

The CATHOLIC TIMES

THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS' INFORMATION SOURCE
 DECEMBER 31, 2023 • FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY • VOLUME 72:27



YEAR IN REVIEW,
 PAGE 9

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



HONORING OUR LADY

The feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe was celebrated by a number of churches in the dioceses with processions, prayers, Masses and special gatherings from Dec. 10 to Dec. 12, Page 3



PILGRIMAGES

Pilgrimages to religious sites by parishioners from diocesan churches picked up in 2023 and are expected to continue in 2024, Page 12

Cemetery's Garden of the Holy Innocents to be renovated

Every year on Dec. 28 during the Christmas Octave, we pause from the joys and festivities of the season to remember and honor the first and youngest martyrs of the Church.

The Feast of the Holy Innocents celebrates the memory of the young children of Bethlehem who were put to death by Herod following the birth of Jesus. St. Matthew shares that these boys were only 2 years old or younger. (Matthew 2:16) They gave their lives in place of the newborn Infant Christ as Herod vengefully sought to protect his worldly power.

St. Augustine was touched by the story of these young martyrs and, in a homily delivered to his congregation, called them "infant martyr flowers." He praised and glorified their lives, saying, "In full right do we celebrate the heavenly birthday of these children whom the world caused to be born unto an eternally blessed life rather than that from their mothers' womb, for they attained the grace of everlasting life before the enjoyment of the present."

As we lift up these young martyrs on



The Garden of the Holy Innocents at Resurrection Cemetery. Photos courtesy Catholic Cemeteries



their feast day, we also pray for and remember their mothers, fathers and family members who suffered such great pain in their loss. Matthew provides us a glimpse of their grief when he repeats Jeremiah's prophecy: "A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children, and she would not be consoled, since they were no more." (Matthew 2:18)

We can use this feast day to invoke

God's blessing and comfort in a special way on those who have lost a child of any age and who face great sorrow because of it.

The Feast of the Holy Innocents was in mind when a section of Resurrection Cemetery, 9571 N. High St., Lewis Center, was developed nearly 10 years ago.

Blessed on April 12, 2014, by Father Homer Blubaugh, chaplain for Back in His Arms Again ministry, the Garden of

the Holy Innocents provides a dignified and sacred resting place for infants who were miscarried or for full-term infants who were cremated. It is the current resting place for more than 3,500 babies.

Over the years, thousands of parents have chosen this consoling option to bury their babies. The Garden of the Holy Innocents is available to any parent free of charge. Cemetery staff will go to any hospital in Columbus to take the infant into their care, or parents may bring their baby to the cemetery if the miscarriage occurs at home.

While it is not possible to schedule a funeral service at the time of placement, families are welcome to return at a later date for a private prayer or memorial service. Families can purchase a permanent memorial for their baby for a minimal fee.

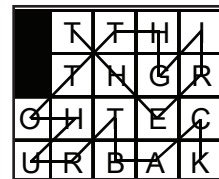
Catholic Cemeteries of Columbus is renovating the Garden of the Holy Innocents. The budget is \$100,000 and will include a more durable statue of Our Lady with Child, a permanent memorial wall, new landscaping, benches and a path. Additionally, a fund will be created for upkeep and expansion.

A generous contribution will help to provide a lasting memorial for these children and a peaceful, prayerful space for their families to grieve and heal after their heartbreaking loss.

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.



WORDS OF WISDOM SOLUTION

PLEASE JOIN US IN OUR MISSION

You can help a mourning family by donating to the beautification of this peaceful place. There will be opportunities for recognition if you are interested.

Catholic Cemeteries of Columbus is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. Your gift fully qualifies as a deductible charitable contribution.



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of Columbus

A Sacred Trust Since 1850



ARTIST RENDERING OF PROPOSED SPACE AT RESURRECTION CEMETERY
PROJECT BUDGET \$100,000

THE GARDEN OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS: RENOVATION CAMPAIGN

Name(s): _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Payment Option 1:

My donation of \$ _____ is enclosed.

Please mail payment to: Resurrection Cemetery
9571 North High Street, Rt. 23 N
Lewis Center, Ohio 43035

Payment Option 2:

I hereby authorize Catholic Cemeteries of Columbus to bill my credit card for:

My donation of \$ _____

Please circle: Visa Mastercard AmEx Discover

Card Number: _____

Exp Date: _____ CVC Code: _____

Signature: _____

Parishes, schools celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe feast

Parishes and schools throughout the diocese celebrated the annual feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe with prayers, special celebrations and Masses.

Processions with an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, who is the patroness of the Americas and the unborn, were held in various locations starting Dec. 10.

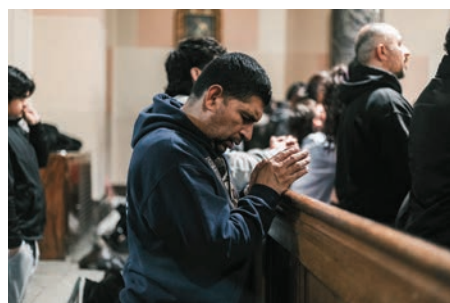
Among them were processions down North High Street in north Columbus to Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the New Evangelization Parish at Holy Name Church; on Smoky Row Road in northwest Columbus between St. Peter Church and Powell St. Joan of Arc Church; in downtown Marion to St. Mary Church; on the east side of Columbus from Christ the King Church to St. Thomas the Apostle Church; and in the German Village area at St. Mary, Mother of God Church.

Bishop Earl Fernandes celebrated Mass on Dec. 10 at Columbus St. Stephen the Martyr Church and on Dec. 12, Our Lady of Guadalupe's feast day, at the Star of the New Evangelization Parish before an overflow congregation.

The colorful celebrations honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe, who appeared to St. Juan Diego in 1531, included prayers dedicated to the Virgin, traditional dancing and costumes, food and fellowship particularly among the Latino community.

The following photos and highlights were submitted by some parishes and schools that observed the feast:

Columbus Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the New Evangelization



A novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe that began Nov. 30, a procession down North High Street on Dec. 10 and a Mass with Bishop Fernandes were among the highlights of the celebration at Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the New Evangeliza-

tion (formerly Parroquia Santa Cruz), located at Columbus Holy Name Church.

The three-mile procession to the parish featuring an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe included hundreds of participants who prayed and sang along the route.

On Dec. 11, the eve of the feast, a traditional Mañanitas celebration for a birthday or saint's feast day with Mass, prayers, songs and food preceded the feast day Mass at the parish with Bishop Fernandes as the principal celebrant. A reception followed.

Delaware St. Mary Church



The Hispanic community at Delaware St. Mary Church came together on the evening of Dec. 12 in celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe's feast day, beginning the festivities with a procession into the church, followed by a bilingual Mass and a reception with food.

At the reception, Los Guadalupanos from Marion St. Mary Church, a group of matachines performed a "pilgrimage dance" in honor of Our Lady.

Columbus St. Mary, Mother of God Church



Columbus St. Mary, Mother of God Church observed the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Dec. 12 with matachines,



a Mariachi band, the re-enactment of the apparitions of Our Lady and a Mass.

"It was one of the most beautiful celebrations we have had for Our Lady," said Edith Monroy, the parish's Latino Ministry coordinator.

"The Latino community expresses all our respect and adoration to Our Lady of Guadalupe. This year was even more special as we introduced the new (replica) image of Our Lady brought from the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. This image has converted an entire nation and continues to convert people around the world, bringing us faith and hope.

"We pray this image will continue to extend the graces of evangelization, conversion and truth to our community. I invite you to visit her new home, here in St. Mary in German Village. The image will be displayed in the new Our Lady of Guadalupe Hall."

Westerville St. Paul the Apostle School



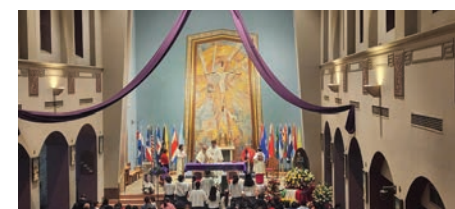
Students in first and seventh grades led a procession on Dec. 12 for Our Lady of Guadalupe's feast day at Westerville St. Paul School.

The Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus, the order of religious sisters assigned to the school, collaborated with the Spanish teacher to organize the procession.

Before the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the sisters talked to the seventh-graders about the feast. The first-graders also learned about the Virgin when the Spanish teacher visited their classroom.

With the help of seventh-grade students, the younger students made roses to offer to Our Lady after the procession, which started inside the school with praying the rosary in Spanish and English, went around the church and concluded by the statue of the Virgin Mary inside the school with offerings of the roses and singing songs in Spanish to honor her.

Columbus St. James the Less Church



Columbus St. James the Less Church welcomed a full congregation of about 800 for its celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Dec. 12.

A procession and Mass were followed by a ceremony for three parishioners completing a consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Afterward, dancers performed in the cafeteria, where food was served at a reception.

See **GUADALUPE**, Page 19

Opportunity for indulgence offered during Sacred Heart Jubilee Year

A plenary indulgence, which removes all temporal punishment due for sin, can be obtained starting Wednesday, Dec. 27.

The indulgence is part of the Sacred Heart Jubilee Year taking place in the Church from December 2023 to June 2025. The jubilee commemorates the 350th anniversary of the apparitions of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque that took place in Paray-le-Monial, France.

The Jubilee Year began Dec. 27, the anniversary of the first apparition, and

concludes on June 27, 2025, the date of the solemnity of the feast of the Sacred Heart, which falls on the Friday after the Corpus Christi octave in the Church each year.

The indulgence can be obtained by making the pilgrimage to Paray-le-Monial, known as the City of the Eucharist.

Bishop Earl Fernandes will lead a diocesan pilgrimage to France from May 31 to June 9, 2024. The pilgrimage includes a visit to Paray-le-Monial, the site of the Shrine of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and

St. Margaret Mary Alacoque.

During the Sacred Heart Jubilee Year, four churches in the Diocese of Columbus also will be pilgrimage sites: Cardington Sacred Hearts, Columbus Sacred Heart, Coshocton Sacred Heart and New Philadelphia Sacred Heart.

The faithful can receive the plenary indulgence during the Jubilee Year by visiting one of the local pilgrimage sites and assisting at Mass; reciting prayers, such as the Litany of the Sacred Heart; making a Holy Hour of reparation; and

praying for the intentions of the Holy Father.

An indulgence is a grace granted by the Catholic Church through the merits of Jesus Christ, the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints.

To receive a plenary indulgence, an individual must have complete detachment from sin, receive the sacraments of reconciliation and Holy Communion within a reasonable time period and pray for the Holy Father's intentions.

Praying for our country with John Carroll

John Carroll (1735-1815) was the first Catholic bishop, not just in, but of the United States, for during the first 18 years of his episcopate, his Diocese of Baltimore encompassed the entire country. Carroll was also, arguably, the greatest of American bishops, in that he created a stable structure for the Catholic Church in the new nation and defined the sensibility that has guided U.S. Catholicism ever since: loyal to Rome, committed to supporting and ennobling the American experiment in ordered liberty.

In 1791, Bishop Carroll convoked a diocesan synod, and on November 10 of that year, the synod adopted a prayer for the civil authorities that Carroll had composed. As we approach a year in which it is not beyond the realm of possibility that the United States will undergo a constitutional crisis even as the world burns,

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.



it would be no bad thing if parishes adopted Carroll's prayer for occasional use during 2024 — perhaps at the end of the General Intercessions at Sunday Mass:

"We pray, O almighty and eternal God, who through Jesus Christ has revealed thy glory to all nations, to preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church, being spread through the whole world, may continue with unchanging faith in the confession of your name.

We pray Thee, who alone are good and holy, to endow with heavenly knowledge, sincere zeal and sanctity of life, our chief bishop, the pope, the vicar of our Lord Jesus Christ, in the government of his Church; our own bishop, all other bishops, prelates and pastors of the Church; and especially those who are appointed to exercise among us the functions of the holy ministry, and conduct your people into the ways of salvation.

We pray, O God of might, wisdom and justice, through whom authority is rightly administered, laws are enacted, and judgment decreed, assist with your Holy Spirit of counsel and fortitude the President of these United States, that his administration may be conducted in righteousness and be eminently useful to your people over whom he presides; by encouraging due

respect for virtue and religion; by a faithful execution of the laws in justice and mercy; and by restraining vice and immorality.

Let the light of your divine wisdom direct the deliberations of Congress and shine forth in all the proceedings and laws framed for our rule and government, so that they may tend to the preservation of peace, the promotion of national happiness, the increase of industry, sobriety and useful knowledge; and may perpetuate to us the blessing of equal liberty.

We pray for his excellency, the governor of this state, for the members of the assembly, for all judges, magistrates, and other officers who are appointed to guard our political welfare, that they may be enabled, by your powerful protection, to discharge the duties of their respective stations with honesty and ability.

We recommend likewise, to your unbounded mercy, all our brethren and fellow citizens throughout the United States, that they may be blessed in the knowledge and sanctified in the observance of your most holy law; that they may be preserved in union, and in that peace which the world cannot give; and after enjoying the blessings of this life, be admitted to those which are eternal.

Finally, we pray to you, O Lord of mercy, to remember the souls of your servants departed, who are gone before us with the sign of faith and repose in the sleep of peace; the souls of our parents, relatives and friends; of those who, when living, were members of this congregation, and particularly of such as are lately deceased; of all benefactors who, by their donations or legacies to this Church, witnessed their zeal for the decency of divine worship and proved their claim to our grateful and charitable remembrance. To these, O Lord, and to all that rest in Christ, grant, we beseech you, a place of refreshment, light, and everlasting peace, through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen."

In the Spring 2017 issue of *National Affairs*, I argued that our country needed a new Great Awakening. Six years later, after political divisiveness, partisan irresponsibility, and grotesquely selfish ambition have warped our public life beyond what was then imaginable, it seems ever more the case that the path of civic and political renewal in these United States lies through spiritual and moral renewal. A regular recitation of John Carroll's eloquent prayer might be one small step toward the regeneration of the American spirit in the Year of Our Lord 2024.

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*Ohio tax credit is limited up to \$750 per person, or \$1,500 if married filing jointly. Consult your tax advisor for guidance. The Emmaus Road Scholarship Fund is a certified scholarship granting organization in the state of Ohio.



Is there a sacrament for widows?

Dear Father: I lost my wonderful husband to a tragic accident when we had been married only 19 years. Our children are grown and on their own. I've never been interested in remarrying. I'm not bashful to tell you that I'm in my 60s. I feel called to serve God in some special way as a widow. Is there a special sacrament for me as a widow? – Marlene

Dear Marlene: I'm very sorry for your loss. I can only imagine that you still feel the emptiness and pain in greater or lesser degrees. The suffering of losing a loved one is unfathomable. How we need our Blessed Mother in these situations to help us get through them with her love and presence, she who lost both her husband and only Son.

God definitely has a special place in His heart for widows. Throughout the Old Testament, He warned against afflicting widows and orphans, for they are among the most alone and in need of protection. The Psalms, in particular, reveal that God defends widows and orphans and that He avenges those who abuse them in any way.

In the Gospels, too, Christ showed special love for widows. One miracle He worked was for a widow whose son had just died. Luke 7:13 tells us that Christ's heart was moved with pity when He saw the woman whose son was being carried out of the city to be buried. Jesus raised him from the dead and restored him to his mother so that the young man could continue to care for her needs.

The Fathers of the Church comment on how our Lord must have seen, in the widows whom He met, a foreshadowing of His own mother's future sorrow when He would die on the cross. And from the cross, He gave the

SACRAMENTS 101

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

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



care of His mother to St. John, standing with Mary at the foot of the cross. This was because, it is easy to surmise, St. Joseph had died, leaving Mary a widow. In this scene, her only Son is now being taken away.

There is also the incident of the widow going up to the temple to worship God. She wanted to make her financial offering of coins worth only about a penny, but she gave them anyway. Jesus taught His disciples that she had given more than a rich person because she had given all, her whole living.

I can't help but wonder if our Lord is also referring to that widow as having given her all to God. Perhaps she had dedicated herself to God, like Anna in the Gospel of St. Luke. We are told that she was always in the temple and that's how she met Jesus as an infant when He was brought to the temple by His parents 40 days after His birth.

St. Luke tells us that Anna never left the temple, and that she served God night and day with fasting and prayer. (Luke 2:36-38)

Your wish to "serve God in some special way as a widow" appears very much like the vocation of Anna in the temple. I am confident that our Lord is very pleased by your desire.

Christ instituted seven sacraments, but He did not

create a special sacrament for widows. Nevertheless, the early Christians in the decades and centuries after our Lord's Ascension intuited His particular love for widows. Thus, the Christian community gave them a special place in their hearts and in the Church.

We know from the writings of the Apostles that there was a particular "order" or group for widows. St. Paul refers to "enrolling widows" (1 Timothy 5:9), which indicates that these women were to receive special treatment. In part, this arose from the fact of a society where women were financially dependent on men, be it their husbands, or, after the death of their husbands, on their sons. A woman with neither husband nor son was particularly vulnerable.

While there is no sacrament for widows, Pope St. John Paul II wrote this in *Vita Consecrata*: "Through the vow of perpetual chastity as a sign of the Kingdom of God, (widows) consecrate their state of life to dedicate themselves to prayer and to the service of the Church."

There are a number of consecrated widows in Europe. In fact, Pope Francis met with a group of these ladies who were on pilgrimage to the Eternal City in 2018. Some of them belong to groups such as *Fraternite Notre Dame de la Resurrection* and the *Community of Anne the Prophetess*. The pope heartily encouraged them to live their vocation as consecrated widows.

You are not the first to inquire about a special role for widows in the Church here in the United States. I know that Bishop Earl Fernandes of our Diocese of Columbus is looking into the possibilities.

I would be happy to keep you informed if you write to me at divineworship@columbuscatholic.org. If you have friends who share your desire, have them write to me as well. God bless you!

Through Walking with Moms, parishes can support life

I often pinch myself and ask: How did I win the lottery to be born into a family and community that have given me so many amazing opportunities? I am so blessed. I pray that I exude that gratitude through my ministry with the diocese.

I believe when confronted with what Mark Huddy, the diocesan Episcopal Moderator for Catholic Charities and Social Concerns, describes as situations "fraught with opportunities," I look for the positive first using gap management.

Initially, that means listening more than talking to find common ground. Once we have a sliver of agreement, we can look at our differences and find ways to move closer together.

I don't take a fear-mongering, all-or-nothing approach to my work. I live in a hope-filled world; my faith teaches me that. My goal is to help others see the worth of this mindset.

Certainly, as our world seems to be becoming more divisive, I want to have dialogues instead of debates. When I'm looking at a "problem," I don't start with what's wrong. I don't have expected outcomes, except that, through conversation, we can find common ground and/or uncover misconceptions for all involved. First steps – baby steps. Changing hearts and minds cannot be accomplished with one-off encounters.

Our recent experience with state Issue 1 invites us to a new dialogue. Recognizing the gifts that we bring to this dialogue, we can acknowledge the numerous pregnancy support agencies in our diocese and our own Walking with Moms (WWM) initiative.

WWM works to ensure that any woman and her fam-

FAITH IN ACTION | Erin Cordle

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



ily who find themselves unexpectedly pregnant, or parenting in difficult circumstances, can turn to the local Catholic Church and be connected with the resources they need. Volunteers walk with moms throughout the motherhood journey, offering them authentic Christian friendship and ongoing emotional and spiritual support.

WWM has developed educational, pastoral and action-oriented resources for parish use, such as:

- Tools for documenting an inventory of local resources for pregnant mothers in need.
- Ideas for improving parish responses.
- Prayers for building a culture of life and a civilization of love.
- Reflections on the teachings of *Evangelium vitae*, *Evangelii gaudium* and *Laudato si'* at www.walking-withmoms.com

Pregnant and parenting moms in need live in our parishes and our neighborhoods. As Pope Francis reminds us, our parishes need to be "islands of mercy in the midst of a sea of indifference." Parish communities

should know where to refer pregnant women for spiritual, emotional, material and financial support.

Our Catholic parishes and communities can "walk in the shoes" of local pregnant and parenting women who might be facing pressure to end the life of their unborn children.

WWM provides parishes with a framework to inventory local resources, identify gaps in services and implement a parish response based on their findings. Parishes should support local pregnancy centers where they exist. Where there are few local resources, parishes can create their own based on the gifts of their community.

We can show that Catholics are pro-life in the best possible light – protecting all life with pastoral care and supporting the spiritual, emotional, material and financial needs of pregnant moms and their families to bring their pregnancies to term.

If your parish is not working with other parishes in your county or deanery on the WWM initiative, encourage your pastor to help you get started. For diocesan support, contact me at socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org or at (614) 241-2540.

God bless you for living in a diocese committed to providing hope and help for families to choose life amid unthinkable pressures.

BOOKKEEPER POSITION

Our Lady of Victory, Marble Cliff, is seeking an experienced part-time bookkeeper. Candidates should have experience with and will be responsible for all bank deposits, accounts payable, financial reports, reconciliation of all parish bank accounts and maintenance of automatic contributions. The person filling this position will report to the Pastor and will interact with other office staff and the Parish Finance Committee. Please submit cover letter, resume, and references to Father Jacques Kik at jkik@ourladyofvictory.cc or contact at 614-488-2428.

Ethics of neuroimplants and brain-computer interfaces

Neuralink, a company run by Elon Musk, announced in September that it had received approval to implant wireless brain-computer interfaces (BCI) into human volunteers.

A BCI is a neural device that translates a person's brain activity into external responses, enabling, for example, the movement of a prosthetic limb via brain signals.

The goal of Musk's study is to enable people with paralysis to use their thoughts to control external devices, especially computers, through the BCI.

While this end is clearly worthwhile, some future uses of BCI technology will probably not be equally praiseworthy, and some foreseeable applications of this technology will likely be unethical.

In an *MIT Technology Review* article, Professor John Donoghue at Brown University mentions how as a child he spent time in a wheelchair, which later motivated him to try to help individuals who were paralyzed.

One time after he delivered a speech at Google, he was surprised to encounter an engineer who was an avid gamer and wanted to know if it would be possible to have a "third thumb."

"That's taking things to an extreme," Donoghue commented. "I don't want to implant electrodes into people so they can be better gamers. I always challenge all of these ideas because I don't see what it gets you. But I don't dismiss it, either ... that is what is driving people. It's the cool factor, that you could have this new interface."

Restoring lost function offers an obvious benefit, but enhancing people's abilities beyond their typical talents raises ethical concerns. When it comes to "therapies" vs. "enhancements," the former will generally be OK, but the latter will often be problematic.

Yet such a distinction, for all its usefulness, still falls short.

For example, consider a hypothetical device that, when implanted into the brain of a person with advanced dementia, would improve his or her ability to remember and recall facts at a level similar to pre-de-

MAKING SENSE OUT OF BIOETHICS | Father Tad Pacholczyk

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as Senior Ethicist at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org and www.fathertad.com.



mentia times. Suppose further that in a healthy person, the same device would confer a new ability, the power of a photographic memory. Would this mean it would be ethical to use it for the dementia patient, but not for the healthy one?

Suppose there were a BCI that not only improved hand-to-eye coordination and motor control for Parkinson's patients having movement deficits but also improved the acuity and coordination of healthy athletes, so a professional pitcher could now throw a baseball even more accurately. Would it be OK to use the BCI for the Parkinson's patient but not for the athlete?

What if the therapeutic implant for the Parkinson's patient not only restored his ability to move in a coordinated way but also gave him the ability to play baseball essentially as a professional, something he had never been able to do at any point prior in his life?

The apparent blurring of the distinction between therapy and enhancement by BCIs can become complicated to sort out.

As BCIs become more sophisticated, they may be able to capture and interpret more and more intimate aspects of a person's thoughts. When it comes to the collection of brain data from sensors, it seems fitting to require that such data be protected like other medical information. The confidentiality of our neurodata will need to be assured, even as we seek to safeguard and expand the

notion of mental privacy.

What if students in the future had BCIs that allowed for the monitoring of the pupils' attention in class by scanning or recording their brain activity? What if workers in a factory could be monitored in this way for lapses of attention? Could BCIs enable the modulation of sleep patterns so employees could be made to put in extra hours of work time?

It seems that coercive scenarios involving BCIs might arise relatively easily.

What about the non-voluntary implantation of BCIs, enabling control of some individuals by others without their consent? One could envision forced implantation of chips to "neuter" a criminal's bad behavior, for example.

Furthermore, the degree to which a neuroimplant would interfere with human autonomy would be vital to assessing its morality. A BCI might serve to increase or decrease human autonomy. If someone addicted to drugs, for example, received a brain implant that generated specific stimulation patterns to break his addiction, this could be therapeutic and helpful. But what if the setting were adjusted, and it instead became possible to dial in an electrically induced "high" that provided an experience far more intense than any illegal drug?

Using BCIs to mimic the effects of recreational drugs, or to pursue more intense erotic experiences, for example, by directed neural stimulation, could contribute to the enslaving of future generations through novel addictive behaviors, generating a raft of new concerns. Moral objections invariably arise any time men and women experience a loss of freedom or "personal agency" on account of addictions or other compulsive behaviors.

In sum, while BCIs could offer important medical and therapeutic uses in the future, they also are poised for dubious or clearly immoral uses. Careful ethical discernment around selective deployment of this technology, therefore, will be essential going forward.

2023: gains, losses and much hope for the new year

Year-end reflections provide an opportunity to look back on what transpired over the past 12 months and to ponder what lies ahead.

No one but God really knows what's in the future, but 2023 is committed to the history books and it will be interesting to see how this year is viewed a decade or two from now.

In our own little *Catholic Times* world, the last day of the year brings an end of a working relationship with a behind-the-scenes contributor whose name was almost never seen in print but made a profound difference in the the newspaper's content.

Patty Bitler, a longtime professional journalist and Columbus Immaculate Conception Church parishioner, has decided to call it a career and spend more time with her husband of 46 years, Ron, and a family that includes two children and two grandchildren.

For the past five years, Bitler has edited copy, written headlines and proofed pages for the paper as a valued contributor. The work certainly isn't glamorous or lucrative, but it's essential to the quality of a publication.

Copyediting has become somewhat of a dying art. Newspapers and magazines used to employ a desk full of copy editors assigned to their various sections to check facts and grammar for accuracy, polish copy, raise questions and make it more understandable for the reader.

Unfortunately, as newspapers and magazines have slashed staff over the past 20 years while print publications die a slow death, copy editors were some of the first employees to be downsized. If you're someone who complains about mistakes in print or on websites

EDITOR'S REFLECTIONS

(How could someone miss that, you ask?), know that an editor probably didn't have time to read the article thoroughly or the story was posted/published with little or no editing.

In 2019, *The Catholic Times* needed help with some of those issues when Bitler reached out to offer her services. Her arrival was a godsend. Practicing Catholics with copy-editing experience like hers are not easy to find.

Bitler is a graduate of Immaculate Conception School and Columbus Bishop Watterson High School. She went on to earn two degrees at Ohio State University and worked as a news and features copy editor at *The Columbus Dispatch* for 40 years from 1976 to 2016. She won numerous awards for her headline writing and praise from reporters and other editors for her diligence with copy.

Her editing over the past five years helped *The Catholic Times* win several national awards from the Catholic Media Association. The articles in the paper announcing the awards were the only instances when her name showed up in print.

Certainly, mistakes still find their way into the publication. Anyone who edits copy has nightmares about errors slipping past them. Readers and others are often quick to point them out.

Critiques are part of the job and journalists learn to develop thick skin or they don't last long in the busi-

ness, but Bitler helped the newspaper minimize the number of errors in addition to providing her skills as a talented headline writer.

The nature of her quiet contributions resembles the work of parents and so many others in the church who commit themselves daily to their duties without the slightest hint of recognition. Only God knows the sacrifices and commitment they make. And while their unsung work might not be materially rewarding, there's spiritual satisfaction to be gained from knowing an individual offered his or her service as a servant of the Lord.

Perseverance is absolutely necessary while trying to live faithfully in a world that sometimes can be discouraging.

Here in Ohio in 2023, the biggest setback was the passage of an amendment to the state's constitution that guarantees the right to an abortion and threatens parental rights. Catholics and pro-life Ohioans fought hard to defeat the ballot initiative, but now the Church and legislature are regrouping to find ways to protect human life from the moment of conception.

Sadly, several churches in the diocese were closed as part of the Real Presence Real Future initiative, but there were encouraging signs of hope to address the shortage of priests with the number of seminarians almost doubling to 37 in 2023. Another positive development was the addition of more priests and sisters from religious orders coming this year to serve in the diocese.

Zooming out to look at the bigger picture, the Cath-

Speaking as a witness to Christ's love can transform others

When I had my fitness business, it was important to practice what I was teaching and to share the personal impact it had on me. Giving my witness about how this way of exercising was transforming my physical life often made other people more open and willing to try it.

Advent and the Christmas season are special times when we as Christians are called to witness to our faith by how we prepare our hearts, our families and our homes to welcome Jesus anew into our lives.

I'm not a formal religion teacher, but when I've had the privilege of speaking about my faith, it's in the form of witness to how God is working in my life and in the lives of others. Real-life stories, with the honest ups and downs of the journey, can make a powerful point about God's personal and intimate love for us.

It is my hope that by witnessing to the realities of our faith, Jesus becomes even more relatable and His love more palpable.

Pope St. Paul VI said, "Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses."

As Jesus ascended to heaven after His resurrection, I can only imagine the thoughts going through the minds of the Apostles before the Holy Spirit came upon them: Where is He going? Why is He leaving us? How will we do this without Him? What will we say and do to carry on His mission?

Then the Holy Spirit came upon them at Pentecost,

HOLY AND HEALTHY | Lori Crock

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



and the spark of love became a flame of love that continues to burn brightly in you and me.

From Acts 1:8, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

We are beloved children of God who are called to share our love of God with others, to evangelize. As baptized Christians, filled with the Holy Spirit, we are called to boldly witness to the saving love of God by what we say and how we live. This can sometimes feel daunting – and something we'd prefer to leave to our clergy and lay leaders trained in theology.

Pope Benedict XVI wrote in *Sacramentum Caritatis*, "The aim of all Christian education, moreover, is to train the believer in an adult faith that can make him a 'new creation,' capable of bearing witness in his surroundings to the Christian hope that inspires him."

At Hilliard St. Brendan Church, we have a monthly parishioner witness talk given during a time of parish

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by the availability of prayer teams. The parishioner witness is about 15 minutes, and this time of personal sharing has been truly remarkable.

We all have a story to tell about how God is working in our lives. When someone sitting in the pew stands up to courageously speak about their intimate journey with Jesus in such a public way it is hard to describe the profound impact it has had on me personally and on others in our parish.

Personal witness has helped me to appreciate the interconnectedness of the Body of Christ and our great need for one another. Personal witness lifts us up with hope, joy, peace, awe and wonder as we look with new eyes at the unfathomable love of God operating in each of us.

St. Paul the Apostle reminds us of our interconnectedness with those who have gone before us. From Hebrews 12:1, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us."

Let us pray for boldness to witness to God's love and presence out of love for others. We are a new creation, so Holy Spirit, come and give us the courage to speak with confidence about our faith and the transforming love of Jesus in our lives.

Saints offer us inspiration, role models for living

By Doris Cáceres-Schumick

Becoming a saint is the Catholic Church's highest honor. Many centuries ago, saints were chosen by public approval. Gradually, the bishops, and finally the Vatican, took over the process of making saints or canonization.

Many people, including myself, have a fascination with saints. Their life stories show us how to shift from ordinary to extraordinary, serving as the utmost role models, inspiring us to live more for the Lord and for his people and becoming more holy.

This text presents 12 saints whom I pray to and who inspire me the most, summarized in two sentences or fewer, followed by their patronage and feast day.

But first, test your saintly knowledge by answering the following questions (answers are at the end):

1. What/who is a Catholic saint?
2. How do you become a Catholic saint?
3. Do you pray to a particular saint? Who? Why?
4. How do you pray to a saint?
5. Can you become a saint?

Here are the 12 saints:

St. Alphonsus Liguori: As a youngster, he and his father went on retreats together, and his mother instilled in him prayer and faith in God. As an adult, he became a lawyer; however, his discontent in this profession led him to follow God's call, converting to a bishop and a doctor of the Church.

Patron saint of: confessors, moral theologians, the lay apostolate
Feast day: Aug. 1

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton: Brought up an Episcopalian, her conversion as a Roman Catholic left her an outcast from her family and the anti-Catholic community. Her life

blessings included those of wife, mother, educator, consecrated nun and the founder of the first Catholic girls school and the first American congregation of religious sisters, the Sisters of Charity.

Patron saint of: Catholic schools, widows
Feast day: Jan. 4

St. Faustina Kowalska: One night at the age of 20, Faustina was at a party when everything around her disappeared and she saw Jesus standing before her, bloody and suffering, asking, "How long will you make me wait?" She felt the calling to be a religious sister, but her parents said no; she headed to Warsaw to enter the convent.

Patron saint of: mercy
Feast day: Oct. 5

St. Joan of Arc: Born in France, she was a poor girl from a tiny village who heard the voice of God to lead the French army to victory against the English. Despite her success, she was captured by the English, accused of witchcraft and dressing as a man, and convicted and burned at the age of 19 or 20.

Patron saint of: France, imprisoned people, the military
Feast day: May 30

St. Joseph: A carpenter and working man, when he learned about his betrothed Mary's pregnancy, he considered sending her away to not expose her to shame; instead, he followed an angel's instructions to marry her. God chose him, from all men, to be the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus.

Patron saint of: workers, fathers, Universal Church
Feast day: March 19

St. Josephine Bakhita: Born in Sudan, Africa, she was kidnapped around the age of 8 by Arab slave traders and forced to walk more than 600 miles barefoot to a

slave market. Bought and sold more than 12 times during the next 12 years, she was eventually placed in the custody of the Canossian Sisters in Venice where she came to learn about God, fought for and gained her freedom, and then chose to remain with the Canossian Sisters.

Patron saint of: human trafficking survivors
Feast day: Feb. 8

St. Kateri Tekakwitha: Born to a Mohawk father and a Christian Algonquin mother, she received baptism at age 20 and devoted her life to prayer under the Jesuit priests, despite persecution from her tribe due to her conversion.

Patron saint of: the environment, Native Americans
Feast day: July 14

St. Mary the Virgin: Betrothed to Joseph in Nazareth when the Archangel Gabriel told her that she was to be the mother of Christ, she trusted in God's plan and said "yes." Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem, where she gave birth to Jesus, becoming the perfect example of discipleship.

Patron saint of: motherhood, virginity
Feast day: Aug. 15

St. Michael the Archangel: Not human but an angel created by God to become the leader of the army of God to defeat the devil and the angels siding with it. Michael is the protector of the human race, defending us in battle against the devil.

Patron saint of: battles, soldiers
Feast day: Sept. 29

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta: She led others to help the homeless and administered lovingly to the sick, the dying and the poor in Calcutta, India.

Patron saint of: World Youth Day
Feast day: Sept. 5

St. Peter Claver: He baptized and comforted thousands of slaves with his gentle manner and gifts of medicine and food. He carried pictures to show Christ's life, explaining to his helpers, "We must speak with our hands before we try to speak to them with our lips."

Patron saint of: Colombia, missions to slaves, African Americans
Feast day: Sept. 9

St. Therese of Lisieux: Known as the "Little Flower," the young Carmelite nun longed to follow the example of the Apostles, spreading the love of Christ in foreign lands. Not permitted to fulfill this vocation, she prayed for many priests who loved Jesus and remarked that anyone could become a saint by doing daily tasks of sacrifice and love for Christ before her death of tuberculosis at age 24.

Patron saint of: missionaries, against illness
Feast day: Oct. 1

Here are the answers to the opening questions:

1. A saint is an individual whose exceptional holiness Christians believe has earned him or her a place in heaven.
2. Listen, love, trust and follow God's call to lead others to know and believe God's promises. This involves change and work on your behalf.
3. Answers will vary.
4. Look for resources that offer prayers to, and information about, the saint from whose intercession you seek.
5. Yes!

Doris Cáceres-Schumick is a practicing Catholic, freelance writer, and author of a children's book and an adult book, blogs and articles.

Holy Rosary-St. John to honor Dr. King

Columbus Holy Rosary-St. John Church, 660 S. Ohio Ave., will host its annual Martin Luther King Day celebration from noon to 1:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 16. The featured speaker will be Dr. Andre Brown, assistant dean for diversity, equity, inclusion and justice at Ohio State University's college of arts and sciences. Vernon Hairston will be directing the parish gospel choir.

Brown, a Holy Rosary-St. John parishioner, has worked in the student affairs departments of several universities for

the past two decades. He also is the author of many scholarly publications and conference presentations on historically Black fraternities and sororities and the impact of college on Black male students.

"In my speech, I will discuss the relevance of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's dream in contemporary times and how we, as a church community, can come together to learn and serve," Brown said. "As King mentioned in his historic 1963 address at the Lincoln Me-

morial, 'We cannot walk alone. And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall always march ahead. We cannot turn back.'"

Holy Rosary-St. John Church has been celebrating Martin Luther King Day every year since the holiday was established in 1986, making its celebration the oldest of its type in the city of Columbus. For additional information, email hrsjevents@gmail.com or call (614) 252-5926, extension 7.



Dr. Andre Brown

Diocesan seminarian installed as acolyte

Bishop Steven Raica of the Diocese of Birmingham, Alabama, installed Diocese of Columbus seminarian Zachary Goodchild as an acolyte on Sunday, Dec. 10 at the Pontifical College Josephinum as part of an installation ceremony for lectors and acolytes at the seminary.

The ministries of lector and acolyte, which were once considered minor orders by the Church, were established by Pope St. Paul VI in 1973 with the apostolic letter Ministeria Quaedam.

Lectors are commissioned to proclaim the Word of God in the liturgical assembly and to instruct children and adults in the faith to prepare them to receive the sacraments. Acolytes are entrusted with attending to the altar, assisting the deacon and priest at Mass

and distributing Holy Communion during the liturgy and to the sick.

In the rite, each candidate is handed a symbol of the ministry to which he is being instituted. Lectors receive a Book of the Gospels, and acolytes are presented with a chalice. The bishop encourages the men to fulfill the ministry faithfully.

Institution to these ministries are pivotal steps on the journey toward priesthood. Typically, seminarians are instituted as lectors in their first year of the theological studies and as acolytes the following year.

Bishop Raica, formerly the bishop of Gaylord, Michigan, has served on the Josephinum's Board of Directors since 2018.



Bishop Steven Raica (center) of the Diocese of Birmingham, Alabama, installed Diocese of Columbus seminarian Zachary Goodchild (right) as an acolyte on Dec. 10 at the Pontifical College Josephinum. At left is Father Steven Beseau, the Josephinum's rector and president.

Photo courtesy Pontifical College Josephinum

Deacon candidates installed as acolytes

Ten men studying for the permanent diaconate were installed to the ministry of acolyte on Sunday, Dec. 17 at St. Joseph Cathedral by Bishop Earl Fernandes. The candidates are (back row from left) Matthew Shaw of Logan St. John Church, Michael Berger of Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church, Matthew Paul of Delaware St. Mary Church, Fidel Pitones of Worthington St. Michael Church, David Collinsworth of Westerville St. Paul Church, Christopher Spiese of Ada Our Lady of Lourdes and Kenton Immaculate Conception churches, Robert Lancia of Columbus St. Cecilia Church, Bryan Inderhees of Powell St. Joan of Arc and Columbus St. Peter churches, Louis Griffith of Columbus Our Lady of Peace Church and (front row, far right) David Fesenmyer of New Albany Church of the Resurrection. Joining them were (front row from left) Deacon Tom Berg Jr., diocesan Chancellor; Deacon Steve Petrill, director of diaconal ministry; Bishop Fernandes and Deacon Frank Iannarino, director of ministry and life of deacons.

CT photo by Ken Snow



**YEAR IN
REVIEW
2023**

Front Page photos:

YEAR IN REVIEW

Priest and deacon ordinations, special Masses and evangelization conferences were among the highlights in the diocese during 2023.

CT photos by Ken Snow and contributors

The
CATHOLIC
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2023 brought changes to diocese, increase in seminarians

By Tim Puet

For The Catholic Times

The year 2023 was a time of transition for the Diocese of Columbus as recommendations made through the diocese's Real Presence Real Future initiative began being put into effect. It was also a year in which the diocese ordained one new priest, experienced a marked increase in seminarians studying for the priesthood and welcomed more religious orders to serve the faithful.



Newly ordained Father PeterClaver Kasasa Kiviiri blesses Bishop Earl Fernandes in May after the ordination Mass at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral. *CT photo by Ken Snow*

Father PeterClaver Kasasa Kiviiri was ordained a priest of the diocese on May 27 at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral. It was the first ordination of a priest for the diocese in two years and Bishop Earl Fernandes' first time as bishop ordaining a priest.

Father Kiviiri, 43, came to the United States from Uganda in 2006 to study for the priesthood, left the seminary for several years and resumed his studies in 2019 after meeting with Bishop Frederick Campbell at the 2019 Columbus Catholic Men's Conference.

The bishop ordained Deacons Tyler Carter, Jason Fox, Michael Haemmerle and David Johnstone to the diaconate on May 5 at Westerville St. Paul Church and Deacon Daniel Colby on Nov. 10 at the cathedral. He hopes to ordain them all as priests this coming May.

Father William Hahn, diocesan vocations director, said 16 men from the diocese, the largest group in many years, began studying for the priesthood this fall at either the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus or Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Cincinnati.

The Catholic Church recently restructured its program for the formation of seminarians into four stages, adding one to three years to the process. As a result, the diocese sent eight of the 16 seminarians to Cincinnati. It was the first time in years that diocesan first-year seminarians were sent somewhere other than the Josephinum.

The diocese now has 37 seminarians, with five scheduled to be ordained to the priesthood in May 2024 and another

three in May 2025.

The diocese welcomed members of two religious orders of priests and two



The Apostolic Sisters of St. John, one of the orders that arrived this year to serve in the diocese, speak at the Marian Dinner at Columbus St. Andrew Church. *CT photo by Ken Snow*

orders of sisters to serve in its 23 counties this year. The priests are the Capuchin Franciscans, who served in the diocese in previous years, and the Pallottine Fathers from India.

The sisters belong to the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (FIHM) from Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, India, and the Apostolic Sisters of St. John.

Members of 14 orders of priests and 23 orders of sisters are stationed in the diocese. The order priests have pastoral responsibility for several diocesan parishes where Columbus diocesan priests had been stationed, and this has helped significantly in easing the priest shortage. The sisters are serving as teachers, nurses and in many other positions in parishes and hospitals.



Marchers head north on High Street in downtown Columbus at the Ohio March for Life in October. *CT photo by Ken Snow*

The pro-life cause in Ohio suffered a major setback when a state constitutional amendment permitting unrestricted abortion statewide was approved by voters Nov. 7. In a statement following the vote, the state's bishops said it was "a tragic day for women, children and families in Ohio."

"Despite the obstacles this amendment presents, the Catholic Church in Ohio will continue to work for pol-

icies that defend the most vulnerable, strengthen the child-parent relationship and support women in need," they said.

Bishop Fernandes issued a statement this month announcing creation of a Respect Life Office that "will be dedicated to helping build the culture of life in a sustainable and lasting way, including through formational conferences for pro-life leaders and health-care workers."

The statement also encouraged all parishes to have Holy Hours, "especially on the Thursday before (the) First Friday (of the month) or on the First Friday itself in reparation for sins against human life and dignity, praying also for the building of a civilization of love."

He also urged a return to the traditional discipline of abstaining from meat on Fridays as another form of reparation and prayer and said the diocese would be organizing a pilgrimage to the March for Life in Washington in January and making additional efforts to encourage the formation of young people as missionaries for the culture of life.

The most noticeable changes in the diocese were the closings of several parishes, announced through the year in documents titled "decrees of suppression" by Bishop Earl Fernandes and approved by the diocesan presbyterial council. Reasons for the closings were demographic changes; declines in parish registration, Mass attendance and offertory revenue; and a shortage of priests.

The first of these changes was announced in April and took effect July 1. They involved the closing of Columbus St. Ladislav and Corpus Christi churches, with their parishioners being absorbed into Columbus St. Mary, Mother of God Church, and the closing of Columbus Holy Cross Church, with parishioners being absorbed into Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral.

A new parish, Columbus Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the New Evangelization Church, was created Sept. 1 to embrace members of Columbus Holy Name Church and Parroquia Santa Cruz, a parish primarily for Spanish-speaking Catholics, both of which were suppressed. The new parish's worship site is the former Holy Name Church, as it had been for the two suppressed parishes.

Columbus St. Anthony Church was suppressed effective Oct. 20, with parishioners being absorbed into Columbus St. Elizabeth Church. Effective Nov. 5, Glenmont Sts. Peter and Paul Church was absorbed into Millersburg St. Peter Church, and Newcomerstown St. Francis de Sales Church was absorbed into Coshocton Sacred Heart Church, followed on Nov. 30 by Columbus St. Philip Church being absorbed into Columbus Holy Spirit Church.

Effective Dec. 31, the previous four-church Perry County Consortium of Parishes will be reduced to two churches as

Corning St. Bernard Church is absorbed into Junction City St. Patrick Church and Crooksville Church of the Atonement into New Lexington St. Rose Church.

Effective April 30, Lancaster St. Mark Church will be absorbed into that city's Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, and both Bremen St. Mary and Sugar Grove St. Joseph churches will be absorbed into Lancaster St. Bernadette Church.

More such changes are anticipated in the coming year. Several other parishes have become part of the pastorate of one priest as part of the initiative, with many of them having formed transition teams to discuss how they will restructure, using one of four draft models proposed by the initiative.

As another part of the restructuring, effective July 1, parishes became part of one of 10 deaneries or vicariates. This replaced a structure of three regional vicariates with one similar to the way parishes were organized for most of the late 20th and early 21st centuries.



Diane LeMay is consecrated as a virgin in New Albany Church of the Resurrection in July.

Photo courtesy Diane LeMay

Dr. Diane LeMay was ordained on July 26 in the New Albany Church of the Resurrection as one of several consecrated virgins in the diocese. These women support themselves by earning a living and are responsible for praying for their diocese and the clergy.

LeMay, a pediatrician for more than a quarter-century, will meet with Bishop Fernandes at least once a year to determine how she can best serve the diocese.

The Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity, better known as the Stella Niagara Franciscans, who have ministered in the diocese since 1875, ended their communal presence in the diocese with the closing in September of St. Leo Convent on Columbus' south side. Two sisters had been living there. Individual Stella Niagara sisters remain in the diocese at various residences.

The cloistered Dominican Sisters of Our Lady of the Rosary, who had moved from Buffalo, New York to the former Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center in Heath in 2020, disbanded and trans-

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ferred to other cloistered Dominican monasteries. The 14 sisters decided the challenges they faced were too great to build a monastery and continue as an autonomous community.

Nationwide Children's Hospital opened a school-based health center in February in the former convent for St.



A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held after the completion of an expansion project at the Bishop Griffin Resource Center on Columbus' east side.

CT photo by Ken Snow

Mary School in Columbus' German Village neighborhood. The 5,000-square-foot center will provide medical, vision, hearing and behavioral health care with staffing from the hospital for the school's 400-plus students and all other children in the neighborhood.

The former convent also is the new lo-



Father David Arroyo attends World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal in August with a group from the diocese. Father Arroyo became the diocese's vicar for hispanic ministry in 2023.

Photo courtesy Office of Hispanic Ministry

cation for the Dominican Learning Center, operated by the Dominican Sisters of Peace to serve adult learners.

Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School celebrated its 100th anniversary in September by blessing a central plaza, an Our Lady of Lourdes grotto and a convocation center that includes a 2,000-seat arena. The celebration also included an anniversary Mass celebrated by Bishop Fernandes and 11 diocesan priests and the presentation of a time capsule.

A rebuilt and expanded Bishop Griffin Resource Center was opened Aug. 14 on the campus that includes Columbus Christ the King Church and All Saints Elementary School. The original center was opened in 2007 by the St. Vincent de Paul Society and was demolished to make way for the new building, which serves families in need in a variety of ways.

The 11,600-square-foot building includes a Mid-Ohio Market – a pantry operated in partnership with the Mid-Ohio Food Collective that provides free food in a supermarket-style setting.

The Lancaster Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, which was dedicated as a basilica in 2021, received its insignia as a basilica at a Mass celebrated by the bishop Aug. 14, the Vigil of the Feast of the Assumption. The insignia, which traditionally accompanied the pope in processions, are an umbrella-like canopy and a small gold bell on a wooden frame mounted on a pole.

The life-size outdoor Nativity scene that had been at the State Auto Insurance building at 518 E. Broad St. has been moved three blocks up the street to St. Joseph Cathedral, where it now will be a part of holiday decorations.

The 80-piece set was donated by the insurance company, now part of Liberty Mutual, to the Museum of Catholic Art and History across the street from the cathedral. The company also provided \$250,000 to maintain what has become a beloved community Christmas tradition.

Changes in the structure of diocesan offices included Deacon Frank Iannarino being appointed as director of ministry and life for the permanent diaconate and Deacon Steve Petrill as director of diaconal formation, effective May 1. They had held titles of director and associate director of the diaconate office, respectively.

Father Paul Keller, OP, was appointed as director of the diocesan Office of Divine Worship. He had been interim director since Bishop Fernandes reinstated the office in late 2022. Father Keller is a sacramental theologian, has served in seminary and parish life and is assigned to St. Patrick Priory in Columbus.

Father David Arroyo, CR, was appointed as vicar for Hispanic ministry in the diocese. He replaces Father David Schalk, who was appointed pastor of Powell St. Joan of Arc and Columbus St. Peter churches, where Father Arroyo is

parochial vicar.

At the diocesan evangelization office, Dr. Marlon De La Torre became senior director of evangelization and Father Adam Streitenberger moved from that position to vicar for evangelization.

Marty Raines retired on Oct. 31 as director of the Diocesan Recreation Association after more than 15 years. She was succeeded by Ryan Aiello. In addition, the association's name was changed to the Catholic Youth Organization, as it was known for many years in the past.

Other longtime diocesan employees who retired in 2023 included cemeteries director Rich Finn, who served the diocese for 42 years, and assistant school superintendent Kitty Quinn, who was employed by the Office of Catholic Schools for 34 years after spending 14 years in Iowa and two years in Massachusetts as a teacher.



A relic of St. Jude was on display in a reliquary for veneration at New Albany Church of the Resurrection and two other parishes in the diocese in late October and early November.

CT photo by Ken Snow

Brian Hickey was appointed at the beginning of the year as executive director of the Catholic Conference of Ohio, replacing Jerry Freewalt, who resigned from the position in December 2022 to return to his former post as director of the diocesan Office for Social Concerns. Hickey had been the state conference's associate director for social concerns since December 2021.

Kelley Henderson, former executive director of Catholic Charities of West Tennessee, became president and chief executive officer of Catholic Social Services in October, replacing Rachel Lustig, who now has the same position with Lutheran Social Services of Columbus.

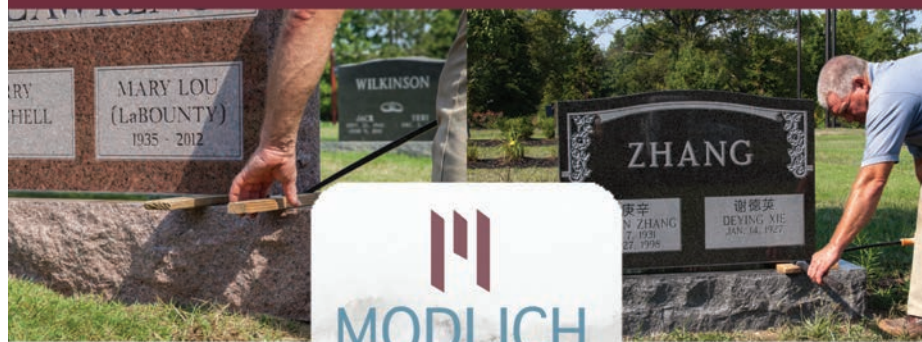
Father Steven Beseau was appointed

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YEAR IN REVIEW, *continued from Page 10*

Diocesan women were honored with the St. Teresa of Calcutta award in November at Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.

Photo courtesy Abigail Pitones

to a second three-year term as rector and president of the Josephinum. The priest of the Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kansas, came to the Josephinum in 2021 and will continue to lead the seminary through June 2027.

Rick Jeric, former diocesan development director and executive director of the Women's Care Center of Columbus, became vice president for advancement at the Josephinum, where he had been serving as senior director for major gifts since late 2022.

More than 5,000 people venerated a relic of St. Jude the Apostle that was displayed at Westerville St. Paul Church, the Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center and the New Albany Church of the Resurrection on Oct. 30 and 31 and Nov. 1.

St. Gabriel Catholic Radio expanded its reach to areas of southeast Ohio with the opening of a third station in Athens on Nov. 1, All Saints Day. Its programs now can be heard on AM 820 in Columbus, FM 88.7 in Portsmouth and FM 106.7 in Athens.

The Catholic Men's Luncheon Club selected Dr. Eric Yang of Columbus St. Peter Church as its Catholic Man of the Year. Yang is an adjunct professor of biology at the Josephinum, a district deputy for the Knights of Columbus and is actively involved in the diocesan Catholic Men's Ministry, the Filipino Catholic community and ministries in his parish.

The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women presented its inaugural St. Mother Teresa recognition awards to 30 women from 21 parishes on Nov. 5. These succeed the council's former Catholic Woman of the Year and Catholic Young Woman of the Year awards, which last were presented in 2016.

Retired Msgr. James Walter was honored in April by Pope Francis, who awarded him the title of monsignor, a designation recognizing long and dedicated service to the Church and its people. He has been a priest for 61 years and retired in July 2022 as pastor of Sugar Grove St. Joseph Church.

He also served at several other diocesan parishes, was a teacher at Columbus Bishop Watterson and St. Francis DeSales high schools and was a hospital chaplain. He was the first diocesan priest to be designated a monsignor

since 1999.

Father Ronald J. Aubry, 67, died on Dec. 28, 2022, after The Catholic Times' 2022 year-end issue had gone to press. He served as pastor of Millersburg St. Peter and Glenmont Sts. Peter and Paul churches for 24 of his 41 years as a priest – from 1991 to 2011 and from 2018 until his retirement in 2022. He also was pastor of Zoar Holy Trinity Church.

As of press time for this issue of the newspaper, no diocesan priest had died in 2023.

Father Clarence E. Williams, Jr., CPPS, 73, pastor of Columbus St. James the Less Church from 2012-2018, died on Saturday, July 8.

He had been a priest of the Missionaries of the Most Precious Blood for 44 years and was known nationwide for his efforts on behalf of racial equality.

He ministered in the Archdiocese of Detroit for more than 25 years and from 2007-2010 was director of racial equality and diversity for Catholic Charities USA in Washington.

Father Ciaran Fergus, OP, 91, died at the Mohun Health Care Center in Columbus on Sept. 2. He spent most of his 58 years as a Dominican friar in college ministry at eight schools and taught at two other colleges.

Deacon Ronald H. Fondriest, 91, died Sept. 18. He was ordained to the diaconate in 1979, spending all his 44 years as a deacon serving his home parish of Dover St. Joseph. He retired from active ministry in 2010 but continued to help the people of his parish and Tuscarawas County wherever needed.

Deacon Paul Deshaies, 75, died Oct. 11. He was ordained in 2001 and served at Lancaster St. Bernadette Church, as a prison chaplain in Lancaster and in Latino ministry at Columbus St. Agnes Church, retiring from active ministry in 2017 and continuing as a part-time prison chaplain until 2020.

Religious sisters who died in late 2022 and 2023 and had served in or were natives of the Diocese of Columbus, or who were living in the diocese at the time of their deaths, were: Sister Michaelleen Henderson, OP, 91, Dec. 22, 2022; Sister Mary Justin Fadden, OP, 95, Dec. 26, 2002; Sister Cathleen Ryan, OP, 94, Feb. 23; Sister M. Colette Rhoney, OSF, 91, March 6; Sister Ruth Hamel, OP, 63, March 27; Sister Agnes Imelda Frohnappfel, OP, 100, July 1; Sister Mary Carolina "Lina" Hess, SNDdeN, 92, July 4; Sister Patricia Mitchell, OSF, 90, July 18; Sister Jeanne Marie Suerth, SNDdeN, 89, July 24; Sister Margaret Scullin, OP, 97, July 28; Sister Eleanor Colgan, SNDdeN, 93, Aug. 11; Sister Mauryeen O'Brien, OP, 92, Aug. 22; Sister Kathleen Andrews, OP, 86, Aug. 31; Sister M. Barbara Holtzinger, OSF, 101, Sept. 25; Sister Arleen Kisiel, OP, 75, Oct. 6; Sister Lorraine Marie Torres, OP, 90, Nov. 20; Sister Jacqueline Baum, OP, 89, Nov. 20 and Sister John Marie Charniga, OP, 88, Dec. 16.



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- January 26 - 28 | Men's Retreat with Fr. Matt Linn, SJ
- February 16 - 18 | Men's Retreat with Fr. Michael Graham, SJ
- February 23 - 25 | Men & Women's Retreat with Fr. Jeff Putthoff, SJ
- March 1 - 3 | Men's Retreat with Fr. Jim Kubicki, SJ
- March 8 - 10 | Women's Retreat with Nicki Verploegen


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Travel agent for Catholic tours says people want to go places again

By Tim Puet

For *The Catholic Times*

A local travel agent who arranges tours for Catholics to holy sites says people's desire to visit those places and to explore the world in general seems stronger than ever.

"The aftereffects of the 2020 COVID pandemic continue to play a big role in people's enthusiasm for getting out and doing the things they missed out on at the height of the pandemic and in 2021, when things were still in a recovery mode," said Lisa Balek of L&L Travel Co. in Westerville.

"Travel began to get back to normal in 2022, then got crazy in 2023 with lots of groups wanting to satisfy pent-up demand," she said. "From what I'm seeing, the numbers may get bigger in 2024 for Catholic travel and travel overall."

But because of a renewal of strife in the Holy Land, one of the most popular destinations for Catholics, "that region is off-limits again for who knows how long," Balek said. "I had one group of 53 people from Marion St. Mary Church, with Father Seth Keller leading them, all set to go, but that trip has been canceled until at least April 2025."

This past March, Balek and Nativity Pilgrimage of Houston, which has an office in Bethlehem, arranged a Holy Land

tour for 19 central Ohio pilgrims. It was to have been led by Father Hilary Ike of Columbus St. Elizabeth Church, but he was called to service with the U.S. Army Reserve at the same time of the pilgrimage.

Members and friends of Groveport St. Mary Church were part of that pilgrimage, and one of them said the tour guides in Israel and in Jordan were very knowledgeable and informative.

The pilgrims visited locations central to the Lord's life on earth, including the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth and the Chapel of the Ascension in Jerusalem. The Groveport group participated in daily Mass with other tour groups from throughout the world at these holy sites, each with its own religious theme.

Married members of the tour group renewed their vows at Cana in Galilee, and the pilgrims prayed the Stations of the Cross along the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem and a daily rosary while traveling between stops on the tour route.

Tours of Petra, Jerash and Mount Nebo in Jordan and the Western Wall in Jerusalem further enhanced the experience, which included a cruise on the Sea of Galilee, an opportunity to float in the Dead Sea, a cultural dance show and local cuisine.

"That's where a group like Nativity, which is on the ground in the Holy Land, comes in handy," Balek said. "They pro-



A group of pilgrims from Groveport St. Mary Church visited the Holy Land in March. A local priest guided the travelers, celebrated Mass at local churches and gave them new perspectives on language and ceremonies.

Photo courtesy Lisa Balek

vided a local priest from the Holy Land to be the pilgrimage's spiritual lead-

er. The pilgrims would have loved to have Father Hilary, but the local priest's knowledge of the area led them to many wonderful churches and places they may have missed otherwise.

"The last Mass of the pilgrimage was in Arabic, and the group couldn't understand a thing, but it didn't matter because the Mass is the same everywhere, and the pilgrims said it gave them a powerful sense of connection to Jesus just because of where they were," she said.

Balek was unable to go on the pilgrimage but visited the Holy Land at another time last year and in 2019. She also has taken part in a "footsteps of St. Paul" pilgrimage to Greece and Turkey. She has 10 years of experience as a travel adviser and joined with fellow agent Laura Hilbig to form L&L. She began offering pilgrimages for Catholic travelers in 2019, "but that was right when COVID hit," she said, "and that shut down the travel business for everyone."

Her agency is arranging a pilgrimage in August and September with Father Elias Udeh, CSSp, associate pastor of Powell St. Joan of Arc and Columbus St. Peter churches, to Marian sites in Portugal, France and Spain. The company also offers Catholic tour packages to Mexico, Italy and the Vatican.

Newark parish hosts pilgrimage to Kentucky's Holy Land

By Dan Bell

Newark St. Francis de Sales Church led a group of 54 central Ohio parishioners on a "Blessings of the Bourbon Trail Pilgrimage" from Oct. 22-25 in northwestern Kentucky.

The pilgrimage included visits to several bourbon distilleries along with sites that have had a major impact on Catholicism in the United States. The sites were chosen to help educate pilgrims about some of the first Catholic settlements in America.

The pilgrimage began with a visit to the Abbey of Gethsemani in Trappist near Bardstown. At the abbey, the tour group was welcomed and provided with a 30-minute question-and-answer session by guestmaster Father Carlos Rodriguez. The group received a detailed understanding of the history of the Trappist monks who established their site in 1848.

Following the briefing, Father David Sizemore, pastor of St. Francis de Sales, celebrated Mass in the abbey chapel. After Mass, pilgrims toured the abbey grounds and visited the gift shop. All items sold raise money for the abbey, which is a community of Roman Catholic monks belonging to the Order of Cis-



Father Carlos Rodriguez, guestmaster of the Abbey of Gethsemani in Trappist, Kentucky, provides information to 54 members of central Ohio Catholic parishes during a tour of Kentucky's Holy Land in October. He described the monks' daily lives, the nature trails and retreat opportunities in addition to the history of the Abbey. Photo courtesy Newark St. Francis de Sales Church

tercians of Strict Observance, commonly known as Trappist.

The website www.gethsemanifarms.org also displays items that can be purchased such as fudge, fruitcake and religious items made by the monks of Gethsemani.

Following the visit to Gethsemani, the pilgrims enjoyed tours and tastings at Log Still and Maker's Mark distilleries and Heaven Hill Bourbon Heritage Center in Nelson County. In 1785, a

churchgoer living in Maryland brought immigrants with distilling knowledge to Kentucky. Basil Hayden, a distiller, brought 25 families to start a local Catholic church community in Nelson County.

On the second day of the "Blessings of the Bourbon Trail Pilgrimage," the group toured the Thomas Merton Center in Louisville. The center, home to the largest collection of works by Merton, a Trappist monk of the Abbey of Gethse-

mani, is in the W.L. Lyons Brown Library at Bellarmine University.

Following the tour of the center, the group celebrated Mass in Our Lady of the Woods Chapel at Bellarmine. The group then visited Stitzel Weller and Kentucky Artisan distilleries for tours and tastings.

The final day consisted of celebrating Mass at the Cathedral of the Assumption in downtown Louisville. Pilgrimage members also visited other sites in Louisville as well as the Old Forester and Angel's Envy distilleries.

The location of the Kentucky pilgrimage was chosen as an affordable opportunity for central Ohio Catholics to visit important places in the life of the Catholic Church in America. Each year, Father Sizemore also leads overseas pilgrimages to holy sites in Europe, Israel and elsewhere. In June 2024, he will lead a Marian shrine tour to Fatima, Lourdes, Barcelona, Paris and other sites.

On the "Blessings of the Bourbon Trail" pilgrimage, participants enjoyed fellowship, celebrated daily Mass, learned about the history of Catholics in America and appreciated local spirits at distilleries founded by the early bourbon makers of the United States.

Dan Bell is a Newark St. Francis de Sales parishioner.

Group trip to Italy included many holy sites

By Lynne Stelmach

My husband, Doug, and I have participated in multiple pilgrimages to Europe with Father Daniel Dury (aka “Padre”), pastor at Sunbury St. John Neumann Church and previous pastor at Columbus St. Catharine Church.

Our most recent trip, in early September 2023, was to Italy. This pilgrimage was planned by Father Dury and a private tour operator/manager he had worked with in the past. The dates were provided along with preferred cities to visit, and she took it from there to build an itinerary.

Once we landed in Rome and retrieved our luggage at the airport, we were met by our tour escort, a delightful, faith-filled Italian-American who was, unfortunately, from “that state up north.”

One of the many benefits of being on a group pilgrimage is the transportation. We rode in an air-conditioned, private motor coach with a professional, skilled driver and didn’t have to worry about traffic or parking.

Adding to the connection with our Catholic faith, our bus driver had a rosary hanging over his shoulder, holy cards of the Blessed Virgin Mary and multiple Divine Mercy holy cards fastened above and next to his seat.



A group from the diocese led by Father Dan Dury, pastor at Sunbury St. John Neumann Church, toured various sites in Italy on a pilgrimage in September. Photo courtesy Lynne Stelmach



receiving the sacrament of reconciliation – in English – at St. Peter’s Basilica, the priest handing us a prayer card containing a relic from Pope St. John Paul II and then going to Adoration in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. The chapel is an area closed off with a thick velvet curtain that blocks noise from the basilica and allows near silence while adoring Our Lord.

I noticed how many others in our group of 32 also chose to go to confession and then Adoration.

Another highlight in Rome was the Scavi Tour of the necropolis beneath St. Peter’s Basilica. The temperature in Rome that day was in the upper 80s, and the humidity on the tour had most of us sweating profusely. However, seeing the excavation sites and the actual bones of St. Peter was worth it.

During the pilgrimage, we celebrated Mass every day and in some magnificent places such as at the Tomb of St. Francis of Assisi and in the Chapel of the Corporal in Orvieto (see the Eucharistic Miracle of Bolsena), St. Peter’s Basilica and the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, to name a few.

Generally, everyone was required to stay with the group, the size of which varies and does make a difference. (It’s a

See ITALY, Page 19

We traveled from Rome to Assisi, where we spent three fabulous days and two nights. From there we went to Siena, with a day trip in between to the medieval town of San Gimignano, which boasts the “best gelato in the world,” followed by a wine tasting at a Tuscan

family farm.

We spent a day in the beautiful hill city of Orvieto and then traveled back to Rome where we stayed for five days. It is still incredible to reflect on the memories!

One of the great highlights of this pilgrimage for my husband and myself was

Step by step, pilgrim helped student learn to pray

By Kelsey Moore

My pilgrimage to Rome in March 2023 happened while I was attending RCIA classes to become Catholic. I was baptized and received my first Holy Communion the following month, in April.

The year leading up to my baptism was astonishing. I experienced many coincidences that had God’s hands all over them. My ticket to Rome was no exception.

See PILGRIM, Page 16



A group from Buckeye Catholic at the St. Thomas More Newman Center serving the Ohio State University campus in Columbus traveled to Rome in March on a spring break pilgrimage. Photo courtesy Buckeye Catholic

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Holy Family Year B

Christ can relate to our world

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
or Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3
Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5
or Psalm 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9
Colossians 3:12-21
or Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19
Luke 2:22-40

The reality of family life is highlighted by a special feast in honor of the Holy Family of Nazareth. It is fitting to have this feast during the Christmas season, when we celebrate the Incarnation, Emanuel, God-with-us.

For better or for worse, all human beings have some experience of the life of a family. God entered our world in the humble reality of a human family.

The readings offered for this celebration are a smorgasbord of wisdom and accounts of the plight of families in our salvation history.

Abram and Sarah receive the fulfillment of God's promise in the birth of Isaac. This birth heralds a future for Abraham and Sarah as parents of a multitude. "Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Just so, ... shall your descendants be." The faith of Abraham is held up as an example of righteousness, standing in right relationship with God.

Mary and Joseph take the Child Jesus to the temple, fulfilling their responsibility before the law and learn from Simeon the challenges that will follow. As Simeon prophesies, there will be suffering in the life of the Child and of His mother.

"Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be Solemnity of Mary Mother of God Year B

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Father Timothy Hayes

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



a sign that will be contradicted – and you yourself a sword will pierce – so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." Suffering is the common lot of all who are members of the human family.

Sirach expounds upon the responsibility that children have toward their parents. Honor and obedience lead to a mutuality of care in the life of the family. Paul deepens this wisdom by speaking of the virtues that are part of a healthy family's relationships:

"Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do.

"And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful."

To understand the meaning of the Incarnation, we are invited, as it were, to bring our own awareness of life as we experience it in our families. Nothing is foreign to the humanity of the Christ Child. He lived our life, with Mary and Joseph, and allowed it to unfold just as we experience it.

His public ministry did not begin un-

Jesus' mother is connection between us, heaven

Numbers 6:22-27
Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:16-21

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, is the Octave of Christmas. This year, because it falls on a Monday, it is not a Holy Day of Obligation. Nonetheless, it is fitting to reflect on the Scriptures of this day and to allow them to prepare us for

the graces of this new year.

We pray in the Responsorial Psalm: "May God bless us in his mercy." Through our acknowledgment that Mary is the mother of God, we recognize that God has chosen to make Himself present among us through His Son by taking our nature in cooperation with a human being.

Mary became the bearer of the living God among us, Theotokos, by her acceptance of the grace offered to her and to

THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

1/1-1/7
MONDAY
Numbers 6:22-27
Psalm 67:2-3,5,6,8
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:16-21

TUESDAY
1 John 2:22-28
Psalm 98:1,2-3ab,3cd-4
John 1:19-28

WEDNESDAY
1 John 2:29-3:6
Psalm 98:1,3cd-4,5-6
John 1:29-34

THURSDAY
1 John 3:7-10
Psalm 98:17-8,9
John 1:35:42

FRIDAY
1 John 3:11-21
Psalm 100:1b-2,3,4,598:1,2-3ab,3cd-4
John 1:43:51

SATURDAY
1 John 5:5-13
Psalm 147:12-13,14-15,19-20
Mark 1:7-11 or
Luke 3:23-38

1/9-1/14
MONDAY
Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7 or
Isaiah 55:1-11 or
Acts 10:34-38 or
1 John 5:1-9
Psalm 29:1-2,3-4,3,9-10 or
Isaiah 12:2-3,4bcd,5-6
Mark 1:7-11

TUESDAY
1 Samuel 1:1-20
1 Samuel 2:1,4-5,6-7,8abcd (Ps) or
Psalm 116:12-13,14-17,18-19
Mark 1:14-28

WEDNESDAY
1 Samuel 3:1-10,19-20

Psalm 40:2,5,7-8a,8b-9,10
Mark 1:29-39

THURSDAY
1 Samuel 4:1-11
Psalm 44:10-11,14-15,24-25
Mark 1:40-45

FRIDAY
1 Samuel 8:4-7,10-22a
Psalm 89:16-17,18-19
Mark 2:1-12

SATURDAY
1 Samuel 9:1-4,17-19;10:1
Psalm 21:2-3,4,5,6-7
Mark 2:13-17

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION

Mass Schedule: Weeks of Dec. 31, 2023 and Jan. 7, 2024

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 II AND I OF THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

til some 30 years after He came to dwell among us. This simple fact gives us pause. We can learn about what God wants for us by realizing that family life is always open to God's own Life. Whatever is truly human can be brought into our relationship with the living God.

As we celebrate Holy Family Sunday, let

us learn from Nazareth how to respond to God's grace in the "ordinariness" of our world. May our families be blessed by a commitment to love one another as Jesus, Mary and Joseph did. May we put into practice the faith of Abraham and Sarah. May God's wisdom be ever at work in us, forming us as a family open to His love.

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us through her. We are blessed by God's mercy, as He chooses to speak to us in our own nature.

The title given to Mary is primarily about her Son. Jesus is truly the Son of God. As the Son of God, He takes our nature by His birth among us. Mary's role is to serve as the connection between heaven and earth that God Himself has chosen.

In her acceptance of this role, always subordinate to and in cooperation with her Son and the Spirit of God, Mary shows us what God wants to do in us. Salvation is not something that comes to us from the outside. Rather, it is born in us and grows up among us. Jesus is our Savior, and He invites us to serve as instruments by which He continues to save the world.

Every human person is a unique creation of God. By a free act of the will, each of us is invited to be in a real relationship with God Who is real. He is real, and He is the reality from which all else flows.

The personal encounter between God and every human person calls forth a free response. In that response, we find our identity in God, and we live even here on earth the relationship that is destined to

be for all eternity.

Catholics of a certain age can respond to this question almost without thinking: "Why did God make me?" The answer: "God made me to know Him, to love Him and to serve Him in this life, and to be happy with Him forever in the next."

Through the divine motherhood of Mary, we begin to see how this flows. God creates us to know Him as He Is. In time, we are empowered by the Spirit to open our whole being to Him.

What we receive cannot be contained. It flows out, both into the time allotted to us on earth and into eternity, where we will continue to know Him, love Him and serve Him in the reality of the person we are created to be.

As we honor Mary in her role as the mother of Jesus, Who is God, we also look to the promise God makes to all human beings. The Church celebrates the World Day of Peace on this day because the Son of God comes to us in and through Mary to bring us to the fullness of peace, to Shalom, well-being and right relationship with God.

We pray simply: Mary, Mother of God, pray for us!

Epiphany Year B

Magi's coming reveals new way of seeing, living

Isaiah 60:1-6
 Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13
 Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
 Matthew 2:1-12

The call to unity is of the utmost importance in our time. Paul acknowledges that the message that has been entrusted to his stewardship is the simple fact that all human beings are called to be one:

“It has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.”

Paul's acceptance of his stewardship and the conversion from his prior way of thinking are a model for us today. When he first began as a Pharisee, according to Paul's own account of himself, he was zealous for an understanding of the law, that is, the revelation of God through the Torah, and for the practices of his own people. He saw the members of “the Way,” the first followers of the Gospel, as getting God wrong, and he believed that they were a threat.

After his encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus, he recognized that there had been a blindness in his own understanding. Now, as he writes to the Ephesians, who live in a cosmopolitan city that includes both Jews and Gentiles, he sees that God's vision for humanity is wider than what he first believed.

Pope Francis has often commented that we do not live in an era of change, but in a change of era. Something new is happening to all of us. It is not in any way a rejection of the trajectory of history or what has happened before. Rather, it is an invitation to a new way of seeing. The Feast of the Epiphany can serve to open us to an understanding concerning how this might unfold.

The Epiphany points to three moments in the life of Jesus: the coming of the Magi, the baptism of the Lord by John in the Jordan and to the self-revelation of Jesus at the Wedding Feast of Cana. Each of these moments offers some insight into God's way of making Himself known to us.

The Magi represent the world's attention to the hidden Presence of the One

Who fulfills both the promise of the Messiah for the Jews and the “desire of nations,” the longing of every human heart for salvation.

Gold shows Him as king, that is, as a leader Who has real authority over every part of humanity. Frankincense acknowledges the presence of God in Him. Incense rises as prayer and connects earthly aspirations to heaven. Myrrh points to the meaning of sacrifice and suffering, leading to glory.

The Magi come from the East, having watched for signs in nature as to a fulfillment. Passing through Jerusalem, they learn of Israel's prophecy as to where the Messiah would be born. Returning home by a different route, they show that they have learned how to be open to divine guidance from within, having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod.

We must carry with us our hopes and dreams, but we must also acknowledge that what is to come will be different than our expectations.

At His baptism, Jesus was manifested as “the Beloved Son.” This was the opening of His public ministry and a first revelation to others of the communion of life shared by the Triune God. The Father names His Son in our humanity. The Spirit descends upon Him and drives Him into the depth of human experience – temptation in the desert, suffering and death so that He may bring us the gift of salvation, fulfilling His purpose among us.

The revelation of His glory to the disciples present at Cana leads to the beginning of their faith in Him as the Messiah. The first of His signs drew them into the stewardship of the mystery entrusted to them.

As we acknowledge Jesus for Who He Is among us on Epiphany, let us allow the Spirit to open our eyes to discover anew our unity with God in Christ. May this realization open us ever more to respond with a commitment to live in unity with God and with all human beings who are destined for glory.

Let us begin to see that every nation on earth will adore Him and to live in hope, fulfilling our own stewardship of the mystery now revealed to us.

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| CENSUS | JESUS | TRUMPET |
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have the opportunity to participate in the overall formation program through membership on various committees according to his/her interests and the needs of the seminary.

Applicants may respond via email by March 1, 2024, with a curriculum vitae listing three references from whom letters of recommendation may be obtained, graduate transcripts, student and peer evaluations of two classes, and a letter of interest to: Cathi Ebling, Administrative Assistant to the Academic Dean, at cebling@pcj.edu.

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PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

BOYDEN, Elizabeth, 64, Dec. 16
St. Rose of Lima Church, New Lexington

BERRY-SAMBA, De'Andre, 5, Dec. 5
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

CIACIURA, Patricia, 86, Dec. 15
St. Paul Church, Westerville

COLLINS, Patricia A., 82, Dec. 4
St. Francis of Assisi Church, Columbus

COLOPY, Raymond G. "Jerry," 84, Dec. 5
St. Bernadette Church, Lancaster

CRUMRINE, Mary Elaine, 94, Dec. 12
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

DRUGAN, Dorothy A., 90, Dec. 13
Christ the King Church, Columbus

ELIAS, Jim, 66, Nov. 18
St. Joseph Church, Plain City

FINCK, Peter James, 67, Dec. 10
St. Patrick Church, Junction City

HABOWSKI, Irene A., 86, Nov. 26
St. Paul Church, Westerville

HANKINSON, Linda (Groves), 77, Dec. 15
St. Rose of Lima Church, New Lexington

HARDER, William R., 80, Nov. 22
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

HEIL, David, 72, Nov. 10
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

HENSEL, Nelson W. "Bill," 91, Dec. 10
St. Paul Church, Westerville

JANES, Douglas P., of Upper Arlington, 92, Dec. 9
Holy Sepulchre Cemetery Chapel, Rochester, N.Y.

KUNKLER, Barbara Jean, 78, Dec. 4
St. Bernadette Church, Lancaster

LYNCH, Gerald "Jerry," 80, Dec. 16
St. Joseph Church, Dover

MARA, Shirley A., 91, Dec. 11
Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus

MARIELDA, Nangah A., 71, Dec. 5
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

MARRYOTT, Linda (Woodard), 77, Dec. 4
St. Agatha Church, Columbus

McCLANAHAN-PEPPER, Sue E. (Herbert), 84, Dec. 12
St. Ann Church, Dresden

MUETZEL, Stephen T., 41, Dec. 1
Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption,

Lancaster

NADER, Joseph Azar, 92, Dec. 16
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

RATH, Charles W., 87, Dec. 9
St. Catharine Church, Columbus

ROGERS, Finnley Emerson, newborn, Dec. 4
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

SWALDO, Beatrice, 86, Nov. 23
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

THORNTON, Susan J. (McDonald), 78, Dec. 19
St. Mary Magdalene Church, Columbus

WEHINGER, Margaret B. (Wirthman), 58, Dec. 11
Our Lady of Victory Church, Columbus

YOUNG, Ronald L., 69, Dec. 9
Holy Spirit Church, Columbus

ZIMMERMAN, Barbara A., 77, Dec. 8
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

Sister John Marie Charniga, OP

Funeral Mass for Sister John Marie Charniga, OP, 88, who died Saturday, Dec. 16, at the Mohun Health Care Center, was celebrated Thursday, Dec. 28 at the Motherhouse of the Dominican Sisters of Peace in Columbus. Burial will be in Oxford, Michigan at the sisters' Motherhouse there.

She was born Theresa Ann Charniga on June 7, 1935 in Windber, Pennsylvania, to John and Mary Ann (Valovsky) Charniga.

She earned a Bachelor's degree in education in 1964 and a Master's degree in religious education in 1981 from Mercy College in Detroit (now the University of Detroit Mercy) and a Master's degree in education in 1970 from the then-Univer-

sity of Detroit.

She entered the Congregation of St. Rose of Lima in Oxford, Michigan (now the Dominican Sisters of Peace) in 1959 and professed her vows on Aug. 15, 1961.

She served from 1959 to 2010 as a teacher and later a religious educator, primarily in Michigan and also in Wisconsin. She was a driver at the sisters' Our Lady of the Elms Motherhouse in Akron from 2010 to 2015, then entered a life of prayer and service there before becoming a resident of the Mohun center in 2021.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, John, Joseph, Michael and George, and sisters, Mary Oshanik and Annie Lombardi.

PILGRIM, continued from Page 13

I wasn't aware of the pilgrimage until January when a campus missionary mentioned an unexpected opening among participants for the trip, and I asked for more information. I needed to decide quickly about whether to go so arrangements could be made. As I was debating, I received an unexpected refund from school of almost the exact amount needed for the trip. So, I went.

I was still very new to the Church and her teachings. I didn't know all the common prayers from memory or how to recite the rosary. I knew about few famous saints or popes. However, the pilgrimage was an extraordinary spiritual experience, even with the uncertainty I felt. I am thankful to have gone. As I look back, I feel blessed.

The people I went with were incredible. Some made a huge impact on my life. One woman whom I roomed with is one of the holiest people I have ever met — genuine, personable, bubbly, kind and selfless. I was lucky she was by my side on the day we visited the Scala Sancta, or Holy Stairs.

The tradition is to kneel on each of the 28 white marble steps in the staircase, saying an "Our Father" and a "Hail Mary" and then kissing the step before moving to the next one. I realized I had forgotten my prayer cards that the missionary had given to me. I felt unprepared and vulnerable.

As I frantically searched my bag for the cards, my roommate told me not to worry; she would quietly pray with me on every step until I got it.

As we started, she mostly led the prayers. I mumbled along, feeling vulnerable, but she was kind and selfless. We were in Rome, and she might never return, but she joyfully sacrificed the moment for me in a heartbeat.

When we were about five stairs in, someone asked us to pray silently. I froze, feeling embarrassed. My roommate didn't miss a beat, kindly but firmly whispering that I was still learning the prayers.

She then started praying again, as if nothing had happened. At this point, I was close to tears — I'm sure she heard it in my voice — but she acted as if she didn't. She slowly challenged me to say part of the prayers alone, kindly correcting or prompting me when I went silent.

We had almost made it to the top, and I finally could recite both prayers myself. When she realized I had mastered them both, she looked up at my tear-streaked face with joy, squeezed my hand, leaned in and whispered, "You did it!"

We each prayed alone on the last couple of steps. As I looked up at Jesus on the cross, I wept tears of sorrow and joy as I prayed. Now daily, as I repeat the prayers, I think of that moment and that woman's generosity.

Jesus works through His servants, and I feel blessed that I experienced Him so profoundly in that moment.

Kelsey Moore is a student at Ohio State University who attends the Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center.

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.

Forgiveness gives up ...

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THE RIGHT TO HURT BACK

Respect Life Mass, Roe Remembrance set for Jan. 22

Mark your calendars today and plan to join pro-life voices from throughout the state on Monday, Jan. 22 for the annual Respect Life Mass and Roe Remembrance.

The Mass, which will be celebrated by Bishop Earl Fernandes at 10:30 at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, and the Roe Remembrance, sponsored by Greater Columbus Right to Life (GCRTL) at noon on the west lawn of the Ohio Statehouse, commemorate the 51 years since the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in Roe v. Wade.

The events will follow both the Washington, D.C. March for Life on Friday, Jan. 19, and a series of Masses that Bishop

Fernandes will celebrate in Washington.

"These two events have always been an opportunity for the local pro-life community to join together to give thanks for the gift of life, remember and grieve those lost to or wounded by abortion, and energize for the work in the year to come. This year, this is perhaps more important than ever," said Beth Vanderkooi, GCRTL executive director.

The Roe events fall approximately a year and a half after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, leaving decisions about abortion to be made by the states. In November 2023, Ohio voters approved an amendment to the state's Constitution that enshrined a

broad list of "reproductive rights," including abortion, into the Constitution.

"We were proud of the work that we put in to defeat Issue 1 and our partnership with so many groups across the state, including the Catholic Conference and the Diocese of Columbus, but we were ultimately unsuccessful," Vanderkooi said.

"This is evidence that we have our work cut out for us. It is time to get back out on the streets and in our communities and talk about abortion – how it hurts women and kills children. I'm really excited about the initiatives that Bishop Fernandes is putting forward, and we'll be introducing some of our own as

well."

"Please plan to join us. We need to show that we experienced defeat, but we were not defeated. Love always wins, and so will life."

Attendees at the Respect Life Mass and Roe Remembrance are encouraged to arrive early, as parking can get full. Also, dress warmly: Due to facility renovations, the Roe Remembrance will be returning to the west lawn of the Statehouse. Security will be present.

For more information, including details about March for Life events in Washington and parking tips, visit www.gcrtl.org/roe.

LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS

ODU receives \$9,900 grant for psychology initiative

Ohio Dominican University has received a \$9,900 grant from the Siemer Family Foundation to support expansion of an initiative to develop educational materials promoting the field of psychology to middle school and early high school-age students.

The grant will allow expansion of the psychological detective activity box project designed by Ohio Dominican University psychology professor John Marazita with support from a grant from the Association for Psychological Science.

The project aims to provide children with exposure to psychological science as a critical step for their personal and academic development and to promote growth of the behavioral health workforce.

Marazita began developing the boxes with the assistance of students after realizing that many popular subscription-based science boxes that provide children with home-based experiments do not contain psychology-related materials.

An original set of 90 boxes was sent to middle-school classes in March 2023. Each box included activities and mini-experiments for children to explore positive psychology, stress and well-being.

The Siemer grant will allow a redesign of the first boxes and creation of additional boxes that address new topics such as perception, memory and thinking, and will enable wider distribution across central Ohio.

Each box will contain materials for conducting demonstrations and mini-experiments, as well as a research journal in which students can record data and observations and exercise their scientific thinking.

Marazita plans to distribute the boxes through central Ohio afterschool, summer and community programs.

Catholic Man of the Year nominations closing soon

Anyone wishing to nominate a candidate for the 2024 Catholic Man of the Year award who has not yet done so has only a few days left before the deadline of Sunday, Dec. 31.

Bishop Earl Fernandes will present the award at the Friday, Feb. 2 meeting of the Catholic Men's Luncheon Club at Columbus St. Patrick Church.

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

Nomination statements are reviewed by a group of two men each from the luncheon club, the Knights of Columbus, the diocesan Catholic Men's Ministry, Young Catholic Professionals and the Serra Club, plus a diocesan priest. Their recommendation is sent to the bishop for final approval.

Last year's honoree was Dr. Eric Yang of Columbus St. Peter Church.

For details, nomination instructions and the required online nomination form, go to <https://www.catholicmensministry.com/catholicmanoftheyear>.

Questions regarding the nomination or selection process may be directed to Tim Merkle at (614) 839-5700 or catholicmanoftheyear@gmail.com.

Shepherd's Corner announces slate of upcoming events

The Shepherd's Corner Ecology Center, 987 N. Waggoner Road, Blacklick, a ministry of the Dominican Sisters of Peace, invites people to experience the joys and responsibilities of caring for land, life and spirit at several events in January, February and March.

Sister Cathy Arnold, OP, will lead a program of bread making, reflection and conversation from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 3. There is a \$15 fee.

Presidents Day will be celebrated from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, Feb. 19. Families are invited to take part in seasonal activities, feed the animals, walk the trails and more. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Mary Rodney of Seeds Well Sown will lead a program on container and herb gardening on Friday, Feb. 23 from 10 a.m. to noon. She will focus on what to grow and when to start growing a range of culinary and medicinal herbs.

"Maple Sugaring: From Sap to Tap" is the theme for an event from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 2, which has a \$6 fee. The event will explore the process of making maple sugar from tree sap and include a tasting.

Everyone is invited to pet and feed the Shepherd's Corner sheep at no charge from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, March 8.

A workshop on making 3D felt flowers from dry wool and wet felting will be led by Gail Maraman from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, March 16. There is a \$20 fee.

Monthly labyrinth walks, each with a \$5 suggested donation, are scheduled as follows: Thursday, Jan. 25, 10 to 11:30 a.m., "Discover Labyrinth" theme; Monday, Feb. 26, 7 to 8:30 p.m., "The Warmth of February"; Tuesday, March 19, 7 to 8:30 p.m., "Spring Equinox"; Tuesday, April 23,

7 to 8:30 p.m., "Flowering in Our Lives."

Home-schoolers are invited to drop in on the third Wednesday of each month from 1 to 3 p.m. for programs of learning and exploration. There is a \$5 fee.

Groups of as many as 12 people are invited to learn about the maple sugaring process on weekdays. There is a \$60 fee. Call the center at (614) 866-4302 for dates and details.

To further the center's conservation efforts, there will be volunteer opportunities to help plant vegetation in the spring.

Registration is required for all Shepherd's Corner programs. To register, or for more information, call the center or visit <https://shepherds-corner.org> and click on "Events."

Family Day Mass scheduled at Sts. Augustine & Gabriel

The annual Friends and Family Day Mass at Columbus Sts. Augustine & Gabriel Catholic Church, 1550 E. Hudson St., will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 28.

Alumni of the former St. Augustine and St. Gabriel schools and former parish members are encouraged to attend.

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Zanesville schools conduct pro-life service projects

By Jonathan Medaugh

The Catholic schools of Zanesville are supporting life in all stages. The schools have organized service projects that promote human dignity, affirm life from the moment of conception to natural death and allow the students to put the corporal works of mercy to practical use.

The schools have accepted Bishop Earl Fernandes' challenge "to accept the responsibility of supporting mothers and their children, and to fight for the right to life for every human, born and unborn."

One service project was to collect items that the pro-life organization Heartbeats of Zanesville could make available to its clients. Heartbeats is a pregnancy help and medical center that empowers individuals to make informed decisions concerning pregnancy and



Sarah Hinebaugh, the Heartbeats of Zanesville director, and Zanesville Bishop Rosecrans students are interviewed on Nov. 30 by local television station WHIZ for a segment that aired Dec. 1. Students collected items that the pro-life organization made available for its clients.

Photo courtesy Zanesville Bishop Rosecrans High School

supports women and families in raising their children.

During fall, the schools collected more than 2,000 diapers, plus wipes, baby

bottles, cups, lotion and other items needed for infants and young children. In all, more than 7,000 items were collected.

On Nov. 1, Sarah Hinebaugh, the director at Heartbeats, spoke to students at Zanesville Bishop Rosecrans High School. On Nov. 30, she returned to the school to be interviewed along with some students by local television station WHIZ. The segment aired on Dec. 1.

On Dec. 7, Rosecrans students delivered the items to Heartbeats and then toured its facility and learned about its programs and volunteer opportunities.

Students at Bishop Rosecrans are currently collecting items for Mary's House in Stockport, Ohio, a Catholic residential facility for pregnant woman. That collection will conclude on Dec. 15.

Jonathan Medaugh is campus ministries director for the Catholic schools of Zanesville.

New baptismal font at St. Brendan



A new baptismal font at Hilliard St. Brendan the Navigator Church was blessed by Bishop Earl Fernandes at a school Mass on Tuesday, Dec. 19. Photo courtesy St. Brendan Church

St. John XXIII pays off parish mortgage




Bishop Earl Fernandes (left) and Father Brian O'Connor hold a check representing the final payment on the church mortgage for Canal Winchester St. John XXIII Parish. Bishop Fernandes celebrated the 11:15 a.m. Mass with Father O'Connor, the parish's pastor, on Sunday, Dec. 17, when the bishop was handed the last installment payment to make the parish debt free. St. John XXIII, located in the Canal Winchester-Lithopolis area, was founded in 2000 and the first Mass in the current church after its construction was celebrated in May 2004. Photo courtesy St. John XXIII

IC students make hygiene kits for homeless



Columbus Immaculate Conception School students for peace and justice partnered with the Clintonville Task Force on Homelessness and other community members to put together more than 140 hygiene kits that the Clintonville Resource Center will distribute to unhoused neighbors in Columbus. Photo courtesy Immaculate Conception School

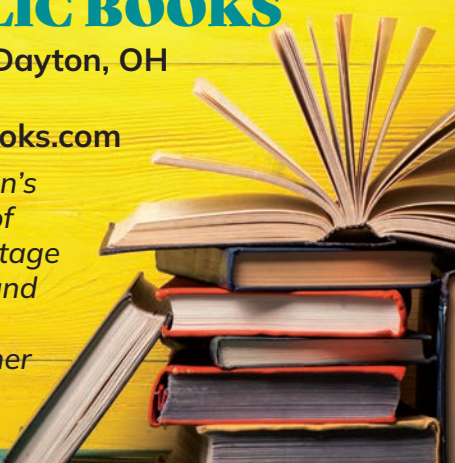


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GUADALUPE, continued from Page 3

Scioto Catholic Consortium



For the first time, the Scioto Catholic Consortium in Portsmouth had a procession on Dec. 12 in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe that started at Holy Redeemer Church and went to St. Mary Church before returning.

The procession was followed by a Mass, celebration and dinner in Holy Redeemer's activity center.

Parishioners also participated in a rosary novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe from Dec. 3-11.

Marion St. Mary Church



On Dec 10, St. Mary Church had a procession on the streets in Marion with the praying of the rosary and singing followed by traditional Mexican dance, a Spanish Mass and dinner.

On Dec 12, the parish had Mariachis in the early morning, a rosary and a 7 a.m.

Spanish Mass on the feast in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Columbus Christ the King Church



The celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe started Dec. 3 with a novena.

On Dec. 10, a procession was led by Father Anthony Baetzold, CFR; Brother Anthony Essien, OFM Cap.; and the Missionary Servants of the Word that began from Columbus St. Philip the Apostle Church and ended at Christ the King Church, followed by Mass celebrated by Father Baetzold.

The celebration continued at the All Saints Academy school gym where parishioners gathered for food and music.

To conclude the observance on Dec. 11, there was a rosary with songs at 10:30 p.m., Mañanitas at midnight and a Mass.

Columbus St. Cecilia Church and School



Columbus St. Cecilia Church started its celebration early Dec. 12 with Mañanitas at 5:30 a.m. that included music and a band to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe.

A 6 a.m. Mass was followed by breakfast with tamales, Mexican sweet bread and coffee. In addition, the children of

NEW YEAR, continued from Page 6



St. Cecilia School performed a play of the apparitions of the Virgin of Guadalupe that included Mexican dances.

Columbus St. Peter and Powell St. Joan of Arc churches



A 2 1/2-mile procession with approximately 400 people made its way on Dec. 18 from Columbus St. Peter Church to Powell St. Joan of Arc Church. Along the route, three rosaries were prayed that included singing between each mystery and the participation of the Guadalupe-San Pedro dance.

Joining the procession were Father David Schalk, the pastor of St. Peter and St. Joan of Arc, and Father Victor Mendez Cano, CR, parochial vicar.

Other events at the parishes were a re-enactment of Mary's appearance at Guadalupe, Mañanitas, rosaries and a Mass on Dec. 12.

Other Masses, rosaries and commemorations of Our Lady of Guadalupe were held at various diocesan churches leading up to and on the feast day.

olic Church held World Youth Day in Portugal in August and the controversial Synod on Synodality in Rome in October. The year ended with the Vatican issuing a highly scrutinized document on blessings that has resulted in praise, condemnation and confusion about Church teaching.

In 2024, the diocese will continue its dedicated efforts to address the vocations shortage with outreach to young men and women while also launching an initiative to provide financial support for seminarians. Evangelization and outreach will also be at the forefront of the diocese's mission to renew.

In the United States, the new year promises to be a tumultuous one politically, economically and culturally. But the Church in America will hopefully experience a renaissance when the three-year National Eucharistic Revival culminates with a National Eucharistic Congress for the first time in 83 years to be held July 17-21 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis with tens of thousands of Catholics expected to participate.

A revival is definitely needed in a country where secularism's invasion advances every day. Faithful Catholics can be the group troops that fight to protect the morals and values upon which the nation was founded.

Blessings for the new year. May Christ and his Mother Mary bring comfort and strength in times of joy and sorrow to each of you in 2024.

ITALY, continued from Page 13

lot easier to herd 20 or 25 people compared to 40 or 50.) On some days and for some tours, there was a strict schedule or time constraints, so we got only a small taste of some sites. Most days, our itinerary included free time to explore on our own.

Did we love everything about this pilgrimage? Unfortunately, no. The one common criticism from many in our group was the dinners. Our total trip price included breakfast every day in the hotel where we stayed and most dinners either in a hotel or at an area restaurant. Lunch was always on our own, so we could choose the restaurant and items from the menu.

Before signing up for a pilgrimage, be honest with yourself about expectations and do some research. Hotels in Europe often have much smaller rooms than those in the United States. Some days we had to wake up early to leave for tours, whether on foot or by bus. And, most days, there was a lot of walking.

For some, a pilgrimage is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, but it might not be for everyone. Ciao!

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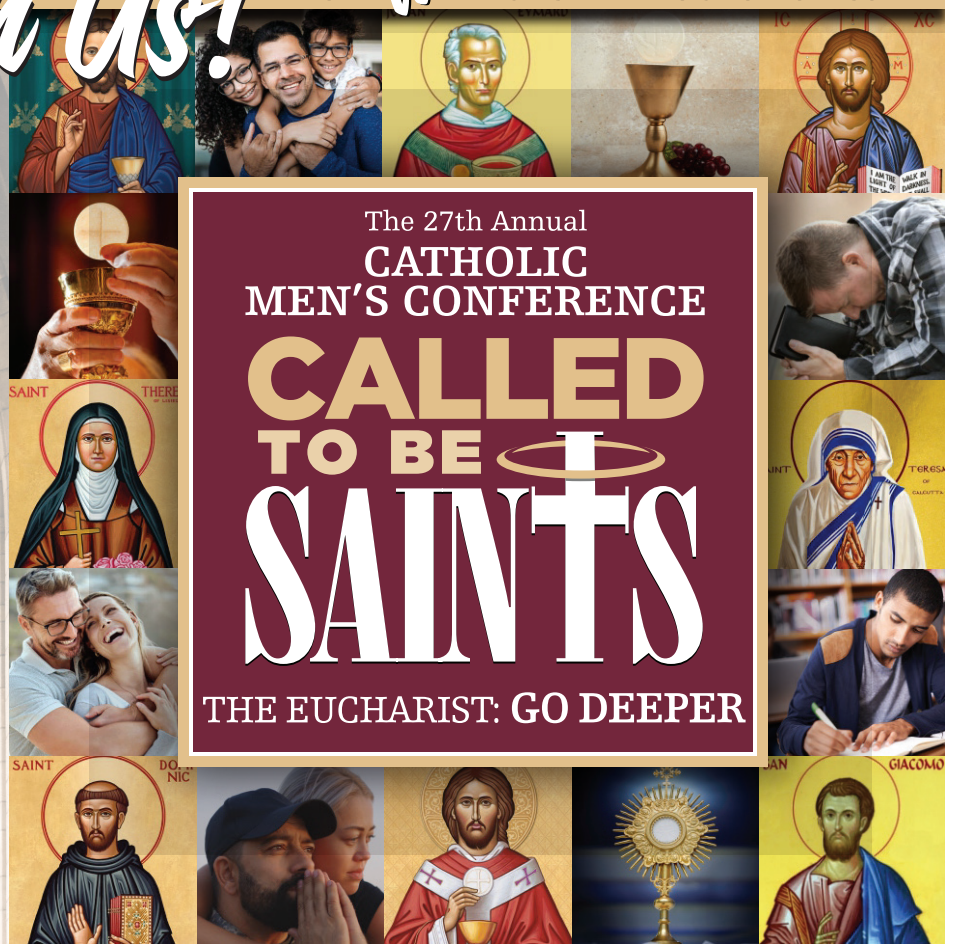


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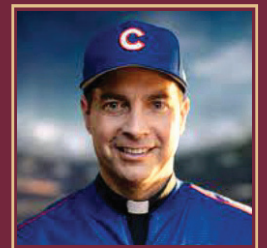
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