well, toward morning the conversation turned on the Eucharist, which I, being the Catholic, was obviously supposed to defend. Mrs. Broadwater said when she was a child and received the Host, she (later) thought of it as a symbol and implied that it was a pretty good one.

"I then said, in a very shaky voice, 'Well, if it's a symbol, to hell with it.' That was all the defense I was capable of, but I realize now that this is all I will ever be able to say about it, outside of a story, except that it is the center of existence for me; all the rest is expendable."

MODERATOR OF THE TRIBUNAL CHANCERY | DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

The Diocese of Columbus seeks to fill the position of Moderator of the Tribunal. This is a full-time position, with benefits, at the Diocesan Offices in Downtown Columbus.

JOB SUMMARY:

The Moderator of the Tribunal is to see that the acts of the tribunal are properly drawn up, sent, according to the mandate of the judge, and preserved in the archive (DC, Art. 61.1). In doing so, the moderator oversees the work of the auditors and reports directly to the Judicial Vicar. He or she manages the day-to-day operations of the Tribunal, prepares an annual budget, oversees the expenses of the Tribunal and handles miscellaneous administrative tasks. The Moderator should be able to respond to canonical questions posed by petitioners, procurators and clergy. The qualified candidate may also act as an assessor for cases.

REQUIREMENTS:

The qualified candidate should be a Catholic in good standing in the Church, outstanding for good character, prudence, and doctrine. Additionally, the qualified candidate should possess a licentiate in canon law, with at least two years of experience working in a Tribunal.

Qualified candidates should send cover letter, resume, and three references to Anne Streitenberger, HR Director at amstreitenberger@columbuscatholic.org.

TRIBUNAL AUDITOR | DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

The Diocese of Columbus seeks to employ a Tribunal Auditor. This is a full-time position, with benefits, at the Diocesan Offices in Downtown Columbus. Free parking is available.

JOB SUMMARY:

Under the direction of the judge, the Auditor collects proofs for marriage annulment cases and assists the judge in processing the various cases according to canon law. The Auditor is expected to use sound canonical and personal judgment in carrying out the duties of his/her office and other routine duties and responsibilities of the Tribunal. Familiarity with Catholic teaching on marriage is a necessity. The qualified candidate should possess excellent oral and written communication skills. Excellent data entry, computer skills and knowledge of Microsoft software applications is required.

REQUIREMENTS:

The qualified candidate should be a Catholic in good standing in the Church, outstanding for good character, prudence, and doctrine.

Qualified candidates should send cover letter, resume, and three references to Anne Streitenberger, HR Director at amstreitenberger@columbuscatholic.org.

Portsmouth couple's love story began 76 years ago

By Tim Puet

For *The Catholic Times*

Mary Martha Questel says she fell in love with her husband, Bill, the first time she saw him in 1947. For Bill, it took a little longer, but he came around. They married two years after meeting and remain devoted to each other 76 years later.

The Questels are the longest-married couple to be recognized at this year's diocesan Jubilee of Anniversaries, which will be celebrated at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 10 as part of a Mass with Bishop Earl Fernandes in Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St.

They won't be able to attend because Bill's health issues make the 200-mile round trip between the church and their home in Portsmouth too difficult, but their names will be mentioned, and they will receive a certificate signed by the bishop.

William Louis Questel and Mary Martha Welty were married on March 7, 1949 in the rectory of Portsmouth St. Mary Church, with the late Father George Marzluf as the priest witnessing the sacrament they conferred upon each other.

"Bill was not a Catholic at that time, and the church rules then said that if only one member of a couple was Catholic, the wedding could not take place inside the church," Mary Martha said. Bill said he joined the Catholic Church about 35 or 40 years ago.

Mary Martha, now 92 years old, still has a vivid memory of the day she met her future husband, who is 97.

"I was still in high school, working after school at the former Glick's furniture store in downtown Portsmouth, when I was introduced to this handsome young man with a big dimple in his chin and a big smile who was starting to work there that day," she said. "When I walked home with my friends, I told them 'I'm going marry that man someday.'

"You silly girl,' they said, and I told them, 'Just wait and see.' Two years later, we were married. It was love at first sight then, and it still is."

Bill said the day he met Mary Martha was his first day at work after three years during and after World War II in the service, first with the Merchant Marine, then with the U.S. Army Air Corps.

"At that point, I was just happy my time in the service was done, and I wasn't really thinking about girls or marriage or anything like that," Bill said. "But I saw her every day at the store, and, after a while, I realized she was the best-looking and the biggest-hearted girl I'd ever known.

"She was part of a family of seven, and I loved them all. I got along great with her mother. After the first time we went out and came back to talk with her parents, her dad said, 'Come back and stay longer,' so I did.

"It wasn't long before we got to talking about marriage, and I've never regretted it. We would have gotten married sooner than we did, but Mary Martha's mother said she had to wait till she was 18. In those days, you listened to your mother

or your future mother-in-law."

Bill graduated early from Portsmouth High School and knew he would be drafted into the military once he turned 18. "A friend and I were hanging around a park one day and heard the Merchant Marines were looking for recruits, so we signed up, and I entered the service on March 30, 1944, my 18th birthday," he said.

From then until nearly the end of World War II, he served on several ships carrying troops and supplies throughout the world. Among his missions were ones that took him from New York to Venezuela and back to carry oil; from New Orleans to Ascension Island between Brazil and Africa to carry troops and supplies on a converted Cunard cruise liner; and from Bayonne, New Jersey to Glasgow, Scotland, with 100-octane airplane fuel used by planes bombing Germany in the last days of World War II.

Bill's hitch with the Merchant Marine was completed shortly after Japan surrendered to end the war, so he signed up with the Army for 18 months and spent most of that time in the charting (map) room at the Tachikawa Air Base near Tokyo.

He has donated his military memorabilia to the Boneyfiddle Military Museum in Portsmouth.

Bill was a salesman for the furniture store for nearly 30 years until it closed in 1976. He then began his own antiques business, Bill's Ole Barn.

"It operated out of our former house, which had three stories," Mary Martha said. "The first floor was filled with antiques, and we lived on the other two. We also had a barn out back with more stuff. That's where the store name came from."

The store lasted for about 15 years, "until I put him out of business," Mary Martha said. "After my time at the furniture store, I worked in a foundry and left there, then when the furniture store closed, I returned to work to help Bill.

"The antique business takes a lot of effort. You go out looking for things, and it seems you come back either with nothing or a truckload of stuff. One day, I told Bill that it had become too stressful to me, and we ended up agreeing to sell the store and the house. Within six weeks, a woman made a good offer on the house, and she moved in after we had three auctions to get rid of all the antiques."

The couple then moved to the ranch-style home where they live today. This allowed them to travel extensively. They visited all 50 states and several European countries, with one of their trips taking them to St. Peter's Basilica and a general audience with the pope – they can't remember which one.

Mary Martha said one particularly memorable trip came in the late 1990s, when the couple joined a group of students from Shawnee State University in Portsmouth, most of them several decades younger, on a visit to Greece. "That's when the announcement was made that Athens was getting the 2004 Olympics, and it was an all-night party,"

Mary Martha said.

The Questels were active at Portsmouth St. Mary Church until health problems limited Bill's mobility. Both were parish council members at various times, and Mary Martha was an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist, a lector and a church cleaner.

"We have no children, so we consider our church family to be an extended family," she said. "Being able to associate with them has always been a special part of our lives, especially now that Bill has to use a transport chair to get to church. Everybody calls him 'the Walmart greeter.' All the men shake his hand, and the women kiss the top of his head. It boosts both of our spirits.

"We've always had great relations with our priests, and certainly with Father (Brian) Beal (pastor) and Fathers (Michael) Fulton and (David) Glockner (parochial vicars) in their work to get all the parishes in Scioto County to come together as the Scioto Catholic Community.

"We also have great deacons in Deacons (Chris) Varacalli, (Jim) Sturgeon and (Terry) Acox. And we've been blessed with having three sisters of the Leaven of the Immaculate Heart of Mary for the last two years in our schools.

"Until the last few years, we didn't have much stress in our lives," Mary Martha said. "We never had a real argument – a disagreement or two, but nothing major. Then COVID came in 2020, and it's caused a lot of stress.

"Bill had a knee replacement and several other surgeries and has heart problems, but the most stressful part was having him at the Hillview Retirement Center and being able to communicate with him only through a glass door every day. We saw each other but were apart most of the time, and that was hard."

Bill is back at home, where he uses a walker and has a transport chair for longer distances. He needs assistance with dressing and bathing, which Mary Martha provides.

"I'm blessed to be able to take care of him without other help," Mary Martha said. "Just being able to be together with him is all that matters to me. We pray the rosary and other prayers together every day, and in the morning, I read him what he wants to know.

"Faith is the most important thing we have. It's what gets us through every day and



Bill and Mary Martha Questel were married in Portsmouth in 1949.



Bill and Mary Martha Questel have enjoyed 74 years together in marriage.

Photos courtesy Questel family

makes the stress something you can deal with. If a young couple starting out were to ask us how to stay married as long as us, I'd tell them, 'Have faith in God and each other, never go to bed angry, and good luck.'"

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Future together was no slam dunk, but couple became 'a real team'

By Tim Puet

For *The Catholic Times*

Curtis and Phyllis Mathews still enjoy telling the story of what happened when they first saw each other in Columbus in summer 1963. Curtis says he was smitten the moment he laid eyes on her. For Phyllis, it wasn't quite that way.

"I was playing basketball outdoors at an elementary school, and I saw Phyllis just as I was getting ready to dunk," Curtis said. "I was really impressed at the sight of her because she presented herself in a neat, attractive way. I was so distracted I missed the dunk.

"I couldn't keep my mind on basketball after that, so I decided to follow her home from a respectable distance. She lived on East Livingston Avenue, and after she went into her house and closed the door, I knocked and introduced myself. She slammed the door in my face.

"She lived on the east side of town, and I lived on the west side, so I had an awfully long walk home. I was feeling what the old *Wide World of Sports* introduction called 'the agony of defeat.'"

"I just didn't know him then," Phyllis said. "Fortunately, he didn't give up on me."

A few months later, Curtis felt the other half of the *Wide World* phrase – "the thrill of victory" – after the two were



Curtis and Phyllis Mathews were married on Aug. 24, 1968 at Columbus Holy Rosary Church.

properly introduced.

"We met at a social gathering, and I remembered who he was," Phyllis said. "He was nice and polite, handsome, very mannerly, and you could tell he had good home training. I met his family, and they were beautiful people, so we started dating."

Curtis graduated from Central High School and Phyllis Anderson from Bishop Hartley High School in 1964. Curtis then went to Central State University in



Phyllis and Curtis Mathews, parishioners at Columbus St. Dominic Church, are celebrating their 55th wedding anniversary this year.

Photos courtesy Mathews family

Wilberforce, where he received a degree in product management in 1968, while Phyllis worked in a clerical position for Nationwide Insurance. The couple were married on Aug. 24, 1968 at Columbus Holy Rosary Church.

"We can't remember who the priest for the ceremony was," Phyllis said. "He was a last-minute replacement for the one we were supposed to have."

After college, Curtis got a job at the former Western Electric plant on Columbus' east side. Phyllis left the work force to care for the couple's two sons, Roderic, now 53, and Casey, now 50. The couple, both 77, have one grandson and one granddaughter.

Curtis stayed at Western Electric for about four years and was in charge of a department that produced relays for telephone circuits.

"I was successful there and was moving up the management ladder quickly and realized I had the ability to work well with people and form them into a team," he said. "I also knew that companies were anxious to hire Black people with that type of skill and that what I studied in college made me well-qualified for a position in human resources (HR)."

He left Western Electric to become assistant HR director at the former Warren-Teed Pharmaceuticals plant in Columbus and said he learned quickly there that his instincts were correct. After a year or two, he was promoted to the same position at the Philadelphia plant of Warren-Teed's parent company, Rohm and Haas, which is mainly known for making chemicals and got out of the pharmaceuticals business and sold the Columbus plant in 1977.

He stayed in Philadelphia for several years, then went to Rohm and Haas' Louisville, Kentucky plant for a year or two and returned to Philadelphia as HR director of the company's research division, the position he held when he left the firm in 1997 after more than 20 years

with the company.

"I felt I'd done all the jobs I wanted to do at Rohm and Haas and thought the insurance business was another area where my skills would be useful," he said. Cigna, a Philadelphia-based insurance company, hired him as assistant vice president for human relations in 1997, and he stayed in that position for 10 years until retiring in 2007.

"I reported yearly to the company board on all aspects of our hiring, from clerical jobs to managers to high-ranking executives," he said.

"I knew one reason I was appointed to the job was that the company wanted to hire more minorities and thought my influence would help, but I brought people of all types to Cigna because I felt they would be the best choice for the company regardless of any other factor.

"We wanted to make sure we were on the cutting edge of hiring the best people. My attitude was 'Don't tell me who we need to hire. I want the people who will be most effective in strengthening the company.'"

After retirement, Curtis served as an HR consultant for companies for several years. In 2014, after about 40 years away from their hometown, the couple made perhaps their most significant change by moving back to Columbus.

"My wife brought me back here," Curtis said. "We always felt close to Columbus because this is where our families were."

The couple had lived in Philadelphia's New Jersey suburbs while Curtis commuted. "Phyllis didn't really want to move (from Columbus)," he said, "so I promised her that when I retired, we'd go back to Columbus, and she didn't forget that promise.

"Probably the most difficult time in our marriage was when we first moved to New Jersey," he said. "Our home was supposed to be ready about a week after we came to Philadelphia, but it ended up that we had to stay in a motel for three or four months until it was finished.

"Both the boys got pretty sick, so we had to find a doctor. Our parents weren't nearby, so out of necessity, we depended on each other."

"It was just the two of us and our boys for so many years, so we had to get to know each other well and to share and discuss just about everything," Phyllis said.

"We saved each other," Curtis said.

See **TEAM**, Page 17



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Couple: Faith, communication, family bonds vital to marriage

By Hannah Heil
Catholic Times Reporter

“Where’s my medal?” Carlos Vázquez asked.

He and his wife, Magaly Borrero-Vázquez, laughed as Carlos joked that he deserves a medal after 30 years of marriage. The couple will celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary later this year.

While they know that the real medal – eternal life with Christ – is awaiting them in heaven, and their vocation to marriage is a staircase to that reward, they also recognize the trials and joys that come with living a vocation.

Carlos and Magaly married on Dec. 26, 1993 in Puerto Rico. They are both native to the island and met in college while studying civil engineering.

Five days after their wedding, the couple relocated to Ohio, as they planned to begin graduate school at Ohio State University. There, Magaly earned a master’s degree in city and regional planning.

The couple said that attending Mass together while they were dating was instrumental in discerning whether they were called to marry each other.

“Going to church was part of my life, so even when we were dating, we would go to church together,” Magaly said.

Thirty years later, the Catholic faith continues to be the foundation of the couple’s marriage. Magaly and Carlos, who were both raised Catholic, attribute their strong faith to their families.

“I come from a family that has huge faith,” Magaly said. “Like everybody else in life, we face challenges.

“I think that (faith) has been helpful in a marriage because you always push through, you always talk things out. We are very direct people. We are not the type of people that bury things under the rug. We talk it out.

“It’s the hope that always carries us through, and even when things are challenging, not just talking it out (together), but talking to family members, my sister in particular, who has big faith, (and) the people that you surround yourself with.”

Magaly and her two sisters were raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico, while Carlos came from a family of five children and grew up in the countryside.

Carlos said, like Magaly, he came from “a very Catholic family,” and he considers his faith-filled upbringing “positive” for his marriage.

Magaly and Carlos are parishioners at Columbus St. Cecilia Church, and they are the parents of three sons: Alex, 28; Danny, 22; and Jonathan, 20. The couple said that surrounding themselves with other Catholic families and remaining close to their families of origin is instrumental in a marriage.

“Someone said that you’re the average of the five people that you spend the most time with, and that is true,” Magaly said. “It’s being surrounded by other families that you see them pushing through things.

“It’s important that you surround yourself with people that have similar values, that have similar beliefs. The ones that are closer to you are going to have an impact on your life.”

Although they are many miles from Puerto Rico, Carlos said, he wants the couple’s sons to remain close to their extended family.

“Our kids growing up were not as close to their aunts and uncles and grandparents as we were when we grew up, but it makes us try to do better in terms of communicating that to them – that family is important,” he said.

“We travel to the island every few years to see family, see the grandmas and all my brothers and sisters, and we’ve tried to instill that in them. We encourage them to go by themselves as they grow into adults because they need to keep the family connection.”

Magaly, a benefits and payroll manager, and Carlos, a structural engineer, also seek for their home, as a domestic church, to be a reflection of the unconditional love of God. Just as Jesus desires that all of His people come to Him as they are, Carlos and Magaly remind their sons that they, too, are always welcome at the couple’s domestic church.

“You are accepted just the way you are,” Magaly said she told her sons. “We could get mad at you for whatever, but you will be forgiven, and this will always be a place for you to be safe.

“I would hope that it’s a similarity (to the Church) because we are all accepted. We are all children of Christ, and that’s something I don’t want any of my children to ever be afraid to share a troubling experience because they’re afraid of how they’re going to be perceived or how it is going to be taken.”

Magaly said the couple is close to families at their church and other families, who they consider “extended family.” They seek support from like-minded Catholic families and their family members “even in challenging times, because raising kids is challenging.”

“And sometimes, Carlos and I, we were kind of not in agreement, but the core values – what is our goal” – provide a firm foundation for their marriage.

Integrity, sincerity and honesty, Magaly said, are values that the couple live by in their marriage. They also value good communication, being of service to the other and being vulnerable with each other.

“I believe totally being vulnerable and saying what I mean, not hide my feelings,” she said.

Prior to getting married, the couple attended a premarital retreat in Puerto Rico, which, they said, profoundly shaped their marriage and continues to do so.

“I found that I still remember a lot of the things that we discussed,” Carlos said. “It was an all-day event, ... and they talk about everything, and I still remember those things even though it was more than 30 years ago.”

Magaly encourages dating couples to have difficult conversations before they



Carlos and Magaly Borrero-Vázquez were married in 1993.



Carlos and Magaly Borrero-Vázquez with their sons. Photos courtesy Borrero-Vázquez family

get to the altar.

“Make sure that you talk about the serious stuff,” she said. “Talk about finances, talk about how many kids, talk about how are we going to divide this, how are we going to do this. It’s important not to think that things are going to solve themselves.

“So, we had those real conversations, and I think that is important because when you’re raising kids, it’s not all flowers and roses, and life gets hard, and it gets in the way, but it’s having that foundation and that extended family that can help you, pull you through.”

Magaly and Carlos said it is important

to recognize that spouses can love each other in different ways. It is also important to understand how a spouse loves the other, or their love language.

“Carlos is not one to say, ‘I love you,; I love you,; I love you,’ but I will tell you that I wake up, and he’ll have my cup of coffee ready without me even asking for it. So, he finds ways to say, ‘I love you,’ in his way.”

Carlos agreed that he and Magaly love each other in different ways, but good communication and shared values have helped to sort through differences.

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New seminarians diverse, but all heeding God's call

By Hannah Heil
Catholic Times Reporter

There are differences among the 16 men who began studying for the priesthood in the Diocese of Columbus this fall.

They come from parishes across the diocese and have a variety of backgrounds: Some were in the medical field, others studied engineering or business, and some planned to be teachers.

They all had different plans, but when it came to studying for the priesthood, the men said they entered seminary after receiving a call.

"This is something that the Lord has had on my heart for a while, and so, I'm excited to start this next step," said Ray Duffy, a parishioner at Columbus St. Catharine Church who is studying

for the priesthood at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Cincinnati, where half of the diocese's newcomers will begin formation this year as changes in the vocational structure are implemented by the Church.

"It's one of those situations where I don't know what's at the top of the staircase, but I know the next step the Lord has called me to, and so, I'm excited to step onto that staircase."

Duffy graduated from Saint Vincent College in western Pennsylvania with a degree in history and planned to work in secondary education, but he discerned instead that he was being called to the seminary. He said he had a desire for the priesthood that "didn't go away."

Consistency in prayer and hearing the voice of God the Father, Duffy said, helped him to discern that seminary is

where the Lord wanted him to be.

Jacob Wilson, a parishioner at Gahanna St. Matthew Church, said he first heard the Lord's call to the priesthood while in elementary school. Years later, Wilson began seminary studies at Mount St. Mary's this fall.

"I was about 8 years old when I first heard the call and actually ended up discerning that this was the call for me right out of high school, but I ended up finishing a business degree, and now, after college, going into pre-theology, it seems like the best way to go about things, and I was following the Lord's call through it all," he said.

Wilson graduated from Southern New Hampshire University. He is looking forward to being one of the first seminarians in recent years to study for the priesthood outside of the diocese in Cincinnati.

"Going to Mount St. Mary's is going to be a really cool experience because the diocese hasn't done it in a long time, so I think it'll be new and exciting," he said. "God is definitely working in these 16 young men. It's going to be good to build brotherhood and start a new thing."

"It's a good idea to have seminary in different places. You're able to see different cultures and not spend seminary eight years in one place. You can break it up into different pieces. I think it's a good thing. I think it's a healthy thing, and I'm excited to get started on it."

Nicholas Arnold, a parishioner at Granville St. Edward the Confessor Church, is also studying at Mount St. Mary's this year. He said a call to the priesthood had been on his heart, too.

"There's just some kind of depth I'm looking for that's more than a career," he said. "A lot of my engineering goals were more like, I'm going to get a nice job, nice house, nice car and then everything that comes with that, and I think I was looking for more of that solace with the Lord."

"I realize I'm probably only going to get that or get on that direction if I start out for the priesthood, and that's been the call on my heart for a while."

Arnold graduated from Ohio State University with an engineering degree. He realized while preparing for an interview, he said, that God was not calling him into engineering.

"It was a two-year process, in terms of (going) back and forth, and I was applying to jobs. I think what really did it, I was prepping for an interview I had, and it occurred to me that what I actually wanted was only going to be found in the seminary."

Nick Love, who is a parishioner at Dennison Immaculate Conception Church, is studying at the Pontifical College Josephinum. He said he is looking forward to beginning studies for the priesthood.

"I am very excited, a little nervous be-

cause I delayed answering the call," Love said. "I'm 24 right now. ... First, I had the call in high school and said I wasn't sure if it was for me, then went to college and then went into blue-collar work, did that for a couple of years."

"About a year ago, I finally made the decision to answer God's call and enter. ... I can finally feel a sense of relief over me making this decision, so I'm ready to get started."

Love said he heard the Lord's call by strengthening his prayer life.

"The more I did not answer God's call the more I felt myself falling away from the Church. As I progressed in my career and what I was doing, always, in the back of mind, the priesthood was still there and never really went away, especially when I deepened my prayer life. That calling came back real strong, and I knew I had to go this route."

Now that he is in seminary, Love said, his desire for his first year is to be "enveloped" in prayer and "not just go through the motions," but to "actually be consumed, and all the distractions, just gone."

Absalom Hall, a parishioner at Portsmouth Holy Redeemer Church, began his studies at the Josephinum this year. He is a convert to the Catholic faith and said he came into the Church 10 years ago.

Prior to entering seminary, Hall spent 12 years working with children and adolescents in the mental health field. He said he felt called to step away from that to "more deeply" serve God and His people.

Spending quiet time with the Lord and listening to His voice, Hall said, helped him to discern a calling to the priesthood.

"It was a long process, but I think taking part in Eucharistic Adoration every week helped," he said.

Chad Walton, who is a parishioner at Lancaster St. Bernadette Church, will also be studying at the Josephinum this year. He said he first took an interest in the priesthood after becoming an altar server at his parish.

"I started altar serving last year – August, September – and I just fell in love with it," he said. "Everything that you don't see at Mass, I saw, and it really opened my eyes."

"Everything the priest says quietly, dead silent, you don't hear it, and to this day, I still can't hear most of it, but just the small things he says very quickly, the actions he does at the altar, you don't see that, and it shows how reverent it truly is."

Walton is one of seven children and attended Fisher Catholic High School in Lancaster. He spent a year and a half studying nursing at Capital University and then worked as an MRI safety tech-

See SEMINARIANS, Page 19



SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

PONTIFICAL COLLEGE JOSEPHINUM
7625 NORTH HIGH STREET

Event parking provided at Crosswoods Center I office park located at 100 Crosswoods Blvd. Jessing Center parking may be used by those with small children, or mobility challenges.

Packet pickup: 7:30am

Start time: 9am

Swag: All participants receive bread and a bottle of wine, or bread and a jar of Trappist Monastery jam.

Family rate: Save \$5 per person when registering at least 3 participants at one time.

Priestly formation changing for larger seminary class

By Hannah Heil
Catholic Times Reporter

With many prayers offered for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, it appears the Lord has answered His faithful people's pleas.

This academic year, 16 men in the Diocese of Columbus began studies for the priesthood at two seminaries. The number is one of the highest in recent years.

Father William Hahn, the diocesan vicar for clergy, believes prayer is a reason for the significant increase.

"People are praying a lot more after Real Presence Real Future," he said. "I think, the Church in Columbus, we had a sense of the importance and the need for priests, and I think, this last year, there's been an intensification of prayer for vocations. I think the Lord is responding to that – a cry for new priests.

"The priests themselves are doing a lot more promotion in their parishes, too."

Father Hahn also credits the current seminarians from the diocese for the positive effect they have had on young men discerning the priesthood, especially the new class.

"There's such a good, strong group of seminarians," he said. "It's a really healthy environment right now, and guys that are really on fire and also very open to the other guys coming in."

Evangelization and vocations are two of Bishop Earl Fernandes' priorities, Father Hahn said, and he suspects young



Father William Hahn serves as the diocese's vocations director. *CT photo*

men are responding to the bishop's leadership and focus on the two initiatives.

For the 16 men who entered seminary this fall, their formation will be different from years past.

The Church recently restructured the formation of seminarians into four stages: propaedeutic (preliminary instruction), discipleship, configuration and vocational synthesis.

Church guidelines call for an additional 12-36 months at the beginning of seminary, known as the propaedeutic stage, Father Hahn said, which is a new way of

preparing men.

"Every man going into seminary will be starting in this propaedeutic stage, which is more like a time of prayer, living in community, easing them into seminary, not real heavy academics, but because of that, what that does is adds one to three more years onto the process," he said.

"After three years, they have to have reached the formation goals and benchmarks. So, basically, at each stage now, there's human and spiritual benchmarks. So, in the propaedeutic stage, that might be, does he have the ability to live with others in way that's not confrontational?"

The second stage, discipleship, corresponds academically with the college program, so men will study for their philosophy degrees. By this point, a man is actively building up the community.

Father Hahn said the formation stages are "different from before when it was academics drilled in. Now, it's more about what's the human and spiritual maturity."

"So, a man could finish all of his philosophy work, have everything done but not have met those benchmarks, and he won't move on in the process until he does."

After meeting the benchmarks for the discipleship stage, which lasts two to five years, seminarians will proceed to the third stage of formation.

"The third one's configuration, so

that's configured to Jesus Christ, the leader and priest, so that's leadership, virtues, and that's usually when they're studying theology at that point."

Vocational synthesis, the final stage, is when a seminarian has completed his studies and all of the benchmarks and demonstrates the virtues of a leader.

"Now, they'll be ordained a deacon and then be put into a parish for six months, called the synthesis stage, and it's easing them into the priesthood," Father Hahn said. "So, they're not yet fully priests, but they're a father figure in the parish, and then, after six months, they'll be ordained a priest."

With the change to the vocational synthesis stage, Father Hahn said, men will no longer complete a pastoral year, which is a year spent assisting at a parish between the second and third year of theology.

The change with the vocational synthesis stage will not happen immediately, Father Hahn said, as it will likely be another year or two.

"These next few years we're going to be slowly implementing it," he said.

The change in formation led to additional changes this year.

For the first time in more than a decade, the diocese sent half of the new class of seminarians to study at Mount St. Mary's Seminary & School of Theology in Cincinnati.

See FORMATION, Page 20

For Such a Time as This 2023 Gala Dinner

LANCASTER September 14th

COLUMBUS September 21st



Lancaster Gala - The Tree Church

With Special Guest Melissa Ohden

Abortion Survivor

Author of "You Carried Me: A Daughter's Memoir"



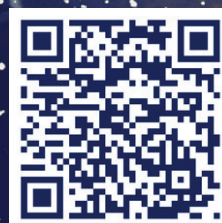
Columbus Gala - Villa Milano

With Special Guest Scott Klusendorf

President of Life Training Institute

Author of "The Case for Life"

"...and who knows whether you have not come
to the Kingdom for such a time as this?"
Esther 4:14



Pregnancy Decision
Health Centers

SupportLifePDHC.org

Doors open at 6:30pm
Dinner and Program at 7:00pm

Sister makes perpetual vows at Mass celebrated by Bishop Fernandes

Sunday, Aug. 13, was a day of great rejoicing for the Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus. Sister Caeles Grace María, a native of Tucson, Arizona, professed her perpetual vows during a solemn Mass celebrated by Bishop Earl Fernandes in Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Oratory in Steubenville.

Sister is assigned to the order's Columbus community. She was accompanied at the Mass by all the Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus assigned to the United States as well as her parents, Scott and Dynse Wilson, her two siblings and extended family and friends.

During the Holy Mass of Religious Profession, her vows were received by Mother Visitación de María, the local superior in Steubenville and delegate for Mother María Marta Simón, superior general of the Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus.

Sister Caeles Grace María processed into the oratory with a small, lighted oil lamp, as is traditional in the order, recalling the Gospel parable of the virgins who await the Bridegroom and expressing the desire to remain faithful to the gift of consecration forever, with the oil of fidelity burning brightly.

After being called by name by the mother superior, being examined by the

bishop and having invoked all the saints in the Litany of the Saints, Sister Caeles Grace María pronounced the formula of profession, expressing her desire to be totally consecrated to the Heart of Jesus.

Through the vows of chastity, poverty and obedience, she offered herself to God forever, as a response to His Love and to make His Heart known to the world through a life of adoration, reparation and apostolic love.

After sister signed the formula upon the altar, the bishop extended his hands in the prayer of consecration of the professed and subsequently placed the ring on sister's hand in the name of Christ, saying: "Receive this ring as a bride of the eternal King; keep unstained your fidelity to your Bridegroom so that you may come to the wedding feast of eternal joy." (Rite of Celebration of the Perpetual Profession)

The perpetual profession for the religious is the grace given by God of entering into an eternal covenant of spousal love and union with Him, making the religious a Bride of Christ in a bond that truly is perpetual, beginning on earth and lasting for eternity.

"I am grateful to the mercy of God and the guidance of Our Lady as well as everyone whom the Lord has placed along

my path to persevere until now and reach this point," Sister Caeles Grace María said. "I ask for prayers that, through His faithfulness and mercy, I may continue to persevere until death."

Sister will return to Columbus to help with the order's growing monthly D.O.Y.M.A.R. Prayer Movement for girls and young women. She will also serve at St. Paul the Apostle.

The Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus, which is based in Madrid, Spain, was founded by Mother María de Jesus. It is made up of approximately 600 professed sisters and has spread to 10 countries. Its first U.S. community was established in Steubenville in 2011.

In October 2022, the sisters opened a second Ohio community, in the Diocese of Columbus, residing at St. Therese Retreat Center and serving Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church and School. In union with Mary, the sisters are contemplatives and missionaries of the love of God revealed in the Heart of Jesus.

Sister Caeles Grace María met the sisters as a student during a vocations panel at Franciscan University of Steubenville. During her sophomore year at the university, she began to live with the sisters as a candidate and further discern her vocation.

"I started to visit the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament and pray the rosary more and more," she said. "When I arrived at Franciscan University, I began to go to daily Mass. With the help of the saints, the Catholic community that surrounded me and the joyful testimony of the sisters I saw on campus, the Lord, through His grace, opened my eyes and my heart to the beauty of consecrated life.

"Soon I discovered that He was calling me to give myself completely to Him through a total consecration in union with Mary."

Sister Caeles Grace María entered the order on Jan. 1, 2014, in what was then the closed Steubenville St. Pius X Catholic Church, adjacent to the rectory that was being rented by the sisters. She was the second postulant to enter the new Marian Fountain of Living Faith Novitiate in Steubenville, the sisters' American novitiate.

After their two initial years of prenovitiate, the two sisters traveled to Spain to



Sister Caeles Grace María kneels before Bishop Earl Fernandes during a Mass at which she professed her perpetual vows to the Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus order.

Photo courtesy Daughters of Holy Mary

continue their preparation for religious consecration in the order's international novitiate in Madrid, joining 16 other novices from seven novitiates.

On Aug. 28, 2017, Sister Caeles Grace María made her first religious profession in Madrid at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, the chapel at the order's motherhouse. She was assigned to the Spanish novitiate as an auxiliary sister for initial formation for the following two years before returning to the United States to form part of the community in Steubenville and, as of October 2022, in Columbus.

Having finished the years of temporal profession of the religious vows, she was admitted to profess her perpetual vows in Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Oratory in Steubenville, the former St. Pius the X Church, now reopened and dedicated to the order's patroness.

For more information about the Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus or their apostolate, visit their website, hsmcj.org, or contact them at (614) 986-7007.

Two Dominican sisters profess first vows

Two women made their first profession of vows as members of the Dominican Sisters of Peace on Sunday, Aug. 27 at the congregation's motherhouse in Columbus. They are Sister Cathy Buchanan, OP, who is from New Jersey, and Sister Tram Bui, OP, a native of Vietnam.

For the next three to six years, they will seek to deepen their Dominican apostolic lives by continuing to study and

to reflect on what they have learned and experienced during the stages of candidacy and the novitiate.

The study program for those in temporary profession is designed according to the needs of the individual. Workshops, articles and books on a variety of topics might be considered for study.

See SISTERS, Page 20



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KUBIK FINE BOOKS

Action needed to ease global food crisis

By Erin Cordle

The global food system is in crisis, putting millions of vulnerable people at risk of malnutrition. Communities across the world are now experiencing life-threatening levels of hunger on an unprecedented scale.

The situation is worsened by conflict, climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic, which have exacerbated existing flaws and fragilities in the global food system. Also, food inflation has put people under tremendous strain, and supply chain interruptions continue to slow humanitarian operations and disrupt local and regional markets. The impact of this crisis could last for months or even years.

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and their global partners are providing immediate conflict-sensitive responses to the ongoing global food crisis alongside activities designed to address the underlying causes of food insecurity, enhance social cohesion and improve community resilience.

The number of people facing crisis or worse levels of food insecurity has risen by 35% since 2021 and is now affecting 258 million people across 58 countries and territories. This means that, at best, families are depleting essential livelihood assets or taking on desperate coping strategies.

Every day, people must answer questions of survival: Do I leave home to find work and food? Do I skip meals so my children can eat? Do I trust a stranger

for help?

Areas of urgent concern include east Africa and the Sahel, a semiarid region in western and north-central Africa extending from Senegal eastward to Sudan. East Africa – particularly Somalia – is enduring the worst drought in 40 years, leading to severe hunger and malnutrition. In the Sahel, the crisis has also led to worsening conflict and mass displacement.

The Famine Early Warning Systems Network predicts that by December, Yemen, Nigeria, Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sudan will have the greatest number of people in need of humanitarian food assistance in Africa.

CRS is working with 579 local partners across the world to respond to immediate needs and strengthen resilience. They recognize the urgent need to prevent famine and the devastation of livelihoods and to prioritize localized cooperative approaches that enhance social cohesion and a community's ability to respond to future crises. They design their priority efforts so that:

- People have sufficient, equitable access to quality, nutritious food and enough nutrition for their bodies to absorb the food they eat.
- From producer to consumer, global and local food systems – including crop and livestock production, food processing, transportation, functioning markets and security – enable sustainable access to nutritious food.

CRS is investing strategic funds in efforts that focus on underlying causes of

the food crisis, including:

- Rehabilitation of landscapes and adaptation to climate change in fragile environments.
- Market systems that ensure families can access the nutrition they need.
- Data systems that provide accurate and timely information needed to deliver food, track markets and identify vulnerable communities.

The global food crisis has demonstrated how interconnected our food and market systems are. When one part of the system breaks down, the whole is no longer healthy. A war in one region of the world might result in starvation in another.

CRS recognizes that transformational change starts with a healthy local market system. This includes healthy landscapes in which food and livelihoods can flourish; proactive programming that prepares communities for crisis; safe, affordable and equitable access to food; and healthy bodies that can absorb the food they eat.

When one of these components collapses, the foundation of people's stability and well-being fractures, placing communities at even greater risk.

Shifting the paradigm starts with investing in local food systems to address the root causes at their source. With more sustainable farming practices, farmers can restore their land to produce more food, which in turn increases their income and allows their families to grow healthy and strong. (Resource: www.crs.org/stories/global-emergency-update-july-2023)

In the United States, CRS is advancing legislative priorities to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of international food assistance. With investment in local farmers and their land and markets, conservation and livelihoods can be transformed and reverse the trend of global hunger and food crises, with nourished land and lives.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, Catholic Charities USA and CRS have worked closely to support policies in the 2023 Farm Bill in the U.S. Congress that support rural communities and family farms; strengthen and expand domestic anti-hunger programs; promote conservation and good stewardship of the land; ensure safe living and working conditions for farmworkers; promote fairness for farmers in developing countries; and provide food security aid efficiently and effectively to hungry people worldwide.

Consider advocating on behalf of the Farm Bill by going to: <https://www.voter-voice.net/USCCB/Campaigns/106852/Respond>. For additional information about the impact of the Farm Bill, go to: www.crs.org/sites/default/files/send_ahead_farm_bill.pdf.

Prayerfully consider supporting CRS' efforts to transform the current (and future) global food crises at <https://support.crs.org/donate>. If you have questions or need additional information, contact Erin Cordle, associate director, Office for Social Concerns of the Columbus diocese, at socmailbox@columbus-catholic.org.

TEAM, continued from Page 10

"With no one you know that's close to you, you have to pull together. That's what we did, and it made us a real team."

"While I was raising the children, we did travel a lot, and we made plenty of friends everywhere, but in the end, everything came down to the two of us and being able to work toward the same goals," Phyllis said.

"Unlike Phyllis, I'm not a cradle Catholic," Curtis said. "I grew up going to Mount Olivet Baptist Church in Columbus. But for years, I felt like I was Catholic because of her and because we raised our sons in the Catholic faith."

"When we got back to Columbus, Phyllis started going to St. Dominic Church, and I began thinking, 'Phyllis and our sons are Catholic, so are the grandkids and the rest of her family. Everyone else is Catholic, so why not me?' I started taking RCIA classes and became a Catholic about six years ago."

"I joined the Gospel choir at St. Dominic's, and one reason was because it's a form of payback to Central State. I received a scholarship to be in the choir there 60 years ago, and that money enabled me to get an education that al-

lowed me to get my start and to come all this way.

"If there's any secret to our marriage, it's that we've always been able to talk with each other and to know the other person would listen," he said. "Having that trust in each other means that we don't need to have a lot of other people around. We've always been content to talk and spend time together, and I'd tell any young couple that's what makes a marriage work."

"I feel tremendously blessed having come from what used to be called 'the Bottoms' (now known by its original name of Franklinton), to marry the woman I love, to have the kind of career I've had, and to see our sons graduate from college, our grandson in college and our granddaughter going there next year," Curtis said.

"But we both know Phyllis and I are not the ones responsible for this. It wouldn't have happened without the assistance of a lot of other people, and most importantly without the help of a higher power who has given us gifts we have tried to put to use and helped us be satisfied with what we have."

MARRIAGE, continued from Page 11

"One of the biggest things that I have learned through all these years is the importance of communication, of talking out things," Carlos said. "(Magaly's) very open, and she wants to give you a message, so you have to be open as well."

"For me, sometimes it's not that easy. I'm not a very talkative person, but you have to learn, you have to adapt to whatever challenges come day in and day out. So, having a good strong foundation of values, it's very important that you use that as your guide as you go through your life, as you go through your marriage."

Carlos also seeks to determine what is most important in his marriage and invest his energy there, while letting go of negative emotions.

"I have learned to put things into perspective," he said. "Sometimes we would have differences on things, but at the end of the day, you realize that it's not worth it for others. It's not worth you being mad or being in a bad mood. You kind of change the perspective and realize that it's not important, whatever it is."

Carlos encouraged couples discerning marriage to remember that they are not only making a decision to marry, but their deci-

sion extends long after their wedding day, as spouses must continue to choose each other.

"As Magaly says, marriage is not just about two people, it's about starting a family as well, so you need to be very conscious of what you're getting into, and you need to consider all aspects of it. You also need to be open to change."

"You need to work to keep it, and I think that's also very important. It's not just a decision to get married. Once you make that decision, once you commit, you have to make sure that you work to keep that marriage."

Magaly agreed that marriage requires work, but the rewards that come from working to grow a marriage outweigh the difficulties.

"While we talk about it's challenging, it's difficult, when it's with the person that you love, it's worth it. It really is. I can't imagine myself being with anybody else, even if Carlos drives me crazy and I don't agree with him sometimes."

"It's challenging, but it's fun if it's with the right person, if you tackle it, if you work on yourself, put work in it, put work in the family unit. ... If you work through the hard times, it is very fulfilling."

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Receive, practice, share the Word

Ezekiel 33:7-9
Psalms 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9
Romans 13:8-10
Matthew 18:15-20

As we seek to live the Gospel, we find obstacles that stand in the way of our practicing what we have learned. Sin is certainly an obvious example of such a roadblock. More subtle experiences, however, can keep us from doing what we have been charged to do.

God has a way of teaching that enables us to discover these realities when we open our hearts to listen for His voice.

Ezekiel received his call as a prophet in exile, far from Judah. He is charged with revealing to the people of God how they are responsible for their plight, having failed to put God first and be pure in their worship.

He is also appointed as a “watchman,” one who observes and teaches others how to get back on track. God gives him the wisdom to see a more interior way of living. Wrongdoing is put in check by telling the people of their failures and by pointing out the way to return to God.

The challenge of the watchman is that those who are corrected fail to listen and might persecute the one who points out their wrongdoing. Here, God teaches the prophet that he is to speak the Word entrusted to him without worrying about the consequence.

Often, Ezekiel is given a charge to be a witness and live in accord with the Word as a sign to the people. We can see the parallel with the proclamation of the Gospel in our own day.

The first step in being a bearer and a proclaimer of the Word of God is to hear it. “If today you hear his voice, harden

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Father Timothy Hayes
Rev. Timothy M. Hayes is the pastor of Granville St. Edward the Confessor Church.



not your hearts.” We must receive the Word and put it into practice. That witness will bring the Word into the world. When we respond to the prophetic call addressed to us, we can be confident that God is at work among us.

Jesus teaches His disciples that the Word that comes from God is meant to form a community. Each unique person has a role and a responsibility. But the life that Jesus offers is not intended to be lived alone.

We must share what we hear and what we experience in our relationship with God, and we must discover how to cooperate with each other in making room for the Word that has been spoken to us. The invitation to be united is not an invitation for us to create our own maps and plans, but rather to discern together how to move forward in God’s revealed plan.

When obstacles occur in our relationships with one another, we must find a way forward, step by step, beginning again at the beginning if our efforts fail. To treat others as Gentiles or tax collectors is not meant to be an exclusion, but rather a call to remember that Gentiles and tax collectors were among those who first responded to Jesus’ invitation to the Kingdom.

Having repaired our relationships or having made the choice to begin anew, we discover that a power to change the world exists. Jesus speaks emphatically

narios that evoke even greater depths of emotion. We react toward others with emotions unchecked and uncensored.

Wisdom, which we find in the Book of Sirach, is the source for a better way of understanding. Attending to the effects of emotions within our own hearts and among those around us, we can see that certain approaches to these natural human experiences are not helpful.

“Wrath and anger are hateful things, yet the sinner hugs them tight. ... Could anyone nourish anger against another and expect healing from the Lord? Could anyone refuse mercy to another like himself, can he seek pardon for his own sins? If one who is but flesh cherishes wrath, who will forgive his sins?”

Sirach offers a way to respond to emotions that emphasizes our relationship to the world and to God: “Remember your last days, set enmity aside; remember death and decay, and cease from

THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

9/11-9/16
MONDAY
 Colossians 1:24-2:3
 Psalm 62:6-7,9
 Luke 6:6-11

TUESDAY
 Colossians 2:6-15
 Psalm 145:1-2,8-11
 Luke 6:12-19

WEDNESDAY
 Colossians 3:1-11
 Psalm 145:2-3,10-13
 Luke 6:20-26

THURSDAY
 Numbers 21:4b-9
 Psalm 78:1b-2,34-38
 Philippians 2:6-11
 John 3:13-17

FRIDAY
 1 Timothy 1:1-2,12-14
 Psalm 16:1-2,5,7-8,11
 John 19:25-27 or
 Luke 2:33-35

SATURDAY
 1 Timothy 1:15-17
 Psalm 113:1-7
 Luke 6:43-49

9/18-9/23
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
 Ephesians 4:1-7,11-13
 Psalm 19:2-5
 Matthew 9:9-13

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

SATURDAY
 1 Timothy 6:13-16
 Psalm 100:1-5
 Luke 8:4-15

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION

Mass Schedule: Weeks of Sept. 10 and Sept. 17, 2023

SUNDAY MASS

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

10:30 a.m. Mass from Portsmouth St. Mary Church on St. Gabriel Radio (FM 88.3), Portsmouth.

Mass with the Passionist Fathers at 7:30 a.m. on WWHO-TV (the CW), Channel 53, Columbus and 10:30 a.m. on WHIZ-TV, Channel 18, Zanesville. Mass from St. Francis de Sales Seminary, Milwaukee, at 10 a.m. on WWHO-TV. Check local cable system for cable channel listing.

Mass from Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, Birmingham, Ala., at 8 a.m. on EWTN (Spectrum Channel 385, Insight Channel 382, or Breezeline Channel 378).

(Encores at noon, 7 p.m., and midnight).

Mass from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee at 6:30 a.m. on ION TV (AT&T U-verse Channel 195, Dish Network Channel 250, or DirecTV Channel 305).

Mass from Massillon St. Mary Church at 10:30 a.m. on WILB radio (AM 1060, FM 94.5 and 89.5), Canton, heard in Tuscarawas, Holmes, and Coshocton counties.

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, Ada, Logan, Millersburg, Murray City, Washington C.H.; Channel 125, Marion, Newark, Newcomerstown and New Philadelphia; Channel 207, Zanesville); 8 p.m., St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com.

12:05 p.m. weekdays, 8 a.m. Saturdays, Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com and diocesan website, www.columbuscatholic.org. (Saturdays on radio only).

Videos of Masses are available at any time on the internet at these and many other parish websites: Mattingly Settlement St. Mary (www.stannstmary.org); Columbus St. Patrick (www.stpatrickcolumbus.org); Delaware St. Mary (www.delawarestmary.org); Sunbury St. John Neumann (www.saintjohnsunbury.org); and Columbus Immaculate Conception (www.iccols.org). Check your parish website for additional information.

WE PRAY THE SEASONAL PROPSERS FOR WEEKS III AND IV OF THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

about how minds and hearts can bring about the presence of the Kingdom on earth.

“Amen, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again, amen, I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in

the midst of them.”

When we face obstacles that come from the world or in the relationships we have with each other, we ought not to lose hope. We owe a debt of love, and, as St. Paul reminds us, “The commandments ... are summed up in this saying, namely, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ Love does no evil to the neighbor; hence, love is the fulfillment of the law.”

Have you ever received God’s mercy? Then pass it on

Sirach 27:30-28:7
Psalms 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12
Romans 14:7-9
Matthew 18:21-35

We are all conscious of limits. Something in our spirits longs for the removal of those limitations that we feel are placed on us from the outside. Freedom is the cry of our hearts. We often perceive others as standing in our way.

It is clear from the Scriptures that God is aware of our limits. He intends to move us by His power beyond where we are.

Human emotions are powerful. We experience them as overpowering, and we can, at times, give vent to them as if they control us. Anger and wrath are the result of having emotions stirred up and of wallowing in them.

We allow our imagination to take the energy of the emotions and create sce-

sin! Think of the commandments, hate not your neighbor; remember the Most High’s covenant, and overlook faults.”

Realizing our limits – all of us are destined to die – and remembering the mercy God has shown us, we are free to make a choice about how we respond. “The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.”

Peter and Andrew were volatile in their relationship with each other. We can see this both in Scripture and in the history of the Church East and West down to the present day. Their companions James and John were known as “sons of thunder.”

So, as we can well imagine, Peter’s question to the Lord is not abstract. It is rooted in his experience of the limitations of his brother and their companions. “Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?”

Jesus responds with the same wisdom that is present in Sirach. Forgiveness from the heart frees us from the power of unrestrained emotions. The human experience of limitation is given a new direction through the power of forgiveness. We can bring heaven to earth by the choice to forgive.

We discover through forgiving “seventy-seven times” that there is a power greater than our emotions. Instead of stirring up and wallowing in emotion, we are set free by the act of forgiveness that becomes a new habit of being.

The parable of the unforgiving steward is lived out when we fall into the temptation to hold others to account when we have been forgiven and shown mercy in the face of our own faults. God will use our own way of measuring unless we strive to learn His way.

See **MERCY**, Page 19

CATHOLIC WORD SEARCH

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K	O	Z	E	M	S	T	A	R	K	Q	H	M	R	D
I	M	P	B	B	B	X	V	O	M	I	C	H	A	L
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KING
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NATHAN

PHILISTINES
PSALMS
SAUL
SOLOMON
STAR

MERCY, continued from Page 18

The Christian is invited to bring God's mercy into the world now, not just to expect it at the end of time. We have the capacity to change the world

by growing in our understanding of human nature and by allowing God's Spirit to flow through us as we pass on the mercy we have received.

ST. ANDREW'S HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Do you have special crafts or art work you would like to sell for the 2023 holiday season? If so, tables and booth spaces are available for:

1899 McCoy Rd. 43220
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For further information contact Judy McCombs at **614-446-4812** (leave message) or: judyzumba09@gmail.com

Words of Wisdom

by Pat Battaglia, aka Dr. Fun

Draw a path from letter to letter to spell the words given in capital letters that completes the wisdom statement. Move one square at a time, up, down, right, left or diagonally until all letters are used once. Ignore any black squares.

An upright man is never ...

	W	O	L	
N	D	U	A	I
R	R	A	H	F
E	I	G	T	

A DOWNRIGHT FAILURE

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SEMINARIANS, continued from Page 14

nician at Nationwide Children's Hospital.

Walton said he believes his nursing courses equipped him well for the priesthood.

"I started to recognize what I was doing with my major, taking care of people, couldn't be possibly better suited in looking to my vocation to the priesthood," he said.

Walton lived at St. Bernadette's rectory for three days a week assisting Father Tyron Tomson, the pastor. He said he is looking forward to growing in prayer while studying at the Josephinum.

"It's a good opportunity to get closer to God in prayer, which is something that not a lot of people get the opportunity to do, so I'm very excited about that."

ACCOUNTANT | DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

The Catholic Diocese of Columbus is seeking a full-time accountant for its finance office downtown.

Under the direct supervision of the assistant controller, the accountant works closely with the assistant controller to ensure financial records are accurate and up to date; provides accounting support for diocesan offices and agencies as well as parishes and schools when required; performs various duties in the area of cash disbursements and cash receipts, payroll, and related functions; records accounting transactions; performs account analysis; and recognizes the value of financial data in planning and operational control.

A Bachelor of Science degree in accounting and a minimum of five years' accounting experience is required. Candidate must have proficient knowledge of financial systems and accounting practices, comply with BCI&I background checks, complete the Protecting God's Children program and adhere to Catholic Church teachings regardless of religious affiliation.

If you are interested in learning more and would like to submit a resume for review with a cover letter and references, email Anne Streitenberger, director of human resources, at amstreitenberger@columbuscatholic.org or apply online at www.columbuscatholic.org/jobs.

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PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

BEITER, Gregory, 49, July 23

Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Lancaster

BLACKWELL, Bonnie L. (Bates), 100, Aug. 11

St. Joseph Church, Plain City

BURTON, Margaret "Peggy" (Creasap), 82, Aug. 16

Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

BUTLER, Georgann (Porras), 84, Aug. 20

St. Joseph Church, Circleville

CAMPBELL, Gregory, 75, Aug. 19

Our Lady of Peace Church, Columbus

DORSEY, Michael, 80, Aug. 14

Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

ECKARDT, Robert C., 89, Aug. 9

St. Leo the Great Oratory, Columbus

FINNERAN, Rosemary C. (Crumley), 87, Aug. 17

St. Brendan Church, Hilliard

FLOM, Mary J. (Johnson), 89, Aug. 23

Sacred Heart Church, Columbus

GRIMES, Marie E. (Newlon), 79, Aug. 14

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

HOTHAM, James M., 73, Aug. 12

Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

IGEL, Jeanie, 88, Aug. 13

St. Brendan Church, Hilliard

KAGOAN, Deborah L. (Anderson), 76, Aug. 26

Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

KEEFE, Thomas M., 89, Aug. 17

St. Paul Church, Westerville

LANG, Karen Rose, 82, Aug. 18

St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

LEUKART, Thomas J., 87, Aug. 20

Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

LIEGL, Alberta "Birdie" (Goetz), 99, Aug. 15

St. Joseph Church, Dover

LORENZ, Linda, 74, Aug. 16

Sacred Heart Church, Coshocton

METZGER, Patricia (Gaudreau), 82, Aug. 14

Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

MILANO, Angela (Ciotola), 85, Aug. 24

Our Lady of Victory Church, Columbus

MORAN, Jane M. (Schweiteman), 64, of Grandview Heights, Aug. 17

St. Henry Church, St. Henry

NEUDER, Jill R., 76, Aug. 28

St. Colman of Cloyne Church, Washington Court House

PEQUIGNOT, Matthew J., 54, Aug. 11

St. Paul Church, Westerville

PODERIS, Kastytis, 86, Aug. 29

St. John Neumann Church, Sunbury

POPLIS, Paul S., 78, Aug. 12

St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

RAKO, Daniel P., 80, Aug. 25

Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

RAUCH, Linda R., 67, Aug. 24

St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

RICHCREEK, Ellsworth, 85, Aug. 21

Sacred Heart Church, Coshocton

SCHOPFER, Petronilla "Pat" (Smith), 96, Aug. 23

Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Glenmont

STALICA, Norbert R., 88, Aug. 21

St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

STURTZ, Betty, 80, Aug. 15

Sacred Heart Church, Coshocton

TUTHILL, Mary L. (Bauman), 65, Aug. 17

St. Leo the Great Oratory, Columbus

Sister Mauryeen O'Brien, OP

Funeral Mass for Sister Mauryeen O'Brien, OP, 92, who died Tuesday, Aug. 22, was celebrated Wednesday, Sept. 6 at the Motherhouse of the Dominican Sisters of Peace. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was born on Dec. 23, 1930, in Flushing, New York to Leo and Aline (Kehoe) O'Brien.

She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in education in 1960 from St. Mary of the Springs College (now Ohio Dominican University) and a Master of Arts degree in English in 1966 from the University of Notre Dame.

She entered the congregation of the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs (now the Dominican Sisters of Peace) in 1949 and professed her vows on July 9, 1951.

In the Diocese of Columbus, she was a teacher at Coshocton Sacred Heart

School (1954-1955), a teacher and principal at Columbus St. Gabriel School (1961-1965), an administrator at Columbus Our Lady of Peace School (1979-1985) and apostolic works promoter at the St. Mary of the Springs Convent in Columbus (1974-1979).

She also taught or was principal at schools in Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania and the Diocese of Steubenville.

From 1987 until her retirement in 2020, she served in the Archdiocese of Hartford, Connecticut in divorce and bereavement ministries and as a retreat director. She retired to a life of prayer and service in the Motherhouse in 2020 and became a resident of the Mohun Health Care Center earlier this year.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and brothers Father Eugene O'Brien, SJ, and Brian.

FORMATION, continued from Page 15

"We realized it probably wouldn't be healthy for guys to be seven to nine years in the same institution," Father Hahn said.

Bishop Fernandes was involved with Mount St. Mary's Seminary, which was formerly known as the Athenaeum, during his time in Cincinnati. The bishop previously served as the seminary's academic dean, and he currently serves on the board of the Josephinum.

Father Hahn said Bishop Fernandes is well-connected with both seminaries and comfortable sending men to either institution.

"The new model is that anybody coming into seminary without an undergraduate degree will work on that at the Josephinum, so they get their philosophy degree. Then, they'll go down to Mount St. Mary's for the theology.

"Anybody coming into the seminary already with an undergraduate degree will start at Mount St. Mary's, do their philosophy work and propaedeutic and then come back to the Josephinum for theology."

Father Hahn said he believes the change will benefit the Columbus diocese's future priests.

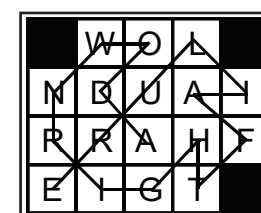
"It's healthy to have two different per-

spectives. It enriches the whole experience of their academic formation."

While Father Hahn believes the change is beneficial, seminarians also voiced their desire to remain in community while studying at separate institutions.

"One worry among the guys was they really enjoy being all together at the Josephinum, so they're worried about the community of the seminarians by having half of them in one place, half at the other," he said. "So, they're already trying to work through ways they can get together during the year."

Father Hahn said the diocese will continue sending men to Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, Massachusetts, which is for men who are studying for the priesthood at an older age. Deacon Jason Fox, a seminarian from the diocese, is finishing his final year at the seminary.



WORDS OF WISDOM SOLUTION

SISTERS, continued from Page 16

If the women discern at the end of this period that they are called to be Dominican sisters, they will make a permanent profession of vows.

Three other women were accepted into the Dominican novitiate on Wednesday, Aug. 2. They are Shingai Chigwedere, a native of Zambia, Paula Danforth of Vermont and North Carolinian Terri Schell.

As novices, they will spend one year mainly in prayer and reflection and a second year in community ministry to deepen their spirituality and their understanding of the vows and mission of the congregation.

Because of pandemic constraints, entrance ceremonies for Sister Tram and Sister Cathy took place via Zoom. Both entered the novitiate in 2021.

The three new novices conducted much of their early discernment via phone, email and video chat. As the world opened up post-pandemic, each

was welcomed as a candidate to the congregation.

A grant from The Catholic Foundation helped the congregation use technology to reach out to discerners interested in gathering for support, prayer sessions and retreats via computer.

"We never could have guessed that we would spend nearly 12 months conducting vocational discernment via a television set," said congregation member Sister Bea Tiboldi, OP. "But God's timing is perfect – and even with travel restrictions caused by COVID, we were able to continue God's work and bring new sisters to the congregation."

The sisters said they are grateful for the prayers of many including the Serra Clubs of Columbus, and the support of the foundation for allowing these women to continue their discernment through a stressful period.

New Ohio Stadium announcer is DeSales staff member

By Tim Puet

For The Catholic Times

When Ohio Stadium's new public address announcer takes the microphone for the Ohio State Buckeyes' Sept. 9 home football opener against Youngstown State, it will be the first time he has performed that role in more than 20 years.

"I've had plenty of broadcast experience, but being a PA voice is something I haven't done for a while, so I'm a little nervous about this job, especially with having an in-house audience of more than 100,000 people," Tom Snyder said.

Snyder, 46, director of digital communications at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School, was hired in late August to be the person who lets the stadium crowd know the key players involved in each play of a game and makes informational and promotional announcements during breaks. He replaces Bob Kennedy, who was at the stadium microphone for 20 years until his death in May at age 59.

A release from Ohio State University said more than 100 people applied for the job when it was posted, and Snyder was one of seven finalists.

"We came to the stadium one night in early August and were shown a YouTube video of last year's Ohio State-Notre

Dame game," Snyder said. "Each of the finalists was asked to provide the call for seven or eight plays. I figured I was a long shot because the others had more experience than I did, including some who have done NFL games.

"Being around all those veterans actually had a calming effect on me when it became my turn to audition. I thought I did well, but it still was a pleasant surprise when I was informed a couple weeks later that I had the job."

Snyder was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and is a graduate of Westerville South High School, where he had his most recent experience as a football PA announcer from 1999 to 2001. He also handled boys and girls basketball games.

He has many connections to DeSales besides his current position there. His father is a 1968 graduate of the school who moved back to central Ohio in 1987. He also has two uncles, an aunt and several cousins who are DeSales alumni.

Snyder received a degree in journalism in 2005 from Otterbein University. "It took a few years longer than normal to obtain a college diploma because I was balancing a job as billing coordinator at Mount Carmel Hospital with going to school part-time," he said.

After his college graduation, he moved

to California, where he took a radio job that included broadcasting high school football games. In spring 2006, he did PA work for some UCLA baseball games and continued in that role for the next seven years for UCLA and Long Beach State at various times and for the 2010 and 2011 Dodgertown Classic college tournaments at Dodger Stadium.

"By far the most experience I've had in public address work is in doing baseball rather than football," he said.

From 2008 to 2013, he split his time between the Midwest and the West Coast, spending the late winter and spring in California working college baseball games and the rest of the year in Columbus doing medical billing for a pediatrics office. "I was very fortunate," he said. "I found somewhere that was willing to employ me for half a year and allow me to take the other half off."

During that period, DeSales began broadcasting its home and away football games live online at www.pouring-purple.com, with Snyder handling the play-by-play, which he will continue to do on Friday nights in addition to his Ohio State duties. He also has been an occasional PA voice for DeSales boys and girls basketball.

"After a few years of going back and forth across the country, I felt I want-



Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School director of digital communications Tom Snyder was named in August the new public address announcer for Ohio State University football games in Ohio Stadium.

Photo courtesy DeSales High School

ed to settle down and do other things," Snyder said, so he left California and became a full-time central Ohio resident. He was hired at DeSales in 2013 to work



See ANNOUNCER, Page 23

Healing Mass

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CONNECTING CATHOLIC WOMEN

The St. Martha Giving Circle is dedicated to bringing Catholic women together to raise awareness and create real-world impact for organizations in the diocese of Columbus.

Join The Marthas for an informational gathering on September 28 at 5:00pm at The Catholic Foundation.

Please contact Annie Pfanner with inquiries or to RSVP: apfanner@catholic-foundation.org or 614-443-8893



Learn more

Pickleball event draws crowd to Our Lady of Peace

Columbus Our Lady of Peace Church in the Beechwood/Clintonville neighborhood hosted a pickleball mixer on Friday, Aug. 18 that attracted almost 50 tournament participants plus numerous volunteers and spectators.

“My staff is always thinking of new and different ways to evangelize,” said Father Sean Dooley, church pastor. “They asked if we could do a pickleball mixer, and I thought it sounded like a great idea.”

The event was advertised to the Clintonville community using social media and other outlets.

“We try to host events that are welcoming to our entire community,” Father Dooley said. “Our staff had a long discussion recently about how, when we pray in the petitions for the ‘people of our parish,’ we are actually praying for everyone within our parish boundaries, Catholic or not, parishioner or not. We’re always looking for ways to not only pray for them but invite them in.”

Parish school alumnus Joe Cockerell attended with his food cart, Mangiamo Handmade Street Food, along with Taylor Graffeo, founder of GLORY Pickleball, a pickleball products and appar-



Close to 50 people turned out for a pickleball mixer at Columbus Our Lady of Peace Church.

el company based in Columbus. Parish staff member Kyle Davis provided DJ service and facilitated the tournament.

Volunteers, including six students from Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, were recruited by event team member Katy Ryan Paolini. Many local businesses provided gift cards and prizes for the winners, who included runners-up Dan Zuccarelli and Sam Davis and champions Marty Hicks and Jeri O’Donnell.

“I’m always encouraging my staff – and they’re always encouraging me – to think outside the box when it comes to reaching people we might not currently be reaching,” Father Dooley said. “We have a lot of other plans and ideas for letting people know that they’re wel-

come at Our Lady of Peace.

“For example, our director of evangelization, Anthony Rosselli, has recruited nearly 50 parishioners to handwrite postcards to every single household in our parish boundaries, just to say ‘hello’ and to let them know we’re here.

“We also have a pet blessing in October and a Christmas tree lighting and Nativity blessing in December, both of which we advertise to the Clintonville community. We see quite a few people from the neighborhood at those events.

“And, of course, the neighborhood favorite is our Fall Fest, which will take place on Oct. 13 and 14 this year. Our membership has really grown over the past few years, and I’m sure these events have something to do with that.”



Columbus Our Lady of Peace pickleball champions are Marty Hicks (left) and Jeri O’Donnell. Photo courtesy Our Lady of Peace Church



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ODU students attend opening Mass



New and returning students at Ohio Dominican University attended a special Mass welcoming them back to campus on Sunday, Aug. 20 in Christ the King Chapel. The Mass included a special blessing for members of the football team as they begin their season. Fall classes at the university started Monday, Aug. 14. Photo courtesy Ohio Dominican University

Bottoms Up marks 5 years of providing diapers to families in need

When Tim and Jo Welsh founded Bottoms Up Diaper Bank, they envisioned helping families living below the poverty line meet the essential need of diapers for their babies. And, what started out as a charitable gesture has grown into one of the larger organizations of its kind in the country.

Since its founding in August 2018, Bottoms Up has distributed more than 4 million diapers for those in need by working with community partners – food pantries, child-care facilities, domestic abuse shelters and pregnancy centers. The organization delivers diapers to more than 85 community partners in 20 counties, covering approximately a quarter of Ohio.

To Jo Welsh, it doesn't feel like the growth will stop. "Tim built the organization to be able to withstand growth,

but I don't even think he thought it would grow as rapidly as it has. I remember when we were delivering 3,000 diapers a month, and I thought we wouldn't be able to keep up with the need. Today, depending on the month, we deliver between 80,000 and 100,000 per month to our partners. I still scratch my head."

Need drives the growth. With more families living below the poverty line in Ohio, Bottoms Up's community partners are seeing more people needing diapers. One out of two families experience diaper need, a condition defined as not being able to afford enough diapers to keep a baby clean, dry and healthy.

"The effects of diaper need are staggering," Tim Welsh said. "Diaper rash, urinary tract infections, emotional and psychological stress on other members of the family, and the impact on the fam-

ily budget when the child needs additional, avoidable health care are all real scenarios. And they are all serious.

"The need is well defined, easily understood and solvable. The only thing standing in the way of impact is funding."

Working together as a couple has had its challenges, but, overall, Jo and Tim have grown closer because of their work. They believe that the Holy Spirit guides them, and they rely on their faith to help those in need. It's been a good complimentary partnership, partly due to their 45 years of marriage.

"We've been through a lot in 45 years, and this is just another chapter for us," Jo said. "I've never worked with Tim before, but we both understand our distinct roles. He's the accelerator, and I'm the brake."

In May 2024, Bottoms Up aims to collect more than 1 million donated diapers in 30 days during an event that Tim created three years ago called The World's Largest Diaper Drive. The event has been wildly successful each of its first three years, and the expectation is that it will continue to grow.

Still, sometimes Jo wonders what's next. When asked about the future of Bottoms Up, she just smiles.

"Let me put it this way: Tim isn't able to think in small numbers."

For more information, or to get involved, go to www.bottomsup.life or email Jo Welsh at jo@bottomsup.life. Bottoms Up is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

ANNOUNCER, continued from Page 21

in its enrollment and alumni offices and has been at the school since then.

"I'm blessed to be at DeSales, and the atmosphere of faith that's part of every day at the school has become very important to me," Snyder said. "It's infectious. When I go with the football team to Masses or Eucharistic Adoration at school, it's a great opportunity to give thanks for all my blessings."

Those blessings include his wife of two years, Amanda, and their year-old daughter, Evelyn. "My life has been sort of backloaded," he said.

"I was older than most men when they get married. Going back and forth across the country for so many years had a lot to do with it. That was not the kind of life for a family man."

He said the couple "mainly attend

(Columbus) St. Elizabeth Church and sometimes go to one of the other Catholic churches in north Columbus because there are several from which to choose."

Snyder said in late August that as the football season was getting closer, he was familiarizing himself with the rosters of the Buckeyes' six home opponents for this season and learning name

pronunciations. "I'm a huge Ohio State fan, so I already knew the Buckeyes' names," he said.

"I'm concerned about getting everything right at Ohio State, for I know if I make a mistake, the fans will let me know in a hurry. But I'm more excited than nervous. It's certainly a dream job for anyone who is a voice professional."



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An extreme amendment is on the Ohio ballot in November that threatens the health and safety of women, the rights of parents and the lives of pre-born babies up to 9 months.

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Join us in praying a 54-Day Rosary Novena beginning Friday, Sept. 15, for the defeat of this amendment.

Sign up for a daily email reminder with novena prayers here, or at pray54ohio.org.

