

The CATHOLIC TIMES

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**COMING TOGETHER
TO DEFEND LIFE,**
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MLK DAY

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FAITH IN PRISON

Inmates at the Southeastern Correctional Institution in Lancaster shared how they remain faithful in prison and expressed what it meant to have Bishop Earl Fernandes celebrate Mass there on Jan. 8, Page 13

Henry Szabo chosen as Catholic Man of the Year

The Catholic Men's Luncheon Club has selected Henry Szabo of Hilliard St. Brendan the Navigator Church as the 2024 diocesan Catholic Man of the Year.

Bishop Earl Fernandes will present Szabo with the award at the club's meeting on Friday, Feb. 2 after the 11:45 a.m. Mass at Columbus St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave. A \$15 donation is required to cover the cost of the luncheon.

Szabo, 71, an instituted member of the ministry of acolyte, serves as sacristan at his parish, assisting at nearly all of its 17 weekly Masses as well as funeral Masses. He also trains altar servers and masters of ceremonies and is an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist, lector and usher at the parish and a volunteer at the Hilliard food pantry.

Szabo is a retired employee of the OhioHealth System information technology department. He and his wife, Kelly, have two children.

In his nomination letter, parishioner Kevin Quinn wrote, "I have been a St. Brendan parishioner for 35 years and I have not known or seen a layman more committed to his parish and his God," performing his duties "in a very quiet and humble way, never seeking recognition himself. He is truly a good and faithful servant of Jesus Christ."



Henry Szabo, named 2024 Catholic Man of the Year, holds the crucifix before a procession begins at Hilliard St. Brendan Church.

Photo courtesy St. Brendan Church

In a testimonial letter accompanying the nomination, Father Jacob Stinnett, parochial vicar at St. Brendan, cited Szabo's "service, humility and devotion to Our Lady."

"He keeps to a high standard out of respect for and love of the sacred liturgy," Father Stinnett wrote. "He never draws

attention to himself, never seeks any praise. When people thank him for all that he does, he simply gives it back to God, from Whom he receives the energy and presence to do all that he does. ...

"The only person I feel sorry for in Henry Szabo's life is his wife, only because I feel that I spend more time with

Henry each week than she does."

A testimonial from Deacon Doug Yglesias said many parishioners refer to Szabo "as the man who is always at the church. ... He seems to be ever-present, making sure the Mass goes off without a hitch and gives glory to God. ...

"During COVID, I had the chance to sit down with Henry and I was able to ask him why he does what he does. He simply and modestly shared that 'He sees the need and fills the need,'" Deacon Yglesias wrote.

Deacon James Morris' testimonial said, "Henry's dedication is very impressive. ... Henry is a devoted Catholic of great faith and an inspiration to all of our parish. ... He is a good man who handles his duties with skill and humor."

Szabo was chosen from nominees for the Catholic Man of the Year award by representatives from the Catholic Men's Luncheon Club, Young Catholic Professionals, the Catholic Men's Ministry, the Knights of Columbus and the Serra Club.

The club established the honor in 1957, awarding it to John Igoe of Columbus St. Agatha Church, and presented it every year through 2020. No 2021 award was presented because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2023 recipient was Dr. Eric Yang of Columbus St. Peter Church.

Diocesan leadership teams gather for second meeting

On Jan. 11, leadership teams from the dioceses of Columbus and Steubenville met for the second time to discuss how both dioceses could be affected by a potential merger.

Previously, the Apostolic Nunciature asked the bishops and their leadership

teams to work together to consider how different dimensions of the dioceses might be affected by such a proposal.

The second meeting focused on financial implications, personnel matters and structures. This information has provided clarification equipping diocesan lead-

ership to present a thorough report to Cincinnati Archbishop Dennis Schnurr in March.

It is important to remember that no decision regarding a merger has been made. The final decision will be made by the Holy Father, Pope Francis. This process of discernment is distinct from

the process of implementation should a merger occur.

Bishop Paul J. Bradley, Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Steubenville, and Bishop Earl K. Fernandes of the Diocese of Columbus continue to ask for the prayers of the clergy and laity.

Subscription news includes online renewal, price change

February is the month when subscription renewals traditionally begin for the print edition of *The Catholic Times*.

For decades, the price has held steady. Now, the time has come for an increase to help meet the escalating costs of producing a quality newspaper.

Effective immediately, the print subscription price will go to \$26 per year for 26 issues. That's a sizable increase

but still well worth the price at just \$1 per edition to receive award-winning content delivered to your mailbox every other week throughout the year. An additional donation above the subscription price would be appreciated to support this media ministry.

In the past, payment for new subscriptions and renewals were collected through parish envelopes, but an online system is now in place to make the

process easier. Simply visit *The Catholic Times* website, catholictimescolumbus.org, and access the subscribe tab at the top of the home page to sign up for a new subscription, a renewal or a gift.

Current subscribers will receive a paper statement in the mail as a reminder to pay online or to send a check to *The Catholic Times*, Diocese of Columbus, 197 E. Gay St., Columbus, OH 43215.

If necessary, drop an envelope marked

Catholic Times in the regular collection at Sunday Mass with name, address and payment, but the preference is to pay online or directly to *The Catholic Times*.

Please consider supporting local Catholic journalism in order to keep up to date on important events, news, announcements from the diocese and happenings in parishes especially during these changing times.



Front Page photo:

COMING TOGETHER TO DEFEND LIFE

Columbus Bishop Watterson students pray the Rosary before the Respect Life Mass at St. Joseph Cathedral, and students from Bishop Hartley and Lancaster Fisher Catholic and Bishop Earl Fernandes participate in the March for Life in Washington. Photos Abigail Pitones/Ken Snow

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Beth Vanderkooi, executive director of Greater Columbus Right to Life, speaks during the Roe Remembrance at the Ohio Statehouse.



Rachel Citak, president of Greater Cincinnati Right to Life, delivers a message of encouragement at the Roe Remembrance.



Maria Morrison (center) and her children (from left), Elijah, Adalye and Finnian cheer at the Roe Remembrance (left) on Jan. 22 at the Ohio Statehouse.



Father Donald Franks makes the sign of the cross while leading the opening prayer at the Roe Remembrance. *CT photos by Ken Snow*

Bishop Fernandes says 'we will not be silent' on abortion

Five days of pro-life activities in Washington, D.C. and Columbus surrounding the 51st anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade decision culminated with the annual diocesan Respect Life Mass at St. Joseph Cathedral and the annual Roe Remembrance at the Ohio Statehouse.

Bishop Earl Fernandes celebrated the Mass on Monday, Jan. 22 with nine other priests of the diocese for a congregation that included students from Zanesville Bishop Rosecrans, Columbus Bishop Watterson, Bishop Ready and St. Francis DeSales high schools and Columbus Immaculate Conception School.

Afterward, some of those at the Mass walked several blocks from the Cathedral to the Statehouse on a blustery winter day to hear several speakers, including Bishop Fernandes, champion the cause for life from the steps of the Capitol.

The bishop and some of those in attendance had returned two days earlier from the National March for Life in the nation's capital, where Bishop Fernandes also presided over several Masses for life.

"It seems somewhat difficult having just spent three days in Washington, D.C. with a group of 300 to 400 pilgrims, preaching each day about the Gospel of Life, to come up with yet another sermon," Bishop Fernandes said at the Respect Life Mass. "Except when we preach the Gospel, we are always preaching the Gospel of Life. They are one and the same."

Bishop Fernandes called this moment in time a critical stage in the history of our society.

In Ohio, voters passed in November a state constitutional amendment protecting abortion throughout pregnancy. That vote came 17 months after the U.S. Supreme Court's June 2022 decision in the Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health Organization case overturned Roe by determining the U.S. Constitution does not

confer a right to abortion.

The ruling returned decisions on abortion to the states, with abortion supporters in Ohio working successfully on behalf of the amendment on abortion. Similar amendments will be put before voters this year in New York and Maryland, and other states are pursuing related legislation or amendments.

Bishop Fernandes said the devil wants to divide society, which he said has never been more polarized, and that Satan wants to pit mother against child and neighbor against neighbor and wants the faithful to give up instead of answering the call "to really, truly appreciate the gift of our baptism and to say I will give prophetic witness to the God of life."

"We will not be silent," Bishop Fernandes said. "We will not go away when it comes to respecting the dignity of the human person and the goodness of human life. God is the author of human life."

Failure to stand up for the unborn, the disabled, the elderly and the suffering will leave those people vulnerable in today's culture, the bishop warned.

"I've been marching practically my whole life," Bishop Fernandes said. "And why? Because I want something better for everyone around me, especially for younger people. I want a society where abortion is absolutely unthinkable, and for that type of society to exist, we need not just all of you but your family and friends, and we need to fight this battle with Christ on our side."

"The battle is not merely a political one. The real battle is for a conversion of hearts."

Later, speaking at the Statehouse, the bishop again encouraged all people, particularly the youth, to be unafraid and not to be indifferent to the cause.

"We have to confront others with the truth — the truth about human life, its origin and its destiny, and the truth about



Julie Kiesel holds the youngest of her nine children, three-month-old Marguerite, at the Respect Life Mass in St. Joseph Cathedral.

our humanity and our shared humanity," he said. "And so in radical solidarity with women and children, we will make our stand and we will fight until the forces of life are truly victorious here in our great state of Ohio."

The Roe Remembrance began with a prayer from Father Donald Franks and was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by state Reps. Tracy Richardson (R-Marysville) and Bill Dean (R-Xenia).

Rachel Citak, an attorney who is the president of Greater Cincinnati Right to Life, decried the passage of Issue 1 in November and the exploitation that abortion providers perpetuate on women who face situations caused by financial hardship, trauma, incest or other factors.

"What the pro-life effort does so well and has to continue to do is to respond with love and with empathy and with understanding, not the counterfeit or conditional love, empathy and understanding that's offered by the abortion industry," she said.

"We're seeing a society that really is be-

coming more self-centric, and we need to show that we love them both (mother and baby) in a way that Planned Parenthood never has and never can."

Citak believes that pro-life efforts need to begin anew and focus not just on policy and litigation efforts, but on the beauty of motherhood, no matter a woman's state in life.

"We cannot just reach them at the doorstep (of abortion centers)," she said. "The abortion industry continues to build a business off of death, aligning with Satan and with anti-woman principles. Anti-woman principles are expansive and an unrestricted money grab in every state is the goal, and it's all dressed up as medical care. That's their business, profiting at the expense of women."

Beth Vanderkooi, executive director of Greater Columbus Right to Life and organizer of the Roe Remembrance event that started in 2014, told the crowd that the question she's most often asked since November is "What's next?"

"I honestly do not yet know," she said.

"But I have a couple of ideas and I think for the time being, it looks like us continuing to pray and counsel outside of abortion clinics," she said while acknowledging the possibility that the constitutional amendment could lead to more doctor's offices, clinics and hospitals performing surgical abortions while more pharmacies and online outlets disperse abortion pills.

"We're not going to solve it with a program," she said. "We're not going to solve it with the law. We're not even going to solve it with the constitution."

"You're always going to solve it in relationships on the human level."

Diocesan group marches, prays for life in Washington

By Hannah Heil
Catholic Times Reporter

WASHINGTON — Thousands gathered in the nation's capital on Jan. 19 for the 51st annual National March for Life, braving the inclement weather to support women and their preborn children.

The theme of this year's March, "With Every Woman, For Every Child," renewed and resonated with defenders of the right to life, who marched to support women facing crisis pregnancies and their preborn children.

About 50 people joined Columbus St. Patrick Church for a pilgrimage to Washington for the March. The group spent time praying in front of a local Planned Parenthood facility, doing street outreach across from the White House and participating in the National Prayer Vigil for Life Mass and Adoration at The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Among the members of the group were Fathers Daniel Bowen, O. de M. (Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mercy), who serves at Columbus Holy Family Church and as the vocation director for the Mercedarian order, and Michael Donahue, O.P. (Order of Preachers), the parochial vicar and director of youth ministry at St. Patrick.

Gabriel Vance, the founder of Catholics for Life, a ministry active in street evangelization and sidewalk counseling outside of abortion facilities and head of Respect Life Ministry at St. Patrick, organized the pilgrimage to Washington with his mother, Lorraine. Vance has traveled to Washington for the March annually since 2008.

"The March is so inspiring every year, especially if you're doing pro-life work very consistently," he said. "It's so easy to get burned out because you're doing



Cold and snow failed to stop the National March for Life on Friday, Jan. 19.

CT photos by Hannah Heil

really hard work. You see so much loss if you're outside the facilities regularly, and it can be easy to start to become discouraged about that.

"To see these people that have done so much more than you've done ... and sacrificed so much can be inspiring and encouraging. It can really reinvigorate your desire to defend life and keep pushing on."

Approximately 200,000 babies are aborted in the world every day, and around 2,300 babies are aborted in the United States daily, Vance said, according to a news release published on Jan. 17 by the Guttmacher Institute research organization.

He said the March for Life is an "eye-opening experience," and it en-



Erin Young of Sunbury St. John Neumann Church and her children (from left) Lucas, Isaac and Gianna talk with a religious sister.

courages many people who were not previously involved in the pro-life movement. The March is a reminder that people from across the country are fighting the same battle.

Pilgrims who traveled with St. Patrick's group participated in a prayer and protest with other individuals and pro-life organizations outside of a Planned Parenthood facility the day before the March. The group returned to pray the Rosary outside of the clinic the day after the March.

Vance hopes people will continue praying outside of abortion clinics and offer sidewalk counseling in their area. In his ministry, Vance has encountered individuals and couples outside of abortion clinics who need to know they are



A group from Columbus St. Patrick Church prays at an abortion clinic while in Washington to attend the National March for Life.

supported and that God's grace is sufficient for them.

"It is one thing to go to the March, but it's another thing to give up your Saturday by yourself to be there alone when you're not surrounded by 100,000 other people," he said. "That's when it really matters. It's great that we all come together for the March, but then, what really counts is what we are going to do when we go back home.

"Once you start to go outside the clinic and see that it's really hard not to keep going back and being like, 'OK, I remember that woman; I remember that couple,' and if I know there's so many more people like that, how can I not go there

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Love, faith will carry the pro-life movement to ultimate victory

By Beth Vanderkooi

One of the hard things about political campaigns is that sometimes the good guys don't win. It is a hard lesson that almost everyone engaged in politics has learned. You can have a great candidate or cause, you can work your heart out and have strong campaign infrastructure, and every pundit and pollster may be predicting a victory, and yet you might not win. It all comes down to two things none of us can control: who shows up and how they vote.

For the pro-life movement, this past November's loss was not merely another box to be checked off. It was a devastating loss at the polls that will beget a devastating loss of life. In the face of any political loss, it can be tempting to explode in anger or creep away to lick our wounds. But that is the very opposite of what we need to do, and it is the very opposite of what we are going to do.

While political campaigns may win and lose and partisan power will wax and wane, we stand for something

far more permanent -- a reality grounded in truth about the nature of the human person: that each person has been made in the image and likeness of God and therefore is possessed of the full measure of human dignity, which should be respected and protected from the moment of conception until natural death. Abortion is the very opposite of that truth.

We are not a political movement -- we are the pro-life movement. We are the pro-life faithful.

Certainly, as people of faith, we are responsible for engaging in the political process and advocating for policies that advance human flourishing, but that is neither the beginning nor the end of our involvement. The pro-life movement is fundamentally a movement grounded in love. As Pope Benedict wrote in *Deus Caritas Est*, love of God and love of neighbor are fundamental biblical truths that are deeply connected to each other and to our union with God. We cannot love God and be closed off to or hate our neighbors -- regardless of if our neighbor is the Issue 1 advocate or the child in the womb. So, as we look for the path forward after this political defeat, I think it is there that we must look.

As Catholics, we live the principle of "God is Love," through forgiveness, reciprocity, and charity, expressed by care and compassion to those in the world. Love of God is one of the most powerful forces in the world. Without it, we will struggle and fall and fail, but with it, we can and will change the world.

We will win and lose elections, but love always wins. That is our path forward, and it is why we are inviting you to join us in our Love Always Wins campaign.

One campaign element is replacement slips for your Issue 1 sign (or any 26-inch wire frame). The signs share the simple message "Love Always Wins" and invites individuals to a website with pregnancy help and post-abortion healing resources and opportunities to join our cultural resistance to Issue 1. Signs are available in the Greater Columbus Right to Life office, churches (upon request) and at events in the coming months. Visit lovealwayswins.life for more information or to get your sign today.

We are also going to be expanding our efforts with

See PRO-LIFE, Page 6

Smoking pot: Is it a sin?

Dear Father,
I went to confession and mentioned that I like to smoke pot. The priest told me that it's a serious matter and that I had to get rid of my stash. I told him that it's legal and that I didn't understand his problem with it. Is smoking pot a sin now? It's legal. And people drink alcohol. Get my point?

-Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

Let me see if I get your point. You say that the use of marijuana is legal and seem surprised that a priest called you out on this in the confessional because you were the one who brought it up in the first place. You seem to base the rightness or wrongness of your actions only on the laws of the state. By your standards, if the state legalizes the killing of babies in the womb, then abortion is okay or even good.

You said that you listed smoking pot in your confession of sins. Something about your actions bothered you enough to confess it. That "something," I suggest, is your conscience telling you that something is wrong with recreational pot smoking. For the sake of responding to your question about the sinfulness of smoking pot, I'm taking for granted that your use of cannabis was not for medical purposes since you mentioned "legality," seemingly a reference to recreational marijuana.

You compare your use of cannabis to someone drinking alcohol. I don't think that the comparison necessarily holds. Spirits, such as wine and beer, are age-old beverages. Even our Lord drank wine. True, they may be abused, and we have examples of such abuse in the Sacred Scriptures. If someone abuses alcohol, such as with the intent to get drunk, then that person commits a serious sin.

My question to you is why? Why do you use cannabis? Most non-medical use of cannabis or recreational marijuana is for intoxication. Intentional intoxication

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.



is bad because it is an abuse of the body and mind. The word "intoxication" refers to a toxin, a poison, by which we damage ourselves. This is the case for all substance abuse. If your use of marijuana is recreational, i.e., for intoxication, then we have a problem, just as someone abusing alcohol in order to get drunk has a problem.

Modern-day marijuana is not your father's pot. (I'm not insinuating that your dad actually smoked.) It doesn't just make you happy and hungry. The THC (the marijuana derivative that causes a high or feeling of pleasure) levels in marijuana have increased over the years, making cannabis much more potent today. *The Wall Street Journal* reports (January 10, 2024). Schizophrenia or bipolar disorders are on the rise as a result of cannabis use, particularly among young people, according to the same article.

Marijuana is classified by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) as very likely to be abused and has no medical use. Even as a pain killer, a pharmacist recently told me, cannabis does not work well. Moreover, it's a carcinogen. The side-effects of medical marijuana, he said, are horrible.

This leads me to believe that you are smoking pot for the high it gives. This means that pleasure is the end or purpose of your use. While pleasure is not necessarily a bad thing in and of itself, when our quest for pleasure has no checks, it often becomes an end in itself. It becomes a god and takes control of our lives. Anyone trying to battle against a sexual addiction will attest to this.

"Drugs," said Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger (quoted by Denver Archbishop Sam Aquila in his recently penned: *That They May Have Life*) "are an attempt to fill ... the thirst of the soul." I highly recommend that everyone read the archbishop's comprehensive pastoral letter. It's especially pertinent in Ohio and the 23 other states where voters have made recreational use of marijuana legal.

You can hardly blame the priest for wanting your good so that you can find a true high with God. The confessional is a difficult place to give extended counsel and so priests often need to get to the point of a problem. The priest gave you some tough love. In truncated form, he was saying: This is bad for you, for your body, for your soul, for your eternal salvation.

To answer your question: Was the priest saying that pot smoking is a sin? I wasn't there, so I can only imagine that, yes, he was saying it's a sin, based on what I said above about the effects of marijuana. Priests aren't trying to find sins in the confessional; they're trying to get you to heaven. Sin prevents us from getting to heaven because by our sins we distance ourselves from God. In the confessional, the priest is trying to remove the obstacle so that you can experience the depths of God's mercy and love.

In his pastoral letter, Archbishop Aquila spoke about how we are experts in making excuses for our behavior but that we need to wake up and see how the acceptance of drug use in our culture has been devastating in so many ways, especially visible in cities where drug use has been legalized.

With the archbishop, "I pray for those who turn to drugs to escape reality, to avoid pain, to deal with loneliness, rejection, emotional wounds, or ... struggle to find meaning in life." With him, let us all pray that the Lord, Jesus Christ, have mercy on these brothers and sisters of ours, to turn their hearts from what is below them, toward the real love that only God above can give.

Consider what your legacy will be, how it conforms to Gospel

Will my legacy reflect Christ?

The start of a year provides opportunities to reflect on the past 12 months. The new year also provides opportunities to look forward to what I want to do better this year, to do for fun this year, to come closer to Christ, and to help others come closer to Christ.

While I believe it is important to be "in the moment," I do spend time thinking about my life's legacy. How will my decisions and actions strengthen my efforts to reflect my faith journey's goal to live that Gospel life?

For any of you who have experienced my Catholic Social Teaching 101, you know I talk about the importance of having a personal mission statement that will define one's legacy. My mission is: With the help of the Holy Spirit, to live a Gospel life based on Catholic Social Teaching and help others do the same.

While a person's legacy can involve money, the concept of legacy is much larger than the value of an estate. It is about the richness of one's life, including what was accomplished and the impact on people and places. Ultimately, the story of a person's life is one's legacy.

Psalm 127 challenges us to consider wisely what legacy we will leave to our children and future generations. The Psalm asserts that unless God builds and watches (verse 1) even our work to honor him will be in vain.

FAITH IN ACTION | Erin Cordle

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



Legacy gives me the opportunity to live for a purpose that's bigger than myself. It allows me to influence my family tree for generations. I am reminded of the summer my great niece told me she wanted to be a social activist because that is what she thought I was and, "You're cool!"

I can decide to use everything I have – resources, talent, relationships, and wealth – to evangelize and bless those around me. Who I am on a consistent basis is how I will be remembered. A good question to ask is: Am I setting a good example for others to remember?

Consider a spiritual legacy. It is the foundation that strengthens faith, helps navigate life's challenges, and guides future generations in their walk with God. Building a spiritual legacy takes time, effort and intentionality. It is one of the most important investments we can make in the lives of our loved ones and those we meet along the way. The apostle Paul urged Timothy to set an example "in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (1 Timothy 4:12).

There are many references in Scripture that focus on walking in faith. My favorite is Micah 6:8. The Lord

tells us how he wants us to love Him and love our neighbor – to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with him. The emphasis on action and justice is clear.

What does it mean to work for social justice? Social justice promotes fairness and equity across many aspects of society. It promotes access to education, work, housing, health care, etc. It means supporting the dignity of all life from conception to natural death in all of circumstances.

Regularly reviewing Jesus Christ's actions in the New Testament gospel accounts can help us keep His social justice legacy firmly implanted in our minds. While the gospel writers provide slightly different perspectives, taken together, they provide a clear picture.

John's gospel account ends with a fascinating nugget for us to consider: "There are also many other things that Jesus did, but if these were to be described individually, I do not think the whole world would contain the books that would be written" (John 21:25). What has been recorded in Scripture is no doubt quite enough to keep us busy for the rest of our lives as we strive to follow the holy, righteous character of Jesus Christ.

Reading through the Gospels can help us focus on Christ's examples and teaching – His powerful, perfect legacy. Isn't that a legacy we should work to emulate?

Healthy habits for new year start with prayer

This is the time of year when people make health and fitness resolutions. I thought it would be interesting to explore five holy and healthy-related topics through the eyes of faith and with saintly wisdom.

Prayer is the surest way to peace and joy in Jesus and in our relationships. While health gurus talk about meditation and various trendy methods to calm us, as Catholics, we are called instead to a life of consistent, personal prayer, Holy Mass, silence, contemplation, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, praying Catholic devotionals such as the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet, are powerful ways to stay close to Jesus and experience peace in our bodies and souls. We can invite the Holy Spirit to help us examine the state of our prayer life. We can ask Him to lead us to adjust how, when and where we pray with a desire to bear good fruit for Jesus.

St. Francis de Sales said, "Recall yourself sometimes to the interior solitude of your heart, and there, removed from all creatures, treat of the affairs of your salvation and your perfection with God, as a friend would speak heart to heart with another."

Sleep is sometimes a forgotten key to good health. Our bodies need rest and time to recover from our daily activities so that we can serve the Lord and the people in our lives with vigor the next day.

While many saints would forgo sleep for prayer, most of the time, we are better for others when we've had a good night's sleep. Creating an environment in our homes that is quiet, dark and comfortable, limiting screen time, physical activity and caffeine close to bedtime can help us have a better chance for restorative sleep. Giving our anxieties over to Jesus in prayer at bedtime, and asking our Guardian Angels to assist, may help quiet our minds and bodies so we can sleep well.

HOLY AND HEALTHY | Lori Crock

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



I have a sleeping St. Joseph by my bed and he is my go-to saint when I have trouble sleeping. Here is a beautiful prayer to St. Joseph about sleep from the book, *St. Joseph, His Life, His Virtues* (published in 1884):

O dear St. Joseph, I resolve every night before I close my eyes in sleep to recite the following aspirations, "Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I offer to you my heart and my soul. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, assist me in my last agony. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, may I breathe forth my soul in peace with you."

Food is often the first thing we think about in the new year after enjoying sweets and feasting during the Christmas season. As we get back into our normal routines, we might feel inspired to start anew preparing meals that are satisfying with a healthy mix of protein, carbs and fats — taking a little break from the sugary treats. It may feel good to get back to fueling our body with temperance after celebrating (and feasting!) during the Christmas season.

St. Augustine challenges us, "Food is necessary for the support of life; but, like medicine, it should be taken only through necessity. Intemperance is very injurious to the body as well as to the soul."

Movement is another area that receives a lot of attention in the new year. I refer to this as movement rather than exercise because really what we need is to get moving with consistency in whatever way works for us. My

goal is moderation and sustainability so it doesn't really matter what the activity is — whether walking, running, lifting weights, swimming, cycling, hiking or social exercise like pickle ball; it's important to find something you like and will stick with for more than a few months. Movement keeps our joints lubricated, strengthens our muscles, works the heart and (hopefully!) brings peace to our bodies and minds. Moving outdoors is refreshing and I challenge myself to "make friends with winter" by walking outdoors often. Movement can also be combined with prayer, such as SoulCore Rosary prayer with strength, stretching and movement.

St. Ignatius of Loyola said, "Remember that bodily exercise, when it is well ordered, as I have said, is also prayer by means of which you can please God our Lord."

Socializing is an important aspect to our overall health and on our journey to grow in holiness. We need people and people need us and the gifts we were given by God. In healthy relationships, we receive and give love in a safe place where we can be who God made us to be. I have gratitude that we are made for communion and community.

St. Gianna Molla said, "Love is the most beautiful sentiment the Lord has put into the souls of men and women."

St. Pope John Paul II said, "Man becomes an image of God not so much in the moment of solitude as in the moment of communion."

Let us give thanks for the new year and that Jesus never stops inviting us to care for our temples of the Holy Spirit, body and soul. We pray that in caring for ourselves well, and in walking closely with Jesus to be holy and healthy, our lives will bear good fruit for the Kingdom of God.

Offering all that we have can be a challenge without faith

I write to pray and often to process situations that I am encountering along this journey God has given me.

The idea of writing under the tagline All That We Have initially was formed out of gratitude with a heart recognizing the blessings God has given this family. As the years have progressed, there have been moments where that umbrella of All That We Have has had me looking to heaven incredulously with eyebrows raised, completely overwhelmed by "all that we have."

Have you ever felt this way? Where you both rejoice at the blessings you have been given and scream or revolt at the ones whose burden you instantaneously sense?

The thing is that when your faith life has been developed into one where the rose-colored glasses are always on, when we take a look at "All That We Have," we realize that how we perceive it has been changed by gratitude. If we were together, you would hear the derision in my voice right now as I type gratitude because there are times when all that we have does not feel like a blessing, but we (praise God) have formed ourselves so closely to Him that all we can do is praise Him and yet the human nature within us wonders at this duplicity because we also sense our own frustration, annoyance hurt, sadness and/or anger over "all that we have."

ALL THAT WE HAVE

MaryBeth Eberhard

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



If I sound like I'm having my own counseling session, humor me. I just might be. Perhaps it will be good for us all.

One of my boys recently finished a children's book called *A Series of Unfortunate Events*. Every time I picked this book up from the coffee table, bathroom or kitchen island, I would snort and roll my eyes to myself. Story of my life, I would mutter. How easy it is to slide into that place.

The past few years have seen so many challenges. After walking through years of intense hospital and medical needs for my children, I thought we would get a breath. But, instead, our family has battled covid, cancer, addiction, depression, family members stepping away from the faith and a loss of community that has left us at times without a breath.

And yet, we have been marveling as we push play on the praise music in our home, singing while we work,

listening to each other and pulling each other back toward Jesus. Though empty, He fills us. It's paradoxical and beautiful at the same time!

Jesus is the safe place, the shelter. He invites us into our sufferings and not out of them. In Colossians, St. Paul says he rejoices in his sufferings. St. John Paul II reminds us that this suffering we are invited into, whether it be a great burden or a little annoyance, allows us to pick up a splinter of the cross that Jesus carried for our sake. In picking up that little sliver of the cross, we are transformed and we radiate Jesus. Our perseverance confounds and invites others into asking what is it we have. The answer is, of course, not what but whom? Joy is the secret weapon of being a Christian.

"To praise you is the soul's joy and delight. Guard me with the power of Your grace here and in all places. Now and at all times." St. Augustine reminds us that we were created to praise the Lord in all things, and he wisely reminds us to ask for the grace to continue to do so.

As Catholic Christians, I think this is the origin where we must stand, at the crux of rejoicing and suffering. Not one of us lives a life without either and recognizing all that we have is the beginning of that journey. Rejoicing in it and persevering is the next.

PRO-LIFE, continued from Page 6

churches and schools. We currently work with about 50 churches to engage or support their pro-life programs, but we will be growing that. We need volunteers to step up and be active today and every day.

Why? Because as I reflect more and more on the work that we've done and the work we have before us,

the more I believe that it is not going to be by adopting the perfect program or posting the perfect content or building the perfect app that is going to reverse the cultural shift we have experienced. While we will continue to engage with policy and the laws and the culture, our hope does not lie there.

We are broken people in a broken world, but we are neither helpless nor hopeless, because Love Always Wins.

Beth Vanderkooi is the executive director of Greater Columbus Right to Life.

Claudine Gay, Jimmy Lai and the truth of things

To my mind, the most cringe-inducing moment in the drama of Claudine Gay and her resignation as president of Harvard University was not when she whiffed at unambiguously condemning genocidal threats against Jews as violations of Harvard's norms for student behavior. That was horrible, to be sure. Even more telling, though, was Gay's subsequent apology, in which she expressed regret for having "failed to convey what is my truth."

Hard as it may be for normal people to grasp, the notion that there is only "my truth" and "your truth," but nothing properly describable as the truth, is virtually axiomatic in the humanities departments of American "elite" universities, and has been for some time. Now, following the Orwellian script in *Animal Farm*, the woke plague has created a situation in which some of those personal "truths" are deemed more equal than others' "truths" — the superior truths being the "truths" of political correctness. As dean of the Harvard faculty, Claudine Gay was a vigorous proponent of the new axiom that some truths are truer than others. But in her apology, she reverted to the basic, postmodernist absurdity that "truth" is a matter of personal conviction rather than conviction anchored in reality. Her downfall thus illustrates another axiom, one that antedates post-modernism by almost two centuries: the Revolution devours its children (Jacques Mallet du Pan, writing from Paris 1793 as the tumbrils rolled).

When post-modernism first reared its head decades ago, some Christian thinkers suggested that its mantra of your-truth/my-truth might provide an opening to serious intellectual exchange with non-believers, which was impossible with those academic nihil-

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

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ists and relativists who denied that there was any truth at all. This always struck me as a forlorn hope. For what happens when there is only "your truth" and "my truth" and our "truths" collide? Absent any agreed horizon of judgment (call it "the truth") against which we can settle our difference, either you will impose your power on me or I will impose my power on you.

Which means the death of serious conversation, of scholarship and, ultimately, of democracy.

7,494 miles away, I doubt the thought occurred to my friend Jimmy Lai; but the fact that the Claudine Gay affair coincided with the beginning of Jimmy's trial on charges of having violated Chinese "national security" by defending the basic human rights of his fellow Hong Kongers nicely illustrated Oscar Wilde's point about life imitating art — including the arts of irony.

For there was President Gay, trying to save herself by an appeal to "my truth," while Jimmy was risking life imprisonment at a Stalinesque show trial because he had courageously borne witness to the truth: the truth that today's Hong Kong regime is a thugocracy terrified by free speech and a free press; the truth that the Beijing regime that controls Hong Kong is comprehensively violating the commitments to honor basic human rights it had made when Hong Kong reverted

to Chinese sovereignty in 1997; and, perhaps above all, the truth that Catholic faith demands solidarity with those defending their God-given rights — rights that express built-in truths about the inalienable dignity and infinite value of every human life.

Jimmy Lai has become a Christian artist during his three years in solitary confinement; few, if any gifts that I have received in my life have touched me as deeply as the two sketches he has sent me from Stanley Prison. Both embody his commitment to truth — not just "his" truth, but truth, period — and his understanding that truth-telling is risky business in this world. The price of truth-telling is expressed in a crucifixion scene, rendered in colored pencil on the kind of lined paper we once used in elementary school. The commitment to live in the truth is captured in a beautiful Madonna with the simple inscription "Yes!" (cf. Luke 1:38).

Once asked what sentence he would wish saved if the rest of the Bible were somehow destroyed, John Paul II responded without hesitation, "You will know the truth and the truth will make you free" (John 8:32). Jimmy Lai's life and art luminously express that conviction about the liberating power of truth. We must hope and pray that Claudine Gay and the rest of the post-modern academic establishment — which has turned "elite" American higher education into a playpen for rabid antisemites, pampered snowflakes, and madcap ideologues — eventually come to understand what Jimmy understands.

Because that would set them free, spiritually as well as intellectually. Thus liberated, they could be true educators rather than enforcers of woke ideological conformity.



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Fr. Joshua Whitfield



Revival's Sacrifice:
Jesus, the Eucharist, and You

Fr. Joshua J. Whitfield is the Pastoral Administrator of St. Rita Catholic Community in Dallas, TX. Unlike most Catholic priests, Fr. Joshua is married with children. A former Episcopal priest, Fr. Joshua and his wife, Alli, converted to Catholicism in 2009. He was ordained a Catholic priest through the Pastoral Provision of Pope Saint John Paul II in 2012. Fr. Joshua is an Alumni of Texas Tech, the University of Leeds, and Duke University. He is the author of *Pilgrim Holiness: Martyrdom as Descriptive Witness*; *The Crisis of Bad Preaching: Redeeming the Heart and Way of the Catholic Preacher*; and *Eucharist, Bread of Life*.

All are welcome. Free event. No RSVP required.

Saturday, February 10

Fr. Joshua will celebrate and preach at the 4:30pm Mass.

Sunday, February 11

Fr. Joshua will celebrate and preach at the 8:45am and 11:30am Masses.

Monday, February 12

6pm talk by Fr. Joshua, followed by Confession and Exposition/Adoration

Tuesday, February 13

6pm talk by Fr. Joshua, followed by a light reception

Local students share reasons for attending March for Life

By Hannah Heil
Catholic Times Reporter

WASHINGTON — Several Catholic schools from the Diocese of Columbus brought groups of students to the March for Life this year.

Students had various reasons for wanting to attend the event on Friday, Jan. 19, but if there was a common denominator, it was a belief in defending the sanctity of every human life.

Ted Welsch, a senior at Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, said he wanted to be a voice for the voiceless. He added that it is important for the strong to protect the weak, especially today.

Looking to the Blessed Virgin Mary as an example, Welsch recognized her openness to life. She accepted the gift of life given to her by the Holy Spirit and said “yes” to bearing the Christ child in her womb.

“Mary could have said ‘no’ and what would have happened then?” he said. “We believe that life is important from conception to natural death — from womb to tomb — and there’s nothing more important than that.”

This was Welsch’s second year at the march. He said that back home, it can be lonely feeling sometimes that he is the only one who believes in the right to life. At the march, being surrounded by thousands of others with the same belief was a reminder that he is not alone.

“Life is important and we have to fight for it because every natural right and every civil right starts with life, and if life isn’t upheld, then nothing can be done,” Welsch said. “The Lord Himself speaks about that and He is truth, and if truth isn’t true, then nothing can be true.”

Esmeralda Bravo Botello, a junior at Columbus Bishop Hartley High School, took part in the march because she believes every person has a right to be born. She encouraged people to consider what might have happened if the right had been taken away from them



March for Life participants from Bishop Hartley include junior Esmeralda Bravo Botello (left) and Sister Charbel Joseph, OP (right).



Ted Welsch (left) and Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School students attend the March for Life on Jan. 19.

and they were not alive today.

She recognized that babies cannot defend their right to life and must rely on somebody else to be their voice. Many people regard preborn babies as “things,” she said, and disregard their humanity.

“Some people don’t realize that when you abort a baby, that baby is not just going to disappear out of the blue,” Bravo Botello said. “That baby’s going to be killed and that baby’s going to be thrown away with a lot of other babies that are just dead, and they’re going to go crush them up like they’re nothing, and those babies are just as valuable as you are.”

As a Catholic, Bravo Botello said, she believes it is her duty to march for the faith and Church teachings she professes.

“It’s part of my religion to go preach what I believe in,” she said. “This is what I believe and this is what we believe, and this is not just your life that you made. This is a gift that God has given you. It’s a privilege for you to carry a child and it’s

not fair that you decide ‘I don’t want it.’”

Quinten Gale, a senior at Columbus Bishop Ready High School, wanted to attend the march to support people in all stages, helping them know their life is valuable, and to encourage mothers to choose life for their children.

He wanted to show “support for those who are going through a really hard time in their lives and don’t know where to turn, and they need to know that they have support in that time, that they can, that there’s a lot of people who are willing to help them, and they have that backing.”

Gale discussed the sanctity of life in all stages and circumstances, acknowledging that every life has value.

“Anybody, all people — life is sacred no matter who you are, whether you’re experiencing depression or anxiety or whatever situation,” he said.

The March for Life was Gale’s first march in several years. He previously attended in middle school.

Gale’s experience was different this

year. Having a deepened understanding of the right to life made the march more impactful for him.

For Tessa Bott, a junior at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School, this was her third year attending the March for Life.

Asked why she wanted to march again this year, she said it is gratifying to give “your all to something that you’re passionate about and something you really care about.”

Bott also said, “It’s important to stand up for what we believe in, not only as individuals but as a church, and to come together as one.”

For her, there is no difference between defending the right to life for preborn children and for those who have been born. Bott recognized a duty to fight for every life.

“In the same way as you would fight for a life already born, you’re still fighting for a life,” she said. “It’s just in the womb.”

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to help those people?”

Erin Young, a parishioner at Sunbury St. John Neumann Church, joined St. Patrick’s pilgrimage to Washington with her three children: Lucas, 7, Gianna, 6, and Isaac, 4.

The March for Life is personal for Young, who adopted her three children. She is grateful for her children’s birth mothers, and she marches on behalf of the mothers who saved her children’s lives, she said.

Her daughter, Gianna, survived a chemical abortion. Gianna shared her story on the microphone at the prayer and protest outside of Planned Parenthood the day before the March.

Young recalled her daughter observ-

ing women, particularly one woman, enter the abortion clinic while the group was praying outside.

“She looked at that lady going in, and I looked, and I said, ‘That could have been your birth mom,’ and she’s like, ‘Yeah, it could have,’ and it puts in perspective — for her to acknowledge,” Young said. “She’s 6, but she’s used the word ‘courage’ (and said), ‘I’m so thankful that she was courageous enough to give me life.’”

Young felt it necessary, she said, to attend the March for Life, “especially since the Ohio vote last November was such an upset.” Voters in Ohio passed state Issue 1 in the state’s most recent election, enshrining abortion through all nine months of pregnancy in Ohio’s

constitution.

Young hopes to make the March for Life an annual pilgrimage, or at least return every other year. She wants her children to grow through the experience, she said.

“They need to know that their birth mother gave up everything for them,” Young said. “I know, for some, it may seem like it’s selfish for the mother to have them put up for adoption. It’s even more selfish to have an abortion.

“I want them to know that God gave them this beautiful gift, and they’re not with their birth mothers, but God has set them on a path to speak out.”

She also believes it is what her children were “designed to do.” She was

moved listening to her daughter speak to the crowd and her son, Lucas, hand out prayer cards to various people, saying, “I’ll pray for you.”

Young, who is a convert to Catholicism, said she did not have a strong pro-life stance because she did not have the knowledge and was not equipped. She wants her children to be formed and able inform others about abortion, so they can “open people’s minds to this is really not what God wants for us.”

Every woman’s situation is different with pregnancy and adoption, Young said. She knows many families who are seeking to adopt and open their home to

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Seminarians embrace advocating for life as part of their vocation

By Hannah Heil
Catholic Times Reporter

WASHINGTON – There is no distance, perhaps, that could prevent seminarians, men preparing to be ordained a priest one day, from traveling to defend the right to life.

“We’ll take off time, travel as far as we need to,” said Mark Jewett, a seminarian for the Diocese of Columbus. “It’s really important.”

Several seminarians from the Diocese of Columbus traveled to the nation’s capital last week to demonstrate their support at this year’s March for Life.

Jewett, who is in the propaedeutic, or first, stage of seminary at the Pontifical College Josephinum, said he cares about marching for the individuals who cannot fight or speak for themselves. The right to life had an impact on Jewett and his vocation to the priesthood.

“It’s always been a very important part of me, and it’s brought me closer to my faith actually,” he said. “I went on the March for Life in high school, and I think it was a very powerful moment.”

Jewett encouraged others to pray for mothers and their babies.

“It’s really, really powerful to see so many witnesses to pro-life, to see all these young people here, and it’s very inspiring,” Jewett said. “It certainly helps to keep us going.”

Kevin Girardi, who is in his third year of theology at the Josephinum and will be ordained to the diaconate in March, also recognized the importance of young men, especially seminarians, showing their support for life.



Diocesan seminarians traveled to Washington for the March for Life. Photo/Abigail Pitones

“We want to be a witness to the fact that young men stand up and defend life,” he said. “Young men of every single age, every single culture defend life, and seminarians are at the forefront of that as future priests.”

Girardi said there must be a culture in which everyone loves life and recognizes the value of it. At the March for Life, he said, that is what seminarians are there for.

“Life is a gift and we want to give that gift of life to as many people as possible, so we’re here to help build that culture of life,” he said.

However, seminarians could not travel to places such as Washington and demonstrate support for life without the

support of the faithful Catholics to make trips such as the March possible.

An opportunity to provide prayerful and financial assistance through the diocese’s “A Good and Growing Need” campaign to raise money for seminary formation, which costs \$55,000 per year for each seminarian, is now available at <https://www.columbuscatholicgiving.org/seminarian-support-fund>. There will be a special collection at all parishes on the weekend of Feb. 24-25 and several seminarians will be speaking at parishes.

With increased interest in the priesthood – 16 men entered seminary in the past year – the diocese is calling on the laity to help support this “good and

growing need” to meet immediate budgetary challenges.

Recalling Jesus Christ’s words in the Gospel of John, Girardi noted that life is from God.

“As someone that’s studying to be a priest, part of our vocation is to help people discover the beauty of life, to help people discover that God has given them life – John 10:10: ‘I’ve come that they might have life and have it to the full.’

“So, as a priest, that’s part of what we do is helping people to discover that great gift of life.”

Nick Love, who is in his first year of undergraduate pre-theology at the Josephinum, attended the March for Life for the first time this year. He wanted to join the many others who came to Washington.

“Our generation, I feel, is becoming more pro-life,” he said. “It’s very exciting to see thousands of people – young people – coming here to support this. So, I wanted to be a part of that for the first time.”

Love said it was great to witness the vibrance and excitement of everyone gathered for the March. He enjoyed being surrounded by many people praying and demonstrating their faith.

Love also felt it his “obligation,” he said, as a seminarian, to demonstrate his belief in the right to life and share that conviction with others.

“The right to life is more than abortion,” he said. “It’s contraceptives – all those things that people may not think about. Those prohibit life. So, I think that’s important to help show people that.”

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a child.

“Babies don’t have to die,” she said. “There’s places for them to go, homes that they can go to. There’s families that will love them.”

Olivia Campbell, a high school junior and parishioner at Columbus St. Leo Oratory, has attended the March for Life with St. Patrick for several years.

She said the pilgrimage is a good time for her to pray and grow as a person. She attends the March whenever she has an opportunity.

“It’s to march for the babies, and it’s also kind of like a retreat for me,” she said. “It’s always a really good time for me to grow. ... It’s always a really beautiful experience.”

Campbell recognized the pain that women experience after choosing to abort their child. She shared that her aunt and grandmother, who died recently, both had abortions. Her grandmother was pro-life.

“They suffered a lot from it,” Campbell said. “I think that might be part of why I

always tend to think so much about the woman who’s been affected, too. It’s really horrible.

“She became Catholic with our family when we converted, and I know she was very sorry about it, and she had a very holy death. And my aunt, from what I’ve heard from my mom, that was when her life went really downhill.”

Campbell could attest to this year’s March for Life theme, “With Every Woman, For Every Child,” as she recognizes the devastation that abortion can inflict on women and their families.

She believes she will serve in pro-life ministry one day, she said. She becomes more convinced of this possibility when participating in the March for Life.

On Jan. 18, the evening before the March, Bishop Michael Burbidge of the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia celebrated the Vigil Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Bishop Burbidge, who serves as chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic

Bishops’ Pro-Life Committee, encouraged defenders of life who gathered for Mass and in his homily said it was inspiring to see many young people gathered.

He also reflected on the reading from the conclusion of St. Matthew’s Gospel – the commissioning of the disciples (Matthew 28: 16-20). In the passage, Jesus Christ sends them forth to make disciples of all nations.

“The end of the story has not yet come,” Bishop Burbidge said.

He said God still has work to do in the hearts of His people, and the work of spreading the Gospel has only begun.

Bishop Burbidge acknowledged that God knows the work will be difficult and discouraging at times, and “the good works we accomplish will not always last,” but every person must spread the Good News.

“There is still work to be done,” he said.

The bishop reminded those in attendance that God will be there in moments

of both elation and discouragement, and He will sanctify it all.

He also reminded the congregation that the right to life is a right, and it is sacred. He told those gathered that they must communicate the truth, even in the darkest places, adding that every life is worth the effort.

In moments of victory and defeat, Bishop Burbidge said, Jesus never changes. God’s work is not finished, and until it is, every individual must continue to bring truth to the darkest places.

He encouraged the faithful to keep Christ at the center of all that they do. He reminded them that God will be with them until the end of time, and He promises to make all things new.

The St. Patrick March for Life pilgrimage concluded Saturday, Jan. 20 with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Earl Fernandes in the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. followed by a tour of the St. John Paul II National Shrine.

Speaker reflects on King's humanness at MLK event

By Ken Snow

For *The Catholic Times*

The principal speaker at Columbus Holy Rosary-St. John Church's annual Martin Luther King Day celebration said that like all of us, Dr. King had his faults, but he also had the courage to stand for social change and set an example for succeeding generations to follow.

Dr. Andre Brown, assistant dean for diversity, equity, inclusion and justice at Ohio State University's college of arts and sciences, noted that King might have turned 95 on Monday, Jan. 15, the day of the event, had he not been killed in 1968 at age 39.

"We often portray Dr. King in a simplified, one-dimensional way, overlooking his complete political beliefs," Brown said. "Sometimes people reduce him to a caricature that disregards the political complexity central to his identity."

"Unfortunately, many people only remember him for his famous quote, 'I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.'"

"In doing so, we turn Dr. King into a single line in the 'I Have a Dream' speech to make him some non-violent, Kumbaya teddy bear. In many ways, Dr. King has been exalted and has become an American symbol of righteousness and moral authority. But it puts things in perspective when you realize that Dr. King's career in the civil rights movement spanned a mere 13 years, from 1955 to his assassination in 1968," Brown said.

"Dr. King has become canonized in American society. But Dr. King was a man, a real-life flesh and blood human. Not a saint. Not a symbol. He hid cigarettes from his children. He had a little white dog named Topsy. He had skin so sensitive he couldn't use a razor. He slept poorly, but he napped well."

"He had a great sense of humor, especially coming from a Baptist minister. ... He suffered from depression, and as an adolescent we know that he at least twice attempted suicide, although perhaps half-heartedly."

"He was not perfect. I have never yet met a perfect human being. There are no perfect human beings. ... But I hope you know that by these facts that I stated, Dr. King has become more relatable to you, that you found some commonalities with him," Brown said.

"Dr. King is widely recognized as ... perhaps the figure that we all come to recognize as the figure of the civil rights movement. He was a symbol of courage, peace, sacrifice and leadership. But it's crucial to remember that he wasn't alone in the struggle."

"Along with organizations such as the NAACP, the Southern Christian Leader-



Keynote speaker Dr. Andre Brown shares insights on the life and example of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the annual MLK Day remembrance on Jan. 15 at Columbus Holy Rosary-St. John Church. *CT photos by Ken Snow*

ship Conference and many unsung he-



The audience gives featured speaker Dr. Andrew Brown a standing ovation after his presentation on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Michelle and Roy Sutton join others in prayer at the MLK Day observance. They are not members of Holy Rosary-St. John Church but have attended the annual event many times.

roes and heroines who marched alongside Dr. King, they fought the cause together."

Brown reviewed King's role in events including the Montgomery, Alabama bus boycott of 1955 and 1956 and the 1963 March on Washington and said, "As a faith community, we have a civil and a moral duty to promote unity among each other, while providing service and advocacy for our community. This church can be used as a vessel for public good."

"Social justice and equality movements require three elements, and Dr. King has given us the blueprint," Brown said. "Movements need people who are willing to work towards a common goal; after all, it's churches that serve as a critical meeting place for civil rights organization and activism. ..."

"Movements require individuals who are dedicated to achieve a common goal. During the Montgomery bus boycott,

the black citizens committed to not riding the public transit for over a year to achieve dignity and equality as citizens. Lastly, movements require sacrifice."

"We must be willing to invest our time, talent and treasure. The Church has numerous opportunities to come together and work together for the betterment of our community. It is essential that we unite to achieve this purpose."

"We must remember that today is a 'day on' and not a 'day off,'" Brown said. "It is King's example of perseverance and dignity in the face of oppression that is a cornerstone for this national holiday. This is the invitation for all of us to make our communities a better place."

"I challenge all of you to be increasingly steadfast in being committed to our divine calling of being noble servants, leaders and gatherers for Christ in our thoughts, our words and our actions. We must honor this man in his sacrifice by continuing to make his dream a reality."



Six-year-old Langston Cary reads from the Second Book of Chronicles during the MLK Day observance.

We do this by committing to the causes he fought for in life: voting rights, housing, equal employment opportunities, striving for peace and joining together in embracing one another in brotherly love."

The event also included quotes from Scripture and from King's speeches read by Cecilia Parram, BrenYah Gentry and 6-year-old Langston Cary. Father Ramon Ower, pastor of Holy Rosary-St. John and Columbus St. Dominic churches, said the closing prayer. Music was provided by the combined choirs of the two parishes, led by Vernon Hairston.

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.

Williams has spent 50 years assisting Catholic Social Services clients

By Hannah Heil
Catholic Times Reporter

When Alfred Williams began working for Catholic Social Services (CSS) in 1974, he said he did not foresee being employed there 50 years later.

However, 2024 marks Williams' 50th year of employment with the agency, which helps poor and vulnerable seniors and families in central and southern Ohio to reach their potential and live with dignity, hope and purpose.

CSS was formed by the Diocese of Columbus in 1945 as the Catholic Welfare Bureau under then-Bishop Michael Ready. It was renamed in 1966.

Williams, who is a Vietnam veteran, earned a degree in social work from Ohio Dominican University after his service. He said he was placed at CSS while a college student. After he graduated, he accepted a position there.

"It was that mission of helping the most vulnerable and the poor – that's always been my personal mission that matches with what their mission is," he said.

Williams said he knew he wanted to serve others, and he wanted to be part of an agency that treated their clients well and upheld values.

"I probably couldn't work anywhere (else) or in most places given my needs and my values," he said. "It's a fit."

CSS is guided by core values of impact, compassion, courage and excellence, which Williams admired. He was also drawn to CSS by the way it treated clients with "dignity," he said.

"There's a consistency with the Church in terms of taking that role and being their advocate and their supporter and their voice," he said.

"The motivation of the Church is not necessarily to get their vote, but it's really to help them. There's no real ulterior motive other than that: to help the poor."

Williams has held a variety of roles at CSS, including director of the Family Services Program, division director for Direct Family Assistance and outreach social worker. He currently serves as a supportive services social worker.

Williams works to connect seniors with resources that enable them to remain independent and stay in their home for as long as possible, which many seniors want to do, he said. He assists seniors with housing, including those who live in subsidized housing, face eviction or have trouble finding housing.

Williams has dedicated more than 100,000 hours of service at CSS. More than half of those hours were spent directly serving clients in order to meet their needs and help them reach their potential.

"I look at it as what I'm supposed to

do," he said. "I don't think of it as something extraordinary."

Since he began with CSS in 1974, it's estimated that he has impacted more than 7,000 lives. But Williams said he wishes more people could be served and he remains focused on how to increase those numbers.

"What it communicates to me is that you can help people make that change, so when we don't, it's like, 'OK, what could we have done differently?'" he said.

"I'll look at those people and I'll go, 'Why couldn't we help? Why didn't it work with them?' I usually ... focus on that."

CSS president and CEO Kelley Henderson said, "Alfred's commitment to service is inspiring. His 50 years of dedication to our organization and the community has left an indelible mark, and we are so proud to have him as part of our team."

Williams said his dedication to serving others was largely inspired by his mother.

"She taught me about the value of helping other people in need no matter who they were or what they did ... their circumstances," he said.

Williams recalled memories of his mother writing letters to the imprisoned, helping a widow whose husband was killed in the Vietnam War and serving people whose family members had died.

"That was always a big influence, just watching her do those kinds of things out of the kindness of her heart," he said.

"She didn't have much money, but ... I remember doing her bills later on here in her life, and she had made small donations to all these charities. It might have been 10 bucks or five bucks. It's amazing that she had donated to civil rights groups and hospitals."

Just as his mother influenced him, Williams influenced others. Several former clients' children became social workers after Williams served their family.

"That taught me you never know who's listening and who you might influence," he said. "You don't know the impact that you have. Sometimes it's not immediate, and sometimes I think I'm a total failure, and then, I guess I plant the seed."

While Williams has impacted thousands of lives during his years with CSS,

the agency also made an impact on him. He said he had a good relationship with the agency's leadership.

"They were always very personable to me, very available – a lot of organizations you can't do that," he said. "It's very comforting."

"They personally talk to me, or if they've got a question or if they are concerned about something with me, just directly, 'Hey Alfred, come here.' If I've got a question, that door's always been open, so I've always enjoyed that. I'm sure they give that same attention to everybody, but I always felt special that way."

CSS supported Williams attending graduate school to earn a master's degree in social work. He drove to the Ohio University Lancaster campus several nights a week for classes. He said CSS worked with him and was supportive, which made it "easy" to earn a second

degree while working.

In the 1990s, Williams converted and became Catholic. He said working at CSS confirmed his decision to enter the Catholic Church.

"I got to see the inside workings of things more than from the outside, more than a parishioner," he said. "When you meet the bishops and maybe some of the cardinals, you get to know more about the Church."

"I'd always respected their charity work, dedication. We had a nun – several nuns – that worked here during my time, and then, the community ... when I came here, how well thought of they were."

As he celebrates 50 years of making an impact, Williams said he hopes the people he served remember the support they received from CSS rather than from him personally.

"I'm a representative of a way of doing things and a mission and some values," he said. "I am not 'it.' I am more the vessel. So, I would think they remember that Church-sponsored agency – Catholic Social Services – provided this to them."

"People forget names and all that, and you move on, but you want them to remember what was done by that organization. We're representative of an organization and their values."



Alfred Williams remains focused on the needs of others after 50 years with Catholic Social Services. Photo courtesy CSS

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Cemetery field staff will be removing winter-time and artificial decorations from graves and mausoleums at all Catholic cemeteries beginning March 1, 2024.

We request that families wishing to retain any personal keepsakes, to please remove them by March 1.

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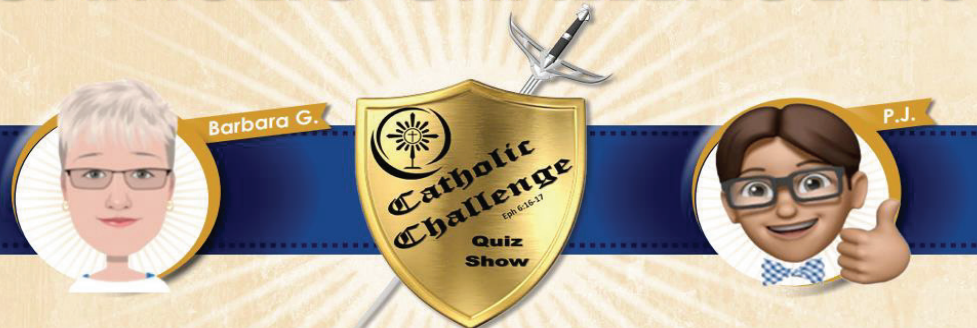
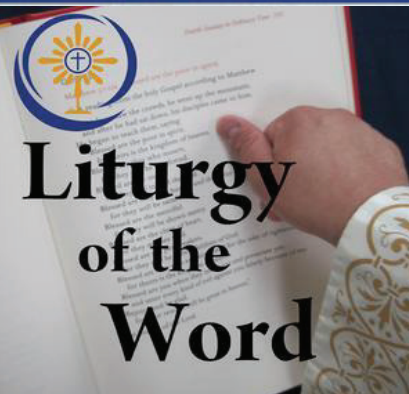


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Bishop Earl Fernandes gives the final blessing at the end of Mass on Jan. 8, the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, at Southeastern Correctional Institution. *CT photos by Ken Snow*



Deacon Jeff Hurdley (left) and Bishop Earl Fernandes distribute Holy Communion to inmates during Mass. at Southeastern Correctional Institution.

Bishop celebrates Mass for inmates in Lancaster

By Ken Snow

For *The Catholic Times*

Bishop Earl Fernandes celebrated Mass for about 50 residents of the Southeastern Correctional Institution near Lancaster, assisted by Deacon Jeffrey Hurdley of Lancaster St. Mark Church, on Monday, Jan. 8, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

The bishop also heard confessions and blessed crucifixes and rosaries after Mass, which was followed by a period of hospitality with sub sandwiches, chips and bottled water.

In his homily, the bishop focused on the feast of the day, which marked the end of the Church's Christmas season, and reminded his audience of Jesus' parable of the prodigal son and of the request for salvation expressed by one of the thieves crucified with Jesus on Calvary.

"Now all of us – Deacon Hurdley, myself, all of you – maybe we haven't retained the innocence of our baptism," Bishop Fernandes said. "We haven't been perfect. We have sinned, but we are no less a son of the Father. We always have a chance to turn away from sin and get on the road that leads to the Father's house. ...

"Each and every one of you must remember your own dignity as sons of God, as children of God. And the Father knows how to give good gifts to His children."

Referring to the story of the prodigal son, the bishop said, "Perhaps in the past we wasted our inheritance. We didn't live as we should. We didn't listen to what our priests and our nuns and our parents had told us. OK, our story's not over.

"Think about the good thief. He did bad things his whole life and then he was next to Jesus on the cross. And he said, 'Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' And Jesus said

to him, 'My son, this day you will be with me in Paradise.' ... His story is our story."

He concluded his homily with a reference to a sports event scheduled that evening. "I know some of you are looking forward to watching the national championship game between the University of Washington and 'the team from up north.' We will not say that name in a sacred place," he said as the prisoners responded with laughter. "But at football games, you sometimes see people displaying (a sign referring to the Bible verse) John 3:16, 'God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son.'

"He gave His only begotten Son for you, His sons by adoption. You must now live up to that calling: to be a son in the Son."

Prison officials gave permission for Phillip and Patrick, two inmates who were altar servers for the bishop's Mass and serve monthly Masses celebrated at the prison by Father Craig Eilerman of the Lancaster Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, to be interviewed by *The Catholic Times*. Their last names, faces and other personal details were not allowed to be recorded.

"I pray each and every day to God and my faith is very, very strong," Phillip said. "If I didn't have this faith, it would really kind of hurt me. Deacon Hurdley (who conducts a Communion service at the facility every Monday) does an excellent job, as does Father Craig, and Father Thomas (a priest from Phillip's home parish who is a friend of the family and said Mass last summer at the prison) is a saint.

"He writes me every month. I've got letters from him as well as letters from the bishop (Fernandes) and about once every three months, Cardinal (Timothy) Dolan (of New York City) and I write back and forth. ...

"Deacon Hurdley has been a great deacon. We've had three events during the last month and Deacon Hurdley

has been at all three – the celebration for Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mass on Christmas Day and Mass with the bishop. We're very excited about the bishop being here."

Asked if he had anything to say that would be uplifting to other men in his position, Phillip said, "Keep the faith and go to church."

Patrick said he, like Phillip, is a lifelong Catholic. Referring to the weekly Communion service, he said, "That's really the highlight of my week when that happens because it's an absolutely amazing thing to be incarcerated and still be able to receive the Sacraments."

"The prison setting really tries to dampen your light," he said. "But in the Lord, the Holy Spirit, where there is light, there is no darkness. So the most inspirational thing I can say to other people is to literally 'let go and let God.'



Deacon Jeff Hurdley proclaims the Gospel during the Mass on Jan. 8 at Southeastern Correctional Institution.

And don't be afraid of your faith, don't shy away from it, just stay in constant prayer and try to do God's will as best as possible."

Bishop returns to Ohio Reformatory for Women



Bishop Earl Fernandes joins inmates for a photo after celebrating Mass on Christmas Eve at the Ohio Reformatory for Women in Marysville. The bishop was scheduled to celebrate Mass on Christmas Eve in 2022 before severe weather delayed his visit until Dec. 31, 2022. He had promised to come back for a Christmas Mass in 2023 and he returned on Dec. 24 for the liturgy and a reception afterward. Also pictured is Father Joseph Trapp (back row, center), the Catholic chaplain at ORW and the pastor at Plain City St. Joseph Church.

Photo courtesy Ohio Reformatory for Women

Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B

Open your heart and your ears to the Word of God

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9
1 Corinthians 7:32-35
Mark 1:21-28

"If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts." St. Paul tells us that we must hear the Gospel in order to believe it. The Gospel is the proclamation of God's Word to us. It can be heard only by hearts open to listen, to hear and to obey. Even the spirits that are evil hear the voice of God in Jesus and they must obey.

Our freedom leaves us many options when the Word of God is spoken to us. The psalmist invites us to hear and not to harden our hearts. We must choose to accept the Word as God's Word to us and to respond in loving obedience. When the Word penetrates our hearts, and we choose to obey, God supplies the strength we need to accomplish His purpose.

The problem for us, often, is that we do not really hear God's voice. The interference between the Word that is spoken to us and the path through our hearts into our souls and into our lives is too great.

Consider what happens each Sunday. We hear the Scriptures proclaimed from three different books of the Bible. At present, there is a first reading from the Hebrew Scriptures, a Responsorial Psalm, a second reading from a letter in the New Testament and a reading from

Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B

Job 7:1-4, 6-7
Psalm 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6
1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23
Mark 1:29-39

We pray that soon the opportunity for pilgrimages to the Holy Land will be able to resume as they happened in the not-too-distant past. Sadly, the event of the past few years, with Covid and with the escalation of tensions and violence and the reality of war have stopped this wonderful experience from being readily available.

One of my favorite places to visit and to share with pilgrims under my leadership is the city of Capernaum. The site

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Father Timothy Hayes

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



one of the Gospels. Then there is a homily by a priest or deacon that is an invitation to respond to God's Word.

How the Scriptures are proclaimed and the whole environment around us can be the source of interference. If readers are unfamiliar with the texts they proclaim, if there are noises from the members of the congregation, or if the sound system fails, we literally cannot hear the Word proclaimed or the invitation by the homilist.

How we prepare ourselves to receive the Word proclaimed and the homily can also be problematic. If we are unfamiliar with the Scriptures and their context, if we do not attend to the proclaimer or the preacher due to our own biases and expectations, if we "disagree" interiorly with the message given because of what the world around us believes or if we have hardened our hearts because we do not accept what we hear the Church teaching, then we are the source of the interference.

How we choose to respond to the Scriptures and to the homily is also often the source of some trouble. If we decide that we will not accept the authority of the Word or the Church or the minister who is preaching, if we have already

Gospel comes to life at Capernaum

is among the most remarkable of places to see with your own eyes. It gives you a vivid experience of the Scriptures we hear this weekend. Capernaum is where the events of today's Gospel really happened. If you have seen this place or have allowed the accounts of the Scripture to become real for you, then you have received a stewardship that invites you to move beyond the sense of life in this world as a "drudgery."

The archaeological site of Capernaum, identified as the City of Simon Peter, and the place Jesus Himself chose to call home after He left Nazareth, provides a perspective on the life of the first generations of Christians that is helpful.

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.

THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

| 1/29-2/3 MONDAY | THURSDAY | 2/5-2/10 MONDAY | THURSDAY |
|---|--|---|---|
| 2 Samuel 15:13-14,30;16:5-13 Psalm 3:2-7 Mark 5:1-20 | 1 Kings 2:1-4,10-12 1 Chronicles 29:10,11ab,11d-12a,12bcd (Ps) Mark 6:7-13 | 1 Kings 8:1-7,9-13 Psalm 132:6-7,8-10 Mark 6:53-56 | 1 Kings 11:4-13 Psalm 106:3-4,35-37,40 Mark 7:24-30 |
| TUESDAY | FRIDAY | TUESDAY | FRIDAY |
| 2 Samuel 18:9-10,14b,24-25a,30-19:3 Psalm 86:1-6 Mark 5:21-43 | Malachi 3:1-4 Psalm 24:7-10 Hebrews 2:14-18 Luke 2:22-40 | 1 Kings 8:22-23,27-30 Psalm 84:3-5,10-11 Mark 7:1-13 | 1 Kings 11:29-32;12:19 Psalm 81:10-11ab,12-15 Mark 7:31-37 |
| WEDNESDAY | SATURDAY | WEDNESDAY | SATURDAY |
| 2 Samuel 24:2,9-17 Psalm 32:1-2,5-7 Mark 6:1-6 | 1 Kings 3:4-13 Psalm 119:9-14 Mark 6:30-34 | 1 Kings 10:1-10 Psalm 37:5-6,30-31,39-40 Mark 7:14-23 | 1 Kings 12:26-32;13:33-34 Psalm 106:6-7ab,19-22 Mark 8:1-10 |

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION

Mass Schedule: Weeks of Jan. 28, and Feb. 4, 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 PROPER FOR WEEKS IV AND I OF THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

chosen a course of action contrary to what the Word addresses and refuse to reconsider our stance, if we simply say

"No" to God and to His Church, then the Word cannot flow through us as God intends. We are "stuck" where we are.

You can see the Sea of Galilee and stand along the shore where so many of the Gospel account take place. If you come there at the end of the day, you experience the beauty of the sunset over the sea, which in itself offers consolation and healing.

The tour of the site includes the remains of a synagogue that dates to later than the first century but is in the same place as the very synagogue where Jesus prayed and taught. Immediately beside the synagogue is a remarkable church built over the site of the House of Peter. From the sanctuary level, pilgrims are able to look directly down into the room where Jesus sat as He healed the many who were brought to the doorstep after sunset. Standing there, you have the view of the four friends of the paralyzed man who was lowered down from the roof for healing.

On one of the pilgrimages I led, just outside this area under lovely foliage, we took the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Recalling the many healed by Jesus

in that very place, we could sense His Presence among us in the Sacraments continuing His ministry through His Church.

Not far from Capernaum are many other places that bring out a vivid understanding of the Gospel accounts of Jesus' ministry: Magdala, the rock of Peter's primacy, the Mount of the Beatitudes, and the deserted places where Jesus when to pray. We can almost hear Jesus offer to us the invitation that He gave His first disciples: "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come."

Each of us is given a stewardship in the proclamation of Jesus. When we experience the restlessness that is expressed by Job, we can learn to attend more deeply to the call of the Gospel. With Paul, we can give our all, knowing that by our own ministry of living, speaking, praying and healing, we also will have a share in the Gospel.

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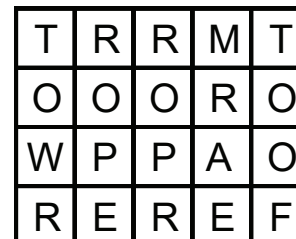
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Words of Wisdom

by Pat Battaglia, aka Dr. Fun

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

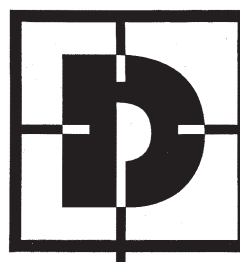
God gives us today ...



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Patricia M. Brennan

Funeral Mass for Patricia M. Brennan, 83, of Lindenhurst, New York, who died Thursday, Jan. 18, was celebrated Tuesday, Jan. 23 at Lindenhurst Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. Burial was at St. Charles Cemetery in Farmingdale, New York.

She was the mother of Bishop Robert J. Brennan of Brooklyn, New York, who was bishop of Columbus from 2019 to 2021.

Emily M. DeArdo

Funeral Mass for Emily M. DeArdo, 41, who died Sunday Dec. 31, 2023, was celebrated Saturday, Jan. 6 at Gahanna St. Matthew Church.

She was born on April 9, 1982 to Carmen and Michele DeArdo and was a 2000 graduate of Pickerington High School and a 2004 graduate of Capital University, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science and English literature.

She was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis at age 11 and in 2005 became the first

Lari A. Hummer

Funeral Mass for Lari A. Hummer, 78, who died Friday, Jan. 5, was celebrated Thursday, Jan. 11 at Columbus Immaculate Conception Church. Burial was at Resurrection Cemetery, Lewis Center.

She was born on Sept. 8, 1945 in Los Angeles to Gerald and Viva (Roberts) Fowler and moved with her family to Columbus when she was in third grade. She was a graduate of Columbus Holy Spirit School, Columbus St. Mary of the Springs Academy and St. Mary of the Springs College (now Ohio Dominican University) and received a Master's degree from Ohio State University in children's literature with training in reading recovery.

She was an educator for more than 30 years, teaching at Columbus St. Agatha and Immaculate Conception schools and Hubbard and Lincoln Park schools in the Columbus City Schools system, and tutoring neighborhood children and working as a parent partner at Nationwide

Agnes M. Dawson

Funeral Mass for Agnes M. Dawson, 101, who died Friday, Jan. 5, was celebrated Wednesday, Jan. 10 at Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel on the grounds of St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus, followed by burial.

She was employed by the Diocese of Columbus for more than 50 years, serving as a housekeeper at the diocesan Chancery from 1999 until her retirement

Beata Kefauver

A funeral service was conducted Sunday, Jan. 14 at the Tidd Family Funeral Home in Hilliard for Beata Kefauver, 78, who died Tuesday, Jan. 9.

She was born on Dec. 31, 1945 in Hilliard to Albert and Hazel Crabtree.

She was a buyer with the purchasing department of the Diocese of Columbus

She was born on Aug. 3, 1940 to Patrick and Mary Hynes and was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Edward.

Survivors include her husband, Robert; sons, Bishop Brennan, Daniel (Susan) and Thomas (Patricia); daughters, Theresa (Russell) Kemp and Patricia Conlon; sister, Margaret McGurk; 14 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

recipient of a double lung transplant at Nationwide Children's Hospital – an operation credited with saving her life.

She wrote about her experiences in a book, *Memento Mori: My Journey Through the Stations of the Cross* and contributed several stories to *The Catholic Times*. She also was a lector at her parish.

She is survived by her parents, brother Bryan (Sarah), sister Melanie (Jason) McDonald and two nieces.

Children's Hospital in other years.

She began hosting international travelers beginning with a foreign exchange student in the 1990s and later at a bed and breakfast for 10 years. She also was a volunteer for the La Leche League; a team leader for Marriage-Encounter; an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist and distributor of Communion to the homebound at her parish; a traumatic brain injury support group leader; a volunteer at Ohio Village and with the Ohio History Connection as an archivist, and was involved with AlAnon.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Peter; and a grandson. Survivors include her husband, Ted; sons, Matt (Tara) and Michael; daughters, Nancy (Steve) Heink, Julie Bertram and Annie DePerro; a sister, Linda; and brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, including retired Father Lawrence Hummer.

at age 91 in 2013.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph; son, Mike; brothers, Ray, Alfred, Lawrence, Leo, Michael and Joe; and sisters, Mary and Rita. Survivors include sons, Joseph (Darlene), James (Stephanie) and John (Karen); daughter, Mary (Teddy) Montgomery and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

and was an active member of Columbus Ss. Augustine and Gabriel Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Rusty; and brothers Bob and David.

Survivors include children Rehnold, Roman (Chrystal) and Roland; three grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

BISCUSO, Rudolph D., 96, Jan. 6
St. John the Baptist Church, Columbus

BLANEY, Loretta, 90, Jan. 9
St. Bernadette Church, Lancaster

CATALFINO, Dolores R. (Kuskowski), 81, Jan. 6
St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Pickerington

DAVIS, Dawson Durahan, 76, Jan. 4, formerly of Zanesville
St. Veronica Church, Cincinnati

DUER, Rose M., 91, Jan. 11
St. Margaret of Cortona Church, Columbus

FISCHER, David J., 79, Jan. 8
Our Lady of Peace Church, Columbus

HEISLER, John D., 77, Jan. 7
St. Mary Magdalene Church, Columbus

HOWARD, Joan R. (Paviic), 90, Jan. 4
St. Matthew Church, Gahanna

MARSHALL, Marguerite J., 94, Dec. 29
St. Elizabeth Church, Columbus

MCCOY, Martha (Carle), 74, Jan. 19
St. Joseph Church, Circleville

MOQUIN, Francis E., 102, Dec. 17
St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

RADERSTORF, Gerald G. "Jerry," 95, Dec. 23
St. Francis of Assisi Church, Columbus

REDMOND-WENTWORTH, Patricia A., 76, Jan. 4
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

REYNOLDS (LIVINGSTON), Patricia J., 89, Dec. 28
St. Michael Church, Worthington

RITCHLIN, Robert, 83, Jan. 10
St. Bernadette Church, Lancaster

SANTORO, Frank Angelo, 94, Jan. 14
Our Lady of Peace Church, Columbus

SCHAEFER, Constance E. "Connie," 84, Jan. 10
St. Mary, Mother of God Church, Columbus

SECRIST, Juliana M. (Lauferwiler), 61, Jan. 5
St. Matthew Church, Gahanna

SHEARS, Peter Jr., 91, Jan. 4
St. Joan of Arc Church, Powell

STONE (NOLAN), Mollie (Warren), 88, Dec. 17
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

ZIDAR, Patricia L. (Slack), 86, Jan. 6
Our Lady of Peace Church, Columbus

ZORETIC, Linda B. (Brushart), 89, Jan. 12
St. Christopher Church, Columbus

John P. Cannizzaro

Funeral Mass for Newark Catholic High School baseball coach John P. Cannizzaro, 71, who died Saturday, Jan. 13, was celebrated Tuesday, Jan. 23 at Granville St. Edward the Confessor Church. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Newark.

He was born on Oct. 15, 1952, to the late John and Dorothy Cannizzaro, was a 1970 graduate of Newark Catholic, attended Ohio State University and served in the U.S. Army from 1972 to 1974 in West Germany.

He was baseball coach at Newark Catholic from 1985 to 1992 and from 2004 until his death. His teams' seven state championship and 577 victories are both state records, as are their 14 state tournament

appearances, 25 state tournament games and 18 state tournament victories. They won 21 Central District championships and 12 Licking County League titles.

Between his two tenures at Newark Catholic, he was assistant coach at Pickerington High School from 1993 to 1997 and Hebron Lakewood High School from 2000 to 2003. He also was active in the Newark Babe Ruth League organization.

He is a member of the halls of fame of Newark Catholic, the Licking County League and the Central District and state baseball coaches.

Survivors include a brother, Rick (Mary Beth); sisters, Jennifer Bolen and Jane Meese; and nieces and nephews.

Charles R. Malowney

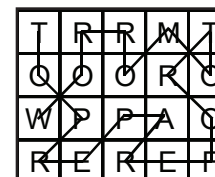
Funeral Mass for Charles R. Malowney, 80, who died Monday, Jan. 8, was celebrated Friday, Jan. 19 at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral.

He was born on Oct. 29, 1943 in Springfield to Charles and Wilma Malowney, moving to Columbus with his family in 1954. He graduated from Grandview Heights High School, attended Ohio State University, served in the U.S. Marine Corps and had a long career in the central Ohio printing and publishing industry.

He served the Catholic Church as a member of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and a board member for the Pontifical College Josephinum. He also belonged to The Athletic Club of Co-

lumbus and the Scioto Country Club.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, William and Paul; and sisters, Elinor and Monica Hughes. Survivors include his wife, Catherine; daughters, Catherine (Kevin Calland) and Adrienne; brothers, Patrick (Susan) and Edward (MaryJo); sister Carol (Doug Akers); a grandson, a granddaughter and four step-grandchildren.



**WORDS OF
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SOLUTION**

LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS

St. Pius X adds Mass, Adoration, Benediction times

Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church, 1051 S. Waggoner Road, has made several changes to its schedule of spiritual activities with the coming of the new year.

It has begun a 7 a.m. Mass on Saturdays, the parish's first Saturday morning Mass in several years.

A Holy Hour will take place every Sunday from 4 to 5 p.m. with Eucharistic Adoration, Vespers and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The Rosary will be recited on the first and fourth Sundays of the month, with the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy prayed on the second Sunday and a reading from one of the Church Fathers on the third Sunday.

Eucharistic Adoration also will take place on each first Friday of the month from 9 a.m. Friday to 6:30 a.m. Saturday in the Eucharistic Chapel. In addition, the schedule of weekly Wednesday Adoration has been expanded. It now takes place from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 9 p.m. in the chapel. The Eucharist is transferred to the church sanctuary from noon to 1 p.m. for a Holy Hour

Bishop to present Man of the Year award

Bishop Earl Fernandes will present the 2024 Catholic Man of the Year award to Henry Szabo of Hilliard St. Brendan the Navigator Church at the Catholic Men's Luncheon Club meeting on Friday, Feb. 2 at Columbus St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., after the 11:45 a.m. Mass.

No reservations are needed. A \$12 donation is requested to cover the cost of the lunch, which is sponsored by The Order of Foresters, a Catholic fraternal benefit life insurance society since 1883.

The next meeting will be Friday, March 1, with a presentation by Michael Fry on Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen.

Columbus St. Patrick to celebrate Presentation

Columbus St. Patrick Church, 280 N.

Grant Ave., will host a special Mass celebrating the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas) on Friday, Feb. 2.

The blessing of candles will begin at 6:30 p.m. in Patrick Hall, followed by a procession into the church for Mass. During Mass, the Dominican friars will invite those in attendance to bring their candles forward for a prayer that is a Dominican custom for the feast. Everyone is welcome to bring unblessed candles to be blessed, and unblessed candles will be available for purchase before Mass.

For more information, call Father Paul Marich, OP, at (614) 240-5917.

Foundation scholarship application period opens

The Catholic Foundation's online scholarship application period will last from Monday, Jan. 29 to Monday, Feb. 26 for all scholarships except the Ronald C. Sullivan Scholarship, which can be applied for through Monday, Feb. 25. Recipients will be notified in May.

The foundation has several scholarships available to students in the Diocese of Columbus. Last year, through the generosity of its donors, it awarded more than \$200,000 in scholarships. Over the years, the foundation has granted more than \$1.5 million in scholarships to empower young people to continue their academic and vocational studies.

A complete listing of scholarships, qualifications and applications is available at www.catholic-foundation.org/grants/scholarships. Contact Dan Kurth at (614) 443-8893 or dkurth@catholic-foundation.org with questions about the scholarships or application process.

Fast observed on Ash Wednesday

Despite Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day falling on Feb. 14 this year, Bishop Earl Fernandes has not authorized a dispensation from the requirement to fast on the first day of the Lenten observance.

The obligation to fast remains in place under the usual conditions for those between ages 18 and 59 and to abstain from meat for those from 14 and up are binding on members of the Catholic Church.

Ss. Simon and Jude Knights plan Euchre party

West Jefferson Ss. Simon and Jude Knights of Columbus Council 11224 will hold its 11th annual Euchre party in the parish social hall after the 4 p.m. Mass on Saturday, Feb. 3.

Admission is \$20. An additional \$10 buys food and drink for the entire evening. Payment at the door is accepted.

More than \$2,700 in prizes are available, but only 64 spots are available.

For more information, contact Mark Mandel at 614-800-1534.

Seasons of Hope sponsors grief support group

The Seasons of Hope bereavement ministry invites anyone mourning the loss of a loved one to take part in a grief support group on five consecutive Sun-

days from Feb. 18 to March 17.

Meetings will be from 2 to 4 p.m. at Columbus Immaculate Conception Church, 414 East North Broadway, and sponsored by the North High Deanery.

To register, contact Rose Daiga at rose.daiga@gmail.com or (614) 565-0795. The deadline to register is Feb. 15.

Franciscan to offer sacred theology PhD program

Franciscan University of Steubenville has received approval from state education agencies to launch a PhD program in sacred theology, the institution's first doctoral program, this fall. The application will open on Thursday, Feb. 1.

Students can specialize in systematic theology, historical theology, moral theology, biblical theology and catechetics. At the outset, two students will receive complete tuition remission and an annual stipend. A limited number of additional students also will be accepted.

For information, visit franciscan.edu/phd-theology, or contact the university admissions office at (800) 783-6220 or admissions@franciscan.edu.



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Attendees leave SEEK conference with fervor to lead souls to Christ

By Hannah Heil
Catholic Times Reporter

ST. LOUIS – As nearly 24,000 young men and women prepared to depart from the SEEK24 conference earlier this month, they were reminded that the world needs them.

The conference, put on by the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) from Jan. 1 to Jan. 5, concluded with keynote speeches and a closing Mass. Thousands were sent forth to share their light and spread the good news of Jesus Christ with each person they encounter.

“We are so grateful and humbled to have welcomed nearly 24,000 men and women to SEEK24 in St. Louis,” said Tom Bruner, vice president of formative enterprises at FOCUS. “It was incredible to witness the transformative power of prayer, learning and fellowship rooted in Christ with people from all across the country in this new year.”

“Be the light,” the theme of SEEK24, included a series of keynote speeches, daily Mass, confession, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, fellowship and entertainment. Keynote speeches were broken into five parts: relationship with God, rebellion, reconciliation with Him, re-creation and response.

Forty-four Catholic bishops attended the conference, including Bishop Earl Fernandes. That number was twice as many as last year, and there were hundreds of priests and 450 seminarians on hand.

On the final day of the conference, Catholic evangelist Chris Stefanick spoke about the need for the Gospel. He offered ways to respond to God’s invitation to follow Him by bearing witness to the Gospel.

“God is sending you to remind this world of who they are,” he said.

Stefanick said people often present many reasons for why they feel they cannot speak about Christ with others. He countered their “buts,” or reasons why they feel they cannot share their faith, with a series of reasons why the world needs them to.

Stefanick explained that the Gospel shows people who they are and their purpose, and everyone needs a sense of purpose to be happy. God created each person for eternal joy, he said.

Stefanick reminded the audience that the SEEK conference is not the central event of FOCUS.

“The central event for FOCUS is a Bible study with five kids at it,” he said.

Stefanick said ministry does not take place on a stage, and people often think they need a stage or a platform to share the Gospel with other people.

However, ministry takes place in close proximity. Each person should strive to share Christ’s love with the people closest to them: in their families, with their friends or to students on their campus.

“The stage is wherever you are,” Stefanick said.



Thousands of Catholics came together for Eucharistic Adoration in early January at the SEEK24 Conference in St. Louis.
Photo courtesy Abigail Pitones

He used the example of St. Paul preaching to the prison guards while he was imprisoned. Stefanick said St. Paul probably had dreams of preaching to thousands of people in Roman coliseums, but he was imprisoned.

Regardless, the prison cell was a platform for St. Paul to preach and share the joy of Christ with the prison guards. St. Paul did not let his circumstances prevent him from sharing the Gospel with the people around him.

Many people have a “reverential fear of all the wrong things,” Stefanick said. People fear being judged for sharing their faith or are afraid of how they will appear to others.

Instead, “fear the idea of someone going to Hell and looking at you and saying, ‘Why didn’t you tell me?’” Stefanick urged the audience.

He asked those gathered to consider the outcome if they do not share Christ with others.

“What if you don’t say something?” he asked.

Stefanick recognized that many people do not know what to say, or they feel they do not have the right words. He encouraged the audience not to let that fear hold them back. Stefanick said God will show them what to say.

He used the example of his wife’s grandmother, who thought she would go to Hell. As she was dying, Stefanick said he did not know the right words to share the Gospel with her, but he knew he had to say something. He used the story of the good thief in the Gospel of Luke.

“There was a thief crucified next to Jesus,” he said. “He never did anything good, but at the end of his life he said, ‘Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom,’ and Jesus said, ‘Today you will be with Me in paradise.’”

“I said, ‘That guy went to heaven that day not because of the good he had done but because of what Jesus did for him on the cross. That thief can be you.’”

Stefanick said she was baptized and brought into the Catholic Church the

next day. The following day, she died.

Many people do not believe in God or question his existence. They have no hope, and they need to know they were created for a purpose.

“You’re the one with the hope the world needs,” Stefanick said.

He encouraged young men and women to be holy and live their Catholic faith authentically because the world needs that. He offered practical ways to bear witness to the Gospel.

Sharing the faith can be done simply by saying “God bless you” to a cashier at the grocery store, or if someone asks, “How are you?” by saying “blessed” instead of “good.” Stefanick said sharing the faith can also be done by randomly texting a person, “The Lord loves you,” because they likely need to hear it.

“Sharing your faith is not for the elite,” he said.

Holding a crucifix, Stefanick explained that the story of God the Father sending His only Son to die to save people from their sins so they can spend eternity with Him is not a “nice story;” it gives meaning to everything.

“This is not a nice story that fits into our life – this is life,” Stefanick said. “This is what shows us that life is good. This is what shows us who we are. This is what shows us what we are worth.”

He sent the audience forth, urging them to take action and go forth to spread the Gospel, saying, “Two-thirds of God’s name is ‘go.’”

Annie Giovannucci, a student at Ohio State University who attended the SEEK24 conference, said she enjoyed Stefanick’s keynote.

“It’s so true that our stage is wherever we are put in our life, and we don’t necessarily have to have a platform to impact others,” she said.

Evangelizing as a college student on campus can be difficult sometimes, Giovannucci said, but it is worth it.

She said she appreciated the amount of time she had to spend in prayer and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during

the SEEK conference. She also took advantage of listening to many of the speakers.

Katie Castaneda, who is from Dayton and is a recent college graduate, enjoyed the SEEK24 conference. She said the experience was “very rewarding” for her.

“It really brought me closer to the Lord through different inspirational speakers, and having Mass with 22,000 other people was really moving,” she said.

“It definitely gives a great testament (for) other people outside of SEEK – for me to be able to share what I’ve learned from the different talks and use those tools that I’ve learned through the conference in my everyday life.”

Castaneda said she especially enjoyed the women’s talks. The speakers highlighted the importance of women learning to recognize their identity as a daughter of God and not in their accomplishments or area of work.

At SEEK, Castaneda said she learned how to better lead a Bible study and invite people in, and how she can lead people closer to Christ.

Jacob Daulton, who recently began his role as a FOCUS missionary at Ohio State University, said he enjoyed Stefanick’s talk about witnessing to Christ. He appreciated Stefanick’s “boldness,” which, he said, is encouraging as a missionary.

“Sometimes we get overwhelmed and think we need to be theologians and think that we need to have the Catechism memorized front to back,” he said. “We really just need a witness of love. The only thing, as far as I’m aware, Jesus asked us to be perfect in is love.”

Daulton said SEEK24, his fourth SEEK conference, was transformative for him this year.

“You just feel Jesus working in so many different ways through the people, through the new students, through the talks, through the men’s sessions and even in the uncomfot, just meeting Him there,” he said. “It’s been really good. I couldn’t ask for a better experience.”

As a FOCUS missionary at Ohio State, Daulton said he will primarily work with athletes on campus. He will minister to students on the field, which, he said, can be a place to learn and practice virtue.

Daulton plans to share with athletes how he was transformed at SEEK and continue encountering Christ in the sacraments and Adoration. For students who did not make the trip, he wants them to know they can encounter Jesus, too.

“To be able to share that with them – some of the things I’ll take: the Mass is beautiful here, the liturgy is beautiful, Adoration is beautiful,” he said. “Just to continue to encounter the Lord in Adoration, that’s the plan. It’s the same Jesus back home.”

IC donation goes to Springs of Love



Columbus Immaculate Conception Church chooses a life-affirming organization each November to receive donations that parishioners raise during the Giving Tuesday campaign. This year, parishioners came together and raised \$11,750 for Springs of Love, a nonprofit organization that encourages, educates and equips Catholics to discern and live out the call to foster and adopt children while creating communities of support to help cultivate a culture of foster care and adoption in Catholic parishes. Father Matthew Hoover (right), pastor of Immaculate Conception, presents a check on Dec. 20 to Springs of Love founders Greg and Kimberly Henkle (standing behind the check) and their children (clockwise from front) John Paul, Zailie, Gabriella and Anthony. *Photo courtesy Immaculate Conception Church*



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