

The CATHOLIC TIMES

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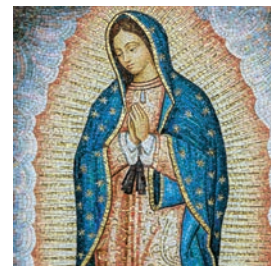


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SACRED HEART CHURCH TURNS 100

Columbus Sacred Heart Church commemorated its 100th anniversary on Sunday, Nov. 19 at a Mass with Bishop Earl Fernandes as the principal celebrant, Page 12



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE FEAST DAY

Our Lady of Guadalupe's feast day is Dec. 12 and many parishes around the diocese have planned special activities to honor the Virgin Mary, Page 9

Two diocesan priests provided counsel following I-70 bus crash

By Tim Puet

For The Catholic Times

In 42 years as a Franklin County Sheriff's Department chaplain, Father Leo Connolly has comforted people after many tragedies, including the events of Sept. 11, 2001 in New York City.

"In all the time, I don't think I've seen anything as traumatic" as the aftermath of a fatal accident along Interstate 70 in Licking County on Tuesday, Nov. 14 that killed six people and injured 18, he said.

Three of the deceased were students on a charter bus taking members of the Zoarville Tuscarawas Valley High School band to a performance at an Ohio School Boards Association conference in Columbus. The other three were a teacher and two parents in a car traveling with the students.

The Ohio Highway Patrol said the chain-reaction accident, near the freeway's Exit 118 for State Route 310 in Etna, also involved a tractor-trailer, a commercial vehicle and another passenger vehicle. At least three of the vehicles caught fire.

Father Connolly is pastor of Pickerington St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, located off the next I-70 exit west of the crash site, and was called to assist at a unification and notification center set up at Etna United Methodist Church for parents and family members of people on the bus and the other vehicles.

Also at the center was another sheriff's department chaplain, Father Joseph Yokum, pastor of Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.

The bus carried 54 students, teachers and chaperones. The high school is about two hours northeast of Columbus

and is on the northern edge of the Diocese of Columbus, near the border of Stark and Tuscarawas counties.

"The patrol and the law enforcement agencies in the area near the crash made a tremendous effort in setting up the center so quickly and getting it staffed with school personnel, clergy from several denominations, victim assistance coordinators and mental health professionals," Father Connolly said.

"It was extremely emotional because you had so many parents making the two-hour trip and not knowing whether their children were dead or alive. Different areas were set apart where some parents were reunited with their children, others were told their children were injured and some sadly were told their children had died. No matter the situation, there were many moments of raw emotion.

"I've counseled many people in cases of sudden death, but this situation was one of the most difficult I've witnessed in terms of the severity of the accident and the number of people involved.

"I was in New York after 9/11, but in that case, people had some time to start processing their grief before I got there. Here, the pain was fresh, and I saw people's immediate reactions.

"I talked to about 10 or 15 people in two or three hours – not many students, mostly school personnel and first responders. No matter who you talked to, the intensity of the situation was obvious.

"I haven't dealt with the deaths of too many young people as a sheriff's chaplain, but these are always some of the most difficult to handle because young people have so much they might have given to the world had they lived."

Safe environment program marks 20 years in diocese

By Hannah Heil

Catholic Times Reporter

The safe environment program in the Diocese of Columbus turned 20 years old this year.

While it might seem to be cause for celebration, Regina Quinn, the director of the Safe Environment Office, said the office is simply observing the anniversary.

She said it is important to see how far the office has come, reflecting on where

it started and where it is now.

"The more we learn, the more we realize we have a lot to learn," Quinn said. "We can always make things better."

In 2002, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) drafted the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People."

Later that year, the USCCB approved "The Essential Norms for Diocesan/Eparchial Policies Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Priests, Deacons and Other Church Personnel," which implemented the charter.

The norms received the recognition (recognition) of the Vatican and are the law for all U.S. dioceses and eparchies, which are dioceses of the Byzantine Catholic Church. Every diocese in the United States is required to establish a safe environment program.

The Diocese of Columbus' safe environment program was established in May 2003.

The Catholic Church mandates training and background checks and provides further education and resources for all adults working with children to protect

and provide safe environments for them.

The diocese selected VIRTUS "Protecting God's Children" (PGC) as its training program. Every parish and school staff member and volunteer in the diocese must attend a PGC session.

"The first Protecting God's Children session in the Diocese of Columbus was in November of 2003, so this is the 20th anniversary of our training program and really when our program came out," Quinn said.

See SAFE, Page 16

Clergy assignments announced

effective November 12, 2023.

Confirming the appointment of the Provincial of the Franciscan Capuchin Fathers of St. Augustine Province, **Reverend Reynaldo Frias-Santana, OFM, Cap.**, from in residence, Christ the King Church and St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Columbus, to service outside of the diocese, November 12, 2023.

Confirming the assignment of the Superior General of the Missionary Servants of the Word, **Reverend Eduardo Velázquez, MSP**, from Administrator, St. Agnes Church, Columbus, to service outside the diocese, effective November

1, 2023.

Confirming the assignment of the Superior General of the Missionary Servants of the Word, **Reverend Juan Fernando Bonilla Sánchez, MSP**, from service outside the diocese, to Administrator, St. Agnes Church, Columbus, effective November 1, 2023.

Reverend Brian Beal, from Pastor, St. Mary Church, Portsmouth; Holy Redeemer Church, Portsmouth; St. Peter in Chains Church, Wheelersburg; and Holy Trinity Church, Pond Creek, to Leave of Absence, effective October 30, 2023.

Reverend Peter Gideon, from retire-

ment, to Administrator Pro Tem, St. Mary Church, Portsmouth; Holy Redeemer Church, Portsmouth; St. Peter in Chains Church, Wheelersburg; and Holy Trinity Church, Pond Creek, effective October 30, 2023.

Confirming the assignment of the Superior General of the Pallotine Fathers, **Reverend Michael Wojciak, SAC**, from service outside the diocese, to Chaplain, St. Charles Preparatory School with residence at St. Mary Magdalene Church, Columbus, effective October 3, 2023.



Front Page photo:

ADVENT SEASON

Many diocesan parishes, with advent wreaths similar to the one in the Pontifical College Josephinum's Turibius Chapel, will offer prayer services, lessons and carols and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during the four weeks leading up to Christmas. *Photo courtesy Pontifical College Josephinum*

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Bishop leads Solemn Vespers, Blessing of Creche at Cathedral

The Nativity scene that was part of Christmas Corner at State Auto in downtown Columbus for decades made its official debut at St. Joseph Cathedral on Friday, Nov. 23 with a Solemn Vespers and a Blessing of the Creche ceremony.

Bishop Earl Fernandes presided over Vespers in the Cathedral and then moved outside with the rest of the congregation for a blessing with holy water of the historic Nativity, which will be on display at the cathedral through the New Year.

Faith leaders and diocesan staff members attended as well as the Knights of Columbus and the Order of Malta.

Also present was Stephanie Meredith, director of external relations at State Auto who managed the Nativity for 11 years before an agreement was reached earlier this year to move the display.

"I love the Nativity, loved managing it ... but when I met (Catholic Museum of Art & History director) Shawn (Kenney) and his team I knew it would be a real win-win," she said. "It's still here (in Columbus) and they've invited us to continue be a part of it. They really, really wanted it and want to carry it on, taking it to higher heights and deeper depths."

The Nativity setup began last month on the Cathedral lawn.

"It's so wonderful that Stephanie, from day one when we took a tour of the Nativity, was very emotional and we could see and feel her deep attachment to it," Kenney said. "So we want to make sure that this continues. It means a lot to many people, especially the staff who have been working with it all these years."

"It's important to note that State Auto made a large financial contribution for an endowment that we set up to maintain and preserve the exhibit. They didn't just give us the Nativity scene, they're taking care of it into the future."



Bishop Earl Fernandes incenses the altar during Solemn Vespers and Blessing of the Creche ceremony on Friday, Nov. 24 at St. Joseph Cathedral.



Bishop Earl Fernandes blesses the Nativity on the lawn of St. Joseph Cathedral after Solemn Vespers. The Nativity was moved this year to the cathedral from its longtime home a few blocks to the east at the State Auto building on East Broad Street in Columbus.

"So we're making sure that we build that up. We owe a lot to Liberty Mutual and State Auto for this whole transaction."

"It's amazing because it's staying on Broad Street. This really couldn't be a better situation. It's still right here where



The congregation participates in the prayers during Solemn Vespers.



Stephanie Meredith (right) and a friend take a selfie in front of the Nativity. Meredith managed the Nativity for 11 years at State Auto.

we can continue the 87 year tradition of coming Downtown every year to experience something so beautiful and holy."

Museum, cathedral announce holiday events

The Museum of Catholic Art & History, located at The Catholic Foundation, 257 E. Broad St., will feature a visit from St. Nicholas on the saint's feast day, Wednesday, Dec. 6, from 5 to 9 p.m.

Adults and children are invited to visit the museum for photos with St. Nicholas, stories on Advent and Christmas traditions, live music and refreshments. Nearly 500 Nativity scenes will be on display.

The cost for the event is \$10 per person or \$45 maximum for a family. Children ages 3 and younger are admitted free. Parking is available across E. Broad Street behind Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral.

The museum's annual display of Nativity sets represents different cultures from throughout the world. The sets are on display during the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Visitors can observe the various Nativ-

ities, including a Fontanini set consisting of 3,900 pieces, and learn about their history.

Across the street, on the front lawn of the cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., visitors will find Columbus' historic, life-size Nativity display.

The display, formerly known as State Auto's Christmas Corner, has relocated to the cathedral for the first time. The 80-piece Nativity set was donated by State Auto Insurance to the museum this year.

For nearly a century, the Christmas exhibit brought visitors and central Ohio residents downtown during the holiday season.

Musicians traditionally offered live performances of seasonal music outdoors by the Nativity. This year, choirs and music groups will perform inside the cathedral.

The first performance took place on Saturday, Nov. 25 at 7 p.m. with the Gos-

pel Vocal Ensemble of Columbus State Community College.

On Friday, Dec. 1, Ohio Dominican University Treble Chorus was to perform at 7 p.m. On Saturday, Dec. 2, there was to be a performance from "Signs" of Christmas at 7 p.m., which might take place outside on the cathedral steps, and The Entertainers at 8 p.m.

On Friday, Dec. 8, performances will include Matt Munhall at 6:30 p.m. and Urban Strings at 7 p.m. On Saturday, Dec. 9, the Brass Band of Columbus will play at 6 p.m.; Maennerchor/Damenchor will perform at 7 p.m.; and Indianola Presbyterian Church Choir will sing at 8 p.m. On Sunday, Dec. 10, there will be "Lessons and Carols" by the Cathedral Choir at 3 p.m.

On Friday, Dec. 15, there will be a 7 p.m. performance by J London and an 8 p.m. performance by Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church Choir.

On Saturday, Dec. 16, there will be performances from the Columbus Bishop Watterson High School Choir at 6 p.m. and the school's woodwind ensemble at 7 p.m. At 8 that evening, the combined choirs of Columbus St. Dominic and Columbus Holy Rosary-St. John Church will perform.

On Friday, Dec. 22, Gahanna St. Matthew Church Choir will sing at 6 p.m., and the Grove City Chamber Singers will perform on Saturday, Dec. 23 at 7 p.m.

On Friday, Dec. 29, Una Voce will perform at 7 p.m., and J London, which will possibly be outside on the cathedral steps, will return on Saturday, Dec. 30 at 7 p.m.

The final performance of the season will be Early Interval on Friday, Jan. 5 at 8 p.m. Tickets are required to attend the performance and can be purchased at www.TheEarlyInterval.wixsite.com/TheEarlyInterval/Events.

Parish choir members laud diocesan vocal workshops

Choristers are already singing the praises after two sessions of an initiative spearheaded by Dr. Richard Fitzgerald, the diocesan director of music, to make vocal training available to parish choral members.

The first diocesan-sponsored vocal workshops for parish choir singers were held in October at Lancaster Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption and Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Dawn Beckman, a professional singer who is a member of the Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral's schola and a cantor there, served as the instructor for the musicians, who attended from a variety of parishes.

Earlier this year, Fitzgerald announced plans to bring training programs to the parish level after Bishop Earl Fernandes appointed him diocesan director of music. Fitzgerald also serves in the same position at the cathedral and as the principal organist there.

Bishop Fernandes and Fitzgerald identified a need to guide and unify parish musicians, particularly in sacred music and Gregorian chant, and Fitzgerald chose Beckman to serve as the principal instructor based on her extensive experience as a professional performer and voice teacher.

"Richard felt that I would be able to help in the area of vocal training as far as the fundamentals of singing and the things that oftentimes people don't have a chance to learn in the choral setting just because there simply isn't time," Beckman said.

"So, he wanted me to bring a train-



Dawn Beckman leads a vocal workshop at Lancaster Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption. *Photo courtesy Basilica of St. Mary*

ing program for the vocal elements, but then he also was hoping that I would do some things as far as music literacy. I'm doing some teaching of sight singing and rhythm and learning how to read music."

The first hour of the training was spent on vocal techniques such as posture, breathing, articulation, resonance, diction, expression and delivery to help singers produce a healthy sound. The

second hour explored the fundamentals of reading music.

"The way it was received was overall very positive," said Sharon Silleck, director of music at the basilica. "People enjoyed her thoughts on how to use your instrument, different exercises for breathing for vocal production, for blending and all the things that choir members do."

There were 42 participants at the basilica. More than three-fourths of them came from outside the parish. Ages ranged from 12 to 71.

"It was wonderful," Silleck said. "I sent Dawn a couple of comments people made about how much they appreciated her sharing her expertise and that she's very good at what she does."

"People are just very enthusiastic, and we had huge turnouts," Beckman said. "I saw lots of big smiles, and that's really fantastic. I'm continuing to get emails asking when's the next training session."

"And I've had at least three music directors asking me to come to their church to provide a workshop. So, there's an incredible amount of desire. It's neat to bring people from so many different parishes together and see how they're responding with the energy around music programs. Music is really a bonding experience."

Considering most choir members are volunteers, experience levels range from beginners to more advanced. Just because someone likes to sing in the choir doesn't necessarily mean a person can read music.

"I had people come up to me before

the last session and say, 'I don't know how to read music, and I don't know how to count,'" Beckman said. "He's an absolute beginner. And then in the same session there's a music director. A lot of times a beginner can learn from someone who's more advanced. It's great that they're trying."

Parish music programs also vary drastically depending on the size of the congregation and the types of repertoire incorporated into the Mass and liturgical events. The cathedral, Columbus St. Patrick Church, Columbus Holy Family Church and Columbus St. Leo the Great Oratory feature traditional sacred music and Gregorian chant. Other parishes blend sacred music with praise and worship, and some use contemporary hymns for Masses.

Beckman admitted that she didn't know what to expect in the first training sessions but was pleasantly surprised at the receptivity to her guidance.

"Sometimes choir people can be very resistant, like, 'This is too hard, and I can't do it,'" she said. "But they already had some skills because maybe with the Catholic liturgy you do so much singing that it's in their memory bank somewhere."

Fitzgerald has accompanied Beckman to the sessions to get to know parish musicians. One of his primary goals is "teaching new repertoire like chant and providing more opportunities for music directors and church musicians to learn other music," Beckman said.

"At the cathedral, we have a very high

See WORKSHOPS, Page 20

Cathedral hosts second annual Gold Mass for musicians



The second annual diocesan Gold Mass for Musicians was held on Friday, Nov. 10 at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on the feast of St. Leo the Great. Singers and directors from diocesan parishes and the cathedral participated in Mass celebrated by Bishop Earl Fernandes (lower right photo). Dr. Richard Fitzgerald, director of music for the diocese and also the director of music and principal organist at the cathedral, directed the choir at the Gold Mass. Fitzgerald led the singers, who remained in the pews during the liturgy. Among the singers in the choir was Dawn Beckman (far left photo), a member of the cathedral schola and a cantor for Masses and liturgical events there. The first Gold Mass was offered last year to bring together diocesan musicians to celebrate sacred music in the church and to share in their ministry that enhances the liturgy. A light reception for the participants was held after the Gold Mass, which was open to anyone.

Photos courtesy Abigail Pitones

Is confession part of anointing of the sick?

Dear Father: My friend died of pancreatic cancer last year. He had been away from the Church for the past 60 years or so and lived a rather wild life. As he was receiving chemotherapy, a priest came across him at the hospital and offered to give him the sacrament of anointing. He wasn't able to get to Mass and died soon after that. Before his death, I asked my friend how it felt to go to confession after all that time. He said there was no confession. The priest told him that the anointing took care of all his sins. Why don't we advertise that more? I think more people would convert if they didn't have to confess their sins. – W.B.

Dear W.B.: We don't advertise the experience of your friend because, if I understand you correctly, what you describe is off the mark. Either there is more to the story, or the priest was wrong. Let me explain.

Based on your explanation, the priest encountered your friend and had a conversation that led to your friend being anointed. You indicate that your friend said that he didn't confess his sins. Therefore, I conclude that there was no sacrament of penance or confession, just anointing.

Furthermore, since you said that your friend had lived a wild life, there were probably mortal sins involved. At the very least, since he was away from the Church for a lengthy time, he had not been going to Mass and at least annual Holy Communion, which is a serious sin in itself.

Now, all serious sin – that is, mortal sins – must be submitted to God, not just in a private thought but through the sacrament of penance or confession. Christ Himself instituted penance or confession for the remission of serious sins committed after baptism so that we can be made holy and go to heaven.

Every priest knows that he must ask basic questions

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.



when he encounters someone needing the sacrament of anointing, at least when the person is awake and mentally competent. A priest would be negligent to simply dole out anointings without due regard for the state of the soul of the sick or dying person, for the priest is the healer of souls.

Many people think that the sacrament of anointing (of the sick and dying) forgives sin and that penance is not necessary. While it's true that forgiveness happens in anointing, there is much more to it.

We should always be wary of cheap grace, by which I mean that there is a "cost" to being in a right relationship with God. That "cost" is our assent, our "yes," our full surrender to God. And our "yes" includes being contrite for all our past "nos."

Even on a human level when we have been wronged, we recognize the need for repentance from the person who wronged us before there can be a reunion, a renewal of friendship. We don't sit down to dinner with our enemies without first having made them our friends through the healing of hurts. Our enemy needs to repent of the hurts he caused us, and we must restore him with forgiveness. So it is with God.

Having repented of past sins through the sacrament of penance and having one's soul set right with God, one is

then ready to receive the new grace of bearing physical suffering with Christ. Anointing consecrates our suffering. That's why it is essential to be ready for that consecration by receiving absolution through confession.

Many people do not understand that anointing is the sacrament by which the physically sick (as well as those who are dying) are consecrated with the oil of the sick. By that consecration, Christ unites the sick person with His own cross and suffering. Thus, the sick or dying person, who is unable to do much of anything on account of the sickness, is intimately joined to Christ, and the suffering become a means of salvation for others.

In the sacrament of anointing, we don't merely surrender to suffering. We surrender our suffering to Christ, and He transforms the evilness of bodily suffering and weakness into something powerful. This is the unique gift that Jesus has given to us!

Finally, what if your friend were unconscious (not merely asleep but medically unaware) or mentally deficient (as happens with Alzheimer's disease)? In this case, and only in this case, does the sacrament of anointing supply for forgiveness, if the unconscious person would have wanted it. It is an act of generosity on the part of God and the Church. Should the unconscious person revive, it would be necessary to confess his/her mortal sins and receive absolution.

To address the last line of your question: Conversion to the true faith is not a matter of great numbers; it is a matter of a changed heart. Hearts change, the Scriptures repeatedly tell us, when they are broken of their pride and self-sufficiency. That's what contrition is. Penance requires contrition; contrition requires confession.

That's God's word, not mine.

Sins against hope are despair, presumption

"A first essential setting for learning hope is prayer. When no one listens to me anymore, God still listens to me. When I can no longer talk to anyone or call upon anyone, I can always talk to God. When there is no longer anyone to help me deal with a need or expectation that goes beyond the human capacity for hope, he can help me." – Pope Benedict XVI, *On Christian Hope*

In my previous column on hope, I focused on how faith and hope are closely connected. In this column, my focus will be on the sins against hope, the opposite, deadly sins of despair and presumption. If we fall into these areas unwittingly, we might also undermine our faith.

"Therefore, I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven." (Matthew 12:31) *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC) connects this verse against the virtue of hope.

We read in CCC 1864, "There are no limits to the mercy of God, but anyone who deliberately refuses to accept his mercy by repenting, rejects the forgiveness of his sins and the salvation offered by the Holy Spirit. Such hardness of heart can lead to final impenitence and eternal loss."

Regarding despair: "By despair, man ceases to hope for his personal salvation from God, for help in attaining it or for the forgiveness of his sins. Despair is contrary to God's goodness, to his justice – for the Lord is faithful to his promises – and to his mercy." (CCC 2091)

We see despair most manifested in depression and treated with medicine under mental health. I will not pretend to be a psychologist or assert that there aren't physical/chemical contributions for depression. We are spirit and matter.

But I think we are in a "world or time" when too few in the science/medical community want to talk about the lack of/or weak faith as a cause/symptom of depression.

One final word on despair. Suicide is all too prevalent. CCC gives the Church teaching in paragraph 2283. "We should not despair of the eternal salvation of persons who have taken their own lives. By ways known to him alone, God can provide the opportunity for salutary repentance. The Church prays for persons who have taken

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.



their own lives." The Church is hopeful.

On presumption. "There are two kinds of presumption. Either man presumes upon his own capacities, (hoping to be able to save himself without help from on high), or he presumes upon God's almighty power or his mercy (hoping to obtain his forgiveness without conversion and glory without merit)." (CCC 2092)

Whenever we hear people talk of presumption, it almost always has to do with the presumption of innocence in legal cases, which is a good thing. What you don't hear are people going to psychologists for problems with "clinical presumption."

The first kind of presumption has been around for a long time. The heresy of Pelagianism, which proposed humanity was so good as to not need redemption, is a type of presumption. It denied original sin and promulgated a belief in human goodness, apart from divine grace. In Jesus, we don't have a redeemer but a good example and moral teacher.

The second is often manifested in the idea "once saved, always saved." We are surely redeemed by Christ in baptism, but we can freely choose to reject this gift through serious sin.

As St. Paul writes, "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23)

We also read, "For if we sin deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful pros-

pect of judgment, and a fury of fire which will consume the adversaries." (Hebrews 10:26-27)

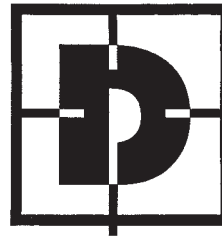
Peter Kreeft in *Practical Theology: Spiritual Direction from St. Thomas Aquinas*, sees presumption and despair linked. He writes, "We find in modern Western civilization great presumption and great despair together."

"For instance, the presumption that we can by our science and technology make ourselves unlimitedly intelligent and create a Heaven on earth – this presumption naturally begets a despairing disappointment and resentment against the few physical pains that remain in our lives, and the naïve optimism of this presumption begets a pessimism when it fails to deliver.

"Thus the 'Enlightenment' begets the Existentialists' despair."

Presumption and despair, being sins against hope, resides in the will. In sinning, they obey the passions, vice, intellect. This is why it is so hard to recognize, hard to help people and hard to combat. To recognize, use a good examination of conscience. To treat, frequent confession and the Eucharist.

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Kairos Prison Ministry offers God's love, hope to inmates

By Michele Williams

"Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place; I have seen His mighty power and His grace ..."

These words are part of the chorus from Surely the Presence, the theme song for the Kairos Prison Ministry program. The song rang out loud and clear a few Sundays ago, during the Kairos #54 closing ceremony. All former participants of Kairos are invited to attend, and as having gone through Kairos #3, I was there to welcome the newest members.

Kairos is based on Matthew 25:36, "I was in prison and you visited me." The program centers around outside volunteers showing inmates how to build a community of brothers and sisters in Christ within the prison fences. Kairos is in 21 prisons in Ohio and in every state and several countries throughout the world.

It is a 3 1/2-day retreat, called a "walk," in which 30, 36 or 42 prayerfully selected inmates listen to talks, have small group discussions, sing, eat and pray together while learning about the unconditional love of God.

The walks are held twice a year at the Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW), and word travels fast that "the cookie people are here!" Kairos volunteers are affectionately referred to as "the cookie people" because they bring cookies to show God's love for everyone.

From the woman on death row to the moms in the nursery and all 2,300 women in between, every single inmate receives a dozen chocolate chip cookies.

The cookies used to be honest-to-goodness homemade. Kairos volunteers would reach out to their churches and neighbors who would bake all varieties – oatmeal raisin, peanut butter, brownies, snickerdoodles, butter-scotch chip (my favorite) – you name it, they made 'em.

The extra-special aspect is that these bakers would pray for us as they made the cookies, even though they didn't know us, and the cookies became like little gifts from heaven.

I will never forget sitting on my bunk, in my cell, in the

Admissions Unit, utterly bewildered, anguished and all alone in 1994. Suddenly, someone knocked on the door, said, "God loves you" and gave me a bag of cookies.

I burst into tears. That person was a volunteer from Kairos #1, which was happening that weekend. They were the best cookies I ever had.

In 2019, ORW's policy changed, and homemade cookies were prohibited. Now the dough is purchased from the Otis Spunkmeyer company and baked in the prison kitchen by volunteers. But do you know what? The cookies are still delicious, they are still given out with the words "God loves you," and everyone is grateful. Cookie distribution day is one of the of the most anticipated days of the year!

When we begin our Kairos walk, we are assigned to tables with the names of women from the Bible (six inmates and four volunteers per table). At my Kairos, I sat at the table of Mary.

We don't know the volunteers and may or may not know the inmates at our table. Yet, over the next few days, we become a family of sisters in Christ. The connections can become deep and long lasting; one of my dearest friends today is the volunteer who sat next to me 28 years ago.

The talks are given by volunteers, and the newly forming families discuss each talk (while snacking on cookies). Topics include how the choices we make affect the rest of our lives, who is the church (answer: We are the church!), the Prodigal Daughter and how Jesus can break down the walls of our defenses and isolation.

An entire day is dedicated to two topics: love and forgiveness. Many of us have struggled with both, so this is the most emotional day of the weekend. We learn about God's immense capacity to love in that He sent Jesus to live among us and die for us. We also learn about agape love, which is the unconditional, unselfish love shown through the volunteers.

Tangible proof of agape love is in the hundreds of cards, letters and posters from inmates in other prisons as well as people in society with the words "God loves

you!" or "I'm praying for you!"

Even more proof is a half-mile-long paper chain, in which every link has the name of a person who is praying for us during our weekend. That chain is the most beautiful sight as it is draped around and around the meeting room in a kaleidoscope of color. It is overwhelming to realize we really, truly are loved, in spite of ourselves.

The forgiveness part of the day is equally emotional, but in a different way. After a long discussion and much prayer, we are given a piece of paper and told to write down the names of people we need to forgive.

I remember writing my own name at the top of the list and wondering if I could actually forgive myself. Then eventually, one by one, we approached the altar, which is next to the crucifix with Jesus looking upon us, and dropped our paper into a bowl of water where it dissolved took all the names and offenses with it!

The symbolism was profoundly moving. God's presence and comfort were palpable, and everyone cried their eyes out.

At the closing, all the participants receive a Bible and a small cross strung on rainbow-colored yarn. For some, it's the first Bible they've ever owned. Outside guests and inmates alike welcome their new sisters with a standing ovation.

I remember feeling like the dark cloud that had enveloped my existence lifted somewhat, and I could experience peace for the first time since setting a shackled foot inside the prison. And I wasn't the only one feeling something special; there was new hope, new friends, renewed faith, forgiveness, love and more cookies spilling out into the aisles!

Kairos is a life-changing ministry. I'm grateful for my walk because it made my life more fulfilling. While there have been plenty of ups and downs in the years since, I've been able to share them with my sisters in Christ and am always reminded that surely the presence of the Lord is in this place!

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

When docs play deities

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.



to have convinced NHS doctors that they are, in fact, God.

Indi Gregory was born on February 24 but soon experienced difficulties breathing; she then began to suffer prolonged seizures. The baby was born with a hole in her heart and required surgeries to drain fluid from her bowel and her skull. Two months later, a genetic test determined that the child suffered from a rare and degenerative mitochondrial disease and she was given a breathing tube. Her parents stated that their daughter responded to them even under these severe conditions, and "on her good days, she is babbling, making noises, moving all her limbs."

Nonetheless, when Indi was six months old, her doctors decided that they should withhold further "invasive" treatment. When Indi's parents disagreed, the hospital went to the courts, where the doctors later changed their request and asked to be permitted to remove critical care, saying that it would be kinder to let her die. The parents continued their legal battle; Rome's Bambino Gesù Pediatric Hospital offered to accept Indi as a patient, while the Italian government gave her Italian citizenship and said it would cover all costs; but the judge decided that a move to Rome was not in the baby's best interest. The parents then asked that Indi be allowed

to die at home, but, presumably on doctors' advice, the judge wouldn't hear of that either. So, on November 13, Indi died in a hospice in her mother's arms after life-support was withdrawn.

Indi had been baptized on September 22 and, through this tragic story, Christian faith entered her family. For that, we may be grateful. But not for the overbearing doctors or for the courts who took the physicians' side rather than the parents'.

There are doubtless circumstances when overwrought and distraught parents cannot face the reality of a terminal medical situation, but this does not seem to have been one of them. Great Britain has not (yet) embraced euthanasia or physician-assisted suicide. But its National Health Service personnel seem to believe that some of their patients have a duty to die, and if their relatives won't cooperate, then the docs and the law will take control of the situation and see that the duty to die is fulfilled. Thus does the godlike status of the NHS express itself through its medical personnel.

I am the odd man out in a family of doctors: My maternal grandfather was a doctor, my mother was a medical technologist, my brother is a doctor, my daughter is a doctor, my late son-in-law was a doctor, and I have a doctor son-in-law today. So please don't question my esteem for the medical profession. But when doctors imagine themselves deities who de facto know "what's best" in these difficult neo-natal cases, the ethics of the ancient Hippocratic Oath seem to crumble, as the godlike medicos assert an authority that properly belongs to parents — and do so in the name of a pseudo-divine compassion.

With the God of the Bible having largely disappeared from public consciousness in Great Britain, the closest thing to a replacement deity is the British National Health Service. Created after World War II, the NHS was the object of intense affection for decades and, as recently as this year, 72% of Britons polled said that the NHS was "crucial" to their society. This obsessive and often mawkish devotion to a false god has made a wholesale reform of the NHS — or, better, its replacement — virtually impossible. And the NHS is desperately in need of reform or replacement.

How desperately? A July 13 article in the *New England Journal of Medicine* told the sorry tale:

"For much of December 2022 and January 2023, media reports featured ambulances lined up outside hospitals, unable to hand over their patients; patients lying at home with fractured hips, unattended by ambulances; emergency department waiting times exceeding 12 hours; and hospital corridors crowded with patients unable to be admitted. The Royal College of Emergency Medicine estimated in December that 300 to 500 people were dying each week because of these delays. Ambulance workers and nurses held their first strikes in 40 years over pay and conditions. In mid-March, mid-April, and mid-June, junior doctors held 3-4-day strikes — and senior doctors have scheduled similar action. Hundreds of thousands of operations and appointments have been canceled.

"In the background of this acute crisis, waiting lists for specialist consultation have been growing and now exceed 7 million patients (in a country of 66 million people) ..."

And as if that gross dysfunction were not enough, being the object of misplaced worship by the British public seems

In wake of Issue 1, a call for continued hope, action

By Jerry Freewalt

In the aftermath of the recent Election Day results, our hearts are heavy as we reflect on the passage of state Issue 1, a measure that enshrines abortion into the Ohio Constitution. This development marks a profound moment of sorrow for all who cherish human life and dignity.

As a community grounded in faith and love, we may find ourselves grappling with deep disappointment, a sentiment that resonates with the core of our Catholic social teachings.

The passage of Issue 1 is not merely a political event; it is a mirror reflecting the troubling aspects of our current culture. It reveals a society increasingly detached from the sanctity of life, one where the intrinsic value of the unborn is overshadowed by the noise of modernity.

This outcome is a tragic one, signaling a disconnect from the understanding that every life, from conception to natural death, is a precious gift from God.

In these times, we mourn the unborn children whose lives will be lost and lament the women and families

who will be wounded, physically and spiritually, by the scourge of abortion. This pain is real and profound, echoing through generations.

Yet, in our sorrow, we must not lose hope. The efforts of countless individuals who worked tirelessly to defeat this constitutional amendment shine as beacons of light. Their dedication is a testament to the enduring spirit of those who advocate for life.

In their commitment, we are reminded of the words of a great saint, Pope St. John Paul II, who said, "Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song."

Their efforts, though not resulting in the desired outcome, have not been in vain. They have laid the groundwork for a continued journey toward building a culture that fully respects and cherishes life.

This journey requires us to engage more deeply in prayer for life, to tirelessly work to change hearts and minds, to walk compassionately with those in need and to advocate for just laws that uphold the dignity of the most vulnerable among us.

This path is not an easy one, but it is necessary. We are called to be the hands and feet of Christ, bringing

His love and truth to a world in desperate need of both. We must continue to educate, to support and to love, always remembering that every human encounter is an opportunity to affirm the value of life.

To all who dedicated their time, energy and prayers to the campaign against Issue 1, I extend my heartfelt gratitude. Your commitment to the cause of life is a powerful witness to the love and mercy of Christ.

I encourage you to persist in this noble work. The road ahead may be fraught with challenges, but let us move forward with the firm belief that a culture of life and a civilization of love can indeed be realized.

In the face of disappointment, let us cling to hope. Let us be inspired by the conviction that, though the night might be dark, the dawn of a new respect for life is on the horizon. Together, with faith as our guide and love as our compass, we will continue to work, pray and hope for the day when every life is cherished and protected.

Jerry Freewalt is director of the diocesan Office for Social Concerns and the Respect Life coordinator.

What happened on Nov. 7 and why? What do we do now?

By Beth Vanderkooi

The dust has settled on the November election and the results were clear: Issue 1 won with nearly 57% of the vote.

This electoral win is significant politically for several reasons. It represents the largest political victory of abortion at the ballot since the Dobbs decision -- and possibly ever -- and it will usher in like-minded proposals across the country. There are already two states with amendments on the 2024 ballot and 11 other states with likely amendments. Nationally, Democrats have indicated that they will be pushing as many amendments as they can, as they see abortion as a winning political strategy.

A lot of people will have opinions, but here are a few things that I think we should look to for insight.

Church involvement: Faith communities, especially the Catholic Conference of Ohio and Bishop Earl Fernandes, were tremendous partners in the campaign. This is important because Catholics have become one of the last bellwethers in Ohio politics.

While the bishops made it clear that abortion is a moral issue rather than a political one, abortion has broad influence on politics -- and vice versa. Limited polling information is available but suggests that Catholic support for Issue 1 was consistently around 50%. While this may tempt pro-lifers to excuse the difference as those who regularly attend Mass and those who identify more as culturally Catholic, we shouldn't. Many saw support for Issue 1 in our pews and families. Opposition to Issue 1 was not substantially higher in evangelical churches.

Bishop Daniel Thomas of Toledo was recently chosen as chairman-elect of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities. He is a strong and consistent voice for the unborn, and I pray this tragic loss informs his leadership in that role; I think it will.

Misinformation: Issue 1 was carefully crafted to use intentionally broad legalese and to take advantage of politically popular messaging. Specific examples of this include the definition of "life and health" of the mother and inclusion of the rights to miscarriage care, continuing one's own pregnancy, and contraception.

Numerous TV ads took advantage of this to insinuate that without Issue 1 women experiencing miscarriages, ectopic pregnancies or other medical emergencies would suffer and die. This was nonsense, but the narrative went virtually unchecked by traditional media and voters responded.

Spending disparity: Pro-lifers were outspent. Final campaign finance figures are not yet available, but overall, the pro-Issue 1 side is estimated to have spent about \$66 million and the anti-Issue 1 side about \$30 million.

I predicted early on that the pro-life side would need \$50 million-60 million to stay competitive in this race, which ultimately was spot-on. I also predicted that Greater Columbus Right to Life alone would need volunteers to make 100,000 voter contacts, and that effort would need to be duplicated across the state. We had an amazing group of volunteers and donors who did heroic work in central Ohio and across the state, but we didn't make it. With such a significant spending disparity, we needed to have more one-on-one discussions.

Public opinion and a referendum on the Heartbeat Bill: In 2019, Lawmakers passed legislation protecting babies with detectable heartbeats from abortion at about six weeks' gestation. The law contained no exceptions for rape and incest (it did contain exceptions for medical emergencies). The law was in effect for 82 days before being held up in a legal challenge. Consistent opinion polls have placed public support for heartbeat-style laws at between 40%-45%. Our opponents knew this, and they worked to take political advantage, an effort made easier by their misleading language and ability to outspend us. They made Issue 1 a referendum on the Heartbeat Bill and Personhood proposals.

Our rebuttal -- that Issue 1 would constitutionally affirm abortion through all nine months -- just couldn't rise above their well-funded reading and manipulation of public sentiment. Ultimately, the vote mirrored polled sentiment for the Heartbeat Bill, which is probably not a coincidence.

What's next? Initiated constitutional amendments are effective 30 days after the election, so Ohio's amendment will take effect Dec. 7 -- the day before the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

There are (roughly) three avenues of how the new amendment could become enforced: Abortion sup-

porters could directly challenge existing laws and regulations in court, asserting that they are unconstitutional; they could simply assert the right and act; and the legislature could act to repeal existing laws they think are in conflict. While several Democratic lawmakers have indicated they will introduce legislation to do the latter, it is unlikely any such effort will be successful given the pro-life majority in Ohio's General Assembly.

Pro-life lawmakers have also signaled they intend to move forward with their own efforts. Everything from defending existing laws to proposing partial or total repeal of the constitutional amendment in a future election is on the table. From the pro-life side, we will be proposing several immediate changes to Ohio's law that we think will protect women and unborn children in the short term.

As for our response as the pro-life faithful, it needs to be multi-fronted, nimble and rapidly evolving. The first thing that we are going to do is ask you to continue in prayer and action. One immediate need that we have is to boost our sidewalk counseling and prayer partner program. We anticipate that our Pregnancy Help Centers will continue to be a necessary part of Ohio's front-line response. It is a great time to reinvigorate your parish respect life program and update your Walking with Moms in Need plan. We've ordered thousands of replacement "slips" for yard signs, which we will make available at no cost for those who want to continue to show their opposition to Issue 1. Make no mistake, though -- we have a lot of work to do.

I have spent time in prayer and reflecting what we need to prioritize to protect the dignity of human life from this all-out assault. Everything is on the table -- from focusing on working with churches and volunteers to grow our outreach program, to working on legislation, and litigation. We will be using our resources to impact our community in the best way that we can.

Our hearts are broken, but our resolve is firm. Once Ohioans see how extreme and out-of-touch Issue 1 really is, they will reject both its language and its premise. In the interim, the pro-life movement in central Ohio will continue to do what it does best -- work to change hearts and minds and save lives while directly confronting

Diocesan churches schedule Advent activities

Churches and other organizations throughout the Diocese of Columbus will conduct many special programs throughout the Advent season. The following is a list of seasonal activities as provided by parishes to *The Catholic Times*:

Buckeye Lake Our Lady of Mount Carmel – Eucharistic Adoration, Sundays, Dec. 3, 10, 17 and 24, 9 to 10:45 a.m.

Canal Winchester St. John XXIII – Lessons and carols, Sunday, Dec. 17, 4 p.m., followed by reception

Circleville St. Joseph – Parish will deliver Christmas dinner between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 25 to anyone who calls the church at (740) 477-2549 by Friday, Dec. 22

Columbus Holy Spirit – Reconciliation, Thursday, Dec. 14, 10 a.m. and Wednesday, Dec. 20, 5 to 7:30 p.m.

Columbus Immaculate Conception – Talks with guest speaker Dr. Edward Sri, Thursday, Dec. 7, 7 p.m. Register at www.iccols.org; Video study of the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary with breakfast, Saturday, Dec. 9, 9 a.m. to noon. Register at www.iccols.org; lessons and carols, Sunday, Dec. 10, 7 p.m.

Columbus Our Lady of Peace – Tree lighting, Nativity scene blessing, music, food and refreshments, Saturday, Dec. 2, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.; Advent Eucharistic Adoration with confessions, Tuesdays, Dec. 5, 12 and 19, 6 to 7 p.m.; penance service, Thursday, Dec. 14, 7 p.m.

Columbus St. Andrew – Parish mission on the Eucharist with Dr. Edward Sri, Wednesday, Dec. 6, 7 to 9 p.m.; Giving Tree benefits Columbus St. James the Less Church, Missionaries of Charity in Appalachia and Christ Child Society; parish Knights of Columbus collect donations for Columbus Our Lady of Guadalupe Food Pantry

Columbus St. Catharine – ADORE lessons and carols service with confession and candlelit Eucharistic Adoration, Thursday, Dec. 21, 7 p.m.

Columbus St. Cecilia – Giving Tree program concludes on Dec. 2 and 3, with gifts to be distributed during the week of Dec. 11; lessons and carols, Sunday, Dec. 10, 7 p.m.; St. Vincent de Paul food basket assembly, Friday, Dec. 15 with distribu-

tion the following day

Columbus St. Christopher – Penance services with confessions, Wednesday, Dec. 20 to Friday, Dec. 22, 6 to 8 p.m.

Columbus St. Elizabeth – Concert with parish choir and Ghanaian choir, Saturday, Dec. 9, 6 p.m.; Simbang Gabi, an eight-day novena of Masses in the Tagalog language of the Philippines to prepare for the coming of Christ and honor the Virgin Mary. Masses will be at 6:30 p.m. from Friday, Dec. 15 to Friday, Dec. 22, with the exceptions of the Saturdays of Dec. 16 and 23, when they will be at 7 p.m., with Bishop Earl Fernandes as the celebrant on Dec. 23

Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral – Lessons and carols, Sunday, Dec. 10, 3 p.m.

Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona – Vespers and Benediction, Thursdays, Dec. 7, 14 and 21, 7 p.m.

Columbus St. Mary German Village – Santa's Singing Elves and The Actors' Theatre, 3 p.m., Columbus Maennerchor concert, 4 p.m., parish choir concert, 6:30 p.m., handbell and organ concert, (\$5 admission), 8 p.m., all on Sunday, Dec. 3 as part of German Village Lights event. Reindeer will be in front of church throughout the program. Advent Eucharistic Adoration, Tuesdays, Dec. 5, 12 and 19, 5 to 6 p.m.; Lancaster Chorale concert, Sunday, Dec. 10, 4 p.m.

Columbus St. Mary Magdalene – Candlelit dawn Mass honoring the Virgin Mary, followed by breakfast, Saturday, Dec. 9, 6:30 a.m.; penance service, Tuesday, Dec. 19, 7 p.m.

Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center – Gaudete! Rejoice! concert of seasonal music related to the Virgin Mary from the Annunciation to the Incarnation, Saturday, Dec. 9, 7 p.m.

Danville St. Joseph – Penance service, Wednesday, Dec. 13, 6:30 p.m.

Delaware St. Mary – 40 Hours of Eucharistic Adoration, 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 30 to 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 2; Advent by Candlelight program for women, Tuesday, Dec. 5, 6 to 8:30 p.m., Beitel Commons; penance service, Saturday, Dec. 9, 10 to 11:30 a.m.; Breakfast With Santa, Sunday, Dec. 17, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., Beitel Commons; lessons and carols, Sun-

day, Dec. 17, 5 p.m.

Dover St. Joseph – Caroling to the homebound, Saturday, Dec. 2; lessons and carols, Sunday, Dec. 10, 6 p.m.

Dresden St. Mary – Holy Hour, Mondays, Dec. 4, 11 and 18, 7 p.m., with Deacon David Lozowski preaching on "The Four Last Things"

Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare – Rosary, Sundays, Dec. 3, 10 and 17, 4:30 to 5 p.m., followed by Vespers from 5 to 5:20 on Dec. 3 and 10; Lessons and carols with parish schoolchildren, Tuesday, Dec. 12, 1:30 and 7 p.m.; Taize prayer service, Thursday, Dec. 14, 7 p.m.; penance service, Sunday, Dec. 17, 5 p.m.; individual confessions, Monday, Dec. 18, 7 to 8 p.m.; Giving Tree supports six local charities and one mission in Booneville, Kentucky

Gahanna St. Matthew – Confessions, Thursday and Friday, Dec. 21 and 22, 6 to 7 p.m.

Hilliard St. Brendan the Navigator – Christingle craft workshop followed by prayer service, Sunday, Dec. 3, 2 to 3:30 p.m., meeting rooms and church; penance service, Monday, Dec. 11, 7 to 9 p.m.; "Anchored in Advent" program, Wednesday, Dec. 13, 6 p.m.

Lancaster Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption – Basilica is final stop of Fairfield County Heritage Association's 44th annual tour of six downtown churches, with 15-minute choral presentations at each site, Saturday, Dec. 9, 6 to approximately 9:30 p.m. Tickets \$12 day of event, \$10 in advance for adults, \$4 students

Lancaster St. Mark – "Prepare Your Heart" Advent program, Tuesdays, Dec. 5, 12 and 19, 6 to 7:30 p.m. or Thursdays, Dec. 7, 14 and 21, 9 to 10:30 a.m.

Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes – Performance of Handel's Messiah with musicians from the Marysville area, Sunday, Dec. 17, 7 p.m.

Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul – Advent talks by Father PJ Brandimarti with Eucharistic Adoration and reflection, Thursdays, Dec. 7, 14 and 21, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.; penance service, Tuesday, Dec. 12, 6:30 p.m.

New Albany Church of the Resurrection – Breakfast with Santa, Saturday,

Dec. 2, 8 to 11 a.m.; Eucharistic Adoration, Thursdays, Dec. 7, 14 and 21, 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Evening of Reflection, Friday, Dec. 15, 7:30 to 8:45 p.m.; Reconciliation service, Wednesday, Dec. 20, 7 to 9 p.m.; Eucharistic Adoration, Sunday, Dec. 31, 11 p.m. to midnight, closing with Benediction

Plain City St. Joseph – Breakfast with Santa, Saturday, Dec. 2, 8 a.m. to noon, activity center; live Nativity scene with animals, Saturday, Dec. 2, 4 to 7 p.m., under downtown clock tower; live Nativity scene and family event, Sunday, Dec. 17, 4 to 6 p.m., activity center; penance service, Wednesday, Dec. 20, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., activity center

Portsmouth St. Mary – Day of recollection with Father David Glockner, Saturday, Dec. 9, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Powell St. Joan of Arc – Children's Christmas festival, Friday, Dec. 1, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.; A Bethlehem Carol Christmas pageant with parish schoolchildren, Saturday, Dec. 2, 7 p.m.; Christmas concert with Jeff Cosgrove of Broadway's Jersey Boys, Friday, Dec. 15, 6 p.m.

Sunbury St. John Neumann – "A Morning in Bethlehem" program for families, with pancake breakfast, craft decoration, Saturday, Dec. 2, 10 to 11:30 a.m.; lessons and carols, Thursday, Dec. 14, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Washington Court House St. Colman of Cloyne – Nativity blessings, Wednesday, Nov. 29, 9:30 and 7 p.m.; parish women's group collects Giving Tree items for residents of care facilities, Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 2 and 3; Lessons and carols, Sunday, Dec. 17, 3 p.m.; special Masses with guest priests, followed by confessions, Wednesday to Friday, Dec. 20 to 22, 6:30 p.m.

Wheetersburg St. Peter in Chains – Nativity pageant with Scioto Catholic Parish School of Religion students, Sunday, Dec. 17, 5 p.m.

Worthington St. Michael – Additional Masses, Wednesdays, Dec. 6, 13 and 20, 6 p.m.

Zanesville St. Nicholas – Penance service for both Zanesville parishes, Tuesday, Dec. 12, 7 p.m.

From Advent to Christmas: a pilgrimage of light

By Tony Rossi

Director of Communications,
The Christophers

When Sister Ave Clark was a special education teacher, her students made her an Advent wreath. Only it wasn't round like the store-bought ones. It was noticeably crooked. Sister Ave still uses that wreath all these years later. Why? Because, as one student told her, "It's not perfect, but it sure was made with love."

In her latest book "Advent ~ Christmas: A Pilgrimage of Light," Sister Ave

looks at ways that each of us, imperfect as we are, can help the light of God's love be born again in our hearts during the four weeks of Advent. During a "Christopher Closeup" interview, she noted that the candles on our Advent wreaths represent hope, peace, joy, love and, ultimately, Jesus: "Make time each day to take that pause and to feel the light within so that we [can] carry it better into the world."

Taking a pause might seem difficult in a season of shopping and parties, but Sister Ave sees opportunities for stillness everywhere. She said, "You can be

still at a red light in the car ... Just say, 'Lord, thank You for this moment.' Stillness can happen in a shopping market, when you're waiting on line. Stillness can happen at home when you carve out 10 to 15 minutes. But stillness isn't just sitting in a chair. It can be taking a walk, looking out your window. It could also be listening to somebody on the phone telling you some good news — or some news they're asking for prayer [for]. Stillness comes in a variety of ways."

Sister Ave relishes the moments when God shows up in unexpected people and circumstances. She also admits that see-

ing God in times of darkness takes effort. That was the case when her car was hit by a runaway train 20 years ago, and she endured a year of recovery and rehabilitation. She reflected, "Do I wish it didn't happen? Yes. But it brought different lights into my life: of understanding pain and having to adapt your life in a way you never thought you would ... I said, 'I wonder what God wants me to learn along this way?' I remember my first Christmas after that accident, not being able to go to shops. I said, 'You know

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Parishes to celebrate Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas, is Tuesday, Dec. 12. Several parishes in the diocese will celebrate the feast with events on that day or on Sunday, Dec. 10 or Monday, Dec. 11.

Following is a list of activities planned in those parishes:

Columbus Christ the King – Sunday, procession from St. Philip Church to Christ the King, 11 a.m., followed by Mass at 12:30 p.m. at Christ the King and celebration in Columbus All Saints Academy gym. Monday, Mananitas (“Happy Birthday” serenades to Mary in Spanish), 10:30 p.m. Monday to 12:15 a.m. Tuesday

Columbus Holy Spirit – Tuesday, Mass, 1:15 p.m.

Columbus Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the New Evangelization (formerly Parroquia Santa Cruz) – Sunday, procession starting at COTA Park and Ride, 4939 N. High St., traveling 3.9 miles down High Street and Patterson Avenue to church, 154 E. Patterson Ave., 8 a.m., with Mass at 11 and gathering afterward. Monday, Mass, followed by rosary and Mananitas with mariachi music, 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Mass with Bishop Earl Fernandes as principal celebrant, 7 p.m. All events in Spanish.

Columbus St. Cecilia – Tuesday, Mananitas, 5:30 a.m.; Mass, 6 a.m.,



Bishop Earl Fernandes celebrates Mass on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe in 2022 at Marion St. Mary Church. He was joined by Father Seth Keller, the parish's parochial vicar.

CT file photo by Ken Snow

followed by breakfast of tamales and

sweetbreads; Mass in English, 8:15 a.m.

Columbus St. James the Less – Tuesday, Mananitas, 5 a.m.; Mass, 7 p.m., followed by outdoor procession around church and reception

Columbus St. Mary German Village – Tuesday, procession with dancers, 5 p.m., Mass with mariachi Mananitas, 6:30 p.m.

Columbus St. Peter – Sunday, procession after 1:30 p.m. Mass to Powell St. Joan of Arc Church. Monday, dinner with re-enactment of Mary's appearance at Guadalupe by schoolchildren and talk by Father Victor Mendez Cano, CR, 8 p.m.; rosary, 11 p.m.; Mananitas, midnight. Tuesday, rosary, 7:30 p.m.; Mass, 8 p.m.

Columbus St. Stephen the Martyr – Sunday, procession beginning in upper parking lot, 8:30 a.m., followed by Mass. Tuesday, Mass, 8:30 a.m. (English), 7 p.m. (Spanish)

Columbus St. Thomas the Apostle – Sunday, procession from mobile home park at 755 Stelzer Road to church, 10 a.m., followed by Mass in Spanish at 11. Monday, rosary and Mananitas, 10 p.m. to midnight. Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., Mass in Spanish

Delaware St. Mary – Tuesday, procession, 6:30 p.m., followed by Mass and reception

Dover St. Joseph – Monday, veneration of Our Lady of Guadalupe image, 7 p.m., Eucharistic Adoration, 9 p.m. Monday to 5 a.m. Tuesday, followed by Mananitas at 5 a.m., Mass at 6 a.m. and traditional breakfast. Saturday, Dec. 16 to Sunday, Dec. 24, Posadas (re-enactments of Mary and Joseph's attempts to find shelter in Bethlehem), 8 p.m.

Kenton Immaculate Conception – Sunday, rosary, 6 p.m., followed by Mass at 7 and reception

Marion St. Mary – Sunday, 11 a.m., procession from Crescent Heights Road to church; 12:30 p.m., dance in Moira Hall; 1 p.m., Mass in Spanish, followed by dinner. Tuesday, Mananitas with mariachi music, rosary, 5:30 a.m., followed by breakfast; 7 p.m., Mass in Spanish

Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes – Tuesday, Mass with music by parish youth choir, 5:30 p.m.

Newark Blessed Sacrament – Tuesday, Mass, 6 p.m. with procession and dinner to follow

Portsmouth Holy Redeemer – Tuesday, 4:30 p.m., procession to Portsmouth St. Mary Church and back, with Mass at 6 and dinner to follow

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what? A phone call to somebody means a lot. A little note means a lot.' Maybe the best gift we could give each other is that light of caring: the kind word, the extra listening, the forgiving, too."

Sister Ave has a special place in her heart for those who are infirm or homebound, especially her fellow Dominican sisters. Several of them are now in their 90s and 100s, living in Amityville, New York. "They used to be principals, nurses, college teachers, religious ed," she explained. "Now, they're sitting in their rooms." After receiving "Advent ~ Christmas: A Pilgrimage of Light," the sisters were taken by a quote on the back

cover: "How will you be a Christ-bearer of the holy lights of Advent ~ Christmas time?" They decided to read the book as a group, reflect on its questions and share the answers in prayer. In other words, even though they aren't physically active, they remain spiritually active.

Sister Ave observed, "My Dominican sisters are the light of love ... Christ took on humanity so that we would know God's love. So, we have to take on each other's humanity, the glory of it, and sometimes the frailty of it ... God holds up each person's humanity, and that's the wonderful gift of the baby in the manger."

ACCOUNTANT | DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

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Diocesan parishes list times for Eucharistic Adoration

The following is an updated list of parishes where Eucharistic Adoration is taking place, as supplied by the parishes to *The Catholic Times*:

Ada Our Lady of Lourdes – Mondays, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.; Wednesdays, 6 to 7 p.m. with confessions; Thursdays and Fridays, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Bridgettine Sisters (Order of the Most Holy Savior of St. Brigid of Sweden) convent, 40 N. Grubb St., Columbus – Tuesdays and Fridays, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Buckeye Lake Our Lady of Mount Carmel – Sundays, Dec. 3, 10, 17 and 24, 9 to 10:45 a.m.

Canal Winchester St. John XXIII – Wednesdays, 6 to 7 p.m. with confessions

Chillicothe St. Mary – Fridays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Chillicothe St. Peter – 6 a.m. Tuesdays to 7 p.m. Thursdays

Circleville St. Joseph – First Sundays, 2 p.m.

Columbus Christ the King – Wednesdays, 6 to 9 p.m.; Fridays, 4 to 6 p.m.

Columbus Holy Family – 1 p.m. Thursdays to noon Fridays; First Fridays, 8 p.m. Fridays to 8:45 a.m. Saturdays

Columbus Immaculate Conception – First Wednesdays, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Columbus Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the New Evangelization (formerly Columbus Holy Name) – 6 p.m. Mondays to 8:30 a.m. Saturdays in chapel

Columbus Our Lady of Peace – Tuesdays, Dec. 5, 12 and 19, 6 to 7 p.m. with confessions; Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Columbus Our Lady of Victory – Fridays, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Columbus St. Agatha – Wednesdays, 9 to 11 a.m.

Columbus St. Andrew – Tuesdays, 6 to 9 p.m., ending with Compline and Benediction

Columbus St. Catharine – Sundays through Fridays, 6 a.m. Sunday to midnight Friday, church closed Saturday from 12:01 to 6 a.m.; Saturdays, 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursdays at 7 p.m. are ADORE nights featuring candlelit programs and confession with two priests

Columbus St. Cecilia – Tuesdays, 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. with confessions; First Fridays, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Columbus St. Christopher – Mondays through Fridays, 3 to 4 p.m.

Columbus St. Dominic – First Fridays and second Sundays, after 11:30 a.m. Mass

Columbus St. Elizabeth – Tuesdays, 5 to 6 p.m.

Columbus Holy Cross – Saturdays, following 11:30 a.m. Mass

Columbus St. James the Less – Second Tuesdays, 7 to 8 p.m.; Wednesdays, noon to 7 p.m.

Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona – Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. to noon



Bishop Earl Fernandes, assisted by Father Paul Keller, OP (center right), incenses the Blessed Sacrament during Adoration after a Mass for first profession of vows and a name change for Children of Mary sisters at the religious order's chapel in Newark on Nov. 21. *CT photo/Ken Snow*

Columbus St. Mary German Village – Tuesdays, Dec. 5, 12 and 19, 5 to 6 p.m.; First Fridays, from after 8:30 a.m. Mass to noon

Columbus St. Patrick – Fridays, 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. Third and fourth Fridays, 8 p.m. Friday to 7 a.m. Saturday (church locked; call church office at (614) 224-9522 for access information)

Columbus St. Peter – Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Columbus St. Stephen the Martyr – Thursdays, 6 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Columbus St. Thomas the Apostle – Tuesdays, 7 to 8 p.m.

Danville St. Luke – Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.; Wednesdays, 5:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Delaware St. Mary – Thursdays, after 5:30 p.m. Mass to 8 p.m.; Fridays, after 9 a.m. Mass to noon; 40 Hours of Adoration from 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 30 to 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 2

Dover St. Joseph – Tuesdays, 5 to 6 p.m.; Thursdays, 9 to 9:30 a.m.; First Fridays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Dresden St. Mary – Holy Hour, Mondays, Dec. 4, 11 and 18, 7 p.m. with Deacon David Lozowski preaching on "The Four Last Things"

Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare – First Fridays, from end of 9 a.m. Mass to 4 p.m. Signup link changes every month. Go to www.stbrigidofkildare.org/eucharistic-adoration

Gahanna St. Matthew – 24 hours, seven days a week in basement Adoration Chapel. Open to the general public from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays and 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

Holy Hour for the reparation, purification and sanctification of the Church, fourth Friday, 7 to 8 p.m.

Granville St. Edward – Mondays, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help – Wednesdays, 7 to 8 a.m.; First Fridays, 9 a.m. Friday to 9 a.m. Saturday; Second Fridays, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Groveport St. Mary – First Fridays, 9 to 10 a.m.

Heath St. Leonard – First Fridays, after 9 a.m. Mass until Benediction at 2:30 p.m.

Hilliard St. Brendan the Navigator – Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Wednesdays, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Holy Hour 6 to 7 p.m. with confessions); Thursdays and Fridays, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. (First Fridays from 9 a.m. Friday to 1 p.m. Saturday); Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., all in chapel

Johnstown Church of the Ascension – Tuesdays, 5 to 6 p.m.; Saturdays, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Kenton Immaculate Conception – Tuesdays, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.; Wednesdays, from end of 9 a.m. Mass to Benediction at 1 p.m.

Lancaster St. Bernadette – Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; 7 p.m. Thursdays to 8 a.m. Fridays

Lancaster St. Mark – Mondays and Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

London St. Patrick – Thursdays, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.; First Fridays, noon to 5:15 p.m.

Marion St. Mary – Fridays, 5 to 6 p.m.; First Fridays, 4 to 7 p.m.

London St. Patrick – Thursdays, 6:30

to 7:30 p.m.; First Fridays, noon to 5:15 p.m.

Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes – First Fridays, from end of 8 a.m. Mass to 8 p.m.

Mattingly Settlement St. Mary – First Fridays, 6 to 7 p.m.

Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul – Thursdays, 3 to 10 p.m.; Fridays, 5 a.m. to 5 p.m.

New Albany Church of the Resurrection – Thursdays, Dec. 7, 14 and 21, 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 31, 11 p.m. to midnight, concluding with Benediction

New Lexington St. Rose – Wednesdays, 5:15 to 6:15 p.m., concluding with Benediction and followed by Mass at 6:30

New Philadelphia Sacred Heart – Tuesdays, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Newark Blessed Sacrament – Mondays, noon to 8 p.m.; Wednesdays, 9 to 11 a.m.

Pickerington St. Elizabeth Ann Seton – Perpetual Adoration except Thursday from noon to 1 p.m. Sign up at www.setonparish.com/ministries/adoration

Plain City St. Joseph – Mondays through Thursdays, 6 to 11 a.m. and 6 to 9 p.m.; Fridays, 6 to 8 and 9 to 11 a.m. and 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Portsmouth St. Mary – Perpetual Adoration 24 hours a day, except when there are Masses or special events

Powell St. Joan of Arc – 9 a.m. Mondays to 8 a.m. Saturdays

Reynoldsburg St. Pius X – Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 9 p.m. in chapel, with Holy Hour from noon to 1 p.m. in church

Sunbury St. John Neumann – Continuous from noon Sunday to 6 p.m. Friday. Enter through chapel entrance

Washington Court House St. Colman of Cloyne – Sundays, 8 to 8:45 a.m. and 5 to 6 p.m.; Tuesdays, 6 to 7 p.m.; Wednesdays through Fridays, 7:15 to 8:15 a.m.

Waverly St. Mary – Wednesdays, 6 to 7 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 to 10 a.m.

West Jefferson Sts. Simon and Jude – Tuesdays, 5 to 6 p.m.

Westerville St. Paul – Thursdays, 9:15 a.m. to 5:45 p.m.

Worthington St. Michael – Holy Hour with confessions, Wednesdays, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.; 9 a.m. Thursdays to 9 p.m. Fridays

Zanesville St. Nicholas – First Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas – Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in chapel

Zoar Holy Trinity – Wednesdays, 7 to 8 p.m.

Sister professes vows, another receives new name at ceremony

Bishop Earl Fernandes presided over the first profession of vows and the name change for two sisters in the Children of Mary religious order on Tuesday, Nov. 21 at the motherhouse in rural Licking County.

Sister Lillian Emmanuel, CM made her first profession of vows, and Sister Gabriella received a new religious name, Sister Anastasia Rose, CM, during a ceremony at a Mass celebrated by the bishop on the feast of the Presentation of Mary.

Approximately 60 people attended the Mass and ceremony and a brief period of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament that was followed by a reception.

The Children of Mary's motherhouse and retreat center in the Diocese of Columbus are located in a secluded, wooded area where the semi-contemplative sisters, who were founded more than 20 years ago, carry out their prayer apostolate and host retreats in addition to working with the poor and elderly. The small but growing order also has a sisterhouse in Cincinnati.

Sister Anastasia Rose, the third oldest child from a family of 10 children, was given her religious name while kneeling before Mother Philomena Maria, the order's prioress, after she was asked to declare her desire to give herself to God as a Sister of the Children of Mary.

Sister Lillian Emmanuel followed with her profession of first vows at the feet of Mother Philomena Maria while kneeling in front of the altar in the chapel.

After stating her intentions, Sister Lillian Emmanuel received a black veil, Eucharistic crucifix and knotted cincture blessed by Bishop Fernandes.

At a sister's first profession of vows, she trades a white veil for a black veil, which signifies that she is willing to die for Christ and to be the spouse of the Crucified Lord. Her unknotted cincture is exchanged for a knotted one, with the knots representing her decision to be bound by poverty, chastity and obedience and to pray for priests and bishops and to give



Sister Lillian Emmanuel kneels before Bishop Earl Fernandes.

her life to quench the thirst of Jesus to be loved in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Several sisters surrounded Sister Lillian Emmanuel as they removed the white veil and placed the black veil over her head while she knelt before the altar. After her profession, Mother Philomena Maria and the other sisters who were present embraced Sister Lillian Emmanuel.

Women in religious communities generally advance through several stages before they take their final vows, beginning with postulancy for newcomers that typically lasts one to two years. More traditional orders give the women a religious name to replace their birth names while non-traditional orders abandoned that practice after the Second Vatican Council in favor of keeping their names assigned at birth.

In Bishop Fernandes' homily, he tied the feast of the Presentation of Mary in the temple by her parents, Anne and Joachim, to the sisters presenting themselves before the Lord in obedience to serve Him as professed religious.

"One sister will take a new name, a sign of a new life," Bishop Fernandes said. "The other sisters will take her black veil, the crucifix and the cincture with its three knots for poverty, chastity and obedience.

"It's interesting to meditate on a new name. In the Scriptures, very often a new name is given when one begins a new mission in life, a new way of responding to God's call."

The bishop encouraged all of the sisters to meditate on the crucifix frequently and to recognize God's immense love for the whole world.

"And as you think about the cincture and the knots for poverty, chastity and obedience, I invite you to think about the poverty that all three of these vows repre-



Sister Lillian Emmanuel (right) states her intentions to Mother Philomena Maria, the Children of Mary's prioress, during first profession of vows at the order's chapel. *CT photos by Ken Snow*



Children of Mary sisters help Sisters Lillian Emmanuel with her veil change from white to black after her first profession of vows.

sent. On the one hand, the material poverty of the vow of poverty.

"Chastity is a kind of poverty of body that demands a degree of discipline. It's filled with its joys, but it does demand a discipline of the flesh. And then there is the poverty of obedience. Poverty is not slavish obedience, but true obedience is always rooted in the context of love.

"My dear sisters, you undertake this way of life because of your love for Christ the Bridegroom. He is your true spouse and the fulfillment of your heart's desires.

"Today is a day of great joy for your community, for your new family. Today is a day of great joy for our local church where you will live and serve.

"Today is a great joy even in the heart of God. He sees how much you love Him. Please know our prayers for you on this very special day. And we ask you to pray for all of us."



Sister Lillian Emmanuel prayerfully greets other sisters after making her first profession of vows.



The former Sister Gabriella smiles after receiving her new religious name, Sister Anastasia Rose.

Columbus Sacred Heart celebrates building's centennial

By Tim Puet

For *The Catholic Times*

The neighborhood surrounding Columbus Sacred Heart Church has seen many changes since the current church building was dedicated 100 years ago, but the church has endured through cycles of growth and decline because it retains a solid core of people who think of it as their home church, no matter where they live in central Ohio.

The parish marked the building's 100th anniversary at a Mass on Sunday, Nov. 19 with Bishop Earl Fernandes as principal celebrant. It will have another anniversary event in two years, when it observes the 150th anniversary of its founding in 1875.

In his homily, Bishop Fernandes said Catholics "need to be missionaries who have an entrepreneurial spirit." He described an entrepreneur as someone who has a vision, knows how to invite others to make the vision a reality, shows initiative, is a person of integrity and is a servant leader, and gave examples of how Jesus had all those traits.

"Jesus came to proclaim a vision of the kingdom of God," the bishop said. "He surrounded Himself with others – the Apostles – who shared the vision and could lead by example. ... He showed initiative by associating not with the obvious people, the religious leaders, but with tax collectors and sinners" because His vision was all-inclusive.

"He showed His integrity by practicing what he preached" and never deviating from that trait, the bishop said. "He displayed His servant leadership by washing the Apostles' feet at the Last Supper and through His sacrifice of love on Calvary.

"Even after He was crucified, He continued to give gifts," beginning with the blood and water flowing from His side and continuing through His gift of the Eucharist to us.

"Our vocation is to be entrepreneurs and to tell people about God Who has revealed Himself through Jesus," Bishop Fernandes said. "We are called each day to pattern ourselves more and more after Him. ... The message of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, to whom this church is dedicated, is that God will not abandon sinners and will bring them back."

The block where Sacred Heart Church is located, bounded by Summit and Hamlet streets and First and Second avenues, has been Catholic Church property since 1852 or 1853, when William Phelan willed it to the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, which included Columbus at the time. The original church building served the parish for nearly 50 years, but as the congregation grew, a larger church was needed.

When the current church was dedicated on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 29, 1923, its 800 seats were filled with people living in what then was a working-class neighborhood between downtown Columbus and Ohio State University. The post-World



Columbus Sacred Heart Church celebrated the 100th anniversary of the church building on Sunday, Nov. 19 with Bishop Earl Fernandes presiding at a centennial Mass. *CT photos by Ken Snow*



Msgr. Frank Lane (center), the parish's administrator, concelebrates the anniversary Mass.



Sacred Heart Church is seen from the street in 1948. *CT file photo*



Bishop Earl Fernandes greets some of the parishioners and visitors outside the church.



Parishioners pray the rosary before Mass at historic Sacred Heart Church.

War II building boom resulted in many parishioners leaving and moving to the suburbs, with the neighborhood going into a slow decline.

But since the 1990s, the area has undergone a revival as an entertainment and arts district known as the Short North along North High Street and Italian Village and Victorian Village in the surrounding residential streets.

Its population is expected to increase in the next few years once several apartment complexes are completed as a result of the neighborhood's becoming a popu-

lar choice for housing, especially among young adults.

About 2,000 apartments are scheduled to be built within a short walk from the church, said Jim Merckling, a parish volunteer who grew up in the neighborhood, takes care of church maintenance and schedules lectors, extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist and altar servers.

Merckling lives in Grove City and is one of many former parishioners who come to Sacred Heart for its 4 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. Sunday Masses.

"Not all that long ago, you could buy

a house here for \$20,000," he said. "But thanks to the boom in the Short North and the redevelopment of the area where the former Jeffrey Manufacturing plant was located, we're getting all these apartments and condos that sell for as much as \$300,000.

"Some of the young people who have moved to the area say they like coming to church here because it's an older church and makes them feel closer to God. Because it's easy to walk to, some-

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SACRED HEART, continued from Page 12

times you'll see a group of young adults outside church talking before Mass and other young people joining the conversation and going in with them. That's an encouraging sign.

"While he was parish administrator, Father Adam Streitenberger encouraged young people to get together outside of Mass. This was the start of a young adult group that has been meeting every other Thursday following the 6:30 p.m. Mass for the last few years."

"We have about 100 young people who come to the meetings and Masses regularly or occasionally," said Msgr. Frank Lane, who has been administrator of Sacred Heart and nearby St. John the Baptist Church since July. "Because it's always been a parish people can walk to, you want that to be there for that next generation."

Msgr. Lane said the parish recently received a \$40,000 grant from The Catholic Foundation to preserve its stained-glass windows. "We've also repainted doors, redone the chapel and performed other maintenance as funds have been available. There's lots of cosmetic and structural work that needs done, and we're trying to do what we can with what we have," he said.

Mary Rykowski has been attending Sacred Heart for more than 50 years, since the former St. Peter Church building closed, and the St. Peter name was given to a new parish in northwest Columbus.

"People at the old St. Peter's had several options to choose which parish they wanted to transfer to, and I ended up choosing Sacred Heart because the people were so kind and nice to newcomers," she said. "That feeling has continued to this day. The parish got smaller, but the people who stuck around formed a close bond."

Sacred Heart had only three pastors in its first 100 years – Father John Eis from 1875 to 1919, followed by Msgr. James Ryan until 1944 and Auxiliary Bishop Edward Hettinger until 1977. In recent years, Sacred Heart and St. John the Baptist have been served by several pastors and administrators. "We joke about playing the game of 'name the pastor,'" Rykowski said.

Some of the most recent pastors and administrators were Father Streitenberger, Father William A. Metzger and Father Andrew Kozminski, SAC, now pastor of Columbus St. Christopher Church. Deacon Frank Iannarino was the diocese's first deacon to serve as a parish administrator. Father Gerald Lupa of the Diocese of Syracuse, New York, was a guest priest at Sacred Heart from 2007 to 2010.

Bishop Hettinger was one of the few U.S. bishops to be most identified as pastor of a single parish. After leaving Sacred Heart, he lived in retirement in southeast Ohio for nearly 20 years until his death on Dec. 28, 1996, nearly 55 years after his consecration as a bishop. He was the senior

bishop in the United States at the time.

"He never wanted to be a bishop, but Bishop (James) Hartley wanted an auxiliary, and you never said 'no' to Bishop Hartley," Merckling said.

"Bishop Hettinger was a very humble man and never asked for money except for the St. Vincent de Paul Society's annual collection. You'd never know he was a bishop when he said Mass here because he only wore his bishop's miter when he had to, like when there were other bishops celebrating a Mass with him.

"He loved growing roses. They were all over the parish grounds, and everyone knew he had an unwritten rule – 'Don't touch the roses.' And he enjoyed cigars. You knew he was around because you could smell the cigar before you saw him."

The parish had an elementary school until 1972. The former school building has been leased by St. Joseph Montessori School since 1987. The building also housed a girls-only commercial high school from 1908 to 1966 and was the original home for Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School in 1923 during construction of the St. Charles campus on East Broad Street.

Since Sacred Heart has only two weekend Masses and one on Thursday evening, it does not have large parish organizations, but it celebrates the Feast of Corpus Christi with an outdoor procession between the church and St. John the

Baptist Church each year and the Feast of the Sacred Heart in June with an indoor procession.

The Divine Mercy devotion was introduced to the diocese in the 1980s at Sacred Heart by Father William DeVille, who was the parish's pastor at the time and attended the anniversary Mass. The parish continues to celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday, the first Sunday after Easter, with a special program.

Sacred Heart also has been the home of the Syro-Malabar Catholic community of Columbus for about 20 years. Most people who belong to the Syro-Malabar rite, one of the Eastern rites of the Catholic Church, live in India. The rite traces its roots to St. Thomas the Apostle, who died in India.

Jinson Sani-Koreph of the local Syro-Malabar community said 100 to 200 people attend its 4:30 p.m. Sunday Masses at Sacred Heart and religious education classes there. "We are extremely grateful for the kind support everyone at Sacred Heart has given our team and were delighted to be part of the anniversary Mass," he said.

Bishop Mar Joy Alappatt of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Chicago, which covers the entire United States and is the equivalent of a diocese, came to Sacred Heart on Sunday, Sept. 24 to celebrate Mass, with Bishop Fernandes as a concelebrant.

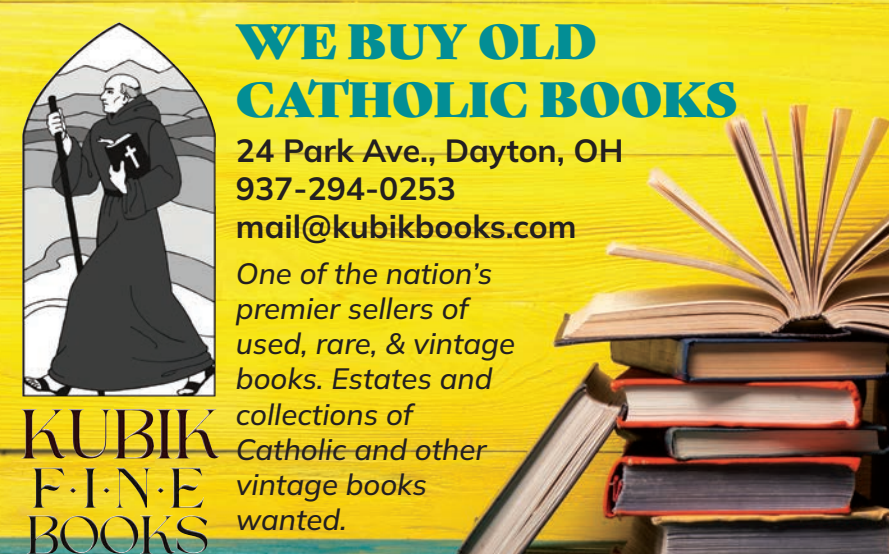
NOW, continued from Page 7

the cruel and barbaric political power wielded by those who advocate for the poisoning, dismemberment and direct euthanasia of unborn human persons.

In the last 10 years, central Ohio reduced the number of abortions happening here by nearly half. We did that without substantial changes to policy or the laws, and we can do it again.

Every day, the pro-life movement invites women who are abortion-minded

or vulnerable to rise above the fear and the anger and the panic of their current circumstances to remember that God has a plan for their life and for the life of their unborn child. We acknowledge that it will not be easy, but it will be worth it. Now is time for us to respond with the same courage and faith. We must affirm that God has a plan for Ohio, even with this huge setback. Do not lose hope, and do not stop fighting for life.



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Longtime parishioners reflect on St. Philip's history before final Mass

By Hannah Heil
Catholic Times Reporter

Rita Batts, 90, a parishioner at Columbus St. Philip the Apostle Church, recalled when the church was merely “a hole in the ground.”

Now, after 67 years, the church has closed its doors.

The parish, located on Columbus' east side, was formed in November 1956 from area that was part of Columbus Christ the King parish.

In May, St. Philip was slated to close as part of the Real Presence Real Future initiative in the Diocese of Columbus. A lack of priests and changes in the number of parishioners led to the closure of several diocesan parishes.

Bishop Earl Fernandes celebrated the official closing Mass at St. Philip on Sunday, Nov. 19, and the last Mass at the church was on Sunday, Nov. 26.

Father Bill Arnold, who retired on Dec. 1, served as St. Philip's pastor. He was also pastor of Columbus Holy Spirit Church since 2009, located nearby in Whitehall. The two parishes were closely connected for several years, and Father Arnold served as the pastor of both since March 2013.

Batts recalled when St. Philip was built. “My husband and I were married in 1961, and when we went to the church, it was just a hole in the ground, but the school had been built, part of the school,” she said. “And so, we weren't sure where we were supposed to go to church, so we went over to Holy Spirit.”

“The priest there, ... he said, ‘You're really going down the wrong road.’ He said, ‘We would love to have you,’ but he sent us over to St. Philip's, so that was the beginning of really a wonderful, wonderful experience. We made nice friends at St. Philip's, and it really was our second family.”

Before the church was finished, Batts said, Masses were celebrated in the St. Philip school building. The groundbreaking ceremony for the church was held in 1962.

For 25 years, Batts taught at the former St. Philip elementary school. She had pre-



The final official Sunday Mass was celebrated at Columbus St. Philip Church by Bishop Earl Fernandes on Nov. 19.
Photos courtesy Abigail Pitones

viously taught nursing at Ohio State University. Batts said she began teaching at St. Philip when the church's first pastor, Father Louis Hoffman, advertised for a fifth-grade teacher.

“I went over and said, ‘I'd like to give it a try,’ and he hired me,” Batts said. “And so, that was my beginning of teaching school at St. Philip's.”

Batts taught for one year and left after her mother died and her father moved into her home. She returned 13 years later, in the 1970s, and taught primarily third grade at St. Philip until her retirement in 1999.

“I loved it,” she said. “We did all kinds of neat things.”

Batts said she enjoyed the close-knit community and weekly liturgies.

She and her husband, Dick, had three children who attended the school. Their grandson was in kindergarten at St. Philip when Batts retired.

Mary Kitsmiller and her husband, Tom, who were parishioners at St. Philip since 1975, have six children who all graduated from St. Philip school. She said their family appreciated the church and school throughout the years.

The Kitsmillers' children were all confirmed at St. Philip Church, and their two sons were altar servers. One son, Father

Bob Kitsmiller, serves as the judicial vicar in the diocesan marriage tribunal, which hears marriage validity cases. He celebrated his first Mass at St. Philip.

Mary Kitsmiller said their family has many memories of the parish.

“By this time now, we just don't have as many of us,” she said. “Many people who are still there, since we don't have a school anymore, when the school closed in 2003, I think that was really difficult because we didn't have children really in the parish. At our liturgy, it was very rare to have very many children. You don't have much growth when you don't have the school.”

While the school was active, Kitsmiller's children were involved with many activities and sporting programs. There were “wonderful people” at the parish, she said, who coached and volunteered.

“Back when we first joined, there were just so many, many families involved, and there were many loving people who went out of their way to help people,” Kitsmiller said.

“They had a lot of different ministries. ... They had a wonderful choir, beautiful liturgies, especially at the holidays and the Easter seasons.”

There was also a Rosary Altar Society at the parish, which helped to organize

parish activities and perform charitable works. Kitsmiller said this later became the Daughters of Mary, and the members did volunteer work at the church, including organizing funeral lunches.

The parish also had a “very vibrant” food pantry that served people who were struggling.

“We really appreciate the church, and really, it's sad to see the end of it, but we understand, and we know how the neighborhood just changed. ... It's happening a lot of places,” she said.

Father Veevin Richard Pitchaisavary, SAC (Society of the Catholic Apostolate, known as the Pallottine Fathers), who served as parochial vicar at Holy Spirit and assisted at St. Philip since August, assumed the role of pastor at Holy Spirit.

Kitsmiller plans to join Holy Spirit, and she predicted many St. Philip parishioners who live nearby will join the parish as well. She said she appreciated getting to know Father Pitchaisavary at St. Philip before joining Holy Spirit.

“He and two of the other priests from India have moved into the rectory at St. Philip, and so, we've gotten to know them, which has been nice, too,” she said.

“When Father Arnold retires Dec. 1, Father Richard will be the pastor over there, and he's been very welcoming to all those people at St. Philip, and he's actively been asking people to please come to Holy Spirit.”

She also expressed gratitude to Father Arnold, recognizing that being the pastor of multiple parishes can be difficult.

“Father Arnold, I know he worked really hard to keep the parish going here these last many years,” she said. “He's been juggling two parishes ... but we understand that times change, and we have to face it.”

Carolyn Bond, who has been a parishioner at St. Philip for 57 years, agreed that she is sad to see the parish close. She served as the rectory housekeeper for more than 30 years.

“It's just sad that has to be done, but if there's no priest, they can't,” she said. “They can only do so much. ... It's very difficult at times, having two or three to take care of depending on where the location is, so it will be greatly missed.”



Parishioners participate in the liturgy during the final official Mass at Columbus St. Philip Church on Sunday, Nov. 19



Priests from the diocese with ties to Columbus St. Philip Church concelebrated the final official Mass at the parish with Bishop Earl Fernandes (left).

Rally brings together youth in southern Ohio

Fifty high school students from Portsmouth, Chillicothe, Jackson, Waverly and Ironton gathered on Nov. 11 for the Real Jesus '23 High School Youth Rally at Portsmouth Holy Redeemer Church.

The goal of the event, which was sponsored by The Catholic Foundation, was to help the young people encounter Jesus as truly present in the Eucharist.

The day included speakers from across the Columbus diocese, including Megan Baum, Father Michael Fulton and Gabe Gessler. High adventure games and competitions kept the event moving. Priests from the area heard confessions. Damascus Worship led participants in prayer and worship. Real Jesus '23 joined the 4:30 p.m. vigil Mass at Holy Redeemer.

Candlelit Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament was the closing highlight.

"When they announced we could come to the front and kneel in front of the monstrance, I knew that's where I belonged," a participant said, describing how close she felt to Jesus during Adoration.

"It was an amazing experience, and I want to get more people ... to attend," another participant answered on a survey that followed the event. The hope is that there will be a Real Jesus '24 next year.

Real Jesus '23 was a community endeavor. Parishioners from Scioto Catholic



Students pray and adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament during the Real Jesus '23 High School Youth Rally on Nov. 11 at Portsmouth Holy Redeemer Church.

and the Chillicothe-Waverly Consortium donated food and funds, including dinner provided by Toro Loco Mexican Restaurant.



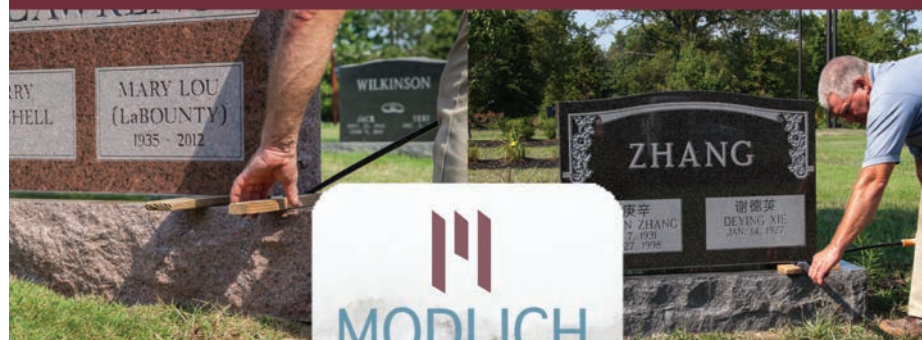
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SAFE, continued from Page 2

In 2018, the diocese's safe environment program became the Safe Environment Office. Quinn said the office works closely with the diocesan Office of Catholic Schools because that is where a large percentage of the children are.

"We also work very closely with the USCCB Secretariat for the Protection of Children and Young People to make sure that our programs are meeting and or exceeding what the USCCB wants," she said.

Per the charter written by the USCCB, every diocese must have a training program, such as VIRTUS PGC, as well as a policy that establishes who is required to get background checks, be trained and complete refresher courses.

The diocese must complete an audit report, or examination of records, for the USCCB every year. The diocese receives an onsite visit from USCCB auditors every three years to ensure that the diocese is meeting the standards set in the charter and norms.

"The diocese has always passed those audits," Quinn said. "We use a similar approach in dealing with the parishes and schools. Everyone also has to give us a written report every year of all of their programs with minors and all their employees and all the volunteers who work with minors.

"We visit all of our locations in the diocese once every three years, and if

there have been some issues, we might visit them more, but everybody gets visited at least every three years, and that's where we get our data that we report up to the USCCB."

The audits make sure that the diocese is complying with the charter and norms, as well as state law and background reports. Renewed background reports are required more for teachers and school employees than the average person, Quinn said.

Since November 2003, 2,985 PGC training sessions have been held in the diocese, and 74,821 people have been trained.

Quinn said clergy, seminarians, deacons, students, religious brothers and sisters, coaches, officials, school and parish employees and volunteers at parishes and schools are among those trained.

Facilitators, or people who conduct the PGC training sessions, are volunteers. There are approximately 40 active facilitators in the diocese.

"We've tried to get at least one facilitator per deanery, so they can have sessions more frequently with that area's need," Quinn said.

"I train the facilitators for the Diocese of Columbus. I'm a master facilitator, so I get to train the new ones, and that lets me teach them the overall program, but then, what I want them to teach in the

diocese and what I want to stress and what our diocesan policies are, so we can keep it individual."

Quinn, who has a background in law, served as a prosecutor and defense attorney in the U.S. Air Force. Quinn said her background "came in very handy" for her work with the Safe Environment Office.

After she came off active duty with the Air Force, she got involved with the safe environment program at the parish level and then became a facilitator. In 2009, she became the coordinator of the diocesan safe environment program.

When the Safe Environment Office was established in 2018, she assumed the role of director.

"Mark Butler, who was the director of Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry (now part of the diocesan Office of Evangelization) at the time, hired me, and he had made the comment during my interview that I was his first cradle safe environment person," Quinn said.

"I knew what the program was, so that was a big help when I took over, and the program has continued to grow since then."

Quinn commended Butler for his work with the PGC training sessions. He now works with the Dominican Sisters of Peace, but he continues to volunteer as a facilitator.

While each diocesan safe environment program is different, many have similar policies. The Diocese of Columbus has adopted certain elements from other diocesan policies.

The Safe Environment Office works closely with coordinators of safe environment programs. The dioceses of Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Toledo

and Youngstown, as well the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma, Ohio and the Diocese of Covington, Kentucky communicate regularly and meet quarterly.

The Diocese of Columbus' Safe Environment Office does not operate in a vacuum, Quinn said. The office is constantly comparing itself and "benchmarking" to other dioceses and organizations.

"We're being more selective in who we let around our children and our minors, as the Church has developed this over the last 20 years, you're seeing other groups start to do the same thing because child abuse is not just a Catholic Church problem. It happens every place, and so, a lot of people are looking what the Church has done and doing their own similar programs. So, in many ways, the Church is now a leader in this area."

Information has changed drastically during the past 20 years, Quinn said, so the office is looking at the best ways to get information out to people.

"The Church is making a very concerted effort to learn from its past mistakes," Quinn said. "We cannot undo the past, but we can learn from the past and not repeat our mistakes."

In 2020, then-Columbus Bishop Robert Brennan commissioned a safe environment task force. The task force reviewed the existing organization, policies and procedures.

The Safe Environment Office has implemented the task force's suggestions during the past few years. Quinn said it helps to have "somebody from the outside" take an objective look, so policies

See SAFE, Page 17

 The **BUCKEYE CATHOLIC CHOIR** presents:

"Gaudete" - Rejoice

Music for the Annunciation, Advent and Christmas season

Save Your Seat:



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9TH | 7:00P.M.
St. Thomas More Newman Center | 64 W. Lane Ave.



Tamil Mass celebrated at St. Brigid



Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church hosted a Mass in the Tamil language on Nov. 19. The principal celebrant was Archbishop George Antonysamy of Madras Mylapore, Tamilnadu, India, who was joined by Bishop Earl Fernandes and five Tamil-speaking priests serving in the Dioceses of Columbus and Toledo concelebrating the Mass. Assisting were Deacons Paul Zemanek, Frank Iannarino and Steve Petrill. There were more than 75 people of Indian Tamil ethnic descent that joined the bishops and priests for the Mass. Tamil is one of the oldest classical languages on earth and widely spoken in the southern part of India and is the official language of Sri Lanka, Singapore and Mauritius.

Photo courtesy St. Brigid of Kildare Church

LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS

Catholic Man of the Year nominations are open

The Catholic Men's Luncheon Club is accepting nominations for the diocese's 2024 Catholic Man of the Year award, which will be presented by Bishop Earl Fernandes at the club's Friday, Feb. 2 meeting at Columbus St. Patrick Church in downtown Columbus.

The club has presented the award since 1957 to one layman who, through his daily actions, words and prayers, exemplifies the "good and faithful servant." The recipient will have the opportunity to share his personal testimony during the ceremony.

Nominations will be accepted through Sunday, Dec. 31. For details, nomination instructions and the required online nomination form, go to <https://www.catholicmensministry.com/catholic-manoftheyear>.

Dr. Sri to speak at two Columbus parishes

Dr. Edward Sri, a nationally known Catholic speaker and theologian, will be speaking at two Columbus churches this coming week.

He will present an evening Eucharistic mission at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 6 at St. Andrew Church, 1899 McCoy Road, and will speak on "Advent with Mary" at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 7 in the opening event of a triduum honoring the Blessed Mother at Immaculate Conception Church, 414 E. North Broadway.

The triduum will continue at the church with Masses at 8:30 and 11:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, and will conclude with a breakfast and a video series on the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday,

Dec. 9.

Sri has spoken several times in Columbus and is a frequent guest on Catholic radio and television. He is the author of several books including *Walking with Mary: A Biblical Journey from Nazareth to the Cross*.

Registration is required for both of his talks. For the Dec. 6 event, go to www.standrewparish.cc and for the Dec. 7 talk, go to www.iccols.org.

Notre Dame folk choir to appear at New Albany

The University of Notre Dame's folk choir will present a concert at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 12 at the New Albany Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road.

The choir, founded in the late 1970s, has more than 60 members and serves the university as one of its principal liturgical choirs, singing every Sunday during the academic year at the noon Mass in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

The choir works to bridge the gap between contemporary compositions of a post-Vatican II church community and the rich expression of traditional choral repertoire. For more information about the choir, go to <https://folkchoir.nd.edu>.

St. Elizabeth to host 'Simbang Gabi' program

The Filipino Catholic community of Central Ohio invites everyone to join in its traditional novena of Masses known in the Tagalog language of the Philippines as *Simbang Gabi*. The eight-day event is a spiritual preparation for the Christmas celebration of the birth of Je-

sus Christ and pays honor to the Virgin Mary.

Simbang Gabi Masses will be celebrated at Columbus St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon Woods Blvd., at 6:30 p.m. from Friday, Dec. 15 to Friday, Dec. 22. Masses on the Saturdays of Dec. 16 and 23 will be at 7 p.m., with Bishop Earl Fernandes as the celebrant on Dec. 23.

Celebrants of other Masses will be Father Anthony Davis, pastor at St. Elizabeth; Father Hilary Ike, parochial vicar at St. Elizabeth; and Father Ramon Ower, pastor of Columbus St. Dominic Church and administrator of the Community of Holy Rosary and St. John the Evangelist in Columbus.

For more information, contact Irene_sze@yahoo.com or mindali58@hotmail.com.

Physician assistant program awarded \$1 million-plus grant

The state of Ohio's Choose Ohio First (COF) program has awarded Ohio Dominican University (ODU) a five-year grant of slightly more than \$1 million to provide scholarship assistance to eligible students who are studying in ODU's master of science in physician assistant studies program. The award has the potential of benefiting as many as 75 students.

ODU is one of 45 colleges and universities across the state that will collectively receive nearly \$40 million during the next five years to support students in fields related to science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine.

It is specifically for students representing underserved populations. These

include individuals who self-identify as being from a medically underserved area; are first-generation college students; come from a home where English is not the primary spoken language; identify as being economically disadvantaged; or are of African American or Hispanic ethnicity. Approximately 20 percent of ODU's 2025 physician assistant class are in one or more of these categories.

Established in 2012, ODU's Master of Science in physician assistant studies was the first program of its kind in the region. This month, the program will graduate its 10th group of students, bringing the total number of graduates to nearly 500. The program has a graduation rate of 97 percent, and 100 percent of graduates have passed the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam.

This grant is in addition to a previously announced \$588,000 COF grant benefiting ODU undergraduate students.

First-year students are eligible to apply for the COF scholarship and can do so as they complete the admission requirements into ODU's physician assistant program.

Dublin Singers to present Christmas concert at St. Brigid

The Dublin Singers will offer a free Christmas concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 15 at Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church, 7175 Avery Road.

The group is directed by its founder, Mary Fran Cassidy, a longtime educator and musician at St. Brigid.

More information can be found at www.dublinsingers.org.

Annual collection benefits retired religious

The annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection will take place in parishes throughout the Diocese of Columbus on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 9-10.

In 2022, parishioners contributed \$125,695.39 to the collection.

"We are privileged to support those who have dedicated their lives to tireless service," said John Knutsen, director of the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO), "and we are immensely grateful for the continuing generosity of U.S. Catholic donors to this vital cause."

Catholic sisters, brothers and religious

order priests – collectively known as women and men religious – have selflessly served for decades without significant financial compensation. However, due to escalating health-care costs, numerous U.S. religious communities face a substantial gap between their elderly members' needs and the financial resources available for their care.

And members of many religious orders currently experience insufficient retirement savings.

The 2022 appeal demonstrated Catholics' tremendous generosity by raising

\$27.6 million nationwide. These funds from the Retirement Fund for Religious collection provided financial assistance for retirement needs for 297 U.S. religious communities.

The NRRO coordinates the annual national appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious and distributes financial assistance to eligible religious communities to help care for their aging members.

To address the deficit in retirement funding among U.S. religious orders, the Catholic bishops of the United States

initiated the Retirement Fund for Religious collection in 1988.

The NRRO is sponsored by the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

For more information, visit retiredreligious.org, or contact Robin Cabral, campaign director, at (508) 685-8899 or robincabral@retiredreligious.org.

SAFE, continued from Page 16

stay up to date.

"In September, Bishop (Earl) Fernandes had us do a training day for clergy, and we not only went over diocesan policies, we had a guest speaker come in and conduct trauma-informed training

for the clergy to give them a better idea of how to more effectively communicate with victims and survivors of abuse," she said.

Looking ahead, Quinn said, one of the office's goals is to "continue to adapt to

new technologies, to use those, but also, to be aware of some of the dangers that new technology presents and figure out ways to deal with those potential dangers to keep it safe."

She plans to "continue to spread the

word. We continue to look at ourselves, our practices, our policies and get better – that we never become complacent. So, that would be my hope for the next 20 years: We never become complacent; we continue to grow."

First Sunday of Advent Year B

Season to prepare is here

Isaiah 63:16b–17, 19b; 64:2–7
Psalm 80:2–3, 15–16, 18–19
1 Corinthians 1:3–9
Mark 13:33–37

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Father Timothy Hayes

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



“Be watchful! Be alert!” This is the call of the season of Advent. Jesus speaks to us, inviting us to pay attention and to prepare ourselves to meet Him when He comes.

We live in a world of many distractions. Some come from the outside, from the state of the world. Most – we can see if we are truly attentive to the movement of our hearts – come from within. To be watchful and alert means to strive to move beyond distractions.

Human hearts are fragile and easily wounded. When the experience of life weighs heavily on us, it is easy to focus on the pain we feel from what happens and from what we fear might happen to us.

The invitation of Advent is to look toward endings and beginnings and then to renew our attention to what is in front of us, to meet it with confidence that the Lord is with us.

The cry of our hearts pierces the heavens and reaches God’s heart: “Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you, while you wrought awesome deeds we could not hope for, such as they had not heard of from of old.

“No ear has ever heard, no eye ever seen, any God but you doing such deeds for those who wait for him. Would that you might meet us doing right, that we were mindful of you in our ways!”

Second Sunday of Advent Year B

When this cry is honest, acknowledging our own lack of attention to doing right and expressing real anguish, we can be confident that God is attentive to our need. Grace is given to persevere in faith. We learn to stand firm when the world around us crumbles.

This is the nature of true prayer. The Psalm response leads us to the right understanding of how God works in us: “Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.” To see the face of God amid our troubles is to look above and beyond. Time and eternity meet in us as we exercise our capacity for a real relationship with the living God.

To experience sadness is to acknowledge the truth that we are not where we should be and that this world does not satisfy the longings of our hearts. When we embrace the sufferings of others throughout the world as our own, we are one with Jesus Christ in His willingness to take on the fullness of human nature.

To move through suffering to compassion and service offered to others is to respond to the call to be awake and attentive to reality. To choose to love and to hope for an end to suffering is to put our faith into action in a practical way.

Parishes often reach out to the poor and needy during Advent. Preparations for the celebration of Christmas include “giving trees” and gift-giving to those

THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

12/4-12/9 MONDAY Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122:1-2,3-4b,4cd-5,6-7,8-9 Matthew 8:5-11	THURSDAY Isaiah 26:1-6 Psalm 118:1,8-9,19-21,25-27a Matthew 7:21,24-27	12/11-12/16 MONDAY Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalm 85:9ab,10,11-12,13-14 Luke 5:17-26	Matthew 11:28-30
TUESDAY Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-2,7-8,12-13,17 Luke 10:21-24	FRIDAY Genesis 3:9-15,20 Psalm 98:1,2-3ab,3cd-4 Ephesians 1:3-6,11-12 Luke 1:26-38	TUESDAY Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelation 11:19a,12:1-6a,10ab Judith 13:18bcde,19 Luke 1:26-38 or Luke 1:39-47	THURSDAY Isaiah 41:13-20 Psalm 145:1,9,10-11,12-13ab Matthew 11:11-15
WEDNESDAY Isaiah 25:6-10a Psalm 23:1-3a,3b-4,5,6 Matthew 15:29-37	SATURDAY Isaiah 30:19-21,23-26 Psalm 147:1-2,3-4,5-6 Matthew 9:35-10:1,5a,6-8	WEDNESDAY Isaiah 40:25-31 Psalm 103:1-2,3-4,8,10	FRIDAY Isaiah 48:17-19 Psalm 1:1-2,3,4,6 Matthew 11:16-19

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION Mass Schedule: Weeks of Dec. 3 and Dec. 10, 2023

SUNDAY MASS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DAILY MASS

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

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

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

WE PRAY THE SEASONAL PROPSERS FOR WEEKS 11 /AND I OF THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

who might not otherwise be able to enter into the spirit of the season.

Christians and persons of no religious commitment work together to serve families who are on the fringes, those whom Pope Francis speaks about often. When we do this, we “do right.” We seek justice and show mercy to our brothers and sisters in need.

May we begin Advent with hearts ready and open to the graces offered to us in Christ Jesus. May He keep us “firm to the end, irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Jesus speaks to us: “Be watchful! Be alert!” Let us wait for the Lord’s return, with hearts full of expectation and hope.

Await the end times ‘without spot or blemish, at peace’

Isaiah 40:1–5, 9–11
Psalm 85:9–10, 11–12, 13–14
2 Peter 3:8–14
Mark 1:1–8

Proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ begins with the figure of John the Baptist. The Gospel of Mark presents John as the precursor to Jesus’ public ministry.

“The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: ‘Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.”’ John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.”

John’s message creates an attitude of expectation for fulfillment. What the prophets of old promised is now ready to happen. As with any human expectation, how it is to be fulfilled is measured by each person’s perspective.

At the time of John’s appearance, Israel

was under the governance of Rome, following a long history of dominance by ancient empires: Assyria, Babylon, Persia and Greece. Hope was cultivated for a political leader who would set things to rights and give God’s people their own nation. The religious message of John was already political in the minds of the hearers.

As the Gospels unfold, even John the Baptist was surprised by the nature of Jesus’ ministry. At the first proclamation, however, John was already clear: “One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

John knew that the power of the One to Come would be greater than his own and would come from the God of Israel.

God’s power is beyond our expectations. Isaiah expresses this with the promise of the revelation of God’s glory. “Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

All who hear the message are invited to pass it on. “Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: ‘Here is your God! Here comes with power the Lord God, who rules by his strong arm; here is his reward with him, his recompense before him.’”

We look toward the future revelation of the glory of the Lord with the second coming of Jesus Christ. We must keep up our efforts to prepare for that moment, the final day, no matter how long it seems to delay.

God’s timing is not our own. Peter reminds us: “(W)ith the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard ‘delay,’ but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

The God of providence is at work preparing us for His coming and offering us the opportunity to learn to cooperate with His grace through His own patience.

Given all the “signs of the end” that are around us – natural disasters, wars and

rumors of wars and public rejection of God that is a form of apostasy by humanity – it is natural for us to begin to think that we are in “the end times.” We can hope and expect that Jesus will be coming soon.

However, the simple truth is that we have been living in “the end times” since the resurrection of the Lord. The “signs of the end” have been present in different ways throughout human history.

Peter’s advice to first century Christians is apt for us today: “(W)hat sort of persons ought you to be, conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God. ... Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace.”

Eagerness for the coming of the Lord is characteristic of faith in every age. In our times of trouble, our current “change of epoch,” we must be firm in our determination to wait with expectation and to remain at peace. “Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.”

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Year B

As with Mary, God can preserve us from sin

Genesis 3:9-15, 20
 Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4
 Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12
 Luke 1:26-38

According to Genesis, the first act of naming that Adam undertook after the Fall was to call his wife Eve, "because she became the mother of all the living." This is a Hebrew play on words. But it is significant that the name was given in virtue of who Eve would become.

God gave human beings the capacity to cooperate in creation through naming, through looking toward the fulfillment of God's plan for His creatures.

The providence of God is evident in the creation of the New Eve, Mary, by His singular act of preserving her from the stain of original sin in virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ and in anticipation of who she would become as the mother of the Son of God, Who became man and Who rose from the dead.

Eve was mother of the human race that was under the stain of sin. Mary became the mother of all who are redeemed by her Son.

The Immaculate Conception is a reminder to us that sin is never beyond God's power. We are free to make a choice for sin, but God is also always free to act in us to take away sin, and in the

case of Mary, to preserve us from sin.

In simple terms, God's creation, though wounded by the choice made by our first parents, is still under God's power. He has renewed His own creation and restored our freedom to accept the grace that is offered.

The angel calls Mary "full of grace" and tells her that she has "found favor with God." Mary responds freely, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."

With this response, she accepts the name given to her, and she consents to be the mother of God's Son, and, by cooperation with His grace, of all those who are redeemed by Him.

On a recent retreat offered for the priests of the Diocese of Columbus, we were invited to reflect on Jesus' question to His disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" The invitation to us included an interesting reversal. We were also asked to turn to Jesus and to ask Him the question, "Who do you say that I am?" We were to ask Him by what name He wanted to call us.

On this Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, it is fitting that we reflect on who God created Mary to be and to ponder how she responded to the invitation.

But it is also a wonderful idea to listen for the voice of the angel speaking to our hearts. What graces have we received? How have we found favor with God? Who has God created us to be? How do we respond?

The Letter to the Ephesians offers us this beautiful word of hope: "In him we were also chosen, destined in accord with the purpose of the One who accomplishes all things according to the intention of his will, so that we might exist for the praise of his glory, we who first hoped in Christ." We exist for the praise of God's own glory. May we live up to the name He calls us.

As we rejoice with Mary on her feast, may we be worthy sons and daughters of so noble a mother. May she lead us to respond to grace as she did and prepare our hearts to enter into the land of the living.

CATHOLIC WORD SEARCH

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

www.wordgamesforcatholics.com

N	V	P	N	S	S	R	I	E	L	I	N	G	N	P
Y	E	R	E	A	D	I	N	G	S	H	M	C	P	N
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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.

Faith is not a leap in the dark, it's ...

E	H	I	T	H
T	L	T	G	R
S	E	O	D	A
A	T	P	W	

A STEP TOWARD THE LIGHT

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PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

BARRA, John R., 96, Oct. 31

St. Thomas Church, Columbus

BECK, Sheila M. (Markulis), 78, Nov. 9

St. Paul Church, Westerville

BENNETT, Bret A., 52, Nov. 10

Christ the King Church, Columbus

CIAMACCO, Joe, 90, Nov. 9

Resurrection Cemetery Chapel, Lewis Center

COLATRUGLIO, Lena M. (Santilli), 93, Nov. 10

St. Andrew Church, Columbus

DeFILLIPPO, Dolores, 92, Nov. 16

St. Bernadette Church, Lancaster

ETGEN, Barbara J. (Shaffer), 87, Nov. 8

Sacred Hearts Church, Cardington

FAIR, Bettye J., 67, Nov. 4

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, Columbus

GINS, Patrick S., 75, Oct. 29

St. Joseph Church, Sugar Grove

HEIGLE, Robert D., 80, Nov. 11

St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

HERETTA, Tom "Bear," 82, Nov. 5

Holy Name Church, Columbus

KRAK, Eileen (Baxter), 87, Nov. 10

St. Paul Church, Westerville

LESKO, Mary Margaret "Mickie," Sept. 5

St. Elizabeth Church, Columbus

LUSIC, Ann (Cutich), 93, Nov. 17

St. Joseph Church, Dover

MILLER, Terrance M., 76, Nov. 12

St. Andrew Church, Columbus

PETERSON, Dawn S. (Trimble), 68, Nov. 9

Holy Cross Church, Columbus

REDER, Paula K., 79, formerly of Granville, Nov. 5

Holy Angels Church, Dayton

SHEFFIECK, Adele, 92, Nov. 9

Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

TULLY, Mary Ellen (Goeller), 83, Nov. 18

St. Joseph Church, Circleville

WOOD, Roberta D. (Dawson), 97, Nov. 16

Mother Angeline McCrory Manor, Columbus

Longtime assistant to OSU cancer hospital founder dies at 88

By Elizabeth Pardi

Norma Jean Flesher, a parishioner for more than 50 years at Columbus St. Timothy Church and a longtime personal assistant to Dr. Arthur G. James of Ohio State University's James Cancer Hospital, passed away in October at age 88.

She devoted most of her professional life to facilitating the work of Dr. James, a surgeon specializing in cancer treatment and the founder of the cancer treatment hospital The James.

Born in 1935 and raised in Pennsylvania as the second of three daughters, Flesher was voted Most Popular and Most Likely to Succeed in high school. She went on to earn a degree in nursing in 1956 from Pittsburgh's St. Francis School of Nursing.

Lisa Ebinger, wife of Flesher's nephew, Mark, recalled Flesher saying that the day she graduated from nursing school was "the happiest day of my life." She soon moved to Columbus to work at the Ohio State hospitals where her older sister, Jackie, was employed as a nurse.

According to Flesher's obituary, within a few years of being assigned to Dr. James' floor at the hospital, she became his executive secretary and office nurse. She would remain in that role for more than three decades, reminding Dr. James of patients' family members' names and their latest news, such as new pets.

"She ... kept him going and organized for many years," Kitty Shadbolt, who worked with Flesher for 20 years,

wrote in her online obituary. "She was indispensable."

As a cancer surgeon, Dr. James' dream was to open a standalone cancer hospital in Columbus. With Flesher's help, that dream was realized in 1990 when the Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute opened.

Flesher was given her own office and continued working alongside Dr. James. Those closest to him credit Flesher for making possible his accomplishments. A book on his life, Arthur G. James, Surgeon with a Dream, published in 2009, states, "There is a thread throughout James' professional life ... a golden thread that ... is Norma Flesher, R.N."

In 1996, Flesher was recognized for her contributions to The James when she was honored with Ohio State's Distinguished Staff Award. The award, described on the university's website as its highest staff recognition, is given annually to 12 employees for "exceptional leadership, accomplishments, and service."

Flesher, whom Ebinger said always "shied away from taking any credit," was passionate about giving her time, talents and resources. "She worked long hours with dedication, using her gifts to the max every day."

Although Flesher's dedication to her work consumed much of her adult life, she also was devoted to her family and Catholic faith. She never married but lived with and cared for her mother, Margaret, for almost four decades and cherished her sisters, brothers-in-law, nieces and nephew.

"She made time for loved ones," Ebinger said. "She traveled to attend graduations and weddings and to meet the new babies. She was there for emergencies and tragedies. She recognized every

birthday with a card and gift."

Flesher's fellow parishioners at St. Timothy knew her for her joy and thoughtfulness. Mary Lou Guillory, who served with Flesher on the church's bereavement committee, said, "She always brought sugar-free cookies for those guests (at bereavement luncheons) who were diabetic. Such a thoughtful, kind person who will be missed."

When Flesher turned 80 in 2015, Father Timothy Hayes, pastor of St. Timothy from 2008 to 2020, wrote a letter commending her faith and contagious joy. "I thank you for your witness of prayer through your presence at daily Mass and through your sharing with us at our monthly discussion," he said. "Your smile is a real sign that God is with us: Joy is the infallible sign of the presence of God."

Flesher's devotion to her faith was not lost on those who knew her through her work with

Dr. James. His son, David James, said, "I would say without a doubt that (Norma) is probably the closest thing to a saint from the standpoint of her dedication and devotion to life, to people and ... to my dad."

Flesher made it clear during her lifetime that she was content with the sacrifices she'd made to advance the understanding of cancer.

"Looking back, I doubt that I would choose to do anything differently," she said in a 1997 Ohio State newsletter article spotlighting her. "Dr. James has always been optimistic that all cancers will eventually be controlled. A lot of cancer patients now survive who wouldn't have ... 20 years ago. It's great to be a part of all this."

Flesher's obituary can be viewed on dignitymemorial.com.

Marilou Clouse

Funeral Mass for Marilou Clouse, 83, who died Friday, Nov. 17, was celebrated Saturday, Nov. 25 at Canal Winchester St. John XXIII Church.

She was born on Aug. 9, 1941, in Ashland, Kentucky to John and Margaret Wunderlin and was a graduate of the Mount Carmel School of Nursing in Columbus and a retired registered nurse.

She and her husband of 60 years, Paul, were the lead couple of the Marriage Encounter ministry in the Diocese of Columbus for many years. She also was an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist and an RCIA leader at her parish and was an Ohio Master Gardener and state-certified volunteer naturalist.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a son, Michael; and a brother, Johnny. Survivors include her husband; daughters, Mary (Michael) O'Connor, Melissa (Jeff) Wiess and Martha (Edwin) Winkleman; a sister, Linda Baus; two grandsons and two granddaughters.

WORKSHOPS,

continued from Page 4

standard of music and a lot of professional singers, so this program is just getting more exposure to volunteer church musicians that haven't had that kind of training."

In conjunction with those efforts to bring liturgical music unity to the diocese, the second annual Gold Mass for musicians was celebrated on Friday, Nov. 10 at the cathedral with directors and musicians participating from diocesan parishes. Bishop Fernandes was the presider at the Gold Mass.

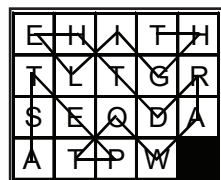
"The cathedral is the home church of the diocese, and I think it's really establishing us as a driving force in the music department," Beckman said. "And it's nice to have a point person" with Fitzgerald.

"I'm glad people are coming up to me saying, 'When can I come to your training? Or can you teach me more about this? Or can you give me a resource for that?'"

"For me, being a professional singer, it's really sharing what I know and providing an organized manner to do it. And I think it's a really wonderful idea that Dr. Fitzgerald has."

The next group session is tentatively scheduled for January at the cathedral. Fitzgerald and Beckman also hope the diocese can eventually offer instruction for cantors who solo at parishes.

"I'd like to see if we could do one group training a month now that we know there's so much interest," Beckman said. "We'll have to see if we have the time and budget to do that."



**WORDS OF
WISDOM
SOLUTION**

Our Lady of Peace honors veterans



Columbus Our Lady of Peace School celebrated veterans at a remembrance on Nov. 9. Twelve veterans joined parishioners, parents, staff and students to pay tribute to all who have served in the U.S. military. The scouts presented the colors and Mrs. Sherri Magee's fifth graders led prayers. Among the veterans in attendance was Dr. Jim Herring, MD, (left photo) a retired Air Force veteran from Marion who spoke to the students about his experience as a doctor for pilots in combat. Before the celebration, fifth-graders with help from Mrs. Mary Flynn and Mr. Arthur Farahas made poppies and sold them to Our Lady of Peace families, raising enough money to sponsor two guardians for an upcoming Honor Flight. Representing Our Lady of Peace School on the next Honor Flight in the spring will be Mrs. Magee and Gina Connor, the school nurse, who will accompany two chosen veterans to Washington, D.C. Students also wrote thank you notes and a special gift was made by a grandparent, Rose Mauch. *Photos/Our Lady of Peace School*

DeSales dedicates Franciscan Loop



Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School completed this fall its Franciscan Loop as part of the Be the Light Campus Master Plan. A dedication ceremony was held Nov. 10 to commemorate the new space on the school's campus. Father Sesu Maria Crescensis Panguraj, SAC, the school's chaplain, blessed the Loop and Dr. Adam Dufault, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, participated in the ceremonial ribbon cutting with DeSales principal Dan Garrick, student leaders and members of the marching band. Engineered to upgrade the appearance and function of the north side of the school, Franciscan Loop is designed to make the drop-off and pickup for parent drivers a safer and more pleasant experience, saving them time on their daily commute. The project complements Stallion Way, which was completed in 2021 as a dedicated entry and exit for student drivers. Future additions to Franciscan Loop include a statue of St. Francis de Sales in the plaza entrance and walking Stations of the Cross. DeSales alumni Mike DeAscentis, Mark Ciminello and Marty Hensel and parent Nick Chintala were instrumental in the planning and completion of Franciscan Loop. *Photo courtesy DeSales High School*

ODU presents St. Albert the Great lecture



Ohio Dominican University held its annual St. Albert the Great Lecture on Wednesday, Nov. 15, in its historic Matesich Theatre with Dr. Ashley Fernandes, MD, Ph.D., presenting "Truth in Science and Medicine – Why Albert's Legacy of Truth Matters Now" to hundreds of students, faculty and staff in attendance. Dr. Fernandes is a physician and bioethicist, the older brother of Bishop Earl Fernandes, a member of the Board of the Catholic Medical Association of Central Ohio, a clinical professor of pediatrics at Nationwide Children's Hospital and the associate director of the Center for Bioethics at the Ohio State University College of Medicine.

Photo courtesy Ohio Dominican University

KofC Assumption Council marks 70 years



Knights of Columbus Assumption Council #3727 at Columbus St. Matthias Church celebrated its 70th anniversary on Oct. 14. Members include (front row from left) Scott Burkhardt, Ted Pagani, Brian Swigert, Father Tony Davis, Valentine Nnachetem, Romanus Fomenky; (back row from left) field agent Gary Anderson, Steve Shultz, Dan Higgins, Desmond Kabia, Emecka Anyadoh and Jim Ankowski. The Council served cake to parishioners after Sunday Masses to commemorate the anniversary. Other recent accomplishments include receiving Star Council recognition, raising more than \$1,000 for Support Our Seminarians, hosting an annual parish ice cream social in August, supporting a multicultural festival in September, and holding a Rosary Rally for Life and passing out rosaries and protect life pamphlets while praying the rosary before Sunday Masses in October. The Council also sponsors an annual Sunday breakfast with Santa.

Photo courtesy Assumption Council #3727

BUSINESS MANAGER

Columbus St. Christopher Church is in need of a full-time business manager for the parish and Trinity Elementary School. Anyone interested in learning more about the

position is asked to contact Anne Streitenberger, director of human resources for the Diocese of Columbus, at amstreitenberger@columbuscatholic.org.

CHRISTMAS 2023 GIFT GUIDE

BOOK LIST

By **MaryBeth Eberhard**

"A room without books is like a body without a soul."
– G.K. Chesterton

This year, instead of the matching pajama photo op, I'm aiming for the book reading photo or perhaps no photo at all, just the cherished memory.

I am, after all, a writer, and books are a reflection of who I am, what I love to do and the backbone of many of my conversations. I'd love to think intentionally for each of my family members but also a few very close friends and share a book that would bring us closer together.

Along this line, I'm fascinated by the Icelandic tradition of Jolabokaflo. This tradition began in 1944 when paper was not rationed during World War II, making books an ideal way to gift others during Christmas. Icelanders spend Christmas Eve gifting one another with a book and settling in to read.

In this guide, you'll find some newer releases and some old favorites whose spines might be worn from use or pages marked with notes, making them a treasure in my home. There are books that have stood the test of time in our household and many that have shaped the culture of faith within my family.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Mary, Mother of All

Authors: Scott Hahn and Emily Stimpson Chapman

This is an incredible pairing of talented authors. The theology packed into this lyrically metered and beautifully illustrated book keeps all who are reading engaged. My teenage daughter quickly grabbed this book and placed it in her bag for babysitting. I knew we'd found another family favorite.

stpaulcenter.com/product/mary-mother-of-all/

The Weight of a Mass *Take it to the Queen* *Portrait of the Son*

Author: Josephine Nobisso

These three books are treasures of Catholic children's literature. The illustrations are impeccable. These are the "sit down by the fire with a cup of cocoa under a blanket with your kids" type of books. The lessons foster discussion, and the stories resonate even with adult hearts.

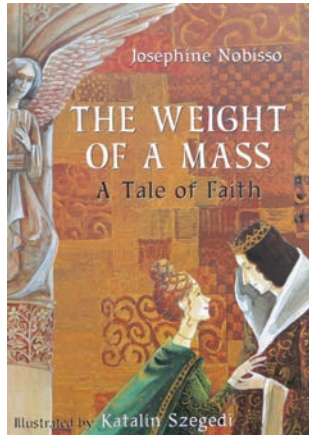
These can be purchased as a set or individually.

God Made the Moonlight

Author: Erin Broestl

This sweet little book reads like a beautiful lullaby. The illustrations are beautiful, and the message of love and God's presence is peaceful and calming. I love books that invite dialogue with little ones.

www.amazon.com/God-Made-Moonlight-Erin-Broestl/dp/1733493514



The Mother of Jesus Is Wonderfully Real

Author: Father Paul Murray, OP

Forward by Alyssa Bormes

This book tells the story of a sweet little girl who is bullied for wearing her Mary medal to a camp. Her aunt invites her to write a letter to a dear priest friend who responds with a loving letter that reminds us of the real presence of Mother Mary in our lives. With practical and childlike faith, Father Murray walks his young friend through the constant presence of Mary in her life and the lives of all those she loves. I love giving this to parish priests who have schools to share this beautiful story of Mary's love with their students.

<https://catholicvineyard.com/index.php/product/the-mother-of-jesus-is-wonderfully-real/>

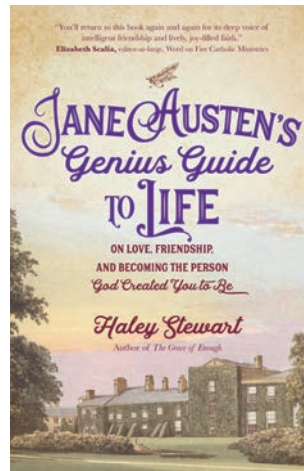
BOOKS FOR WOMEN/MOMS

Jane Austen's Genius Guide to Life

Author: Haley Stewart

This book is a delightful, thought-provoking read through virtue and vice, Austen style. Using the characters from Jane Austen's beloved novels, Haley Stewart leads the reader through a lively personal reflection. This book will surely warm the heart of every Austen lover.

www.avemariapress.com/products/jane-austens-genius-guide-to-life



Who Does He Say You Are?

Author: Colleen Mitchell

I have bought this book from the publisher in bulk many times to share with friends. I have passed out my copy, marked and folded, to a friend in need and have marked up another copy with fresh insights. Colleen Mitchell walks us through Gospel stories of women whose lives were transformed by an encounter with Jesus. This is such a good book for husbands to give to their wives, girlfriends to share and mothers to share with older daughters.

BOOKS TO DISCUSS WITH YOUR TEENS/YOUNG ADULTS

Go Bravely: Becoming the Woman You Were Created to Be

Author: Emily Wilson Hussem

I steer clear of daily devotionals because my mind wanders and I feel frustrated when I get off track. This book, however, has traveled many daughters with me. I love its approachable dialogue. Many nights have I sat up with my daughters and broached topics that they might think I have no concept of: self-doubt, dating, forgiveness, knowing one's worth and waiting for the right person to come along. Hussem bravely advises, encourages, guides and supports the readers through this simple journey with little steps being the goal to-

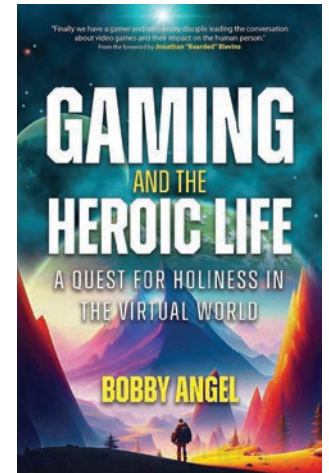
ward forming more closely into the women God created us to be. This book also has a journal companion.

Gaming and the Heroic Life

Author: Bobby Angel

I have a son who loves to play video games – actually a few of them! I struggle with the concept of gaming and the dangers that technology can pose to my children. This book has been an incredible resource to read together with my son. Technology and gaming have often been thought the enemy, but this book is incredible in its eye-opening vision of how gaming encourages an adventure, how being in control of the outcome has power and how that focus, control and goal can be used to grow a relationship with Jesus Christ where we both pursue and allow ourselves to be pursued by Him. Bobby Angel also shows us how relationships can grow through role-playing games, even ones parents can enjoy playing! For those who have a thinker and gamer child, this book might help you navigate those waters.

www.avemariapress.com/products/gaming-and-the-heroic-life



Blink and We'll Miss It

Author: Ginny Kochis

Goodness! I lost many winks of sleep reading this book, and it was all worth it. Your teenage daughter will love it, too. *Blink and We'll Miss It* draws you into the broken, raw yet beautiful life of Mae Griffin and her family. Tackling hard issues such as mental health, pride and family secrets, author Ginny Kochis creates characters who live out mercy, forgiveness, courage and perseverance. The depth of friendship and love written into this story opens doors of conversation as parents learn to trust and let their children forge their own path. I am always searching for books that are great mother-daughter reads. For those who enjoy forging bonds through book discussions, this is a great gift idea.

<https://a.co/d/dcx72ZU>

Royal & Ancient

Author: Amanda Lauer

Best-selling author Amanda Lauer weaves another beautiful historical fiction novel set in Scotland that both young teens and their mothers will enjoy. A young



CHRISTMAS 2023 GIFT GUIDE

woman finds herself transported back in time, falling in love while navigating the high religious and political tensions. Lauer weaves themes of owning your faith, building relationships, trust and perseverance in a strong, historically researched novel.

chrismpress.com/books/royal-and-ancient/

BOOKS FOR ALL

Code Name Edelweiss

Author: Stephanie Landsem

Stephanie Landsem writes a suspenseful page-turning novel set in early World War II Hollywood glam. I'm a mom who loves sharing history with my children through literature, and Stephanie Landsem makes it come alive with rich character development and vivid storytelling.

www.tyndale.com/p/code-name-edelweiss/9781496460677



formatted to read alongside the podcast, giving us an approachable way to understand fundamental truths of our faith.

<https://ascensionpress.com/products/catechism-of-the-catholic-church-ascension-edition>

BOOKS TO HELP NURTURE PRAYER

Handy Little Guide to the Liturgy of the Hours/Handy Little Guide to Prayer

Author: Barb Szyszkiewicz

These pocket-size books make perfect gifts for a Christmas stocking or a purse. In the Handy Little Guide to Prayer, we find humble nuggets of wisdom explaining Catholic prayer. One phrase warranted my highlighter: When offering something up, "you return your pain into someone else's gain." These are a great resource for prayer.

www.osvcatholicbookstore.com/product/the-handy-little-guide-book-package

Holy Habits From the Sacred Heart

Author: Emily Jaminet

Emily Jaminet vulnerably shares stories and valuable strategies for growing closer to the Sacred Heart. This book is written in a "small things with great love" approach but does not back down from challenging the reader to grow deeper in virtues of mercy, forgiveness, gratitude, surrender and trust. This would make a wonderful devotion for husbands and wives to share.

www.avemariapress.com/products/holy-habits-from-the-sacred-heart

Habits for Holiness

Author: Father Mark-Mary Ames, CFR

Often when my family visits our friends in religious life, I leave wanting to cultivate more of what they have. With baby steps, this book provides examples of how to pursue that depth of holiness in our everyday lives. This book shows that holiness is attainable even for those of us whose lives seem to be always on the go.

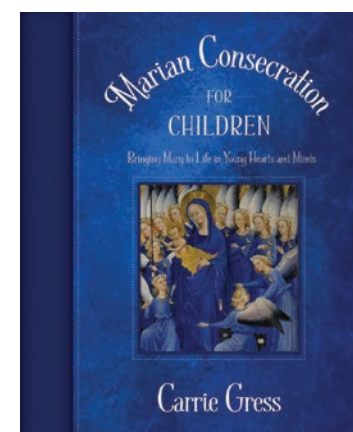
<https://a.co/d/8sFYPzw>

Marian Consecration for Children

Author: Carrie Gress

This beautifully written, very approachable, tender book has it all: stories from classic literature, beautiful artwork, reflections on the saints and Scripture, as well as short-but-sweet discussion questions that draw you together as you walk through your child's consecration. From an adult point of view, my faith life needed this childlike refresher to draw closer to Mother Mary. Modeling this need and devotion as parents is both necessary and meaningful to our children.

<https://a.co/d/8sFYPzw>



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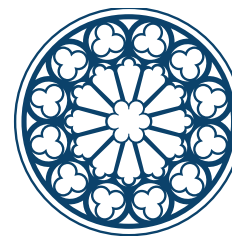
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For More Tax Tips:

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