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WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

PAGES 13-20

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MASS, MARCH FOR LIFE

Thousands of Ohioans came to Columbus on Oct. 6 for a Mass and March for Life to defend the gift of the human person in all stages and to oppose the state's proposed abortion amendment on the November ballot, Page 4



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Diocesan schools are fostering a Catholic culture that includes support for vocations at St. Francis DeSales High School, a celebration of St. Francis of Assisi's feast day at Our Lady of Bethlehem School and youth sports programs, Pages 32-35

Bishop presides over Mass, holy hour for peace in Holy Land

By Hannah Heil
Catholic Times Reporter

Bishop Earl Fernandes offered a Mass at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on Friday, Oct. 13 for peace in the Holy Land followed by a holy hour and rosary.

The bishop asked for the intercession of Our Lady, Queen of Peace as war persists in the Holy Land between Israel and the Palestinian militant group Hamas. During the Holy Hour, Bishop Fernandes offered a sixth decade of the rosary for peace in the Holy Land and for all Christians who are in Gaza in the midst of the conflict.

Bishop Fernandes reminded those gathered for the Mass and those watching the livestream to turn to Jesus Christ and his mother and commit to peace.

"Not only we as individuals but our whole world needs to repent, to return to the Lord and ask for His mercy, ask for His peace," the bishop said in his homily.

Bishop Fernandes said there are many problems in the world and that Jesus Christ is the only answer. There is one God and Father of all mankind, he said,

who sent His only Son into the world to bring peace to His people, reconcile sinners to the Father and rid souls of violence and sin.

"Some people are not open to the Holy Spirit, whose first word was 'conversion,'" Bishop Fernandes said. "They see other people in the world of different faiths, of different nationalities, not as brothers and sisters, children of the same God, who is Father and Lord of all, but as enemies, not as brothers."

"The Holy Father, Pope Francis, keeps talking about human fraternity. Instead, we tend to think more like the philosopher, Jean-Paul Sartre, who says, 'Hell is other people.' He's not my brother, he's my rival, my enemy, and brother is cast against brother."

Bishop Fernandes reflected on the daily Gospel reading from St. Luke (11:15-26) when Jesus cast out a demon. The chief priests and elders responded by attacking Jesus and accused Him of casting out the demon by Beelzebul, a name for Satan.

Those who opposed Jesus were not interested in peace or truth, justice or mer-

See PEACE, Page 3



Bishop Earl Fernandes leads a rosary for peace in the Holy Land on Friday, Oct. 13, at St. Joseph Cathedral. CT photo by Ken Snow

Bishop responds to release of 'Laudate Deum' on feast of St. Francis

Bishop Earl K. Fernandes and the Diocese of Columbus warmly welcome the Holy Father's Apostolic Exhortation *Laudate Deum*, which follows his 2015 encyclical letter *Laudato Si*. All are invited to read and study the document as we continue to assume responsibility for our "common home." The Holy Father felt the urgent need to address environmental issues at this time, admitting that "our responses have not been adequate." (LD, 1)

While many may perceive this exhortation as something political, revolving around the politics and science of climate change, it is much more than that. This is a moral issue. October is Respect Life Month. At the center of creation is the human person, made in God's image and likeness, but the person does not live in a vacuum. Citing the American bishops (cf. LD, 3; USCCB, Global Climate Change Background, 2019), Pope Francis states that "our care for one another and our care for the earth are inti-

mately bound together."

The theme for Respect Life Month in the United States is "Radical Solidarity." With this exhortation, the Holy Father invites us to radical solidarity with those who suffer from the deleterious effects of environmental change and disaster. He invites us to deeper conversion and to accept our responsibility instead of attempting to blame the poor or to blame the crisis on overpopulation (cf. LD, 9).

Following the main lines of thinking of *Laudato Si*, the Holy Father places before us the challenges placed by an ever-growing technocratic paradigm, with an unlimited growth, without adequate ethical reflection. Technology, and its associated economic power (cf. 29-32), allow a select few to dominate others and to treat people and the rest of creation as things to be used rather than persons and creatures of God to be loved, warning that "Contrary to this technocratic paradigm, we say that the world that surrounds us is not an object

of exploitation, unbridled use and unlimited ambition." (LD, 25)

If we continue to treat creation as something to be used and discarded, why should we be surprised that children in the womb, disabled, and elderly people are also discarded? Why should we be surprised by the violence on our streets? Pope Francis highlights the human person, writing, "Human beings must be recognized as a part of nature. Human life, intelligence and freedom are elements of the nature that enriches our planet, part of its internal workings and its equilibrium." (LD, 26)

What is needed now more than ever is an integral human ecology, which accounts for the role of the person in his or her environment. The exhortation itself places fundamental questions before us: "What is the meaning of my life? What is the meaning of my time on this earth? And what is the ultimate meaning of all my work and effort?" (LD, 33)

While acknowledging that Climate

Change Conferences have not yielded adequate results and while remaining hopeful for the Conference of Parties 2028 in Dubai, the Holy Father sees this time as critical for our planet and for all of us. On this Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, as Catholics, we must recognize the beauty of creation and the God who created all things if we are to have a future together in our common home. Creation reveals the One who made all things. The Eternal Father, who saw all He had made and declared it good, sent His Son to be born into this world and to be the Redeemer of all creation.

As disciples of this Son, Jesus, let us assume our responsibility, even by small actions such as reducing pollution and waste, consuming with prudence, fasting, and prayer, to help create a "new culture" (LD, 71) in which every life and every creature in our common home is valued, cherished and loved, and, in doing so, show our love for God, crying out with Francis of Assisi, "*Laudate Deum*."



Front Page photo:

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

Mary's Meals is one of many organizations and religious orders featured in the annual World Mission Sunday section that includes stories describing how the Catholic Church is serving those in need around the globe.

Photo courtesy Mary's Meals

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cy, the bishop said. They wanted to hold onto their power.

He said many government leaders do the same today. They want to dominate but are not concerned with peace.

“Let’s contrast the early kingdom with what Jesus proposes,” Bishop Fernandes said. “Jesus’ kingdom is one of truth and goodness and right ... of peace. What does the world offer where they say that I have a right to perform violence against a child in the womb?”

“I have a right to keep and bear arms, but then, I use those weapons not in self-defense but to take another’s life.’ What does the world say when it says, ‘I have guns and bombs, and I can drop them on innocent children and men and women,’ and say, ‘I am doing right in the name of religion?’ What type of world is that? And yet, that is what we have become.”

The bishop reflected on the first reading of the Mass from the Book of Joel (1:13-15; 2:1-2). Joel was a prophet in southern Israel who preached to the Israelites. God rescued the Israelites from exile in Babylon, but they began to be unfaithful to the Lord. Joel instructed the people to offer penance and return to the Lord their God.

“How we need to hear those words again today, to turn our hearts back to the Lord, who is the Prince of Peace,” Bishop Fernandes said.

He recalled that Oct. 13 was the day

when Our Lady appeared in Fatima in 1917 and thousands of people witnessed the miracle of the sun dancing. Her message was for prayer and penance for the conversion of sinners and the conversion of Russia.

“We turn once more to Our Lady, who is the Queen of Peace, offering our hearts to her and to her son ... committing ourselves to true repentance and committing ourselves to be architects of peace,” he said.

The bishop invited all people to examine their conscience, repent and return to the Lord. He encouraged each person to ask themselves whether they have chosen Christ as the Lord and Savior and King of their heart, or if they are more concerned with power and having control over their brother or sister.

Bishop Fernandes reminded those gathered that the judgment day is coming. All people must ask God, the just judge, to show mercy upon the world and ask for the gift of His peace.

The bishop also invited everyone to take part in a day of prayer, penance and fasting for peace in the Holy Land on Tuesday, Oct. 17, at the request of Cardinal Patriarch of Jerusalem Pierbattista Pizzaballa.



A Rosary was prayed during the holy hour for peace in the Holy Land on Oct. 13 at St. Joseph Cathedral.
CT photos by Ken Snow

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The second Ohio Mass for Life begins with a procession on Friday, Oct. 6 at St. Joseph Cathedral. CT photos by Ken Snow



Thousands walk down High Street in downtown Columbus during the second annual Ohio March for Life on Friday, Oct. 6.

Bishop, speakers call on Ohioans to defend life at Mass, rally

If voters pass a proposed amendment to the state constitution in November that would allow abortion through all nine months of pregnancy and restrict parental rights, Ohio will become one of the most radical pro-abortion states in America, approximately 2,500 pro-life supporters were warned Friday, Oct. 6, at the second annual March for Life on the statehouse lawn in Columbus.

A few hours earlier, Bishop Earl Fernandes delivered a message of hope at a Mass for Life at St. Joseph Cathedral, just two blocks from Ohio's capitol, that was attended by more than 500 people who came from throughout the state to offer witness to the sanctity of life at all stages.

"Today, we are offering a special Mass for peace and justice but for respect for human life in all stages," Bishop Fernandes said in his homily. "We know that about a month from now there will be a big vote and we need the strength that comes from on high to win the day.

"But it is not unrealistic to think that we can accomplish the impossible. With God, all things are possible."

Catholics and pro-lifers remain hopeful that Ohioans will defeat the proposed constitutional amendment in No-

vember despite early polling indicating a majority of the state's residents back the proposal.

"The power of prayer cannot be underestimated," Bishop Fernandes said. "But in order for our prayers to be effective, we need to not just speak to God and beseech God but listen to the voice of God."

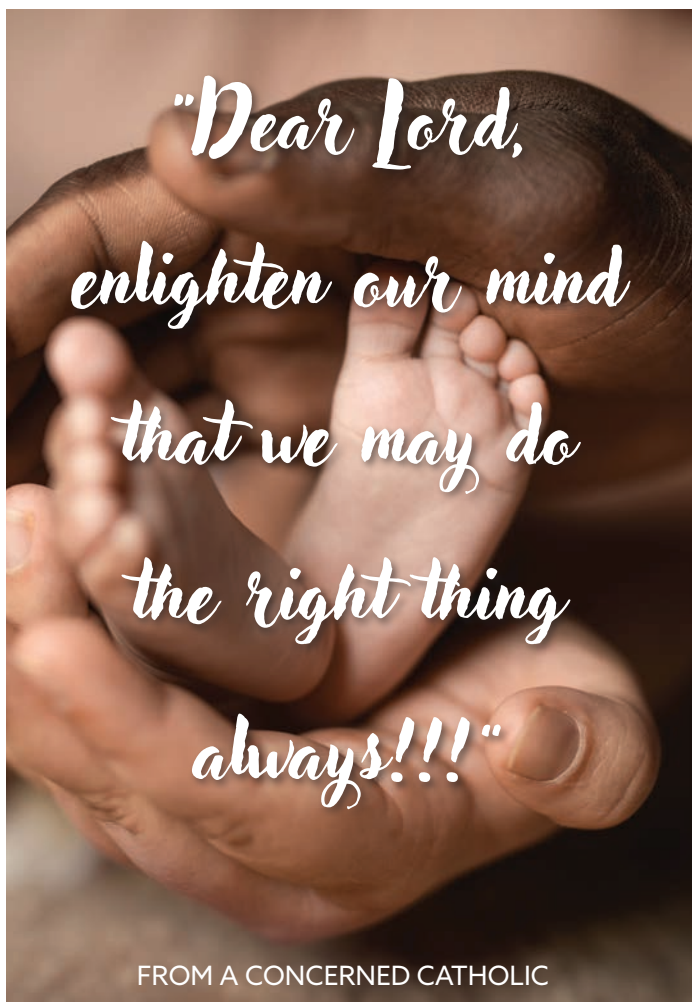
The first reading at Mass from Baruch began with the exiles during the Babylonian captivity praying, "Justice is with the Lord," and Bishop Fernandes asked, "What is justice? (It is) giving another person his or her due, giving God first and foremost His due, but also giving our neighbor, including the unborn child, his or her due.

"No matter the result of the November election, justice is with the Lord our God."

Bishop Fernandes reminded the faithful to repent from their sins and take personal responsibility for following the precepts the Lord, including the Ten Commandments, the fifth of which says "Thou shall not kill."

"To say 'Thou shalt not kill' is to commit oneself to reverence for human life

See **MASS**, Page 8



FROM A CONCERNED CATHOLIC

Lord Jesus, How am I to answer you? When you ask me,

"What have YOU done to STOP ABORTION?"

I respond:

"It's Not My Issue!"

"It's not my issue!"

I tell you, "It's not my issue"

63 + million babies have been ripped apart with forceps or killed with abortion pills or by some other deadly means since 1973.

But "It's not your Issue?????"

Now, they want to enshrine the "Right to an Abortion" into the Constitution of the State of Ohio.

There is still time for you to help stop it. Please respond!

Vote No!!!! on Issue #1 | November 7, 2023

Early voting began October 11, 2023

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 guarantee of the most precious and essential goods of society, such as democracy and peace.” (Pope St. John Paul II, (1995) , no. 101)

VOTE EARLY (ABSENTEE)

www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/



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RESPECT LIFE

PLAN TO ATTEND AN EDUCATIONAL SESSION ON
Radical Solidarity: Standing with Women AGAINST Issue 1

FEATURING



Dr. Alicia Thompson, OB/GYN:
Why Abortion Is Not Women's Healthcare



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2023
ST. MARY CHILlicoTHE FAMILY LIFE CENTER
 1:00pm - 3:00pm | Cost: **FREE** | *Light refreshments will be provided*

radical
solidarity



Columbus Bishop Hartley High School students show their enthusiasm at a rally on the state-house lawn before the Ohio March for Life on Friday, Oct. 6. *CT photos by Ken Snow*



Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School freshmen Cortland Sachon (left) and Jackson Montgomery (center) and sophomore Zachary Utt were among the students attending the Ohio Mass for Life at St. Joseph Cathedral on Oct. 6.



Adults and children came from throughout the state to attend the Ohio Mass for Life at St. Joseph Cathedral that preceded the Ohio March for Life in downtown Columbus.



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Ohio March, Mass for Life have special meaning for DeSales student

By Hannah Heil
Catholic Times Reporter

For Cori Gaddis, a freshman at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School, the Ohio March for Life meant something personal.

Gaddis was adopted, and her mother considered having an abortion. She said she is thankful her mother chose life, and she wants other women to have the support they need to choose life for their children.

Gaddis and her classmates joined students, teachers and Ohioans from across the state, including students from several Catholic elementary and high schools in the Diocese of Columbus, for the second annual Ohio March for Life in Columbus on Oct. 6.

The day began with a Respect Life Mass celebrated by Bishop Earl Fernandes at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral and continued with a gathering on the lawn of the Ohio Statehouse and march around Capitol Square.

Gaddis said she hopes women, like her mother, will receive the support they need before and after giving birth to their babies, so they do not feel alone.

"I do support life ... but I also feel like we need to support mothers, too, like have that kind of relationship and be hand in hand because when I was born, my parents gave me up for adoption because they couldn't take care of me," she said.

"My mom was considering getting an

abortion, and thankfully, they didn't, but at the same time, I see how that was really hard for her."

When considering Issue 1, a proposed amendment that would enshrine abortion in the state constitution through all nine months of pregnancy, Gaddis said it is important that Ohioans respect life, especially the lives of the most vulnerable. Issue 1 will be on the ballot for the Nov. 7 election.

"I feel like it is important to respect life in all stages, so that means we shouldn't be killing innocent people. ... Me personally, for example, I'm glad my mom didn't kill me as a child because then I wouldn't be here today," she said.

"So, it's important to me to be like, 'Hey, we should in fact support this,' because it is the right thing to do, to give everybody a chance."

Gaddis' sentiments were shared by Lt. Gov. Jon Husted. He was given up for adoption after his birth mother, Cheryl, chose life for her son. Husted was one of several individuals, including state lawmakers and pro-life activists who spoke to the more than 2,500 people gathered for the march.

"I am here because my birth mother made a courageous decision to choose life for me," Husted said. "I never knew about all the circumstances that surrounded my birth until I was in my late 30s. I always knew I was adopted, but I didn't know

what the whole story was.

"I hope in sharing this story I'm sharing with you today that (my mother, who died in the 1990s) can look down on this gathering and feel the love I have for her. I can feel the circumstances that young women find themselves in."

Husted said his biological father wanted his mother to have an abortion, "but she chose an adoption, and I'm here today."

Natalie Harrington, a sophomore at Newark Catholic High School, was asked by her teacher to represent the school at the Right to Life Mass. She said she enjoyed taking part in the day.

"I just think this march is super cool, and people are really brave to do it," she said. "(It is) powerful and shows our unity.

"Everybody has life and dignity through God, and this march shows that and just shows our belief and our strong faith in God and how He protects us."

Sen. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson), a state senator representing Ohio's 27th Senate district that includes parts of Summit County in northeastern Ohio, told the crowd that "it takes courage" to defend the right to life, especially as a legislator.

She said she leans on her faith in Christ for strength. Roegner keeps the Bible verse Philippians 4:13 on the back of her phone. She said she reads the verse, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me," multiple times a day.

"We are engaged in a battle – a battle for the soul of our nation and for the lives of the unborn," she said.

Roegner also spoke about Issue 1 facing Ohioans. She said the proposed amendment must be defeated in November.

"There has never been a more important issue in our lifetime," Roegner said. "Millions of lives are at stake."

Ashley Zacherl, a freshman at St. Francis DeSales High School, said she wanted to participate in the Ohio March for Life to demonstrate her belief in a God-given right to life. Voicing her beliefs could change other people's beliefs, she said.

"People should know that it's important and that every life is sacred and every life is important no matter before they're born or after they're born," she said. "I wanted to come (to the march) because it represents our faith and what we believe in, and it can show others what we believe in.

"A lot of people think that you can't do much just because you're a student, like, 'Oh, you can't do anything. They're a kid. Your opinion doesn't matter,' but in reality, one opinion can change multiple lives. And that's my goal – to help people know that every life matters."

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS ISSUE 1?

Issue 1 is a proposed amendment to the Ohio Constitution that would endanger the health and safety of women, threaten parental rights, and allow for abortion through all nine months of pregnancy. Ohioans will vote on November 7, 2023, whether to make this change to the Ohio Constitution.

WHAT WOULD ISSUE 1 DO?

Put women at risk:

- **Health and safety standards in Ohio could be eliminated.** Doctors could no longer need to examine a woman or explain the risks of the abortion procedure ahead of time.

Threaten parental rights:

- **A 15-year-old could have an abortion without her parents knowing.** Current Ohio law requires parental notification and consent before a child under 18 can obtain an abortion. These parental right protections could be removed as they directly conflict with the amendment which would allow all individuals, including minors, to make their own reproductive decisions.

Allow for abortions of fully formed babies:

- **Abortion would be legal through all 9 months of pregnancy.** Physicians at an abortion clinic could use a woman's age or emotional well-being as a reason to perform an abortion in the 3rd trimester.

WOULD ABORTION BE ILLEGAL IN OHIO IF ISSUE 1 DOES NOT PASS?

If Issue 1 does not pass, abortion would still be legal in Ohio until a baby's heartbeat can be detected. This

standard was challenged in court and placed on hold, allowing for abortions up to 22 weeks as of September 15, 2023. Current laws that protect the safety of women and parental rights would stay in effect.

DOESN'T ISSUE 1 SIMPLY RESTORE OHIO BACK TO WHEN ROE V. WADE WAS IN EFFECT?

Issue 1 goes dangerously beyond what was legalized in the Roe v. Wade ruling. It opens the door to remove important health and safety measures that protect women, threatens parental consent and notification of any minor seeking an abortion, and allows for abortion through all nine months of pregnancy.

WILL MISCARRIAGE CARE OR ECTOPIC PREGNANCY TREATMENT BE DENIED IF ISSUE 1 FAILS?

The passing or failure of Issue 1 will have no effect on the care a pregnant woman receives when her life is in danger, even if the treatment results in the loss of life of her unborn child. There is a fundamental difference between an elective abortion and the care provided after a miscarriage or for ectopic pregnancies. Women can always receive life-saving treatment, including in Catholic hospitals. No law restricts this care in Ohio or any other state in the country.

HOW IS THE CHURCH HELPING PREGNANT WOMEN IN NEED?

For decades, numerous Catholic social service agencies, in collaboration with faith-based and secular organizations, have assisted pregnant women in need with material resources and personal accompaniment during pregnancy and after their child is born. Project Rachel helps those struggling post-abortion. Every woman should be able to depend upon a community for sup-

port and the Catholic Church remains committed to women in need.

WHAT IS THE CHURCH DOING TO PROTECT LIFE AND DEFEAT ISSUE 1?

Each diocese in Ohio is working together, through the Catholic Conference of Ohio, to help Catholics understand the dangers of Issue 1 to women, parents, and life. We are also part of the Protect Women Ohio coalition to let all voters know Issue 1 is harmful for Ohioans.

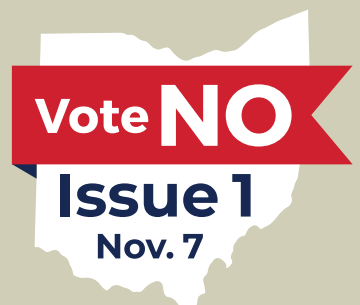
WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP DEFEAT ISSUE 1?

1. PRAY & Fast
2. EDUCATE Yourself and TELL OTHERS about the dangers of Issue 1
3. Register & VOTE NO on Issue 1

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

Read the full text of the proposed change to the Ohio Constitution and learn about the concerning language that puts women at risk, threatens parental rights, and allows for abortions through all nine months of pregnancy:

Visit voteohio.gov for voting details | Learn more about Issue 1 at: www.ohiocathconf.org/protect



Ohio's future as a pro-life state hangs in the balance

If Issue 1 passes on Nov. 7, Ohio will become one of the most pro-abortion states in the country.

When Jeanne Mancini made that statement at the Ohio March for Life on Oct. 6, her words should have resonated with the thousands in the enthusiastic crowd on the statehouse lawn and all across the Buckeye state.

"We are not over-sensationalizing here," the president of the National March for Life stressed. "We are not exaggerating what's going on."

This radical ballot proposal would amend the state's constitution to allow abortion throughout all nine months of pregnancy, including painful and gruesome late-term abortions, and also take away the rights of parents in decisions involving their children's lives. A 15-year-old, for example, could be sexually abused and have an abortion without her parents knowing about it.

This is not just a bill in the legislature that could become law and later blocked in the courts by legal challenges. This is an amendment that enshrines abortion in the state's constitution.

An amendment to the constitution is a serious step. Only 18 states allow their citizens to initiate an amendment proposal, and less than two of 10 are adopted around the country each year, according to State Court Report.

Ohio voters made the proposed amendment's path to victory easier in August when they defeated a measure in a special election that would have raised the threshold for passage of a constitutional amendment in the state to 60%. As a result, a simple majority (50% plus 1 vote) is all that's needed now for passage.

EDITOR'S REFLECTIONS

Doug Bean

That's why the state's Catholic bishops are taking such a strong stand against this initiative. Their righteous concern has nothing to do with politics. Their opposition is all about saving lives of innocent, defenseless unborn children and saving souls.

The Catholic Conference of Ohio, Ohio Right to Life, Greater Columbus Right to Life, Protect Women Ohio and parishes are hard at work getting the word out through various forms of media about this dangerous proposal. More than 100 black faith and community leaders recently adding their voices, issuing an open letter urging citizens to vote no.

With less than a month to go before the election, there are some encouraging signs that pro-lifers' advocacy is making a difference. That's good news, but it's disturbing nonetheless to know that more than 40% of professed Catholics would show support for abortion, let alone a proposal this extreme.

Last November, Ohioans watched their neighbors to the north in Michigan pass a similar amendment to the state's constitution that eliminated virtually all restrictions on abortion. Michigan's seven bishops attempted a full-court press in the final months before the November 2022 election urging voters to reject the initiative, but the abortion amendment passed with 56.7% of the vote.

Ohio pro-lifers continue to work diligently, but is it enough to avoid what happened in Michigan?

Politicians, mostly Republicans, and



pro-life organizations are trying to explain to Ohio voters — even abortion supporters — that a constitutional amendment is an extreme and drastic measure that is unnecessary.

The state currently allows abortion up to 22 weeks' gestation. Ohio's heartbeat law, which banned all abortions essentially after six weeks' gestation, went in effect in June 2022 after the U.S. Supreme Court's Dobbs decision overturned Roe vs. Wade but was blocked by an injunction in September 2022 and remains that way.

Statistics from the Ohio Department of Health show for 2022 that there were 18,488 abortions in the state, a 21% decrease over 2021 that could be attributed in part to the heartbeat law being in place for two-plus months. Over the past 10 years, central Ohio has seen a 45% reduction in abortions.

Sadly, late-term abortions, coming at 19 weeks' gestation and above, accounted for 442 deaths. That number almost certainly will rise in 2024 if Issue 1, allowing babies to be aborted up to the moment of birth, passes.

Planned Parenthood, the American Civil Liberties Union and other anti-life organizations are cleverly framing the debate as a women's rights or a freedom of choice issue without ever mentioning the rights of the unborn child in the womb. These groups are spending millions in the state to influence voters.

Misinformation and scare tactics are cleverly folded into the messaging to

influence uninformed voters. Recent ads from the anti-life side have falsely claimed that women who experience miscarriages or pregnancy complications would not be protected if Issue 1 fails.

Let's hope that the populace will do some research to make informed, rational decisions because, as Mancini and others have said, all eyes will be on Ohio next month.

What's at stake is Ohio joining Michigan, Illinois and other states that have become abortion destinations for out-of-state women. Neighboring Indiana, Kentucky and West Virginia are among 14 states with abortion bans in place.

So, what can be done?

First, pray, pray, pray.

Then, go out and talk to people. Explain that this proposed amendment opens the door to unlimited abortion and threatens parental rights. A Gallup poll in June 2022 found that 65% of Americans favored some limits on abortion and a Harvard-Harris poll showed that only 10% believe there should be no limits on abortion.

Don't assume that the person sitting next to you at Mass on Sunday embraces the teachings of the Church on life beginning at conception.

You might have seen interviews in recent weeks with Catholics who believe abortion should be legal. If you encounter one or more of them in conversation, charitably explain the egregious elements of this amendment proposal and the need to vote no.

Now more than ever, Catholics must be a voice for the voiceless.



Angela Winfield of Dayton carries an image of the Blessed Virgin Mary at the Ohio March for Life on Oct. 6. *CT photo by Ken Snow*

MASS, continued from Page 4

in all its stages, for reverence for the human person made in the image and likeness of God," the bishop said. "And by loving our neighbor we are showing reverence for the God who made all of creation.

"To say no to the killing of the innocent is to say yes to the gift of human life. And that is what we are here to witness to — the gift of life — and to commit ourselves ever more fully to be good stewards of that gift."

The bishop commended pregnancy centers, Catholic Social Services, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and other organizations and individuals who work each day to help mothers in need choose life. He reminded everyone that it is their moral responsibility to put their faith into action.

"We are the people who celebrate life, who cherish life, who defend life. And after the November ballot, we will still be that people," he said.

"Let us ask God for the grace to be the

people and the Church He has called us to be, not people who wage war against the weak and the innocent but who are the voice of the voiceless."

The packed cathedral included Mass-goers of all ages sitting to the side and behind the altar, lining the walls from front to back of the sanctuary and spilling into the vestibule. Groups from diocesan schools and large contingents from Sidney Lehman and Cincinnati Elder high schools were in attendance.

Bishop Edward Malesic of the Diocese of Cleveland joined Bishop Fernandes at the altar along with seven priests, two deacons and seminarian altar servers during the Mass, which also was attended by several orders of religious sisters who serve in the diocese.

After the Mass, the worshipers moved to the statehouse lawn, where Bishop Fernandes offered an opening prayer at the Ohio March for Life rally.

He was followed onto the stage at the steps of the capitol's west entrance by a

collection of Ohio state representatives and senators, pro-life leaders, pastors, Lt. Gov. Jon Husted and wife Tina, Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose and U.S. Sen. J.D. Vance. They encouraged the large crowd to knock on doors, make phone calls and do whatever it takes over the next month to persuade Ohio voters — even those who may not be pro-life — to vote "no."

"Whenever we allow powerful people to prey on women in our country or in our world, it's the newborn babies that always suffer," Vance said. "I've heard a lot from the 'yes' side on Issue 1. We know a lot of those folks are good people. But one of the things I hear from my friends is they will say this is all about freedom.

"I've met a lot of young women who made the unfortunate decision to terminate a pregnancy. Every single time that I saw that happen, it was never about freedom. They were pressured into it."

Medical students: Reject culture of death in favor of culture of life

By Central Ohio Medical Students

Was this pregnancy planned or unplanned, desired or undesired? From surgeons to primary care providers, every physician you've encountered in your life has asked this question at some point in his or her career.

There are, after all, important medical reasons to know the answer. Unplanned pregnancies are known to have higher rates of complications, for example. Asking the question becomes muscle memory for a physician conducting a mother's first prenatal visit. But as a student, new to the world of clinical practice, there is no more jarring experience than witnessing how a singular word can so drastically alter what comes next.

"Undesired" -- the word that changes everything. No longer do we joyously ask about selected names, nursery preparations or how "baby" is doing. As if by instinct, we sternly speak of the "fetus," demurely listen for "cardiac activity" rather than a heartbeat, and wouldn't dare ask what the little one's name is destined to be. Only a culture which devilishly pits the interests of a mother against those of her child would tolerate this dichotomy.

How can we, as future physicians, have any credibility in our pursuit to preserve human life if we are forced to trivialize it when it takes the form of an undesired child? How can we call ourselves physicians when our forebears, who devised the original Hippocratic Oath, had the moral clarity to include the line: "Moreover, I will give no sort of medicine to any pregnant woman, with a view to destroy the child?"

This November, Ohioans vote on

Issue 1, which has the potential to enshrine, among other things, the right for a doctor to perform an abortion procedure on a human fetus until the moment the child takes his or her first breath. As medical students, we strongly urge a "no" vote on Issue 1. Contrary to what other healthcare providers or professional organizations may say, we argue that Issue 1 is a wolf in sheep's clothing, undermining the healing purpose of medicine.

While there has been much discussion about what Issue 1 does or does not accomplish, we must be unambiguous -- Issue 1, in effect, will constitutionally mandate abortion's availability until the baby takes his first breath. It is not moderate. It is not reasonable. It is not pro-choice but rather celebrates abortion as a positive good.

Without Issue 1, abortion policy will continue to be set by our elected representatives, just as regulations concerning all other medical practices are. Issue 1 goes far further than Roe ever did. Issue 1's defenders will say this is untrue, that Issue 1 preserves the ability of the legislature to restrict abortion after viability. Issue 1, however, mandates the availability of abortion, at any time during pregnancy, if it "is necessary to protect the pregnant patient's life or health."

Those of us in medicine know this weaponized ambiguity will be used to justify any and all abortions. Under the standard set by Issue 1, mild heartburn caused by pregnancy could be utilized as a reason necessitating abortion, despite the fact that abortion is never legitimately necessary to save a mother's life (Note: ectopic pregnancy treatment is not considered abortion, neither by Planned Parenthood nor the Catholic

Church).

But what special perspective do we, as medical students, possess on the issue? Our pro-choice colleagues posit that "abortion is healthcare." By this argument, then, someone must provide such "healthcare."

It is a physician who must prescribe the mifepristone medication abortion that detaches the placenta from the uterine wall, causing the baby to suffocate and die from lack of oxygen. It is a physician who performs the suction D&C procedure, dilating the cervix and sucking the growing baby through a straw-like tube. It is a physician who performs the D&E procedure, dilating the cervix, dismembering the baby, and counting the various arms and legs to ensure all body parts are removed.

An abortion is not purely the decision of a woman but requires the participation of a physician who very well knows another human life is present. There is no case in which one of the above procedures is the only or best life-saving option available to a mother in peril.

Even if you support the right of a physician to perform these procedures, which we transparently do not, should abortion be the only medical procedure which is constitutionally protected, especially considering that pro-life and pro-choice physicians alike acknowledge that some form of human life is ended in that procedure?

Make no mistake -- Issue 1 would have us treat abortion as more important and fundamental than any life-saving procedure. And though some of our colleagues would be more than happy to perform abortions, allowing them to do so imperils their own ability to maintain respect for the miracle that is human

life, a miracle we've dedicated our lives to safeguarding.

In a culture of dehumanization, what recommendation might a physician make to a patient in dire medical straits if further treatment is available, but hospice or "medical aid in dying" is an easier option?

We, as the future doctors of tomorrow, ask you to vote "no" on Issue 1.

For those mothers afraid of their inability to pay for care, it is we who provide free and charitable care now and will continue to do so. For the mother whose child faces a significant birth defect, we will be present to utilize the miracles of modern medicine to support life. For the mother whose life is imperiled by pregnancy, Issue 1 is not going to save you -- we will, and we can do so without the supposed "protections" of Issue 1. In fact, we'll provide care for both of you, mother and baby, rejecting the culture of death promoted by Issue 1 in favor of the sacred pursuit of life.

The authors are current students at various medical schools across central Ohio. There are countless pressures on physicians to support abortion in contradiction to basic biology. For example, the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), from which physicians in those specialties must receive board certification, have made the decision to support abortion with deference to politics and not science. Knowing that many students agree with these positions, though cannot state them out of fear, these students have chosen to speak for all medical students in fear of being silenced.

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He warned that the vote on the proposed Ohio amendment, which comes just 17 months after the Roe vs. Wade decision was overturned in June 2022 by the U.S. Supreme Court, has serious ramifications that would enshrine the rights to abortion into the constitution.

"They are trying to make Ohio the most radical pro-abortion state in the entire union," Vance said. "They're trying to take choice away from moms and dads and how they make decisions about their families. I've got three little kids and, God forbid, if one of my kids was dealing with a situation with an unplanned pregnancy, I'd like to be involved."

Husted, who reflected on his adoption story after his birth mother chose not to abort him, emphasized the gravity of the issue before Ohioans.

"We need everyone to understand. This isn't just a law change," he stressed. "It's a constitutional amendment that

people like me uphold when we raise our hand and we take the oath of office, and we certainly don't want this radical proposal to be in that constitution. Do you?"

"This amendment is not some middle of the road compromise. It is a radical proposal that eliminates parental consent on abortions and allows late-term abortions when the baby is viable and can feel pain. That's what this is. And these are the consequences that stand before us."

The pro-life challenge over the course of the next month will be to persuade the majority of voters that Issue 1 is too extreme for Ohio and "that this is the kind of proposal that would come in the constitution of California, not Ohio," Husted said.

"To win a majority of votes, we will need people to vote no who do not necessarily agree with us on the policy of saving the lives of our children," he continued. "The question before us over the course of the

next 30 days is not what the policy should be, it's about persuading Ohioans that the policy should not be what's contained in Issue 1."

Early voting started Wednesday, Oct. 11 around the state.

"Ohio, you are going to be judged by how you treat the most vulnerable," said Jeanne Mancini, president of the national March of Life. "Will you choose life?"

"The stakes are high. All of the country is watching Ohio. And what is to happen here in the next month I'd even go as far as to say that your wonderful state -- that has protected life for all of its history, that has been life affirming -- has hanging in the balance in a short period of 24 hours you could become the most pro-abortion state in our country.

"We are not over-sensationalizing here. We are not exaggerating what's going on. Every vote matters, and everything that you do between now and November 7 matters."



Bishop Earl Fernandes delivers the homily at the Ohio Mass for Life at St. Joseph Cathedral. CT photo by Ken Snow

The Hartford Appeal and the Synod on Synodality

In the winter of 1974, Richard John Neuhaus, then a Lutheran pastor, and Peter Berger, the distinguished sociologist of religion, spent an evening smoking cigars in the Bergers' Brooklyn Heights kitchen and jotting down the things they found most annoying in the liberal theology that dominated American Christian circles. That kitchen-table list eventually led to a meeting at Hartford Seminary, where an ecumenical group of Christian thinkers, by no means confined to the conservative precincts of Catholicism and Protestantism, refined the original Neuhaus/Berger critique of progressive, secularized theology into *An Appeal for Theological Affirmation* (later discussed in a book, *Against the World for the World: The Hartford Appeal and the Future of American Religion*).

Ridiculed by the regnant liberal theological guilds as the "Hartford heresies," the Hartford Appeal in fact signaled a new seriousness about dynamic orthodoxy – as distinguished from fossilized traditionalism – in theology, the effects of which are still felt in the living parts of 21st-century American Christianity. I was a kind of second-generation "Hartford heretic," as Neuhaus and Berger (both of whom became good friends and collaborators in numerous projects) helped me understand the discomforts I had experienced, but couldn't quite specify, during my graduate studies in theology and my later teaching.

Be that as it may, I recently retrieved *Against the World for the World* from my library and was struck by the ways in which, half a century ago, the Hartford Appeal presciently identified some of the woolier ideas that have emerged in the two years of discussions leading up to this month's Synod on Synodality.

Thus Bad Idea #1 flagged by the Hartford Appeal:

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.



Modern thought is superior to all past forms of understanding reality, and is therefore normative for Christian faith and life. How many times have we heard variations on that theme – "We know better" – in the run-up to Synod-2023, as we did during the 2014 and 2015 Synods on the Family and along the German "Synodal Way"?

And Hartford's Bad Idea #4: Jesus can only be understood in terms of contemporary models of humanity. In this instance, things have actually gotten worse since 1975, in that some protagonists of progressive Catholicism now claim that the Lord Jesus was simply mistaken about certain matters, due to the cultural limitations of his time and place. And that's before they get to St. Paul.

And Hartford's Bad Idea #5: All religions are equally valid; the choice among them is not a matter of conviction about truth but only of personal preference or lifestyle. Something similar was implicit in the 2019 "Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together" signed by the Pope and the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, which affirmed that the diversity of religions is of the will of God – a claim somewhat in tension with the Great Commission to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" [Matthew 28.1].

Yet how often, in the materials issued during the two years of preparation for Synod-2023, does one find an unambiguous affirmation of the unique salvific role of Jesus Christ in history? Will that classic Christian claim set the Christocentric baseline for the conversations in Rome this month?

And Hartford's Bad Idea #9: Institutions and historical traditions are oppressive and inimical to our being truly human; liberation from them is required for authentic existence and authentic religion. Too many of the discussions in the years leading up to Synod-2023 have been framed in precisely these terms, not least in Germany. The worst example of this has been the weaponization of the sin and crime of clerical sexual abuse to advance the Catholic Lite program of reinventing Catholicism.

And Hartford's Bad Idea #10: The world must set the agenda for the Church. Social, political, and economic programs to improve the quality of life are ultimately normative for the Church's mission in the world. Anyone who imagines that deep discussions of Christology or ecclesiology (the theology of the Church) will get more attention during Synod-2023 than climate change, the LGBTQ agenda, and migrant resettlement will likely be disappointed.

The challenges of offering a decadent culture the healing medicine of the Gospel have intensified since the Hartford Appeal: the biblical understanding of the human person is now under direct assault by gender ideology; moral theologians are denying that some acts are gravely evil in all circumstances. That's why the Hartford Appeal – a bracing reminder that surrender to the spirit of the age is betrayal of the Gospel – is worth revisiting during Synod-2023.

Wisdom needed in discerning friendships

I sat in a cafe the other day watching a group of women share an animated conversation. They laughed, and a couple more women sat and joined the conversation.

I sat at my table, working on an article and wondering why I never felt included in this particular group, why an invitation did not come my way. As I saw my thoughts begin to slope toward the negative and judgmental, I stopped myself and prayed for the Lord to flood this moment with charity.

Have you ever found yourself in this situation, wondering why you might not be included and turning it into a negative about yourself?

I turned the tables on myself a bit and asked if there had ever been a time when I didn't feel a connection with someone though it was clear they did with me? Perhaps they initiated conversation with me, and I politely lis-

ALL THAT WE HAVE

MaryBeth Eberhard

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



tened but didn't invite them over for tea. Perhaps our kids are in the same sport, and we smile and say hello, but I sit on a different bench once we've said our greetings.

It would be easy to think one of us suffers from bad manners, is rude or just does not like the other. What if we were a little easier on each other and allowed ourselves to be human, to recognize that there will be those we connect with instantly and those, for some reason or another, do not mesh with where we are in life?

We can choose to respond with charity and kindness but have boundaries on our time and energy. There is no commandment that says: Thou shalt love everyone and fill everyone's cup till it runneth over.

What if we realized that there are people we don't click with? Intrinsically, we recognize it, but what if we examined it more purposefully and were intentional in how we dealt with it? We would give

each other the same grace we would want given to us when we make the conscious choice to not initiate a relationship with someone.

We still must maintain the virtue that is indicative of being a Christ follower, modeling kindness, charity and compassion. I am learning, however, that it is truly OK to meet someone and decide that it is not a match, and it is also OK to not be that match to someone else.

I wish I had learned these lessons when I was younger. I am grateful I can share them with my children now as I am learning them. Thank you, Jesus.

Self-doubt and negativity are a breeding ground for Satan to take root in relationships. We must safeguard our souls against worries and doubts that are not grounded in anything but wounds and misgivings we carry.

Instead, let us work toward initiating authentic and vulnerable relationships with those we call a friend close enough to be called a sister or a brother. Let us be wise and know our limitations. Let us give each other and ourselves charity and humility in forming friendships and take only the wise and good from the discernment of each such relationship.

St. Francis de Sales reminds us:

"Love your neighbor, Dear reader, with a great, charitable love, but befriend only those with whom you can be mutually supportive in virtue. The higher the virtues that you put into these relationships, the more perfect will your friendship be."

There is wisdom in discerning friendships. It is OK to not be included even if we see the person's value and would love to walk with them. In truth, we are all brothers and sisters, and our paths will unite with the angels in heaven as we praise God together. There is such grace and beauty when we hold that to be true.

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Is a Catholic funeral necessary?

Dear Father,

I have noticed that there seem to be fewer funerals in our church during the past few years. When I asked the pastor, he told me that the families of Catholics are not honoring the wishes of the deceased to have a Catholic funeral Mass. Instead, they have some kind of prayer service at the funeral home. I find this atrocious. I'm in my 80s and I definitely want a Catholic funeral Mass. Is there a way to ensure that I will have a proper funeral?

-T.S.

Dear T.S.,

It's not only your parish church that has fewer funerals; it's widespread these days, as many pastors will attest. Sadly, many who no longer practice their Catholic faith see no point in giving their parents and relatives a Catholic burial. It's an enormous injustice to the deceased as well as to the surviving relatives and friends.

As we approach the month of November, during which the Church prays specially for all the dead, it is worth recalling the works of mercy that every Christian is bound to practice. The works of mercy are divided into the categories of corporal and spiritual. Corporal works deal with the physical needs of others, including burying the dead. Spiritual works of mercy deal with the soul (both one's own and another's); praying for the dead is one of these.

Showing mercy to others is part of the virtue of justice: something we owe. That makes these works of mercy, including burying and praying for the dead, obligatory. No one is dispensed from this debt. Burying the dead includes making sure that a proper Catholic funeral is given to one who has died. Praying for the

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.



dead includes both the prayers of the funeral Mass and our continued prayers that the deceased may pass from purgatory to the vision of God in heaven.

Even the canon law of the Church mandates that justice be served for the dead: "Christ's faithful who have died are to be given a Church funeral ... [in which] the Church prays for the spiritual support of the dead, it honors their bodies, and at the same time it brings to the living the comfort of hope" (no. 1176). Catechumens, though not baptized, also deserve a Catholic funeral, as do unbaptized infants (can. 1183).

There are three vital aspects of a funeral. The first, as I mentioned, is to pray for the deceased. Of course, our prayer for the dead does not end once the funeral is finished. We are to have Masses offered for the deceased and to offer other sacrifices and prayers on behalf of the deceased.

The second vital aspect is that we are reminded of our own mortality, and that we must reform our lives sooner rather than later, for we know not the day or the hour when we shall be called to give an accounting of the gift of life we have been given.

The other vital reason funerals are important is that we console each other not only with human support but with divine help. We find courage to face the pains

of separation and loss of our loved ones by pondering the truths of our faith, namely that Christ has died and risen from the dead in order to make us sharers in His resurrected life. Our greatest consolation is the sure knowledge that we will life eternally with God in paradise.

To ensure that one has a proper Catholic funeral, we need to plan now. Some people will put off funeral planning because they think they are too young to die, or feel invincible, or simply are turned off by talk about funerals because it seems macabre. These hesitations are unfounded, of course, because we all must come to the end of life sooner or later.

While legal wills are important to dispose of our property, they are not the best vehicles for our loved ones for immediate funeral planning. Legal wills are typically not read until long after we have departed this earth. For this reason, I urge people of all ages to make known to their loved ones now what they expect for funeral planning. This is a crucial conversation to have in person not just when we are old or seriously ill but even when we don't anticipate the unexpected. We should also put our plans into writing and give copies to our loved ones and to the parish priest, who will be able to help make sure that our funeral rites are carried out.

Written funeral plans, which are separate from our legal wills and conversations with those we trust to carry out our wishes, help to ensure that we will have a beautiful Mass and burial. We can also leave instructions in our legal wills that we wish that a portion of our estate will be used for Masses and prayers to be offered for our speedy deliverance from purgatory to be seated at the divine Banquet at God's table.

Ways to help Ukraine include Catholic Foundation fund for medic training

Since the Ukraine-Russia conflict began in February 2022, there are reports that more than half of Ukrainian soldiers and civilians who died from their injuries could have been saved if medics and others were properly trained.

Retired U.S. Army Brigadier General Mark Arnold of Columbus is trying to help by providing mobile medical units and trained medics in Ukraine.

With more than 37 years of military service and after serving three combat tours in Afghanistan and Iraq in special operations task forces (Green Berets), the highly trained and decorated Arnold understands what is needed to save lives. After retiring from the military, he graduated from the Ohio Fire Academy's EMT and firefighter courses while training to be a medic and a certified medic instructor.

In Ukraine, medics were educated by physicians in five medical schools until three were destroyed and one severely damaged during the conflict with Russia. While the Ukrainian military has approximately 27,000 medics, the significant expansion of the Ukrainian ground forces and casualties among medics has resulted in fewer than 20% receiving more than two weeks of education in pre-hospital medicine before being assigned to their units, as compared with a 16-week education program pre-invasion.

Almost all injured Ukrainian soldiers are two to six hours from point of injury to the first physician in the chain of care and four to six days until they are hospitalized. Often, enemy artillery attacks prevent evacuation from the front for up to two days.

The Ukrainian Military Medical Academy is responsible for educating and graduating physicians, nurses

FAITH IN ACTION | Erin Cordle

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



and medics. The academy has plans to qualify a total of 120 instructors (most are physicians) to teach the Tactical Combat Casualty Care Combat Medic course (TCCC/MC), the same curriculum used by the U.S. military for its medics. The Academy is establishing 23 geographically dispersed sites plus mobile training teams to educate medics near their units of assignment.

This model, which uses Ukrainian trauma physicians and other experienced medical providers, worked in Ukraine from 2015 to 2021. But it was slowed by the pandemic and destroyed after the hostilities with Russia began.

To revive the program, \$2 million-\$2.5 million is needed to purchase equipment from the United States and for shipment of medical training aids and pickup trucks for the mobile physician instructor teams.

To help in these efforts, The Columbus Foundation is managing the donor-advised Frontline Medical Ukraine fund. To learn more, go to www.cbustfdn.org/frontline-medical-ukraine or socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org. To donate, go to www.catholic-foundation.org/information-library/foundation/news/general/help-save-lives-in-ukraine.org or contact the Foundation at (614) 443-8893.

In addition, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is supporting Caritas Ukraine in its emergency efforts. Since the 2022 invasion, CRS partners Caritas Ukraine

(Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church) and Caritas Spes (Roman Catholic Church) have assisted nearly four million people.

Support includes:

- Food assistance; field kitchens that provide hot lunches and snacks
- Reception services at Caritas offices, train stations and other locations for displaced people with clothing, information, referrals, food, water, hygiene items, and counseling services.
- Transportation of displaced families to friends, families, and local social services.
- Evacuation centers that provide shelter, food, legal assistance and counseling services for displaced families. These centers include support to address emotional care and child-friendly spaces.

CRS also supports relief efforts in Moldova, Romania, Poland, Hungary and the Balkans.

Help is needed where there is great risk of suffering both within Ukraine and for those who may flee to neighboring countries for safety and people who have been displaced to safe areas, as well as conflict-affected residents in isolated settlements.

To support CRS and its partners, go to: www.support.crs.org/donate. Donations provide immediate assistance for the people of Ukraine. Your support makes a difference.

And remember to pray for the people of Ukraine:

Grant victory over the powers of evil that have arisen and bless Ukraine with your gifts of liberty, peace, tranquility and good fortune. We implore you, O Merciful God, look with grace upon those who courageously defend their land.

How to describe pilgrimage to Fatima, Lourdes, Spain? Childlike awe

I had the blessing of going on a pilgrimage recently to Fatima, Portugal; Lourdes, France and Burgos, Barcelona and Monserrat, Spain. As I was praying about what to write about, the Holy Spirit gave me the word “childlike” as my theme. I wasn’t sure what that meant, but as I prayed and started writing it began to become clear.

First, though, a pilgrimage refers to a journey that can be done alone or with others. I was with a group of 40 women and men from my parish and we were blessed to be led by two priests. The experience of a pilgrimage with others of various ages and backgrounds is truly one of the gifts of the pilgrimage.

Back to childlikeness ... I really felt like the Lord wanted me to just be open and receive like a little child as we visited the holy places — especially the places where Our Lady appeared to children. My desire was to be open to whatever was presented before me — to explore, discover, reflect, share and to give thanks with openness and childlike joy.

In Fatima, it was a visit to the humble homes of the three children of Fatima, who Our Lady appeared to, and we saw the fields where they kept their sheep. As I prayed, I tried to imagine what it must have been like for the children when Our Lady visited them.

They were surprised but not afraid. They were truthful in sharing with the authorities as their stories never changed. I was struck that Lucia and Jacinta could both hear and see Our Lady, but the youngest, Francisco, could only see her. He had to keep asking his sister and cousin, “What did the Lady say?” How hard that must have been!

Our Father knows us so much better than we know ourselves — perhaps Francisco would have been frightened hearing her voice. Our Lady revealed herself as the “Immaculate Conception” and they did not know

HOLY AND HEALTHY | Lori Crock

Lori Crock is a SoulCore Rosary prayer and exercise leader and a St. Brendan parishioner. Lori is online at hollyandhealthycatholic.com, where she shares her passion for faith and fitness.



what that meant. Her name and her message were for the adults of that time and for us. Thanks be to God that the children brought us her message of love, repentance and faithfulness to prayer, especially the Rosary.

Six men from our group had the privilege of carrying the statue of Our Lady of Fatima in the candlelight Rosary procession one evening. I felt like a child running alongside them, praying and appreciating the beautiful presentation of Our Lady and the joy of the pilgrims. It was an extremely emotional event for the men, and for many of us pilgrims, as we united our hearts as one with Our Lady of Fatima.

In Lourdes, again, was a feeling of childlikeness. That was so easy as we moved between three basilicas to pray, to celebrate Mass daily in private chapels with our pastor and to give thanks. It was powerful to pray the Rosary in different languages with people from around the world. To pray at the Grotto where Our Lady spoke to St. Bernadette, to wash in the miraculous waters, to touch the Grotto rocks, to see the spring still bubbling up from the ground where St. Bernadette scratched at the earth and washed in the muddy waters in response Our Lady’s promptings.

I was so emotional as I entered the baths to formally lift my intentions to Our Lady and to wash in the miraculous waters. I had brought so many intentions with me and I was at peace that Our Lady lovingly carried each one to her Son. The nightly candlelit Rosary pro-

cessions were a magnificent display of faith by pilgrims from around the world. I felt so free going before the Father giving thanks, praising and worshipping alongside others who love Jesus through Mary. The daily afternoon procession of the sick, in which hundreds of people in wheelchairs moved around the square with the assistance of so many volunteers, touched our hearts and it reminded me of the childlike qualities of humility, hope and trust that led them to make the difficult journey to Lourdes.

Finally, we made a visit to the Black Madonna in Monserrat, Spain. This was a special gift. I’d heard of the Black Madonna, but I didn’t know the story. The statue of Our Lady was discovered in a cave and placed in a small church. Many miracles have been attributed to praying before the statue that was found in the mountains. The Benedictine Monks build the sanctuary around the statue of Our Lady. The mountainous area of Monserrat, near Barcelona, Spain, is an amazing display of rock formations and beautiful valleys where clouds shift in and out throughout the day. As we entered into the serene mountain sanctuary, I was excited to explore. The moment before the statue of Our Lady brought tears of joy and peace as I gazed upon her beautiful black and gold countenance with wonder and awe.

When a pilgrimage ends, it is bittersweet. It’s wonderful to be back home. Now there is time for reflection, sharing stories with others and pondering the spiritual messages that we received. Whether your pilgrimage is abroad or you go to your local parish church for a Holy Hour, I pray that you are blessed with a childlike spirit of wonder and awe at the glorious gift of our faith and the endless riches of our Church and communion with the saints and our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Supernatural faith and hope are virtues to count on

“Where there’s life, there’s hope.” – J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Lord of the Rings*

Supernatural hope, like faith and charity, is a theological virtue that has its origin in God. Yes, there is also “human (natural)” hope.

Faith and hope are closely related. In his encyclical *On Christian Hope (Spe Salvi)*, Pope Benedict XVI titles his second section “Faith is Hope.” He writes in paragraph 2, “‘Hope,’ in fact, is a key word in Biblical faith – so much so that in several passages the words ‘faith’ and ‘hope’ seem interchangeable. ... When the First Letter of Peter exhorts Christians to be always ready to give an answer concerning the *logos* – the meaning and the reason – of their hope (cf. 3:15), ‘hope’ is equivalent to ‘faith.’”

“We see how decisively the self-understanding of the early Christians was shaped by their having received the gift of a trustworthy hope, when we compare the Christian life with life prior to faith, or with the situation of the followers of other religions. Paul reminds the Ephesians that before their encounter with Christ they were ‘without hope and without God in the world.’ (Ephesians 2:12).”

Note St. Paul says something that some might find odd. The Ephesians (pagans) were without hope, without God. Does that apply in some way to today’s society?

St. Thomas provides insight on the faith/hope relationship in his *Summa* with the question, “Whether hope precedes faith?” He says, “Absolutely speaking, faith precedes hope. For the object of hope is a future good, arduous but possible to obtain. In order, there-

AQUINAS CORNER | Richard Arnold

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



fore, that we may hope, it is necessary for the object of hope to be proposed to us as possible.

“Now the object of hope is, in one way, eternal happiness, and in another way, the Divine assistance: and both of these are proposed to us by faith, whereby we come to know that we are able to obtain eternal life, and that for this purpose the Divine assistance is ready for us. ... (I)t is evident that faith precedes hope.”

One could argue that there is never “blind” hope. Hope must build on something, and that is faith.

A headline from an APM Research Lab survey published Jan. 12, 2022 reads, “Mood of the Nation: Majority of Americans are ‘Extremely Worried’ About the Country in 2022.” It says, “Roughly one-fifth of Americans are ‘extremely hopeful’ about the country’s immediate future; although 1 in 4 Americans explicitly said that ‘nothing made them hopeful.’ The most hopeful Americans placed that hope in politics and, in particular, upcoming elections.”

With all the “enlightened thought” and the technological and medical advances in society, why would there be such “hopelessness?”

In an article published by Harvard Health Publishing on July 16, 2021 and titled, “Hope: Why it Matters,” Adam P. Stern, MD, writes, “Hope is an essential component of our well-being. What can we do when it

seems to be in short supply?

“First, we can start by practicing gratitude. Spending a few minutes each day recounting the positives in one’s life ... can have enormous impact. Next, we can begin to actively envision realistic ways that our circumstances may improve. ... (C)hoose to be mindful and deliberate about fostering positivity, even in the face of its absence.”

We should practice gratitude more often. But to whom should we offer gratitude? Would we offer gratitude to the sun (god) for a warm day?

As Christians, we should be optimistic (positive/hopeful) in our daily lives because we have supernatural hope. Consider how many Christians martyrs have suffered in faith and hope to the greater glory of God and that their reward will be great.

We might try to compartmentalize natural and supernatural hope. Lots of folks (naturally) hope that the Buckeyes are national champions. But it is supernatural hope that moves us forward to the true destiny.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC 1817) says, “Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ’s promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit.”

When you or someone you know starts losing hope, dig down to what that hope is based on. Is Christ the center of their lives? Are we “too humble” to ask for the help of the Holy Spirit?

Supernatural faith and hope are certain, whereas natural faith and hope can and often do fail.

World Mission Sunday: 'Hearts on fire, feet on the move'

By Sister Zephрина Mary, FIH

Director, Diocesan Missions Office

As Christians, we're called to kindle the fire of Christ's love in our hearts. Our burning faith fuels our actions, inspiring us to serve others in our daily lives.

World Mission Sunday 2023 will be observed on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 21-22. The collection that day supports mission dioceses in Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands and parts of Latin America and Europe.

This year's World Mission Sunday theme is "Hearts on fire, feet on the move." (Luke 24:13-35) Pope Francis invites us to set our hearts ablaze with faith and put our faith into action, serving God's mission with joy, enthusiasm and tireless dedication.

In 2022, the faithful of the Diocese of Columbus contributed \$92,723.69 to the World Mission Sunday collection. On behalf of Bishop Earl Fernandes and Msgr. Kieran Harrington, national director of the Pontifical Mission Societies, thank you for your generosity and kindness toward the missions of the Church.

World Mission Sunday is an effort of the entire Church to help more than 1,100 dioceses that cannot sustain themselves because they are too poor, young or actively persecuted. Until 1908, the Church in the United States was mission territory. We relied on this fund to build our churches and seminaries and support our clergy and religious.

Today many foreign missions rely on our generosity to sustain the Church, which is an instrument of God's love, mercy, hope and peace.

The perfect example of a missionary disciple of Jesus is Mary, our heavenly mother. She is inviting us to be a witness for Christ by loving and helping our fel-

low men.

Pope St. Paul VI, in his letter on devotion to Mary, tells us: "The Virgin Mary has always been proposed to the faithful by the Church as an example to be imitated, not precisely in the type of life she led, and much less for the socio-cultural background in which she lived and which today scarcely exists anywhere. She is worthy of imitation because she was the first and most perfect of Christ's disciples." (Marialis Cultus, 1974)

The synodal journey that the Church has undertaken for the better proclamation of the Gospel by our daily lives focuses on more communion, participation and mission in the Church.

Pope Francis invites us through his message for World Mission Day 2023: "I desire to express my closeness in Christ to all the men and women missionaries in the world, especially to those enduring any kind of hardship. Dear friends, the Risen Lord is always with you. He sees your generosity and the sacrifices you are making for the mission of evangelization in distant lands. (John 16:33)"

What concrete steps will you take to offer your service in the missions? Will you intensify your prayer for the missions and missionaries? The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that "the duty of Christians to take part in the life of the Church impels them to act as witnesses of the Gospel and of the obligations that flow from it. This witness is a transmission of the faith in words and deeds. Witness is an act of justice that establishes the truth or makes it known." (Catechism of the Catholic Church No. 2472).

The Church is calling everyone to take up the challenges of spreading the Gospel. We have been baptized and given the gift of faith and participation in the very life of God. We have been confirmed in

the Holy Spirit and nourished through the Body and Blood of Christ by worthy reception of the Eucharist. We have to encounter Jesus through our prayer and in our actions for being set on fire with enthusiasm to tell everyone about Him.

Let our hearts be ready to read the Scriptures and meditate upon them. Let us listen to the voice of the Lord as we reflect upon the Scriptures and allow Him to explain to us the meaning and depth of the Gospel.

Missionaries resolutely set out, leaving home and family behind, to bring the

Gospel to places and people with a burning heart. The services offered by the Church's missionaries in bearing Christ's message of salvation were expressed through simple and practical acts of charity, the embrace of the Sacraments and a rich prayer life.

We can promote the universal missionary spirit of the Church by our valuable contribution. Let us spread the light of Christ by our testimony in becoming generous and joyful apostles of the Gospel.

The Heart of Mary, Queen of Missions, pray for us!

Support missions of the world

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Every year we remember in a special way our Baptismal call to mission as we celebrate World Mission Sunday, this year on weekend of 21-22nd October. I invite you to join me on Saturday, October 21st at the 5pm Mass at St. Joseph Cathedral. This Mass will be live-streamed for those who are unable to attend in person. I am looking forward to this diocesan Eucharistic celebration which unites and connects all Catholics of the world into one community of faith.

We will gather at the Eucharist, as will Catholics throughout the world, in a spirit of love for Evangelization so that, through our prayers and concrete acts of solidarity, the gift of faith may be shared with all. Pope Francis emphasizes on "Hearts on fire, feet on the move" (Luke, 24:13-35) which is the theme of this year on mission Sunday. Let us generously and joyfully carry out the mission of the Church. May we permit Jesus to make our hearts burn with

love for Him who is the savior of all mankind.

Your gifts sustain priests, religious and lay pastoral leaders in more than 1,100 mission dioceses in Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands, and parts of Latin America and Europe as they proclaim the Gospel, build the Church, and serve the poor. Let us unite with Catholics across the globe to pray and offer sacrifices and gifts for the missionary work of the Church.

I am most grateful to you for your continuing generosity and support and I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes
Bishop of Columbus



Apostles of Jesus are African missionaries to the world

By Rev. Richard O'Nyamwaro, AJ

Director of Mission Promotion

My name is Father Richard O'Nyamwaro, AJ, a member of the Religious Missionary Institute of the Apostles of Jesus. I serve as the institute's director of Mission Promotion. It is an honor to share with you a story in line with this year's theme for World Mission Sunday: "Hearts on fire, feet on the move."

The Institute of the Apostles of Jesus was founded in 1968 in Moroto, Uganda, by two Comboni missionaries: Bishop Sisto Mazzoldi, MCCJ, and Father John Marengoni, MCCJ. The two Italian missionaries served in Sudan and Uganda. Their zeal for souls was inspired by the motto of their founder, Bishop Daniel Comboni: "Africa or death."

Despite the many challenges the missionaries faced, including life-threatening tropical diseases, nothing could deter them from evangelizing Africa. Their hearts were on fire, their feet on the move.

On Feb. 27, 1964, the Council of Ministers

of the government of Sudan expelled all foreign missionaries from the country, including Bishop Mazzoldi and Father Marengoni.

They left Sudan in March 1964 and returned to Italy. While in Italy, their hearts were still on fire for the African missions. They explored ways of returning to east Africa, and within a short time they arrived in northern Uganda bordering South Sudan, where they had kept in touch with citizens there. They were still inspired by "Africa or death."

In 1965, Bishop Mazzoldi and Father Marengoni relocated to northern Uganda. The bishop was given a new diocese of Moroto, and Father Marengoni was assigned to teach dogmatic theology, spirituality and the documents of the Second Vatican Council at Lacor Major Seminary in Gulu.

In 1967, while traveling from Morulem to Moroto, in northern Uganda, Bishop Mazzoldi and Father Marengoni discussed the need for Africa to have native missionaries. They sent a letter to the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples in Rome, expressing their desires, giving a summary of their plan and ask-



Bishop Sisto Mazzoldi, MCCJ (left), and Father John Marengoni, MCCJ

ing for permission to start the institute.

They received approval, and on Aug. 22, 1968, the Feast of the Queenship of Mary, the Religious Missionary Institute of the Apostles of Jesus, the first indigenous African religious missionaries for Africa and the world, was founded.

To date, about 500 Apostles of Jesus minister in Africa, Europe, Australia and the United States, carrying on the work started by their co-founders with "our hearts on fire, our feet on the move."

On May 25, 2023, our institute lost a young missionary priest, Father Bernard Woniala, a native of Uganda. He was 44 years old, a priest for 10 years. At the time of his death, he was serving in Papua New Guinea. His dedication to ministry clearly demonstrated

the World Mission Sunday theme.

Linda, who attends St. Monica Parish in Sunbury, Pennsylvania, and who had known Father Bernard during his summer visits to the parish, said the following after learning of his death:

"Father Bernard was a sweet and gentle man. He was a kind priest who lived his vocation faithfully and sincerely. It was obvious that he cared for the people he served, whether he knew them personally or not.

"He was conscientious in carrying out his ministry, serving God and the people in his midst, wherever he was sent to serve. His love for God showed strongly in his words, actions and demeanor. He touched many people's hearts with God's love."

The Apostles of Jesus continue to embody "hearts on fire, feet on the move" by their physical and spiritual journey to share the message of love and hope through words, actions and life. We are grateful to the diocese of Columbus for inviting us to minister here. With your support, our hearts will continue to be on fire, our feet on the move.

Local man remains on a mission to help needy in Belize

By Hannah Heil
Catholic Times Reporter

William Strait began missionary work in Belize 14 years ago after a reversion to the Catholic faith that he describes as an old winter coat.

Strait, 67, who is a central Ohio native, was inspired by his pastor, the late Father Justin Reis, at his former parish, Columbus St. Peter Church, to visit the Diocese of Columbus' Missions Office.

"(Father) Justin Reis, I can't say enough about his involvement directing me here, being my pastor when I returned to the Church," he said. "Returning to the Church to me, it was like putting on an old familiar coat on a winter's day."

Strait, who was a cradle Catholic, left the Church and returned Thanksgiving 2008. Upon his return, he began feeling a nudge, he said, from the Holy Spirit toward missionary work. The following April, he visited the diocesan Missions Office.

"I was praying for six months about a feeling, a nudge, a calling," he said. "Father Reis said, 'You need to go down to the Missions (Office).' That was shortly after I had returned (to the Church)."

At the diocesan Missions Office, he was given a book of various missions around the globe and the phone number for Thomasita Ascevedo, who he described as the "rosary woman." Ascevedo had a rosary ministry in Belize, Strait said.

"I called her and she said, 'Why don't you come down for the month of May?' like in a week or two, and I went," Strait said. "Her goal was to give rosaries, a pamphlet how to pray the rosary and a picture of the Divine Mercy to every child in the entire country."

"It just so happened that she was in the south in a district called the Toledo District – the poorest of the poor. The government, everybody, it's just like the end of the earth poor, and traveling with her, I fell in love with the children immediately."

From that point forward, Strait has been committed to missionary work.

In August, he made his sixth trip to the Central American country in the past two years.

Strait has been a member of Newark

St. Francis DeSales Church for four years. Recently, he received the support of his pastor, Father David Sizemore, and his parish to create a foundation supporting his missionary work in Belize.

The foundation was named the Mary Elizabeth Foundation after Strait's mother, who died in 2013. He had taken a hiatus from his travels to care for his mother during the final two years of her life after she became ill.

He created the foundation to increase financial and spiritual support for the poor in Belize.

"My mother was born in 1925," he said. "In 1927, she went to an orphanage. I ended up coming back from Belize for years to take care of her until death did us part."

"Something about her and these kids – taking care of her in the last days, I saw all the insecurities she had because there wasn't a mother and father there to nurture her."

Strait recognizes how insecurities affect the poorest people he serves in Belize. However, he said, "all of the insecurities of being poor and not knowing where your food's coming from, in spite of that, they have joy."

Strait described his missionary work in Belize as "life changing." Many of the villages do not have electricity or cell phone service. However, he said, people in the villages live with a simplicity and joy that brings him back to his childhood.

"It's beautiful, reminds me of the (United) States in the '50s and '60s during our time of innocence, when kids played a game called 'kick the can,'" he said. "You could find an empty can and play the game. That's how these people are – they live a simple life, but they have a lot of joy."

Strait enjoys assisting people in need and being someone to provide help. He recalled struggles from his childhood, when he felt he had to depend on himself.

"My father was a disabled vet and died at age 45," he said. "We had a very humble beginning on this planet. Mother had to go to work. I learned a lot about everything the hard way. It took years before I was able to get the spiritual help and the edifying relationships I needed."

Strait formed a relationship with the Pal-

lottine Missionary Sisters of Belize, who are part of an international Catholic religious order founded by St. Vincent Pallotti.

The Pallottine Missionary Sisters of Belize serve the community and assist the poor and marginalized through projects and community outreach programs across the country. The sisters help Strait to identify many of the individual and family needs in the area.

Strait is currently helping the Pallottine Missionary Sisters of Belize revive a 90-acre property known as Nazareth. It is located in Punta Gorda in the Toledo District of Belize. There are five buildings on the property. The sisters reside in two of the buildings. Another building serves as a retreat center.

He is repainting four buildings on the property and revitalizing the land. Once the center has been renovated, Strait said, he foresees Nazareth being used year-round by visitors from around the world.

He envisions Vacation Bible School, or a similar program, being offered for children at Nazareth. He would like the retreat center to be a place for children in Belize to spend time with the Pallottine Missionary Sisters, he said, and provide them with food and snacks.

Strait's missionary work also supports churches and schools in Belize's Toledo District.

"I need to do an assessment of 32 schools, and not all of them have kitchens, but every one needs athletic gear, volleyballs and nets, soccer balls, and believe it or not, as short in stature of people they are, they like their basketball, too," he said. "Balls for a school is like ice cream every day."

Strait also acquires materials and items for school buildings and classrooms. He purchases construction materials in Belize, he said, and often pays a local resident to build desks for the schools.

"They need desks; they need a whiteboard. ... The teachers are not given any money for supplies," he said. "So, anything and everything I can put in a suitcase for teachers – they actually need anything you can think of."

"I was coming out of a store, I saw

some scissors, and I grabbed a couple, and when I gave them those scissors you would think I gave them a gold bar. They don't have whiteboards – electronic whiteboards – like our schools have. They're converting from chalk to whiteboards.

"To give a child a desk and a ball, the desk to sit in in a classroom and a ball to either play with on the playground or take home with them – big stuff, big stuff."

Strait purchased whiteboards from Belize City in the north, he said, and rented a truck to transport them to the Toledo District. He has also supported churches in the district by paying for new pews to be constructed and paint and tools to repaint two Catholic churches.

Strait said there can be difficulties communicating with the people he serves. English is the official language of Belize, but Belizeans speak several languages, including Garifuna, Spanish, Creole and three Mayan languages.

Serving in a foreign country has required adaptability and flexibility. Oftentimes, his schedule for a missionary trip is disrupted.

"It's all about counting on the (Holy) Spirit," he said. "It just flows when I'm there – the Spirit in my direction. 'I thought I was going that way' – no, I'm going this way. 'I thought this was going to happen today' – no, it's not going to happen for five days. We Americans don't deal with uncertainty well or going with the flow."

Strait's missionary work has also in-



Will Strait (right) visits with villagers in Belize on one of his mission trips to the Central American country. Photo courtesy Mary Elizabeth Foundation

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Newark parish establishes foundation to support mission in Belize

Fourteen years ago, Will Strait received a call from the Lord to help the people of Belize in Central America.

Strait went to Belize, formed a relationship with the Pallottine Missionary Sisters and saw a great need for help as he traveled through the poorest areas of the country.

That led to Strait, a member of Newark St. Francis de Sales Church, establishing the Mary Elizabeth Foundation in conjunction with his parish to help increase financial and spiritual support for the poor. The foundation is named after Strait's deceased mother, who herself expressed the spirit of giving throughout her life.

Some recent accomplishments include: paint and tools to repaint two of the Catholic churches; desks and whiteboards along with a projector, toner and paper for a printer at a village school; recreational sports equipment, including balls and nets for students; and 10 iPads to a classroom with children who spoke six different languages so they could learn English, the official language of Belize.

In one touching instance, when a young female high school student was given a laptop to help her progress with her studies, there were tears not only in her own eyes but also in those of her

mother and grandmother, Strait said.

The sisters identified this young woman and many other individuals and families in need. Strait related that sometimes a simple gift like toilet paper to a man in a wheelchair can make a difference.

He said much more is needed to help the poor in Belize.

Strait explained that hundreds of children in the village schools do not have a desk or a ball to play with and school kitchens are outdated, with many still burning wood for cooking that exposes the children to toxic smoke. The meal that a child receives at school may be the only

meal for that day. Meanwhile, the sisters are feeding the poor on the streets in the city and helping with basic supplies.

The Foundation's focus on meeting basic physical needs allows the priests and nuns to better provide and meet spiritual needs of the community. Providing laptops, school supplies and enhancing a child's education not only changes life for children but for the entire family.

St. Francis deSales parish has launched a website that will accept financial donations to support the mission. Visit www.MaryElizabethFoundation.org to learn more about the foundation.

School in El Salvador provides education, foster care to youth

COAR, the Community of St. Oscar Arnulfo Romero, is a pre-K through 12th grade school and residential foster-care home in Zaragoza, El Salvador.

As with many international missions of the church, a portion of COAR's funding is raised through the Mission Cooperative Plan or "mission appeal" at churches in North America. COAR speakers often enjoy meeting new supporters, connecting with people when talking about El Salvador or the school's mission, and occasionally running into donors who are familiar with COAR.

This year, one of the speakers met someone who might know COAR even better than she does. COAR programs director, Susan Barnish, makes most of the arrangements for the speakers, so she was surprised when the pastor of a church in San Antonio responded to her introduction of COAR by saying, "Why yes, of course I know COAR. I graduated from high school there!"

Meeting Father Juan Carlos Morales Tejada was special. It is rare for COAR staff

members to encounter a COAR graduate as an adult. Staff members know they are doing all they can to send them out into the world prepared to be good community members, with an excellent education based in Catholic values, but like all good parents, they set them free and don't often see the fruits of their labors until years later.

Father Juan Carlos grew up in San José Villanueva, near Zaragoza. He is the oldest of six children. As a child, he was an altar server, and his friends

and neighbors would always tell him what a good priest he would make. He began to feel a calling to the priesthood.

However, as he started high school, he began to wonder if God was really calling him or if he just considered the priesthood because so many people had mentioned it to him.

In his years at COAR, Father JC (as his parishioners call him) played for the school soccer team and started to think he might want to become a civil engi-



Father Juan Carlos Morales Tejada, outside his parish in San Antonio, El Salvador



Juan Carlos Morales Tejada at 16, then a COAR high school student

neer. As the oldest child, he was also thinking about providing for his younger siblings.

However, Father Juan Carlos still maintained a relationship with Father Mario Cruz, his parish priest in San José, and Father Mario encouraged him to go on a retreat at the seminary in San Salvador, reminding him that if God was really calling him to the priesthood, He would provide for Father Juan Carlos' family in his absence.

He'll tell you candidly that the retreat

talks were sleep-inducing, but that at a holy hour on that retreat, Father JC was especially called to an image of the Virgin of Guadalupe and prayed for her intercession. He told her that if she wanted him to become a priest, she must take care of his family.

And she has ever since, he says. He was sent to study in Mexico City, where he felt at home in prayer at the Cathedral of the Assumption, and then to San Antonio, at Assumption Seminary. When his mother passed away, on Aug. 15, the Feast of the Assumption, he was comforted knowing that the Blessed Mother continued to watch over him.

Coincidentally (or not!), Aug. 15 is also the birthday of St. Oscar Romero, and the day staff members celebrate the anniversary of COAR.

Father JC has shared about the impact COAR can have on a child's life and about a scholarship he received through a sponsorship program that gave him access to workshops, sports teams and opportunities he might not otherwise have had.

From India: Thanks for your love and support

By Father Joseph Madanu
Mission Director,
Diocese of Guntur, India

Thank you, Bishop Earl Fernandes and Sister Zephryna Mary for giving us the opportunity to seek the love and support of the parishioners of your diocese for our missions.

When my bishop and I met you last year and explained the dire needs of our diocese, you invited us to participate into your missionary cooperation program. Thanks for inviting us; this is a great help for our orphanages and boarding homes and for the poor, remote parishes where we don't have rectories to house priests.

This year, we were given the opportunity to visit four parishes in your diocese. The missionary priests – Father Mariadas Chatla and Father Sunder Raju Putty – visited the parishes and spoke about our missions. Thanks to all the pastors and the parishioners for your openness, love and support.

Our diocese of Guntur is a missionary diocese in southeast India on the Bay of Bengal. It was established in 1940 and entrusted to the local clergy.

There are more than 300,000 Catholics in the diocese out of a total population of more than 5 million. There are 101 parishes with nearly 500 mission stations and 200 catechists helping in the diocese.

Most of our Catholics are poor and suf-

fer social discrimination. They completely depend upon their wages of less than \$5 a day, mainly from farm labor, for their living. The work is seasonal, and people are left without employment for nearly four months a year.

To help the children from these poor families, we run more than 50 boarding homes/hostels/orphanages in our diocese, and more than 2,000 young children live in our facilities. Some children have no parents; some have only one parent.

This year, most of your donations to our missions will help support the children living in these boarding homes/orphanages.

We all know how important education is to our children. Thanks for your love and generous support to provide education for the orphans in our diocese. Thank you for giving life to our children with your support.

As I mentioned above, our diocese has more than 100 parishes and 500 mission stations. The Catholic population is slowly growing, and the number of people attending church and the number of baptisms increases every year.

Most of the mission stations lack chapels and rectories. In some mission stations, the priests gather the people in houses to celebrate the Eucharist, and the priests must live in rented apartments. Their landlords have limitations and regulations on the faithful who wish to visit the priests.



The Diocese of Guntur, India, has more than 50 boarding homes, hostels or orphanages to provide assistance for children.
Photo courtesy Diocese of Guntur

Building a rectory costs \$50,000 to \$60,000. Besides providing support to the orphanages, the diocese hopes to build a rectory at one of the mission stations with donations received from the missions this year.

The Catholics of our diocese are poor, yet their faith is strong, and they are committed to the Church and the sacraments. We are getting many vocations to the priesthood from these poor families.

Nearly 800 priests from dioceses across India are working in the United States. Years back, missionaries from America and other countries built the faith of our people. Now we are working as missionaries in the U.S. and other countries.

We never know how faith spreads and how God uses his people. Thanks for spreading the faith and the Gospel. Thanks for giving life to the poor of our diocese. May God continue to bless your diocese!

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cluded working to meet the medical needs of the Belizeans he serves, such as helping children get surgeries. He raised \$12,000, he said, for the World Pediatric Project, which sends surgical and diagnostic medical teams to provide treatment in coun-

tries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

"I was able to get these two little girls and an adult surgery about 12 years ago," he said. "Two girls were born with cleft (palates). One had an extra flap of skin between her lip and her teeth. The doctors

was able to heal her.

"The other girl, her septum (the bone and cartilage dividing the space between the two nostrils) was deviated so bad, they thought that was what was causing these horrible noises sleeping at night. They got

her under a general anesthesia, and she had tonsillitis, so she was healed."

Strait said he cares for the Belizean children as if they were his own. His presence has

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Sisters house and educate poor children in India

By Rev. Mother Rexia Mary, FIH
Superior General

The Congregation of the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Quilon is the first group of indigenous women religious in Asia.

The order was established in Pondicherry, India on Oct. 16, 1844 by Father Louis Savinien Dupuis, a French missionary, for the education, social awakening and emancipation of women. The founder inculcated in the members life principles such as simplicity and love for the poor.

To be faithful to the congregational charism, the sisters devote themselves to educating children of different ages; healing the sick; caring for orphans, the abandoned, the aged and the mentally challenged; and in uplifting the poor and needy through socio-economic projects.

The sisters also serve the spiritual needs of rural populations through counseling, religious instructions and faith formation among Christians. As Pope Francis reminds us: "Once more we realized that no one is saved alone; we can only be saved together." (*Fratelli Tutti*, 32)

We carry out our missionary activity by implementing preferential love for the



The Congregation of the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary help children from families who cannot afford school fees. Photo courtesy Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

poor. We have 11 free boarding houses for more than 700 children who would otherwise be left in unstable family situations or outcast in society.

We cover all the expenses for education, housing, food and clothing. We help poor families who cannot afford school

fees for their children.

We provide girls with safe accommodations and faith formation to help them lead a disciplined life. We are rendering moral, social and spiritual values to students.

We provide free boarding for 150 girls in our district, Kollam, as there is a school in the vicinity to provide secondary education for these girls. The existing free boarding for girls is 75 years old.

We hope to provide new housing for the girls, but recurrent cyclones have caused much erosion, and water enters the houses during high tide. Our aim is to bring up these girls, shelter them and educate them. Four convents of our sisters are providing services among these underprivileged people.

The Decree on the Missionary Activity of the Church says, "The whole Church of

Christ is missionary, and the work of evangelization is a basic duty of the people of God." (DMA, 1:35)

We provide quality education in various schools, from lower level to higher level, to children of all castes, creeds or religions. We promote values in the children. We believe that every educated woman is the light of a family.

We also foster vocations to religious life for the work of Gospel and to bring about the salvation of souls. We also run two schools for children with special needs.

And, in our higher education ministry, we provide financial help for families who hope to enroll their children in a university without taking on loans.

On behalf of our congregation and our missions, thank you for your response to our mission appeal. And our sincere thanks to Bishop Earl Fernandes. Our various ministries are possible because of the many generous people who live in the light of Christ by the truth of the Gospel. We thank God for you who have been faithful to the Church and its prophetic vision.

In all our ministries, we hear the exhortation of Pope Francis: "How many luminous faces, how many smiles, how many wrinkles, how many tears and scars reveal love around us." (Angelus, March 5, 2023)

Piarists practice vow of educating youth, the poor

St. Joseph Calasanz opened the first free school for boys at St. Dorothy's Church in Rome in 1597. The concept grew quickly, and eventually his co-workers founded a religious order called the Piarists.

All men and women in the Catholic Church's religious orders and congregations profess vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. Following the mind of St. Joseph Calasanz, the Piarists take a fourth vow: "to educate the young, particularly the poor." Today, about 1,300 Piarists minister in more than 40 countries worldwide.

In their Province of the United States and Puerto Rico, the Piarists work in the archdioceses of Miami, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, Havana (Cuba), Quetzaltenango (Guatemala) and San Juan (Puerto Rico) and in the dioceses of Lexington (Kentucky), Ponce (Puerto Rico) and Tabasco (Mexico).

There are 16 provinces in the Piarist Order, and each is encouraged to sponsor at least one mission. The Province of the United States and Puerto Rico sponsors missions in five locations: Cuba, Guatemala, Mexico, Puerto Rico and Kentucky. Each mission site is in an impoverished area.

In 1971, Father Mario Vizcaino spoke to his fellow religious and reminded them that the Piarists profess a special vow to educate, particularly the poor. Since then, Father Mario, other Piarist priests and seminarians and numerous lay volunteers have visited Macuspana in the Diocese of Tabasco for two to three weeks during summer.



Father Oscar Alonso speaks with residents of Macuspana, Mexico during the Piarist Fathers' Latin Mission. Photo courtesy Piarist Fathers

They have helped to construct parish churches and chapels and prepared the people in this impoverished area to live the Gospel.

In 1985, Father Thomas Carroll followed up on the goals of Father Mario, persuading his fellow Piarists to open a school in the Diocese of Lexington in eastern Appalachia. The area is extremely poor, but since the Piarist School opened, every student has received a tuition-free Catholic education.

The year 2021 saw expansion for the Piarists' missions. In January, the Piarists assumed responsibility for a parish and three schools in the Guatemalan cities of Cabrican and Huitan. In addition, they

are also responsible for ministry in 31 nearby chapels.

Through the generosity of their benefactors, the children in the schools receive two free meals each day and have full access to the internet in newly renovated computer facilities. No child is turned away from the schools because of financial difficulties.

From 1857 until the Communist takeover in Cuba, the Piarists had operated schools throughout the country. Unfortunately, the Cuban government closed all Catholic schools there and expelled all non-native-born priests.

In July 2021, the Piarists of the Province of the United States and Puerto Rico as-

sumed responsibility for a parish church, a chapel and socio-economic centers in Havana and in Guanabacoa, Cuba. Life in these entities is vibrant. The Piarists already have three native-born seminarians.

Through the generosity of their benefactors, they are rebuilding the church and chapel and providing informal educational programs in the socio-economic centers. They also recently purchased a walk-in refrigerator. Now the children in the socio-economic center in Guanabacoa can enjoy fresh and nutritious meals.

Finally, in August 2021, the Piarists assumed responsibility for a parish, eight chapels and a school in Adjuntas in the Diocese of Ponce in Puerto Rico. The people in the area are generally low to middle class, but no child is turned away from the school because of financial difficulties.

The Piarists distribute any funds received through their Mission Office to their five missions. The needs in each mission vary, but in general, they include evangelization, food, education of youth, occupational skills training, construction projects (schools, churches and latrines), professional preparation of teachers, basic needs (toiletries, medicine), youth ministry (Calasanz Movement), scholarship and tuition assistance, vocations promotion and sacramental ministry in remote regions.

For additional information about the Piarists' ministry, visit <https://piaristchallenge.com> and <https://piarist.info>.

Sisters of Our Lady of Kilimanjaro care for poor children

The Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Kilimanjaro was founded in 1931 in the Diocese of Moshi, Tanzania, in east Africa.

The order has 883 professed nuns who focus on holistic evangelization that has spiritual, social, educational and physical aspects. The sisters work in parishes, hospitals and schools and care for orphans and needy children. They serve in Africa, Italy, England and the United States.

Their charism is "Simplicity and readiness to do the will of God for His glory and for the salvation of humanity," and their motto is "Do all things for the praise and glory of God and for the salvation of His people."

During the past 90 years, the sisters have been caring for the poor and for abandoned children, including orphans and those with disabilities who are often rejected by their families due



The Mother General with poor village children. Photos courtesy Sisters of Our Lady of Kilimanjaro

to poverty.

These children need food, education, clothing, shelter and health care. Some orphans live with their grandparents who can barely meet their basic needs,



Albino children are cared for in an orphanage run by the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Kilimanjaro.

while others live with older siblings, who then must become house managers and cannot attend school if not helped.

The sisters provide care, shelter, food and education to these children by accommodating them in their orphanages and boarding schools.

The sisters hope to maintain existing

orphanages and schools as well as expand or build new ones especially in rural areas where many poor children lack access to education. The orphanages and schools are steppingstones for each child's future success.

For more information, visit www.sistersofkilimanjaro.org

In the face of starvation, nutrition center feeds Mozambique babies

By Ulla Arens

Droughts, cyclones, floods – weather torments the people of Mozambique and threatens their babies and young children. Mothers must walk miles to obtain a little food. A nutrition center operated by Divine Word Missionaries is the salvation for many.

Triplets Fausto, Faruque and Faizal are 1 year old and healthy. Their mother, Muachena Amade, owes the fact that her babies did not starve to death to the Pastoral Center for the Promotion of People run by Divine Word Missionaries in Liúpo, a district of 89,000 people in northern Mozambique.

"It was a blessing from God to be accepted here," said Muachena, who has five other children. "I didn't have enough milk to breastfeed the kids. After two months, we ran out of money. We couldn't buy any more baby milk."

The nutrition center in Liúpo is the only place in the region where malnourished babies and toddlers can be nursed. Mothers come when they cannot breastfeed sufficiently, suffer from breast infections or the babies' birth weight is too low. Mothers such as Muachena who live too

far to walk every day can live at the center.

"The mothers stay until the children are over the mountain. It can take a year," said Brother Moacir Rudnick, SVD, director of the center. Nine women and 15 children currently live there.

In a kitchen next to the treatment room, freshly cooked vegetables from the center's garden are used to feed mothers and babies. The smallholders – agricultural landowners whose fields aren't large enough to be considered farms – do not know such diversity. Usually only beans, corn and cassava grow in their fields. Cassava flour with dried fish is the most common meal. And when there is nothing left, people eat unripe mangoes. Or rats.

Weather can lead to hunger

The weather is relentless in Mozambique. It is the biggest cause of hunger in the nation on Africa's southeastern coast.

Cyclones, floods and droughts alternate. In the early months of 2022, two tropical cyclones roared in, destroying crops and roads. The mud huts of the smallholders, covered with straw or grass, cannot withstand these storms. Only the

rats multiply and eat the grain that is so urgently needed.

The women living in the nutrition center and those who come for outpatient services tend the center's vegetable beds, learning which native plants they can grow to better cultivate their own fields. Brother Moacir purchased a solar pump, so the beds are watered sufficiently, and the vegetables thrive. Now he can give seedlings to mothers leaving the center.

"We also teach them which local ingredients can be used to make and enrich baby food," he said. "Or how to cook for the family matapa, a nutritious cabbage stew with vegetables and peanuts."

Recipes against malnutrition

The center has training courses regularly. Laura João Castigo, a longtime employee, shows women how to use natural ingredients to prepare a dietary supplement that will help them breastfeed.

"Women often have children very early, at around 14 years of age," Brother Moacir said. "There's a lot they don't know yet."

Muachena and her triplets returned to their family after 10 months. She wants to help her husband rebuild their hut de-

stroyed by the most recent cyclone. But the next disaster looms: The dry season, when nothing can be cultivated, has begun.

"Without our help," Brother Moacir said, "many children will starve."

Battered by insurgency

After centuries of Portuguese colonial rule, Mozambique became independent in 1975. A civil war followed. Only since 1994 have democratic elections been held in the country of 28 million people.

Islamist fighters terrorize the mostly non-Muslim population. Thousands of people have been murdered, and their huts set on fire. Hundreds of thousands are fleeing as a result. In September 2022, the community of the Comboni Missionaries in the province of Nampula was attacked, and a missionary sister was shot dead.

Mozambique is one of the least developed countries in the world. On the Human Development Index, which measures life expectancy and education levels, it ranks 185th out of 191 countries. Seventy percent of the population lives below the poverty line. Forty percent of the residents are younger than 14 years old. About half the adults are illiterate.

BELIZE, continued from Page 15

made an impact for the families he serves.

"Anything you do down there, it's generational," he said. "You're not just helping (one person), it's helping the entire family. It just pulls everybody up."

Going forward, Strait will have the support

of his parish to assist children and families in need. With the Mary Elizabeth Foundation, "now it's not me, it's we," he said.

He looks forward to growing his missionary work as a team.

"To do the things that I've been able to do

down there, I only liken it second to being there when my children were born," he said. "It's that significant in these lives, which has become very significant in my life.

"And now to have Father Sizemore allow my parish to adopt this vision for the

Mary Elizabeth Foundation in Belize, this is an amazing opportunity for anyone and everyone who wants to get involved."

To learn more about the Mary Elizabeth Foundation, visit www.MaryElizabethFoundation.org.

You welcomed me, a stranger from India

By Father Stanley A. Kozhichira
Missionary Priest, Archdiocese of Delhi

Six questions must be answered for us to pass the entrance examination to the kingdom of God. Unlike many examinations, heaven's entrance exam questions are already out (Matthew 25:35-36). Three pastors who welcomed me to the Diocese of Columbus have passed their exam level one.

When I reached the Columbus Greyhound bus station one afternoon, a senior priest, too tall for his small car, Father Peter M. Gideon, came to welcome me to the parish at Sugar Grove.

At the Columbus airport on another afternoon, yet another priest, who always had gum in his mouth, Father Ted Machnik, welcomed me to the parish in Circleville.

On yet another afternoon, at another Greyhound bus station in Columbus, another priest in his blue T-shirt signalled me to his car as I was hunting for my pickup. Father Steve Krile was waiting in the car for me.

All three American priests were total strangers to me, waiting for a missionary priest from India to be taken to their parishes for a mission cooperation program.



Father Stanley A. Kozhichira of the Archdiocese of Delhi, India, visited the Diocese of Columbus for a mission appeal.

I never had to make an effort to break the ice and begin a conversation; they were all so friendly that I felt comfortable in their company.

The exchange of greetings led to beautiful conversations while driving to each parish. I stepped out of the car at the residences of these wonderful priests, no longer as a stranger but as a person they had known for years.

How wonderful it was to feel at home in a distant land, all because of the hospitality that had been extended to a priest from another continent. The level of comfort I experienced in dealing with the fathers was profound, and they were the ones who made me feel that way.

These priests introduced me to their parish residences and gave me the freedom to use them as my own. Isn't that wonderful? They also introduced me to the parish community, who not only ac-

cepted a Catholic priest but also a person of color with so much love and appreciation.

These priests and parishioners had genuine appreciation for the missionary work in India, especially in Delhi. Everyone I met had many questions about India, the missionary work, the faith of the people and the atrocities they heard about in the news. Their assurance and prayer support for furthering the mission were greatly appreciated.

Staying with these extraordinary men of God was such an enriching experience. Each one had unique interests and hobbies, which was exciting for me. Father Gideon had bee farming as his hobby and a means of collecting donations for mission activities. He would share theories of beekeeping and talk about his friends in Sugar Grove and Lancaster who collaborated with him in these efforts.

Father Machnik in Circleville had a collection of Lionel trains, and he enjoyed cycling to watch the trains while sitting by the track and reciting his rosary. I was surprised to see his three-speed bike, a 1965 British-made Raleigh, still in great condition. He always had gum in his mouth while discussing the beauty of train journeys.

Walking into the rectory at Logan with

Father Krile, you could wonder, "How could Christmas be here in September?" There were Nativity scenes from across the globe, starting with 30-year-old olive wood figurines from Jerusalem.

I couldn't stop exploring each unique piece. The willow wood collections, which took almost 10 years to complete, were fascinating. The Peanuts comic strip series Nativity scenes were also beautiful and unique. Father Krile had meticulously arranged these scenes, and each had a story to tell.

I realized that these exceptional hobbies of these priests would have been great companions, providing comfort and solace for them during the pandemic.

Such was my wonderful journey of mission appeal to the parishes of the Diocese of Columbus. These wonderful pastors not only introduced me to unique hobby collections but also displayed their welcoming attitude toward strangers and missionaries. I came to Columbus as a stranger, but I am returning to India as a member of the family, carrying unique experiences and insights.

I am sure that these contributed to their passing their entrance examinations for the Pearl Gate. Maybe I, too, might find a place there because of the prayers of these priests and their parishioners.

Spiritans serve the poor, refugees worldwide

The Congregation of the Holy Spirit (Spiritans) began its missionary work in Africa in the 1920s, specifically with the Maasai in the Kilimanjaro area of Tanzania. They continue there today, as well as in Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya and Congo-Kinshasa with first evangelization of nomadic people.

For more than 300 years, Spiritans have been called to mission, especially in foreign lands, working in more than 60 countries worldwide. From serving at international refugee camps to working in inner-city parishes, from teaching in schools worldwide to providing a home for orphans in France, England, Brazil, Angola, Malawi, Tanzania and Kenya, Spiritans proclaim God with their lives and through their works.

Internationally, Spiritans minister throughout Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Latin America, providing pastoral services, teaching career skills, establishing medical services and schools, working in refugee camps, promoting justice and peace for the oppressed and maintaining interreligious dialogue.

Missionary Cooperation Plan donations allow Spiritans to support individual projects and improvements in areas where they serve and when an emergency or crisis strikes such as a natural disaster, famine, pandemic, or war – most notably now in Ukraine and Poland. There they work to support refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine to Poland.

Spiritans began ministering to the then-80,000 refugees who had poured into Tanzania as a result of the civil war that began in neighboring Burundi, to lead the humanitarian effort of welcoming and caring for these displaced people. In recent years, they have assisted in the construction of two large chapels where, in celebrating the sacraments, the people may truly know that God is in their midst.

Father Paul Flamm, CSSp, has been serving in refugee centers in Africa for the past 30 years. Refugees face many hardships in exile, often fleeing with only the clothes on their backs. They have been uprooted from their culture and way of life.

There is no certainty when they might return to their homelands. Many suffer from depression as hope for a better future dwindles. The Spiritans' commitment to refugee ministry is open-ended, according to Father Paul: "As long as the refugees are there, we will be there with them."

Uganda is another area where Spiritans minister to refugees who have been forcibly removed from their countries of origin. Uganda ranks among the top five countries worldwide for hosting refugees with some 1.4 million residing in camps there.

In the United States, we dedicate ourselves to working with the poor. Our efforts include education and parish

ministry primarily in African-American and immigrant communities. Father Francis Tandoh, CSSp, of Ghana and Father Benoit Mukamaba, CSSp, of Congo staff a family of parishes in Dayton.

Through education and community service, we endeavor to help those who are disadvantaged to overcome problems that make each day a struggle. Ministering from the pulpit as well as in the soup kitchens, we work within the community to make change.

Visit www.spiritans.org to learn more about the Congregation of the Holy Spirit.



Fr. Martin Vu, C.S.Sp., blesses St. Isadore's Garden at Our Lady Queen of Peace, the Spiritans' parish in Arlington, Virginia. Parishioners grow fresh produce for their food pantry that serves approximately 550 families per week.



Father Paul Flamm, CSSp, (right) with a disabled woman in a refugee camp in Kigoma, Tanzania. Father Flamm founded the Spiritan Refugee Service more than 30 years ago and continues to minister with it today. More than 1,000 refugees receive counseling and support at Spiritan settlement camps.



The Spiritans help to deliver supplies on the Poland-Ukraine border. Recently, a \$35,000 donation was provided for food and medicine.

Mary's Meals tackles hunger crisis by providing food for school children

In a deepening hunger crisis affecting more than 735 million people of whom 60 million are children not in school, the magnitude of this global issue can be overwhelming.

Mothers and children – estimated to make up 60% of the world's hungry population – bear the outsized impact from climate shifts, failed harvests and conflicts. Yet Mary's Meals remains hopeful.

An international charity that feeds children in schools, Mary's Meals is optimistic that its 21-year mission to continue feeding more than 2.4 million students every school day is possible in the face of crisis and conflict.

Mary's Meals was inspired by the words of a child who only wanted to have enough food to eat and be able to go to school. Those words prompted leader Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow to establish Mary's Meals in 2002 with a vision to end child hunger.

Named for Mary, the mother of Jesus, Mary's Meals offers a simple solution to world hunger: feed children where they learn to gain access to education that can help break the cycle of poverty.

"Mary's Meals as a provider of hope – in the life of one child and in the world more broadly – is more important than ever," said Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, founder and CEO of Mary's Meals. "And so are each of our actions in support of

this mission – no matter how small they might feel to us. They are not small. They are truly enormous in the life of that child."

Serving the most vulnerable

Mary's Meals works to ensure the world's most vulnerable children have access to food and education. The work is more urgent and difficult to do as costs, climate shocks and conflict conspire to make the work increasingly challenging while hunger grows. But the things that make it most difficult also make it essential, and so Mary's Meals remains committed to feeding 2,429,182 children every school day in 18 countries.

Throughout its history, Mary's Meals has rooted itself in some of the world's most hostile and challenging environments, where food insecurity dictates everyday life and the need is acute. In several countries, children are working in fields, begging on street corners or scavenging just to survive instead of sitting in a classroom.

"We always want to reach the places where life is most difficult for children, where people are suffering the most," said MacFarlane-Barrow, who has spoken at the Columbus Catholic Women's Conference.

Many of the countries that Mary's

Meals serves face enormous challenges. This year, cyclones struck Madagascar and Malawi, and eastern Africa faced drought. In Syria, a devastating earthquake destroyed infrastructure.

By working with in-country partners to deliver the feeding programs, Mary's Meals ensures these lifesaving meals continue. In August, Mary's Meals resumed its school-feeding program in war-torn Tigray, Ethiopia. Last year, an additional 60,000 primary school children in drought-stricken Turkana, Kenya, began receiving meals.

Simple model works effectively

Mary's Meals offers a simple and community-based model. It collaborates with local farmers to provide the food, then coordinates with families and schools to implement a program that is driven by local volunteers who cook and serve the food and staff who monitor supplies and school progress.

Work of this scale requires many hands. Supported worldwide through prayer, time, talent and donations, this simple program is also cost effective. Just \$25.20 feeds a child for an entire year.

Key findings from a five-year impact study of the Mary's Meals program in Malawi, Zambia and Liberia revealed

that school enrollment increased 25% and absenteeism decreased significantly. Children gained access to education and reported being happier, and families said their overall health and well-being improved.

This model provides dignity in its simplicity by inviting everyone to be part of the solution to hunger and missed education. For the children like Veronica Chiphwanya of Malawi, who grew up eating food provided in a Mary's Meals-sponsored school and earning their education as a result, the results have been transformative.

"I used to go to school without food. Receiving Mary's Meals changed my performance in class. So, I was active and able to listen to what the teacher said," she shared.

Today, Veronica has graduated college and is in pursuit of a career that will lift her out of poverty.

In an ever-changing world with ongoing challenges, there is always hope. For the 2,429,182 children receiving Mary's Meals, hope comes in a meal at school where their bodies and minds are nourished.

"Our goal is a future where children and communities equipped with an education are set free from poverty and dependence on aid," MacFarlane-Barrow said.

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

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





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Society for the Propagation of the Faith (SPOF)

World Mission Sunday Offering	\$92,723.69
Membership Offerings	\$50,700.37
Undesignated Gifts	\$121,493.86
Total SPOF	\$264,917.92

Special Designated Funds

Missionary Cooperation Plan	\$349,977.80
Mass Offerings	\$31,709.00
Latin American Collection	\$53,597.98
Home Missions	\$60,401.68
Black/Indian Missions	\$61,300.97
Peter's Pence	\$54,892.92
Total Special Designated Fund	\$611,880.35

GRAND TOTAL MISSION OFFICE RECEIPTS \$876,798.27

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Sister Francesca McGovern, H.S.M.C.J., a member of the Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus religious order, speaks with Columbus Bishop Hartley High School seniors (from left) Grace Mashensic, Allie Gunsorek and Emerson Summers. *CT photos by Ken Snow*



Sister Elfie Del Rosario, FMA, vocations director for the Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco, speaks to young women at the Serra Club vocations luncheon on Oct. 3 at the Pontifical College Josephinum's Jessing Center

Young women attend Serra Club vocations luncheon

By Hannah Heil
Catholic Times Reporter

Nearly 250 girls in the Diocese of Columbus took a step in discerning God's plan for their lives on Oct. 3 at the Serra Club vocations luncheon for young women.

Middle and high school students in the diocese had the opportunity to meet and interact with religious sisters during a luncheon at the Pontifical College Josephinum.

There were 21 sisters present from eight religious orders: Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity, Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco, Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus, Children of Mary, Little Servant Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, Apostolic Sisters of St. John, Dominican Sisters of the Immaculate Conception Province and Dominican Sisters of Mary Mother of the Eucharist.

The luncheon was sponsored by the Serra Club of North Columbus. Serra clubs consist of lay Catholic men and women around the world known as Ser-rans who, as Pope St. John Paul II said, accept as their responsibility the promotion of vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Serra was formed in 1935 and named after St. Junipero Serra, a Spanish priest and missionary who is the patron of the organization. Serra is present in more than 30 countries. There are approximately 12,000 members in more than 500 active Serra clubs today.

"Our mission for the Serra Club is to encourage the priests and the sisters and the religious that we have now," said Tom Rhatican, president of the Serra Club of North Columbus. "We encourage and support them, and we also encourage and support you – so many young people who are discerning their life's vocation.

"We're hoping to create an opportunity for you here this afternoon to maybe be able to hear a little more clearly – the Holy Spirit is always trying to reach us – but

maybe more clearly hear the Holy Spirit speaking to us, speaking to you about your discernment and your vocation."

Religious sisters at the luncheon shared their order's charism, which is the distinct spirit of a religious order that makes it unique. Each religious order had information or photos at a booth where young women could speak with them and learn more.

"They're all so different because they have a bunch of different focuses for each order and that makes each one unique, so everybody can kind of find their place and their role that fills God's path for them (with) their own internal desires," said Grace Mashensic, a senior at Columbus Bishop Hartley High School who attended the luncheon.

"It's really interesting, visiting all the stations for the different (religious) orders, because you wouldn't realize how many ... there are around Columbus.

"Last year was the first year I came to this. I didn't even realize the Josephinum was here, and there's so many places that you can explore your faith and opportunities to enhance it just in Columbus."

Father Jeff Rimelspach, the pastor of Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona Church who serves as the chaplain of the Serra Club of North Columbus, offered a blessing.

Other clergy present included Father Paul Noble, chaplain at Columbus Bishop Watterson High School; Father Anthony Essien, chaplain at Bishop Hartley; and Father Kyle Tennant, parochial vicar at Columbus St. Cecilia Church and chaplain at Columbus Bishop Ready High School.

Emerson Summers, a senior at Bishop Hartley, said the Serra Club luncheon came at a fitting time for her as she discerns her next step after graduation.

"The whole reason I wanted to come – with discernment in mind, specifically – is because, being a senior in high school and thinking about that next part of your life, the biggest goal is to do the will of

God for you and to follow the path that He set out for you.

"So, coming here and seeing all these wonderful women who decided to follow God's call to religious life and in that vocation for them, it's really empowering to really want to step into my own relationship with God and really contemplate what it is that He wants for me and then to be able to have the fiat of Mary and be able to say 'Yes' to whatever it is that He is calling me to do.

"Seeing all these different orders and convents and seeing how each of them respond to God's call to rebuild His Church, like St. Francis (of Assisi) was called to do, in a very unique way, it really makes you want to step back and think about your own call and then how you're going to fulfill that."

Discerning the next step can be challenging. Having multiple options and trying to know "the right one" can make discernment difficult, Mashensic said.

"It can be so hard since we are younger and since we have our next step coming up with being seniors and graduating," she said. "It's hard to find where God is leading you when there's so many opportunities. You're like, 'Which one is right for me?'"

"And so, getting in touch in-person, being able to talk with the religious life and these sisters who really know about the different organizations and paths you can go down – I was just talking to a sister, ... and she gave me her business card so I can email her and we can talk back and forth.

"Everybody's very interested and wants to help you and wants to show you the different opportunities that are out there."

Young women at the Serra Club luncheon came from five high schools and 10 middle schools in the diocese. Students from homeschooling groups were also present.

Mia Savage, a senior at Bishop Ready, said she wanted to attend the luncheon

to learn more about the Catholic faith. She is not Catholic, so learning about the vocation to religious life was new to her.

"I've gone to Ready for four years now, but I didn't grow up being in a certain religion," she said. "So, I'm pretty interested in learning what goes on within the Catholic Church.

"I've had theology all four years, so it's pretty interesting, and I'd like to see if that could be where I fit in. I'm hoping to hear more about how it really is to live as a Catholic and what values that comes with."

For Ava Upton, a freshman at Newark Catholic High School, the Serra Club luncheon was an opportunity to spend time discerning God's will for her. She said she hopes to get more "clarity."

"I feel like religious life is not as advocated for as married (life) in our culture today," she said. "So, I feel like this will be a nice experience to get more information and to learn how to discern more."

Allie Gunsorek, a senior at Bishop Hartley, agreed that discerning a vocation can be challenging. Spending time with religious sisters and learning about various orders can help young women discover where God is calling them.

"I've kind of been struggling with discernment and what I want to do," she said. "So, I thought, coming here would be a good opportunity because I've been considering the religious life, and I can kind of see that in my future.

"So, just being able to decipher if that is for me, and then, also seeing the various religious orders, how different they are and how you can be part of (religious life) in so many different ways, ... I think it helps me see that it can be fun, and they all have this light in their eyes, and how it's a good thing."

"I think it's a really beautiful vocation," said Natalie Jungers, a senior at Newark

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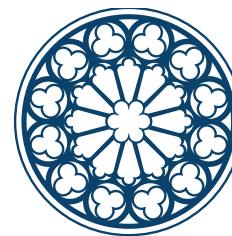
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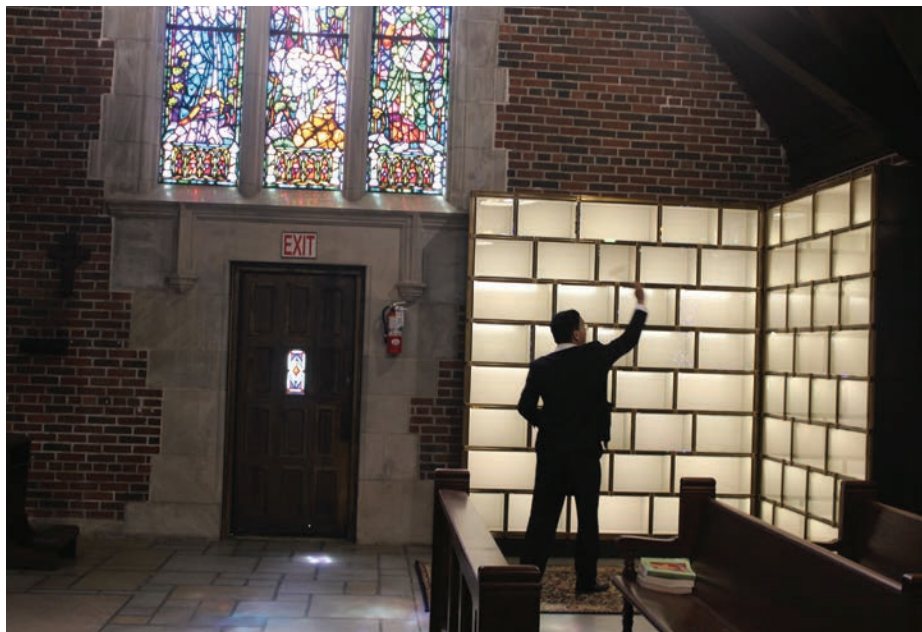
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Bishop visits cemetery on chapel's feast day



Catholic Cemeteries of Columbus welcomed Bishop Earl Fernandes to St. Joseph Cemetery, 6440 S. High St., on Sept. 15, the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows. The bishop blessed (top photo) newly placed glass niches in the cemetery's Our Lady of Sorrows Chapel, where he celebrated Mass, and afterward enthroned the chapel to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. He also blessed other new sections in the cemetery with assistance from Deacon Tyler Carter (bottom photo, left) and Deacon Jeffrey Fortkamp, the director of Catholic Cemeteries of Columbus. *Photos courtesy Catholic Cemeteries of Columbus*

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Sister Mary Grace, SV, a member of the Sisters of Life, speaks at the Columbus Catholic Young Adult Conference on Saturday, Oct. 14 at Sunbury St. John Neumann Church.



Ralph Martin, president of Renewal Ministries and a professor of theology at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, deliver the morning keynote address at the conference.

Conference speakers encourage young adults to pursue holiness

By Hannah Heil
Catholic Times Reporter

Young adults who gathered for the fifth annual Columbus Catholic Young Adult Conference on Saturday, Oct. 14 learned how to strive for holiness and commit to God in daily life.

The conference, which was held at Sunbury St. John Neumann Church, was an opportunity for young adults to hear keynote speakers and spend time in fellowship. There were exhibitor tables, breakout sessions with priests, religious sisters and laity who serve Christ and His Church, and there were small-group discussions.

The church's Adoration Chapel was open all day for prayer, and a first-class relic of St. Faustina Kowalska was displayed. The conference concluded with praying the Rosary and a Saturday Vigil Mass celebrated by St. John Neumann's

pastor, Father Dan Dury.

The theme of the conference, "Trust in Him," was based on Psalm 37:3-5. The Psalm tells the faithful to take delight in the Lord, who will give them their heart's desire, and to commit to the Lord, trusting that He will act.

Dr. Ralph Martin, a professor of theology at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in the Archdiocese of Detroit, served as a keynote speaker. He spoke to young adults about having a desire for God and their call to holiness.

Martin is the president of Renewal Ministries, which is devoted to Catholic renewal and evangelization. The organization sponsors the weekly Catholic radio and television program "The Choices We Face," which is distributed throughout the world.

He told those gathered that holiness

See CONFERENCE, Page 25



Three members of the Sisters of Life, who are from the St. Frances de Chantal Convent in the Bronx, New York, provide music during the Catholic Young Adult Conference at Sunbury St. John Neumann Church.
CT photos by Ken Snow.



Gina Nguyen (foreground), a member of Columbus St. Christopher Church, and Brother Mark Dixon, CPM, who is studying at the Pontifical College Josephinum, listen attentively.



Sr. Maria Ecclesiae of the Daughters of the Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus leads one of the breakout sessions at the Catholic Young Adult Conference..

Nigerian Catholics gather for annual retreat pilgrimage

The Nigerian Catholic Community in the diocese held its annual retreat on Saturday, Oct. 7 at the Basilica of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey.

Father Elias Udeh, CSSp, parochial vicar at Powell St. Joan of Arc and Columbus St. Peter churches, led the pilgrimage. He serves as chaplain for the Nigerian Catholic Community.

He said that “it is our faith that this encounter with God will fortify us spiritually for the mission” called for in the diocese as part of the Real Presence Real Future initiative to “foster viable, sustainable and vibrant parishes and schools that support the evangelization mission of Jesus Christ and His Church.”

Deacon Victor Nduaguba, who serves at Columbus St. Timothy Church, is one of the members of the Nigerian community who joined the pilgrims.

“This year’s annual retreat was a great privilege for us to present our families to

Our Lady of Consolation for her maternal blessings,” he said. “We also prayed for peace in all families and in all the places where there is conflict in the world. May God fill our hearts and our families with peace.”

Other members of the community shared their reflections on the trip.

“Our annual retreat allows us to withdraw from many activities and worries to dedicate time to God and to restore ourselves so that we might become renewed and better Christians,” said John Eneh, the community’s vice chairman. “This withdrawal is necessary as it serves as a holy rest, when we regain our strength as disciples of Christ.”

Youth leader Chioma Onyeukwu said, “This year’s spiritual retreat offered us the opportunity to present all our youths to Our Lord Jesus Christ, asking for the gifts of knowledge and wisdom, since we cannot do nothing without His grace. It was



Members of the diocese’s Nigerian Catholic Community made a pilgrimage to the Basilica of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey for an annual retreat. *Photo courtesy Nigerian Catholic Community*

an enriching encounter with the Lord.”

Teresa Edoja, a member of the community, added, “Our annual retreat provides us the opportunity to step away to a silent place, for a recollection and a spiritual encounter with God. Further, retreat allows

one to experience the peace of mind and body that is necessary for all Christ followers. Families turn out in great numbers to retreat, pray and reflect on our Catholic faith. It also serves as healing and enrichment for our families.”

CONFERENCE, continued from Page 24

is not an “add-on” or something that is optional.

“It’s a requirement if we want to be with the Lord forever,” he said.

Martin referenced the Letter to the Hebrews, chapter 12. In the letter, the author, which is believed to be St. Paul, told the Hebrew people to work toward holiness. He said to “strive for peace with everyone and for that holiness without which no one will see the Lord.” (Hebrews 12:14)

There is a universal call to holiness, Martin said, and all people were created to be holy and in communion with God.

He referenced the 12th chapter of the Gospel of Luke, in which St. Luke writes to “seek His kingdom, and these other things will be given you besides.” (Luke 12:31) Martin said that a person’s primary vocation is to be one with God, Who will provide for all of their needs.

Holiness is “totally dependent on the grace of God,” he said, and people cannot make themselves holy. Human limitations make it impossible to achieve holiness without God’s grace.

Martin recalled the words of St. Teresa of Avila, who said that a person will find themselves at their destination if keep their eyes on Jesus.

“He wants us to keep our eyes on Him,” Martin said.

He encouraged young adults to “just keep showing up” for God, committing to at least 15-20 minutes of daily prayer and spending time with people who strive to honor the Lord.

He said it is “very hard” for Christians to keep their head clear and their heart at peace unless they are surrounded by other people who are seeking the Lord.

Human effort is also necessary for holiness. He said this requires a complete trust and surrender to God.

If a person surrenders their life to God, they are on their way to discovering the purpose that God has for them, Martin said, and nobody will “work right” until they are in complete harmony with the Lord.

People will experience fluctuations in sensing the Lord’s presence and love, he said. There might be times when a person does not sense God’s presence in their life or His love for them, but every person must persist in striving for holiness.

Martin encouraged young adults to ask God to increase their determination and give them a desire for holiness.

“The culture is trying to silence the Church,” he said. “The culture is trying to intimidate Catholics.”

He said there is a lot of evil, fear, lust and greed in the world. Martin reminded the audience that the immoral and impure will not enter the Kingdom of God.

“Don’t let anybody deceive you,” he said.

Martin urged young adults not to let anybody convince them otherwise, and turn away from disorderly attachments and serious sin. He said unbelievers, fornicators and cowards are among those who will not enter God’s kingdom.

In the afternoon, Sister Mary Grace, S.V., from the Sisters of Life was the second keynote speaker. She took Martin’s talk about the desire for God a step further, speaking to young adults about how to commit and respond to God.

Sister Mary Grace, an Australian native, lives with the Sisters of Life at the St. Frances de Chantal Convent in the Bronx, New York. The religious order seeks to foster a culture of life throughout the U.S. and the world, including through offering pregnancy help, retreats for healing after abortion and evangelization.

Every person has a Father – God – who called them into life, she said, and He is “inviting us to respond to His love.”

Sister Mary Grace broke a person’s response to God into three steps. She said God first commits to every person, people commit to God in their vulnerability and then surrender to Him.

God chose each person “before the foundation of the world,” Sister. Mary Grace said, and spoke life into them. “He is committed to you,” and responding to God begins by “letting in the One Who has committed to us first,” she said.

“It’s hard to believe and easy to forget that what God promises is true.”

Whether or not people believe what God says “the truth remains the same.”

She said God “could not have gone lower” and made Himself more vulnerable than by taking on the form of bread in the Eucharist, and God could not have gotten closer to people than in this way.

She said God “knows our sins better than we do,” and “He’s always been pursuing you.”

Sister Mary Grace told young adults that everyone will experience moments in their life when they feel conflicted and do not know the way forward. She reassured the audience that God is much closer than they realize.

She said everybody has times when they feel overwhelmed or burdened, and she encouraged young adults to give those struggles to God.

With heartbreak or relationship issues, she used as an example, a person can simply say, “Jesus, you put this ache in my heart, deal with it.”

Sister Mary Grace encouraged every person to determine “where is God whispering in my life right now, ‘Trust me.’”

She also said to be weary of lies from the evil one. The belief that “it’s all on

you” or “you’re alone” is a lie, she said. Human beings were never designed to self-rely.

“God is aching to meet us in the places where we’re ashamed,” she said.

Vulnerability with God, showing Him the places where there is most shame, becomes a place of intimacy with Him.

“God backs us with the grace we need,” she said.

Sister Mary Grace also spoke about peak times of vulnerability. She said the first and last hour of the day are the most vulnerable times. She said a person’s first choice of the day is crucial to the remainder of their day.

She encouraged young adults not to use their phones during peak vulnerability times. Giving the first and last hour of their day to God during these hours, such as in prayer, will have a significant impact.

People do not have to be perfect when they come to Jesus in prayer. She encouraged young adults to “bring what you’ve got, and that’s perfect for Jesus.”

She also suggested looking to the Blessed Virgin Mary as an example. Mary is the most relatable woman of all time, Sister Mary Grace said, and she was willing to commit to God at all times.

Sister Mary Grace reflected on the Blessed Mother and how she surrendered to God in her poverty and her vulnerability.

The Gospels do not mention Mary being afraid after the Annunciation, when she set out to visit her cousin Elizabeth, but she likely was. Still, she took action, regardless of her fear. She did not fail to act even in times of uncertainty.

Sister Mary Grace said there is no small “yes” to God, and there has never been a moment that He stopped loving a person, whether they see it or not.

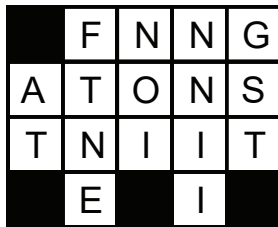
Words of Wisdom

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.

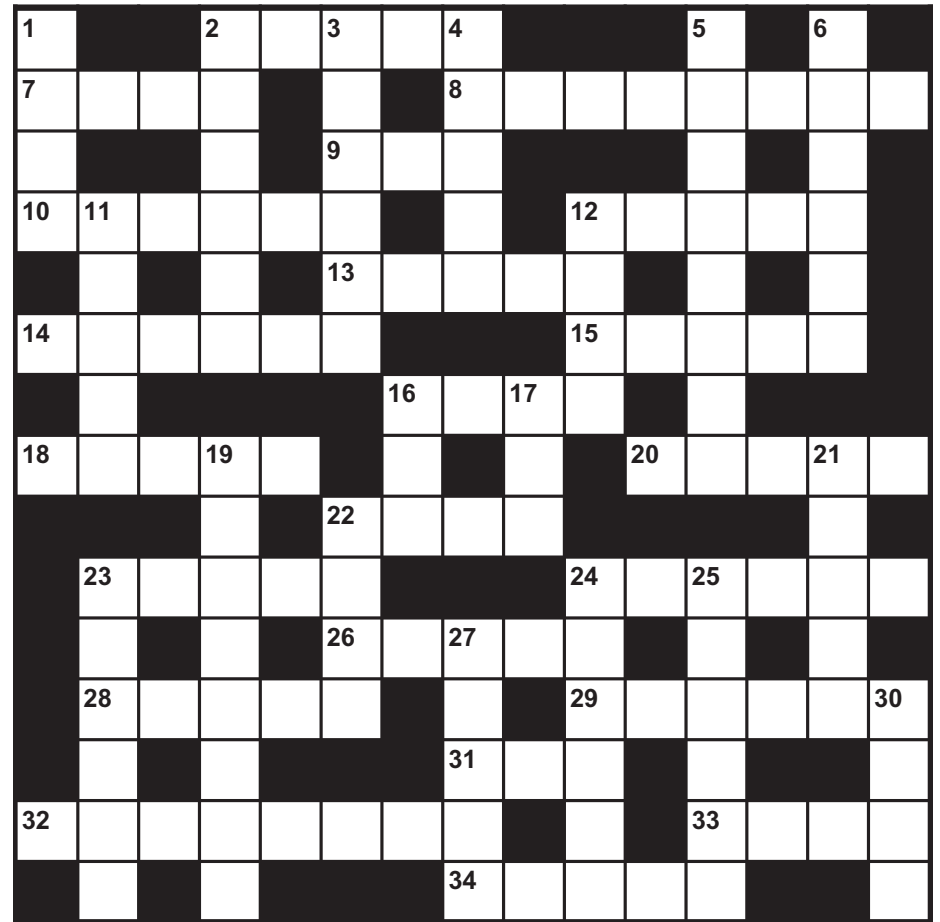
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ACROSS

- 2 ___ magna
- 7 ___ Domini
- 8 Jesuit who proposed the "Big Bang Theory"
- 9 Number of each unclean animal Noah took in the ark
- 10 The day of the Resurrection
- 12 Papal letter signed by the Pope's secretary and sealed with the Pope's ring
- 13 Archdiocese in Nebraska
- 14 A member of the clergy
- 15 Cardinal Dulles
- 16 He says there is no God, according to Psalms
- 18 Saint item
- 20 "Have ___ on us"
- 22 Describes our will
- 23 Aquinas' opus, for short
- 24 What Jesus did on the water
- 26 Medieval concept that was never an official teaching of the Church
- 28 Saint who gave his name to an alphabet
- 29 City in the Archdiocese of Westminster and the Diocese of Brentwood
- 31 NT book
- 32 Ethical conduct
- 33 Catholic actor Wilson who did the voice for Marmaduke
- 34 Catholic Academy Award-winning actress Hayward

DOWN

- 1 Jazz musician and Catholic convert Brubeck
- 2 An Eastern rite
- 3 Type of saint
- 4 Diocese of Honolulu greeting
- 5 Prayer of repentance
- 6 This kind of person stirs up strife, according to Proverbs 28.
- 11 Administer extreme unction
- 12 False god of the Old Testament
- 16 "...and ___ our salvation, He came down from heaven."
- 17 First of the marks of the Church
- 19 Describes the soul
- 21 "___ in Deum Patrem omnipotentem..."
- 22 "Though the just ___ seven times, they rise again" (Prov 24:16)
- 23 Our Lady of Prompt ___
- 24 "...I am sending you like lambs among ___." (Lk 10:3)
- 25 Catholic singing Sisters
- 27 Magdalene and the sister of Martha
- 30 Novena number



DIOCESE of COLUMBUS

CHILD PROTECTION PLAN

It is the goal of the Diocese of Columbus to make the Church a place of safety: a place of prayer, ministry and comfort. Everyone who enters our churches, schools, or facilities must be confident in this. Not one child or young person should suffer from abuse while at Church. In order to assure the safety of our youth, the Diocese of Columbus has enacted a complete program of protection. As part of this program, the Diocese of Columbus will provide appropriate, just, and pastoral care for anyone who has suffered the crime of sexual abuse of a minor at the hands of diocesan clergy or church employees or volunteers. The Diocese of Columbus will report any and all allegations of abuse reported to it to the authorities and will cooperate fully with those authorities.

Help is available: The Diocese of Columbus wants to hear from anyone who has suffered. If you wish to report an allegation of abuse or need pastoral and/or clinical care in order to begin or continue the process of healing from sexual abuse as a child at the hands of a member of the clergy or a church employee or volunteer, simply call the diocesan Victims' Assistance Coordinator. You can find contact information at the bottom of this notice. If you wish to receive a copy of the diocesan complaint form or any of the diocesan policies and procedures, simply call the number below or visit the diocesan web site at www.columbuscatholic.org.

To contact the diocesan Victim's Assistance Coordinator, call:
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LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS

Ohio's bishops urge legislators to abolish state's death penalty

The Catholic bishops of Ohio sent a letter to state senators and representatives on Wednesday, Oct. 11 asking them to support legislation to end Ohio's death penalty.

The 135th Ohio General Assembly is considering abolishing the death penalty in the state and the Catholic bishops urged legislators to foster a culture of life in Ohio by recognizing the sanctity of human life in all stages and circumstances.

"The culture of death found in laws and public policies that threaten violence to groups of people, like Issue 1 in November or the death penalty for already incarcerated individuals, deserve no place in a just society," said Brian Hickey, the executive director of the Catholic Conference of Ohio.

The Catholic Conference of Ohio is the official representative of the Catholic Church in matters of public policy affecting the Church and the general welfare of the citizens of Ohio.

To read the letter from the Catholic bishops of Ohio, visit the Catholic Conference of Ohio website, www.OhioCathConf.org.

Dr. Fernandes to present lecture at Ohio Dominican

Dr. Ashley Fernandes, MD, Ph.D., will present "Truth in Science and Medicine – Why Albert's Legacy of Truth Matters Now" as the annual St. Albert the Great lecture at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 15 in the Matesich Theatre at Ohio Dominican University, 1216 Sunbury Road.

The university holds an annual lecture on Nov. 15, the feast of the Dominican St. Albert the Great, who was the teacher of St. Thomas Aquinas and is the patron saint of those who study the natural sciences. There is no cost to attend.

Fernandes is a clinical professor of pediatrics and director of faculty professionalism at Nationwide Children's Hospital and the associate director of the Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities and director of professional competency at the Ohio State University College of Medicine.

Newly ordained priest to speak at men's luncheon club

Father Peter Claver Kasasa Kiviiri, the parochial vicar at Gahanna St. Matthew Church who was ordained to the priesthood in May, will speak at the Catholic Men's Luncheon Club on Friday, Nov. 3 at Columbus St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., after the 11:45 a.m. Mass.

No reservations are necessary. A \$12 donation to cover the cost of the lunch is requested.

The club's next meeting is Friday, Dec.

1 and will feature an annual talk from Bishop Earl Fernandes.

To sponsor one of the club's lunches, contact Pat Foley at foleyp513@gmail.com.

St. Andrew to host dinner for religious vocations

Columbus St. Andrew Church, 1899 McCoy Road, will host a Marian dinner to promote religious vocations in the parish's Nugent Hall on Wednesday, Nov. 8 at 6 p.m.

Young women in grade 8 through college are invited and will have an opportunity to meet religious sisters from various orders in the Diocese of Columbus with Bishop Earl Fernandes present.

The evening will begin with vespers in St. Andrew Church followed by dinner and discussion.

To RSVP, contact Yvette Reategui at yreategui@columbuscatholic.org or 614-224-2251 by Friday, Nov. 3.

Registration open for 2024 trips

Linda Woolard, founder of Happy Trails Traveling with Linda and a parishioner at Granville St. Edward the Confessor Church, has spots available for trips to Florida and Georgia and Michigan in 2024.

A guided tour of Amelia Island, St. Augustine and Jacksonville, Florida, and Historic River Street in Savannah, Georgia, will run from Sunday, April 28 to Saturday, May 4. The cost of the trip is \$850 per person, which is due with a \$75 deposit by Feb. 21.

A trip to Michigan from Monday, Sept. 23 to Friday, Sept. 27 will include a cruise in Soo Locks and visits to the Tower of History, Colonial Michilimackinac and Mackinac Island. The cost is \$750 per person, with a \$75 deposit due by July 16.

Woolard, who has led and organized numerous trips, converted to Catholicism in 2006 and was the recipient of the 2017 Mother Teresa Award of Charity, Compassion and Service presented by then-Bishop Frederick Campbell. She had a 25-year career with the Newark Trust Company and was a reporter and photographer for The Licking Countian newspaper.

For a complete itinerary of the trips and to sign up, contact Linda Woolard at windstream.net or 740-323-3105.

Discernment campout open to sons, fathers

Young men who are in seventh grade or older and their fathers are invited to join Father William Hahn, the diocesan vicar for clergy, and the men of Wilderness Outreach for a father and son discernment campout.

The campout will be from 2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 3 to 12 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 5 at Tar Hollow State Forest.

The weekend will include camping, hiking, trail building and clearing, prayer, worship and campfire discussions about manhood and the priesthood. Father Hahn will serve as the chaplain.

The cost is \$30 per participant. To register, visit www.wildernessoutreach.net/treks.

Serra Club sets vocational awareness luncheon

The Serra Club of North Columbus will sponsor its annual vocations luncheon for young men at the Pontifical College Josephinum, 7625 N. High St., on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

The luncheon is open to young men in middle or high school and will include a presentation from a priest or religious sister.

Josephinum invites young men to fall come-and-see weekend

A come-and-see weekend will be offered at the Pontifical College Josephinum, 7625 N. High St., for young men who are high school juniors, seniors or college-age to visit the seminary.

The event will take place from 4 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 9 to 12 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 12 and include presentations on discernment, student life and the college seminary formation program.

Young men will experience seminary prayer life, classes, communal worship and interact with current seminarians, faculty and staff.

For information and to RSVP, contact vocations@columbuscatholic.org.

Office of Vocations invites young men to Andrew Dinners

The diocesan Office of Vocations has scheduled three Andrew Dinners with Bishop Earl Fernandes.

The dinners are for young men who are open to discernment and will be held Thursday, Nov. 30 at Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church; Wednesday, Jan. 24 at the Pontifical College Josephinum; and Monday, March 4 at Newark Blessed Sacrament Church.

The dinner will begin with evening prayer at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner and discussion at 6 p.m.

An Andrew Dinner for Hispanic youth is being planned and will be announced.

For more information, contact the Office of Vocations at vocations@columbuscatholic.org or 614-221-5565.

Diocesan vocal training program to train parish singers

A diocesan vocal training program will offer two training workshops in October and November to strengthen the vocal skills of parish singers and to introduce chant singing.

Workshops will be held Saturday, Oct. 28 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Lancaster Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption and Saturday, Nov. 4 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

The workshops will be presented by Dr. Richard K. Fitzgerald, the diocesan director of music, and Dawn Beckman, the head instructor of the diocesan vocal training program.

All parishes are invited, and there is no cost to attend.

To register, contact Beckman at rtbdb@aol.com.

ODU offers cadaver lab visits for prospective science students

Ohio Dominican University, 1216 Sunbury Road, will have several opportunities for high school students and their families to visit the university's two cadaver labs.

Students interested in studying the sciences will get a behind-the-scenes look at the cadaver labs and understand the hands-on learning opportunities that the labs provide.

Students will also gain a deeper understanding of the human body, interact with faculty and learn how the labs are used.

"The fact that ODU has a cadaver lab dedicated for undergraduates to use gives students a significant advantage in their educational experience as well as in their preparation for advanced studies in graduate or medical school," said Kaylee Meade, director of undergraduate admission.

"We realize many students may not be familiar with cadaver labs, so these visits are designed to introduce them to this valuable resource and share with them the steps taken to ensure these spaces are treated with the utmost respect."

To register, visit the university's website, www.OhioDominican.edu/Visit.

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29th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

Trust God and do not despair

Isaiah 45:1, 4-6
 Psalm 96:1, 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10
 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b
 Matthew 22:15-21

The world is at war. The very lands involved in ancient wars and intrigues continue to be so. At such a time, we can be tempted to despair, even as the peoples of the ancient world despaired and cried out to God. However, our temptation is even greater, fueled by the world's rejection of the very notion of God. Do we believe in God? Do we continue to believe that God is Lord of heaven and earth, almighty? Do we trust that God loves this world? Do we trust that God loves us?

The Biblical view of the world shows that in many and various ways, God made Himself known. To Israel in Exile, He made it clear that He is the God of the whole world, the Creator. In Isaiah's prophecy, God speaks to one who does not know Him, Cyrus, the King of the Persian Empire. He makes it plain to Israel, now invited to return from exile, that He holds the whole world in His hands and that He is in control no matter what the appearance may be.

As our culture seems to be on a path that moves away from any acceptance of a power beyond ourselves, we may be tempted to be concerned only for ourselves. The idea of working toward greater justice and toward peace can seem impossible. King Cyrus was interested in building his own empire, and yet God calls him "messiah," that is, "anointed" for Israel. The return of some exiles served as a prelude to the "full-

30th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

Exodus 22:20-26
 Psalm 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51
 1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10
 Matthew 22:34-40

What is the heart of the Gospel? How do you understand it? What is your response to it? For most of us, this is not an easy question to answer. We simply have not considered it. We have heard lots of words about the Gospel and its meaning. But how does it apply? How do we live it practically?

In every era, there tends to be an unspoken consensus about what is important to all. Societies have supported the idea of a "common good" and expected all its members to conform to it and to work for it, or at least not to forget it altogether. This has broken down. We are not convinced that anything is truly good. We tend to be rather self-serving and yet we want to allow every individual to create his or her own personal stan-

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Father Timothy Hayes

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



ness of time" in which God would fulfill His promise of the Messiah for His people and for all peoples. "I am the Lord, there is no other."

At the time of Jesus, two other empires had come and imprinted the land of Israel with their cultures. The Greeks, following Alexander, and the Romans, who were in control at that time, had not been able to suppress Israel's hope. Many of the encounters we see in the Gospels are evidence of the uneasy peace that "authorities" negotiated. Religious and political leaders conspired together to hold onto whatever control they could muster.

Jesus offers a way of thinking that pierces through their worldly perspective and gives a new impetus to the freedom that comes from knowing God as the Creator in whose image we have been made: "... repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." This calls for an interior discernment for external behaviors. When the world is concentrating on an uneasy "balance of powers," the invitation of the Gospel is to surrender to the one and only power that truly makes a difference.

Paul, Sylvanus and Timothy remind the Thessalonians and us that the Gospel is the source of faith, love and hope. "We give thanks to God always for all of you, remembering you in our prayers,

Love God, worship Him at Mass

dards.

Among the contemporaries of Jesus, it was acknowledged that "The Law" was the proper standard. Nonetheless, there was a debate about how to rank the particular precepts of the Torah. There was not a consensus, just an ongoing, seemingly insoluble debate. To make Jesus look foolish, they proposed a test in a public way, expecting Him not to be able to offer a satisfactory answer, because they believed no one could.

Rarely in the Gospels does Jesus answer a question directly. Instead, He asks a question or tells a parable or performs some action that creates controversy among those who are trying to trip Him up. In this instance, however, Jesus does speak straightforwardly.

A scholar of the Law asks, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?"

Jesus immediately responds: "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all

THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

<p>10/23-10/28 MONDAY Romans 4:20-25 Luke 1:69-75 (Ps) Luke 12:13-21</p>	<p>THURSDAY Romans 6:19-23 Psalm 1:1-4,6 Luke 12:49-53</p>	<p>10/30-11/4 MONDAY Romans 8:12-17 Psalm 68:2,4,6,7,20-21 Luke 13:10-17</p>	<p>THURSDAY Wisdom 3:1-9 Psalm 23:1-6 Romans 5:5-11 or Romans 6:3-9 John 6:37-40</p>
<p>TUESDAY Romans 5:12,15b,17-19,20b-21 Psalm 40:7-10,17 Luke 12:35-38</p>	<p>FRIDAY Romans 7:18-25a Psalm 119:66,68,76-77,93-94 Luke 12:54-59</p>	<p>TUESDAY Romans 8:18-25 Psalm 126:1-6 Luke 13:18-21</p>	<p>FRIDAY Romans 9:1-5 Psalm 147:12-15,19-20 Luke 14:1-6</p>
<p>WEDNESDAY Romans 6:12-18 Psalm 124:1-8 Luke 12:39-48</p>	<p>SATURDAY Ephesians 2:19-22 Psalm 19:2-5 Luke 6:12-16</p>	<p>WEDNESDAY Revelation 7:2,4,9-14 Psalm 24:1bc-4b,5-6 Matthew 5:1-12a</p>	<p>SATURDAY Romans 11:1-2a,11-12,25-29 Psalm 94:12-13a,14-15,17-18 Luke 14:1,7-11</p>

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION

Mass Schedule: Weeks of Oct. 22 and Oct. 29, 2023

SUNDAY MASS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DAILY MASS

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

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

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

WE PRAY THE SEASONAL LITURGY FOR WEEKS I AND II OF THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

unceasingly calling to mind your work of faith and labor of love and endurance in hope of our Lord Jesus Christ, before our God and Father, knowing, brothers and sisters loved by God, how you were chosen. For our gospel did not come to you in word alone, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with much conviction."

In the face of the wars and temptations of our times, we must keep in mind

that God is in control of His world, even of those who do not know Him. He so loves the world that He reminds us of the power of the Gospel. We have been chosen for this time and our faith in the Creator will offer the hope and love that will enable us to endure and to continue to work for the kingdom. Let us face whatever comes with conviction and trust that God is with us.

your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."

The heart of the Gospel is a response that comes out in this fashion. It is lived. It is a way of living that is seen and can be witnessed. A Word that is spoken that has power to change hearts and to put the law into practice is given by a person who has already received it.

Many who are found in church see their participation in church as simply one activity among many possibilities. There are times of trouble when churches have more people in attendance seeking something that the world cannot give. When things are "calm" or when some other activity that seems more attractive is going on, however, the numbers "in church" go down. Such a witness is recognized as hypocrisy. It does not

manifest a true commitment to the Gospel.

To love God with all that we are is to surrender to God, to worship Him, which is – and properly understood can only be – a "Church activity." As Catholics, we recognize that this is the very nature of the Mass, the source and summit of all our life in relationship to God.

If the Mass is not central, we are not putting God first. Living with our brothers and sisters, loving our neighbors according to God's measure of love is the proof of the Gospel. The precepts articulated in the law are the expression of such love. The Gospel is the power of God that is at work in us. Receiving God Himself in word and sacrament, we go out to welcome our neighbors into the kingdom. This is our mission as church: to invite all "to serve the living and true God and to await his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus, who delivers us from the coming wrath."

Solemnity of All Saints, Year A

All are called to strive for holiness

Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14
Psalm 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6
1 John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1-12a

SCRIPTURE READINGS

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



We are called to be holy. To be holy is the effect of grace that comes from God and is willingly received. A saint is one who longs for God, lives for God and surrenders fully to God, no matter what the cost. A saint shares in the very life of God.

The Scriptures offered for today are often misunderstood. Some groups take Biblical numbers far too literally and miss the call and the challenge they truly mean. 144,000 is a complex number: 12x12x1000. It means fullness upon fullness filled with divine grace. It points not at all to 144,000 specific persons but

rather to all in the People of God who are marked, that is, chosen, claimed, saved and redeemed by God.

The "great multitude" that is beyond counting creates another challenge. It includes people "from every nation, race, people, and tongue." It is a universal invitation. We are invited and we are directed to become ready to be one with everyone who responds to the call.

No matter who we are or where we come from, God is our creator and re-

deemer. He invites us to share His life. We are destined for glory. Living in a world that has divisions, separation and polarization that keep us from cooperation here on earth, we are given a vision of the world God has in mind that is to be a sharing in the kingdom and in His own glorious life by all who are willing to respond.

The Gospel for this day is the Beatitudes, which point to a great reversal from the experience of this world's limits to the abundance of life and reward in heaven. Whatever happens, accepted by those who are certain of God's love, can be a means to the glory in store for us. We can begin to see limits as openings to God's fullness. As we open our eyes to see one another as God's children, hope

dawns on us. As we look upon those entrusted to us, we see "the people who long to see God's face" and find our motivation to be of service to them.

All Saints' Day is a day of rejoicing with all humanity, those who have gone ahead of us, those in need of our prayers for their full purification, and those on earth and yet to be born. Through our relationship to God, we are united with all of these.

The call to be holy is to belong to God, and to acknowledge His love for humanity. We receive grace to respond to the invitation and we become God's messengers inviting others to the banquet. "Beloved: See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are."

SERRA, continued from Page 21

Catholic. "I just see them so full of joy, and I think it's definitely like a marriage between the woman and God."

Sister Elfie Del Rosario, FMA (Filiae Mariae Auxilium Christianorum or Daughters of Mary Help of Christians) served as the guest speaker. She is the vocation director for the Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco, known as the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, in the eastern province of the U.S. The order is dedicated to evangelizing and educating young people.

Sister Elfie spoke of the importance of listening to God's voice. She suggested several ways young women can hear God speak to them.

She told young women that they need friends who "call you out" for listening to, watching or doing something that is not holy.

Sister Elfie, who is from the Philippines, said that when she was growing up it was difficult to find friends who wanted to accompany her to Adoration or pray the Rosary. She stressed that young women need to choose friends who help them

grow in holiness.

If friends are "actually helping you make good choices, encouraging you in your faith, stay with those people," Sister Elfie said. "If you have a chaplain in your school, praise Jesus, and you're really lucky. If you have sisters in your school, you're so blessed.

"If you have lay people in your school who strive each and every day to live their faith, hang out with them, ask them, allow them to challenge you because God will use them to speak words of encouragement."

Sister Elfie recalled the parable of the Good Shepherd in the Gospel of John. She referred to John 10, when Jesus spoke of the hired hand who sees the wolf coming, leaves the sheep and flees. Jesus said that "he flees because he is a hired hand and does not care about the sheep." (John 10:13)

Sister Elfie told the girls to be wary of people who, like the hired laborers in the parable, appear to care for the them but do not have their best interests in mind. She said these are people who say, "Oh,

you want to do that? Sure, whatever, it's OK." They distract from God, the Good Shepherd.

"Be careful what you listen to because you don't want hired workers coming in the sheepfold and trying to distract you," she said.

Regularly receiving the sacraments of confession and the Eucharist are other ways young women can hear God's voice. Sister Elfie said God speaks through a priest in the confessional and in receiving the Eucharist.

She also encouraged girls to download the New American Bible app on their phone or a Bible app that is "true to its translation."

In prayer, after offering a litany of gratitude, Sister Elfie said, it is important to give God an opportunity to speak. Communication with God cannot be one-sided.

ed. She asked the girls to take a moment of silence in prayer so God can speak to them.

She said God is "so gentle." That is how they can recognize His voice.

She reminded young women that God also gave them an interior voice, their conscience, to help them make good choices. They can discern right from wrong by listening to their conscience.

Sister Elfie encouraged young women to give of themselves by serving those around them. Serving others is a way young women can hear God speaking to them and discern His will.

"In giving of yourself in service, God will use that, too," she said. "He will make you realize the more you give of yourself the more He can work through you and the more you can discover the gifts that you have."

SAINT LUKE PARISH TURKEY DINNER

Sunday, November 5 - 11am-2pm

St. Luke Community Center, Market & Rambo Streets, Danville
Turkey, mashed potatoes & gravy, stuffing, green beans, roll, cranberry salad, beverage, pie

Adults - \$12, Children 10 & under - \$6

Carry-out available

ST. JOHN NEUMANN HOLIDAY CRAFT BAZAAR

Nov. 11, 2023 from 9 am to 2 pm

Homemade crafts, bake sale, baskets raffled and food served.

Carters Corner Rd & St. Rt. 36/37 in Sunbury

Questions? Email sjnholidaybazaar@gmail.com.

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PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

ALTIER, Christina M., Oct. 8
St. Rose Church, New Lexington

BERTINO, Cosmo A. Jr., 84, Oct. 5
St. Matthew Church, Gahanna

BOWMAN, Barbara J. (Parsley), 87, Oct. 2
Our Lady of Peace Church, Columbus

CAFARELLA, Robert A., 84, Sept. 25
St. Paul Church, Westerville

CHERVENAK, Eugene J., 95, Sept. 28
St. Brendan Church, Hilliard

DEIBEL, Arlene (Browning), 81, Oct. 5
Our Lady of Peace Church, Columbus

DODD, Kenneth P., 58, Sept. 27
St. Timothy Church, Columbus

DOYLE, Michelle A., 60, Oct. 2
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

KLESKI, Ethel (Marty), 93, Sept. 28
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

LALLY, John F., 87, Sept. 28
Our Lady of Peace Church, Columbus

MAHANEY, Dolores (Marinelli), 86, Sept. 27
St. Elizabeth Church, Columbus

MASSARA, Eva L., 91, Oct. 9
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, Columbus

RICHARDSON, Bessie (Fanti), 86, Sept. 29
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

ROGERS, William, 89, Sept. 22
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

ROTERT, Genevieve "Jenny" (Cummins), 82, Oct. 2
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

SADDAM, Alma M., 85, Sept. 25
St. Agatha Church, Columbus

TALERICO, Mary E. (Rook), 87, Sept. 27
Holy Spirit Church, Columbus

TAYLOR, Anthony B., 72, Oct. 4
Christ the King Church, Columbus

TREITMAIER, Helga, 84, Sept. 29
St. Bernadette Church, Lancaster

WILBUR, Antoinette "Toni" (Sergio), 87, Oct. 5
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, Grove City

VALENTINO, Dominic, 93, Oct. 3
St. Christopher Church, Columbus

WILSON, Alice I. (Bartunek), 92, Oct. 2
St. Matthew Church, Gahanna

WILSON, Paul "Mike," 70, Sept. 27
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

Deacon Paul Deshaies

Funeral Mass for Deacon Paul Eugene Deshaies, who died Wednesday, Oct. 11, will be celebrated on Wednesday, Oct. 25 at Lancaster St. Bernadette Church.

He was born on Dec. 24, 1947, to Ronald and Noella (Houle) Deshaies and attended a French grammar school and high school, served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War and graduated from Westfield State College in Massachusetts with a degree in business administration. He spent most of his career as a product manager for Sonoco Paper Company in Lancaster.

In 1996, he began his initial theological studies and discernment in preparation for the permanent diaconate at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio, and en-

tered the diocesan formation program at the Pontifical College Josephinum in 1998. He was ordained on Feb. 3, 2001, by Bishop James A. Griffin at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral and served at St. Bernadette Church, as a prison chaplain at the Southeastern Correctional Institution and in Latino ministry at Columbus St. Agnes Catholic Church in Columbus, retiring from active ministry in 2017 while continuing as a part-time prison chaplain until 2020.

He was preceded in death by his parents and three siblings.

Survivors include his wife of 54 years, Milagros; one son, Marco; two daughters, Maria and Monica; three sisters, one brother, five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Rosamond 'Rosi' Davis

A celebration of life for Rosamond "Rosi" (Hummer) Davis, 80, who died Monday, Oct. 2 will take place on June 22, 2024. Details will follow.

She was born March 2, 1943 in Cambridge, Ohio to Winifred and Earl Hummer. She graduated from St. Mary of the Springs Academy and Ohio Dominican College (now University).

She was a second-grade teacher at Columbus St. Andrew School and was also employed at the Franklin County Board

of Elections, the U.S. Census and JC Penney Insurance.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles, and her parents. She is survived by a son, Brian, and daughters, Beth Godshall, Kara Daniele and Katie (Jeremy) Brooks; sisters, Clare (Jim) Bauer, Anne Hummer and Martha (Michael) Lynch; brothers, Ted (Lari), Larry, Bill (Linda) and Mark (Jeanine); brother-in-law Carl (Betty) Davis and grandchildren.

Sister Arleen Kisiel, OP

Funeral Mass for Sister Arleen Kisiel, 75, who died Friday, Oct. 6, was celebrated Friday, Oct. 20 at the Columbus Motherhouse of the Dominican Sisters of Peace. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was born on Nov. 13, 1947 in Cleveland to Louis and Adelle (Kaniecki) Kisiel. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1970 from Ohio Dominican College (now University) and a Master of Science degree in counseling in 1982 from the University of Dayton.

She entered the congregation of the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs (now the Dominican Sisters of Peace) in 1966 and professed her vows on Aug. 15, 1969.

In the Diocese of Columbus, she was a teacher at Columbus St. Philip (1970-1971) and Christ the King (1972-1974) schools and at Newark Catholic (1979-1980) and Lancaster Fisher Catholic (1980-1983) high schools. She also taught in Pennsylvania and Illinois.

From 1983 until her retirement in 2019, she served in various roles in Ohio, Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois and Canada. She retired to a life of prayer in the Motherhouse in 2019 and became a resident of the Mohun Health Care Center in 2021.

She was preceded in death by her parents. Survivors include a brother, Ken Kisiel, and sisters, Jan Kisiel and Shelly Mack.

FRIARY COOK OPPORTUNITY

Holy Family Church (Columbus) seeks a qualified individual to serve as a Cook, approximately 15 hours per week, for the community of Mercedarian Friars. This position is responsible for preparing a daily meal, Monday through Friday. This position includes some grocery shopping and maintaining cleanliness of the kitchen.

For more details, contact Holy Family Church at

dprunte@holycolumbus.org

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Bach's 'Magnificat' highlights St. Mary series

A performance of Johann Sebastian Bach's choral "Magnificat" will highlight the 2023-24 Music at St. Mary series sponsored by Columbus St. Mary, Mother of God Church.

Most of the programs will take place at the church, located at 684 S. 3rd St. in the German Village neighborhood. Some will be at Ohio State University's Timashev Hall, 1900 College Road N.

The "Magnificat" will be presented at 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 29 and will feature the Lancaster Chorale, a 28-member professional chamber choir directed by Dr. Stephen Caracciolo, with a baroque chamber orchestra. The day's program also will include Handel's Coronation Anthems Nos. 1, 2 and 3.

"This is the 300th anniversary of Bach's writing the 'Magnificat,' which

is based on the Virgin Mary's response to the archangel Gabriel's announcement that she had been chosen to be the mother of Jesus," said Mark Voris, founder and artistic director of the series.

"The work is a jubilant biblical canticle consisting of multiple movements, beautifully crafted for choir, soloists and orchestra. This definitely you don't want to miss."

The rest of the schedule for the series is as follows:

Sunday, Oct. 15, 4 p.m., Laura Camara and the Jake Reed Trio; Monday, Oct. 23, 7 p.m., Orlay Alonso piano recital at Timashev Hall; Tuesday, Oct. 24, 7 p.m., choral invitational featuring Hilliard Davidson, Dublin Jerome and Worthington Kilbourne high school choirs; Sunday, Nov. 12, 4 p.m., flamenco music and dance; Sunday, Nov. 19, 4 p.m., Steven Glaser piano recital.

Sunday, Dec. 3, 3 to 9 p.m., church will be open throughout the late afternoon and evening with music from the Columbus Maennerchor, Damenchor and

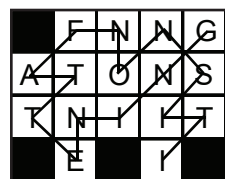
Kinderchor and other groups as part of German Village Lights event; Saturday, Dec. 9, 11 a.m., organ music by Orlay Alonso as part of Columbus Landmarks tour of downtown churches; Sunday, Dec. 10, 4 p.m., Lancaster Chorale "At the Manger" program.

Sunday, Jan. 21, 4 p.m., Orlay Alonso piano recital; Sunday, Feb. 4, 4 p.m., Anabella Petronsi voice recital; Sunday, Feb. 25, 4 p.m., ProMusica chamber orchestra "Bach and Friends" program;

Sunday, March 10, 4 p.m., Columbus International Children's Choir performs Pergolesi's "Stabat Mater" with chamber orchestra.

Sunday, April 14, 4 p.m., Dr. Richard Fitzgerald organ recital; Sunday, April 28, 4 p.m., Lancaster Chorale "Love Songs for Spring" program.

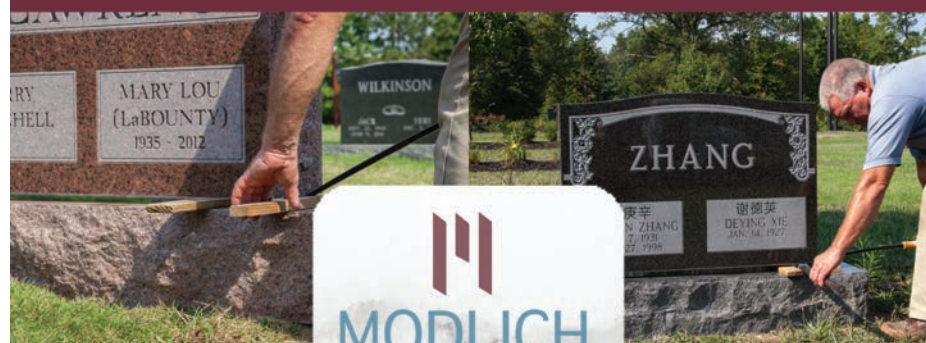
Some events will be free, and admission will be charged for others. For more information, go to www.musicatstmary.com.



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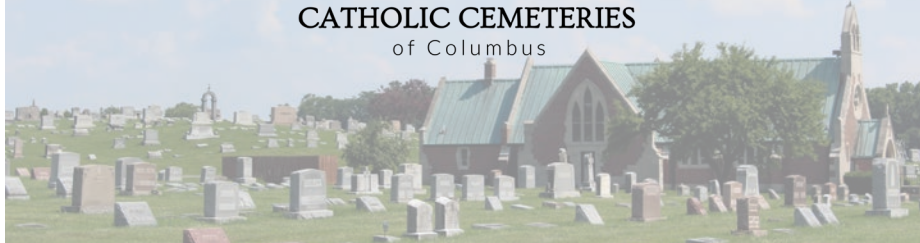
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Saturday, November 4 | 9 AM

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www.catholiccemeteriesofcolumbus.org

DeSales adds alumni vocations wall to serve as tribute, inspiration

Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School completed a vocations wall in September that not only honors former students who answered the call to religious life but could serve as inspiration to current students to consider serving the Catholic Church after graduation.

The vocations wall is located outside the school's chapel and features an interactive display that includes interviews with graduates who have pursued vocations after their years at DeSales.

So far, there are stories on five priests and four deacons. The school is working to schedule a time to talk with another graduate priest who lived out of state but recently moved back to the area after retiring, a religious sister who is an alumna and a religious brother who is currently in formation at a Benedictine monastery.

"The goal all along was twofold for us," said Phil Kraker, vice president of operations for the school. "It was to honor those alumni that have gone on to serve our faith in the Church in their various roles and also to inspire more vocations. That is one of the objectives of Bishop (Earl) Fernandes.

"How we evangelize that and bring it to the fore is one of the reasons we chose the interactive execution of it: to be able to interview them, capture the stories of their and how they discerned so that our students, now and in the future, can see that and be inspired."

Kraker said the vocations wall has been well received by students, visitors, alumni, faculty and staff. Along with the video interviews, there are graphics on the wall with inspirational quotes, photos of priests and deacons and images of the school's patron, St. Francis de Sales.

"We've gotten great feedback from everyone who has seen it," Kraker said.

Deacon Carl Calcara, who serves at



Deacon Carl Calcara (left) and St. Francis DeSales High School principal Dan Garrick watch a video featuring Deacon Calcara's story on a new vocations wall display near the school's chapel. Deacon Calcara, a 1976 DeSales graduate, serves at Sunbury St. John Neumann Church and returns to DeSales frequently to assist at school Masses. *Photo courtesy DeSales High School*

Sunbury St. John Neumann Church, is one of the alumni who pursued a calling in the Church. He returns frequently to assist at school Masses.

"I joined the DeSales family as a freshman in 1972 and one of my fondest memories was attending Mass as a class," Deacon Calcara said. "I graduated from DeSales in 1976 and thought I would not be returning to my alma mater.

"I was ordained a deacon in 2008 in the Diocese of Columbus and assigned at St. John Neumann in Sunbury. Now I give back to St. Francis DeSales by assisting at Masses and giving Benediction at

the end of their Adoration days.

"As a servant of Christ, I can draw students, faculty, support and administrative closer to Him. I loved attending and now serving at St. Francis DeSales."

The school hopes that other graduates will follow Deacon Calcara's path to pursue a life of service to the Church in a religious vocation.

"I definitely think that's going to happen," Kraker said. "When I've been (at the display) and the kids have gotten curious and I show them a couple of things, they become enthralled and really gravitate to it because I think it speaks

to them more on their level and with how their brains work. They can interact with it as opposed to standing there reading it.

"And I think, over time, absolutely that will have an impact. I have no doubt."

Some of the vocation videos, which can be used on multiple platforms, show pictures of the priest or deacon during his years at DeSales.

"There's a great picture of (retired) Deacon Mickey Hawkins from (Wester-ville) St. Paul as a freshman playing football at DeSales," Kraker said. "And there's a picture of him and his letter jacket with his brother who went to St. Charles in his letter jacket.

"Things like that really bring their stories to life."

The project was brought to life through the support and vision of Dan LaVille, a Class of 1969 alumnus, and other donors who contributed to the project.

"He remains close friends with one of our alumni who's a Holy Cross priest, Father Bill Faiella," Kraker said. "He had great admiration for him and that was part of his motivation. And it just kind of started snowballing from there."

More than 30 alumni who were classmates of the priests or deacons made financial contributions. Parishes where alumni are currently serving chipped in with donations, and additional support was provided from the diocese and the Serra Clubs of Columbus.

For those unable to visit the school, the alumni vocations recognition videos can also be viewed on the DeSales website at sfdstallions.org under the News tab.

"These were individuals that walked these halls," Kraker said. "That's the thing that's resonating with kids who don't think that way. And we have to get them there."

DeSales recognized as Advanced Placement Honor Roll School

Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School has been named to the 2023 AP School Honor Roll as a Silver Award recipient.

Among the members of the 2023 graduating class, 63% of the students took at least one Advanced Placement exam during high school, with 51% of seniors scoring a three or higher on at least one AP exam and 26% of seniors taking five or more AP exams.

DeSales also received the AP Access Award, which honors schools that encourage more low-income and under-represented minority students to take AP courses.

The school offers 21 AP courses and has 18 certified AP teachers.



DeSales students receive recognition

Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School students recognized by the National College Board this fall are (front row from left) Michael Amoaka, Isabella Felter, Maria Thomas and Jaime Rodriguez; (back row from left) Yaw Opoku-Kesse, Brandon Heil and Emmanuel Seidu. Thomas, a senior, is a national semifinalist who scored in the top 16,000 nationally on the PSAT and could become a finalist. Heil, a senior, is a National Commended Student. Seidu, Amoaka, and Opoku-Kesse, all seniors, received National African American Award recognition. Felter, a senior, and Rodriguez, a junior, received National Hispanic Award recognition.

Photo courtesy DeSales High School

Diocesan youth sports announces changes

By Ryan Aiello
*Director,
 Diocesan Catholic Youth Organization*

For many parents, youth athletics are an outlet for their child(ren)'s pent-up energy, socialization and desire to keep them active. While these are very real benefits, when we look at youth sports through a Catholic lens, participation instills the Cardinal Virtues of prudence, justice, fortitude, temperance and so much more.

At the Diocesan Recreation Association, our objective has always been to unite the young people of our parishes to promote their spiritual, physical and social welfare to build character and good sportsmanship. However, as our schools continue to strengthen their Catholic culture and respect as men and women created in God's image and the virtues of our faith, we, too, are making strides to strengthen the Catholic culture of our parish-based athletic programs.

Effective next month, the Diocesan Recreation Association will change its name to "Catholic Youth Organization" (CYO) to be more expressive of our Catholic faith. For nearly a century, this organization has been synonymous with connecting children more closely

to Jesus through its mission to "inspire young people to know God, to love God and to serve God through athletics." Furthermore, our new name connects us to other CYO sports programs throughout Ohio and the United States as part of a larger network of programs who share our Catholic faith through youth sports.

This shift to CYO is more than just a name change, though. We view this as an additional opportunity to place our Catholicity at the forefront to teach, cultivate and practice virtue. Our athletic programs then become real opportunities for our children to exercise compassion, self-discipline, honesty, loyalty, friendship, persistence and more. What better way to know, love and serve God than to model these virtues both in school and on the playing field.

Streamlined operations

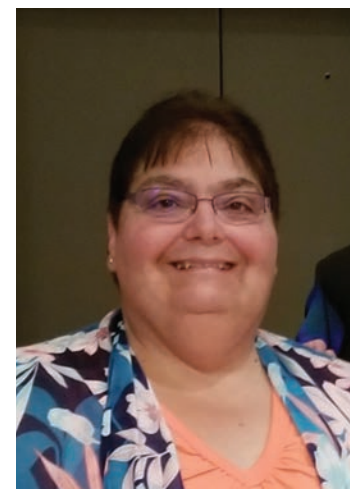
Administrative changes also are in the works with our youth athletic programs. We recently launched a new online platform called Doodlio that will help automate many of the processes traditionally completed manually. Now, parents, coaches and athletic directors will reap the benefits of streamlined registration, scheduling and communication to provide the best possible experience for participating families. Additional-

ly, athletes will have access to increased diocesan sports offerings and, in the future, high schoolers will have opportunities to engage with elementary students as referees and mentors.

Perhaps the greatest change in our youth athletic programs, however, is the retirement of Diocesan Recreation Association Director Marty Raines, effective October 31. For more than 15 years, she has been a familiar face on the sidelines at youth athletic contests throughout the diocese, cheering on our athletes, handing out medals and ribbons and ensuring that all of the programs run smoothly. As her successor, I am beyond thankful to have worked beside Marty over the past five



Ryan Aiello



Marty Raines

months and most grateful for her guidance. She has both a wealth of knowledge about diocesan athletics and takes tremendous pride in ensuring there is an unmistakable connection between our Catholic faith and athletics. Her passion and love for our community has been inspirational and I pray that I effectively continue her legacy to ensure that every student-athlete has the best experience possible in our youth athletic programs. Marty will be greatly missed!

Dennison Immaculate Conception honors first responders



Dennison Immaculate Conception School hosted its annual St. Michael's Day celebration on Thursday, September 28, honoring law enforcement, firefighters, first responders and military with a prayer service in the church that included the school's junior choir. Father Jeff Coning, the parish pastor, read from Scripture and closed with a blessing and a prayer. Representatives from Uhrichsville Police and Fire Departments, Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Office, Dennison Fire and EMT Departments and Smith Ambulance were in attendance along with service members from the U.S. Navy. The honored guests were treated to refreshments in the school cafeteria after the service. Students made cards for the first responders and had time to visit and have pictures taken with them. St. Michael is honored as the patron of law enforcement, first responders and the military. The prayer service was held to pray for protection of all first responders and to show appreciation and gratitude for their work.

Photos courtesy Immaculate Conception School



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Our Lady of Bethlehem celebrates St. Francis

By Lori Dulin

Director, Our Lady of Bethlehem School and Childcare

If you are looking for a saint that's relatable for young children, St. Francis of Assisi is your man.

Francis is known for many things, most notably the giving up of his worldly riches and the care for creation, especially animals. It was through these admirable acts that Francis established himself as a true servant of Our Lord, the ultimate goal of all of us here on earth.

So, it's no surprise that the students at Columbus Our Lady of Bethlehem School and Childcare (OLB), the youngest in the diocese, recently celebrated St. Francis' feast on Oct. 4.

The day started with Car Line Coffee, where families and their pets were invited to drive through for coffee and "pup cups" of whipped cream. Students were excited for their teachers and the staff to see their pets and to have them receive a treat.

Every OLBer brought pictures of their family pet(s) and a favorite stuffed animal for the school day, and all were featured during an all-school prayer service. The service began with the Peace Prayer song, a short video "A Day in the



Columbus Our Lady of Bethlehem School and Childcare students gather around the St. Francis of Assisi statue for a prayer service on Oct. 4, the saint's feast day.

Photo courtesy Our Lady of Bethlehem School and Childcare

Life of St. Francis" that highlighted his work with the poor and vulnerable, and learning how to sign the word "peace" in

American Sign Language.

In a world that is often less than peaceful, St. Francis is the perfect exam-

ple for young children in learning how to ignore "noise" that doesn't matter and focus on the things that do.

The prayer service culminated in a procession out to OLB's newly established St. Francis Garden near the entrance to the chapel. Students placed their stuffed animals around the statue of St. Francis and prayed.

These kinds of faith-filled, multi-sensory experiences are so beneficial for the young. They involve aspects of home and family life, connections to things they love, and the ability to see, hear and touch the world around them. These experiences use the lives of the saints like Francis to put Jesus right in front of boys and girls and make aspiring to a saintly life within reach.

OLBers' daily engagement and familiarity with the lives of the saints doesn't stop with Francis. The kindergarten class recently studied St. Kateri Tekakwitha and hunted for sticks to make crosses out of them, just as Kateri did. The students prayed as they formed the sticks into the symbol of our redemption, asking God to bless those to whom they would be gifted, including "Mr. Luke" Eschmeyer and "Mr. Justin" Fagge, the two seminarians who spend every Thursday at OLB.

See FRANCIS, Page 35

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FRANCIS, continued from Page 34



A student's stuffed animal is placed next to the St. Francis of Assisi statue on the grounds of Columbus Our Lady of Bethlehem School and Childcare. Children brought stuffed animals to school on the saint's feast day. Photo courtesy Our Lady of Bethlehem School

Throughout the school year, there are several traveling saints' activities

that circulate throughout the building, including a giant floor puzzle, wooden saint figures and a memory match. Again, all are aimed at making the communion of saints real and in proximity to our young students as examples for being open to God's plan for them.

OLB has also committed to naming the spaces in our building after saints so their names are commonly spoken and heard throughout each day. The recent refresh of our gym and nearby stairwell resulted in the "St. Sebastian Gymnasium" and "Blessed Chiara Badano Stairwell." As children go up and down the stairs, they see Chiara's quote, "For you, Jesus. If you want it, I want it, too!" It's a constant and beautiful reminder that His will be done.

And what's the best way to learn about a saint and live your life just as he or she did? Dress up like one!

Every OLB kindergarten student and their family use the month of October to study a particular saint, complete a project, and create a costume of that saint that the student wears to school on the Solemnity of All Saints on Nov. 1. There's a saintly parade with song and praise, showing that our OLBers are truly becoming saints of our time.

St. Francis of Assisi and all the saints, pray for us!



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