

# The CATHOLIC TIMES

THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS' INFORMATION SOURCE

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**RESPECT LIFE MONTH**

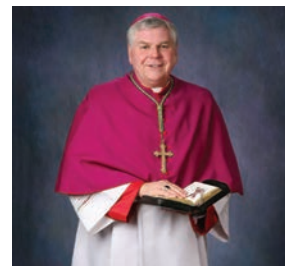
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### DIOCESE OF STEUBENVILLE

Bishop Paul J. Bradley, a Pittsburgh native who recently retired as bishop of the Diocese of Kalamazoo, Michigan, was named apostolic administrator for the Diocese of Steubenville last week by the Holy See, Page 3

## Administrator appointed for Steubenville diocese; Bishop Monforton returns to Detroit

Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton, who has shepherded the Diocese of Steubenville for the past 11 years, was named an auxiliary bishop in his native Archdiocese of Detroit on Thursday, Sept. 28, and retired Diocese of Kalamazoo Bishop Paul J. Bradley was appointed apostolic administrator in Steubenville, the Holy See announced.

Monforton, 60, was a priest in the Archdiocese of Detroit from 1994 to 2012 before his appointment as Steubenville's bishop. Bishop Bradley, 77, led the Diocese of Kalamazoo from 2009 until July 2023.

Bishop Earl K. Fernandes of the neighboring Diocese of Columbus extended his congratulations to Bishop Monforton and Bishop Bradley.

"Grateful for the ministry of Bishop Monforton and wishing him every blessing, I also look forward to working collaboratively with Bishop Bradley in building the Kingdom in the State of Ohio, offering my prayers for both Bishop Bradley and the people of Steubenville, during this period of transition," Bishop Fernandes said.

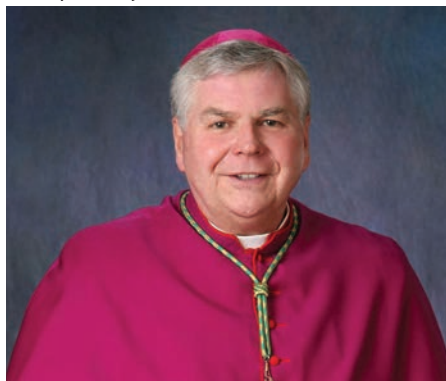
The Diocese of Steubenville was established in 1944 when 13 eastern Ohio counties covering 4,913 square miles were separated from the Diocese of Columbus. Steubenville's Catholic population of 28,339 is the smallest among Ohio's six dioceses and includes 51 parishes, three high schools, nine grade schools and Franciscan University of Steubenville.

"This appointment is bittersweet for me: my hometown is Detroit, and I look forward to 'going home' and to serve the faithful of Detroit under the leadership of Archbishop Allen Vigneron," Bishop Monforton said in a statement.

"At the same time, I have come to know and to love the good people of the Dio-



Bishop Jeffrey Monforton



Bishop Paul Bradley

cese of Steubenville, from Carroll County in the north to Lawrence County in the south. It has been my distinct pleasure and profound joy to serve the faithful in this Diocese for 11 years as their shepherd. The people of the Diocese of Steubenville will always remain in my prayers and have a special place in my heart. I kindly ask that you will pray for me."

Bishop Bradley comes to Steubenville

with some familiarity with the area. He is a Pittsburgh native who served as a priest and then as an auxiliary bishop for five years in the Diocese of Pittsburgh before he was chosen to lead the Diocese of Kalamazoo in 2009.

After reaching the mandatory retirement age of 75 for bishops in October 2020, Bishop Bradley continued to lead the Kalamazoo diocese until Bishop Edward Lohse was appointed and then installed there this past July.

"As Apostolic Administrator, my first responsibility will be to ensure that our Catholic faith remains strong and active during this time of transition," Bishop Bradley said. "I am here to make sure that the Church continues to be responsive to the spiritual and temporal needs of the people in these 13 counties.

"To be successful, it is essential for me to listen closely to you, the people I have been sent to serve; I intend to consult broadly with clergy, religious and lay leaders to learn about your concerns."

In Detroit, Bishop Monforton will serve under Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron. A Liturgy of Welcome and Inauguration of Ministry at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Detroit is scheduled for Nov. 7.

Bishop Monforton will join three other active auxiliary bishops in the Archdiocese of Detroit, which also has three retired auxiliary bishops and retired Cardinal Adam Maida in residence.

"On behalf of the clergy, religious, and faithful of the Archdiocese, I offer a heartfelt 'welcome home' to Bishop Monforton," Archbishop Vigneron said. "This is the local Church in which his priestly vocation was nurtured, and we are blessed to have him be with us once again to help lead our efforts to unleash the Gospel."



A reliquary with an arm of St. Jude  
Photo courtesy Apostle of the Impossible

## St. Jude relic to be displayed at 3 area sites

A relic of St. Jude the Apostle, known as the patron saint of hope and impossible causes, will be displayed at three sites in the Columbus area on three consecutive days.

The relic will be at Westerville St. Paul Church, 313 N. State St., on Monday, Oct. 30; the Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center, 64 W. Lane Ave., on Tuesday, Oct. 31; and the New Albany Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road, on Wednesday, Nov. 1. Veneration of the relic at all three places will be from 1 to 10 p.m.

The relic of the saint's arm, usually displayed at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, is on a tour of the United States that began in September and will continue through May 2024. It is displayed in a wooden reliquary shaped like an arm giving a blessing.

At all three sites, there will be a Mass at 7 p.m. and additional times of devotion throughout the day, with the sacrament of reconciliation available.

A plenary indulgence, which removes the temporal punishment due for sins, will be granted to anyone who venerates the relic and fulfills the conditions of sacramental confession and reception of the Eucharist within a reasonable period and prayers for the pope's intentions.

More information on the tour is available at [www.apostleoftheimpossible.com](http://www.apostleoftheimpossible.com).

## MONTH OF THE ROSARY

# Praying the rosary a pilgrimage of faith

By Father Paul Marich, OP

Many people who are devoted to the rosary like to pray it on the move. Whether the morning commute gives you time to get through a few decades (if not five), or if you're out for a walk on a nice autumn day while holding onto

your beads, the rosary lends itself to settling our minds and keeping us focused.

Yet it is not restricted to a church or a chapel. It can be prayed at home or in the car, in the morning or at night, alone or with a group. At its heart, the rosary is a prayer that is centered on Christ and the mysteries of His life, death and resurrection. Helping us grow in our love and de-

votion to Christ is His Mother Mary.

While the time, place and circumstances for praying the rosary might vary, it is also a prayer that is a pilgrimage of faith.

Catholics like to go on pilgrimages because it allows us to be in contact with

See **ROSARY**, Page 3



Front Page photo:

## RESPECT LIFE MONTH

October is Respect Life Month and this year's observance takes on added significance in Ohio with the November election approaching that includes a proposed abortion amendment that would enshrine abortion into the state's constitution.

CT photo by Ken Snow

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ROSARY, *continued from Page 2*

Father Paul Marich, OP, a parochial vicar at Columbus St. Patrick Church, is at the altar for the closing Mass of the Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage on Saturday, Sept. 30 in Washington, D.C.

*Photo courtesy of the Dominican Foundation*

the places where Jesus or the Apostles lived, such as the Holy Land or Rome, or for us to express our devotion in places where Our Lady appeared, such as Lourdes and Fatima.

A pilgrimage also reminds us of the journey of faith that we find ourselves on, as we go through the ups and downs of life, while keeping our eyes fixed on the glory that awaits in heaven.

The rosary allows us to do this through a set of beads and simple prayers. When we pray the rosary, we meditate on the mysteries of Christ, seeking to grow deeper in our knowledge and love of Him through these prayers.

Maybe we'll never go to the great shrines and churches in the Holy Land that are built over the sites of these mysteries, such as the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, or the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. But we can still enter into those mysteries when we meditate upon them in Our Lady's rosary.

Christ is never distant from Our Lady, and through her rosary, He is not distant from us, either, as we come to meet Him in the crib, in the Upper Room, on the cross and at the empty tomb.

As we move the beads with our fingers, from one end to the other, we also glimpse how life passes by. We count our lives in decades (God willing, our lives will be longer than five), but as we pass each bead on our rosaries, we see how life passes from infancy, to our education, family life and careers, to our eventually decline and death.

Is that all that life is about? What comes next? As people of faith, we know that eternal life comes next – life with Christ in heaven, and at the end of time, the resurrection of our bodies.

The rosary is a pilgrimage in our

hands, on our lips and in our hearts, to help us look to Jesus and Mary at whatever moment in life we might find ourselves. We go through this life, with our joys and sorrows, but it is not a journey that we follow in vain. Our eyes are fixed on Christ, Who also experienced joys and sorrows. Turning to Him, we see the glory that awaits us.

On Sept. 30, more than 3,000 people gathered at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., for the first Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage. Several friars from the Dominican Province of St. Joseph organized the event, which drew individuals as well as parish and school groups from throughout the country.

It was an incredible event, with conferences, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the sacrament of penance, a rosary procession to the various side chapels of the basilica and a solemn closing Mass.

Obviously, these are things that can be done in one's parish church. So why make the trip to Washington? People made the trip because we as Catholics are drawn to pilgrimages – we desire to see the holy sites, to pray at places that have been set aside in a special way for the Lord and to remember the journey that we are on.

The Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage did that for all those who participated. And for those who couldn't make it, but who remain devoted to Our Lady's rosary, there is a pilgrimage in our hands, one that takes decades – or perhaps 15 minutes of your day.

*Father Paul Marich, O.P., is a parochial vicar at Columbus St. Patrick Church. He is also the Promoter of the Holy Rosary for the Dominican Province of St. Joseph.*



## Catholic Diocese of Columbus

### DECREE OF SUPPRESSION

of the Parish of St. Peter & Paul Church, Glenmont, Ohio  
and Changing the Parish of St Peter Church, Millersburg, Ohio

Whereas, demographic changes in the general population and among the Catholic faithful of the neighborhood, including but not limited to decline in registered parishioners, decline in mass attendance, decline in offertory revenue, and the shortage of priests, have drastically affected the viability of the parishes in that region; and

Whereas, a plan has been carefully developed by the pastor of St. Peter & Paul and St. Peter parishes recommending the suppression of St. Peter & Paul Parish and the aggregation of the suppressed parish with the parish of St. Peter Church; and

Whereas, the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Columbus at a meeting held on September 28, 2023, reviewed the plan in detail and unanimously approved the proposal to suppress St. Peter & Paul Parish and to make changes to St. Peter Parish to join the territory, parishioners, assets and liabilities of St. Peter & Paul Parish to that of St. Peter Parish; and

Whereas, having heard the Presbyteral Council in accordance with Canon 515.2;

Therefore, I, Earl K. Fernandes, Bishop of Columbus, hereby decree the following:

1. The Parish of St. Peter & Paul, Glenmont, Ohio, is suppressed effective November 5, 2023;
2. Simultaneously with the suppression of St. Peter & Paul Parish, the territory, parishioners, property, assets and liabilities of this parish will be joined to those of St. Peter Parish by aggregation into a single juridic person, care of which is entrusted to the pastor of St. Peter Parish. The territorial jurisdiction of the parish will encompass the entirety of Holmes County.
3. The care of St. Peter & Paul Church and the other properties of the former St. Peter & Paul Parish, whether sacred or profane, will become the responsibility of St. Peter Parish, until further decisions are made and approved through the appropriate canonical processes regarding the disposition of these buildings and properties.
4. This decree shall be promulgated by publication in the *Catholic Times* and disseminated in the affected parishes via the parish bulletin and other means of communication as deemed appropriate by Pastor of the affected communities.

Given at the Chancery Office, 198 E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio this 28th day of September, 2023.

Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes  
Bishop of Columbus

*+ Earl K. Fernandes*

*[Signature]*

Notary



## Catholic Diocese of Columbus

### DECREE OF SUPPRESSION

of the Parish of St. Francis de Sales Church, Newcomerstown, Ohio and Changing the Parish of Sacred Heart Church, Coshocton, Ohio

Whereas, demographic changes in the general population and among the Catholic faithful of the neighborhood, including but not limited to decline in registered parishioners, decline in mass attendance, decline in offertory revenue, and the shortage of priests, have drastically affected the viability of the parishes in that region; and

Whereas, a plan has been carefully developed by the pastor of St. Francis de Sales and Sacred Heart parishes recommending the suppression of St. Francis de Sales Parish and the aggregation of the suppressed parish with the parish of Sacred Heart Church; and

Whereas, the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Columbus at a meeting held on September 28, 2023, reviewed the plan in detail and unanimously approved the proposal to suppress St. Francis de Sales Parish and to make changes to Sacred Heart Parish to join the territory, parishioners, assets and liabilities of St. Francis de Sales Parish to that of Sacred Heart Parish; and

Whereas, having heard the Presbyteral Council in accordance with Canon 515.2;

Therefore, I, Earl K. Fernandes, Bishop of Columbus, hereby decree the following:

1. The Parish of St. Francis de Sales, Newcomerstown, Ohio, is suppressed effective November 5, 2023;
2. Simultaneously with the suppression of St. Francis de Sales Parish, the territory, parishioners, property, assets and liabilities of this parish will be joined to those of Sacred Heart Parish by aggregation into a single juridic person, care of which is entrusted to the pastor of Sacred Heart Parish. The territorial jurisdiction of this parish will encompass the territory which by long-standing custom pertained to St. Francis de Sales and Sacred Heart parishes.
3. The care of St. Francis de Sales Church and the other properties of the former St. Francis de Sales Parish, whether sacred or profane, will become the responsibility of Sacred Heart Parish, until further decisions are made and approved through the appropriate canonical processes regarding the disposition of these buildings and properties.
4. This decree shall be promulgated by publication in the *Catholic Times* and disseminated in the affected parishes via the parish bulletin and other means of communication as deemed appropriate by Pastor of the affected communities.

Given at the Chancery Office, 198 E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio this 28th day of September, 2023.

Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes  
Bishop of Columbus

+ Earl K. Fernandes

Notary



## Catholic Diocese of Columbus

### DECREE OF SUPPRESSION

of the Parish of St. Mark Church, Lancaster, Ohio and Changing the Parish of the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Lancaster, Ohio

Whereas, demographic changes in the general population and among the Catholic faithful of the neighborhood, including but not limited to decline in registered parishioners, decline in mass attendance, decline in offertory revenue, and the shortage of priests, have drastically affected the viability of the parishes in that region; and

Whereas, a plan has been carefully developed by the pastor of St. Mark and St. Mary parishes recommending the suppression of St. Mark Parish and the aggregation of the suppressed parish with the parish of St. Mary Church; and

Whereas, the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Columbus at a meeting held on September 28, 2023, reviewed the plan in detail and unanimously approved the proposal to suppress St. Mark Parish and to make changes to St. Mary Parish to join the territory, parishioners, assets and liabilities of St. Mark Parish to that of St. Mary Parish; and

Whereas, having heard the Presbyteral Council in accordance with Canon 515.2;

Therefore, I, Earl K. Fernandes, Bishop of Columbus, hereby decree the following:

1. The Parish of St. Mark, Lancaster, Ohio, is suppressed effective April 30, 2024;
2. Simultaneously with the suppression of St. Mark Parish, the territory, parishioners, property, assets and liabilities of this parish will be joined to those of St. Mary Parish by aggregation into a single juridic person, care of which is entrusted to the pastor of St. Mary Parish. The territorial jurisdiction of this parish will encompass the territory which by long-standing custom pertained to St. Mary and St. Mark parishes.
3. The care of St. Mark Church and the other properties of the former St. Mark Parish, whether sacred or profane, will become the responsibility of St. Mary Parish, until further decisions are made and approved through the appropriate canonical processes regarding the disposition of these buildings and properties.
4. This decree shall be promulgated by publication in the *Catholic Times* and disseminated in the affected parishes via the parish bulletin and other means of communication as deemed appropriate by Pastor of the affected communities.

Given at the Chancery Office, 198 E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio this 28th day of September, 2023.

Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes  
Bishop of Columbus

+ Earl K. Fernandes

Notary



## Catholic Diocese of Columbus

### DECREE OF SUPPRESSION

of the Parish of St. Philip Church, Columbus, Ohio  
and Changing the Parish of Holy Spirit Church, Columbus, Ohio

Whereas, demographic changes in the general population and among the Catholic faithful of the neighborhood, including but not limited to decline in registered parishioners, decline in mass attendance, decline in offertory revenue, and the shortage of priests, have drastically affected the viability of the parishes in that region; and

Whereas, a plan has been carefully developed by the pastor of St. Philip and Holy Spirit parishes recommending the suppression of St. Philip Parish and the aggregation of the suppressed parish with the parish of Holy Spirit Church, Columbus; and

Whereas, the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Columbus at a meeting held on September 28, 2023, reviewed the plan in detail and unanimously approved the proposal to suppress St. Philip Parish and to make changes to Holy Spirit Parish to join the territory, parishioners, assets and liabilities of St. Philip Parish to that of Holy Spirit Parish; and

Whereas, having heard the Presbyteral Council in accordance with Canon 515.2;

Therefore, I, Earl K. Fernandes, Bishop of Columbus, hereby decree the following:

1. The Parish of St. Philip, Columbus, Ohio, is suppressed effective November 30, 2023;
2. Simultaneously with the suppression of St. Philip Parish, the territory, parishioners, property, assets and liabilities of this parish will be joined to those of Holy Spirit Parish by aggregation into a single juridic person, care of which is entrusted to the pastor of Holy Spirit Parish. The boundaries of the new parish are as follows:
  - a. Northern boundary: Conrail tracks from the junction of two lines just west of James Rd, east to Taylor Station Rd
  - b. Eastern boundary: Taylor Station Rd from Conrail tracks south to Broad St; then Broad St east to McNaughten Rd; McNaughten Rd south to Main St, Main St west to Big Walnut Creek; Big Walnut Creek south to Refugee Rd.
  - c. Southern boundary: Refugee Rd from Courtright Rd to Big Walnut Creek
  - d. Western boundary: Courtright Rd from Refugee Rd north to Livingston, east to Conrail tracks; northwest on Conrail tracks to the junction of two lines just west of James Rd.
3. The care of St. Philip Church and the other properties of the former St. Philip Parish, whether sacred or profane, will become the responsibility of Holy Spirit Parish, until further decisions are made and approved through the appropriate canonical processes regarding the disposition of these buildings and properties.
4. This decree shall be promulgated by publication in the *Catholic Times* and disseminated in the affected parishes via the parish bulletin and other means of communication as deemed appropriate by Pastor of the affected communities.

Given at the Chancery Office, 198 E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio this 28th day of September, 2023.

Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes  
Bishop of Columbus

+ Earl K. Fernandes

Notary



## Catholic Diocese of Columbus

### DECREE OF SUPPRESSION

of the Parish of St. Mary Church, Bremen, Ohio  
and the Parish of St. Joseph Church, Sugar Grove, Ohio  
and Changing the Parish of St. Bernadette, Lancaster, Ohio

Whereas, demographic changes in the general population and among the Catholic faithful of the neighborhood, including but not limited to decline in registered parishioners, decline in mass attendance, decline in offertory revenue, and the shortage of priests, have drastically affected the viability of the parishes in that region; and

Whereas, a plan has been carefully developed by the clergy and faithful of St. Bernadette Church, St. Mary Church, and St. Joseph Church recommending the suppression of St. Mary Parish and St. Joseph Parish and the aggregation of the suppressed parishes with the parish of St. Bernadette; and

Whereas, the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Columbus at a meeting held on September 28, 2023, reviewed the plan in detail and unanimously approved the proposal to suppress St. Mary Parish and St. Joseph Parish and to make changes to St. Bernadette Parish to join the territory, parishioners, assets and liabilities of St. Mary Parish and St. Joseph Parish to that of St. Bernadette Parish; and

Whereas, having heard the Presbyteral Council in accordance with Canon 515.2;

Therefore, I, Earl K. Fernandes, Bishop of Columbus, hereby decree the following

1. The Parish of St. Mary, Bremen and the Parish of St. Joseph, Sugar Grove, Ohio, are suppressed effective April 30, 2024;
2. Simultaneously with the suppression of St. Mary Parish and St. Joseph Parish, the territory, parishioners, property, assets and liabilities of these parishes will be joined to those of St. Bernadette Parish by aggregation into a single juridic person, care of which is entrusted to the pastor of St. Bernadette Parish. The territorial jurisdiction of this parish will encompass the territory which by longstanding custom pertained to St. Mary, St. Joseph, and St. Bernadette parishes.
3. The care of St. Mary Church and St. Joseph Church and the other properties of the former St. Mary Parish and St. Joseph Parish, whether sacred or profane, will become the responsibility of St. Bernadette Parish, until further decisions are made and approved through the appropriate canonical processes regarding the disposition of these buildings and properties.
4. This decree shall be promulgated by publication in the *Catholic Times* and disseminated in the affected parishes via the parish bulletin and other means of communication as deemed appropriate by Pastor of the affected communities.

Given at the Chancery Office, 198 E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio this 28th day of September, 2023.

Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes  
Bishop of Columbus

+ Earl K. Fernandes

Notary

# Birthright offers supplies, referrals to pregnant women

By Hannah Heil  
Catholic Times Reporter

When Louise Summerhill founded Birthright in Toronto in 1968, she wanted to be a friend to women facing unplanned crisis pregnancies. Birthright has since expanded throughout Canada, the United States and Africa, offering hope, support and resources to women in need.

Birthright of Columbus opened its doors in October 1972. The pregnancy resource center continues to honor Summerhill's wishes by befriending women in crisis pregnancy situations and offering support to new mothers in Columbus for 51 years.

"Louise's thought was, a woman struggling with an unwanted pregnancy, maybe she just needs a friend, someone she could talk to, someone who would help her find what she needed and be there for her," said Barb McMullen, the director of Birthright of Columbus.

"Louise firmly believed that it is the right of every woman to give birth and the right of every child to be born. Therefore, Louise named her new 'child' Birthright."

Birthright of Columbus celebrated its 51st anniversary with a luncheon on Sept. 23 at Mozart's cafe in Columbus' Clintonville neighborhood. McMullen shared the history of Birthright with volunteers, donors and friends who gathered to support Columbus' oldest pregnancy resource center.

"Birthright relies on you, our donors, to support us," McMullen said. "Birthright of Columbus does get some grant money. However, you are what keeps Birthright of Columbus' office open to any woman that needs a friend."

Birthright of Columbus is operated exclusively by volunteers, and it affiliates with Birthright International of Toronto. The pregnancy resource center is located in Columbus' west side in the Great Western Shopping Center.

"Although Louise was a Catholic, she never wanted anyone to be afraid to come to Birthright due to religious beliefs," McMullen said. Birthright services are confidential. "Louise did not want any woman to worry about what she told the Birthright volunteers."

The pregnancy center is nonpolitical and does not accept government money, McMullen said. Birthright is also non-medical. It does not offer ultrasound scans or have medical equipment.

Pat Day, a parishioner at Hilliard St. Brendan the Navigator Church, has volunteered at Birthright for 23 years. She was encouraged to volunteer by a fellow parishioner who volunteered there.

"It's very rewarding, very rewarding, and I just love it," she said.

Mothers will often come in and say, "My baby's 6 months old, and I need

some diapers, and do you have any clothes?" she said.

"I can see the happiness and the relief on a lot of the clients' faces. You know, anybody can come to the door and say, 'I need diapers for my baby.' We just want to be a friend to pregnant women and ask them what their needs are and if we could help them in any way, and that just gives me a lot of joy."

While Birthright was founded to be a friend to pregnant women, the center also serves mothers after they have given birth and need items for themselves and their baby. The center offers diapers, maternity clothes and other necessities.

Clothing for babies and young children is especially needed during winter, Day said. Birthright has provided mothers with infant-size snowsuits and winter jackets.

Day said many new mothers need cribs and car seats for their babies. Birthright offers referrals for equipment, such as car seats and portable cribs.

Volunteers can refer mothers to organizations such as Columbus Public Health, which has a program for mothers to get car seats and portable cribs, Day said, and CelebrateOne, an initiative of the city of Columbus.

Sandy Wilcox, a parishioner at Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona Church, has been a Birthright volunteer for 16 years. She recalled when she first learned about the pregnancy resource center.

"At Mass one Sunday, Msgr. (Frank) Lane was up talking about Birthright after his sermon, and as I was listening to him, I felt moved, but I felt a big smack on the back of my head," she said. "I thought somebody in the pew behind me had hit me. I turned around and nobody was there."

Wilcox continued to feel a "nudge" toward Birthright in the following weeks, but she did not think she could volunteer for many reasons. She visited Birthright's office, and, still feeling a call, completed volunteer training.

"Birthright has done many wonderful things for the clients that come in," she said. "When they come in, we sit down with them. We ask them questions about their life and ask them how they're doing, kind of sitting down with a friend, and then we ask them what they need, and then we supply some things to them."

"But most of all, we're there just to share, whether they're happy, whether they're sad, whether they're distressed, whether they need somebody else in their life. We're there for them continuously for up to two years as they raise their child; we just don't drop off."

"We say, 'We'll be here for you,' and then we keep up with contacting them to make sure – up until those two years – if they need anything, or if they don't need anything, or just follow up."

Wilcox said Birthright does many re-



Birthright of Columbus director Barb McMullen (left) holds baby Adam after his mother, Ana, shared her story at the group's annual luncheon on Sept. 23 at Mozart's cafe in Columbus. Photo courtesy Birthright of Columbus

fers and assists mothers "if they need clothing or furniture or housing, those kinds of things that a lot of times nobody thinks to ask."

Volunteers ask a client, "Do you have a bed for your baby?" she said. "We want you to have a bed,' and then we refer them to where they can get one."

Deena Poirier, a parishioner at Columbus St. Timothy Church, has been a Birthright volunteer for about five years. She was honored as the Birthright volunteer of the year.

"The Old Testament and the New Testament talk so much about how God's people need to react to the alien, and that God holds us responsible for how we take care of the alien, and at Birthright, we have the chance to do that," Poirier said. "It's such a privilege to carry out God's will in that way."

"Sometimes the language barrier is pretty steep, but we've never had a case where we couldn't figure out how to help."

Attending the luncheon was Ana, a new mother, who came to the U.S. last year from Venezuela. Ana contacted Birthright for help when she found out she was pregnant with her son, Adam.

Father David Schalk, the pastor of Columbus St. Peter and Powell St. Joan of Arc churches, translated for Ana, who speaks Spanish.

Ana said that she sent an email to Birthright and received a reply from McMullen, who scheduled an appointment for Ana at the office. McMullen was "moved by my story," Ana said, and helped her by providing diapers and maternity clothes.

After Adam was born, Birthright continued to assist Ana by providing clothing and necessities for him. McMullen also gave Ana information on "all of the different resources around the city," she said.

McMullen referred Ana to the Columbus Our Lady of Guadalupe Center and the Ohio Dominican Learning Center.

"She's continuing to receive help from Birthright," Father Schalk translated for Ana. "They're doing more than just helping Adam. They're also helping her find English as a Second Language classes."

McMullen and Ana communicate through a translation app on their phones. The two have become friends and continue to communicate regularly.

Ana said she desired to be a mother, but she found out 15 years ago that she would be unable to have children. She met her husband two years ago, and he thought that he found the "right woman," because he did not want children, she said.

Later, Ana visited her doctor when she suspected she had a medical problem. She was sent to a hospital for testing, and there she learned she was pregnant. Her husband became upset, she said, and began fighting with the hospital nurses.

Ana worried that her husband would leave her if she had the baby, but "she made up her mind right away that she was going to be a mother no matter what, that she was going to accept this child as God's will," Father Schalk translated for her.

"That's why she went to look for additional help because she needed that help, thinking that she was going to be by herself raising the child."

Ana said her husband accepted their son, but she fears that her spouse will leave her. Birthright continues assisting Ana and provides necessities for her and her son as they endure a challenging family situation.

Olivia Smith, 16, a student at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School, spoke about her experience helping women at Birthright.

Smith is a member of Boy Scouts of America, which opened to girls in 2019. She wanted to help pregnant women in the greater Columbus area for her Eagle project, which would earn her the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in Boy Scouts. Her mother asked if she had heard of Birthright.

Smith contacted McMullen and helped move Birthright from its previous Mound Street location to the Great Western Shopping Center. Smith and her Boy Scout troop helped plan and organize volunteers for the move, which, she said, took four months. Birthright moved into its new location on Dec. 28, 2022, the feast of the Holy Innocents.

Smith also hosted a donation drive for Birthright. Her friends, family and members of the Knights of Columbus council at her parish, Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church, donated baby clothing up to size 18 months; maternity clothing, including women's petite and plus size; and diapers. Smith delivered the donations and restocked Birthright's shelves.

# Website schedules adorers to pray for Issue 1 defeat

By Hannah Heil  
Catholic Times Reporter

When Issue 1 failed in Ohio's special election in August, Danielle White said she felt defeated. The issue was intended to protect Ohio's Constitution by requiring a supermajority vote to pass proposed amendments to the state constitution, such as an amendment to safeguard abortion in Ohio, which will be on the ballot on Nov. 7.

White worried that the proposed amendment could pass in November. So, she turned to God in prayer. White felt prompted to organize a 24/7 perpetual Adoration leading up to Election Day.

"In prayer, I really felt like the Lord was asking me to put together this initiative," she said. "Adoration has been so instrumental in my own life and in my own faith, and I just feel like we really, really need to be praying about this initiative."

"And so, this idea came to me of what if we could cover all the hours leading up to the election in prayer before Jesus in the Eucharist?"

White, an attorney who serves as general counsel for Heartbeat International, the most expansive network of pregnancy help centers in the world, and is a parishioner at Sunbury St. John Neumann Church, contacted the team at We Adore Him, a Eucharistic Adoration scheduling software.

We Adore Him works with Catholic parishes throughout the country to create Adoration scheduling websites. White shared her vision with the We Adore Him team, and the Pray for Life Ohio website was born.

"The idea is that people would just go to their own Adoration chapel, their own local chapel, and commit to praying about this initiative at some point in that hour that they sign up for," she said.

On the Pray For Life Ohio website, [www.PrayForLifeOhio.WeAdoreHim.com](http://www.PrayForLifeOhio.WeAdoreHim.com), individuals can sign up to spend an hour in Adoration and pray to defeat the amendment that is intended to safeguard abortion in Ohio. Every hour through Nov. 7 is listed on the website. Two slots

are available per hour.

"It's just committing to praying at some point in that hour that the Lord would help us to defeat this initiative," White said.

The website has two options: a one-time commitment or committing to a weekly Holy Hour.

"A lot of people already have regular Holy Hours that they do weekly, so if you have that, and you're willing to make this one of your intentions for your Holy Hour, you can sign up to do a weekly commitment."

"Or, for people who might not be doing that weekly, they can sign up one time for a one-time commitment."

The Pray for Life Ohio website is accessible worldwide, White said, so any person in any time zone can sign up on the website and commit to spending an hour adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

"If you have somebody who you know would like to pray for Ohio who doesn't live here, you could still send it their way," she said. "That could help us cover some of those overnight hours."

On the Adoration website, White also incorporated a link to sign up for the 54-day Rosary novena, or series of prayers, that Catholic bishops in Ohio are leading for the defeat of the amendment. White recommends that the faithful participate in the novena leading up to Election Day, too.

"I think it's awesome that all of our Ohio bishops have come together and encouraged the faithful to pray and given us a vehicle to pray," she said. "And so, I really would encourage people to join that."

"I think you could join even if you didn't join it yet, and you could pray it at your Holy Hour if you want to. I think that God really does hear our prayers when we join together and ask Him as a body of believers for something together."

White has served as general counsel for Heartbeat International since 2015. Heartbeat provides training, resources, networking and advocacy for locally owned and operated pregnancy resource centers. Approximately 3,000 pregnancy resource centers worldwide affiliate with Heartbeat International, White said.

Heartbeat also operates Option Line,

a 24/7 call center in English and Spanish, which communicates via call, text and online chat with more than 300,000 women a year experiencing crisis pregnancies and connects them to their local pregnancy resource center for help.

White said it is important that Ohioans pray to defeat the proposed amendment. Its language is intentionally deceptive, she said, and it would set Ohio back.

"It would be worse for Ohio than if Roe (the U.S. Supreme Court decision) hadn't been reversed because a constitutional amendment is very, very, very difficult to change, and it ties the court's hands. There's not a lot of things that they could do to protect women and the unborn under the amendment."

"(The amendment) talks about viability, for instance, that abortion will be permitted up until viability. Viability, a lot of people don't realize, is 22-24 weeks of pregnancy. That's almost six months of pregnancy. That baby is already 12 inches long and already has all of its major organs formed."

"And so, if the people of Ohio wanted to protect babies from abortion at 20 weeks, they wouldn't be able to under this amendment, and then, even after viability, an abortion can occur anytime, as long as one physician signs off."

"That physician can be the abortionist. So, there's no independent review. The person who stands to benefit financially from her obtaining an abortion can be the person who signs the paper saying that it's necessary."

It is important to talk about the issue, she said, even with "those closest to us, those we already have relationships with." Sharing the message can impact the election, White said. She believes if Ohioans understand the truth about the amendment and its implications, then people will reject it.

"Even if somebody believes that women should have the choice to end their pregnancies in that way, I think just the extreme nature of it, that it's completely unfettered access all the way up to six months of pregnancy, I think that that's uncomfortable."

"A lot of people are uncomfortable with that. Also, the fact that the only person who is going to have any oversight over an abortion all the way up to nine months is the abortionist – that's pretty serious conflict of interest. I think that even if you believe that abortion should be legal, this just isn't the way to do it."

White, who is a mother to five children and homeschools them in addition to working as an attorney, wants women to know that they can pursue their life goals as mothers.

"Women are so strong; women are amazing, and the things that we can do are just incredible, and so, it's just so incredibly disempowering, this notion that she has to end the life of her unborn child to pursue her dreams," she said.

"The reality is we see women achieve incredible things: in their education, in their career, in their personal pursuits with their children alongside of them, and she doesn't have to choose between her child and her career."

White, who is a graduate of Franciscan University and Ave Maria School of Law, had the opportunity to submit an amicus brief in the U.S. Supreme Court's *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* (2022) decision. The decision overturned the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* ruling that there is a right to privacy, which includes the right to an abortion.

An amicus brief, meaning "friend of the court," serves as a supplement to a court case. After the parties to the case submit their briefs, White said, individuals who have an interest in the case can submit briefings or legal arguments that they think the court should consider.

"Heartbeat submitted an amicus brief in the *Dobbs* case just telling the court that women aren't going to be left hopeless if they can't turn to abortion. And so, we told some of the stories of women who chose life and have had great success in their lives."

"But what was cool personally for me was, when that opportunity came out, I

See ADORERS, Page 13

## Masses, prayers set before abortion vote on Election Day

A number of parishes in the diocese will be offering special prayer services, rosaries, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Masses on or before Tuesday, Nov. 7, when Ohioans vote on a proposed amendment that would enshrine abortion in the state's constitution and potentially threaten parental rights.

The following is a list of scheduled events reported by parishes to *The Catholic Times* as of Friday, Sept. 29. The list will be updated in the next issue and online leading up to Election Day:

**Chillicothe St. Mary Church** – Radical Solidarity: Standing with Women AGAINST Issue 1 educational session sponsored by Ross Pike Right to Life, Sunday, Oct. 29, 1-3

p.m., Family Life Center. Speakers include Dr. Laura Wills, a pediatrician who will present Parental Rights in Light of Issue 1; Dr. Alicia Thompson, OB/GYN, who will discuss Why Abortion is not Women's Health Care; and a guest from Protect Women Ohio/Right to Life Action Coalition of Ohio.

**Columbus St. Catharine Church** – Mass for Life for the Women's Care Center and ahead of the upcoming election celebrated by Bishop Earl Fernandes, Thursday, Oct. 19, 5:30 p.m., with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, rosary and Benediction to follow.

**Columbus St. Patrick Church** – Month-long litany of all Dominican saints and blessed beginning Oct. 7 and concluding on Election Day, Nov. 7, which is the feast

of all Dominican saints, to be prayed after 11:45 a.m. daily Masses and the rosary. Twenty-four hours of Eucharistic Adoration begins Monday, Nov. 6 at 6:30 p.m. and extends through Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 7 (The Blessed Sacrament will be reposed during the 7 p.m. and 11:45 a.m. Masses.)

**Delaware St. Mary Church** – A 54-day rosary novena after Masses on Thursday, Nov. 2 at 5:30 p.m., Friday-Saturday, Nov. 3-4 at 9 a.m.; Election Day rosary on Tuesday, Nov. 7 after the 5:30 p.m. Mass; fasting encouraged every Friday through Nov. 7.

**Hilliard St. Brendan Church** – Conversation with Greater Columbus Right to Life president Beth Vanderkooi on the proposed abortion amendment, Sunday, Oct.

29, 7-8:30 p.m. in Davidson Road meeting rooms.

**Sunbury St. John Neumann Church** – Rosary rally, Saturday, Oct. 14 at 12:30 p.m. in Sunbury Square, Cherry Street; Wednesday Adoration hour, Oct. 25, 6:30 p.m. at the parish.

**Washington Court House St. Colman of Cloyne** – Holy Hour of Reparation for Protection of the Unborn on First Fridays/First Saturdays, Oct. 6 and Nov. 3, midnight; Holy Hour for Life on Saturdays through Nov. 4, 9:30 a.m.; 54-day novena prayer, 7 a.m. daily; Mass, Monday, Nov. 6, 7 p.m.

**Public rosary** – Saturday, Oct. 14, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m., Pickerington Village Gazebo, corner of West Columbus and Center streets, Pickerington.

# Don't sit this election out; every vote counts

By Beth Vanderkooi

As the executive director of Greater Columbus Right to Life, I am unreservedly pro-life, and if you have read this far, I am guessing you are as well.

Even if you are not, though, I'd like to invite you to keep reading. Because we might find some common ground here, and honestly – it is really important.

This year, Issue 1 will be on the Nov. 7 ballot. Voter registration is available through Oct. 10, and voting begins on Oct. 11. I'm asking you to join me – regardless of how you personally feel about abortion, in voting no by Nov. 7.

Issue 1 goes far beyond the issue of pro-life and pro-choice. It is a proposal to amend into Ohio's Constitution extreme and intentionally broad language regarding reproductive decision making. This would not only force Ohioans to accept taxpayer-funded abortion through all nine months of pregnancy, but it would also envelop anything that could eventually be deemed as falling under the umbrella term of "reproductive decision making." The amendment is self-executing, meaning that overnight it would wipe out basic guardrails that protect the health and safety of women, girls, and unborn children, and no level of government would have any ability to establish basic health and safety regulations unless the abortion industry itself determined that those regulations advanced the desired outcome of abortion.

Ohioans also need to understand that this amendment would gut current requirements that parents be involved before children are provided with procedures like abortion, sterilization, puberty blockers, and even radical sex change surgeries. Because the language of the amendment gives complete autonomy to "individuals" and those persons and entities "helping individuals," parents

## Religious sisters to speak at pro-life event

Greater Columbus Right to Life will welcome Sisters Catherine Joy, Cecilia Rose and Mary Grace of the Sisters of Life to the diocese for a free event starting at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 13 at Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church, 313 N. State St.

In addition to hearing from the sisters, attendees can pick up yard signs, literature, shirts and more for the campaign to defeat Issue 1, a proposed state constitutional amendment on abortion on the November ballot.

A light reception will follow in the Klinger Center.

While this is not a fundraising event, Greater Columbus Right to Life will gratefully accept donations for the "No on 1" campaign and to promote programs in central Ohio such as Into Life.

The Sisters of Life are a contemplative-active Roman Catholic community of women religious who profess the traditional vows of poverty, chastity and

obedience and a fourth vow to protect and enhance the sacredness of human life. The order was founded by the late Cardinal John O'Connor in New York in 1991 and received approbation as a religious institute in 2004 under the late Cardinal Edward Egan.

The sisters serve in the archdioceses of New York; Philadelphia; Denver; Washington, D.C.; and Toronto and the dioceses of Albany, New York; Bridgeport, Connecticut; and Phoenix.

Their missions include serving women who are vulnerable to abortion, giving them the support and resources to choose life for themselves and their children; hosting weekend retreats; evangelization; outreach to college students; and helping women who have suffered after abortion to encounter the mercy and healing of Jesus Christ.

To learn more, visit [gcrtl.org/into-life](http://gcrtl.org/into-life).

would be cut out of the discussion entirely. This is not only consistent with the language of the amendment itself, but with 50 years of policy goals by the organizations pushing the amendment. The backers of the amendment have acknowledged this is the intended outcome.

If you've seen the disingenuous commercials related to Issue 1, you should take note of two things. The first is that they use footage of a person praying, with an image of Divine Mercy and the Stations of the Cross in the background, to advance their amendment. Using distinctly Catholic imagery to advance ideologies so at odds with church teaching is offensive to the core. Even those who struggle with Church teaching should

reject such an obvious effort to use our faith as a means to their political goal. It is repulsive, and completely at odds with the statements by Ohio's Catholic bishops, including our own Bishop Earl Fernandes, that this amendment should be rejected.

The commercial ends with hollow assurance that Issue 1 will protect access to miscarriage care and protect women experiencing a medical emergency in pregnancy. This ad – like their entire amendment – is deceptive and rotten to the core. Ohio law already provides very broad protections to women experiencing miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, or any other medical emergency, and doctors can take steps to protect a mother's health even in cases where the

baby cannot survive. This gold standard of care can be found in Ohio's Revised Codes sections 2919.11, 2919.191, 2919.12, 2919.15, etc.

If this were not the case, the first people beating down the doors of the General Assembly to fix the problem would be Ohio's pro-life community. Protecting the dignity of human life always includes treating mom and baby with dignity and giving them life-affirming care.

This is intentionally deceptive language that uses a definition of "life and health" of the mother that is different than what most people would adopt in daily use, because this specific phrase has been interpreted in court after court to include age, physical, emotional, or psychological well-being, or even economic circumstances. This is what will open up Ohio's Constitution to permit abortions of perfectly healthy babies in the third trimester. These cruel and unnecessary procedures are only legal in a handful of states, but where they are legal, they still happen thousands of times each year. It is too extreme for Ohio. Too extreme for our Constitution.

If you are reading this article, we need you to join us, and there are a few things you can do. The first is to pray and fast. Prayer and fasting are not platitudes. They are a necessity for this work.

The second is to learn more. Both Greater Columbus Right to Life and the Catholic Conference of Ohio have valuable resources on our websites.

The third is to get involved. From door knocking and phone banking, attending events, joining in community conversations, and even donating – we need the involvement of everyone if we want to win.

Lastly, please vote No by Nov. 7.

None of us can sit this one out. We are in the fight of our lives – for theirs. Get involved with us at [gcrtl.org/stop](http://gcrtl.org/stop).

## Women's Care Center helps pregnant moms, their babies

If Issue 1, the proposed abortion amendment to the Ohio Constitution, passes next month, the work of Women's Care Center in Columbus to assist mothers in need will be even more important, said center director Madeline Pesavento.

One in eight babies in Columbus is born to a mother who started her pregnancy journey at one of the Women's Care Center two locations, the organization reports, and during the past year, half of the pregnant women who visited the center were initially thinking about abortion.

"But because of the sustained care and support that our donors make possible, 92% ultimately chose life for their babies," Pesavento said.

The center provides holistic care from the moment a woman learns she is pregnant until she sends her little one off to school with healthy baby and parenting education and support every step of the way.

Free, confidential counseling, education, pregnancy testing and ultrasounds are offered to women. Once a mother chooses life, the center's programming helps women have healthy babies and build nurturing families.

Parenting classes include Strong Fathers, Mommy and Me, Sibling Rivalry, Movement for Moms, Crockpot Cooking, Pediatric Hygiene, Budgeting Basics, Stress Management and more.

For using the center's services, women earn coupons that can be redeemed at the Crib Club for clothes, car-seats and

other baby supplies.

Last year, the Women's Care Center distributed 115,789 new baby items locally.

"With the increased need in our state, we anticipate expansion, including potentially adding another center," Pesavento said. "Thank you to so many readers who support this important work. Now more than ever, you are saving lives and building families. None of this is possible without you!"

Women's Care Center invites supporters and all Catholics who love, serve and protect life to a Mass celebrated by Bishop Earl Fernandes at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 19 at Columbus St. Catharine Church, 500 S. Gould Road. Pizza-to-go will be provided after Mass.

Women's Care Center was founded

in Indiana in 1984 and has become the largest pregnancy resource center in the United States. Nearly 40 years later, 34 centers operate in 12 states: Ohio, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

In Columbus, Women's Care Center was established in 2008 on Broad Street near a now-closed abortion provider. Just a few months later, a second center opened on East Main Street next to the largest abortion clinic in the region.

For more information on how you can support Women's Care Center, visit [supportwomenscarecenter.org](http://supportwomenscarecenter.org) or contact Pesavento at [madeline@supportwcc.org](mailto:madeline@supportwcc.org).



# Speaker defends pro-life stand in less than a minute

By Hannah Heil  
Catholic Times Reporter

In 40 seconds, Scott Klusendorf defended his argument that the unborn have rights equal to human beings outside of the womb. He taught the audience, who gathered for the 2023 Pregnancy Decision Health Centers (PDHC) Celebration for LIFE gala on Sept. 21, how they can defend the right to life in a minute or less.

Klusendorf is president of the Life Training Institute, which prepares Christians and pro-life advocates to defend their views. He is also the author of the book *The Case for Life* and was the special guest of the PDHC Columbus gala, which was preceded by the Lancaster Gala on Sept. 14. The Bible verse Esther 4:14 – “For Such a Time as This” – was the theme of both galas.

The evening began with a message from PDHC president Kathy Scanlon. She spoke of the impact PDHC has through its 24/7 crisis hotline, which helps women facing unexpected or challenging pregnancies, and personalized consultations, pregnancy tests, ultrasounds and resources.

PDHC offers abortion pill reversal services for women who have started a chemical abortion. The centers, which have four locations in Columbus, also provide parenting classes and abortion recovery services.

“All of us have to step up and become pro-life apologists who can convey the truth of the pro-life position to the people around us,” Klusendorf said.

He said the right to life can be defended in a minute or less by answering three questions: What is the unborn? What makes us valuable as human beings? What is our duty?

“Every argument you hear on the street assumes the unborn aren’t human,” he said. “Why do people argue this way with the unborn? Because they assume the unborn aren’t human. We’re not going to assume it. We’re actually going to make our case.”

When defending the right to life, Klusendorf said, people must understand that the unborn are human beings from the moment of conception. The unborn do not become human, rather, they are human but at a different stage of development.

“You didn’t come from an embryo; you once were an embryo,” he said. “That was you back then, just at a different stage of development. That’s the science of embryology. This is not a religious view. It’s an empirical view, and a lot of people confuse this. They don’t get it.”

“One reason they don’t get it – I do sort of understand – I don’t know if you’ve ever seen a picture of an early embryo at maybe the 10-day stage. It just looks like a ball of cells, like a couple of dozen cells.

“And you know what a lot of people say? And they’re right about this: ‘That’s



Scott Klusendorf, president of the Life Training Institute, speaks at the 2023 Pregnancy Decision Health Centers Celebration for LIFE gala on Sept. 21 at Villa Milano in Columbus. Photo courtesy PDHC

not a baby,’ and they’re right about that. It’s not a baby, but you know what it is? It is a human being in the earliest stages of development.”

Klusendorf used the example of a Polaroid camera. He asked the audience to imagine they captured a photo of a jaguar on a Polaroid camera. The photo first appears as a white paper with a brown smudge.

“The jaguar in that picture was already there,” he said. “We just couldn’t see him yet because he was still developing. Men and women, from the one-cell stage, you were already there. We just couldn’t see you yet because you were still developing.”

The second question that must be answered when defending a pro-life argument, Klusendorf said, is: What makes human beings valuable? He said the culture wants to divide “human beings,” such as those in the embryonic stage, from “human persons” outside the womb.

“Our culture is obsessed with equality, is it not?” he asked. “But what is it that makes us equal in the first place? Are we all equal physically? No, we’re not.”

“If Planned Parenthood is right that we can destroy, dismember, literally tear apart a living human fetus because he’s not as developed as you and I, if development is what gives us value, those of you with more of it have a greater right to life than those with less.”

Klusendorf said self-awareness is another example of what makes human beings different. Both human fetuses and

newborns are not self-aware, he said, and most humans do not have self-awareness until about age 2, but that does not make them less valuable.

He mentioned Peter Singer, an ethicist at Princeton University, who, Klusendorf said, argued that if human fetuses can be killed, then human newborns can be killed because neither is self-aware.

“If he’s right about that, if self-awareness gives you value and a right to life, if you’ve got more of it than me, you would have a greater right to life than me,” Klusendorf said.

“What’s the one thing we all share equally in this room? And it’s something that doesn’t come in degrees. Here it is – the one big word I’ll use tonight – we all have the same human nature.”

The offspring of two humans can have no nature other than a human nature, he said. Klusendorf asked the audience to consider how two human beings could create an offspring that is not human.

“Now, there are differences, but the question is not, ‘Are there differences between you the embryo and you the adult?’” Klusendorf said. “The question is, ‘Do those differences matter such that we can say it’s OK to kill you then but not now?’”

Klusendorf listed four principal differences, which can be remembered by the acronym “SLED.” None “are good reasons for saying we could kill you then but not now,” he said. Humans in the embryonic stage and adult stage differ in size, level of development, environment (where the human is located) and degree of dependency.

For size, Klusendorf said, men are generally larger than women, but they do not deserve more rights or are more valuable. For level of development, he argued that children are less developed than their parents, but parents do not have a greater right to life than their children.

Considering the environment, or being inside versus outside the womb, Klusendorf asked, “How does where you are determine what you are?”

Klusendorf used an example that he traveled more than 800 miles to Columbus for the PDHC gala. Compared to those who live in Columbus, he asked, does his location make him human or more or less valuable? He challenged why the unborn are considered less valuable because of their location.

“If a journey of 807 miles didn’t change me from one kind of thing to another, how does the journey of 8 inches down the birth canal suddenly transform you from a nonhuman, nonvaluable thing we can intentionally kill and dismember, while if you’re outside, you’re safe?”

“How does a simple journey save you in that regard? The answer is, if you weren’t already human and valuable, just changing your address isn’t going to change your essential nature of what you are.”

Klusendorf encouraged the audience to use the “degree of dependency” in the

SLED acronym to defend their belief that the unborn are valuable, even though they are dependent on their mothers.

He used an example of conjoined twins who are dependent on each other for survival. If the right to life depends on the ability to live independent of another human being, he said, then conjoined twins could be considered less valuable, too, and not have a right to life.

Klusendorf also addressed his third question for defending pro-life beliefs: What is our duty?

He said every person’s duty is to love their unborn neighbor by defending them.

He summarized his defense in 40 seconds – he used the example of “Aunt Betty” – by saying:

“I’m pro-life because it’s wrong to intentionally kill innocent human beings, and the science of embryology says that from the earliest stages of development, from the one-cell stage, you, Aunt Betty, were a distinct living and a whole human being.

“You weren’t part of another being like skin cells on the back of my hand. You were already a whole living member of the human family, even though you had yet to grow and develop, and you know what else, Aunt Betty?”

“There’s no essential difference between you the embryo and you the adult that would justify killing you back then. Differences of size and level of development, environment and degree of dependency are not good reasons for saying you could be killed then but not now.”

In addition to defending the unborn, Klusendorf said, it is every person’s duty to love the mothers of the unborn. He said more than 50 percent of abortions annually are repeat abortions because “the first abortion never got healed.”

Jesus Christ is the source of healing, Klusendorf said, and every person is guilty of sin and needs healing. He encouraged the audience to recognize Christ as their source of salvation, the one Who bore their sins, and to share His mercy with others, especially women who had abortions and are in need of Christ’s healing.

Peggy Hartshorn offered remarks on Issue 1, a proposed amendment to the Ohio Constitution that will be on the ballot Nov. 7. Hartshorn and her husband, Mike, founded PDHC. She is also chairman of the board for Heartbeat International, the first network of pro-life pregnancy resource centers in the U.S.

“The goal of this constitutional amendment is to make abortion an unlimited right in our constitution,” she said. “They put language in this amendment that would make it unconstitutional for parents to have any right to advise their children or need parental permission for children to have abortions or sex-change operations. ... There is no wiggle room in

## PDHC offers care, services to pregnant women

By Kathy Scanlan

*Pregnancy Decision Health Centers*

As we observe Respect Life Month, it is a reminder that we are each called to cherish, defend and protect life.

For more than 42 years, the ministry of Pregnancy Decision Health Centers (PDHC) has been a beautiful reflection of this through staff and volunteers working on the 24/7 crisis hotline, in our pregnancy resource centers, in schools and through abortion recovery programs and services.

At PDHC, a safe and compassionate haven is provided for a new mom who needs help facing challenging pregnancy decisions. She is given the opportunity to reflect on her situation from a perspective of love, strength and empowerment, rather than feeling alone and powerless. Every woman deserves support during an unexpected pregnancy, and she should never feel alone, coerced or so hopeless that she thinks abortion is her only option.

The hotline is most commonly the first point of contact for a woman seeking help. Those answering the phone provide a listening ear and connect her with one of our pregnancy resource centers. This year, the team has responded to nearly 50,000 calls, texts and chats.

In our pregnancy resource centers, new moms receive personalized consultations, pregnancy tests, ultrasounds by highly trained and skilled nurses and links to a community of resources to help them in their pregnancy journey.

Our state-of-the-art 3D and 4D ultrasound technology allows us to share the profound moment when the bond between parents and their unborn child is often first felt through the image of a beating heart or a little baby on the screen.

This year, PDHC has served more than 1,400 individuals through nearly 2,500 visits to our four pregnancy resource centers. We have provided more than 1,100 pregnancy tests and more than 800 ultrasound scans. We praise God for 618 life decisions this year.

"This was such a comforting and welcoming experience!" one mother said. "I had so much anxiety about being a first-time mom with a limited support system,

but after leaving my first appointment I felt more sure than ever that I was making the right decision of keeping my baby.

"You can feel the love as soon as you walk in, and everyone was judgment-free, so I really felt I could open up and be honest about my thoughts and feelings."

The individuals whom we serve continue to share their positive experiences at PDHC. Of the more than 1,300 individuals who responded to our surveys after their visits, 96% gave us the highest "5 out of 5" ratings. The majority of women come to PDHC through referrals from a friend or relative, or as a returning client.

We believe no woman should feel forced to finish a chemical abortion she regrets. Chemical abortions via the abortion pill represent more than 80% of the abortions in Franklin County. Women often take the abortion pill out of duress, when they feel they have no other options, and after doing so, they immediately regret their decision and instantly begin searching online for help.

If a new mom takes the first abortion pill and changes her mind, she has about 72 hours to reverse her abortion decision, and PDHC stands ready to help during this critical time with Abortion Pill Reversal (APR) services to give her a second chance to save her baby.

Chemical abortion is a two-drug regimen. The first drug blocks the naturally occurring hormone progesterone from reaching the baby. This hormone is necessary to nurture and sustain a pregnancy. The second drug is taken 24 to 72 hours later to induce labor and expel the deceased baby.

APR is a well-established, evidence-based, natural hormonal therapy that can reverse the artificial chemical abortion process and has been proven effective 64% to 68% of the time, with no harmful health effects to the mother or her baby.

It has been used for decades to help women at risk of premature birth and recurring miscarriage. PDHC has helped 35 women with this service, and more lives were saved.

One individual who was helped through this service said, "They gave me so much hope and encouragement. They prayed for me and my pregnancy and let

me know they would be with me every step of the way.

"Nine months later, I gave birth to a beautiful and healthy baby girl. None of this could have been possible without PDHC. I am forever grateful for this team."

At PDHC, we not only walk alongside women throughout their pregnancy but beyond, through the first year of their baby's life with extension services. Through the Family Empowerment Center, we provide a beacon of support for parents, dedicated to empowering them with essential skills through parenting classes and the development of a supportive community with other parents, staff and volunteers. We offer extensive parenting courses for both mothers and fathers.

Parents receive diapers, clothing and essential baby gear such as car seats, pack-n-plays and more to ensure they have the resources they need to provide a loving and nurturing environment for their children.

Already this year, at least 455 new moms and dads have participated in nearly 9,000 online classes and more than 440 in-person classes.

PDHC's prevention program, Common Sense Culture, provides healthy relationship education and teen dating violence education to middle and high school students. The program is evidenced-based, medically accurate, age-appropriate and approved by the Ohio Department of Health. This past school year, the team reached 37 schools and more than 5,000 students.

"This week was a really helpful week," a participating student said. "I'm going to use what I learned here right when I walk out the door. This information is really going to be useful in my relationships from now on. It will help me be a better person in my life."

PDHC's Abortion Recovery programs and services have been offering hope and healing for those who have experienced the grief and trauma from an abortion experience. Abortion is a deeply personal and often complex experience, one that can leave individuals and families with a sense of loss, grief and guilt. Abortion Recovery (aR) provides drop-in connection meetings, six- and eight-week healing support groups and weekend healing retreats.

With the increase in self-managed

chemical abortions, we are finding that women are immediately traumatized because of what they see and experience. They come to realize they are their own abortion provider, and they revisit the scene every day because it occurred in their own home, and they are reaching out for help much sooner.

"I found aR support 100% helpful," a participant said. "I was in a dark place and headed back down a dark road. I have been lifted out of a pit that could have ruined me. I cannot express how grateful I am. I said in a place of loneliness for years feeling unwanted, loveless and broken, but aR at PDHC has opened up a door that I am walking through with confidence."

PDHC is one of many pregnancy resource centers in the state and is part of the Ohio Coalition of Pregnancy Centers. In 2022, Ohio's pregnancy resource centers continued to save and change lives, rendering essential ministry services to women and families, including 23,329 pregnancy tests, 21,011 ultrasounds, material aid assistance to 28,214 clients, after-abortion support to 1,137 individuals and prevention education on abstinence and sexual risk avoidance to 35,811 students.

As a collective alliance of pro-life organizations, we ask you to stand up for life and oppose Issue 1, a proposed state constitutional amendment on abortion on the November ballot. Should this proposed amendment pass, it would grant approval to extreme abortion practices, including those performed until the very moment of birth and without the necessity of parental consent for minors.

This initiative poses a direct and imminent threat to the very core of pregnancy centers' missions, which have consistently served as a beacon of hope for countless women throughout the years. The proposed abortion amendment has the potential to erode the essential services we provide and jeopardize the lives we are dedicated to preserving.

It is important to vote "no" in November on Issue 1.

For information regarding the proposed abortion amendment, visit [ohiocatholicconf.org](http://ohiocatholicconf.org).

## It's not an 'R' or 'D' thing; it's a Catholic thing!

By Kathleen Q. Lutter, MD

News flash! The world does not understand our Catholic faith. They don't understand our devotion to the Eucharist, praying the Rosary, veneration of Mary, celibate priests, chastity until marriage or any number of sacred traditions. They struggle with our acceptance of male-only clergy, the idea of a pope and the "stubbornness" of our Church to not adapt to modern trends.

They are confused when we are patriotic Americans yet also provide compassionate care for anyone coming to our country for any reason. We really mess

with their heads when we advocate for babies in the womb yet oppose capital punishment for the murderer, hoping for redemption at the final hour.

We describe our "domestic church" and believe that parents are the best and first teachers, and they have no idea why we don't hand children off to the state for all education. We can also support schools and teachers, both in the public and parochial systems, and advocate for their best working environments.

We can believe that we are "wonderfully and fearfully made" and "knitted together in our mothers' wombs" but pro-

vide courage and support to those who don't fit into old-school norms. We love our friends but can also love our enemies. We can turn the other cheek and occasionally chuck a few tables in righteous anger. It is not either/or for us Catholics, but both/and. They don't understand us. At all.

We believe that a baby is a baby from the moment of conception and can grieve the loss of even one so small yet pray with grandma when she is nearing her death and experiencing agony and realize that both are lives worth living to the full. They seriously don't get us.

We believe that suffering is not all bad and can be used for good. So weird.

This November, we have the Issue 1 dilemma to face. Do we stick to our "D" or "R" and vote because "we won't go back" or "our bodies, our choice," or do we do the absurd, countercultural thing and vote Catholic? They don't understand how a women's advocate could not vote for a "women's freedom" issue. I tell them — it's just a Catholic thing!

*Kathleen Q. Lutter, MD, is an OB/GYN and a member of Sunbury St. John Neumann Church.*

## Opposition strategy: Protect the sanctity of life

By Jessica Warner  
*Heartbeat International*

The U.S. Supreme Court's overturning of *Roe v. Wade* in 2022 marked a significant victory for the pro-life movement. It was seen as a turning point in the fight to protect the lives of preborn babies.

Many pro-life activists were elated by the prospect of redirecting their efforts toward the states, where they hoped to pass legislation safeguarding the rights of the unborn. However, a concerning trend has emerged: Pro-abortion activists are attempting to achieve at the state level what they failed to accomplish federally – enshrine the “right” to abortion in state constitutions.

The inception of these efforts can be traced to 2021, primarily in abortion-friendly states such as New York and Vermont. However, their scope has expanded, and traditionally pro-life states have found themselves under attack. Ohio, for instance, is one of the first states to witness this shift, with Issue 1 on the November ballot. It's estimated that as many as six such state initiatives might arise in 2024.

The pro-abortion strategy revolves around amending state constitutions. By doing so, they can bypass state legislatures with pro-life majorities that would

never support the complete removal of protections for women and unrestricted abortion access throughout all nine months of pregnancy.

Pro-abortion groups employ ballot initiatives to draft purposefully ambiguous language that misleads voters. They often hide behind euphemisms such as “reproductive freedom” to obscure the true ramifications of these amendments.

In Ohio, for example, the proposed constitutional amendment states:

“Every individual has a right to make and carry out one's own reproductive decisions...”

The intentional use of the term “individual” ensures that the amendment applies to minors, potentially removing all laws requiring parental notification.

Furthermore, the amendment includes the following provision:

“Abortion may be prohibited after fetal viability. But in no case may such an abortion be prohibited if in the professional judgment of the pregnant patient's treating physician it is necessary to protect the pregnant patient's life or health.”

While it might appear that Ohio could pass a law prohibiting abortions after viability, the inclusion of the word “health” allows physicians to perform abortions for virtually any reason, even if it's deemed necessary for the patient's

mental health.

Another significant issue with this strategy is that the process of reversing constitutional amendments is arduous and costly. In 2022, the campaigns for and against Michigan's Proposal 3, the Right to Reproductive Freedom Initiative, spent more than \$68 million.

Pro-abortion groups, having spent nearly \$48 million, emerged victorious, while pro-life advocates spent more than \$21 million. Campaigns of this magnitude cannot be sustained year after year, and pro-abortion groups are well aware of this fact.

They understand that passing one amendment could potentially prevent the state from imposing any restrictions on abortion for many years to come, rendering pro-life majority legislatures powerless to change the situation.

It's crucial to recognize that constitutional amendments are an extreme method of changing laws within a state. Notably, many states do not permit citizen-initiated constitutional amendments. Out of the 50 states, only 18 allow citizens to gather signatures to place an amendment on the ballot.

Moreover, the requirements for passing such amendments vary, with some states requiring a simple majority (50% +1), and others demanding a supermajority (at least 60%). This explains why

pro-abortion activists are targeting traditionally pro-life states such as Missouri, South Dakota and Ohio, believing they can secure a simple majority of voters to support their ambiguous amendments.

To effectively combat these attacks on the sanctity of life, it is imperative to fully comprehend the new battleground that has emerged post-*Roe*. The battleground has shifted to individual states, but it is equally essential to maintain a broader perspective and understand the impending threats.

Proponents of unrestricted abortion access are not content with ensuring only California and New York serve as sanctuaries for abortion; they aim to enshrine abortion as an inalienable “right” in the constitutions of every state.

Consequently, it becomes our collective responsibility to continue pushing back against the falsehoods that suggest women are incapable of being mothers. Whether you reside in a state that values life or one that promotes abortion, you are uniquely positioned to speak the truth and champion the cause of life. The battle may be shifting, but the commitment to protecting life remains unwavering.

## Groups assist parents facing prenatal diagnosis

By Petra

Receiving a prenatal diagnosis can be a traumatic experience for expectant parents, often leading to discussions about abortion as the primary option. The debate over abortion in these cases is a prominent topic in political and public discourse.

While pro-choice advocates argue that abortion is the most compassionate option for mothers carrying a child with a prenatal diagnosis, those involved in the pro-life pregnancy help movement recognize that these women are in unique circumstances.

These mothers generally want their child, and it's the unexpected diagnosis that they find challenging, not the pregnancy or the baby. Additionally, the emotional trauma they experience can make it difficult for them to make clear decisions about their future.

Recognizing this unique situation, a collaboration among organizations Heartbeat International, Her PLAN, String of Pearls, Be Not Afraid and the Charlotte Lozier Institute aims to address the needs of women and families facing prenatal diagnoses.

Three key tools have been introduced to support these families:

- Prenataldiagnosis.org: This website offers factual information on various prenatal diagnoses, explains screening and diagnostic tests, provides access to support groups and offers further reading referrals. It's designed for mothers and others facing prenatal diagnoses and anyone interested in understanding these challenging situations.

- Parent care coordinator training: Be Not Afraid offers a training program that equips individuals to support mothers dealing with prenatal diagnoses and guide them through their pregnancy journey.

- Hotline: A hotline has been developed to connect mothers with parent care coordinators and other support resources.

Two mothers, Daphne Harris Robinson and Heidi Martin, shared their personal stories and experiences with the parent care coordinator training program. Martin, a former neonatal intensive care nurse, recounted her journey with her son's Hirschsprung's disease and subsequent diagnosis of Mowat-Wilson syndrome, emphasizing the emotional toll and sense of loss that accompany prenatal diagnoses.

Robinson's story involved infertility, high-risk pregnancies and the difficult decision to deliver her baby prematurely to save her own life. Both women

went through the Be Not Afraid training program, which enhanced their understanding and empathy for mothers facing prenatal diagnoses.

They highlighted the importance of such training within the pregnancy help movement, explaining that loss leads to grief in these situations. A prenatal diagnosis represents a significant loss, and proper support can help parents navigate the grief cycle and focus on their new baby's needs.

The training emphasizes trauma-informed care, recognizing that trauma has no boundaries and that every family facing a prenatal diagnosis experiences trauma. The goal is to provide care that minimizes further trauma and helps parents cope in a healthy manner.

Parents who receive prenatal diagnoses often lack the support and resources needed to make informed decisions. By connecting them with compassionate support, these parents fare better emotionally and psychologically. Families that have received support from organizations such as Be Not Afraid report feeling at peace and better prepared to handle the challenges ahead.

The training has had a restorative effect on families. One family with a baby diagnosed with Trisomy 18 shared their experience. After initial fear and depression, proper support and education

allowed the mother to actively advocate for her child, transforming her outlook from despair to hope.

In many cases, parents facing prenatal diagnoses are given limited choices by their primary obstetrician-gynecologists, leaving them feeling despondent. Organizations within the pregnancy help movement aim to bridge this gap and provide a lifeline for these families.

These initiatives demonstrate the pregnancy help movement's commitment to providing specialized care to women facing prenatal diagnoses. By offering empathy, support and resources, they aim to empower parents to make informed decisions and prepare for the challenges they might face. This compassionate approach reflects their dedication to loving these women, their families and their precious children.

*Petra is a Kansas City native who moved to Columbus in 2014 to attend graduate school at Ohio State University. She has a master's degree in chemistry and teaches chemistry and biochemistry. A writer and editor for the Human Defense Initiative, Petra is passionate about the pro-life movement and uses her science education and teaching skills to speak up for the most vulnerable humans among us.*

## Demonstrate your respect for life and your faith

A recent TV ad from the side favoring the enshrining of abortion as a constitutional right in Ohio briefly shows an image of a person kneeling with the Divine Mercy image in the background.

The ad states, "When we face personal medical decisions, we depend on our doctors, our faith, our family, and the last thing we want is the government making those decisions for us." As a statement, most of us would probably agree with it. So, where's the problem?

Much time, money and energy have been spent during the past 50 years trying to convince us that abortion is primarily a medical decision. But the decision whether to abort a developing child is first and foremost a moral decision that involves taking the life of another, even if it is sometimes made in a situation involving doctors, nurses and a surgical facility.

The ad, as deeply flawed as it is, was correct in pointing out the importance of faith when approaching questions of life and death especially in the context of pregnancy. Reason and revelation remind us that every human life (yours, mine, unborn children, political opponents) begins in the mind of God, enveloped by His love and destined as gift to the world.

As stated in Jeremiah, "Before you were formed in the womb, I knew you." God Himself is the author of life and has lovingly given us a role in that creation. Every life is so precious to God that He sent His only begotten

### FAITH IN ACTION | Mark Huddy

Mark Huddy is the Episcopal Moderator for Catholic Charities and the Office for Social Concerns in the Diocese of Columbus.



Son to justify and save us by His death. And God would have done that for every person, even if he or she was the only person God created.

Through the prophets, we were given a charge to defend the weak and the vulnerable. And both a pregnant mother beset by uncertainties about her capacity to parent as well as her developing child are vulnerable.

The Catholic Church is a reliable partner in helping that mother through her pregnancy, meeting her material and spiritual needs and walking with that mother and her child after birth. The Church is also a source of hope and healing for women and men who made the unfortunate decision to abort their child.

Faith gives us the wisdom and courage to act when it intersects with a proposal to change our laws or constitution.

Because of the language used in Issue 1 and also because it seeks to be inserted in the Ohio Constitution, this proposed amendment is a serious threat to human life, to freedom of conscience, to parental rights, to current health and safety regulations and to the common good.

If passed and inserted in Ohio's Constitution, no exist-

ing legislation could contradict it, no future legislation could repeal it and no court could ignore it. Only another Ohio Constitutional amendment could overturn it.

To better understand what Issue 1 would do, go to <https://www.ohiocathconf.org/protect-ohio> where you will find resources that explain the ballot language and answer frequently asked questions.

To learn more about the Church's response to the needs of pregnant women and their children, and to find resources for healing after abortion, talk with your pastor about your parish's Walking With Moms in Need program or contact diocesan coordinator Erin Cordle at [ecordle@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:ecordle@columbuscatholic.org).

There are three actions that you can take to defeat this dangerous proposed constitutional amendment: pray, fast and vote! To participate in the 54-day rosary novena (it's not too late to begin) go to [www.pray54ohio.org](http://www.pray54ohio.org) where you can sign up to receive daily reminders.

Consider fasting from a meal or an entertainment daily as an offering to defeat Issue 1.

If you are not registered to vote, you can do so online at <https://olvr.ohiosos.gov> through Tuesday, Oct. 10. And don't forget to vote. You can do so in person, early, at your county board of elections early voting site from Wednesday, Oct. 11 through 5 p.m. Nov. 6, or at the polls on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 7.

### SPEAKER, continued from Page 9

this right to abortion they're trying to put into the constitution in the state of Ohio.

"This would set us back even worse than Roe v. Wade (the U.S. Supreme Court decision that stated there is a

right to privacy, including abortion)."

Hartshorn encouraged people to pray, vote and volunteer. There is a 54-day rosary novena, or series of prayers, she said, taking place through Election Day

across the state. She also encouraged early voting, which begins Oct. 11 in Ohio.

"The early results do affect how people think and whether they come to the polls, so vote early," she said.



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# Defend the gift of life and the dignity of the human person

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, As you are well aware, this November there will be a dangerous amendment on the ballot that would enshrine abortion as a constitutional right in our great state of Ohio. The Diocese of Columbus, as well as the other dioceses of Ohio, have banded together with the Catholic Conference of Ohio to defeat this amendment.

Let me be frank. We need your help to defeat him. The proposed abortion amendment claims to secure reproductive freedom and protections for health and safety but instead creates several dangers. It puts women at risk. It threatens parental rights. It allows for abortion of fully formed babies in the womb. Let



me repeat: It allows for abortions of fully formed babies in the womb.

As your bishop, I am calling you to action. I'm calling you to vote no in No-

vember. We are voting no in November because we are a people of life. We are people of love. We care about women. We care about children. We care about families. Furthermore, we don't believe that those on the other side do not care about the same things.

But this amendment goes far beyond reproductive freedom. The amendment attacks the fundamental understanding of the human person made in God's image and likeness. It removes rights from parents, could potentially jeopardize the conscience rights of medical professionals, and represents an assault on human life and the human family pitting mother against child. Once more, I urge all Catholics to register to vote and to vote

no on the proposed amendment in November.

As Catholics, we cannot allow this dangerous amendment to put the women of Ohio at risk. We must strongly oppose this amendment and speak out to protect women, the fundamental rights of parents and the gift of life. Here's what I ask you to do: pray and fast, educate yourself, read the amendment, register to vote and vote no, get involved at your parish.

And, finally, do not be afraid to boldly proclaim the gospel of life. May Almighty God bless you, your families, and our great state of Ohio.

**Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes**  
Bishop of Columbus

## Bethesda offers post-abortion support

Bethesda Healing Ministry is a post-abortion support group that provides meetings on the second and fourth Monday of each month for women and men to come together to share their journey of healing.

Meetings are led by a facilitator who guides the group through a workbook. A priest is available to hear confessions or offer guidance as needed.

All women and men who suffer from an abortion experience are welcome to attend. They will receive a compassion-

ate, warm welcome and a light meal at the meetings.

Bethesda was established in the Diocese of Columbus in 1993. In 2007, the ministry moved into the former convent at Columbus Christ the King Church, 2744 Dover Road.

To speak to an advocate, call Bethesda's confidential line, (614) 309-0157, and leave a message if no one answers. Someone will call back within 24 hours.

For more information or to make a donation, visit [www.bethesdahealing.org](http://www.bethesdahealing.org).

## ADORERS, continued from Page 7

was actually on maternity leave for my fourth child, but drafting a brief for the Supreme Court, that's a dream. So, I drafted that brief holding a newborn baby.

"I would put my other kids to bed at night and then I would just put my laptop on and put her head up on my shoulder, writing a brief about how women can have their babies and still have success in their career, and they don't have to give that up."

White said she is living the life that she hopes for all mothers who choose life for their babies. Balancing work and mother-

ing her five children, she wants women to know they can be mothers and pursue their dreams. By writing an amicus brief for the U.S. Supreme Court while caring for her newborn, White did just that.

"My baby didn't stop me. She didn't stop me - she fueled me. She fueled me in writing that because just listening to her little breathing and feeling the warmth of her body as I'm writing about how there is hope for women. We don't have to choose to end our babies' lives in order to have the life we want."

## Returning Love for Love: A Pilgrimage to the Heart of Jesus

MAY 31 – JUNE 9, 2024



To commemorate the 350th anniversary of the revelations of the Sacred Heart of Jesus at Paray-le-Monial, a Jubilee Year has been declared, beginning on 27 December 2023 and continuing through 27 June 2025, the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart.

Please consider joining the Diocese of Columbus and Bishop Fernandes on this extraordinary pilgrimage to France during the Jubilee Year.



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Sunday, October 15, 2023, 4 pm - Laura Camara & the Jake Reed Trio

Monday, October 23, 2023, 7 pm - Orlay Alonso at OSU Piano Recital

Tuesday, October 24, 2023, 7 pm - Inaugural High School Choral Invitational

Sunday, October 29, 2023, 4 pm - LANCASTERChorale Bach *Magnificat*

Sunday, November 12, 2023, 4 pm - Flamenco Music & Dance

Sunday, November 19, 2023, 4 pm - Steven Glaser Piano Recital

Sunday, December 3, 2023, 3 pm - Village Lights of German Village

Saturday, December 9, 2023, 11 am - Columbus Landmarks Tour

Sunday, December 10, 2023, 4 pm - LANCASTERChorale *At the Manger*

Sunday, January 21, 2024, 4 pm - Orlay Alonso Piano Recital

Sunday, February 4, 2024, 4 pm - Anabella Petronsi Voice Recital

Sunday, February 25, 2024, 4 pm - ProMusica Chamber Orchestra

Sunday, March 10, 2024, 4 pm - Columbus International Children's Choir

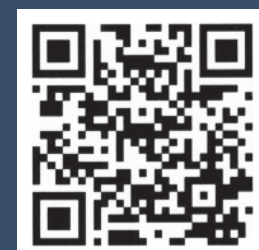
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# New Catholic Social Services leader brings experience to the job

By Robert Alan Glover  
For The Catholic Times

On Oct. 2, Catholic Social Services in the Columbus diocese gained a new leader.

Kelley Henderson started his first day as president and CEO of Catholic Social Services, having just left Catholic Charities of West Tennessee in the Diocese of Memphis. The move came, Henderson said, “three years and nine months after my arrival in Memphis in 2020 during the COVID pandemic.”

“Every professional has to look at two things in a job such as mine: First, what am I here to do, and second, know when the job is finished,” Henderson said. He recalled how “the COVID year was the real catalyst because it gave us (at Catholic Charities) a real sense of urgency.”

“The pandemic forced all of us to work faster and become bigger and better, and as a result, Catholic Charities (CC) has come a long way in west Tennessee where it has a long history.

“I was able to give a fresh perspective to everything here, and I firmly believe that if we can make CC a beacon of hope for our neighbors – and create opportunities for others to serve as the same light – then I will have succeeded.”

A former principal and consultant with Covenant Wealth Management in



Kelley Henderson is the new president and CEO of Catholic Social Services in the Diocese of Columbus.

*Photo courtesy Catholic Social Services*

Roswell, Georgia, Henderson ended that association after 14 years, describing it as “a great time in which I had a wonderful career.”

But Henderson kept hearing a certain call even while volunteering at a homeless shelter and wanting to give back. Eventually, he began working part-time with MUST Ministries in Marietta, Georgia, holding four positions with the organization from 2008 to 2013.

MUST Ministries led to a position at First Step, a homeless shelter in downtown Atlanta, as its chief operating officer, followed by Action Ministries as its CEO, Catholic Charities in Memphis, and now in Columbus.

“I was not actively pursuing a move (elsewhere), but we have a network and people who are plugged into it really well. A colleague told me about the opening in Columbus, I applied and here we are,” Henderson said.

“We have done what I set out to do, and I am hoping to accomplish more, and with God’s grace I will.”

Father Robert Ballman is pastor of St. Alphonsus Catholic Church in Covington, Tennessee, 40 miles north of Memphis. “Before Kelley’s arrival here,” Father Ballman said, “our food outreach program consisted of a few volunteers but now has grown to more than 20 people.

“Under his leadership, outreach in this area and surrounding counties went from being reactive to proactive, in terms of feeding the poor, and not just in our parish, where we just served this past week our 20,000th family with a food box and protein items (beef, chicken and pork).

“Kelley focused on identifying ‘food deserts’ along the interstate highway corridors, which are

places where people go to bed hungry because what they ate did not meet their daily nutritional needs,” Father Ballman said.

“Kelley also partnered Catholic Charities with the AmeriGroup Health Insurance Company, which supplied the grants needed for the diocese to set up Tiny Blessings, an outreach program for young mothers and their infants that supplies diapers, baby formula, a car seat, baby wipes, and other essentials.”

The program has grown and is now in four locations, including three outside Memphis.

“It is not an overstatement when I say that he has made a huge impact on people in the diocese, and we are sad to see him go. Kelley will make a terrific impact on Columbus, just as he made our new interim director, Kiki Hall, become a great successor,” Father Ballman said.

In Columbus, Nick Borchers was interim president and CEO of Catholic Social Services.

Borchers replaced the previous CEO after that person’s resignation and has returned to being Catholic Social Services’ chief operations officer.

“I first met Kelley 18 months ago at the Catholic Charities U.S.A. Conference in Baltimore, Maryland,” Borchers said,

*See LEADER, Page 24*

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## Fall harvest reminds couple of God's blessings

By Ken Snow  
For The Catholic Times

Marian and Steve Garner met through a mutual friend in 2006. Both had been married previously, experiencing the pain of divorce. Each had four children – three girls and a boy – but were, separately, empty nesters.

Neither Steve nor Marian envisioned marrying again, accepting what seemed to be God's will that they follow solo paths the rest of their lives.

Both were cradle Catholics and devout followers of the faith. Steve was a retired officer with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, having served 31 years. Marian was still working full time and maintaining a house on Columbus' west side.

As Marian tells it, they met on the phone. Marian's friend Sarah occasionally hosted a card party at her house and would invite Marian, who always declined. Steve had become a regular but was the only single man there among the usual couples in attendance.

One night, when Steve was there, Sarah called Marian and said, "Oh, come and play cards with us!" But, as usual, Marian declined. However, Sarah was persistent, saying, "Well, I've got this guy here that you should meet." Again, Marian declined. Then Sarah said, "Well, this is Sarah's Dating Service and here's Steve!" Sarah handed her phone to Steve, and he and Marian had their first conversation.

Steve and Marian found they had a lot in common. First was their devotion to Christ and His Church. They also both

had an affinity for gardening – Steve's on a grand scale, Marian's on a more humble, urban-yard style.

Although they dated regularly and thought God had brought them together, it was a number of years before they decided it was the Father's will that they tie the knot. Before their marriage, Marian assisted Steve with his large garden plot in Grove City where they also kept a small farm market going on Home Road during the summer and fall.

From a little awning to shade the produce, to a hay wagon from which they eventually sold vegetables, the market became a favorite destination for local buyers on Saturdays and Sundays. Marian had the idea to make it a drive-thru, recognizing that many customers were elderly or had mobility issues. The market had great success, and their reputation and popularity grew.

Behind the market was a huge garden in which much of the produce they sold was raised. Realizing that many people enjoyed picking their own vegetables, Steve expanded the market concept to a U-Pick-It operation, which met with an enthusiastic response.

Having an orchard was something that Steve had dreamed of for many years. He was ready to leave the farm market operation, but finding the right property was an issue.

Moving to the country, expanding to a bigger farm and being surrounded by nature instead of the city was on Steve's mind. So, he and Marian looked for the right tract of land.

The Garners began their search in earnest in January 2012, but few suitable properties turned up. They were about to give up when Marian said, "There's this property down in Pickaway County, just outside Circleville, that looks promising. Let's go look at it."

Steve, at first, declined, believing it just wasn't in God's plan for them to start fresh. But Marian insisted, saying she had prayed about it and thought God was directing them to it.

When they saw the land, both knew "this was it."

The Garners immediately enrolled in a class on grafting desirable apple varieties to root stock, which can't produce apples on its own but serves as a host for the grafts.

Besides starting the apple orchard in 2012, which also includes peaches and pears, Steve and Marian planted thousands of tomatoes and hot peppers, which they sold in their farm market that they maintained for a few more years in Grove City.

Now, with just less than 22 acres and after 11 years of hard work, the Garners' persistence is paying off. They cultivate nearly 1,800 apple trees representing close to 90 varieties, all of which they wholesale. And the peach orchard

boasts 200 trees.

A pole barn was recently completed on their property, built by the local Amish, which they call the Apple House. In it will be an apple-washing table and a cider press, slated to be in operation in 2024. Currently, they sell their apples, peaches and pears at the Amish wholesale auction in Bainbridge.

Eventually, Steve's dream of a "U-Pick-It" operation will become reality on their Pickaway County property. He believes there's a market for a family friendly, fun place to spend an hour or a day during harvest season.

Deerfield Orchards, as the Garners' farm is known, is a dream constantly coming true. It takes long hours of hard work on the part of Steve and Marian who, by themselves, handle almost all of the operations, from preparing the land to planting, cultivating, harvesting and marketing. Yet, both say they couldn't do it without God's graces assisting them, and they make time for prayer each morning.

"We are really living in the graces of

God because we're doing this," Steve said. "He's the one who's given us all that we have. We wouldn't have found each other so late in life. We wouldn't have bought this place. We wouldn't have worked so hard, nor would we have realized such bounty."

"This is our sanctuary, and we love it," Marian said. "We always thought that this would be our place of refuge from the rest of the world with all its noise, its stress and its craziness. It's our property for now. God has blessed us to use and develop it in ways that He sees fit."

At this time of harvest, the Garners give praise to God who brought them together when they thought life had put them out to pasture. They find ways every day to give back, be it in quiet meditation and prayer or in sharing their bounty with others.

"With God on our side, all things are possible," Marian said. "May everyone experience the grace of God's blessings in your life as we have."



Marian and Steve Garner take a break during apple picking at their orchard. Also pictured is the family dog, Luka. CT photo by Ken Snow

A colorful Oktoberfest event poster. At the top, there are blue and white checkered bunting flags. The word "Oktoberfest" is written in large, blue, stylized letters. Below the title, there are illustrations of beer mugs, a wooden barrel, a green can, and a small house. A banner across the middle reads "Jackson Vinton Catholic". Below the banner, the date and time are listed: "October 8th 11:00am - 6:00pm". To the left of the time, the word "Food" is written in a stylized font. To the right, there is a small illustration of a beer mug. Below the time, the text lists the menu: "Brats, Hot Dogs, Sauce, Sauerkraut, German sides, Lots of Refreshments &amp; Beer". Below this, it says "Carry Out will be Available!". Further down, it lists "Chinese Auction - Silent Auction" and "Instant Ticket Party". Below that, it says "Raffle &amp; Horse Races!". At the bottom, it says "Kids Games &amp; Inflatable - wrist band \$5" and "Sts. Peter &amp; Paul Parish Hall Wellston, Ohio". The bottom of the poster features a row of blue triangles.

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

## Share fruits of the kingdom

Isaiah 5:1-7

Psalm 80:9, 12, 13-14, 15-16, 19-20

Philippians 4:6-9

Matthew 21:33-43

The land of Israel was parceled out to the tribes. Each family had its own portion. God's portion was the whole people: "The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel."

Planting a vineyard and building a winepress represented stability and growth. When a family committed to the land this way, oversight and daily labor were required. If the family did not do its own work, the land was not sold but leased out to others with the provision that the fruits of the land belonged to the family. Payment was a share in the produce and a place to live.

God's intention for His people is to live in the Promised Land, possessing a share in the fruits that come from life in the kingdom. Jesus' parable is an invitation to us to commit to "work the land" and to be open in our sharing, just as God is with us. We can miss the import of the parable if we make the mistake of seeing it as applying only to others.

When Jesus seems to be offering a critique of a particular group, there are always three "publics" in mind.

First are the bystanders, those who hear the parable and realize that Jesus has indicated that God is for them as well as for those who already claim to know Him. Second are the ones to whom the critique is given. They are invited to learn a new way of thinking and to open their hearts to God's true desire to share the fruits of the kingdom with all.

The third public is found among those

28th 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.



reading and hearing the parable today – we ourselves, who have the same invitation as the first two publics.

Where we are tempted to think that we are in the kingdom and that the land is ours, we must remember that it belongs to God. Failing to share the fruits of the Gospel with all, we do not put into action the way of life that has been offered.

God is patient with us. He tells us again and again that we belong to Him. He reminds us of the riches of the kingdom. He invites us to accept the simple truth that the kingdom bears fruit in us and that such fruit is destined for all.

God allows us to experience the consequences of our rejection. When we return to our senses, we can pray, as Israel prays in the Psalm: "O Lord, God of hosts, restore us; if your face shine upon us, then we shall be saved."

When Jesus reveals us to ourselves, we can choose to react or to respond. Rejection of the one who presents us with a difficult piece of news is a common human experience. "Don't kill the messenger."

With a touch of irony, Jesus tells this parable as a prophecy of His own suffering yet to be endured. The messenger will be cruelly put to death. The son of the owner of the vineyard is being rejected even as the parable is being told.

The Son of God invites us to become a people who recognize that all that we are comes from Him. He knows our failures and our past unwillingness to allow the

community that lived in a town. Even today, in many parts of the world, this communal reality is evident. It was not a surprise to the hearers of the parable that it would be a grand feast.

The refusal of those invited and their violence against the messengers continues the prophetic tale that Jesus has been telling over the past few weeks. The response of the king – putting an end to the ungrateful murderers of his messengers – was the way of the world. Violence begets anger and more violence.

The general invitation to the feast is a renewal of God's call to everyone to share the kingdom that is offered. Let those who realize that Jesus is speaking to them should think that there does not need to be a change in their way of thinking, the coda to the parable about the guest who fails to wear the wedding garment is a reminder that a change of mind and heart and way of life is expected of all who enter the kingdom.

### THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

10/9-10/14

MONDAY

Jonah 1:1-2:2,11  
Jonah 2:3-5,8 (Ps)  
Luke 10:25-37

TUESDAY

Jonah 3:1-10  
Psalm 130:1-4,7-8  
Luke 10:38-42

WEDNESDAY

Jonah 4:1-11  
Psalm 86:3-6,9-10  
Luke 11:1-4

THURSDAY

Malachi 3:13-20b  
Psalm 1:1-4,6  
Luke 11:5-13

FRIDAY

Joel 1:13-15;2:1-2  
Psalm 9:2-3,6,8-9,16  
Luke 11:15-26

SATURDAY

Joel 4:12-21  
Psalm 97:1-2,5-6,11-12  
Luke 11:27-28

10/16-10/21

MONDAY

Romans 1:1-7  
Psalm 98:1-4  
Luke 11:29-32

TUESDAY

Romans 1:16-25  
Psalm 19:2-5  
Luke 11:37-41

WEDNESDAY

2 Timothy 4:10-17b  
Psalm 145:10-13,17-18  
Luke 10:1-9

THURSDAY

Romans 3:21-30  
Psalm 130:1-6  
Luke 11:47-54

FRIDAY

Romans 4:1-8  
Psalm 32:1-2,5,11  
Luke 12:1-7

SATURDAY

Romans 4:13,16-18  
Psalm 105:6-9,42-43  
Luke 12:8-12

### DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION

Mass Schedule: Weeks of Oct. 8 and Oct. 15, 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](http://www.stgabrielradio.com) and diocesan website, [www.columbuscatholic.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.stgabrielradio.com) and diocesan website, [www.columbuscatholic.org](http://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](http://www.stannstmary.org)); Columbus St. Patrick ([www.stpatrickcolumbus.org](http://www.stpatrickcolumbus.org)); Delaware St. Mary ([www.delawarestmary.org](http://www.delawarestmary.org)); Sunbury St. John Neumann ([www.saintjohnsunbury.org](http://www.saintjohnsunbury.org)); and Columbus Immaculate Conception ([www.iccols.org](http://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**

Gospel way of thinking to change our hearts and to be put into practice. Nonetheless, He offers us mercy. The Living God still claims us as His vineyard.

A free response to this message involves two steps. First, we must look in the mirror. We have to admit our complicity in the darkness that surrounds us. We have failed to stand up for the truth. We have compromised our values, becoming complacent rather than welcoming the truth.

Then, we must repent, changing our way of approaching everything, seeing ourselves as responsible, accepting the offer of the owner of the vineyard to welcome His Son into our lives.

Acceptance of our role as stewards and an openness to sharing the fruits of the kingdom prove to be a "better way" to live. St. Paul encourages the Philippians: "Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you."

## All are invited to God's banquet if they are ready

Isaiah 25:6-10a

Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6

Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20

Matthew 22:1-14

God is provident. He meets our needs, and He has supplied an answer to everything that troubles us. The mountain is the place where we encounter God. An image that still offers us hope is that of a banquet, to which we are all invited.

Isaiah describes this hope in the face of loss and death. "On this mountain the Lord of hosts will provide for all peoples a feast of rich food and choice wines, juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines. On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, the web that is woven over all nations; he will destroy death forever."

Jesus takes up the image of a banquet in the parable of the wedding feast. In the ancient world, the wedding was generally an experience shared by the whole

community that lived in a town. Even today, in many parts of the world, this communal reality is evident. It was not a surprise to the hearers of the parable that it would be a grand feast.

The refusal of those invited and their violence against the messengers continues the prophetic tale that Jesus has been telling over the past few weeks. The response of the king – putting an end to the ungrateful murderers of his messengers – was the way of the world. Violence begets anger and more violence.

The general invitation to the feast is a renewal of God's call to everyone to share the kingdom that is offered. Let those who realize that Jesus is speaking to them should think that there does not need to be a change in their way of thinking, the coda to the parable about the guest who fails to wear the wedding garment is a reminder that a change of mind and heart and way of life is expected of all who enter the kingdom.

The king supplies the garment. The grace to have a change of mind and heart is available to all. We are called to welcome all to the feast, but we are also called to wear the garment of the feast, becoming the people God wants us to be.

St. Paul captures this sentiment when he speaks of learning to be content in every circumstance. "I know how to live in humble circumstances; I know also how to live with abundance. In every circumstance and in all things I have learned the secret of being well fed and of going hungry, of living in abundance and of being in need. I can do all things in him who strengthens me."

He continues with the promise of providence: "My God will fully supply whatever you need, in accord with his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father, glory forever and ever. Amen."

Many in our world are left out in the highways and byways. They have not heard the invitation to the banquet. Members of

the organizations who work among them will tell you readily that homelessness is growing even in the most affluent areas of our country. The attitudes of those who have can be less than respectful, judging people by their circumstances and presuming that they are unworthy to share in the banquets that continue.

The Lord invites us to pay attention to the message that all are called, and all are welcome. We must all render an account for our reception of the invitation.

We are also invited to look into our own hearts and to our behaviors at the banquet. Do we live up to the Eucharist that we share? Are we welcoming to all who join us? Do we allow the Word that is proclaimed to change our hearts? Does the sacrament continue to shine through us when we leave the sanctuary? Are we aware of our own mission as ministers of providence?

Have we learned to dwell in the house of the Lord and to invite others to join us?

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ALL SAINTS DAY	LITURGICAL	TEACHINGS
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This fall the Columbus Serra Club is challenging all eighth grade boys to write an essay of five hundred words or less answering a question about whether God might be calling them to the priesthood. Writers of the ten best essays will be awarded a \$1,000 tuition assistance grant to a diocesan Catholic high school. The Catholic school system will administer the competition for boys in Catholic schools. **Eighth grade boys not attending a Catholic school, scan this QR code, text 614-558-0806 or email kielkopf.1@osu.edu on how to participate.**



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.

Death is not a dead end ...

O	R	K	T	I
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IT IS A FORK IN THE ROAD

**RUMMAGE AND BAKE SALE**  
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**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](http://www.columbuscatholic.org/jobs).

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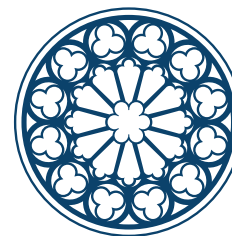
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# Priest must administer sacrament with approved wording

**Dear Father: It's happened more times than I care to count that when I go to confession, the priest doesn't say the prayer that I see in the Catechism. This is bothering me. I know other people who have had the same experience. Is it OK for the priest to make up prayers in confession? – A.C.**

Dear A.C.: I'm very sorry for your experience in the confessional.

I'm presuming that when you speak about the priest's prayer in the confessional that you find in the Catechism, you are referring to the words of absolution in paragraph No. 1449.

The only proper formula of absolution is "God, the Father of mercies, through the death and the resurrection of his Son has reconciled the world to himself and poured out the Holy Spirit for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church may God grant you pardon and peace, **and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.**" The penitent then responds: Amen.

There are three elements in the sacrament of penance (reconciliation): confession of sins by the penitent, the prayer of absolution by the priest and the satisfaction (the penance that the priest assigns).

Every penitent is bound to confess all mortal sins according to species (what the sin was) and number of times it was committed. For instance, it is not enough to say that one has disobeyed one of the Ten Commandments. It is necessary to state simply (without lots of explanation) the sin, for example, "I stole \$100 on three different occasions."

Then the priest, perhaps after giving counsel, will ask the penitent to undertake a penance as a sign of reparation and repentance.

## The most important Catholic event since Vatican II?

Those most enthusiastic about the Synod on Synodality that opens on October 4 are wont to say that it's the most important Catholic event since the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) – a claim that sometimes carries the implication that it's the only important thing that's happened in the Church since Vatican II. I beg to differ. Here are eleven crucial events since the Council, with notes on their significance.

**July 25, 1968:** Pope Paul VI issues the encyclical *Humanae Vitae*, on the morally appropriate means of regulating fertility. In doing so, the Pope challenges the culture-eroding assumptions of the sexual revolution, prophetically warns of the impact of a contraceptive mentality on society and on women, and draws a line in the sand against the attempt by proponents of Catholic Lite to dominate the Church's moral theology.

**December 8, 1975:** Paul VI issues the apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, reminding the Church that Pope John XXIII intended Vatican II to energize the Church for mission, and that at the center of Christian mission is "the name, the teaching, the life, the promises, the kingdom, and the mystery of Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God."

**June 2-10, 1979:** On his first pastoral visit to Poland, Pope John Paul II demonstrates the vitality of Catholic social doctrine by igniting a revolution of conscience that will, over the next decade, lead to the nonviolent collapse of European communism.

**November 24-December 8, 1985:** The Second Extraordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, called to mark the 20th anniversary of Vatican II by considering what had gone right and what had gone wrong in the Council's implementation, affirms the Council as a

### 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.*



Then the priest will pray the words of absolution. The words in bold above are the essential form of the absolution. The entire prayer is to be prayed by the priest with his right hand raised (in blessing) over the penitent. However, in case of emergency, as when someone is near death, the priest may pray only the essential form. Never is it permitted for the priest to make up or change the words of absolution in any way whatsoever.

Sometimes a priest may add an extra prayer after the absolution for the comfort or healing of the penitent who has presented some particular situation or problem. This is not called for in the rite.

First and most important, the Church, and no one else, not even a priest, determines the actions and words of all the sacraments. This is because the Church wants to make it possible for everyone to go to heaven by using the means that Christ Himself instituted: the sacraments.

The sacraments are strictly safeguarded to make sure that they may be the divine instruments of salvation. Just as the U.S. Constitution is protected, so, too, are the sacraments.

Penance was instituted particularly for the absolution of mortal sins, that is, sins that deal with a grave matter, full knowledge and full consent of the will of a human person. It is necessary to confess and be absolved of mortal sins before one receives Holy Communion.

### THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

*George Weigel is the Distinguished Senior Fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C. George Weigel's column 'The Catholic Difference' is syndicated by the Denver Catholic, the official publication of the Archdiocese of Denver.*



great gift of the Holy Spirit and weaves the Council's 16 documents into a coherent tapestry by describing the Church as a communion of disciples in mission.

**December 7, 1990:** John Paul II issues the encyclical *Redemptoris Missio*, formally launching the New Evangelization by calling all Catholics to live the missionary vocation into which they were baptized, because mission territory is everywhere.

**August 6, 1993:** Dated for the Feast of the Transfiguration, John Paul II's encyclical *Veritatis Splendor* teaches that the moral life is ordered toward beatitude, which is eternal life within the light and love of the Thrice-Holy God; that some acts are gravely evil in themselves, irrespective of intentions; and that growth in the virtues is the royal road to human flourishing and happiness.

**March 20-26, 2000:** During a weeklong pilgrimage to the Holy Land, John Paul II reminds the Church and the world that Christianity is neither a myth nor a pious fairy tale; Christianity begins with the lives of real men and women, in a place that you can see and touch today, who were so transformed by their encounter with the Risen Lord Jesus that they went out on a mission to convert the world – and thus teach the world its true story and its noble destiny.

**August 6, 2000:** The Congregation for the Doctrine of

The problem with a priest not giving the Church's absolution is that the priest is depriving the penitent of sacramental grace. Sacramental grace in the case of penance is the grace to restore the sinner to union with God and to give the divine helps needed to overcome future sins and to deepen in love of God.

A priest who refuses to give the Church's absolution (rather than his own made-up words) presumes to take the place of the Church. He acts like a father who starves his children rather than feeding them nourishing meals.

At his ordination, every priest makes a series of binding promises. One of those promises is "to celebrate the mysteries of Christ reverently and faithfully according to the tradition of the Church, especially in the Sacrifice of the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Reconciliation (aka confession or penance), for the praise of God and the sanctification of the Christian people." (Emphasis added.)

It is the right of everyone to receive the sacraments as the Church intends and not to be deprived of them.

As a priest, I know that priests are often very busy men. But the most important thing a priest does on any given day is to administer the sacraments reverently and faithfully.

Only a few sentences are absolutely required in any given sacrament for its validity. It's not a complicated matter that needs to be revised each day. Even if a priest forgets the words of any sacramental form, ritual books are available to help him.

It's difficult to do, but if a priest fails to give the proper absolution, and you are quite sure that you did not simply misunderstand him, then it would be right to ask him for the proper absolution.

the Faith issues the declaration *Dominus Iesus*, which affirms that Jesus Christ, far from being one example of a generic divine will-to-save that expresses itself in different historical personalities, is the unique savior of humanity and the center of history and the cosmos.

**April 18, 2005:** At the Mass for the Election of the Roman Pontiff, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, Dean of the College of Cardinals, warns of a "dictatorship of relativism" that will threaten the human future if political and legal power is deployed to impose a dumbed-down notion of truth on everyone.

**December 22, 2005:** At his first Christmas address to the Roman Curia, Pope Benedict XVI describes two interpretations of Vatican II that have contested for the Catholic future since the Council itself. One was false: a "hermeneutic of discontinuity and rupture" that led to ecclesiastical stagnation and worse. The other, the "hermeneutic of reform" in continuity with the Church's settled tradition, was true and had energized a vital Catholicism.

**November 19, 2011:** In Benin, Benedict XVI signs the apostolic exhortation *Africae Munus* [Africa's Commitment], lifting up dynamic orthodoxy as the key to the evangelization of sub-Saharan Africa, the greatest growth area in the 21st-century Church.

If Synod-2023 is to be a development of the Church's authentic tradition rather than another fruitless effort to reinvent Catholicism according to the cultural canons of post-modernity, its discussions – its so-called "conversations in the Spirit" – must take full account of these 11 crucial Catholic moments since Vatican II, all of which were expressions of the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in the Church.

## Order of Malta member advances in rank



The Federal Association of the Order of Malta held its annual Investiture Mass and gala dinner in September in Washington, D.C., where new members are admitted to the third class as Knights or Dames. In addition, the Subpriory of Our Lady of Lourdes (which contains the Federal and American Associations) celebrated two Knights making a Promise of Obedience to the Faith. One of those Knights is Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church parishioner Charles Mifsud, who signed documents advancing him to the Second Class of the Order. Over his shoulder is Fra' Thomas Mulligan, president of the Federal Association and one of Mifsud's sponsors. *Photo courtesy Order of Malta*

## Equestrian order invests nine new members



The North Central Lieutenancy of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem held its annual Investiture on Sept. 16-17 in Fort Wayne, Ind. Nine new knights and dames were invested from the Diocese of Columbus, and 42 members of the order from the diocese were present for the annual meeting attended by nearly 350 members from six states. The order's members continue to aid the Church in the Holy Land and to strengthen their practice of Christian life. Membership in the order is by invitation to practicing Catholic men and women, laity and clergy, of good character who have distinguished themselves by concern for the Christians of the Holy Land. New members with Bishop Earl Fernandes are (from left) Kort Gronbach, Kris Pellissier, Dee Pellissier, Lindsay Rerko, Michael Rerko, Father Michael Fulton, Father Bob Penhallurick, Father David Schalk and Maximilian Ekey. *CT photo by Ken Snow*

## Ohio Dominican community gathers for prayer service



Ohio Dominican University held its annual Exaltation of the Holy Cross feast-day service on Thursday, Sept. 14, directed by campus ministries' student leadership team. Approximately 200 members of the ODU community participated in the outdoor candlelit event and joined together in prayer.

*Photos courtesy Ohio Dominican University*

## IGNATIUS RETREATS

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- John 1:46

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### Upcoming Retreats

- October 13 - 15 | Men & Women's Retreat with Fr. Harry Geib, SJ
- October 20 - 22 | Men's Retreat with Fr. John Predmore, SJ
- October 27 - 29 | Men's Retreat with Fr. Michael Graham, SJ
- November 3 - 5 | Women's Retreat with Fr. Tom Krettek, SJ
- November 24 - 26 | 12-Step Men's Retreat with Fr. Del Staigers
- December 1 - 8 | Personally Directed Retreat for Men and Women
- January 5 - 7 | Men's Retreat with Fr. Jeff Putthoff, SJ
- January 12 - 14 | Men & Women's Retreat with Fr. Michael Graham, SJ



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## Marion St. Mary 125th anniversary Masses scheduled

Marion St. Mary Church, 251 N. Main St., will celebrate the 125th anniversary of the current church building's dedication with an open house from 3 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 15 and a Mass celebrated by Bishop Earl Fernandes at 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 22.

Visitors to the open house can see the white sandstone, Victorian Gothic church's restored stained-glass windows, grapevine-inlaid sanctuary floor, restored wooden nave floor and more.

The church took four years to build, preceded by three years of planning. Its cornerstone was laid on Oct. 10, 1894 and bears the inscription "Ecclesia Sanctae Mariae – Mater Dei, Ora Pro Nobis," which means "Church of St. Mary, Mother of God, pray for us." Father Michael Mulvihill dedicated the church on Oct. 23, 1898.

Father Edward Shikina, its current pastor, said, "St. Mary Church was built to symbolize the glory of heaven. Thus, the high ceiling draws one's eyes upward to heaven. The sandstone symbolizes the permanency and eternity of heaven. The statues symbolize the communion of saints who long for us to be with them in heaven.

"The beauty of the church inspires us to a greater worship of God and urges us onward to that heavenly glory. I continue to notice something new and quite beautiful each time I enter the church. We invite you to discover her beauty as well."

"The church is a beautiful witness and testament to the faith of so many in Marion over the last 125 years," said Father Seth Keller, parochial vicar of St. Mary. "In that time, the interior of the church has undergone several changes, and in the last decades a couple of major beautification projects.

"We hope many will come and experi-



The interior of Marion St. Mary Church has undergone renovations since it was dedicated 125 years ago on Oct. 23, 1898.  
Photo courtesy St. Mary Church

ence the beauty of this historic Marion building which reflects a deeper history of faith and life."

A few Catholics lived in Marion when Eber Baker founded the city on April 3, 1822. Most were of English descent but came from Ireland to escape persecution in England and to build railroads.

By 1844, about 100 Catholics lived in the area, and the Catholic mission of St. Mary began. Circuit-riding priests came from neighboring towns to celebrate Masses in private homes.

In 1849, Father James Burgess came to Marion and celebrated Masses regularly in the Huber Shops building on Mill Street. A parishioner bought the building in 1854, providing the first permanent place of worship. It was used until 1862.

In 1853, Irish immigrant Timothy Fahey opened a general store and bank in Marion. He purchased land on North Prospect Street from Baker and donated it to St. Mary's. Fahey and several other prominent businessmen pledged funds to build a church.

A cholera epidemic the following year reduced the group to just Fahey, delaying construction.

Additional land was purchased for the church in 1858. Father John Coveney became pastor in 1860, splitting his time between Marion and Bellefontaine. Father Coveney initiated the construction

of a Catholic church on North Prospect Street in 1861.

This red brick building was completed in 1862 and dedicated by Bishop Sylvester Rosecrans, then the auxiliary bishop of Cincinnati and later the first bishop of Columbus.

Father James Burns, a native of Ireland, was appointed pastor in February 1881. He had a long and fruitful tenure, with many projects and accomplishments. As the Catholic population in Marion grew, so did the need for more worship space, resulting in construction of the church.

## Holy Rosary-St. John sets 125th anniversary festivities for Oct. 29

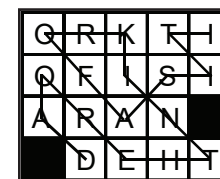
Columbus Holy Rosary-St. John Church will host a celebration on Sunday, Oct. 29, for its 125th anniversary.

Mass will be offered at 9:30 a.m. at 648 S. Ohio Ave. Bishop Earl Fernandes and Father Ramon Owera, the church's pastor, will concelebrate as well as other priests who have served the parish.

A reception will follow in Campion Hall in the St. John Community Center, 640 S. Ohio Ave.

All are welcome to attend the celebration. For those from outside the parish, free registration is available at [hrs-jchurch.eventbrite.com](https://hrs-jchurch.eventbrite.com) (not required, but helpful for planning).

For more information, visit [hrs-jchurch.org](https://hrs-jchurch.org).



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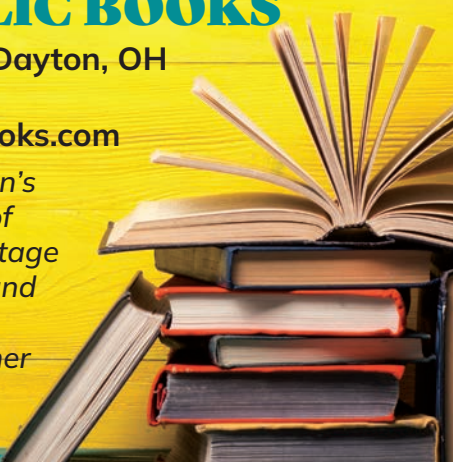
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## PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

**CECUTTI, Brock, 29, Sept. 24**  
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

**COX, Deanna, 82, Sept. 9**  
Sacred Hearts Church, Cardington

**ELDRIDGE, Betsy (Wolf), 61, Sept. 17**  
St. Brendan Church, Hilliard

**GANO, John W., 81, Sept. 14**  
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

**HARMON, Thurman Russell, 80, Sept. 3**  
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

**JACK, Carter Thomas, 2, Sept. 21**  
St. Joseph Cathedral, Columbus

**KINNEY, Ann, (Gilles), of Columbus, 93, Sept. 11**  
St. Mary Church, Kickapoo, Ill.

**LAKE, John R. Jr., 77, Sept. 21**  
St. Joseph Church, Circleville

**LOMBARDO, Sally (Holloway), 92, Sept. 18**  
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

**MARCHETTI, William J., 75, Sept. 13**  
St. Joan of Arc Church, Powell

**McKENZIE, Mildred Viola, 99, Sept. 7**  
Blessed Sacrament Church, Newark

**McNARY, William E., 88, Sept. 23**  
Our Lady of Victory Church, Columbus

**PIZZOLA, Mary V. (Young), 91, Sept. 14**  
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

**POLCZYNSKI, Francis V., Sept. 15**  
Resurrection Cemetery Chapel, Lewis Center

**RISSANEN, Eugene, 77, Sept. 15**  
St. Paul Church, Westerville

**SCHAFFER, Robert J., 89, Sept. 19**  
St. Michael Church, Worthington

**SHARP, Mary A. (Eisel), 90, Sept. 18**  
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

**SHOOK, Janice L. (Boling), 69, Sept. 15**  
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

**SMITH, Francis Marie (Butts), 92, Aug. 8**  
St. Peter Church, Millersburg

**SULLIVAN, Monica C., 71, Sept. 15**  
Our Lady of Peace Church, Columbus

**SWEARINGEN, Harry J. "Jim," 75, Sept. 19**  
St. Margaret of Cortona Church, Columbus

**WAGNER, Allen, 65, Sept. 6**  
Sacred Hearts Church, Cardington

### Deacon Ronald H. Fondriest

Funeral Mass for Deacon Ronald H. Fondriest, 91, who died Monday, Sept. 18, was celebrated Saturday, Sept. 23 at Dover St. Joseph Church.

He was born on May 22, 1932 to James and Sybilla (Franz) Fondriest, graduated from Dover St. Joseph High School and lived in his hometown all his life, except for service in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. He was employed by the Greer Steel Co. in Dover until retiring in 1997.

He was one of the first deacons to be ordained in the Diocese of Columbus following restoration of the diaconate as a permanent order after the Second Vatican Council. His diaconal formation took place at Sacred Heart Seminary in Shelby.

He was ordained by Auxiliary Bishop

George Fulcher on Aug. 19, 1979 in Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral and spent all his diaconal service in his home parish, retiring from active ministry in 2010 but continuing to help the people of the parish and Tuscarawas County whenever or wherever needed.

He also was a member of the Secular Franciscan order and helped raise more than 250 foster children.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and siblings J. Earl, Elden, Jean and Ervin Fondriest, Nadine Collins and Marian Karl.

Survivors include his wife of 67 years, Sue; sons, Ronald (Jill Yuen), Robert (Jennifer), Richard (Pam) and Rodney (Diana); daughters, Julie (Ron) Flickinger and Judith (Jason) Abrecht; 20 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren.

### Ann I. Ball

Funeral Mass for Ann Irene Ball, wife of the late Deacon Frank Ball, will be celebrated Monday, Oct. 16 in the chapel of Resurrection Cemetery, Lewis Center, followed by inurnment.

She was born in 1937 in Pottsville, Pennsylvania, to John and Anna (Cimino) Corrado.

The couple raised their children in Chillicothe, where she was administrative assistant at Bishop Flaget High School. Later in Columbus, she worked

in the finance offices of the Diocese of Columbus and St. Agatha Church. The couple served the community of Columbus St. Elizabeth Church, where her husband was a deacon, for many years.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband, who died in 2014. Survivors include a son, Michael (Joanie) and daughters Susie (John) Dunn and Brenda; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

### Sister M. Barbara Holtzinger, OSF

Funeral Mass for Sister M. Barbara Holtzinger, OSF, 101, who died Monday, Sept. 25 at the Mohun Health Care Center, was celebrated Thursday, Oct. 5 at Columbus St. Leo the Great Oratory. Burial was St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was born Mildred Holtzinger on May 12, 1922 to Jacob and Eva (Stampfer) Holtzinger. She graduated from Columbus St. Mary High School in 1940 and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in education from Rosary Hill College (now Damen University) in Amherst, New York in 1961. She also studied clinical pastoral education at the Benedictine Nursing Center at Mount Angel, Oregon, in 1986 and 1987.

She entered the congregation of the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity in Stella Niagara, New

York on Sept. 6, 1940 and professed her vows on Aug. 18, 1942.

In the Diocese of Columbus, she was a teacher at Columbus St. Peter (1961-1965), Sacred Heart (1965-1968) and St. Leo (1968-1969) schools and performed office work and pastoral care at St. Ann's Hospital from 1969 to 1981. She also taught at schools in New York, New Jersey and West Virginia.

After retiring in 1991, she served as organist at Columbus Holy Cross Church, bookkeeper for the sisters at the St. Francis DeSales convent, and caregiver for her sisters in the family home.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers Jacob, Rudolph, William and George, and sisters Mary Mageen and Elizabeth Wolf. She is survived by many nieces and nephews.

### Joyce Nobile

Funeral Mass for Joyce Nobile, 80, who died Saturday, Sept. 16, was celebrated Saturday, Sept. 23 at Columbus St. Timothy Church. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

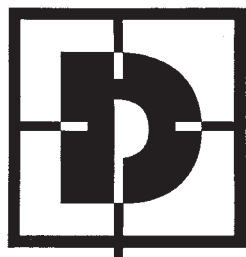
She was born on Jan. 19, 1943 to Dominic and Mary Iacoboni and attended Columbus St. Ladislav School and Columbus St. Joseph Academy.

She was employed as a teacher's aide and a cafeteria worker at St. Timothy School and served her parish as an ex-

traordinary minister of the Eucharist, usher, lector and member of the funeral choir, women's club, and bereavement committee. She also was a member of Iota Tau sorority and the Brookside Golf and Country Club.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Christopher. Survivors include her husband, Louis; sons, Mark and Martin; and two granddaughters.

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**LEADER**, continued from Page 16

"and later during his interview period we toured the Our Lady of Guadalupe Center, but I was not part of the selection process.

"I was very impressed with Kelley's commitment to his faith and his dedication to Catholic Charities and its mission.

"In addition to these qualities and gifts, his experience in all of those previous organizations really made him stand out."

Robert Alan Glover writes for Cross Roads magazine in the Diocese of Lexington, Kentucky; The Western Kentucky Catholic in Owensboro; FAITH/West Tennessee Catholic in Memphis; and OSV NEWS in Huntington, Indiana.



## LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS

# Virgin Islands bishop to be part of Mission Sunday Mass

The diocese's annual Mission Sunday Mass will be concelebrated by Bishop Earl Fernandes and Bishop Joseph Feudijo of the U.S. Virgin Islands at 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21 in Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St.

Pope Francis' theme for the worldwide event honoring the Church's missionary efforts is "Hearts on Fire, Feet on the Move," said Sister Zephrina Mary, FIH, director of the diocesan Missions Office. "As we prepare to observe this special day, we are invited to ignite our hearts with Christ's love and extend that love to everyone," she said.

There will be a time of food and fellowship in the cathedral undercroft after Mass. Persons wishing to attend are asked to RSVP to [szephrina@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:szephrina@columbuscatholic.org).

## Newman Center to host annual White Mass

The Columbus chapter of the Catholic Medical Association will sponsor its annual White Mass at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 18 in the Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center, 64 W. Lane Ave. Bishop Earl Fernandes will be the celebrant.

The Mass traditionally is celebrated on the Feast of St. Luke, who was a physician as well as one of the four Gospel writers. The Mass places an emphasis on those in the health-care professions, but all are invited.

## Ss. Augustine & Gabriel plans Friends and Family Day

Columbus Ss. Augustine & Gabriel Church, 1550 E. Hudson St., will host a Friends and Family Day potluck lunch after the 10 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Oct. 15.

Alumni are encouraged to attend, and all are welcome.

## Bishop to celebrate Swahili Mass at St. Pius X

Bishop Earl Fernandes will celebrate Mass in the Swahili language at 1 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 8 in Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church, 1051 Waggoner Road.

Masses for the diocese's Swahili community have been celebrated for the past five or six years at 3 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month at Columbus St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road. The date and site for this Mass were changed to accommodate the bishop's schedule and because St. Peter has a Mass in Spanish scheduled on Oct. 8 at 1:30 p.m.

St. Peter's neighboring parish, Powell St. Joan of Arc Church, also has an event on that date.

St. Pius was selected as an alternative site because Father Milton Kiocha, SJ, who speaks Swahili and is the celebrant for the Masses at St. Peter, is parochial

vicar at the Reynoldsburg parish. He also served the Swahili community while he was parochial vicar for Chillicothe's two Catholic churches and during an earlier assignment at St. Pius X.

Deogratias Tungaraza, a spokesman for the Swahili community, said 50 to 100 people usually attend the monthly Masses at St. Peter. Most have origins in Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan. Swahili is spoken throughout east Africa and is used by about 80 million people as their first or second language.

Tungaraza said it has taken about 2 ½ years to have a Columbus bishop as celebrant for a Swahili Mass. Efforts were made for former Columbus Bishop Robert Brennan to perform the role and had to be restarted when Bishop Brennan was appointed bishop of Brooklyn, New York in late 2021.

## Christ Child Society announces Foster Hope program

The Christ Child Society of Columbus has launched a program titled Foster Hope, which is designed to help foster children transition to their new homes with their full dignity as children of God and to support the families who open their hearts and their homes to those children.

Foster Hope will help the children feel special and loved by giving each child a duffel bag to transport personal items to the foster home. Inside the bag will be gender- and age-appropriate books, activities, toiletries and other items that have been personalized for each child, together with a special blanket from My Very Own Blanket and a full-sized pillow with a monogrammed pillowcase.

Participating foster parents will receive a basket containing a gift card for a dinner or two through Door Dash, tickets for a family outing, family games and activities, snacks and other helpful items.

The program also will sponsor parties for families served by the agencies it partners with. These parties are designed to give foster families and foster children an opportunity to meet and have fun with those in a similar situation.

The Foster Hope program partners with two agencies that place children in foster care through Franklin County Children Services. The Christ Child Society anticipates serving as many as 40 children and 30 families in 2023.

## Diocese begins program to train parish singers

The Diocese of Columbus is sponsoring a vocal training program designed to strengthen the vocal skills of parish singers and to introduce chant singing in a way that everyone can understand

and appreciate.

The first two of several vocal workshops planned throughout the diocese will take place from 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Oct. 28 and Nov. 4. The first workshop will be at the Lancaster Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, 132 S. High St., and the second will be at Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 1033 W. 5th St.

The workshops will be led by Dr. Richard K. Fitzgerald, diocesan director of music, and Dawn Beckman, head instructor for the program. Fitzgerald is music director and Beckman is on the music staff at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral.

The mission of the diocesan vocal training program is to serve the liturgy through the singing of sacred music and liturgical chant overlaid with the word of God in Scripture. Workshop participants will learn basic techniques of singing as they improve their skills, using this creative outlet to lift the spirits of the listener and enhance the musical and spiritual experience of the liturgy.

## Women's Care Centers Mass is scheduled for Oct. 19

Bishop Earl Fernandes will celebrate a Mass honoring the work of the Women's Care Centers of Columbus at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 19 at Columbus St. Catharine Church, 500 S. Gould Road. The Mass will be followed by recital of the rosary, Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and a pizza party.

The centers provide free confidential counseling, support and education for pregnant women at two Columbus locations. They are among 34 centers that serve 30,000 women annually in 12 states.

## October dates for parish closing Masses announced

Plans for final Masses in October have been announced for Corning St. Bernard Church, Columbus St. Anthony Church and Crooksville Church of the Atonement. All three are being closed as part of the diocese's Real Presence Real Future initiative.

Dates and times for the Masses, to be celebrated by Bishop Earl Fernandes, are: Saturday, Oct. 14, 4 p.m., St. Bernard, 300 Winter St.; Sunday, Oct. 15, 10:30 a.m., St. Anthony, 1300 Urban Drive; and Saturday, Oct. 28, 4 p.m., Church of the Atonement, 425 Adams St.

The St. Bernard Church congregation was formed in 1881, and the current church was built in 1915. The Crooksville parish has a history dating to 1823, with the current church being built in 1901. The two churches are part of the Perry County Consortium of Parishes, formed in 1986. The consortium's remaining two

members are New Lexington St. Rose and Junction City St. Patrick churches.

St. Anthony Church was opened in 1963 on Columbus' north side. Its congregation will merge with that of Columbus St. Elizabeth Church. St. Anthony School was closed at the end of the 2022-23 academic year.

## Bishop Fernandes leading pilgrimage to France

Bishop Earl Fernandes will lead a pilgrimage next spring to honor the 350th anniversary of the revelations of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in Paray-le-Monial, France.

Pilgrimage dates are May 31 to June 9. Besides the apparition site, stops are scheduled in Paris, Nerves, Ars, Annecy, Lisieux, Lyon and Normandy. Space is limited.

For more information, contact Emily Jaminet at (614) 425-6714 or [emilycatholictravel@gmail.com](mailto:emilycatholictravel@gmail.com) or go to

<https://www.ctscentral.net/trips/france/celebrate-the-350th-anniversary-of-the-revelation-of-the-sacred-heart-in-france>.

## DeSales students to stage 'Alice in Wonderland'

The performing arts department of Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School, 4212 Karl Road, will present Anne Coulter Martens' adaptation of Lewis Carroll's classic fairy tale "Alice in Wonderland" at 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21 and 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 22.

Dera Hicks-Prieto will be in the title role. Also featured will be Ava Manfreda as the Mad Hatter, Emma Minser as the March Hare and Ben Reither as the Cheshire Cat.

Tickets will be available on the school's website, [www.sfdstallions.org](http://www.sfdstallions.org), beginning Friday, Oct. 13. All seats are reserved. Adult tickets are \$10, and student tickets are \$5.

## Children of Mary will host open house this month

The Children of Mary are planning an open house at their convent in Newark on Oct. 15-16 from 1 to 8 p.m.

The sisters will introduce their new pilgrimage site and outdoor shrine to the Eucharistic Lord with a tour of the grounds at 1 p.m., a short Eucharistic procession and Benediction at the shrine at 2 p.m., and a healing Holy Hour followed by a guest speaker at 4 p.m. The Divine Office will be chanted in the chapel at 5 p.m.

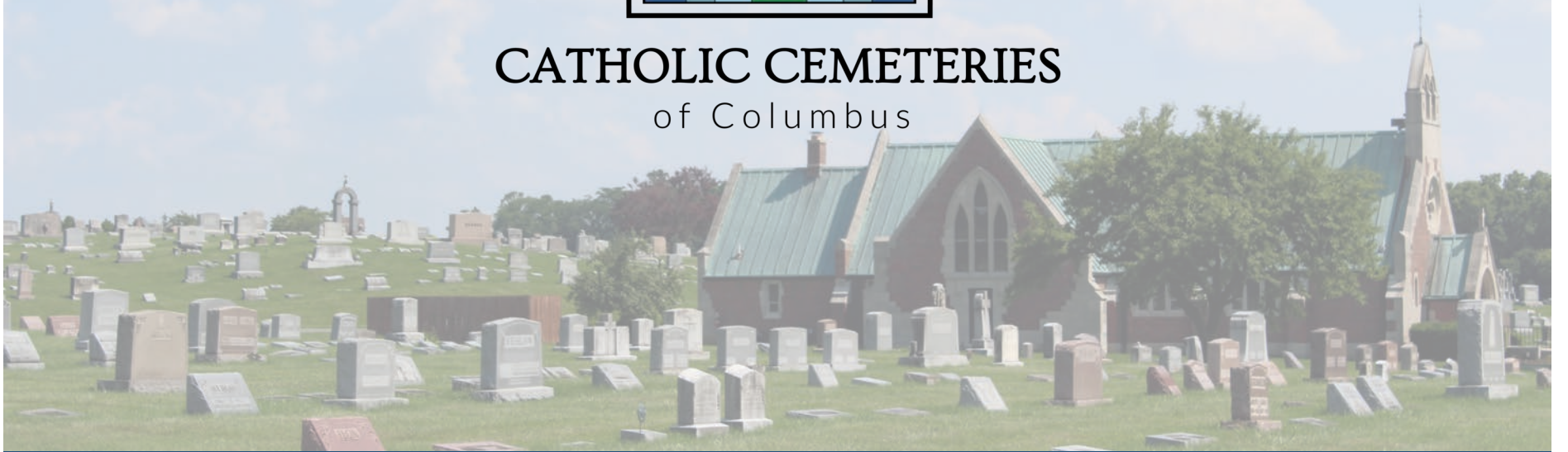
Those who wish may bring a packed supper and eat in our welcome center or by the pond on picnic tables.

The day will conclude with night prayer from 7:30 to 8 p.m.

For more information, call 740-323-1977.



## CATHOLIC CEMETERIES of Columbus



# CEMETERY SATURDAY

Saturday, November 4 | 9 AM

As a complement to the Feasts of All Saints Day and All Souls Day, the Catholic Cemeteries of Columbus invite you to pray with us Morning Prayer from the Divine Office in remembrance of your deceased loved ones.

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[www.catholiccemeteriesofcolumbus.org](http://www.catholiccemeteriesofcolumbus.org)

## Bridgettine Sisters hold events, seek funding

The Bridgettine Sisters in the diocese recently held a potluck dinner with newly married and soon-to-be married couples in addition to hosting a quarterly mini-retreat for women at their convent in Madonna Hall adjacent to Columbus Holy Family Church.

The morning mini-retreat in September was attended by more than 100 women who expressed gratitude for the authentic Catholic formation received and the spiritual wisdom imparted by Father Stash Dailey, the Columbus diocese's vicar for religious.

Father Dailey encouraged the women to "listen to Jesus and get up and move; go to His turf, to His surroundings and to the tabernacle; and pay attention to the people we meet along the way.

"We are not alone," he said. "We are pilgrims on the way to the beatific vision, and we are not alone in the experience of the cross.

"Each of us is a child of God that needs to know they are loved. We are 'oh, so loved by God!'"

One of the sisters' charisms is to adore the Lord and to offer Adoration opportunities to the public at the convent, where adorers find a place of peace through prayer.

Adorers are needed to fill hours from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays at the convent.

For more information, contact Sarah at

thehills1936@gmail.com or (740) 418-0517.

The Bridgettines are also engaged in several projects to expand their complex at 40 N. Grubb St.

The construction of a bell tower and cloister walk that eventually will connect the sisters' residence to a new chapel is in progress. The bell tower and ringing of the bells will call the sisters to prayer and invite the outside world to know Jesus is about to be adored.

Generous patrons have helped advance the construction project, but more help is needed to transform the sisters' space into a haven of peace and faith that will include a retreat house where visitors can find solace and grow closer to the Lord.

One way to help is through the purchase of a special version of the Flag of the Kingdom, which is a Sacred Heart flag that includes a white background with the red heart and cross printed on it. The Flag of the Kingdom was flown in France by the faithful who fought against the French Revolution and has been flown in nearly every country by Catholics as a reminder that their home is under the kingdom of Jesus.

The flag, made in the United States, is available for \$85 by special order for pick-up only. Quantity is limited. If you are interested in the flags, or for more information about plans for the Bridgettines' chapel and retreat house, contact Jody White at jody@whiteboard-mktg.com.



Father Stash Dailey, the diocese's vicar for religious, speaks at a women's retreat at the Bridgettine sisters' convent in September.



Work is progressing on a walkway and bell tower that eventually will connect the Bridgettines sisters' convent with a new chapel. The Bridgettines' complex is located at 40 N. Grubb St. near Columbus Holy Family Church.

Photos courtesy Jody White

## LIVE WINTER GRAVE WREATHS

The Catholic Cemeteries of Columbus offer live wreaths for sale that may be placed on graves, mausoleum crypts, and niches.

The wreaths:

- measure 24 inches in diameter
- offer a distinctive appearance
- have pine cones and an attractive red bow



Wreaths for the grave spaces will be mounted on a 30-inch easel stand.

Cemetery staff will place purchased wreaths at the gravesite beginning in December.

Use the order form to the right to order.



**CATHOLIC CEMETERIES**  
of Columbus  
A Sacred Trust Since 1850

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Decedent's Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Cemetery \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_\_

Number of wreaths \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$50.00 each

Please make checks payable and mail to appropriate cemetery (Mt. Calvary orders mail to St. Joseph):

ST. JOSEPH CEMETERY  
6440 South High Street, Lockbourne, OH 43137

RESURRECTION CEMETERY  
9571 North High Street, Lewis Center, OH 43035

HOLY CROSS CEMETERY  
11539 National Road, S.W., Pataskala, OH 43062

For Office Use Only:

Date Rcvd \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Pd \_\_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_\_

# CATHOLICS OF OHIO UNITE!

# STOP

VOTE ON ISSUE 1  
**NO** ON 11/07/23

Abortion till the  
9TH MONTH

Abortion when the baby feels  
PAIN

The effort to crush your  
PARENTAL RIGHTS

## VOTE NO

### ON THE DECEPTIVE & RADICAL ABORTION BALLOT!

Vote **NO** on the *extreme* Abortion Ballot Initiative that will legalize abortion to the 9th month of pregnancy, after the baby can feel pain, and nullify parental consent laws — pushing us radically past the anti-science tragedy of *Roe v Wade*.

Vote **NO** on the *radical* Abortion Ballot Initiative, which deceptively mentions “protecting” “contraception, fertility treatment, continuing one’s own pregnancy, & miscarriage care” —though **no threats exist in our state to any of these**; life-affirming medical care is already available to every woman in our state .

Vote **NO** on the *anti-woman* Abortion Ballot Initiative that fails to recognize the dignity of women and mothers, **not even using the words “mother” or “woman”** in the ballot language.

Vote **NO** on the *deceptive* Abortion Ballot Initiative that would erase 50 years of pro-life legislative and judicial victories in our state, making us an **abortion “sanctuary state”** along with CA and MI.

Vote **NO** on the *anti-science* Abortion Ballot Initiative that **contradicts sound science, & medicine**, which has unequivocally acknowledged the humanity of the unborn child (*Nature*, (2002); 418: 14-15).

### ALL OF OHIO’S BISHOPS & THE CATHOLIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION URGE FAITHFUL CATHOLICS TO **VOTE NO** IN NOVEMBER!

“It is impossible to further the common good without acknowledging and defending the right to life, upon which all the other inalienable rights of individuals are founded and from which they develop ... Only respect for life can be the foundation and guarant ee of the most precious and essential goods of society, such as democracy and peace.” (Pope St. John Paul II, (1995) , no. 101)

**REGISTER TO VOTE BY OCT 10 &  
VOTE EARLY (ABSENTEE)**

[www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/](http://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/)



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